

"THE HUNTER"

By Chris Messineo

FADE IN:

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - DAY

A piece of paper hangs nailed to a tree.

It is a picture of a young girl.

In the distance, more posters of the girl hang on the trees and quiver in the breeze.

EXT. TREE STAND - DAY

The woods are deep and dark.

A HUNTER waits in a tree for his prey.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - DAY

THE SEARCHERS, a dozen men and women, are gathered on a lonely country road.

Spaced evenly apart, they enter the woods, searching.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

The little GIRL from the poster is asleep in the cave. Her clothes are dirty and torn; she shivers in her sleep.

EXT. THE WOODS - DUSK

The sun is setting behind the hills.

The Searchers are in the thick of the woods. Somber and worried.

EXT. TREE STAND - DUSK

Discouraged, the Hunter climbs down from his perch.

EXT. THE CAVE - DUSK

The Searchers come upon the cave. One enters with a flashlight.

EXT. THE THICKET - DUSK

The Hunter journeys home. There is movement in a thicket and he stops.

EXT. THE CAVE - DUSK

The Searcher exits the cave clutching a scrap of the girl's dress.

EXT. THE THICKET - DUSK

Slowly the Hunter raises his rifle, taking aim.

His finger is on the trigger, when the girl appears through the thicket.

She is lost and hungry.

The Hunter lowers his gun.

EXT. THE CAVE - DUSK

The Searchers look panicked as they each draw forth a wooden spike.

EXT. THE THICKET - DUSK

The girl warily looks up at the Hunter.

The Hunter gently picks her up in his arms, resting her little head on his shoulder.

The girl's expression changes from fear to ferocity. Her mouth opens revealing fangs.

Catlike, she sinks her teeth into his jugular.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - DUSK

The posters hang on the trees. Written below each picture of the girl is one word, "Beware!"

FADE OUT.