

AMERICAN GOTHIC

"Requiem"

(Eps. #22)

s/d 1/31/96

Director: Lou Antonio
(Part 2)

Written

by

Shaun Cassidy

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part 2

AMERICAN GOTHIC

"Requiem"

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY - ON A TOMBSTONE

and a familiar name: Lucas Buck. We PULL BACK TO REVEAL

A GRAVEDIGGER

just patting down the last bit of topsoil. He turns toward
GAIL, CALEB, BEN, SELENA, AND BILLY

who are gathered nearby, all in funeral attire. As dark clouds gather overhead, we PAN across their ashen faces: Gail, an open wound. Caleb, a mask of stoicism. Ben, fearful of what lies ahead. Selena, a mystery behind dark glasses, and Billy, her escort, watching all with a wary eye. As the gravedigger approaches, Ben hands him a twenty which he slips into his pocket.

GRAVEDIGGER

Never thought I'd see this day.
Got to be a blessing.

CALEB

He was my daddy.

GRAVEDIGGER

Then you have my condolences...
on both counts.

And the gravedigger walks off.

BEN

Don't mind him, Caleb. He probably
only saw one side of Lucas.

SELENA

How many sides were there?

GAIL

More than you could possibly know.

BILLY

Storm's coming. We should be
getting back.

CALEB

You mind if I have a minute alone?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BEN

Go ahead, son.

We STAY with the boy as he moves toward the grave, kneeling before it.

CALEB

It took me an awful long time to accept you as my father. But now I know it's true, 'cause I feel you inside me. I feel stronger than ever before...

(cold steel)

And I'm glad you're dead.

Caleb spits on his grave, then smiles malevolently.

CALEB

See? You taught me well.

SELENA (O.S.)

Taught you what, honey?

Caleb glances up, discovers Selena hovering over him. He quickly puts on the mourning face.

CALEB

That the body dies...

(rising; all innocence)

But that the spirit moves on.

Selena escorts him off CAMERA. We HOLD on the tombstone, then slowly begin DROPPING DOWN: Through the grass, into the soil, past rocks and worms, deeper and deeper into the black Earth, until we finally arrive at

LUCAS BUCK'S CASKET

A mahogany shrine six feet under. We hold on the dark wood inlay, seemingly at rest, when suddenly... BOOM! Something pounds at us from within... BOOM! The wood cracks... BOOM! The wood explodes and...

A BLOODY HAND

suddenly bursts through, grasping disparately at CAMERA.

LUCAS (O.S.)

Caleb...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. TRINITY HOSPITAL - MORNING - LATER - ESTABLISHING
Alive under darkening skies.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALL - MORNING

Billy Peele, still in funeral wear, is moving down the hall.
RITA approaches him.

RITA

Dr. Peele?

He turns.

RITA

We got those results back on
Sheriff Buck's blood samples. I
left them in your office.

BILLY

Thanks.

RITA

How was the service?

BILLY

Weird. People who hated the man
were eulogizing him like he was a
Saint. Reminded me of Nixon.
(looking around)
Can you point me to Gail Emory?

RITA

Two-C.

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - MORNING

Gail is standing in the corner, looking at some pamphlets.
She too, is still in basic black. Billy pops his head in
the door.

BILLY

Hey.

GAIL

(looking up)
How'd you know I was here?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BILLY
Small hospital. They give you an
answer yet?

She nods, looks away from him.

BILLY
No comment?

GAIL
(it's confirmed)
I'm pregnant.

Billy considers this a beat, then enters the room.

BILLY
Well... How do you feel about that.

GAIL
Dazed. Terrified. Angry. Pick
one.

BILLY
Are you going to have the baby?

GAIL
Of course.

BILLY
Good. From the what I've seen, I
think you'll make a terrific
mother.

GAIL
A child deserves two parents,
Billy.

BILLY
Caleb doesn't have a one, he seems
to be doing alright.

GAIL
I'm not so sure.

BILLY
What do you mean?

GAIL
He's been acting pretty strange
lately. There's a darkness in him
I haven't seen before.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

BILLY

Well, I'm sure he's got some anger too. After what he's been through, I'd be worried if he didn't.

As this comment resonates, a little girl of six

ASHLEY PIKE

pokes her head in the door. She is carrying a jump rope.

ASHLEY

Are you Doctor Peele?

BILLY

Yes, ma'am.

The little girl turns down the hall.

ASHLEY

(calling)
Grandpa? He's in here.

She turns back to him.

ASHLEY

You work for my grandpa.

DR. PIKE

the hospital's head administrator, appears in the doorway.

BILLY

(seeing Pike)
I guess I do.

Pike puts his hand on the little girl's shoulder.

PIKE

Ashley... I hope you knocked.

BILLY

It's alright, Doctor. What can I do for you?

PIKE

Would you mind stopping by my office when you get a minute?

BILLY

(smiles)
You aren't firing me already, are you?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

PIKE
(cool to his levity)
Just come by when you can.

BILLY
Alright.

PIKE
Come on, Ashley...

Pike and Ashley disappear down the hall. Billy looks at Gail with trepidation..

BILLY
Maybe he is.
Off her reaction, we go to

EXT. BOARDING HOUSE - MORNING

Ben's patrol car eases to a stop. Caleb is in the passenger seat, staring out the window.

BEN
Caleb... I want you to know, if you ever need anything... I'm around.
(beat; no response)
In spite of our differences, Lucas meant a lot to me.

CALEB
How long did you work together?

BEN
Over ten years.

CALEB
And in all that time, did he ever praise ya? Tell you what a good job you done?

BEN
No... Not really.

CALEB
Well... Maybe there was a reason.

Ben looks at the boy with surprise. Was he just insulted? Caleb looks at him for the first time.

CALEB
Maybe you weren't livin' up to your full potential.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BEN
What do you mean?

CALEB
Can I see your gun?

BEN
What?

CALEB
I'd like to see it.

BEN
Well, I'm sorry son, but...

CALEB
Lucas let me see his. What's the matter, don't you trust me?

BEN
Lucas didn't carry a gun.

Caleb suddenly opens the glove compartment and pulls out a forty-five, which he points right at the deputy.

CALEB
What's this?

BEN
Caleb... Put that down.

CALEB
He didn't carry a gun, but he always kept one handy... Didn't he?

BEN
Yeah... Yeah, I guess so.

CALEB
Why didn't you let me see your gun, Ben?

BEN
Caleb, give me that.

Ben reaches for it. Caleb pulls back, cocking the trigger.

CALEB
(ice)
Don't.

BEN
(stunned)
Caleb...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

CALEB

Why didn't you let me see it?

BEN

Because little boys shouldn't be playin' with firearms.

CALEB

But I ain't every little boy. I'm Lucas Buck's son.

BEN

I know.

CALEB

So, when I tell you to do something, you're gonna do it. Right?

BEN

Look... What I'm going to do is write this off to some kind of emotional distress. Now you give me that thing and we'll forget this ever happened.

CALEB

You're gonna do what I say Ben, and with my help, you're gonna live up to your full potential. Understand?

(beat)

Do you understand?!

BEN

Caleb...

CALEB

No? Alright, then.

Caleb pulls the trigger. CLICK. The chamber is empty. Though Ben is about to have a coronary, Caleb just laughs, tosses the gun in his lap, and slaps him on the shoulder.

CALEB

Shoot, I was just foolin' with ya. Thanks for the lift.

And Caleb starts out the door. Ben grabs his arm.

BEN

Hey...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

CALEB
Hmm?

BEN
(intensely)
Are you alright?

CALEB
Yeah, I'm fine.
(like nothing happened)
I told ya I was just foolin'.

Ben holds the boy for a moment, staring deep into his eyes. Finally he releases him and Caleb exits the car. Off Ben's look of deep concern, we go to

INT. BOARDING HOUSE - CALEB'S ROOM - DAY

Caleb has a suitcase on the bed and he's filling it with clothing. Merlyn appears behind him. Caleb holds... sensing her presence.

CALEB
I smell a ghost.

MERLYN
You don't have to be this way. You have a choice.

CALEB
Oh-oh... Think I smell a sermon, too.

MERLYN
I'm your sister. I'm as big a part of you as Lucas is.

CALEB
You...
(turns to her)
...are nothin' but ashes. I'm tired of your preachin', I'm tired of your white dress, and I don't want to see you no more. So why don't you just go somewhere and... decompose.

MERLYN
Caleb...

He snaps the suitcase shut and moves toward the door.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MERLYN

What are you doing?

CALEB

Takin' what's mine. And if you try
and stop me...

MERLYN

I can't stop you.

CALEB

Good. Then stay out of my way.

And he's gone.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

As the clouds begin to RUMBLE overhead, we SOAR toward
Lucas' headstone, and once again, DIVE deep into the Earth.

INT. LUCAS' CASKET - DAY

ON LUCAS

Though quite dark, his face is quite visible... and he's
pissed.

LUCAS

Hell.

He has his belt buckle in hand, and is scratching at the
soil through the hole in his casket, searching for an air
pocket. He's quite weak, and there is an open wound in his
forehead.

Meanwhile, above ground...

INTERCUT - MERLYN

is now revealed, standing over his grave.

BACK TO LUCAS

who freezes. Like father like son, he knows she's there.

LUCAS

Merlyn... Merlyn that you?

MERLYN

You're alive.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUCAS

And your not. Want to trade places?

MERLYN

What's happening to my brother?

LUCAS

Oh... Notice a little change, have you? Why don't you help me out of here and I'll explain everything over a cup of java.

MERLYN

I want you to die.

LUCAS

You may get your wish, darlin'. But what you seem to have forgotten is that Caleb will just pick up the sword... If he hasn't already.

MERLYN

His behavior's changing.

LUCAS

And I'm only sick. Imagine how charmin' he'll be after I suffocate.

(beat)

Get me out, Merlyn. I get healthy, Caleb will turn around. But if I die, you'll see a monster in that child like you've never known.

(beat)

Merlyn?

(beat)

Merlyn!!

But she is already gone.

EXT. LUCAS' HOUSE - DAY

Caleb approaches the front door. He stops for a moment, staring up at the great house towering above him. We SEE the nameplate on a pillar: BUCK. As the sky grows darker...

INT. LUCAS' HOUSE - DAY

The front door swings open and Caleb is revealed. He enters purposefully, drops the suitcase at his side, and locks the door behind him.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Caleb takes in the grand entry, looks up at the second story balcony above him, then moves toward the library. As he approaches the door

A SHAPELY LEG

catches his attention. It's draped over an easy chair.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

CALEB

cautiously moves into the room, only to discover

SELENA

sipping a cognac... and lying in wait. She smiles at him.

SELENA

Welcome home... Master Buck.

And off Caleb's reaction, we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. PIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Pike is on the phone. One end of Ashley's jump rope is tied to a chair. The other is in his hand, and he is dutifully twirling it for her as she jumps before him.

PIKE

(into phone)

No, June. I'm not concerned about the ripple effect. I believe the community will be just as generous as they always have.

BILLY

pokes his head in the door. He give Pike a look like "Is this a good time?", and Pike motions for him to come in.

PIKE

(continuing into phone)

Yes... Well, I'll look forward to seeing you at the next fund raiser. Thank you. Bye.

He hangs up. Turns to his granddaughter.

PIKE

Ashley, would you mind leaving us for a few minutes? Ask Sarah to get you a popsicle.

ASHLEY

Okay, Grandpa.

And she exits. Billy looks at the jump rope.

BILLY

Would you do that for me? I'm a little out of shape.

PIKE

You're funny.

BILLY

Sometimes.

PIKE

Are you aware that Lucas Buck was one of this hospital's biggest contributors?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BILLY
No. But that doesn't surprise me.

PIKE
Why?

BILLY
He was a guy who liked control.
Money buys you a lot of that.

PIKE
(striking a nerve)
Well, his money didn't buy me.

BILLY
I wasn't implying that, sir.

PIKE
And it certainly shouldn't have
bought him any special treatment.

BILLY
What are we talking about here?

PIKE
You ordered post-mortem blood
tests. Why?

BILLY
I was curious about what killed
him. When I left his room, his
condition was stable. Next thing I
know, he's flatlining. Where I
come from...

PIKE
Where you come from is irrelevant.
This is a poor county. Calling for
labs on a corpse is a luxury we
cannot afford.

Billy stares at him. Boy, does this sound like bullshit.

BILLY
Can you tell me how he died?

PIKE
Heart failure.

BILLY
Heart failure?

PIKE
That's right.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

BILLY
And you signed off on that?

PIKE
Yes.

BILLY
Did the Sheriff have something on
you, Doctor?

Pike glares at him.

PIKE
Are the tests back yet?

Billy covers.

BILLY
Haven't seen them.

PIKE
Well, as soon as they're in, you
get them to me. Understood?

BILLY
This isn't really about money, is
it?

PIKE
Get yourself a popsicle, doctor.

Billy hesitates a moment, then turns and walks out the door.
We hold on Pike's face, then go to

INT. LUCAS BUCK'S HOUSE - LIBRARY - DAY

Caleb is standing in the doorway. Selena is across the room
from him, nestled in shadow.

SELENA
You realize he left everything to
you.

CALEB
How'd you get in here?

SELENA
I have a key.

CALEB
Give it to me.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SELENA

Is that any way to talk to your teacher?

CALEB

I want it.

SELENA

You don't own this house yet, little boy.

Caleb strides toward her.

CALEB

I can make you leave.

SELENA

And I can give you a spanking.

He glares at her.

SELENA

No matter how powerful you're feeling right now, in the eyes of the world, you're still a baby. You're going to need someone to help you get around. A guardian, if you will.

CALEB

You?

SELENA

Why not? I knew your father better than anyone. I think it's only fitting that I pass... whatever gifts I have... along to his son.

CALEB

You just want the money.

SELENA

Money is a fat man and a house in the suburbs. I couldn't care less about that. What you have is something much more exciting: Potential.

CALEB

I was just tellin' Ben Healy the same thing.

SELENA

Then you definitely need my help.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

CALEB

Hmm. I suppose I could use some kind of grown-up. To drive, and cook and things...

SELENA

Cook?

Caleb looks at her.

SELENA

Well, we could discuss that.

CALEB

How'd you know I'd come here?

SELENA

Because you're your father's son.

Caleb stares off into space, the world his oyster.

CALEB

There's all kinds of things I want to do.

SELENA

And I can help you.

CALEB

What about Gail? With Lucas gone, she may want to take me away from here.

SELENA

You've got bigger problems than that, darlin'...

(beat)

She's pregnant.

CALEB

(stunned whisper)
What?

SELENA

That's right. Another heir in the oven.

Caleb's eyes darken.

CALEB

I don't believe it.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

SELENA

It's true.
(with slight bitterness)
My only regret is that it wasn't
me.

Caleb thinks for a moment, then...

CALEB

They're gonna be missin' me at the
boardin' house. Gail's gonna
wonder where I am...
(darkly)
You tell her.

SELENA

You want her to come here?

CALEB

Make sure she's alone. I'll take
care of the rest.

Selena smiles.

SELENA

You're your father's son, alright.

And off Caleb's dead eyes, we go

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben is behind his desk, FLOYD at his side. They are
surrounded by a group of locals: black and white, rich and
poor, a microcosm of Trinity.

ELDERLY MAN

Who's gonna be in charge now?

BEN

I am Harper. Until the next
election, anyway.

BLACK BUSINESSMAN

It's not gonna be the same.

BEN

You're right, Ken. It's not. And
is that so terrible?

WEALTHY WOMAN

Lucas was always there for us. We
could count on him.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BEN

Well, Hell... Don't Vice-President mean anything? I was always Lucas' number two. Now, I can't promise I'm gonna do everything same as he did, but...

ELDERLY MAN

What about our deals? You gonna abide by 'em?

BEN

Well, I... I guess that would depend on the terms.

BLACK BUSINESSMAN

Lucas promised property taxes would never be raised in my neighborhood.

BEN

Well, when you get into something like taxes, that's more of a state issue, but...

WEALTHY WOMAN

What about the Ladies Auxiliary? Is your department still going to guarantee safe passage to and from our evening meetings?

BEN

Lucas did that?

WEALTHY WOMAN

Yessir.

BEN

Well, uh... How many members are there?

WEALTHY WOMAN

One hundred and forty-two.

Ben blanches.

BEN

Mrs. Collier... We've only got nine people in this whole building. If Lucas was coverin' that many ladies, he must have been...
(stopping himself)
Well, Lucas was Lucas, but...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

WEALTHY WOMAN
(to everyone else)
See? This is just my point.

FLOYD
(sotto; to Ben)
We could give out free pastries or something.

BEN
Thank you, Floyd.

Suddenly, a VOICE booms from the back of the room.

MERLYN (O.S.)
I think you'll do a great job,
Ben.

Ben looks up to see

MERLYN

in street clothes, standing beyond the group at the door. For him, she is a welcome visitor right now. Of course, he is the only one who recognizes her. She smiles.

MERLYN
You may be the answer to our prayers.

FLOYD
(to Ben)
Who's she?

BEN
Uh...
(to Merlyn)
You're, uh...

MERLYN
From out of town. But from what I've seen, a lot of these so called "deals" have come back to haunt people. Most of the folks I know regret ever doing business with Lucas Buck.

ELDERLY MAN
What folks are those?

MERLYN
(oh so polite)
Well, they're... dead ones.
Mostly.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

A little rumble in the group. Ben clears his throat.

MERLYN

(same sweet tone)

And you shouldn't ignore the dead because...

(pointedly; to Ben)

Sometimes they're not as dead as you think.

Ben reacts to this cryptic comment. Suddenly...

BILLY (O.S.)

Ben?

Ben spins around to discover

BILLY

standing behind him. He's got some papers in his hand.

BILLY

Can we talk?

BEN

Well, doctor, I'm in, uh... Kind of a nightmare.

BILLY

It's urgent. Maybe a matter of life and death.

Ben looks at him for a second, then back at Merlyn. She's vanished. Ben slowly returns to Billy with a wary look in his eye.

BEN

You guys really say that?

SMASH CUT TO

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Pouring rain -- Thunder, lighting, the whole nine yards.

BILLY AND BEN

are sloshing their way toward Lucas' grave. They are both carrying shovels, SHOUTING above the weather.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BILLY

So, after I talked to Pike I raced back to my office to see what the hell he was so afraid I'd find in those tests...

BEN

And?

BILLY

The lactic acid count was normal.

BEN

And that's bad.

BILLY

When someone dies, lactic acid soars into the bloodstream. Lucas' count should have been through the roof, but it was fine. This wasn't the blood of a dead man. Now, I don't know weather Pike made a mistake or didn't care but I think he may have buried the son-of-a-bitch alive.

SMASH CUT TO

INT. LUCAS' CASKET - NIGHT

Barely any light. We can hear the muted SOUND of rain pouring down on the ground above.

LUCAS

is still inside, one arm pushed through the hole into what is now mud. His eyes are closed and his breathing is short and measured. We slowly PUSH IN on his face until we are right on top of his eyes...

They pop open.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT - LATER

Billy and Ben are knee deep in the gunk now, digging away, giant piles of mud at their sides. They are still YELLING above the storm.

BEN

I want you to know, the only reason I'm doin' this is 'cause... Well, I think you may be right.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BILLY

Let's hope so.

BEN

But I mean, I had a clue about this before you ever mentioned blood tests.

BILLY

A clue from where?

BEN

A friend.

BILLY

Mystery friend?

BEN

(shrugs)
I'm a haunted man.

THUD. Ben's spade hits the casket. The guys look at each other, then toss aside their shovels, bend down, and begin clearing an area to pry open the lid. Suddenly

BOOM! THE LID BLOWS OPEN REVEALING LUCAS

who takes a long, deep breath... and looks up at his "rescuers."

LUCAS

(still weak)
Well... if it ain't the Hardy Boys.

And off the guys' reaction, we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

As a heavy rain pounds at the windows, we discover

LUCAS

in a hospital bed, hooked up to I.V. He looks pale and drawn, but very much alive. Billy is placing a clean dressing on his forehead.

LUCAS

(softly)

You sure no one saw us come in?

BILLY

You wanted the back entrance...
that's what you got.

LUCAS

No nurses.

BILLY

Fine.

LUCAS

And the door stays locked. As far
as the world is concerned, I'm
still dead.

BILLY

Hey, we could have left you down
there if we'd known it meant this
much to you.

Lucas slowly turns his head. Sees

BEN

standing motionless at the window, staring into the night.

LUCAS

Ben...

Ben turns.

LUCAS

Was comin' for me your idea?

The deputy holds a moment.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BEN
I wish I could say yes.

LUCAS
Had a little push, did ya?

BEN
Yeah.

Lucas gives up a small, knowing smile.

LUCAS
Well... Good. Nice to have
friends.
(then)
Where's Caleb?

BEN
I dropped him at the boarding house
this morning.

LUCAS
He give you any trouble?

BEN
Matter of fact he did.

LUCAS
Was Gail with him?

BEN
Nope.

LUCAS
See if you can hunt her down for
me, will ya? And bring her here?

BEN
Tonight?

LUCAS
Sooner the better.

BEN
Alright.

Ben puts on his hat and heads for the door.

BEN
Hey, Lucas...

LUCAS
Hmm.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

BEN

I'm, uh... real sorry about what happened.

Lucas closes his eyes.

LUCAS

Not as sorry as that doctor's gonna be.

Billy reacts. Looks up at Ben. The two men hold for a beat, then the deputy slips out the door.

EXT. LUCAS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A faint light glows through one of the downstairs windows. As the rain beats mercilessly against the building

SELENA'S CORVETTE

pulls into FRAME next to a familiar pillar and nameplate: BUCK.

INT. SELENA'S CORVETTE - NIGHT

Selena is behind the wheel, Gail passenger. She looks at the house with trepidation.

GAIL

Why would he come here?

SELENA

(shrugs)

We've looked everywhere else.

(reaching into her purse)

Poor thing. Imagine runnin' off on a night like this.

Selena pulls out a door key and offers it to Gail.

SELENA

Here.

GAIL

You have a key?

SELENA

(coyly)

Don't you?

Gail studies her warily.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SELENA

Go on, take it. I'll swing by the school and see if he's hidin' out there. Pick you up in fifteen.

GAIL

Selena... Thank you for your help.

SELENA

Honey, I care about Caleb as much as you do. Whatever problems we've had in the past should be put aside now. Lucas is gone...

(touching her stomach)

And you're gonna need all the support you can get.

Gail takes the key from Selena's hand and slips out of the car. Mission accomplished, Selena hits the gas pedal, and we go

INT. LUCAS' HOUSE - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The great door swings open. Gail enters and reaches for a light switch. CLICK. No luck.

GAIL

Caleb? Are you here?

She takes a few steps SEEING

THE SHADOW OF FLAMES - GAIL'S POINT OF VIEW

dancing against the open door of Lucas' library. A fireplace is obviously alive in here, and Gail follows the light, step by creepy step.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Sure enough, the fire is roaring, sending eerie shadows across the room. Gail enters, glances around...

GAIL

Caleb?

...then continues, until something stops her dead.

A CRADLE - GAIL'S POINT OF VIEW

is nestled in the center of the room, slowly rocking back and forth. It's covered by an ominous shroud of black lace.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

GAIL

studies it warily. In an act of unconscious protection, she brings her hand to her stomach.

THE CRADLE

continues rocking. CREAK... CREAK... CREAK...

GAIL

draws closer, as the shadows continue their eerie dance.

CREAK... CREAK... CREAK...

Gail reaches the cradle. She tries to peer through the lace but it's too thick. So, with one shaky hand, she slowly pulls it aside. Suddenly MUSIC EXPLODES across the room: Mozart's Requiem, playing at max volume.

GAIL

almost jumps out of her skin. She spins around, searching for the source of the music, then glances back into the cradle. There, in all of it's horrible glory, lies

A DOLL - GAIL'S POINT OF VIEW

An antique of white porcelain. It might be beautiful were it not for the blood covering it from head to toe. And now, finally

GAIL SCREAMS.

BOOM! The door to the library slams shut, and

CALEB

is revealed. Well, part of him anyway. Throughout this scene, he'll remain in a Kurtz-like shadow to accentuate his menace. And when he speaks, it's with a dispassionate calm: A sociopathic lilt that should make our skin crawl.

CALEB

That belonged to my sister.

GAIL

Caleb.

CALEB

She's dead now. My whole family's dead. Everyone except you, of course.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

GAIL
What are you doing here?

CALEB
Listenin' to music. Like my
choice? It's a classic.

GAIL
I want you to come home.

CALEB
I am home. This is where I'm gonna
to live now, Gail. In my father's
house.

GAIL
Your father would want you with me.

CALEB
With you? Like he was "with you"
you mean?

GAIL
(shocked)
Caleb...

Caleb slowly moves toward the fireplace.

CALEB
You like that doll?

GAIL
No.

CALEB
Why not? Ain't that what they look
like when they come out?

She stares at him in horror.

CALEB
Babies, I mean. Ain't that what
babies look like at first? Before
they get all scrubbed up and ready
for the nipple?

GAIL
What's happened to you?

CALEB
Guess I've begun to see my
potential.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

He lifts a poker from the fireplace and twirls it in his hand.

CALEB
And I ain't willin' to share it.
(beat)
You can't have no baby, Gail.
Least not the one you're carryin'
anyway.

She looks at him in amazement.

CALEB
Yeah, I know all about it. And I'm
afraid there can only be one.
Every generation, only one.

GAIL
One what?

CALEB
Buck.

Caleb pulls out a dollar, holds it before her.

CALEB
Why do you think they call money
the root of all evil?
(reading from the bill)
"Novus Ordo Seclorum"...
(he looks back at her)
You know what that means? An old
order of the ages is born anew.
Beneath the one-eyed pyramid...
Or "Temple," if you like.
(ominously)
'Cept that ain't the eye of "God,"
starin' out at everybody. No, not
by a long shot.

The CAMERA slowly PUSHES in on Gail's face, the awful
reality of this child/man's words hitting her solid.

GAIL
(covering; trying to stay
calm)
Alright, Caleb. You want to stay
here? Fine. I'm not your mother.

CALEB
No... You're not.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 4

GAIL
You can stay as long as you like.
But I'm leaving.

She begins slowly, cautiously moving toward the door. So does Caleb, poker still in hand.

CALEB
Not yet, Gail. There's something
you gotta do first.

GAIL
I'm leaving, Caleb.

CALEB
I've drawn you a hot bath.
(re; the poker)
I want you to take this, and do
what you have to do.

GAIL
Oh, my God...

Gail suddenly bolts for the door, swings it open and races into

INT. MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

Gail runs toward the front door. Tries to turn the knob. It's locked. She turns, just in time to see

THE POKER

swinging right toward her head.

GAIL

jumps aside as

CALEB

brings it smashing into the door.

GAIL

SCREAMS, and races up the staircase, disappearing into one of the rooms. CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES in on

CALEB

standing in front of the door.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CALEB
(a maniacal whisper)
Someone's at the door.

And as he starts up the stairs, we mercifully go to

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas is asleep, wired to the gills with I.V.s and monitors.
We PUSH IN tight on his face... and his eyes open yet again.

LUCAS
(into space)
Visitin' hours are over.

We WIDEN to include

MERLYN

standing by the window.

MERLYN
Feeling better?

LUCAS
All too mortal.

MERLYN
Least you're alive. And since I
helped bring you back, you're going
to do the same for Caleb.

He slowly turns his head toward her, a half-smile on his
lips.

LUCAS
Are you suggestin'... We had a
deal?

She takes a long, hard look at him, all too aware of the
implication of this remark.

MERLYN
Yes.

LUCAS
News to me.

BOOM. Lucas' bed suddenly shoots into an upright position.
Lucas cringes. He and Merlyn are now almost nose to nose.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MERLYN

I don't have time to play games;
Gail is pregnant with your child.

LUCAS

So? That's just a little insurance
policy. In case the boy doesn't go
my way.

(smiles)

"An heir and a spare."

MERLYN

Well, at this moment "the heir" is
about to eliminate the competition.

Lucas looks at her with concern.

LUCAS

What do you mean?

Suddenly

THE DOOR

bursts open and Ben enters.

BEN

Lucas, I been all over town, and...

He stops seeing Merlyn -- looks at Lucas -- back to
Merlyn -- now this is weird.

BEN

I can't find Gail anywhere.

MERLYN

I can't stop him now, Lucas. Only
you can do that.

LUCAS

Why should I?

MERLYN

Because as soon as he finds out
you're alive... you'll be next.

The CAMERA PUSHES in on LUCAS' face, clearly disturbed by
this turn of events, as we

DISSOLVE TO

INT. LUCAS' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

TIGHT ON A DOOR

BANG! The steel poker comes CRASHING into FRAME. We PULL BACK TO REVEAL CALEB, pounding away. He pauses for a beat.

CALEB

(yelling)
How long you think you can hide out in there, cousin? If you just do what I tell you, everything'll be fine.

Caleb listens. No response.

CALEB

Damn.

He pulls back and swings the poker into the door again.

INT. GUEST BATHROOM - NIGHT

An ornate lavatory, which appears as though it was decorated at the turn of the century. The tub is filled with hot, steaming water.

GAIL

is at a rear window, desperately trying to pry it open. No luck. She glances around for something she might use. Sees the medicine cabinet. Swings it open, starts pulling out items... no help here. Finally, in frustration, she pulls the whole cabinet off the wall... and smashes it into the window.

Glass EXPLODES everywhere and rain starts pouring in the room.

INTERCUT WITH CALEB

Who immediately stops pounding. Having heard the glass break, he calls out...

CALEB

Gail??!!

No reply. The boy hesitates for a moment, then races down the hall. We slowly PUSH IN on the lock on the door... CLICK. It turns.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Caleb runs up to another window and throws it open, sticking his head out into the rain.

EXT. LUCAS' HOUSE - SECOND STORY - NIGHT - CALEB'S POINT OF VIEW

He sees the broken bathroom window... But no Gail in sight.

INT. LUCAS' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

ON GAIL

She's stealthily making her way toward the top of the stairs. It's quite dark and difficult to navigate, but she finds a familiar support: the bannister railing, which rounds the second story and overlooks the main entry hall. Suddenly

THE FRONT DOOR - GAIL'S POINT OF VIEW

blows open.

GAIL

looks down to discover

LUCAS

just stepping in to the entry. Her face goes white.

GAIL

(stunned)

Lucas...

Lucas looks up, just in time to see

CALEB

coming up behind Gail, brandishing the poker. As he raises it to strike...

LUCAS

(screaming)

Gail... Look out!

GAIL

spins on her feet, tumbling backwards... and right over the railing.

GO WIDE - SLO MO

As Gail's body sails through the air, free falling, finally coming to grisly crash... right at Lucas' feet.

TIGHT ON GAIL'S FACE

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Lifeless. A small trail of blood drips from her mouth. We
WHIP UP to

LUCAS

crouched over her. He reaches down to touch her cheek...
then turns a dark gaze skyward.

CALEB

is glaring back at him, none too pleased to see him alive.
After a moment, the boy backs into the shadows.

LUCAS

lets out a great sigh, then lifts Gail's body into his arms
and we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT, HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

An unconscious Gail is in bed, I.V.'d and medicated. Billy is hovered over her, adjusting a bandage behind her ear. Lucas, looking like he should be back in bed himself, is seated at her side.

BILLY

She's got a basilar skull fracture and her blood count's way down. Let's hope she hasn't ruptured her spleen.

LUCAS

What are the odds of, uh...

BILLY

(shakes his head)
No baby, Lucas. I'm sorry.

Lucas holds for a beat, then rises and moves to the window.

LUCAS

Did she want it?

BILLY

Said so.

Lucas holds another beat... then turns back to the doctor. Whether Lucas actually cares about the loss of this child is a mystery. But that fact that he couldn't control this outcome... That really disturbs him.

LUCAS

What about in the future? Could she still, if she wanted to...

BILLY

She should be fine.

Lucas considers this, then slowly approaches Gail. He kneels at her side and whispers in her ear.

LUCAS

You're gonna have another chance, Gail. We're gonna have another chance.

He strokes her hair for a beat, then rises, a look of new found determination in his eyes.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUCAS
Hey, Doc... Am I still dead?

BILLY
As far as everyone around here's
concerned.

LUCAS
Good.

And off Billy's reaction, we go to

INT. HOSPITAL - DOCTOR PIKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Pike is at a file cabinet, going through some papers.
Ashley is seated on the sofa, eating the last of some fried
chicken.

ASHLEY
(re: food)
Grandpa, is there more?

PIKE
Might be. Why don't you go
downstairs and see if they'll give
you seconds. Tell 'em it's for
your old Granddad.

ASHLEY
Okay.

Ashley takes her plate and exits. After a moment, Lucas
appears. He steps into the room and SLAMS the door. Pike
spins around... and goes white.

PIKE
Oh, my God.

LUCAS
I am the ghost of Christmas past...
come to kick your ass.

PIKE
Lucas...

LUCAS
I look pretty good for a dead guy,
huh, Lee? Lot better than you
right now.

PIKE
I... I don't believe it.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUCAS

You knew I was alive when they buried me.

PIKE

No, no Lucas... Of course not.

LUCAS

What fancy drug did you use to stop my heart?

PIKE

Nothing. I swear.

Lucas pulls a blood sample from his pocket.

LUCAS

Got my blood right here. All I have to do is let Billy Boy run a test. He'll tell me.

Pike steadies himself. Lucas picks a letter opener off his desk.

LUCAS

If you come clean, I might show you some mercy. If not...

Lucas suddenly throws the letter opener like a knife... right into Pike's thigh. He lets out a SCREAM.

LUCAS

I may have to perform surgery.

Pike stumbles to his chair, pulls out the bloody blade... and begins to shake.

PIKE

I... I was tired of covering for you.

LUCAS

Coverin' what, Doctor?

PIKE

This hospital has always needed money so desperately.

LUCAS

And I gave it.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

PIKE

With a caveat, Lucas. Always with a caveat that I look the other way when it came to a questionable death.

LUCAS

So? Isn't that exactly what you did with me?

Pike just stares at him.

LUCAS

Man, what is it with you doctors? First your old comrade Matt Crower tried to shoot me, then your pharmacist put a spike in my head, and now you. Is there something in the goddam ventilation system here?

PIKE

What are you going to do?

LUCAS

I'm not going to do anything. I think we've had enough "questionable" deaths around here.

PIKE

You said you'd show mercy if I told you the truth.

LUCAS

And I'm a man of my word. Which is why I'll spare your granddaughter...

PIKE

(stunned)
What?

Lucas picks her jump rope off the couch and tosses it at Pike.

LUCAS

If you do the right thing.

Pike looks at the rope in his hands, realizing...

PIKE

No. No, Lucas I...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

LUCAS
I'm still pretty weak, so you'll
have to tie your own knots.

PIKE
Lucas, please...

Lucas moves toward the door.

LUCAS
You or her, Doctor.
(beat)
Pull up a chair.

And Lucas exits. We PUSH IN on PIKE, shaking uncontrollably, then go to

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ben enters, dragging a very unhappy Selena in tow. She is in a robe and slip, having obviously been pulled from some other activity. Sleep? Doubtful.

SELENA
Couldn't this wait 'til tomorrow?

BEN
No.

SELENA
Well, what the hell was so urgent
you had...

Suddenly, Lucas appears in the doorway from his office.

LUCAS
...to drag you out of bed?

SELENA
(stunned)
Lucas.

LUCAS
Hello, darlin'. Sorry to rouse
you, but I was just dyin' to talk.

SELENA
You're alive.

LUCAS
Try to contain your enthusiasm.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SELENA

Oh, Lucas...

Selena rushes toward him, throwing her arms in the air to take him in an embrace, but he pulls her up short.

LUCAS

No.

SELENA

What?

LUCAS

I don't think so.

Selena reacts defensively. Lucas keeps holding on to her... Sniffs at her neck, taking in her essence.

LUCAS

Hmm. You weren't alone.

She pulls herself away.

SELENA

What do you care?

LUCAS

I don't. Just an observation, really. See, I know your scent, darlin'.

SELENA

I thought you wanted to talk.

LUCAS

What were you doing in my house?

SELENA

I wasn't.

SLAP! Lucas gives her one right across the face. Selena looks at him like he's out of his mind.

SELENA

Bastard.

LUCAS

Dead men are very impatient. I told you, I know your scent. Now, you were in my house today. Why?

SELENA

I went looking for Caleb.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

LUCAS

What for?

SELENA

Because he'd run off. I was worried about him.

LUCAS

Ben, you want to slap her again?

SELENA

Alright. I went there... for myself. To be with him.

LUCAS

Why?

SELENA

'Cause I care.
(really tough admission)
I saw a part of him this morning... that reminded me of you.

LUCAS

Of me.

SELENA

That's right. Believe it or not, I actually shed a tear when you died.

LUCAS

I'm touched.

SELENA

(really hurt)
Go to Hell.

LUCAS

How did Gail end up there?

Selena just stares at him.

LUCAS

We're still talking, Selena.

SELENA

(defiantly)
I sent her.

LUCAS

Did you know she was carrying my child?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

SELENA

Was?
(ice)
I'm so sorry.

They hold a beat. Two wounded animals, circling for the kill.

LUCAS

I'd like to rip your throat out,
Miss Coombs...

Selena slowly, seductively pulls back her head, exposing her jugular. She's ready.

LUCAS

But you don't deserve that kind of
satisfaction. Get out of here.

SELENA

Lucas...

LUCAS

GET OUT!

Selena slowly backs off, moving toward the door, then...

SELENA

(the black queen)
You're gonna wish you'd stayed
dead.

And she's gone. Lucas just keeps looking after her.

LUCAS

(to Ben)
Fire up the car.

And off the deputy's reaction, we go to

INT. HOSPITAL - HALL - NIGHT

Billy has a chart in his hand, walking with Rita.

BILLY

Make sure you keep me posted on her
vitals.

RITA

I'll be with her all night.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Doctor?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Billy turns to discover

ASHLEY

standing in the middle of the hall behind them. She looks a little dazed.

ASHLEY

Grandpa's sleeping on the ceiling.

INT. DOCTOR PIKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Billy enters to discover

PIKE

hanging by the jump rope, swinging from a light fixture... very, very dead.

BILLY

Dear God.

We too, hang for a moment, then go to

EXT. LUCAS' HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

As a bolt of lighting explodes across the sky.

INT. LUCAS' HOUSE - MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

The front door swings open REVEALING

LUCAS

cold, wet, and almost spent. He crosses the threshold, slams the door behind him, and stares up at the balcony.

LUCAS

Alright, son. You and me now.

Lucas slowly moves toward the library. He looks inside.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

The room has been trashed. Books, furniture, everything is thrown all over the place. Lucas shakes his head.

LUCAS

Did somebody have a temper tantrum?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Seeing the cradle, Lucas moves toward it.

ON THE CRADLE

Lucas reaches in and pulls out Merlyn's bloody doll. Wedged into it's belly is a large steak knife. Lucas pulls out the blade... and something catches his eye.

ON THE WINDOW

A reflection. Something is moving behind him. Suddenly

LUCAS

spins, throwing the doll with all his might, hitting

A DRAPE

flapping by another open window.

LUCAS

lets out a sigh, rams the knife into an end table, and begins moving out the door.

CLOSE ON THE KNIFE

as a small hand comes into FRAME... and grabs it.

INT. MAIN ENTRY - NIGHT

Lucas returns to the main entry.

LUCAS

Listen to me boy. I know what you're feeling. Believe me, I've lived with the rage every day of my life. It's part of who we are. It's what we feed on. And one day, the world will know it's power. But not yet, Caleb. As soon as I'm healed, the hunger that's drivin' you will disappear, and you'll be as you were.

(beat)

"Novus Ordo Seclorum," right? An old order of the ages is born anew. For a thousand years, each generation has prepared the next. And when it's your time, I'll gladly step aside. But I'm not ready to do that yet. And you're not ready to make me.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Lucas? CALEB (O.S.)

Lucas turns to discover Merlyn, standing behind him.

Shut-up. CALEB

WHAM. Caleb suddenly rams the knife into Lucas' belly. Lucas' eyes roll back for a moment, and then he falls to his knees... and morphs into Merlyn.

CALEB

steps back with astonishment.

You... CALEB

Merlyn, unhurt, just stares at him.

MERLYN
Is that any way to treat your
sister?

Enraged, Caleb raises the knife to strike again... when a hand comes in to FRAME, grabbing his arm. We PULL BACK TO REVEAL

LUCAS

standing behind him. He squeezes the knife from the boy's hand, lifts him into the air, and starts carrying him toward the stairs.

CALEB
No! Leave me alone. NOOOO!

The boy struggles and squirms, but it's to no avail.

MERLYN

looks after Lucas warily, as he begins moving up the staircase.

MERLYN
What are you doing?

LUCAS
Takin' the lamb to the slaughter.

MERLYN
What?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

LUCAS

Only way to rid ourselves of this plague, Merly Ann. The evil that lives within this child must be vanquished.

Merlyn rises, turns toward him defiantly.

MERLYN

You said you could bring him back.

LUCAS

(laughs)
Who do I look like? Kreskin? I don't think that's in my repertoire.

MERLYN

Lucas...

LUCAS

Don't worry, little sister. This way, you'll have Caleb with you forever.

Having reached the top of the stairs, Lucas raises the boy above his head, preparing to throw him over the side.

MERLYN

Lucas, don't...

CALEB

(screaming bloody murder)
Merlyn, help me!

Through the windows, we can see the lighting exploding all around them.

LUCAS

Get thee behind me, youngster.

CALEB

NOOOO!

LUCAS

Get thee behind me.

Suddenly, currents of electricity begins to engulf both Caleb and Lucas, raging through them like wildfire.

MERLYN

I'm not going to let you kill him.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

CALEB

Lucas!!!

LUCAS

Let go, boy. Let go, and you'll be free.

CALEB

No!

LUCAS

Let go. Caleb! LET GO!!!

As the electricity reaches a fever pitch, Caleb's body begins to vibrate ferociously. Suddenly, Lucas releases his grip... and Caleb falls... tumbling downward, right into Merlyn's image. As his body connects with hers, there is a tremendous explosion, and when the smoke clears...

CALEB

is lying on his back in the middle of the floor.

LUCAS

stares down at him. Merlyn is no where to be seen.

TIGHT ON CALEB

The boy stirs. Looks up at

LUCAS

who is now beside him, cradling his head in his arms.

CALEB

(dazed)

Lucas?

LUCAS

It's alright, son.

CALEB

What happened?

LUCAS

You fell.

Caleb strains to look around.

CALEB

Where... Where's my sister?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 4

LUCAS

Gone.

CALEB

Gone where?

LUCAS

I believe... she's part of you now.

Caleb looks at him questioningly.

LUCAS

There had to be a sacrifice, Caleb.
One of us had to go. And it wasn't
going to be me.

Caleb considers this.

CALEB

(softly)

What will I do without her?

LUCAS

Oh... I think we'll get by.

And we slowly PUSH IN on Caleb's face, the sobering realization that he may never see his beloved sister again, the strains of Mozart's Requiem begin to fill the air and we

FADE OUT

THE END