

Devil's Cage

Adapted By

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Based off of Dark Horse Comic's
Grendel: Devil's Cage by Matt Wagner

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE

Slow zoom on the Brooklyn bridge in front of the late evening New York skyline. Opening titles appear in red puzzle pieces. Assembling on screen overlaying the concrete jungle scenery. The opening titles continue to appear on screen as the zoom picks up speed and continues past the bridge through the city. Zoom begins to slow after reaching the penthouse of a large skyscraper. Zoom passes through a wide window and comes to stop on a young, dark haired, little girl building a puzzle on a coffee table in the center of a large expensively adorned living room.

INT.PENTHOUSE LIVING ROOM

VOICE OFF SCREEN

Stacy? Stacy darling? Stacy are you listening?

STACY

sigh yes, Hunter?

A tall, well dressed, dark haired young man with a cane enters from another room and takes a seat next to STACY in the lavishly decorated living room.

HUNTER

What happened to "uncle"?

STACY looks back blank faced and uninterested.

HUNTER

Well then... What shall we do this evening, my dear? An evening at the symphony..? Perhaps the opera..? There's an opening party for La Bohème toni--

STACY

Can't we just stay home tonight?
And watch TV?

HUNTER

sigh

STACY quickly flicks on the TV to begin watching cartoons.

Beat.

Only after a few moments does HUNTER stand up and switch off the television.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

Hey!

HUNTER

Enough of this mindless drivel. Do your school work, practice your piano, if you insist on hibernating all evening at least try to be productive about it!

STACY

Productive..? You haven't written anything in weeks! Is that being productive?!

HUNTER

Enough of your sass! I am going out. Behave.

HUNTER grabs his coat and opens the large front door, exiting the apartment.

STACY

Hunter don't you dare!

STACY jumps to her feet and clutches at the door handle to find its been locked from outside.

EXT. APARTMENT ELEVATOR LOBBY

HUNTER shrugs on his long over coat and pulls on his gloves.

HUNTER

Children. Even her...

He enters an elevator and hits the button for the ground floor.

HUNTER

I need time to relax. No time for such diversions.

INT. PENTHOUSE LIVING ROOM

STACY is fumbling around and struggling behind the large television.

STACY

Well at least now I can watch what I want! ...unplugged it...he must've unplugged it...

She suddenly emerges pulling with her a handful of cut wires.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

He...he cut the wire?! Ughhh damn
him!

EXT. APARTMENT LOBBY DOORS

HUNTER exits the lobby doors onto the cold city street. The dark pavement of the sidewalks lit up by tall street lights and the headlights of the passing cars. HUNTER looks up to the night sky full of stars and makes his way down the street on foot. He passes many dark alleys and alcoves to the side of the sidewalk he is on. Eyes seem to follow him and whispers are heard from the darkness. HUNTER seems to pucker up on the stalkers. He suddenly approaches a couple coming down the sidewalk in the opposite way, out for a night stroll just as he is. He turns to them.

HUNTER

Evening.

The couple smiles and nod in acknowledgement as he passes them by. Shortly after he finds himself at the central park gates. He pauses a moment as though he is waiting for something and as though on queue, a group of thugs emerge from the shadows across the street opposite the park. HUNTER sees them and quickly but calmly enters the park. They follow him until he reaches a bridge. Hunter starts to cross over.

THUG 1

Hey there, fancy boy! Awfully late
for a tender little f*** like you
to be wanderin' 'round.

Beat.

HUNTER stops on the middle of the bridge. The thugs catch up and circle him.

THUG 2

Gentleman has a hearing problem.

THUG 1

That must be it, 'cause I am
talkin' to you, f***face!

HUNTER

Oh I hear you. Et tu, brute?

HUNTER quickly vaults over the railing onto the ground below the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

THUG 1
No way! Get that f***er!

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM

STACY is sitting on her bed. She is cross-legged facing her stuffed animals she has set up in an audience at the end of her bed. There is a pad of paper and a pen sitting on the bed next to her.

STACY
Always bossing me around, who does
he think he is!? He's not my
father...

Beat.

STACY
Sometimes I get so mad...

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

The thugs have jumped over the side to follow HUNTER underneath the bridge. However, they are confused when he isn't there. They search for him in the darkness under the bridge.

THUG 3
Where the hell..?

THUG 2
Here, kitty-kitty...

The thugs begin to walk out from the darkened tunnel, their backs towards the underpass. Suddenly two glowing white eyes appear behind them. The eyes of the devil.

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM

STACY sits across from a large stuffed wolf on her bed. Minutes go by as they stare into each others souls.

STACY
What are you looking at?

Beat.

The wolf stares back saying nothing.

STACY
...I hate you...

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

With a sudden flash of steel two blades stick out from beneath the chin of THUG 2.

THUG 2

H-urk!

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM

STACY

No...no its them I hate!

STACY forcefully jabs the pen sitting on the pad of paper next to her into the swollen stuffed throat of the dumb smiling wolf in front of her.

STACY

All the awful, stupid people who made my life so stinkin' sad!

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

THUG 4

Yaah! What is this s***!?

The fourth thug is seen running through an outcropping of trees in the park. He is apparently scared out of his mind and unaware of the danger he is truly in.

THUG 4

Haul a**, you guys! Before he kills us a--oomph!

Out of the darkness shoots a web-like cable wrapping itself around the legs of the thug. He tumbles to the ground. A trapped fly. The cable is then revealed to have come from the end of HUNTER's cane which is also seen to have two large blades extended from the top. The devil's fork. It is then also revealed that the eyes are those belonging to HUNTER, who is now wearing a black mask with the eyes of great evil stitched into it. The devil.

HUNTER

Yes. Before I kill you all.

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM

Over and over STACY is seen stabbing the wolf with the ball point pen, spilling stuffing and dark ink all over the white bed sheets.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

I hate you! Nasty uncle Barry, big
clumsy Argent! And lying uncle
Hunter! And mom! And dad! I HATE
YOU!

STACY continues to stab the plush wolf in a relentless
animalistic way until it is in shreds and she is in tears.

STACY

...I hate you all...

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

VOICE OFF SCREEN

AAAAEEEEIIIII!!!

As thugs 1 and 3 stand back to back beneath a street lamp a
cry breaks out.

THUG 3

Jesus...

THUG 1

That was Tommy!

Beat.

There is a great silence hanging for a moment. The thugs at
this point are very shaken up.

THUG 3

Okay time to get the f*** outta
here!

THUG 1

I hear that s***, man--

From the darkness come a noose cable that quickly finds its
way around THUG 1's throat and carries him away silently
into the darkness. Because the two remaining thugs were back
to back, THUG 3 doesn't notice THUG 1 get taken.

THUG 3

On the count of three we both start
walkin' real fast and steady
now...one, two, thr--

He turns around quickly and realizes his friend isn't there.
He frantically looks around and swings his drawn fire arm
about, searching for something to shoot.

(CONTINUED)

THUG 3
Sten!? STEN!?! Aw shi--

Before he can finish a black streak flashes by, through the light pool of the street lamp, and through him in a quick metallic sweep. The black streak crumples into a crouch just outside of the pool of light. THUG 3 turns toward the black mass. It rises, revealing the eyes of the devil and a bloodied fork.

THUG 3
HgHan! H-HgHAD YER BEST SHOT
ASS-GHOLE! Y'MISSED!

He draws his side arm on HUNTER who is now standing calmly in front of him in the shadows.

THUG 3
n-NOW I g-g-GOT the g-g-Grop
ONG...ygo--

On queue, the thugs head slides off and tumbles to the ground with the rest of his body. HUNTER crouches, wipes his blade on the thugs shirt, stands up, and retracts his blade back into his cane.

HUNTER
So very nice to have encountered
you my friends, I must say you were
just what I needed.

HUNTER begins waling back to the apartment as he removes his mask and tucks it inside of his coat.

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM

STACY is seen asleep and curled up in the middle of her large bed surrounded by the remains of the wolf. There is stuffing everywhere and ink spatter and splotches all about the bed spread. However, STACY is seen to be clutching the head of the wolf with a small but distinguishable smile on her face. Fade out.

Fin.