

EXTREME GHOST BUSTERS

"GRUNDELESQUE"
by Martin Olson

COLD OPEN:

EXT. THE WOODS - WINDY AUTUMN NIGHT

A WIND SPOUT of dead leaves swirl and <RUSTLE> past the CAMERA. PUSH IN ON a GNARLED, DEAD TREE against a crescent Moon.

ON DEAD TREE BRANCH

A BLACK SNAKE spirals up the branch towards an unsuspecting SQUIRREL eating a nut. The snake stops and undulates to attack. Just as the snake pounces, the BRANCH <SHUDDERS> wildly. The SQUIRREL <SCREECHES> and leaps away just as the snake strikes, getting a mouthful of bark. The branch <SHAKES> more violently; the SNAKE loses its grip and falls.

ANGLE ON TREE QUAKING AGAINST CRESCENT MOON

The tree trunk <TREMBLES>... <SHAKES VIOLENTLY>, then... the trunk <EXPLODES!>

ON SPLINTERED TREE-TRUNK - QUICK, EXPRESSIONISTIC CUTS:

Out of the shattered tree emerges an oozing nightmare: a pulsing, mucous- and maggot-covered, embryonic COCOON.

HORROR UPSHOT ON THE "COCOON" TREMBLING

as the oozing embryo <CRACKS> open from its husk of gore, revealing a FULLY-GROWN DEMON, its face obscured behind a swath of slime.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE DEMON

uprights itself and creeps through the woods.

INT. FIREHOUSE BASEMENT - NIGHT

PUSH IN ON CONTAINMENT UNIT. The tank shudders ominously, then stops. An eerie voice-over whispers from inside the unit, (which we will recognize later as the Grundel's voice):

THE GRUNDEL
<hissing> It is time...it is time!

EXT. SUBURBS - NIGHT

FOLLOWING the newly-hatched demon, trailing ooze, as it sees a house lit up through a thicket and creeps towards--

OTS - DEMON - REAR OF A SUBURBAN HOUSE

Emerging from the thicket, it <SNIFFS>. Its head snaps upwards. TILT UP to reveal light from a 2nd story window.

REVERSE ANGLE - THE DEMON LOOKING UP AT US

Its repulsive face oozes with slime. A slit opens in the face. It's a smile. A terrifying one.

INT. BOY'S ROOM - CONT'D.

A BOY, 7, is reading in bed as he hears a <RUSTLING>. His head snaps towards --

BOY'S POV - THE WINDOW

Through wispy curtains, he see the ooze-covered demon's face leering at him in the window, the eyes glowing red.

DEMON V.O.

(whispers)
Come out and play...!

ZOOM IN ON BOY trembling as his mouth opens to form a silent scream of terror...

CUT TO BLACK AND ROLL OPENING.

ACT ONE

EXT. FRONT OF SAME HOUSE - NIGHT, LATER

The ECTO-1 pulls up to the curb. The EGB team hop out and head for the house. TWO POLICE CRUISERS are parked in the driveway.

INT. SAME HOUSE - BOY'S ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

MOTHER 1 is by the OPEN WINDOW holding her terrified child tightly as she SOBS to EGON, KYLIE and ROLAND. ANGLE INCLUDES a COP dusting the windowsill for prints.

MOTHER 1

<hysterical> When it saw me, it
dropped my baby. Before it went
into the woods, it stared at me...
those eyes... they were...

She breaks down. Kylie puts her arm around Mom and son.

GARRETT O.S.

Yo, Boss!

OTS - EGON AT WINDOW - THE BACK YARD BELOW

Garrett is in the yard, his flashlight in the thicket.
EDUARDO and TWO COPS converge their beams on Garrett.

GARRETT

I found a trail of ecto. This is
one slimy mother.

MOVE IN ON EGON IN WINDOW

EGON

When in doubt, follow the slime.

SMASH-CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT, MOMENTS LATER

QUICK CUTS, ACTION PACING - The EGBs, Garrett in the
lead, race through the woods. Their beams chaotically
REVEAL a slime trail snaking through the gnarled woods.

ON THE SHATTERED TREE AND COCOON HUSK

They bolt into frame braking at the tree and cocoon still
dripping with ooze. Egon's PKE CRACKLES as he approaches
the tree. INTERCUT repulsed expressions on their faces.

GARRETT

The mother load, man.

Egon checks the PKE.

EGON

Looks like a Class 6 Astral.
Strange...

FAVOR EGON scooping an ooze sample. Fascinated:

EGON (CONT'D)

I swear I've seen this type
before...

KYLIE O.S.

Over here!

Roland bolts off-screen first, towards --

KYLIE - apart from the others, shining her flashlight
through the blackness, illuminating --

THE DEMON - racing over a thorny hill. Roland rushes
into shot, sprints after it followed by Kylie.

ROLAND / KYLIE

<breathing hard as they book>

Very quickly: Kylie and Roland rip through the thorny bushes and crest the hill, REVEALING A ROCKY CLIFF over an abyss. They stop; where's the demon?

CLOSE - ROLAND - The DEMON'S OOZING CLAWS suddenly spin him around and lift him out of frame.

DEMON
<HISSING ROAR>

ROLAND
<yell of surprise>

ANGLE - THE DEMON'S CLAWS toss Roland with supernatural strength over the cliff.

ON ROLAND FALLING grabbing the edge of a rock, swaying over the abyss by his white knuckles:

ROLAND (CONT'D)
Kylie!

ON KYLIE - frozen. INTERCUT KYLIE / THE DEMON staring at each other for a beat. ZOOM IN - ECU ON KYLIE'S EYES...

VERY FAST: SUBLIMINAL, U-V GLOWING "SNAPSHOTS" OF A CHILDHOOD MEMORY... KYLIE AS A TERRIFIED CHILD... seeing something staring at her through her window... stiletto teeth... glowing eyes... the "snapshots" become nightmare views of the demon beckoning her...

BACK TO KYLIE - FROZEN

ROLAND O.S.
KYLIE!

She instantly snaps out of it and rushes to --

DOWNSHOT - ROLAND LOSES HIS GRIP - KYLIE'S HAND grabs his hand as he falls, yanks him up out of shot.

ON KYLIE AND ROLAND - tumbling to the ground, <OUT OF BREATH>, disoriented.

WIDEN - REVEAL the surrounding vista. The demon is gone.

ROLAND
<panting> Well, I owe you one.

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. FIREHOUSE - NEXT DAY

ON SLIMER - Alone, throwing handfuls of jelly beans into the air, ZIPPING around to catch them in his mouth, pulling them from his stomach, throwing them again, etc.

CLOSE - SLIMER'S "TAIL" as a BOY'S HAND grabs it and ZIPS Slimer out of frame, who spits jelly beans into the air.

CLOSE - REFRIGERATOR DOOR - as the same hand whips open the freezer door and quickly stuffs Slimer inside.

BOY (CASEY) O.S.
<devious giggle>

INT. MAIN ROOM - SAME TIME

The GB's (minus ROLAND) hang out. Garret and Eduardo watch a game on TV; Eduardo snoozes; Egon is looking through a file cabinet.

OTS KYLIE - giving a view of the SPIRIT GUIDE as she scans PHOTOS of astral species. ROLAND enters shot.

ROLAND
Anybody seen my little bro Casey?
I was giving him a tour of the
facilities and, uh, I lost him.

GARRETT
You mean he lost you. Better find
that brat before he burns the
place to the ground.

ROLAND
He's not a brat. He's harmless.

GARRETT
"Harmless"?

Garrett picks up a big bikini calendar from the table.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
You call this harmless? He dissed
my favorite super models.

He shows model photos with mustaches and beards drawn on.

FAVOR EGON

EGON
Roland, there is a lot of
dangerous stuff in here.

ROLAND
I'll find him. Don't worry. I'm
sure Casey's behaving himself.

INT. FIREHOUSE - LABORATORY AREA - SAME TIME

ON CASEY, 8, looking through Egon's microscope. He picks up slide which has a SLIME SAMPLE on it.

He <SNIFFS> it, then sticks his finger in his ear, deposits a glop of his EAR WAX on the slide, puts it back under the microscope.

ROLAND O.S.

Casey! What are you doing?

Startled, Casey spins around as Roland enters the shot.

CASEY

Huh? Oh, nothing. Hey, when can I see the ghosts? The ones you said were in the basement.

EGON ENTERS SHOT

EGON

Roland, the containment unit is not for kids.

ROLAND

Forget it, Case. C'mon.

Casey sighs, traipses after Roland as Egon looks through the microscope and compares it to something in his file.

EGON

Hmmm.

MAIN ROOM AS BEFORE (SANS EGON) - MOMENTS LATER

Roland and Casey enter.

ROLAND

Have a seat, bro.

(checks his watch)

Mom'll be back for you sooner or later.

CASEY

I hope it's later!

GARRETT

<mutters> I hope it's sooner.

FAVOR KYLIE staring with amazed at the Spirit Guide as EGON reenters in b.g. She points to a photo on the page.

KYLIE

That's the thing I saw last night.

Egon looks over her shoulder at --

CLOSE - THE PAGE - showing an image of a hideous green spirit labeled "GRUNDEL ASTRALA".

EGON O.S.
A Grundel? Interesting,
but unlikely.

ON EGON - opening his file folder.

EGON
I've been analyzing that ectoplasm
sample we found last night.

ON CASEY - As Egon talks, Casey sees a SPIDER dangling on a thread. He grabs the thread, drops the spider in Ed's sleeping open mouth. Eduardo drowsily chews, swallows, gags, as Casey stifles a <LAUGH>. Over this:

EGON O.S.
The demon's DNA is different from
the Grundel DNA in our files. The
new sample is unlike anything I've
encountered before.

ON EGON AND KYLIE - as he concludes:

EGON
But there's a more compelling
reason why it couldn't be a
Grundel.

KYLIE
What's that?

EGON
We contained the only Grundel in
existence ten years ago and he's
still imprisoned downstairs. There
are no more Grundels.

FAVOR EDUARDO choking on the spider, waking up
<COUGHING>. Casey stifles another laugh as Garrett
repeatedly <slaps> Eduardo's back.

GARRETT
Easy, muchacho. Egon, what's a
"grundel" anyway? Sounds like some
German underwear.

ON EGON - UPSHOT

EGON
The Grundel is about as sick as it
gets. Its m.o is to steal a human
child, then transform the child
into a Grundel like itself.

ON CASEY - Still bored, he grabs a ruler and slides it
between the spokes of Garrett's wheelchair. Over this:

EGON (CONT'D)

The Grundel generally preys on reckless kids and overshadows their minds. And when we trapped the original Grundel in the containment unit, all of the children he transformed into grundels changed back.

BACK ON EGON

EGON (CONT'D)

That's why there can't be any more Grundels.

ON KYLIE

KYLIE

But I saw it, Egon.

ROLAND

Jeez, Kyle, you saw it for two seconds.

KYLIE

That was long enough.

GARRETT

Kylie, Egon analyzed the ecto and it ain't a Grundel, so what's your problem?

KYLIE

(points to book)
This is the same creature that I saw. Why don't we go downstairs and ask the Grundel himself?

ON CASEY - His ears perking up.

CASEY

Yeah! Let's see the basement!

ON EGON - uncharacteristically peeved. This is serious.

EGON

Kylie, Rule #1 is, Never open the Containment Unit. Ever.

Egon exits, a little peeved. A <CAR HORN> honks outside.

ROLAND

Casey, that's Mom. See ya.

CASEY

Can I come back tomorrow?

ROLAND

Sorry, kid. Now git and say hi to Mom.

CASEY

Oh, all right...

Casey runs out as Kylie gets up, obviously upset.

KYLIE

Roland, can I talk to you for a minute? Alone?

ROLAND

Sure.

Roland follows Kylie out of the room.

ON GARRETT AND EDUARDO - Garrett nudges him.

GARRETT

Kylie and Roland are spending a lot of "quality time" together...

EDUARDO

Aw, leave 'em alone.

(makes a face)

Man, I got this gross taste in my mouth. Grab me a soda?

Garrett tries to move his chair, but it won't budge. He looks down, then pulls the ruler out of the spokes.

GARRETT

That brat's lookin' for a knuckle sandwich.

Eduardo gets up to get it himself. FOLLOW HIM TO FRIDGE.

EDUARDO

Ah, c'mon, he's a cute kid. He wouldn't hurt a fly...

He opens the fridge and sees --

CLOSE - OPEN FRIDGE - SLIMER is frozen solid in the act of clutching his throat and spitting out jelly beans.

WIDEN - Ed grabs frozen Slimer, WHACKS him against the fridge. The ice SHATTERS, freeing Slimer who MUMBLES angrily and flies away.

SLIMER

<ad-libs: that little brat!>

Ed opens a soda, takes a gulp, shrugs at Garrett.

EDUARDO
Uh, I stand corrected.

He belches.

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. FIREHOUSE - DARK BASEMENT - NIGHT

ON ROLAND AND KYLIE - They work on a JERRY-RIGGED MODULE attached to a lap-top. As they solder wires:

ROLAND
I don't like this. We're defying
Egon's direct orders.

She looks troubled.

KYLIE
Roland, something happened to me a
long time ago. I want to find out
what it was. You owe me, remember?

ROLAND
I remember. But I still don't like
it.

KYLIE
Do you think it'll work?

ROLAND
It just might.

He attaches wires to the containment unit, fires up the computer. Sies of spike patterns flash on the screen.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
I input the spike pattern Egon
recorded from the Grundel ten
years ago. When the Grundel's
pattern comes up on the screen, I
switch on the module. That will
lock onto the Grundel and project
him into our space. But he'll
still be trapped in the
containment field.

The screen <BEEPS> as it locks onto a SPIKE PATTERN.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
Got him. Remember, this guy is
extremely dangerous. Ready?

She steels herself.

KYLIE
As ready as I'll ever be.

ROLAND

Here goes...

Roland switches on the module <CLICK!>

ANGLE ON CONTAINMENT UNIT - There's an <ELECTRICAL CRACKLE> as an EERIE PURPLE CLOUD projects over the unit. SUSPENSE CUTS as they watch a MYSTERIOUS FORM congeal in the cloud. The form becomes -

A GOOFY-LOOKING DEMON - drooling through buck-teeth.

STUPID DEMON

<blubbering and drooling sounds>

BACK TO SCENE

KYLIE

That's not him, you idiot.

ROLAND

Oops. Wrong demon.

He hits a SWITCH, <sucking> the idiot demon into the tank. The screen locks on another pattern, <BEEPS> again.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

This is the right one, Kylie. Get ready...

Roland hits the <SWITCH>. The cloud appears. A SPIRAL OF UGLY LIGHT swirls in the center, slowly congealing into --

THE GRUNDEL - a hideous green spectral FACE. Even asleep as he seems to be, he exudes pure evil, resembling a HOODED DEATH-MASK. We take our time on the images and SLOWLY MOVE IN.

KYLIE AND ROLAND - Frightened, they recoil slightly.

ON GRUNDEL - Now - it <YAWNS> and slowly opens its eyes, which flutter, emerging from a ten year hibernation. It focuses its eyes on Kylie, then narrows them, beaming pure hatred. In a SOUND-DESIGN that suggests a thousand EVIL VOICES in the Grundel's single voice, it hisses:

THE GRUNDEL

Who... are...

ANGLE - For emphasis, the Grundel's GNARLED FINGER points right at Kylie, stretching the containment field.

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

...you?!

Kylie steps back, trying to control her fear.

KYLIE

I - we're Ghostbusters. We're updating the Spirit Guide. We need information on you, since you're the only one of your kind. Uh, that's true, isn't it?

The Grundel "leans" forward through the rubbery tissue of the cloud, eyes burning into hers. His wrinkled mouth <CRACKS> in a predatory smile revealing stiletto teeth. It's as if he knows she's lying, but plays along.

THE GRUNDEL

You... must have more than a passing interest... to awaken me... to expose your fear to me...

Kylie <gulps>.

KYLIE

I'm- I'm just trying to update --

THE GRUNDEL

LIAR!

The force of the accusation VIBRATES the room. The demon places its fingers on the sides of its head and MURMURS:

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

Your plebeian mind... is open to me... you desire knowledge... about a spirit... a specific creature...

Now it SCREAMS as it "leans" forward, almost bursting through the cloud, pointing horrifically at her face:

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

... DON'T YOU?!

Kylie is trembling, but she isn't backing down.

KYLIE

That's right. I - I need to know about the demon I saw last night. Was it another Grundel?

SLOWLY MOVE IN:

THE GRUNDEL

<whispers> How could there be... when my dear children were all taken from me...? I am, after all, the father to my progeny... the force that binds them to my being, that protects them...

(MORE)

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

But if you were to let me free...
perhaps we could help each
other...

KYLIE

Not a chance.

THE GRUNDEL

Impertinent girl... you are afraid
that I will take other children...
But you should know better. You
can trust me, Kylie...

ON ROLAND - taken aback. INCLUDE KYLIE:

ROLAND

<sotto to Kylie> He knows your
name... how...?

KYLIE

<sotto> Shh!

ON THE GRUNDEL - without missing a beat, taunting her:

THE GRUNDEL

After all, did I not know you as a
child? My tender girl... touching
your innocent mind... embracing
your soul as you dreamed... but I
could not take you then... so I
took the other child... the one
called... "Jack"...

ON KYLIE - She tenses up.

ZOOM IN - ECU ON KYLIE'S EYES...

VERY FAST: SUBLIMINAL, U-V GLOWING "SNAPSHOTS" from her
mind... KYLIE AS A TERRIFIED CHILD... now we see that the
face through her window was the Grundel... the
"snapshots" increasingly closer

THE EXPRESSIONISTIC U-V "SNAPSHOTS":

- A 7-year-old boy (JACK), a mole on his right cheek...
- The Grundel snatching him as they play in her room...
- Jack transforming into a demon...into a Grundel...
- The Grundel dragging Jack away as it HISSES at her, the
snapshot coming alive:

THE GRUNDEL IN FLASHBACK

The boy is mine... and you,
Kylie... you are next...!

The Grundel's face in her memory DISSOLVES into --

ECU - THE GRUNDEL'S FACE BEFORE HER sneering...
smiling...

CLOSE - KYLIE - She screams in rage:

KYLIE

NOOOOO!

WIDEN - Enraged by the memory, she grabs the proton-blaster and <BLASTS> the demon's projection, <FIRING> again and again!

CLOSE - THE GRUNDEL - pressing forward, pressing intensely through the cloudy film, sneering:

THE GRUNDEL

Yes. It feels good to kill,
doesn't it, Kylie? Kill me again!
And again! AND AGAIN!

ON KYLIE - Aiming at the demon with hysterical hatred, cocking the blaster! But before she can fire --

ROLAND grabs the gun, throws it into the darkness where it <CLATTERS>. He grabs her shoulders and shakes her.

ROLAND

NO, KYLIE! NO!

WIDEN - The Grundel CACKLES, pressing down on them, its face gigantic, almost breaking through the cloud! Seeing her transfixed, Roland quickly <SWITCHES> off the module.

THE GRUNDEL - still laughing, swirls nightmarishly into the UGLY SPIRAL OF LIGHT -- and is then <VIOLENTLY SUCKED> back into the unit with a <DEAFENING HISS>.

DOWNSHOT ON KYLIE - Her eyes go back in her head and she collapses to the floor.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. FIREHOUSE - DARK BASEMENT - CONT'D.

Resume action: ROLAND AND KYLIE ON FLOOR - He kneels over her as she "comes to".

ROLAND

Kylie! Are you all right? She
quickly recovers

KYLIE
I'll - I'll be fine...

He helps her to a chair and sits her down.

ROLAND
Kylie, what's this all about?

ON KYLIE - Hesitating, then deciding to tell her secret:

KYLIE
I was a little girl. Twelve years ago. Jack's parents came over for dinner. We were playing in my room. The Grundel came through the window and grabbed him. I tried to save him, but the Grundel swatted me away. Said he'd come back for me... someday.

CLOSE - HER HAND - trembling.

KYLIE O.S.
Nobody believed me. They thought it was a kidnapper. Jack was never found.

HIS HAND enters shot, takes hers firmly, comforting her.

TWO SHOT

ROLAND
It's OK, Kylie.

KYLIE
I blocked it from my memory. Until it came back last night.

He hugs her in a fatherly way. Sort of. But he means it. They part their embrace. She's impressed.

KYLIE (CONT'D)
Thanks.

There's a <CLATTER> on the stairs. They look up to see --

THE STAIRS - ON EGON DRESSED FOR BED - Doing his nightly check turning in, he descends the stairs, <YAWNS> and shines around a flashlight through the shadows.

EGON
Somebody down here? I thought I heard something...

ANGLE - His flashlight scans the dark. Ed shuts off the computer <CLICK!>. As they duck, Eduardo hits his head.

EDUARDO

Ow!

KYLIE

Shh!

ON EGON

EGON

What was that?

He steps towards them, but steps on something and recoils when he hears: <CAT SHRIEK> Egon picks up a cat.

EGON (CONT'D)

Sorry, buddy. So, it was you, eh?

Egon carries the cat upstairs.

ON ROLAND AND KYLIE - They hear the <DOOR SHUT> and <SIGH> with relief. Roland grabs the MODULE, unhooks it.

ROLAND

I can't let you do that again.

FOLLOW HIM as he goes to the LOCKERS. He opens one labeled "ED", puts the MODULE inside, locks it. <CLICK!>.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

This is too dangerous.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE ATOP A STEEP HILL, LIGHTS ON - NIGHT

EXT. BACK YARD OF SAME HOUSE - NIGHT

EERIE DOWNSHOT ON THE "TREE DEMON" - Staring up at a 2nd story window, the demon's face still covered with a film of mucous. He rips through the film with his claw, REVEALING his face under this second gooey placenta. He resembles The Grundle, but has a mole on his right cheek.

INT. BEDROOM IN HOUSE - NIGHT

ON LITTLE GIRL - playing with a doll in her room. She hears a <SCRAPING> and looks up to see --

HER WINDOW - THE DEMON - stares at her through the curtains, eyes glowing, claws <SCRAPING> the glass.

ON LITTLE GIRL - transfixed, staring back at him.

ON WINDOW OPENING - The Tree Demon steps inside. FOLLOW HIM as he creeps towards the girl.

A COLLIE DOG ON HER BED

awakens, <GROWLS>, then dives at the demon's throat!

ON DEMON - It <ROARS> as he fights the <SNARLING> dog!
The DEMON falls backwards through the window --

EXT. BACK YARD PATIO - NIGHT

-- and lands in a heap <THUD!> on the cement. The demon
grabs his sprained leg and seizes up in pain.

DEMON
<HOWLS OF INTENSE PAIN>

INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM - OTS DOG AT WINDOW <BARKING> down as
we see the demon below desperately dragging himself
across the grass and out of frame.

DEMON (CONT'D)
<grunts of exertion and pain>

ON LITTLE GIRL

LITTLE GIRL
<SCREAMS>

EXT. KYLIE'S HOUSE - RAINY NIGHT/ INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

KYLIE'S PURSE hangs on a chair in the dark room.<RAIN ON
WINDOW>. Kylie's asleep in bed. The CELL PHONE clipped to
her purse <BUZZES>. She wakes, tumbles to the floor,
<CLICKS> on the phone, tries to sound awake.

KYLIE
Um, uh, Kylie here.

EGON ON PHONE
Kylie, it's Egon. We've got an
emergency call in your area.
Roland's already on his way. Meet
us there. Here's the address.

EXT. SAME HOUSE ATOP HILL - RAINY NIGHT

Garrett, wearing a raincoat, is quickly scribbling notes
as he talks to a terrified MOTHER 2 at the front door.

GARRETT
OK, don't worry, M'am, stay inside
and lock the door. I'll take a
look around back.

EXT. CORNER OF SAME HOUSE - RAINY NIGHT

Garrett wheels around the corner. His PKE <CRACKLES>.

UPSHOT - GARRETT

GARRETT (CONT'D)

<mutters> Man, this thing's
close. It must be right on top of
--

A GROTESQUE ARM <WHACKS!> GARRETT'S HEAD VIOLENTLY OUT OF
FRAME. We hear the CLATTER of the wheelchair falling.
The DEMON'S HEAD comes into frame, looking down at --

ANGLE IN RAIN - GARRETT UNCONSCIOUS ON GROUND next to his
toppled wheelchair. The DEMON, clutching his leg in pain,
drags himself to the chair, uprights it, sits and quickly
wheels out of frame in the chair.

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. KYLIE'S CAR - MOVING - RAINY NIGHT

Kylie turns a corner up a steep hill, checking a slip of
paper in her hand, mumbling as she drives.

KYLIE

Must be at the top of this hill...

She notices something and peers through the rain at --

HER POV THROUGH WINDSHIELD WIPERS - A weird sight: A
DARK FIGURE in a wheelchair racing towards her!

ON KYLIE - swerving the wheel to avoid a collision. She
sees it closer now and <GASPS> --

ON A DEMON IN THE WHEELCHAIR passing her down the hill.

ON KYLIE'S CAR - <SCREECHING> into a SKIDDING U-TURN in
the rain as she races down the hill after the wheelchair,
SKIDDING through puddles, BURNING RUBBER around a corner.

INTERCUT KYLIE/ HER POV THROUGH WINDSHIELD - Rain comes
own hard; she loses sight of him, turns a hard right to--

EXT. HIGH BRIDGE OVER A RIVER - RAINING

Her car <SCREECHES> to a stop in front of --

THE EMPTY WHEELCHAIR ON ITS SIDE - Wheel still spinning.

ON KYLIE BOLTING OUT OF THE CAR WITH HER PROTON BLASTER

CENTER OF THE BRIDGE - THE DEMON is clawing itself up
over the side of the bridge, dragging its bad leg.

ON KYLIE racing towards the demon, aiming the blaster --

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Stop!

ON DEMON - HE SEES HER as he straddles the bridge.

CLOSE - KYLIE - about to fire, recognizes him, stunned:

KYLIE (CONT'D)
Jack... JACK?!

ON DEMON <SNARLING> as he DIVES off the bridge, plummets into the rain-spattered river, disappears underwater.

CLOSE - KYLIE - troubled as the rain drips down her face.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FIREHOUSE - THE EGB'S (SANS EGON) - NIGHT

A hour later. Garrett is back in his chair, a blanket around him, bandage on his head. Kylie is drying her hair as Roland and Ed grab their coats and <YAWN>.

GARRETT
Nobody steals my chair, man.
Whoever whacked me is toast.
Kylie, you sure you didn't see
anybody on the bridge?

ON KYLIE - LYING

KYLIE
Huh? Yeah. I'm sure.

BACK TO SCENE

EDUARDO
(to Garrett)
Well, we can't get him tonight.
Egon's already asleep. C'mon,
Garrett, I'll drive you home.

GARRETT
Thanks, kemosab. Comin', Kylie?

KYLIE
You go. I'm going to study the
Spirit Guide and try to figure
this out. I'll see you mañana.

ROLAND
Get some sleep, Kile.

She smiles at him. He smiles back and exits.

ON KYLIE - losing her smile, taking on a determined look.

INT. ROLAND'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Roland tosses and turns in his bed: he can't sleep.
Something's nagging at him. He gets out of bed...

INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM - CONT'D.

CASEY SLEEPING IN F.G., his face towards us. The door cracks open in b.g. as sticks his head in, checking on his brother.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
<whispers> Case, you OK, buddy?

Casey doesn't stir. Roland looks relieved, exits and shuts the door. Casey's eyes immediately pop open. He was faking. He sits up and hears Roland's loud whisper:

ROLAND (CONT'D)
<muffled; through door> Mom? I
have to check something at the
firehouse. I'll be back.

Casey grins deviously as he throws off the covers. He's already fully dressed, right down to his sneakers.

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. FIREHOUSE - SAME RAINY NIGHT

ON KYLIE IN BASEMENT AT ROW OF LOCKERS - Using a crowbar, she <BREAKS> open Roland's locker and grabs the module.

COMPUTER TABLE BY CONTAINMENT UNIT, MOMENTS LATER - Kylie hooks up the modules, fires up the computer, <grunts> with frustration as she fails to get the module to work.

ROLAND - at bottom of the stairs <CLEARS HIS THROAT>.

ANGLE - KYLIE IN F.G. - startled, turning to see him.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
I knew you'd be down here.

KYLIE
What are you going to do, Roland,
"bust" me?

ROLAND AT TABLE WITH KYLIE - He picks up the module:

ROLAND
Maybe.

KYLIE
Look, Roland, I lied to you
tonight because I knew none of you
would believe me. That thing in
the wheelchair, it was a Grundel.
I think it was Jack, the little
boy who was kidnapped.

ROLAND

Kylie, that was ten years ago.
How could it be Jack?

KYLIE

That's what I'm here to find out.

He sees she means business. He sighs, YANKS two wires out of the module and switches their connections.

ROLAND

There. Now it'll work. A little
safeguard, just in case. you tried
to double-cross me.

She smirks.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - REAR OF ROLAND'S CAR - NIGHT

Roland's car is parked and empty. A CLICKING SOUND. The trunk pops open. Inside is Casey holding a screwdriver.

INT. FIREHOUSE BASEMENT - ROLAND AT COMPUTER CHECKING SPIKE PATTERNS, MINUTES LATER - Kylie stands next to him waiting nervously as he prepares to project the Grundel.

INT. FIREHOUSE - EGON'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

EGON O.S.

<snoring throughout scene>

ON CASEY sneaking into the firehouse. He quickly ties Egon's shoelaces together at the foot of the bed.

A BOWL OF WATER BEING PLACED ON A CHAIR BY BED - Casey's hand takes Egon's hand and puts it into the water.

CASEY O.S.

<devious giggle>

INT. BASEMENT - ROLAND AND KYLIE AT COMPUTER, SAME TIME - The computer <BUZZES>, locking onto a SPIKE PATTERN.

ROLAND

Bingo. You ready, Kylie? Kylie
takes a deep breath.

KYLIE

I'm ready. Do it.

Roland <SWITCHES> on the module.

NEXT TO THEM OVER CONTAINMENT UNIT - SAME FRIGHTENING FX AS BEFORE AS THE GRUNDEL SLOWLY MATERIALIZES - The demon, waking from a nap, narrows its eyes eerily at Kylie.

THE GRUNDEL

My petulant child cannot stay away
from me, can she...?

KYLIE

I ran into our "friend" tonight.
The Grundel that doesn't exist.
It's Jack, isn't it. Tell me.

The demon takes in a deep hissing breath, sizing her up:

THE GRUNDEL

Yes... it is your little playmate.
A very precious child.

KYLIE

But why now? Why after ten years?

ON BASEMENT STAIRS - FOLLOW CASEY as he sneaks down the
stairs and hides in the shadows to watch what's going on.

BACK TO SCENE - MOVE IN ON GRUNDEL as its eyes WIDEN,
sensing something. Now it narrows its eyes and peers
into the shadows, towards --

CASEY HIDING BEHIND THE ELECTRICAL GENERATORS - watching.

THE GRUNDEL suddenly smiles, smells "fresh meat". It
focuses back on Kylie, regains its train of thought:

THE GRUNDEL

If I was captured, I needed to
insure that my progeny would
survive. So I stole the child and
put him in an astral cocoon... a
time capsule, if you will, that
would hatch in ten years time.
Little did I know that the likes
of you would allow me to see the
light of day again...

KYLIE

Not for long. I want you to free
Jack.

The Grundel scoffs at her.

THE GRUNDEL

You must free me first. Think of
it, Kylie... If I was free, you'd
have an excuse to kill me. That's
what you want, isn't it?

KYLIE

I just want you to release Jack.

THE GRUNDEL

Then let me go!

Kylie thinks, makes a decision and eyes him squarely.

KYLIE

If you tell me where Jack is, I'll
let you go.

ON ROLAND - SHOCKED

ROLAND

Whhaat?? Kylie -- !

ON KYLIE

KYLIE

<sotto to Roland> Shh!

BACK TO SCENE - She stares at the Grundel:

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Well...?

The Grundel smiles its ghastly smile.

THE GRUNDEL

Very well, dear child... we shall
strike a bargain... let me see...
where is little Jack...?

The Grundel closes its eyes, gesturs as it tries to sense
Jack's location... It suddenly opens its eyes and grins.

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

He's safe and sound... at the
shipyard... Pier 23... he will be
there...and you must be there...
precisely at midnight...

ROLAND

He's lying. Why should we believe
him?

THE GRUNDEL

(coyly)
Why indeed...?

MOVE IN ON GRUNDEL as the demon secretly turns on his
hypnotic power--towards Casey hiding in the shadows...

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

But why not believe? All of my
children want to believe. Want to
be taken. Want to do as I say.

MOVE IN ON CASEY IN SHADOWS - being hypnotized. (NOTE: We see that the demon's words are really aimed at Casey.)

CLOSER - GRUNDEL - his eyes glowing...

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

You want to free me...

ON CASEY - Hypnotized, hand on GENERATOR POWER SWITCH.

ECU - THE GRUNDEL

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

You must free me... and you will...

ON KYLIE AND ROLAND - puzzled. What is he talking about?

ON CASEY - HYPNOTIZE, he grasps the POWER SWITCH firmly--

THE GRUNDEL O.S.

FREE ME!

CLOSE - CASEY'S HAND ON THE SWITCH -- He pulls it.

QUICK SHOTS: The computer <WHINES> down; LIGHTS GO OUT.

THE GRUNDEL twists into a SPIRAL OF LIGHT and EXPLODES.

ON ROLAND - his face illuminated by the eerie U-V SPIRAL--

ROLAND

The power! He's breaking free!

FOLLOW ROLAND rushing to Casey. He RECONNECTS THE SWITCH!
The lights go back on with an <ELECTRICAL WHINE>.

ON CONTAINMENT UNIT - The light dims to a wisp of smoke.

ROLAND HOLDS CASEY BY THE SHOULDERS- Casey snaps out of it.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

Casey! Are you all right?!

CASEY

Wha... happened...?

ON KYLIE - staring at the shrinking, spinning cloud.

KYLIE

He's escaped.

Roland and Casey enter the shot, all three looking up at the shrinking U-V spiral. Roland looks defeated.

ROLAND

Now there are two Grundels out there.

ON CASEY - Now back to normal. He can't help grinning:

CASEY

Cool....!

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. FIREHOUSE - RAINY GRAY DAY

The team have formally gathered. Roland, and especially Kylie, look ashamed. Garrett whittles a piece of wood. Ed eats potato chips. Egon is disappointed.

EGON

I've called this emergency meeting because of a serious breach of security late last night. Kylie, Roland...

ON KYLIE AND ROLAND - exchanging guilty looks.

EGON O.S.

..we'll discuss your conduct later. Right now we have a dangerous situation on our hands.

ON EGON

EGON

The Grundel and the unknown Class 6 Demon are both at large. Our only lead is an address the Grundel gave Kylie. And a time: midnight tonight.

He quickly passes out manila folders.

EGON (CONT'D)

Read it. It's everything we've got on the Grundel and the Class 6.

FAVOR ROLAND - Roland nervously clears his throat <hrrumph!> nervously and meekly his hand.

EGON (CONT'D)

What is it?

ROLAND

Egon, I don't trust the Grundel. He might be lying.

EDUARDO
But it's the only lead we have.

ON GARRETT WHITTTLING

GARRETT
I say we go for it. When I see
Tree-boy again, it's time to carve
him a new knot-hole.

He angrily slices off a big thin WOOD CHIP which flies
into the air and lands in --

CLOSE - BOWL OF POTATO CHIPS

WIDEN TO EDUARDO - obviously grabbing the wood chip and
stuffing it into his already-full mouth. He <SPITS-UP> a
mouthful of potato chips and begins CHOKING. Garrett
repeatedly <slaps> Ed's back as before.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
<sotto> That cough's gettin'
annoying, man.

ON EGON - DEAD SERIOUS

EGON
That's the plan. Keep your eyes
open. Regroup here at eleven p.m.

EXT. CLOCK ATOP A GAS STATION - RAINING - THAT NIGHT

The clock reads ELEVEN O'CLOCK. TILT DOWN TO -

REAR OF AN OLD APARTMENT BUILDING - The TILT stops
halfway down the building on a fire escape. A DARK
FIGURE is huddled there in the rain by a window.

PUSH IN ON FIGURE ON FIRE ESCAPE - The Tree Demon (now
called "GRUNDEL 2") peeks through a boy's bedroom window.

OTS - GRUNDEL 2 - as he moves closer to the window. He
sees A LITTLE BOY inside sleeping in bed.

REFOCUS ON WINDOW PANE as THE GRUNDEL'S OPAQUE REFLECTION
eclipses our view of the sleeping child. Grundel 2 sees
this and spins around to face --

THE GRUNDEL - now free - standing behind him, <HISSING>
ominously as he stares at Grundel 2. Grundel 2's eyes
widen as he stares back in shocked recognition:

GRUNDEL 2
It is you... the father... the
protector...

THE GRUNDEL

So nice to be appreciated...

The Grundel grabs Grundel 2's neck with one claw and CLAMPS his throat against the brick wall, choking him.

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

<SUDDENLY FEROCIOUS> But as for you... you did not answer my call to free me! Why?!

GRUNDEL 2

<choking> Forgive... I heard you in my mind but could not understand... please...forgive...

The Grundel tightens his grip on the demon's neck.

THE GRUNDEL

Silence, you pathetic half-breed! Why haven't you stolen a child?!

GRUNDEL 2

I - I tried... but...

THE GRUNDEL

Fool! Do not try... do!

The Grundel releases him. The Demon gasps for breath as the mercurial Grundel switches to a contemplative mode:

THE GRUNDEL (CONT'D)

But... perhaps your inadequacies are due to your hasty conception. I shall correct my error now, my child, and teach you to overshadow the minds of the innocent. I shall teach you by taking a little boy.

GRUNDEL 2

Yes... the boy...

Grundel 2 turns to the window and begins to open it. The Grundel wags his finger petulantly and shakes his head.

THE GRUNDEL

<tsk-tsk!>

ON GRUNDEL 2 - The young demon looks up at his master with childlike eyes:

GRUNDEL 2

Have I... done wrong...?

MOVE IN ON THEM - as the Grundel puts a finger under Grundel 2's chin, pulls his face towards him, and strokes Grundel 2's cheek with creepy gentleness.

THE GRUNDEL

No, my son... I am not interested in this child... I will show you how to take the mind of a very, very... special child...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET ALONG WATERFRONT - RAINY NIGHT

DOWNSHOT ON RAIN-SOAKED CITY STREET - ATOP A BANK, A HUGE DIGITAL CLOCK - changes from "11:44" to "11:45". Far below, we see the Ecto-1 <ZOOM> by.

EXT. PIER - RAINY NIGHT

The Ecto-1 ZOOMS by, <SPLASHES> water over CAMERA. When the water trickles down, REVEAL a STREET SIGN: "PIER 37".

INT. ECTO-1 - MOVING - RAINY NIGHT

Inside ride the team. Interestingly, Kylie is driving. All are silent, introspective. Roland breaks the silence.

ROLAND

Funny. I've never been in this part of town before...

EDUARDO

Why not?

ROLAND

Huh? I don't know. I guess because it's on the exact opposite part of town from...

ZOOM IN ON ROLAND as he suddenly freezes with an unpleasant thought. We hear his memory-flash: the GRUNDEL'S VOICE echoing in his mind:

THE GRUNDEL V.O.

My children want to believe. Want to be taken. Want to do as I say... just as you will...

ON ROLAND - As an urgent gut-feeling hits him:

ROLAND

This is as far away from my house as you can get... Casey's back at the house!

EDUARDO

Casey? You mean, you think the Grundel would...

ROLAND

Yes.

EGON

Turn around. Now.

EXT. HARBOR STREET - ECTO-1 - <SCREECHES> into a U-turn and races across town.

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. CASEY'D BEDROOM - RAINING - SAME TIME

Casey in bed watching TV, the SOUND low. He's eating popcorn while channel-surfing. <CHANNEL-SURFING SFX>. <MUFFLED FOOTSTEPS> approach. He <CLICKS> off the TV, pretends to be asleep. <SFX: DOOR PARTIALLY OPENING> A sliver of light crosses his bed.

CASEY'S MOM

Casey, you're not up watching TV, are you? It's almost midnight.

CASEY

Huh? Uh, no, no way, Ma.

CASEY'S MOM

I hope not. Now get some sleep.

CASEY

<fake yawn> Huh? Oh, uh, OK.
'Night, Ma.

The door closes. <FOOTSTEPS RECEDE>. Casey whips off the covers, takes out the popcorn and switches on the TV.

PAN TO WINDOW BEHIND CASEY - TWO DARK FIGURES appear in the window, their outlines distorted by the rain.

ON TV - Casey switches to an old black and white film: an EVIL FEMALE HYPNOTIST drops a white flower in a swirling bowl of black water.

ZOOM IN ON FLOWER spinning as it orbits the murky liquid -
- and the woman's mysterious voice intones:

FEMALE HYPNOTIST ON TV V.O.

...watch the flower...as it gently
swirls in a slow, relentless
spiral...endlessly circling in the
blackness...watching it, your
eyelids grow heavy...so heavy...
your eyes begin to close...

ON CASEY - His eyes flutter shut; mutters hypnotically:

CASEY
...can't keep them open...

Suddenly he pops his eyes open with a sarcastic sneer.

CASEY (CONT'D)
Yeah, right. Gimme a break.

He's just playing. He disdainfully switches channels to an action sequence from an old episode of "Ghostbusters".

CASEY (CONT'D)
Cool!

As he stuffs a fistful of popcorn in his mouth, suddenly ...a strange, hissing, all-encompassing voice saturates his mind (and the sound-track):

THE GRUNDEL V.O.
Casey...

Casey hears it and makes an annoyed face, but shakes it off. The voice comes again, louder now:

THE GRUNDEL V.O. (CONT'D)
Casey... do you want... power...?
Do you want... riches...?

Startled, Casey grabs his head. What's going on?

THE GRUNDEL V.O. (CONT'D)
You want all of these things...

Dazed, Casey is slowly drawn to look at --

THE WINDOW - Two pairs of glowing eyes pulsate eerily in the window, burning holes in his mind. We see his eyes glaze over as before in the basement. He is no match for the Grundel, who takes control of his mind...

THE GRUNDEL V.O. (CONT'D)
Open the window... invite me in...

Casey slowly opens the window, REVEALING THE GRUNDEL AND GRUNDEL 2 who glide to the floor, their eyes hypnotizing the boy who now stares at them in a daze.

EXT. RAINY STREET - SAME TIME - NIGHT

The Ecto-1 SCREECHES to a stop in front of Roland's house. The EGB team rush inside, Roland in the lead.

INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM - CONT'D

Grundel 1 and 2 have their claws on Casey's head, pouring supernatural energy into the hypnotized boy. <FLASHES> of UGLY LIGHT pulsate from the Grundels' hands into the boy's head as the Grundel whispers:

THE GRUNDEL

You shall become my special one.

The FLASHES peak and they release him.

ON CASEY as he transforms into a Grundel, becoming mottled and greenish, his hair dissolving into smoke, his teeth into sharp rows of stilettos... He turns to see --

CASEY IN MIRROR - At first shocked, he sees the monstrous teeth in his mouth and the boyish part of Casey emerges:

CASEY

Cool! I got fangs!

ON BEDROOM DOOR - <KICKED OPEN> by the team SWAT-team-style, Roland in the lead, all wielding proton-blasters. They stop in shock seeing Casey still transforming, his ears dilating and his skin turning green.

GARRETT

<whispers to Egon> I told ya the kid needs counseling.

Roland steps forward and aims the blaster at the Grundel.

ROLAND

Change him back!

The Grundel <LAUGHS> as Grundel 2 <WHACKS> Roland's gun away, then <WHACKS> Roland against the opposite wall.

ON GARRETT AND GRUNDEL 2 - Garrett jumps forward and cocks his blaster at Grundel 2:

GARRETT

Eat electrons, limburger-head!

Just as he's about to fire, Kylie pulls the blaster away.

KYLIE

No! Don't shoot!

The blaster <BLASTS> the ceiling as the Grundel <WHACKS> them both to the wall and <SHOOTs ENERGY> from his hands at Egon and Eduardo, electrifying them hideously.

ON ROLAND staggering to his feet wielding his blaster.

ON THE GRUNDEL AND ROLAND - The Grundel <BLASTS ENERGY> Rolandm just as he pulls the trigger!

The two beams collide in a blinding <BIO-NUCLEAR CRACKLE>! They all recoil at the intense heat.

ROLAND - pushes forward still firing, overpowering the Grundel now engulfed in the proton-blast and expanding monstrously, <SCREAMING> in pain.

THE GRUNDEL

Nooooooooo!

The Grundel EXPLODES in a preposterous explosion of filth, splattering the ceiling with unspeakable ugliness. Now--the Grundel is vaporized... annihilated utterly.

ON ROLAND AND KYLIE

ROLAND

Casey!

Roland rushes to his brother; Kylie stops him; they watch...

CASEY - transforms from a grotesque Grundel into a dazed little boy. All of his smart-ass attitude gone, he rushes to Roland and throws his arms around him, terrified.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

It's OK, bro. It's all over now.

ON KYLIE - looking in shock at --

KYLIE

Jack!

ON GRUNDEL 2 - The demon's flesh begins pulsating in a most grotesque transformation. In a flesh regeneration sequence, reminiscent of the ghastly flesh-expansions at the end of "Akira", Grundel 2 transforms back into --

JACK - a 17 year old with a mole on his right cheek. He looks at them confusion, disoriented, vulnerable.

JACK

What-- what happened to me?

Kylie goes to him and hugs him with intense emotion.

KYLIE

A lot's happened, Jack. We lost you. But you're back now.

Not understanding, Jack trembles as they hug, tears filling his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FIREHOUSE - LATER

The EGBs have gathered to cool out after the nightmare. Casey, back to his old self, is seated with Roland. Eduardo is unwrapping a stick of gum and chewing it.

ON KYLIE - She looks ashamed as she takes off her proton pack and sadly hands it to Egon.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Egon, I don't deserve to wear this anymore. I quit.

Egon takes the pack and stares at her grimly.

EGON

You screwed up, Kylie. But without you, we might have killed Jack without knowing who he really was.

He hands the pack back to her and smiles.

EGON (CONT'D)

Besides, I'm the one who screwed up first by saying that the ooze sample wasn't from a Grundel. It turns out I analyzed the wrong sample -- which somehow was saturated with common ear wax.

ON CASEY AND ROLAND - Casey has a sheepish guilty look. Roland notices.

ROLAND

You mean, it was your --?!

CASEY

<sotto back> Shh. Sorry.

From Roland's expression we see that he finally "gets" that his little bro is a pest.

ON EGON AND KYLIE

EGON

Well, your "second Grundel" theory was correct after all. I guess I can learn something from you "kids" once in a while.

He hands Kylie her Proton Pack.

KYLIE

Apology accepted.

EDUARDO O.S.
<explosive gagging sound>

FAVOR EDUARDO - as he spits out the gum, grabs his throat and begins another <COUGHING FIT>.

ROLAND
(to Kylie re Ed)
Looks like you spoke too soon.

Garrett slaps Ed's back, shakes his head, rolls his eyes.

GARRETT
How many times I gotta tell ya,
man. See somebody about that
cough!

He slaps Ed's back again.

WHIP-PAN to CASEY IN F.G., <giggling deviously> as he holds something in his hand.

PUSH IN on the "something" in the brat's hand.

CLOSE ON A PACK OF "HOT GUM" - as we

FADE OUT

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