

TEASER

EXT. CHURCH YARD - DAY

A rickety church steeple juts into the sky. At its top, there's an off-kilter metal cross with a wooden ring around it. Below, a quiet church yard.

SUPER: 1850

Aside from the small whitewashed chapel and some sprawling trees, there isn't much here except for a handful of grave markers split down the middle by an unusually wide path.

A long beat of stillness and birdsong is suddenly broken by the sound of pounding gravel.

RAYMOND MUSGRAVE (a mature 16 with a heart of fool's gold) comes tearing around the corner of the church yard and glances over his shoulder every couple of strides.

His necklace bounces from side to side as he sprints: a rough-cut stone set inside a frame of gnarled wood that's tied to a leather string.

RAYMOND

(panting)

Come on...come on...come on...

Raymond looks ahead, then skids to a stop.

RAYMOND (CONT'D)

What the devil?

In the middle of his path, a blurry figure hovers. It's about Raymond's height, misty white, and spooky as all get out.

As the apparition approaches, we hear a deep thrumming noise. Raymond cringes and presses a hand against his temple.

He turns to run. But he now sees a pair of young men jogging down the road: ISAAC CROWELL (16, Han Solo-grade swagger) and JACOB CROWELL (17, too clever for his own good).

Isaac spots Raymond and lets out a violent laugh.

ISAAC CROWELL

Hey! Muskrat!

Raymond snaps his head back toward the ghostly figure. The thrumming has grown louder. He presses his hand harder against his temple and looks back to his pursuers.

JACOB CROWELL

Now you just stay put--no use  
makin' this harder!

The brothers break into a sprint. Raymond takes a deep breath and spins to face the apparition.

Only now, it's gone. So is the thrumming noise.

He feels like he's just shrugged off a load of bricks. And then he's off like a shot.

Raymond flies down the pathway, passing several massive trees at the far corner of the church yard. The Crowell brothers hoot as they follow.

ISAAC CROWELL (O.S.)

Hoo-ee! You know what we do with  
muskrats, don't you, boy?

JACOB CROWELL (O.S.)

I reckon we're in for a--

Their heckling and gravelly footfalls stop abruptly, but there's no way on God's green earth that Raymond's stopping.

He veers off into the thick woods on the left, leaps over a fallen tree, and is quickly out of sight.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

An almost-full moon hangs low in the sky. Raymond peeks out from behind a gnarly old tree, his wild eyes darting around for signs that he's being followed.

He's not. But Raymond's nerves are wound so tight that even the sound of a one-legged cricket would make him jump.

He steps onto a well-trodden dirt pathway, follows it uphill for several strides, then pauses. When he's sure he's alone, he looks up the path and sees:

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The mouth of a cave gapes open, devouring the moon's light.

We hear a low thrumming noise and Raymond presses a hand to his temple by reflex. After a moment, he slowly lowers it as he peers into the cave's inky darkness.

The noise isn't coming from inside Raymond's head anymore.  
It's coming from inside the cave.

RAYMOND  
(whispering to himself)  
Out of the frying pan, into the  
fire.

As he pads silently toward the cave, the thrumming intensifies. Raymond hesitates at the threshold, then enters.

INT. HEART OF THE CAVE - NIGHT

Farther inside the cave, the thrumming sound is much louder. Deeper, too. More rhythmic. Almost like a giant heartbeat.

Raymond now stands at the opening of a much larger cavern with his hand cupped around a single match. Tight on Raymond's face, we see his eyes widen as he takes in his surroundings.

Raymond walks across the space. He runs a hand lightly over the cave's wall, but from our angle we can't quite see what's there.

RAYMOND  
(in awe)  
Nobody's gonna believe this.

A high-pitched clinking sound breaks his reverie. Harsh whispers echo from somewhere back near the cave's entrance.

Raymond blows out his match and we're plunged into darkness. Suddenly, a violent explosion bathes Raymond's face in light and the cave shudders.

Then, it all comes a tumbling down.

Cut to black.

END OF TEASER