

RAVENSTEIN

Screenplay by
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Produced by Eveshka Ghost and Tom Walters

1 EXT. NARROW COUNTRY LANE - NIGHT 1

The wheels of two bicycles rush down a country lane.

Two youngsters are racing each other through the bumps and pebbles.

2 EXT. BROKEN FENCE 2

The riders zoom past a broken fence of an abandoned property. One skids and steps back into frame to look. His name is MARKY.

His friend comes back to him to see what's up. His face is revealed - DAVID.

DAVID
What is it?

MARKY
It's open.

DAVID
So what?

MARKY
So let's check it out.

DAVID
No way, it's trespassing.

MARKY
It's completely abandoned, look.
We're just walking in. What else
are we gonna do?

DAVID
Well I can't go home. Not yet,
anyway.

MARKY
What's happened this time?

DAVID
My dad's really pissed off.

MARKY
What is his problem?

DAVID
I don't know. He still hasn't
found a new job.

MARKY
That sucks. Well, come on.

4 INT. ROOM WITH BED

4

They find themselves in a large empty warehouse with a bed. They explore magazines and items around.

A gaslamp or candle is burning by the bed - someone has been here.

MARKY

Holy shit, someone's squatting here.

DAVID

You're right. Do you think we should go?

MARKY

No way. He'll be more afraid of us than we are of him.

Suddenly - a man appears behind them - a homeless guy, older than them - it's JACK.

JACK

Is that so?

DAVID

We're sorry for invading your home. It was Marky's idea.

JACK

You shouldn't be snooping around here. It's dangerous. What are ya - burglars?

MARKY

No, no we're not we're just, hanging around.

JACK

So, Marky huh? And who are YOU?

DAVID

I'm David.

JACK

Yeah. Got any whisky?

The kids look at each other - unable to come up with anything.

JACK

Thought not. Guess you'll have to just have some of mine.

5 INT. ROOM WITH BED - LATER

5

They're sitting around talking to the homeless guy.
Drinking whisky from the bottle - but not David.

David is shivering in the cold.

JACK

Here...

Jack moves the candle closer to the boy.

JACK

...wrap your mitts around that.
It's all I have.

DAVID

Don't you ever think about
leaving this place?

JACK

Never. I don't have any reason to
either.

MARKY

Strange. Why would you isolate
yourself in this place, it's just
a rat-infested squalor?

JACK

Perhaps you're right, but
sometimes we need to make the
most of what's given to us in
this life. Good things never
last, boys, and for what it's
worth I assure you I'm quite
happy here.

MARKY

(looking around)
Like a pig in shit by all
accounts.

DAVID

Leave it out you twat!

MARKY

I'm agreeing with him!

DAVID

No, you're just taking the piss!

JACK

Don't argue! To you or anyone
else it appears that I'm clearly
not doing enough to get my life
back on track.

(looks around)
I mean, it's hardly the Endeavour
Eleven, is it?

DAVID
So why don't you leave?

JACK
Something is keeping me here.
I've always been an anxious man,
I never could stand being
surrounded by crowds of people. I
hate it. But do you want to know
the one thing that I hate more
than anything?

MARKY
What?

JACK
I can't stand people who argue...
who make others upset.

DAVID
Sorry. Didn't mean to make you
feel uncomfortable here.

JACK
What - you mean anymore than I am
already?

DAVID
I just... don't mean to be this
way in front of somebody I've
just met, that's all. Especially
as this isn't the most ideal
situation.

JACK
You think I care? I pay no mind
to the troubles of others, but
every so often when I hear them
speak they... capture my
curiosity. You're frustrated, I
can tell. Why?

MARKY
Yeah, he fell out with his dad.

JACK
That's normal.

DAVID
It's been going on too long. He
didn't used to be like this.

JACK

People do change over time.
Whether it's for better or for
worse, they change. Did you ever
hear the story of Melissa and the
jealous Romani?

MARKY

By Romani, you mean Gypsy?

DAVID

It's the same thing...
(turns to Jack)
... Isn't it?

Jack Nods.

JACK

An old gypsy woman lived alone in
a wagon, near a bridge by a
school. Children would walk past
it every day, talk about it, make
things up. One day, one of 'em
got curious. Melissa went over
there, knocked on the door.

She was invited in. Soon enough
they became friends. Turns out
the old woman was just lonely.
Melissa would visit every day
after school. Eventually, her dad
found out and went over there
confronted the woman.

He told her daughter to come
home, but the woman wouldn't let
her. So he pushed past her and
took her by force. Made her swear
never to go back.

The next day, the wagon was gone.
For a whole week in fact, but on
the eighth day, it returned in
the very same spot next to the
bridge. Melissa went against her
dad and knocked on the door. The
old woman answered, but wouldn't
let her in.

Instead, she handed her a
necklace, with a jewel in the
shape of a triangle. Said it
would protect her from evil.

She followed the Gypsy's advice,
and as Melissa arrived home, late
into the evening, her father

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)
noticed the jewel hanging from around her neck. He asked her where she got it, and when he eventually found out, he became furious with the girl for disobeying him.

He took the necklace and showed his wife the jewel, and the following day approached the old woman. Only, Melissa's father never returned home.

MARKY
What happened to him?

JACK
They sent out a search party to find him, but they never did. Then word soon spread that Melissa had seen something happen to her father that night, and rumour has it that she drew a picture of what she saw.

DAVID
And the jewel on the necklace?

JOHN
It's said that the old woman had acted out a ritual and bestowed a ancient curse on Melissa's father for disrupting the time that she'd enjoyed sharing with his daughter. She chose to forbid such a reckless individual any parental entitlement, meaning that if she couldn't spend time with the girl, then his own disposition would be affected and he'll suffer without the company of his own flesh and blood.

DAVID
What is your name? - If you don't mind me asking?

JACK
Jack.

MARKY
Yeah, right. No offense but homeless people always call themselves Jack, or John, or Jim. They never give their real names.

JACK reveals a tattoo up his sleeve - it says 'JACK'.

MARKY

Oh.

JACK

It's Jack. Not at your service or anyone else's.

Marky stands up.

DAVID

Where are you going?

MARKY

I'm gonna explore the rest of the site.

DAVID

(to Jack)

Is that Alright?

JACK

I don't own the place.

MARKY

He's trespassing as much as we are - no offense.

DAVID

Don't be rude.

JACK

It's all right.

DAVID

Is this your - home?

JACK

I've lived here a while.

DAVID

What happened?

JACK

Same thing that happens to most homeless people. Made redundant.

DAVID

I'm sorry.

Jack looks up at him.

Marky heads off outside.

After Marky leaves. Jack stands up. From a hidden corner pulls out of nowhere...

A guitar. Starts strumming stuff.

IMPROV - they talk, David has a go.

JACK
You got it upside-down.

David looks back at him. Plays anyway. Turns out he's pretty good.

Eventually -

DAVID
I better go find Marky.

JACK
Do what you feel you have to do.

David leaves. Camera goes back to Jack's mysterious face.

6 EXT. YARD 6

Marky looks around opposite the room with the bed - bushes etc. Manages to find a hidden old workshop area, with a doorway and steps.

Slowly walks in.

7 INT. MIRRORED ROOM 7

Marky explores inside, peers into the other area.

Looks in the mirror, looks down in the drawers. Black feather on the table - takes no notice.

Finds a trombone. Blows it - feathers pop out. Audience laughs.

Goes to the big mirror. Looks in it but then -

ITS THE BIRD MAN IN THE REFLECTION!

(OUTSIDE THE WINDOW PROBABLY)

He jumps, looks behind him. Nothing there. Looks back, BIRD MAN IS IN FRONT OF HIM!

He runs - immediately trying to leave the workshop.

Stumbles down steps - maybe a foot gets trapped in there as he hears the bird coming.

Eventually he gets out.

8 EXT. YARD 8

He runs across to back to the room with the bed - POV or third-person shot.

9 INT. ROOM WITH BED 9

Marky enters in a state of panic - nobody is there, looks around.

MARKY
David!!! JACK!!!

No answer. Behind him suddenly -

IT'S DAVID - standing in the doorway. Makes Marky jump.

MARKY
Jesus Christ!

DAVID
Marky?

MARKY
You scared the shit out of me. I saw something.

DAVID
What?

MARKY
It was a monster. A giant bird.

DAVID
You got spooked by a bird?
Seriously?

IMPROV: Talk about where did he see it - a mirror - David suggests mirrors can distort what we see.

MARKY
It was more than that!

DAVID
Show me then!

MARKY
No way!

David looks around.

DAVID
Say - where did that guy go?

MARKY

How do I know, you were with him.

DAVID

No, I went to find you a while ago.

MARKY

Oh. You were right man. About this place. Let's just go.

DAVID

I don't really want to. I'm having a good time.

MARKY

There's a fucking monster out there.

DAVID

Yeah about that - come on let's find it.

MARKY

No way!

DAVID

Come on, it must have been a shadow or something. Where is your imagination?

Marky sighs. Goes to David with his torch to leave the place.

10

EXT. YARD

10

Marky goes ahead of David and leads him across to the hidden workshop.

MARKY

It was along here, follow me.

Leads him into the workshop into the mirrored room.

11

INT. MIRRORED ROOM

11

They explore again. David examines pretty much the same stuff Marky examined, but with more interest.

David picks up a feather from the mirrored table.

DAVID

A bird did you say?

MARKY
It was right here.

DAVID
Well that explains it.

MARKY
No, man. It was massive. Like
human-sized.

David turns around at him... taking the piss.

DAVID
Seriously?

As David steps aside in the reflection we see ...

- NOTHING! Whew.

MARKY
I'm telling you it was right
here.

DAVID
Here?

MARKY Yeah and then it was here.

DAVID
That's impossible.

MARKY
It's some kind of ghost.

DAVID
Let's move on.

MARKY
(eager)
Yep.

They go to leave when suddenly -

THE BIRD MAN IS IN THE DOORWAY!
Only Marky sees it.

MARKY
Woah shit!!

DAVID
What?!

David goes to look - but it's gone.

MARKY
It's back, oh man, we're fucked!

DAVID
There's nothing there.

MARKY
It was! I swear it!

Marky turns to face David, back to the door, arguing when slowly...

THE BIRD MAN appears behind David, silently, in the corner of the room.

Marky stutters to tell him...

MARKY
It's.. behind... you...

David turns around slowly. The bird man advances towards them, they run deeper into the workshop.

David manages to find a HAMMER and grabs it. Looks at Marky. The bird appears - they escape into a tiny room.

[The door is open]

12

INT. TINY ROOM

12

Stuff inside the tiny room with an old toilet and window, they try to push the door on the bird, but it has too much force.

Eventually, David kicks the door and it slams shut - the beak of the bird poking through.

Marky in a panic starts whacking the beak with his hand as it tries to bite him.

Suddenly - TALONS plunge through the door.

DIRECTORS NOTE: POV from the bird with sound, then tail-end shot of claws poking through.

David pushes Marky out the way and whacks the beak with the hammer.

MARKY
We're all gonna die! This is it!

DAVID
We'll get through this, come on keep it together!

MARKY
I'm trying to!

DAVID
Maybe JACK's around. JACK?!

MARKY
JACK!!!

The shouting of 'JACK!' echos through everywhere - to a silence.

David sits down. A moment of silence.

DAVID
Shhh. Don't shout.

MARKY
I think it's gone.

Marky goes to for the door but -

DAVID
Wait.

Marky's hand is on the door handle. Camera moves in as if were about to jolt... but then -

He takes his hand away.

David notices the window, goes to look out of it. All is quiet.

MARKY
W-what are you thinking?

David goes to the other corner of the room. In a continuous shot, Marky goes to the window when -

THE BIRD POPS UP!

MARKY
Ahhhh! shit!!!

David turns around- evaluates the situation. Looks down, sees some nails. Sees a bit of wood. Grabs the wood and stuffs it over the window. Hammers a board over the window.

Marky sits down deflated and scared.

Marky turns around to face David and give him a piece of his mind.

MARKY
What if it's a prank?

David raises an eyebrow.

MARKY

Or what about that whisky? Maybe he put something in it?

DAVID

I didn't drink any of it.

Marky turns away, runs out of ideas. Slowly takes his hand off the door handle. Deflated.

David then turns almost maliciously to Marky...

DAVID

If it was a prank, it would be YOUR prank, because you're the one who insisted we come here.

MARKY

Maybe you knew I'd be tempted by it?

DAVID

You wanted to ride down the lane! I didn't even wanna come out. I was happy enough to read a book or something.

MARKY

That's bullshit. Your dad was bringing you down. I knew if we went riding somewhere it would make you feel better.

DAVID

(to himself, miserable)
Yeah. It did.

David looks up at Marky. Finally a smile.

CUT TO:

13

EXT. BROKEN FENCE

13

Two figures appear. A couple of drunk lads.

The drunkest one staggers over to one of the bikes and tries to get on it. He is ANDY.

He falls off before he even starts. His friend, CHARLIE heckles him.

CHARLIE

Dude what are you doing? hahaha

ANDY
 (pretending)
 I'm an opportunist! I'm an
 opportunist!

CHARLIE
 You're not man. Stop being a
 dick.

Andy carefully places the bike back into it's original position.

ANDY
 I'm putting the bike back, see? I
 wasn't gonna steal it.

CHARLIE
 You are such a twat.

Andy notices the hole in the fence, peers over, peers through. Starts going in.

CHARLIE
 Where are you going?

ANDY
 I need a piss, man!

CHARLIE
 (pointing to a bush)
 Do it over there then!

ANDY
 (drunken trance)
 Nah man I wanna go in here.

Off he goes. Jack has no choice but to follow him.

CHARLIE
 Fuck it. I'm up for anything!

14 EXT. YARD

14

They find themselves in the yard. Andy turns left and starts to take a leak.

Charlie, instead, goes for a wander away from him. Peering into different places. POV.

Andy finishes, does a little shake.

IMPROV - they talk about something. Seth fucks around with random objects.

Andy could mention the caravan reminds him of the gypsy woman by the bridge. A brief talk about it.

After the conversation -

ANDY
...anyway, I need another piss.

CHARLIE
I'll join you.

Charlie goes and stands next to Andy awkwardly as a joke. They do the face rising thing. They laugh together, then Charlie goes to the other side of the yard to have a piss instead.

Andy finishes his second piss. Shakes...

His face - focus pull to the background - THE BIRD is standing behind him!

He senses something, quickly turns around - nothing there. Turns back to the bushes.

THE BIRD IS RIGHT IN HIS FACE, TALONS RAISED!

ANDY
Arghhhh!!!

[The bird possibly bites his dick off.]

The bird rips him to pieces.

Meanwhile - Charlie hears the screams, comes running to see.

Charlie witnesses the attack from across the yard.

CHARLIE
Andy!!! Fuck!!!

Charlie panics trying to get his dick back in his pants whilst running around.

Blood spurts everywhere.

Charlie is standing there frozen in fear.

The bird slowly looks up at Charlie. It's a stand off. We see it's horrible black face.

Tension mounts - and then -

THE BIRD CHARGES TOWARDS HIM! FLAPPING HIS WINGS

Charlie runs as fast as he can screaming...

15 INT. TINY ROOM IN HIDDEN WORKSHOP

15

The screams echo and are heard by David and Marky. They look at each other in horror.

David goes to open the handle but -

MARKY

Wait -

DAVID

Jack's in trouble!

MARKY

There's nothing we can do about it!

DAVID

There might be.

MARKY

Okay. Take it slow.

Slowly the handle is turned, the door opens - very slowly to a black shadow of nothing behind it. The bird isn't there... whew.

They creep their way through the workshop, past the mirrored room. Suspense around every corner.

16 EXT. YARD

16

They make it outside. Marky stands back looking around. David, still with a torch, wanders ACROSS THE YARD.

A BLOODY HAND - in the foreground, a low shot looking up at David walking past right-to-left in the background.

David doesn't see it.

THE ARM IS DRAGGED ACROSS out of frame. As it's gone, David turns to look - nothing there.

David turns back to Marky.

DAVID

Come on!

Marky goes after David.

They hear a whimpering sound. It's coming from the Caravan.

David and Marky look at each other. They know they MUST go and look.

David goes first but then -

MARKY
Wait. We need a weapon.

DAVID
What?

Marky picks up a pole or stick of some sort.

MARKY
Okay. I'm ready.

Torch turns back to the foreground, they slowly creep to the door of the caravan.

They approach the caravan. David slowly goes to open the door. Looks back to confirm Marky is in attack position. He is.

The door is opened...

Nothing behind it. They creep in. David first.

Marky is half way through the door when suddenly - he spins around to check behind him -

Nothing is there. They continue into the caravan.

17 INT. CARAVAN

17

They hear the whimpering from behind a little door in the caravan. A Toilet door, it seems.

David decides to call at the door.

DAVID
Hello? Jack?

No response.

DAVID
We're coming in.

The door is opened - POV from inside the door looking at David's face.

CUT TO - Charlie - he's curled up in a wreck, stuffed in this tiny little room in the caravan.

DAVID
Who are you? What happened?

Goes to touch him.

CHARLIE
Don't touch me!

David backs off. Marky gets behind David.

MARKY

I think we should get away from the place, right now. I'm sorry but, fuck Jack.

DAVID

I think you're right. It's out of our hands.

CHARLIE

It was... a bird man thing... it killed Andy. Oh fuck man, it killed Andy!

MARKY

Who the fuck's Andy?

Charlie looks up finally - like the end of Just by Radiohead, right into Marky's eyes, as if he were possessed. Marky is somewhat intimidated and goes quiet.

DAVID

Where did this happen?

CHARLIE

I can't.

DAVID

You can. We'll go together, come on man.

Charlie gives in, gets up.

DAVID

What's your name?

CHARLIE

I'm Charlie.

Suddenly - CHARLIE'S foot goes through the floor in the caravan - manages to pull it out.

18

EXT. YARD

18

They leave the caravan. The broken, fragile Charlie looks around. Points his finger at the spot.

CHARLIE

There, right there!

DAVID

There's nothing there.

CHARLIE

(snapping)

I can see that! But it was there, I'm telling you!

DAVID
Okay, calm down, Charlie.

David looks at Marky, then heads towards the room with the bed.

MARKY
Where are you going?

DAVID
To find Jack.

They pause, then follow him.

19 INT. ROOM WITH BED 19

They go in.

DAVID
Jack?

They look around, call around. Nobody there.

DAVID
He's gotta be around here.

They leave.

20 EXT. YARD 20

Marky notices the next place - the one next door.

MARKY
What about in here?

CHARLIE
I'm not going in there, man!

DAVID
Come on!

They go in.

21 INT. ROOM WITH TABLE 21

An even bigger room. They look around.

DAVID
Jack? Jack?

They call out, shining the torch around, sneaking.
Around the corner they notice an area with a table.
Strange markings are on the table. They look at it.

CHARLIE
What the fuck is all this shit?

DAVID
I don't know.

CHARLIE
(louder than the others)
Is this a sick prank? Just tell
me now. It's all a prank. Ok, Ok,
you got me, where's Andy?

David gets firm with Jack.

DAVID
This isn't a prank, OK?

CHARLIE
It's not even funny.

MARKY
He's being too loud. He might
attract the bird man.

CHARLIE
The fucking 'bird man'? Are we
even believing this shit?

MARKY
Shut up!

David is distracted by the symbols.

We see a clear drawing on the table - a triangle. At the
bottom left, a man. Bottom right - a bird. At the top, a
mutation of the two - the monster.

The words 'Home is where the heart is' is written there,
in the shape of an egg.

Marky appears by Davids shoulder from the darkness,
startling him.

DAVID
Shit!

MARKY
Sorry. What is this? What does it
mean?

CHARLIE
This is some weird voodoo shit,
man!

They look at Charlie for a moment. They don't disagree.

Suddenly -

MOVEMENT IN THE SHADOWS.

They shine the torch around in all the corners of the room
- when -

It's JACK!

Scares the shit out of them.

MARKY
(to himself)
Fuck.

DAVID
JACK!

JACK
Let me guess. You've seen the
bird.

CHARLIE
Who the hell are you?

DAVID
Yes.

JACK
(look around, to himself)
I thought we'd seen the last of
it here.

MARKY
You KNEW about it?

Jack looks at them, creepy-like.

JACK
Yes.

He walks towards them, sits by the table. Lights a candle
with his lighter.

DAVID
Why are you still here?

JACK
This is my home.

MARKY
What happened?

JACK
I worked here. We were a good
team. Kept finding these feathers
around all over the place.

CHARLIE

I ain't got time for this shit,
man. I just wanna go home.

JACK

Well you can't. Sit down, shut up
and listen.

Charlie sits down. So do the rest.

JACK

This drawing appeared here, on
this very table.

DAVID

You don't know who drew it?

JACK

No. After that, the bird came.
Wiped everyone out, one by one.

DAVID

Jesus.

JACK

I think the bird drew this. I
think it's half man, half bird.
Fuck knows how it happened.

MARKY

(to himself)

Voodoo shit.

JACK

Could be. I don't know. But I do
know this.

He turns around to them.

JACK

It knew us. It thought like a
man. It took out people at the
bottom and worked it's way to the
top.

DAVID

People at the bottom?

JACK

The employees. The ones that
worked here the shortest time,
were killed first.

DAVID

What was your position?

JACK

I pretty much owned the business.
Well, I was the right-hand man.

CHARLIE

Why didn't it kill you?

They all look at Charlie - finally a sensible question.
Then turn to Jack.

JACK

I don't know. I never saw it.
Maybe it liked me or something.

MARKY

I don't think it likes anyone.

DAVID

What about the owner?

JACK looks up at David - huh?

DAVID

The owner of the business.

JACK

I don't know. Considering the
condition of this place and the
fact that nobody's done anything
to it, I'd say it got him with
the rest.

A moment of silence.

CHARLIE

Well, great story, but my friend
has just been murdered, so let's
all just fucking go and call the
police or something.

JACK

You can't do that.

CHARLIE

Why not?

JACK

It'll get ya.

DAVID

Is that why you stay here?

JACK

Not really.

CHARLIE
I've heard enough.

Charlie goes to leave.

JACK
(to David)
Stop him.

DAVID
Dude, come back!

CHARLIE
No way, man!

DAVID
Dude - Charlie!

David and Marky run after him.

22 EXT. YARD

22

David and Marky run to the yard. Charlie runs further to the fence whilst the other two hold back calling to him.

DAVID
(calling to Charlie)
I think we should listen to Jack!

CHARLIE
Fuck Jack, remember?

David and Marky look at each other.

23 EXT. BROKEN FENCE

23

Charlie climbs through the fence. Looks around in a state of panic. See's the bike.

CHARLIE
I'm gonna take the bike.

DAVID
No way! they're our bikes!

Charlie already has the bike in his hands, turns around to call back.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, I'll get it back to you... somehow...

Charlie turns to face the back when -

THE BIRD IS IN FRONT OF HIM!

It starts to scream as he is petrified. Charlie screams.
We seem it lash out but then -

CUT TO:

24 EXT. YARD

24

The scream is heard by DAVID. He runs towards the fence.
Marky stays put, scared.

MARKY

Wait! Don't go there! It's gonna
kill you!

David ignores. Third person POV from behind David going
towards the hole in the fence.

As he gets right up to the fence - one continuous shot -

THE BIRD MAN POPS UP IN THE GAP IN THE FENCE!

DAVID

AHHH!!!

David is spooked, stops, legs it back towards Marky.

Marky shouts back at David like a spectator routing for a
runner...

MARKY

Faster! Come on, don't stop! You
can do it!

As David runs for his life, The birdman WALKS THROUGH the
fence, and slowly twitches and advances towards him.
Twisting, contorted, like a human tree.

Just as David is about to reach Marky - without any
warning -

THE BIRD TELEPORTS AND APPEARS BETWEEN THEM - facing
David!

David comes to a halt and freezes.

The bird approaches him and takes a swipe at him with his
HUGE TALONS.

David backs off, trying to make a decision of what to do.

MARKY

Run!! Run!!!

David hesitates, then runs for it.

It's a chase - dodging and diving through the rubble and
various areas

[IMPROVISED CHASE]

Eventually Marky can't be seen anywhere...

David hides in a bush or something. SUDDENLY -

A hand appears on his shoulder - it's MARKY!

DAVID

Fuck!

MARKY

What are we gonna do?

DAVID

It can't go after both of us. We have to split up. You go and get help -

MARKY

And I leave you to die?

DAVID

I'll do what I can. It's the only way.

MARKY

No way man, I can't do this.

DAVID

Would you rather swap?

Marky thinks.

MARKY

Fuck that.

DAVID

Okay. I'm gonna go out there. Try and draw it away from the fence. When the time is right, go for it.

Marky nods. Tries to be brave.

David makes a run for it.

Ends up in the middle of the yard, waiting... but nothing.

Looks back to Marky. Marky is just there in the shadow, shrugging.

Camera moves in towards Marky - space behind him... tension mounts -

But nothing happens.

David wanders around - but then -

A shadow stalks him. As he shines the torch, the shadow the bird passes all around him.

Marky shines his torch around. David spots a still shadow of the bird somewhere from Marky's light.

David signals to Marky to keep the light there.

DAVID
(whispering)
There. Keep it there.

David slowly approaches the shadow. Just as he turns around to see what it is -

It's nothing. Just objects in the shape of a bird.

He leaves the area off-guard.

He passes right past the bird standing there with no impact or tension.

MARKY notices and tries to shout but whisper to warn David.

MARKY
It's there! It's right there!

DAVID
Where?

MARKY
There. No, that way more...

POV - David slowly turns the turn towards the wall.

The moment the light hits the bird - the bird screams!

CAWWWW!!!!

It chases him...

DAVID
Now, Marky!

Marky nods. Makes a run for it through the bushes. Out of sight.

David throws stuff at the bird, runs into the ROOM WITH THE TABLE

EXTENDED: INT. ROOM WITH TABLE

As he goes in, a shadow blob is on the side of the wall.

As he stands near the wall, the shadow untangles to become the bird. It chases him in the dark.

He ends up in the small room with the chairs.

He lobbs chairs at the bird and tries to block it from coming in.

On impact - CUT TO:

25 EXT. BROKEN FENCE 25

A car pulls up. Wheels. Door opens, feet touch the floor. Walks towards the broken fence.

Crane shot (yeah Tom!) behind him up, overlooking the yard past the fence.

We see a super-close up of the face, too close to make out his full character.

He goes through the fence.

26 EXT. YARD 26

The man walks towards the camera. Turns on his powerful torch - blinding the camera, shining past it. He goes exploring.

POV of what he sees - but also his face - as if he remembers this place. A place he's been avoiding for a long time.

Goes to the room with the BED.

27 INT. ROOM WITH BED 27

The man approaches. We finally see his face.

It's RAY.

He explores every corner, looks around - quite calmly, but cautiously.

Looks at the bed. Sighs. A memory.

BUT THEN -

Hears something from the little corner room. Goes to explore...

Tension mounts but then!!

It's DAVID! with a weapon.

David lowers the weapon.

DAVID

Dad.

RAY

David. What are you doing here?

DAVID

You've got to help me. Something is after us.

Helps his son climb out of the room.

Ray turns around, almost in shame - hiding something.

DAVID

What is it?

He turns back.

RAY

You're right, let's get out of here now.

BUT SUDDENLY -

JACK

You can't leave now, Ray.

They turn around - JACK has appeared, but this time, menacingly, at the end of the room. A good distance away, like a wild western gun-fight.

RAY

Don't bring my son into this, Jack.

JACK

Your SON?

DAVID

You know him?

RAY

I did, once.

JACK

Tell him Ray.

DAVID

Tell me what?

Ray goes on one knee and talks to David like father and son would.

RAY

I'm sorry David. For all the times I snapped. Everything has come to this moment.

DAVID
I don't understand.

JACK
Tell him, Ray. What happened to
your business.

DAVID
This was YOUR business?

RAY
Yes.

DAVID
Then you're the only person
besides JACK who survived the
attacks.

RAY
I got away.

JACK
And now - he's BACK.

Ray gets up. faces JACK.

RAY
Yeah. I'm back.

DAVID
Why are you fighting over this?
It's not important. All that
matters now is we get out of here
and get to the police, right now.

JACK
If only it were that simple.

David looks at JACK.

JACK
The drawings on the table. Don't
tell me you haven't already
worked it out?

DAVID
Home is where the heart is?

David's father looks at him.

JACK
Say. I'm kinda thirsty. Got any
whisky?

DAVID
We never had any whisky to begin
with.

JACK
 (sarcasm)
 Noooo. Got any food? I'm gettin'
 a little... PECKISH!

JACK starts to twitch - like a bird!

Camera moves in to the face of David and Ray, in horror...

JACK falls to his knees.

JACK
 (inner conflict)
 Argh!!! Get away from me!!!

DAVID
 Jack -

RAY
 (to David)
 No!

JACK transforms, bit by bit, extreme close-ups - into THE BIRD.

Dips his human head down in one last breath...

JACK
 It's feeding time for the bird...

Head comes back up - it's the bird's head!

JACK
 ARRKKK!!!!!!!!!!

THE BIRD CHARGES THEM.

Ray pushes David out of the way so that he can challenge the bird.

As the bird reaches him - RAY grabs the original weapon David had and whacks the bird.

There is a struggle [IMPROV FIGHT] in the room.

The bird squeels in pain!

David and his dad LEG IT!

28

EXT. YARD

28

They fight - or run.

[IMPROV]

Chasing, whatever. Make it up.

Maybe they go towards the fence and different places and keep getting caught.

DAVID
This way, there's something you
have to see...

Eventually they outsmart or outrun the bird and end up heading towards the room with TABLE.

29

INT. ROOM WITH TABLE

29

A quiet moment, David and Ray approach the table. Trying to figure it out.

DAVID
Home is where the heart is.

RAY
I never worked it out.

DAVID
Why didn't you tell me?

RAY
Either you would have never
believed me, or it would have
freaked you out too much.

DAVID
Did you know it was JACK?

RAY
No.

Ray has a look, touches the egg around the drawing.

RAY
It's an egg. The heart is an egg.

DAVID
The yard is his nest.

RAY
It's home of the nest, but where
is the egg?

DAVID
I don't know.

RAY
Think, David. Think!

DAVID
Don't be like that.

RAY

I'm sorry. Please forgive me.
This whole thing has been tearing
me apart.

Ray turns away from David - towards the camera...

RAY

It tore my whole business apart.
Everyone. Limb from limb.

David's face - in horror.

DAVID

Wait a minute. I think I know
where the egg might be.

David goes to leave but -

RAY

Wait. Hold on.

Ray looks around, gets some makeshift clubs and weapons.
They're both armed.

Ray turns off his torch. David does the same.

RAY

Ok. Be careful.

David nods.

30

EXT. YARD

30

A sneaky tense commando sequence of them moving through
the yard with no torches. Only a glimmer of moonlight
catches them.

They find their way into the hidden workshop.

31

INT. BUSHES

31

They venture through the bushes and spot the big building
at the back. They head towards it. Getting spooked around
- the wind blows...

32

INT. NEST AREA

32

They find a place that represents a nest. The egg is
there.

RAY

(whisper)

Look! There it is.

David goes to take it.

RAY
No. I'll do it. It's too
dangerous.

He takes it slowly. Turns to face David.

DAVID
What are you gonna do with it?

RAY
Bargain with it, I think.

DAVID
Bargain with a monster?

RAY
The safety of a parents child is
the always the strongest
leverage.

They look at each other. A nod.

SUDDENLY -

THE BIRD APPEARS!

They fight, dodging and diving. Weapons are used.

[IMPROVISED]

RAY manages to GRAB the bird man -

RAY
I got him! I got him!

Turns around to David - BUT IT'S THE BIRD MAN!

Feathers fly, he looks back - he's grabbing nothing.

Talons swipe at him, he ducks...

[MORE IMPROV]

The egg is dropped at some point by Ray. David picks it
up.

The bird targets whomever has the egg, but doesn't attack
them until they threaten harm to the egg.

Ray is possibly temporarily buried in some wooden rubble.

David is cornered, no weapon, nothing he can do. The bird
right in his face.

The bird raises his talons, just about to strike when -

RAY
David, please.

Ray takes the egg.

They make their way into the yard, through the yard...

They get near the fence when -

Nothing. Whew!

They climb through the fence. Ray gets into the car with the egg on his lap. Opens the window.

Marky and David put the torches back on the bikes.

RAY
David, Come on. Forget about the bikes.

DAVID
But Marky. Is this the right thing to do?

RAY
I don't know about right things, but it's the only thing to do.

Camera looking across at Ray's right-side of face.

Ray bends down to put the key in the ignition. Fiddles with it. Then looks up -

THE BIRD IS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT!

Doesn't notice at first, but then slowly turns to face him

BIRD
KAWWWWWWWWWWW!!!

DAVID
Dad! Give me the egg!

Ray thinks about it as the bird gets more and more angry.

He throws the egg out the window to his son, who catches it.

The bird immediately diverts attention to David.

David gets on his bike.

RAY
David...

David turns around - foot on the pedal ready.

RAY
Ride like the fucking wind!

A nod. He bolts it.

The bird jumps out of the car and teleports through the windscreen towards the camera.

34

EXT. BIKE CHASE

34

Dark country paths - lit only by bike torch.

As David rides, the bird appears everywhere, teleporting constantly, trying to grab them from bushes, etc.

[IMPROVISED ACTION SEQUENCE]

POV FROM BIKE would be good and easy.

Sped up footage of the bird running and stuff.

Eventually, David fails to catch the egg and looks back, he then crashes his bike - probably into the bird.

All is quiet.

The bird approaches David.

The bird manages to pick up the egg. Caresses it. Then turns to David.

Approaches him. David's fucked.

Just about to strike when -

BANG!!!

The dad runs the bird over.

The egg rolls off into the darkness.

The dad gets out of the car.

RAY
Finally. It's dead.

David gets up, they both go to explore the bird -

It's dead.

RAY
Get in the car. We're out of here.

David gets into the passenger seat. Looks at the dead bird.

Ray picks up the bike and goes to the back of the van.

Opens the van when suddenly -

THE BIRD IS IN THE VAN!

They fight - hand to hand combat.

They end up outside the van in view of the mirror.

Meanwhile - David climbs over and starts the car, watching them in the mirror.

When RAY is in safe view, David reverses the car (stalls at first maybe) and knocks the bird back.

Ray then goes into the back of the van and gets a chainsaw. Tries to start it up.

The bird appears next to him and spooks him. He gets pushed outside of the van, crawling away from it, POV of the bird.

Bird advances slowly, Ray keeps trying to start the chainsaw.

Just as we think it's too late - he gets it working and then -

He kills the bird with the chainsaw.

Blood spurts everywhere all over them.

David runs out of the car. Goes to hug his dad.

Camera cranes upwards - overhead shot.

Feathers fall down.

Fade to a shot of the bushes. The egg remains forgotten. It shakes a little...

THE END