

THE CALL OF THE VOID - 307

"DIABLO EX MACHINA"

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**EPISODE SEVEN - DIABLO EX MACHINA**

SCENE ONE

EXT. SOMMER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

*SFX: The Sommer's house burns and crumbles down. We hear Tera burst out from underneath rubble.*

TERA

Goddamn it! Ivy! Zeke! They're getting away!

IVY

We're over here.

*SFX: Zeke groans in pain.*

TERA

What's wrong with him?

IVY

What's wrong with you, blowing up the house like that? We were standing right there.

ZEKE

I can't feel my leg.

TERA

I lit the bomb...when I had to.

ZEKE

We talked about when you were gonna light it.

TERA

They were getting away.

ZEKE

And they still got a way, how about that?

TERA

It wasn't my fault.

ZEKE

Seems like it is to me. Look at me leg!

IVY

We can go after them right now.

ZEKE

How am I supposed to go after them? She did this to me.

*SFX: Tera pulls out her switch blade. She stabs Zeke in the throat and he falls to the ground.*

IVY

Shit.

TERA

You saw what his leg looked like.

IVY

You killed him.

TERA

He would have slowed us down. (Beat) The prophet told us...to bring the blood. And that's by any means necessary. Now get in your truck. They went North. Further they get away, harder it's gonna be for us to follow them.

## OPENING SEQUENCE

SCENE TWO

INT. TOPHER'S CAR - DAY

*SFX: Car sounds, and cars passing occasionally.*

SIMONE

(On phone) Is there...anything left?

TOPHER

We don't know. We think they set off a couple bombs in different areas around the house.

SIMONE

(On phone) Okay. (Beat) I'm glad you're okay.

TOPHER

Yeah.

SIMONE

(On phone) We've been charting a course to JM Labs for you. But the growth of the Darklands is going to make it difficult.

TOPHER

Okay.

SIMONE

(On phone) Your access to US-Highway 62 is going to be taken over so you have to get to the village of Winchester, Ohio before that happens.

ETSY

How much time do we have?

SIMONE

(On phone) Eli, hand me that chart. (Beat) Okay. Our best guess. You have 16 hours. So you have to be there by 6:15pm.

TOPHER

16 hours to get to Winchester, then we still have to get to the lab after that.

SIMONE

(On phone) Yes. There's two different ways. The faster route will get you there in 12 hours and 10 minutes from your current location, but it hugs the Darklands all through Kentucky. The chance of a cryptid attack or hallucinations is very likely if you go that way.

ETSY

What about the other route?

SIMONE

15 hours and 52 minutes.

TOPHER

So...if basically anything goes wrong at all.

SIMONE

(On phone) You wouldn't make it.

TOPHER

(Beat) Etsy?

What?  
ETSY

Your call.  
TOPHER

*SFX: A car passes.*

(Beat) We should go the faster route.  
ETSY

(On phone) I'll text you the directions.  
SIMONE

Alright. Keep us updated if anything changes.  
TOPHER

(On phone) I will.  
SIMONE

I think as long as we keep moving, we'll be alright. Be safe.  
TOPHER

You too.  
SIMONE

*SFX: Phone call ends.*

(Beat) Are you okay?  
ETSY

Our house is gone.  
TOPHER

I'm so sorry. It's my fault they came here.  
ETSY

It's alright. It's just, um...something you don't think you'll ever see. I don't even know if there's anything left to return to, you know? That's the strange part. (Beat) Do you think they survived the explosion?  
TOPHER

If they did they could still be following us.  
ETSY

TOPHER

If we keep moving we should be fine.

ETSY

We can trade off driving every couple hours if you'd like.

TOPHER

Sounds good. (Beat). 12 hours and 6 minutes to go.

*SFX: Etsy curls up in her seat. She falls asleep.*

SCENE THREE

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - NIGHT

*SFX: Ocean waves, seagulls call in the distance. A wooden wheel-barrel rolling across loose stones.*

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Oh-ho! Why don't you blow  
High-O! Come roll me over.  
One girl to strike the bell...

*SFX: Etsy breaths awake.*

ETSY

I'm here again.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Aye.

ETSY

What is this place?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

The old thunder's rising out there. I feel the winds changing for the worse.

*SFX: Etsy gets up from the ground.*

ETSY

There's a storm coming.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

A whole beast. A torrent of foam and spray, fit to swallow the Island whole.

*SFX: Stars rain down.*

ETSY

The stars. They're falling down again.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Across the whole heavens.

ETSY

They're beautiful.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

They rise and fall. To burn and to fade. Same as you and I. And the fade is coming. The tide will rise ere long. (Beat) Keep your eye upon the stars even in the last.

ETSY

What happens then? In the end?

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Look.

*SFX: A star storm rises.*

ETSY

The stars are so bright. (Beat) There's something coming through the light.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Aye. She stands tempest-like in the tide. Foam and sea rising to knock on my door. Something ancient and just as old in her.

ETSY

What is that? There's a figure. Coming through the light.

*SFX: Car door opens suddenly.*

SCENE FOUR  
INT. TOPHER'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Hey.  
TOPHER

Topher.  
ETSY

Sorry to wake you up.  
TOPHER

*SFX: Car door closes.*

Where are we?  
ETSY

We're outside of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. I had to stop for gas. And I got a backpack with some water and snacks.  
TOPHER

Do you want me to drive again?  
ETSY

I'm okay for now. We're just a few hours away.  
TOPHER

*SFX: Topher starts the car and begins to drive.*

You haven't had much sleep.  
ETSY

Neither have you. (Beat) Are you okay?  
TOPHER

Yeah. (Beat) I keep having this dream. I'm on a cliff and there's a lighthouse. It always seems so familiar. And every time it ends with this cascade of stars falling from the sky.  
ETSY

Like a meteor shower?  
TOPHER

Kind of. But closer to the earth, I guess. This time, there was this figure that stepped out of the light. I couldn't make them out but...I don't know, I just felt this weird peace.  
ETSY



TOPHER

They say our dreams are a manifestation of our subconscious.

ETSY

(Beat) I guess everything's good them.

*SFX: They both laugh quietly.*

TOPHER

What is that truck doing?

ETSY

I don't know.

*SFX: The truck revs behind them.*

TOPHER

It's getting really close.

ETSY

Can we just go a little faster?

*SFX: The truck smashes into their bumper.*

TOPHER

Whoa, why did they hit us? Hold on...

IVY

(Shouting) Hey! You better pull over! Pull that car over!

TOPHER

Is that one of the...

ETSY

Ex-cult maniacs? Yeah.

TOPHER

Is she talking to us?

IVY

(Shouting) I'll run you straight off a cliff if I have to!

ETSY

I don't think she's talking to anyone else.

*SFX: The truck smashes into the bumper again.*

ETSY

Must go faster. Must go faster.

TOPHER

Why do we always have such bad experiences in cars together?

ETSY

Topher, she's coming around to your left.

*SFX: Car smashes again.*

ETSY

Can you go any faster?

TOPHER

I'm going as fast as I can.

*SFX: Car smashes, window breaks.*

TOPHER

Oh my God.

*SFX: Their car rolls off the road. It flips and smashes to the ground on its side. Air bags, beeping, and glass falling everywhere. Topher and Etsy breath heavily as they recover.*

ETSY

Are you dead?

TOPHER

No. Are you?

ETSY

(Beat) I don't think so... Can you push the door open>

*SFX: Topher pushes the car door open. He climbs out. Etsy follows.*

TOPHER

Can you make it out?

ETSY

Yeah.

*SFX: Etsy jumps to the ground.*

TOPHER

Where's her truck?

ETSY

It flipped too. Over there.

TOPHER

Should we... we can't just leave her.

ETSY

Okay. Yeah.

*SFX: They walk to the truck. Topher reaches inside.*

TOPHER

Hey, ma'am? Grab onto me, okay?

IVY

There's a frost coming in.

TOPHER

We're going to get you out, okay?

IVY

Mama, can you close the window?

TOPHER

Do you know where you are, ma'am?

IVY

He said it was the darkest day of the year. The longest night. Is that true?

TOPHER

Grab my hand, okay? I'm going to pull you out...

IVY

I'm sorry I didn't stay, mama.

*SFX: Ivy dies.*

TOPHER

M'am?

Topher. ETSY

M'am? TOPHER

Let's go. (Beat) Topher. ETSY

She was...I was holding her. I was going to get her out, I was... TOPHER

It's okay. Hey. (Beat) You did everything you could. ETSY

*SFX: Footsteps. Topher sighs.*

My car doesn't look so good. Can we...turn it back over? TOPHER

We can try. ETSY

*SFX: They get into position to push the car.*

Okay, ready? TOPHER

One, two...push. ETSY

Push... TOPHER

*SFX: They push. It doesn't work.*

One more time. TOPHER

*SFX: They push again with all their strength. This time the car turns back over with a loud crash. Topher and Etsy breath heavily.*

*SFX: Etsy sits down in the car and turns the keys in the ignition. With some difficulty, it starts.*

ETSY

Oh my God, oh my God....It still starts. (Beat) Okay. The dashboard lights are on. Technically, they're okay unless they're blinking.

*SFX: Engine starts to sputter. Lights make a blinking sound.*

ETSY

Well...never mind. And now the engine is smoking.

TOPHER

We passed an auto shop a couple miles back.

ETSY

Okay.

TOPHER

Do we have time for this?

ETSY

We certainly don't have time to walk.

#### SCENE FIVE

#### INT. JACKO'S AUTO AND TACO SHOP - LATER

*SFX: Car pulls into an auto shop as reggae music plays from shop speakers.*

TOPHER

It's open, right?

ETSY

The open sign is on.

TOPHER

Hello? (Beat) Is anyone there?

*SFX: A distant crash of pots and pans. Jacko steps out from a back room.*

JACKO

Hi. Can I help you folks?

TOPHER

Yeah. My name is Topher Sommers. I was wondering if you could look at my car?

JACKO

Your...car?

TOPHER

Um. Are you...you're not an auto shop?

JACKO

Oh...OH! Oh, yeah. Yeah, We are. We look at cars. Sorry, I was just making some tacos in the back. We sell tacos. We *also* sell tacos. In addition to car things. I'm Jacko.

TOPHER

Okay.

JACKO

It's just sort of a...you know, a two for one, tacos and cars sort of....uh, so what seems to be the problem with your car?

TOPHER

Well, here it is.

JACKO

Oh wow.

*SFX: A hubcap falls and rolls.*

JACKO

Ugh....Okay. Got a lot of bumps and bruises on this, huh?

TOPHER

I...got it used.

JACKO

Got the 2-55 AC installed, I see.

TOPHER

The what?

JACKO

You know, because you have the two broken windows so when you're going 55 on a backroad, it's like...you know, air conditioning.

*SFX: A long pause. Too long.*

ETSY

I'm going to pop the hood.

JACKO

That would be good. Yeah. Ummm...That's usually where...uh, where you want to start with these things.

*SFX: Hood clicks opens.*

TOPHER

It started making this kind of sputtering sound while we were on the road.

JACKO

Oh. Goodness. The dreaded sputtering sound, am I right? That's...that's never what you want.

*SFX: Jacko tinkers with the car.*

JACKO

Huh....yup, the front carbonator still have fluid. Engine thrusters look good. Honestly, folks, I'm stumped on this one.

ETSY

Can I take a look?

JACKO

Sure.

*SFX: Etsy examines under the hood quickly.*

ETSY

The timing belt is broken.

JACKO

Oh....How un-*timely*. Hahah....

ETSY

Do you have a replacement?

JACKO

Hah....Oh, yeah, sure.

ETSY

Fuses actually look alright. Do you have a fuel pressure gage?

A what?  
JACKO

It's right here.  
ETSY

Oh, yeah. You're welcome to use that.  
JACKO

*SFX: Etsy screws on the gage.*

Can you turn the car on for a second, Topher?  
ETSY

Yeah.  
TOPHER

*SFX: Topher turns the car on.*

Hm. No pressure at all. That's weird.  
JACKO

You can turn it off now. Do you know if you can access your fuel system from the trunk?  
ETSY

Um, I'm not sure.  
TOPHER

I'm sliding under the car for a second.  
ETSY

Okay.  
TOPHER

*SFX: Etsy slides under the car and tinkers. She gets up quickly after a moment.*

So, the fuel pump is broken. That's probably the biggest issue right now.  
ETSY

Uh yeah, I'd concur.  
JACKO

Do you know how to replace that?  
ETSY



JACKO

Oh, yeah. Yeah! Yeah. No problem. Easy. Do...so, um, just the fuel pump and the conveyer belt then.

ETSY

The timing belt.

JACKO

Right! And was there anything else you folks needed? We have a Cajun Thunder Special going on right now.

TOPHER

A what?

JACKO

Tacos.

ETSY

(Beat) I think we're good.

JACKO

Alright. Well....then, let me see here....fuel pump plus labor...belt replacement...that's a four, and...carry the two and.....No, uhhh.... alright, so... \$775.89.

TOPHER

Okay. I'll pay for that now. How fast do you think you can do it?

JACKO

Oh, just about an hour or so. There's a diner across the street if you folks want to hang tight. I highly recommend their... Bahama Sunrise Mimosa.

TOPHER

Um, okay. Sure.

*SFX: Footsteps.*

SCENE SIX  
INT. COUNTRY DINER - LATER

*SFX: Ding of a front door. Tony whistles London Bridge is Falling Down as he steps into the small, country diner.*

MARGIE

Oope. Sherriff's in the building, folks.

TONY THE SHERIFF

Hide your firearms and contraband.

*SFX: Margie laughs. She pours a cup of coffee.*

MARGIE

What can I get for you, Tony?

TONY THE SHERIFF

Y'all still have your spring specials?

MARGIE

Let me see. (Calling back) Hey Burt, we still making spring specials this month or what?

BURT

*(From a distance)* It's not spring anymore.

MARGIE

I guess that's a no.

*SFX: Tony sits down.*

TONY THE SHERIFF

That's alright. I'm looking at the...farmers breakfast up there.

MARGIE

We can do something like that. Let me just run this bill out to these two in the corner, yeah?

TONY THE SHERIFF

Sure, sure.

*SFX: Footsteps. Dishes being gathered.*

MARGIE

Was there anything else I can get you two? We want some coffee?

TOPHER

I think we're all set. Thanks though.

MARGIE

You just pay up at the counter when you're ready, okay hun?

TOPHER

You bet. (Beat) It seems so normal here.

ETSY

Yeah.

TOPHER

I think the Darklands are spreading so fast people don't have time to react.

ETSY

How much time has it been?

TOPHER

We should probably give him another 15 minutes. (Beat) I didn't know you knew so much about cars.

ETSY

Oh. Yeah. Well, I worked at an auto shop for a couple months last winter. And I've re-wired Mason's car like five times.

*SFX: Topher laughs.*

ETSY

You said this is Elizabethtown?

TOPHER

Yeah.

ETSY

How much time do we have?

TOPHER

We're okay. If we're able to leave here within half an hour, we'll make it to Winchester. And assuming we get there in time, we'll have a straight shot to the lab. (Beat) You're thinking something.

ETSY

What if there's more too it than just destroying the lab?

TOPHER

Then you won't be alone. (Beat) I think the worst of it is behind us.

*SFX: Ding of a front door.*

ETSY

Topher.

TOPHER

What?

ETSY

She just walked in.

TOPHER

Who?

*SFX: Topher shifts in his seat.*

MARGIE

You can sit anywhere you want, hun.

TERA

Great. (Beat) Hm! Y'all got a jukebox on the wall there.

MARGIE

We sure do.. Feel free to drop a quarter.

TERA

Well, I just picked one up from the sidewalk out there. Must be my lucky day.

*SFX: Tera walks to the jukebox, drops a quarter, and retro music starts playing.*

ETSY

She just saw us.

TOPHER

Okay. Um...okay, there's a side door. I'll just pay at the table.

ETSY

Okay.

*SFX: Topher lays out cash on the table. The two of them sneak towards the door.*

MARGIE

You have to pay for your meal, hun. Hun?

TOPHER

We put the cash on the table.

TONY THE SHERIFF

Hey. Did you two pay for your food?

TOPHER

We put the cash on the table.

MARGIE

You have to pay through the register up here.

TONY THE SHERIFF

You can't just dine and ditch.

ETSY

We weren't trying to dine and ditch.

TOPHER

No, I put the cash on the table.

MARGIE

We need a copy for our records. So you have to pay up here.

TONY THE SHERIFF

You can't leave without paying, kid.

TOPHER

We're not trying to leave without paying.

TONY THE SHERIFF

You have to pay for your meal.

*SFX: Tony moves towards them.*

ETSY

You have to stay away from me.

TONY THE SHERIFF

Excuse me, miss?

TOPHER

Sir. Please. Really, just...don't touch her.

TONY THE SHERIFF

Step out of my way.

TOPHER

I can't do that, sir. Please...I need you to...we put the cash on the table. We put the cash on the table.

TERA

We got some kind of commotion going on over here?

TONY THE SHERIFF

Ma'am. Return to your seat, I can handle this situation on my own, thank you.

TERA

Well, here she is in all her glory. Etsy Delmen.

TONY THE SHERIFF

Ma'am, I am an armed officer, I won't be asking you again. Go back to your seat.

TERA

You're standing in MY WAY! You're standing in the way of an angel of darkness.

TONY THE SHERIFF

Sit down! I said sit down!

ETSY

You don't want to aggravate her.

TOPHER

You need to let us go right now, okay? We need to get out of this place...

TONY THE SHERIFF

Back in your seat! I don't want to pull my gun...

*SFX: Switch blade clicks..*

TONY THE SHERIFF

Ma'am!

TERA

You gotta die.

*SFX: Tera stabs Tony in the throat. He falls to the ground.*

Oh my God. Oh my God.

TOPHER

Burt, call 911!

MARGIE

*SFX: Tera grabs Tony's gun.*

ETSY

Topher, get down! Under the table.

TERA

Now, I got the cop's gun, What are y'all going to do about it, huh?

*SFX: Margie arms a shotgun.*

Get out of my diner, lady.

MARGIE

TERA

You keep pointing that barrel at me, somethin's gonna happen.

*SFX: Margie fires at Tera. Window glass breaks Tera fires back. They begin a shoot out.*

I said get out!

MARGIE

ETSY

Can we get to the door?

TOPHER

I don't know.

*SFX: Tera shoots Margie, who falls to the ground as Tera continues shooting. Tera walks towards her slowly.*

Need me to shoot you again?

ETSY

We run right now.

Okay.

TOPHER

*SFX: Topher and Etsy run towards the door. Tera begins shooting at them again.*

Topher!

ETSY

Get down! Right here!

TOPHER

I'm getting real tired of you trying to walk out on me.

TERA

She's blocking the door.

ETSY

We could charge her. Clear the path.

TOPHER

We playing hide and seek, or what?

TERA

*SFX: Tera takes a few more shots.*

Can we move this table?

ETSY

I think so.

TOPHER

We turn it over and we charge her.

ETSY

Okay.

TOPHER

Now!

ETSY

*SFX: They overturn the table and charge at Tera. Tera is pinned.*

TERA

Get this table off me!



Run! TOPHER

Son of a BITCH! TERA

*SFX: Tera shoots a few more shots as Topher and Etsy run out of the diner.*

SCENE SEVEN  
INT. JACKO'S AUTO AND TACO SHOP - LATER

*SFX: Sounds of DRILLS and METAL PARTS MOVING.*

(Yelling for him) Jacko! ETSY

Are you here? Where are you? TOPHER

Oh, hey. You're back. JACKO

We need our car. TOPHER

Oh, yeah, just finishing up. I was going to give it a little wash up too. JACKO

We'll pass on the wash. ETSY

Do you have the keys? TOPHER

Yeah. Right....Oh. One second, huh, yeah, oh.... JACKO

Where? TOPHER

JACKO

Huh. They were here a second ago.

ETSY

Where are the keys?

JACKO

Oh. I got them in my pocket here.

TOPHER

Thank you.

JACKO

Drive safe out there.

*SFX: Topher and Etsy get into their car and peel out of the garage.*

TERA

Don't y'all drive away from me!

*SFX: Tera shoots at the car. Glass breaks.*

ETSY

Holy shit.

TOPHER

She's still firing at us.

*SFX: Tera empties the gun of bullets.*

TERA

Son of a BITCH!

*SFX: She throws it on the ground and screams in frustration.*

SCENE EIGHT

INT. TOPHER'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

*SFX: The rush of the road.*

And that was Elizabethtown.  
TOPHER

*SFX: Distant police siren.*

There's police lights ahead.  
ETSY

Yeah, I see them too. (Beat) It's a road block.  
TOPHER

Did we just cause that?  
ETSY

Probably. (Beat) I'm going to call Simone.  
TOPHER

*SFX: Dialing on phone. Simone answers.*

(On phone) Hello?  
SIMONE

Simone, there's a road block.  
TOPHER

(On phone) What do you mean?  
SIMONE

We're outside of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The only way we can get out is if we stay on I-65.  
TOPHER

(On phone) You can't do that. That goes through Cincinnati.  
SIMONE

Is that a problem?  
TOPHER

(On phone) Cincinnati is gone.  
SIMONE

Like it's...  
TOPHER

(On phone) It's gone. There are...a lot of places are gone now.  
SIMONE

TOPHER

Okay, um. Are there any roads, any back roads that would lead us there. (Beat) Country roads. There has to be something.

SIMONE

(On phone) Here, I'm going to put Eli on for a second.

ELI

(On phone) What? Oh. Oh, hey. Hi. I'm Eli.

TOPHER

Topher.

ETSY

Etsy.

ELI

(On phone) Nice to meet you.

TOPHER

You too.

*SFX: An awkward lull.*

ELI

(On phone) So, uh....how's your day going?

TOPHER

Not great.

ELI

(On phone) Okay. Um...okay, so you guys could go from Bardstown to...what is that place called, Shelbyville?

SIMONE

(On phone) I'm calculating the time for that now.

ELI

(On phone) Okay, um...From Shelbyville to Frankfort, country roads to Sadieville, up to Dry Ridge and then cut east through Ripley to Winchester. I don't know if you're going to have time for that, Simone is...

SIMONE

(On phone) Give me a second.

ELI

(On phone) Okay. Uh. (Beat) She's almost done.

SIMONE

(On phone) Alright. I'll take the phone back. It looks like...it's going to add an hour and 23 minutes to the trip.

TOPHER

Okay...

SIMONE

(On phone) You have to go 5 hours and 18 minutes in just under 5 hours.

TOPHER

So we have to speed.

SIMONE

(On phone) Yes. You need to speed. You need to be in Winchester, Ohio in 5 hours or you're not going to make it.

TOPHER

We can do it.

SIMONE

(On phone) You have to ride along the Darklands multiple times, Topher. The likelihood of seeing a Night Gaunt is...is pretty high.

TOPHER

Text us the route when you can.

SIMONE

(On phone) I will.

*SFX: Phone call ends.*

ETSY

Okay.

*DRAMATIC MUSIC RISES*

SCENE NINE  
INT. TOPHER'S CAR - LATER

*SFX: Car passes.*

ETSY

What time is it?

TOPHER

6:13pm. We have two minutes.

ETSY

There's just another mile to Winchester.

TOPHER

It's going to be close.

ETSY

Yeah.

TOPHER

But I think we're going to make it.

ETSY

Topher.

TOPHER

Yeah?

*SFX: Cars passing.*

ETSY

The cars are all coming back this way.

TOPHER

What?

ETSY

Watch out.

*SFX: Car swerves.*

TOPHER

They're driving in both lanes to get out of town?

*SFX: Car passes, honking..*

Look. ETSY

The Darklands. TOPHER

The road ends here. ETSY

No. It has to be open. TOPHER

*SFX: Cars continue to honk as they zoom past them.*

We need to get off the road. ETSY

I'm pulling over. TOPHER

SCENE TEN

EXT. INTERSTATE 32 - MOMENTS LATER

*SFX: Topher dials his phone.*

Simone? TOPHER

(On phone) (Broken reception) Topher? Topher... SIMONE

I can't really hear you. TOPHER

(On phone) Is this better? SIMONE

Sort of. TOPHER

SIMONE

(On phone) I've been calling for the last thirty minutes.

TOPHER

The service must be bad. The Darklands are growing faster than we thought.

SIMONE

(On phone) I know. It's grown exponentially.

TOPHER

It cut off Winchester before we could get there.

SIMONE

(On phone) Are you both alright?

TOPHER

What's the next road we can take, Simone?

SIMONE

(On phone) Topher, there aren't any.

TOPHER

What do you mean?

SIMONE

(On phone) That was the last road. There isn't another road that leads to the lab that hasn't been swallowed.

TOPHER

No side roads? Or a back alley? We could go back before we go forward...

SIMONE

(On phone) There's nothing, Topher.

ETSY

What if we walked?

TOPHER

(Beat) What?

ETSY

How much further is it, if we walked?

SIMONE

(On phone) It's 14 miles, but a walking route avoiding the Darklands is going to be longer than that.



ETSY

But is there one?

SIMONE

(On phone) (Beat) Maybe.

ETSY

We can do it, Topher. We can do this.

*SFX: Topher turns the car off.*

TOPHER

Okay. (Beat) Okay, Simone, we're going to walk it.

SIMONE

(On phone) Do you have a compass?

TOPHER

Yeah.

SIMONE

(On phone) Alright. Start out by going Northeast. 5.6 miles. There's a park called Tranquility State Wildlife Area.

TOPHER

Okay.

SIMONE

(On phone) You'll have to walk through forests, cut through yards. Maybe through streams, over fences. Once you get to the park, follow the Ohio Brush Creek eastward until it forks. That's where the lab is. I'll text you more details as we get them.

TOPHER

Okay. Thank you.

SIMONE

(On phone) Be safe.

TOPHER

Okay.

*SFX: Phone call ends.*

ETSY

14 miles.

TOPHER  
Give or take. I'll get the backpack.

JONAH  
Etsy.

ETSY  
(Startled) Stop.

TOPHER  
What was that?

JONAH  
You're growing weaker.

TOPHER  
Etsy? Are you alright?

ETSY  
Yeah.

JONAH  
Hour by hour the darkness grows deeper within you.

ETSY  
Let's start walking.

*SFX: Footsteps.*

JONAH  
You will surrender to me.

SCENE ELEVEN  
EXT. FOREST PATH - LATER

*SFX: Footsteps walking in the woods. Etsy is struggling.*

TOPHER  
Watch your step. It's slippery.

I'm good.

ETSY

There's a little path or something here.

TOPHER

It's going the right way?

ETSY

Yeah. To the left.

TOPHER

You walk ahead. I don't want to. The path is narrow.

ETSY

Alright.

TOPHER

*SFX: Etsy collapses to the ground.*

Etsy! Etsy!

TOPHER

I'm okay.

ETSY

What's wrong?

TOPHER

I just lost my step.

ETSY

Oh my god. Your hands. The markings on your skin. How long have they been like this?

TOPHER

*SFX: Etsy breaths heavily in exhaustion.*

Is it...under your sleeves, is it...

TOPHER

*SFX: Etsy rolls up her sleeves.*

(Beat) Okay.

TOPHER

ETSY

I'll be alright.

TOPHER

No, hey. It's okay. Hey, here, take some water.

*SFX: Backpack unzips.*

ETSY

Are we almost to the creek?

TOPHER

Just about another quarter mile, but we can stop. Maybe if we stop now...

ETSY

We can't stop here. The Darklands are right beside us. They're going to start to affect us if we slow down. I can make it to the creek.

*SFX: Etsy stops walking suddenly. She turns around.*

Topher? (Beat) Topher!

*SFX: Uneasy footsteps. Etsy is scared.*

ETSY

Topher? TOPHER! Where are you?

*SFX: Heavy footsteps.*

NECROMON

The Darkness has delivered you unto me. And I unto you.

ETSY

Necromon.

NECROMON

How long it has been, priestess.

### CLOSING SEQUENCE