

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. BURNT-OUT HOUSE - DAY (D/1)

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A clearing in the woods in rural Maryland; in the center, a giant pile of SMOKING BLACK DEBRIS, including the remnants of a charred brick chimney, smoke-blackened appliances and the square stone foundation of what used to be an old house. FIREFIGHTERS move around the recently-extinguished fire... plumes of smoke still rise in a few locations. FIREFIGHTER ONE calls to his team.

FIREFIGHTER ONE  
Sanders, Dubovich, check these hot spots and we're good to go.

Firefighter One approaches FIREFIGHTER TWO who has removed his headgear. He checks his watch.

FIREFIGHTER ONE (CONT'D)  
What's up, Connor? You done for the day?

FIREFIGHTER TWO  
My kid has a T-ball game at four. Man, it's painful. He watches birds in the outfield while his team gets blistered.

FIREFIGHTER ONE  
Thank God for the ten-run slaughter rule.

Firefighter One points to a metal wardrobe nearby.

FIREFIGHTER ONE (CONT'D)  
Pop that wardrobe. Don't want a flare up dragging us back out here on the weekend.

Firefighter One moves off. Firefighter Two crosses to the wardrobe, finds it locked, whacks away with his axe. The door swings open, revealing a HUMAN SKELETON in a Victorian WEDDING DRESS, dangling from a hook.

FIREFIGHTER TWO  
Well, that's a new one on me.

TIME CUT TO:

STOP

1/1