

YOUNG JOHNNY - Sc. 1 - pg. 2/4

OB/YB

10.26.04

ESTABLISHING

To reveal the TWINKLE LIGHTS of the speedway BURSTING as he goes, raining glass and creating a PATH OF DARKNESS in his wake. Something Wicked This Way Comes.

INT. MAINTENANCE TENT - NIGHT

Johnny stops as he sees his BREATH suddenly appearing in ICY BURSTS. The room has gone inexplicably, deathly cold.

START —

THE STRANGER (O.S.)

Hello, Johnny.

Johnny turns to see The Stranger standing in the doorway. His eyes shimmering in the darkness. A cat's eyes.

JOHNNY

Do I know you?

THE STRANGER

No. But I know you. I've had my eye on you for quite some time...

JOHNNY

Why?

THE STRANGER

I want you to ride for me.

JOHNNY

You run a show?

The Stranger smiles.

THE STRANGER

The Greatest Show on Earth.

JOHNNY

You gotta talk to my Dad.

THE STRANGER

I'm not interested in him.

JOHNNY

We're a team.

THE STRANGER

Yes. But not for much longer.

Johnny stops.

pg. 2/4



10.26.04

YOUNG JOHNNY- Sc 1 - pg. 3/4^{17.}

JOHNNY

What do you know about that?

THE STRANGER

I'm in the business of knowing things.
Like knowing how to help your father.

JOHNNY

How?

THE STRANGER

Invite me in. And I'll tell you...

Johnny sizes him up for a LONG BEAT before:

JOHNNY

Come in...

The Stranger bows and steps inside as the LIGHTS DIM in his presence. Watch closely and you might catch a glimpse of his TRUE FORM in the MONSTROUS SHADOWS on the wall...

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

My father...he has cancer...

THE STRANGER

Yes...

The Stranger slowly circles Johnny...like a shark...

JOHNNY

It started in his lungs and now it's spread to his heart...

THE STRANGER

Yes...

JOHNNY

The doctors said that it's too late for chemo. You still think you can help?

THE STRANGER

Yes...

JOHNNY

How?

Lightning CRACKLES to reveal that the crystal skull seems to have changed. Its smile is wider. It's teeth longer.

THE STRANGER

It's what I do. But first you must offer me something in return...

pg. 3/4



10.26.04

YOUNG JOHNNY - Sc. 1 - 18. pg. 4/4

JOHNNY

What do you want?

The Stranger traces a long finger over Barton's old chopper ...past the flame job...and up onto the chrome handlebars...

THE STRANGER

What I want...

...before running up Johnny's arm and stopping on his heart.

THE STRANGER (CONT'D)

Is right here.

Johnny steps back from his icy touch.

JOHNNY

I-I don't understand...

THE STRANGER

Your soul, Johnny Blaze.

Johnny tries to laugh.

JOHNNY

I shoulda known you were crazy...

But The Stranger just smiles. Waiting.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I don't believe in souls.

As The Stranger looks over him:

THE STRANGER

Then you've got nothing to lose...

The Stranger smiles as he holds out his hand to seal the deal. We SLOWLY CLOSE ON Johnny's reaction as we hear:

BARTON (V.O.)

Johnny? Hey, Johnny Boy!

END

SMASH CUT TO:

~~INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING~~

~~As Johnny opens his eyes to see his father smiling down at him, backlit by the morning sun. And he looks terrific.~~

~~BARTON~~

~~Wake up, sleeping beauty!~~

pg. 4/4