

SENTIENT

The Washington D.C Series

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. CAVERNS - MORNING

The sun is rising as SEAN, CASEY and MAGGIE exit the Caverns and walk to the car, the only one left in the parking lot.

Maggie rubs her stomach.

MAGGIE
I'm starving.

Sean and Casey look at each other and grin.

SEAN CASEY
WAFFLES! WAFFLES!

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Cool. First stop gas station.
Second-

SEAN CASEY
WAFFLES! WAFFLES!

EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING

Maggie attempts to unlock the car as they draw close. Nothing happens.

MAGGIE
Really? That's just peachy.

Unlocks her door manually. Other locks don't work. Maggie gets in and manually unlocks the other doors for Sean and Casey.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Maggie attempts to start the car but there's no response from the engine.

MAGGIE
Dammit. I just got you a new
battery. What's wrong?

CASEY
Pop the hood.

MAGGIE
Roger.

Maggie releases the hood as Casey heads to the front of the car.

He lifts the hood and secures it, then looks around the engine. Maggie opens her window and pokes her head out to hear Casey's diagnosis.

CASEY

Weird. Looks like the battery overloaded somehow.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING

Sean, now also outside the car, is looking around. He holds his mobile phone up, trying to find reception but there is none.

SEAN

Hey guys...all the streetlights are blown. No reception either.

Maggie joins the guys as they all stand looking at the blown out streetlights. Maggie and Casey check their phones.

MAGGIE

What the hell? What do we do now?

SEAN

Let's go back to the Caverns. See what we can find.

Maggie leads the group back across the empty car park toward the Caverns, clearly stressed.

EXT. CAVERNS - MORNING

The trio poke around the information office. The front door is locked, all the lights off. Sean picks the lock.

MAGGIE

What are you doing?

SEAN

Our phones are dead. Nothing electric is working. We're stranded here. If we wanna get home, we need a map, and the gift shop has an alarm.

MAGGIE

Fair enough. Do I want to know where you learned to pick locks?

SEAN

Magic School Bus.

Door opens and Sean smiles.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Sean and Casey enter. It is empty and eerily quiet.

CASEY

All I wanted was strawberry
waffles, chocolate sauce and ice
cream. And nuts. I'm dying!

Sean looks at Casey as he mutters.

SEAN

Dude - priorities.

Casey screws his face up, starts moving his hands in the air.
He imitates Smeagol.

CASEY

Waffles is precious!

Sean smiles and joins in.

SEAN

We knows precious!

Maggie peers in from outside, tapping on the window.

MAGGIE

Guys!

Sean and Casey exit office.

EXT. OFFICE - MORNING

As Sean and Casey join Maggie, they hear a rustling in the
trees. They move around to investigate and see a MAN in the
bushes, eating something.

SEAN

Hello?

The man, standing with his back to them, doesn't respond.

CASEY

Sir?

The MAN turns to face the trio. His eyes have been blackened
and he has trails of blood oozing from his eyes, nose and
ears. He is licking leaves. Maggie gasps slightly.

MAGGIE

Son of a bitch.

CASEY

What the...?

SEAN
Yeah...that...

The man moves towards the trio like a cat. Curious yet timid and aware.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Umm..Sir?

CASEY
Sean...look.

The trio are frozen with fear as they watch four more Afflicted souls slowly walking towards them.

FADE TO:

TITLE:

"SENTIENT"