

V E N U S

An Original Short Screenplay

By

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INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Two young men, DUNTER and GROGAN (18 and 22) play cards at a table.

The lights are out. The boys are bundled for the cold.

The cards are barely readable in the light. Each has a different nude model with their naughty bits hole-punched out.

They speak with deep unplaceable accents. As though from some far off planet.

DUNTER  
(visible breath)  
Weatherman say when the sun's out today?

GROGAN  
The bats in the flashlight crapped a while back.  
(beat)  
Raise.

DUNTER  
What's that got to do with the weather?

GROGAN  
Well, brother as the power's out, can't get the word from the telly or the web likes? And to read the paper, you needs a flashlight.  
(beat)  
Put your chips down.

Dunter folds.

DUNTER  
Fuck all, I can't see me hand-once in this dark. Sides, you keep winning you sonar-fluent wankster.

Pushes the cards towards Grogan aggressively.

Grogan sweeps the change in the pot into his shirt.

Dunter gets up and opens the fridge. Everything's spoiling.

GROGAN  
Jan comin tonight?

DUNTER  
(pulls out a warm beer)  
There's nothin' to chip in here.

Grogan shuffles his cards, stacks them.

GROGAN  
(taps his wrist)  
What's the time?

DUNTER  
I donno. Twelve?

GROGAN  
It *is* tonight then.

DUNTER  
I wish the power company'd get  
their heads out their arses.

GROGAN  
(without looking)  
That milk has to go.

EXT. RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

There's snow on the ground. Dunter and Grogan leave their house. Set out down the street.

Grogan wears sunglasses.

NEIGHBORS sit around bon-fires in their front lawns. They turn, smiling at the duo.

Grogan holds onto Dunter's shoulder as they walk. Dunter doesn't seem to mind.

DUNTER  
You think we'll make it in time?

GROGAN  
No sweat.

DUNTER  
Jan might be there.

Some OLD MAN shouts from across the street, interrupting.

OLD MAN  
(yelling)  
You keep'n warm boys?

DUNTER  
(yelling)  
Aye, sir. Doing our best.

OLD MAN  
Pray lads. The lord'll keeps ye  
warm if the electric company can't.

DUNTER  
(under his breath)  
Says you.

EXT. DEAD END STREET - NIGHT

Dunter and Grogan approach a modest brick building surrounded  
by trailer homes.

A sign reads.

"MASONIC BROTHERHOOD LODGE. VENUS, ALASKA. EST. 1955."

A symbol of an eye inside a pyramid sits above the  
establishment date.

The door's already inched open. Dunter pushes it.

INT. MASONIC BUILDING, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Dunter and Grogan open the door. Inside 13 purple candles  
burn around the room. Incense fills the air.

A small tea pot, incense holder, and a bowl of salt sits in  
the middle of the room in front of Aradia.

ARADIA (22) sits in the middle of the room, inside a circle  
of salt. She's wearing a white full length robe.

Behind her, three girls, JANICA, MERICONE, and PERSEPHONE all  
(19), try to keep serious. Mediate.

Dunter waves. Janica notices, smiles back.

Aradia opens her eyes.

ARADIA  
(whispers, accent)  
Sit down. The both of you.

DUNTER  
It's time then? Hi Jan!

ARADIA  
Almost. Sit!

They sit. Grogan in the middle facing Aradia.

Grogan removes his sunglasses.

DUNTER  
We've got the mirror.

ARADIA  
Shhh. Give it.

Dunter produces a small hand mirror. Hands it over.

Aradia sprinkles salt on the mirror. Pulls off imaginary spider webs. Lays it on a purple cloth by the tea pot.

Dunter sits behind Grogan the same distance that Janica is from Aradia.

Aradia lifts a candle above her head.

Janica takes the candle. Walks a careful circle around the room.

ARADIA  
I cast this circle. My circle of  
power. To be a shield of  
protection and a boundary between  
the worlds of men and the realm of  
the mighty ones.

She lifts a bowl of salt over her head. Mericone takes the bowl and pours a clockwise circle around Grogan.

ARADIA  
I bless thee and consecrate thee,  
in the name of lady and lord. The  
circle is cast. So may it be.

She lifts an incense stick above her head. Persephone walks it around the room.

ARADIA  
Grogan.

Grogan opens his eyes. His iris are milky white. He feels for the tea. Aradia places his hand on the tea pot.

ARADIA  
Drink and say after I say.

Grogan drinks. Makes a face. Gross.

ARADIA  
I invoke thee oh Asriel, Archangel  
of Neptune, ruler of clairvoyant  
powers.

The three girls take their place behind Aradia.

GROGAN  
I invoke thee oh Asriel, Archangel  
of Neptune. Ruler of clairvoyant  
powers.

Dunter smiles at Janica. Aradia eyes Dunter, pissed.

ARADIA  
I ask thee now to open my third eye  
and show me the hidden light.

Aradia lifts the mirror behind the candles. Points the  
reflected light at Grogan's forehead.

A white spec of light appears above his closed eyes.

GROGAN  
I ask thee now to open my third eye  
and show me the hidden light.

Persephone and Mericone give Janica disapproving sideways  
glances.

Janica makes eyes at Dunter. Breaks her concentration.

ARADIA  
(more pissed)  
Let me see the future. Let me see  
the past. Let me perceive divine  
kingdoms of the unknown.

GROGAN  
Let me see the future. Let me see  
the pas--

Janica giggles. That's it!

ARADIA  
(jarring, yelling)  
Dunter, Janica! Get out. You'll  
ruin the whole piss.

Dunter and Janica scurry out the door. Janica seems  
mortified.

GROGAN  
(to Dunter)  
Wanker!  
(stuttering)  
L-let me perceive divine kingdoms  
of the unknown.

ARADIA  
Let me understand the wisdom of the  
mighty universe. So might it be!

GROGAN  
Let me understand...

INT. HALL - NIGHT

Dunter gobbles Janica's neckline like a excited puppy.

He tries to find a way into her robe.

DUNTER  
That witchin' was making me so  
turned on!

She has a wonder bread American accent, obviously not from  
around here.

JANICA  
Dunter, let's go outside so we  
don't disturb them. Please.

She pushes him gently off her.

DUNTER  
Whatever.

EXT. LAWN - NIGHT

Janica tries holding Dunter's hand. This ignites his lust  
again.

JANICA  
Can I ask you a question about your  
brother?

DUNTER  
Ugh, sure, go ahead.

JANICA  
How'd he lose his sight?

Dunter sits down. The skyline is almost purple.

DUNTER  
He came outta me moms that way, I  
spose.

JANICA  
That's not what I heard. I heard  
he looked at the sun too long one  
day--

DUNTER  
That's shite. He's been blind  
since I was born. Don't be  
believing all that you hear now.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Aradia walks a circle around Grogan in the opposite direction the other girls walked.

ARADIA

By the Earth that is her body. By  
the living waters of her womb. By  
the fire of her bright spirit and  
by the Air that is her breath. The  
circle is open yet unbroke!

She sits. Facing Grogan. Anticipation. He slowly opens his eyes.

They're still milky. He blinks, breaking the tension. Puts his sunglasses back on. Sad.

ARADIA

It takes a bit of time. We still  
have a few minutes before the sun's  
up.

She places a reassuring hand on Grogan's shoulder.

GROGAN

Yeah.

EXT. LAWN - NIGHT

Janica and Dunter sit on the lawn outside.

DUNTER

(breaks the silence)  
Do you think the devil will come?  
Cause we're all messin' with the  
dark arts?  
(smiling)

JANICA

They're not dark. It's white  
magic. It's a call to power that  
can help your brother see.

DUNTER

How'd ye girls get the door open  
tonight for we got here.

JANICA

Persephone picked it. Those girls  
in there are crazy.

DUNTER

You know what makes me crazy?  
Witchin'.



He pounces.

JANICA  
Dunter. Stop. They're coming.

Dunter recoils. Frustrated.

Grogan and Aradia walk out. Grogan's hand on her shoulder.  
They stand facing the sunrise 10 feet from Dunter and Janica.

JANICA  
(to Grogan)  
It's right in front of you. Do you  
see it?

GROGAN  
A little.  
(pause)  
No.

DUNTER  
What say, brother? How's that  
bright Eos?

ARADIA  
Shut up, tit. Yer mucking might've  
upset the gods and cattled the  
spell.

DUNTER  
No giggle ever upset a god.

Thunder RUMBLES. They all look up.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Persephone and Mericone lays in the messed up salt circles  
holding hands. Pass a joint.

WHOOSH! A strong burst of wind blows the candles out. The  
ladies sit up, look around.

A tiny spot of yellow light appears on Mericone. They look  
towards its source.

EXT. LAWN - MORNING

Dunter is up, dancing around, silly. He mimes some Greek  
play. Where a god smites human's on earth. Janica laughs.

Aradia and Grogan sit closer ignoring Dunter.

Aradia pulls imaginary spider webs off Grogan's eyes while  
saying something softly.

Slowly each of them stop doing what they're doing. As they notice who occupies the lawn a few meters away.

A man, ATLAS (80's). Missing fingers, grizzly teeth. Definitely missing pieces. Dirty work-man's clothes. Built like a brick shit-house.

ATLAS  
(Deep grumbling accent)  
'lectricity's back on if ye kids  
wanna get warm. God-bless-it.

They all, except Grogan, swallow their hearts.

ATLAS  
Were you inside the lodge?

DUNTER  
(jumps up)  
For no reason against God. We  
thought it was abandoned likes.

Atlas walks right up to Dunter. Shitty attitude.

ATLAS  
Well it ain't.

GROGAN  
I think what me brother wants to  
say is we're leaving and thanking  
you for yer grace.

Aradia whispers in his ear. Grogan walks back towards the building. Aradia helps him along.

Dunter help Janica up. Keeps an eye on Atlas who stands like a sentinel.

GROGAN  
We've got to clean up a bit in  
there.

Atlas walks up to Grogan, who stumbles trying to move quickly. Stops him.

ATLAS  
What's wrong, son. You drunk?

Grogan removes his sunglasses. His white eyes shock the old man.

GROGAN  
No. Just blind.  
(pause)  
How'd you lose your fingers?

Atlas notices his hand on Grogan's shoulder. Ring finger stubbed. Thumb missing. He takes his hand away.

ATLAS  
Fishing.

GROGAN  
(indicating Aradia)  
My friend's just gonna tidy the  
place. No harm no foul.

INT. BASEMENT - MORNING

Aradia opens the door to the basement. Persephone and Mericone, startled, sit up.

PERSEPHONE  
Fuck-off! You wanna knock?

ARADIA  
Duck it, 'Seph! We're sussed out.

She frantically start to pack it up.

PERSEPHONE  
You'll never guess what we saw.

ARADIA  
Get up and help me. Or we'll all  
be hanged.

EXT. LAWN - MORNING

The sun creeps the shadows back across the fields and trailers. Slowly the fireball peaks across the horizon.

Dunter and Janica are playing in the snow 50 feet away.

Grogan and Atlas stare at each other. Atlas starts to make a move for the lodge.

GROGAN  
(stalling, looks East)  
Beautiful thing the sun. Shame too  
much'll hurt ya.

ATLAS  
Is that how it went?

GROGAN  
Nah. Never saw a day in my life.

ATLAS  
That's a pity, son. The young  
heifer yer with are dolly.  
(MORE)

ATLAS (cont'd)  
(pause)  
I've got to be getting inside.

Atlas pushes past Grogan. Walks towards the lodge.

GROGAN  
(pulling on Atlas'  
shoulder)  
Wait, what was the problem with the  
Electricity?

Atlas whips his shoulder around. Grogan falls to the ground.

ATLAS  
I don't know. It's bound to go off  
sometime. G'night.

Atlas looks back at him with pity. Then at Dunter and Janica who are oblivious and kissing.

Walks inside. Locks the bolt on the door behind him.

GROGAN  
(whispers)  
Be born into my head. Find yer way  
out of it.

Suddenly the film in the projector showing *this movie* SHAKES and catches on the gate. Leaving a small horizontal slice in Grogan's forehead. Tick, tick, tick goes the SOUND EFFECT from the rear of the theatre.

The emulsion peels back with every frame that moves through the gate. The effect is of an EYE OPENING. The raw light from the projector reflected off the screen screams into the theatre.

Grogan's DIALOGUE DISTORTS, WOBBLER, STUDDERS as the optical track rips away and crumbles in the machine.

GROGAN  
I ask thee now to open my third eye  
and show me the hidden light.

The film rips upwards from the forehead hole. The screen goes BLACK with a suitable needle-scraped-off-a-record SOUND EFFECT.

15 seconds of silence. Perhaps SOUNDS of movement mixed to the rear as though from the projector room.

The film speeds again. Starting from a few seconds before the technical fuck up.

EXT. LAWN - MORNING

ATLAS

I've got to be getting inside.

Atlas pushes past Grogan. Walks towards the lodge. Ethan goes to grab his shoulder, but hesitates.

FLASH CUT:

INT. BASEMENT - MORNING

GROGAN (V.O.)

Let me see the future.

Atlas gnashes his stinking lips next to a gagged, tied and crying Aradia, Persephone and Mericone.

He makes the "naughty, naughty" sound with his tounge as he pulls a beautiful ornamental knife from it's sheath. Places it against Aradia's neck.

FLASH CUT:

INT. BASEMENT - MORNING

Aradia peers through a hole in the wall with a bright yellow light emanating from it.

GROGAN (V.O.)

Let me see the past.

ARADIA

It's the most beautiful thing.

PERSEPHONE

It just appeared. Do you think it belongs to them?

EXT. LAWN - MORNING

Grogan turns from the sun rise. Stares right at the old man. Dark pupils. He can see!

GROGAN

Fuck.

Grogan runs at the old man. Leaps onto his back. They slam into the wall.

Screaming war cries. The two men fall to the ground. Grogan unsure of what to do next.

Finally Grogan, on top, pushes his thumbs into Atlas's eyes. Blood pours out like a fountain. Atlas screams and writhes.

Grogan's eyes are wide open. Focused.

Dunter and Janica notice the sound. Run over.

DUNTER

What's the hell brother?

Grogan looks around. Sees his brother for the first time.  
Aradia opens the front door. Screams.

Atlas is dead. Grogan stands. Dizzy, delirious, panting  
breath.

GROGAN

It worked. The spell bloody  
worked!

His friends have no idea what to say. Their expression says  
it all.

CUT TO BLACK: