

An American Tragedy

by
R. Martins

Dark Attic Entertainment
Demonlocusts@yahoo.com
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FADE IN:

INT. UPSCALE CONDO - NIGHT

Establish.

INT. BEDROOM

PUSH IN - on the back of a naked WOMAN, lying in bed with her husband.

LINDA
How does that feel?

KYLE
(frustrated)
I don't know what's wrong. I just
can't get hard.

LINDA
Want me to use my mouth?

KYLE
Sure.

The naked WOMAN performs oral sex on the man.

KYLE
(angry)
Just...Stop. Stop.

LINDA
No, it's all right. I can keep
going.

KYLE
Linda, stop.

He pushes her off.

KYLE
(continued)
It's not happening.

LINDA
I'm sorry.

KYLE
Sorry about what?

LINDA
I'm sorry I don't please you
anymore.

KYLE
(annoyed)
Don't say that. Don't apologize.

LINDA
(whispered)
Sorry.

KYLE
(angrily)
Stop it. Stop saying your sorry.
For Christ sake, it's my fault.

Beat.

KYLE
(continued)
Don't apologize to me. Do you have
any idea how annoying that is?

The MAN turns his back to the WOMAN, and goes to sleep. The young WOMAN buries her face in her hands and cries.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

LINDA, a pretty ivy-league girl in her late twenties stands naked in front of a bathroom mirror running her slender hands across her belly.

Her husband KYLE, early thirties, handsome and alluring, steps up behind her, and wraps his arms around her chest and kisses her long neck.

KYLE
I'm sorry about last night.

LINDA
It's all right.

KYLE
No, it's not. I love you. You
deserve better.

He kisses her mouth. Linda closes her eyes, smiles, and turns to kisses him back, when...

SMASH CUT TO -

...LINDA opens her eyes. She's standing in the bathroom alone.

INT. BEDROOM

The clock on the night table reads 7:00 am. Kyle is fast asleep in bed. A phone RINGS. Kyle leaps up, grabbing his cell-phone.

KYLE

Hello?

WOMAN

(sexy)

Are you alone?

KYLE

(whispers)

I can't really talk right now.

WOMAN

Is she lying next to you?

KYLE

No.

WOMAN

You sound tired?

KYLE

Late night.

WOMAN

Did she try to fuck you again?

KYLE

Why don't we discuss this at the meeting this weekend?

WOMAN

She going to get suspicious. It's been over a month. You really should fuck her.

KYLE

I've got to go. I'll see you at the meeting.

WOMAN

I love you.

KYLE hangs up, slumps on the bed, and rubs the sleep from his eyes.

INT. BATHROOM

LINDA stands in front of the bathroom mirror. She runs her hands across her freckled belly, and begins to cry.

A LOUD KNOCK on the bathroom door.

KYLE
(shouting)
Linda?

LINDA wipes the tears from her cheeks, and smiles. She holds in her right hand a pregnancy test, it's positive.

LINDA
(sweetly)
I'll be out in a second.

She throws on a robe, and buries the test in the pocket.

INT. BEDROOM

LINDA steps out of the bathroom. KYLE pushes past, stops in the doorway.

KYLE
I just heard from the office, they
need me in Montreal this weekend.

LINDA
But it's my birthday...

KYLE
Yeah, I'm sorry. I'll make it up to
you.

LINDA, crestfallen, puts on a brave face and smiles shyly.

LINDA
It's okay.

KYLE
Yah?

LINDA
It's fine.

KYLE exits.

LINDA moves toward the bedroom window, the early morning light bathing her face. She looks out at the city.

She's crying.

LINDA slumps onto the bed, and curls up. She notices KYLE'S cell-phone on the night table, and grabs it. Hit's "call log" and dials the last caller. She listens.

Beat.

WOMAN

(on phone)

Kyle? I didn't expect to hear from you so soon. I can't wait to go away this weekend. I'm going to suck your c...

LINDA hangs up. She recognizes the voice on the other line - it's her best friend KERI.

LINDA sits on the edge of the bed. She balls her fists in anger, digging her nails deep into the palms of her hands. A single trickle of blood spills out onto the bed sheets.

KYLE steps out of the bathroom.

KYLE

Any breakfast?

LINDA

I haven't had a chance to make it yet?

KYLE

What are you doing?

LINDA stands and moves to KYLE.

LINDA

I'm thinking of going away this weekend?

KYLE

You should.

LINDA

Remember that ad in the paper for that charming summer house we were thinking of renting. I think I'll give them a call.

KYLE
I don't know if I like the idea of
you going up there all alone.

LINDA
Maybe I'll invite a friend?

KYLE smiles, kisses her on the cheek.

KYLE
Good. Have a great time.

He pats her on the behind.

KYLE
(continued)
Now let's get breakfast started.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Upscale hotel room - establish.

INT. BEDROOM

In silhouette, we find KYLE and KERI naked in bed.

KERI, late-twenties, is a dark skinned beauty, with intelligent eyes, and a statuesque figure. The type of girl that looks incredible even in a flannel nightgown.

KYLE leans in and kisses KERI passionately on the lips. KERI, however, reacts like a shark, lunging at him, her hands everywhere. The love making is the complete opposite of the night before.

LATER...

KYLE sits up out of bed, his heart still racing, his breathing heavy.

KYLE
That was incredible.

KERI runs her hands across his chest, and kisses his cheek.

KERI
(mischievous)
I think you're falling for me.

EXT. BUSY STREET - DAY

KYLE and KERI are standing outside the hotel.

KYLE

Here.

He hands KERI a plane ticket.

KERI

I wish we were flying together.

KYLE

I know. But I'll meet you at the airport when you're flight gets in. All right?

KERI leans in a kisses KYLE.

KERI

I'm so excited.

(beat)

I love you, you know?

KYLE

(uncomfortable)

I love you too.

WHIP PAN:

ACROSS THE STREET -

EXT. COFFEE SHOP PATIO

Sitting in a coffee shop across from the hotel is LINDA. She watches her husband and her best friend kiss goodbye.

WAITRESS

More coffee?

LINDA

No thank you. Just the bill.

EXT. STREET

KERI walks out of an upscale boutique, right into LINDA. Startled, she jumps back, laughing.

KERI

Oh my God, you scared me half to death!

LINDA
I'm sorry.

KERI
No, please, it's all right.
(beat)
It's great to see you.

The two women hug.

LINDA
It's been a long time.
(probing)
You haven't called me in a month.

KERI
It's...Uhm...Work has been nuts.

LINDA
Sure.

KERI
What are you doing here?

LINDA
Oh, just out for a walk. I love
this part of town.

KERI
Me too. God, I love it, they've got
the best shops.
(beat)
The highest prices, too, but that's
what rich boyfriends are for.

LINDA laughs. KERI smiles, looks at her watch.

LINDA
What are you doing now?

KERI
I should be getting back to work.

LINDA
Why don't you come over to my
place, we can grab some lunch and
catch up.

KERI
No, I'd love to but I can't.

KERI turns to walk away. LINDA grabs her by the wrist.

LINDA
I won't take no for an answer.

KERI smiles uncomfortably.

INT. UPSCALE CONDO - DAY

KERI is seated on the couch drinking tea. LINDA steps up behind her.

KERI
Did you redecorate?

LINDA
Yes. We redid the livingroom.

LINDA inches closer.

KERI
I really love it. Very chic.

LINDA
(interrupting)
Keri?

KERI
Yup?

LINDA
You're my best friend, right?

KERI
Oh, sweetie, of course.

LINDA pulls out a long kitchen knife, and places it gently against KERI'S jugular.

LINDA
Then could you please tell me why?

KERI
Why what?

LINDA
Why you're fucking my husband?

KERI turns her head, smiles.

KERI
(coolly)
Because I can.

KERI laughs.

LINDA drags the blade across KERI'S neck. Blood SPLASHES all over the couch.

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. KITCHEN

LINDA opens her eyes.

She's holding a long kitchen knife between her fingers.

KERI steps out of the bathroom, and takes a seat at the kitchen table.

KERI
Did you redecorate the living room?

LINDA
Yes. We did.

KERI
It looks great.

LINDA places a cup of tea in front of KERI. She moves back to the kitchen counter.

LINDA
I've missed you.

KERI
Oh, that's sweet. I've missed you too. I'm sorry I haven't had been around more.

LINDA picks up the kitchen knife.

LINDA
You're my best friend, Keri.

KERI
You're my best friend too, sweetie.

LINDA
Keri?

KERI
What is it?

LINDA steps forward, knife in hand.

LINDA
I need to talk to you.

KERI
What about?

LINDA
Kyle.

KERI shifts uncomfortably in her seat.

KERI
What about him?

LINDA, brandishing the knife, sits across from KERI and begins to sob.

KERI
Oh, honey, what's wrong?

LINDA
He's going away this weekend.

KERI
(uncomfortably)
So?

LINDA
He's going away on my birthday.

KERI
Oh.

LINDA
I can't be alone this weekend,
Keri. I just can't be alone.

LINDA buries her hands in her face. KERI reaches out and hugs her.

KERI
Shhhhh...it's all right.

LINDA
Promise you'll be with me this
weekend?

KERI
(surprised)
This weekend?

LINDA
Yes. Please. You know I can't be
alone on my birthday! You know why!
(beat)
You're the only one who knows!

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

WE FLASHBACK TO -

LINDA, in her dorm room, lighting candles. A tiny smile across her face. She walks over to a bottle of wine, runs her slender finger over the label. She's preparing for a romantic evening.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

LINDA, excited, rushes to the door and opens it. Standing in the doorway is RYAN, a strapping young man, in his late teens. He steps in.

RYAN

Hey.

LINDA

Hey you.

She gives him a peck on the cheek.

RYAN

(looking around)

Wow, candles. Nice.

LINDA

Do you like it?

RYAN

Yeah, it's cool.

He hands her a gift.

RYAN

Happy birthday.

LINDA

Oh, Ryan, you didn't have to get me anything.

RYAN

If I didn't get you anything, you'd killed me.

RYAN smiles.

LINDA laughs, punches him jokingly in the chest. She unwraps her gift. It's a pretty necklace.

LINDA
Oh, thank you.

RYAN
Here, let me put it on you.

LINDA
Please.

LINDA turns, and RYAN puts the necklace on. He kisses her long neck.

RYAN
You know, tonight's a special night. Maybe we should make it really special?

LINDA
Oh yeah, what do you have in mind?

RYAN
Well, I was thinking maybe we could...
(whispers in her ear)

LINDA laughs.

LINDA
(embarrassed)
Ryan!

RYAN
What?

LINDA
Come here.

LINDA pulls him to her, and they kiss passionately. They make their way over to the couch. RYAN presses into her, running his hands across her belly, and into her panties. LINDA breaks away.

LINDA
(annoyed)
Ryan!

He stops.

RYAN
What?

LINDA
Take it easy.

RYAN

I am.

LINDA

I want my first time to be special.

(beat)

This isn't special.

RYAN

But it could be.

LINDA

Let's just kiss. All right?

RYAN

(annoyed)

Fine.

RYAN smiles politely, and pulls LINDA to him. They kiss. However, RYAN, again, begins to run his hands all over LINDA'S body. She pulls away.

LINDA

Time to go hot-shot.

RYAN

What?

LINDA

I think you should go.

RYAN

What is your problem?

LINDA is surprised.

LINDA

Ryan!

RYAN

No. Don't "Ryan" me. We've been going out for three months! Every time I touch you, you act like I have the plague, and pull away!

LINDA

That's not true.

RYAN

It is true. I'm tired of it!

LINDA

(shouting)

Just leave!

RYAN
(under his breathe)
Fuckin' bitch!

LINDA
Get out!

RYAN moves to the door. He locks it, and turns to LINDA.

RYAN
I'm not going 'till I get what I
came for.

LINDA stands to confront him, but she's rushed by RYAN. He drives her into the couch and begins to pull at her panties.

FADE OUT:

...We hear LINDA SCREAM...

FADE IN:

WE FLASH BACK TO -

INT. KITCHEN

KERI comforts her friend.

LINDA
Please. I can't be alone on my
birthday.

LINDA wipes the tears from her cheeks.

LINDA
(continued)
You're my best friend, aren't you?

KERI
(uncomfortable)
Of course I am.

LINDA
I need you, Keri. Please say you'll
be with me?

Beat.

KERI
Of course I will. I will.

LINDA smiles, she takes the long knife she's been holding, and uses it to slice some lemon.

SPLASH.

She places a piece in KERI'S tea cup.

LINDA

Thank you. You've always been there
for me. You would never do anything
to hurt me.

KERI smiles nervously.

EXT. STREET - DAY

KERI is on her cell phone talking to KYLE.

KERI

Well, what was I supposed to do?
She needs me! You don't understand.

(beat)

Listen, stop shouting! I can't go,
all right. I can't. I don't even
know what I'm doing anymore.

(beat)

Yeah, well, maybe this is a
mistake. A big mistake. Good bye!

KERI slams shut her phone, and storms off down the street.

INT. UPSCALE CONDO - DAY

CLOSE ON - a newspaper ad. "SUMMER HOUSE RENTAL"

LINDA circles the ad in red and dials the number on her
phone.

A MAN answers.

JONATHAN

Yeah?

LINDA

Hi, I'm calling about the summer
house for rent.

JONATHAN

Sure.

LINDA

Is the price in the paper right?

JONATHAN

Yes.

LINDA
Wow, that's really reasonable.

JONATHAN
You want it?

LINDA
Yes. Is it available this weekend?

JONATHAN
Yes. How many are you?

LINDA
Me, and my friend Keri.

JONATHAN
Just the two of you?

LINDA
Yes.

JONATHAN
No one else?

LINDA
No.

JONATHAN
Good.

LINDA smiles.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

LINDA pushes a cart down the aisle of "HARDWARE SUPPLIES".

MONTAGE -

LINDA reaches for duct tape.

LINDA grabs a ROPE.

LINDA buys a SHOVEL.

A STORE CLERK, in his mid-teens, stops beside LINDA. Looks into her cart inquisitively.

STORE CLERK
Planning on killing someone?

He laughs.

LINDA
(nervous)
No.

STORE CLERK
(surprised by LINDA'S
reaction)
I was just kidding.
(beat)
Do you need any help finding
anything?

LINDA
No.
(beat)
I'm fine, thank you.

LINDA shuffles off.

EXT. STREET - DAY

KERI is sitting by the curb with her bags. LINDA pulls up,
and rolls down her car window.

LINDA
Hey!

KERI
I've been waiting forever.

LINDA
Yeah, sorry. I had to stop off at
the store first. Get a few
supplies.

LINDA pops the trunk.

LINDA
Throw your bag in the back.

KERI
Where are we going?

LINDA
Up north.

KERI
I figured as much, but where? I
should let work know where I'll be.

LINDA
Forget it. No work this weekend.
(beat)
This weekend you drop off the face
of the earth.

KERI
(laughing)
Okay. Sounds good.

KERI smiles, crams her suitcase in the trunk, and hops into the car.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

CLOSE ON - a car on a desolate road. It rises and falls through an endless stretch of meadows and farmlands.

INT. CAR

LINDA'S behind the wheel. KERI stares out the window, she's in the middle of telling one of her endlessly fascinating "dating" stories.

KERI
...and then when I woke up he was jerking off in bed next to me. I freaked. He starts explaining that it's not his fault...blah, blah, blah..."he's never been able to find a woman that can please him more then he can please himself". Bull-shit. This is the type of asshole I'm always winding up with.
(beat)
I wish I could find a normal guy!

LINDA smiles.

LINDA
Can I ask you something?

KERI
Sure.

LINDA
It's sexual in nature?

KERI
That's fine.

LINDA
What do you think about when you're
making love?

KERI
(laughing)
Are you serious?

LINDA
Yeah.

KERI
First, I don't think I've ever
"made love".

LINDA laughs.

KERI
Second, with the jerks I date,
there's little time to think before
they finish up.

LINDA
That's terrible.

KERI
It's true. But I do sometimes think
of...
(beat)
I shouldn't say.

LINDA
Come on? Please?

KERI
Okay. But this is going to sound
totally fucked up. I think of
Martin Starr.

LINDA
Who?

KERI
Martin Starr. He played "Bill
Haverchuck" on this TV show in the
90's. "Freaks and Geeks". You
remember it right?

LINDA
I think so. Which one was he?

KERI

This is the fucked up part. He played the biggest loser of the group. A mouth breathing nerd, with buck teeth and dopey eyes. He was into "D&D" and nobody liked him.

LINDA

I remember him.

KERI

Of course you do.

LINDA

But why him?

KERI

Well, in this one episode, Haverchuck and his dorky friends play "spin the bottle" at a party, and he gets "7 minutes in heaven" with the schools hottest cheerleader.

LINDA

(intrigued)

What happened?

KERI

He refused to kiss her.

(beat)

I know this seems cliché, but they just talked. He made her laugh. He was so sweet. In that moment he went from nerd to the coolest guy.

(beat)

I was going through puberty at the time, and I was dating a real jerk. Bobby Stanton, remember? Super cute, and real popular? I don't know, I guess seeing how nice a guy could be turned me on.

(beat)

I developed such a crush on Haverchuck. God, I still love him today. So when I've got some asshole crawling all over me I think of Haverchuck and how sweet he was in that closet.

LINDA smiles.

KERI

What about you? What do you think about when you're "making love"?

LINDA

Nothing really. I guess I don't want to screw it up.

KERI

I don't think you can screw it up.

LINDA

I'm never comfortable with it. I just can't relax.

KERI

Well, you have a good reason for not being able to relax.

LINDA

It's not just that.

(beat)

I don't please Kyle.

(beat)

Not like I use to.

KERI squirms in her seat.

LINDA gages her response.

KERI

(changing the subject)

I think you have to find your own "Haverchuck" and focus on that.

Before LINDA can continue, Keri turns on the car RADIO.

KERI

I love this song.

LINDA

Me too.

KERI

Do you remember the first time we heard this in University?

LINDA

Walter Stanwick's party.

KERI

Right, Stanwick. What a loser.

KERI begins to sing along. LINDA smiles, and joins in.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - DAY

A big summer house with a sprawling lawn, and thick woods all around. It sits alone with no neighbors in sight.

INT. CAR

LINDA and KERI pull up and stop.

LINDA
Oh my God, it's beautiful here.

KERI
This is really nice.

The women step out of the car.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE

LINDA surveys the property.

LINDA
The windows are all boarded up?

C.U. ON: STORM SHUTTERS.

KERI
So much for getting the house ready
for paying customers.

LINDA
The owner said he would meet us
here. What times is it?

KERI
A quarter past twelve.

LINDA
He should already be here.

KERI
No worries, my dad put up storm
shutters at our cottage each
winter. I know how to take them
down.

LINDA
No, it's not that. I don't have the
key.
(beat)
I'll call him.

LINDA pulls out her cell-phone, and tries to call.

LINDA
I can't get a signal.

KERI takes the initiative and moves to the front door. She lifts the door mat and finds a KEY.

KERI
(holding up the key)
Found it.

LINDA
Maybe we should wait for the owner
to show up?

KERI
You paid him, right?

LINDA
Yeah.

KERI
Then what's the problem?

LINDA
It feels like we're breaking in.

KERI
Just pop the trunk miss-goody-two-
shoes.

LINDA frowns, opens the trunk revealing the SHOVEL, DUCT TAPE, and LONG KNIFE she bought earlier. She pulls the bags from the car, and SLAMS the trunk closed.

LINDA
Little help?

KERI hustles back to help with the luggage.

INT. SUMMER HOUSE

LINDA and KERI enter with groceries, and their bags. They look about the house. It hasn't been lived in for sometime. It's dusty, and dark with sheets draped over the furnishings.

KERI
(laughing)
Great.

LINDA
(annoyed)
What's going on here?

KERI flicks the light switch.

CLICK.

The lights POP on.

KERI
Look on the bright side. At least
we have power.

LINDA
(disappointed)
It's almost like he forgot we were
coming.

KERI
Hey, you know what?

LINDA
What?

KERI
We'll pull down the storm shutters,
get the sheets off the furniture,
and this place will be great!

LINDA smiles.

LINDA
You think so?

KERI
Yeah.
(beat)
And when we get back on Monday, you
can stop payment on the cheque you
sent him.

LINDA laughs.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE

KERI is pulling down the STORM SHUTTERS from the living room
window.

She moves around the house to the shutters over the bedrooms.

ON KERI - she fights viciously with the SHUTTER.

KERI
(struggling)
Jesus H. Christ.

She pulls back, using all her strength, but the shutter won't budge.

KERI
Linda?!

SILENCE.

KERI
(to herself)
Fuck it.

KERI wipes her hands on her pant-leg, gives the SHUTTER the finger, and walks away.

INT. SUMMER HOUSE

Now that LINDA has cleaned up a bit, the summer house is warm and inviting. The layout for the house is spacious, with a kitchen opening onto a large living room. Toward the back of the house is a hallway that leads to two bedrooms, and a bath.

KERI enters.

KERI
I couldn't get one of the shutters down.

LINDA
That's all right.

KERI
(looking about the room)
Very nice.

LINDA
It's not bad, right?

KERI
Not bad at all.

Beat.

LINDA
Hey, I just wanted to thank you for coming.

KERI
It's fine really. I'm glad I came.

LINDA smiles.

LINDA
Really, thanks.

KERI
Happy birthday, by the way.

LINDA
You're sweet.

KERI
We'll, I'm going to try out the
bathtub.

LINDA
Okay.

KERI exits.

INT. BATHROOM

KERI is lying in the tub.

KERI V.O.
(to herself, interior
monologue)
You have to come clean. She's your
friend, and she doesn't deserve
this.
(beat)
Just tell her.
(beat)
Just say..."Linda, I have something
to tell you. I've done something
terrible, and"...No, don't prolong
it. Just get it out, stupid!
(beat)
"Linda, I've been sleeping with
Kyle. I'm so sorry."
(Shakes her head, beat)
"Listen, Linda, I never meant to
hurt you, but I've done something
really stupid"...
(beat)
What am I doing. I'm so fucked.
This is going to kill her.

INT. LIVING ROOM

LINDA has turned on the television. She sits watching a nature program.

T.V. V.O.

...the female will do whatever is necessary to protect her young. Even engaging and killing an intruder who threatens the pride...

LINDA runs her hands gently across her belly.

INT. BATHROOM

KERI is still in the tub. She's crying.

KERI V.O.

(to herself; interior monologue)

...so stupid. What the fuck where you thinking?

(beat)

You have to tell her. You have to.

(beat)

You really fuck up this time, Keri.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DUSK

We PULL BACK to reveal KERI at the stove, preparing a birthday dinner. LINDA is setting the table. Both women are all smiles, laughing deliriously at a joke we missed.

LINDA

...he was a nice guy!

KERI

The only thing nice about him was his basket. It was bigger than the one you're holding.

LINDA explodes with laughter. She places a bread basket on the table.

LINDA

Gross.

KERI

What? Guys can talk T&A morning to night, but I compliment a dude on his junk and suddenly I'm the bad guy?

LINDA

I guess.

KERI

Anyway, he was sweet on you.

LINDA

No way.

KERI

(mocking)
"Yes way".

LINDA

(blushing)
He was?

KERI

You don't give yourself enough credit, Linda. Just look at you?
(beat)
You're hot!

LINDA laughs.

LINDA

No... you were the one the guys were always after.
(beat)
I was just "The Friend".

KERI

Only because you wanted it that way.

LINDA frowns.

LINDA

I don't know about that.

KERI

It's true.

LINDA

(under her breath)
It's hard living in your shadow, Keri.

LINDA'S indictment stings.

KERI returns to cooking.

The atmosphere has suddenly become serious.

KERI
(changing the subject)
You're going to love my pasta prima
vera. It's my specialty.

INT. DINNING ROOM - LATER

KERI and LINDA sit across from one another eating dinner. The mood is strained. LINDA is distant.

KERI
Do you like it?

LINDA nods.

KERI
Happy Birthday, sweetie.

LINDA doesn't look up from her plate.

KERI
Is everything all right?

LINDA
I have to talk to you.

KERI
Sure.

LINDA
I have to talk to you about
something very important.

KERI nervously shifts in her chair.

KERI
Of course.

LINDA
It's about Kyle.

KERI drops her fork.

KERI
What about him?

LINDA
I think he might be having...

Before LINDA can finish, KERI interrupts.

KERI
(interrupting)
...He's probably just really busy
at work. Kyle loves you.

LINDA
It's not work. He's pulling away
from me. He's distant. He won't
touch me, and he won't let me touch
him...
(beat)
...the worst part is...

LINDA breaks down, tears streaming down her cheeks.

KERI
Oh, sweetie, don't cry. Please.

LINDA
...the worst part is I'm pregnant.

LINDA has KERI'S full attention.

KERI
You're pregnant?

LINDA
Yeah.
(beat)
I have to think of the baby. I have
to keep my family together...
(beat)
...for the baby.

KERI
(to herself)
You're pregnant with Kyle's baby?

LINDA
I'm pregnant, Keri.

LINDA reaches across the table and takes KERI'S hand in hers.

LINDA
I know in my gut Kyle is having an
affair. I'm sure of it.

LINDA tightens her grip. KERI grimaces in pain.

LINDA

I know there's another woman in the picture. I can smell her on him. I can taste her when I kiss his lips.

(beat)

But who would do something so cruel?

LINDA squeezes KERI'S hand tight.

KERI

Linda, let go, you're hurting me.

LINDA

Who?

KERI

Linda, please.

LINDA drops KERI'S hand.

LINDA

Oh, I'm sorry.

KERI rubs the soreness from her palm.

KERI

You're imagining it. I'm sure Kyle would never cheat on you.

LINDA

You're sure? How can you be so sure?

KERI

(swallows hard)

Kyle loves you. He's going to love your baby.

LINDA smiles, wipes away the tears.

KERI

I just can't believe you're pregnant.

KERI stands, and hugs LINDA.

KERI

(strained)

Congratulations!

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

KERI is balled up in bed, crying.

SMASH CUT TO -

EXT. CAR - LATER

LINDA pulls the provision she bought earlier from the hardware store out of the trunk, and makes her way back to the house.

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

KERI is taking a shower. She looks at her bruised hands.

KERI V.O.
(to herself; interior
monologue)
...She knows...
(beat)
You've got to come clean.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The late evening sun is quickly disappearing.

LINDA is sitting on the couch staring blankly at the fireplace.

KERI steps out of the bathroom, and moves to LINDA. She kneels down beside her, like a sinner in a confessional.

KERI
(whispering)
Linda?

LINDA doesn't move.

KERI
(whispering)
Linda?

KERI puts her hand on LINDA'S shoulder.

KERI
(whispering)
Linda, look at me.

LINDA is withdrawn.

KERI
(whispering)
I have something important to tell
you. Look at me please.

KERI gives her a gentle shake.

KERI
(whispering)
Linda, please.

LINDA
What?

KERI
(whispering)
This is really hard for me...

LINDA smiles, and pulls KERI to her.

LINDA
Shhhhhh... It's all right.

KERI
(whispering)
...I've done something really
stupid...

LINDA
It's all right.

KERI
(whispering)
...I've done something so wrong...

LINDA
It's okay.

KERI
(whispering)
...What I need to tell you is
really important...

CAMERA CIRCLES - behind LINDA to reveal she's hiding the long
kitchen KNIFE behind her back.

LINDA
So tell me what's so important?

KERI
(whispering)
...I'm the one...

LINDA
The one what?

KERI
(whispering)
...I...

LINDA slowly brings the KNIFE around...pressing it gently against KERI'S neck...waiting for KERI to come clean.

KERI has no idea she's in mortal danger.

KERI
(whispering)
...I'm the one who...

LINDA
Go ahead.

LINDA readies her hand to draw the blade across KERI'S jugular.

KERI
(whispering)
...Kyle and I have...

LINDA
Yes?

KERI
(whispering)
Kyle and I have been having an...

LINDA'S about to draws on the knife when...

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

...someone is frantically POUNDING on the door.

KERI leaps out of her skin.

LINDA snaps out of her trance, slips the knife into her robe, and turns toward the door.

KERI
Who is that?

LINDA
The owner, maybe?

KERI
It's almost midnight?

The two women move to the door.

LINDA
(shouting)
Who is it?

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

The door SHUDDERS under the impact.

LINDA
(shouting)
Who's there?

SILENCE.

KERI
Don't open the door.

LINDA
What if it's the owner?

KERI
Fuck him.

LINDA reaches for the door knob.

KERI
Linda, don't!

LINDA
Stop it, Keri!
(beat)
You're freaking me out!

KERI
Sorry.

LINDA unlocks the bolt, unsnags the chain, and pulls the door open revealing...

ZOFIA KASPARKOVA!

...She completely naked - cover from head-to-toe in blood.

LINDA SCREAMS!

KERI GASPS!

ZOFIA topples over, crashing to the floor. Frantic, she jumps up, her blood soaked feet causing her to SLIP and SLIDE on the hardwood floor. She SLAMS the door shut.

ZOFIA
(Russian)
Oh helfen Sie Gott mir bitte!

ZOFIA runs over to the window and stops dead in her tracks. She eyes the surrounding tree-line with dread.

ZOFIA
(Russian)
Er ist noch dort!

LINDA moves to help the distraught young girl.

LINDA
(to Zofia)
Just calm down.

KERI
Oh my God Linda, what happened to her?

LINDA
(to Zofia)
Were you in an accident? What happened to you?

ZOFIA does not take her eyes off the woods.

ZOFIA
(Russian)
Er kommt!

LINDA
(to Zofia)
Do you speak English?

KERI
What the fuck happened to her, Linda?

LINDA
(to Zofia)
English? Do you speak any English?

LINDA reaches out and touches ZOFIA'S shoulder.

ZOFIA points a bloody finger toward the woods circling the house, and turns ominously toward KERI and LINDA.

ZOFIA
(Russian; deadly serious)
Sie sind bothing ogint, um zu sterben.

LINDA
Was there an accident?

KERI

What if more people are hurt,
Linda?

ZOFIA points to the woods one last time. A bloody finger smudges the window pane.

LINDA and KERI move to the large living room window and look out on the bleak black surrounding them...

Nothing.

...They turn to ZOFIA. She raises a her hand to her neck, and using her finger she draws a bloody line across her throat.

KERI, terrified, stammers back.

KERI

She was attacked by something.
(beat)
Oh my God.

LINDA

Stop it! We don't know what happened, and your just scaring yourself.

KERI

(calming herself down)
You're right. You're absolutely right.

LINDA

Let's get her cleaned up.

LINDA puts her arm around ZOFIA, and they move to the bathroom.

KERI moves to the door...locks the bolt...snags the chain.

KERI

This isn't happening.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

ZOFIA is sitting in the tub. LINDA carefully washes the blood from her body.

ZOFIA

(Russian, mumbling to herself)
(MORE)

ZOFIA (cont'd)
 Er ist dabei, Sie dazu zu töten,
 und ich bin dabei, Ihr Blut,
 Weibchen zu trinken.

LINDA
 Shhhhh...It's all right.

As LINDA washes the blood from ZOFIA'S back, she uncovers old scars, wounds that have had time to heal.

ZOFIA
 (Russian, mumbling to
 herself)
 Ich bin dabei zu genießen, Ihr
 Inneres zu sehen.

LINDA
 You're safe now. No one is going to
 hurt you.

LINDA runs a finger over the scars. It's all too clear, this girl was in no car accident.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

LINDA escorts ZOFIA out of the bathroom, and sits her on the couch. KERI is standing watch at the window.

LINDA
 (to Zofia)
 Rest.

ZOFIA, wide-eyed, balls-up and begins to rock back and forth.

LINDA moves to KERI.

LINDA
 We need to get her to a hospital.

KERI
 (relieved)
 Fine. Great. Let's get the fuck out
 of here.

LINDA
 There's something else.

KERI
 What?

LINDA
 While I was bathing her I noticed
 lash marks all over her back.

KERI is speechless.

LINDA
I don't like it.

KERI
Jesus fuckin' Christ. I knew it.

LINDA
She wasn't in any accident. Those marks were intentional. Someone gave her those.

KERI
This is fuckin' crazy.

LINDA
I know.

KERI
Let's go. Linda, let's get in the car and get the fuck out of here.

LINDA
There's a police outpost in a little town about 80 kilometers away.
(beat)
There's just one problem.

KERI
What?

LINDA
We have to drive down the mountain.

KERI
So.

LINDA
It's tough to navigate during the day, almost impossible at night.

KERI
I'll take my chances. Can we just get the fuck out of here?

LINDA
You're right. We should go.

KERI
I'm gonna pack.

LINDA
I'll get her dressed, and we'll
leave.
(beat)
I don't want to freak her out
anymore then she already is, so be
cool.

KERI
I'm cool.

LINDA
Good.

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. BEDROOM

KERI is frantically tossing her clothing into her suitcase.

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. BATHROOM

LINDA is helping ZOFIA into a summer dress.

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

KERI is standing by the door, anxious to go. LINDA and ZOFIA
move to her.

KERI
Hurry up!

LINDA
We're coming.

KERI takes up her bags.

LINDA
(to Zofia)
We're going to get you some help,
okay?

ZOFIA glares at the front door...she turns, panicked, and
glowers at LINDA...

ZOFIA
 (Russian)
 Niet!

...suddenly, in a sheer moment of panic, ZOFIA digs in her heels, and fights with all her strength LINDA'S attempt to get her to the front door.

ZOFIA
 (Russian)
 Niet! Niet! Sie Scheißweibchen, Sie gehen irgendwo nicht!

LINDA
 Stop it! We're just going to the car!

KERI
 (shouting)
 Just drag her!

ZOFIA struggles free and backs away from the door.

KERI
 Shit!

ZOFIA
 (Russian)
 Wir haben eine große Überraschung für Sie Scheiden. Das Auto ist weg.

LINDA
 (to Keri)
 Would you help me?

KERI
 I'll get her to the door, you get the car!

ZOFIA, hysterical, locks eyes with KERI. Her fear is palpable.

LINDA
 Fine.

LINDA moves to the door, opens it, and creeps outside.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - NIGHT

A single porch light swings ominously over head. Darkest black hangs like a drape around the house. LINDA steps out onto the porch, and squints. The car is parked some distance from the house, and LINDA struggles to find it in the dark.

LINDA
(shouting to Keri)
I can't see anything out here!

KERI O.S.
What?

LINDA
(shouting to Keri)
I can't see anything!

KERI O.S.
Just get the damn car.

LINDA
(shouting to Keri)
I need the flashlight!

KERI cracks the door open, and hands LINDA a flashlight.

KERI
Here.

LINDA
Thanks.

KERI
Hurry, I'm gonna need your help
getting her out of the house. She's
fighting me tooth and nail.

LINDA
I'll be back in a minute.

KERI
Be careful.

KERI disappears back inside.

LINDA steps off the porch into total darkness. She turns on her flashlight, the single beam of light cuts through the night.

LINDA
(to herself)
Just Be cool.

LINDA moves further into the dark.

LINDA
(to herself)
There's nothing to fear. This is
not a horror movie.

She turns to look back at the house. Tiny, it sits nestled under the stars. She's gone some distance, and still no sign of the car.

LINDA
(to herself)
Where the fuck is it?

LINDA stops. Shines the light ahead. She's not far from the tree-line. The car should be here!

LINDA
(to herself)
What the fuck?

LINDA points the light at the ground...

TIRE TREAD MARKS IN THE MUD!

...they come to a dead-stop where she's standing.

THE CAR IS GONE!

LINDA
(to herself)
You got to be fuckin' kidding me!

An unnatural SILENCE is all around.

LINDA
(to herself)
This can't be happening. This
doesn't happen in real life.

An icy chill runs the length of her spine.

LINDA...trembling...shaking, wastes no time. Frantic, she bolts for the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KERI and ZOFIA are seated on the couch awaiting LINDA.

LINDA O.S.
(screaming some distance
from the house)
Keri! Keri!

KERI
(to Zofia)
Did you hear something?

LINDA O.S.
(screaming some distance
from the house)
Oh my God! Keri, open the door!

KERI stands.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LINDA, with surprising speed, is making a dash for the house. She arrives at the porch, takes the steps two at a time, and reaches out for the doorknob...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...the door swings open.

LINDA falls into the house, hitting the floor.

KERI SCREAMS.

LINDA jumps up, pounces on the lock, and bolts the door.

LINDA
It's gone.

KERI
What?

LINDA
It's gone. It's not there.

KERI
What's gone?

LINDA
The car. It's gone. It's just gone.

KERI
How?

LINDA
I don't. I don't know.

KERI
How could someone take it. We would
have heard them start the engine?

LINDA
Jesus fuckin' Christ, Keri, I don't
know!

(MORE)

LINDA (cont'd)
Maybe they pulled the parking brake
and rolled it down the hill. Who
cares how?!

KERI
Oh my God.

LINDA
We're in trouble here.

ZOFIA watches nervously.

KERI
Holy shit.

LINDA
Someone's out there.

LINDA and KERI move slowly to the living room window, and
look out into the night.

BLACKNESS.

Suddenly, a stone BOUNCES off the window pane with a sharp
RAP!

LINDA and KERI jump back.

RAP!

A second stone STRIKES the window, cracking it.

KERI
Jesus Christ.

LINDA and KERI are drawn back to the window...they strain to
see in the dark...it's as if the stone are materializing out
of thin air.

LINDA
Get your cell-phone.

KERI steps back away from the cracked window pane, and
searches her purse. She pulls her phone out, and turns it on.

KERI
Goddammit, no signal.

RAP!

This time the window threatens to SHATTER.

LINDA moves to ZOFIA, and takes her by the shoulders.

LINDA
Who's out there?

ZOFIA
(Russian)
Sie sind tot.

LINDA
Who did this to you?

ZOFIA
(Russian)
Ich bin dabei, Ihre Gebärmutter,
Weibchen auszuschneiden.

LINDA
(angry)
Who? Who's out there? How many of
them are there? Answer me,
Goddammit!

KERI
Forget it, she doesn't speak
English.

LINDA lets ZOFIA go, she sinks back into the couch.

LINDA
Fuck!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - NIGHT

Establish.

All is SILENT.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The LIGHTS are out. The house is QUIET. The living room couch is barricading the front door. LINDA and KERI sit huddled together in the dark. ZOFIA is curled up in a ball, asleep on the floor.

KERI
(whispered)
Tell me this isn't happening?

LINDA
(whispered)
I don't know what to tell you.
(beat)
Try your phone again?

KERI flips open her cell-phone. No SIGNAL.

KERI
(whispered)
Still nothing.

LINDA
(whispered)
This is nuts.

KERI
(whispered)
What if we just make a run for it?

LINDA
(whispered)
To where?

KERI
(whispered)
Away from here.

LINDA
(whispered)
We're a million miles from nowhere.

KERI
(whispered)
I just think staying is bad idea.
The longer we wait the worse it's
going to get.

LINDA
(whispered)
This is not a Friday The 13th
movie, Keri.

KERI
(whispered)
I don't know what this is, but I'm
freaked out. I mean, who is she?
Where did she come from? Who's
hunting her?

LINDA
(whispered)
I don't know, but she's obviously
Eastern European.
(MORE)

LINDA (cont'd)
She's probably a mail order bride
who got shackled up with some
sadistic SOB who beats her.

KERI
(whispered)
Maybe, but I still think we should
make a run for it.

LINDA
(whispered)
What about her.

She points to ZOFIA.

LINDA
(whispered)
We'll never get her out the front
door.

KERI
(whispered)
What if we leave her?

A long SILENCE.

LINDA
(whispered)
No.

KERI
(whispered)
Listen, I'm not being selfish, we
could bring back help.

LINDA
(whispered)
We don't know where she came from.
Who she is.
(beat)
Whoever is out there would take
her, and we'd never find her again.

Beat.

KERI
(whispered)
I got a real bad feeling, Linda. I
just don't wanna die here.

KERI'S eyes water up.

LINDA
(whispered)
Shhhh... It's alright. We'll wait
for morning. Maybe the owner will
show up. Maybe...

KERI
(whispered; interrupting)
Linda, promise me everything's
going to be okay?

LINDA doesn't answer.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - LATER

Establish.

Darkness all around.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Broken shadow and light illuminate the kitchen. KERI and
LINDA are seated at the table. ZOFIA is still asleep on the
floor.

KERI
(whispered)
Do you think he's gone?

LINDA
(whispered)
It's been over two hours, maybe?

KERI
(whispered)
He's probably gone, right?

LINDA
(whispered)
I don't know, Keri.

LINDA yawns.

KERI
(whispered)
You tired?

LINDA
(whispered)
Yeah.

KERI
(whispered)
Get some sleep.

LINDA
(whispered)
No. I should stay awake.

KERI
(whispered)
How about this? I stay awake for a few hours and keep watch, and then I'll wake you, and you can stay awake 'til morning.
(beat)
What do you say?

LINDA
(whispered)
You'll be alright alone?

KERI
(whispered)
Yeah. I think so.

LINDA
(whispered)
Wait.

LINDA rises, moves to the kitchen drawer, and pulls out the long KNIFE. She hands it to KERI.

LINDA
(whispered)
Here.

KERI
(whispered)
Jesus, that's a big knife.

LINDA
(whispered)
Just in case. Keep it close.

KERI
(whispered)
I thought you said this wasn't a Friday the 13th movie.

LINDA
(whispered)
Wake me in four hours.

KERI
(whispered)
Sure. Sleep tight.

Beat.

LINDA sweetly kisses the top of KERI'S head and exits.

Beat.

KERI yawns. She sets the KNIFE down on the table.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA slips out of her jeans, and under the covers. The room is pitch black. No light. The storm shutters still nailed securely over the windows.

LINDA curls up. Tears streaming down her cheeks. She wipes at them.

LINDA V.O.
(to herself; interior monologue)
You almost killed her...
(beat)
...what are you thinking?
(beat)
...you promised...never again...

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

WE FLASHBACK TO -

RYAN has finished raping LINDA.

She stands, says nothing, and makes her way to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

LINDA turns the water on in the tub, and begins to wash between her legs.

INT. DORM ROOM

RYAN saunters over to LINDA'S CD collection. He pops a disc in the CD player, and hits play.

Alt. Rock THUMPS from the stereo.

RYAN
(shouting)
You okay in there?

Silence.

RYAN
(shouting)
Linda?

Still no response.

RYAN
(shouting)
Oh, come on. Don't be mad. I'm
sorry alright?

LINDA steps out of the bathroom. Her lower body exposed. Her torn underpants slung round her ankle. Her lower lip trembling. She says nothing.

RYAN
I'm sorry I was little rough.

Silence.

RYAN
You forgive me, right?

LINDA takes a step forward. RYAN moves to her, and hugs her tight.

RYAN
See, it wasn't so bad. Nothing to
be afraid of.

RYAN plants a kiss on her trembling lips.

RYAN
You know I love you? Right?
(beat)
You know that?

SMASH CUT TO -

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

FLASH BACK TO -

LINDA, lying in bed, crying. She shuts her eyes and tries to sleep.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

GIGGLE!

CLOSE on LINDA, snuggling her pillow.

HEE! HEE! GIGGLE! HEE! HEE!

LINDA bolts up. She listens.

HEE! HEE! GIGGLE!

Child-like laughter sends a chill up LINDA'S spine. She pulls herself slowly out of bed, and moves to the door. She peaks out.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KERI asleep at the table.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LINDA steps out into the hall, and creeps toward the kitchen.

LINDA
(whispered)
Keri?

Silence.

LINDA
(whispered)
Keri? Wake up?

KERI rubs the sleep from her eyes, and looks up to find LINDA skulking in the dark hallway.

KERI
Time to switch?

HEE! HEE! GIGGLE! HEE! HEE!

LINDA
(whispered)
Did you hear that?

KERI
What?

LINDA
(whispered)
It sounds like a child - laughing.

LINDA inches forward. She squints, her eyes adjusting to the dark. Finally, she spots it...

ZOFIA, huddled up in a corner, a Cheshire-Cat grin cut across her face. The sight is chilling.

...LINDA moves to her.

LINDA
(whispered)
Are you alright?

REVERSE ON KERI as she watches from the kitchen.

KERI
Is everything okay?

HEE! HEE! GIGGLE!

ZOFIA brings her folded hands up to her mouth like a child who's guilty of having done something very naughty.

LINDA
(whispered)
What's going on?

ZOFIA
You'll see.

LINDA is taken aback.

ZOFIA speaks English!

ZOFIA
We're going to have the time of our
lives.

LINDA
My god...

LINDA rises...panicked...she turns to face KERI.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON KERI sitting at the table. Darkness all around.

KERI
What's going on?

A soft breeze blows against her face. She turns in the direction it's coming from.

INT. LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

C.U. - the couch has been pushed away. The front door sits wide-open.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KERI turns back to LINDA.

KERI
Did you open the door?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

KERI'S POV - LINDA wide-eyed, a look of horror etched into her soft features.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON KERI - unaware that standing in the shadows directly behind her is a SHAPE!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

REVERSE ON LINDA - A look of sheer terror on her face.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KERI pauses. She reads the danger in LINDA'S eyes. She knows someone is behind her.

The SHAPE takes a step out of the shadows. The floor boards CREAK under his imposing frame. He stands towering over KERI, and cocks his head inquisitively.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LINDA's whole body is shaking. She tries to scream, but can only muster a small YELP!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KERI closes her eyes...turns her head around...she's so terrified to look...finally, she opens her eyes!

THE MAN (Jonathan) stalks forward!

...A shard of light cuts across his face. His eyes concealed by the night. He smiles. Slips his tongue from his mouth, and licks his jowls.

KERI SCREAMS!

It's blood curdling. The house seems to SHUDDER.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LINDA, finding her voice, SCREAMS too!

LINDA
(hysterical)
God, Keri, run!!!!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KERI rises up from the table, but paralyzing hysteria overwhelms her, and she buckles at the knees.

JONATHAN moves on her. Taking KERI by the hair, raising her up from the ground, and SMASHING her face first into the hardwood floor.

A pool of blood SPLASHES from KERI's crushed mouth.

INT. LIVINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA, laughing wildly, applauds the horror-show.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KERI, a look of bewilderment on her blood-soaked face, turns to her assailant and pleads for mercy.

KERI
(through broken teeth)
Please...Why?...

Silence.

JONATHAN wraps his large hands around KERI'S chin. He then stomps on the small of her back with his heavy boot. He begins to WRENCH back.

KERI'S body BOWS, and she let's out a horrible SCREAM!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LINDA is frozen. Unable to help her friend. Unable to run.

LINDA
No!!!!!!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JONATHAN violently pulls back on KERI'S head.

CRACK! The sound of a paralyzing lower back BREAK.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA, wraith like, rises out of the shadows.

ZOFIA
(to Keri; laughing)
You're not going anywhere, sweet
heart.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON KERI, she pulls herself forward by her hands. Her feet lifelessly dragging behind her. She looks up at LINDA, still frozen in the hallway, and SCREAM!

KERI
Run!!!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LINDA stumbles forward. She makes a mad dash for the bedroom door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA gives chase.

ZOFIA
Oh no you don't!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LINDA bolts forward. She opens her mouth to scream but no sound resonates. She's beyond words...staggering forward...weaving...she finally reaches the bedroom door.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA comes crashing into the room. She bolts up right, and SLAMS the door shut - just in time to see ZOFIA'S grinning mask in the doorway.

LINDA
(shouting)
Leave me alone!

CRASH-BOOM!

ZOFIA kicks wildly at the door. It rattles in it's frame.

LINDA jumps up, spots a large wooden WARDROBE, and pushes it in front of the door.

CRASH-BOOM!

The door holds.

A long silence.

LINDA backs up against the far wall of the room, and begins to sob hysterically.

LINDA
(shouting)
You monsters!

Silence.

LINDA
(shouting)
What do you want from me?

Beat.

ZOFIA O.S.
 (calmly)
 We want you to come out.

LINDA cries out!

LINDA
 No....

CRASH-BOOM! CRASH-BOOM! CRASH-BOOM!

The door frame SPLINTERS. The WARDROBE inches back. It won't be long now!

REVERSE ON LINDA - panic, as she watches the door ARCH under the wild attack.

LINDA jumps up, SLAMS her shoulder into the WARDROBE, and sends it CRASHING back against the door.

JONATHAN O.S.
 God dammit! Open this fuckin' door,
 bitch!

LINDA
 (shouting)
 Leave me alone!

JONATHAN O.S.
 Open the door little piggy!

LINDA
 (shouting)
 Please. No!

JONATHAN O.S.
 ...and I huffed and I puffed and I
 blew you're fuckin' door down!

Silence.

LINDA
 No...Please...No...

CRASH-BOOM! CRASH-BOOM!

The door holds.

JONATHAN O.S.
 Be a good girl, and open up?

LINDA, her whole body trembling, sobs uncontrollably.

JONATHAN O.S.
You wanna play games? Huh? Fine,
we'll play games.

Silence.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

LINDA is wildly searching through her PURSE. She pulls out her CELL-PHONE and flips it open. No SIGNAL. She curses her luck, and throws the phone on the bed.

Suddenly...

MUSIC BEGINS!

...It's a soft sweet song about love.

LINDA listens for a moment, then moves to the door. She presses her ear against it.

JONATHAN and ZOFIA are playing MUSIC!

LINDA slides down the door, and peeks out the KEYHOLE.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LINDA'S POV - It's difficult to see clearly, but LINDA spies KERI passed out at the table. JONATHAN and ZOFIA are in each others arms.

LINDA
(to herself)
What the...?

LINDA'S POV - JONATHAN kisses ZOFIA madly on the mouth. He then moves quickly to the gas stove and lites the burner.

ZOFIA applauds.

JONATHAN opens the kitchen drawer and pulls out a MEAT CLEAVER.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

REVERSE ON LINDA - she GASPS!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LINDA'S POV - ZOFIA is slapping KERI awake. KERI stirs from her nightmare to discover she's living a nightmare! Her assailants stand over her. She SCREAMS! ZOFIA strikes her hard across the mouth. Blood sprays across the table.

ZOFIA turns to the HALLWAY and shouts to LINDA.

ZOFIA
Bitch!? I know you can see us. You
hear me bitch?!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

REVERSE ON LINDA - she muffles a SCREAM.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LINDA'S POV - ZOFIA slinks into the hallway.

ZOFIA
(to Linda)
I know you can see us.

Silence.

ZOFIA
(to Linda)
If you don't open this fuckin' door
we're going to chop up your friend
here.

Linda says nothing.

ZOFIA
(to Linda)
You're friend's going to pay the
price for your selfishness.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

REVERSE ON LINDA - filled with rage, she yells at ZOFIA.

LINDA
Don't you touch her, you fuckin'
maniacs!

LINDA peers out the KEYHOLE...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LINDA'S POV - ZOFIA is gone!

LINDA turns her attention to KERI at the table. A horrible visage. Her mouth smashed, her cheeks bruised black. KERI struggles to stay conscious. LINDA can't bear to watch.

Suddenly...

A sinister EYE-BALL pops up on the other side of the KEYHOLE!

...It's ZOFIA.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA jumps back, CRASHING against the foot of the bed.

ZOFIA O.S.

You know you can't stay in there forever. Eventually you've got to come out, and we'll be waiting.

Silence.

ZOFIA O.S.

...in the meantime we'll have to play with your friend here.

The EYE-BALL disappears. LINDA pulls herself up and moves to the door. She peeks out KEYHOLE.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LINDA'S POV - JONATHAN stretches out KERI'S arm, and holds it at the wrist. He raises the MEAT-CLEVER!

LINDA

(screaming)

NO.....!!!!!!!

LINDA'S POV - JONATHAN brings the blade down on KERI'S wrist...

THUD!

CRACK!

...a geyser of blood shoots out across the table. KERI, wide-eyed, unbelieving, brings her stump up to her face and glowers at it. JONATHAN picks up the severed HAND and discards it like trash. SLAP! It hits the floor.

KERI SCREECHES!

ZOFIA HOWLS manically, jumping up and down with glee!

LINDA
(to herself)
Oh, Keri...No...No...

LINDA'S POV - JONATHAN is not done, he pulls KERI up by the wrist and plunges her bloody stump into the lit stove. KERI reacts wildly. She tries to scream, but she's lost her voice. JONATHAN pulls her wrist from the fire - the wound cauterized. KERI passes out. She drops head first into the table, FLIPPING IT, and CRASHES hard against the floor.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA can take no more, she drops to the ground, sobbing.

ZOFIA O.S.
...Linda? Hey, I know you're there!
You listening? How'd you like the
show?

Silence.

ZOFIA O.S.
Let me tell you what we're going to
do if you don't come out.
(beat)
Next time we cut off her left hand,
then maybe her ears. Who knows,
maybe a tit? Every time we cut off
a piece we'll cauterize the wound.
You see, we intend to keep her
alive for as long as we can.
(beat)
The longer you stay in there, the
more she suffers. Come out, and
we'll make it quick - for the both
of you. You won't feel a thing.
(beat)
It's your choice.
(beat)
Either way, tonight you die.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - LATER

A cool blue mist has settled. The black of night seems to be tightening its grip on the isolated house.

WE MOVE slowly up the porch steps and to the front door...

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE passed the up-turned couch and into the KITCHEN...

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE over a severed hand and passed KERI'S still unconscious body...

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE down the hall stopping just outside a bedroom door.

There is no sign of ZOFIA.

There is no sign of JONATHAN.

All is quiet.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA scans the hallway through the KEYHOLE. Nothing. No one.

LINDA stands, and circles the room. She's thinking...trying to find a way out. She turns around, and glowers at the large bedroom window. She moves to it, and pulls it open. She pushes against the STORM SHUTTERS with all her might but they don't budge.

Frustrated...exhausted...LINDA gives up and collapses to the floor.

LINDA
(to herself)
Pathetic!

LINDA, crying, looks up to the heavens and pleads for mercy when she notices...

...an ATTIC DOOR above the bed.

LINDA rises up off the floor, and climbs onto the bed. She reaches up and pulls on the ATTIC door. CRACK! It opens. Dust falls. LINDA COUGHS. She slides the door away, and carefully peeks her head in...

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

Black.

No windows. No light.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA drops from the attic.

LINDA
(to herself)
Light...?

She searches the room... flashlight... No luck... lighter... zilch... she rifles madly through her belonging but finds nothing.

LINDA
(to herself)
Shit.

She gives up, and sits on the edge of the bed when she notices her cell-phone. LINDA flips it open. The LCD screen gives off a blue-green glow. She smiles.

LINDA gets back on the bed and peers into the attic.

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

LINDA pops her head through the opening. It's too dark to see. She carefully pokes the cell-phone through the attic door and SCREAMS...

A WOMAN is peering back at her!

...It's an old dusty MIRROR. LINDA jumps at her own reflection. She cringes at her image, she's looks like shes aged ten years.

LINDA pushes the mirror over. It crashes to the floor, and SHATTERS.

LINDA
(to herself)
Great. That's all I need.

She uses what little light the phone affords to search the attic for a way out.

The attic is long and narrow, cluttered with boxes and the like. There is no window. No way out.

LINDA
(to herself)
Goddammit!

LINDA is about to give up when she notices a single SIGNAL BAR on her phone.

LINDA
(to herself)
Oh, Jesus, thank you.

She dials 911.

OPERATOR O.S.
911. What's your emergency?

LINDA
Please. God. Help me!

OPERATOR O.S.
Calm down ma'am. Tell me what's wrong?

LINDA
We've been attacked.

OPERATOR O.S.
Someone attacked you?

LINDA
Yes. They cut off Keri's hand!

OPERATOR O.S.
Someone's hurt?

LINDA
Please! Hurry! They're going to kill us!

OPERATOR O.S.
I'm going to send an officer right
away. Were are you located?

LINDA
It's a rental house. It's off Rural
Road 12. About 80 km north of
Benton! Please! Hurry!

OPERATOR O.S.
I'm dispatching them now. Please
stay on the line. They'll be there
in twenty minutes.

LINDA
Hurry. Please.

OPERATOR O.S.
Just find...
(static)
safe...
(static)
place..Hide...

The signal bar fades and the line goes dead.

LINDA
Fuck!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA drops from the attic and onto the bed. She clutches the
cell-phone to her chest.

LINDA
(to herself)
Please God let them be on their
way...please...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

LINDA is sitting with her back to the WARDROBE. She waits.

KNOCK-KNOCK!

Someone is at the door.

LINDA peeks out the KEYHOLE.

INT. HALLWAY/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Her eye roams the hallway and kitchen. No one is there.

KNOCK-KNOCK!

LINDA
(shouting)
Leave me alone! Go away!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA pulls away from the KEYHOLE.

KNOCK-KNOCK!

LINDA
(shouting)
I've called the police! They'll be
here any minute!

Silence.

She moves back to the KEYHOLE and peeks out when suddenly...

An ICE PICK scuds toward her eyeball!

...she pulls away, but the PICK catches her cheek and cuts in deep.

LINDA SCREAMS!

She tumbles to the ground clutching her face. Blood seeping between her fingers.

ZOFIA O.S.
(shouting)
Open the door!

LINDA
(shouting)
Fuck you!

ZOFIA O.S.
God help you if you called the
police!

LINDA
(shouting)
I did. I called them and they're on
their way!

Silence.

SMASH!

ZOFIA has rammed ICE-PICK into the door jam and she's using it pry it open.

LINDA jumps up and bolts for the door. She throws herself against the WARDROBE. WHACK! SNAP! The ICE-PICK blade breaks, and hits the ground.

LINDA picks up the broken PICK and holds it in her hand. She brandishes it like a weapon.

SHATTER! CRASH!

LINDA, panic-stricken, turns around like lightening and faces the window. JONATHAN is wildly HACKING at the STORM SHUTTERS from outside the house.

LINDA moves to the windows, PICK in hand, and readies herself.

The SHUTTER pries open a half-inch.

LINDA does not hesitate...she jams the blade into the opening.

JONATHAN O.S.
Fuckin' bitch! My eye! My eye!

JONATHAN'S SCREAMS are maddening.

LINDA pulls back the blade. The tip is scorn with blood.

SMASH CUT TO -

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The mist has grown thicker. The atmosphere more ominous. Off in the distance a set of headlights cuts the dark and casts shadows across the front of the summer house. A POLICE CRUISER pulls up the drive and comes to a stop just out front.

C.U. - on the door insignia. BENTON POLICE DEPT. *To serve and protect...*

The SHERIFF, late 60's, a severe presence stalks out of the car, and draws his revolver. He's an old codger of a man, wearing a sour face that reveals he's been doing this job far too long.

SHERIFF

You better bring the shotgun.

The DEPUTY, early 20's, a rookie, does what's asked and pulls the rifle from the car. He steps up next to the SHERIFF.

DEPUTY

It looks quiet.

SHERIFF

It always looks quiet. That's how they get you.

(beat)

Be ready for anything.

The two men move to the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF steps inside the house and GASPS! It's a horror show. Blood everywhere. The Deputy steps in after him, and fights his gag-reflex.

SHERIFF

Jesus Christ...Mary mother of God...It's a goddamn massacre.

DEPUTY

I ain't never seen anything like this.

The SHERIFF moves into the KITCHEN.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF side-steps KERI'S severed hand and eyes the pool of blood collecting on the floor. He sniffs the air...the smell of burnt flesh fills the house.

SHERIFF

(to himself)

Someone's been cooking?

KERI is missing.

All is silent.

No one seems to be in the house.

DEPUTY

Is...Is that a...Hand?

SHERIFF

It sure as hell is.

DEPUTY

Holy shit.

SHERIFF

Holy shit is goddamn right.

(beat)

Now where's the poor sumbitch it belonged to?

The SHERIFF makes a move toward the hallway.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA is curled-up in the corner of the room. Her body trembling. Her eyes wild with fear and panic. She stops. Listens. Heavy footsteps are making their way down the hall toward her.

She gets up and crawls to the door. She presses her eye to the KEYHOLE and spies the SHERIFF stalking toward the door.

KERI is about to shout out for help when...

ZOFIA O.S.

Oh God help me! Please help me!

ZOFIA, outside, SCREAMS for help!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF and the DEPUTY turn and bolt out of the house.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA, trembling...shaking...stammering out of the dark... covered in KERI'S blood. A nightmare come to life. She drops to the ground...looks up...pleads for help. The SHERIFF and the DEPUTY coming running to her aide.

ZOFIA

Help me! Please!

DEPUTY
What happened?

ZOFIA
I was attacked. They killed my
friend. Oh God, help me!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA is frantically SCREAMING...she tries to warn the police.

LINDA
(shouting)
No...She's one of
them...Please...No!

LINDA braces her shoulder against the WARDROBE and pushes it away. She unlocks the bolt, opens the door, and runs out of the room...

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...right into JONATHAN'S arms.

A massive SCREAM erupt from her gut!

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF and the DEPUTY are comforting ZOFIA when they hear LINDA'S chilling CRY.

DEPUTY
You hear that?

SHERIFF
I think they heard that two
counties over.

ZOFIA eyes the house...she has to think fast.

ZOFIA
It's...It's Linda...My God, she's
alive...My friend is alive...help
her, please!

The SHERIFF draws his revolver and turns to his partner.

SHERIFF
You stay with her. I'm gonna check
it out.

DEPUTY

Will do.

The SHERIFF moves off toward the house. ZOFIA clutches at the DEPUTY. Her innocent eyes give nothing away.

CLOSE ON - The SHERIFF, he inches up the porch steps when suddenly...

The living room light goes out!

SHERIFF

(to himself)

Goddammit.

He pulls from his belt a flashlight and turns it on. He enters the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Total Darkness.

The SHERIFF uses his flashlight to cut a path through the black. He stops...numb...only his rapid breathing fills the space around him...it's too quiet.

SHERIFF

Hello?

Silence.

SHERIFF

This is the police. It's safe to come out.

He moves into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ON THE SHERIFF - He eyes the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF shuffles forward, gun drawn, eyes darting back and forth - searching.

SHERIFF

Hello?

GURGLE! COUGH!

LINDA O.S.
(weakly)
Please...

The voice is coming from the bathroom. The SHERIFF quickens his pace and moves to the door.

LINDA O.S.
(weakly)
...help...

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF stands in the doorway. A look of terror on his worn face.

SHERIFF POV - We see LINDA, her mouth smashed, drenched in blood, lying on her stomach on the cold tile floor.

LINDA
...she's the one...the girl
outside...she's the killer!

The SHERIFF, panicked, turns and shout out to his DEPUTY.

SHERIFF
Bruce! Bruce! She's one of them!

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF'S voice echoes outside the house.

SHERIFF O.S.
Bruce...Arrest her...Bruce!

The DEPUTY takes a step forward. ZOFIA moves behind him.

DEPUTY
What? I can't hear you!

SHERIFF O.S.
...she's the one...

ZOFIA, thinking quickly, precisely, steps up behind the DEPUTY, reaches into his holster and grabs his gun. She places the barrel against the back of his head and pulls the trigger.

BLAM!

The DEPUTY'S face EXPLODES in a cloud of pink mist. His body drops to the ground with a THUD! A cloud of dust rises.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The gun shot echoes throughout the house.

SHERIFF
Jesus fuckin' Christ! Bruce?!

The SHERIFF bolts from the bathroom and into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He runs through the kitchen, gaining speed, and jets into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The SHERIFF comes running into the living room and face to face with...

JONATHAN!

...he Tries to pull up, but slips...slides...on the bloody floorboards....landing hard...his gun skips across the room.

SHERIFF
Fuck!

The SHERIFF looks up to see...

JONATHAN standing over him.

...JONATHAN raises his boot over the SHERIFF'S head and STOMPS repeatedly!

CRACK-SMUSH!

CLOSE ON - ZOFIA, standing in the doorway, laughing hysterically.

ZOFIA
God, I love you.

She steps inside.

ZOFIA
Now let's gut that bitch!

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

LINDA, realizing she's on her own, fights viciously to get on her feet. She rises, pulls the ICE-PICK blade from her waist band, and sinks into the shadows.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA moves into the hall. A sinister grin on her pretty face.

ZOFIA
It all over now, Linda.

Silence.

ZOFIA
I'm going to enjoy ripping you up,
bitch!

She stalks forward, stopping outside the bathroom door.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA'S POV - A pool of blood on the tile floor is the only indication LINDA was ever here.

ZOFIA
You wanna play hide and seek?

Silence.

ZOFIA
Fine. Let's play.

ZOFIA starts ripping the room up, overturning furniture in a mad fit of rage when she notices the shower curtain drawn. She smiles, tears back the curtain...

ZOFIA
Ah-hah?!

Nothing. No one.

ZOFIA
Shit!

She backs out of the bathroom, and into the hallway...

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ZOFIA calls out to JONATHAN.

ZOFIA
You didn't break her back?

JONATHAN
What?

ZOFIA
She's gone you fuckin' idiot! You didn't break her back?!

JONATHAN
I... I mean...There was no time!

ZOFIA
Fuckin' moron!

Suddenly...

LINDA strikes from behind!

...pulling ZOFIA back by the hair...pushing the PICK against her neck...a trickle of blood runs down her chest.

JONATHAN goes wild with rage!

JONATHAN
Let her go, bitch?!

LINDA
Don't you fuckin' move! I'll cut her, I swear to Christ I'll cut her fuckin' head off!

JONATHAN
Don't you hurt her!

He's foaming at the mouth....slightly staggering...starting to lose it!

LINDA
Stay back!

JONATHAN
Fuck! You fuckin' cunt! I'm going to cut you open and spill you're guts out! I swear to God!!! Don't you hurt her! Please! You bitch, I'll kill you!!!

ZOFIA
(to Jonathan)
What are you waiting for! Kill her!
She doesn't have the guts to do it!

LINDA digs the blade in. ZOFIA SCREAMS!

LINDA
(to Jonathan)
Look in my eyes!

JONATHAN does...there is a madness in LINDA cold stare...he's seen that look in ZOFIA'S eyes...she is a killer.

LINDA
You know I'll do what I have to!

JONATHAN backs away.

LINDA
Where's Keri?

JONATHAN wastes no time, he moves into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He throws open the closet door, and pulls semi-conscious KERI up by the arms.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

JONATHAN drags KERI into the hallway. She's in a blood-soaked daze. He pulls from his belt a HUNTING-KNIFE and holds it to her neck.

JONATHAN
Let her go, or I'll slit this
bitches throat!

LINDA kicks ZOFIA'S legs out from under her. She drops to the floor, hard. LINDA places the PICK point into her ear.

LINDA
She'll be dead before you can draw
your blade.

It's a Mexican-stand-off!

JONATHAN
I swear I'll kill her!

LINDA
Go ahead.

JONATHAN is frantic...confused...he looks to ZOFIA for help.

JONATHAN
(not so confident)
I swear I'll do her!

LINDA
Go ahead. Do it.

ZOFIA
She's bluffing.

LINDA smiles.

LINDA
(calmly)
She's fuckin' my husband.

KERI falls apart, crying.

KERI
(weakly)
I'm so sorry...pleases forgive me?

ZOFIA, panicked, looks to JONATHAN. His mind racing...calculating...he doesn't know what to do.

KERI looks to LINDA, then JONATHAN, and then back to LINDA again.

ZOFIA looks up at LINDA. An ice-cold chill run down her spine. LINDA and ZOFIA have a lot in common.

ZOFIA
(to Jonathan)
Let her go!

JONATHAN
What?

ZOFIA
Just let her go! Do it!

JONATHAN drops KERI.

LINDA
Now back away.

He does.

LINDA
We're going outside.

JONATHAN
Just don't hurt her!

LINDA
When we get to the cruiser I'll let
her go. Just back the fuck off.

LINDA pulls ZOFIA up by the hair, and they move forward.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LINDA and ZOFIA make their way to KERI.

LINDA
(to Zofia)
Help her.

ZOFIA
Fuck you!

LINDA pushes the PICK blade against ZOFIA'S jugular.

LINDA
Help her up.

ZOFIA does what's asked. She wrestle with KERI'S body,
picking her up of the floor, and the three women move on.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON - All three women make their way to the front door.

JONATHAN glowers at LINDA...they eye each other with
contempt.

LINDA
Back up!

JONATHAN smiles, steps into the shadows, and disappears.

LINDA
(to Zofia)
Keep moving!

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LINDA looks around. No sign of JONATHAN.

LINDA
Where the fuck did he go?

ZOFIA laughs.

ZOFIA
He could be anywhere.

The POLICE CRUISER is a few feet away. The engine still running. The emergency lights still on. LINDA pushes ZOFIA forward, KERI in tow.

The women reach the car. There's no sign of JONATHAN.

LINDA
(to Zofia)
Help her into the front seat!

ZOFIA pulls open the passenger side door, and lifts KERI into the car. She SLAMS the door shut.

LINDA
(to Keri)
Lock it!

Feebly, KERI pushes down on the lock.

KUCHUNK!

LINDA pulls ZOFIA around the car to the driver's side. She eyes the terrain...it looks safe.

ZOFIA laughs.

LINDA
What's so funny?

ZOFIA
You'll never make it!

LINDA
Oh yeah?

LINDA stabs the pick into ZOFIA'S leg. ZOFIA stumbles back, stunned, she collapses to the ground.

ZOFIA
Agggghhh! Fuck! I'll kill you,
bitch!

ON LINDA - as she digs her finger into ZOFIA'S leg wound. She cries out BLOODY MURDER.

LINDA
You're not killing anyone tonight.

LINDA opens the car door and jumps in.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

LINDA throws the car into DRIVE and turns to KERI.

LINDA
We're going to make it. Just hold
on.

KERI
(weakly)
I'm so sorry, Linda

LINDA
Shhhh...don't talk.

KERI
Forgive me? Please?

LINDA
I do.

C.U. - LINDA STOMPS on the gas peddle.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The POLICE CRUISER jumps...kicks up dust...and tears away
from the summer house.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

LINDA turns to KERI and smiles. The women are almost off the
property when...

JONATHAN pops-up in the back seat!

...he plunges a HUNTING-KNIFE into LINDA'S neck.

LINDA let's go of the wheel...the car spins out of control.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The POLICE CRUISER turns 180 degrees...heads straight for
ZOFIA...she's lying on the ground...unable to get out of the
way!

ZOFIA
Noooooooooooo....!!!!!!!

CRUNCH!

ZOFIA'S head explodes under the front-tire.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

ON JONATHAN, vicious and with everything he's got, he repeatedly PLUNGES the KNIFE into LINDA'S neck.

JONATHAN
Zofia! Noooooooo!!!!!! My Zofia! God,
nooooo!!!!

LINDA cries out...she reaches over and unlocks her door...she spills out of the moving car.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SPLAT!

LINDA lands face-first in the mud.

The POLICE CRUISER coasts slowly toward the tree-line before coming to a gentle stop a few feet away.

LINDA eases her self up....she holds her lacerated neck...in a sheer moment of fear she watches the car.

The back door opens...

JONATHAN steps out.

LINDA
(gurgling)
No...

JONATHAN moves to her. He draws his long serrated HUNTING KNIFE.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

KERI is still in the passengers seat. She can't move. She can't turn around. She watches JONATHAN approach LINDA through the rear-view mirror.

KERI
Oh, Linda! No!

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JONATHAN stands over LINDA.

LINDA
No...Please...I'm pregnant.

He kneels next to her, and pulls up her blouse.

LINDA
My baby...Please...I'm begging you,
for my baby. Don't do this?

JONATHAN runs his bloody fingers across LINDA'S freckled belly.

He smiles.

LINDA
For my baby's sake...Don't Kill
me...think of my baby's
life...please.

With KNIFE in hand, JONATHAN raises it over LINDA.

LINDA
No.

JONATHAN
You killed my baby.

JONATHAN brings the knife down quickly, SLASHING into LINDA'S womb.

JONATHAN
Now I've killed yours.

CLOSE ON LINDA - she does not scream...she does not cry out...a single tear runs down her cheek.

JONATHAN twists the blade before pulling it out, and then PLUNGES it back in.

LINDA
My baby.

LINDA winces in pain.

LINDA
My bab...

The light in LINDA'S eyes fade.

She's dies.

JONATHAN drops the KNIFE. He looks at his bloody-hands and cries out.

JONATHAN
Zofia!!!!!!!!!!!!

He wipes the blood on his pant-leg.

JONATHAN
My Zofia...

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

KERI SCREAMS!

KERI
Linda!!!!!!!!!!!!

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JONATHAN stands. His body tattered and bloody. He walks over to ZOFIA'S decapitated corpus.

JONATHAN
Zo...

He kneels down...takes up her hand...and caresses it.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

REVERSE ON KERI - unable to move...unable to turn around...she frantically searches for JONATHAN in the rear-view mirror...

He's dropped out of view...disappeared!

KERI
God help me?

Suddenly a SHADOW cuts the beam of the headlights.

KERI jumps!

KERI
No...

This is beyond nerve racking. KERI is crazy with fear.

KURCHUNK!

The back door...passenger side...opens ominously.

KERI struggles to turn her head...she can't...she eyes the rear-view mirror!

KERI
Please...don't hurt me...please!

REVERSE ON KERI - from behind her, a blood stained hand gently touches her hair.

FADE OUT:

In the abyss we hear...

JONATHAN O.S.
(soft whisper)
Keri...

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

WE MOVE - from the ramshackled bedroom into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE - down the blood soaked hall into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE - over KERI'S severed hand, past the pool of blood congealing on the floor and into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE - slowly over a long trail of dried blood leading out the front door.

EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE - over ZOFIA'S decapitated corpses...past LINDA'S eviscerated body...and toward the police cruiser.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

FINALLY...

WE MOVE - around the car toward the front seat...

KERI is gone.

Off in the distance is the sound of police sirens...

they come to late.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

FLASH BACK -

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

RYAN holds LINDA - post rape. He kisses her on the forehead.

RYAN
I get the feeling you're a little
mad?

LINDA does not respond.

RYAN
Come on. Don't be that way.

Silence.

RYAN
I didn't do anything you didn't
want me to...right?
(beat)
I mean, who are we kidding?

CLOSE ON LINDA'S FACE - it's no longer recognizable. There is something inhuman now about the features. Her expression is pure evil.

RYAN
What's wrong?
(beat)
Are you mad at me?
(beat)
For fuck's sake, say something?

LINDA pulls RYAN to her...she leans in...and whispers.

LINDA
(pure rage)
I hope you rot in hell.

LINDA raises a pair of scissors she's been hiding behind her back...

...and plunges it into RYAN'S neck.

RYAN spins around...his mouth open in speechless horror!

He drops to the floor - dead.

LINDA exits to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

She turns on the faucet and calmly washes the blood from her hands.

FADE OUT:

THE END.