

STAT

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EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Grey skies over a bleak graveyard that extends as far as the eye can see. Closer...

A LARGE GROUP OF MOURNERS huddle around a small plot where a coffin lies suspended across the hole on wooden slats. Beside it, a pile of earth. Priest FATHER DONAL TILLY (50) reads from the Bible in his hand.

PRIEST

Because God has chosen to call our
sister Una to Himself, we commit
her body to the earth...

Behind the PALLBEARERS, gangly university student JAKE NEWN (19) in a mourning outfit two sizes too large for him, listens with gaunt expression. His eyes are fixed on the coffin in front of him.

PRIEST (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...for we are dust and to dust we
shall return...

Beside Jake, sister FRAN (21) dabs her tears with a handkerchief. Her other arm is locked around father GERALD who sneaks a look at his watch.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

...the Lord will change our mortal
bodies to be like His in glory...

ON JAKE: Sweaty and loosening collar.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

...for He is risen, the firstborn
of the dead.

The female FUNERAL DIRECTOR (35) nods to the PALLBEARERS who grip straps to take the weight of the coffin as she removes the slats from beneath it.

Jake is pale. He raises a hand to his head. It looks like he will faint but Jake steadies himself in the last seconds to focus on the coffin as it descends into the hole.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

So let us commend sister Una to the
Lord...

Suddenly,

JAKE'S POV: The grave grows wide and deep - rather like a sink hole opening up - but no one seems to react. As pallbearer's extend away from one another onto opposite sides of the chasm, Jake shakes his head to regain focus.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

...that he may embrace her in peace
and raise up her body on the last
day.

He looks again. Normal service is resumed with sink-hole gone and pallbearers, priest and mourners huddled around the grave. As Jake relaxes.

Suddenly, BLACK SCREEN instantly into:

INT. UNDERWORLD TUNNEL - NIGHT

A FLASH OF LIGHT - brighter than the sun - DIMS into the dark outline of a semi-circular tunnel. A few metres wide, it extends towards a black dot in the distance.

In the tunnel, Jake looks around him, confused. Beat then...

JAKE

Fran? Dad?

Jake steps closer to examine the tunnel wall. He touches the metal lattice which is not dissimilar to the design of a bird cage.

Suddenly, a GREY HAND and ARM shoots out through the lattice towards him. Momentarily, off guard, Jake sees it late and instinctively steps back.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Sheesh!

The fingers of the outstretched hand open wide as they beg to be taken. Frightened, Jake turns to look around him and is instantly back at the

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...as a clod of earth falls onto Una's coffin with a THUMP (O.S.).

Bewildered, he looks about him, momentarily confused.

Gerald and Fran step forward. They take a handful of earth from the funeral director who stands to attention with small box of earth in her hand.

As they drop earth onto the coffin, other mourners follow suit. With backs to Jake, they do not see him as fleet-footed, he turns tail and races across the CEMETERY PATH to:

COPSE OF TREES

Concealed from the group with back to tree, Jake SOBS uncontrollably. Overwhelmed, he bites on his fist to mute HOWLS as he slides to the ground and WEEPS.

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