



# THE ISOLATION WARD

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〈폐쇄 병동의 주의 사항〉



The Isolation Ward, aka "The Precautions in the Closed Ward" by Lee Jeong-woon, is a top novel on the Korean web novel platform, RIDI.

This atmospheric horror/thriller novel has captured the imagination of audiences across Korea – and soon, America.

## LOGLINE

A female private investigator disguises herself as a dangerously psychotic patient in order to infiltrates the highest security ward of an eerie, private psychiatric hospital, to rescue the teen son of a powerful billionaire, wrongfully committed by his stepmother.

As she navigates this bizarre world, her own grip on reality begins to unravel, as intriguing but disturbing patients challenge her understanding of the truth.

To rescue her target – and herself – she will have to solve mysteries and conspiracies, trust the untrustworthy, challenge authority and even discover love among the irredeemable... or join their ranks, forever.

# TONE & STYLE

The best comp is **SHUTTER ISLAND**, an atmospheric, intense psychological thriller that leaves audiences guessing about the underlying reality of our unreliable narrator – although our ending is more redemptive.

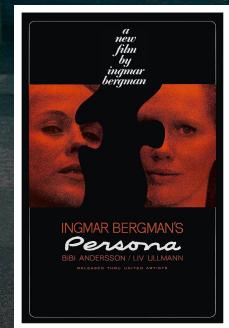
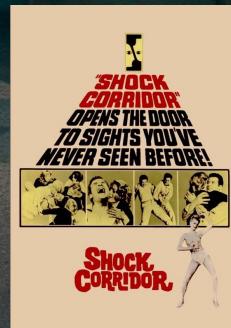
There are touches of other films that deal with mental health in significant ways, such as **GIRL, INTERRUPTED**, **ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST** and **SHOCK CORRIDOR**.

Leigh's own complicated path to self discovery is also a huge element, reflecting films like **PERSONA**, **MULHOLLAND DRIVE** or **THE HAUNTING (1963)**.

Finally, although there is **NOTHING SUPERNATURAL AT ALL** about this story, the “gothic noir” vibes of **THE ORPHANAGE** or series like **THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE** inform the visual aesthetic of the story.



Produced by MIKE MEDAVOY, ARNOLD W. MESSER, BRADLEY J. FISCHER, MARTIN SCORSESE. BASED ON THE NOVEL BY DENNIS LEHANE. Screenplay by LAETA KALOGRISSIS. Directed by MARTIN SCORSESE. © 2010 by Phoenix Pictures. All Rights Reserved. PHOENIX SKELIA PRODUCTIONS AFFIAN WAY PRODUCTIONS. ShutterIsland.com OCTOBER





The new patient at St. Patrick's Hospital is admitting a new patient into their top-security ward.

But she isn't who she seems.

She's a private investigator, paid by a desperate woman to save her son.

She's here to break him out.

But she may find she belongs among the damned, as her mission... and her sanity... slip away.

LEIGH is a tough woman who takes on the most dangerous assignments imaginable, both out of a sense of altruism and a darker compulsion to push the boundaries.

She's extracted children from dangerous non-custodial parents in hostile countries and she's put herself in jail to extract information from inmates.

And, now, she's committing herself to a dangerous "high risk" ward at a newly private psychiatric hospital.

And, for the first time, she may have pushed the boundaries too far.

The truth is, she may not be as far from her "character" as she believes –

- As she begins to see and hear impossible things
- As she befriends and even begins to fall in love with dangerous inmates
- As she begins to suspect the doctors and staff of being more disturbed than the patients

Her ARC is to learn to trust, even in the impossible, to escape this physical prison and complete her mission – and escape the even more isolating emotional prison she's built for herself to escape unresolved past traumas.

# PRINCE



In better times, Cha Moo-jin was living large – fancy cars, bottle service at the hottest nightclubs, and all of the dates he could handle. Why? Because he was the son of a billionaire real estate developer (who often wasn't around). That's why he's always simply been known as THE PRINCE.

Only, at some point, his luck ran out.

His mother, destroyed by the divorce from her powerful husband, was no longer allowed to speak to her son. Instead, his fate is dictated by his stepmother. As his father ages, she began to wonder if she could avoid sharing the inheritance. So she framed him as having a psychotic break brought on by illicit drug use and had him committed to a cutting-edge private psychiatric hospital – never to be seen again.

Only his mother learns of it from the papers and hires Leigh to bust him out.

Along the way, this harrowing experience will allow him to grow into a compassionate, respectable person... or destroy him.

# TOP DOG



A frightening patient with a reputation for violence, the tattoo-covered rumored gangster, TOP DOG, nonetheless takes a liking to Leigh.

Can she trust him? Is she mad to even consider trusting him?

As it turns out, Top Dog is a man of complexity and contradictions.

It will be up to Leigh to discover if he will drag her under or be the unlikely ally she needs to complete her mission.

In truth, he'll be much more than an ally. He just might be the only guy in the world tough enough to power through Leigh's world-class fear of intimacy.

He'll try to break her out of her self-imposed isolation and bring love into her life, if only she's willing to accept what he offers.

And, if she does, she'll learn his deepest secret – that he's much more than his visage would indicate.



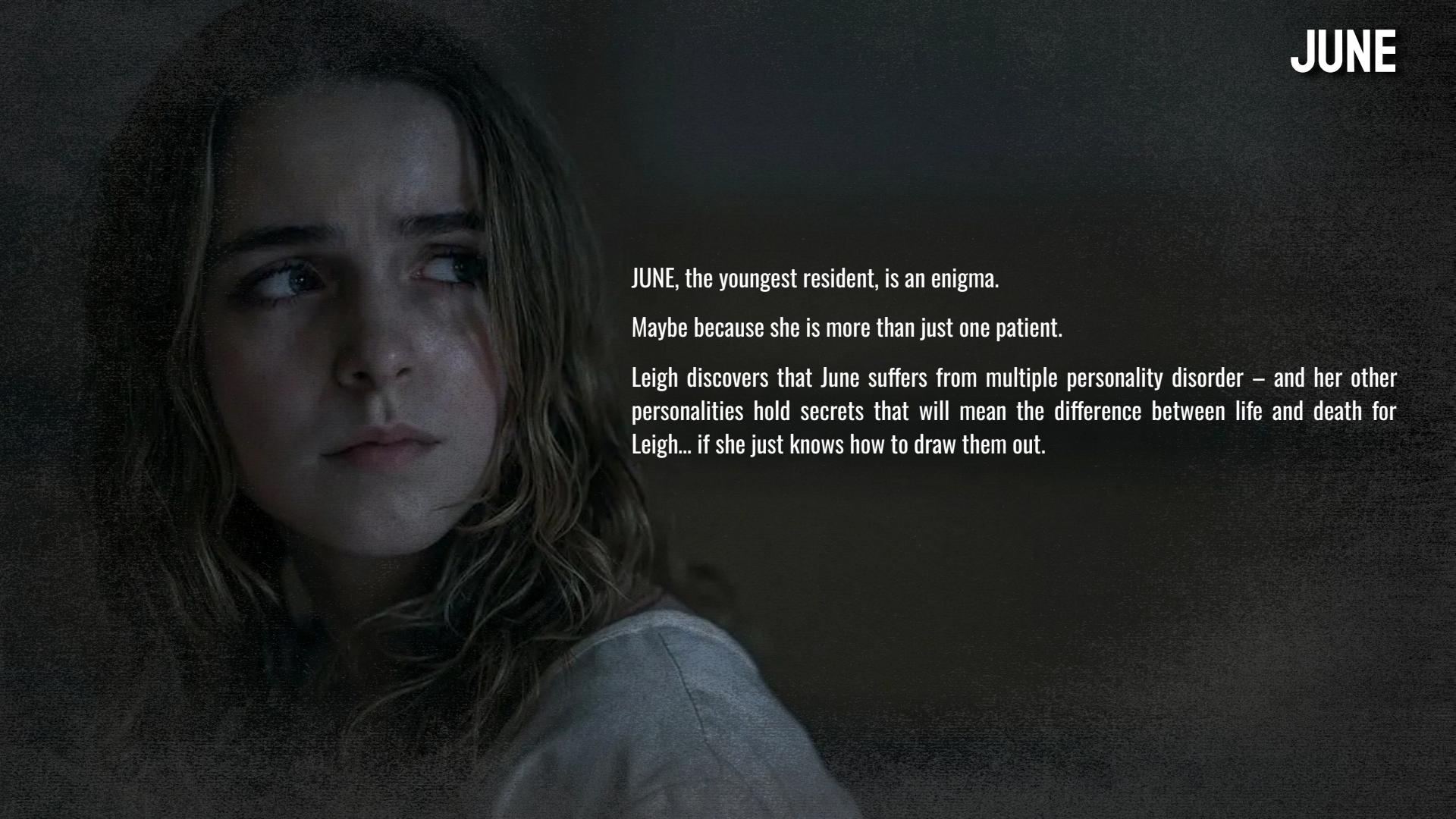
# KAT

KAT seems to be CATatonic much of the time.

But, just like a cat, she spends her nights, when no one is watching, slinking around the dark corners of this creepy, centuries old building.

When it comes to finding Prince, Leigh could have no better resource.

Through Leigh, Kat may finally discover something she never found in the shadows – hope.



JUNE

JUNE, the youngest resident, is an enigma.

Maybe because she is more than just one patient.

Leigh discovers that June suffers from multiple personality disorder – and her other personalities hold secrets that will mean the difference between life and death for Leigh... if she just knows how to draw them out.

# DR. MADISON

DR. MADISON rules his facility with an iron fist and he doesn't like being made a fool of.

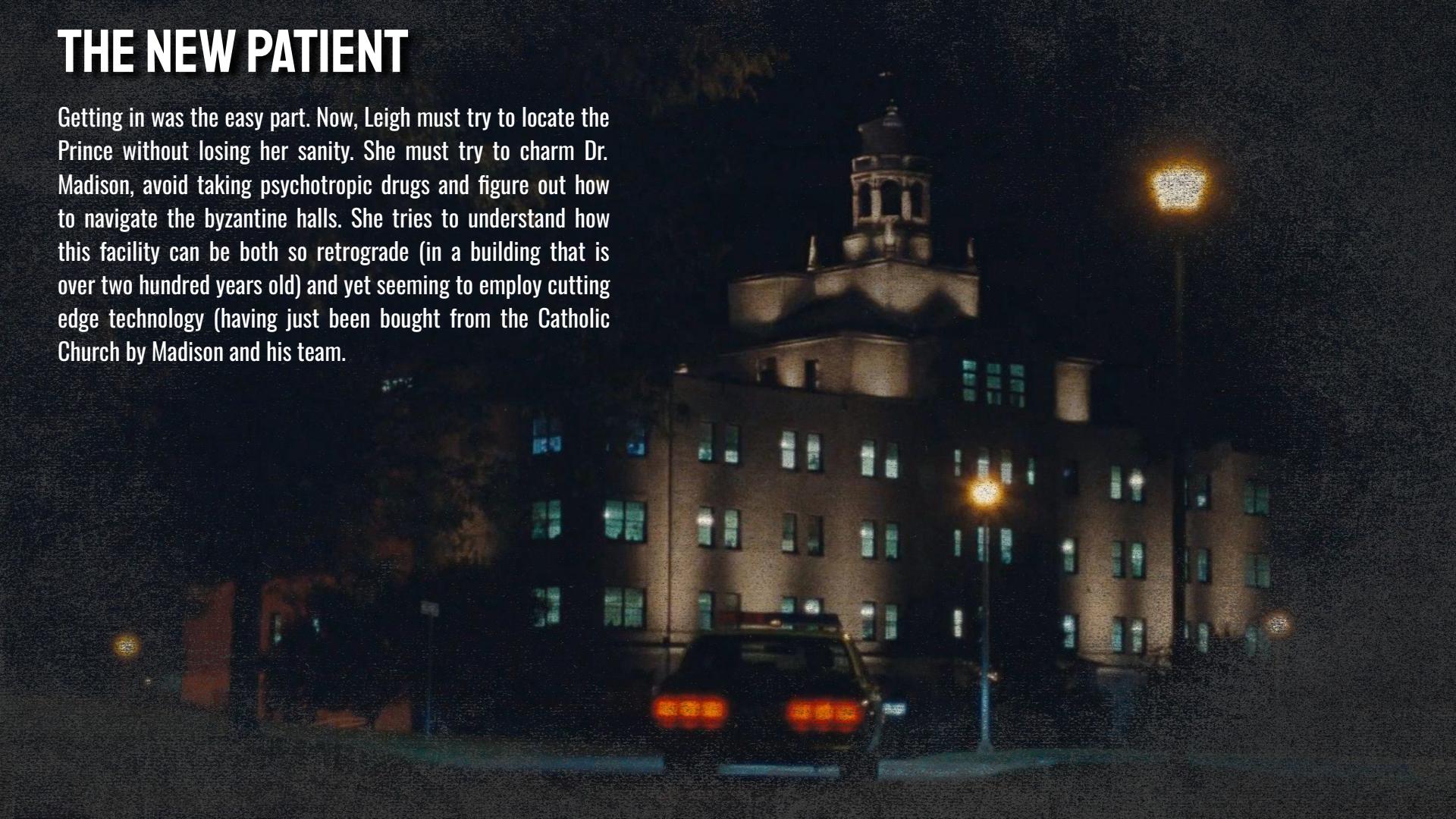
He KNOWS Leigh is not who she claims to be, but he can't quite figure out what her real agenda may be. So he remains fixated on her – or there may be other reasons...

As Leigh tries to guard her secrets from the prying eyes of the doctor, she discovers he has secrets of his own... vile secrets beyond even the jaded Leigh's ability to comprehend.



# THE NEW PATIENT

Getting in was the easy part. Now, Leigh must try to locate the Prince without losing her sanity. She must try to charm Dr. Madison, avoid taking psychotropic drugs and figure out how to navigate the byzantine halls. She tries to understand how this facility can be both so retrograde (in a building that is over two hundred years old) and yet seeming to employ cutting edge technology (having just been bought from the Catholic Church by Madison and his team).

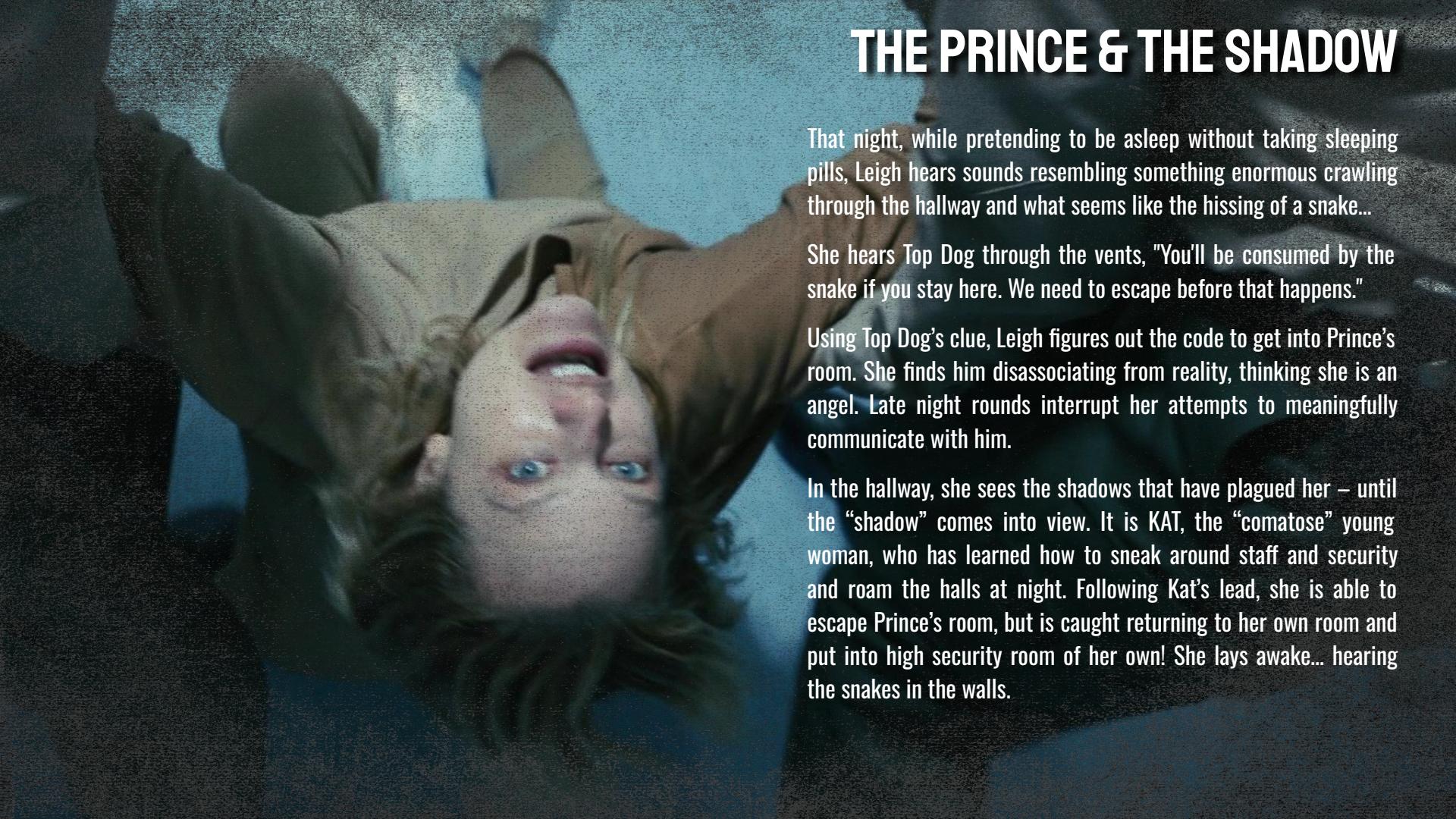


# “SNAKES IN THE WALLS”

Despite knowing that she is a sane woman in the safety of a hospital, and not among the damned of this place, her faculties begin to fail her. She hears things. Sees impossible things. Shadows. Voices. Hallucinations. Her paranoia grows.

At the same time, she tries to use her fellow patients to find the Prince. Among her first “friends” is TOP DOG, reputed to be a murderous thug and JUNE, a teen who looks even younger. But, after she is kind to June, calming her down, the gruff Top Dog treats her with kindness. Leigh feels something, a yearning, that defies all logic. Top Dog helps her figure out how to get to Prince and how to target a nurse in order to figure out how to open the door to his locked room. Leigh says “You’re just being nice because I managed to calm June down and convince her that she isn’t hearing noises.” Top Dog is taken aback. “Of course she’s hearing things. We all are. There’s no point in lying to me. I can always tell.” Leigh’s eyes light with fear. “You hear them, too. I can tell,” Top Dogg tells her, with an edge of menace. “It’s the snakes in the walls.”





# THE PRINCE & THE SHADOW

That night, while pretending to be asleep without taking sleeping pills, Leigh hears sounds resembling something enormous crawling through the hallway and what seems like the hissing of a snake...

She hears Top Dog through the vents, "You'll be consumed by the snake if you stay here. We need to escape before that happens."

Using Top Dog's clue, Leigh figures out the code to get into Prince's room. She finds him disassociating from reality, thinking she is an angel. Late night rounds interrupt her attempts to meaningfully communicate with him.

In the hallway, she sees the shadows that have plagued her – until the "shadow" comes into view. It is KAT, the "comatose" young woman, who has learned how to sneak around staff and security and roam the halls at night. Following Kat's lead, she is able to escape Prince's room, but is caught returning to her own room and put into high security room of her own! She lays awake... hearing the snakes in the walls.

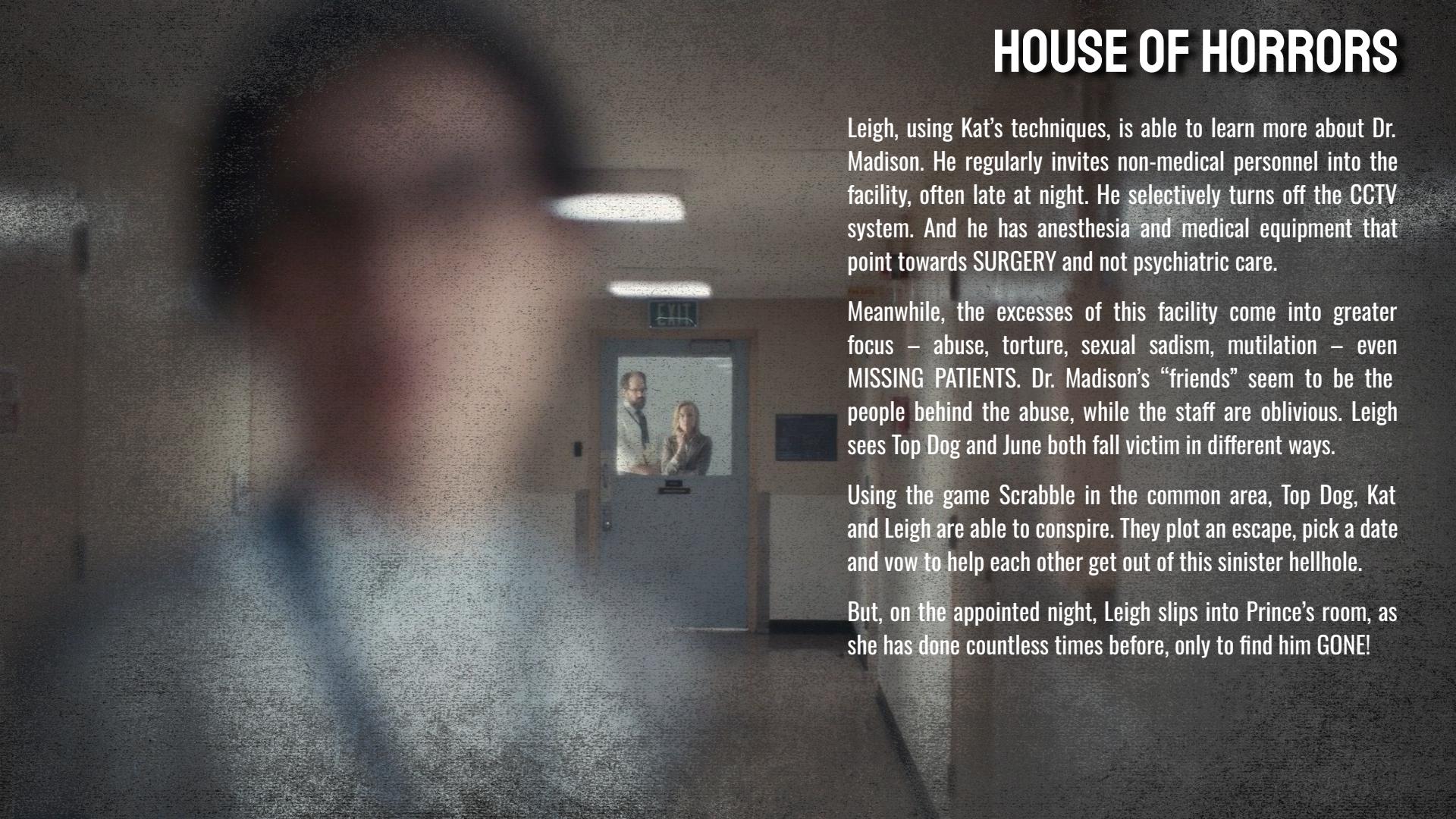
# THREE MEN

Leigh's days and nights begin to run into each other, defined by her ability to navigate three difficult men:

- Dr. Madison, who knows she's hiding a secret and wants to pull it from her – without revealing the secrets *he* keeps.
- The Prince, who, still believing her to be an angel, is in love with her and tries to seduce her. She needs to keep him close and ensure he'll be able to escape with her when she devises a viable plan, but she doesn't want to submit to his desires, as persuasive as this charming, alarmingly attractive, rich guy might be.
- Top Dog, who scares her and excites her in equal measure. He knows everything about this facility – it's strengths and vulnerabilities. But he seems to know HER strengths and vulnerabilities, as well. Can she exploit his knowledge before he figures out how to wear down her defenses? And is she genuinely disturbed for putting her and Prince's fate in the hands of this monstrous man locked up (for real) in this high-hazard psychiatric ward?



# HOUSE OF HORRORS



Leigh, using Kat's techniques, is able to learn more about Dr. Madison. He regularly invites non-medical personnel into the facility, often late at night. He selectively turns off the CCTV system. And he has anesthesia and medical equipment that point towards SURGERY and not psychiatric care.

Meanwhile, the excesses of this facility come into greater focus – abuse, torture, sexual sadism, mutilation – even MISSING PATIENTS. Dr. Madison's "friends" seem to be the people behind the abuse, while the staff are oblivious. Leigh sees Top Dog and June both fall victim in different ways.

Using the game Scrabble in the common area, Top Dog, Kat and Leigh are able to conspire. They plot an escape, pick a date and vow to help each other get out of this sinister hellhole.

But, on the appointed night, Leigh slips into Prince's room, as she has done countless times before, only to find him GONE!



# A WAY OUT

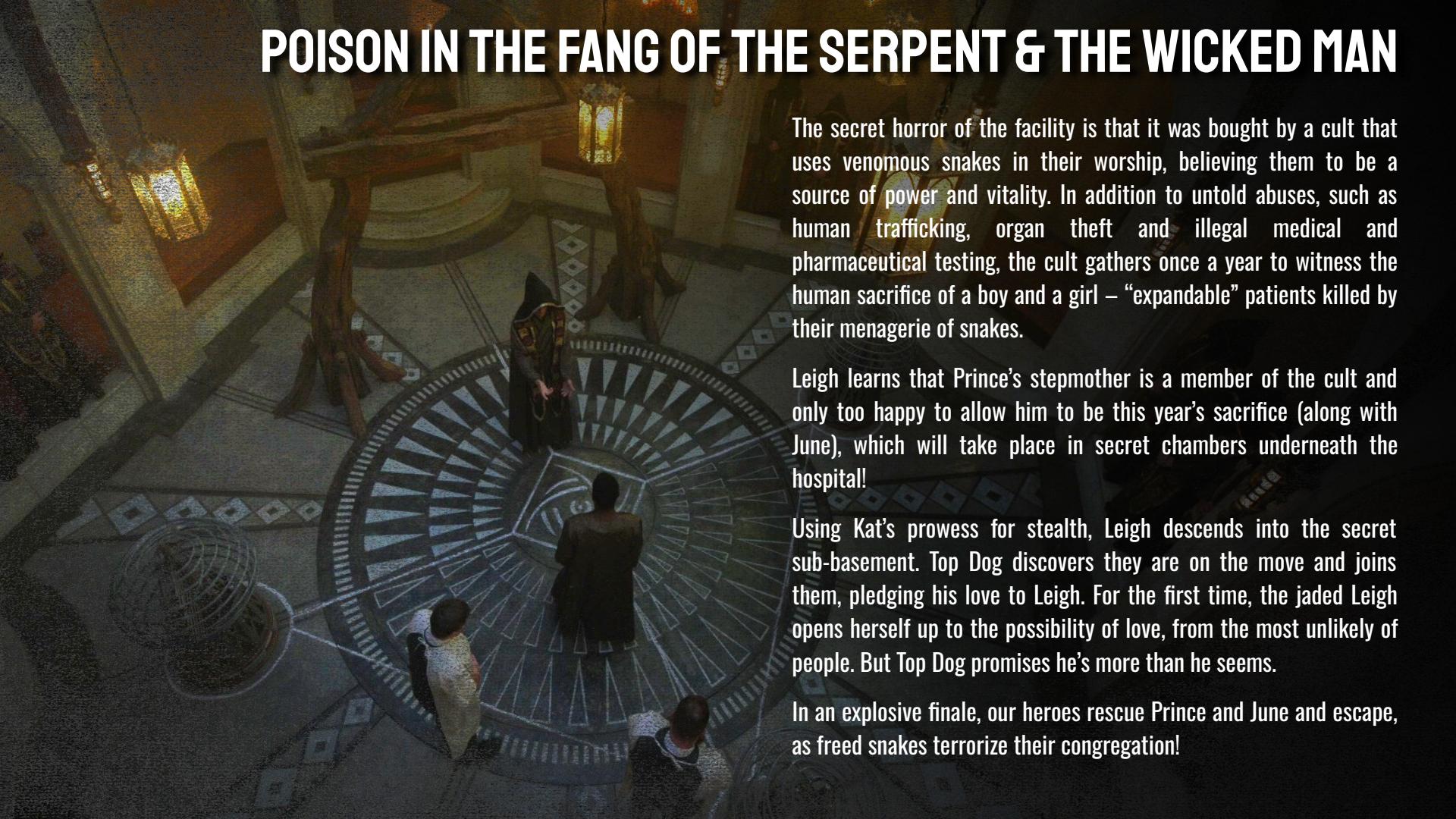
Frantic, Leigh tries to figure out where Dr. Madison took Prince.

It seems like June knows something... only it's not June talking. Using a host of clues sprinkled throughout their interactions, Leigh correctly understands that June is suffering from multiple personality disorder and that her torture at the hands of Dr. Madison has led to a "hidden alter". Leigh is able to awaken this alter, knowing that it holds secrets about the hospital. The new personality, a boy, points Leigh to an elderly patient suffering from dementia.

She approaches him asking about Dr. Madison. He freaks out, raving, smashing through tempered glass, to commit suicide. Leigh steals his personal items in the chaos and learns he is Dr. Hudson, the original doctor of this ward who went mad and was committed as Dr. Madison and his consortium took over the facility. She pieces together that his ravings were a NUMERIC CODE that lets her open a safe in Dr. Madison's office. There, she learns the terrible truth of this facility... and the location of Prince!

As she attempts to tell June about her progress, she discovers that June has also been taken!

# POISON IN THE FANG OF THE SERPENT & THE WICKED MAN



The secret horror of the facility is that it was bought by a cult that uses venomous snakes in their worship, believing them to be a source of power and vitality. In addition to untold abuses, such as human trafficking, organ theft and illegal medical and pharmaceutical testing, the cult gathers once a year to witness the human sacrifice of a boy and a girl – “expandable” patients killed by their menagerie of snakes.

Leigh learns that Prince's stepmother is a member of the cult and only too happy to allow him to be this year's sacrifice (along with June), which will take place in secret chambers underneath the hospital!

Using Kat's prowess for stealth, Leigh descends into the secret sub-basement. Top Dog discovers they are on the move and joins them, pledging his love to Leigh. For the first time, the jaded Leigh opens herself up to the possibility of love, from the most unlikely of people. But Top Dog promises he's more than he seems.

In an explosive finale, our heroes rescue Prince and June and escape, as freed snakes terrorize their congregation!

# CLARITY

Once out, Leigh sees Prince reunited with his mother.

The cult is exposed and disbanded. Dr. Madison is arrested. It's discovered he never had a license to practice medicine.

Leigh admits to Top Dog that she loves him, beyond all reason. As they kiss, he reveals his secret: He's not a gangster or anything of the sort. He's a music producer, who's troubled brother was a patient at the facility who went missing. Sadly, as they rescued Prince, Top Dog learned that his brother was a prior sacrifice.

They move in together, Top Dog resumes his career and they ensure June and Kat get the care they need so they can be released.

Leigh continues to take tough cases, but now she has a life and love to return to.



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# THANK YOU

# RIDI

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