

The Changeling

a series from the minds of Franz Kafka,
Edgar Allan Poe, H.P. Lovecraft
and E.A. Ryan

SOMETHING IS ROTTING UNDER THE FACTORY

And whatever feasts on its body is looking for more food.

Logline: When a young factory worker encounters a creature from another world, his sister swears to cure the blight that stains his flesh. The two must flee their hometown and parents in search of their missing mother.

Their journey takes them across the Northwest Territories, into the oil sands of Northern Alberta, to the city of Edmonton where there's a university that might hold the answers to Leo's worsening condition.

The show is a procedural show with each new episode taking the monster-of-the-week format as Leo, Eva, and Professor Posner travel Canada and meet creatures from the stories of Franz Kafka, Edgar Allan Poe, H.P. Lovecraft, and local Canadian cryptid stories.

The Characters

Leo Hart – Leo Heart was a kid who loved solitude and grew into a man who loves his hometown of Yellowknife. He works at a factory outside of the town. Worsening safety standards at the factory have led to machinery breaking through the floor and revealing a large cavern beneath the factory. Work must go on and management has the workers work around the hole. A Colour is coming from the hole, and when he touches it, the ensuing injury sends him home for the day. Over night, the area of his body that touched the strange colour begins to change.

Leo is ultimately kind-hearted but values time alone chopping wood in his parent's backyard. He loves his family and tries to provide for them as best he can. He supports his sister's interest in biology even if it means she remains unemployed.

Eva Hart – Eva remains aloof and distant from the world since she was kicked out of the University of Alberta three years ago. She was on the precipice of an incredible discovery, a new form of life that had never been observed before. Since childhood Eva has seen angels, or what she thought were angels. She began to apply her interest in the scientific method to work. She found she could extract tissue samples from the beings of light. She presented her findings to numerous professors only to be ignored by all but one: Professor Harriet Posner.

Eva is an aloof and focused scientist who spends her days in the tundra outside of Yellowknife, studying the strange beings of light she has become fond of under the Northern Lights. She loves her brother and wants to prove to him that she has the skill to one day take care of herself. She is a trans woman who transitioned when she was young.

Professor Harriet Posner – Professor Harriet Posner is a biologist who has a symbiotic relationship between her devotion to the scientific method and her Jewish faith. When a young hopeful, Eva Hart, provided her with physical proof of what she claimed to be angels, Professor Posner was both shocked and inspired. When the other professors of biology at the U of A worked together to have Eva kicked out of school on a basis of her mental wellbeing, Professor Posner went to bat for Eva tried to keep her in

Academia. Since Eva's expulsion and the illegal destruction of her evidence, Professor Posner has been trying to find Eva to finish the study.

The Man in the Suit – A mysterious organization pushing the events of the main characters lives around. The organization has inscrutable motives and is represented by The Man in the Suit, a mysterious figure always at the right place at the right time. He follows the trio of main characters as they make their way across the country.

Victor Hart – Victor is Eva's and Leo's father. He is only present in the pilot. He is prideful and acts as the family patriarch.

Margaret Hart – Victor's wife. She is a shut in like her children but appears even more antisocial. She spends her days painting "colours" which she claims to see flowing from the factory.

The Colour – The colour is life unlike anything we understand. It is a shimmering magenta and scarlet that seems to possess a will. It eats the corpses of wildlife, humans, and even greater things. When enough of the colour manifests in one place, it takes a physical mass which it uses to hunt. Anything that touches the Colour begins to change on a cellular level. This is a hunting mechanism for the Colour designed to drive its prey into madness, so the hunt becomes easier.

The Coworkers – Leo's coworkers. They are friendly and let Leo enjoy his solitude. However, when Leo comes to work with an insectoid claw for a hand, many are driven into a panic.

The Angels – The creatures that Eva called Angels. They are beings of light that only certain people connected to the natural world can see. They are sentient beings who act as nature's custodians. They care for plants and animals. They are easy prey for the Colour.

The Elder Ones – Godlike entities from H.P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos. Many of these entities are now dead, killed by beings far more powerful.

Character Arcs

Leo – Leo's character arc is about coming to terms with a changing body that he has little control over. As the Colour spreads further into his body, the metamorphosis is painful and uncontrollable. He eventually learns he has some control. The Colour reacts to the mental image he has of himself, so if he believes he is something, he will become it. This offers little comfort to Leo as he often loses control of his self worth.

His binding thread to the world of humanity is his sister, Eva, who loves him unconditionally and seeks a cure for his changing. They will not find a cure, but instead Leo will come to terms with who he is becoming and learn to be the best person for his loved ones despite that. He also has a romance with a woman named Celeste, who he meets in one of the episodes outlined below.

Eva – Eva is a mad scientist to the world at large. She sees angels and knows she can prove their existence. As her research continues into the angels, she discovers they are a sort of natural guardian in the world that is very vulnerable to the extra dimensional forces that she faces. Her research leads her

to discover tools that can be used to destroy the eldritch, including weapons made with the help of the angels, which seem to have some intelligence of their own.

As Eva learns more of her mother's role in the world as well as the angel's, Eva decides she must defend these seemingly helpless creatures and stands against the eldritch for her family and the world she loves.

Harriet Posner – A biology professor. Harriet is the main character with the most connection to the human world. She is a tenured professor, highly accredited by her peers. She uses the scientific method to battle the eldritch horror that beset her, and she is constantly collecting tissue samples. Slowly but surely, Professor Posner begins to understand the seemingly intangible forces around her. She is the one to discover most of what the trio faces is biological, natural predators to humans who have deviously remained hidden even as human technology advances.

Once she realizes many of her peers are in fact in a cult and actively hiding the truth from her, she begins a quest to make her knowledge of the eldritch known by everyone.



Episode 1:

The Metamorphosis



The Pilot Synopsis

The pilot is loosely based on the story the Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

The story begins with Leo working at the factory while Eva walks beneath the Aurora Borealis, studying various plants under a microscope. We see Leo walk by a group of his coworkers as they complain about unsafe conditions in the workplace. We see Leo working at an assembly line as a machine in the middle of the factory buckles into the floor. A strange being of light approaches Eva. She refers to the being as "Angel." Leo jumps away just as the machine falls into the floor and opens a hole into a cavern beneath the factory.

We see Leo being observed by a man wearing a suit. None of Leo's coworkers seem to notice the strange man.

Eva is waiting at home when Leo arrives. Leo begins to make dinner as Eva greets him. Leo asks Eva to go let their parents know that dinner will be ready soon. Victor yells at Eva when she goes to retrieve him from bed, and Margaret tells Eva about her paints, oil on canvases of strange colours flowing from the factory. Margaret tells Eva of a dream she has been having where the colour consumes the city, leaving it as nothing more than ash.

At the dinner table Victor accosts Eva for being unemployed and unmarried while Leo calmly stands up for her and her scientific studies. Margaret is antisocial and pays no attention to the fighting.

The next day, Leo goes to work to find the hole unrepaired but the factory still running. He begins to work. While working, he sees a strange blob appear next to his workstation. The blob is the same colour as his mother's painting. He reaches out to touch the blob. The blob attaches to his hand and Leo begins to scream. The blob moves up his arm to his elbow, leaving burnt skin behind it. Leo desperately sticks his hand into the machinery of the assembly line, killing the creature. He removes his hand to find it completely unharmed. His supervisor sends him home for the day.

At the same time Eva is observing an Angel when she sees it blink out of existence. She notices the forest is silent and there is a complete absence of wildlife. As she explores further, she finds a massive blob of colour feeding on a dead deer. Eva stops and observes the Colour until it notices her, and she flees home.

At home Ava and Leo talk about their days and slowly realize they saw the same creature. While Leo washes the dishes, he notices he can't separate his index finger from his middle finger or his pinky from his ring finger. He goes to bed concerned.

When he wakes up, he finds his fingers have fused together and now he has three fingers on the hand that was touched by the colour. He visits his mother before going to work and she panics upon seeing his hand. She shares a dream she had of Leo with two insectoid claws instead of fingers on the same hand.

Leo goes to work. His hand begins to hurt. The pain becomes so bad that he runs off the assembly line, into the bathroom and notices something sharp stabbing out of both his fused fingers.

Eva goes to a convenience store and buys some groceries. The clerk acknowledges her as the “crazed biologist who got kicked out of Uni.” Eva leaves in a hurry, leaving behind the groceries.

Leo goes back to work until he can’t bear the pain. He leaves early. At home, he shows the hand to Eva who immediately takes a tissue sample to observe his skin and the spike. She sees the Colour in his skin cells. When she observes the cells of the spike, she finds that they aren’t a cell structure she has seen in humans before.

Victor enters the room in a rage, but Leo finds his changing hand is stronger than his other hand. He easily bests his father without hitting him back once.

End of Act 1

The next day Leo awakens well rested. He is shocked to see his hand is no longer human and is instead a two-pronged insectoid claw. He runs to his mother’s study, which he finds is empty. He looks for his mother throughout the house. He tells Eva their mother is missing before wrapping his claw and insisting he must go to work.

Outside of work, his coworkers are curious about his hand. He tries to hide his claw, but it becomes unwrapped, causing his coworkers to panic and become violent. They force him from factory. As he leaves, Leo notices one of his co-worker’s eyes is an unusual shade of violet.

On his way home, Leo bumps into the Man in the Suit who suggests he may have been responsible for the machine falling into the cavern.

Leo finds Eva studying their mother’s paintings. Leo tells Eva about his co-worker’s eye. Eva concludes that the colour must be responsible and if their mother was right about her dream of the claw then maybe she was right about the Colour coming from the factory too. They decide to go to the factory later that night.

Leo goes back to his room. He sees a phantom image of his old human hand overtop his claw. He finds he can make his old hand more visible if he focuses on the image of it. His focus is broken when his father bursts in and sees the claw, causing Victor to run in terror.

End of Act 2

A car pulls into a Yellowknife convenience store and Harriet exits and asks about Eva. The worker confirms she has met an Eva and hands Harriet the groceries Eva left here earlier along with directions to Eva’s house.

At the same time Leo and Eva sneak into the factory at night. They climb down ropes into the chasm beneath the factory. Initially, they find nothing in the darkness. Everything changes when their

flashlights illuminated a half-rotten corpse of something massive. The creature seemingly has a massive wing splayed under a half rotten head of an octopus. Leo runs in terror. Eva stays and notices the Colour seems to be feeding on the corpse. She finds a massive claw mark on the corpse's chest where the Colour is most concentrated.

Leo runs into the Man in the Suit as he flees. Leo is flung to the ground by some kind of telekinetic power. The Man in the Suit calmly explains to Leo that the corpse is that of Cthulhu, an ancient being that was a god to some. The Man in the Suit disappears as Eva finds Leo. She shows Leo a sample she took of Cthulhu's body. Leo tells Eva about the Man in the Suit and what he said.

Eva and Leo run home and decide to leave Yellowknife to find their mother. Before they can leave, they are attacked by Victor swinging an axe and claiming that if he kills Leo, Margaret will come back and Eva will finally be a good daughter. He claims he will take Leo's job once he's dead and become the man of the house again. Leo runs and doesn't want to hurt his father.

At the same time Professor Posner pulls into the driveway. She goes to knock on the door and hears Eva screaming. She rushes in and fends off a crazed Victor with a gun. Victor runs after Leo and tracks him upstairs. Posner and Eva follow. Posner reaches Victor just in time to see him with his axe lifted over his head and Leo on the floor. Posner threatens to shoot Victor. Victor swings the axe. Posner can't pull the trigger.

Out of instinct, Leo throws out his hands to catch the axe but his new claw tears into his father's stomach. The force of the slash throws Victor into the wall, where he tells Leo he is not a real man before dying from blood loss. Leo becomes hysterical and begins slashing out with his claw and screaming his guilt. He is accidentally cutting himself with his claw repeatedly.

Eva runs up to him and hugs him. He doesn't stop even as she begs him to. He accidentally cuts Eva, and she screams out. Finally, realizing he will hurt Eva, he stops. He tries to flee but Eva won't let go of him. She keeps saying "he had to." Finally, Leo stops trying to escape and lets his sister hug him. They both try not to cry.

Professor Posner explains she wants to help Eva complete her research on the Angels and she thinks it might be related to Leo's arm. She wants to bring Eva back to the University of Alberta to continue to study the physical sample of an Angel that Eva was able to extract years ago. Eva, believing the sample was destroyed, says she wants to continue her research.

Leo says he wants to find his mother first, and Eva ultimately agrees with him. Professor Ponser agrees to travel with the duo as they don't have a car. The trio drives out of Yellowknife towards Behchokǫ.

The Series

Effects

The effects to create Leo's hand would be a physical prop the actor would wear. The effect would be enhanced using CGI. The colour would be a CGI prop and Cthulhu's corpse would be a miniature that the characters would be placed next to using CGI.

Season 1 Episodes

Season 1 Episode x1 – The trio travels to Behchokò where they find the local population being affected by “runoff” from the factory in Yellowknife. The people here are changing to have aquatic features. Eva works with Professor Posner to make something to stop the transformation while Leo seeks out news of his mother. Eva also notices the people’s cells are changing like Leo’s. This episode is roughly based off the H.P. Lovecraft story. This is based off of the Shadow Over Innsmouth by H.P. Lovecraft.

Episode x2 – The trio has to sleep in their car for the night when they run out of gas and are being hunted by massive bestial canines called Adlet. Leo goes out to find help while Eva and Posner discover the Angel’s tissue sample has a cell structure closer to humans than anything else.

Episode x3 – The trio arrives in Fort Providence to find the town empty. Everywhere they go they find piles of black ash. The Man in the Suit appears to tell them that this is what happens when the Colour consumes a city.

Episode x4 – While exploring a Colour sighting outside of Fort St. John, the trio discovers a massive, hairless bear that the locals call a Gumberoo. The Gumeroo hunts the trio but they learn how to kill it.

Episode x5 – The Fall of House Usher Part 1 - Outside of Peace River, in the oilsands, the trio stumbles across the Usher Family Ranch. The area was once a ranch but has since become a fracking organization. When the family discovers Leo’s corruption, they treat him as a prophet of their god.

Episode x6 – The Fall of House Usher Part 2 – The trio tries to stop the Usher family from sacrificing the youngest Usher daughter to the Elder One Azuual. The Trio is able to save the woman, Celeste, who has a brief love affair with Leo. Azuual awakens and pulls the fracking operation into the earth out of spite.

Episode x7 – The trio arrives in Peace River and learn their mother had been there and had headed west into British Columbia.

Episode x8 - They receive guidance from a Nuk-Luk, a seemingly intelligent creature living in the woods.

Episode x9 – As the trio enters British Columbia, they are met by a giant raven who guides them to a nearby Indigenous community that needs their help.

Episode x10 - The Cask of Amontillado – At a bar in Prince George, Eva meets one of the professors who wronged her while he is visiting family. She feigns friendship and uses his sexual attraction to lure him

into Purden Lake Provincial Park where she buries him alive. She rejoins Leo and the professor who are none the wiser.

Episode x11 – The Colour from out of Space Part 1 - Professor Ponser finds shelter for the trio with a friend who moved onto a farm. The trio quickly realizes the Colour is here too. They learn the Colour is coming from the well.

Episode x12 – The Colour from out of Space Part 2 – The trio travel into the well to find Margaret with a strange weapon and the corpse of an Elder One. Margaret reveals she had a vision that she must kill the Elder Ones and has claimed the power to do so. She then disappears as the Colour leaves the well in huge numbers to find more food, reducing the entire farming community to ash.

Episode x13 – The Blackwell Foundation– The trio reunite with Celeste, who is apparently being chased by the Man in the Suit. When Celeste is kidnapped by the Man in the Suit, they are able to follow him as he disappears by grabbing onto him. The trio finds themselves in a bureaucratic nightmare beyond their dimension that is devoted to curbing interdimensional threats. Celeste is on trial for her role in the awakening of Azuual.

Episode x14 – The Blackwell Trial – The trio travels with Celeste to find her father who escaped the destruction of the ranch so he can take Celeste's place in the Blackwell Trial.

Episode x15 – The Blackwell Prison – The episode follows Celeste's father as he begins to take control of a prison for interdimensional threats.

Episode x16 – Opopogo – The trio tracks Margaret into the Okanagan, where tourists are going missing in the water.

Episode x17 – The Conqueror Worm Part 1– The trio tries to fight against a cult in Golden trying to unleash a monster known as the Conqueror Worm. The Angels guide Eva to a clearing where she is given a sword made of plants. Margaret arrives and seemingly wants to help the cult release the Worm.

Episode x18 – The Conqueror Worm Part 2 – Leo and Eva kill the Conqueror Worm before Margaret. Margaret explains she is drawing power from "God himself" and is killing in his name. Based on the poem of the same name by Edgar Allan Poe.

Episode x19 – The trio finally arrives in Edmonton. Posner gets to work in her lab. Leo learns how to control his shapeshifting so he can have a human hand. Eva and Leo go out to Evolution Wonderlounge while Professor Posner studies a tissue sample from Leo's hand. Eva gets seduced by a lesbian vampire named Camilla. Posner witnesses the cells from Leo duplicate and change. Leo loses control when attacked by an urban monster and transforms into his father.

Episode x20 – The Changeling – Leo seeks out the Changeling, a man who apparently suffered the same change Leo has. The man turns out to be friendly and helps Leo turn back into his original body. The Changeling reveals Leo is a Changeling too and his power can transform him into anything he sees himself as.

Episode x21 – The Coven – Eva wakes up in Camilla's dungeon, where her vampire coven attempts to devour Eva. Leo and Posner team up to save Eva only to discover Eva is there consensually and is living out one of her fantasies.

Episode x22 – The trio and Celeste race to secure a magical artifact that will help them fend off the Colour before the Blackwell Foundation can take it away forever.

Episode x23 – The Trial – A flashback story showing how Eva was led to expulsion when she is put on “Academic Trial” for an unknown reason after she shares her findings from studying the Angels. Based on the novel by Franz Kafka.

Episode x24 – The Rabbi – Harriet Posner meets with her Rabbi in Edmonton and attempts to understand her faith in the context of the Elder Ones, who seem almost Godlike in power.

Episode x25 – The University Part 1 – Eva finds the U of A is suspiciously absent of angels. Posner begins comparing the angel tissue sample to that of Elder Ones and learns they have a similar microscopic structure while Leo gets a chance to have a date with Celeste. Eva discovers her mother is on campus and follows her into the tunnels beneath the University where she sees the various professors at the University worshiping an entity made up of crimson light.

Episode x26 – The University Part 2 – Eva witnesses some inscrutable being reach out of the crimson light with a limb with countless teeth along it and devour multiple angels. Eva is discovered. She tries to fight off the cult but is ultimately overpowered by the creature from beyond. Margaret flees from the cult and finds Leo. Leo reaches out to Camilla and tells her that Eva has been captured by a mysterious cult. Posner uses sample material from various Ancient Ones and makes an alloy that can dissolve their flesh. She makes an impromptu blade out of the alloy.

Episode x27 – The University Part 3 – Leo, Posner, Celeste, and Camilla all prepare to get Eva back. They plan to kidnap and interrogate a professor. He reveals Eva is alive and in a ritual room where she will be sacrificed to The Crimson One. The professor then claims the party will never be able to save Eva before she is changed. The professor then dissolves into the Colour.

The party goes to the ritual room where they find Eva stripped of her weapons and chained to a strange symbol. The Crimson Light appears along with the cult. The two groups clash, with the Cult largely being wiped out.

The Colour Emanates from the Crimson Light and consumes the bodies of the professors. Another limb covered in mouths juts out of the light and consumes the Colour. The Crimson One steps out of the Crimson Light. Camilla frees Eva as Margaret attempts to fight The Crimson One. The Crimson One strips Margaret of her power and reveals it was the one who gave Margaret power in the first place, pretending to be God.

Posner stabs the Crimson One with her blade only for it to not work, revealing the Crimson One is something more than the Elder Ones.

The Man in the Suit appears and taunts Leo’s powerlessness. Leo attempts to kill the Man in the Suit but stabs his mother by accident. Leo, seeing himself as a monster, changes into a creature the size of the Crimson One.

The Man in the Suit kidnaps Celeste again and disappears. Leo attacks anything that gets close to him except Eva, who talks down Leo. She says he needs to remember his humanity, but he can’t and tackles The Crimson One back into the Crimson Light. The two vanish, leaving Eva, Harriet Posner, and Camilla to pick up the pieces.

Season 2

Season 2 will be focused on Eva trying to get Leo back. Posner continues her study of the Angels including discovering their true purpose as custodians for an entity that terraformed earth thousands of years ago. Camilla will be pulled between her relationship with Eva and the politics of being a major Vampire Lord in Canada. The Colour continues to spread across Canada and is revealed to be an Elder One that feasts on other Elder Ones as well as mortals. The season ends with the trio freeing Leo from the Crimson and discovering the Crimson One is an entity that feasts on Elder Ones like the Colour. Posner continues to battle with her faith in the face of eldritch horrors that threaten her world.

Season 3

This season follows Leo, Posner, Eva, and Camilla try to stop the Crimson One and The Colour by pitting them against each other and rallying the various supernatural entities and cryptids around Canada. The season ends with The Crimson One being consumed by an even more powerful entity that represents systemic oppression and indirectly controls the Blackwell Foundation and the Canadian Government itself.