

CONNOR

"The Amulet"

by
Michael Jay

TEASER

FADE IN.

INT. OCCULT SHOP - STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Pan across several aisles of stocked merchandise.

GABRIELLA (O.S.)
Baltic stones. One, two, three,
four, five, six cases.

CONNOR (O.S.)
Got it.

Stop on one aisle and PUSH IN on CONNOR and GABRIELLA, both dressed in jeans and t-shirts.

Gabriella is counting items on the shelves. Connor is seated just behind her on a short stool logging everything on a clipboard.

CONNOR
Wait, was that fine or coarse
stones?

GABRIELLA
Coarse.

Connor flips back and forth between pages on his inventory. He stops on one and rolls his eyes.

He scratches out his marking, flips to another page and makes another one.

GABRIELLA
Sorry, I'll be more specific.

CONNOR
I'd appreciate it. Not like this
hasn't already taken-

He pulls out his cell phone to check the time. Gabriella snatches the phone out of his hands and checks for herself.

GABRIELLA
Four hours and fifty seven minutes.
(stern)
Five minutes from the last time you
checked, for the record.

She tosses the phone back to him, a little harder than necessary, and turns back to the shelf she was on.

GABRIELLA

(counting another item)

And it's going to take a hell of a lot longer if you keep whining about it.

(beat)

Fine Baltic stones. Three cases.

Connor records the amount.

CONNOR

Mm hmm.

(beat)

Wonder what Pike's up to right now?

GABRIELLA

Still licking his wounds, last time I checked.

CONNOR

Think I should give him a call?

He sets the clipboard down and turns to leave. Gabriella holds out her arm to cut him off.

GABRIELLA

Oh no. You're not getting away that easily. You said you would help me do inventory.

CONNOR

That was an excuse to get out the house.

(muttering to himself)

One I'm starting to regret.

(beat; out loud)

Seriously, I'll just be a minute.

He tries to walk off, but Gabriella firmly grabs his arm.

GABRIELLA

Connor, I'm serious too. That's not a good idea just yet.

Connor turns back to face her, a curious expression on his face.

CONNOR

Yet? What'd he say to you?

GABRIELLA

Nothing, just...

(sighs)

(MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)
After that business with Krav and
the Reillys-

Connor holds up his hand to cut her off.

CONNOR
I had a front row seat, thanks.
Don't need the recap.

GABRIELLA
Connor, they just want to be sure
you're okay before-

CONNOR
You mean they're afraid of me.

Gabriella doesn't respond verbally. A bow of her head is the
only answer Connor gets.

CONNOR
(sighs)
Figures.

He slumps back down on the stool.

GABRIELLA
They just need some time.

CONNOR
(looking up at Gabriella)
What about you?

Gabriella's a bit taken back by that question, but quickly
regains her composure.

CONNOR
Are you afraid of me?

Gabriella laughs nervously.

GABRIELLA
Well that's a stupid question. I'd
have kicked you out if-

CONNOR
(sharp)
Stop lying.

GABRIELLA
I'm not. I'm just...

She kneels down to be eye level with him.

GABRIELLA

I'm sorry.

(beat)

That night, we all saw what happens when you lose that control. So yeah, it shook me up a little. All of us.

Realization dawns on Connor's face.

CONNOR

So that's why you've kept me locked up at home all week?

GABRIELLA

I...wanted to be sure all that was out of your system.

CONNOR

(nods his head)

Gotcha. But I'm fine now.

GABRIELLA

You threw a hissy fit during the game the other night.

CONNOR

(incredulous)

That ref made a crappy call!

(beat)

I'm fine. Really.

They hold a stare for a beat before she stands up again.

GABRIELLA

(sighs)

Okay.

CONNOR

Finally!

He stands up, refreshed and turns to leave again.

Gabriella stops him again, slapping the clipboard into his chest.

GABRIELLA

First, inventory.

Connor makes a pathetic pouting face. Gabriella rolls her eyes.

GABRIELLA
Fine, we'll take a break.

They walk off into:

INT. OCCULT SHOP - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Gabriella takes a seat at a desk completely covered in paperwork. Connor leans over her shoulder as she starts messing with her laptop perched on top of the pile.

GABRIELLA
Just let me check on the local auctions first, then we'll hit Ralph's.

CONNOR
'Kay.

GABRIELLA
(hits a few keys)
Hmm, nothing there.

She navigates to another page.

GABRIELLA
(scans a listing)
Meh.

And again.

GABRIELLA
(scanning again)
Nada.

CONNOR
I thought I got everything on that list you had through the Council.

GABRIELLA
You did, but I still run across rare stuff every now and then for my personal collect-

She stops abruptly, her eyes staring a hole into the monitor.

CONNOR
(squints)
What?
(looks at Gabriella)
What is that?

PUSH IN on Gabriella as she looks up at Connor, then back to the monitor.

ON the monitor showing an image of a very familiar object.

An amulet on a chain necklace, the same one that closed the Sunnydale Hellmouth.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN.

INT. UNKNOWN - DAY

Open on a familiar looking apartment door. A hand comes up into frame and knocks.

A moment passes before the locks are undone from the other side and the door swings open to reveal PIKE, who looks confused at the visitor.

REVERSE ON Connor, looking quite sheepish.

CONNOR
(unsure)
Umm, sorry I beat you up, dude.

Connor pulls a large case of BEER up to face level. Pike takes it without a second's pause.

PIKE
(shrugs)
Eh, forgiven.

He walks off, motioning with his hand for Connor to enter.

INT. PIKE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Pike pulls out two beers and tosses one to Connor. The rest of it goes into his fridge.

PIKE
And for the record, you didn't beat me up. Who knocked who out?

Pike raises his bottle towards Connor, who toasts. They simultaneously sip.

CONNOR
That was a suckerpunch.

PIKE
(wry)
Whatever works.

Pike walks to the opposite end of the studio penthouse.

There's a hand built, wooden display case in one corner. Pike picks up a paintbrush and starts to work on one of the sides.

CONNOR
You build that yourself?

PIKE
 Nah. Guy on the second floor's a
 carpenter.

CONNOR
 Oh.
 (beat; wary)
 Listen, I-

Pike holds his hand up to cut Connor off.

PIKE
 Dude, don't. You apologized,
 brought me beer, Kaia's okay, we're
 good. I've taken worse beatings
 from closer friends.
 (beat)
 And groveling violates the seventh
 man law.

CONNOR
 Thought that was the eighth.

PIKE
 (shakes his head)
 Low carb beer.

CONNOR
 Right, right.
 (beat)
 Need some help?

PIKE
 You go side to side or up and down?

CONNOR
 Up and down.

Pike reaches down out of frame and picks up a second brush,
 tossing it to Connor.

PIKE
 (smiling)
 Cool.

Connor gently dips his brush in a can of paint and starts
 painting the side opposite Pike.

INT. AUCTION HALL - MAIN LOBBY - DAY

Gabriella and KAIA are standing in line to register for the
 auction.

GABRIELLA
Thanks for coming along.

KAIA
No problem.

GABRIELLA
I should probably warn you ahead of time, I've been to a few of these before. Some of the stuff up for bidding is a little...different.

A large demon with a head like a squid passes by the ladies. Kaia's eyes follow it.

KAIA
(wry)
Ya don't say.

They reach the front of the line where a female vampire (in full vamp face) is sitting at a small desk signing everyone in.

VAMPIRE
Name.

GABRIELLA
Gabriella Heron.

The vampire hands her a paddle with the number '26' on it.

VAMPIRE
Are you carrying any weapons?

Gabriella and Kaia share a puzzled look.

GABRIELLA
Uh, no.

VAMPIRE
(snorts)
Good luck.

Another shared look between the girls. The vampire looks up at them and motions with her hand for them to move on.

VAMPIRE
(calling out)
Next!

Gabriella and Kaia walk off, the latter looking a bit tentative.

KAIA

Care to explain what she meant by that?

GABRIELLA

These things can get a little...rowdy if the right people don't win.

KAIA

And Connor isn't here because?

Gabriella doesn't answer. Kaia shoots her a look.

KAIA

You can't keep him bottled up in the house forever.

GABRIELLA

I'm not. He's hanging out with Pike right now.

KAIA

Still. What are you so afraid of? You told Oli and me he was fine after that, whatever it was you did to him.

GABRIELLA

I just...
(sighs)
That look in his eyes that night.
(beat)
It's hard to explain.
(sighs again)
I guess I'm just realizing exactly how young he is.

Kaia stares at her friend for a beat before smiling and shaking her head.

KAIA

(grinning)
Oh my God.

GABRIELLA

What?

KAIA

You're totally turning into a mommy for him.

GABRIELLA
 (horrified)
 What? Oh God no! I'm
 just...concerned.

INT. AUCTION HALL - AUCTION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter a small room with rows of folding chairs set up for the patrons. A stage is at the front of the room with a podium.

KAIA
 Did you tuck him in, give him
 ginger ale through a straw...

They take their seats in the middle row, Gabriella sitting next to a large, slime coated demon.

GABRIELLA
 Cut me some slack, Kaia.

The demon coughs up a mouthful of phlegm, earning a disgusted reaction from the girls. They move a few seats down.

KAIA
 Hey, of the three of us, I'm the
 one who got Zorro'd. I'm not
 holding a grudge.

GABRIELLA
 (under her breath)
 That's not what he thinks.

KAIA
 What do you mean by that?

GABRIELLA
 Huh? What?

KAIA
 (touches her ear)
 Enhanced hearing, sweetie.

Gabriella looks away, searching for a good response. Luckily she's saved by:

AUCTIONEER (O.S.)
 Everyone, please take your seats,
 we're about to begin.

ON the AUCTIONEER, a well dressed human female looking completely out of place among the rogue gallery of bidders (human and demon) in front of her.

AUCTIONEER

We've got a lot of interesting items up for sale. I don't think I need to go over the rules, so we'll get right to it.

(beat)

Oh, and no personal checks please.

A chorus of groans comes from the bidders.

KAIA

What are we here to bid on anyway?

GABRIELLA

An amulet.

KAIA

What's so special about it?

GABRIELLA

I'll tell you later.

An ASSISTANT enters the stage from a curtain to the side with a box.

AUCTIONEER

Our first item up for sale is...

She reaches into the box and pulls out a small hairless KITTEN.

AUCTIONEER

A litter of purebred sphynx kittens from Europe.

Two rows in front of them, a familiar looking demon with blueish gray sagging skin and long floppy ears looks positively giddy. CLEM.

AUCTIONEER (O.S.)

We'll start the bidding at...

Clem fires his paddle into the air.

CLEM

Twenty five thousand dollars!

The auctioneer smiles at his enthusiasm.

AUCTIONEER

Alright, twenty five. Do I hear twenty six?

The squid faced demon from earlier raises its paddle.

AUCTIONEER
I have twenty six. Twenty seven?

Clem raises his paddle.

TIME LAPSE to a few moments later. The bidding war continues.

AUCTIONEER
(astounded)
Sixty thousand dollars! Do I have-

SQUID DEMON
(raising paddle)
One hundred thousand dollars.

Clem looks at the demon, dejected. That's way out of his price range.

AUCTIONEER
One hundred, do I have one hundred five?

Clem fights the urge to raise his paddle, almost shaking from the impending defeat.

AUCTIONEER
Going once.
(beat)
Twice.
(beat)
Sold to number fifty five for one hundred thousand dollars!

Clem's face falls (no pun intended). Dejected, he slowly gets out of his chair and leaves the room.

The squid demon claps gleefully like a little girl and bounds up to the stage.

It tries to grab the box from the assistant, but the auctioneer cuts him up.

AUCTIONEER
Payment, please.

She's presented with several large block of cash and steps aside.

AUCTIONEER
Also, sir, we ask that you please not-

The demon snatches the box and digs its face in. A chorus of loud feline SCREECHES and SLURPING sounds fill the room as the demon struggles to hold the shaking box still.

AUCTIONEER

(low)

-consume the product on stage.

The assistant covers his mouth and runs off the stage to vomit.

ON Gabriella and Kaia, both looking nauseous.

KAIA

(sickly)

I hope that's not how my clan looks.

GABRIELLA

Come again?

KAIA

Nothing.

BACK ON the stage as the demon finishes its snack and tosses the empty box aside.

The auctioneer watches the demon leave, expressionless. She breaks into a nervous bit of laughter, trying to lighten the mood.

AUCTIONEER

Okay, moving on. Next item up is...

DISSOLVE TO later in the auction.

AUCTIONEER

And sold to number seven!

The assistant, recovered from earlier, hands off a pale, skinny demon on a dog collar (last seen poisoning Archduke Sebassis) to a very very large, furry demon.

The demon tenderly strokes his new slave's head as they depart.

AUCTIONEER

And our final item for sale, the one that seems to have garnered the most attention, is...

The assistant returns to the stage holding the amulet out for everyone to see.

AUCTIONEER

This talisman, once owned by the
law offices of Wolfram and Hart.

The remaining bidders in the room, including Gabriella, perk
up.

Gabriella looks over to a snoozing Kaia and pokes her in the
side with an elbow. Kaia snorts and wakes up.

GABRIELLA

This is us.

KAIA

(blearily)
About time.

ON the auctioneer holding the amulet by the chain.

AUCTIONEER

We'll start the bidding at two
thousand dollars.

She points off into the crowd at an unseen bidder.

AUCTIONEER

I have two, do I have three?

ON Gabriella, who seems to be straining. Kaia looks at her
incredulously.

KAIA

What are you waiting for? Bid.

GABRIELLA

(gritted teeth)
I can't.

AUCTIONEER

Anyone?

KAIA

What do you mean you can't?

GABRIELLA

I mean I can't. I can't lift my
arm.

KAIA

What?

AUCTIONEER
 (confused)
 Okay, two going once...

PAN ACROSS the audience. They all seem to be straining to lift their paddles without success.

KAIA
 What the hell?

GABRIELLA
 Someone...cast...a spell.

All of the other potential bidders start to complain about the same problem. The auctioneer looks completely confused, but continues.

AUCTIONEER
 Going twice...

Kaia grabs Gabriella's arm and tries to lift it herself. She can't do it.

AUCTIONEER
 Sold to number two. Congratulations
 Mr...?

UNKNOWN MALE (O.S.)
 (in a British accent)
 Rayne, my dear.

ON ETHAN RAYNE (late forties, British, swarthy) standing up and making his way to the front.

Everyone in the crowd slumps forward, obviously released from the spell holding them in place.

GABRIELLA
 (gasping)
 Damn it.

Ethan gets to the stage and takes the amulet from the auctioneer.

ETHAN
 You, my dear, can call me Ethan.

The auctioneer blushes and turns away. Ethan hands her a wad of cash.

ON Kaia as she pats Gabriella comfotingly on the back.

KAIA

You okay?

GABRIELLA

I'm good.

She looks up at Ethan with death in her eyes.

GABRIELLA

(icily)

And I'll be better in a minute.

Kaia looks up at Ethan, who continues to relentlessly hit on the auctioneer.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. AUCTION HALL - MAIN LOBBY - LATER

Gabriella marches right up to Ethan, grabs his shoulder, and spins him around. Ethan sighs when he sees who's confronting him.

ETHAN

Oh wonderful.

GABRIELLA

That was low, Ethan. Even for you.

Kaia looks back and forth between the two.

KAIA

Wait, you two know each other?

GABRIELLA

You really should've stayed in prison.

Ethan gives her a wry smile.

ETHAN

What can I say? Rehab didn't take.

(looks to Kaia)

And who might this be?

He goes to shake Kaia's hand, but Gabriella soundly slaps his away.

GABRIELLA

None of your damn business. What's your game, Ethan? You know what the Eye is for.

ETHAN

Yes, I'm fully aware. I'm actually glad I ran into you, Gabriella. I've been sending out invitations to a soiree I'm having at my estate this weekend.

He pulls out a small business card and hands it to Gabriella.

She immediately slaps it out of the way, stepping right up into his face, her eyes flashing yellow. She's pissed.

GABRIELLA

(cold)

You're going to give me the Eye.

ETHAN

(backing up)

Now let's calm down. That's actually what the party is for.

Gabriella looks like she's ready to turn him into a frog. Kaia grabs her hand, trying to calm her down.

KAIA

(shakes her head)

Hey, not here.

ETHAN

(nods to Kaia)

Smart lady.

(sarcastic)

Hope you find the time to attend, Ms. Robinson.

KAIA

Robinson?

GABRIELLA

It's Heron now.

ETHAN

Oh, let go of that bit of baggage, have you?

He gives her a fake smile and pumps his fist to accent the over the top enthusiasm.

ETHAN

Good girl! Hope to see you this weekend.

He swaggers off, relishing his small triumph. Gabriella watches him leave, seething.

Kaia bends down and picks up the card.

KAIA
What was that all about?

GABRIELLA
The Eye. I have to-

KAIA
Yeah, I got that. What's so important about it?

Gabriella turns to her, running her hands through her hair, trying to contain her frustration.

GABRIELLA
I'll explain later.

She turns to walk away. Kaia grabs her arm to stop her.

KAIA
No, now. Now's good. I'm good with now.

GABRIELLA
(sighs)
Remember when I told you I used to work for Wolfram and Hart?

KAIA
Yeah.

She looks off in the direction Ethan left.

GABRIELLA
(solemn)
Well, I still do.

ON Ethan as he walks up the stairs towards the exit, twirling the amulet like it's a child's toy.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Connor and Pike are seated on the couch playing a video game.

They're both doing that ridiculous moving of their bodies with the ebb and flow of the game, like they're moving with their characters.

Suddenly, Pike drops his controller and stands up, arms out and fists clenched.

PIKE
Touchdown!!

Connor slumps back in his seat.

CONNOR
Can I get a flag?

Both of the men are startled when Gabriella flings the front door open and stalks in. Kaia slowly enters behind her.

CONNOR
(eyeing Gabriella)
Did you win?

GABRIELLA
(not breaking stride)
Shut up!

She enters her room and slams the door.

ON LESI trying to follow her owner and getting the door slammed in her face. She whimpers and walks away.

ON SCENE

Lesi walks up to Connor and rests her head on his knee. He scratches the top of her head.

CONNOR
(to Kaia)
So, she lost.

KAIA
(nodding)
Oh yeah. Big time.

PIKE
Taking it a bit hard, isn't she?

KAIA
 (sighs)
 Guys, there's a lot more to this.

PIKE
 (rolls his eyes)
 There always is.

Gabriella comes back into the living room, standing behind the couch.

GABRIELLA
 We'll steal it!

PIKE
 Now we're talking! Steal what?

KAIA
 Okay, you're getting out of hand now.

Kaia walks over to Gabriella, speaking to her slowly and evenly. Lesi immediately gets between them, growling at Kaia.

KAIA
 Gab, it's obvious he knows some pretty damn good spells. I doubt we can just break it and grab that-

GABRIELLA
 (quickly)
 Well Connor can beat him up.

Connor perks up at this.

CONNOR
 (anxious)
 I can beat someone up?

PIKE
 Hey, back to the burglary part.

KAIA
 (sharp)
 Boys! Not helping.
 (to Gabriella)
 Look, before we start playing Ocean's Four, mind explaining why that trinket means so much? You mentioned Wolfram and Hart.

This definitely gets Connor's attention now. His expression goes from excitement to serious.

CONNOR
What about them?

Gabriella walks over to her bookshelf, selects one volume, and sets it down on the table.

PIKE
Umm, could we finish our game first?

GABRIELLA
(flipping through the book)
Shut up, Pike.

She stops on one page and turns the book so the other three can see it right side up.

ON the book and a picture of the amulet.

GABRIELLA
It's called the Eye of Anubis.
Wolfram and Hart acquired it from a tomb raid in Africa centuries ago.

CONNOR
What's it do?

Gabriella starts to speak, but Pike raises his hand to interrupt.

PIKE
Short version?

Gabriella rolls her eyes.

GABRIELLA
It feeds on the energy of a soul.
It can also be used to bind one's spirit, their basic essence to it.

She slams the book shut, creating a small cloud of dust that gets Lesi to paw at her nose and sneeze.

GABRIELLA
Wolfram and Hart contracts have something called a perpetuity clause. It basically says employees can never truly quit, they have to be released from their contract.

She stands up and replaces the book on the shelf.

GABRIELLA

Every single contract is enchanted with the Eye after being signed. With the essence of the contract and the person who signed it bound to it, if either are ever destroyed, the Eye can be used bring the essence back.

CONNOR

(not following)
Okay?

GABRIELLA

Basically, let's say I were to get hit by a truck and die tomorrow. Wolfram and Hart could just use the Eye to bring my essence back to this plane of existence. I'm tied to them as long as the Eye is out there.

CONNOR

Well, that's just creepy.

KAIA

(confused)
Doesn't that sort of make you immortal?

GABRIELLA

No, I'd still be dead. The Eye makes it so my essence is still able to cross over to this plane of existence. Basically I'd be in limbo, purgatory, whatever you want to call it.

PIKE

If it belonged to them, how'd it end up at that auction?

CONNOR

They're not there anymore. Remember the In and Out? Everything in there wound up on the streets.

GABRIELLA

(nods)
I've been looking for it since the night Connor's father and his friends took the branch down.

CONNOR

That's why you were searching those underground auctions?

Gabriella nods before she sits down between Pike and Connor.

CONNOR

What happens if the Eye is destroyed?

GABRIELLA

Theoretically, anyone connected to the Eye would be released from it.

KAIA

Theoretically?

GABRIELLA

Yeah. To be honest, I'm not sure. Might end up stuck in the middle of nowhere 'til the end of time.

She stands back up.

GABRIELLA

But I'm not going to know anything for sure if I don't have the Eye here to do research and tests on it.

CONNOR

Maybe the Council could help out.

GABRIELLA

Yeah, whatever. Point is it all starts with us getting the Eye in the first place.

Kaia, Pike, and Connor all look at each other. Pike shrugs his shoulders and stands.

PIKE

Well, I got nothing better to do. Got a plan?

Gabriella hands Pike the business card from earlier. Connor stands up and looks at it as well.

GABRIELLA

Ethan's having a party at his place this weekend.

CONNOR

Ethan?

KAIA

Ethan Rayne. The guy you're gonna beat up.

Connor grins and cracks his knuckles.

CONNOR

How big is he?

KAIA

Pretty small guy. About your size, actually.

Connor's face falls.

GABRIELLA

(ignoring them both)
His place is out in Ojai.

PIKE

Wait, I don't have to wear a tux, do I?

He looks up at Gabriella, waiting for her answer. Not getting a response, he looks to Connor and Kaia.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. OJAI FREEWAY (ROUTE 33) - NIGHT

Pike's on his bike facing the camera. Stay on him for a minute before moving past him to:

INT. GABRIELLA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kaia and Gabriella are in the front seat, both in black formal dresses. Behind them, Connor is in the backseat playing on a PSP.

GABRIELLA

Can't believe you let him ride his bike in a tux.

KAIA

It was the only way I could get him to wear one in the first place.

Connor stops playing his game and leans forward, inserting himself (literally) into the conversation.

CONNOR
So what's the plan?

Silence. Kaia looks to Gabriella for the answer.

CONNOR
There is a plan, right?

More silence.

KAIA
Gabriella?

GABRIELLA
(shifty)
I was thinking just wing it, ya
know?

Connor sighs and slumps back in his seat.

CONNOR
(mumbling)
I miss the house arrest.

EXT. OJAI FREEWAY (ROUTE 33) - NIGHT

ON the guard rail at a slight left turn in the road. Pike's bike WHIPS through the turn, quickly followed by Gabriella's car.

PAN UP to the moonless night sky.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. OJAI - DOWNTOWN STRIP - NIGHT

We slowly move down the main street of the small (relatively speaking) valley town, pushing in on the hills just on the outskirts until a house comes into view on the top of one of the hills.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Ethan Rayne's house would be more aptly described as a small mansion. A circular driveway encloses a pond with a stone hulk-like statue in the center.

The house has Roman style columns lining the front of it.

PUSH IN on our group, approaching the building. Pike is walking a lot stiffer than normal, the different attire bothering him.

PIKE

Babe, did you put enough starch in this? I feel like a mannequin.

KAIA

Had to or the bike would've wrinkled it all up.

Pike looks to Gabriella, who looks distracted by something.

PIKE

Gab, you okay? Head in the game?

Gabriella shakes her head, coming back to Earth.

GABRIELLA

Yeah, yeah sorry. Just got a weird feeling. Something's off about this.

KAIA

Everything's off about this.

GABRIELLA

No, I mean physically off. My body's getting these tingles.

CONNOR

Well, you said this guy's big with the magic. Maybe it's some of that you're picking up.

GABRIELLA

(unsure)

Yeah, maybe. I don't know.

Connor puts his hand on her shoulder, quietly reassuring her. She gives him a small smile.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT

The inside of Ethan's home could double as a museum. The floors are gold colored marble. There's several display cases of different items dotted throughout the room.

A large staircase leads to the second floor.

Our merry band are dumbstruck by their surroundings.

PIKE
 (pointing)
 A ha!

He's pointing to a table off in the far corner. Connor follows his finger and grins.

CONNOR
 Refreshments.

The boys head over to the table.

GABRIELLA
 Uh, mission?

Pike turns back to her and splays his arms out in a 'come on' gesture. He winks and turns back around.

Gabriella huffs and puts her hands on her hips. She turns around, right into a slightly older, slightly shorter brunette.

GABRIELLA
 Oh my God, Gwen?

GWEN's eyes rapidly flicker for two seconds. She turns her head slightly to the side, reciting the following like a computer reading a laundry list.

GWEN
 Robinson. Gabriella. Heron. Spells
 and Translations department. Hired
 in 2001. One husband, Paul
 Robinson, deceased. One daughter,
 Jennifer Robinson. Deceased.

Her expression shifts from robotic to normal and she breaks into a grin, pulling Gabriella into a hug.

KAIA
 Wait, how'd you do that...rolodex
 thing just now?

GWEN
 How are you, dear?

She releases the hug, still holding Gabriella by the hips.

GWEN
 Wow girl, you still have those
 curves.

Gabriella manages a smile from the compliment as she sizes Gwen up. Kaia is utterly lost...again.

KAIA
Okay, I'm still-

Gwen turns to Kaia.

GWEN
I was Files and Records.

GWEN
It was my job.

GABRIELLA
It was her job.

Kaia nods her understanding. Gabriella looks around the room.

GABRIELLA
(pointing)
I remember her. She interned for Sirk one summer.
(pointing elsewhere)
And isn't that Preston from Entertainment?

Gwen's eyes do the rolodex bit again.

GWEN
Yes.
(turns to Gabriella)
Well, I'm gonna get something to drink. It's great seeing you again. We need to have brunch sometime.

GABRIELLA
(distracted)
Yeah.

Gwen walks off. Kaia watches as Gabriella does a complete three sixty around the room.

KAIA
What is it?

GABRIELLA
Most everyone here used to work for Wolfram and Hart.

KAIA
You know all of them?

GABRIELLA
Not by name, just faces. That's not it though.
(MORE)

GABRIELLA (CONT'D)

(beat; nods in another
direction)

Linwood.

(another nod)

Number Five.

(to Kaia)

Kaia, half of these people are
dead.

KAIA

What?!?

She looks around, noticing her outburst garnered a bit of
attention. When she speaks again, it's in a harsh whisper.

KAIA

What do you mean dead?

GABRIELLA

As in not alive.

KAIA

Yet they're all here?

A beat. Kaia's eyes light up. She finally gets it.

KAIA

The Eye. Someone used it to bring
all these people back.

(beat)

Ethan?

GABRIELLA

Maybe. It's possible to cross over
to this plane with the right
connections, but that's the best
guess.

Gabriella nods. Then she closes her eyes and leans her head
back, groaning.

GABRIELLA

Ugh, so stupid.

KAIA

Huh?

GABRIELLA

Ethan said the party was for the
Eye.

Kaia starts to get it. Gabriella is looking more worried by
the second.

KAIA

If just about everyone in this room
is in the situation you are...

GABRIELLA

(sighs)

This just got a whole lot more
difficult.

Connor and Pike, both snacking on a (large) handful of finger
food, walk back up to them.

PIKE

(mouth full)

Alright, so what's the plan?

Connor swallows before answering.

CONNOR

We're winging it.

Pike rolls his eyes, obviously feeling the same way Connor
did when he got the same news.

PIKE

(frowning; to Kaia)

My girls in Gabby's car?

Kaia nods.

GABRIELLA

Gabby?

PIKE

(ignoring her)

Keys?

Gabriella hands over the keys to her car and Pike stalks off.

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Ethan walks up to the edge of the pond in the middle of the
driveway, carrying a stone spire with inscriptions on it.

He looks down at the water and it splits right down the
middle, clearing a dry path for him.

He walks up to the large statue, which we see is of a
decidedly non human bulky figure.

ON the spire in his hands, pulsing with faint light.

ON SCENE

Ethan reaches up to the head of the statue with the object and carves a symbol into the forehead.

The symbol glows the same faint color as the spire.

ETHAN

Wake up, Sleeping Beauty.

The statue's eyes start to GLOW as well. The creature lets out a low growl.

ETHAN

(wry)

You're missing the party.

He grins creepily.

ON Pike, crouched behind a set of bushes off to the side of the yard, watching the whole scene.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN.

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

On Pike still crouched in his hiding place, watching Ethan and the stone statue.

PIKE'S POV

Ethan holds the spire up towards the statue, the shared glow of it and the eyes of the statue still there. Ethan is speaking to the statue, but Pike's too far away to make out his words.

Ethan and turns and walks back down his dry pathway towards the house, with the statue following closely behind.

ON SCENE

The statue stops at the doorway while Ethan enters. Pike slowly moves out of his hiding place and breaks into a sprint for Gabriella's car.

He pulls out his cell phone as he runs.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT

The various guests are still mingling amongst one another. Ethan makes his way through the crowd to the staircase.

Kaia walks up to Gabriella and Connor, hanging up her phone.

KAIA

Hey, we've got a problem. Oli just called me from outside and-

ETHAN (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen!

All eyes turn to Ethan, who is standing on the second floor balcony, facing the crowd.

ETHAN

I would like to thank you all for attending my little soiree tonight. I know travel arrangements for some of you were a bit...difficult, let's say.

Quick close up on Gabriella, Connor, and Kaia.

ETHAN

(grinning)

I realize that you're all here for the Eye of Anubis. I've gotten all the use I want from it already, so tonight, for my own amusement, I've staged a little game.

ON Gabriella, her eyes narrowing.

ON Ethan's left hand (concealed by the wall of the balcony) holding the spire. It's glowing brighter than before.

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - COURTYARD - SAME TIME

The statue's eyes glow brighter. It starts to growl.

ON Pike, sliding a full clip into a gun.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT

The guests aren't silent anymore, getting worked up over Ethan's shenanigans.

ETHAN

(speaking over the crowd)

I've hidden the Eye in one of the many many many rooms in my home. All you have to do is find it and escape.

BOOM!

The front door explodes into pieces as the statue pounds right through it.

The crowd gasps at the new arrival.

ON Connor, his body tense, fists clenched. Ready for a fight. Next to him, Kaia pulls out her phone and dials a number.

Ethan points the spire at the statue. It growls again, louder this time.

ETHAN

My stone friend here is the referee if you will. It'll be guarding the only exit. Noone passes by it without the Eye in their possession. If you try, well...

He pauses for effect, letting the threat hand in the air.

A short man with slicked back hair makes a break for the door. The statue grabs him by the neck and effortlessly breaks it.

He drops to the ground, very much dead.

ETHAN

I just wouldn't advise it.

Ethan holds his arms in the air to the side, a sweeping gesture if you will. The glowing spire in plain sight of everyone now.

ETHAN

Best of luck to you all!

Ethan grins again.

The guests disperse, frantically beginning their search.

ON Gabriella, her eyes yellow, charging up.

Kaia shakes her head, still holding her open phone.

KAIA

That sick bastard.

PIKE

(through phone)

Who?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Pike's standing at the edge of the pond away farthest away from the door.

KAIA

Rayne, he just said he hid the Eye somewhere in the house and-

PIKE

Wait, are you all watching a recording or something?

KAIA

What?

PIKE

He's still standing out here.

CLOSE UP on Ethan, still standing outside the door, his eyes closed.

Back in the house, Gabriella telekinetically lifts a chair and hurls it towards Ethan. It passes right through him!

CONNOR
(amazed)
Whoa.

Ethan's body starts to ripple. He looks down to Gabriella and waves, still grinning. Slowly, he fades.

CONNOR
What? How?

GABRIELLA
(knowingly)
Astral projection.

She snatches the phone from Kaia.

GABRIELLA
Pike, stop him. I don't care how
you do it.

PIKE
Yes, ma'am.

Both sides hang up. We stay outside the estate.

CLOSE UP ON Ethan, opening his eyes and tensing his neck.

PIKE (O.S.)
Freeze.

Staying in the close up shot, PAN LEFT to see Pike about twenty feet behind Ethan with a gun pointed at him.

PIKE
I don't know what kind of sick game
you're playing...

Ethan smiles.

PIKE
(continuing)
...but it's not-

He stops as his body is thrown backwards by an unseen force.

ON SCENE

Pike flies about ten feet through the air and lands in the water of the pond with a splash.

Ethan coolly turns around and regards his would be foe.

ETHAN

Really now, is all that posturing
necessary?

(shakes his head)

Bloody Yanks.

Pike splashes around in the water, regaining his senses. He pulls the gun up and gets knocked back into the water.

ETHAN

Next time, try pulling the trigger
first.

Ethan briskly walks away. Pike springs up to his feet, thrashing the water around him.

He scans the area quickly, seeing Ethan off in the distance walking towards a car.

PIKE

(spitting up water)

Stop!

Pike bounds out of the water in hot pursuit.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - KITCHEN - NEXT

The kitchen is large enough to house an entire team of chefs. All around the room, people are tearing through the cabinets, hunting.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - GUEST BEDROOM - NEXT

PAN AROUND the room to the large closet. Shoes and clothes are being tossed out of it. Someone's in there, searching.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - OFFICE - NEXT

Gabriella, Connor, and Kaia are searching every inch of the room.

KAIA

This is ridiculous, we're never
going to find it this way.

GABRIELLA

We have to.

CONNOR
 Can't you just do a spell and find
 it that way?

Everyone in the room pauses. Kaia and Gabriella share a look.
 Why hadn't they thought of that?

GABRIELLA
 Connor, you're beautiful.

She quickly exits the room.

CONNOR
 (shrugs)
 'Bout time you noticed.

He follows the girls out into:

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Gabriella leads the way down the hall. Every door is open and
 the sounds of crashing objects and chatter of nervous ex W&H
 employees come from each room.

GABRIELLA
 I've got materials out in the car.

CONNOR
 We forgetting the very large
 problem blocking the door?

GABRIELLA
 Don't worry, I've got an idea.

They round the corner to the main lobby where the statue is
 still standing. There's close to a dozen bodies laid out
 around it.

KAIA
 Okay, so what's this idea?

GABRIELLA
 Connor tries to get by it and while
 the statue's busy with him, we
 sneak by.

They watch as a young woman approaches the statue. As she
 gets nearer, she hurls a magically conjured FIREBALL at it!

The statue absorbed the attack with its hand, causing the
 woman to run away, rethinking her strategy.

Connor gives Gabriella a look like he thinks she's crazy.

CONNOR
How 'bout no?

GABRIELLA
You got a better one?

CONNOR
How big is this house? There's
gotta be another exit.

Kaia and Gabriella share a look. Again, an obvious solution.

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Pike is running hard, panting with exertion.

Unfortunately, he's too late as he catches up to Ethan just as he pulls away in his car.

Pike doubles over, catching his breath for a brief moment, before running off again, this time towards his bike.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - HALLWAY - NEXT

Connor, Gabriella, and Kaia are racing through the house, frantically looking for another exit.

CONNOR
(pointing)
There!

They round another corner and sprint towards a door at the end. Connor flings it open and they walk into:

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They're back in the office from earlier, all of them utterly perplexed.

Behind them, the door slams shut on its own.

CONNOR
(shaking his head)
This was on the second floor. We're
on the first.

KAIA
Ethan?

GABRIELLA
Probably what I was feeling
earlier.

KAIA
 Whatever. We still need to get out
 of here.

She turns and opens the door, revealing the kitchen on the other side!

CONNOR
 What's going on?

Kaia shuts the door and opens it again. This time its a bathroom!

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NIGHT

Ethan's car turns a corner and begins to accelerate down the street.

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - NEXT

Mark Mancina's 'Diva' plays in the stereo as Ethan hums along. He adjusts his rearview mirror.

ON the mirror being adjusted. Through it, Pike's bike can be seen turning onto the street, chasing Ethan.

ON SCENE

Ethan squints at the mirror, then turns around to see who it is. He frowns.

ETHAN
 Bigger.

He floors the gas, picking up speed.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NEXT

Pike, sans helmet, shifts into a higher gear, building speed.

Ethan weaves between the sparse cars on the road, pounding his horn.

WHIP PAN to Pike, doing the same. Ethan turns a corner and Pike follows him at high speed.

Ethan, dangerously speeding now, hits a hard bump in the road, sending the front end of his car into the air for a brief second before it crashes back onto the pavement, sending sparks into the air.

CUT TO inside the car as Ethan bounces around from the impact. He shakes his head to clear the cobwebs.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Connor dashes into the room and skids to a stop. Gabriella and Kaia come up behind him.

PAN AROUND the room as the walls begin to ripple.

CONNOR

Now what?

The walls solidify again.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NIGHT

Pike is just behind Ethan's car now. He tries to pull alongside the right side of it, but Ethan swerves in his way, blocking him.

Pike quickly cuts left and gets to driver side. Ethan yanks the car over, trying to hit Pike.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The place is starting to come down. Connor and the gang dodge falling debris as they flee, desperately seeking an exit.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NEXT

Pike slams on his brakes and yanks the bike to the side to slow his speed and dodge. Ethan ends up smacking into a parked car.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

OVERHEAD VIEW

Connor, Gabriella, and Kaia falls THROUGH the floor, just disappearing as if it weren't there.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - KITCHEN

They land violently on the kitchen counters. Connor is the first to his feet.

GABRIELLA

(gasping)

It's not real.

KAIA

(wincing)

Tell that to the broken bones.

Around them, the room is rippling again.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NIGHT

Pike speeds up again, this time getting up to Ethan's driver side window. They're both not moving as fast now.

Pike rears his hand back and smashes through the window, grabbing the steering wheel and trying to yank it.

Ethan struggles to maintain control of the car. They swerve dangerously all over the street.

ON Pike as his entire body is lit up by a set of headlights. A loud horn is heard just off screen.

ON SCENE

A Hummer is bearing down on Pike. The two lane road leaves no room for Pike to dodge!

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - HALLWAY - NEXT

They're running again, still looking for a way out. Connor cuts a corner and freezes. The statue is right in front of him!

He backs up a couple steps and tenses up as Gabriella and Kaia join him.

KAIA

Thought it was guarding the door.

GABRIELLA

Ethan said it'd be guarding the exit. So if it's here, then-

She points behind the statue. There's a door at the end of the hall.

Gabriella looks to Connor. His eyes are narrow now, focusing.

CONNOR

Get ready to run.

GABRIELLA

Connor, don't.

Connor ignores her, breaking into a run and leaping through the air with a flying kick.

The statue effortlessly catches the kick in mid air, leaving Connor dangling helplessly upside down.

CLOSE UP on Connor's (upside down face). A classic 'oh shit' look.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NIGHT

Pike lets go of Ethan's wheel and swerves his bike to the left, hopping up on the sidewalk and avoiding getting run over.

INT. RAYNE ESTATE - HALLWAY - NEXT

The statue turns and flings Connor down the hall, he goes through the wall, which doesn't break. He just goes through it like he's a ghost.

CUT TO the main party room. In SLOW MOTION, Connor flails his arms as he sails through the air.

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - NEXT

He looks over at Pike and smirks, then turns his eyes to the road. They quickly go wide in terror.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NEXT

Ethan's car smashes through a barricade and barrels into a deep ditch.

The car bounces around, hitting various small trees and bushes until it turns to the side and capsizes, tumbling over and over down the ditch.

It finally stops at the bottom, right side up. Smoke pours from the engine.

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - NEXT

Ethan is slumped over the deployed air bag, out cold. He's cut and bleeding pretty bad.

EXT. RAYNE ESTATE - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on Connor flat on his back. He turns his stomach and cracks his neck. Then he looks up and around, dumbfounded.

PAN AROUND the area. It's not a lavish mansion of a home anymore. It's a construction site!

ON Gabriella, Kaia, and all the party guests taking in their new surroundings.

A loud ROAR from off screen grabs everyone's attention.

The statue, the definitively non fake statue, is stalking towards them.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - DITCH - NIGHT

Pike is at the bottom of the ditch now, walking to the car, gun drawn.

As he approaches, the driver side door opens and Ethan falls out of it, moaning in pain.

Pike stops and levels his gun at him.

PIKE
(coolly)
I asked you to stop.

Ethan begins to vomit, clear sign of a concussion.

Pike walks up to him and yanks him up by his collar.

PIKE
(shrugs)
Since Connor's not here...

He knees Ethan in the gut and smacks him in the back of the head with the gun, knocking him out.

Pike sighs, the adrenaline from the chase leaving his body. He peeks inside the window and sees the spire on the front passenger side floor.

He opens the door and climbs in to retrieve it, also noticing the Eye in the backseat! He smiles and grabs it too.

Satisfied, he kicks Ethan over to his back. He's still out. Pike bends down and checks for a pulse.

After a moment, he stands back up and walks away.

PIKE
Nice meeting you.

Stay on Ethan's still form as Pike starts to make his way out of the ditch.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION YARD - NIGHT

Everyone is scattering as the statue hurls steel girders around. Without an exit to guard, it's reverted to 'kill everything' mode.

ON an older man running for his life. He looks to his side just in time to see a girder heading straight for him.

FIRST PERSON POV

The man screams as the girder flies into the frame, blacking it out.

ON SCENE

Connor, Gabriella, Kaia are dashing for Gabriella's car. Around them, other guests are entering their cars.

GABRIELLA

Connor, do you have your spares?

Connor pulls a set of keys from his pocket just as they reach the car. He gets into the driver's seat with the girls climbing into the back.

CUT TO the statue picking up a car like it's a toy and HURLING it through the air.

Inside the car, Gwen screams in terror.

The car lands upside side, the roof caving in.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OJAI - NIGHT

Pike speeds down the street. PUSH IN on the spire, tucked into his belt.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION YARD - NIGHT

The statue swings another girder like a baseball bat, smacking another car and sending it clear out of frame.

BACK TO Gabriella's car as the engine roars to life. The tires squeal as the car pulls away.

INT. GABRIELLA'S CAR - NEXT

Gabriella and Kaia are looking out the back of the car. Gabriella's eyes go wide and she turns around.

GABRIELLA

Connor!

Connor turns around as he drives to see the statue hurling another car right at them! He just manages to dodge it, breathing a sigh of relief.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION YARD - NEXT

Another car lands in front of them, causing Connor to slam on the brakes, stopping mere inches from it.

Out of nowhere, Pike's bike flies over Gabriella's car!

He lands and turns to the side, sliding to a stop.

Pike hops off his bike and runs for the car, holding the spire up in the air.

PIKE
(frantic; re: spire)
What do I do with this thing?

ON Connor, now out of the car and running over to Pike. The statue stalks towards Pike from the opposite direction.

CONNOR
(calling out)
Gabriella!

ON Gabriella sticking her head out of the window.

GABRIELLA
Break it!

Pike holds the spire out and tries to break it over his knee. It doesn't give and Pike clutches his knee.

PIKE
Oww! Son of a-

Connor gets to Pike, grabs the spire from him with one hand and forcibly throws him to the ground with the other.

He spins off the opposite way just as the statue reaches him, dodging the attack.

As he spins, he swings the spire into the creature's side.

It breaks in two. The creature, in mid stride, falls to the ground and shatters to pieces in a cloud of dust.

ON Connor, laying on the ground, panting. He looks to the pile of rocks that used to be the creature. He looks to Pike.

PIKE
So umm, what happened to the palace?

ON Gabriella and Kaia, now out of the car. They both sigh. Exhausted. Relieved. They share a look and smile.

KAIA
How'd you know that would work?

GABRIELLA
(shrugs)
I guessed.

They start walking over towards Pike and Connor.

GABRIELLA
I guess Ethan's made some powerful friends since I last saw him.

KAIA
How do you figure?

GABRIELLA
The Ethan Rayne I knew.
(shakes her head)
Never had power like that. Holding a tactile glamour for that long? He's good, but not that good.

KAIA
So he had help?

GABRIELLA
(nodding)
Borrowed magic. Had to be.

They reach Connor and Pike. Gabriella takes the scene in and sighs in defeat.

Kaia comfortingly squeezes her shoulder.

KAIA
Sorry we couldn't get the Eye for you.

Gabriella places her hand on Kaia's, silently thanking her.

PIKE
Let's not get ahead of ourselves here.

He walks over his bike and opens up the seat to reveal a small compartment, from which he pulls out the Eye.

The others looks on in awe as he slowly hands it to Gabriella.

A few of the guests from the party, the ones that didn't get away and weren't killed, start to form a crowd.

Pike turns to them and holds his hands out.

PIKE
Whoa now, back off!

Gabriella's eyes are welling up.

PIKE
Sure hope this damn thing was worth
the trouble.

CONNOR
(to Pike)
What happened to Ethan?

PIKE
I left him in a ditch.

Kaia's head snaps up at that.

PIKE
He's alive. Just had a little car
accident.

Connor smirks and looks to Gabriella. His expression falls when he notices hers.

CONNOR
Gabriella?

Gabriella's face tenses up. She throws the Eye to the ground as hard as she can. The jewel shatters on impact!

Her three friends look at her, confused.

PIKE
Well, that was anticlimactic. A big
flash or something would've been
nice.

One of the guests rushes up to the remains of the shattered talisman.

GUEST
Are you crazy?!?

KAIA
I'm with him. Gabriella...

Gabriella's shoulders are heaving up and down. She's boiling with anger, eyeing the shards of the broken Eye.

KAIA

What happened to researching and tests?

GABRIELLA

(softly)
I didn't feel anything.

CONNOR

What?

GABRIELLA

When we got here tonight, my body was tingling, like it always does when I'm in the presence of powerful magic. It's like a radar.
(sighs)
I thought it was the Eye, but it was the glamour Ethan had on the house.

CONNOR

Well, it could've been the Eye too.

GABRIELLA

(shakes her head)
I've been around that thing at the office a couple times. I always got that same feeling.
(beat)
Just now, I didn't feel anything. Not even a blip.
(beat; voice cracking)
It...it was a fake. Ethan played us all.

Gabriella hasn't taken her eyes off the shards. The anger drains out of her, leaving a defeated expression.

Behind her, Connor seems to have absorbed all of her anger. He turns to Pike with fire in his eyes.

CONNOR

So you said something about a ditch?

Pike meets Connor's eyes. The intent is crystal clear.

EXT. OJAI - DOWNTOWN STRIP - DITCH - NIGHT

Connor and Pike approach Ethan's car. They quickly scan the area. No trace of Ethan.

PAN UP to Gabriella and Kaia standing at the top of the ditch looking down.

INT. G&C'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Connor's on the couch, watching television.

Gabriella emerges from her room, covered in a bath robe. She's drying her hair with a towel.

Connor turns to look at her before going back to his show.

She sits down next to him on the couch. He mindlessly hands her a mug of coffee.

GABRIELLA

Thanks.

Connor nods. Gabriella sips her coffee and sighs.

CONNOR

For what it's worth, I know how it feels.

Gabriella looks at him, curiously.

CONNOR

Being tied to something you don't want to be a part of.

(beat)

There's something I was thinking about.

He turns off the television and turns to Gabriella.

GABRIELLA

What's that?

CONNOR

My father's friends.

Gabriella closes her eyes and sighs. She knew this was coming.

GABRIELLA

(shakes her head)

I don't know, Connor.

CONNOR
None of them were there.

GABRIELLA
A lot of people weren't there.

CONNOR
Still, do you think that maybe-

GABRIELLA
I can't promise you anything. Angel
himself isn't under their wing
anymore. That's all I know and I'm
not a hundred percent sure about
that.

CONNOR
But the others, Lorne, Fred, Wesley-

GABRIELLA
(shakes her head)
I don't know. I'm sorry, but I
don't.

Connor slumps back on the couch and turns the television back on. Letting the matter rest, for now.

Gabriella scoots over, links her arm in his, and rests her head on his shoulder. She curls her legs up on the couch.

GABRIELLA
(sighs)
Anything good on?

CONNOR
Nope.

A beat.

GABRIELLA
I can try to find out about them.

CONNOR
(shakes his head)
Let's find the Eye first. Then
it'll be a moot point.

GABRIELLA
Yeah.
(beat)
When we do, promise me you'll beat
Ethan up.

This gets Connor to smile.

CONNOR
Scout's honor.

Lesi hops up on the couch and rests her head on Gabriella's lap. It's a cosy scene, so we avoid the nausea and quickly
CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - ALLEY - NIGHT

A banged up, bandaged Ethan Rayne stands in an alley between two tall apartment buildings. His arm is in a sling.

FEMALE (O.S.)
You're late.

Ethan turns around and smiles. Approaching him from the other end of the alley, carrying a briefcase, is the auctioneer!

She walks up to him and holds up a paper bag.

Ethan reaches into it, pulling out the Eye of Anubis! He holds it out, admiring it.

ETHAN
Sterling work on the replica.

AUCTIONEER
My brother's good at that kind of stuff, for a price.
(beat)
Speaking of which...

Ethan puts the Eye around his neck and digs into his coat pocket, smirking.

ETHAN
I appreciate the private sell. I've never been much for auctions.

He continues to search his pockets.

AUCTIONEER
No problem.
(beat)
Uh, you do have my money, correct?

ETHAN
Of course, of course.

He finally produces an envelope, handing it to her.

She checks the contents, seemingly satisfied.

AUCTIONEER

Well, I guess that's it then. Have
a good night, Mr. Rayne.

She turns and gasps.

Another man, this one much larger, is pointing a gun at her
point blank.

ON Ethan as he turns his head and steps to the side. Off
screen, a silenced gun shots precede the auctioneer's limp
body falling where he was just standing.

The assassin pumps three more rounds into the auctioneer for
good measure, then retrieves the envelope of money from the
dead body and hands it back to Ethan.

ETHAN

(smirking)
Good night, my dear.

Both men turn and walk away.

ETHAN

Pleasure doing business with you.

PUSH IN on the auctioneer's body, blood pooling from the
wound in the head.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

END OF EPISODE