

PLEASE RETURN TO THE
TYRN DOWNS HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY



DARK SPOT

#1 BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO HELL

WRITTEN BY PATRICK HALE & MICHAEL ADAMS



DARK SPOT

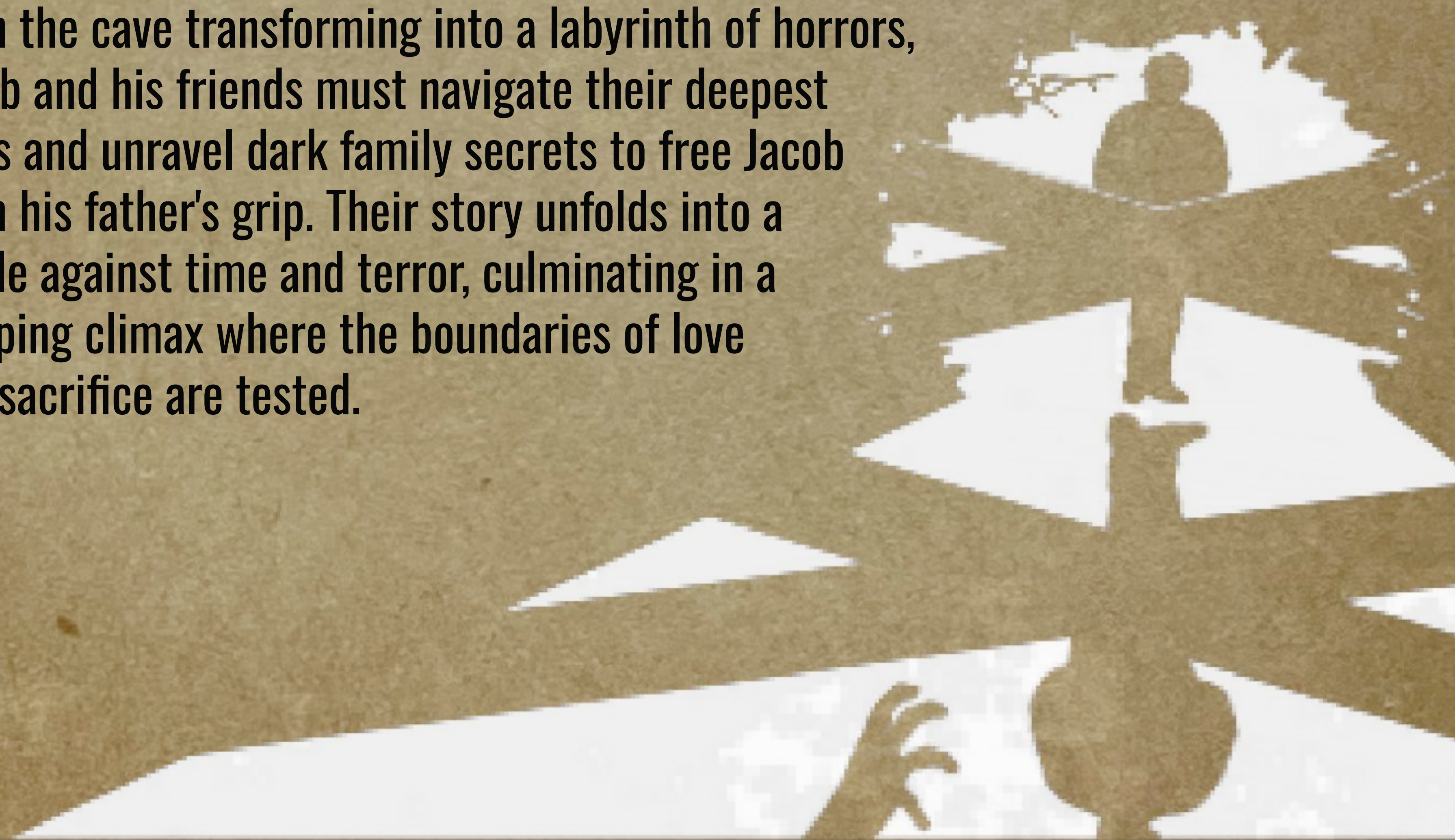
INTRODUCTION

HELL BURNS DEEP BENEATH A RURAL MOUNTAIN TOWN AS DARK VISIONS TEMPT A TEEN WITH ANSWERS TO HIS FATHERS DEATH . . . IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL.

In the small town of The Downs, nestled under a foreboding mountain, 13-year-old JACOB REYNOLDS moves with his mother CARLY REYNOLDS, seeking solace after his father's suicide. Haunted by a growing dark spot in his vision, Jacob befriends twins MICHELLE and LUKE at his new school. Stirred by local legends, the trio explores a notorious cave said to harbor a gateway to Hell.

Their adventure takes a terrifying turn when Jacob's deceased father, TEDDY REYNOLDS, tormented from his past service in Vietnam, returns from the underworld with the intent to possess Jacob's body and escape his own eternal suffering.

With the cave transforming into a labyrinth of horrors, Jacob and his friends must navigate their deepest fears and unravel dark family secrets to free Jacob from his father's grip. Their story unfolds into a battle against time and terror, culminating in a gripping climax where the boundaries of love and sacrifice are tested.





THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS
HIERONYMUS BOSCH

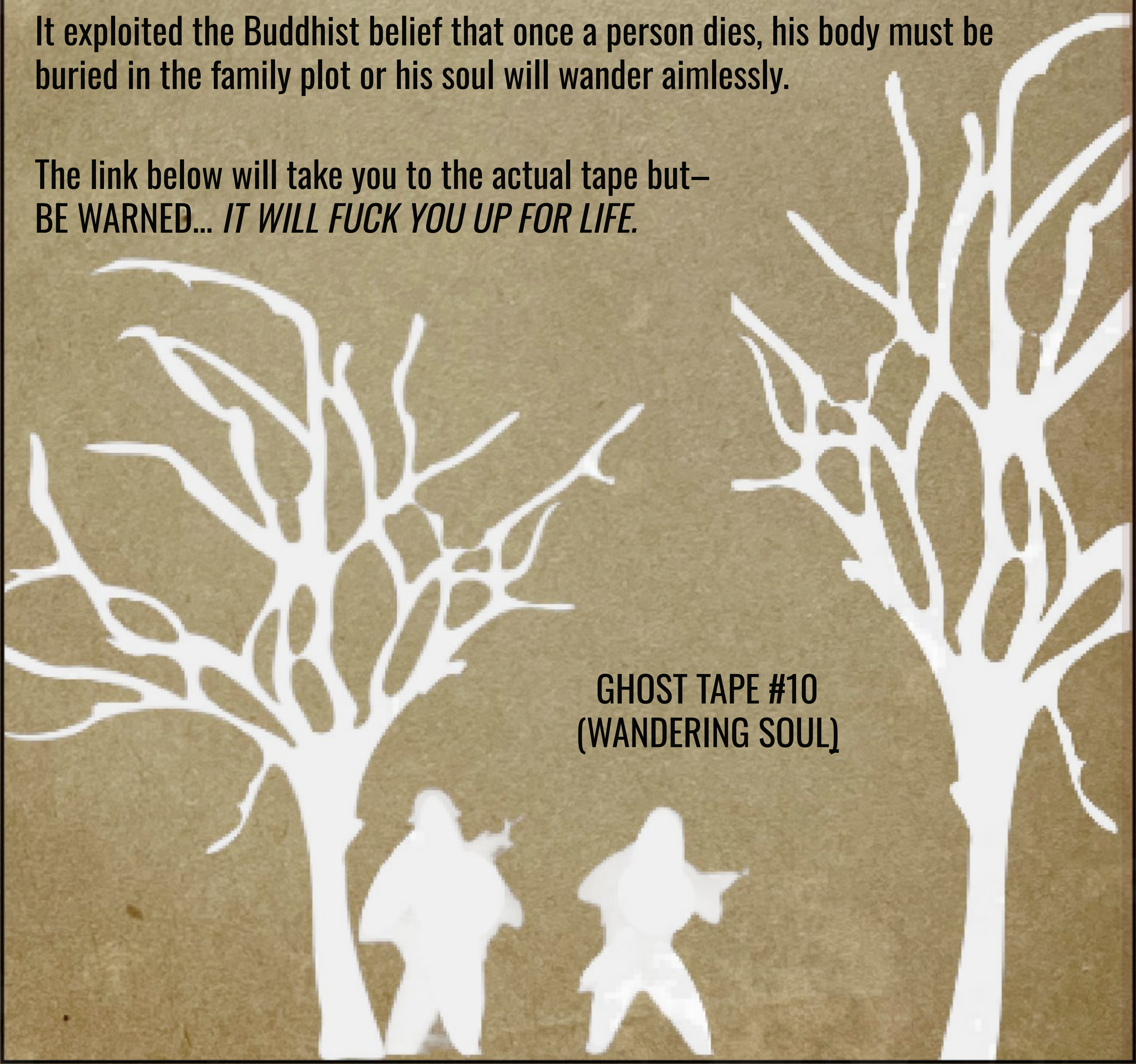
DARK SPOT

THE LEGEND

At night, deep in the jungle during the Vietnam War, eerie sounds were used to represent the dead. The U.S. military would broadcast an audio mix called Wandering Soul (also known as Ghost Tape Number 10) to try to persuade North Vietnamese troops to go home.

It exploited the Buddhist belief that once a person dies, his body must be buried in the family plot or his soul will wander aimlessly.

The link below will take you to the actual tape but—
BE WARNED... *IT WILL FUCK YOU UP FOR LIFE.*



GHOST TAPE #10
(WANDERING SOUL)



SIXTH SENSE
M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN

DARK SPOT

THE STORY

DARK SPOT opens with two American GIs attempting to scare away Vietcong fighters by playing mock recordings of their beloved ancestor spirits, but they unknowingly trigger something sinister, unleashing an old evil into the world.

JACOB has recently moved with his single mother CARLY to a small town called 'THE DOWNS' located in the shadow of a foreboding mountain. Jacob has been experiencing a growing "dark spot" in his vision since his father's suicide. At school, he befriends twins LUKE and MICHELLE.

Jacob, Michelle, and Luke decide to explore a legendary cave in the mountain that's rumored to contain an entrance to hell. They take Michelle's dog OZZY, who often sits vigil outside the cave. Three bullies - TAYLOR, BROCK, and ADAM - follow the group, seeking to steal anything valuable they find. When Brock threatens Ozzy, Jacob throws a rock that strikes and kills him. Enraged, Taylor grabs Jacob and throws him down into the ravine. Carly teams up with the local sheriff, TENNESSEE, and witch shop owner LINDA to search for the missing kids.

On a dark beach at the cave's lowest level, Carly reveals that the military lied about the chemicals used in Vietnam, which led to her husband's ghastly condition and suicide. TEDDY REYNOLDS takes Carly through a portal into his own hell-like dimension. Jacob is now the one possessed by his father's spirit. But Carly uses their shared love of music to help Jacob resist. In the end, Jacob is rescued but seriously injured. The final scene suggests Reynolds' *evil still lingers...*



JACOB'S LADDER
ADRIAN LYNE

DARK SPOT

STRUCTURE

DARK SPOT will be structured similar to JACOB'S LADDER, the audience is introduced to the inciting incident in the first act and revisited in the Third Act, revealing REYNOLDS' plight, experimentation and downfall. We see an Actor like SAM ROCKWELL or TOM HARDY as TEDDY REYNOLDS, someone that has experience playing crazed, egotistic, strong men. AMY ADAMS brings the right amount of warmth and intelligence needed for CARLY REYNOLDS, Jacob's Mom. NOAH JUPE would fit nicely into the role of JACOB REYNOLDS, an intelligent loner with a heart of gold. TONI COLLETE would work great as the mysterious witch LINDA.

ACT ONE depicts the Legend of the Wandering Souls, Jacob's and Carly's move to 'The Downs' and the mysterious nature of the town. Jacob's 'dark spot' in his eye grows in size until his mom drags him to the eye doctor, where we get our first scare with the ophthalmologist equipment coming alive and biting his face.

ACT TWO will see Jacob team up with his new friends, Luke and Michelle, twins, and confrontations with the towns bullies. We learn of Reynolds' suicide and Jacob researches ways to get into HELL to find his father.

ACT THREE will climax with Carly and Jacob finding each other and confronting Reynolds' as he fights to save himself from eternal damnation by transferring his soul into his sons body. Luke and Michelle battle cave demons and eventually help save Carly and Jacob from falling into the abyss.



PAN'S LABYRINTH
GUILLERMO DEL TORO

DARK SPOT

tone and style

DARK SPOT explores themes of good versus evil, the sins of parents affecting their children, the desire to escape suffering in hell, occult magic and ritual, and the corruption of innocence. It also allows for exploration of redemption, damnation, and the impact of familial bonds beyond death..

The tone in DARK SPOT is mystical, spiritual and supernatural. Government experimentation gone horribly wrong. Grounded in actual events, we asked... *What if?* What would a soul do to get his hands on another life? Who's to say there's only one god... And what if it isn't yours? We chose to use classic literature to ground our world, starting with Dante and *worked our way down...*

We incorporate elements of HORROR, FANTASY and a bit of DARK COMEDY.



THE
BLACK
LIST

"The '**DARK SPOT**' has **significant commercial potential**. Atmospheric, intelligent, and fiercely committed to its shocks.





THE DESCENT
NEIL MARSHALL

DARK SPOT

THE HORROR

The horror in DARK SPOT starts with the actual Ghost Tape audio use that is peppered throughout the script. We punctuate certain areas with Black Sabbath which is the CD on JACOB's Sony Discman with 4-Second Anti skip technology.

Practical effects were a mainstay when crafting each scene and in the front of our minds as we continue into the mine shaft. Using puppets, trick photography, prosthetics, pyrotechnics and miniatures we will create a hellscape the likes of which no human has ever seen.

The Descent meets What Dreams May Come meets Nightmare on Elm Street.

REYNOLDS is an amalgamation of Jack Torrence from The Shining and Freddy Kreuger from Nightmare on Elm Street. To bring him to life we will need an actor that can work through the makeup to deliver a memorable performance. Sam Rockwell or Tom Hardy will shine through as the titular character.

The opening scene will require the largest expenditure and, in knowing that, we crafted a tight five minutes that focuses on two individuals with the Vietnam War as a backdrop. We chose to film at night to enhance the mood and the audio from the GI's sound equipment plays the Ghost Tapes in the background. The arts department will craft lifelike soldiers with torso's and body parts frozen in time and pulled half-way through the ground.

OZZY, a large black dog that guards the gates of hell. plays prominently in our story and we'd like to use an actual dog whenever possible with an animatronic double.



SATURN DEVOURING HIS SON
FRANCISCO GOYA

DARK SPOT

THE KIDS

JACOB, a 13-year-old boy who moves with his mom to a new town. Starts seeing a dark spot in his vision after his dad's suicide. Ends up possessed by his dead father but is ultimately saved by his mom. His arc is about overcoming his father's influence and demons. The supernatural elements surrounding Jacob's possession provide a thrilling and mysterious aspect to the story, engaging the audience's curiosity and fear. Jacob's relationships, particularly with his mother and new friends, offer a nuanced look at how external support systems can aid in personal battles, making his character relatable and his struggles more tangible.

MICHELLE, Jacob's love interest, originally named Michael. Reveals she is transgender. Helps rescue Jacob and supports him against bullies. Her arc is coming to terms with her identity, a strong representation of transgender individuals, providing visibility and representation in the narrative. Her journey of coming to terms with her identity adds depth to her character and offers a meaningful subplot that can resonate with audiences. Her role in supporting Jacob against bullies and assisting in his rescue demonstrates her bravery, loyalty, and the importance of allyship. This not only strengthens her character but also enriches the story's themes of friendship and courage.

LUKE, Michelle's twin brother, rambunctious, inquisitive and funny. Learns to trust his instincts and rely on the assistance of others while in the cave. A clear bond exists between Luke and Michelle but it takes a while for Luke to warm up to Jacob. His willingness to speak first and think later get the kids into trouble as they descend into *HELL*.



STRANGER THINGS
THE DUFFER BROTHERS

DARK SPOT

THE VILLAIN

TEDDY REYNOLDS, Jacob's Father, committed suicide and is trapped in hell. He invades Jacob's waking thoughts and attempts to lure him into the cave to possess his body and escape eternal damnation..

Reynolds' arc is trying to use his son to free himself from damnation. Ultimately fails and is dragged back to hell. The character of Jacob's Father is a compelling antagonist with a clear motivation, which adds depth to the narrative. His tragic backstory and desperate attempts to escape damnation through his son create a complex relationship dynamic that is both haunting and emotionally charged. This complexity makes him a memorable character and serves as a driving force for the plot, providing a tangible sense of urgency and conflict.

The use of possession as a means to influence the living world and attempt an escape from hell introduces supernatural elements that enrich the story's horror and suspense. It also allows for exploration of themes such as redemption, damnation, and the impact of familial bonds beyond death..





A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
WES CRAVEN

DARK SPOT

THE ADULTS

CARLY, Jacob's mom, struggles with guilt over her husband's suicide and wants to protect Jacob. She rescues Jacob from possession by his father, learning she cannot blame herself for her husband's choices. Her struggle with guilt over her husband's suicide adds a layer of vulnerability and relatability to her character. Her protective nature towards Jacob and her determination to rescue him from possession showcase her strength and resilience. These aspects effectively contribute to the story by driving the narrative forward and providing a strong emotional anchor for the audience.

LINDA, a mysterious witch shop owner. Guides the characters at times with cryptic advice. Revealed to be an embodiment of the mountain/land itself. Her arc is about maintaining the balance between the living and the dead. Linda's mysterious nature and cryptic advice add a layer of intrigue and supernatural depth to the story, engaging the audience's curiosity. The balance between the living and the dead provides a thematic depth that explores the natural cycle of life and death, adding philosophical undertones to the screenplay.

TENNESSEE, local law enforcement, is slowly coming to grips with the magical reality of the town. Always the sceptic, she tries to make sense of the increasingly bizarre and often bloody occurrences as a consequence of Reynolds' malevolent force emanating from the cave.

CASSIE, school librarian and town historian, helps Jacob with his research as he sets out to find the gateway to hell. Provides additional information on the lore in a funny, interesting way.



THE SHINING
STANLEY KUBRICK

DARK SPOT

THE TOWN

The 'TYRN DOWNS' is a rural mountain town known for it's medicinal springs and abandoned mine shafts. CARLY REYNOLDS is sent to survey recent abnormal geologic activity for the local energy consortium, PEPCO.

In the first act JACOB's bike is run off the road by a aggressive driver. In the recovery of the bike he discovers that trees have been uprooted and dragged, unnaturally, *up the hill*.

The CRYING FOREST plays tricks on those who walk in it's woods. Whispers and cries can be heard through the trees caused by the local geography. LINDA's gift shop borders the forest and she is known locally as the Witch.

OZZY, the *Dog of the Downs*, usually appears before a death and is seen guarding the entrance to the cave. Loves to eat bacon and evil.

CASSIE, the school librarian, fills us in on the town's history and the '*Flight of the Men*' during the early 1900's that left the population of 'The Downs' mostly women, which we echo throughout, our only villain is our only man over eighteen,





THE CELL
TARSEM SINGH

DARK SPOT

FRANCHISE POTENTIAL

Our story ends as JACOB is loaded into an ambulance, MICHELLE and LUKE smell the return of the Father's sulfurous odor. Inside the ambulance, the attendant is revealed to be the Father, REYNOLDS, hinting he still seeks to inhabit Jacob.

DARK SPOT 2: *INFERNO*

SIX MINUTES LATER . . . MICHELLE, CARLY and LUKE follow close behind the ambulance, which starts to shake violently back and forth as they speed down the highway. Reynolds throws the Ambulance Tech out of the back doors and Carly veers to dodge the body. Reynolds sits Jacob upright, his hand halfway into his upper body like a Puppet. Jacob's eye's glow briefly before a Police Car performs a Pit maneuver sending the Ambulance into the side of the highway. Carly and the kids run over to the ambulance only to find it empty.

Reynolds whispers O.S., "*One Body. One Soul.*"



"*DARK SPOT* has real prospects for success... with it's relatable themes, engaging protagonist, and potential for visual storytelling, this is a script that has a path forward with the *A24*'s of the world."



**THE UNDERWORLD IS A BIG PLACE...
DID WE MISS ANYTHING?!**



**PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL OR WRITE US IF YOU HAVE
ANY SUGGESTIONS ON PLACES TO SHOP OR EAT IN HELL.
DROP US A LINE!**

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