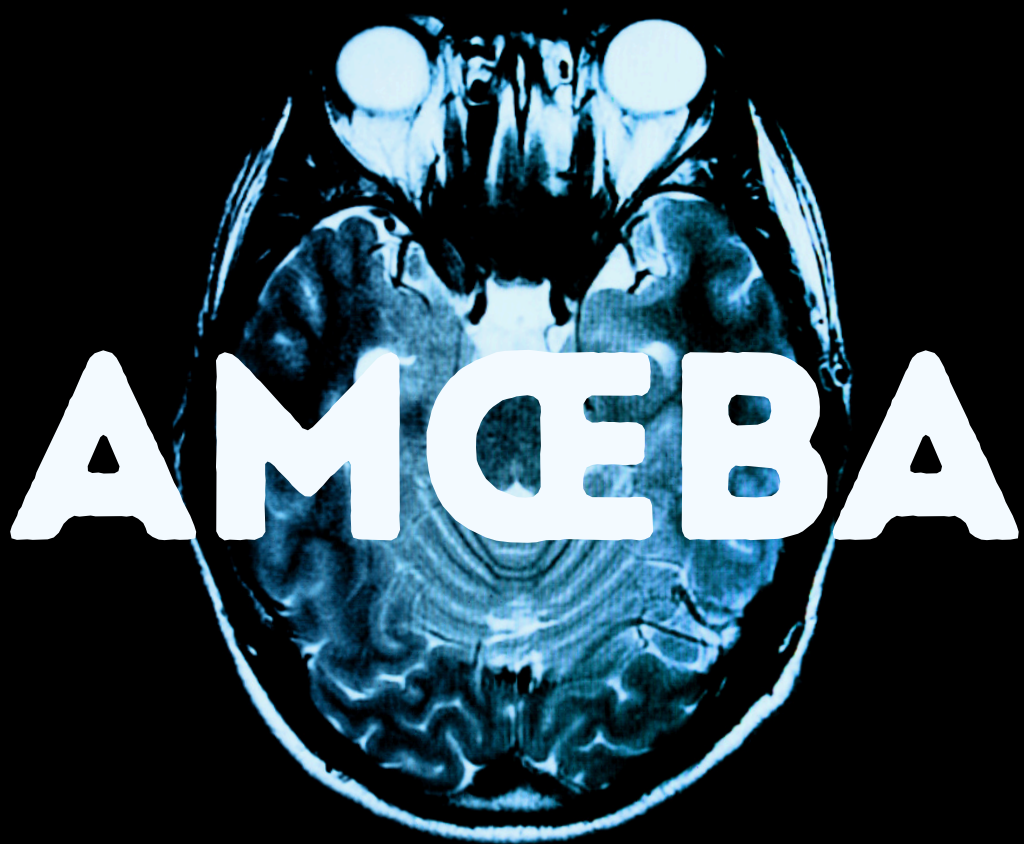




WRITTEN + DIRECTED BY IAN FALLON

WHILE WORKING AT AN AMERICAN SUMMER CAMP, IRISH
TEENAGER OSCAR BECOMES ENTHRALLED BY THE SENIOR
COUNSELLOR "COYOTE," WHOSE CHARM AND RECKLESSNESS
PULL HIM INTO AN INTOXICATING NEW WORLD.

HOWEVER, WHEN
A STRANGE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS SENDS OSCAR HOME EARLY,
HE BECOMES OBSESSED WITH UNCOVERING WHAT REALLY
HAPPENED, AS HIS SENSE OF REALITY BEGINS TO FRACTURE.



The camera of a 2013 Macbook Air laptop begins recording.

OSCAR (18) introduces himself to the camera for his video application to Camp Counsellors USA . He flubs his words and starts again, and then again, quietly rehearsing the simple introduction between attempts. Finally he gets it right and we cut straight into the rest of the video. Oscar narrates the reasons he'd make a great camp counsellor over an iMovie montage showcasing his hobbies, skills, passions and roles of responsibility to date. He's endearing in his naïveté and earnestness, a "dote" of a lad who completes every task to the best of his ability and will eternally seek approval from those he deems his superiors. The video also introduces the time period: 2015.

The video ends. He's showing it to his PARENTS (60s) and his girlfriend ÉADA (19) who crowd the shot over his shoulder. With their loving approval, he uploads the video to his application and clicks submit.

His simple, quiet, monotonous life: Studying in school. Quiet dinner with parents. Studying at home. Masturbating in bed. Swimming in the local pool. Being the designated driver for his FRIENDS. An uncomfortable handjob from Éada. The Leaving Cert. English exam. Irish listening. Business exam.

He sits in the hall reading over his biology exam when his eyes begin to droop, until--

An airhostess' hand on his shoulder startles him awake. They've landed in North Carolina. Everyone else has already disembarked the plane. Oscar embarrassedly grabs his carry on, navigates his way out of the airport, sweats it toward the waiting CAMP KEYAUWEE van. Some of the other international counsellors are lounging in the heavy heat but buckle in at his arrival. He's flustered and apologetic but is brought up short by the soft dismissal of the alluring Adonis, the senior counsellor COYOTE (25). Effortlessly confident and comfortable in his toned bronzed body, Coyote wordlessly helps Oscar load his luggage in.

SUMMERTIME CLOTHES by Animal Collective begins to pump at Oscar's inability to look away from him.

Coyote drives them to the camp. Oscar can't help but glance in the rear view mirror at Coyote and it might just be his imagination but sometimes it looks like Coyote's glancing back. Oscar takes pictures of the landscape on his half cracked iphone 5 to distract himself.

All of the international counsellors have arrived at the camp two weeks early before any courses start so they can go through orientation lead by Coyote and some other senior counsellors. Upon arriving they get assigned their bunks and tour the camp and its facilities. The camp runs multiple courses for all ages from 5 to 15 and the grounds reflect that. They're handed a booklet of songs to learn that they'll have to sing with the kids. They play games to introduce themselves, where they're from and what camp nickname they've picked for themselves. After Oscar says he's from Ireland, Coyote's attention solos on him. Oscar says his nickname is 'BUCK'.

The senior counsellors host a barbecue down at the camp lake. Waiting for his food, Buck ambles out on the dock alone, taking it all in... but when he looks across the lake he can see a RED FIGURE standing in the water up to his waist near the far shore. The figure seems to be staring back at him but they're too far away to make out specific details. Buck squints but then someone calls his name, distracting him. When he looks back at the lake again, the figure is gone.

Coyote invites Buck to sit beside him. He admits Irish counsellors are his favourite. Why? "Cause the Irish know how to have a good time," with a wink. Buck snorts shyly. If it was anyone else it'd be too much, but he's able to pull it off. Coyote came to the camp as a kid and now comes back each summer as a counsellor, partly to mind his LITTLE SISTER (7) who spends the summers here too, attending a range of the week long courses. She's partly deaf and he's the only counsellor with sign language so they come as a pair. Coyote's curious as to why Buck's here, and Buck thinks hard for a good honest answer. After a pause, he admits he's never had much of a life so just wanted to do something crazy. Challenge himself. "You're in the right place so," with another wink and a squeeze of the thigh. Buck all but blushes.

They roast marshmallows and practice singing songs at the big campfire / amphitheatre. Coyote's confidence in singing poorly in front of everyone is infectious. Buck falls deeper and deeper.

The non-international counsellors arrive a week later. They're all given first aid and lifeguard training, taught how to build a fire and what to do in emergencies. They're shown each of the sports and activities they'll be leading the kids in.

They go camping in the nearby woods. In the dark of night, they sit around a campfire telling scary stories. Coyote tells a story about why they're not allowed to swim in the camp lake. Years ago, during Coyote's first year at the camp as a kid, a little girl drowned in the lake. Thankfully, the counsellor on duty was able to give her CPR until she coughed up all of the water she'd swallowed, but days later she got sick. Really sick. The next day she was brought to the hospital and within days she was dead. Rumour had it she contracted the "brain eating amoeba" in the water. As the legend goes though, if a counsellor flashes their torch into a dark part of the woods 3 times, her ghost will appear, soaking wet and screaming for not minding her better... We and Buck can see the power of his charisma as he's telling this story, getting everyone on the edge of their seat. He takes his torch and points it at the dark trees behind him. Everyone goes quiet. He flashes it once... twice... and then a third time... but there's nothing. People giggle and he sighs, bangs the torch off his hand as if it's broken and flashes once more: A girl stands in the pool of light and screams, terrifying everyone, but it's just the other senior counsellor WILLOW (22). They all laugh. Buck suddenly notices how close Coyote and Willow are.

The KIDS arrive in droves on the Sunday. Buck leads a group of 10 year olds. Playing sports. Eating "food" in the cafeteria. Singing songs. Asking him about Ireland. Peeing their beds. Buck tells his parents and girlfriend all about it over the phone. And a little about Coyote. He smiles watching Coyote communicating with his Little Sister at the nightly campfire. Most of the kids head home on the Friday.

Coyote wakes Buck in the night and sneaks him out of the camp to a local club. He knows the bouncer and gets Buck in without an ID. Coyote orders them drinks and brings Buck straight to the bathroom to do a few bumps. Buck tries to play down his evident nerves but Coyote sees right through him. It's his first time doing any drugs, let alone cocaine. Coyote gently shows him how to do a key. And then a few more. Between their close proximity, the pumping setting and the drugs taking effect, there's a sparkly tension. They stare at each other for a beat: "You feelin it?"

Before Buck can answer, a DRUNK GIRL (23) busts in, dying for a pee. Seeing they have a bag, she lets them stay if they give her some. "I'll do you one better". Coyote pulls out a small bag of pills and puts one on his tongue, forcing her to kiss him to get it. Buck watches this, riveted and flying high.

They're dancing together in the strobing lights. The Drunk Girl stays with Coyote and we see the pill is fucking her up. She can barely stand. Coyote's kissing her, clearly taking advantage of her. They do more coke in the bathroom, then back on the dance floor. Coyote whispers to the Drunk Girl and motions toward Buck. She stumbles over to him and starts dancing on him. Coyote joins them and suddenly they're dancing as one, the Girl between the two boys. They do more drugs. She's kissing Coyote. Then she's kissing Buck. While she's kissing him, Buck's looking at Coyote and Coyote's looking back. The tension is high. The lights are strobing. But now she can really barely stand. And Buck's head is spinning. Between them they're barely able to hold her up. She vomits on the dance floor and collapses into the pool of liquid. Before Buck can even react, Coyote grabs his hand and pulls him away, leaving her barely conscious on her own.

Coyote's laughing so Buck laughs. Coyote drives them back to the camp. Buck's too fucked and infatuated with Coyote to see the warning sign but it installs a wariness of Coyote in the viewer. His recklessness is dangerous and can come at a high price to those around him.

Buck wakes up in his bunk just before the next set of KIDS arrive, feeling horrendous for a multitude of reasons. When he finds Coyote during their break, he doesn't give him much comfort. He has a migraine and Buck discovers a new side of him. He's dark and stormy and blows a fuse when Buck confides his worries in him: "It's not a big fucking deal if you just don't tell your her." The next time Buck's girlfriend calls him, he doesn't say anything about it but it's clearly eating away at him. Coyote also begins softly avoiding him. Buck's not sure what he did wrong to deserve it but he doesn't say anything about it in fear of making things worse. He hasn't made many other close friends so without Coyote, he finds himself all alone. Buck watches from afar as Coyote seems inseparable from Willow.

One night Buck can't sleep in the sweltering heat. When he goes on a walk to blow some steam, he hears voices coming from the camp lake. Curious, he follows the sounds to find some of the counsellors drinking and skinny dipping in the lake. Coyote, drunk, spots him and lunges out of the lake in great excitement. Before Buck can escape, the soaken half-naked Coyote grabs him in a hug and kisses him on the neck, leaving Buck flustered and wet. Coyote acts like nothing weird's been happening between them, forcing a drink into his hand and dragging him toward the water. Buck's hesitant to get in at first but Coyote convinces him, "If you're worried you're gonna get the amoeba just don't put your head under." And then flashes his torch three times into the woods. The girl's ghost doesn't appear. As Buck shyly undresses, Coyote ambles back into the water towards Willow. Buck steps into the warm water toward the group of counsellors who splash him. He relaxes some at their relaxedness. When he sees Coyote making out with Willow, he puts his head under the water.

Their next day off coincides with July 4th and Coyote drives a group of them to Willow's house. Her parents are away and they take full advantage. Barbecue, beers, fireworks in her garden - **THE NIGHTS** by Avicii. Willow videos Coyote and Buck racing on her iPhone 6s. Buck beats him but Coyote won't admit it. Buck is just happy to be back on his good side. They do lines of cokes off her deck table. Coyote shows them the music video for **FANTASY** by DYE. Buck's never seen it and reacts in drunken high horror. Coyote logs into his facebook on Buck's phone so he can post a picture of the fireworks. Coyote plays guitar and both Willow and Buck watch him closely.

When Buck goes to the bathroom, Willow's bedroom door is open and through the gap he can see her blowing Coyote on her bed. He stares, transfixed, unable to look away... until he sees Coyote looking out through the ajar door right back at him. They stare at each other as Coyote moves his hand on to the back of Willow's head. She protests but he doesn't let go, finishing in her mouth. Buck unfreezes and stumbles into the bathroom, quietly closing the door, catching his breath. He's too hard to pee and begins masturbating but stops when he looks at himself in the mirror, squinting at his reflection like he can barely recognise it.

DYE's **FANTASY** is playing again. Another set of kids. Another round of activities. Another week at the camp passing in a blur. Coyote's in full orbit around Buck again and Buck notices Willow watching them from afar, somewhat dejectedly. He doesn't feel guilty.

Coyote sneaks him out to the club again. Drinks from the bar. Drugs in the bathroom. Dancing in the strobing lights. Kissing girls but staring at each other. The cops arrive and close the club early. They escape back to the camp in fits of laughter.

They arrive back to the camp but it's too hot and they're too high to go to bed yet. Coyote leads Buck to camp lake again. Buck starts stripping off when Coyote stops him. He swallows a pill for himself then puts another on his tongue and sticks it out. Buck laughs at first, thinking it's a joke but Coyote doesn't move. Buck goes to take it off with his hand but Coyote grabs his hand and holds it away firmly. With no other option, Buck shyly leans in and licks the pill off Coyote's tongue, leading them to kiss. It lasts for a few seconds and then they part slowly. Coyote smiles and Buck smiles back at him. Neither say anything more about it.

As the pill takes effect, the timeline falls out of order.

They skinny dip in the lake, high off their heads. They finish a bag of coke, split it and lick the plastic. They're splashing each other in the lake. They're on the shore sitting silently staring at each other. They do a breath holding competition underwater. Coyote tries to cheat and make Buck lose. Buck looks at his fingers and there's blood on them. Buck holds Coyote under the water. Coyote pushes him away, blowing water out of his nose. Water crashes on the stones. Buck's laughing but Coyote pushes him again angrily. They're wrestling in the water. Coyote's hand is in Buck's hair. A spider crawls over the stones on the lakeshore. Coyote's silhouette against the moonlight. Buck's face against the stones on the lake shore--

Buck wakes up. It's the afternoon. He's lying naked in the woods near the lake. Completely disoriented. His head is pounding and the back of it is sore to the touch. He finds his clothes half floating in the lake. He's so confused as to what happened--

The CAMP DIRECTOR (40s) is shouting at him in her office. The other counsellor in charge of his group of kids reported him missing and the whole drama threw off the camp day. It's a big bad warning and if something like this ever happens again they will have to send him home. Buck is terrified.

Coyote's avoiding him again. When Buck tries to ask him what happened that night at the lake, he sends him away. Coyote's orbiting Willow again and Buck is left on his own at lunch but he can barely touch his food. His headache is so bad he can barely--

Buck wakes up. It's the afternoon. He's lying naked in the woods near the lake-- but it's not.

Buck wakes up in his bunk in the middle of the night. A very drunk Coyote's outside the nearest window whispering to be let in. Buck unlocks the door and without a word Coyote climbs into bed beside him. Buck asks again what happened that night but Coyote ignores him, instead asking him about Ireland and talking of visiting him when the camp's over. Buck tries to ask again but Coyote kisses him. It's gentle and intimate and everything Buck could've ever wanted. When they eventually break apart, he has no memory of any question.

In the morning Coyote's gone but his bottle's still on Buck's nightstand. When Buck tries to give it back to him, he finds Coyote in the nurse's office with a fever and another migraine. When Buck brings up the night before, Coyote seems to have no idea what he's talking about. He says he left his bottle there a few days ago, making fun of Buck for possibly having a sex dream about him.

Buck suddenly doubts himself if it was a dream or not. Embarrassed and irritated, he goes to leave when-

Buck wakes up. It's the afternoon. He's lying naked in the woods near the lake-- but it's not.

Buck is leading his group of kids through relay races out in the open field when Coyote's little sister runs over, pulling at his arm for help. Out of focus in the background, we can see a blurry figure sprinting out towards them. Buck tries to calm her down as she signs for his help but Coyote didn't teach him that word.

As the blurry figure gets closer we can tell it's Coyote. He tackles Buck to the ground, frantic, crazed, terrified whispering to Buck to help him, that someone, something is chasing him - Buck has no idea what's going on and the kids are terrified. Coyote pleads with Buck to help him, repeating that something is trying to kill him. Buck manages to free himself from Coyote's grip.

Coyote runs on but then stops - stumbles - falls to the ground. His body goes still, too still, and then his hands begin to flail unnaturally. His body begins to shake and foam forms at his mouth. It's a full tonic-clonic seizure and it's horrifying to watch. The kids are screaming.

Buck runs as fast as he can back to the camp with the full weight of an unconscious Coyote on his back, huffing exasperatedly. The Camp Director and DEPUTY DIRECTOR (40s) run out at the sight of them and the sound of Buck's desperate shouts for help. His body gives out and he falls to the ground in a tangle with Coyote. The Deputy calls an ambulance, while the Director tries to ask Buck what happened but he can't get a word out. His gasps for air from exhaustion are not from crying. He can barely breathe between body-wracking sobs, a multitude of events coming to the surface--

"What is it, Buck, what's wrong?" - Buck looks up. Stood beside the director is a perfectly fine Coyote, looking down at him worriedly, as if he was the one who brought Buck to the management office and not the other way round.

Buck stares in complete awe, confusion and horror, unable to form words, when--

Oscar wakes up. It's the afternoon. He's lying naked in the woods near the lake-- but it's not.

Dublin airport. Normal people go about their normal lives. Oscar blinks, stood waiting. He grabs his bags off the carousel, walks through arrivals dazedly. His mum picks him up and drives him home. He looks out the car window at the rotting marriage referendum posters stuck to passing lamp posts.

His dad welcomes him home with a strong shoulder pat. His dog is much more excited about his return. They go on a family walk at the local lake and... Oscar pauses. A wave of nausea. He frowns, looking around, as if completely lost. A child's voice calls out for help. He follows the sound - and finds his parents again, beckoning him to catch up. He shakes himself out of the strange moment.

They're out for dinner when a waitress recognises him from school - LARA (18) - his girlfriend Éada's friend. Lara's confused as to how he's home so early, wasn't he meant to be gone for the Summer? Oscar fumbles out a rough answer about how things just didn't work out. "Does... Éada know you're home?" He makes up that he's going to surprise her but it's not convincing as a thought out plan. Lara's called away by her manager and his parents continue their conversation but Oscar looks like he's struggling to breathe. He stands and aims for the bathroom, a panic attack rising, when a glance out the door reveals - Coyote standing with a group of YOUNG LADS (20s) outside the restaurant. Oscar rushes out and to the group, pushing through toward -

But it's not Coyote. The lads are weirded out and push him back. He stares at the Coyote look-alike, bewildered. They push him back again and someone sticks out their foot, catching Oscar's ankle and sending him sprawling. The back of his head hits the concrete and he cries out. His back arches and his body goes stiff. Piss begins to seep from his pants. The lads back away in shocked laughter. Oscar begins to convulse, arms flailing. Subliminal flashes of scenes from the camp. Lara rushes out, his parents following after. Oscar's foaming at the mouth, a full blown seizure.

A CT scan of Oscar's brain. Over the developing imagery we finally get the **AMOEBA** title card and sequence.

Oscar lies in a hospital bed as a NURSE performs a neurological exam, asking him what's his name, what day is it, does he know where he is, etc. He answers the questions with ease until she asks if he remembers what happened. He stumbles over the story, including some incorrect details. There's loose bandaging on his head that the nurse reapplies, revealing a shaved patch of hair at the back centered around a stapled wound that's still bleeding. She cleans the wound and reapplies the gauze.

Oscar sits with his parents in an office across from a DOCTOR (50s) who turns her thick computer screen so they can see the CT Scan images. She explains that the scan revealed Oscar to have a small chronic subdural hematoma and that he may be developing a form of epilepsy due to the traumatic brain injury. However, the scan also revealed the injury stems from an older bleed. Fresh swelling around it shows it to be recent and that fall on the concrete was a re-bleeding, simply aggravating the original injury.

The doctor asks if he remembers hitting his head recently but he doesn't. His parents explain that he's just arrived home from America. The doctor asks if it's possible he was intoxicated when it happened. Oscar swallows. He doesn't remember. His parents glance at each other worriedly.

In a moment of confusion, he asks if it might be the brain eating amoeba but the doctor says that's very, very unlikely. After 4 days in the hospital he's allowed to go home. He's given anticonvulsant medication and advised to continue resting. No driving. No drinking. No drugs.

He's back home in bed. His girlfriend Éada knocks on the door. She hovers, confused and a little afraid - only finding out he's home after an ambulance picked him up from Lara's restaurant. He doesn't have any answers for her. She's worried about him but also hurt that he didn't say anything to her - Why is he even home so early? When he finally goes to speak to her, he turns to face her but we--

Match-cut to the middle of the night, hours after she's gone. When he glances outside his window at the darkness, there's someone hiding in the shadowy trees in his garden but he doesn't notice them.

He can't sleep. He takes painkillers for his headache and goes on facebook on his laptop. Pictures from his peers' 6th year holidays. Articles about the passing of the recent marriage referendum. CAO advice. Results day events. A post from the Camp Keyauwee page. His eyes light up. It's a collection of pictures from the past weeks of camp. He features in one. He zooms in on himself. He looks like a different person. When he swipes to the next, there's Coyote. He's tagged: ELIAS ACEVEDO.

Oscar quickly clicks in. His latest post from a few days ago is a picture he took of a lake through a wooded treeline. It's not the camp lake. Every picture post is obscure and unsatisfying. Wild animals. Nature. Abandoned constructions. Graffiti. But sometimes there are pictures of him that others tagged him in. Oscar stares at them dutifully.

When he scrolls back up to the top, he realises the second last picture Coyote posted was of him - Oscar's silhouette, backlit against the campfire, but still recognisable as him. Oscar didn't know he posted it and it catches his breath. Fingers slightly shaking, Oscar sends a friend request and puts his laptop away.

Dark water. Oscar looks down at it, hesitant. When a child's scream distracts him - he's at his local pool. There's a kids swimming class on. He touches the water with his hand. Then he's swimming confidently, back to his normal stride. He glides across the pool with ease. At the deep end he takes a deep breath then sinks to the bottom * gazing up at the kids practicing diving up above.

Afterward, he dries himself in the quiet changing room. Out of the corner of his eye, he can see a MAN looking at him a little too long in a little too suggestive of a way then heading away. When Oscar finally glances at the Man as he turns the corner for the showers, the Man looks just like Coyote. Somewhat terrified, Oscar follows him. As he approaches the showers, he hears the sound of soft moaning as if the man is masturbating... but when he rounds the corner, there's no one in the showers. He blanks.

Blinks.

He's showering in the communal shower at camp. It's early days. The third last guy walks out, leaving just Buck and Coyote alone together at opposite ends. Coyote tells him to turn around and not look. Buck turns to face the wall. Coyote starts masturbating. Buck can hear him breathing harder, moaning gently. Buck hears Coyote turn around and face him, testing him, seeing if he'll look... when Buck starts spluttering, gasping for air as if he can't breathe, as if he's drowning as Coyote approaches climax only for us to cut right back to-

Oscar still being in the pool, trying to hold his breath from the * moment. The lifeguard pulls him out, shouting at him what the fuck is wrong with him is he trying to kill himself?? The class of kids quietly watches on. Oscar fumbles out an apology and quickly disappears.

He tears through his locker, pulling on clothes, trying to get out of there as quickly as possible, when from behind he hears Coyote say "Oscar?". Unnerved, he slowly turns to see... a YOUNG MAN (18). He stares at him with no recognition but then it clicks - it's LEE, a friend from school that we saw in the opening montage. "I didn't know you were back... Some of the lads are going out for drinks tomorrow if you want to come... Ah you will." Lee smiles at him with a knowing look. Oscar assents, trying to calm down, be normal.

The FRIEND GROUP (18/19) is out at the local. Oscar is getting by quietly. He swallows painkillers for his headache. "How was America?", "Why'd you come back so early?", "Lara said about the hospital-fuck was that about?" He gives avoidant answers. Éada is there with Lara, both donning a worried frown when their eyes pass over Oscar: "Should you really be drinking?". Oscar ignores their worries. His eyes follow the hands of a lad coming back from the bathroom and subtly handing back a cocaine baggie to Lee sitting across from him. Lee sees him watching and winks.

Lee locks the door on the bathroom cubicle, turns to see Oscar confidently snort a bump and then another. "Jaysus who's this and what've you done with Oscar??" Oscar feels the high descending upon him and smiles seductively at Lee. Their fingers graze each other as he hands the bag back. Oscar inhales deeply, breathing in the high as **KING** by Years & Years fades in. Lee does a bump then looks up at Oscar who's gazing lustfully at him. "You want some more?" The bathroom light above them flickers... until it's a strobing pulse... then shifting colour as we transition to--

The local nightclub. The strobe is heavy, the music loud, and the dancing intense from Oscar. They do more bumps. Drink more pints. Break a sweat dancing. In the sparse flashes of light, the crowd surrounding Oscar becomes distorted and strange, unnerving and demonic. Recognisable faces hide in the flashes. Sometimes the lighting is akin to a flickering fire. Oscar takes no heed.

They're smoking outside. Oscar leans against a wall looking at his phone, catching his breath. On facebook - the first post he sees is another obscure picture posted by Coyote. Oscar zooms in... it's a picture from... inside the nightclub. He quickly stumbles away from his friends, confirms the picture to be from the club and then vaguely sees Coyote moving through the crowd. Oscar follows him to the bathroom, slips into the cubicle behind him and within a second they're making out.

Oscar shoves his hands down Coyote's pants and Coyote shoves him back - "Fucking slow down man." But suddenly it's not Coyote he's been kissing, but Lee.

Oscar blinks drunkenly at him. Lee leans in again but Oscar puts a hand against his chest to stop him. Lee swats it away and they kiss again, slower. Lee and Coyote flicker in Oscar's vision until--

Loud thuds on the door. "What are ye doing in there??"

They're on the dance floor again. Oscar sees Éada nearby crying, being comforted by Lara. He stumbles toward them but when he looks again, they're gone. He turns back to the dancing crowd but now they're all gone too- the club is entirely empty. He stumbles back down to the dance floor... into water up to his shins. The lights are still on full blast but the music is pulling back. Oscar trips on something unseen, falls elbow deep into the water, but when he shakily stands back up --

He's at the camp-lake at night. The colourful strobe lighting still flashes. He looks down at his hand to see he's holding a bloodied rock from the water. Coyote's body floats in the lake before him, head cracked open and gushing blood into the lake water. Someone unseen pushes him down again, holding his head under the water. He flails scrambling to fight it as the music and club setting come rushing back--

A bouncer has him pinned to the ground. He stops flailing. The entire crowd is stood still around them. Éada's shouting for them to get off him. Nearby, Lee is laid out, blood spilling from his face and head. There's smashed glass everywhere... and some of it is crunched into Oscar's fist. Oscar freaks.

The bouncer drags him out to the street. Another bouncer is calling the guards. Oscar starts convulsing, spooking the bouncer holding him. Éada screams to let him go and the bouncer does- but Oscar was just faking it. He takes the chance and sprints down the town, away from the bouncer, away from the club, away from Éada.

The more he runs, the quieter the town becomes. When he stops to catch his breath, he realises he's completely alone in the main town plaza. The sudden quiet is unnerving. He checks his pockets but his phone is gone. Something seems off. His breathlessness is turning to panic. Something big moves nearby. Oscar spins to find the source but... there's nothing. Just strange shapes in the shadows. A far away street light explodes. And then in a row they all begin exploding in Oscar's direction, the darkness encroaching until there's only the one Oscar stands under. Another noise from the shadows makes him squint. He's just dreaming, he's just dreaming, he's just dreaming. But when he digs his nails into his palms... he doesn't wake up.

Something in the dark that wasn't something suddenly turns into something - one of the shadows stands up to become the silhouette of a terrifyingly TALL MAN. Oscar is petrified. The giant shadow begins lumbering toward him. As it nears, we can see it's dressed in only wet boxers, the same one's Coyote was wearing when they were at the camp-lake together.

Oscar tries to scream but no sound comes out. Now he is half naked and soaking wet too, just like he was at the lake. The Tall Man lumbers closer and closer until- Finally Oscar moves, sprints away, desperate for a hiding spot. He jumps down a nearby narrow alley and behind a skip... but suddenly there's no noise of the Tall Man.

Hyperventilating, he peeks out from his hiding space to see the horrifying image of, not the Tall Man, but a gargantuan SPIDER turning the corner and pushing its way into the alleyway. He screams bloody murder and now we can hear it because--

He screams himself awake. He's in Éada bed. She's already awake, getting dressed for work, freaked out by his screaming. Oscar reels back to reality. His hand is in a blood soaked bandage. Seeing him see it, his girlfriend explains that Lee got glassed. Oscar asks if was the one who did it and she frowns at him, why would he think he was the one to do it? He can't explain. It was some homophobic randomer, the person saw him kissing a guy in the bathroom. As she says it, Oscar remembers the real events in flashes.

Éada sees this happening and sits down beside him to ask what is going on with him... He tries to form words but can't get anything coherent out. Finally he admits he can't remember anything from the last month. She keeps pushing and he explains he can't remember why he was sent home early or much else about the camp. "And what I can remember makes no sense." She asks about "That guy 'Coyote'" and Oscar flinches. "I think... he got sick..." Oscar suddenly seems to be on the verge of tears... "Something inside me is trying to kill me..."

"Oscar, did something happen?" but it's not his girlfriend speaking anymore. "Buck-?" he looks up-

He's sitting in the camp director's office. The director and deputy are looking at him, concerned, exhausted. Buck asks them where Coyote is and, evidently repeating themselves, they explain he's been taken to the hospital and that's all they know. Buck pushes them - it must be serious if he's in the hospital. The director shares a look with the deputy then sighs, giving in. "Buck- Oscar, earlier you mentioned that you might have gone swimming with Elias in the camp-lake, is that true?" Buck nods hesitantly. He tries to talk about the night but can't string much together until an image comes to him and he remembers falling, hitting his head. He touches the back of it and winces. "Well they're afraid Coyote might have... contracted something in the lake... But nothing's confirmed yet-" The Deputy interrupts: "One of the other counsellors found beers on the shoreline, were they yours?" then begins an aggressive monologue about the paramount importance of the children's safety and well-being but the blood has drained from Buck's face. He gags—

And vomits into his girlfriend's ensuite toilet. He breathes ragged, trying to suppress any further gags, when something catches his eye. It looked like something in his vomit moved. Oscar covers his mouth. The thing moves again - an impossibly long worm like thing in his vomit. He stares at it in horror then vomits again--

Oscar scrapes most of his dinner into the bin, giving the meat to his dog. He's back home, loading the dishwasher, his parents behind him watching the 6 o'clock news. The presenter talks of the lawsuits against the marriage referendum being thrown out of court so there's nothing to stop it from being signed into law now. His mother, who voted "no", is not-so-quietly disapproving. Oscar barely reacts, absorbing it unconsciously. He heads out the back door to empty the compost into the brown bin when he hears something. He stops and stares into the darkness at the back of the garden. There's someone standing in the shadows looking back at him, only visible to the most eagle eyed audience member... but not to Oscar who heads back inside.

In bed he researches the brain-eating amoeba and the chances of survival - extremely low. He swallows and closes the tab, automatically opening his last tab - Coyote's facebook page. And there, the latest post, is the picture of the nightclub from the night before. He'd completely forgotten about it - How is it real? There's a comment now - "Miss you man". Oscar tries to message him but Coyote hasn't accepted his friend request yet. Oscar scrolls down and sees the other recent post - the picture of the lake through a wooded treeline. He clicks in and realises: he recognises it.

The next day Oscar is holding up his phone with the image of the lake, then lowers it to reveal the real lake behind, confirming his suspicions. He's on a walk with his dog, who tugs herself off the lead but Oscar's not paying attention. He looks around at the vague notion that Coyote might be somewhere nearby. He raises the phone again to confirm 100%... and this time when he lowers it, there's a man (PERVERT) (50s) standing on the shoreline looking back at him. The pervert waves at him softly. Oscar waves back, then realises his dog has disappeared. He finds her at the shore near the Pervert. They make small talk. The pervert is inquisitive, pushy and forward, approaching Oscar as he asks if he knows why this area of the lake is special. Oscar doesn't but suspects he's about to. "I could show you what I mean by special but we... might have to head in where it's a bit more private." Oscar has to turn him down at least 3 times in different ways. The Pervert comes every Wednesday afternoon - "If you ever change your mind..."

Oscar's back in the car parked at the lake entrance. His hands are shaking. He starts driving home but he can't get his breathing under control. His head is pounding and when he touches the staples, his fingers come away bloody. His dog won't stop barking. As the panic attack sets in, his car starts filling with water - "Not now, not now, not now." A hand reaches up from the water and grabs his forearm, trying to pull his hand off the wheel. The car swerves, almost hitting another car. He swears, swerving back into his lane. The hand pulls again, harder, making him let go of the wheel and-

The hand holding his arm is his mother's. He's haphazardly pulled the car into the garden, crushing some of his parent's prized flowerbed. She's trying to yank him out of it. He's not even meant to be driving. She also discovered from Éada that he went out drinking AND that he's not been taking his anticonvulsive medication. The argument quickly spirals out of control becoming a screaming match. He tries to get away from her inside the house but she pursues him. She tries to make him take the medication, forcing the tablet into his mouth, when he finally snaps, pushing her a little too violently. She falls back and we match cut back--

To when Buck hit his head at the camp-lake. He's high off the pill and other drugs and concussed. When he rolls over to his front, there's blood on the stones. He touches his head and his fingers come away bloody. He tries to stand but stumbles down again. "You ok Buck?". Coyote's voice. It's not said with much care. Buck looks up at Coyote's silhouette against the moonlight, but something's wrong with it. Buck squints but he can barely hold his head up.

Coyote steps more into view. He's in a medical gown attached to an IV drip, an ET tube hanging out of his mouth. He grabs the loose end and pulls it, more and more, from deep in his body out of his mouth, like removing a parasite. It's gag-inducing. Buck tries to crawl away from him but can't make his body move right. Coyote finally pulls the last of it out, and drops to all fours, finally able to breathe. He starts crawling toward Buck, croaking out "help me- Help me- HELP ME" when--

Buck wakes up in his bunk in the middle of the night. A very drunk Coyote's outside the cabin window whispering "Help me". Buck unlocks the door and Coyote climbs into bed beside him. Buck says he was having a crazy nightmare that he was back home but it was all going wrong... Coyote dismisses him, saying he hasn't had a nightmare since he was a child. Buck laughs... then asks again what happened that night at the camp-lake. At first it seems like Coyote won't answer...

But then: "Nothing happened." He says they just took the pills, got fucked up, he remembers Buck falling at some point and then they both wandered back to camp... Buck wants to believe him but it doesn't line up - "We couldn't have gone back to the camp because I woke up still by the lake?" Before Buck can say more Coyote kisses him. It's gentle and intimate and everything Buck could've ever wanted. When they eventually break apart, he has no memory of any worries. They both close their eyes, snuggled in, Buck smiling to himself...

-

But when Oscar opens his eyes, the light's completely gone from them. He's in a hospital bed again. His full head has been shaved and bandaged. His parents are nearby. His mother's asleep, her arm in a sling. His father sees he's awake and stirs. Oscar's silently crying, the weight of the unfortunate reality crashing in on him. His dad thinks he's crying out of fear and confusion - tries to comfort him, explaining that everything's ok now, he had another bad seizure but he's stable now, he just needs to follow the doctor's guidelines and take his meds. It's been days since he had the seizure - Full days he has no memory of.

He remembers the fight and asks his father if that's why his mother's arm is in a sling. His father just tells him not to worry about it. Oscar notices his wrists and ankles are restrained against the hospital bed. "We just want the best for you son..." When Oscar moves his head his dad spots blood on the pillow and goes to find a nurse. Tears are still streaming from his eyes as he stares after him. He's getting more and more agitated. When he turns to look at the corner of the room where his mother was sleeping, he instead now sees a gargantuan spider, backed into the corner, as if terrified of him. He fights the urge to look away. He stares at it, breathing hard, somehow using it to focus, to calm himself... until the next time he blinks, he sees his mother again. He exhales shakily.

The Doctor performs neurological exams again. Oscar's really struggling with his memory so the Doctor recommends looking back through his phone at messages and photos from the past month to see if that jogs anything.

He tosses and turns in the hospital bed that night. His head is pounding. He pulls out his phone and goes through it. The messages don't do much - there's some from his girlfriend asking him if he's ok, apologising for telling his mother about the night out. There's a new group chat organising results night activities. He goes into his pictures, looks at pictures from his time at the camp but then he sees the first photo away from the camp is the local lake - the lake through a wooded treeline. He blinks, keeps swiping until he sees- The photo of the nightclub. It's Oscar who took the photos. It's Oscar who's been posting on Coyote's facebook. When he opens the app he sees it's logged into Coyote's account. He sees his own friend request... and rejects it.

He stares at Coyote's page... then swallows. He googles "Elias Acevedo" knowing what he'll find before it loads. The first result is an article about Elias' death from the rare but deadly "Brain Eating Amoeba". Oscar skims the article as any light left in his eyes dies. He turns off his phone and sits in the darkness. He can't see it but someone's watching him from the shadowy corner of the room.

Oscar's dad drives him home after a week of monitoring in the hospital. He's blank, lifeless. He takes his medication. He takes strong painkillers for his headaches. He doesn't drive. He doesn't drink. His life returns to a stale normality, similar to what we saw at the start. He moves through it like a robot until-

"It's going to be fine... if anything goes wrong, the worst that'll happen is you'll just retake them next year". Éada and Oscar are collecting their Leaving Cert Results. They're also picking up Lee's and bringing them to the hospital for him. Éada is driving them both over.

The plan is to open them at the hospital with Lee but Éada can't wait that long and rips hers open in the hospital car park and... It's lower than she hoped. A lot lower. She doesn't want to calculate how much lower yet and puts it away, trying to play it off but she's evidently spiralling. Oscar is still blank, emotionless and, fortunately for Éada, doesn't push her on it.

Inside, the sight of Lee's facial lacerations and bruising is gruesome. His face will be forever changed but right now he's too drugged up to care. Éada hands him the envelope, swapping it for remnants of Lee's hospital lunch he'd just finished. Before she moves too far he grabs the butterknife off the tray to open his envelope then hands it to Oscar. They pull the sheets out together. Oscar scans his results and tries to do the mental maths. Éada takes it off him and skims it - "You got more than me...". "Well then he definitely got more than me" - Lee balls his results up and aims for the bin but misses badly.

Lee makes a throwaway joke about Oscar being so lucky to do so well AND not get glassed but Éada's distress has her picking up on every random detail. "What does that have to do with anything?"

Lee bluntly divulges that Oscar is who he got caught kissing in the bathroom stall. She scoffs at first thinking he's making a stupid joke, but then seeing Oscar's strange reaction she suddenly can't tell. It's as if something's clicked and Oscar is finally waking up. Éada stands, awkward, overwhelmed, unsure, but then doesn't commit to leaving. Lee cups his mouth goofily, then starts giggling. He says he's just joking, just joking... "Or am I?" and continues to laugh.

He's still laughing when Éada walks out, leaving Oscar behind. Lee's laughing turns to apologising over and over and over. At first jokingly but then it twists into something darker, unnerving. Oscar watches Lee's fist close around the butterknife and then between each apology, he begins stabbing it into his own face. Over and over, I'm sorry- I'm sorry- I'M SORRY- Oscar falls out of his chair. Lee turns the knife and dives for him but Oscar's out of the room and down the hall. It's only when he gets to the stairs does he realise - he's the one holding the bloodied butterknife. He drops it in horror, hands shaking. He gasps, flinching, a splitting headache coming on.

He manages to get to the car park but Éada's car is already gone. Everyone around is staring at him, following him, judging him. He can't tell what's real. His headache is worsening. He stumbles on, away from the hospital, through the adjacent housing estate, and beyond - into the woods where there no one's around.

He falls to the ground, unable to get up, the pain in his head too unbearable. His fingers blindly feel for the staples at the back of his skull and out of pure desperation, he rips them out, one by one.

For a brief second, he gets some relief... but it soon becomes bewilderment... he feels the back of his head and his fingers catch on something. Something within the freshly exposed wound. Tentatively he feels it... digging in... then pulls. With a hiss, Oscar rips it free...

He looks at it - it's a bloodied tooth - a Coyote's fang, the end attached to a thin ripped piece of rope. It's the end of Coyote's necklace that he wore every day. The rest of the rope is sticking out of the back of his head. His bloodied fingers take hold and pull it out with a sickly satisfying sound.

He barely has time to really comprehend the bloodied necklace that he just pulled out of his head when he doubles over, screaming in pain as....

Two fingers hook themselves out of the wound in his skull and rip the hole open wider. Oscar tries to breathe but he can't even do that. He's flat to the ground now, fists clutching the dirt, foaming at the mouth. The bloodied body keeps coming, hands to arms to finally a head - a naked Coyote, covered in blood and gore, is extricating himself out of the back of Oscar's skull. He slithers out fully once he's past his hips, gasping for air on the ground, the layer of blood like amniotic fluid. He looks at the sky like it's the first time he's seeing it... until Oscar stands above him, blocking the light.

Oscar, the back of his head ripped open still, stands shakily. The Coyote below gazes up at him lazily. Oscar raises a large rock above his head with great effort.

He holds it up high, almost tipping over, then using the most force he can muster, and with gravity on his side, drops to the ground while swinging the rock down right into Coyote's head off screen, again and again, by the sound of it smashing it open. Oscar tosses the rock aside and leans closer--

But when we cut to a profile two-shot, Coyote's head is perfectly fine and not bashed in, the large rock nowhere to be seen. Oscar gazes at him... then kisses him deeply. He holds Coyote's head tightly, desperately, as they kiss messily.

But When Oscar sits back, blood and gore covering his mouth - he finally sees the reality: He hasn't been kissing Coyote, he's been eating out of Coyote's cracked open skull, eating his brain. The reveal doesn't come as a shock to him though. A strange peace has settled in him, in and amongst the gore and horror. Nearby voices pull his attention towards--

The lake. Through the trees he can see it. He rises instinctively and begins walking towards it, shakily at first but growing more steady with each step. As he walks through the woods, passing trees that wipe the frame, we begin transitioning back and forth between two interconnected sequences:

One sequence is mostly a continuation of the previous scene - daytime, Oscar now clean of any gore, walking towards the local lake to discover the Pervert on the shoreline - as he said, he's there every Wednesday afternoon.

And the other sequence a divergence from the previous scene - the daytime darkening to night, but Oscar's still covered in gore. The trees are different. It's not the local lake he's walking towards anymore but the camp-lake. There he comes upon his past self, Buck, and Coyote emerging from the lake. It's the night he could never remember, until now.

He exchanges a few words with the pervert that we can't hear, then follows him back into the woods.

Oscar watches from the shadowy treeline as Coyote pushes Buck, causing him to trip and hit his head on the rocky lake shore and fall somewhat unconscious. Coyote just gazes down at him.

In a more shaded part of the woods the pervert kisses Oscar then quickly pushes him to his knees to give him a blow job. Forceful but Oscar doesn't fight him.

Coyote stumbles down to his knees and, pulling his wet boxers off, forces himself into Buck's mouth, face fucking him. Oscar watches on.

The Pervert pushes Oscar up against a tree and yanks his trousers down, spitting into his hand and lining himself up with Oscar's asshole. As he thrusts in--

Buck's eyes open. He's lying on his front now, his cheek against the stony ground. Coyote's behind him, on top of him, thrusting into him. Between the drunkenness, the high and the concussion, he's barely able to comprehend what's happening. Coyote's hand is in his hair.

Oscar masturbates as the Pervert fucks him roughly, his face a mixture of pain and pleasure. Oscar huffs, building up to a climax--

Buck's blurry eyes try to focus on a nearby spider crawling over the stones on the lakeshore as Coyote moans, building up to a climax. He moans through a hiss, finishing inside Buck. Nearby, Oscar walks from the treeline toward them, not thinking, picking up a rock on his way--

Oscar breathes roughly, finishing in his fist as the Pervert himself nears his own climax--

Coyote has only a time to sigh before-- the bloodied Oscar cracks the rock against the back of his head, sending him sprawling face down into the lake water. Buck doesn't seem to take any notice. Oscar stares at Coyote's body floating in the water, hyperventilating but--

It's not Coyote who Oscar has struck - it's the pervert, who lies dead in the middle of the woods, his pants around his ankles. Oscar drops the bloodied rock, calming his breath, covered now in the Pervert's blood from the struggle.

Coyote washes his penis in the lake, then stumbles back to the camp, leaving Buck on the ground.

Oscar takes hold of the Pervert's lifeless body and with all the strength that he has, pulls it through the woods toward the lake. It's an arduous task but he's fully accepting of it as his responsibility.

He makes it all the way to the water and drags the body in, it sinks down into the dark. Oscar watches the bubbles until they stop, the water up to his waist, his upper half covered in blood. He looks up and stares across the lake... to the dock on the far side... where he sees--

The senior counsellors are hosting a barbecue down by the camp lake. It's the first night at camp. Buck ambles out on the dock. When he looks across the lake he can see a Red Figure standing in the water up to their waist near the far shore.

The red figure is Oscar staring back. His past and future seeing each other across the lake, too far away to make out specific details, but still knowing somehow who each other are. Buck turns back - someone called him, distracting him.

Oscar lowers into the water, disappearing with barely a ripple.

When Buck looks again, the figure is gone. He walks back to the barbecue. Coyote's invited him to sit beside him. Credits roll over the lake as **LONG LONG TIME** by Linda Rondstadt plays us out.

THE END