

SCREAMFEST

24TH ANNUAL SCREAMFEST® HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FIRST WAVE 2024 LINEUP

The Los Angeles-based horror festival will open on October 8th

LOS ANGELES, CA (September 4, 2024) - Screamfest® Horror Film Festival, the largest and longest-running horror film festival in the United States, today announced its first-wave lineup of competitive features and shorts for its 24th edition. Running October 8 through 17, 2024 at the TCL Chinese Theater, Screamfest® welcomes horror cinephiles to experience twisted tales and frightening films together on the big screen. Tickets will be on sale soon and can be purchased via the festival website: <https://screamfestla.com/>

Considered the "Sundance of Horror," Screamfest® proudly highlights the innovative work of independent filmmakers from across the globe. This past year, the festival featured several standout films that have since secured distribution, including *Monolith* (WellGO USA), *Faceless After Dark* (Dark Sky Films), and *Pandemonium* (Arrow Video).

"We're excited to offer horror fans a diverse selection of terrifying films from across the globe," stated festival founder Rachel Belofsky.

A standout in this year's lineup is Hulu's *Mr. Crocket* starring Jerrika Hinton (*Hunters, Grey's Anatomy*) and directed by Brandon Espy, a Screamfest alumni. This supernatural horror follows Summer Beverly (Jerrika Hinton) as she embarks on a chilling journey to rescue her son from a sinister children's show host with otherworldly powers.

World premieres at the festival include the features *Drained*, *Carved*, and *ALO - Antropophagus Legacy*. From British filmmakers Sean Patrick Cronin and Peter Stylianous, *Drained* is set in the neon-soaked streets of London where the film follows Thomas (Ruaridh Aldington), a jobless post-graduate concept artist, who falls in love with Rhea (Madalina Bellariu Ion), a mysterious woman who turns out to be a vampire. As their twisted, co-dependent romance unfolds, Thomas's health deteriorates, and he spirals out of control. Hulu's *Carved*, directed by award-winning filmmaker Justin Harding, is a fun romp that pits a group of survivors trapped in a Halloween village battle with a sentient, vengeful pumpkin. The surreal horror *ALO - Antropophagus Legacy*, by Dario Germani, follows Hanna who is accused of her husband's brutal murder and flees to Hungary to protect her unborn child. Hanna turns to her cousin

Hugo in Budapest, only to be dragged into a violent spiral connected to a dark past and a bloodline that must be confronted.

North American premieres include **Test Screening**, directed by Clark Baker (producer of *Nathan for You*) and written by Clark Baker and Stephen Susco (*The Grudge*) which focuses on the life of four lifelong best friends who find their lives upended in the Summer of 1982 when a Hollywood film decides to hold a secret test screening in their small, declining Oregon town. Also making their North American debuts are the bloody Ukrainian film **The Witch.Revenge**, by Andriy Kolesnyk, about an ancient witch who enacts revenge on those who killed her lover; and the Argentinian film **1978**, by Luciano and Nico Onetti, about a kidnapping gone terribly wrong when the victims turn out to be part of a macabre cult guided by an unknown supernatural force.

U.S premieres include Oscar-nominated director Pedro Kos's (*Lead Me Home*) **In Our Blood**, the first-ever faux-doc thriller made by an award-winning documentary team. Starring Brittany O'Grady (*The White Lotus*), E. J. Bonilla (*The Old Man*, *The Exorcist: Believer*), and Alanna Ubach (*Euphoria*), **In Our Blood** evolves from an indie documentary about family ties into a gripping psychological mystery, culminating in a crescendo of pure gothic horror. **Scared Shitless**, directed by Vivieno Caldinelli and starring Steven Ogg (*The Walking Dead*), will also be making its U.S. debut. The film follows a plumber and germophobic son who must confront a deadly creature that has escaped into the plumbing system.

West Coast premieres at the festival include the gripping Nigerian horror film **The Weekend**, directed by Daniel Oriahi, which made a splash at Tribeca earlier this year. The film follows Nikiya (Uzoamaka Aniunoh) as she meets her in-laws for the first time and slowly uncovers the sinister secret her husband Luc (Bucci Franklin) had been keeping from her.

Additional West Coast premieres include **The A-Frame**, a mind-bending sci-fi thriller directed by Calvin Lee Reeder in which a scientist creates a machine that leads to accidentally discovering a new way to treat cancer; **Else** from Screampfest alumni Thibault Emin, about a mysterious virus that causes the infected to merge with the objects around them; **Beacon** directed by Roxy Shih, about a solo trip that turns into a harrowing ordeal as the journey takes a dark turn; Joe DeBoer and Kyle McConaghy's **Dead Mail** which had its world premiere at SXSW and intertwines the fate of a kidnapped keyboard technician to a dead letter investigator through an ominous letter; and **Animale**, a supernatural revenge thriller by Emma Benestan that closed Cannes Critic week earlier this year.

Making their Los Angeles Debuts are **BA** by Ben Wong, which tells the story of a struggling father who must make a deal with the devil while keeping his fate hidden from his daughter, and the unsettling **The Complex Forms** by Fabio D'Orta, which takes place in an ancient villa where desperate individuals sell their bodies to mysterious entities for money.

Highlights from this year's shorts program include filmmaker Felipe Vargas's visceral horror **Hive** starring Xochitl Gomez (*Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness*); the chilling **Adjoining** by Dakota Daulby and Harrison Houde starring Brenna D'Amico (*Descendants*); **Disfigura** featuring Doug Jones (*Hell Boy*)

from filmmakers Jake Bradbury and Toni Blando; ***Fresh Blood*** starring Clara Mcgregor (*American Horror Story*) and directed by Emma Westenberg; and ***The Underground*** from the director of *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* and *Tank Girl*, Rachel Talalay.

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Please find the 2024 Screamfest® features line-up below:

FEATURES:

1978 (Argentina, 2024) - North American Premiere

Directed by Nicolás Onetti and Luciano Onetti

Written by Luciano Onetti, Nicolás Onetti, Camilo Zaffora

Produced by Michael Kraetzer, Sayf Aram, Carlos Goitia, Nicolás Onetti

Cast: Agustin Pardella, Mario Alarcón, Carlos Portaluppi

During the World Cup final between Argentina and Holland, in times of military dictatorship, a group of torturers violently breaks into a home and kidnaps a group of young people to take them to a clandestine detention center. What begins as an inhumane interrogation turns into a true martyrdom: the wrong group of people have been kidnapped. They turn out to be part of a macabre cult guided by an unknown supernatural force. The clandestine detention center will become hell itself..

The A-Frame (US, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Calvin Lee Reeder

Written by Calvin Lee Reeder

Produced by Angelia Adzic, Vincent Grashaw, Ran Maerode, Cole Payne

Cast: Johnny Whitworth, Dana Namerode, Nik Dodani, Laketa Caston

A quantum physicist develops a machine that creates a tunnel to a subatomic universe. In his quest to prove the machine's efficacy, he inadvertently discovers a radical treatment for cancer.

ALO - Antropophagus Legacy (Italy, 2024) - World Premiere

Directed by Dario Germani

Written by Pierpaolo Marcelli, Dario Germani

Produced by Pierpaolo Marcelli, Marco Gaudenzi

Cast: Valentina Corti, Salvatore Licausi, Akos Horvath

Everything in Hanna's life suddenly seems to fall apart. Accused of the brutal murder of her husband, she is forced to flee to Hungary to defend the only reason for living she has left; the child she is carrying. In Budapest, she will ask for help from her cousin Hugo, who will drag her into a spiral of violence involving a dark past and a bloodline to be dealt with.

Animale (France, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Emma Benestan

Written by Emma Benestan

Produced by Julie Billy, Naomi Denamur, Cassandre Warnauts, Jean-Yves Roubin

Cast: Oulaya Amamra, Claude Chaballierm, Elies-Morgan Admi-Bensellam, Vivien Rodriguez, Damien Rebattel

Camargue, France - Infamous for its traditional bull race, an exhilarating and graceful challenge of agility and respect between man and beast. Surrounded by men, 22-year-old Nejma trains hard to fulfill her dream of winning the upcoming annual competition, but news of a rogue and violent bull on the loose terrifies the community. Young men are being murdered everywhere, and the beast is nowhere to be seen.

BA (US, 2024) - LA Premiere

Directed by Ben Wong

Written by Ben Wong

Produced by Elizabeth Ai

Cast: Lawrence Kao, Kai Cech, Brian Thompson, Michael Paul Chan

When a struggling father makes a Faustian bargain and becomes the incarnation of Death, he must fight to unwind his fate while keeping his predicament hidden from his daughter. A dark fantasy drama.

Beacon (US, 2024) - LA Premiere

Directed by Roxy Shih

Written by Julio Rojas

Produced by Neil Elman, Taralee Gerhard, Andrew C. Erin

Cast: Demián Bichir, Julia Goldani Telles

An ambitious solo trip leads to a young sailor's shipwreck on a remote island, where she's rescued by the lone inhabitant, a lighthouse keeper. As reality twists and their trust fractures, survival becomes a grueling trial.

Carved (US, 2024) - World Premiere

Directed by Justin Harding

Written by Justin Harding, Cheryl Meyer

Produced by David Brooks, Jenna Cavelle, Arbi Pedrossian, Deborah Liebling

Cast: DJ Qualls, Chris Elliot, Matty Cardarople, Corey Fogelmanis, Peyton Elizabeth Lee

A group of survivors get trapped in a reenactment village on Halloween and must fight against a vengeful pumpkin creature. Rephrased: Survivors trapped in a Halloween village battle a sentient, vengeful pumpkin.

The Complex Forms (Italy, 2024) - LA Premiere

Directed by Fabio D'Orta

Written by Fabio D'Orta

Produced by Fabio D'Orta

Cast: David Richard White, Michele Venni, Cesare Bonomelli, Enzo Solazzi

There is an ancient villa where desperate people have the opportunity to revive their fortunes by selling their bodies to mysterious entities in exchange for money. When huge and age-old creatures emerge from the deep woods surrounding the villa, a series of strange and sinister events prompt three unlikely guests to band together in a desperate escape.

Dead Mail (USA, 2024) - LA Premiere

Directed by Joe DeBoer and Kyle McConaghy

Written by Joe DeBoer, Kyle McConaghy

Produced by Zachary Weil, Brett Arndy

Cast: Sterling Macer Jr., John Fleck, Tomas Boykin, Susan Priver, Micki Jackson

An ominous help note finds its way to a 1980s post office, connecting a dead letter investigator to a kidnapped keyboard technician.

Drained (UK, 2024) - World Premiere

Directed by Sean Patrick Cronin and Peter Stylianos

Written by Peter Stylianos

Produced by Sean Patrick Cronin

Cast: Madalina Bellariu Bellariu Ion, Ruaridh Aldington, Angela Dixon, Craig Conway

In the neon-soaked streets of London, Thomas, a jobless post-graduate concept artist, falls in love with Rhea, a mysterious woman who turns out to be a vampire. Drawn into a codependent relationship, Thomas willingly offers his blood to Rhea in exchange for her companionship. As their twisted romance unfolds, Thomas's health deteriorates, and he spirals out of control. 'Drained' explores the theme of codependency, reflecting the addictive nature of modern life while delivering a dark and alluring vampire horror experience.

Else (France, Belgium, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Thibault Emin

Written by Thibault Emin, Alice Butaud, Emma Sandona

Produced by Damien Lagogu ; Benoit Roland (co-producer)

Cast: Matthieu Sampeur, Edith Proust, Lika Minamoto

Anx has just met Cass when a mysterious virus breaks out: everywhere, people's bodies are merging with objects. Stuck in their apartment, the couple must face this dreadful threat.

In Our Blood (US, 2024)- US Premiere

Directed by Pedro Kos

Written by Mallory Westfall

Produced by Aaron Kogan, Steven Klein, Gary Lucchesi, Michael McKay, and Stuart Fenegan

Cast: Brittany O'Grady, E. J. Bonilla, Alanna Ubach, Krisha Fairchild, Steven Klein, Bianca Comparato, and Leo Marks

Nothing is as it seems when filmmaker Emily Wyland (Brittany O'Grady) teams up with cinematographer Danny (E. J. Bonilla) to shoot an intimate documentary about reuniting with Emily's estranged mother after a decade apart. When her mother suddenly goes missing, possibly succumbing to the addictions that first tore her family apart, Emily and Danny must piece together increasingly sinister clues to find

her before it's too late. Directed by Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker Pedro Kos (*Rebel Hearts*, *Lead Me Home*) in his first narrative feature, *IN OUR BLOOD* masterfully blends psychological mystery with chilling horror. The film weaves a twisted tale of reconciling with the ghosts of our past and confronting the complicity we share in creating a world that preys on the most vulnerable.

Mr. Crocket (US, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Brandon Espy

Written by Carl Reid

Produced by David Brooks, Arbi Pedrossian, Jenna Cavelle, Josh Feldman

Cast: Jerrika Hinton, Ayden Gavin, Elvis Nolasco, Kristolyn Lloyd, Alex Alomar Akpobome

The year is 1993. SUMMER BEVERLY'S world is turned upside down when the love of her life, her husband, JERREL, succumbs to cancer. On her own, struggling to support herself and her nine-year-old son, MAJOR, things couldn't possibly get any worse for Summer. Or so she believes, until the trauma of his father's death sends Major into an emotional tailspin, making him impossible to control. Summer believes she's been granted a miracle when a VHS tape of an old kids TV show, MR. CROCKET'S WORLD, appears on her doorstep. She plays it for Major, and it works like a charm in finally getting him to calm down and behave. But soon, Major's love for the show and its relentlessly cheery host, MR. CROCKET, devolves into an obsession. To keep her sanity, Summer has to pull the plug on Major's endless TV marathon. When Major goes on a tirade in response, smashing some of his late father's most treasured items, Summer lashes out and says some harsh words. Later that night, Mr. Crocket himself violently emerges from the television and kidnaps Major through a mysterious portal. The police don't believe a word Summer says, so she launches into a search all through the neighborhood for clues about Mr. Crocket and all of the other kids he's taken over the years. What Summer uncovers about where they've all vanished to send her on a journey deep into Mr. Crocket's dark and twisted world.

Scared Shitless (Canada, 2024) - US Premiere

Directed by Vivieno Caldinelli

Written by Brandon Cohen

Produced by Lewis Spring

Cast: Chelsea Clark, Daniel Doheny, Mark McKinney, Steven Ogg

A plumber and his germophobic son are forced to get their hands dirty to save the residents of an apartment building, when a genetically engineered, blood-thirsty creature escapes into the plumbing system.

Test Screening (USA, 2024) - North American Premiere

Directed by Clark Baker

Written by Clark Baker, Stephen Susco

Produced by Stephen Susco, Michael Mobley, Warren Kohler

Cast: Chloë Kerwin, Sean Bridgers, James Urbanik, Amy Hargreaves, Rain Spencer, Johnny Berchtold, Drew Scheid

Summer, 1982: four lifelong best friends find their lives upended when a Hollywood film decides to hold a secret test screening in their small, declining Oregon town.

The Witch. Revenge (Ukraine, 2024) - North American Premiere

Directed by Andriy Kolesnyk

Written by Yaroslav Voitseshek

Produced by Iryna Kostyuk

Cast: Tetiana Malkova, Taras Tsymbaliuk

An ancient witch from the Ukrainian town of Konotop (always believed to be a place where witches are born) has renounced her powers after falling in love with a mortal guy, but when the war starts and Russian soldiers occupy the city and brutally murder her beloved, she decides to exact revenge on them, so she restores her powers and subjects her fiancé's killers to some horrifying and bloody acts of retribution.

The Weekend (Nigeria, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Daniel Oriahi

Written by Egbewamei Sammy

Produced by Uche Okocha

Cast: Uzoamaka Aniunoh, Bucci Franklin, Meg Otanwa, Gloria Young, Keppy Ekpenyong, Damilola Oguns, James Gardiner

Gripping Nigerian thriller exploring in-law dynamics through unpredictable twists and turns, keeping viewers hooked until the riveting conclusion.

For more information or the latest news, visit screamfestla.com

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Summon the Darkness”, “The Master Cleanse’, “ “American Mary”, Paranormal Activity,” “30 Days of Night,” “Trick ‘r Treat” and “The Human Centipede.”

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PLEASE CONTACT:

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SCREAMFEST

24TH ANNUAL SCREAMFEST® HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHTS AND ADDITIONAL FEATURES FOR THE 2024 LINEUP

*The Los Angeles-based horror festival will open with **ICK** and close with a tribute to legendary cinematographer Dean Cundey, ASC*

LOS ANGELES, CA (September 25, 2024) - Screamefest® Horror Film Festival, the largest and longest-running horror film festival in the United States, is excited to announce its opening and closing night events as well as additional features. Taking place from October 8 to 17, 2024, at the TCL Chinese Theater, Screamefest® will kick off the festival with award-winning filmmaker Joseph Kahn's (*Bodied*), sci-fi/horror satire **ICK**, which will have its West Coast premiere with a red-carpet gala screening on Tuesday, October 8.

ICK follows ex-jock turned science teacher Hank (Brandon Routh) who is stuck in his hometown, dreaming of a life as a professional athlete. While teaching chemistry, he reconnects with his high school crush's daughter, Grace (Malina Weissman). When a mysterious substance called the "Ick" begins to spread through Eastbrook, Hank and his disillusioned students must band together to combat this gooey menace. Their comedic journey turns into a wild battle for survival, testing their courage and complicating their personal connections.

To conclude this year's festival on October 17th, Screamefest will honor legendary cinematographer Dean Cundey, ASC (*Jurassic Park*, *Apollo 13*) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious honor will be presented by a special guest and will be accompanied by a double-feature screening of Dean's iconic works *The Thing* and *Halloween*.

Additional features include the world premiere of **Body Language**, a thriller directed by Cory Miller and starring Christina Milian (*Step Up High Water*) and Steven Strait (*The Expanse*). In **Body Language** Mariana (Milian) returns home to find Dylan (Strait), her fiancé Nick's college friend, preparing an engagement dinner. As the evening unfolds and Nick fails to arrive, Mariana becomes increasingly uneasy about Dylan, turning what should have been a celebration into a night of terror.

Making its West Coast premiere after debuting at SXSW is **Cold Wallet**, directed by Cutter Hodierne. This gripping thriller follows a ragtag team of vigilante Redditors who, after losing everything in a cryptocurrency scam, attempt to kidnap the kingpin who deceived them. However, their home invasion spirals out of control, trapping them in a sadistic game.

Other exciting additions to the lineup include ***Drive Back***, directed by Cody Ashford, ***In the Name of God*** from Sweden, directed by Ludvig Gür, and ***Witte Wieven (Heresy)*** from the Netherlands, directed by Didier Konings.

This year's festival features a variety of exciting events, including a writing panel with *Conjuring* screenwriters Carey Hayes and Chad Hayes. Additionally, the Birns & Sawyer panel will showcase industry veterans such as Michael Goi, ASC (*American Horror Story*), Mark Irwin, ASC (*The Fly, Scream*), Roy Wagner, ASC (*Nightmare on Elm Street*), Daniel Pearl, ASC (*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*), and Andrzej Bartkowiak, ASC (*Species*). A legal panel led by entertainment attorney Larry Zerner will provide valuable insights into the industry. Finally, Scremfest will introduce a Horror Nerd Standup Comedy event, offering audiences a chance to enjoy laughs with friends, family, and fellow horror enthusiasts!

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Please find the 2024 FULL Scremfest® line-up: [HERE](#)

Please find the press materials: [HERE](#)

SECOND WAVE LINEUP FEATURES:

ICK (US, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Joseph Kahn

Written by Joseph Kahn, Dan Koontz, and Samuel Laskey

Produced by Steven Schneider, Joseph Kahn, Joe Heath, David Kang, Adi Shankar

Cast: Brandon Routh, Mena Suvari, Malina Weissman, Harrison Cone, Taia Sophia, Zeke Donovan, Jones, Debra Wilson and Jeff Fahey

Ex-jock turned science teacher Hank (Brandon Routh) is stuck in his hometown, always wondering what life would be like if he had become a professional athlete. Now, he spends his days teaching chemistry, where he reunites with his high school crush's daughter Grace (Malina Weissman). Things take a drastic turn when a mysterious dormant substance known as the 'Ick', begins to spread rapidly throughout the town of Eastbrook. As the gooey menace spreads, Hank and his disillusioned students join forces to combat the spread.

Their journey to defeat grotesque 'Ick' turns into a comedic and untamed battle for survival not only testing their courage but also navigating the chaos of their complex personal connection.

Body Language (US, 2024) - World Premiere

Directed by Cory Miller

Written by Robert Belushi and Cory Miller

Produced by Mandy Jane Turpin

Executive Producers by Carey Hayes and Chad Hayes (*The Conjuring*)

Cast: Christina Milian, Steven Strait, Annie Gonzalez

Mariana comes home to find Dylan, her fiancé Nick's college buddy, cooking an engagement dinner for them. However, as the night unfolds, and Nick is nowhere to be found, Mariana begins to suspect something is deeply troubling about Dylan. What she thought would be an evening of celebration turns into a night of terror.

Cold Wallet (US, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Cutter Hodierne

Written by John Hibey

Produced by John Hibey, Benjamin Wiessner, Cutter Hodierne

Cast: Raul Castillo, Melonie Diaz, Tony Cavalero, Josh Brener, Zoe Winters

After losing everything in a cryptocurrency scam, a ragtag team of vigilante Redditors attempt to kidnap the kingpin who screwed them over. But when the home invasion takes a turn for the worst, they become victims in a sadistic game.

Drive Back (US, 2024) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Cody Ashford

Written by Jon Sarro

Produced by Chris Lofing, Travis Cluff

Cast: Whit Kunschik, Zack Gold, Robert Lewis Stephenson

Struggling artist Reid and his pregnant fiancée, Olivia, celebrate their new engagement, happily surrounded by family and friends. After a cryptic warning from Reid's father, a car accident leaves them lost in the woods. Searching for directions leads to a rundown store run by a creepy older couple, who suggest the best way home is by taking an old shortcut through dark backroads. But after violent visions, lost memories, a troubling hitchhiker encounter, and an inability to escape the road itself, their car breaks down, and they discover a terrifying killer is hunting their every move.

In the Name of God (Sweden, 2024) - LA Premiere

Directed and written by Ludvig Gür

Produced by Daniel Lägersten, Daniel Berntsson, Kristofer Hultén

Cast: Linus Wahlgren, Lisa Henni, Vilhelm Blomgren, Thomas Hanzon, Isabelle Grill, Charlie Gustafsson

40-year-old priest, Theodor stands by in horror as his wife falls seriously ill. His world crumbles around him and he seeks guidance from his old mentor who convinces him that he has been chosen by God to rid the world of sinners in order to bring new life to true believers. With trembling hands, he commits his first murder, convinced that it is a necessary sacrifice in service of his divine mission. Miraculously, at the moment of the murder, his wife's health improves and the congregation starts referring to him as the "miracle priest", knowing nothing of

his horrible act. But lurking in the shadows is a disbelieving man who begins to uncover the bloody traces of the priest's unholy deeds.

Witte Wieven (*Heresy*) (Netherlands, 2024) - LA Premiere

Directed by Didier Konings

Written by Marc S. Nollkaemper

Produced by Monique van Kessel

Cast: Anneke Sluiter, Len Leo Vincent, Reinout Bussemaker, Leon van Waas

In a small Dutch village in the Dark Ages, Frieda carries the blame for her struggle to conceive a child with her husband. She believes God is her only hope and seeks help from the village priest. But when the local butcher attempts to take advantage of Frieda, chasing her into the forest, he mysteriously disappears. Frieda comes back unscathed, the first to ever return from the unknown dangers outside of the village. The community becomes suspicious that it was not God who brought her back safely but a dark force cloaked in fog beyond the edge of the woods. Frieda becomes suspicious as well, but her doubts begin to form a new faith within her; a faith in the ones that linger in the darkness.

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