

Female of the Species

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

JESSICA HAMMOND, a young woman with shoulder length brown hair in her twenties, stumbles through a dense, dark forest.

She is bleeding badly from several wounds. The remnants of her clothes are ripped to shreds, bloody, and very dirty. Jessica is covered in cuts and mud. She is exhausted.

Jessica falls and cries out in pain.

JESSICA
(in pain)
Ahhhh!

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

A forest clearing, bright and clear, with a small campsite composed of four tents and a neat little campfire in a fire ring.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Jessica struggles to her feet and tightens a bandage covering a bad wound on her upper leg. Fresh blood flows out from under the makeshift bandage. She winces in pain.

JESSICA
Shit!

She stumbles forward in the dark and trips over a tree root.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

The same forest clearing with the campsite as before, but the tents are torn apart. Women's clothes and personal items are strewn all about the area. Blood is smeared over several items that are strewn around the campsite.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Jessica rises to her feet once again. She picks up a branch from the forest floor and uses it as a crutch. She takes a few halting steps and moves through the forest again. It is getting lighter in the sky as dawn approaches.

EXT. WATCH TOWER - DAY

A fire watch tower in the same clearing as the campsite, on the opposite side of the clearing. The watch tower has a long rusted metal spiral staircase leading up around the tower. There is a small balcony surrounding the wooden structure, the station, atop the metal tower. There is a large bell hanging off one side of the watch tower.

Ominous MUSIC is heard.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Jessica crashes heavily against a tree trunk, absolutely exhausted and barely able to stand.

She stands again with a look of grim determination. She does not cry or flinch anymore.

EXT. WATCH TOWER - NIGHT

CLOSE UP: THE STATION ATOP THE WATCH TOWER, DISTURBINGLY CLOSE.

Loud SCREAMS of "No!" can be heard. MUSIC, jarring and unsettling, in the background, growing louder.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A claustrophobic forest trail, the trees pushing so close together that it is pitch black.

Jessica runs, less dirty than before, but completely drenched in blood. SCREAMS of "No!" echo behind her. The BARKING of dogs follows closely behind her, as well as the CRASHING of someone chasing her through the trees.

Jessica runs from view as a pair of dogs come bounding out of the dense forest, followed closely by a man's arm covered in blood, carrying a cruel knife that is still dripping blood.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Jessica walks out of the dense forest onto the road into the rising sun. She is bloodied, disheveled, and very tired. She moves slowly with the help of her makeshift crutch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA
I hate camping.

She limps wearily away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Five woman are packing items into an SUV.

TRICIA COVINGTON, a blonde woman in her later twenties, a business owner with an air of authority. She is dressed in designer clothes.

Jessica is a professional makeup consultant. Dressed as before in shorts and a shirt, but the clothes are nice and clean.

ARIEL WALKER, a pretty blonde girl in her early twenties, she earns a living as an EMT. She is dressed very simply.

INDEPENDENCE, "INDIE," is a butch woman in her mid-twenties with short, dirty blonde hair. She is an Army veteran. She wears a muscle tee-shirt and camouflage fatigue shorts.

NATALIE "NAT" ROBERT, a girl eighteen to twenty years old, with long black hair down her back. She is Indie's girlfriend. Natalie wears matching pink blouse and shorts.

The women are packing for a camping trip. They are laughing and making fun of each other. Jessica is struggling to fit a case into the SUV.

JESSICA
C'mon, move some of your crap. I need to put my stuff somewhere.

TRICIA
Give me a second, Jess. What do you have in that box anyway?

JESSICA
Just some of my...

ARIEL
(loudly interrupting
Jessica)
She brought her makeup! We are going to the woods and she's bringing her makeup!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

All the women laugh loudly at that. Jessica smiles and opens the box to show the others her makeup. It is an extensive makeup collection, something a professional makeup artist would have.

JESSICA

Even in the wilderness I have to look fabulous.

All the women laugh some more and continue packing the SUV.

NATALIE

Indie, are you sure you know where this place is? I didn't see it on the map.

INDEPENDENCE

Relax, Natalie. I was in the Army. I got the best training on how to get lost.

NATALIE

You know that I hate when you call me that, Independence.

INDEPENDENCE

I know, Nat, but you are so hot when you get angry.

Indie and Nat kiss passionately. The other girls try to ignore the two women kissing.

TRICIA

Break it up, you lesboes. That is not cheering me up.

INDEPENDENCE

(breaking off the kiss)
You have to admit that my Nat is a hottie.

ARIEL

We'll take your word for it.
(beat)
Her outfit is real cute though.

JESSICA

Now, now, young Ariel, are you going to start switch-hitting? Hmm?

ARIEL

(a little embarrassed)
I just said her outfit was cute!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL (CONT'D)

It doesn't mean that I want to push
up on her!

INDEPENDENCE

(mockingly angry)
You better not, you hussy! I'll
fight for my woman!

NATALIE

(with a bad southern belle
accent)
I do declare! All this fighting
over little ole me?! Girls, do be
proper!

All the women start laughing all over again. They finish
packing their camping gear into the SUV.

TRICIA

All you wenches, in the truck!
Let's go have some fun, dammit!

The women cheer and get into the SUV and drive off.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The SUV is traveling down the highway. Loud music is heard
from inside the SUV, the windows are rolled down. The women
are talking, laughing and singing. They are having a good
time.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

The SUV is jammed packed with the women and all the items
that they are bringing on their camping trip. The radio is
on.

Tricia is driving; Ariel is in the passenger seat; Jessica is
seated behind the driver; Nat and Indie are snuggling behind
the passenger seat.

TRICIA

What exit am I looking for?

ARIEL

I haven't been here before.

TRICIA

Look at the map.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

I can't read a map.

TRICIA

(annoyed)

How did you survive for twenty-two years and become an EMT without knowing how to read a map?

ARIEL

(hurt)

I - I...

Indie leans forward from the back seat.

INDEPENDENCE

(to Ariel)

Let me see the map, sweetie.

(to Tricia)

Don't be rude to Ariel.

Ariel hands the map over her shoulder to Indie.

TRICIA

I wasn't.

INDEPENDENCE

Yes, you were. Just because you got dumped by that asshole doesn't mean that you get to be a bitch. Now, apologize.

TRICIA

(taken aback)

I'm sorry, Ariel. I was being rude, I guess.

ARIEL

It's okay. I'm just a ditz.

TRICIA

Honey, you are not! I'm just bitchy 'cause Roger dumped me. Thanks for coming out here to cheer me up.

ARIEL

It's okay. I have no idea how to go camping, though. I'm just a damsel.

TRICIA

Listen, we are going to woods camping for a week. No men, just us. Like the girl scouts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

You can get in touch with your
inner butch.

Ariel giggles.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)

Keep heading north to exit 273. It
should be about sixty miles or so.

Indie leans back into the back seat.

Nat and Indie curl up again into each others' arms.

JESSICA

You lezzies just keep it ladylike.
Remember, I'm back here with you
two.

INDEPENDENCE

Are these ladylike enough for you?

Nat and Indie both pull up their shirts and flash Jessica.

JESSICA

(loudly and laughing)
Stop it! Stop it! There might be a
car going by!

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The SUV is traveling down the highway. Loud music is heard from inside the SUV, the windows are rolled down. The women are talking, laughing and singing. They are having a good time as the vehicle continues on the women's journey.

EXT. RANGER STATION - DAY

The SUV arrives and the women get out. Tricia has the map in her hands, trying to find exactly where they are. The girls are all standing in a small parking area in front of a forest ranger station.

ARIEL

This is it? Not much of a
wilderness.

Ariel stretches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

This is just the ranger station. We have to check in so they will know if we get lost or eaten by monsters.

ARIEL

(worried)

What do you mean monsters?

JESSICA

The usual kinds, lions, and tigers, and bears...

INDEPENDENCE

Oh my!

NATALIE

Oh my!

The women all start laughing again.

A FOREST RANGER enters silently behind the women, unseen by them.

RALPH WILDWOOD is a tall forest ranger in his mid to late thirties with close cropped brown hair. He is dressed in a forest ranger uniform, it seems to be too small for him.

RALPH

I use that all the time. Funny every time, ma'am.

All the women are startled and YELP.

INDEPENDENCE

Goddammit, you scared us to death! What the hell are you doing sneaking around back there?

RALPH

Sorry, ma'am. I was just returning from patrol.

TRICIA

You must be the attendant.

RALPH

Park ranger, ma'am. Ranger Ralph Wildwood, at your service.

Ariel and Jessica huddle together and watch Ralph and Tricia talking. Indie and Nat cuddle together near the SUV.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL
(whisper to Jessica)
He is all kinds of fine.

JESSICA
(whisper to Ariel)
Must be the uniform.

ARIEL
(whisper to Jessica)
Just to be sure, I'll get him out
of it and check.

JESSICA
(whisper to Ariel)
You are so bad!

Jessica and Ariel burst into laughter and the rest of the group looks at them, puzzled.

TRICIA
What are you two doing over there?

JESSICA
Nothing, just...

ARIEL
(adding quickly)
Girl talk!

Tricia turns back to Ralph.

TRICIA
We are going to be here for a week.
I want to be away from everybody
and everything.

RALPH
I know just the place. It isn't
really for the tourists. It's just
an old fire watch station that
hasn't been used in years.

TRICIA
That can hardly be called roughing
it.

RALPH
The station has a toilet and
running water, that's about it. I
was up there a few days ago and I
was VERY happy to find that the
bathroom still worked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA

I thought that you guys just need to find a tree or bush.

RALPH

That's true, but I enjoy washing my hands afterwards.

TRICIA

Okay, I'm sold. Where is this Shangri-la?

RALPH

I don't think that it is even put on the maps anymore.

Tricia opens the map. Ralph points on the map as Tricia looks on. She moves unnecessarily close to Ralph.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Yeah, just like I thought, it's not on the map. Come into the office, I got a better map of the area.

Ralph leads the way to the small office.

TRICIA

(loudly to the rest of the women)

I'm getting a better map.

Tricia follows Ralph into the office.

ARIEL

What the hell? I saw him first.

JESSICA

She needs this more than you, Ariel.

INT. RANGER STATION - DAY

The ranger station is small, with just one window, an old desk and even older chair. On the desk is an old transistor radio from the 70's. The only modern item, it seems, is a cell phone on the desk.

Ralph gets a map from a drawer in the desk. He spreads the map on the desk and Tricia looks on as he explains.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RALPH

Follow the main road for about sixteen miles North. When the road turns, you will see a gate and a fire road straight ahead going East. The gate isn't locked. Just shut the gate behind you when you go in.

Ralph looks up from the map and smiles at Tricia. Tricia smiles back and brushes her hair away from her face. She flirts a little with Ralph.

RALPH (CONT'D)

You'll go another thirteen miles on the fire road and then there will be an old footbridge. You'll have to leave your car on this side and cross on foot.

TRICIA

Now that sounds like a real wilderness hike. An old rickety bridge.

RALPH

(smiling)

Cross the bridge and keep going East. Your hike will be less than a mile to the station.

TRICIA

East? We are women you know.

RALPH

Take this. Easy enough.

Ralph produces an old brass compass from another drawer in the desk. He hands it to Tricia. His hand lingers with hers.

He notices bruises on her wrists, partially hidden with makeup. Tricia pulls her hand away, embarrassed.

TRICIA

Well, I should get the she-wolves back in the truck. Can I have your number in case we run into trouble?

Tricia smiles broadly at Ralph. Ralph looks slightly nervous and grins a bit.

RALPH

What is that on your wrists?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
Nothing, just bruises.

RALPH
From what?

TRICIA
Nothing.

Long silent pause.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
Something me and the ex were into.

Ralph smiles and puts his arm around Tricia.

RALPH
I am into things too.

Ralph produces a pair of handcuffs and quickly secures Tricia's hands behind her back.

He bends Tricia over the desk and pushes her pants and underwear down. Still behind her, he UNZIPS his trousers.

Tricia remains bent over the desk, her pants and undies around her ankles, completely submissive.

TRICIA
Oh God! It's been so long.

Ralph enters Tricia roughly and takes her with forceful thrusts from behind. Tricia's orgasm is immediate and she announces it loudly.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
God, fuck me like you own me,
Ralph!

Ralph pounds her even harder.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
I... can't... stop cumming!

After several more thrusts, Ralph stiffens and lunges forward into Tricia one last time.

RALPH
Take... it... alllll!

The two lovers collapse on the desk, still coupled.

EXT. RANGER STATION - DAY

Ariel and Jessica hear the unmistakable SOUNDS of sex from inside the ranger station.

The two have a silent golf clap and continue to mill around.

INT. RANGER STATION - DAY

Tricia and Ralph are straightening up their clothes and grinning at each other.

TRICIA

That was unexpected. Badly needed, but unexpected.

RALPH

My pleasure.

TRICIA

Not as much as it was mine. So can I have your number now?

RALPH

That won't do any good. No coverage in the forest, trees are too thick. The place you are going is an island.

TRICIA

I meant for our next date after the camping trip is over. But really? An island?

RALPH

(indicating on the map)
See, it's surrounded by a river on three sides and the lake on the other. My brothers and I used to hunt there.

TRICIA

If we get into trouble, there's no way out?

RALPH

There's a bell at the fire watch station.

TRICIA

A bell?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RALPH

Yeah. They used to use it to warn of fires before telephones. You can hear it for a good five or ten miles. It's a big bell.

TRICIA

So if we get into trouble, just ring your bell?

Tricia giggles at her own little joke.

RALPH

(doesn't get the joke)
Yep. I'll come and check on you in a day or two.

TRICIA

Can I still have your number, just in case?

Ralph has to check the cell phone, like he doesn't know the number.

RALPH

555-4357.

TRICIA

(Putting it in her phone)
...4357. Got it. Gotta go now, before the others send in a search party.

EXT. RANGER STATION - DAY

Ralph and Tricia exit from the office just as Indie is going for the door.

INDEPENDENCE

'Bout time. What happened, you get some?

Ariel and Jessica burst into laughter. Tricia blushes.

RALPH

Just showing Tricia here the best way to get to the campsite.

INDEPENDENCE

We can take care of ourselves, thank you very much.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RALPH

Still...

TRICIA

Forgive our token dyke. We'll be okay. If we have a problem we'll ring the bell or call. Thanks, Ranger Wildwood.

RALPH

Ralph, call me Ralph. It's my pleasure to have protected and served you.

EXT. FIRE ROAD GATE - DAY

The SUV pulls up to and stops in front of the gate at the fire road. The gate is old and very wide, but only chest high and made of old, rusted metal. Tricia, Ariel, and Jessica get out of the SUV. They approach the gate.

ARIEL

It looks ancient. You think it'll open?

TRICIA

I dunno, no promises.

JESSICA

(excited)

The gate is old, but the hinges have fresh oil on them. Give me a hand!

Tricia, Ariel, and Jessica all push on the gate. The gate is heavy, but open opens with some effort.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Bring the truck. Make sure the lezzies still have their clothes on.

Tricia walks to the driver's door and gets into the SUV. Jessica and Ariel move to the other side of the gate and prepare to push it closed.

ARIEL

If you don't like lesbians, why are you friends with Independence?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

I like Indie, despite the fact she's queer.

ARIEL

You sound just like my father, "I'm not prejudice, I just don't like blacks." That's just stupid.

JESSICA

I'm okay with the concept of gay women, but the reality of it, up close and personal, is difficult for me to deal with.

ARIEL

I don't understand.

JESSICA

Indie got drunk one night and hit on me.

ARIEL

What did you do?

JESSICA

Told her no, and chalked it up to her being horny and drunk.

ARIEL

You still hang out with her?

JESSICA

I like her as my friend, but I don't want to be her girlfriend.

ARIEL

I couldn't do that.

JESSICA

I'm okay with the way things are now. Don't worry about it.

ARIEL

Umm... okay. Did you see how Tricia was pushing up on that hot ranger guy?

JESSICA

Good for her. Roger was an idiot of dumping her, said she was too "bossy."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

She is, but I like her.

JESSICA

We all do. That's why we came out here. I hate camping, but Tricia loves it.

The SUV moves through the gate onto the dirt fire road. The road is very muddy and filled with old ruts and holes. Jessica and Ariel push the gate shut and get back into the SUV.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

The five women in the SUV, seated as before.

TRICIA

Shit! The road is crap!

All the women are jostled inside the SUV by the rough road.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

All we need now is to get stuck!

INDEPENDENCE

Just keep on the gas real steady. Try not to spin the tires.

(beat)

Do you have the truck in four-wheel drive?

TRICIA

(exasperated)

Yes, I'm not an idiot.

The women are jostled around in the SUV even more.

ARIEL

Maybe if we slow down...

JESSICA

(loudly)

No! Don't! Just keep your speed steady and steer to the left.

Tricia looks confused and hesitates.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Just do it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tricia steers the vehicle to the left, the left side tires jumping up onto the shoulder of the road. The ride smoothes out.

TRICIA

How the hell did you know that?

JESSICA

Daddy used to take me hunting with him. On dirt roads, you stay on the shoulder.

INDEPENDENCE

You want me to believe that our little makeup-nista is a gun toting woods-woman?

Jessica shrugs.

JESSICA

I learned from Daddy.

Tricia stops the SUV suddenly.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

No! Don't stop! We'll get stuck.

TRICIA

There's a fork in the road. Which way?

NATALIE

The ranger guy gave you the directions. Which way did he say?

TRICIA

He said head East. Which way is East?

INDEPENDENCE

If we had a compass...

TRICIA

Oh wait! Ralph gave me a compass!

Tricia digs the compass out of her bag.

INDEPENDENCE

Let me see that.

Indie snatches the compass out of Tricia's hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

Ralph?

TRICIA

(blushing)

The ranger guy. His name is Ralph Wildwood.

NATALIE

And I bet you want to go wild all over his wood!

ARIEL

If she hasn't already.

TRICIA

No! That is so bad! He was nice. He gave me his number.

INDEPENDENCE

You begged him for it.

TRICIA

Did not!

INDEPENDENCE

I saw you.

ARIEL

I still think he is fine.

JESSICA

You are all a bunch of horny sluts. My kind of girls.

All the women laugh.

TRICIA

So which way, Indie?

INDEPENDENCE

Take the right fork. That's East.

TRICIA

You're sure?

INDEPENDENCE

According to the compass your boyfriend gave you.

TRICIA

You guys! I was just talking to him, trying to be nice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

And flipping your hair, sticking your chest out. Jeez, Tricia, you did everything but unbutton your shirt and give him a lap dance.

TRICIA

(feigning indignation)

I don't know what you are talking about.

The women snicker and tease Tricia as she puts the SUV in gear. The SUV does not move.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

(sheepishly)

We're stuck.

ARIEL

Stuck?!

JESSICA

I told you not to stop!

NATALIE

What do we do now?

INDEPENDENCE

We push the truck out of the mud.

ARIEL

We're not strong enough.

INDEPENDENCE

Sure we are. Tricia, put it in low. Don't stop until you get to that dry patch up there.

EXT. FIRE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Tricia is behind the wheel of the SUV. The rest of the women are at the back of the vehicle, ready to push.

INDEPENDENCE

Tricia, when I say, push on the gas gently.

TRICIA

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

All right ladies, one - two -
THREE!

The four women start rocking the SUV front to back.

Suddenly, Tricia hits the gas and the SUV shoots forward out of the mud hole onto dry ground.

The four women in back of the truck fall face first into the wet mud. The four women SCREAM and CURSE loudly.

JESSICA

Goddammit, Tricia! She said to
wait!

Tricia steps out from the SUV laughing and pointing at the four women. The four women are covered in mud from head to toe.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Well, mud pack ARE good for the
skin.

NATALIE

Yeah, we should share this with
Tricia.

ARIEL

Get her!

The four mud covered women chase after Tricia.

Tricia YELPS and starts to run around the SUV to evade her pursuers.

Tricia slips and falls face first into the wet mud herself. She turns over.

INDEPENDENCE

I don't think that is quite enough.

Indie takes a handful of mud and drops it on top of Tricia's head.

TRICIA

Shit! Not in my hair!

Tricia looks at the filth that is on her clothes.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

Crap! This was designer!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

Get over it. We have to get moving
and set up camp before nightfall.

JESSICA

Right.

NATALIE

She always is.

JESSICA

Indie, do you just date women that
agree with you all the time?

INDEPENDENCE

Pretty much.

NATALIE

Hey!

INDEPENDENCE

(winking)

Don't worry, babe, there are other
reasons too.

The women get into the SUV and drive away.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - DAY

The women are all standing with backpacks on. They have the
remnants of the mud still all over them. The narrow
footbridge before them is of old wood and looks none too
sturdy. The river under the footbridge is swift, swollen, and
deep.

INDEPENDENCE

Your boyfriend did say it was an
old bridge.

TRICIA

He's not my boyfriend! I just met
him!

NATALIE

(smiling)

Whatever.

TRICIA

You guys! Stop it! It's
embarrassing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

That'll get them to stop for sure.

ARIEL

Guys, we're here to cheer her up, remember?

NATALIE

You got his number, Tricia, what's wrong with a fling?

TRICIA

I dunno.

(subdued)

Roger kinda ruined me for other men.

INDEPENDENCE

Girl, there will be other big cocks...

Tricia turns to Indie, disgusted.

TRICIA

How would you know anything about cocks? Besides, it's not that anyway.

ARIEL

You don't have to talk about it...

TRICIA

No - I should tell you all. Roger got me into the lifestyle.

NATALIE

(confused)

What lifestyle?

JESSICA

Bondage.

TRICIA

(shocked)

How did you know? I never told...

JESSICA

The bruises. You use makeup to cover them. I noticed. It's okay.

INDEPENDENCE

And I thought I was kinky!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

You are!

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The women are on the far side of the footbridge walking towards the opposite side. The footbridge over the swollen river is narrow and made of wood. It doesn't look like it has been used much and is in a terrible state of repair.

Indie leads the way onto the old footbridge. A loud GROAN comes from the old wooden structure.

Indie stops.

INDEPENDENCE

(worried)

Whoa! One at a time.

Indie crosses without further incident.

Natalie goes next and the footbridge CREAKS and GROANS with her every step.

Ariel follows, then Tricia, both with the same SOUNDS accompanying their crossings.

Ariel and Tricia move aside by themselves. In the background, Jessica is making way her very slowly across the footbridge.

TRICIA

I'm just afraid I'll never find a guy that'll give me what Roger did. Ralph did do me good back there in the office, but I don't know if it is real.

ARIEL

What do you mean?

TRICIA

It is hard to find a normal guy into the lifestyle without wasting months dating to get to the point where kinky sex can be discussed.

ARIEL

Yeah, that really isn't first date conversation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA

(in an excessively girly
voice)I want a rich, handsome guy, that
will tie me up, call me his whore,
and fuck my ass. All in a loving
way, of course. What's wrong with
that?

JESSICA

(laughing)

T.M.I.!

A very loud SNAPPING sound is heard.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(o.s.)

Help me!

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica standing in the middle of the footbridge, terrified.

JESSICA

I... I can't make it! I hate
heights!

TRICIA

(o.s.)

Don't look down! You can make it!

Jessica steels herself and takes one step forward and another
loud SNAP is heard immediately.

JESSICA

(hysterical)

I can't do this! I don't want to
die here!

TRICIA

(o.s.)

Stop! Take off your backpack!

ARIEL

(o.s.)

It's going to be okay.

NATALIE

(o.s.)

You're not going to die here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

(o.s.)

Don't worry, we'll get you.

EXT. FAR SIDE OF FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The women are all concerned, looking worriedly in Jessica's direction.

Indie takes charge of the situation.

INDEPENDENCE

Everyone, take off your belts.

TRICIA

Why?

INDEPENDENCE

Just do it!

TRICIA

Not until you tell me why!

INDEPENDENCE

We need to make a long rope to get her off the bridge.

ARIEL

How will a rope help?

INDEPENDENCE

If we lighten the load on the bridge, then Jessica can walk right off it.

Indie takes the makeshift rope.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)

(to Jessica)

Tie this to your backpack.

Indie tosses the makeshift rope to Jessica on the bridge.

TRICIA

(to Indie)

Get Jessica off the bridge first!

INDEPENDENCE

Then who wants to go back for the backpack?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The girls haul the backpack in and untie the rope. They toss the rope out again to Jessica.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)
Tie that around your belt.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica takes the makeshift rope and ties it to her own belt.

INDEPENDENCE
(o.s.)
Carefully come to us.

Jessica takes a cautious step and bridge GROANS loudly. She stops, frightened.

JESSICA
I can't! I can feel it giving way!

INDEPENDENCE
(o.s.)
Lay down! We'll pull you in!

Jessica lies down carefully on the bridge.

EXT. FAR SIDE OF FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The women all haul on the rope, slowly dragging Jessica onto solid ground. Jessica gets up, shaking badly. The women all hug each other and chatter happily.

TRICIA
Which way is East?

Indie looks at the compass.

INDEPENDENCE
(pointing)
That way.

TRICIA
Less than a mile Ralph said.

JESSICA
I don't want to see another bridge
for a month.

The girls hike away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA

Umm... won't we have to cross this thing on the way out?

INDEPENDENCE

There has to be another way back.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

The women walk out of the tree line into a small clearing. There is the base of the fire watch tower visible in the background. Dense forest surrounds the rest of the clearing.

TRICIA

(happily)

Finally!

NATALIE

(unimpressed)

...Ass end of nowhere.

INDEPENDENCE

Hush! This is perfect. Just us, time to unwind...

JESSICA

...Forget about collapsing bridges.

INDEPENDENCE

(laughs too loudly)

Now that's funny!

The rest of the group looks at Indie, unbelieving.

ARIEL

Let's get settled.

TRICIA

I want to wash up first.

The rest of the women echo that sentiment and look around for the facilities. They see nothing and look confused.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

(confused)

Ralph said there was a bathroom...

Indie suddenly points up to the fire watch tower and the small wooden station perched upon the old rusted metal tower.

INDEPENDENCE

Up there!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The women crane to see where Indie points.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)
I'll go check it out.

Indie breaks into a trot towards the base of the watch tower.
Nat takes off after her.

NATALIE
No! Me first!

The two end up racing to the tower. Indie gets there first
and Nat follows her up the rusted metal spiral stairs to the
top.

INDEPENDENCE
(o.s. happily)
There's a shower! With hot water!

JESSICA
It had to be in a tower and not on
the ground!
(beat)
I don't think we'll see the lezzies
for a good long while.

ARIEL
They wouldn't.

GIGGLES are heard coming from the watch tower.

TRICIA
They are.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Jessica, Ariel, and Tricia are setting up the tents. Jessica
even puts up a tent for Indie and Nat.

JESSICA
The lezzies better save some hot
water for the rest of us.

INDEPENDENCE
The lezzies did.

Jessica jumps, startled. She turns around to find Indie and
Nat, topless, holding each other close.

JESSICA
Jesus! Put some clothes on!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Why? We're all women here.

INDEPENDENCE

No one else is around.

JESSICA

Because it is polite.

Nat and Indie begin to put their clothes on.

NATALIE

A woman not comfortable with the
naked body can't be a good lover.

INDEPENDENCE

(cheerily)

I'm a great lover.

JESSICA

Hanging your tits and ass out just
means that you don't think you have
anything else to offer.

NATALIE

(upset)

You don't know me!

INDEPENDENCE

(also upset)

No, you don't know her! She's MY
lover! Who are you to judge her?

JESSICA

I know that you two came here to
have fun, but we all came out her
for Tricia. She doesn't need you
two fucking in front of her when
she just got dumped.

INDEPENDENCE

(subdued)

Oh.

NATALIE

(still upset)

No, that doesn't excuse what she
said about me, about us!

INDEPENDENCE

Let it go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

No, I won't. She isn't your friend
Independence, can't you see that?

INDEPENDENCE

She has been there for me Nat, long
before you ever were.

NATALIE

The why don't you fuck her then?

INDEPENDENCE

She won't have me...

JESSICA

And yes, she tried.

NATALIE

(very upset)

You came out here with me to make
her jealous!

JESSICA

Where did you find this one?

NATALIE

Shut up!

INDEPENDENCE

Nat, you are my girl, and I love
you, but don't make me choose
between my friends and you.

Nat pouts.

Indie moves to console Nat.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)

Right now we all need to be here
for Tricia.

Nat is calmed down and nuzzles up to Indie.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

The women are all sitting around a campfire now, eating. They
are all cleaned up and in fresh clothes.

ARIEL

Now spill, I want to know all about
this bondage stuff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The women all giggle.

TRICIA

Well - I liked to be tied up during sex. I like it rough.

ARIEL

Why?

JESSICA

Ariel!

TRICIA

It's okay. I just like the feeling of being out of control, afraid and excited.

INDEPENDENCE

Tricia, c'mon. You own a company. You have twenty people making purses for you. That is control.

TRICIA

Exactly! When I get laid, I want to be out of control. I am submissive. I need to be helpless to get off.

ARIEL

Get off?

NATALIE

Orgasm, Ariel, orgasm.

JESSICA

I have to be equals in bed.

INDEPENDENCE

Not like I do.
(winks at Nat)

JESSICA

You are so bad! You know what I meant.

TRICIA

Just letting go and being used for a man's pleasure.

ARIEL

That just sounds humiliating. But it sounded like the ranger guy gave you what you needed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA

It's primal. The rush, the intensity, the pain. And yes, he did, for a quickie.

JESSICA

Pain? I don't enjoy pain at all. Deep penetration is too much for me.

ARIEL

Still, it's demeaning.

TRICIA

Not if I want it that way.

JESSICA

But I thought you said it was all about being used for his pleasure, not yours?

TRICIA

I know it's weird to think about it. My pleasure comes from focusing on his pleasure and ignoring my own. Then I have multiples.

ARIEL

Orgasms?

TRICIA

Yes. Big time.

ARIEL

Where can I sign up for this?

INDEPENDENCE

Slut.

ARIEL

Dyke.

INDEPENDENCE

Thank you.

TRICIA

When Roger bit me the first time, I had my first real orgasm, the best I ever have had.

ARIEL

He bit you? Where?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
Everywhere. My tits, my neck, my
legs.

INDEPENDENCE
Kinky.

TRICIA
(quieter)
My clit.

All the women whistle and hoot at Tricia.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
The most erotic thing, the thing I
fantasize about every day, Roger
used to bite my hands, my fingers.
It was so amazing.

Tricia shakes off a dreamy look and focuses on the moment.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
Like I said, it was liberating.

JESSICA
Liberating? I don't think that
Gloria Steinem would approve.

TRICIA
I support the One Free Grope.

The women all laugh some more.

There is movement in the tree line and two men, MCKINZIE and BAXTER step into view. Both appear garbed as hunters, with backpacks and have old shotguns held loosely in their hands.

The women notice the movement and look to see the men stepping into the clearing.

McKinzie is a tall man, powerfully built, about twenty-five years old, with shoulder-length brown hair and a dirty brown beard.

Baxter is a squat, fireplug of a man, in his early twenties, bald, with very bad teeth.

McKinzie and Baxter just stand there, staring at the women.

JESSICA
Guys, we kinda found this spot
first. Can you, you know, find
somewhere else?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

McKinzie and Baxter just stare.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hello?

McKinzie and Baxter are unmoved.

Jessica turns back to the rest of the women and shrugs.

INDEPENDENCE

Look, retards, go away!

McKinzie and Baxter spring forward, charging the women. They close the distance to the women in moments.

The women don't have time to react.

Baxter grabs Natalie by her hair and twists her backwards, off balance.

McKinzie raises his shotgun, covering the other women.

MCKINZIE

Bitch!

McKinzie hits Indie with the butt of the shotgun in her face. Indie goes down hard.

McKinzie continues to hit her in the face with the butt of the gun.

TRICIA

Stop! Stop! You'll kill her.

McKinzie stops hitting Indie, turns and slaps Tricia with the back of his hand. Tricia immediately becomes quiet. She holds her stinging face with her hands.

MCKINZIE

Get your asses against that tree!

The women are crying and move to the tree that McKinzie indicated. Indie remains motionless on the ground.

BAXTER

Tie the dyke up with them, Mac.

MCKINZIE

No shit, Bax.

McKinzie drags Indie over to the rest of the women by the tree. He produces a rope from his backpack and busies himself tying the women to the tree and each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Baxter still holds a crying Nat by her hair, keeping her bent backwards and off balance. He keeps his gun trained on the women.

JESSICA

Just let us go, we won't tell anyone, I promise.

BAXTER

You promise, huh? Guess that will make it all okay. What do you think, bitch?

Baxter begins to hit Nat in her abdomen brutally. Nat WAILS and GASPS for breath. Blood comes from her mouth.

ARIEL

Please stop! We'll be quiet! Please!

BAXTER

How we doing, McKinzie?

MCKINZIE

They ain't going nowhere.

McKinzie stands. The women around the tree are all tied securely, unable to move.

BAXTER

Let's take this one to the station.

MCKINZIE

'Bout time. I want me a piece of that one.

McKinzie and Baxter move to the fire watch tower, dragging the barely conscious Nat with them, by her hair. They climb the old metal spiral staircase to the watch station.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

The women are all tied around the same tree. HOOTING and HOLLERING can be heard from the two men in the watch station. CRIES and begging are heard from Nat within the watch station.

TRICIA

We have to do something?

JESSICA

Like what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
First thing, get loose.

ARIEL
How do we do that?

TRICIA
Gimmee a minute.

Tricia struggles a bit against the ropes holding her. Slowly she is able to work first one hand loose, then the other.

JESSICA
How in the hell did you pull that off?

TRICIA
Thank God for kinky sex.

ARIEL
How is Indie?

Tricia bends down to check on Indie's condition. She rouses the unconscious Indie.

INDEPENDENCE
Wha... What happened? Where's Natalie?

TRICIA
First thing first, we need to get you untied.

INDEPENDENCE
I can't see!

TRICIA
Shh. Your eyes are swollen shut. You'll be okay.

ARIEL
Get me loose and I can help her.

Tricia unties the others.

Ariel moves to help Indie.

As the others move away from the tree that they were bound to, Tricia finds her cell phone in her backpack.

JESSICA
What are we going to do? They'll rape and kill us all!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tricia sees that her cell phone has one bar of signal. She dials Ralph Wildwood's number.

INT. RANGER STATION - DAY

The interior of the forest ranger station from earlier. A cell phone is on the cluttered desk. The cell phone begins to ring, the cell phone is on vibrate. It vibrates there on the desk unnoticed.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Tricia standing with her cell phone to her ear. The rest of the women, except Nat are in the background, freeing themselves from the remnants of the ropes.

TRICIA

C'mon, c'mon. Pick up. Pick up.

RALPH

(o.s.)

Hello...

TRICIA

Ralph! This is...

RALPH

(o.s.)

Please your number and...

TRICIA

Goddammit, voice mail!

(beat)

Ralph! Tricia at the campsite! We need help!

The cell phone makes a strange sound. Tricia looks at the display of the cell phone.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no! Fucking no signal!

JESSICA

Did you get through?

TRICIA

I don't know. Doesn't matter, we're getting out of here.

The women huddle together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

Now what?

INDEPENDENCE

We get Natalie and kill the fuckers!

JESSICA

But they have guns. They don't even have to be good shots with shotguns.

TRICIA

Yeah, so what? Lure them out somehow?

ARIEL

Wait! Shh!

The women all stop talking and listen.

INDEPENDENCE

I don't hear anything.

ARIEL

Exactly. Shouldn't we hear Nat?

TRICIA

She's in sub-space.

INDEPENDENCE

What the hell is that?

TRICIA

When a submissive reaches a certain point of pain, they shut down, stop reacting.

INDEPENDENCE

I hope you're right. I hope she isn't dead.

TRICIA

We're going to get her. We're not leaving Natalie behind.

JESSICA

We should hide in the trees until it gets dark.

INDEPENDENCE

I still can't fucking see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

I can fix that. It will hurt.

INDEPENDENCE

I don't fucking care anymore.

TRICIA

Let's get to the trees first.

ARIEL

Get my bag.

The women gather up Ariel's backpack and move towards the trees. Ariel guides Indie, who still can't see.

BAXTER

(o.s.)

Bitches! Get back here!

TRICIA

Run!

The women take off at a run for the tree line.

Jessica stops and runs back toward the campsite.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

Jessica!

Jessica looks around on the ground. She finds her large makeup kit, takes it and runs back to the tree line.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

Drop the makeup and run! They are almost down the stairs! Run!

BAXTER

(o.s.)

You can't get away, you fucking bitches!

Jessica makes it to the tree line with the other women.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The women are out of breath. The trees around them are dense and it is getting dark quickly as evening descends.

TRICIA

What were you thinking? You risked us all for your fucking makeup?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

Be quiet, I have to concentrate.

Ariel takes from her backpack a first aid kit. From it she extracts a scalpel, some sterile gauze, and some antiseptic. She wipes the antiseptic on Indie's face, around her eyes.

ARIEL (CONT'D)

This will hurt a lot and you need to stay quiet.

Ariel places the scalpel under Indie's eye with the gauze beneath the blade.

ARIEL (CONT'D)

On three. One...

Ariel slices into the swollen flesh. Indie tenses and HISSES in pain. Blood flows profusely from the cut, but the swelling goes down around the eye quickly.

ARIEL (CONT'D)

One more.

The same procedure is completed on the other eye.

TRICIA

Why the hell did you go back for your makeup?

JESSICA

Here, I'll show you.

Jessica opens the makeup kit and begins applying makeup to her face, dark green, brown, and black in a camouflage pattern.

TRICIA

Saved by fucking Maybelline.

The women all begin to camouflage their exposed skin with Jessica's makeup kit.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Two pairs of boots walking through the forest. They are moving deliberately.

MCKINZIE

Any sign?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAXTER

It's too dark to see sign.

MCKINZIE

What do we do now?

BAXTER

One more circle, then we go get the dogs.

The two pairs of boots stop. Behind them, in the underbrush, the women are hiding, their faces and bodies camouflaged.

MCKINZIE

You don't think they'll find the road while we're gone? I could stay here.

BAXTER

No, you'll just go and tear you off another piece of that sweet thing back at the station.

MCKINZIE

(laughing)

She is some sweet young thing though, ain't she?

BAXTER

(laughing)

Yeah, but there'll be plenty more of that later after we find the rest of them bitches.

MCKINZIE

Okay, but I get firsts next time. No more sloppy seconds for me.

BAXTER

We'll see.

The two pairs of boots walk away.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The women stand. They are all camouflaged with the makeup.

INDEPENDENCE

We go back to the tower and get Nat loose before those fuckers get back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL

Which way? I got turned around out here in the dark.

Indie pulls out the old compass and looks at it.

INDEPENDENCE

(points)

East is that way. We were moving West away from the camp, so East.

Indie begins to move off in the direction that she indicated. Jessica grabs her arm to stop her.

JESSICA

Wait, you were half blind when we were running, how do you know which way we went?

INDEPENDENCE

I just know. My girlfriend is back there. I'm going to save her. You all can stay here if you want, I don't give a shit.

TRICIA

Don't be stupid, we're coming with you.

INDEPENDENCE

Do what you like, just don't slow me down.

TRICIA

I just hope that Ralph got that voice mail I left. If he gets here, we'll be safe.

JESSICA

What's he going to do, fine them for an illegal campfire?

TRICIA

Arrest them of course.

JESSICA

He's a park ranger, not a cop.

TRICIA

He's got a gun. That's good enough for me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

Stop it you two! Let's get Nat out.

ARIEL

Indie's right, we have to all get out of this.

Indie touches her face, gingerly, where Ariel had cut it to let the swelling go down.

ARIEL (CONT'D)

You'll have scars. I'm sorry.

INDEPENDENCE

I don't care anymore. I just want to get out of this damn forest alive.

The women all move off, following Indie. They are trying to move quickly and quietly, by the thick underbrush makes progress difficult.

JESSICA

We should find a trail.

INDEPENDENCE

You are welcome to try.

JESSICA

We made camp in a clearing. Animals naturally go there to graze. There must be a game trail nearby.

The women all spread out in a line and look carefully at the ground.

ARIEL

Over here! I think I found one!

The women all move towards Ariel. They all look on the ground where Ariel is pointing.

INDEPENDENCE

That is some kind of print. Can you recognize it?

Jessica kneels and examines the indicated print.

JESSICA

It's a wolf or dog track.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL
(scared)
They said they were going to get
the dogs!

JESSICA
We would have heard dogs long
before now.

Jessica stands.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Here's the trail. East?

Indie looks at the compass and points off towards the East.

INDEPENDENCE
That way.

The women start to walk in the direction indicated. They are
moving much faster now.

TRICIA
I'm calling you Sacajawea.

INDEPENDENCE
Knock it off. No jokes until we get
Nat back.

The women move off down the game trail in silence.

INT. RANGER STATION - NIGHT

Ralph enters the small ranger station. He crosses over to the
desk. He removes his gun from the holster on his hip and sets
the weapon on the desk, then sits in the chair. On the desk,
the cell phone vibrates and blinks periodically.

Ralph picks up a newspaper from the desk and begins to read.
It is an old newspaper, years out of date.

After a moment he reaches over and turns on the radio on the
desk and continues to read the newspaper.

The cell phone, unnoticed by Ralph, continues to vibrate and
blink every so often.

Around the office there are pictures on the wall showing
Ralph on hunting trips and the kills he has made of deer,
wild hogs, and birds. In every picture Ralph is kneeling and
smiling broadly with two men behind him, only their legs and
boots visible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ralph sits up and turns down the radio. He cocks his head as if he hears something. A slight BUZZING sound can be heard.

Ralph searches over his desk and finds the cell phone. It says one missed call on the screen. He presses some buttons on the cell phone and puts it to his ear.

Ralph grins and stands. He returns the gun to his holster and places the cell phone back on his desk.

Ralph crosses to the door of the ranger station and looks in the mirror that is on the inside of the door.

He adjusts his hat, his collar and his tie. He salutes himself in the mirror with a cocky swagger, winks, then exits the ranger station.

The cell phone on the desk rings again, still on vibrate mode.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The women arrive back at the campsite. They are just inside the tree line, looking at the clearing where they had pitched their tents. Their belongings are strewn all over the clearing. McKinzie and Baxter have ransacked all the tents and backpacks.

TRICIA

Looks like a herd of pigs has been through here.

JESSICA

Not far wrong.

INDEPENDENCE

You see the bastards anywhere?

TRICIA

Not out in the open, at least.

ARIEL

Should we just run to the tower?

JESSICA

I think we should go slowly. There might be traps.

TRICIA

The fuckers could be anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

I don't care. We have to get
Natalie.

Indie steps from the tree line fully into the clearing and
the other women follow, cautiously.

JESSICA

Easy, Indie. Go slow.

The women creep across the clearing, single file, to the fire
watch tower. They stop at the base of the tower and crouch
down, looking to the edges of the clearing.

INDEPENDENCE

Ariel, you come with me. Natalie
may be hurt and need your help.

JESSICA

Tricia and I will stay down here
and keep watch. I can't make it up
that tower again anyway.

ARIEL

What? Why?

JESSICA

I'm afraid of heights.

INDEPENDENCE

Fine. Whatever.

TRICIA

Just bring her down and we'll get
the fuck out of here, Indie.

INDEPENDENCE

That's the plan.

Indie and Ariel start up the spiral staircase to the top of
the watch tower. Jessica and Tricia crouch down and try to be
inconspicuous as they keep watch.

EXT. TOWER LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Indie and Ariel are climbing the rusted metal spiral
staircase up the fire watch tower. The staircase is old, but
very sturdy. It is a long climb.

ARIEL

How did they ever drag Nat up here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

By her hair. Bastards.

ARIEL

I hope she is able to walk.

INDEPENDENCE

Whatever condition she is in, we're getting her out of here.

ARIEL

Goes without saying.

INDEPENDENCE

Now be quiet, we're getting close.

ARIEL

(whispering)

Do you think that there are more of them?

INDEPENDENCE

(whispering)

I don't give a shit. We are getting out of here.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

At the base of the fire watch tower, Tricia and Jessica are still crouched down, keeping watch. The night is eerily quiet.

TRICIA

Once we get Nat back, then what?

JESSICA

If your boyfriend hasn't made it here by then, we go back to the truck.

TRICIA

Ralph isn't my boyfriend, yet.

JESSICA

Yet?

Tricia shrugs.

TRICIA

What about the footbridge?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

Can't be helped. I'll get across that damn bridge again, acrophobia and all.

TRICIA

You think that Natalie can make it that far?

JESSICA

She'll have to.

TRICIA

Did you hear something?

Tricia and Jessica hold their breath and strain to hear anything moving in the blackness around them. Far away they hear dogs BARKING and WHINING.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

The got the dogs. What do we do?

(beat)

The river! That'll throw the dogs off!

JESSICA

No it won't.

TRICIA

Getting in the water will hide our scent.

JESSICA

That's just a Hollywood myth. Dogs can follow old trails, over anything.

TRICIA

So what do you think we should do?

JESSICA

Get Natalie and run like hell. Damn the dogs, the bridge, and everything else.

TRICIA

God, Ralph, get here, please.

JESSICA

He's not going to be here.

TRICIA

Ralph? Why don't you think so?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

Not him. The other one, God.

TRICIA

Jess, I don't think this is the time for a debate on theology.

JESSICA

This may be the last chance we have.

TRICIA

But you always win.

JESSICA

Someone has to. God if he exists, is not here in this place.

TRICIA

I don't want to play this game with you now.

JESSICA

Seems like a great example for my argument, you have to admit.

TRICIA

Ain't it the fucking truth.

JESSICA

So you admit that I am right?

TRICIA

Okay. I believe that God is everywhere. This is not God's doing, it is those two assholes' doing.

JESSICA

But why did God allow those two to do that?

TRICIA

He gave them, and us, free will.

JESSICA

Strictly speaking, it was bad choice by the big guy.

TRICIA

Suffering is made by man, not God.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

But if we are made in His image...

TRICIA

Exactly! We have the same power of creation. Man created suffering.

Beat.

JESSICA

I think you won this one, Tricia.

TRICIA

Finally. They're getting closer.

The SOUNDS of the dogs grows louder and closer. Tricia and Jessica look up towards the tower.

INT. WATCH STATION - NIGHT

Ariel and Indie enter the watch station.

The station is small, old, and dark. There is a low bench near the door, but nothing else in the way of furniture in the room. There are windows on all four walls to look out over the forest. In the corner farthest away from the door, a blanket covers something.

ARIEL

Where's the light?

INDEPENDENCE

I don't know, but don't turn it on.

ARIEL

Why not?

INDEPENDENCE

The fuckers will see it. You watch the door, I'll get Nat.

Indie crosses to the blanket on the floor. Ariel keeps a lookout from the doorway.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Tricia and Jessica are still keeping watch. The SOUNDS of the dogs are very close now. Tricia and Jessica look around, trying to locate the direction of the sounds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
 (whisper)
 They're coming!

JESSICA
 (whisper)
 They're close, real close.

TRICIA
 (whisper)
 We need to warn them up in the
 tower!

JESSICA
 (whisper)
 No time! Shh!

Tricia and Jessica freeze. Slowly and silently they back away as the sounds of the dogs become very loud. Two pairs of boots walk back into view.

INT. WATCH STATION - NIGHT

Ariel is looking out of the doorway into the black night. Indie is by the covered mass that is in the corner opposite the door. Indie slowly reaches for the blanket. Pulling it back reveal Natalie's face. Natalie's eyes are closed with a pained look on her face.

INDEPENDENCE
 (whispering)
 Nat? Natalie?

Natalie does not respond. Indie inches the blanket lower to reveal Natalie's breasts. There are bruises and bite marks all over Natalie's neck and breasts. Indie begins to sob quietly.

ARIEL
 (o.s. whispering)
 Get her up, we need to leave!

INDEPENDENCE
 (whispering)
 Something's wrong.

The blanket slips lower and Natalie's intestines are hanging out. Lower, her legs and hips have been butchered and large portions of her flesh are missing from those areas.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)
 (loudly)
 Oh my God!

ARIEL
 (loudly)
 What? What is it?

INDEPENDENCE
 (sobbing loudly)
 She's dead. The fuckers ate her.

ARIEL
 (loudly)
 What?

Ariel crosses over to where Indie is standing and sees the remains of Natalie.

ARIEL (CONT'D)
 (SCREAMS)
 Ahhh!

INDEPENDENCE
 Shh! Shh! They'll hear and come
 back! Shh!

ARIEL
 (hysterical)
 I don't care! I don't care! I...

Indie slaps Ariel across her face.

INDEPENDENCE
 Shut the fuck up! Listen!

Silence fills the room. Faintly, the BARKING of the dogs can be heard.

ARIEL
 (still hysterical)
 They're here! They're gonna come up
 here and eat us too!

INDEPENDENCE
 Shut the fuck up!

Indie moves to the door with Ariel close behind her. Indie peers out the door. Ariel is chattering incoherently.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)
 They haven't made it to the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIEL
 (babbling)
 ...Sure to come up, then - dinner!
 (laughs insanely)

INDEPENDENCE
 The bell! We have to get the bell
 and ring it. The sound will scare
 them off.

ARIEL
 ...Just chunks in some redneck's
 poop.

Indie grabs Ariel and shakes her, trying to get Ariel to stop ranting.

INDEPENDENCE
 Ariel! Ariel! You need to ring the
 bell! I'll watch the stairs. Ariel!

ARIEL
 (lucid)
 Huh?

INDEPENDENCE
 Ring the fucking bell!

ARIEL
 Okay. I can do that.

INDEPENDENCE
 Then go!

Ariel and Indie leave the watch station with one last glance at Natalie's remains.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 I'm sorry.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

The two men, Baxter and McKinzie, are looking around the clearing and each has a hunting dog on a leash. The men no longer have their shotguns, but each carries a large hunting knife in his hand.

MCKINZIE
 The dogs got the scent, but they
 can't find them bitches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAXTER

This is where they were camped.
Their scent is all over.

MCKINZIE

But they got to be here somewhere.

BAXTER

Yeah, their trail ends here.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica and Tricia are hiding in some bushes behind a group of large rocks in the clearing.

TRICIA

(whisper)

They have knives. Both of them.

JESSICA

(whisper)

We have to draw them away from the tower somehow. Give the others time to get down.

TRICIA

(whisper)

How, exactly?

JESSICA

(whisper)

No idea.

The two women look around them and find some small rocks in the underbrush. Tricia and Jessica each pick up a stone.

TRICIA

(whisper)

Where?

JESSICA

(whisper)

The big elm over there.

TRICIA

(whisper)

Which one is the elm?

Jessica turns and makes an exasperated face at Tricia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA
 (whisper)
 Just throw at that big tree over
 there.

Jessica mouths "one, two, three," and the women both hurl their stones at the agreed upon tree.

Twin THUNKS on the tree.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Baxter and McKinzie both turn in the direction of the SOUNDS. Their dogs strain at the leashes and begin to BAY loudly.

MCKINZIE
 Over there! Towards the old bridge!

BAXTER
 The bitches went around us!

MCKINZIE
 Shut up and get them! I want the
 one with the big titties. Nice and
 soft.

BAXTER
 Share and share alike, Mac.

MCKINZIE
 You got all the good pieces off the
 last one. I'm going to have to make
 jerky out of that thigh meat it's
 so tough.

The two move off in the direction of the sounds that they heard, their dogs pulling at the leashes.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Tricia and Jessica carefully move out of their hiding place and start to cross over towards the tower. They keep low and move slowly and silently, keeping an eye on the direction that the two men went.

EXT. WATCH TOWER - NIGHT

Indie is at the top of the stairs, looking down. Ariel is leaning out from the railing, trying to ring the bell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INDEPENDENCE

What's the hold up? Ring the damn bell!

ARIEL

I can't! There's no rope!

Ariel kicks the bell. It remains silent.

INDEPENDENCE

Let me see. You watch the ladder.

The two switch places. Indie examines the bell. She sees a bit of rotted rope dangling from the bottom of the bell, out of her reach.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)

Ariel, I'm too short! See if you can reach that bit of rope!

The two switch places again. Ariel leans out and tries to reach the bit of rope that Indie pointed to. She can't reach the rope either. Ariel climbs over the rusted railing to the edge of the platform near the bell.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

ARIEL

(straining)

I can... almost...

Ariel reaches too far and loses her balance. She falls and grabs desperately at the small piece of rope.

She snatches the rope and swings with the clapper of the bell.

The bell rings making a loud BONG sound.

Ariel slips from the rope and falls to the ground, SCREAMING.

ARIEL (CONT'D)

(screams)

Ahhh!

INDEPENDENCE

(o.s.)

Ariel!

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Baxter and McKinzie have just about made it to the edge of the clearing with their dogs. They hear the BELL, Ariel's SCREAM and Indie CALLING Ariel's name all right after another.

They turn to see Jessica and Tricia in the middle of the clearing making their way back to the watch tower. The two men also see Indie, now racing down the watch tower stairs as fast as she is able.

BAXTER

What the...?

MCKINZIE

They're back the other way!

BAXTER

Don't let them get away this time!

MCKINZIE

Cut the dogs loose.

Baxter and McKinzie drop the leashes of their hunting dogs. The dogs race towards the women out in the open.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica and Tricia are frozen out in the open. They hear the SOUND of the bell, then see Ariel crash to the ground next to the watch tower.

TRICIA

They damn well heard that!

JESSICA

Run!

Jessica and Tricia run towards the watch tower and arrive at the base of the stairs just as Indie descends.

INDEPENDENCE

Ariel! Ariel!

JESSICA

Leave her, she's dead!

INDEPENDENCE

She's just hurt! I won't leave her behind!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

She broke her neck! She's dead!
Run!

The three women run as fast as they can to the woods behind the watch tower. The dogs are gaining on them fast. The BAYING of the dogs is very loud.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Jessica, Tricia, and Indie are running through the dark, thick woods with the hunting dogs close on their heels.

TRICIA

Get to the river!

JESSICA

Then what?

TRICIA

I don't know!

INDEPENDENCE

Fuck this!

Indie stops and turns, just as the dogs crash into her. Indie and the dogs fall into a heap, the dogs snapping and GROWLING. Indie CURSES, hits and bites the dogs.

One dog WHINES and WHIMPERS then lies still as Indie crushes the dog's windpipe. The other dog snaps to its feet and circles the bloodied Indie.

Jessica and Tricia stand apart from the dog and Indie engaged in the fight.

JESSICA

Leave the dog and run!

INDEPENDENCE

It'll lead those fuckers to us. I'm
killing this cur.

The CRASHING of Baxter and McKinzie coming through the woods begins to grow louder and closer.

JESSICA

We're leaving, Indie!

INDEPENDENCE

I'll catch up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The dog rushes Indie.

Indie allows the animal to bite her arm as she wraps her other arm around its head.

INDEPENDENCE (CONT'D)

Fuck you!

Jessica and Tricia turn and run away, leaving Indie fighting with the dog as the SOUNDS of the men approaching grow louder.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Jessica and Tricia are running through the woods.

TRICIA

Where are we going?

JESSICA

To the bridge I think.

TRICIA

You don't know?

JESSICA

I'm all turned around in these woods.

The women stop running and bend over to catch their breaths.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

We... need... to know where... we are going. I don't want to run into one of assholes's traps.

TRICIA

Indie had the compass. We could wait for her.

JESSICA

I don't think she is going to make it back.

TRICIA

Maybe we can get Ralph now.

Tricia pulls her cell phone from her pocket and holds it up to see the display.

TRICIA (CONT'D)

Fuck! Still no service!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In the distance, the sound of a dog HOWLING in pain is heard.

JESSICA
Maybe Indie will make it.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Indie stands over two dead dogs. Her arms are bleeding badly from bites. Her hands are completely covered in blood.

Baxter and McKinzie run up and see her standing over the two dead dogs.

BAXTER
One tough dyke.

INDEPENDENCE
Fuck you!

BAXTER
Maybe, but I'm still gonna eat you,
just like I did that little snatch
you were fucking.

Baxter and McKinzie both laugh.

Indie SCREAMS and runs towards Baxter with murderous intent.

As Indie nears Baxter, McKinzie stabs her in the back with his knife.

Indie staggers with a pale, blank face and turns towards McKinzie. She reaches behind her and pulls the knife from her own back and stabs McKinzie in the throat with the bloody knife, killing him.

She is WHEEZING, the wound she has received is mortal. McKinzie falls at her feet.

Baxter grabs Indie by the hair and the bloody knife clatters from Indie's hand to the ground.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
One really tough dyke.

Still holding her by the hair, Baxter slices Indie's throat.

He holds her up by her hair until she stops gushing blood.

Baxter carefully slices off one of Indie's ears, then eats it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAXTER (CONT'D)
Too bad, Mac. The dyke's tender. I
was going to let you have her
first.

Baxter finishes chewing the ear.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
More for me with you gone, Mac.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Tricia and Jessica are running down a narrow trail in the
tick forest.

JESSICA
Stop! Stop!

TRICIA
What?! Why?!

The women stop running. They are both out of breath.

JESSICA
We can't just leave Indie with
those fuckers!

TRICIA
I'm not going back! I'm going to
the truck and driving the fuck out
of here!

Jessica bends over to catch her breath.

JESSICA
You're going to leave her out here?
She would come back for you!

TRICIA
She'd be stupid to. We don't even
know if she is alive!

JESSICA
Until I see her corpse, she's
alive! Understand?!

Jessica stands up and looks hard at Tricia. Tricia does not
immediately respond, but tries to avoid Jessica's gaze.

Finally, Tricia turns to Jessica.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
Okay! We'll go back!

INT. WATCH STATION - NIGHT

Baxter is in the watch station with the corpse of Indie over his shoulder. He drops Indie's body next to that of Natalie.

Baxter unsheathes his knife and begins to sharpen it. He pulls Indie's leg to him and prepares to skin the corpse.

After a moment, Baxter spins around, startled by someone behind him.

BAXTER
Holy shit!

Baxter jumps away and ends up cowered in the corner next to the two corpses.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
You asshole!

Baxter stands as the off screen person LAUGHS. Baxter looks at the two bodies on the floor.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
Two here, one on the ground
outside, two are out running around
in the woods. This bitch stuck Mac
and bled him out.

Ralph kicks the body of Indie with his toe.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
Tough little dyke.

Baxter bends down and cuts the tongue from Indie's mouth. He slices the tongue in two and hands a piece to the off screen person.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
This part is tender though.

Baxter eats the piece of tongue in his hand.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
Damn. I don't know why, but tongue
always tastes the best. All muscle,
no fat.
(beat)
I left Mac where he fell.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Bastard was just too heavy to move.
It just seems a waste, leaving him
out there.

Baxter looks at the off screen person.

A long pause.

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, you're right. I
remember what happened the last
time we ate one of our own.

Baxter finishes his piece of tongue and wipes his mouth on
his sleeve, leaving a bloody streak on his shirt.

BAXTER (CONT'D)

Why don't you go find those two
strays? That's what you are good
at.

Baxter goes back to butchering the bodies.

BAXTER (CONT'D)

With these two cut up and you
bringing the others back, we eat
every night.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Tricia and Jessica are standing on a small patch of ground
that is covered in blood. At their feet is the body of
McKinzie, the knife still stuck in his throat.

TRICIA

Indie killed this one. Good.

Tricia kicks the body of McKinzie.

JESSICA

Or the other one turned on him.

TRICIA

Why would they turn on each other?

JESSICA

They're cannibals. Why do they do
anything? Food.

TRICIA

I don't want to think about that.
I'm just glad this one is dead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA
I want to know where's the other
one?

TRICIA
(worried)
You think that he left the body
here as bait?

Jessica looks around the small clearing. She stoops and feels
the ground.

JESSICA
No. The other one left. That way.

TRICIA
What about Indie?

JESSICA
I don't know, but there is a blood
trail that way also.

TRICIA
Maybe Indie hurt him?

JESSICA
If I know her at all, she did her
best to.

The women move off in the direction of the indicated blood
trail.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ralph is walking with a flashlight illuminating his way
through the forest. He picks his way deliberately. Every few
moments he stops and listens. He keeps adjusting his path to
the sounds that he alone seems to hear.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Jessica and Tricia are still following the blood trail. They
are moving quietly and carefully down the narrow trail.

TRICIA
This is a lot of blood.

JESSICA
It might be from cut in her scalp.
That'll bleed plenty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
I just hope Indie is alive.

JESSICA
If she were dead, there'd be no
blood to follow. Dead things don't
bleed.

Jessica suddenly freezes and motions for Tricia to do
likewise.

Jessica carefully drops to her belly and Tricia imitates her.

The women crawl forward slowly.

TRICIA
(whisper)
What is it?

JESSICA
(whisper)
We're back at the campsite. We made
a circle.

TRICIA
(whisper)
Did we get lost?

JESSICA
(whisper)
No, this is where the blood trail
leads.

Jessica looks around her immediate surroundings carefully.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(whisper)
And ends.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ralph is tracking something unseen. Ralph edges closer to his
quarry, but is very careful to remain hidden. He quietly
begins to move even closer.

Ralph steps on a twig and it SNAPS loudly.

Ralph drops to his knee and freezes.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Jessica and Tricia are lying prone on the forest floor. They hear a twig SNAPPING loudly, very close by.

Jessica moves closer to Tricia.

JESSICA
(whisper)
The other one is out there
somewhere, looking for us.

TRICIA
(whisper)
Should we hide?

Jessica strains to hear any other sounds from the woods.

JESSICA
(whisper)
No, he has the advantage out here.

TRICIA
(whisper)
We should go to the fire watch
tower. Ralph may be there.

JESSICA
(whisper)
But I can't get up there. I'm
afraid of heights.

TRICIA
(whisper)
You have to. Suck it up.

Jessica is silent. She looks hollow and beaten.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
(whisper)
I hope Ralph is there and brought
his big gun with him.

JESSICA
(whisper)
As long as we get out of here
alive.

The women make their way into the campsite soundlessly.

EXT. WATCH TOWER - CONTINUOUS

The women move quickly to the watch tower. There is a light visible up in the watch station at the top of the tower. The body of Ariel is no longer at the base of the tower.

TRICIA

Thank Jesus and three other white men I don't know! Ralph got here.

Tricia begins climbing the stairs up to the tower.

JESSICA

No, wait! We don't know who's up there! I can't, Tricia!

Tricia pauses and looks down.

TRICIA

Just look up and follow me.

Jessica does as Tricia says and begins climbing the stairs slowly.

JESSICA

Just go slow.

TRICIA

I'm right here with you. One step at a time.

JESSICA

Just don't leave me.

TRICIA

Okay, but hurry. Ralph has a gun up there and can protect us.

JESSICA

So do the cannibals. Hello?! Shotguns!

TRICIA

It doesn't matter now, everything will be okay.

INT. WATCH STATION - NIGHT

Baxter inside the watch station, which is well lit now. He has finished butchering the bodies of Natalie, Indie, and Ariel. He packs the meat into old butcher paper, tied with twine, and places it inside two backpacks on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His knife is stuck deeply into a wooden bench near the door.
Jessica and Tricia enter the watch station.

TRICIA
Ralph! My savior!

Baxter turns and stands. He smiles with evil intent.

BAXTER
Not quite, bitch!

Baxter glances at the knife stuck in the bench. Tricia and Jessica both look at the knife also.

Jessica pulls the knife that she took from McKinzie's body.

Tricia and Baxter both lunge for the knife stuck in the bench.

Tricia gets the knife. Baxter grabs her hair and the two begin to tussle, fighting for control of the knife.

Jessica hovers nearby, looking for a clear opening to attack Baxter with the knife she holds.

They all tumble out through the door into the night.

EXT. WATCH STATION - CONTINUOUS

Tricia and Baxter still struggle for the knife. Baxter slams Tricia against the wall of the watch station.

Jessica rushes in and grabs Baxter's hair pulling his head back, she tries to slash at his throat with her knife.

Baxter rears back with an elbow, catching Jessica in the mouth.

Jessica reels back, crashing into the railing, dropping her knife over the edge.

The rusted railing groans and creaks with age.

Tricia takes the opening and slashes at Baxter's face, cutting him deeply across his cheek.

BAXTER
Bitch! Fucking bitch!

Tricia slashes at Baxter again, but he blocks her swing with his arm. Baxter holds onto her arm with both hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns, forcing her arm into a joint lock. He begins to pry the knife from her hands.

TRICIA

Jessica! He's got the knife!

Jessica hurls her body at Baxter, knocking him off of Tricia into the old rusted railing by the bell.

He has the knife now.

Baxter teeters on the edge, the railing straining and GROANING under his weight.

The railing suddenly collapses as he reaches out and pulls Jessica over the side with him. They both hit the side of the bell on the way down. BONG!

TRICIA (CONT'D)

Jessica!

Tricia reaches her arm out to Jessica as Jessica and Baxter fall.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ralph is still carefully moving through the forest. He is now looking at the ground, trying to see any sign of the trail left in the darkness.

Ralph hears the loud RING of the signal bell, just a single BONG.

He moves now with a purpose in the direction of the watch tower.

EXT. WATCH TOWER - NIGHT

At the base of the tower, Baxter and Jessica lie in a crumpled mass of limbs, Jessica on top.

There is a spreading pool of blood under the two.

Tricia arrives at the base of the tower, climbing down the stairs.

TRICIA

Jessica! Jessica!

Jessica GROANS and moves slightly. Tricia runs over and helps her friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA (CONT'D)

What hurts?

JESSICA

Everything.

Jessica rolls off the body of Baxter underneath her. The knife that the two were fighting for is now driven in to the hilt into Baxter's chest.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

He's not soft.

TRICIA

He's dead now.

JESSICA

Serves him right.

Jessica struggles to stand and Tricia assists her.

TRICIA

Are you sure you're okay?

JESSICA

I'm far from okay, but I will damn well walk out of here and never come back.

TRICIA

(suddenly sobbing)

Oh God! I am so sorry I brought everyone out here!

The women hug each other in support. Both are crying now.

JESSICA

It's okay. It's okay.

Jessica composes herself.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Let's just leave. Get that knife.

Tricia composes herself. She stoops and grasps the knife sticking from Baxter's chest. She pulls on the knife, but it remains stuck in the body.

TRICIA

It's stuck.

JESSICA

Leave it then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ralph enters unseen by the women. He has his gun drawn.

RALPH
Hold it right there!

Jessica and Tricia both turn with their hands raised.

TRICIA
Ralph!

Tricia runs to Ralph and hugs him.

Ralph backs off and establishes some distance.

RALPH
You have to stay back. What
happened here?

Tricia steps back, stunned. Jessica still has her hands raised.

JESSICA
This guy and another one, his
body's out in the woods, tried to
kill us and...

RALPH
(interrupting)
I asked her. You'll have your
chance to tell your story.

JESSICA
Did you hear what...

RALPH
(interrupting)
Please be quiet now.
(to Tricia)
What happened?

TRICIA
Like she said, two men tried to
kill us. They killed the rest of
our friends.

JESSICA
Yeah, they were even eat-

RALPH
(interrupting)
NOT another word.

Jessica looks stunned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA

They... they ate our friends.

Tricia begins to cry again.

RALPH

It's okay now. Let's go somewhere safe to finish this.

INT. WATCH STATION - CONTINUOUS

Ralph, Tricia, and Jessica enter the watch station. Ralph produces an old key from his key ring and locks the door

Tricia and Jessica both are startled at the sound of the lock.

RALPH

Just to make sure nobody barges in.

TRICIA

Good, I don't want them coming back.

RALPH

Ladies, let me tell you, it looks like you are in a heap of trouble.

Ralph leans on the door.

JESSICA

What?!

RALPH

I find you two leaning over poor Baxter. He's looked better. That big knife sticking from his chest. What are the odds that one of your ladies' fingerprints are on that knife?

JESSICA

We were defending ourselves! They grabbed Natalie and they killed her!

RALPH

Hush!

(to Tricia)

Tell me what happened from the beginning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA

We were camping, just setting up camp and eating. These two guys came in and attacked us.

RALPH

Then what?

JESSICA

Isn't that enough? They killed our friends! What more do you want?

RALPH

Where are your friends?

TRICIA

They... They ate them, butchered them- I don't know what you call it!

Tricia begins to cry again.

RALPH

And you killed Baxter down there. I'm betting you girls killed his brother, McKinzie, too.

TRICIA

We... we had to!

JESSICA

Listen, you idiot, DO something!

Ralph steps forward and hit Jessica across the face, knocking her unconscious.

Tricia screams and begins to sob louder.

RALPH

(eerily normal tone)
Now shut up, bitch.

Jessica is sprawled across the floor. Her nose is bleeding and her lip is split from the blow Ralph gave her.

TRICIA

Wha... I don't understand.

Ralph turns to Tricia and begins to cross the room towards her.

RALPH

You bitches killed my brothers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
Your brothers?

RALPH
Our father left us out here when we
were just kids to toughen us up.

TRICIA
That's horrible. How long did he
leave you here?

Ralph reaches Tricia and grabs her by her shoulders.

RALPH
Huh?

TRICIA
How long were you and your brothers
out here alone?

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - NIGHT

The footbridge at an earlier time, in much better repair.

Three young boys, eight to twelve years old, all with brown crew cuts, are shivering in the rain.

A man, the boys' FATHER, approximately thirty years old, with a brown crew cut is pushing the boys across the footbridge onto the island.

RALPH
(v.o.)
Two months.

FATHER
Ya'll need to fend for yourselves.
Get tough.

The man pushes the boys back onto the island and leaves by way of the footbridge.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Don't ya'll follow. I'll come back
when ya'll are men worthy to be my
sons.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The three boys all huddled under a tree, shivering.

It is raining hard.

RALPH

(v.o.)

It was so cold at night.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The three boys armed with crude spears, hiding in the bushes.

They spring out and attack a small wild pig.

RALPH

(v.o.)

We trapped and killed all the animals we could.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The boys sprawled under a tree. They are dirty and lean. Their hair has grown long.

They all have the look of wild animals.

It is raining hard.

RALPH

(v.o.)

Eventually we couldn't find anything more to eat.

TRICIA

(v.o.)

What did your father say when he returned?

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - DAY

The Father is on the footbridge calling for the three boys. He is dressed in hunting garb and carries shotguns, knives, and backpacks for the boys.

FATHER

Boys! I'm back! Ya'll done good.

No response.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATHER (CONT'D)
 C'mon, boys! We'll go hunting and
 get some real meat in your bellies!

A WHISTLE.

The three boys spring from hiding spots nearby the footbridge and attack their Father with their makeshift spears. The stab at him repeatedly, the spears becoming more and more bloody.

RALPH
 (v.o.)
 Nothing. We ate him.

BACK TO:

INT. WATCH STATION - NIGHT

Tricia shudders.

Ralph hardens again and begins to choke her with his hands.

TRICIA
 (gurgling)
 I... can... help you.

Ralph loosens his grip.

RALPH
 Wha...? Why would you?

TRICIA
 Because you were right.

Ralph drops his hands.

TRICIA (CONT'D)
 Your were left here to die as kids.
 You did the best you could. You
 lived.

Ralph slumps to the floor. Tricia moves to comfort him.

RALPH
 I was the oldest. Mac and Bax
 thought I knew what to do. I knew
 what we did was wrong.

TRICIA
 I understand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ralph hardens again. He stands dragging Tricia up with him. He is rough with her. Tricia offers no resistance.

RALPH

You are trying to trick me!

He begins to choke her again. Tricia does not try to fight him.

TRICIA

No... I... want... this. I... I'm yours.

Tricia is about to pass out.

RALPH

I have enough food now for myself to last. You and your friends provided plenty.

Jessica suddenly appears behind Ralph and kicks him in the testicles, forcefully.

Ralph ROARS in pain and drops to the ground.

Jessica grabs Tricia's hand and runs to the door. They try to open the door, which is still locked.

JESSICA

The key!

Ralph is now recovering on the floor. He rises to his feet.

EXT. WATCH STATION - CONTINUOUS

The watch station seems quiet with lights glowing in the windows. Suddenly, the window nearest the door explodes outward with a loud CRASH.

Jessica climbs out the window cutting herself several times. She turns to help Tricia through the broken window.

As Tricia gets out of the window, Ralph grabs her from inside the watch station.

Jessica holds onto Tricia and fights Ralph, trying to keep him from dragging Tricia back into the watch station.

Jessica pokes Ralph in his eyes. Ralph screams and falls back into the watch station.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA
Down the ladder, quick!

Tricia stumbles to the stairs and starts down.

Jessica hears the door of the watch station being unlocked.

Jessica throws herself against the door, holding it closed.

Tricia hesitates at the top of the stairs.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Go!

Tricia continues down the stairs.

Jessica struggles against the door, trying to keep the door close.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Fuck!

Jessica steps back from the door. It slams open.

Jessica kicks Ralph in the testicles again. Ralph goes down, hard.

Jessica runs to the stairs and descends.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
God, I fucking hate heights!

EXT. TOWER LADDER - CONTINUOUS

Tricia and Jessica are running away from the base of the watch tower.

TRICIA
What now?

JESSICA
Run!

TRICIA
Which way!

JESSICA
I don't care! Move your ass!

The two girls run from the base of the tower.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A few moments later, Ralph descends the tower steps, pursuing the women. He is in obvious pain.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Tricia and Jessica are crashing through the underbrush. Both are bloody, their clothes are torn, and they are very tired.

TRICIA

I can't... I just can't go anymore.

JESSICA

Keep moving!

Jessica grabs Tricia by her shirt and drags her along. Tricia soon stumbles and falls.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Get up! Move! He's coming for us!

TRICIA

I don't care anymore.

JESSICA

I do! I'm not losing anymore friends to that freak!

Tricia slowly and painfully rises to her feet. Just then, a bullet explodes a small tree near the women.

TRICIA

Shit!

Jessica clamps a hand over Tricia's mouth and pulls her to the ground.

JESSICA

Shh!

Jessica and Tricia are quiet and listen. Several more SHOTS ring out, but none are near the two women.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

He is just shooting randomly, trying to spook us.

TRICIA

It's working.

Jessica looks around intently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA
I know where we are.

TRICIA
You do?

JESSICA
Yes, we are near the footbridge.

TRICIA
How do you know?

JESSICA
The trees, they are different near
the river, like these.

TRICIA
If you say so.

JESSICA
Let's go. Follow me.

The women move away, Jessica leading, Holding Tricia's hand.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ralph is walking in the forest looking for Tricia and Jessica. He fires his revolver at random intervals, aiming at nothing. He is in obvious pain with each step.

RALPH
(yelling)
Fucking cunts! I'm gonna kill you
slow!

He pauses to reload his revolver.

RALPH (CONT'D)
No - no, no, no! I'm not even going
to kill you! I'm going to eat you
alive!

Ralph laughs like a madman and begins to shoot at random again.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Jessica leads Tricia by her hand through the forest, towards the footbridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

What the fuck makes someone, no-
THREE people, that fucking insane?

TRICIA

Their father.

JESSICA

Their what?

TRICIA

Their father. They're all brothers.

JESSICA

How the fuck do you know that?

TRICIA

Ralph told me.

JESSICA

So his father was an asshole, so
what? My dad was a world class
bastard. I'm bitter, but I don't
eat people.

TRICIA

He told me that his father
abandoned them out here, alone, to
toughen them up.

JESSICA

Yeah, well it worked. Too well.

TRICIA

When their father returned, the
kids were near starved to death.

JESSICA

Well a chicken sandwich could've
solved that.

TRICIA

I feel bad for Ralph.

JESSICA

(incredulous)

What the fuck for?

TRICIA

He wasn't born a monster. He became
one to survive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

There's surviving and then there's
bat-shit crazy!

TRICIA

I can't honestly say I'd done
anything different if it happened
to me.

JESSICA

Then that just makes you the female
of his species. What's the matter
with you?

TRICIA

I don't know. Maybe nothing.

Jessica stops and turns to Tricia.

JESSICA

You are seriously saying that under
the right circumstances you would
become a cannibal?

TRICIA

Survival is about will.

JESSICA

I will survive this and not eat
another human being!

TRICIA

You are talking about morality. I'm
talking about survival in an
extreme situation.

Jessica looks at all the cuts and injuries on the two of
them.

JESSICA

Three of our friends are dead.
We'll be lucky not to bleed to
death. How much more extreme do you
want?

TRICIA

(frustrated)

You can't understand!

JESSICA

I'm not sure I want to.

Awkward silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What are you trying to say?

TRICIA
I'm a submissive.

JESSICA
So fucking what?

TRICIA
I like pain.

JESSICA
(loudly)
Stop!

TRICIA
(as if reciting something)
It is the ultimate surrender.

JESSICA
(unbelieving)
The Donner party was just Doms and
subbies?

TRICIA
I knew you couldn't understand!
Don't mock how I feel!

Tricia yanks her hand away from Jessica. Tricia turns and runs back in the direction that the two just came from.

JESSICA
I'm not going back! I'm leaving!

Jessica waits a moment, struggling with the decision to leave her friend behind. She turns and continues in the direction that she was originally traveling.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Tricia walking through the forest. She is more sure of her way now.

TRICIA
Ralph! It's me, Tricia! I've come
back!

She keeps calling and moving to find Ralph.

From around a small bend in the path ahead, Ralph emerges. He is enraged.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA (CONT'D)
Ralph, thank God I found you!

Ralph doesn't seem to hear her. He levels the revolver in his hand at Tricia.

She drops to her knees in a submissive pose.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

A view up into the trees. A SHOT rings out followed by CLICKING on empty chambers.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - NIGHT

Jessica comes out of the edge of the forest. She can see the old footbridge less than a half mile away. Jessica hears the SHOT behind her and she turns, considering whether to go back to help Tricia.

JESSICA
She's a big girl now.

Jessica turns back to the bridge and starts out to make the trek towards it.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Fucked up, confused, but all grown up.

Jessica continues on her way to the bridge. She is still bleeding quite badly. One cut on her leg is particularly bad. Jessica stops and tears the bottom half of her shirt off. She uses the scrap of shirt as a makeshift compression bandage.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(in pain)
Fuck!

She is awakened by the pain, refreshed.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(determined)
I'm not losing my leg!

Jessica begins to limp off towards the bridge.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I don't see how Tricia does it. I hurt and it doesn't make me horny at all.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Daylight begins to trickle onto the forest floor through the trees. Ralph is pacing back and forth, looking down.

RALPH
Why? Why did you have to come here?

He stops and stares down.

RALPH (CONT'D)
I was content to eat the others,
even my brothers, but you, you had
to be different! You understood me!

Ralph turns away.

RALPH (CONT'D)
Fuck!

Ralph leaves, going after Jessica.

Tricia is still kneeling with a gunshot wound to her upper arm. It is a flesh wound. Tricia makes no move to staunch the bleeding. She is crying and smiling.

TRICIA
(suddenly)
Jessica!

Tricia jumps to her feet and follows after Ralph as quickly as she is able.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - DAY

Jessica limps across the footbridge slowly. The bridge CREAKS, GROANS, and POPS with her every step. She is afraid of the height and the unstable bridge. She wills herself to proceed despite her fear.

A bullet WHIZZES by her head.

She turns to see Ralph just exiting the tree line, firing his gun at her.

Jessica takes another painful step and the old bridge SNAPS loudly. Pieces fall from the support structure of the bridge.

RALPH
(o.s.)
One more step, and the bridge goes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSICA

You are heavier than me asshole!
You can't get me out here, you sick
fuck!

RALPH

Don't bet on it, bitch!

Ralph takes another shot at Jessica. The shot hits dangerously close to her on the bridge. Ralph advances onto the bridge. The bridge GROANS loudly.

RALPH (CONT'D)

It'll be over soon. I'm going to
feed you to Tricia.

JESSICA

I'll jump into the river before you
ever lay a hand on me!

RALPH

Go ahead!

Ralph advances carefully further onto the bridge. The bridge audibly protests his every step.

TRICIA

(o.s.)

Ralph! Help me!

Ralph turns to see Tricia standing at the foot of the bridge, her eyes are downcast. She still makes no move to staunch the bleeding from her arm.

RALPH

You're bleeding.

TRICIA

Yes, you shot me.

Jessica, seeing Ralph's back turned to her, begins to move slowly away, towards the SUV parked on the far side of the bridge.

Tricia advances towards Ralph on the bridge.

RALPH

No! Tricia, the bridge is not safe!

Tricia continues to walk steadily towards Ralph on the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRICIA
You will keep me safe.

Ralph now hurries to Tricia, attempting to escort her back to the safety of solid ground.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Ralph is guiding Tricia back to the solid ground on the island side of the footbridge. Tricia sits on the ground when they reach the end of the footbridge. Ralph kneels beside her.

RALPH
Does your arm hurt?

TRICIA
Yes.

RALPH
I didn't mean...

TRICIA
(interrupting)
Please - don't. I want the pain.

RALPH
Why?

TRICIA
The danger. The fear. I am not
alive without them.

RALPH
But I don't know if you'd be safe
with me. After what I've done
before...

TRICIA
That's the risk I want, I need.

RALPH
(sudden realization)
Stay here!

Ralph punches Tricia on the gunshot wound on her arm. Tricia SCREAMS and falls prone to the ground.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica finally limps off of the bridge and over to the SUV. She tries to open the driver's door. It is locked. She instinctively checks her pockets.

JESSICA

The keys!

Jessica begins to look around the vehicle for something to smash a window with. She picks up a fallen branch and weighs it in her hands.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Maybe.

Jessica swings the branch at the window, it has no effect. She tries hitting the windshield. The branch breaks in her hands.

Jessica steps back and tries kicking the driver's door window.

No results, except to remind Jessica that her leg is bandaged and it starts to bleed again.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Fuck!

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Ralph is hurrying back across the bridge. He pulls his gun from the holster and reloads it as he advances across the bridge.

RALPH

Goddammit!

Ralph fires the gun across the bridge at the SUV as he moves forward.

Ralph stops and kneels, to take better aim. He fires the gun again at the SUV.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

A SHOT rings out. Another SHOT and it PLINKS off the hood of the SUV. Jessica ducks down beside the SUV.

JESSICA

Fuck!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jessica begins to move in a squat to the rear of the SUV. She hides behind the vehicle.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Fuck, fuck, fuck!

She looks to either side of then down the fire road to the rear of the SUV.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I can't stay here!

A bullet explodes in the dirt very near Jessica.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
He's gonna get lucky with a shot
sooner or later.

Jessica slides out to the side of the SUV, trying to get to the cover of the trees.

Bullets riddle her path.

She turns and dives back behind the cover of the vehicle.

Jessica peeks around the corner of the SUV.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Ralph rises from his kneeling position. He reloads his gun and moves further across the bridge, to the midway point. He snaps the cylinder closed and kneels. He begins shooting again.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Shots are hitting the ground much closer to Jessica now. She tries to hide completely behind the SUV.

Jessica takes the remnants of her shirt off. She waits until there is a pause in the shooting from Ralph, then she tosses the shirt out from behind the passenger side of the vehicle.

Jessica moves quickly to the driver's side door of the truck as gunshots tear through the shirt that she just threw.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Ralph is still kneeling, firing his gun at the SUV.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tricia walks with difficulty up behind Ralph. She is holding her hand over the gunshot wound on her arm.

TRICIA
(weakly)
Ralph, I need you.

Ralph turns just as he fires, making his last shot go awry.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

A wild shot bursts the driver's window of the SUV.

Jessica ducks and covers as the shattered glass rains down on her.

She freezes for a moment, suddenly realizing that there are no more bullets flying towards her.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Tricia is standing on the footbridge, blood running down her arm.

Ralph turns and faces her. Tricia's gunshot wound is bleeding badly now.

RALPH
I told you to stay back there!

TRICIA
You don't need her. You have me. I
need you.

Tricia raises her bloody hand to Ralph's mouth. Ralph takes her hand and looks Tricia in the eye.

RALPH
Are you sure?

TRICIA
Yes. I am all you need. You are all
I need.

Ralph licks some blood from Tricia's hand. He opens his mouth and sinks his teeth into her hand.

Looking down at the footbridge between Ralph and Tricia, Tricia's SCREAM fills the air. A fresh flow of blood drops onto the ground.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica opens the driver's door and climbs into the SUV. She puts the vehicle into neutral and gets back out the open driver's door.

She begins to push the truck down the gradual incline towards the old footbridge.

The SUV begins to move slowly at first but soon picks up momentum as it moves towards the footbridge.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Tricia is crying and smiling as Ralph bites into her hand again.

Her face changes to horror as she sees the SUV approaching the footbridge.

TRICIA

Ralph!

Tricia turns and runs back towards the island side of the footbridge.

Ralph looks stunned. His face is bloody from biting Tricia's hand.

He runs after her.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

The SUV crashes into the footbridge on the mainland end of the footbridge. A tremendous CRACK as the old footbridge begins to collapse into the raging river below.

The SUV tumbles down into the waters, followed by the main support beam of the footbridge.

The bridge collapses like a pile of dominoes into the river below.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Tricia holding her bloody hand runs with Ralph following to the island end of the footbridge.

The bridge tumbles into the river below behind them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RALPH
Fucking bitch! I'll kill her!

TRICIA
(panting)
No... you... won't!

The two dive onto solid ground just as the bridge disappears into the raging river.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica looks back at the ruins of the footbridge and sees Tricia standing with Ralph holding her on the other side of the river.

EXT. FOOTBRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jessica still stares across the river. She is bloodied, disheveled, and exhausted.

RALPH
(o.s.)
She stranded me here, again!

TRICIA
(o.s.)
She survived, just like you did back then.

RALPH
(o.s.)
I can't stay here all alone again.

TRICIA
(o.s.)
You are not alone. She stranded us. We'll be here together, forever.

RALPH
I will kill her.

Jessica turns and leaves. She is walking back to her normal life she had before. She does not look back.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Jessica bloody and dirty with her makeshift crutch. Walking down the muddy forest road in the morning sun. An old SUV pulls up beside her. The vehicle is emblazoned with the U.S.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Forest Service logo. The DRIVER, a man of forty with a brown crew cut, rolls down the car's window and speaks to Jessica.

DRIVER

My God! What happened?

JESSICA

One of your forest rangers killed all my friends.

DRIVER

Forest ranger? There aren't any rangers here. Haven't been any for years.

JESSICA

Then who the fuck did all this?

DRIVER

Look, I'm telling you, there hasn't been a ranger around here for twenty years. They kept disappearing out here.

Jessica stops.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Get in, we'll go find a cop and get this straightened out.

Jessica gets in the SUV slowly and painfully.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

What's your name?

JESSICA

Jessica.

She slams shuts the SUV's door after she gets in.

INT. FOREST SERVICE SUV - DAY

The Driver and Jessica in the Forest Service SUV.

DRIVER

My brothers and I used to hunt out here.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

The Forest Service SUV pulls away in a spray of muddy dust.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FADE OUT:

THE END.