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Wendigo Puppets

Situations come from certain steps and stages to get to to the final result. It's much like a ladder of events that has led a person to his or her ultimate fate. In *Pet Sematary* by Stephen King, a group of people (living and dead) are negatively influenced and used as puppets by a wendigo, leading to their demise. Of course, it did not all occur at once, and happenings were not a coincidence, but Jud, Louis, Ellie, Rachel, and Gage are important to the wendigo's eventual process of spreading evil.

Jud knew of the Pet Sematary long before Louis and his family did. He is perhaps the one who started the process. Although not completely in his own mind (under the persuasion of the wendigo), Jud led Louis to bury Church past the Pet Sematary, beginning Louis's troubles. Jud had kept the resurrection secret to himself for so long that when an unlucky family moved next door, the wendigo convinced him of his loneliness and the need to share a burden. It was not a favor he was doing, but a curse upon the Creed family. Jud had not meant to cause harm, but he knew of his mistake by the time Gage was killed. Jud had given Louis the opportunity to bring his child back to life and that led to his own death. The convenience of bringing back a loved one rested upon Louis.

How could Louis not seize his moment? Despite all the warnings Louis received, he still brought Gage and then Rachel back from the dead. The wendigo had set up a bad-more bad situation, but Louis could no longer comprehend what was good for him or his family any more.

The temptation and persuasion from the wendigo was too powerful. By the time Gage had wreaked havoc, Louis was still insane and unaware of how horrific the conditions were. He had sent his family away and went on his merry way, doing as he believed fit. Unlike Ellie, Louis did not let Victor Pascow's warnings stop him.

From the start, Ellie had premonitions/nightmares of the true future. Victor Pascow was sent by the wendigo to signal her of reality knowing it was already too late. It is what spiked curiosity in Louis in the first place. Also, Ellie's nightmares are what brought Rachel back to Ludlow only to be killed. Even her love for Church could not be ignored which was another excuse for Jud to share his secret. Ellie's innocence could not be resisted by a mother's love.

Past experiences had already scarred Rachel in so many ways. She blamed herself for her sister's death and felt even worse after her son died. Guilt is what led her back to Ludlow because she knew she could not live knowing that something was wrong and she did not do anything about it. Rachel believed that Ellie's fear proved that her gut feeling was telling her the right thing to do, but, once again, it was the wendigo's trickiness. Even her car died on the way back, giving Gage just enough time to resurrect and kill Jud before she got there. The wendigo timed it perfectly. Gage was set on the perfect path to kill Rachel so that she could come back too.

It was not a coincidence that Gage got hit by a semi truck. The wendigo could not induce cannibalism until he could possess a dead body first. His resurrection was the opposite of the raising of Lazarus. Though not big or strong for killing, Gage was a predictable death that the wendigo knew would cause controversy. Gage was not quite a zombie, but another tool for the wendigo. His hunger for flesh was not a disease, but an instinct learned from his possessor. He

even greeted Jud as if he had known him for a long time. Gage was supposed to be a lesson learned for Louis, which is why he killed him and started over with Rachel. The cycle continues.

So, everyone was shaped into the wendigo's own design to fill the world with harm and misery. He preyed on their grief and they had no choice but to abide by his rules. He influenced them by life and possessed them by death. Every step to his plan had reason to best carry on to the next step and have the most dreadful outcome. The book ends with the reader's imagination of how much farther the wendigo's destruction will go.