

FROM BENEATH A RAGGED COT

we see a young schoolgirl, VIVIAN, 8, thrashed down cheek-to-floor in a BOARDING SCHOOL BEDROOM. Angry footsteps assisted with a cane exit. Keys jangle, locking her inside.

A lonely tear escapes her bruised, unblinking eye -- as she notices a HIDDEN NOTE beneath her ragged cot...

EXT. WEST WOODS - EVENING TWILIGHT

Tip-toeing through the darkening forest, she references the handwritten note as we glimpse the words: UNMARKED GRAVE, WEST WOODS and DEATH WISH before she pockets it, as she:

KNEELS AT AN UNMARKED GRAVE.

The putrid patch is enshrouded in a rotting bramble of viciously sharp briar and thorns, containing a solitary DANDELION sprouted from decrepit earth.

Cautiously reaching through, she plucks it -- but a thorn pricks her flesh. A singular drop of red blood falls to the blackened and decayed grave site -- an unholy exchange, as the hellish soil quakes to life from deep below...

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - LATER

Haunting tolls from the bell tower echo. Candlelights fade from schoolhouse windows. Night consumes the yard except for the curious lantern of the white-haired HEADMASTER leering from the front steps -- malicious disdain wrinkles his stern face as he peers toward the exterior recreation area...

RUSTY SWINGS SOFTLY SCREECH AND SWAY AS HE APPROACHES.

Vivian dangles upside-down from a playground cross-bar, holding the dandelion to her mouth, staring into his eyes.

Fiercely, he strikes the pole next to her face with his cane -- her gaze unflinching. The lantern's flame dancing within the fury of her vengeful eyes, as she closes them...

A malevolent smirk softly curls... a deep breath in, then she blows... the petals swirl upwards unnaturally, past her bent knees gripping the monkey bar, revealing the CLAWS OF A

MASSIVE, GROTESQUE CREATURE PERCHED ON THE BAR NEXT TO HER--

Purging a beastly snarl, the monster attacks him! Blood splatters across Vivian's smiling face, eyes closed.