

EXT. NILBOG WOODS - DAY

Sheriff Drew is on the road, riding his motorbike somewhat slowly, as if looking for something.

He sees what looks like a piece of white cloth (from a T-shirt) at the roadside. He pulls over onto a dirt path, the dense forest on either side. He parks the bike, gets off, pulls a gun from his holster, and walks into the forest.

He walks through the quiet woods, looking around cautiously. He then hears a sudden noise, like twigs breaking. He turns quickly, sees nothing. He moves on.

About ten steps further, he hears another noise, further ahead. He walks quietly, even more cautiously.

As he approaches, the noise gets more louder, and more apparent: the sound of flesh being pounded on (punched by a fist).

Drew goes around a very large tree, looks around it, and sees in the brush, on the ground on the other side, Joshua Waits, straddling a Groll, punching it in the face. Joshua's own face is green - but not his lips. His shirt too is green. It looks as if he used it to wipe off his mouth and some of his face. (His white T-shirt is partially torn.)

Next to Joshua and the Groll are three more Grolls. All have been beaten to death. Pieces of their skin are missing. It's a green-bloodbath.

Drew aims the gun at Joshua.

SHERIFF DREW

All right... Stop what you're doing right now, and stand up.

Joshua stops. Looks up with glaring eyes.

SHERIFF DREW

You better do what I say... Stand up slowly.

Joshua, still in an animalistic daze, stands up. He has an angry, hungry scowl on his face. He slowly approaches Drew, his hands out like claws.

SHERIFF DREW

Okay... You asked for it.

Right as Sheriff Drew cocks the gun, Joshua, as if in fast motion, runs up quickly and knocks the gun out of Drew's hand. Joshua and the Sheriff are now face to face. Joshua has a mean snarl.

SHERIFF DREW
(frightened yet cocky
tone)

What are you gonna do - kill me
with your bare hands?

Joshua punches Sheriff Drew in the throat with his left hand. Then, quickly with his right, he punches him in the face.

Joshua watches as Sheriff Drew falls back to the ground. He is gurgling, shaking. Green blood spurting from his mouth. Then he stops shaking altogether.

Joshua is staring down at him, and then looks up...

And sees:

Dr. Cooper standing about ten yards off holding a log in his hand.

DR. COOPER
I was here to back you up, to save
your life... but it looks like you
don't need my help, do you, Joshua?

Drew's body begins to shake once again, even more frantically. Dr. Cooper and Joshua watch intently as green ooze starts pouring out through Drew's skin. It all happens very fast. After about ten beats, there is no human form to Drew at all: just a green puddle with some green chunks mixed in lying on the forest floor.

Dr. Cooper looks over at Joshua.

DR. COOPER
I guess it makes sense. He *was* into
Green Peace.

Joshua, now back into his ferocious predator state, puts his hands out again like claws, walks towards Dr. Cooper.

DR. COOPER
Come on now, Joshua. You know who I
am, don't you?

Joshua keeps walking slowly towards him; Dr. Cooper (who has dropped the log) is walking backwards.

DR. COOPER (CONT'D)
 You're in a state of frenzy those
 Italian doctors warned me about...
 But I got a cure for you, buddy...
 This will bring you right back to
 reality.

Dr. Cooper reaches into a pocket, and pulls out a pistol. He holds it towards Joshua.

DR. COOPER (CONT'D)
 I got the medicine you need... Just
 relax, Joshua.

This is not a real gun, but a squirt gun.

Dr. Cooper, holding the "gun", stops moving. Joshua keeps walking towards him, his mouth wide open, and he's making sounds like a hungry predator.

Dr. Cooper aims... Joshua is approaching, closer, closer.

Dr. Cooper squirts once: the liquid hits Joshua's neck. He squirts it again: the liquid hits Joshua's cheek.

Now Joshua is so close to Dr. Cooper, it's apparent the doctor has only one more opportunity before its too late.

DR. COOPER
 (aiming with precision)
 Smile you son of a...

Dr. Cooper's last squirt goes right into Joshua's mouth. Joshua stops in his tracks. Drops to his knees.

He starts to gag, but no liquid comes out - he's already swallowed it.

After five beats, Joshua's head rises, and he looks at Dr. Cooper, his eyes are no longer a glaring red.

Then, as if nothing had happened at all, Joshua stands up. He brushes the dirt from his pants, looks at Dr. Cooper.

JOSHUA
 What happened?

DR. COOPER
 Joshua?

JOSHUA
 Why are you out here, Elliott? What
 the hell's going on?

DR. COOPER
Then you *do* remember me?

JOSHUA
Yeah. Of course... Why wouldn't I?

DR. COOPER
Thank God. I was about to become...
(motions to dead Grolls)
Like them.

Joshua looks at the Grolls.

JOSHUA
Hey... they look like bigger
versions of...
(looks at Dr. Cooper, his
eyes widened)
We're back in Nilbog, aren't we?

DR. COOPER
Yes... Don't you remember coming
here?

JOSHUA
Well... I do know I'm somewhere
with my dad and some family, but...
I don't know. It's all been like a
dream or something... The last
thing I remember completely is
being at the hospital, and you guys
hooking me up with wires on my
head.

DR. COOPER
That dream you're having is all
true... your dad, and those kids,
are in serious trouble.

JOSHUA
What kind of trouble?

DR. COOPER
Serious trouble. I already told you
that.

JOSHUA
But what kind of serious trouble?

DR. COOPER
They're under a spell, and don't
even realize it...

(MORE)

DR. COOPER (cont'd)
 They're probably drugged right now,
 and will be headed for the church
 that looks like a house... Or a
 house that looks like a church...
 Whatever the hell that place is,
 they'll be on their way there,
 soon. And we must stop them... But
 first.

Dr. Cooper walks over to the green Drew stew, and picks up a
 walky talkie lying near the goop.

He turns it on, looks at Joshua.

DR. COOPER
 I've known him for years, and I
 think I can do a pretty decent
 imitation... Kind of sounds like a
 borderline hillbilly, don't you
 think?

(into talky; imitating
 Drew's sort of twangy
 voice)

This is Doctor... I mean, this is
 Sheriff Drew Bullock... Mayor
 Arnold, do you read? Over.

MAYOR ARNOLD (VOICE)
 Yes... This is Arnold. What's the
 news, Drew?

DR. COOPER
 Not much... I have Joshua Waits in
 handcuffs, and I'm about to bring
 him to the church house... So now
 I'm just waiting to finish off his
 dad and those kids.

MAYOR ARNOLD (VOICE)
 Good. I'm glad to hear it... I'll
 wake up Deputy Dean... And then I
 need to take care of some things
 around here... I'll be at the
 library at about an hour or so.

DR. COOPER
 The library?

MAYOR ARNOLD (VOICE)
 Yes... The library.

DR. COOPER
 You're referring to the house that
 looks like a...

(MORE)

DR. COOPER (cont'd)
I mean, the library. That's it. Of course... Sure, I'll be there.

MAYOR ARNOLD (VOICE)
Okay then, Drew... Glad to know you got things in control... Over and out.

CUT TO:

EXT. PICNIC FIELD - DAY

The picnic is over. There are no more people outside, just empty tables, etc.

Mayor Arnold is the only person standing on the field.

MAYOR ARNOLD
(to himself)
All of the sudden Drew doesn't know about the library, huh?

Mayor Arnold looks towards the town center.

MAYOR ARNOLD
Nilbog, get ready for a major renovation.

Mayor Arnold puts the walky in his pocket, and heads towards the buildings.

BACK TO:

EXT. NILBOG WOODS - DAY

JOSHUA
So what now?

DR. COOPER
As for myself, I have to go back to the town... I don't think Arnold bought my ruse.

Dr. Cooper gets on the motorcycle. Joshua stands there, watching him.

DR. COOPER
I'm leaving my car here. I want to feel like Steve McQueen for a change... You want a ride?

JOSHUA

You know what... I think I have to do this on my own.

DR. COOPER

Do *what* on your own?

JOSHUA

Return to the house. I can hardly remember it, but it's getting more and more clear... I *must* find my father.

DR. COOPER

Do you know the way?

JOSHUA

I'll know what to do... I have a sixth sense about this place.

DR. COOPER

You're not going to tell me that you see dead people, are you?

JOSHUA

Why would I say that?

DR. COOPER

Oh, that's right. You were locked up through the entire nineties, weren't you? Anyhow, I'll go back to town, and then we can meet at the church that looks like a... I mean, the library.

JOSHUA

Sounds good... See you then.

He revs up the engine. Turns to Joshua, who is about to walk back into the woods.

DR. COOPER

Joshua.

Joshua turns.

JOSHUA

Yes.

DR. COOPER

May the force be...

(stops)

Never mind... See you later, buddy.

JOSHUA
Okay, brother. Good luck.

DR. COOPER
Thanks... I'll need it.

Joshua goes his way, walking through the forest back towards the direction of the Presence home, as Dr. Cooper takes off on the bike, back down the highway towards Nilbog.