

EXT. CHURCH - DUSK - 1980

There is a church get together taking place. About twenty people enjoy the beautiful fall day.

The church is back in the woods by itself. There is a cemetery in the back of it and only a small dirt country road leads up to it.

One man stands over the grill fixing hamburgers. There are a few picnic tables around. There are a handful of kids running around chasing each other.

COOK

Let's eat!

Everyone is sitting at a table with plates in front of them.

COOK (CONT'D)

Let's take a quick bow everyone. I would like to thank the Lord above for letting all of these fine people be here together today and just bless this food as it nourishes our bodies. Amen.

OTHER MAN

Ain't God good?!

COOK

MMM. He is.

A young boy no older than six sits beside a young pretty blonde girl, 6, they both eat hamburgers.

YOUNG BOY

I bet you can't catch me.

YOUNG GIRL

I've already caught you plenty of times today.

YOUNG BOY

Well I run faster after I've ate.

YOUNG GIRL

So do I!

MOTHER

Now kids quiet down and eat your lunch.

YOUNG BOY
 Mom, you think after we finish our
 lunch we can play some more?

MOTHER
 I don't see why not.

YOUNG BOY
 You won't catch me.

YOUNG GIRL
 Want to bet.

YOUNG BOY
 How much?

MOTHER
 Children! There is no betting to
 be done while we are in the Lord's
 presence.

YOUNG BOY
 But aren't we always?

MOTHER
 Precisely.

YOUNG GIRL
 I'll catch you anyway.

The kids continue eating as does everybody else.

MINUTES LATER

YOUNG BOY
 You ready?

YOUNG GIRL
 Yes!

MOTHER
 Don't run to far because it's
 starting to get dark.

YOUNG GIRL
 Okay.

YOUNG BOY
 Okay.

The girl begins to chase the boy around the picnic tables and
 then the boy runs through the cemetery. She can't quite seem
 to catch up to him. He stops behind a gravestone.

YOUNG BOY

I told you I run faster after I eat.

YOUNG GIRL

I'm going to get you.

YOUNG BOY

Well come on then.

He keeps running. He runs into the woods.

YOUNG GIRL

Hey, you can't go in there.

YOUNG BOY

Yes I can. What's a matter. Scared?

YOUNG GIRL

No!

The girl runs in the woods after the boy. They keep running through the woods unaware that the night is getting dark around them.

The boy runs and suddenly the woods end and he is standing on the edge of a big open cleared out area. He stops and takes notice of it and then keeps running.

The girl makes it to the clearing and trips and falls right at the edge of it.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)

Ow!

She holds her leg. She has scraped it pretty bad. Blood runs down it and onto the ground.

YOUNG BOY

I'm not falling for that game. I know you're not really hurt.

YOUNG GIRL

(Sniffling)

Yes I am. Look!

YOUNG BOY

Oh no you don't. I'm smarter than that. You girls can cry whenever you want to. You're all little babies.

YOUNG GIRL
Am not!

YOUNG BOY
Are too!

YOUNG GIRL
Am not!

The girl gets up and starts chasing him again around the clearing. She catches him rather quickly and pushes him down instead of just tagging him. He crashes to the ground.

YOUNG BOY
You didn't have to do that.

YOUNG GIRL
Aww poor baby. Nana nana boo boo.

She starts running and the boy chases her. He can't catch her stops, exhausted, and sits on the ground.

YOUNG BOY
Think we should go back now?

YOUNG GIRL
Why you getting scared little boy?

YOUNG BOY
No.

YOUNG GIRL
You just know you can't catch me.

The boy stands up and starts to chase her again. The only light they have now is moonlight.

EXT. THE CHURCH - NIGHT

The adults have now starting to look for the kids. Calling their names.

MOTHER
Alicia! Danny!

EXT. THE CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

DANNY
Did you hear that?

ALICIA
It's mom. Let's go.

The kids turn around and begin to run.

A white flash flies by them. They stop, terrified, and look at each other.

DANNY
Did you see that?

ALICIA
Yeah. What was it?

DANNY
I don't know. Let's get out of here.

The children turn and start to run out of the clearing. They stop.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Which way is it?

ALICIA
I don't know.

DANNY
I can't see anything.

The darkness of the trees as made every way they turn look black.

They start to walk the way they think it is.

A white flash comes flying down towards them from above. They scream in terror as it envelops them.

EXT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is still searching for the children. They hear a loud ear piercing scream come from the woods.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: THE CLEARING

FADE IN:

EXT. THE CLEARING - THE NEXT DAY

Police cars cover the clearing. A small trail has been made just big enough for the cars to fit through.