

THE LEGEND OF GRIGNE-DINTS

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE PATH - NIGHT (PAST)

An incessantly SWAYING horse-drawn carriage slowly appears from the darkness.

On board, the driver is a heavily built, crusty MILITARY MAN with a puffy face. He wears a large helmet and grips the reins with both hands.

The sky is filled with heavy clouds as cut by blinding flashes of lightning. They are immediately followed by a RUMBLE ripping through the valley; not a single drop of rain falls.

NICOLA BERTEAUX (V.O.)

On this day 24th day of August,
1572, through the lands of France,
a terrible genocide was ordered
with an iron fist by a powerful
monarch -- calling for the
annihilation of all opponents of
his religious doctrine. He ruled
under the well-known name of
Charles IX.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE PATH - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

The military man suddenly pulls on the reins. He gets out of the carriage and STOMPS to the rear.

He curtly pulls out a small individual, abruptly removing their face covering. The wild, innocent and gagged face of a BOY (Nicola Berteaux) emerges. The stern-looking soldier stands up to his victim.

Then he puts his index finger heavily against his mouth. The kid has big bright eyes and mid-length, curly brown hair. Well groomed, he has a plump face with a deep pallor drawn by fine features.

NICOLA BERTEAUX (V.O.)

And so, at the dawn of this
accursed day, I, Nicola
Berteaux, nine years old, was
conscripted by force in order to be
betrayed and a prisoner for the
interest of evil men. Innocent and
taken away from my dear mother, I
had no idea of the future that lay
ahead of me.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - DAY

The soldier manhandles Nicola, hands tied behind his back, towards a large stump. Once there he forces the boy to his knees.

A tall, lean MERCENARY (Edagard) holds a torch firmly. His face is scarred and wears a full beard with long black hair. He wears an extravagant hat with a single, large colored feather. Wearing very high dark leather boots, his torso is covered with a thick and shiny cuirass.

Edagard, with an authoritative gesture, stares suspiciously at the submissive-looking soldier who immediately turns back to his cart.

Edagard begins to sneer slyly as he looks towards Nicola. Then, he pivots his head towards the big city below. Suddenly his face turns sadistic and playful.

In the B.G., about thirty MERCENARIES equipped with pikemen, axes and knives as well as rifles and swords, are actively moving towards their leader. Nicola, with a worried face, looks in the direction of the mercenaries. His BREATHING quickens through his gag.

Seven mercenaries, each one more excited than the previous, suddenly move away from their acolytes. They surround the child while twirling masks crafted from beets with a hideously sculpted yellowish collar.

These beets, generously inflamed from the inside, are planted at the ends of their sabers. Suddenly the fighters begin to dance and sing happily, closer to the boy.

Nicola's face trembles, his eyes wide open, as he stares dumbfounded by the masks. Suddenly he starts GRINDING his teeth.

NICOLA'S POV: The demonic masks intertwine.

Their misshapen orifices spew out a ferocious fire. They leave behind them frenzied trails of smoke.

With a pernicious smile, Edagard leans eagerly towards Nicola who continues to GRIND his teeth louder and louder. With his jubilant expression, staring at the boy, Edagard has eyes of terror.

Nicola has swollen eyes which nervously go from left to right. Suddenly his whole body begins to convulse. The boy freezes and falls heavily to the ground. His eyes wide open bulge in terror.

Edagard, looking surprised, straightens up and looks strangely at Nicola. He begins to slowly stroke his beard. Then slyly and elegantly takes off his hat. He kneels before the boy's body.

Then all smiles, he points to a large oak tree in front of him with a nod of his head.

NICOLA BERTEAUX (V.O.)

Many aristocrats were jealous of Henri Berteaux, my father, for his professional and family success -- while the Churchmen hated his healing magic above all. Uncertain times gave them the opportunity to settle their differences. Under the thumb of a Christendom gone mad, the propitious moment finally presented itself to the ones who ordered the hit. So they sent their minions to honor the contract. It quickly took on a deadly form with the sole objective of decimating my entire family.

A HUGE OAK.

One of the mercenaries brutally removes his monstrous effigy still impaled and inflamed on his sword. He throws it heavily on the ground. Then with a snap, cuts it in two.

Kneeling, the combatant quickly picks up half of the still-smoldering side-carved effigy. With an indelicate gesture, he places it on Nicola's lifeless face.

The seven mercenaries, with a contemptuous look, gaze at one another with impunity.

Then, without the slightest consideration, they throw Nicola's body into a freshly dug hole at the foot of the large oak tree. The fighters join Edagard surrounded by the other acolytes - energetically brandishing their weapons.

NICOLA BERTEAUX (V.O.)

But they didn't suspect for a moment that by their heinous act, the destiny of a candid being was going to change forever.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - FRONT OF A LARGE OAK - DAWN

A tall, plump MAN (HENRI BERTEAUX) scanning his surroundings appears at the end of the road.

He wears the clothes of members of a religious order, with the hood on. Henri quickly approaches Nicola's inert body.

He drops to his knees heavily in front of the corpse, GASPING and CRYING through his hood. His head tilted towards the ground, Henri tears up and nervously waves his arms. The index finger of his left hand is visible, a gold crimped ring fitted with a large black pebble roughly carved.

Suddenly, from the great oak, the thousands of leaves rustle and move. Then, they come off and fall fading instantly before they even hit the ground. Gently, they arise and generously cover the body of Nicola.

Tears run down Henri's trembling face still covered by his. The tears crash on the ground and on the ring's black stone. The black ring immediately reacts and reflects a bright red color.

Suddenly, it lets out a strange black liquid flowing and impregnating hundreds of earthworms. The earthworms immediately fidget nervously. Suddenly, they take on volume - growing more than twenty inches armed with powerful hooks at their ends.

Oily, hideous and dull in color, they quickly seep through the earth.

Henri straightens his hood-covered head sharply towards the sky. Suddenly, he firmly closes his fists and speaks in a strange language.

NICOLA BERTEAUX (V.O.)

On this day of Sainte-Barthélemy
engraved on the history of this
country of France, it is in the
bewitched abysses that my second
birth was born from hell. The birth
that immured and imprisoned my
innocent soul for eternity.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - FRONT OF A LARGE OAK - DAY (LATER)

As the sun rises now, Henri no longer emits the strange language. He delicately brushes with his hands the faded leaves generously covering his son's body.

Feverishly, he gets up - slowly unraveling his hood. A suffering, pale, drawn and bruised face appears. Henri turns around and, hunched over, walks until he disappears nonchalantly across the nearby fields.

Swaying softly in the wind, the dead leaves adorning his body become agitated and fly away, twirling in all directions. Nicola's entire body sinks slowly into the ground.

Suddenly, from the bowels of the earth appears an oversized sprawling root. It is endowed with thousands of lacerating claws. Then, it is followed immediately by several others. A head of beets representing a cruel effigy with an ardent and glowing inner fire arises.

Finally, its body appears: that of a monster intertwining innumerable roots partially drawing the outline of a child (GRIGNE-DINTS). Throbbing, he starts GRINDING his teeth loudly. Suddenly, the monster makes a hole and quickly sinks into the ground.

NICOLA BERTEAUX (V.O.)

This land will become over time and through the years to come, the most accursed place that no-one invaded by the evil one must set foot on under any pretext lest he be subject to capture and forever become a prisoner of my mighty power. His tortured soul will patiently await the fateful day when I will lead my deadly crusade against human perversion.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

A blue 4x4 car drives at a moderate speed through a valley lined with trees with withered leaves. Beet fields cover the entire region. In the distance, an old farm appears.

SUPER: "Present Day. Somewhere in Tournais, Belgium. Fall."

INT. 4X4 - DAY (THAT MOMENT)

A MAN, JAMES BERTEAUX, in his forties, is behind the wheel. He wears a hat. A strong build, he is dressed in a heavy coat. Looking serene and admiring, his gaze goes to his left where a tractor ploughs a field.

A LADY, KELLY STORM, 40s, looking stern, sits on the passenger seat. Of medium build with mid-length brown hair, she is dressed in a thick wool vest.

A TEEN, 13, STAN BERTEAUX, sits comfortably in the back seat on the left. Withdrawn, holding a smart phone delicately, he wears trendy clothes. Pale faced with light eyes, he is of medium build with brown hair.

An eleven-year-old, ANTOINETTE BERTEAUX, sits casually next to Stan, on the right. Of frail build, she is warmly dressed in trendy masculine clothes. Looking upset, her eyes are dark in color and she has a short dark brown boyish haircut. She nervously sniffles in sequenced moments.

Suddenly, she puts her face against the window and sticks her nose against it. She speaks English, with an American accent as does the rest of her family --

ANTOINETTE

Houston, we have a problem!

Stan suddenly wiggles his nose. He looks hesitantly at his sister.

STAN

Oh, that's weird!

Antoinette turns towards her big brother, grimacing. Suddenly she brings out her left hand - wearing a candy pink SOCK with large deformed white eyes. She brandishes it up to her face, and makes it gesticulate while ventriloquizing in a funny language --

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

Mister Sock says, that stinks.

Stan pinches his nose tightly. He pretends to vomit. Then, he suddenly drops his smart phone.

STAN

Roll up the window Uncle James,
quick!

James smiles cheerfully as he looks in his rear view mirror.

JAMES

It's not that bad Stan, just the
farmer spreading manure on his
field.

Antoinette nervously raises her sock to James.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

The manure?

Stan, with a mocking expression, takes refuge comfortably in his seat. He picks up his smartphone while handling it calmly.

STAN

Cows doing their business, little
sister.

Antoinette pouts. She quickly looks at Kelly.

ANTOINETTE

I don't like this, Kelly! We're gonna have to breathe and live with that for, like, three days!

With a terse look, Kelly jumps while immediately turning to the teenagers.

KELLY

That's enough! This will be a good opportunity for you two to relearn how to live together.

Antoinette gesticulates Mr. Sock by her mouth.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

You must be kidding!

Kelly frowns and leans towards Antoinette.

KELLY

I heard you Antoinette! Grow up a little and throw that stupid sock away.

Antoinette sinks deeper into her seat. She pouts with her sock against her face. Then, she nervously snuffles while combing the side of her hair with her hand.

Stan looks puzzled by the passing landscape. He suddenly straightens his back and moves slightly towards the driver's side.

STAN

Uncle James, why did we come to this place?

Antoinette raises her head to James. She winces negatively while brandishing Mr. sock.

ANTOINETTE

It's such a bummer, we were in Paris and Disneyland wasn't that far away.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)

At least it was in civilization.

Kelly, with an irritated look, quickly turns to Antoinette. She puts her index finger firmly against her mouth.

Antoinette, with a resigned face, sinks a little deeper into her seat with Mr. Sock.

James nods as he watches Stan through his rear view mirror.

JAMES

I hear you, but we have decided that after this professional colloquium in Paris on the global demographic impact, it would be a great opportunity to visit a farm on the land of my ancestors.

James sits up in his seat and looks proudly in front of him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

And besides, from now on, French will be our common language until the end of our stay.

Antoinette shows irritation while looking outside.

ANTOINETTE

(in French)

Hilarious!

James smiles complacently and looks over to Antoinette while driving carefully.

JAMES

(in French)

Hilarious, hilarious!

(sighs proudly)

Long before going into exile in the United States of America, the Berteaux's lived here in this country which long before the arrival of Julius Caesar was called Belgica. It was only much later that it became known as Belgium.

Antoinette, looking distraught, turns to James.

ANTOINETTE

BELGIUM! Like, what is this country?

Mr. Sock stares insistently at his ventriloquist.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)

(in French)

Yeah! Now I better understand the origin of my first name and the many hours spent learning this...

(MORE)

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)
(beat; avoids to curse)
Language.

Stan, grimacing, looks towards Mr. Sock. He carefully puts down his smartphone. Then he calmly crosses his fingers while staring at his sister.

STAN
That of Molière. It's not the end
of the world and plus...
(teasing tone)
Your French name is so cute.

Antoinette, looking upset, slowly turns to her brother.

ANTOINETTE
I miss Westchester County already.

Stan quickly lowers his head. He presses himself warmly against the door. Then, he grabs his smartphone and turns it on.

STAN
Here we go again!

With a complacent face, James shrugs slightly as he looks through the rear view mirror.

JAMES
I promise to show you around this
beautiful city of Tournais, the
city of five bells where their
magnificent chimes resound
everywhere.

James, all smiles, looks in front of him and lightly grips the steering wheel in his hands.

JAMES (CONT'D)
It won't be long before we're back
home in Tarrytown.

INT. DINING ROOM - FARM - NIGHT

The Berteaux family, minus Antoinette, look upset, their faces and hands covered in claw marks. Sitting around a long, wide wooden table topped with plates filled with food, they make the porcelain resonate.

INT. ANTOINETTE AND STAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (9 PM)

Stan, in his pajamas, stretches his arms for a long time in front of his bedside lamp. He yawns and quickly gets into bed. Then, he delicately and meticulously folds his blankets over his body.

Antoinette, lying in her bed, suddenly turns her face lit by the beam of a flashlight towards her brother.

Stan looks in amazement towards his sister.

STAN

Where did you find a flashlight?

Antoinette makes faces while gesticulating the beam.

ANTOINETTE

The owner left a bunch hanging on the wall facing the big window.

Antoinette suddenly lights up Stan's face.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Do you want one!

Stan shields his face briskly.

STAN

Stop playing and turn off that light. I'm tired.

Stan sinks his head into his pillow and turns his back to his sister.

Antoinette, looking annoyed, turns off her light and puts it away under her pillow. Suddenly, she nervously turns her head towards her brother.

ANTOINETTE

It sucks! Kelly doesn't like me,
I'm more than sure now!

(exhale sharply)

Like! She even took my tablet. How
will I play and communicate with my
friends?

Stan jerks his head towards his sister, frowning.

STAN

You keep doing stupid things
wherever you are. And because of
you, Kelly confiscated my phone.

Stan raises his scratched hands desperately to the ceiling.

STAN (CONT'D)

Why did you kick the ball so hard
against the chicken coop door?

Antoinette snuffles while making Mr. Sock's head emerge from
between her blankets.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

It's not my fault that it went
south! I just wanted to play soccer
a little before dinner.

Stan, looking flabbergasted, sits up and shows his scratched
face.

STAN

Stop! Because of this, the hens
fled and got all out of control
with this rooster, a real crazy
one.

Antoinette, with an annoyed face, shifts nervously in her
bed.

ANTOINETTE

I'm sure if I was an actual boy
Kelly would have forgiven me right
away.

Stan yawns heavily and lies back down.

STAN

Please no! Not again with your
identity crisis.

Stan pulls his blankets up to his face.

STAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, I don't feel like talking
anymore.

Antoinette raises Mr. Sock and turns it suddenly towards
Stan.

ANTOINETTE

Yeah! I hope that tomorrow the
lunch will be better than at our
hotel in Paris; *hotel des cinq*
vents!

With a heavy hand, Stan immediately turns off his bedside
lamp. The room goes pitch black.

ANTOINETTE (OVER BLACK) (CONT'D)
(teasing)
You're right, keep to yourself.

INT. ANTOINETTE AND STAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Facing the large French window through the curtains, the shadow of a tree swings its branches. Suddenly, one of them SNAPS curtly.

Antoinette, sleeping, suddenly opens her eyes. She quickly pulls her blankets up to her chin. Then, she looks intrigued at the ceiling. The shadow of the wobbling branches are drawn on it.

The roof base CRACKS. The ventilation gaps in the large French window let the wind WHISTLE.

Antoinette suddenly plunges her head under her pillow. Then she turns nervously in her bed. Suddenly, she shows her face in the company of Mr. Sock. Then, she snuffles while styling the side of her hair with her hand.

Looking determined, she gets up and takes the flashlight from under the pillow. Then turns it on and quickly walks over to her brother's bed.

Stan, sound asleep, is suddenly illuminated by the beam of light. Suddenly, he wrinkles his nose and opens his eyes. Scowling, he shields his face as he gazes at his sister.

STAN
What--what's going on?

Antoinette moves closer to her brother's face, sniffing.

ANTOINETTE
You hear that Stan! Like,
everything's creaking in this damn
place.

Mr. Sock turns to the window then to Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)
You want me to tell you my secret!

Stan rubs his eyes vigorously.

STAN
You're about to do something
stupid, again.

Antoinette moves even closer to her brother's face.

ANTOINETTE
This time it's serious!

Stan sits up suddenly on his bed. His nose almost touches his sister's.

STAN
Fine, I'm listening... but then--

Antoinette and Mr. Sock lean into Stan's right ear. She WHISPERS a few words to him. Stan's face changes.

STAN (CONT'D)
Are you kidding? Are you craving a
midnight snack or something?

Antoinette suddenly moves away from her brother's head.

ANTOINETTE
It's getting on my nerves!

Stan raises his hands in denial.

STAN
Why this identity crisis? Why do
you constantly rise up against
parental authority? Why this desire
to always take risks in defiance of
danger with this ridiculous sock!

Antoinette curtly waves Mr. Sock at Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
Because I have become her
confidante!
(shakes her head)
Why did our parents die unjustly?
And you, why did you choose to be
distant and introverted?

Stan places his right hand warmly on his sister's shoulder.

STAN
I'm also angry, like you, with the
men who cowardly killed our
parents.
(beat)
I miss mom and dad terribly, but
unfortunately they were in the
wrong place at the wrong time that
day!

Antoinette turns tearfully towards the French window. Then she begins to smile nervously.

ANTOINETTE

I'm going to go beyond the beet
field and walk this stupid country
road until dawn.

Stan shakes his head in disagreement, then pretends to go
back to bed.

STAN

Sorry, but I don't approve.

Antoinette, with a mocking face, looks towards her brother.

ANTOINETTE

You have the willies or what!

Stan, looking distressed, just looks at his sister.

STAN

Think about the consequences of
your actions, however stupid they
may be.

Mr. Sock dives into Stan's face.

ANTOINETTE

Chicken! Wimp!

With a determined gesture, Antoinette gets up. She dresses
quickly and puts on her shoes. She attaches her flashlight to
her belt. Then she goes to the large French window. Suddenly,
she firmly operates the handle with her left hand: the doors
open, letting the curtains fly away.

Stan smiles mischievously, looking curiously at his little
sister. He lies down in his bed and pulls back his blanket
warmly.

STAN

She won't be able to.

Antoinette, holding her head high, scratches her belly with
the help of Mr. Sock. Suddenly her hair is blowing in the
wind. Then she steps through the French window and
disappears.

Stan, stunned, straightens up suddenly.

STAN (CONT'D)

That bitch!

Stan quickly uncovers himself from his blanket. Nervously, he
quickly puts on his shoes and coat. Then he goes to the large
French window.

Stan looks at the flashlights hanging on the wall and takes one of them. Hesitating at first, he walks past the door and disappears.

EXT. BEET FIELD - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Stan and Antoinette walk next to each other, pouting. They walk with difficulty through fields lit by the full moon. The wet leaves of the fodder beets CRACK generously against their knees.

ANTOINETTE

Yeah, right! Why did you finally decide to follow me?

Stan shakes his head, "no" as he stares daggers at his sister.

STAN

I'm not following you! I'm here only out of responsibility towards Uncle James who's kindly taken us under his supervision with his wife.

Antoinette straightens her torso and suddenly quickens her pace.

ANTOINETTE

I have nothing against them, but you have to admit they're super annoying!

Stan breathes heavily as he quickens his pace.

STAN

They, they aren't pushy or insufferable but, just a bit too caring.

Antoinette nods her head, looking at her brother.

ANTOINETTE

Hilarious! You always have to defend them.

Stan blushes and looks towards his sister with his mouth open.

STAN

Is it possible to slow down?

Without scruples, Antoinette accelerates the pace, glancing fixedly at her brother.

ANTOINETTE

What if we sang this song, you know
the one during our evenings with
Mom and Dad to learn French.

Stan rolls his eyes wide and stares up at the sky, his hands in denial.

STAN

You're really unbearable!

Antoinette smiles mischievously, rubbing her hands vigorously.

ANTOINETTE

Like, the one where I mumble with a
strong countryside accent. My
tongue is still sore from singing
it.

Stan winces and stares at his sister, with a wild look in his eyes.

STAN

Une, une souris verte!

Antoinette nods with her hand against her mouth.

ANTOINETTE

I know it's not your favorite and
that's why I'm going to sing it to
you.

Stan, looking nervous, shakes his head no.

STAN

Please don't sing it, especially
not the ending!

Antoinette proudly sticks out her chest and takes a deep breath.

ANTOINETTE

Une souris verte qui courait dans
l'herbe, je l'attrape par la queue,
je la montre à ses messieurs, ces
messieurs me disent...

Under his ventriloquist's chin, Mr. Sock vigorously opens his mouth - pointing at Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)
 ...Trempez-la dans l'huile, trempez-
 la dans l'eau, ça fera un escargot
 tout chaud !

They both keep walking with difficulty across the fields.

STAN (O.S.)
 How terrible!

ANTOINETTE (O.S.)
 ...Je la mets dans un tiroir, elle
 me dit qu'il fait trop noir, je la
 mets dans mon chapeau, elle me dit
 qu'il fait trop chaud...

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)
 (raises her voice)
 ...Je la mets dans un tiroir, elle
 me fait trois petites crottes.

STAN (O.S.)
 Aaaaah!

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE PATH - NIGHT

Stan is bent heavily on his knees while Antoinette is standing proudly. Their clothes are wet up to the knees and their shoes loaded with dirt. Antoinette, all smiles, looks towards the large forest.

ANTOINETTE
 All we have to do is cross it!

Stan sits up, sniffing. Then he looks puzzled at his sister.

STAN
 We risk getting a nice cold, which
 is unfortunate. And if I remember
 correctly, you said the country
 road so...

Antoinette shrugs and breathes hard. Then, she nervously snuffles, brushing her hand on the side of her hair. Mr. Sock appears by her face, fidgeting and looking at Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
 Damn! You'll survive, at least I
 hope so.

Stunned, Stan turns to Mr. Sock then to his sister.

STAN

Hey, easy! I hope that you realize the stupidity of what you're about to do.

Antoinette stands proudly in front of her brother.

ANTOINETTE

I told you, it's getting on my nerves!

With a grin, Stan begins to applaud his sister.

STAN

That's settled, I'm stopping this stupid comedy and going back to bed.

Mr. Sock throws himself in front of Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

You coward! Go and lock yourself up as usual, at least, you won't risk getting lost.

Antoinette and Stan pout at each other and suddenly go their separate ways. She begins to walk towards the forest while he goes towards the farm.

Dead leaves CRACKLE dryly under quick footsteps.

Dumbstruck, Stan suddenly stops walking. He looks curiously in the direction of the country path joining the farm. Then, he suddenly runs off to join his little sister. He shoves her. She suddenly stops walking. Looking surprised, she looks at him with a mocking face.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Oh, really -- already here?

Stan, his eyes wide open, suddenly raises his index finger towards the farm: a human form (The farmer), tall and well-built, appears in the distance on the country path.

The FARMER walks quickly towards the siblings. Then, he suddenly emerges from the half-light cast by the deep forest, armed with a rifle.

Stan lets his facial features soften.

STAN

It's-- it's the farmer! He's the owner of the lodge.

Antoinette pouts with Mister Sock.

ANTOINETTE
I'm definitely unlucky.

The farmer approaches them, wearing a hessian hat with a wrinkled and fleshy face. He stops, slamming his boots heavily on the ground.

THE FARMER
The Americans! What are you doing
out this late?

With clasped hands, Stan goes towards the farmer.

STAN
Please don't tell Uncle James.

The farmer frowns as he looks at Stan.

THE FARMER
I don't usually lie. Now, follow
me, because it's better not to stay
here -- it's far too dangerous.

The farmer turns his head towards the woods.

THE FARMER (CONT'D)
The poachers are helped by the
quietness of the night and are very
active, they'll stop at nothing to
do their misdeeds.

The farmer picks up his gun and grips it with both hands.

THE FARMER (CONT'D)
Even the police don't scare them
and they particularly like hunting
wild boar during this season.

The wicked smiling farmer looks at Stan.

THE FARMER (CONT'D)
You're in luck -- had I not heard
strange noises and movements, I
wouldn't have decided to arm myself
with my rifle to come check it out.

Antoinette comes forward, facing the farmer. She waves Mr.
Sock at him.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
We, we can maybe find an
arrangement.

The farmer looks strangely at the ventriloquist then at Mr. Sock.

THE FARMER
What is this thing!

Stan winces, wearily crossing his arms.

STAN
It's... her cuddly toy.

The farmer frowns and stares intently at Antoinette.

THE FARMER
Looks like you're not all there!

Antoinette, looking tormented, remains speechless.

ANTOINETTE
What was that?

The farmer nods and points his index finger at her.

THE FARMER
You should think about growing up.

Stan nods vigorously, holding out his hands in denial.

STAN
I keep telling her.

Antoinette suddenly looks at Stan. She replies with plaintive grimaces.

The farmer suddenly turns his head towards the woods. He pretends to go towards it. Suddenly, two electrodes snap into his chest. He begins to convulse. Then he falls hard to the ground.

Stan and Antoinette, looking surprised and worried, look towards the farmer.

From the woods, CRACKS of twigs bursts.

The siblings, looking frightened, slowly turn their gaze towards the noise.

POACHER #1 (O.S.)
Good lord, good lord! I told you it
would turn sour.

POACHER #2 (O.S.)
Calm down! The boss will arrive
soon, it's just a minor mishap.
(MORE)

POACHER #2 (O.S.) (CONT'D)

When we're done eviscerating the
game, let's get out of here fast.

Suddenly, the two POACHERS with imposing and staggered silhouettes appear out of the woods. They are dressed in long dull coats. Wearing a leather cap, they show a mature, hard and insolent face.

The smaller of the two poachers (poacher 2) is lit by the full moon. He reaches out his arm, holding a stun gun - pointed at the siblings. Poacher #1 follows his acolyte closely.

The teenagers and Mr. Sock look doubtfully at the poachers.

STAN

I'm not feeling well...

ANTOINETTE

They are bloodthirsty killers!

With a desperate gesture, Stan suddenly grabs his sister's arm and pulls her violently. They start running towards the beet field.

STAN

Let's get out of here!

BEET FIELD

Stan and Antoinette breathe heavily as they race down the field very quickly.

ANTOINETTE

What if I negotiated with them?

Stan, flushed face, sweats and suddenly looks at his sister.

STAN

Don't be a smart-ass!

The two poachers in the background have their faces bearing the marks of their efforts. They inexorably join the siblings.

Poacher #1 winces in pain and suddenly stops running, winded and doubled over. Then he raises his head, mouth half open.

POACHER #1

Goddamnit! Shoot them!

Poacher #2 is a few feet behind the kids. He leaves his sidekick behind. Suddenly he stops, exhaling heavily.

Slyly, he quickly stretches his armed arm. Then, he aims his pistol at the two fugitives, taking a slow breath.

POACHER #2

Don't worry, I've got them!

Poacher #2 smiles mischievously. Then he holds his breath. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning comes out of his weapon.

Stan collapses heavily on the ground. An electrode is planted in his neck while the other barely touches his skin.

Antoinette, looking challenged, looks quickly towards Stan. Then she dives roughly face down in his direction.

ANTOINETTE

Stan! Stan!

Antoinette, her face dirtied, looks up above the beet leaves and drags herself painfully towards her brother.

Poacher #2 walks nonchalantly towards Antoinette, quietly cocking his stun gun.

The exhausted poacher #1 dryly points his index finger at the kids.

POACHER #1

For God's Sake! One is still moving.

Poacher #2, smirking, extends his right arm slowly.

POACHER #2

Calm down! I'll knock her out too then you can gag them and round them up with the farmer.

Poacher #2 takes aim at his victim. His hard gaze shows no emotion.

Across the field, the GRINDING of teeth is heard.

INT. JAMES'S BEDROOM - FARM - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

James asleep in his bed. Snores loudly. Suddenly, he opens his eyes and straightens up. He looks strangely from left to right across the room and then to the right side of the bed. His face relaxes slowly.

James, looking soothed and smiling, goes back to sleep calmly - snuggling tenderly against his wife.

EXT. BEET FIELD - NIGHT

Antoinette, looking worried, has both hands placed firmly over her ears.

ANTOINETTE
It's like... insane!

Antoinette slowly turns her head towards poacher #2. Suddenly her face changes and becomes deeply troubled with fear.

Poacher #2 has his eyes wide open. He's surrounded on all sides by oversized sprawling roots. These are armed with thousands of lacerating claws. Suddenly, they plunge quickly into the body of the unfortunate poacher. Suddenly, he gets lifted into the air.

Then with his head drooping and his body floating, he falls heavily to the ground. The claws retract and their roots are released. Then they quickly disappear across fields. A GRINDING of teeth emerges.

Poacher #1 starts running quickly towards his henchman. A few inches from him, he gasps and looks at him strangely.

POACHER #1
What the!

The inert poacher #2 breathes very weakly. His sidekick yanks his gun out of his hand. Suddenly, he sits up, nervously aiming wildly in all directions.

A GRINDING of teeth is heard again across the fields.

Poacher #1 nervously bites his lip. He turns quickly on himself. Then, he stares intensely at a specific spot in the field.

Poacher #1's POV: The tops of the beets begin to move. A broad furrow moves through the leaves slowly at first then faster and faster. With hallucinating speed, the phenomenon intersects the field in all directions. Suddenly, it disappears across the ground.

POACHER #1 (CONT'D)
What the fuck is that?

Antoinette lies nervously on Stan. She protects his head with Mr. Sock.

ANTOINETTE
Stan! Wake up.

Stan winces slightly and slowly opens his eyes. He shakes his head feverishly, emitting a small rattle.

Antoinette looks relieved at her brother.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Finally!

Poacher #1 nervously scans the horizon, aiming his weapon.

POACHER #1

I'll have you whatever you are!

Stan, looking disoriented, slowly straightens up with the help of his sister. With a trembling hand, he withdraws the electrode stuck in his neck.

A GRINDING of teeth is heard across the fields. Poacher #1, face tense, wearily lets his weapon fall heavily on the ground.

POACHER #1 (CONT'D)

But...

Poacher #1 remains frozen, eyes bulging. He's trapped by dozens of oversized sprawling roots. They pull out thousands of lacerating claws all at once. Then they plunge sharply through his body.

Stan, his face horrified, stares wide-eyed in the direction of Poacher #1.

STAN

What's going on?

Antoinette, with a grimacing face, helps her brother to get up while looking towards poacher #1. Mr. Sock smugly nods towards him.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

This is strange. Really strange!

Poacher #1, inert and lying on the ground, breathes LOUDLY. The claws retract and the roots disappear across fields. Suddenly, the hunter's body slowly sinks into the ground.

Stan and Antoinette look startled in the direction of poacher #1.

STAN

Look! It's demonic! He's getting...

Poacher #2, curled up on the ground, suddenly sinks and slowly disappears into the dirt.

Antoinette looks puzzled at Poacher #2.

ANTOINETTE
This country is really crazy!

Stan, with a frightened face, grabs his sister's hand sharply.

STAN
QUICK! Let's get out of here.

Holding hands, Stan and Antoinette begin to quickly descend the rest of the hill.

EXT. EDGE OF BEET FIELD - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Stan and Antoinette stop running. They barely catch their breath, looking fearfully towards the beet field.

STAN
What was it, those strange
tentacles that came out of nowhere?

Antoinette, struck with amazement, looks towards her brother.

ANTOINETTE
They were like... gigantic!

Stan, his eyes wide open, frowns - looking towards his sister.

STAN
Those shrill cries! My teeth are
still quivering...

Stan, in a daze, stares at his forearm.

STAN (CONT'D)
...Not to mention my hair standing
on end.
(gulp)
What the hell is happening?

Antoinette nods and slides the sock up to her face.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
I'm finally starting to appreciate
Belgium!

Stan takes his sister by the shoulders and shakes her vigorously.

STAN

All this is not normal! We're going back to our room immediately.

(catching his breath)

Uncle James can't know otherwise he might put us in a foster family.

Antoinette looks up proudly and brushes her hair with her hand.

ANTOINETTE

Look how annoying you are!

Stan, speechless in amazement, stares at his sister sharply. Then, side by side, they begin to walk slowly towards their rooms. Suddenly, they are brutally shot by a tall man (POACHER #3).

With a mature face and deep wrinkles, he gags their mouths with his large hands.

POACHER #3

What's going on here and where are my men?

Poacher #3 looks at the siblings even more intently.

POACHER #3 (CONT'D)

You are going to come with me and explain all this.

Poacher #3 brutally pulls the teenagers towards the beet field. Suddenly he gets belted and gagged by sprawling roots. They suddenly pull out hundreds of lacerating claws. Then, they immediately plunge into the victim's body.

Stan and Antoinette are immediately thrown to the ground. Then they sit up feverishly and stare in awe at poacher #3.

Poacher #3 lies curled up on the ground. He sinks and slowly disappearing into the dirt.

Antoinette, face grimacing, looks towards her right arm. It is bleeding from a deep wound.

A GRINDING of teeth emerges across fields.

Stan looks puzzled in the direction of the beet field. Then, he tremblingly points his index finger in that direction.

EXT. THROUGH BEET FIELDS - NIGHT

With a glowing fire, GRIGNE-DINTS appears from between the plants. It brings its fearsome sprawling roots back to itself - retracting its terrible claws except one; it is soaked in blood. Suddenly, it licks the claw with a tongue of fire.

Then, he suddenly looks at Antoinette - GRINDING his teeth.

GRIGNE-DINTS

Who are you obnoxious and pathetic character?

Grigne-Dints steps firmly towards the teenager and hisses its tentacles sharply in the air.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

Undeniably a part of the depths of my being calls for you at the risk of waking up and releasing my inner demon!

With their hands over their ears, Stan and Antoinette wince.

Then, they slowly release their hands, looking strangely towards Grigne-Dints.

Antoinette suddenly raises her index finger towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE

Jack O'Lantern! It's him, it's Jack!

Stan, his eyes wide open, shake his head no. Trembles.

STAN

Impossible! And, we're not in our home country.

Antoinette frowns as she slowly takes two steps forward.

ANTOINETTE

But, what is it then...?

Grigne-Dints suddenly propels a root towards Antoinette. It manly grabs the foot of its victim. Then, it pulls her brutally towards the field.

Stan, looking startled, desperately reaches for his sister.

STAN

Antoinette!

EXT. THROUGH BEET FIELDS - NIGHT

Antoinette SCREAMS as she's being dragged roughly up to the monster. Then she quickly gets her mouth gagged with a root.

Grigne-Dints, with menacing intent, stares at the girl's frightened face. It lets its fire come alive ardently inside its mask.

GRIGNE-DINTS

Know that for hundreds of years I
have wielded my full power across
these lands.

Grigne-Dints brings its face as closely as possible to Antoinette's.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

And I answer to the terrifying name
of Grigne-Dints!

Grigne-Dints quickly wraps multiple roots around the girl's body.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

Locked up in my underground kingdom
you will never see the light of day
again and you will die isolated
from everyone!

Grigne-Dints GRINDS its teeth and spins at very high speed. It dives into the dirt and quickly disappears - creating a gaping hole.

EXT. EDGE OF BEET FIELD - NIGHT

Stan, speechless at the phenomenon, suddenly pulls himself together while frantically stretching his index finger towards the gaping hole.

STAN

An-- Antoinette!

Stan tenses his face and clenches his fists with outstretched arms.

STAN (CONT'D)

But why did this creature kidnap my
little sister?

Stan runs full speed towards the gaping hole through the

BEET FIELD

Stan, looking distraught, takes quick steps from left to right facing the gaping hole. Then he nervously holds his head.

STAN (CONT'D)
That's what being carefree and
always wanting to defy danger at
all costs gets you.

Stan nods his head nervously as he continues to pace.

The gaping hole retracts little by little.

STAN (CONT'D)
I should have stayed safe in my
room and warm in my bed.

Stan suddenly stops walking.

He looks towards the gaping hole. He clenches his fists while nervously biting his lip. Then, he looks puzzled at his feet.

Carefully, he bends down and picks up his sister's cuddly toy from the ground.

STAN (CONT'D)
Mister Sock!

With a sad face, Stan looks towards the hole.

STAN (CONT'D)
I must find you and bring you home
at all costs.

Stan squeezes Mr. Sock tightly between his hands.

STAN (CONT'D)
Mom and Dad, they must be watching
me right now.

Stan takes a deep breath and stands up. He pats his cheeks hard. Then he straightens his chest, closes his eyes and launches himself into the cavity.

INT. DOWNSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Grigne-Dints progresses rapidly through the wide and high tunnel. It holds Antoinette firmly between its tentacles.

The underground passage is winding and generously lit by a gutter digging into the ground. The gutter lets a viscous and luminous liquid slide slowly. Suddenly, the monster awkwardly lets go and drops Antoinette heavily to the ground.

Then, the creature abruptly stops - leaving its tentacles in a state of torpor.

GRIGNE-DINTS

NO! It can't be! No!

Antoinette straightens up slowly. Aching, she gazes at the monster.

ANTOINETTE

Where am I?

Grigne-Dints suddenly squirms energetically. It lets its tentacles hiss dangerously through the air. The demonic effigy with fiery glowing fire slowly changes color to suddenly become a WHITENING fire.

Then the monster calms down. Slowly, it lets its head drop heavily to the ground.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Don't be afraid, young lady!

Antoinette, looking stunned, gently holds out her index finger towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE

Uh, who are you?

INT. UPSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Stan falls heavily to the dirt-soaked floor. His face dirty, he takes his flashlight from his back pocket and quickly turns it on. The teenager nervously directs the beam all around him. It illuminates a gloomy tunnel shaped from all sides of barren earth.

STAN

We're not in the land of "OZ!" At least we're not freezing.

Stan, looking curious, gets up and starts walking cautiously down the tunnel. Sinuous and high, it's suddenly generously lit by a gutter dug into the ground where a viscous and luminous liquid slowly flows.

The teenager sabers the phenomenon with his beam.

STAN (CONT'D)

Looks like molten lava! But where does it come from?

Stan, looking intrigued, suddenly turns upstream. The hole closes completely.

STAN (CONT'D)
It's getting complicated!

Stan takes a deep breath. Then he searches in all directions with the beam of his flashlight. Suddenly, he stops moving it and generously illuminates the entrance to an emerging gallery on his right.

STAN (CONT'D)
What is that?

Stan walks carefully downstream. He branches off and enters the emergent gallery.

INT. DOWNSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - NIGHT (LATER)

A distraught Antoinette, on her guard, slowly approaches the monster.

ANTOINETTE
Your-- your inner fire!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks up and turns its face slowly towards Antoinette. It lets a white fire come alive ardently inside its mask.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Don't be afraid of me! I'm only
Nicola -- son of Henri and Angele
Berteaux.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, looking intrigued, curiously contemplates its/his body.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Who am I locked up in this
monstrous body!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola slowly wiggles its roots in the air and faces her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Good heavens! I remember now the
night of my death, August 24, 1572,
but...

Grigne-Dints/Nicola lets his tentacles drop lazily to the ground - nodding his head.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
 I can now see through the dark
 thoughts of my horrible host!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly makes tentacles quiver in front of him and desperately clasps them together.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
 I have since been a prisoner of
 this Grigne-Dints created by the
 vengeful will of Henri, my father!

Antoinette, with a crazed look in her eyes, looks and quickly pats different parts of her body with her hands.

ANTOINETTE
 Mr. Sock! Damn it -- I lost him.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stands in the direction of Antoinette and slowly extends a root towards her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 Who are you -- using this familiar
 gibberish?

INT. EMERGING GALLERY - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Stan moves forward cautiously, illuminating the steep walls. Then he stops and stares in amazement in front of him. Multiple and small appendages to the cramped entrance emerge from all sides.

The internal vault of each of them shelters a cocoon at the pointed end falling down to stop a few inches from the ground.

STAN
 What the! What are all those
 strange stalactites?

Stan stops in front of the entrance to one of them. He kneels down and illuminates with his flashlight a strange viscous and luminous liquid dripping from the tip of the stalactite.

STAN (CONT'D)
 Yuk!

Stan grimaces and slowly steps inside the small appendage.

STAN (CONT'D)

Knowing my little sister, it would not be impossible unfortunately that she voluntarily hide in a place as twisted as this one.

SMALL APPENDAGE

On all fours, Stan moves forward slowly and cautiously, grazing the steep wall of the appendage. It oozes generously. Then it stops and illuminates the whole cocoon. The teenager gently strains his ear close to it.

Suddenly it shudders and swarms strongly from within.

STAN (CONT'D)

What is that?

Stan steps back sharply and slashes the tip of the stalactite with his beam. Through a small crucible built on the ground, the liquid falls and streams slowly outwards.

STAN (CONT'D)

Strange!

Stan frowns as he slashes his beam toward a far corner of the appendage. In a tight line, are dozens of big oily worms, LOYALS, hideous and dull-colored over twenty inches armed with an evolved hook. They rhythmically pace the stalactite.

Suddenly, the first LOYAL, upstream, sinks without difficulty using its hook inside it.

STAN (CONT'D)

Ew! It's freaking disgusting!

Stan exclaims and steps forward. He curiously touches a LOYAL with a trembling finger. Suddenly, it moves aggressively. The teenager jumps up, yells and hurriedly leaves the appendage - rubbing his hands vigorously.

INT. DOWNSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Antoinette, looking reassured, slowly gets comfortable. She walks nonchalantly towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE

I'm Antoinette and I'm an orphan.
(raises her voice)

I'm not from this country -- I come from Tarrytown in Westchester County in the State of New York in the United States of America.

Antoinette suddenly frowns.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)
You-- you're saying 1572!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola wearily shakes his head, stepping back slightly.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Alas! The night my mother was
betrayed, executed and cowardly
murdered.

Antoinette exclaims with her eyes wide open. Then, she walks slowly towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE
Your mother!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, head down, kneels heavily. He hides his entire face between his sprawling roots.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
My sweet and loving Angele.

Antoinette winces wearily as she walks a little closer to the monster.

ANTOINETTE
Unfortunately, we seem to have
something in common!

Grigne-Dints, still hidden by its numerous tentacles, suddenly straightens up with consistency and severity.

GRIGNE-DINTS
You may have managed to get my
inner demon out of its torpor! But
I can swear to you that neither you
nor that runt Nicola Berteaux will
stop my future crusade against the
perverted souls of this country.

Antoinette thinks hard, holding her index finger against her mouth.

ANTOINETTE
You say your name is Berteaux.
(exhales)
But, it's like my own last name.
(beat)
I think this is pure coincidence.

Antoinette, looking startled, suddenly raises her head towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)
Cowardly?!

Opposite her, Grigne-Dints GRINDS its teeth while unveiling its blazing red fire through the mask.

Antoinette looks frightened as she takes several steps back.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)
Oh, no! Not you!

She turns around and quickly runs down the tunnel, SCREAMING.

INT. UPSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Stan, his face grimacing, wrinkles his nose as he stares at his disgustingly sticky fingers.

STAN
It's filthy! What can their worms
be busy with inside these kinds of
cocoon?

Stan walks cautiously down the center of the tunnel. Suddenly the teenager stares in front of him.

STAN'S POV: From the ground, a character (SCARECROW) without a face is suddenly born from a black and shiny dirt. It is tall with an oversized arm gesturing aggressively; it wears a large hat.

Stan, looking startled, suddenly stops walking. He nervously waves his open hands in front of him.

STAN (CONT'D)
What the hell is that?

THE SCARECROW swings his arms dangerously forward as it walks towards the teenager.

Stan, with a frightened face, looks urgently to his right. Suddenly, he throws himself to the ground - entering a narrow gallery.

NARROW GALLERY

Stan, eyes wide open, SCREAMS. He slides quickly and inexorably through the gallery.

STAN (CONT'D)

HELP!

Stan suddenly loses his footing. Falls through nothingness.

INT. DOME - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Stan keeps falling and crashes hard against the ground of a small island made of limestone. He sits up feverishly, grimacing.

STAN

Ouch!

Stan, looking startled, takes his flashlight with a trembling hand. Turns it on. Points the beam straight ahead.

STAN (CONT'D)

Where did I end up?

Stan curiously energetically swings the beam from left to right. Water spreads through the whole dome.

STAN (CONT'D)

I'm screwed!

Stan shakes his head as he slowly spins round - scanning the location with his flashlight.

STAN (CONT'D)

There's no way I'm diving in this water... if it's water! And it must be cold and certainly very deep.

Stan, experiencing disappointment, lets himself fall heavily. His flashlight falls and rolls on the ground. Then, it inadvertently illuminates the ceiling. It is tightly structured with hundreds of stalactites.

The teenager looks by chance towards the vault. Then a faint smile suddenly appears on his face.

STAN (CONT'D)

Luck is on my side!

Stan gets up immediately and retrieves his flashlight. Then, he illuminates the bottom of the dome: a small narrow entrance leads to the surface.

STAN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna have to be careful.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Antoinette breathing at an accelerated pace stops against the side of a dirt wall inside a curve. She turns around and looks anxiously up the tunnel.

GRIGNE-DINTS

You can't escape from me -- you insolent character. Know that I reign supreme throughout this world.

Antoinette, her eyes wide open, swallows briefly. She kneels down slowly and carefully.

ANTOINETTE

Who... who are you!

GRIGNE-DINTS (O.S.)

I am the work of my father Henri who ordained me by the grace of the black ring.

Stunned, Antoinette turns her head and looks quickly towards different places.

ANTOINETTE

Your father was a wizard then!

GRIGNE-DINTS (O.S.)

A doctor weakened by the loving attention of Angele and her only son Nicola.

(slightly grinds teeth)

Besides, shortly after their death, he committed suicide.

Antoinette frowns and grimaces as she looks up the tunnel.

ANTOINETTE

So you're as one with this Nicola! But who exactly is he for you?

GRIGNE-DINTS (O.S.)

A puny man, a coward, a chicken and a recreant who must remain ignored by all!

Antoinette stands up and smiles perniciously.

ANTOINETTE

You seem to love him! Yet you live together.

Antoinette, with a frightened face, is suddenly and abruptly surrounded at her feet by sprawling roots.

GRIGNE-DINTS (O.S.)
BE CAREFUL! I am the unique Grigne-
Dints, provider of darkness.

Antoinette, shouting at the top of her lungs, hits the stubborn tentacles hard with her flashlight. They suddenly let go and Antoinette quickly flees.

INT. DOME - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

Stan walks to the top of the small island. He looks with his flashlight towards the stalactite located above him.

STAN
Once you've put your hand to the
plow, there's no turning back!

Stan wedges the flashlight in his mouth. Then he takes a deep breath and jumps up. He clings desperately to the stalactite.

STAN (CONT'D)
Climb Stan! Climb!

Stan quickly climbs halfway up the stalactite. Then, he looks bravely in front of him.

STAN (CONT'D)
The faster I reach the narrow
passage that will lead me outside
the faster I can save Antoinette
from the clutches of that monster.

Stan throws himself vigorously and catches himself on another stalactite. Suddenly his hands begin to slip. The teenager barely catches himself while looking down in fear.

STAN (CONT'D)
Phew! That was a close call.

Stan, looking pugnacious, with a sweaty forehead, quickly jumps from stalactite to stalactite.

He arrives up to the narrow passage.

Then he throws himself and clings firmly to the edge of it. The cheerful-faced teenager smiles broadly.

STAN (CONT'D)
Mom and Dad would be proud of me
right now.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Antoinette, with a frightened face, quickly runs through the tunnel.

ANTOINETTE

I must get out quickly!

Antoinette is suddenly stopped in her tracks. She falls heavily to the ground, her feet seized and surrounded by fearsome roots. Suddenly, she is thrown against the vault. She inadvertently loses her flashlight. Then she falls heavily to the ground.

Grigne-Dints appears and moves forward in a firm and powerful manner towards her. Suddenly, other roots are thrown violently towards the fugitive. They firmly bind her two feet.

GRIGNE-DINTS

I will leave you behind in one of
my bottomless galleries.

With dirt on her face, Antoinette breathes wearily. She looks up painfully towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE

You're lucky I'm not a boy!

Grigne-Dints GRINDS its teeth and throws her violently against the vault. She falls and slumps heavily on the ground. Then she shakes her head frantically.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

I'm in pain! Please!

Grigne-Dints deploys its formidable roots. He moves in front of Antoinette. Then he looks at her, letting his inner fire glow intensely.

GRIGNE-DINTS

I can sense right now that you're
not so arrogant anymore.

Grigne-Dints, with the help of a few roots, grabs and lifts the girl without difficulty. Then he throws her vigorously down the tunnel.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

YOUR END IS NEAR!

Antoinette, grimacing and in bad shape, raises her head gently. She looks fearfully towards the monster.

Then, she crawls with difficulty towards a small appendage located on her left.

SMALL APPENDAGE

Antoinette reaches the entrance. Jerky breathing as she walks with difficulty on all fours. She brushes against the cocoon-shaped stalactite. It shudders and swarms from the inside, letting its luminous liquid flow drop by drop from its tip.

ANTOINETTE

What the hell is this again?

Antoinette suddenly picks up the pace and walks around the stalactite. Suddenly, a tentacle slams against the cocoon. The pocket rips open and lets flow from a rotting body dozens of sticky LOYALS; they fall en masse on the disgusted preteen.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

HOW AWFUL!

Antoinette fidgets nervously. Distraught, she vigorously gets rid of the LOYALS with her hands. Then, she heads straight for the exit in the direction of the tunnel.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

With glowing fire, Grigne-Dints's progression stops suddenly. Challenged, he looks slowly towards the top of the tunnel. Then he snaps his tentacles sharply against the ground, GRINDING his teeth.

GRIGNE-DINTS

Who are you pubescent creature and
how did you enter my kingdom?

Grigne-Dints slams its roots into the air.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

Above all, don't imagine yourself
joining the unfortunate young lady!

Grigne-Dints slams its roots hard against the wall.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

Also prepare to die soon!

INT. UPSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - NIGHT

Stan, his face imbued with appeasement, walks with ease. Suddenly in front of him, a scarecrow comes to life across the ground.

The speechless teenager suddenly stops walking.

STAN

No! Not him again!

The entire fused scarecrow gets in motion. He walks steadily towards Stan, ROARING. Then, it forcefully waves its oversized arms towards him.

Stan, mouth ajar, is frozen. Then all of a sudden, he starts running briskly up the tunnel.

STAN (CONT'D)

Help!

Stan, looking frightened, dives and branches off directly towards a small gallery.

SMALL GALLERY

Stan sinks inexorably and passes through many drooping roots. Suddenly, he lets out a cry of despair and falls heavily on the ground, flat on his stomach. The scarecrow, with the help of his powerful hand with atrophied fingers, grabs and violently pulls Stan's leg towards him.

He stares with flaming eyes of terror at the teenager. Then, he wildly articulates his oversized mouth - SCREAMING.

Stan, looking horrified, hangs desperately on sturdy roots. Suddenly a large quantity of dirt falls on him. Then the ground rips open under his body. The teenager drops heavily through a hole, SCREAMING in despair.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

With outstretched and threatening tentacles, Grigne-Dints gazes insistently at Antoinette.

Suddenly, he rushes towards the girl, GRINDING his teeth.

GRIGNE-DINTS

You're going to die!

Grigne-Dints suddenly involuntarily flexes its tentacles. It stumbles heavily, choking. Then it squirms energetically on the ground.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You won't be able to, you little
runt! You won't!

Antoinette, trembling with fear, is frozen. Rooted to the spot, she looks strangely at the monster.

INT. HOLE - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Stan, sitting on his posterior in a large hole, hurriedly picks up his flashlight. With a nervous gesture, he illuminates everything around him with it.

STAN
Where am I this time?

Stunned, Stan curiously watches a piece of youthful root suddenly appear. A DEVOTEE. It comes out quickly, increasing in volume just as fast.

STAN (CONT'D)
What the-- What is that!

Stan looks anxiously around him quickly. The devotee, with a mature body under thick bark, suddenly gives birth to thousands of protruding thorns. They quickly gather up. Meticulously, they fashion a large and thick hideous face with aggressive teeth made of large spines.

Suddenly, it is projected onto the teenager.

STAN (CONT'D)
What now!

Stan, looking frightened and stupefied, vigorously strikes the ugly face with his flashlight. It tries in vain to bite him. Suddenly, the teenager manages to crush the plant. Then grimacing in disgust, he vigorously rubs his flashlight against his chest.

STAN (CONT'D)
Yuk!

The scarecrow appears above the teenager's head out of nowhere.

With his big hand, it grabs his hair vigorously. Then, he pulls him brutally upwards.

STAN (CONT'D)
Seriously!

The scarecrow suddenly shows its angry and aggressive face. Wriggling feet in the air, Stan SCREAMS and desperately slaps the assailant's hand with his flashlight. The hand ends up shattering; the sacred dirt falls to the ground and dissipates through it.

The teenager falls heavily on his butt.

STAN (CONT'D)

What kind of nightmare is this?

The scarecrow SCREAMS its rage and suddenly plunges completely into the hole. It brutally attacks Stan who screams with fear, retaliates energetically in all directions using his flashlight and his feet.

Suddenly, the teenager is caught by the last hand of the cursed being. Strangled tightly, he slowly begins to suffocate.

Stan, with a desperate face, watches a devotee appear through the wall. Then quickly several others fashion a hideous face with large aggressive teeth.

The oppressed teenager with half-closed eyes is gradually suffocating. With a desperate gesture, he grabs the hideous face by the collar and crushes it sharply against the face of the scarecrow.

STAN (CONT'D)

Mom, Dad! I love you.

The scarecrow is inadvertently bitten by the plant. Suddenly while screaming his determination, it angrily brandishes its second hand, about to punch Stan in the head. A powerful tentacle of the monster abruptly blocks the murderous attack while another wraps quickly around the head of the cursed being.

Its head is decapitated; the sacred dirt is dumped on the teenager.

ANTOINETTE (V.O.)

Stan! Stan!

Stan looks up, surprised. Suddenly, he begins to smile nervously.

He clumsily climbs onto the decomposing Scarecrow's body. Then he clings desperately to the edge of the hole.

STAN

Antoinette! I'm here! I'm here!

Antoinette appears immediately, smiling.

She bends down and extends both arms warmly towards her big brother.

ANTOINETTE

This is not often the case but, if
you knew how happy I am to find
you.

Stan firmly grips his sister's hands, protesting his bad mood. As he quickly pulls himself out of the hole --

STAN

Why didn't you stay in the room!

INT. GALLERY - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT (SECONDS LATER)

Stan throws himself vigorously into Antoinette's arms and hugs her warmly. Then, he moves away from it, searches for and delicately takes his sister's cuddly toy from inside his shirt.

The teenager, looking surprised, carefully takes the sock in her trembling hands.

ANTOINETTE

I thought you were lost! If you
knew how much I missed you.

Stan, stares at his sister - exchanging a knowing look.

STAN

I had to fight hard through this
evil world. With its bogeymen,
carnivorous plants and gross worms!

Antoinette and Mister Sock suddenly look at her big brother. Then they nod passively.

ANTOINETTE

We'll talk about it later if you
don't mind...

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)

You really had to like, keep your
cool.

With a perplexed smile, Stan comes close to his sister.

STAN

You have no idea.

Stan frowns and touches Antoinette's face with his hand.

STAN (CONT'D)

Your face!

Antoinette curtly gets rid of her brother's delicate intention. Face tense, she squeezes Mr. Sock tightly between her hands.

ANTOINETTE

Nothing important!

Stan gasps and throws his hands up in denial.

STAN

I already feel your damn ego crisis resurfacing.

Stan looks around him.

STAN (CONT'D)

What if we found a way out of this crazy world?

Antoinette winces negatively, moving forward with a firm step in front of her brother.

ANTOINETTE

Impossible!

Antoinette gently relaxes the features of her face. Then, she brandishes Mr. Sock towards Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)

Crazy stuff! Come and follow me.

Dazed and intrigued, Stan stares at his sister.

STAN

What's going on?

Antoinette takes her brother's hand firmly and pulls him sharply towards her.

ANTOINETTE

Please Stan -- just trust me.

INT. DOWNSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

Grigne-Dints, looking calm, shriveled, has its face hidden and pointed to the ground. It emits a slight throbbing GRINDING of teeth.

INT. GALLERY - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

Stan and Antoinette head towards the end of the gallery. Suddenly, Stan abruptly stops his sister. He faces her promptly, lighting up her face.

STAN

How did you get here?

(beat)

And, where's that monster?

Antoinette blocks the beam with her hand. She delicately takes Stan's flashlight. Then, she pulls her brother - leaving the gallery towards the top of the tunnel.

UPSTREAM OF THE TUNNEL

Antoinette turns off the beam of the flashlight. Then she gazes peacefully down the tunnel.

ANTOINETTE

He won't hurt us. Besides, he's the one who destroyed the bogeyman, as you call it.

Stan looks stunned in the direction of the downstream of the tunnel.

STAN

What are you talking about?

Antoinette looks down the tunnel and mechanically raises her Mr. Sock arm towards Stan.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

He needs us, that's all!

Stan looks at Mr. Sock questioningly...

STAN

But he is evil and took you away.

Antoinette suddenly turns around with her eyes wide open and faces Stan. She snaps Stan's flashlight from his hand and lights her face under her chin.

ANTOINETTE

We must help him!

Stan, looking preoccupied, directs the beam below his chin and illuminates his face.

STAN

Help him?!

Antoinette directs the beam below her chin and illuminates her face.

ANTOINETTE

Unbeknownst to him and to the citizens of this country, he is a frightening legend wandering through time.

Stan winces, picks up the flashlight and directs the beam below his chin and illuminates his face.

STAN

What?!

Again, Antoinette directs the beam below her chin and illuminates her face.

ANTOINETTE

Totally! I tried to flee several times, but each time his fearsome double easily caught up with me.

Stan is about to pick up the flashlight again, but refrains himself.

STAN

That explains the marks on your face!

Finally, Stan picks up and directs the beam below his chin and illuminates his face.

STAN (CONT'D)

You said... his DOUBLE?

Antoinette directs the beam below her chin --

ANTOINETTE

Follow me, I'll explain everything to you.

Stan exhales loudly, nodding.

Then they begin to walk down the tunnel together.

ANTOINETTE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's crazy! His story began on August 24, 1572, the day Charles IX King of France made the decision to...

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT (LATER)

Stan and Antoinette walk quietly through the tunnel generously lit by the luminous river.

ANTOINETTE

...And that's when Nicola explained to me that his father, Henri, was a sorcerer who practiced medicine. But he unfortunately ended his life out of love for having also lost his wife Angele.

Stan looks at his sister, looking troubled.

STAN

So, he was an only son to later become a prisoner of this monster.

Antoinette frowns as she looks towards her brother.

ANTOINETTE

Grigne-Dints was also born thanks to this harmful and powerful black ring.

Antoinette takes a long breath and looks down the tunnel. Then, she tilts her head slightly - insisting with her eyes.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Something's wrong!

Antoinette stops walking and with a firm hand stops her brother.

STAN

What's going on?

With the help of Mr. Sock, Antoinette directs Stan's face towards the downstream of the tunnel.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

I guess we're gonna have to run like, really fast!

Grigne-Dints appears from behind at the bottom of the tunnel. Suddenly, it spreads its tentacles widely and powerfully. Then, it plants them dryly through the wall, completely obstructing the passage.

Suddenly, it swivels its head at the glowing fire one hundred and eighty degrees towards the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS

You bother me to the core!

Stan and Antoinette are transfixed; they look nervously from left to right.

ANTOINETTE

It's seriously uncool! No escape in sight.

Stan looks at his sister, puzzled.

STAN

I thought he was harmless!

Grigne-Dints moves towards the kids, planting its formidable tentacles through the wall at each step.

GRIGNE-DINTS

I will exterminate you once and for all, you scum.

Antoinette nervously looks scared at Stan.

ANTOINETTE

He seriously freaks me out!

Stan gapes at his sister.

STAN

There is always a solution, well, I hope so.

Stan and Antoinette look back up the tunnel. Suddenly, facing them, two scarecrows quickly rise from the ground. They move towards the fugitives, YELLING and swinging their oversized arms forcefully.

STAN (CONT'D)

There are two of them, now!

The siblings suddenly get their foot grabbed by a tentacle. Then, they are forcibly pulled towards the monster.

GRIGNE-DINTS

Your miserable life is close to a gruesome end!

Stan and Antoinette, separated by force, are violently thrown against the wall. Antoinette, lying face down on the floor, struggles to get up.

ANTOINETTE

Nicola!

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

A huge well is built at ground level. It is filled almost to its maximum. Stagnant, it gives off an intense light. Around the excavation, several large rivers are joined together where a thick and luminous gasoline-looking mixture slowly flows.

Suddenly, the essence comes to the boil.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Stan and Antoinette, both bruised and sore, struggle to their feet. They gather up and head painfully towards the top of the tunnel. The two scarecrows in front of them brandish their oversized arms.

The fugitives stop and look at each other doubtfully.

STAN

We're done for!

ANTOINETTE

We're doomed!

Stan desperately walks backwards dragging his sister down the tunnel. Suddenly, devotees from all parts hatch from the wall. They rapidly gain volume and spread. Suddenly hideous faces with aggressive teeth appear, about to throw themselves furiously on the siblings.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

I should have stayed in bed!

The scarecrows, waving their oversized arms, try to hit Stan and Antoinette heavily. Suddenly, they're decapitated by tentacles with large claws out. The bogeymen are immediately slashed violently, leaving the sacred dirt to fall heavily on the ground.

The devotees also burst one after the other under the swift onslaught of the powerful roots.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Hurry up! It's absolutely necessary
to go to the crypt.

Stan and Antoinette have a crazed look in their eyes as they get up. Then, they turn towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE

Nicola!

With a blazing whitening fire, Grigne-Dints/Nicola moves rapidly towards them.

He abruptly flinches and leans heavily on his tentacles.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
It's very strong! I don't know how
much longer I'll be able to contain
it.

Antoinette, followed by Stan, quickly join the monster.

STAN
I would like to understand!

ANTOINETTE
It's Nicola! It's Nicola!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola sits up feverishly on his tentacles. Then he looks at Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Glad to finally meet you dear Stan.
Your sister spoke to me at length
about your qualities.

Stan looks puzzled at his sister.

STAN
Really?!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola raises two tentacle claws tucked in towards the downstream of the tunnel.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
(raises his voices)
Time's running out.

Stan looks insistent towards Grigne-Dints/Nicola.

STAN
Why?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola lowers his tentacles and looks at Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
We have to go to the crypt, to the
well of evil torments, if plunged
into the basin, I can finally free
myself from this monster.

Stan frowns. Suddenly, he points at himself and his sister.

STAN
What's in it for us?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola moves slowly towards the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
I greatly need your assistance
during the journey. Alone, I could
not accomplish this act.
(moves forward)
I'm too weak against my fearsome
ego. And also, an emerging gallery
in the crypt was made by Grigne-
Dints. You could escape and free
yourself safely thanks to this vein
reaching directly to the surface.
(keeps moving)
At the same time you would also
save this country from this
terrible curse.

Stan, looking flattered, smiles slightly as he looks at his
sister. Then he turns and nods slightly at the monster.

STAN
What guarantee do we have?

Antoinette sharply nudges her brother in the stomach.

ANTOINETTE
We have to trust him and then we
can go home.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stares at the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
If we want to free ourselves from
this cursed kingdom, we must unite
our forces, because the danger is
always very present in these
bewitched places.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT (LATER)

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stomps forward. He drags his roots
heavily on the ground. Stan and Antoinette pick up the pace.
Stan approaches the monster and looks at it.

STAN
Could you explain to me what those
fat, dull, oily, hideous,
aggressive worms were.
(MORE)

STAN (CONT'D)

Also those virulent plants but
especially those strange bogeymen
with disproportionate arms.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola continues to walk, looking at Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

The virulent plants, as you call
them, are really Grigne-Dints's
devotees. They control and protect
his entire Kingdom.

(exhales heavily)

Lucky for us that I contain it a
little, be it the monster!
Otherwise, they would leave us no
chance of living.

Stan, looking startled, clears his throat sharply.

STAN

I had a lucky escape!

Antoinette looks at Mr. Sock, gesticulating frantically with
its mouth.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

I get it now! As long as Nicola
controls the monster, none of its
minions can harm us.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly picks up the pace. The kids,
looking surprised, join him just as quickly. Then he looks
back at Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

The bogeymen, or rather the
scarecrows as they call themselves,
are hunters of evildoers and
taboos. They are made of sacred
dirt, the one that covered the
monster when it was born.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks at Antoinette.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

And, the aggressive, oily worms are
actually Grigne-Dints's LOYALS.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola slowly moves one of his tentacles. He
directs the tip of it towards the river filled with the
luminous liquid mixture.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
The LOYALS are on a mission to
continuously build its kingdom and
extract the very essence of its
omnipotence.

STAN/ANTOINETTE (O.S.)
What?!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly stops walking. He turns curtly
towards Stan and Antoinette. Then, he suddenly launches two
tentacles towards their faces - sticking to their foreheads.

Stan and Antoinette suddenly stop and remain frozen while
staring dumbfounded at the monster.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
See how the monster organizes its
misdeeds with the help of its
henchmen!

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

SUPER: "Sometime during the First World War."

Six Prussian SOLDIERS with aggressive gestures and hateful
faces fire their guns at civilians fleeing from terror.

Grigne-Dints rises from the ground and extracts itself
quickly. He faces the soldiers; surprised and worn out, they
start shooting at the monster. Grigne-Dints dodges bullets
without difficulty and quickly attack its victims.

The monster disarms them and restrains them with the help of
its sprawling roots with their claws all spread out. Then,
the inert soldiers, curled up on the ground, begin to breathe
slowly.

Suddenly, they sink inexorably into the ground. In the bowels
of the dirt, the LOYALS pull them and then weave each of the
condemned soldiers a cocoon around their bodies; these take
on the form of large stalactites then are placed apart in a
small appendage.

Dozens of worms enter through each cocoon and infiltrate each
of the outlaws' bodies. Then, they slowly begin to draw the
luminous mixture; it escapes slowly, drop by drop, from the
end of the tip of the stalactite. Then, it flows through a
small river.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

The tentacles on the forehead of the two teenagers peel off. Then, they quickly retract towards the monster.

Antoinette exclaims, looking up in the air --

ANTOINETTE
Like the three poachers!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola nods positively at Antoinette.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Then their perverted, defiled and
evil-marked souls are transformed
into this cursed and luminous
liquid.

The monster looks towards the flowing river with the luminous mixture.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Then, that liquid and the well of
evil torments meet.

Stan grins, nervously biting his lip.

STAN
So they, they're still...

Grigne-Dints/Nicola turns around and walks towards the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Grigne-Dints needs a living
subject!

Antoinette moves close to the monster, brandishing Mr. Sock.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
What a dismal death!

Stan, speechless, suddenly looks up.

STAN
And, time will make their remains
disappear forever.

He looks at his sister.

STAN (CONT'D)
Very sad indeed!

Antoinette takes a long breath, wearily dropping her arms to the ground.

ANTOINETTE

But-- but what will this luminous
liquid be used for?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola slightly turns around. Then, he looks insistently towards her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

To raise his army of damned souls!

Stan exclaims, looking at the monster.

STAN

An army of damned souls!
(louder)
What for?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks slowly at the teenager.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

In order to annihilate the country
of any subject invaded by
perversion and the evil one.

Antoinette frowns as she looks at the monster. Then, tilting her chin up --

ANTOINETTE

Grigne-Dints is finally fighting
for an excellent and good cause!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola moves close to Antoinette. Then, he presses his mask against her face.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Think again Antoinette! No one has
the right to impose their doctrine
or beliefs, however laudable, on
anyone in this world.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

The well; the essence is coming to the boil.

Then wisps of smoke begin to rise, emanating level with the rocky vault - then dropping heavily. The essence begins to boil harder, swirling very slowly.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, Stan and Antoinette progress rapidly towards the meandering downstream of the tunnel. Antoinette goes up to the monster. Suddenly, glancing at Mr. Sock, she stops walking. Stan stops unexpectedly, looking puzzled at his little sister.

STAN

What's going on?

Antoinette places herself courageously in front of the monster, brandishing Mr. Sock.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Is there something important that
has made you stop?

Antoinette and Mr. Sock nod.

ANTOINETTE

I would like to know -- Angele,
your mother, did she know what
awaited her on August 24, 1572?

Antoinette wearily drops Mr. Sock to the ground.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Mom and Dad didn't know that death
was going to take them away
violently the day they went to that
damn supermarket.

(raises her voice)

When thieves lost control of the
situation and fired all over the
place without even paying
attention.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola delicately places a tentacle on the preteen's left shoulder.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Have mercy! Nothing could have
prevented them from this heinous
and tragic act.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola places a second tentacle delicately on Antoinette's right shoulder.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

I am very affected, be sure, by the
dramatic and tragic disappearance
of your parents. Please accept my
most charitable sentiments.

Stan comes close to his sister, with a saddened face.

STAN

We miss them so much!

Antoinette persuasively sits up and looks at the monster.

ANTOINETTE

Tell me!

Antoinette heaves on the two tentacles.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

I need to know!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, head down, rests lazily on his tentacles.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Thus, at the dawn of this cursed
day, I, Nicola Berteaux, nine years
old, saw my father, Henri Berteaux,
a physician practicing in Tournais,
being called urgently by the grace
of a young midwife.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HENRI'S APARTMENT - BUILDING ENTRANCE - MORNING (1572)

Henri Berteaux puts his tricorne on his head and faces the front door. His left hand placed on the door handle reveals a ring set in gold. It is equipped with a large black pebble roughly carved.

Nicola appears standing at the top of the stairs. Leaning against the banister, he gazes proudly toward the front door.

Henry is facing the door. Suddenly, he quickly turns his head away and looks smiling up the stairs.

HENRI

I won't be long dear Nicola. Take
good care of your mother in my
absence. I will be back very soon --
be sure of that.

Henri, looking proud, turns to the front door. He opens it firmly. Then he quickly disappears outside, letting it slam behind him.

INT. HENRI'S APARTMENT - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Nicola, watching attentively, stands facing a large window. He whistles calmly and nonchalantly. Then, he gazes curiously outside: the street swarming with people and a bewildering and incessant din of many horses and carts prance about.

ANGELE (O.S.)

Don't be impatient, your legs may
be throbbing.

Nicola turns around, all smiles. He quickly runs to the middle of the room. ANGELE, in her twenties, is dressed in a long elegant dress. She is seated on a wooden chair decorated with intricate designs and holds a large book in her hands.

ANGELE (CONT'D)

Do you want me to tell you an
enchanted story?

Nicola nods happily. He sits down hastily on a chair next to Angele. Then warmly, he hugs his mother - gazing at her with uplifting eyes. She gently turns the first page of the book.

ANGELE (CONT'D)

Once upon a time in the evil
entrails of the lower depths of a
very old castle...

INT. HENRI'S APARTMENT - FAMILY ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Nicola is sat at a table lit by a majestic candelabra; replete. He lays down his cutlery in an orderly fashion. Then he gently wipes his lips. The boy meets his mother's gaze and a knowing smile appears on their faces.

Suddenly SCREAMS emerge. Angele and Nicola, looking puzzled, suddenly get up from their chairs. With troubled and worried faces, they move towards the large window. Then, they look curiously through it.

Below are SOLDIERS coming from everywhere, intermingled SOUNDS of cuirasses. Angele, her face tense and surprised, looks outside with more assistance. Gently, she hugs Nicola protectively.

EXT. FRONT OF HENRI'S BUILDING - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

An OFFICER in his forties, with a short stature and a rough, unshaven face, is in the middle of the street. He has a long list held firmly in his hands. Then he curtly gives his orders to the soldiers.

Soldiers with hatred written on their faces immediately enter houses while others vigorously erect stakes in haste.

The officer, looking inquisitive, walks with a firm and determined step across the street. Then he abruptly stops. Slowly, he looks slyly towards Henri's apartment.

INT. HENRI'S APARTMENT - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

Angèle and Nicola, looking surprised, suddenly move away from the window. The boy looks frightened towards his mother.

NICOLA BERTEAUX
What's going on mother?

Angele anxiously shakes her head "no." She hugs her son even stronger.

INT. HENRI'S APARTMENT - VESTIBULE - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

In the dark, the officer opens the front door violently. His silhouette stands proudly, with a slight slouching posture and fists on the hips.

An incessant and infernal DIN runs through the entire apartment.

The officer comes forward and walks with a heavy step. He drags and GRATES the tip of his sword against the ground. He walks towards Angele and Nicola - frightened and huddled against each other in the center of the family room.

The officer stops at the height of a majestic candelabra with a blazing fire. He chuckles slyly, shaking his head. His fully-lit face reveals a gaze filled with terror.

In the background, four soldiers armed with spears quickly arrive. They immediately join their superior whom, with a disdainful and impartial gesture, orders Angele and Nicola to be arrested.

EXT. FRONT OF HENRI'S BUILDING - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

The four soldiers surround Angele and Nicola very closely. They shove the poor citizens running and SCREAMING in fear. Then, they go in front of the stakes pushing their convicts.

Angele looks with affection and gentleness towards Nicola.

ANGELE

Do not be afraid. Henri, your
father will arrive shortly.

NICOLA BERTEAUX

But where are we going mother?

Angele holds Nicola warmly and desperately against her body, shielding his eyes. Suddenly, they are brutally separated by the soldiers.

ANGELE

(cry out)

What are you doing?

Two soldiers surround Angele roughly. They forcefully gag her mouth. Then, they direct her towards the stakes in full activity. Frightened, she turns her head and stares distraught at Nicola.

The other two soldiers choke Nicola vigorously. They pull him quickly towards a heavily built SOLDIER wearing a large helmet.

NICOLA BERTEAUX

Mother!

The soldier grabs, gags and puts a hood on Nicola's head. Frozen, the boy no longer puts up any resistance and lets himself go.

Angele, with tears in her eyes, has her hands tied behind her back facing the stake. Then she turns her head and looks desperately through the crowd.

The soldier throws Nicola, hands tied behind his back, into the back of a horse-drawn carriage.

He joins the front of it and sits down. Then he SLAMS the reins sharply on the horse's back. The carriage start and quickly leaves the city through an incessant SWAYING.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DOWNSTREAM TUNNEL - UNDERGROUND WORLD - NIGHT

With her mouth half open, Antoinette sways feverishly. Then she stops and turns towards Grigne-Dints/Nicola.

ANTOINETTE

That's horrible!

Stan, looking weary, kneels slowly to the ground.

STAN
That's so cruel!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola quickly stands up straight on his tentacles. Then, he goes towards the downstream of the tunnel.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Hurry up! We must reach the well as soon as possible.

Stan frowns as he stares at the monster.

STAN
Berteaux! This means that...

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly stops walking. Then he quickly turns to the teenager.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Indeed! We are undeniably related. The monster guessed it when it tasted Antoinette's blood. You understand now why it insists on seeing you dead. And, it certainly became possible thanks to my father Henri's brother who stayed away from the insurrection and fled to the New World.

INT. DOWNSTREAM TUNNEL - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, Stan and Antoinette move at normal stride through the tunnel. Suddenly, the girl wrinkles her nose, frowning.

ANTOINETTE
Well... I was wondering, this funny name Grigne-Dints -- where does it come from?

Through his many tentacles, Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks at the teenager.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Fair damsel! You are still so talkative.

Mouth half-open, Mr. Sock begins to fidget nervously.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
Plus, it's ridiculous.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly stops walking. He turns to Antoinette. Then he throws a tentacle and strangles Mr. Sock.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Ridiculous!

(raising his voice)

Know that some mercenaries speaking
the patois of the surrounding
regions nicknamed me that way
because during the long moment of
agony preceding my death, I ground
my teeth.

Antoinette, looking startled, takes a step back from the monster. Gently, she frees Mr. Sock from the embrace of the tentacle.

ANTOINETTE

Are you high or what?!

With a terrified look, Grigne-Dints/Nicola gently retracts his tentacle towards him.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

They enjoyed so much fun as they
said.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly turns away from Antoinette. He begins to walk slowly; after a few steps, he stops.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

I can still hear their treacherous
laughter resounding while
proclaiming loud and clear once
death took me away that I was their
finest work.

(with sorrow)

Edagard, their leader, sneered --
saying that I had entered hell in
the most beautiful way!

Antoinette, looking sorry, gently squeezes the sock against her cheek.

ANTOINETTE

I'm sorry.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola turns around and looks at her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 Edagard alias the bloodthirsty
 executioner, was the most terrible
 and the most dangerous of all, but
 the effigies, through their deadly
 dance, were far more diabolical.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. EDGE OF THE WOODS - NIGHT (1572)

The soldier suddenly pulls on the reins. He gets out of the carriage and walks with a heavy step towards the back of it. Then, he curtly pulls out a small individual while brutally removing his hood.

Nicola's innocent, gagged face popped up; he looks distressed. The soldier's impassive gaze rises towards his victim. Then he puts his index finger heavily against his mouth.

SOLDIER
 (German accent)
 Shut up!

The soldier rudely directs Nicola towards a large tree stump. He sits the boy sharply on his lap.

EDAGARD (O.S.)
 (Spanish accent)
 So much candor and naivety!

With an authoritative gesture, Edagard stares at the soldier who, looking submissive, immediately turns back to his carriage. Then the leader turns his gaze to the child.

EDAGARD (CONT'D)
 Sir Nicola Berteaux! We have so
 much to tell each other.

Edagard's malevolent face suddenly chuckles. In the background the carriage starts, making a SWAYING NOISE.

The leader calmly turns towards the big city. Suddenly a wide pernicious smile appears on his face.

EDAGARD (CONT'D)
 Soon their macabre fate will be
 heard!

Seven mercenaries armed with pikemen, axes and knives as well as guns and swords, head towards Nicola.

The mercenaries, looking hateful, place themselves powerfully around the child. Then they start staring at him.

With a worried face, Nicola first looks naively in the direction of the mercenaries. Then he screams in terror through the gag, shaking his head. Mercenaries with sneaky smiles twirl effigies of fleshy fodder beets with yellowish necks carved hideously. The beets, inflamed from within, are planted profusely at the ends of their sabers.

Suddenly they start dancing and singing happily closer to Nicola.

MERCENARY #1 moves closer to the child, sporting a happy face. Then he nervously shakes his effigy.

MERCENARY #1
(uses patois)
He's really evil and successful,
don't you think?

Nicola, looking dumbfounded and frightened, looks at the effigy, struggling to breathe. And finally, he slowly starts GRINDING his teeth.

Mercenary #1, furrowing his brows, smiles mischievously. He comes closer to the child's face.

MERCENARY #1 (CONT'D)
So, you're grinding your teeth now?

NICOLA'S POV: The demonic effigies intertwine. Their misshapen orifices spitting fire. They leave behind them trails of frenzied smoke.

Mercenary #1, looking satisfied and happy, heads and mixes with his acolytes - letting his effigy express itself in terror.

Edagard frowns, moves closer to Nicola and leans over him. The boy keeps grinding his teeth.

EDAGARD
It seems like some people don't
like you and even plan to rid you
from the world of the living.

Edagard strokes his long beard with his right hand.

EDAGARD (CONT'D)
Like they did for your dear mother!

Edagard rolls his eyes. He comes closer to the child's face.

EDAGARD (CONT'D)

But I will have this task and, I
intend to apply myself with all my
sharpened skill!

Edagard nods slowly, with eyes of terror.

EDAGARD (CONT'D)

Your father Henri will follow in
your footsteps and as soon as
tonight, I promise you!

MERCENARY #1

You now understand why our leader
is nicknamed the bloodthirsty
executioner!

Nicola shakes his head, GRINDING his teeth loudly. He gazes
fearfully at the ever-dancing diabolical effigies. Then, he
begins to convulse. A moment later, he falls stiffly to the
ground - eyes bulging.

Edagard, startled and amused at the same time, leans eagerly
towards the child.

EDAGARD

Gosh! We had so much more to tell
each other.

Edagard slowly scratches his beard with his hand. Then he
straightens up suddenly and elegantly takes off his hat.

EDAGARD (CONT'D)

Even before I could do my utmost to
execute your sentence, you entered
hell in the most beautiful way, my
young friend.

The sky is filled with heavy cloud; lightning followed
immediately by a RUMBLE tearing through the valley. Not a
single drop of rain falls.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DOWNSTREAM TUNNEL - NIGHT

Stan quickly steps between Antoinette and the monster.

STAN

Now let's resume our journey and no
more questions until we arrive at
the well.

Grigne-Dints' tilted head straightens up. It begins to move downstream, at first awkwardly then more assertively.

Antoinette and Stan, looking determined, start following the monster.

GRIGNE-DINTS (O.S.)
Fear very often takes various forms
Antoinette!

Stan, grimacing nervously, quickens his stride and quickly joins the monster.

STAN
I said no more questions!

GRIGNE-DINTS (O.S.)
That was not a question, Stan!

Stunned, Stan immediately stops walking - staring at the monster.

Grigne-Dints turns slowly towards the teenager. Its glowing fire intensifies inside the mask.

Stan raises his right arm and blocks his sister sharply.

STAN
No!

Stan, looking frightened, suddenly lets go of his arm. He runs down the tunnel toward a small appendage.

Antoinette, her face disoriented, runs and quickly branches off towards an adjacent gallery.

Grigne-Dints suddenly unfurls sprawling roots and snaps them in the air.

GRIGNE-DINTS
You are going to die and slowly I
swear!

Grigne-Dints maliciously propels itself forward and suddenly branches off towards the adjacent gallery.

GALLERY

Antoinette, panting, stops facing the back wall of the gallery. She nervously stamps her feet in different places, looking anguished, quickly she turns towards the entrance. Then with a trembling hand, she brandishes Mr. Sock in front of her.

ANTOINETTE

You want a fight then, you will
have a fight.

INT. SMALL APPENDAGE - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

Paralyzed, Stan nonetheless quickly enters the small
appendage. He curls up there and doesn't move.

STAN

That can't be!

INT. GALLERY - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

Antoinette nervously snuffles, combing her hair to the side
with her hand. Sprawling roots appear from the ceiling. The
teenager BREATHEs nervously, brandishing Mr. Sock in front of
her.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

I'm going to pee my pants!

With whitening fire, Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly appears.

Looking relieved, Antoinette exhales deeply. She wearily lets
Mr. Sock fall to the ground.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

You-- you managed to regain control
of the monster.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola nods. He moves feverishly towards her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

We must reach your brother Stan as
soon as possible and reassure him.

Antoinette, smiling, straightens up instantly. She teasingly
walks straight towards the monster.

ANTOINETTE

He must certainly at this moment be
better off alone than in our
company.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Grigne-Dints/Nicola at the head, and Stan and Antoinette walk
quickly through the tunnel. Antoinette, tired, pouts -
styling her hair with her hand on the side.

ANTOINETTE

This well is like far away!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola and Stan don't pay attention to the young girl's complaint.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Nicola! Did you hear me?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola and Stan continue walking without showing the slightest interest in her.

Antoinette quickly approaches the monster. With a slow gesture, she directs her hand towards its/his body.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

I heard you Antoinette!

Antoinette, looking distraught, suddenly stops her gesture. She continues to walk beside the monster, looking at it strangely.

ANTOINETTE

Grigne-Dints! What? You're talking in my head now?

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

I'm going to help you bring justice against those murderers, who obnoxiously and prematurely took your mother and father from you!

Antoinette looks first surprised, then insightfully at the monster.

ANTOINETTE

You're right ! They did not hesitate to kill my parents.

Antoinette, amazed, pulls herself together and resumes her normal stride.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

Yeah, right! Why have you become so understanding and so kind?

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

Join me Antoinette! We will be stronger and we will make all these cursed beings pay a heavy price for everything they have done.

Stupefied, Antoinette looks at the monster.

ANTOINETTE

Are you talking about taking
revenge? Me?

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

You have the right without
moderation to rise up against this
injustice.

Antoinette exclaims and nods at the monster.

ANTOINETTE

You're right! After all, you only
hunt the bad guys...well, almost!

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

Leave them as soon as possible
Antoinette and come join me, but
first you have to hit and knock out
this coward Nicola so that I can
free myself from his grip.

Worn out, Antoinette stops walking.

ANTOINETTE

But, who am I to do justice myself?

Antoinette nods, looking at the monster.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

I understand your little game! You
think I'm going to fall into your
trap.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

I see that you too are a loser and
a coward like that runt!

ANTOINETTE

No! You're seriously mistaken.

With its whitening fire, Grigne-Dints/Nicola separates from
Antoinette and approaches Stan on the right.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola is very close to Stan, keeping a normal
walking rhythm. Stan looks quietly in front of him.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

They don't understand your
suffering but I do!

Stan looks at his watch.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)
I know what it feels like to be
misunderstood and unjustly
abandoned!

Stan, looking thoughtful, slowly slows the pace.

STAN
The monster! Damn, you're in my
head!

Stan points at Grigne-Dints.

STAN (CONT'D)
How is that possible?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola comes closer to Stan. Suddenly, a sprawling root separates from the others. Then it lies down on the ground and moves quickly towards the him. The root delicately wraps around the boy's body.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)
You're clueless about your
injustice.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola continues to wrap his tentacles carefully around Stan's body.

STAN
What do you mean?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola throws three other roots towards Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)
You have become so quiet and so
introverted.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola quickly wraps his tentacles around Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)
I'm with you Stan. Together we can
finally make the murderers of your
parents pay.

Puzzled, Stan looks in front of him. Suddenly, his face lights up, clenching his fists vigorously.

STAN
They must all pay!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola squeezes the roots tighter around Stan's body.

GRIGNE-DINTS (V.O.)

Join me Stan and together finally,
we will annihilate all these impure
beings and you will be able to look
down on the world around you.

(manipulatively)

But first, you have to hit and
knock out that coward Nicola so
that I can regain control of my
body.

Stan, looking startled, suddenly looks up at the face of the monster's whitening fire. Then stunned, he gazes up at the sprawling roots wrapping around his body.

STAN

No! I'm not your thing!

Stan nervously frees himself from the tentacles, stepping away from the monster. Then he starts walking again as if nothing had happened.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, Stan and Antoinette walk briskly through the tunnel. Suddenly against the steep walls, small buds appear. Thousands of them quickly become devotees garnished with thorns. Once perennials, they intertwine rapidly along the tunnel.

Antoinette looks at the devotees, weirded out. She stops walking and brings her face towards the plants - as if curious.

ANTOINETTE

What the...

Stan, stunned again, looks at his sister. Joins her right away.

STAN

Be careful! These are devotees,
remember my misadventure in the
hole?

Antoinette looks at her brother, frowning.

ANTOINETTE

Why are they moving in every
direction like that?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola approaches the siblings, looking at the devotees.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
They're announcing our arrival!

Antoinette winces. She moves closer to the wall and faces the busy devotees. Then, she tends and delicately touches the end of one of the plants with the help of Mr. Sock. Suddenly, the plant reacts and wraps itself quickly around her cuddly toy.

ANTOINETTE
Let go of it!

Antoinette fidgets and pulls Mr. Sock violently. She has difficulty getting rid of the plant. It suddenly resumes its progression among the others against the wall.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK) (CONT'D)
Damn weed!

Antoinette frowns. She looks down the tunnel: a light is intensifying.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)
What's over there?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola turns around.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
It is the well of evil torments.

Antoinette quickly joins Stan who looks at his little sister, satisfied.

STAN
We've finally arrived!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks impatient. Then quickly resumes.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
We must hurry before the devotees
block the tunnel permanently.

Antoinette furrows her brow as she holds her brother by the arm.

ANTOINETTE
I wanted to know if you heard the
monster talking in your head
earlier?

Stan slightly nods.

STAN
He also tried to enlist me to take
his side.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stops walking. Then he turns to the kids.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
I told you, it remains very
powerful despite its isolation.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, Stan and Antoinette resume their walk. They arrive at the end of the tunnel. An intense light propagates. Without pausing, they branch off and enter the well of evil torments gallery.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - NIGHT

Grigne-Dints, Stan and Antoinette stop in front of the huge well we saw earlier.

ANTOINETTE
Seriously! It looks like a big pot
of molten ectoplasm.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks around the well where several large rivers meet. The thick and luminous mixture flows into the excavation.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Once the river crests, the damned
from hell will be able to get out
of it. They'll swarm into the lands
of men by the thousands.

Antoinette smiles nervously as she looks at the monster.

ANTOINETTE
Fortunately, that's not likely to
happen any time soon.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stares at Antoinette.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Think again! It's imminent!

Stan, his face bewildered, looks at the monster.

STAN
What! Monsters will come out of
there?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola avoids Stan's gaze.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

If you don't want that to happen
then, you now need to reach Grigne-
Dints' crypt as quickly as possible
to find the vein that will help you
escape to the surface.

Antoinette approaches the monster, articulating Mr. Sock.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)

You will now free yourself from
this cursed spell and this cursed
entity to finally join your family.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola turns towards the girl. Then he steps
forward and faces her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Like me, mourn and once on the
surface be united forever without
forgetting the precious memories
that united you with your parents.

Stan approaches the monster. He hesitates at first, then he
hugs him warmly.

STAN

I am happy to have met you, our
distant ancestor.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola nods warmly. Then, he extends a tentacle
towards the cramped entrance to the crypt.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

With all my soul, I thank you for
helping me to fight and freeing me
from this terrible legend.

Stan and Antoinette salute the monster. They quickly bypass
the well of evil torments. Then, they move quickly in front
of a small cramped entrance.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola straightens up, looking proudly at the
siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

Above all, be gone as soon as I
dive into the basin.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, looking resolute and confident, stands
on the edge of the well.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Because this underground and
diabolical world will disappear
forever.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola breathes nervously. He watches the well increase its intensity and activity.

Stan and Antoinette stop opposite the entrance to the crypt. They turn and look at the monster with appeased faces. Then, they take their flashlights, turn them on and enter the crypt.

INT. GRIGNE-DINTS' CRYPT - NIGHT

The teenagers illuminate a shiny black rock; it covers the entire interior of the crypt.

ANTOINETTE
This place is just as gloomy as the
rest!

Stan looks nervously as he scans the flashlight all around.

STAN
I don't see the vein! It must have
dug in somewhere!

Antoinette, looking troubled, sabers her flashlight quickly across the crypt.

ANTOINETTE
We have to hurry up Stan! Nicola is
going to dive into the well
shortly.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stands up proudly facing the well. It suddenly swells and spreads all its roots.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Father, Mother we will finally be
reunited again. I look forward to
your love.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola leans gently towards the well. Suddenly and strangely it activates and emits a slight emulsion. Without waiting, he plunges into the luminous mixture and disappears entirely.

INT. GRIGNE-DINTS' CRYPT - NIGHT

Stan and Antoinette desperately search for the vein.
Nervously Stan puts the flashlight under his face - looking at his sister.

STAN
(yells)
There is no vein!

Antoinette heads for the entrance to the crypt. Then, in the company of Mr. Sock, she looks curiously towards the well.

ANTOINETTE (MISTER SOCK)
Uh oh!

Antoinette nervously points her index finger towards the well. Then she turns her worried face to her brother.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)
Something's wrong.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS

The well of evil torments is in full emulsion and activity. A few feet from the excavation, hundreds of LOYALS are heading towards it. Suddenly, the monster's head comes out, soaked in the luminous mixture.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Why?

INT. GRIGNE-DINTS' CRYPT - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Stan, looking desperate, heads for the entrance to the crypt. He leans heavily against the wall, looking outward.

STAN
What the hell is going on?

Antoinette, with a worried face, looks towards the well.

ANTOINETTE
Strange! Nicola suddenly
reappeared.

Stan exclaims and looks curiously towards the well.

STAN
I have a bad feeling about this!

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS

Stan and Antoinette walk quickly towards the well and join the monster who leaves the excavation nonchalantly and worn out.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 Grigne-Dints is really strong!
 (exhales deeply)
 I still feel it within me fighting
 hard to take control of my soul.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola collapses heavily on his tentacles.

Stan and Antoinette hesitantly stride towards the monster.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola slowly looks up at them. Then he looks towards the well: LOYALS progress fast and dive one by one into the well.

A LOYAL emerges from the well imbued and gorged luminously. It drags itself heavily onto the ground. Suddenly, it hatches into a horrible DAMNED SOUL filled with terror with old clothing on - in the withered colors of that historical period. Suddenly, it extracts electric arched weapons from a hook planted in one of its hands.

Antoinette, with a frightened face, points her trembling index finger at the well. From the excavation, coming out one by one, are the luminous LOYALS. Then suddenly, they hatch damned souls from many different eras, armed in the same fashion.

ANTOINETTE
 The DAMNED!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks wearily at the kids.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 I'm sorry!

Stan nervously moves close to the monster.

STAN
 What!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks desperately at Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 Unfortunately it didn't work and I
 don't know why.

Antoinette and Mr. Sock quickly turn to Stan and the monster.

ANTOINETTE

I don't want to be a killjoy, but
it's going downhill!

STAN

They keep coming out!

Stan, Grigne-Dints/Nicola and Antoinette look intrigued towards the well. Eight LOYALS dive together into the boiling excavation. Then immediately emerge and hatch Edagard and the seven mercenaries. Then, they move assertively towards the kids, screaming aggressively and projecting their electric hook.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

NO! Edagard and his seven
mercenaries! They will raise an
army of damned souls to put us to
death.

Stan, his eyes wide open, clears his throat sharply. Then, he looks quickly at the monster.

STAN

Nicola! What can we do?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola shakes his head "no" looking at the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Nothing!

Stan bites his fingers nervously as he looks at Edagard.

STAN

I'm dead then!

Antoinette grabs her brother with strength. She looks him hard in the eyes.

ANTOINETTE

You're so annoying!

Then, she turns to the monster.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

You must confront Edagard and his
mercenaries in order to enforce
your will.

Antoinette looks perceptively at her brother.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

As for you, stop being withdrawn!

Antoinette simultaneously looks at her brother and the monster.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

We need to let go of our doubts and fears and move forward together.

Antoinette frowns, looking at Mr. Sock. Suddenly, she snatches it firmly from her hand. Then, under Stan's amazed gaze, she vigorously throws it to the well. It lands on the mixture then sinks immediately.

STAN

Mr. Sock!

With a saddened face, Antoinette sheds a tear. Suddenly, she sits up proudly. Then, she turns to Stan and the monster.

ANTOINETTE

We must unite in order to fight those damned souls and finally obtain our freedom.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola shakes his head and sits up - facing her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

You're right Antoinette!

(louder)

This fate cannot persist again! These damned souls and Grigne-Dints must be wiped out otherwise the whole country will suffer very soon.

Antoinette stares intently at the monster.

ANTOINETTE

You have to find what will allow you to rejoin your family, but for now put your executioners to death once and for all!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola turns to Edagard, nodding.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

I will confront them and annihilate them!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks confidently at the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

In the meantime you must take shelter in the main tunnel. But pay close attention to the devotees!

Stan nervously moves close to the monster, waving his hands.

STAN

What do we do against the damned if
they arrive? We throw dirt in their
eyes!?

Grigne-Dints shakes his head. Stares at Stan.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

Be fearless! I will join you as
soon as possible.

Stan and Antoinette suddenly start running towards the tunnel entrance.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola positions himself firmly in front of Edagard and his mercenaries.

INT. UPSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Stan and Antoinette pant as they run through the tunnel. Suddenly they stop and hardly catch their breath.

STAN

Let's quietly wait here.

Antoinette nods, blinking.

ANTOINETTE

Okay!

In the background SCREAMING echoes through the tunnel.

Stan and Antoinette, looking startled, suddenly jump up. Then they turn and stare fearfully down the tunnel.

The damned slam their jaws loudly as they move quickly toward the fugitives. They SCREAM and brandish their fangs - throwing large electric hooks.

Eyes wide open and their mouths agape, the kids look at each other.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I feel like I'm at the dentist's
waiting room, which I usually have
a bad feeling about it!

INT. SMALL APPENDAGE - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

The devotees spread more and more quickly over the entire surface of the walls. They suddenly take on volume. Then pressed against each other, they make hideous faces of bright colors with aggressive teeth.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - NIGHT

Grigne-Dints/Nicola using his sprawling roots launches dazzling attacks against Edagard who narrowly avoids some blows, SCREAMING.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
Hideous character!

Edagard pulls himself together and attacks Grigne-Dints/Nicola - using his arm with the electric hook.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly paces the vault. Stops and slowly pulls out all the lacerating fangs from its tentacles. Then, he launches murderous attacks against Edagard.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
You haven't seen my new power yet!

Edagard is backed against the wall. He suffers several very violent blows. Then he falls to pieces on the ground. His inert body no longer reveals his muscle mass.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, orbits on fire, looks at Edagard, relieved. He quickly descends from the ceiling. Then he proudly faces the remains.

NICOLA'S POV: A dull LOYAL immediately appears from between the soiled clothes. Then, quickly makes its way to the well of evil torments.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Finally are you dead, Edagard or
should I say, the bloodthirsty
executioner!

The seven mercenaries SCREAM, brandishing their electric hooks wildly. Then, they quickly rush towards the monster. It immediately reacts and effectively puts all minions out of action. Turned into shreds, the remains lie on the ground.

Suddenly their bodies no longer show their muscle mass.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Damn! I'm beginning to adapt
quickly to his murderous abilities.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks towards the tunnel suddenly.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
I now need to join my descendants.
They must be getting impatient.

The monster heads for the main tunnel. Disappears all of a sudden, effectively pacing up and down the ceiling.

The seven dull LOYALS appear and sneak out from between the soiled clothes. They move swiftly to the well.

Then they throw themselves heavily into the solfatara mixture.

Quickly, they emerge glowing. Suddenly, they hatch touching the ground in the person again of Edagard and that of the seven mercenaries. With a snarky look, Edagard looks towards the main tunnel.

INT. UPSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - NIGHT (THAT MOMENT)

The devotees entwine their faces aggressively with expressions of terror. They now frame the vault of the tunnel, rapidly heading towards the well of evil torments.

INT. DOWNSTREAM - TUNNEL - NIGHT

The damned quickly appear throughout the tunnel. They aggressively brandish and wave their electric hooks, ROARING.

Stan and Antoinette hug each other.

ANTOINETTE
Hurry up, Nicola! Hurry up!

STAN
Not this time!

Antoinette, with a puzzled face, looks at her brother.

ANTOINETTE
What's wrong?

Stan stands up suddenly and nervously searches the ground. Then, he goes to a big dead root. He takes it and looks at it furiously.

STAN
We must defend ourselves at all costs!

All smiles, Antoinette gets up and rushes to another dead root. She takes it and looks at it with wide eyes.

ANTOINETTE

For once, I agree with you big brother!

The damned move dangerously towards the adolescents. They aggressively brandish and wave their electric hooks - ROARING.

Stan and Antoinette stubbornly gulp as they hold their dead root firmly.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly appears from the ceiling. It quickly moves towards the teenagers, WHISTLING its fearsome tentacles. Then he vigorously strikes the damned. They fall to shreds on the ground.

With a relieved face, Stan looks at the monster.

STAN

You saved us!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola lands firmly on the ground. He moves towards the teenagers; comes out of his orbits and his mouth a burning white fire.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

We will have to reach the well of evil torments as quickly as possible.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stands up proudly in front of the siblings.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

I also managed to kill Edagard and his seven mercenaries.

Antoinette generously grabs one of the monster's tentacles.

ANTOINETTE

Congrats!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola fraternally lays a tentacle on the shoulder of Stan and Antoinette.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

We must hurry! Soon the Damned, the Devotees, the Scarecrows and the LOYALS will occupy the entire kingdom.

Stan looks at the monster questioningly.

STAN

What are they gonna do with us if
they catch us?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola nods wearily at the teenager.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

As far as I'm concerned, imprison a
little more of my soul.

Antoinette has a worried face and frantically waves her root
in the air.

ANTOINETTE

What about us?

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks sorry at her.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

As I must have told you already, a
gruesome end!

Swinging their arms, Stan and Antoinette remain weary-headed.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola looks calmly at the brother and sister.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

But for now, let's have faith and
seek out what makes my ego shake so
much!

Stan waves his root. He turns to the damned.

STAN

Let them come!

The damned arise and ROAR by the dozens throughout the
tunnel. They walk quickly towards the fugitives, waving their
electric-hooked arms.

Antoinette looks strangely up the tunnel: the LOYALS
progressed rapidly. They occupy the entire underground
passage. Suddenly, they hatch different hideous faces with
expressions of terror - grabbing everything around them.

ANTOINETTE

I think we should like, get out of
here!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, with a determined look, brings out all
their lacerating claws from his tentacles.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 Follow me! Let's rush together
 through the damned and without
 stopping, we head towards the well.

Stan and Antoinette nod.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola paces the ceiling at full speed. He whips his tentacles violently against the damned while progressing towards the well.

The teenagers fight recklessly. They avoid the terrible electric shocks. Then, they head for the entrance to the well crypt.

INT. UPSTREAM MAIN TUNNEL - SAME

Four scarecrows with ugly faces and expressions of terror suddenly rise from the ground. They start walking towards the entrance to the crypt of the well of evil torments.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - SAME

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, Stan and Antoinette quickly arrive at the entrance to the crypt. They look haggard towards the well. In front of it, standing wickedly, Edagard and the seven mercenaries surrounded by dozens of other damned souls.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)
 How is this possible!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, with a pugnacious look, quickly launches dazzling attacks towards Edagard. The villain avoids some blows, then counter-attacks in turn using his electric arm - YELLING his lung out.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
 The solution is certainly here if
 not, why are they defending it at
 the risk of their lives!?

Edagard, backed against the wall, receives several very violent blows. He falls inert and in tatters on the ground.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, with his orbit burning, looks towards Edagard's remains. Just then, a dull LOYAL immediately appears from between his soiled clothes. It is rapidly progressing towards the well of evil torment.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
 I now understand why they
 regenerate!

Using one of his tentacles with claws, Grigne-Dints/Nicola bursts the LOYAL with a single blow.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
You are gone forever, Edagard.

Grigne-Dints/Nicola, with a tenacious look, fights violently against the mercenaries. Then surveying the vault, he suddenly looks towards the kids.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
Take care of the damned around the well. It is absolutely necessary to finding what will put an end to this nightmare.

Stan and Antoinette, armed with their roots, head for the damned. They fight them fiercely and put them out of harm's way. Then the LOYALS sneaking towards the well get smashed as well.

STAN
Watch out! More and more are coming.

Two damned SCREAMING their rage move dangerously towards Antoinette. Suddenly, using their hooks, they electrocute her. Her face stiffens as she falls heavily on the ground.

Stan, with a worried face, walks quickly towards his sister. He angrily puts the two damned out of action. Then he gently picks up his sister. She suddenly opens her eyes.

ANTOINETTE
Hey.... How do you know what will put an end to all this!?

A damned soul suddenly arrives in front of Antoinette. He strikes his bow towards her face. Blood from her cheek splashes towards the well and then blends with the mixture.

Stan, looking vindictive, reacts quickly. He strikes the damned soul hard with his root and puts it out of harm's way. Then, he looks amazed at his sister.

STAN
You had a close shave!

With a puzzled face, Stan looks strangely towards the well.

STAN'S POV: Blood quickly stirs together with the mixture. Its color darkens. An emulsifying reaction can be seen and heard with a slight MURMURING.

Stan, looking amazed and smiling, looks at his little sister.

STAN (CONT'D)

I think I've found the solution!

Worn out, Antoinette looks curiously towards the well: the blood is swirling inside the mixture. Then it calms down and disappears.

ANTOINETTE

You're right Stan, but... we'll
need to put a lot more of our blood
into that mixture.

Stan and Antoinette, looking confident, voluntarily and deeply carve their hands. Then, bleeding, they plunge them generously into the well. The blood rapidly mixes with the mixture.

The mixture reacts, shaking, swirling and creating a MURMURING sound. The smiling teenagers approach closer to the well. Suddenly, the mixture resumes its initial color as it quickly calms down.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

No! No, no!

Stan, looking disappointed, nervously bites his fingers.

STAN

It's the end, I can't take it
anymore!

INT. FRONT OF CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - NIGHT

The four scarecrows SCREAM their rage as they arrive in front of the entrance to the crypt. They show their ugly faces. Their arms aggressively grab everything in front of them. Then they enter.

INT. CRYPT OF THE WELL OF EVIL TORMENTS - SAME

Grigne-Dints/Nicola fights and constantly launches dazzling attacks against the damned. Suddenly his fiery whitish fire changes color and glows red while giving off a high-pitched GRINDING. Suddenly, the monster falls heavily to the ground.

GRIGNE-DINTS

You runt! You will pay dearly for
this.

The damned launch terrible attacks against the inert body of the monster. They sever most of its terrible tentacles. Suddenly, the teenagers appear and put an end to the life of the belligerents.

Stan looks worried at his sister.

STAN

Nicola must regain possession of
the entity otherwise all is lost.

Weakened, Grigne-Dints/Nicola conjures up a whitish fire. It mixes quickly and takes possession of the mask.

Then, he stands up with difficulty in front of the children.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

While I still control my ego a
little, we must unite and join
forces.

Perplexed, Stan looks at the monster.

STAN

What? But bathing in our blood did
nothing.

Antoinette shows her hands to the monster.

ANTOINETTE

At most, just a few emulsions!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola moves feverishly towards the siblings. Then he stares at Antoinette.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE)

The equation! The equation is
certainly to unite through and by
blood or else why, why did he want
to lose you in the depths once he
tasted you?

Stan, Antoinette and Grigne-Dints/Nicola make their way to the well while fighting the various and formidable damned souls. In the background, the LOYALS surge through the crypt. They hatch different hideous faces with expressions of terror grabbing everything around them.

Stan and Antoinette grimace as they slash their hands. Then, they immediately immerse them in the mixture of evil torment.

STAN

And this time it is unfailingly
that we put an end to this horrible
crusade!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola stands up facing the solfatara well.
Suddenly, the fiery whitening fire of the mask swirls briskly
and becomes reddish. A shrill GRINDING is heard.

GRIGNE-DINTS

You betrayed me when I granted you
so many powers!

The glowing fierce fire of the mask twirls and suddenly turns
white again.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

You stole my freedom, my soul and
since then, I wander like a monster
through time -- prisoner of your
power!

The fiery whitening fire of the mask twirls and suddenly
turns red. A shrill GRINDING is heard.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

You swindler! However, I gave you a
new life through the cruel effigy
that represented you in order to
avenge you on the impure beings.

The glowing fiery fire of the mask twirls and suddenly turns
white.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

What a life! I would have so much
preferred that you let me join my
loved ones in the kingdom of God.

The fiery whitening fire of the mask twirls and suddenly
turns red.

GRIGNE-DINTS (CONT'D)

The kingdom of God!? Look how he
renounced you without ever caring.

Grigne-Dints looks up, compressing its head between his two
sprawling roots. The glowing fire of the mask twirls and
suddenly turns white.

GRIGNE-DINTS (NICOLA'S VOICE) (CONT'D)

Your reign is over!

Grigne-Dints/Nicola suddenly severs two tentacles with his own claws. These immediately draws blood. Then he throws himself heavily into the well and disappears entirely.

The well of evil torments suddenly reacts with strange and very loud MURMURINGS. The blood of the siblings and of the monster frantically mixes in a dark color.

A loud DETONATION is heard. Then, the well quickly forms a gigantic whirlpool making the ground and the whole crypt SHAKE.

Stan and Antoinette, looking startled, take several steps back while staring in fear at the scarecrows and the damned with aggressive gestures. Suddenly, they collapse heavily on the ground with their hooks no longer electrified.

STAN

They've gone crazy!

The LOYALS spawn several hideous faces with aggressive big teeth. They're about to jump towards the siblings. Suddenly, they stop short and fall heavily to the ground. Then they start to melt.

The bustling well of evil torments suddenly lets the specter of Nicola appear. He slowly rises to the top of the vault. The boy suddenly turns his head away. He looks complacent and happy as he looks at Stan and Antoinette.

Then he warmly hugs Angele and Henri. Surrounded by his family, they rise slowly and immediately disappear from the crypt.

Stan and Antoinette, their eyes filled with tears, look happily towards the vault.

STAN (CONT'D)

He's finally recovered his freedom.

ANTOINETTE

And forever.

Antoinette delicately wipes away her tears. Stan sniffles and wipes away his tears. Then, they look nervously towards the well.

THEIR POV: The crypt of the well of evil torments begins to crumble and slowly disappear through a sustained DIN.

ANTOINETTE (CONT'D)

We have to reach the crypt of Grigne-Dints and find the vein at all costs!

Holding hands, Stan and Antoinette run towards the crypt. They jump over the damned agonizing on the ground. Then they rapidly enter the crypt.

INT. GRIGNE-DINTS' CRYPT - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

Stan and Antoinette, looking oppressed, away from each other, scan each corner of the room hastily. Suddenly, Stan gasps!

STAN
I've found it! The vein is right
there!

Antoinette looks relieved; she goes to her brother. Then she rapidly grabs her flashlight and points it at the opening.

ANTOINETTE
Let's hurry.

Stan grins. Nods at his sister.

STAN
I wasn't planning on staying here
one more minute.

Stan grabs his sister's arm. He brings her first near the opening. She enters it fast and crawls forward. Stan follows her.

INT. VEIN - SAME

Stan strongly pushes his little sister; she looks stressed out. They move forward rapidly, on all fours, through the narrow vein.

STAN
Quick! Quick!

Stan, sweating from his forehead, pushes his little sister even harder. Suddenly an EXPLOSION is heard. A violent driving force propels the two of them outwards.

EXT. BEET FIELD - NIGHT

Stan and Antoinette land on the ground, grimacing and SCREAMING. They look around them, puzzled.

STAN
We're finally back here!

ANTOINETTE

We made it!

Stan and Antoinette, looking happy and complicit, look at each other. Suddenly, they hug each other. Then, Stan peers curiously towards the horizon.

STAN

Look over there! On the path just at the edge of the woods.

Curious, Antoinette looks towards the path: the farmer is still inert lying on the ground.

ANTOINETTE

The farmer!

Stan grimaces as he looks at his sister.

STAN

I hope he'll have forgotten our escape.

Antoinette just nods.

ANTOINETTE

We can always dream!

Stan and Antoinette, looking exhausted, start to walk quickly across the fields. They head for their room under the earthly expansionist vault against which shines many stars and a bright full moon.

INT. ANTOINETTE AND STAN'S BEDROOM - FARM - EARLY MORNING

Stan, looking peaceful, is sleeping soundly in his bed. Daylight generously invades the entire room. Suddenly, we hear a KNOCK on the door.

KELLY

(in French)

Wake up! Breakfast is served.

Stan grimaces as he sits up straight. He hardly opens his eyes, yawning. Then he rubs his hair vigorously.

STAN

We'll be right there, Aunt Kelly.

Stan, looking drowsy, looks to the right of his bed. Then he winces as he slowly stretches his arms.

STAN (CONT'D)
Antoinette!

ANTOINETTE (O.S.)
Here! I'm in the bathroom.

Stan looks relieved as he lets his arms fall heavily on the bed.

STAN
You're quite an early bird!

ANTOINETTE
I wanted to be ready for this very special first day.

Stan, taken aback, gets up. He walks towards his suitcase. Then he takes new clothes.

STAN
We must keep this story secret.
(exhales heavily)
Uncle James and Aunt Kelly wouldn't believe us anyway.

ANTOINETTE
You're right but what an adventure.
If I'd known that one day, I would live this!

Stan nods, grimacing. Then he calmly puts on his pants.

STAN
Unthinkable -- improbable even!

ANTOINETTE (O.S.)
He's free now.

STAN
And together we saved this country from this monstrous legend.

Stan, looking relieved, quickly puts on his sweater. Then he heads for the bathroom, shaking his hair.

BATHROOM

Stan walks quietly into the bathroom. Then he stops short, staring wildly at the mirror...

Antoinette carefully combs her mid-length hair. She turns to her big brother in a feminine outfit.

Stan marvels as he looks his sister up and down.

STAN (CONT'D)
I'll be damned!

Antoinette, self-confident, walks towards the bedroom in a feminine gait.

INT. DINING ROOM - FARM - DAY

James and Kelly are having breakfast. Suddenly, they stop in their gesture, looking doubtfully in front of them.

Antoinette walks in a light gait and her hair down. She is followed by Stan. They walk towards the table. They sit serenely side by side. Then they begin to eat with restraint.

Stunned, Kelly stares at the two.

KELLY
Well, the air in Belgium isn't all bad.

James exclaims and begins to smile happily.

JAMES
And this is only the first day!

James jumps and quickly picks up his RINGING cell phone. He gets up and walks away from the table. Then he quickly heads for the hallway.

Kelly stops chewing and looks towards the two kids - frowning.

KELLY
Did you have a good night?

Stan and Antoinette eat heartily, nodding politely. Stan looks up at Kelly.

STAN
We will have to talk about a small problem without too much importance that occurred last night.

James nervously returns to the table. Puts his cell phone back in his pocket and grabs his cup of coffee.

JAMES
I've got some bad news!

Worried, Kelly quickly turns to James.

Dumbfounded, Stan and Antoinette stare at each other insistent. Then Stan turns to James.

STAN

We were just about to discuss it--

James cuts him off with a simple hand gesture towards him.

JAMES

(raises his voice)

Unfortunately, we have to leave as soon as possible. The institute is sending us on an urgent mission.

James swallows his coffee in one gulp. He puts down his cup curtly. Then he suddenly leaves the table.

Kelly frowns as she stares at the teenagers.

KELLY

Your little problem will be for another time! Quick! Pack your bags, we're heading back to Tarrytown.

Relieved, Stan and Antoinette look at each other for a moment. Then they begin to smile slightly.

STAN/ANTOINETTE

We're finally going home!

EXT. FARM - YARD - DAY

James quickly pulls out a large suitcase. He heads towards the back of the 4x4. Then, he places the suitcases in the trunk with Stan.

JAMES

I'm glad you're fitting in without complaining now.

Stan looks poised and confident as he glances at James.

STAN

Everyone can change, Uncle.

James smiles as he heads for the driver's side.

JAMES

You got that right, Stan.

Kelly approaches the 4x4 in a hurry. She lays her suitcase heavily in the trunk.

Antoinette, looking assertive, exits the house in a female gait. She walks towards the vehicle pulling her small black suitcase covered in stickers of football players, motorcycle and Indy Car drivers. Then she insists with her gaze on James.

ANTOINETTE

What about the farmer! Did you warn
him of our hasty departure?

Kelly stops in front of the passenger's side door. Then, she stares at Antoinette.

KELLY

James left him money for the stay
and an apology note on the dining
room table.

INT. BEET FIELD - DAY (THAT MOMENT)

The farmer is sitting on the path at the edge of the large wood. He shakes his head feverishly. Then he slowly rubs his face, looking around. Stunned, he hardly stands up. Then, he begins to walk, staggering slightly towards the farm.

INT. BERTEAUX HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

In the afternoon, Antoinette, with long hair, wears a traditional dress. She looks amused through the large window as she looks at the pumpkin fest in the distance across the city. An infernal DIN is heard.

SUPER: "One year later. TARRYTOWN, Westchester County. USA."

Suddenly, Antoinette glances back at the hallway.

ANTOINETTE

Stan! Hurry up, our friends are
about to arrive.

HALLWAY

Stan, looking happy and wearing make-up, walks quickly past the door to his father's office. He's also dressed for this festive day.

The door remains slightly ajar. Intrigued, he stops - freezing his smile. Then, he looks strangely and curiously towards the opening.

INT. BERTEAUX HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

As he quickly enters the room, Stan looks more and more anxious. Then he walks hesitantly towards the office.

ANTOINETTE (O.S.)
Come on! What are you doing?

Antoinette comes in. Astounded, Stan puts his index finger over his mouth in front of his little sister.

STAN
Shh! We've never been allowed to
enter Dad's office.

With a questioning face, Stan walks around the desk crowded with old files. He looks at the walls filled with family framed photos. Then he stops in front of three drawers and pulls out the third from the bottom. Accumulated dust partially obscures the inside of it.

Antoinette, looking indifferent, stays cautiously behind her brother.

ANTOINETTE
We must go! Plus we have no
business being in this office.

Stan insistently looks at his sister.

STAN
Just a moment Antoinette, it's so
rare that we can be here.

Stan investigates and at the bottom of the drawer, delicately puts out an old black box with very old silver writing. He opens it slowly.

STAN (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?

Antoinette, looking curious, walks up to her brother. She looks doubtfully at the black box. The box houses an old ring set in gold with a large coarsely carved black pebble. Suddenly, she exclaims with her face --

ANTOINETTE
Could that be the black ring of...

Stan, looking nervous, looks at his sister - speechless.

STAN
It's Henri's ring, Nicola's father.

Antoinette, her eyes wide open, walks closer to her brother. She touches the ring using the tip of her finger.

ANTOINETTE

I know this stone's story.

STAN

What?!

Antoinette, her face horrified, turns slightly away from her brother. Then she looks back at the black ring.

ANTOINETTE

During our first meeting, Nicola confessed to me that he often saw in his tortured mind, a supreme angel named Lucifer who, long before his fall into hell, let tears of pain and betrayal fall heavily from the sky. These tears as big as a pebble tore the sky and like lightning, they crashed to end up dispersed in the earthly abysses.

Startled, Stan looks intently at his sister. Her gaze slowly meets his.

STAN

(raises his voice)

Only one of which gave life to the legend, to the monster with the demonic effigy.

STAN/ANTOINETTE

To Grigne-Dints!

Stan, looking frightened, quickly closes the box. He puts it back in the bottom of the drawer. Then he slams it shut.

With shaken faces, Stan and Antoinette look at each other - shaking their heads "no."

STAN

Let's forget about this, we've got to move on.

ANTOINETTE

You're right! Let's go quickly and meet our friends. It's Halloween, let's have fun.

The conniving siblings gently relax their facial features. Then, they converge and quickly disappear from the office - slamming the door behind them.

Through the office's windows, suddenly appear thousands of faded leaves of dull-colored oak. They SCREAM louder and louder as they twirl. Then they SPLASH sharply against the glass. Slowly the face of Grigne-Dints appears, building up little by little. This one suddenly begins to GRIND his teeth loudly as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END