

OBSIDIAN

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**FADE IN.**

**EXT. MORAVIAN COLLEGE - DAY**

HAYDEN JANSEN, WM, 30s, unshaven, unkempt, dirty clothes, looks out of place on a storied college campus. He hurries inside Moravian College's Comenius Hall, he looks around nervously.

**INT. COMENIUS HALL - CONTINUOUS**

Hayden walks down the hall quietly, looking at the door numbers and nameplates as he goes. He arrives at Room 302 and peeks through the window and sees the office is empty. The name beside the door is Professor Dirk Jansen, PhD.

Hayden sits on the chair beside the door and waits. He shuffles his feet and fidgets with his hands.

**CUT TO:**

DIRK JANSEN, WM, 50s, full suit, sandy hair, mustache and beard, glasses, leads three STUDENTS towards his office. Their movement and voices wake Hayden.

Dirk makes eye contact with his brother and doesn't break it until he goes in the office. He says nothing to Hayden. Hayden slumps down in the chair. The students stare at him awkwardly.

Dirk comes out holding student papers. He never breaks eye contact with Hayden.

DIRK

Chase?

He hands the paper to CHASE, BM, 20s.

DIRK (CONT'D)

Needs improvement. Murray?

Dirk hands a paper to MURRAY, BF, 20s.

DIRK (CONT'D)

Adequate.

Murray grins.

DIRK (CONT'D)

Newman?

Dirk hands a paper to NEWMAN, WM, 20s.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Not your best work.

Newman frowns. Murray and Chase rush off to their next classes.

Newman has a puzzled look on his face.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Yes, Mr. Newman?

NEWMAN  
I thought you said to us AP style.

Dirk looks from Hayden to Newman, mostly suppressing a smile.

DIRK  
I most assuredly did NOT say AP.  
Your syllabus, and my voice,  
clearly said APA style.

Newman frowns.

NEWMAN  
What can I do to raise my grade? I  
need a C to keep my financial aid.

DIRK  
The final.

Dirk stares at Hayden, making everybody uncomfortable.

NEWMAN  
That's it?

DIRK  
It's worth 40% of your grade. Ace  
that and you'll be fine.

NEWMAN  
Thank you Dr. Jansen.

DIRK  
You're welcome.

She's not really satisfied, but she walks away.

Dirk walks into his office. He stops and takes his glasses off.

He rubs the bridge of his nose, sighs and walks out and faces Hayden.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Come on in.

Hayden walks in, taking a second to read his brother's nameplate, which says "Department Chair."

**INT. PROFESSOR DIRK JANSEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Dirk sits at his desk, Hayden directly across from him.

DIRK  
How much do you want?

Hayden is wounded.

HAYDEN  
What? I wouldn't--

Dirk scoffs.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Just because... you know I'm... I haven't...

DIRK  
You're wasting my time. You always--

HAYDEN  
Shut up for once and let me talk!

Dirk nods and shuts his mouth.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

Hayden clears his throat and takes a deep breath.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)  
I'm doing my best... it's been six months... I can't find work... no one will hire me...

DIRK  
And?

HAYDEN  
And I'm asking my brother... the department chair of the prestigious Moravian College's anthropology department... to help me find work.

Dirk starts to say something, but decides otherwise.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)  
I can do any kind of construction  
work. Anything.

DIRK  
Let me talk to--

His office phone rings. Dirk holds up a finger as he answers.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Dr. Jansen?

He listens.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Collapsed? When?

He listens.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
I'll be there in 5 minutes.

He hangs up.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Looks like I do have something that  
might be right up your alley.

**EXT. CONSTRUCTION ZONE - LATER**

Dirk and Hayden stand before Clewell Hall, alongside Campus Director of Construction BUDDY COLE, BM, 60s. Several WORKMEN stand around. The front corner of the building has collapsed into a large hole in the ground.

DIRK  
Cole, good to see you, even if it  
could be under better  
circumstances.

COLE  
Yes, sir.

DIRK  
This is my brother, Hayden.

Hayden and Cole shake hands.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
What do we have here?

COLE  
 Not certain. Looks like a sink  
 hole, but we don't have those  
 around here.

Cole pulls out a flashlight and shines it into the hole.

COLE (CONT'D)  
 See that?

Dirk leans in to look closer. He doesn't see anything at first. He leans closer and the ground crumbles from under his feet. Dirk starts to slip into the hole. Hayden grabs his brother and pulls him away from the edge.

DIRK  
 Is that brick?

Cole nods.

COLE  
 Yes, that hole is not natural.

**EXT. CONSTRUCTION ZONE - DAY**

Hayden wears work clothes as he waits for Cole outside Clewell Hall. Cole arrives with CHUCK MCKINNEY, WM, 20s, also dressed in work clothes.

COLE  
 Hayden Jansen, meet Chuck McKinney.

The two workers shake hands.

CHUCK  
 My mom works here. I hear you're a fellow nepo baby?

The two men laugh.

COLE  
 This project could be, shall we say, pricey. I need you two to check it out so we can decide what course of action to take next.

Hayden looks at him, puzzled.

COLE (CONT'D)  
 We need to know if there are any...  
 cultural sensitivities...  
 artifacts, bones, art, whatever.  
 (MORE)

COLE (CONT'D)  
 Anything that might fall under  
 federal or state protections.

CHUCK  
 And?

Cole smiles.

COLE  
 This is a prestigious college,  
 gentleman, if we find anything that  
 needs to be protected and studied,  
 we'll protect and study it.

**EXT. CAMPUS ARCHITECT'S OFFICE - LATER**

Dirk walks into an office labeled "Campus Architect." It is one of the older buildings on campus, made from white stone blocks.

**INT. CAMPUS ARCHITECT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Several shots of Dirk looking through filing cabinets, map books, city plans, etc.

When he's done, he stands at the front desk, talking to the architect, SANDY BURNS, WM, 60s.

DIRK  
 So if it's not in there, it doesn't  
 exist?

BURNS  
 Essentially. These records go back  
 to the beginning of the college  
 in...

DIRK AND BURNS  
 (simultaneously)  
 1742.

They both laugh.

BURNS  
 If that chamber isn't in any of  
 these documents, and I'd know if it  
 was, it existed before the school  
 was founded and has stayed hidden  
 for more than 280 years.

DIRK  
 Which is strange.

BURNS  
Which is VERY strange. Damned near  
impossible.

Dirk stares at him, puzzled.

**EXT. CONSTRUCTION ZONE - DAY**

Hayden and Chuck stand over the hole in front of Clewell Hall. Next to them sits a rig with a harness to lower a person into the hole on a rope.

HAYDEN  
Why would I go first?

CHUCK  
You're the new guy.

HAYDEN  
You were hired like an hour before  
me.

Chuck shrugs.

CHUCK  
Union rules.

HAYDEN  
Wait, this is a union gig?

Chuck laughs.

CHUCK  
I wish. No way. Not here.

He gestures at the college buildings around him.

HAYDEN  
Now I definitely don't wanna go  
first.

CHUCK  
Too bad. Get in there.

Hayden takes a deep breath, then reaches for the harness.

**INT. CLEWELL HALL HOLE - MOMENTS LATER**

Hayden hangs from the harness, suspended in the darkness.

HAYDEN  
I should get hazard pay for this--



The rope slips and Hayden falls a foot or so before stopping.

HAYDEN (CONT'D)

HEY!

Hayden looks up to see Chuck peeping into the hole.

CHUCK

Sorry. I'm not sure how to work  
this thing.

HAYDEN

Just be careful.

Hayden takes a deep breath. The rope slips another foot.

Hayden opens his eyes and he's face-to-face with a giant woman. Her face is made from obsidian, she's clearly a statue.

The statue opens its eyes. Hayden screams, then falls 10 feet to the floor, unconscious from the landing.

CHUCK

Hayden!

Chuck looks into the hole, deeply concerned.

**INT. CLEWELL HALL HOLE - MOMENTS LATER**

Hayden wakes up, Chuck stands over him.

CHUCK

Stay down. You have a broken ankle,  
probably several broken ribs.  
Ambulance is on its way.

Hayden groans.

HAYDEN

I ain't going anywhere.

CHUCK

What the hell is that?

The two of them stare up at the statue. It's fully made of obsidian, it's a massive woman with her eyes closed. Her hand rests on an equally massive hammer.

**EXT. CONSTRUCTION ZONE - LATER**

PARAMEDICS wheel Hayden towards an ambulance. Dirk arrives to check on him.

DIRK  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall?

HAYDEN  
I want my worker's comp.

Dirk laughs.

DIRK  
Talk to HR.

HAYDEN  
Something tells me you don't really want me talking to HR for the first time tonight.

DIRK  
Don't worry, you'll get paid.

Dirk turns and walks toward the hole. Hayden grabs his arm.

HAYDEN  
Don't go in there.

Dirk laughs and walks away.

**INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - LATER**

Dirk lowers to the floor of the chamber. Chuck waits for him.

CHUCK  
You're better at that thing than your brother.

DIRK  
I'm better than my brother at quite a few things.

CHUCK  
Damn.

Dirk looks at Chuck.

DIRK  
He couldn't get this job done, could he?

CHUCK  
No sir, he could not.

Dirk looks carefully at Chuck.

DIRK  
How'd you get this job?

CHUCK  
My charm and talent.

Dirk shakes his head and laughs.

DIRK  
That's not it.

Chuck frowns. He walks away from Dirk. Dirk looks around the chamber.

CHUCK  
My mom's a teacher here.

DIRK  
Oh yeah?

CHUCK  
Gwen McKinney.

Dirk raises an eyebrow.

DIRK  
In Linguistics?

CHUCK  
Yes.

DIRK  
I know her.

Dirk surveys the chamber, which is filled with various statues made of various gemstones. Most notably the giant statue of the obsidian woman.

Dirk is attracted to the statue. He runs a hand along the statue's leg.

CHUCK  
I wouldn't if I were you.

Dirk laughs.

DIRK  
Good thing you aren't me, then,  
huh?

Chuck smirks.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Get all of these things out of  
here. Get them to the anthropology  
lab.

CHUCK  
Yes, sir.

DIRK  
And don't break--

Between the statue's legs, Dirk sees a rectangular block of obsidian. He kneels down and runs his hand over the surface. He shifts and the moonlight reflects off the obsidian stone and into his eyes. He's mesmerized.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Take this to my office.

Chuck glares at him.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Now.

CHUCK  
You know what it is?

DIRK  
Never seen anything like it.

Dirk grins. Chuck is disturbed.

**EXT. PROFESSOR DIRK JANSEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

Dirk sits at a desk, staring at the obsidian block, fascinated.

He searches the object, looking for a way to open it. Finds nothing.

He holds it up and examines it from every side. The moonlight through the window causes him to see reflected text. He turns off the lights.

The moon lights up a phrase, NOT in English. He examines it closely.

DIRK  
Maybe Latin?

Dirk turns the light back on.

He grabs his phone and dials. Someone answers on the other end.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Gwen? You still on campus?

He listens. He smiles.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
I've got something you've just GOT  
to see. In my office.

He hangs up.

#### **INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - NIGHT**

Workers are moving various objects from the chamber. Chuck readies the giant obsidian woman for removal.

He bumps into the wall. A door to a storage compartment falls off as its hinges crumble.

CHUCK  
What is this?

Chuck reaches into the container and pulls out a very old hand-bound book.

He wraps the book in loose cloth, out of sight of any workmen. He takes the book and straps himself into the harness. He pushes the control and starts rising from the chamber.

#### **INT. PROFESSOR DIRK JANSEN'S OFFICE - LATER**

Dirk welcomes GWEN MCKINNEY, WF, 60s, professional dress, to his office. She takes a seat across the desk from Dirk. He slides the obsidian block over to her.

GWEN  
What is it?

His smile is contagious.

DIRK  
I don't know.

Dirk turns out the light.

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Hold it up to the moonlight.

She does. A sentence lights up in the moonlight, it says "ut vivat, omnes alii moriantur."

DIRK (CONT'D)  
Is it Latin?

She nods.

GWEN  
I do believe so.

DIRK  
Can you translate it?

GWEN  
I think so. Ut viv-

Dirk is mortified.

DIRK  
You're not going to read the ancient Latin phrase found hidden in the secret chamber out loud, are you?

GWEN  
Well, when you say it like that...

She grabs a pencil and paper and starts writing.

She finishes writing and reads the sentence to herself.

GWEN (CONT'D)  
That's strange.

DIRK  
Show me.

She slides the paper to him. On it is written both the Latin and the English translation.

Dirk reads it silently. It says: "that she may live, let all others die."

#### **INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS**

The statue's eyes open. A scraping sound comes from the hammer and the statue's feet.

#### **INT. DIRK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Dirk stares at Gwen in bafflement.

DIRK  
What the hell does it mean?

Both of them are shaken by something unseen.

GWEN  
What was that?

Dirk shakes his head.

DIRK  
No idea.

GWEN  
I'm going home.

DIRK  
Good idea.

She stands up and leaves.

**INT. UNDERGROUND CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS**

The statue lifts the hammer and places it on its shoulder. It moves towards the three workmen carrying the other statues from the chamber, but they don't see her.

**EXT. GWEN MCKINNEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

Chuck walks down the hall and stops outside Gwen's office. He knocks on the door, but there's no answer.

**EXT. CONSTRUCTION ZONE - CONTINUOUS**

The statue approaches the workmen. They don't notice until she is very close.

They look up in time to see her smash the head of the closest workman flat against the wall with the hammer.

The other men run, but there's nowhere to go.

The screen cuts to black and the screaming starts.

**EXT. GWEN MCKINNEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Gwen returns to her office to find Chuck waiting for her. He holds up the book.

CHUCK

Found something for you.

She takes the book and looks at it closely. She's afraid. She takes the book into her office.

**CUT TO:**

Gwen sits at her desk, taking copious notes as she reads the book. Chuck sleeps in a chair.

A loud crash. Outside, but close. Gwen unlocks her desk and pulls out a small handgun.

The statues hammer smashes through the wall. Once, twice.

Gwen waits for the statue to get through the wall and then opens fire. The bullets do nothing.

The statue brings the hammer smashing down on Chuck's head, crushing it.

Gwen screams and fires the gun until it's nearly empty.

Unharmd, the statue turns its attention towards her.

Gwen rushes forward and jumps past the statue and through the gaping hole in the wall. She carries the book and her gun.

The statue hits her in the thigh with the hammer. Gwen smashes into the wall, her body taking significant damage as she bounces off and momentum carries her onto the lawn outside.

She runs.

The statue follows.

**INT. PROFESSOR DIRK JANSEN'S OFFICE - LATER**

Dirk sits alone in his office, staring at the obsidian object. He wears a jeweler's loop and holds a small rock hammer.

He examines the obsidian up close. He thinks he sees something in the stone.

He taps the stone lightly a few times.

Gwen comes crashing through the door in fear and pain.

Dirk grips the hammer tightly, hitting the obsidian and shattering it into thousands of pieces.



DIRK

Shit.

Gwen arrives, waving her gun around dangerously. She's in full-on panic mode.

GWEN

Was that the...?

Dirk nods.

GWEN (CONT'D)

The obsidian block is the only way to stop the statue.

Dirk frowns.

DIRK

Says who?

She hands him the book. He starts looking through it.

GWEN

So, the only way to stop the living statue killing everything it sees is destroyed?

DIRK

Now what happens?

GWEN

Everybody dies.

She points the gun at her head and pulls the trigger.

Dirk watches in horror.

The statue crashes through the wall.

The screen cuts to black and the screaming starts.

#### **EXT. MORAVIAN COLLEGE - LATER**

Dozens of police officers stand at the entrance to the college. Guns aimed.

The statue approaches. They open fire on it, but the bullets do no harm.

The statue reaches the first officer, who is kneeling and shooting. She slams the hammer into his chest. Bones crack. He flies into the side of the building. More bones crack.

The screen cuts to black and the screaming starts.

**FADE OUT.**