

FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hallways are dark and quiet. Two average teenagers, JAKE and LISA, sleep on the floor in front of a locker.

Glass shatters in the distance. Jake opens his colorless eyes. No pupils, just pure white.

Seconds later, Lisa awakens, same ghostly eyes.

They disappear together.

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The moon lights a deserted classroom. A thuggish teenage boy, NELSON, carefully helps his preppy girlfriend, MOLLY, through a broken window. She carries a pillow.

Nelson weaves around the scattered desks.

NELSON

Are you sure you want to do this?

MOLLY

I told you. I'm not scared.

Jake appears in the room with them.

Nelson passes right through him like a cloud of smoke. He stumbles, coughs and struggles to catch his breath.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nelson shakes it off as he follows Molly into the hallway. He looks up and down at the closed lockers.

Suddenly, a cell phone rings and vibrates.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

The sound of many people breathing echoes through the hall. Loud. Deep. Asthmatic. Struggling.

It's coming from Room 218, the door nailed shut with a single piece of wood.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

The cell phone continues to ring. Lisa draws closer, in a trance.

JAKE

Lisa! No!

As Molly looks at her phone, the nearest locker whips open. She ignores the call for a second and takes a step back.

Combination locks spin wildly and then all of the lockers start to open and close. Papers, pencils and books fly through the air.

Nelson grabs Molly by the arm, but she pushes him away.

NELSON

What are you doing? Let's get out of here!!!

Nelson ducks back into the room where they came, while Molly stays put, embracing the chaos. Her phone continues to ring.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

The door to Room 218 shakes and the piece of wood buckles. Nails shoot out one by one, until it falls to the floor.

The door slowly creaks open as the breathing grows louder.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Molly walks into the swirling papers. The phone stops ringing. Lisa snaps out of it and backs away.

Buzzzzzzzz! A piercing alarm blasts through the school. It's the former class buzzer.

Jake and Lisa freeze as papers fall around Molly.

LISA

He's coming!!!

JAKE

We can't just leave her here!

As Jake looks around, Lisa vanishes. Moments later, a dark figure appears at the end of the hall.

Jake jumps in front of Molly, but she cannot see or hear him.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Go! Get out of here!

As Jake looks down the hall again, the dark figure moves closer.

Jake waits as long as he can, but the dark figure steps into a beam of moonlight, his face hidden by a dark, distorted mask. Jake quickly disappears.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

The screams of the girl fill the school as the heavy breathing in Room 218 speeds up.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Molly is nowhere to be seen. Her cell phone glides across the floor.

It bounces recklessly around the corner and up a flight of stairs, where it starts ringing again.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

The cell phone shoots across the floor and into Room 218. The heavy breathing stops. The door slams shut.

FADE TO:

TITLE SEQUENCE

Newspaper clippings with various headlines: MERSHER HIGH SCHOOL CLOSES, FORMER HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING FOR SALE, FORMER MERSHER HIGH SCHOOL SOLD, SCHOOL SCHEDULED TO BE DEMOLISHED.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Overgrown grass. Patches of moss. Boarded-up windows. The entrance to the former Mersher High School reveals a real estate sign with a SOLD sticker.

Across the street, a surveyor aims a camera at the building. Several bulldozers are parked nearby.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY - MORNING

Jake and Lisa watch the surveyor through the window.

JAKE
We knew this day was coming.

LISA
How many years have we been here?

JAKE
(confused)
Has it been years?

LISA
I don't even know any more.

Lisa lowers her arm until her hand touches Jake's. She clenches his hand tight.

A distant, muffled voice can be heard. Jake turns and looks.

JAKE
There it is again. Do you hear it?

LISA
No. What?

JAKE
That voice.

LISA
I don't hear anything.

JAKE
It's coming from...

Jake disappears, followed by Lisa.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MORNING

Jake stands over a patch of dead grass on the football field.

Lisa appears next to him as he gazes out into the distance. The mysterious voice grows closer.

JAKE
You can't hear that?

LISA
No.

Jake takes a step forward. And then another. Suddenly, he finds himself beyond the patch of dead grass and the voice becomes clearer. It is the voice of an older woman.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Jake. I know you can hear me.

Lisa tries to reach out to him, but she falls to the ground. She is weak and barely able to move.

Jake looks down at his feet and realizes where he is standing. He looks at Lisa as she holds her hand out to him. A cloud of smoke rises from the patch of dead grass.

LISA

You're on the other side.

Jake looks back and forth between Lisa and where the voice is coming from.

WOMAN'S VOICE

I love you, Jake. Follow my voice.

Jake smiles, closes his eyes and absorbs the voice.

JAKE

It's my mom!

Jake re-opens his eyes and takes another step forward.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I don't remember my mom, but I know
it's her. I can't explain it. I
just know!

Jake takes another step toward the voice as it grows louder and clearer. And another step.

For the first time, he sees a light beyond the school.

He stops and looks back at Lisa. She is disoriented and struggles to her feet.

Jake hesitates for a moment, glancing back and forth between Lisa and the light. He makes a quick decision to return to Lisa's side.

The voice abruptly stops and the light fades away.

As Jake pulls Lisa to her feet, she embraces him and they disappear together.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT

MISS REYNOLDS, a homely teacher in her forties, sits quietly at a desk. Jake and Lisa stand before her, as if they are students.

MISS REYNOLDS
Are you sure?

JAKE
Yes.

LISA
I saw it myself. He was on the other side of the grass.

MISS REYNOLDS
You need to keep going! See what's out there! You can bring back help!

Lisa doesn't share her excitement.

LISA
What if he can't come back?

MISS REYNOLDS
But what if he can?!

Jake is torn, in the middle.

LISA
But Miss Reynolds!

MISS REYNOLDS
No! This is a sign! They're going to tear this building down. If we don't find a way out soon...

Miss Reynolds stands up at her desk.

MISS REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
Do you want to be trapped in a pile of...

JAKE
(interrupting)
I'll go.

LISA
(shocked)
What???

JAKE

Miss Reynolds is right. I have to try, before it's too late.

Lisa takes a step back.

LISA

I'll never see you again.

JAKE

Don't say that!

Jake steps back up to her and and looks straight into her eyes.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I promise I'll do whatever I have to do to come back for you. For both of you. I mean that. You have to believe me. There's nothing out there that can stop me.

Just as Jake leans in to kiss Lisa, Miss Reynolds shoots her arm between them, pointing out the window.

MISS REYNOLDS

We have visitors.

On the street below, a man walks up the sidewalk as an old, beat-up black van slows down and parks near him.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON, fifties, well-dressed with a tie, approaches the black van.

CHASE, a scruffy, middle-aged man in jeans and a t-shirt, jumps out of the driver's side with the excitement of a little kid. He smiles at the school, greeting it with his eyes.

The back door slowly swings open and CRYSTAL, late twenties, stumbles out with a duffel bag. Bored and uninterested, her mind is somewhere else.

Principal Johnson greets Chase with a handshake.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON

Well, well, well. Chase the "Spirit Chaser." In person!

CHASE

And you must be Hugh Johnson.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON
Great to finally meet you. My wife
and I watched your show every week.
Shame you're not on TV anymore.

Crystal laughs.

CRYSTAL
Why don't you tell him why you got
cancelled, huh Dad?

Awkward silence.

CHASE
Principal Johnson, this is my
lovely daughter, Crystal. She's
staying with me this summer.

Crystal sighs rudely.

CRYSTAL
(monotone)
Yay.

CHASE
Helping me out in exchange for
moving back in.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON
Well, you're going to need all the
help you can get around here.

Principal Johnson glances at the school.

CRYSTAL
Ooooooh. You really think this
place is haunted, don't you?

Principal Johnson steps up to Crystal, right in her face.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON
You think we spent millions of
dollars building a brand new Taj
Majal high school for nothing?

Principal Johnson laughs and backs away from her.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON (CONT'D)
You'll see...

Crystal has nothing left to say, but Chase smiles.

CHASE

If there's something in there, I'll find it.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON

I hope so. We don't want anything following us over to the new school if you know what I mean.

Principal Johnson points to the entrance then tosses Chase a set of keys.

PRINCIPAL JOHNSON (CONT'D)

You've got two weeks before demolition. Until then, the place is yours. Do whatever you have to do.

Principal Johnson waves, then hurries down the sidewalk.

Chase notices a dark car across the street. Someone watches them from the driver's seat.

Chase acknowledges the person with a nod, then leads Crystal to the door.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase and Crystal carry equipment into the school. Chase takes each step with awe and wonder.

Crystal couldn't care less, completely uninterested.

The dark halls. Empty lockers. Holes in the walls. Broken glass. The school is much creepier from this perspective.

Chase stops at a wall covered in graffiti. He stares intensely at its pattern of unique symbols.

Chase pulls out his camera phone and snaps a picture of the unusual markings. The flash of the camera reveals Jake, Lisa and Miss Reynolds standing behind him.

Chase walks up a staircase, as Crystal reluctantly follows.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase leads Crystal to room 218, which is once again boarded-up. He pulls a screwdriver out of his bag and starts to pry the piece of wood.

CRYSTAL
What's so important about this
room?

CHASE
This is where it happened.

CRYSTAL
What's "it?"

CHASE
I tried to tell you...

CRYSTAL
Dad! Just tell me what happened!

Snap! The piece of wood falls to the ground. Jake, Lisa and Miss Reynolds all watch from a guarded distance.

JAKE
They can't go in there!

LISA
They're going to wake him!

Jake runs to the door, passing through them and waving his arms. Chase and Crystal both cough.

As Crystal struggles to catch her breath, Chase quickly opens the door. Jake retreats back to the others.

INT. ROOM 218 - NIGHT

Chase enters the classroom, with Crystal a few steps behind. They both clear their throat a couple of times.

Some desks are pushed aside, others are knocked over.

Papers and books are scattered and a world globe is broken into several pieces.

The words "HELP US" are written in chalk on the blackboard.

Yellow police tape is strewn across the teacher's desk and a faded white outline of a body can still be seen on the floor.

Dozens of cell phones are piled in the corner.

Crystal stops at the body outline, then takes a step back.

CRYSTAL
Somebody died in here???

Chase grabs a nameplate off of the messy desk and shows it to Crystal. It reads, "MISS REYNOLDS."

CHASE

A teacher.

Chase smiles at Crystal as she glares at him.

CRYSTAL

Why didn't you tell me about this?

CHASE

Now you know.

CRYSTAL

Yeah, thanks.

CHASE

Don't worry about it. We've got work to do.

Chase hurries out of the classroom. Crystal lingers, and approaches the chalkboard where "HELP US" is written. She uses her hand to erase the words, leaving a big white blur of chalk.

As Crystal leaves the room, she doesn't see the man in the distorted mask standing in the corner or the words re-appearing on the chalkboard.

INT./EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MONTAGE - NIGHT

Crystal and Chase unload various equipment from the van and place them in the second floor hallway.

The area becomes cluttered with ghost hunting gadgets, camera bags, space heaters and long, rectangular mirrors.

Then pillows, blankets and bags of food and drinks.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ROOM 218 - NIGHT

Chase plugs in a space heater and turns it on, cranking the dial to the hottest setting. He then opens an energy drink and pours a trail of it on the floor.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase dumps the rest of the energy drink into the middle of the hallway, leaving a puddle.

Jake, Lisa and Miss Reynolds continue to watch his every move as Crystal approaches him.

CRYSTAL
What are you doing?

Chase takes the last sip of the energy drink and tosses the empty can over his shoulder.

CHASE
An old trick. They love sugar.
Whatever's in that room is coming
out.

Chase strategically props the long mirrors up against the wall, surrounding the puddle of energy drink.

CRYSTAL
Mirrors?

CHASE
They can't handle their own image.
Stuns them.

Crystal tries to make eye contact with him, but he's busy making small adjustments to the mirrors.

CRYSTAL
You really believe all this?

Chase ignores her.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)
If you don't need me anymore, I'm
going to find a place to crash.

Chase places the video camera on a tripod while Crystal grabs a pillow and blanket.

CHASE
Be careful.

Crystal turns to walk away.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Hey, did you turn your cell phone
off?

CRYSTAL
Yes, Dad!

CHASE
The signal messes with the
equipment.

CRYSTAL
Whatever you say.

CHASE
Are you alright?

CRYSTAL
I'm fine.

Crystal flashes a fake smile, puts her headphones on and cranks up her iPod. She heads down the hallway and unknowingly passes through Miss Reynolds.

Crystal coughs lightly as she turns the corner. Miss Reynolds points in that direction.

MISS REYNOLDS
Follow her! I'll stay here and keep an eye on this one.

Jake nods, then disappears.

LISA
What about me?

MISS REYNOLDS
Go with Jake.

LISA
But the mirrors...

MISS REYNOLDS
I know. I'll be fine.

Lisa disappears.

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Once out of view, Crystal bursts into tears and crumbles to the floor.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase reaches into his duffel bag and pulls out a framed portrait of a much younger Miss Reynolds. He places it on the floor between all the mirrors.

Miss Reynolds sees the picture and takes a step back.

CHASE
(looking all around)
Angela Reynolds. I know you're
here.

Miss Reynolds opens her mouth to respond, but nothing comes out. She slips into a trance, fascinated by the photo of herself.

She takes a step forward as Chase reaches for his EVF meter, the needle fluctuating.

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Crystal stands back up and wipes the tears from her eyes. She takes a deep breath and a moment to compose herself.

She heads down the stairs, music blaring in her ears. Jake and Lisa appear behind her.

Crystal stops and looks back up from where she came, as if directly at Jake.

Crystal lowers the volume of her music.

CRYSTAL
Dad?

She waits a moment, then turns the music back up.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Crystal tosses her pillow and blanket on the floor and dances seductively to the music.

While dancing, she pulls a tiny pill out of her pocket and places it in her mouth. She grabs a small bottle of water from her purse and washes it down.

Jake and Lisa appear near the pillow and blanket.

JAKE
It's been a while since we had a
sleeper.

LISA
Are you thinking about going in?

JAKE
We may never get another chance.

LISA
But last time...

JAKE
You don't have to remind me.

They follow Crystal as she dances down the hall.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

In the corner, the video camera records the hallway, its red light blinking.

Chase holds the EMF detector tightly in his hand. He spins around the hallway as the needle randomly fluctuates.

Miss Reynolds takes another step toward her picture and the mirrors.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Crystal pulls out her cell phone, goes into settings and turns the signal back on.

She sets the ringer to silent, then dials a number and paces.

CRYSTAL
(on phone)
I know its late, but call me when
you get this. My dad's crazy. I
don't know how much more of this I
can take. I want to come home.
Please.

Crystal ends the call and drops to the floor. She lies on her back and props her head up with the pillow.

The phone falls to her side as she stares at the ceiling. Her eyes get heavy with long blinks. The pill kicks in as Jake and Lisa approach.

JAKE
She's almost asleep.

Crystal's cell phone lights up. Someone is calling her, but the ringer is silent.

LISA
Her phone!

Jake looks around.

JAKE
We don't have much time.

The phone continues to ring and light up.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase hears the loud classroom buzzer as Miss Reynolds stares at one of the mirrors.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Crystal is sound asleep.

JAKE
I'm going in!

LISA
You're going to be stuck there until she wakes up.

JAKE
Don't worry about me! Stay with Miss Reynolds!

LISA
No! I'm not going to let you do this again!

JAKE
Just do it! Go!

Jake charges at Crystal. When he is several feet away, he dives head first and disappears into her.

At the same time, Crystal's phone begins to slide across the floor.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Miss Reynolds is completely still, almost frozen. Her eyes lock with her own reflection through the mirror.

Chase follows the EMF meter right to her. He knows he has a catch.

INT. VARIOUS HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Crystal's cell phone bounces from hallway to hallway, recklessly turning each corner. The cell phone's screen is still lit from ringing and gives off an eerie glow.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Crystal walks down the hallway and passes a classroom. She sees something out of the corner of her eye and takes a few steps back.

Something draws her into the classroom.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Crystal carefully steps into the cluttered classroom. Creepy artwork is everywhere. All of the desks are overturned except for one.

This particular desk has a shiny red apple sitting on it.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase watches the cell phone slide across the floor. He notices something familiar about the phone and quickly realizes it is Crystal's.

CHASE

Oh my god!

Chase drops his gear by the mirrors. Miss Reynolds continues to gaze at herself, unaware of what is happening.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Crystal!

He runs down the hallway as the cell phone enters room 218. The door slams shut while the needle of the EMF meter on the floor spins out of control.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Crystal grabs the apple and looks at it for a moment as papers swirl in the background.

Just as she is about to take a bite, Jake appears in the doorway.

JAKE

Don't!

Crystal is startled and jumps back. She takes a deep breath and looks down at the apple, which is now rotten and covered with bugs. A closer look reveals a tooth where someone tried to take a bite.

The apple falls to the floor and splatters, sending hundreds of bugs crawling across the room.

Jake extends his hands to Crystal.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Please! Don't be afraid!

CRYSTAL

Who are you?

JAKE

You have to help us.

CRYSTAL

What do you mean?

JAKE

Tell people we're here. Miss Reynolds. Lisa. And me, Jake.

CRYSTAL

Miss Reynolds? You mean the teacher my dad was talking about?

JAKE

Yes!

CRYSTAL

I don't believe in...

JAKE

You will.

They are interrupted by a scream that only Jake can hear.

LISA

(in the distance)

Jake!

Jake turns and runs down the hallway.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Miss Reynolds is oblivious to everything around her.

Lisa is doing whatever she can to try to free her from the mirror.

Lisa sees Jake turn the corner.

LISA
They got Miss Reynolds! Break the mirror!

Jake hurries to the mirror she is staring into and swings at it. He seems surprised that nothing happens and tries again. Still nothing.

JAKE
I should be able to break it! I don't know what's going on?

LISA
Is she still sleeping?

JAKE
What?!

LISA
The girl! Part of you is still in her dream! You have to wake her!

Jake knows she is right. He takes another look at Miss Reynolds then heads back the way he came.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Crystal is standing by the window as Jake hurries back into the room.

JAKE
Wake up!

Crystal turns around and smiles at him.

CRYSTAL
I didn't tell you my name yet. It's Crystal.

JAKE
Just wake up! Now! Please!

CRYSTAL
How can I wake up? I'm not even sleeping?

Crystal sees someone standing behind Jake. It is the man with the distorted mask. She screams.

Jake turns around, but can't see him. Only Crystal can. She moves away from the window and slides along the wall.

JAKE

What is it? What do you see?

The man in the distorted mask takes a step toward them.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chase finds Crystal asleep in the hallway.

CHASE

Crystal!

He shakes her, but she is in a very deep sleep.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Wake up!

Chase continues to shake her.

INT. ART CLASSROOM - NIGHT

As the man in the distorted mask moves closer to Crystal, she slowly disappears. Once she is completely gone, the man in the distorted mask appears to Jake.

They stare each other down for a moment, then the distorted man disappears. Jake soon follows.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Crystal suddenly wakes up and Chase gives her a hug. She is confused.

CRYSTAL

Dad?! What's going on?

CHASE

Things are happening.

Crystal rolls her eyes. She stands up and looks all around her.

CRYSTAL

Where's my phone?

CHASE

Don't worry about it.

CRYSTAL

There was a guy here. Where is he?
Did he take it?

CHASE

What guy?

CRYSTAL

He said his name was Jake.

Chase stares at her for a moment, then helps her grab her things.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jake appears just outside the circle of mirrors to see Lisa slumped to the ground. Miss Reynolds is nowhere to be found.

JAKE

Where is she?

Lisa can barely look up at him.

LISA

She's gone.

JAKE

What do you mean she's gone?

Lisa points to room 218.

LISA

He took her.

JAKE

Who?

LISA

You know.

Jake punches the mirror and it shatters.

JAKE

Miss Reynolds!

Light bulbs flicker randomly throughout the halls.

LISA

I told you. She's gone.

As Lisa sobs, Jake looks out the window and sees the football field light up.

JAKE

There's only one thing left to do.
It's time.

Jake holds his hand out to Lisa as Chase returns with Crystal.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Jake and Lisa appear at the patch of burnt grass. He looks back at the school. It looks like a lightning storm inside the building as flashes of light appear in random windows.

Jake and Lisa gaze into each other's eyes.

They hold each other. They kiss. They hug. Neither wants to let go.

Finally, Lisa pushes him away.

LISA

Before it's too late!

JAKE

I'll be back for you. I promise. No matter what it takes.

Jake takes one step backward beyond the dead patch of grass.

His mother's voice returns. He can hear it.

He takes a final look at Lisa, then takes one more slow step backward. And another. And then another.

Each step is a little faster. He keeps his eyes locked on Lisa until she is too far away to see anymore.

Then...

Everything fades to white.

Jake turns around and looks at the world before him, which is also white, but he sees an even brighter spot. He starts to run to it.

As he runs faster and faster, we begin to hear a heartbeat. He tumbles, drifting through the air, weightless.

Suddenly, he falls through clouds as if he is skydiving, looking up, with his arms extended outward.

He feels his heart beating, louder and louder. His pale, white skin fills with color, and we can see veins appearing on his arms and neck, as blood begins to flow.

As his lungs fill with air, he takes what feels like his first breath.

He squeezes his fists, getting stronger as he continues to free-fall through the white air.

We see the roof of a building below him. He is heading straight for it.

His body passes through the roof and continues to pass through floor after floor. His eyes are closed, and we can hear random sounds, particularly a beeping noise, which grows louder until...

Jake lands in a hospital bed, tubes connected to him, hooked up to a monitor.

He opens his eyes to see his mother, SUSAN, by his bedside. She cries tears of joy as she hugs him.

Something is very different though. Jake is slightly older, with longer hair and a beard.