

THE INVOKED

Written by David Cave

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Log line: Love. Hurts.

Genre: Psychological Horror/Drama. Rural Gothic.

Synopsis: A young man finds himself caught up in a modern witchcraft sect after meeting his ideal girl on a social networking site.

Treatment:

England – 1975

A large fire burns in an area of woodland. A naked couple adorned in body paint, JIM (19) and JANE (17), make love passionately in front of the flames as a group of hippies avidly watch on. A colourfully decorated mask is pushed onto the face of the CULT LEADER, a man in his late twenties, who uses a sacrificial dagger to slice open the body of the young goat he holds in his arms. As the goat's blood falls onto the young couple below, the Cult fall into a growing union of drug-fuelled sexual abandonment.

Present Day

LUKE WALLACE (17) is an only child who lives with his separated mum, JANE (59), in a deprived northern British town. Like many lads of his age LUKE is into alternative music, drinking, technology and skateboarding. Socially awkward, LUKE has a small circle of friends. His best friend is DANNY (18); an unemployed black skateboarder that shares LUKE's sense of alienation. LUKE still sees his father (61), JIM, who visits him regularly when he isn't working away.

Over the past 3 months, LUKE has formed an online relationship with LIVVY TAYLOR, a girl of similar age and interests. Their emotional angst provides the perfect platform for a first meeting after LIVVY sends LUKE a sexually explicit picture of herself. He immediately agrees to travel to the isolated village of Boscombe to meet this enigmatic, pretty, black-haired girl. On his way there LUKE – skateboard under his arm - bumps into DANNY on the bus, who tells him about the crazy parties he attended at the Taylor house back when they were children.

On arriving in Boscombe LUKE meets an ECCENTRIC DRUNK (72) who tells warning tales of the house near the mines where LIVVY resides. LUKE notices that his mobile phone no longer has a signal. Their conversation is interrupted when LIVVY'S mum, OLIVIA (68) turns up in her 4x4 to pick him up. LUKE travels back to their formally grand country house, a few miles away to wait for his friend.

After a couple of hours pass by and much discussion with OLIVIA about the perils of modernity, LUKE begins to worry that something isn't quite right. There is something *wrong* about the house: the mouldy wallpaper peeling from the walls; the windows clumsily nailed shut; the dank smell of decay in the air... His suspicions are further heightened when he witnesses OLIVIA killing piglets in one of the out-houses before retiring to bed for her late-afternoon nap. LUKE pushes his initial fears aside and decides to stay a little longer in the hope of meeting his attractive friend. After his clandestine exploration of the house leads him to witness OLIVIA masturbating in her bedroom LUKE decides it is time to leave. He doesn't get far. OLIVIA attacks him from behind, striking him around the head with his skateboard and knocking him unconscious.

LUKE wakes up in a darkened bricked room, tied to a filthy bed. After pleading for answers to his situation an unknown female assailant attempts to sexually assault Luke, before disappearing. Back home LUKE'S mum contacts DANNY and asks him to go and find her son. DANNY drives to the TAYLOR house and, finding it seemingly abandoned, breaks in. His instincts lead him to a secret passageway that leads down into the mines underneath the house where LUKE is being held. DANNY locates his friend and the lads escape the underground maze via an exit that leads straight into the previously seen out-house. As LUKE explains his thoughts about the possibility of LIVVY not existing, DANNY shows LUKE a number of faded old photographs of babies that he found in the shed earlier but denies LUKE'S suspicions about LIVVY given his past experiences at the house.

LUKE and DANNY attempt to drive away from the house but realise that the car has been sabotaged. OLIVIA appears at the front door carrying an axe, but the lads manage to evade her. As OLIVIA searches the ramshackle grounds, the pair decide to go back to the house and look for a landline to call for help. LUKE heads upstairs to search while DANNY ventures into the kitchen to find something to protect himself with should OLIVIA return. While in OLIVIA'S bedroom, LUKE finds the old lady's archaic laptop. He soon discovers that he isn't the only person whom "LIVVY" has been contacting online with an offer to meet. Realising that he has been set up by OLIVIA, LUKE rushes downstairs to tell his friend but to his shock he finds DANNY slumped on the floor struggling to breathe with blood

pouring from a wound in his stomach. As he tries to help DANNY up, OLIVIA runs at him with the axe. LUKE manages to spin himself around and the weapon is buried in DANNY'S shoulder instead. LUKE escapes back into the bedroom and, whilst hiding, manages to briefly get signal on his mobile phone. He speaks to his father, frantically explaining what he can before being interrupted by the sound of OLIVIA'S approaching footsteps. LUKE exits the room to see OLIVIA pulling DANNY'S bloody body across the floor and out of the house. OLIVIA heads towards the dense woodland that borders the property.

LUKE makes his escape, but guilt halts his tracks when he remembers all his friend has done for him. After picking up a knife from the out-house, he sets off in the direction of the woods in the hope of gaining revenge. LUKE comes upon OLIVIA digging a shallow grave to bury DANNY'S body. Creeping up behind her, LUKE runs at OLIVIA with the knife, but she hears his impending attack and turns around just in time to strike him with her spade. The knife is knocked from his grasp. As OLIVIA moves in for the kill, she is abruptly halted as the barely conscious DANNY impales her with the knife in a final act of retaliation.

LUKE tries to comfort his friend in his dying moments, but DANNY just instructs him to escape. With the spade in hand, an emotional LUKE runs off through the trees, eventually forced to stop when he realises that he is lost. Dropping to the earth in exhaustion LUKE notices the odd shaped pale stones that surround him. Digging up one of the smaller stones, he realises that it is in fact a small rib-bone. LUKE is interrupted by the appearance of the ECCENTRIC DRUNK who asks LUKE what he is doing. LUKE retorts by telling him his beliefs about OLIVIA and the rib-bone that he's just dug up. The old man laughs this off and, now joined by a shambling group of old hippy friends, tells LUKE that the only thing OLIVIA kills is piglets. Still armed with the spade, LUKE runs away, subsequently finding his way back to the house. The group of strange old hippies follow his tracks.

On approaching the house LUKE notices his father's car parked outside. Running to the window LUKE sees his mum and dad entering the mines by way of the secret passageway in the house. Unable to get into the house himself, LUKE uses the shed entrance in order to descend back into the mines. Once underground, LUKE finds a small room that holds a shrine to a decaying skeleton. Off to one side he hears a woman sobbing. Locating the woman locked in a filthy cage, he removes her gag to find out that she is LIVVY'S SISTER (36), imprisoned underground by her mother many years ago. The woman explains her story to LUKE;

OLIVIA had met the CULT LEADER before she was born. The man was part of a sect of hippies, The Children of Resurgence, who practiced black magic and who quickly

brainwashed her mother into becoming a member of the Cult. He was an evil man who was desperate to have a boy that would carry on his family name, Taylor. Although OLIVIA had given him many children, all of them were born of the female sex. The CULT LEADER physically and emotionally abused her mother, to a degree that sent her crazy; so much so that when OLIVIA was too old to conceive, she agreed to allow him to use her daughter as a means to deliver children. As the CULT LEADER was now impotent, the couple hatched a plan to lure men to the house in order to force them to have sex with LIVVY'S SISTER but although she carried a number of babies, they were also girls. Tormented, the CULT LEADER hanged himself. OLIVIA, now consumed by madness, carried on the CULT LEADER's depraved plan in the hope of granting him his wish in death, while also using black magic rituals in order to try and resurrect his lifeless skeleton she keeps a vigil to.

The woman tells LUKE that she's not seen her sister, LIVVY, for many years and that she'll help him find his parents if he'll help her escape. Using the spade, he breaks open the cage and frees her. Following her through the dark passageways they hear the group of old hippies approaching. The woman pulls LUKE into a dark room to hide and LUKE realises it's the same room he was previously held captive in. He remembers being assaulted in this room and comes to the realisation that it couldn't have been OLIVIA who attempted to rape him because, as the woman explained, she is too old to have children.

He has been doubled crossed.

The woman swiftly attacks LUKE, wrapping a piece a rope tightly around his neck, attempting to strangle him. LUKE manages to grab the nearby spade and strike her in the stomach, winding her and allowing him to escape from her grasp, before using the spade once more to knock her unconscious. Using the rope, he binds her limp body to the bed and exits the room.

While attempting to follow the group of hippies, LUKE comes across another bricked-up room where, behind a wall, he finds LIVVY, held captive, along with a group of other mute, ravenous and abused girls: young women and corpses, the daughters of OLIVIA and the woman, dead or left to die in this underground mortuary. He leaves LIVVY to free the other girls.

Following the echo of voices nearby LUKE then locates a group of masked and robed people surrounding a stone altar indulging in a ritualistic black magic ceremony. A piglet is killed and its blood both collected in a goblet and spilled into the mouth of the chosen sacrifice, who is then unmasked and revealed to be LIVVY. LUKE cries out before being attacked and knocked unconscious by an unseen assailant. Meanwhile the group of ravenous girls begin to escape their captivity.

LUKE regains consciousness and finds himself bound to the stone altar, undergoing the same ritual he just witnessed. Fighting to break free he denounces all of the ceremonies intentions before being mounted by LIVVY, holding the sacrificial dagger. All of the group unmask themselves to reveal OLIVIA, LIVVY'S SISTER, the ECCENTRIC DRUNK and his hippy friends. Worst of all, he sees his mum and dad. LIVVY drops down to kiss LUKE full on the mouth. Without warning the group of ravenous mute girls interrupt the ceremony, violently attacking anyone they can get their hands on. LIVVY and LUKE escape the house.

One Year Later

LIVVY lays her baby boy inside the disintegrated ribcage of the CULT LEADER'S skeleton and recites an invocation. As the walls of the room begin to violently crack open she leaves to be confronted by the group of mute girls who descend upon her as the baby boy begins to cry. Meanwhile, within the room behind them the dark shadow of something evil ascends from the ground.

The Invoked has finally entered this world...