

CANAJOHARIE

Pilot Episode - FINAL DRAFT

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TEASER

1 INT. HATTIE'S KITCHEN - CANAJOHARIE, NY - DAY

1

Two children, three-year-old girl MINNEHAHA (MINNIE) AND five-year-old boy SAGOYEWATHA (SAGOY) SCREAM LOUDLY as they run around the table in a disheveled kitchen inside a century home.

The two Native American children are oblivious to the loudness as they slam into cabinets playing a vicious game of tag.

JIGONHATEE (HATTIE) CANASATEGO, FEMALE NATIVE AMERICAN, in her mid-50s, stands helpless in the middle of a chaotic storm of her two small grandchildren.

SAGOY runs out of the room and returns with a ceremonial Iroquois War Club, he swings wildly. A PLATE CRASHES to the floor.

HATTIE

What are you doing? Sagoy!

Sagoy swings the club and hits his younger sister, Minnie, in the head. Minnie falls unconscious with a THUMP.

HATTIE

Minnie! Minnie!!

CUT TO:

2 INT./EXT. AMBULANCE - DAY

2

A SIREN blares as THEY-AN CANASATEGO, a very short elderly man of the Canajoharie Fire Department, drives an ambulance through the town.

They-An is dressed as an EMT. On the left shoulder of his uniform is an American Flag badge and on his right shoulder is the symbol of the Iroquois Confederacy. The symbol is a tree with two squares on each side.

Hanging from the mirror is a plastic Turtle with the word, HAUDENOSAUNEE, written on its back.

RADIO

Chief, that ten-fifty-four is looking bad... a heavy bleeder, unconscious toddler.

THEY-AN
Hattie's house?

RADIO
Ten-four. I think it's Minnie!

THEY-AN
(under his breath)
Oh, Great Spirit, give me wings.

RADIO
Hiawatha's en route to help
you...E.T.A., three minutes.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

3

The AMBULANCE pulls up to Hattie's house. HATTIE is outside holding the child, SOBBING.

HATTIE
They-an!!! They-an!!
The ambulance SIREN continues as it pulls into the driveway. THEY-AN turns off the siren and jams the transmission into park, making it lurch forward. He hurriedly opens the door and jumps out of the ambulance.

His feet hit the ground and he spins toward the side storage component, yanking on the latch, opening the door, he quickly pulls out a medical kit.

HATTIE
They-an!! It's Minnie!! Oh, my God!

They-An runs up to Hattie. Minnie is bleeding heavily.

THEY-AN
It's okay, let me see.

They-An places the medical kit on the ground and takes the child in his hands. He wipes her forehead with his fingers, then kneels down. He lays Minnie on the ground.

HATTIE
Oh my God, They-An...it was an
accident. Sagoy didn't mean to do it.

THEY-AN
It's okay.

Minnie doesn't move as They-An opens up the medical kit. He pulls out a gauze pad and peels the wrapper, then gently wipes the blood from her face.

HATTIE
She's not breathing!

They-An applies CPR to the infant. She's unresponsive.

HATTIE
Minnie!! Minnie!!!

An old pickup truck with A FLASHING BLUE LIGHT on its roof arrives. HIAWATHA HENO, an overweight IRISH/NATIVE AMERICAN MAN IN HIS LATE 30s, parks the truck behind the ambulance. He struggles to get out.

Hiawatha slams the truck door and attempts to run toward Hattie, Minnie, and They-An.

They-An is still administering CPR to Minnie.

HATTIE
Hiawatha!

Hattie runs toward Hiawatha but he pushes her away. Hiawatha stumbles to the ground near They-An.

HIAWATHA
Minnie!!! Chief, how bad?!

Minnie starts crying. They-An looks at Hiawatha and Hattie, with a growing smile.

THEY-AN
Head wounds always look worse than they are.

Hiawatha grabs Minnie and hugs her.

MINNIE
Daddy!!!

HIAWATHA
You're okay sweetie...

Hattie is shaking. She collapses with a loud THUD. They-An turns to see Hattie motionless on the ground, his expression changes from relief to fear.

CUT TO:

4 INT./EXT. AMBULANCE - CANAJOHARIE MAIN STREET - DAY 4

The emergency lights are flashing and the SIREN ECHOES between the alleys of the main street buildings as the ambulance passes.

THEY-AN drives the ambulance toward the highway, clutching the radio transmitter in one hand. He no longer appears calm but panicked as he attempts to drive around cars and talk on the radio.

THEY-AN

Station one, ten-eighty-two, we have one in transport, female, age fifty-three, cardiac. ETA ten minutes.

RADIO

Copy that, standing by.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. FOYER'S ANTIQUE SHOP - CANAJOHARIE - DAY 5

The streets are empty except for MARK FOYER, a 60-year-old, black male, sitting on the stoop of his antique store. He is drinking a cup of coffee. He stands up when he hears the siren and watches the ambulance rush by.

CUT TO:

6 INT. AMBULANCE - DAY 6

HATTIE is strapped to a gurney. The EKG BEEPS to the sound of Hattie's heartbeat. HIAWATHA is monitoring her blood pressure and struggling to keep his balance as the ambulance sways back and forth.

MINNIE, strapped in the jumper seat, is SCREAMING AND CRYING, her head is covered in a loose gauze wrap. A small amount of blood is oozing through the bandage.

HIAWATHA

Gramma will be okay Minnie.

HATTIE

(faintly) I'll be okay.

HIAWATHA

Hang in there Mom...

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

7 EXT. WINTERGREEN PARK - NIGHT (1983) 7

The High School Seniors are partying in the park. Pickup trucks and beat-up cars are scattered in the empty field, full of intoxicated underage students. LOUD MUSIC PLAYS.

DEGAN BRANDT, IRISH/IROQUOIS, 17-year-old male, walks up to a YOUNGER HATTIE sitting on a small mound behind a pickup truck. He offers her a beer. She declines. He sits down next to her.

DEGAN

It's been a great year.

HATTIE

Yeah.

DEGAN

What do you think? Was it worth it?

HATTIE

What?

Degan reaches out and holds Hattie's hand.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

CUT TO:

8 INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT 8

OLDER HATTIE awakes in the hospital, confused, and all alone. The lights are dim and there is commotion in the hallway.

VOICES IN THE HALLWAY

(distant)

Mom!...Hoyaneh...code ten....code
blue...Jagonhatee...

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

9 EXT. WINTERGREEN PARK - NIGHT (1983) 9

YOUNGER HATTIE and DEGAN are engaged in a kiss.

DEGAN

It's been a great year.

HATTIE

Yeah.

DEGAN

What do you think? Was it worth it?

HATTIE

What?

Degan kisses Hattie.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

CUT TO:

10 INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT 10

OLDER HATTIE awakes in the hospital, her son HIAWATHA is standing over her. Bright lights flash in her eyes.

VOICES IN THE HALLWAY

(distant)

Hoyaneh!...mom...Jigonhatee...:

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

11 INT./EXT. BACKSEAT OF A CAR - WINTERGREEN PARK - NIGHT (1983) 11

YOUNGER HATTIE and DEGAN are making love. Hattie grasps Degan by the back of his head.

HATTIE

It's been a great year.

DEGAN

Yeah.

HATTIE

What do you think? AM I worth it?

DEGAN

What?

Hattie passionately kisses Degan.

CUT TO:

12 INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

12

OLDER HATTIE gasps and looks blankly at the ceiling and mutters her last word.

HATTIE

Degan.

FADE OUT:

Cummings

ACT I

13 INT. HALLWAY OF A SMALL COLLEGE - DAY

13

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DEGAN BRANDT, a 50-ish IRISH/NATIVE-AMERICAN, walks down an empty hallway on the way to his lecture hall. He mutters to himself and avoids looking up to see who is in the doorway.

DEGAN

Colloquialism.

Colloquialism.

Colloquialism.

I'm a fraud.

CUT TO:

14 INT. LECTURE HALL - SMALL COLLEGE - DAY

14

The class is crowded. The faces are young and cheery. It is evident that this is a Christian school because of the t-shirts and jewelry the students wear. Bibles are in front of some students.

DEGAN organizes his notes and looks out at the class.

There is an uncomfortable SILENCE.

DEGAN

What is it that God wants from us?

FEMALE STUDENT

Love?

The other students nod in agreement. Degan pauses for a second. He looks down at his phone to check the time.

DEGAN

Love? Anyone else?

Degan points to others but no one responds. Finally, a smiley-faced student answers.

MALE STUDENT

To do the right thing.

DEGAN
 (quickly)
 What is that? The right thing.

MALE STUDENT
 What do you mean?

DEGAN
 Can you define the right thing?

There are a few puzzled looks. One student is busy with her phone ignoring the conversation.

STUDENT #1
 What is NOT a sin.

Degan looks at his phone again, checking the time. He takes a deep breath.

DEGAN
 Define sin. Define your idea of sin.

STUDENT #1
 What the Bible says.

DEGAN
 The Bible says a lot of things are sins. What is your idea of sin?

STUDENT #1
 Whatever the Bible says.

The class laughs. Degan picks up a Bible from the desk in front of him.

DEGAN
 Everything that the Bible says?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

15 INT. CHURCH ALTAR - DAY (1999)

15

A small gathering of family watch the marriage vows between a younger, 30-year-old DEGAN and VENESSA KING, a 30-year-old BLACK WOMAN. Venessa is dressed in a simple gown. Degan is dressed in a black tuxedo. They are holding hands.

DEGAN
Until death do us part.

They kiss. And there is CLAPPING.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

DISSOLVE TO:

16 INT. LECTURE HALL - SMALL COLLEGE - DAY

16

DEGAN is agitated and takes a step forward. He holds out the Bible and points at a student.

DEGAN
So, if I love someone...married to
someone...and they die...I can forget
about them because WE said UNTIL DEATH
DO WE PART. The contract is fulfilled.

I can move on?

The students look confused and the room quiets.

DEGAN
Do you believe in God?

STUDENT #2
Yes.

DEGAN
The same god I believe in or something
else?

STUDENT #2
God...God.

DEGAN
You sure your god is my god? Big G,
not little g god?

STUDENT #2
Wha?

DEGAN
What god?

There are gasps and one student mutters.

SCARED STUDENT
Lord have mercy.

DEGAN
What god?

STUDENT #2
God.

Degan pauses. Some of the students are frightened and they fidget in their seats, the one girl playing with her phone starts to record Degan.

DEGAN
Do you think God manipulates you?

STUDENT #3
No.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

17 INT. BEDSIDE HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (2015)

17

VENESSA KING, OLDER, sits catatonic in a wheelchair. DEGAN is sitting next to her, his head down, begging God.

DEGAN
What do you want from me?

FLASHBACK ENDS:

CUT TO:

18 INT. LECTURE HALL - SMALL COLLEGE - DAY

18

DEGAN holds out his empty hand.

DEGAN
What does he want from you?

The classroom is starting to rebel against Degan with non-verbal communication; polite shrugging of their shoulders and their palms up. Angry faces.

DEGAN
Is God good or bad?

STUDENT #3
He's good.

DEGAN
He?

STUDENT #3

HE!

DEGAN

Does anyone see God as a female? A woman?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

19 INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM BEDSIDE - NIGHT (2015) 19

From DEGAN's point of view, we see a FEMALE ONCOLOGIST (WHITE, MID-FORTIES), standing over him. The oncologist's face comes in and out of the faint light emanating from the TV from across the room.

ONCOLOGIST

There is nothing more we can do. She has a day-to-a-week left.

The oncologist's face dissolves as she moves into the shadow.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

CUT TO:

20 INT. LECTURE HALL - SMALL COLLEGE - DAY 20

The students are worked up and their heads turn back and forth, looking for affirmation from their classmates.

DEGAN

I have seen the face of God. She has no empathy, no compassion. She is vengeance.

The students VOCALLY DISAPPROVE with a rising level of disagreement.

DEGAN

Close your eyes and witness God!

DEGAN shuts his eyes. None of the students close their eyes. The girl with the cell phone is capturing the entire moment.

DEGAN

What do you see?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

21 INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM BEDSIDE - DAY (2015) 21

The FEMALE ONCOLOGIST sits next to DEGAN at Venessa's bedside. VENESSA'S face is backlit by the sun coming in the window, Degan struggles to see her.

FEMALE ONCOLOGIST

You might as well just take her to hospice...most patients with glioblastoma only last a few weeks.

The female oncologist's face dissolves into the bright sun.

SILENCE

DISSOLVE TO::

22 INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM BEDSIDE- NIGHT (2015) 22

DEGAN holds the OLDER VENESSA in his arms. She has passed. His face drawn, damp from tears, as he stares blankly.

DISSOLVE TO:

23 INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - NIGHT (2015) 23

DEGAN sobs, alone in a small hospital chapel.

DEGAN

(to himself)

You have abandoned us.

The small candles flicker light on the chapel wall.

DEGAN (V.O.)

God tests you. Tries to break you.

FADE TO:

24 INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM BEDSIDE - DAY (2015) 24

The darkness and shadows of the hospital room are lightened by flickering light and the appearance of an oncologist in a glowing white coat.

DEGAN (V.O.)

I've seen the true face of God.

The oncologist's face leans into Degan, her smirky scowl reveals white teeth.

DEGAN (V.O.)
She's a mean bitch.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

DISSOLVE TO:

25 INT. LECTURE HALL - SMALL COLLEGE - DAY

25

Students are in a state of visible shock as they hear their professor describe God as a mean bitch.

The cell phone is still recording. DEGAN's eyes are closed tight and his head is tilted back. His arms raised.

DEGAN
What YOU see is what you have been
taught to see.

Degan throws down the bible.

DEGAN
You have constructed the image of God
from indoctrination and colloquialism.

The stunned students are silent and the cell phone girl is smiling.

DEGAN
You must come to the realization that
There is no God!!

DISSOLVE TO:

26 INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - SMALL COLLEGE - NIGHT

26

The college Dean, FILMORE MCGWIRE, a SIXTY-YEAR-OLD white male, sits behind a very large desk in a dimly lit room. Behind him are footballs and trophies on a shelf. A large gold cross stands next to the shelf.

DEGAN sits in a chair on the other side of the desk, with his head bowed.

DEAN MCGWIRE
I know you've been going through a
hard time since your wife's death, so
I am going to just put you on leave
(MORE)

DEAN MCGWIRE (CONT'D)
for the rest of the semester.

Degan raises his head. His eyes are puffy and red. He lets out a DEEP BREATH. He looks at the Dean and pauses.

DEGAN
What about tenure?

The Dean smiles, looks Degan in the eyes, and then looks to the ceiling.

DEAN MCGWIRE
I'm sure if you have enough publications, you can make up for this moment and the Provost will put it aside as a pedagogical experiment.

Degan puts his head back down.

DEGAN
And what if I don't? I haven't been able to do any research with everything going on...

DEAN MCGWIRE
Publish or perish.

FADE OUT/IN:

27 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - RURAL SOUTH - NIGHT

27

A modest apartment complex is situated near a pond. It looks like an old motel that was converted into apartments. Children's bicycles are scattered around the building.

A few residents sit on the second-floor walkway and look out on the parking lot as DEGAN pulls in.

Degan parks his car. He opens up the trunk and grabs a box of textbooks and other materials he rescued from his office. He walks over to a dumpster and tosses the box in.

He heads back to his car and picks up another box of personal items he had on his desk. A framed wedding picture of his late wife rests gingerly on the top. He leans the box up against the bumper as he shuts the trunk.

He lifts the box and turns to walk toward the metal stairwell that leads to the second floor.

WOMAN (OC)
You should go home.

Degan turns back to see the woman who just spoke to him. There is no one there. He turns back around and walks up the stairwell. He takes a few steps up the stairwell.

WOMAN (OC)
Go home!

A blackbird's wings FLAP LOUDLY as the bird jettisons itself from the rafters of the stairwell. Startled, Degan drops the box and it falls down the stairwell. The picture frame slides out of the box and CLANGS up against the railing.

DEGAN
Hey! Hey! Who is that?!

No one responds. Degan walks to the bottom of the stairwell and collects his things. He picks up the picture and inspects it. The glass is broken.

CUT TO:

28 INT. DEGAN'S APARTMENT ENTRANCE/KITCHEN - NIGHT 28

DEGAN unlocks the door. He reaches down and picks up the box placed at his feet. He walks into his apartment, puts the box down on the small table, and locks the door behind him.

DEGAN
(to himself)
What's wrong with people?

Degan picks up the broken picture frame from the top of the box. He sets it on the table.

DISSOLVE TO:

29 INT. APARTMENT - DEGAN'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING 29

It is early morning and Degan's cell phone RINGS. DEGAN awakes from his sleep and grabs the phone on the nightstand, he looks at the number it says, CANAJOHARIE. Degan hesitates, then answers the phone.

DEGAN
Hello?

SPAM VOICE
As a member of the Turtle Clan of the
(MORE)

SPAM VOICE (CONT'D)
 Mohawk tribe, please support the
 Warrior Woman Project, by donating
 today...

Degan hangs up.

DEGAN
 (to himself)
 What the fuck?

He puts the phone back on the nightstand.

The phone rings again. He picks it up, same number.

DEGAN
 (to himself)
 What?

He rejects the call.

The phone rings again. Same number. Degan powers down the
 phone.

DISSOLVE TO:

30 INT./EXT. CAR/PARKING LOT - DAY

30

DEGAN pulls up to a small diner, the BISCUIT WISKET DINER.
 The diner resembles a sea shanty that has seen better days.
 As he gets out of his car, he is stopped by the SCARED
 STUDENT who was in his class.

SCARED STUDENT
 Dr. Brandt...I pray for you.

The student walks away. Degan stands there for a second,
 looks around the parking lot, and gets back in his car.

He doesn't drive away. He sits and looks out the window as if
 he's in a safe space. He surveys the parking lot for other
 students. He spies three of his students walking toward the
 diner's entrance.

He takes out his phone, to avoid looking at them. He notices
 he has one new message from his sister, Kateria, "call me."

He calls. She answers.

KATERIA
 (ON THE PHONE)
 Degan.

DEGAN
 Hey....are you sending me all these
 spam calls?! What the hell...

CUT TO:

31 INT. KITCHEN - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 31

KATERIA is Degan's Native American step-sister, in her early 60s, sitting at the kitchen table of her home.

KATERIA
 Hattie Canasatego died.

CUT TO:

32 INT./EXT. CAR/PARKING LOT - DAY 32

DEGAN is silent. He watches the three students walking into the diner. He can hear them LAUGHING.

KATERIA
 (ON THE PHONE)
 Degan?

DEGAN
 What?

KATERIA
 (ON THE PHONE)
 Did you hear me?

DEGAN
 Yeah.

KATERIA
 (ON THE PHONE)
 She had a heart attack.

DEGAN
 Why are you telling me...

33 INT. KITCHEN - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 33

KATERIA stands up and looks out the window.

KATERIA
You needed to know.

CUT TO:

34 INT./EXT. CAR/PARKING LOT - DAY 34

DEGAN is silent. He starts the car.

KATERIA
(ON THE PHONE)
The funeral is Friday.

DEGAN
So what. I can't make it.

KATERIA
(ON THE PHONE)
You should. The tribe is...hurting.

DEGAN
What?

35 INT. - KITCHEN - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 35

KATERIA pushes the curtain of the window to the side and looks out at the street.

CUT TO:

36 INT./EXT. WINDOW/CURB - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 36

They-An's truck is parked outside Kateria's house. THEY-AN is leaning against the side of his truck. He is looking at KATERIA in the window.

KATERIA
Come home, I'm hurting.

Kateria jiggles her camera to show They-An she's on the phone.

CUT TO:

37 INT./EXT. CAR/PARKING LOT - DAY 37

DEGAN leans back and looks up at the roof of the car.

DEGAN
I haven't been home in thirty-five
years.

KATERIA
(ON THE PHONE)
I know. It's time for you to come
home.

Degan doesn't respond.

CUT TO:

38 INT./EXT. WINDOW/CURB - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 38

KATERIA shrugs her shoulders at THEY-AN. They-An gets in his
truck.

CUT TO:

39 INT./EXT. CAR/PARKING LOT - DAY 39

DEGAN stares ahead looking at the diner.

KATERIA
(ON THE PHONE)
Come home when you can.

DEGAN
Okay...bye. Stop sending me spam
calls.

Degan hangs up and puts the phone in its holder on the dash.
Just as he starts up the car, the phone rings again,
CANAJOHARIE appears. He doesn't answer but lets it continue
to ring.

Degan stares blankly out of the car window and then focuses
on a wooden cross, planted near the front door, covered in
unlit Christmas lights.

DISSOLVE TO:

40 INT. LONGHOUSE - CANAJOHARIE - NIGHT 40

HATTIE's body is lying in state in a longhouse. THEY-AN, in
ceremonial dress, stands next to the open casket. He holds a
wooden bowl with burning tobacco inside. The smoke rises as
he waves it over her.

Behind They-An, HIAWATHA, MINNIE, and SAGOY sit in folding

chairs. Minnie's head is covered in gauze. Sagoy is weeping uncontrollably. Hiawatha holds his son tightly.

THEY-AN

I give you this one thought to keep
I am with you still - I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow...

DISSOLVE TO:

41 EXT. WATERFALL - CANAJOHARIE CREEK - DAY 41

Snow is falling. The creek waters flow rapidly underneath a caked layer of ice.

HATTIE (O.C.)

I am the diamond glints on snow.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. FARM FIELD - CANAJOHARIE - DAY 42

The wind blows the tall grass of a farmer's field overlooking the town of Canajoharie.

HATTIE (O.C.)

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

DISSOLVE TO

43 EXT. DOWNTOWN CANAJOHARIE ART GALLERY PARK - DAY 43

Rain collects in a fountain outside the Art Gallery across the street from the abandoned Beech-Nut plant.

HATTIE (O.C.)

I am the gentle autumn rain.

DISSOLVE TO:

44 INT. LONGHOUSE - CANAJOHARIE - NIGHT 44

THEY-AN continues to wave the tobacco bowl across HATTIE's body.

THEY-AN

When you awaken in the morning's hush.

DISSOLVE TO:

45 EXT. CANAJOHARIE CREEK "BOILING POT" - DAY 45

The "Boiling Pot" is a basin of water, that whirlpools in the path of the creek. The water circles slowly in the rock formation. Birds drink from the water and fly away, above the creek.

HATTIE (O.C.)

I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.

DISSOLVE TO:

46 INT./EXT. METHODIST CHURCH - DOWNTOWN CANAJOHARIE - DAY 46

The stars can be seen through the broken windows of the local Methodist church. The stained glass frames the night sky.

HATTIE (O.C.)

I am the soft stars that shine at
night.

DISSOLVE TO:

47 EXT. CANAJOHARIE BURIAL SITE - DAY 47

A small circle of residents and family gather around the burial site. HIAWATHA holds the hands of his two children, SAGOY and MINNIE. THEY-AN waves the smoking bowl and sets it on her grave.

KATERIA is in attendance. She stands away from the group, crying, and visibly upset.

HATTIE (O.C.)

Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still - in each new
dawn.

They-An, places the tobacco bowl on the grave. Kateria tries to make eye contact with They-An, but he keeps his head down and walks away.

The group breaks up and disperses. Kateria walks to her car, turns, and watches the smoke from the bowl continue to rise.

FADE OUT/IN:

48 INT. DEGAN'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - EVENING 48

It is late at night. DEGAN is sitting on an old couch in his

apartment. He pours the remains of a bottle of Scotch into a glass and takes a drink. He sets the glass down on an end table next to him.

Degan's laptop is already open on the couch, he picks it up and puts it on his lap. Degan types CANAJOHARIE HIGH SCHOOL 1983 into the FACEBOOK search. No page pops up, but pictures of his classmates do, and one is of HATTIE CANASATEGO.

He searches CANASATEGO and a few pages appear. Her full name, JIGONHATEE CANASATEGO is listed.

DEGAN

I could never say her real name.
Jigonhatee. What a mouthful.

Degan clicks onto her page. The last post is a picture of her and her grandchildren sitting on the porch of her house. She is hugging the children.

The post says, "My pride and joy!"

DEGAN

Wow. She aged.

Degan clicks on Hattie's photos.

DEGAN

Holy crap.

Hattie has dozens and dozens of photos from 1983. Many of the pictures are of Degan and Hattie together.

His phone, resting on the couch, erupts...it is the SPAM call from CANAJOHARIE. He looks at the phone as it vibrates and rings. He answers this time.

DEGAN

Goddamit...

SPAM VOICE

As a member of the Haudenosaunee
Mohawk tribe, please support the
Warrior Woman Project....

Degan hangs up. He sets the phone back down next to him.

Degan clicks out of FACEBOOK and uses Safari. He searches WARRIOR WOMAN PROJECT. A few pages pop up, one includes Hattie's name. He clicks it.

The WARRIOR WOMAN PROJECT website has a picture of Hattie on the front page. It says, "IN MEMORIAM TO A GREAT IROQUOIS CLAN MOTHER."

The picture of Hattie is recent. She is wearing a ceremonial headdress and holding a tribal war club. She has a serious expression on her face.

DEGAN
(laughs)
She was something.

A blackbird CRASHES into the window across the room. Degan jolts back, knocking his drink off the end table.

DEGAN
Holy shit!

The phone erupts....it is another SPAM call from CANAJOHARIE.

Degan hits the cancel button, powers down his phone.

He sits for a moment, taking a breath. He closes the computer and stands up. He walks into the kitchen and then returns with a towel. He kneels down and cleans up the spill, by sopping up the wasted scotch with the towel.

The glass is not broken, he puts it back on the end table. He stands up, takes the glass and walks back into the kitchen.

He returns with a beer.

He sits on the couch, opens the beer, takes a sip, setting the beer on the end table. He lifts the computer screen and returns to Facebook.

He scrolls to find a picture of Hattie and Degan sitting in the 'Boiling Pot' during a hot summer day.

Hattie is wearing a one-piece bathing suit, her hair is tied into a ponytail and her face beaming with a smile. He reaches over and picks up the beer. He takes a swig, looks at the picture again.

DEGAN
I was a lucky man.

He puts the beer back on the table then scrolls some more. A little red dot on the notifications icon appears. He clicks the icon.

Degan sees a friend request from They-An. He hesitates, then accepts the request. He opens up They-An's page.

They-An's last post is a picture of Hattie with the words, "Please come home, and say goodbye to Hattie."

Degan closes the computer.

DISSOLVE TO:

Cummings

ACT II

49 EXT. BEECH-NUT FACTORY - DAY 49

The remains of the Beech-Nut Factory welcome new visitors to the town, as they drive into the village. The building is a large white monolith to a better time. The front gate is locked and a sign says KEEP OUT.

CUT TO:

50 INT./EXT. DEGAN'S CAR - VILLAGE OF CANAJOHARIE - DAY 50

DEGAN drives down the main street, stopping at the traffic light. There are no cars parked on the street and all the stores are closed except for a small pizza shop and an antique store.

Degan is speechless and looks confused.

At the end of the main street is a derelict apartment building with a scattering of residents sitting on the steps of the entrance to the building.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. STEPS OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 51

A 20-ish-year-old WHITE WOMAN is passed out on the steps of the apartment building. A TODDLER sits next to her as the child grabs her jacket and pulls it.

CUT TO:

52 INT./EXT. DEGAN'S CAR - VILLAGE OF CANAJOHARIE - DAY 52

DEGAN can't help but stare at the TODDLER. The light changes and a semi-truck pulls up behind Degan and beeps the horn.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. STEPS OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 53

The 20-ish-year-old WHITE WOMAN awakes, and gives the finger to DEGAN, returning back to her repose. The TODDLER waves. The HORN BLARES again.

CUT TO:

54 INT./EXT. DEGAN'S CAR - VILLAGE OF CANAJOHARIE - DAY 54

DEGAN drives past the apartment complex and down a few streets to the home of They-An. The house is worn and the front porch is cluttered with junk.

CUT TO:

55 INT. KITCHEN - THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY 55

THEY-AN is in his kitchen when DEGAN KNOCKS. He puts down a bag of frozen french fries. Wipes his hands.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. FRONT DOOR THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY 56

DEGAN KNOCKS on the door again.

CUT TO:

57 INT. KITCHEN - THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY 57

THEY-AN is hesitant to answer the door. He wipes his hands on his pants and leaves the kitchen.

CUT TO:

58 INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY 58

THEY-AN opens the door. There is an uncomfortable silence as neither man responds right away.

DEGAN
Mr. Canasatego.

They-An is visibly moved by DEGAN's presence. He takes a step back.

DEGAN
It's me...Degan Brandt.

THEY-AN
I know.

They-An takes a moment to look at Degan.

THEY-AN
Come in.

They-an opens the door wider and motions to Degan to come in.

CUT TO:

59 INT. LIVING ROOM - THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY

59

DEGAN takes a few steps and stands in the middle of the living room.

THEY-AN closes the door behind Degan.

THEY-AN

Have a seat. I have to turn off the oven.

They-An goes back to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

60 INT. KITCHEN - THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY

60

THEY-AN, turns off the oven, picks up the bag of frozen french fries, and puts them in the freezer. After he shuts the door, he stands in the kitchen not sure what to do.

CUT TO:

61 INT. LIVING ROOM - THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY

61

DEGAN sits down. He looks around the room, noticing old pictures of Hattie and newer ones with the grandchildren.

THEY-AN returns and nervously walks over to the couch.

THEY-AN

It is good to see you.

He sits down.

DEGAN

It is good to see you. It's been a long time, chief.

They-An pauses at the sound of the word CHIEF, his expression fixes as he draws a breath.

THEY-AN

Time is relative.

Degan nods.

THEY-AN

Hattie has summoned you here.

Degan's expression changes.

DEGAN
She's dead.

THEY-AN
She is not.

They-An raises his arms.

THEY-AN
She is a Great Spirit.

They-An looks up toward the ceiling.

Uncomfortable silence.

THEY-AN
Did you walk around the town on your
way here?

DEGAN
I drove.

THEY-AN
Then you saw how lonely this place has
been without you. Since you left, this
town has slowly died.

Degan nods.

THEY-AN
She has been lonely without you.

DEGAN
Canajoharie?

THEY-AN
Hattie.

DEGAN
With all due respect, I thought she
was married.

THEY-AN
She never married.

DEGAN
What about Billy? Billy Webster,
weren't they dating?

They-An picks up a book from the coffee table and waves it at Degan.

THEY-AN
She was the last of the pure Iroquois
from this valley.

DEGAN
What?

THEY-AN
She knew not to marry no one other
than her own kind.

DEGAN
She never said she was an Iroquois
chief...or whatever.

They-An drops the book...THUD!

THEY-AN
She kept many secrets from you.

DEGAN
Secrets?

THEY-AN
And you kept secrets from her.

DEGAN
Like what?

THEY-AN
You married.

DEGAN
I did. The love of my life.

THEY-AN
You were the love of Hattie's life.

SILENCE

DEGAN
I'm sorry, They-An. I don't know what
to say. Hattie and I dated in high
school...that was it.

THEY-AN
She dreamed of you many times.

DEGAN

What?

THEY-AN

She is far greater than you know.

Degan stands up.

DEGAN

I'm sorry...

Degan turns to walk out the door.

DEGAN

Maybe I ought to go.

They-An doesn't move.

THEY-AN

We are glad you are here. She will be pleased.

Degan opens the door and stands in the doorway.

DEGAN

Thank you Chief...I'll stop by later after I settle in back home.

THEY-AN

She and the town are one.

Degan doesn't respond but turns and walks out.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. CURB OUTSIDE THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY

62

DEGAN walks away from the house, looking confused and paranoid. He stops at his car and turns quickly to look back at They-An's house. He examines the windows for any faces looking back. He doesn't see anyone.

He takes a moment to look down the street. No one is walking and only one car is parked at the curb.

The sound of a MOURNING DOVE taunts Degan as he gets into his car.

CUT TO:

63 EXT. DRIVEWAY OF KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY

63

DEGAN pulls into the driveway of Kateria's house. He opens up the trunk and takes out a suitcase, setting it on the ground. He reaches into the trunk and opens up a cooler. Inside the cooler is a bottle of Scotch and a handgun. He takes both.

He puts the handgun in the pocket of his suitcase. He sets the Scotch on the ground next to the suitcase then shuts the trunk.

KATERIA

Good to see you, little brother.

Degan jumps.

DEGAN

Jesus!

KATERIA smiles at her brother and hugs him.

KATERIA

A little late...but good enough.

DEGAN

It's been a while.

Kateria continues to hug her brother. His tenseness eases and he embraces Kateria a little harder.

DEGAN

Missed you.

The two enjoy the embrace and then let go. Kateria wipes away tears.

KATERIA

I'm sorry about Venessa.

DEGAN

It's been tough.

KATERIA

You shouldn't have done it alone. I'm sorry.

DEGAN

It is what it is.

Kateria picks up the suitcase.

KATERIA

It doesn't have to be.

Degan reaches down for the bottle of Scotch and picks it up.

KATERIA

Wait until you see what I've done with
Dad's old house.

DEGAN

Looks the same.

KATERIA

Nothing is the same without you.

Kateria walks toward the house with the suitcase. The COO of the mourning dove draws Degan's attention as he follows Kateria.

DISSOLVE TO:

64 EXT. CANAJOHARIE CREEK - NIGHT

64

A turtle's head appears from the calm water that has ponded at a bend in the creek. The moonlight reflects off its back as it leaves the water and enters into the tall grass.

A younger HATTIE stands naked on the rocks. She raises up her arms and leans her head back. The moon seems to glow brighter.

The wind picks up and the leaves rustle around her as if running to her.

CUT TO:

65 INT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

65

Degan's bedroom is covered in posters from the 1980s. The large bed is situated on one wall and on the opposite wall is the only window. A desk and chair are neatly positioned between the window and the door.

It is dark in the bedroom except for the street light that brightens the wall of Degan's bedside. DEGAN is wide awake, staring at the ceiling. Leaves brush up against the bedroom window. A mourning dove COOS.

He turns his head to look at the window.

CUT TO:

66 EXT. CANAJOHARIE CREEK - NIGHT 66

HATTIE continues to raise her hands and turn on the rocks.

HATTIE

Ronkwe!

Yakonkwe!

Enhskat!

CUT TO:

67 INT./EXT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT 67

The mourning dove appears outside the window, COOING. The bird is standing on the window ledge.

DEGAN sits up in bed and watches the bird. He stands and walks over to the window. He unhooks the latch. The bird flies away.

Degan pushes the window upward and sits down in a chair to look down at the street. A cool breeze rushes into the room.

CUT TO:

68 EXT. CANAJOHARIE CREEK - NIGHT 68

HATTIE is dancing on the mossy rocks.

HATTIE

Ronkwe!

Yakonkwe!

Enhskat!

CUT TO:

69 INT./EXT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT 69

The mourning dove is on the roof above the window, COOING loudly.

DEGAN reaches over to the desk by the chair and picks up his cell phone. He turns it on. The picture of Venessa appears on his home screen. She is smiling.

The mourning dove drops to the window sill and looks at Degan. It flies off.

DISSOLVE TO:

70 EXT. RIVER ROCKS - CANAJOHARIE CREEK - NIGHT 70

HATTIE has disappeared. The creek flows rapidly in the moonlight and the SOUND OF RUSHING WATER rises in the valley.

DISSOLVE TO:

71 INT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT 71

DEGAN puts down the phone, rests his head on his closed fist, and looks out the window.

FADE OUT:

72 INT. KITCHEN IN KATERIA'S HOUSE - MORNING 72

KATERIA is standing next to the counter near the coffee pot. She's drinking a cup of coffee when she hears her BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS and turns to pour coffee into a travel mug.

DEGAN enters the room.

DEGAN

Morning.

KATERIA

Don't sit down.

DEGAN

Why? I want a cup of coffee.

Kateria turns to show Degan she's pouring coffee into a travel mug.

KATERIA

Let's take it on the road.

DEGAN

C'mon...I want to get something to eat.

KATERIA

We will.

DEGAN

I haven't showered.

KATERIA

Don't worry about it.

Kateria puts the coffee pot back.

KATERIA
Want anything in it?

DEGAN.
No.

KATERIA
Ok, let's go.

They leave the kitchen and head out the door.

CUT TO:

73 INT./EXT. KATERIA'S CAR - CANAJOHARIE - DAY

73

The streets are empty and KATERIA pulls up to an empty field.
They drink their coffee in the parked car.

DEGAN
I knew they got rid of the high
school, but man...this is weird.

KATERIA
Things just disappear around here.

DEGAN
It was a pretty old building.

KATERIA
Wait until you see the new school.

DEGAN
So, where do people work now?

KATERIA
They still work at Beech-Nut. Beech-
Nut only moved twenty miles from here
to another town. Left us without a tax
base. Most moved to Amsterdam.

DEGAN
It's a ghost town.

KATERIA
It's not that bad, yet.

DEGAN
Meth heads.

KATERIA
It's been an epidemic.

DEGAN
I can't believe I grew up here.

KATERIA
Hey...

Kateria turns and looks at DEGAN with a look that is meant to shut him up.

KATERIA
You panicked. You saw all of this like George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* and you got scared. Chickenshit.

DEGAN
What?

KATERIA
You couldn't bear the thought of being stuck here in this town all your life, like me.

DEGAN
Hey...

KATERIA
You got scared and took off. As soon as you graduated, you left the country and didn't look back.

DEGAN
Maybe...but I came back.

KATERIA
Not until Venessa died, and you came back to run away from Europe. You didn't even come home, you went to teach at some bullshit Southern school.

DEGAN
I'm here, aren't I? I came back.

Kateria takes a sip of her coffee and looks away from her brother.

KATERIA
I missed you. Dad and Mom missed you.

DEGAN

What's done is done.

Kateria and Degan sit still for an uncomfortable moment.

KATERIA

I'm glad you're back.

DEGAN

I'm starving, I thought you said we were going to get something to eat.

KATERIA

Yeah, yeah...figured we finish our first cups, then head to Tony's.

DEGAN

Tony's is still open? I'm fine with McDonalds.

KATERIA

Tony's.

CUT TO:

74 INT. TONY'S DINER - DOWNTOWN CANAJOHARIE - MORNING

74

Tony's Diner is a small restaurant on Main Street. The interior is a combination of Italian/American idolatry and early settlers.

TONY PECORA, a 50ish-year-old man, is behind the counter with his 30-year-old daughter, MARY GRIANO. Mary is cleaning the grill while Tony is making coffee.

An older couple is sitting at the table by the window. They are eating a breakfast of scrambled eggs when KATERIA and DEGAN walk in.

Tony looks up and sees Kateria. He smiles until he recognizes Degan, and then quickly returns to making coffee.

KATERIA

Tony.

TONY

Kateria.

Mary hears Kateria's voice and stops her cleaning, picks up a waiter's pad, and walks out of the kitchen area toward the dining area.

MARY
Hello, Miss Brandt. Usual?

KATERIA
Nah, let's see a menu.

Mary turns around and plucks a menu from the side of the counter. Degan and Kateria sit down.

KATERIA
This place hasn't changed much.

DEGAN
Everything has changed.

KATERIA
Yeah...maybe.

Mary arrives with menus.

DEGAN
Hi.

MARY
Hi. I'm Mary and welcome to Tony's.
Kateria is one of our favorite guests.

KATERIA
I do spend a lot of time here. Mary,
this is my brother, Degan

MARY
Well, hello. Kateria talks about you
all the time. Dr. Brandt.

DEGAN
Nice to meet you.

MARY
Well, it's good to meet you in person.
I feel like I know you already.

DEGAN
That's a bit scary. I'm afraid of what
she might have said about me.

Mary smiles. Tony smiles, suspiciously minding his business behind the counter and avoids eye contact.

MARY
 (to Degan)
 Coffee?

DEGAN
 Yes, please.

Mary goes to the counter to get the coffee pot.

KATERIA
 Tony's done okay without the factory crowd.

DEGAN
 Has to be tough. You are probably one of his only regulars.

KATERIA
 There's Billy and Meara over there.

DEGAN
 Billy?
 (looks)
 Billy Wheeler...holy crap. I didn't recognize him. Wow.

Mary returns with coffee. She overturns Kateria's mug and pours.

KATERIA
 Mary is Tony's daughter.

MARY
 Yes, ma'am.

DEGAN
 Did you graduate here?

MARY
 Class of o-four.

Mary turns over Degan's mug and starts pouring.

MARY
 Cream?

DEGAN
 No, I'm good. Thank you.

Mary takes out two creamers from her smock and puts them on the saucer of Mary's cup.

KATERIA

Thank you.

MARY

I'll give ya a minute, but our special today is rancheros. I learned how to make them and they are pretty good if you don't mind me bragging.

KATERIA

Well, I'm sold. I'll take 'em.

DEGAN

(picking up the menu)

Give me a minute.

Tony looks up. Kateria notices Tony and tries to get Tony's attention by waving at him. Tony shakes his head.

Hiawatha, Minnie, and Sagoy walk in the door. Minnie scampers forward and runs to the bakery counter. Inside the glass cabinet are half-moon cookies and cupcakes.

Hiawatha points to a table in the back.

HIAWATHA

Sagoy. Go sit there.

Sagoy sheepishly walks to the table.

KATERIA

Hi, Hiawatha.

Kateria chuckles. Degan looks up from the menu to see Hiawatha.

HIAWATHA

Kat.

Hiawatha ignores Degan and lumbers to the bakery counter to stop Minnie from taking a stack of napkins from the top of the shelf.

HIAWATHA

Minnie, no...
(To Tony)
Hey, Tony.

TONY

Hiawatha.

MINNIE

I want one.

HIAWATHA

No...sit down with your brother.

Minnie skips to the back table. Hiawatha follows.

Degan looks over at Tony. Their eyes meet.

FLASHBACK TO:

75 EXT. CANAJOHARIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME - 1983 - DAY 75

Near the bleachers of the football field, a younger TONY throws a punch at a younger DEGAN and hits him smack in the face. Degan falls to the ground, bleeding from his nose. Hattie runs up to Tony and pushes him away.

HATTIE

Tony! Tony! Stop this!

CUT TO:

76 INT. TONY'S DINER - DOWNTOWN CANAJOHARIE - MORNING 76

DEGAN looks back down at the menu. Mary returns to the table.

MARY

Did you make up your mind?

DEGAN

Yeah, I'll take those rancheros. Can I get a side of hash browns too?

MARY

Sure thing. Anything else?

DEGAN

um...orange juice...orange juice.

MARY

Coming right up.

Degan hands back the menu. He picks up his coffee and starts to sip.

DEGAN

Tony. I almost forgot about that guy.

KATERIA

Seems he hasn't forgotten about you.

DEGAN

What a dick. He was always jealous. He had a crush on Hattie.

KATERIA

He never got over it. He kept trying.

Mary returns.

MARY

Here's your orange juice.

DEGAN

Thanks.

Mary sets the orange juice down and walks away.

KATERIA

Hiawatha, the guy in the back, is Hattie's son.

DEGAN

HER SON? I thought she didn't marry?

KATERIA

She didn't.

Degan freezes.

KATERIA

Didn't you know?

Degan's attention is drawn to the table in the back.

DEGAN

I was on her Facebook page. I saw the pictures.

KATERIA

Didn't hit home, did it? Until now.

DEGAN

No. Not really. She never married?

KATERIA

Never.

Degan looks back at Kateria. She has a strange look on her

face, the cat with the canary.

KATERIA
She never married.

Degan looks perplexed.

DEGAN
Who's the father?

Mary arrives with the food.

MARY
Here you go. I hope you like it.

KATERIA
I'm sure we will.

DEGAN
Thank you.

KATERIA
Thank you.

Mary walks away. Degan doesn't eat but sits attentively waiting for Kateria to look back at him.

KATERIA
I'd be careful if I were you. Tony probably poisoned your food.

She takes a bite of the rancheros.

KATERIA
It's good.

Degan stares at Kateria.

DEGAN
Who's the father?

KATERIA
No one knows. She never said.

DEGAN
No one knows?

KATERIA
It's kind of like the immaculate conception. At least, that's how we've come to think of it.

DEGAN

What?

KATERIA

Well, she gave birth in nineteen
eighty-four.

Degan's face tightens. He looks over at Hiawatha, then at Tony. Tony makes eye contact. He looks back at Kateria.

KATERIA

Those are her grandchildren.

Kateria isn't smiling but looks down at her food as she speaks.

KATERIA

1984. It was a good year.

Kateria uses her fork, cuts a bitesize piece of the rancheros and eats it.

KATERIA

It was an immaculate conception. No
one ever claimed to be the father and
she never told anyone.

Degan takes a sip of coffee, listening intently. Kateria puts down her fork and looks Degan in the eye.

KATERIA

She gave birth about nine months after
you left. Funny how that worked out.

Awkward silence, then Degan gets up and walks out of the restaurant.

FADE OUT:

77 EXT. OUTSIDE TONY'S DINER - MORNING

77

A visually shaken DEGAN walks down the street toward the Art Gallery. He zips up his coat and puts his hands in his pocket, head down, he walks fast.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK STARTS:

78 INT./EXT. THE BACKSEAT OF DEGAN'S CAR - CANAJOHARIE - NIGHT (1983)

78

The moonlight reveals two naked bodies in the backseat of a 1980 Pontiac Grand Prix. DEGAN and HATTIE are in the throes of making love.

HATTIE

Degan...

The lovemaking is sweet but adolescent and awkward. It ends abruptly.

HATTIE

I love you.

Degan sits up and shares a blanket with Hattie.

DEGAN

I love you.

HATTIE

You will be my one and only.

She kisses him. Degan hugs her and nervously looks out the window.

DEGAN

We got to go.

HATTIE

Please, don't let this moment end.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

FADE OUT:

ACT III

79 EXT. GARDEN BENCH OUTSIDE ART GALLERY - DAY

79

DEGAN sits alone in the garden. In front of him is a statue of a naked woman in the middle of a fountain. The fountain is empty and is showing aged neglect.

Across the street is the abandoned factory. A car passes by.

KATERIA walks into the garden and sits down on the bench next to Degan.

KATERIA

You stuck me with the bill.

DEGAN

Sorry.

Kateria reaches in her pocket and takes out a mint from Tony's restaurant, unwraps it, and puts it in her mouth.

DEGAN

I loved Venessa, I never felt the same way about Hattie.

KATERIA

It's not about you.

DEGAN

Seems like it.

KATERIA

Look at that factory.

Across the street is the Beech-Nut plant. The once-bright-white siding of the building is dirty and the windows are broken.

KATERIA

Without it, this town is shit. We have crack houses, homelessness, nothing to be proud of.

Degan sits back.

KATERIA

That company left town; moved down the river, and they never skipped a beat.

A large truck passes between them and the plant.

KATERIA

Meanwhile, our soul was gutted. Our hearts were broken. We have lost our identity.

Kateria offers a mint to Degan. He takes it.

KATERIA

We will never be the same, now that the factory is gone.

Degan unwraps the candy.

KATERIA

The high school needs teachers. No one wants to stay here.

Degan puts the candy in his mouth.

KATERIA

We could really use you now.

DEGAN

I don't want to teach high school. I don't want to live here.

KATERIA

Maybe other people want you to live here. Like your son and grandchildren.

DEGAN

Holy shit. Grandchildren.

Kateria takes a long pause, looks at her brother, then looks back at the factory.

KATERIA

You need to talk with They-An.

DEGAN

He's crazy. I talked to him.

KATERIA

He knows what's what. Talk to him.

DEGAN

What's he going to say?

KATERIA

What you don't want to hear.

Degan shakes his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

80 EXT. DRIVEWAY AT THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY 80

KATERIA pulls up to They-An's house and DEGAN gets out. She drives away. Degan hesitantly walks up to the front door.

CUT TO:

81 INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR - THEY-AN'S HOUSE - DAY 81

DEGAN knocks and there is no answer. He knocks again and the door opens. THEY-AN stands quietly. The moment is awkward.

DEGAN

They-An. Can we talk?

They-An steps back and motions with his hand for Degan to come in.

Before Degan can talk...

THEY-AN

Sit.

DEGAN

I wa...

THEY-AN

Quiet.

Degan sits down in a large recliner. He leans back and it extends accidentally.

DEGAN

OH..man..I'm sorry..

THEY-AN

Quiet.

They-An sits down on the couch.

THEY-AN

I've been waiting for your return for many years. You have broken my heart many times.

They-An takes out a pipe and begins to fill it with tobacco.

THEY-AN

Hattie is so special. She was a prophecy, a gift from the Great Spirit. In the circle of life, we are all connected.

They-An uses his fingers to demonstrate.

THEY-AN

There are four sections of the circle. Physical, Emotional, Mental, Spiritual.

They-An lights the pipe.

THEY-AN

Hattie has moved from the physical form to the spiritual form. It was her love for her grandchildren that sent her spirit free.

They-An gives the pipe to Degan. Degan sits up. He struggles with the chair but manages to sit up.

THEY-AN

You knew her when she was in the emotional stage of the circle.

Degan takes a drag on the pipe.

THEY-AN

She found love with you.

The tobacco smoke rises to the ceiling.

THEY-AN

You also created her mental challenges. She refused to say your name to anyone. Even her child.

Degan is getting high from the tobacco and his head bobs as he tries to stay alert.

THEY-AN

Your child.

They-An grabs a picture frame from the coffee table. It is a picture of Hattie with infant Hiawatha.

THEY-AN

I feared when you'd return. But she
(MORE)

THEY-AN (CONT'D)
has summoned you here. Your sin has
come home.

DEGAN
I'm sorry.

THEY-AN
No. She is happy. We must be happy for
her.

DEGAN
I don't love her.

THEY-AN
Shussh...let the smoke lead you to
your true emotions.

DEGAN
I loved my wife, Venessa.

THEY-AN
You can love more than one, at many
times in life.

DEGAN
Hattie was my past. I was her past.

THEY-AN
Let Hattie speak to you, then you tell
me. Breathe...

Degan sinks backward in the chair.

DISSOLVE TO:

82 EXT. CANAJOHARIE CREEK - NIGHT

82

The sound of RUSHING WATER and WOOD FLUTES mix with HATTIE'S
VOICE as she lies naked on the rocks, looking skyward.

HATTIE
Peace...

Love is not a crime, as would the
stars be criminal.

Hattie's eyes turn into pools of water, circling in the bend
of the creek.

HATTIE

I have felt your pain. The pain of
true love vanishing before your eyes.

A wolf appears at the creek edge, transforming into Venessa.

VENESSA

Time is like water. We lose it to the
sky, brought back in tears, and shared
to bring us life.

You can love again, in time, it will
all return again.

Venessa fades away and Hattie appears.

HATTIE

I give you our son.

Infant Hiawatha rests in Hattie's hands.

HATTIE

IF YOU BELIEVE IN HIM, you will have
everlasting life.

The baby opens his eyes and hisses like a cat.

VENESSA

IF NOT...you will face eternity alone.

DISSOLVE TO:

83 EXT. LARGE FLAT ROCKS IN CANAJOHARIE CREEK - DAY

83

The creek is empty of water, it is barren and dry. DEGAN
awakes, naked on the rocks. The bright light of the sun and
the hangover effect of the tobacco makes it difficult for
Degan to see. He struggles to roll over.

CUT TO:

84 EXT. OVERLOOK CLIFF - CANAJOHARIE CREEK - DAY

84

From a cliff overlooking the creek, THEY-AN watches DEGAN
awake. They-An steps back from the cliff's edge and walks
down a path to a waiting truck. TONY PECORA is in the truck.
They-An gets in and they drive off.

CUT TO:

85 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY

85

Garbage bins line the street. A garbage truck is in the distance collecting the trash. DEGAN is hiding behind one of the bins. He is naked.

As he scurries from bin to bin, he opens the lids and looks inside, finding nothing he can use to cover himself.

He opens one of the lids and sees a cardboard twelve-pack beer case. He grabs and flattens it, covering his private parts, and runs down the street to Kateria's house.

He runs to the door and knocks frantically.

CUT TO:

86 INT. FRONT DOOR OF KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY

86

KATERIA comes to the door in a hurry. She looks through the blinds and sees her brother, laughs, and then opens the door.

KATERIA

Where the hell have you been?

DEGAN doesn't say anything but runs upstairs to his bedroom.

CUT TO:

87 INT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY

87

DEGAN throws down the cardboard and grabs underwear from his suitcase.

KATERIA walks in.

KATERIA

Did you get drunk?

DEGAN

I'm out of here.

KATERIA

What happened?

DEGAN

There's some weird shit going down.

KATERIA

You spoke with They-An.

Degan grabs a pair of jeans and puts them on.

DEGAN

He drugged me.

KATERIA

He's getting even with you for getting his daughter pregnant and leaving her.

Degan zips up his jeans, stops for a moment, and looks at Kateria.

DEGAN

You can't prove that's my kid...

KATERIA

You're lucky he didn't kill you.

Degan sits down on the bed.

KATERIA

You do realize he is the chief?

DEGAN

The tribe doesn't exist anymore, and this is not sovereign land. This isn't Onondaga.

KATERIA

That's about to change.

Degan gets back up and walks toward his suitcase to get a t-shirt.

DEGAN

What's he going to do, start a new tribe?

KATERIA

Yup...well, actually...he's starting up the old one. The really old one.

Degan grabs a shirt and puts it on.

DEGAN

Old one? Like, the Iroquois longhouse, Upper Castle tribe?

KATERIA

The very one. Seems like They-An and Hattie did their homework. They are

(MORE)

KATERIA (CONT'D)
the last of the Mohicans. For real.

Degan sits down on the bed.

DEGAN
Legit?

KATERIA
The attorneys and the state pretty
much are about to finalize it. I think
it has a lot to do with casinos.

DEGAN
Casinos?

KATERIA
What do you do with a five hundred
thousand square foot empty factory?
You rezone it into an Indian
Reservation and turn it into a casino.

DEGAN
Holy shit.
Kateria slaps Degan on the thigh.

KATERIA
I think They-An has plans for you.

Degan lays back down on the bed.

DEGAN
I have a son.

KATERIA
You have grandchildren.

Kateria leaves the room.

KATERIA
Take a shower and I'll cook you up
some breakfast.

Degan sits up.

DEGAN
My phone!

CUT TO:

88 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 88

The garbage collectors stop in front of the house. One of the guys carries a plastic bag to the front door and knocks.

CUT TO:

89 INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR OF KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 89

KATERIA opens the door and takes the garbage bag without saying a word. She shuts the door and walks up to Degan's room.

CUT TO:

90 INT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 90

KATERIA knocks on the door frame, then tosses the garbage bag at DEGAN. He catches it.

Kateria walks back downstairs.

Degan opens up the bag. Inside he finds his clothes, his cell phone, and the framed picture of Hattie and infant Hiawatha.

FADE OUT/IN:

ACT IV

91 EXT. MAIN STREET ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

91

DEGAN parks outside the antique shop. He gets out of the car and looks both ways down the street. Next to the antique shop is Tony's Diner. He takes a glance inside, there are no customers and he doesn't see Tony.

Degan walks into the antique shop.

CUT TO:

92 INT. MAIN STREET ANTIQUE SHOP- DAY

92

MARK FOYER, a 60-year-old, black male is behind the counter. Mark is reading a newspaper and drinking a cup of coffee. He looks over at Degan.

MARK

Morning...

DEGAN

Morning...

DEGAN starts from one side of the store and slowly walks to the other side, looking for something.

MARK

Can I help you with anything?

DEGAN

I'm looking for any tribal toys...you know for kids.

MARK

We have a few things, behind the counter...

Mark reaches down pulls out a medium size box. Degan walks toward the counter.

DEGAN

I have a granddaughter...her mother...

MARK

Hattie.

Degan stops.

MARK

Hi, Degan. Remember me?

Mark. Mark Foyer.

Degan doesn't move.

DEGAN

Yeah, you were a few years ahead of me.

MARK

Yup.

DEGAN

Your Dad ran the Youth Center.

MARK

Yup.

Degan approaches the counter.

MARK

Listen, I don't give advice but I'm glad you came back. Hattie was something special.

DEGAN

I know, but life moves on...I was a kid.

MARK

She never moved on.

DEGAN

Hey...I mean...

MARK

Sucks, doesn't it?

DEGAN

Yeah.

Mark pulls out an Iroquois doll. The doll has long black hair and is wearing a ceremonial Chief dress.

MARK

How's this?

DEGAN

Perfect.

Degan takes the doll and inspects it.

DEGAN

You have something for a boy?

MARK

Easy.

Mark takes out a war club.

DEGAN

I don't think that's a good idea.

MARK

Yeah, I guess he's too young.

Mark puts the war club away. He reaches to a high shelf and pulls out a brand new lacrosse stick and ball.

DEGAN

That's better.

Mark returns to the counter and puts the lacrosse stick in front of Degan. Degan picks up the stick and takes the ball from Mark's hands, then puts it in his pocket.

DEGAN

Thanks.

MARK

Cash? We don't have a machine.

DEGAN

Cash.

Degan leans the stick against the counter as he pulls out his wallet.

MARK

This town died after you left. Look around.

DEGAN

I've been looking. It's sad.

MARK

I'm a Christian, so I don't believe all the tribal stuff, but there is
(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)
something to it.

DEGAN
To what?

MARK
They made Hattie chief or whatever.
They had some hocus pocus thing,
claiming she's a descendent of the
original tribe.

DEGAN
There's something to that hocus pocus.

MARK
I don't believe it.

DEGAN
This valley is cursed. Not much left
of the tribe. The tribe is basically
five people now.

MARK
Yeah, look at my place. Cursed.

DEGAN
I didn't mean anything.

MARK
No worries. The place is cursed.

Degan points at the doll and lacrosse stick.

DEGAN
How much?

MARK
Ten bucks for the doll. \$20 bucks for
the stick and ball.

Degan pays Mark and puts his wallet away. He picks up the
doll.

MARK
They are right.

Degan pauses and gives Mark a puzzled look.

MARK
Hattie and the town were one in the
(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

same. When she declined, her mental health, you know, her spirit became dark, so did the town.

DEGAN

Was she okay?

MARK

She went through some tough times. We all did.

Degan picks up the stick.

DEGAN

Good to see you.

MARK

Good to see you.

Degan turns to leave and as he reaches the door, his eyes are drawn to a large picture frame along the wall. It is a picture of Hattie, tucked behind a shelf of old record albums.

Degan walks over to the picture. It is an actual size black and white portrait of Hattie in ceremonial dress. The gold frame of the picture is gaudy but she is beautiful.

Degan bends down to read the plaque. At the bottom of the frame, there is a plaque. The plaque reads: 1983 - Canajoharie's Great Spirit - Hoyaneh Jigonhatee Canasatego

As Degan stands up he locks eyes with Hattie's in the picture.

MARK

She called out to you. Didn't she?

DEGAN

She did.

MARK

There is something to the hocus pocus.

DISSOLVE TO:

93 EXT. PARKING LOT AT EAST HILL PLAYGROUND - DAY

93

DEGAN arrives at a playground on the East Hill of Canajoharie. HIAWATHA is with his two children.

The last lines of HEATHAZE by Genesis plays.

GENESIS

(under)

Beware the fisherman who's casting out
his line...
Into a dried-up river bed,
But don't try to tell him 'cos he
won't believe you.

Degan parks the car and watches the three playing on a swing set.

GENESIS (CONT'D)

(under)

Throw some bread to the ducks instead,
it's easier that way.
Feel like an alien, a stranger in an
alien place.

Degan turns off the ignition, THE MUSIC STOPS. He gets out, shuts the front door, then opens the back door. He grabs the doll. Then he reaches down and picks up the lacrosse stick. After shutting the door, he heads toward the swing set.

CUT TO:

94 EXT. SWING SET AT EAST HILL PLAYGROUND - DAY

94

HIAWATHA is pushing MINNIE in a swing when he sees DEGAN approaching. Degan swings the lacrosse stick on his shoulder and holds out the doll.

Minnie runs and grabs the doll. She doesn't say anything, just takes the doll.

Degan takes the lacrosse ball out of his pocket and puts it into the net of the stick. SAGOY looks at Hiawatha. Hiawatha gives him a nod and Sagoy runs to get the stick. Degan holds out the stick and Sagoy snags it.

Degan laughs as Sagoy runs as fast as he can like he stole it.

Hiawatha watches his son tear off across the playground. He turns to see Degan's outstretched arm ready to shake hands.

Hiawatha hesitates. He looks Degan in the eye and reaches out his hand. They shake. Then, Hiawatha jams his knee into Degan's crotch. As Degan bends over in pain, Hiawatha roundhouse punches Degan in the face.

Sagoy and Minnie stop what they are doing and watch Degan writhing in the grass.

Hiawatha stands over Degan.

HIAWATHA

I told my mother if I ever met you,
I'd kick you in the balls. I didn't
tell her I'd punch you in the face. I
kept that to myself.

Sagoy runs over to Degan and starts hitting him with the lacrosse stick.

HIAWATHA

Minnie! Let's go.

Minnie comes running, she stops at Degan and kicks him. Then walks off with her father. The two hold hands as they head to their parked car.

Sagoy continues to whack Degan with the lacrosse stick.

95 INT./EXT. DEGAN'S BEDROOM - KATERIA'S HOUSE - DAY 95

The life-size portrait of HATTIE is propped up by the open window in the bedroom that overlooks the town. The wind blows leaves inside the room. The mourning dove lands on the window sill, COOING LOUDLY. The bird enters the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

96 EXT. BEECH NUT FACTORY - DAY 96

The wind blows through the abandoned plant. The wind creates circles of swirling leaves. The broken walls frame the street outside.

DISSOLVE TO:

97 EXT. MAIN STREET CANAJOHARIE - DAY 97

Leaves tumble down the main street, mixing with fast food cups as they merrily bounce down the street.

DISSOLVE TO:

98 EXT. CANAJOHARIE ART GALLERY GARDEN - DAY

98

A flower is sprouting from a crack in the abandoned fountain.

THE END

Cummings