

INSERT: BLACK SCREEN

A baby's CRY can be heard in the distance.

FADE IN:

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S YARD/INT. VIVIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

The camera pans slowly toward a WINDOW. The closer we get to the window, the louder the CRYING becomes. We go through the glass into a dark room.

The soft glow of a NIGHT LIGHT illuminates a woman, DAPHNE CANNER (31). We see her from the back. She stands next to a CRIB and rocks a BUNDLE OF BLANKETS back and forth.

We focus in on a FRAMED PRAYER that hangs on the wall above her.

DAPHNE
(whispering)
SHHHH, it's okay, baby. It'll all
be okay, I promise.

We see the baby, VIVIAN CANNER (9 months) from Daphne's POV.

She's inconsolable. She flails her little hands around, causing the CRUCIFIX NECKLACE that hangs from Daphne's neck to swing.

Daphne strokes the child's cheek.

We now see Daphne head-on. Tears stream down her face. She squeezes her eyes shut tight, takes a deep BREATH, and SOBS silently. She hugs Vivian closer.

EXT. ST. MARGARET'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

PAUL CANNER (34) holds open the large wooden DOORS of the church for his wife, who pushes an elegant STROLLER.

The cloudy day reflects their moods - somber, glum. The pair and their daughter are met with sympathetic eyes by the other church-goers.

Daphne keeps her head down to avoid their gazes.

A woman from the church, NANCY (52) touches Paul's arm as they walk by, and he turns to her.

NANCY
How's she doing, Paul?

PAUL

No improvements yet, but we're hopeful.

The woman shakes her head.

NANCY

I'm so sorry. I can imagine how hard-

DAPHNE

No, you can't!

NANCY

I-I'm...you're right, I can't, I-

PAUL

It's okay Nancy, we appreciate your concern.

Nancy puts her hands on Daphne's that rest on the stroller handle.

NANCY

I'm sorry, dear. I'll keep her in my prayers.

Daphne softens, and wipes at a tear on her cheek.

DAPHNE

Thank you, Nancy.

They share a smile.

INT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paul sits on the COUCH and watches the TELEVISION. He brings a bottle of BEER to his lips.

Behind him, Daphne paces and holds a PHONE to her ear.

DAPHNE

We won't know more until Tuesday, Mom.

Paul turns the TV up a couple of notches with the REMOTE.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

I don't know, probably take more blood, more needles, I-I just don't want to think about it until then, okay?

(MORE)

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

 All I do is hope and pray, and I-I
 can't think, I can't eat, I can't
 sleep, I just-

A large CRASH explodes from upstairs.

Daphne and Paul whip their heads toward the sound. She looks at him with panick in her eyes as she drops the phone with a CLANG to the floor.

Paul is up from the couch in an instant and runs toward the stairs, Daphne at his heels.

INT. VIVIAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The pair are up the stairs and scramble around the corner to Vivian's room, but are stopped in their tracks.

Daphne SHRIEKS in horror and covers her mouth at the sight.

Paul stares in shock, but shakes it off and collects himself. He runs to Vivian's crib, lifts her out, and returns to Daphne's side.

Laying on the floor next to the smashed GLASS from the window is a very strange thing with enormous wings. It bleeds and twitches in pain.

One of its wings are crumpled against the floor, the other is caught in the rigged broken glass where the window once was. Loose feathers cascade down all around the room.

The creature has the silhouette of the legendary MOTHMAN, but it's skin could only be described as whale-like, like blubber. Its head is long and comes to a point at the back.

Paul hands Vivian off to Daphne.

 PAUL

 Go! Get her out of here!

Daphne obliges wordlessly, and slips out of the room with Vivian pressed against her chest.

Paul closes the door behind them so the creature is locked in the room.

 PAUL (CONT'D)

 Hey!

The creature doesn't move from its spot on the floor.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 (louder)
 Hey!

Paul waits for a response, but again, nothing.

He makes his way slowly and cautiously to the creature. He gives it a nudge with his SLIPPER.

Suddenly, Vivian's cries are heard from downstairs; this startles the creature. It begins to flap its wings and struggle to move.

Paul runs to Vivian's crib, grabs a large BLANKET from inside, and covers the creature with it. He puts his weight on it to hold it down.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 Daphne!

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S YARD - DAY

CREATURE'S POV:

The screen flutters, like eyes blinking, until we open on a severely sunny day.

We look around and see we are in a large CAGE.

Staring into the cage with suspicious eyes is Paul. He crosses his arms as he studies the creature.

He watches as the creature looks up to the window it crashed into last night, then at its long, spindly hands and observes the cuts and dried blood. It then looks at Paul.

END POV

PAUL
 What are you?

They continue to stare at each other, motionless.

Suddenly, Vivian cries aloud inside, and it carries through the open window.

The creature goes berserk and flies toward the sound, but HITS the cage walls hard and tumbles to the ground.

CREATURE'S POV:

Its eyes again flutter as it falls unconscious.

Paul looks at the creature with distaste as he walks back into the house.

END POV

INT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S KITCHEN - DAY

Paul walks into the kitchen through the backdoor.

Daphne sits at the kitchen TABLE and tries to console Vivian.

PAUL

I don't know what we're gonna do with that thing, Daph.

Vivian quiets as she dozes off.

DAPHNE

What happened out there? I heard a lot of ruckus.

Paul pulls out the CHAIR beside Daphne and rubs his hands through his hair.

PAUL

Nothing at all, until Viv started crying. You should've seen the thing! It went crazy and knocked itself out!

Daphne opens her eyes wide.

DAPHNE

Do you think the noise startled it?

Paul makes an uneasy face.

PAUL

We can hope.

DAPHNE

And what do you mean by that?

Paul looks out the window at the creature lying face-down in the sun.

PAUL

Let's just say that I'm...curious of its intentions.

Daphne watches her husband with concern. She hugs her baby just a bit closer.

INT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S KITCHEN - LATER

Daphne does dishes at the kitchen sink. A DISH TOWEL hangs on her shoulder as she scrubs at a pan with a SPONGE.

We see Paul in the living room on his LAPTOP over Daphne's shoulder.

Vivian begins to CRY from upstairs. Daphne SIGHS and turns the tap off.

The creature catches her eye outside as it reacts to Vivian's cries like before - it flails around in its CAGE.

Daphne looks between the window and Paul.

He focuses on his computer screen.

DAPHNE

Paul, would you mind going up there? I'm soaked from these dishes.

Paul sets his laptop down on the COFFEE TABLE.

PAUL

Sure, sweetie.

Daphne waits for Paul to get up the stairs, then rips her yellow RUBBER GLOVES off. She throws the towel off her shoulder, and runs to the backdoor.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Daphne tears through the backdoor and races to the CAGE where the creature still panics as Vivian's CRIES echo out through her open bedroom window.

Daphne puts her hands out in front of her.

DAPHNE

(worried)

Hey, hey! Stop that, you're gonna hurt yourself! It's okay!

Vivian's WALLS turn to SNIFFLES until they die out completely.

As soon as the backyard falls silent, the creature stills and settles onto the ground.

Daphne looks up at Vivian's bedroom window, then back to the creature.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
Was that too loud for you?

The creature and Daphne stare at each other.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
You know what-

She holds a finger up as she walks to the backdoor.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Daphne reemerges from the house with two large PANS in her hands.

She scurries to the cage, and kneels in front of the creature.

DAPHNE
I'm sorry, but I need to know.

She BANGS the pans together repeatedly and watches the creature.

It doesn't move from its spot in the middle of the cage. In fact, it looks bored.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
(between pan hits)
Why--are you--not--afraid?

PAUL
Daphne! Stop! What are you doing?

Paul stands just outside the backdoor and watches Daphne with confused anger. Vivian sits on his hip.

Daphne doesn't hear Paul and continues to CLANG the pans.

PAUL (CONT'D)
(louder)
Daphne!

Daphne turns around and sees Paul and Vivian. She drops the pans.

DAPHNE
Paul, I'm-

Vivian begins to CRY, and the creature zooms around the cage once more.

PAUL

It's gotta go. Look at what it's doing! It's deranged!

Daphne marches to Paul and snatches Vivian from his arms.

DAPHNE

Don't you dare do a thing. Look at how it responds to her cries! It loves her, Paul. It doesn't like when she's sad, they're-they're connected somehow. It's here to make all of this go away!

Paul face-palms.

PAUL

Do you realize how crazy you sound right now? We have no idea what this thing wants or where it came from! For all we know, it's a killing machine! I'm trying to protect us, Daphne!

DAPHNE

Do not call me crazy.

A tear streams down her cheek. The pair stare at each other for a moment before Daphne stomps into the house and SLAMS the door behind her.

Paul looks at the creature with rage. He pulls his CELLPHONE from his pocket, dials his local priest FATHER MUELLER, and puts it to his ear.

PAUL

Father Mueller? This is Paul Canner. I-I need your assistance with something urgent.

INT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Paul stirs in his sleep.

He reaches beside him for Daphne, but only feels empty SHEETS.

He opens his eyes, startled, and sits up. He turns on a LAMP beside the bed and looks around the room groggily.

PAUL

Daph! Daph?

He gets out of bed, and passes by the window.

DAPHNE

I know you're not evil. Just talk to me. You're here to save Viv, aren't you?

Paul stops outside the window when he hears Daphne's voice, and peers through the mesh.

Daphne kneels in front of the cage in the moonlight, her silk nightgown flutters in the wind.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

You're good, I can tell! You're sent from above, I...I just know it. Please, please save our little girl. I-I don't know what else to do.

She begins to cry and hangs her head down low in front of the creature.

Paul watches on. His eyes water, and he covers his mouth with his hand.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

A CAR pulls up, its tires CRUNCH on the gravel as it approaches. Paul waits outside to greet Father Mueller.

Mueller parks behind Paul's CAR, and steps out of his vehicle.

FATHER MUELLER

Good afternoon, Mr. Canner. I'm so happy you reached out!

The two shake hands.

PAUL

It's the most bizarre thing, Father Mueller, like straight out of a movie.

FATHER MUELLER

Well I'd be lying if I said I weren't looking forward to seeing the beast. You did the right thing by calling me.

Paul SWALLOWS hard, nervous.

PAUL

Just let me make sure Daphne and Vivian are inside before we go any further with this.

FATHER MUELLER

Of course, I'll wait here.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Paul wraps around the house toward the caged creature when he sees Daphne and Vivian lounging in the grass beside it.

The creature has its face pressed up as close to the cage as it'll allow and watches Vivian with warmth.

Vivian smiles. It's bright and happy, and Paul melts.

Daphne looks over at Paul's approach. Tears of joy fall from her eyes.

DAPHNE

She hasn't smiled like this in months...Since she's been sick. Look at her, Paul. She's at peace for once.

Paul clears his throat, looking guilty.

PAUL

She's beautiful, Daph.

Daphne nods in agreement, and squeezes Vivian's little hand.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I love you.

DAPHNE

I love you more.

Paul smiles somberly at her, then heads back toward Father Mueller.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Paul approaches Mueller.

PAUL

I've made a mistake, Father. I won't be needing your services any longer. The creature is no threat.

Mueller furrows his brows and shakes his head.

FATHER MUELLER

I'm sorry my boy, but this is out of my hands. You've alerted the church, we are involved now.

Paul puts his arms out in front of him.

PAUL

Listen, Father, I understand what you're saying, but there's no danger here. Vivian has become attached. She's been through so much...I don't want to take anything else away from her. Please.

Mueller crosses his arms.

FATHER MUELLER

(menacing)

I don't think you do understand, Paul.

Paul looks at Father Mueller with worry.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Father Mueller hooks the CAGE up to a CAR HAULER that's attached to his CAR.

Daphne hugs Vivian as she WAILS, and watches on in horror.

PAUL

Please, Father, this is wrong! I made a mistake!

Mueller gets into his car and starts the ENGINE.

FATHER MUELLER

The only mistake you made was not telling me about this sooner. Have a good day, Paul.

Mueller and the creature take off down the driveway. The creature extends a long arm outside of the cage as if reaching toward Vivian.

DAPHNE

I hope you're happy.

Paul scurries to Daphne.

PAUL

Please, Daphne, I didn't mean for this to happen the way it did. I-I was just trying to protect my family.

DAPHNE

All you've done is tear us apart.

Daphne turns and walks into the house.

Paul stands still and puts his head in his hands.

INT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Paul and Daphne lay on complete opposite sides of the bed. Daphne's eyes are closed, but Paul stares up at the ceiling.

A CRASH booms from Vivian's room.

Daphne sits up, startled, and looks at Paul.

Paul looks back with eyes wide.

The pair shoot up out of bed, and run to Vivian's room.

INT. VIVIAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The pair stop at the open door, and their mouths fall open.

Vivian stands in her CRIB and stares in awe.

The creature has again crashed through the WINDOW, but this time, he carries Father Mueller's CORPSE in his arms.

PAUL

What the-

The creature, who is covered in cuts and blood, approaches Paul and drops Mueller's body in front of him like a proud dog returning a ball.

Daphne covers her mouth with her hands as she stares at Father Mueller.

The creature scurries to Vivian's crib. He takes his long index finger, and dabs at some blood on an open wound on his abdomen.

Vivian smiles at the creature as it touches her forehead. The blood absorbs into her skin instantaneously.

The creature turns back to the window, spreads its wings, and takes off into the night sky.

Daphne runs to the window and watches its silhouette against the moon. She wipes a tear from her eye.

EXT. DAPHNE AND PAUL'S YARD - DAY - FIVE YEARS LATER

Vivian (5) runs toward the camera, happy and healthy.

We see Daphne behind her lounging on the grass.

Vivian turns toward Daphne and runs to her, and we see a small set of feathery wings sprouting from her back.

FADE TO BLACK.