

L U R K E R S

by

Landen Wilson

## "LURKERS"

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Autumn.

Dusk is falling -- the sun beginning to set on the horizon.

There isn't much activity happening on the campus grounds, but then there never is this late.

The campus itself isn't too large, but it is still modestly spaced.

BISHOP (V.O.)  
Everyone with me so far?

INT. CLASSROOM

No more than thirty students sit quietly as the professor, BISHOP, lectures on:

BISHOP  
So in Criminal Justice today,  
juvenile delinquency is on the rise  
once again after having leveled off  
several years back.

One student, JOSH BENTHAM (23), jots a couple of notes.

BISHOP  
After that, of course,  
international and domestic  
terrorism is still pretty high on  
the list as well. Hopefully this  
is of no surprise -- judging by  
your faces, it isn't.

Josh sets down his pen.

BISHOP  
Alright, how are we doing on time,  
people? I'd like to go into the  
U.S. Supreme Court system--

A student sitting next to one of the windows taps the glass.

Bishop looks over to see the setting sun outside. He checks his watch.

BISHOP  
And we definitely don't have  
anywhere near enough time to  
discuss that. Okay, Thursday,  
then, we'll pick it back up here.

The students have already begun to gather their things.

BISHOP  
Remember, though, tonight at the auditorium, a two hour cyber crime conference -- we got a lot of people coming in for this, it'd be nice to see some of you show.

STUDENT (O.S.)  
Can we score extra credit?

BISHOP  
Absolutely not.

The students shrug and exit the classroom.

Josh is one of the last to leave.

BISHOP  
What about you, Bentham, you going?

JOSH  
Can't. Work.

Bishop sighs:

BISHOP  
You're missing out.

JOSH  
Duty calls, you know that.

BISHOP  
Yeah, I hear you. If you get a chance, though...

JOSH  
We'll see.

BISHOP  
(nods, shrugs)  
Alright, have a good one.

JOSH  
(waves, exiting)  
Later.

INT. HALLWAY

Josh exits the classroom, moves down the hallway.

Eventually EMMA MORGAN (23) falls into step beside him.

EMMA  
How goes the research paper?

JOSH  
It's due at the end of the  
semester, I'll get back to you  
then.

EMMA  
(laughs)  
What'd he give you? Terrorism,  
right?

JOSH  
Yup.

EMMA  
Isn't that what he gave you last  
semester in Admin?

JOSH  
No, that was... that was the death  
penalty.

EMMA  
That's right. So what now, work?

JOSH  
Yeah, in about an hour, I got to go  
take care of some things first.

EMMA  
Alrighty, have fun -- Bishop's got  
me doing photos of his grand little  
event for the paper.

JOSH  
Oh, wonderful.

EMMA  
(laughs, nods)  
Yeah, sure you don't want to come?

JOSH  
Got to pass.

EMMA  
(sighs)  
Well, alright. Later, Josh.

Emma exits into a bathroom.

JOSH  
See ya, Emma.

EXT. CAMPUS

Josh walks along a path, heading toward a small building -- a  
sign outside reads "Campus Security."

INT. CAMPUS SECURITY BUILDING

Josh walks into a small waiting room. A pretty black girl not much older than Josh sits at a desk behind a wall of glass. Her name is SHELLEY. She eyes Josh.

SHELLEY  
The hell you doing here now?

JOSH  
You know me, can't stay away.

Josh walks to the nearby door:

JOSH  
Can you buzz me in?

SHELLEY  
Not if you're planning on clocking in early.

JOSH  
Would that really be the worst thing in the world?

Shelley shoots a look.

JOSH  
Is the Captain in?

SHELLEY  
Don't think so, why?

JOSH  
Well do you know if he's letting anyone off for the conference tonight?

SHELLEY  
Yeah, he is.  
(pause)  
But not you.

Josh turns to her.

JOSH  
Why do you hate me?

SHELLEY  
I don't hate you, baby. You just need to learn the rules.

JOSH  
Oh, rules, is that it?

SHELLEY  
See you in an hour, Josh.

Josh turns to exit.

JOSH  
(mumbles)  
Hate my life...

Shelley giggles to herself, and turns back to her work.

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Streetlamps now dimly light the dark campus.

A FEMALE STUDENT walks along one of the paths that runs parallel to a wooded area.

FROM INSIDE THE WOODS we watch her.

The sound of a STICK BREAKING causes the girl to glance towards the woods, but she doesn't stop and is unfazed.

She walks up to her vehicle -- grabs the parking ticket under the windshield wiper. She reads it over and sighs, stuffs it in her pocket.

It's faint, but it definitely just sounded like someone made a STEP in the woods.

The girl looks over now, stopping what she's doing.

Beat.

Her fingers slowly reach for her keys in her pocket.

Another STEP.

She yanks the keys out and in an instant holds out a small can of pepper spray.

GIRL  
Back the hell up whoever you are!

But no one is there, and no one responds.

She looks into the woods but can only see so far.

She releases a sigh and starts to unlock her car, shaking her head, feeling stupid.

We then here much closer footsteps -- the girls spins around, holding up the can again, to see--

Just some GUY walking by -- he jumps back when he sees her:

GUY  
What the hell!?

GIRL  
Oh, god, I'm so sorry. Really.

The Guy calms down.

GUY  
You okay?

GIRL  
Yeah... just jumpy -- thought I heard something.

The Guy nods, looking around.

GUY  
Gotcha. Well, you have a good night.

GIRL  
Thanks, you too. Sorry again.

GUY  
No worries.

The girl gets into her car, starts it up and pulls away.

The guy watches her leave.

But as we watch the guy just standing there, we notice that off in the distance, out of focus, there APPEARS to be someone standing just next to the woods.

As if seeing something out of the corner of his eye, the Guy looks over.

He sees nothing at all.

GUY  
Hello?

But no one answers. He walks towards the woods, pulling out his keychain penlight and shines it.

GUY  
Hey, sicko, just so you know, I'm calling five-oh time I leave here so don't plan on sticking around.

The Guy has made it just into the edge of the woods. He looks around carefully. Finally:

GUY  
Asshole.

The Guy flicks off his flashlight. But just as he does so, we see the QUICKEST FLASH of a face standing next to him -- so fast that we are unable to even see what it looks like.

So fast that the Guy barely even has time to scream before we hear a sickening RIP of flesh and blood sprays out towards the pathway.

We hear the THUD of the body hitting the ground... and then slowly dragged away.

We PAN over to see Josh walking up on the other side of the street, on his own path, completely unaware.

We follow him now as he makes his way towards a set of apartment buildings about 100 yards away.

Josh hears a slight rustle in the woods, glances at it, notes it, and continues walking.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT

Josh enters, tosses his keys to the side and moves to his computer.

On the computer screen he brings up a webpage that reads: "Georgia COMPSTAT Report."

He scrolls the page, enters several search queries.

Josh grabs his phone and dials a number.

INT. CAMPUS SECURITY BUILDING, FRONT DESK

The phone next to Shelley begins to RING. She rolls her eyes and picks it up.

SHELLEY  
Campus Security.

JOSH (V.O.)  
Shelley, sweetie.

She sighs.

INTERCUT:

SHELLEY  
What'd you want?

JOSH  
That favor I asked you about a week ago -- the Compstat meeting you attended, did you get that information?

SHELLEY  
Yeah, I got it.

JOSH  
Thank you sweet Jesus 'cause I  
can't find it anywhere on the  
website. Can I get that from you  
right now?

SHELLEY  
And why didn't you pick it up  
earlier?

JOSH  
Didn't think I'd need you-- er, it.

SHELLEY  
Oh, so that's how it is?

JOSH  
Come on, I got to get this article  
written for the paper.

SHELLEY  
Well you can pick it up when you  
get in -- you don't need to have no  
two jobs anyway.

JOSH  
That's the thing about campus  
security -- easiest job there is.  
I can afford to have another.

SHELLEY  
Oh lay off it, the only reason you  
work for that damn paper is 'cause  
of little miss Emma. How's she  
doin'?

JOSH  
Couldn't tell you, Shelley.

SHELLEY  
Oh, please, don't act so defensive.

JOSH  
So is that a definite no on  
refusing information?

SHELLEY  
Later, Josh.

Shelley hangs up.

Josh hangs up his phone and sighs.

EXT. APARTMENT

The door opens and another FEMALE STUDENT walks out carrying a  
bag of trash (she leaves the door open).

We follow her as she makes her way to the nearby trash bin and tosses the bag in. She walks back to her room and shuts the door behind her.

INT. GIRL'S APARTMENT

The girl stops in her tracks, noticing the lights off. It's quite dark.

GIRL  
(hesitates)  
Bea, you still here...?

The Girl remains standing and silent. Her eyes glance left but before they cut right -- A RIP OF FLESH -- and blood begins to gush from a cut that's suddenly appeared across her throat.

The Girl's eyes bulge and she drops to her knees.

She looks around but sees absolutely nothing. She begins to gag on her own blood and tries to call out for help, but cannot.

She rolls over on her back, a look of terror and complete confusion on her face as she begins to fade...

A door opens from across the room and out walks BEA.

BEA  
Jen? That you? Hey, I can't see.

The dying girl tries to call out to her friend but can only watch as Bea stands in her doorway oblivious.

BEA  
Jen...? What is that?

Bea steps forward.

BEA  
Jen, hello? Can you flip the switch?

Her eyes then find shattered glass on the floor - she looks up to see the living room light has been busted out.

And as Bea moves forward even more she sees the Girl's body lying on the floor -- and immediately rushes to her side.

BEA  
Jen? Jen!

But the girl only stares back at Bea, unable to move, unable to breathe, unable to speak.

BEA  
Oh my God, Jen...

And as the girl watches her friend there's a WET RIPPING SOUND and Bea goes rigid -- her eyes bulge as well.

Beat.

And then blood begins to leak from Bea's mouth.

INT. HALLWAY

Emma, camera in hand, is catching up to Bishop:

EMMA  
Bishop!

Bishop stops and turns.

BISHOP  
Yes, ma'am?

Emma holds up her camera.

BISHOP  
Oh, so you're all set up then?

EMMA  
More or less.

BISHOP  
Good, good.

Bishop begins walking again, Emma follows.

EMMA  
So how many people are we anticipating?

BISHOP  
A few hundred... if we're lucky.

EMMA  
How many are you anticipating?

BISHOP  
(matter-of-fact)  
Probably half that.

Emma sucks her teeth in dismay.

EMMA  
Hey, I tried to get Josh to come.

BISHOP  
Oh, I'm sure you did.

Emma shoots a look:

EMMA  
Huh?

BISHOP  
Oh, nothing.

EMMA  
That's nice, Bishop.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Bishop and Emma enter. Several people have already begun to show.

EMMA  
Look, there's already about ten people here.

BISHOP  
(checks watch)  
And only half an hour 'till show time -- don't get ahead of yourself.

EMMA  
Oh, relax -- try to enjoy your night. Christ knows you'll take all the attention you can get.

Bishop smirks.

BISHOP  
I can see why he likes you.

Emma sighs.

BISHOP  
What? Thought we were taking shots at each other -- I'm very competitive.

EMMA  
Right. So would you like any specific filter to help reduce light off of that dome of yours?

BISHOP  
See, is that so hard? And no. But you know what? You should totally not work tonight at all. Just take some time off, stroll around campus, visit your man-friend. Try to get a good night's rest.

EMMA  
(mumbles)  
Such an asshole.

Bishop grins.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM

Josh is staring at a clock that reads: 5:45

After a moment, he shrugs and begins to gather his things.

MOMENTS LATER

Josh is standing in front of his vanity mirror, checking his uniform. His looks imply he's mostly satisfied.

He walks to his bureau and opens the top drawer.

Inside, amongst other things, is a standard issue Glock 22, safely placed in its holster.

Josh eyes it for a moment, picks it up, and fastens it.

He tosses on a coat as well and zips it.

He grabs his cell phone, flips it open and begins to text.

On the phone's screen he writes, "Having fun yet?"

He presses send.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Emma, sitting Indian-style on the floor in front of the stage with her camera, feels her phone vibrate. She fishes it out and checks it.

She laughs to herself and begins to write back.

EXT. JOSH'S APARTMENT

Josh is just locking his door and reading Emma's text:

"You know it. Bishop's being a jackass."

Josh laughs and nods.

JOSH  
(to himself)  
That'll happen.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Emma checks her phone again: "Just warming up for his performance is all."

She cocks an eyebrow.

EXT. CAMPUS

Josh puts his phone away as he makes his way back across campus.

He crosses the street towards the more wooded area.

As he walks his eyes suddenly catch something and he slows to a halt...

On the path in front of him there looks to be a dried line of blood going right across it.

Josh studies it and looks toward the street. He sees that there's no blood there and then looks to the other side of the path where he finds blood leading into the woods.

Josh's curiosity is peeked. He walks to the middle of the street and looks even closer now, but sees nothing...

As he walks back towards the path and then slowly towards the woods, he pulls out his cell phone and dials.

INT. CAMPUS SECURITY BUILDING, FRONT DESK

The phone rings and Shelley answers.

SHELLEY  
Campus Security, how may I help you.

INTERCUT:

JOSH  
Hey, Shelley.

SHELLEY  
Will you stop calling already?  
You're about to be late.

JOSH  
Uh-huh. Hey, there hasn't been a report of gunshots has there?

SHELLEY  
No, sir. Why?

JOSH

Well there's some blood that's leading into the woods over here by campus housing. I figure it's probably an injured animal but there's no blood in the actual street. Thought maybe something might have been shot.

SHELLEY

No, haven't heard anything this way, super-sleuth.

Josh walks just into the edge of the woods.

JOSH

Think I should take a look?

SHELLEY

Yeah, Josh, I really think you need to be walking around in the woods while it's dark.

JOSH

Could be a person, though.

SHELLEY

Josh?

JOSH

Mmm-hmm?

SHELLEY

If it was an injured person, why would they run into the woods for help?

JOSH

Could have been dragged, right?

SHELLEY

Well do you see signs of a struggle or someone being dragged, honey?

JOSH

Can't see much at all, really. Hey, what about that outside classroom that's in these woods? That's lit up at night, right?

SHELLEY

(sighs, mumbles)

White people...

(then)

Josh, listen to me. Seriously. Stay out of the woods. Let maintenance, or whoever, take care of the poor animal tomorrow.

Shelley listens for a moment but hears nothing.

SHELLEY  
Josh...? Hey, you there!?

JOSH  
Yeah, I'm here.

SHELLEY  
What are you doing?

JOSH  
Looking for the trail to the  
classroom.

SHELLEY  
Dear God, did you not just hear a  
word I said -- and you're  
officially late now! Happy?

JOSH  
And if I take this trail all the  
way through, it'll actually be  
quicker than going around, right?

SHELLEY  
Oh, don't you dare argue that half-  
ass logic with me!

JOSH  
Be there in about ten minutes,  
Shelley. Clock me in, would you?

And then Josh hangs up the phone leaving Shelley annoyed and  
angered.

INT. WOODS

Josh puts his phone away as he steps on to the small trail.  
He pulls out his flashlight and adjusts the beam.

He moves forward cautiously. He shines his light on his watch  
and checks it. He gives a hesitant sigh, but continues on.

FURTHER UP THE TRAIL

He comes to a tall wooden post. He examines it and opens a  
small metal box attached to the side.

Inside are several switches. He flips them all.

There's a HUMMING sound and then not twenty yards up the path  
lights begin to flicker on.

Josh moves on.

EXT. OUTSIDE CLASSROOM

Josh comes to halt just at the edge of the light and gets his first glimpse of the set-up.

The classroom is basically a string of interconnected bridges that rises several feet off the ground. It's lit by several tall light poles scattered about.

Josh climbs the steps and moves on through the classroom.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Emma is making towards the exit. She calls out behind her:

EMMA  
Back in a few, Bishop!

EXT. AUDITORIUM

Emma exits and makes towards the parking lot.

AT HER CAR

Emma opens it up and digs through the backseat.

When she reappears she's holding several lenses, sorting through them.

She looks off in the distance suddenly, almost startled.

She's looking towards an unlit part of the parking lot -- too dark for us to make anything out. Beat.

She shrugs it off disappears back into the backseat.

She reemerges suddenly, spinning around and with a FLASH OF LIGHT, snaps a Polaroid towards the unlit area:

EMMA  
Gotcha!

But as the light flashes and disappears, we clearly see that nothing is around.

Emma stares for another moment, pockets the picture, and resumes her quest through her backseat.

EXT. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Josh is finishing up his inspection.

The wind blows. Josh stops and looks around.

The trees wave softly back and forth. Josh takes in a deep breath.

And then the wind calms and becomes quiet -- save for the gentle humming of the lights overhead.

The quietness has obviously gotten to Josh as he looks a bit more on edge now. Beat.

Josh's phone begins to ring, breaking the silence. Josh grabs and checks the caller ID.

It's Shelley. Josh smiles and silences it, placing it back in his pocket.

JOSH

It's good to be wrong.

Josh makes towards the opposite end of the classroom and descends the stairs.

And stops.

On the ground are several dragging marks. Josh eyes it but doesn't seem too interested.

Until the wind blows again and something catches his eye.

Not five feet away a leafy object on the ground seems to have been caught by the wind -- though only barely as it also seems to have a little weight.

Josh eyes it curiously and squats down to examine.

From his pocket he pulls an ink-pen and pokes the object.

Of course nothing happens and Josh rolls his eyes at his own silliness.

He looks up suddenly as if he's heard something, but quickly returns to the object.

He takes his pen and jams it in the dirt underneath the object.

And then whether we see it or not, something moves behind Josh -- and even if he'd turned around to look, he'd see nothing because it's gone, again, before we're even sure it was there.

And then Josh flips the object over and it appears to be COVERED IN BLOOD.

Josh's eyes go wide and he immediately shines his flashlight closer until we're all but sure that we're staring at a piece of human flesh.

Josh stands straight up, unnerved. His breathing quickens but he tries to hold himself steady.

And then he hears something behind him.

His eyes cut to the side but he doesn't turn, too afraid to look.

JOSH  
(quietly)  
Please don't kill me.

Josh's fingers begin to slowly unbutton his gun at his side and wrap themselves around the grip.

JOSH  
Whoever you are, please don't kill  
me.

Josh rips the gun out of its holster and spins around -- only to be knocked several feet backwards into a tree.

Josh immediately regroups and goes to stand, but falters a bit.

He looks down at his side to see several deep scratches cut into his abdomen. He clutches it:

JOSH  
What the fuck...

Josh looks back towards the trail but sees nothing.

He looks this way and that, but still nothing.

JOSH  
What the fuck!

And then we hear a footstep. Josh immediately raises his gun, but still there is nothing. Josh cocks the gun, and then his eyes catch something on the ground.

The piece of flesh, now back on its non-bloody side, appears different.

Josh focuses in on it, and we push in to it to see that there appears to be half imprinted in the ground as if something is stepping on part of it.

Josh has stopped breathing as he stares.

And then, suddenly, it's as if the weight has been lifted from the piece of flesh as the imprint slowly rises up and then we hear more footsteps.

Without thinking, Josh fires several rounds into the footprints direction.

EXT. AUDITORIUM

As Emma goes to walk back inside, we hear the gunshots in the distance. She stops and looks around.

EXT. WOODS

We hear the bullets smack something, and then we hear a sound that's almost a screech, almost a purr, but all the same we're unable to place it.

And then the footsteps quicken. Josh's eyes grow wide again and he braces himself.

But nothing happens. The footsteps trail off, and Josh remains stunned.

And after a moment he releases a heavy sigh, which abruptly turns into Josh falling to his knees he starts to dry heave.

Which soon turn into to sobbing that Josh allows himself to be taken with for a moment...

And then he pushes it off and stands again... and everything is quiet.

And then we hear some leaves crumple off to one of Josh's sides... and then again to his other side. Josh notices both.

JOSH

Shit...

Josh stands quietly, listening for another moment...

And then another CRUMPLE and this time Josh takes off down the trail, as hard and as fast as he can.

He zooms down the trail not bothering to look back...

Up ahead he sees the light where the trail ends becoming closer and closer.

A noise behind him forces him to run even faster, which in turn forces him to clutch his side and breathe heavier.

And then finally, Josh breaks through the woods out onto the main campus where he finally looks back, still seeing nothing, and begins to slow.

Ahead is a large fountain that Josh is heading right towards.

Behind him there comes another noise - a closer noise.

Josh picks up speed again as the noise seems to close in.

Josh takes one final look back as the noise seems to just about reach him, and when he turns back, he's run right upon the fountain, and having only one real option, dives in where he disappears below the surface.

Beat.

The water settles.

The noise seems to have trailed off - and as usual nothing is around to be seen...

Josh suddenly breaks the surface of the water, gasping for breath:

JOSH  
(through coughs)  
Oh my god! Oh god!

His body is shivering violently from the icy water. Josh clutches both arms trying to keep himself still and eventually squirms his way out of the fountain where he smacks right on to the pavement.

JOSH  
Oh fuck...

Still shivering, Josh tries to search his surroundings...

But he sees and hears nothing.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Emma watches from the side of the stage as Bishop delivers his speech.

She finally signals enough to catch his attention where she nods for him to come over.

Bishop shoots a quick look that he understands but continues on talking.

Emma rolls her eyes.

Her phone rings. She turns away from the stage and answers.

EMMA  
Hello?

But the voice from the other line is full of static - all she can make out is:

JOSH (V.O.)  
...osh.

EMMA

Josh?

EXT. CAMPUS

Josh, still sopping wet, is trying to speak through his drenched cell phone:

JOSH

Emma? Hello? I need to speak to Bishop. Hello?

But he doesn't hear a response. He shakes the phone several times - water leaks out.

And he finally gives up.

JOSH

Fuck...

Josh looks around and checks his watch, and then dashes off out of sight.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Emma ends her call and looks back to the stage - Bishop is still talking.

She turns back and starts dialing a number.

INT. CAMPUS SECURITY BUILDING

The phone rings and Shelley answers.

SHELLEY

Armstrong Campus Security, how may I help you?

INTERCUT:

EMMA

Yes, can I speak to Josh?

SHELLEY

This Emma?

EMMA

Umm, yes...?

SHELLEY

Sorry, Emma, Josh hasn't made it in yet.

EMMA

How'd you--?

SHELLEY

Just a guess, okay? And if you talk to Josh before I do, please inform him of how very late he is.

EMMA

Umm, ok, I will, but I also wanted to call to see if anyone had reported gunshots?

SHELLEY

What is this, a prank? Why?

EMMA

Because I want to report gunshots.

SHELLEY

(pauses)

Oh. From where?

EMMA

I don't know, somewhere around the woods I think - over there by Gamble Hall? That's where it sounded like.

SHELLEY

Oh...

EMMA

What? Hello?

SHELLEY

Emma, Josh went into those woods not twenty minutes ago looking for a dead animal or something... I don't know what to tell you.

Emma pauses, stunned. Bishop walks up behind her:

BISHOP

What's going on?

EMMA

(into phone)

Call you back.

Emma hangs up the phone.

INT. CAMPUS SECURITY BUILDING

Shelley hangs up the phone, now looking nervous and a bit shocked.

SHELLEY

Oh, Jesus...

The entrance door bursts open and Josh comes running in, slamming the door behind him and locking it.

SHELLEY

Jesus Christ, Josh! Where the hell have you--

Shelley notices Josh, soaking wet with blood stains on his shirt.

SHELLEY

What the hell happened to you?

Josh rushes to the door on the opposite side of the room:

JOSH

Buzz me in, Shelley.

SHELLEY

Will you calm--

JOSH

Buzz me in, goddamnit!

But before Shelley can rebuttle, there's a loud THUMP on the door.

Josh turns and looks at it.

Another THUMP.

Shelley stares:

SHELLEY

What in the hell, Josh?

JOSH

Seriously, Shelley, I have no idea 'what in the hell' -- open the door!

And this time, instead of a thump, we hear the door beginning to crack, as if an enormous amount of pressure is slowly being applied from the other side.

Shelley and Josh both stare.

JOSH

Shelley...?

She doesn't move at first...

JOSH

Shelley!

Shelley's hand finds the buzzer, presses, and Josh rips open the door and slams it shut behind him.

Shelley continues to watch as the door begins to splinter and give way.

Josh bursts through the door behind her which breaks Shelley's attention momentarily.

Josh walks to Shelley's side and they both stare at the door.

SHELLEY

What in the hell did you bring here?

JOSH

I have no clue. It followed me from the woods... I thought I'd lost it over by the fountain...

And then the door BURSTS OPEN... but nothing is to be seen.

SHELLEY

Jesus Christ, what the hell is happening?

JOSH

I don't know, Shelley.

SHELLEY

Why the hell can't I see it, Josh?

JOSH

Fuck, Shelley, I don't--

And then a blunt force is SMACKED against the protective glass -- it cracks but doesn't shatter. Shelley and Josh jump back.

SHELLEY

Oh god.

JOSH

Is anyone in the drunk tank?

SHELLEY

Hell no, you want to--

JOSH

Those bars are made out of steel, come on!

Josh grabs Shelley's hand and pulls her towards the door.

SHELLEY

Wait, keys.

Shelley rushes to the desk and fumbles for the keys... and then pauses... everything has gone quiet.

But before she has time to take that in, a hole is punched straight through the glass.

Shelley screams -- grabs the keys and bolts for the door.

She runs through the door while Josh stares at the glass, where the hole is slowly being torn wider and wider.

SHELLEY

Josh!

And just as the rest of the glass is torn away, Josh exits and shuts the door behind him.

INT. DRUNK TANK ROOM

Shelley and Josh enter closing and locking the door behind them.

It's a small room where on the other side two small cells sit adjacent to one another.

JOSH

Go, go, go!

SHELLEY

I don't know what the hell you got me into, Josh--

JOSH

Yeah, well me either.

Shelley sifts through the keys.

From outside the room there's another loud CRASH!

Josh turns:

JOSH

Well there's another lost door.

SHELLEY

We're gonna die.

JOSH

Will you hurry!

SHELLEY

Don't start, Josh!

Shelley finally finds the key, unlocks one of the cell doors and both she and Josh file into it.

Shelley closes the door, sticks her hands through the bars and begins to lock it from the other side.

And the entrance door begins to give way just like before, only faster this time.

JOSH  
Goddamn things getting better.

Shelley, almost in tears, struggles with the lock.

JOSH  
Calm down, Shelley, just keep it  
calm and concentrate.

Shelley fights back the tears and now takes several hard, deep breaths.

Finally the door is locked and Shelley pulls her arms back inside and moves to the back of the cell by Josh.

We hear the crash of the door and Josh and Shelley both go rigid.

They stand quietly -- waiting, listening...

A loud CLANG against the bars forces them to gasp, but the bars don't give an inch, and all is quiet again.

Josh and Shelley glance at each other. Shelley shoots a hopeful look. Josh shrugs an unknowing glance.

And then we hear a quieter, gentler tone of that pur/screech from the woods... It's unnerving to say the least.

SHELLEY  
(whispering)  
Seriously, Josh, what the fuck?

JOSH  
(tiring)  
Shelley... I don't know.

SHELLEY  
Why the hell can't we see anything?

Josh doesn't respond.

SHELLEY  
We're trapped like rats in here.

JOSH  
(shrugs)  
There's an expression.

Shelley turns, firing a look, and shoves Josh against the wall:

SHELLEY  
What is this, another fucking game  
to you?

JOSH

I... I...

But Josh is beginning to look dreary-eyed.

JOSH

I think it's my adrenaline starting  
to deplete... and these freezing  
clothes...

Josh slides to the floor.

Shelley squats to his side.

SHELLEY

[Oh, Jesus]  
For chrissake just stay awake,  
okay? Can you do that?

And then we hear a slight metallic bending sound.

Josh and Shelley look to the bars.

We SLOWLY TRACK forward towards the steel bars.

As we move closer we see that two of the bars seem to be  
widening away from each other... but only slightly.

We hear a low grumble; see the bars come apart just a little  
more, then stop altogether.

Whatever's out there can't get in.

Josh and Shelley both sigh... and Josh begins to pass out.

SHELLEY

Josh!

EXT. CAMPUS WALKWAY

Emma is walking quickly with Bishop keeping up:

BISHOP

Morgan do you have any idea what  
you just pulled me away from back  
there?

But Emma is too busy listening on her cell phone to care.

BISHOP

Morgan!

EMMA

There's something wrong, okay?  
(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

Trust me. I heard gunshots and now no one's answering at campus security.

BISHOP

They're doing their jobs -- what I need to be doing right now.

EMMA

You're the current highest authority on campus right now, okay? You need to be here.

They come to the campus security building... and freeze.

They stare at the entrance door now busted in.

EMMA

What do we do?

Bishop shoots a look, and begins to cautiously make his way to the doorway, pulling a handgun from a holster underneath his jacket as he does so.

Emma follows; Bishop turns and stops her.

BISHOP

You stay right here. Dial 911, you know the drill.

EMMA

You don't need to go in there by yourself.

BISHOP

I'm armed... can't ask for much more than that.

EMMA

You can ask for backup.

Bishop begins to make his way to the building again.

BISHOP

I don't have time for this, and neither does Josh or whoever's currently in that building... if anyone.

EMMA

Bishop!

BISHOP

You stay right there. If you move you're fired.

EMMA  
Bishop - BISHOP!

And then he's gone, disappeared into the building.

EMMA  
Shit!

As she says it, she pulls out her phone and quickly begins to dial.

INT. CAMPUS SECURITY BUILDING, FRONT DESK

Bishop, gun securely in hand, stands staring at the desk with the shattered glass.

BISHOP  
Jesus...

He slowly maneuvers towards the desk and reaches over to press the buzzer.

INT. DRUNK TANK

From a distance we hear the BUZZ.

Shelley, steadily trying to keep Josh awake, turns suddenly.

Outside of the cell the creature makes a noise.  
It's aware, too.

SHELLEY  
Shit.

She runs to the bars:

SHELLEY  
HEY! Whoever you are, get out of  
here! Go get help, now, please!

The creature bangs hard against the bars suddenly, causing Shelley to jump back and stumble to the ground.

It hisses, annoyed.

EXT. CAMPUS SECURITY

Emma, nervous and anxious, holds the phone to her ear.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)  
(from phone)  
Nine-one-one.

INT. HALLWAY

Bishop, gun in hand, ready to fire, stands hidden behind a doorway. He peeps out.

Just down the hall the drunk tank entrance can be seen. He goes to move forward but the creatures snarl from inside the room stops him and he backtracks.

SHELLEY (O.S.)  
Please whoever you are, it's  
invisible! Do you hear me? Just  
run!

BISHOP  
Shelley, is that you?

SHELLEY (O.S.)  
Bishop?

BISHOP  
Just stay where you are.

SHELLEY (O.S.)  
Bishop get out of here, go get  
help!

BISHOP  
I am help!

Debris is suddenly kicked from the drunk tank doorway.

INT. DRUNK TANK

SHELLEY  
Bishop?-- Bishop! It's coming!  
Run!

Josh is suddenly beside her, still on the ground, pulling at her shirt.

JOSH  
(still dazed)  
Your lighter...

SHELLEY  
Josh, not--

JOSH  
Humor me.

INT. HALLWAY

Bishop is still in hiding; thinking; unable to decide. We push in close to get a clear read of his face...



But the creature isn't dead - more debris being moved by footprints in the direction of Bishop. They're slow, however, as if the creature is limping.

EMMA  
(softly)  
Bishop...?

The creature moves in close to him:

BISHOP  
Just run...

And then suddenly the building's sprinkler system is activated, showering everybody in water.

INT. DRUNK TANK

Josh stands on the bed near the flame detector on the ceiling - he tosses Shelley's lighter back to her. Water jets in his face.

JOSH  
Damn water...

Shelley, standing at the cell door, catches the lighter; unlocks the door with her other hand:

SHELLEY  
Yeah, and I've got my own plan as well.

The door clicks open and Shelley moves out.

JOSH  
Hey, relay a message to Emma--

INT. FRONT DESK

Emma, now drenched, stares across the room, mesmerized.

PAN over to reveal Bishop... and standing right in front him, now somewhat visible due to the gushing water, is what appears to be a seven and half foot tall creature. Hairy; massive. Only so much can be seen, though.

Bishop stands silently, not about to make a noise. Whatever the reason, the creature cannot sense him through the water.

INT. HALLWAY

Shelley runs out of the drunk tank room:

SHELLEY  
Emma, call Josh!

INT. FRONT DESK

Emma gives a puzzled look, goes to answer, sees Bishop's reaction - "Don't you dare speak a word."

FURTHER DOWN THE HALL

SHELLEY  
Do it, now!

FRONT DESK

The creature has slowly begun to move towards the hallway again... away from Bishop.

Emma quickly - carefully - exits the building, fishing her cellular out as she does.

INT. HALLWAY

Shelley comes to the end, to another doorway. She opens it to reveal a small maintenance room - there are no sprinklers in here, however.

Behind her we see the creature limp into frame. We see it, she doesn't.

She enters. The creature limps forwards.

INT. MAINTENANCE ROOM

Shelley runs directly to the old building's furnace. She rips a valve off the side.

SHELLEY  
(sighs)  
Just don't kill yourself.

She makes several adjustments on some knobs as well and then grabs a nearby cardboard box, dumps out its contents and proceeds to light it on fire.

INT. DRUNK TANK

Josh stares at his phone:

JOSH  
Come on, Em!

EXT. CAMPUS SECURITY

Emma is still nervously grabbing for her phone...

EMMA  
Damn it!

INT. MAINTENANCE ROOM

Shelley finally gets a fire going, rejoices, and then turns to exit.  
Only to see the creature standing in the doorway:

SHELLEY  
Fuck!

And then the sprinklers cut off... and the creature slowly disappears again.

SHELLEY  
Fuck...

She takes a deep breath, slowly closes her eyes, and prepares for the worst.

EXT. CAMPUS SECURITY

Emma finally finds it and begins to dial.

INT. DRUNK TANK

Josh's cell phone begins to ring.

JOSH  
Thank you!

INT MAINTENANCE ROOM

Shelley still stands, eyes closed, fire becoming bigger and bigger behind her.

And then the slow PATTERN of wet footsteps walking away.

Beat.

Shelley opens her eyes, and jumps back, terrified...

Bishop stands in the doorway:

BISHOP  
Let's go.

She moves to exit, he sees the fire:

BISHOP  
What did you do?

INT. HALLWAY

On the ground we watch as slow, limping footsteps make their impressions in the wet carpet. We're following the creature as it enters...

INT. DRUNK TANK

It gains momentum, following the sound.

JOSH, smiling at his phone still, hears the steps, and then realizes:

JOSH  
Oh...

He dives under the cell's cot just as the creature makes its way past the entrance.

Josh stares at the phone, takes a deep breath, kisses it for good luck and in a quick movement, thrusts the phone across the floor.

It slides through the cell entrance, into the corridor, and then finally into the OTHER open cell across the way.

Josh listens as the footsteps move away towards the other cell. He immediately jumps up, dashes out of the cell, grabs the keys still hanging in the lock and then slams the other cell's door shut and begins to lock it.

JOSH  
Ha! Yeah, motherfucker!

And then Josh sees it. He's looking down and we follow his gaze... A puddle at the bottom of the cell mirrors a partial image of the creature inside. Josh only stares...

Emma comes running in:

EMMA  
Josh! We have to get out.

JOSH  
It's fine now, I've--

Emma doesn't let him finish; she grabs his hand and forces him out.

EXT. CAMPUS SECURITY

Emma and Josh come running out:

JOSH  
She did what!?

Several yards away, Shelley and Bishop are waiting. Behind them in the background, police cars can be seen and heard in the distance.

Josh and Emma continue running towards their friends:

JOSH  
Shelley, are you insane, if that  
place wasn't so saturated right  
now, the entire place could--

The campus security building EXPLODES in the background, knocking Josh and the rest of the crew to the ground.

Fireballs and smoke ensue...

Beat.

The gang slowly stands. Josh stares, shocked. They all do.

JOSH  
Shelley, what did you do?

Shelley doesn't respond. Bishop looks behind him as the cops finally come to a halt and exit their vehicles.

The gang can only stare...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPUS STREET - LATER

Emma stands staring at the ruins of the campus security building. It's mostly a smoky haze of charred and destroyed debris.

Around her are several fire trucks and firemen gathering their things, preparing to leave. There are cops galore as well as several reporters recording in front of their cameramen.

Emma barely notices them. She turns finally to see Josh a short ways away sitting in the back of an ambulance, being patched up.

She then finds Bishop speaking to several of his fellow officers. It seems obvious he's explaining the situation.

And all of this plays as cross-chatter to Emma who stands almost stoic, taking it all in.

Until of course:

PARAMEDIC  
Miss?

Emma snaps out of it.

EMMA  
Huh?

PARAMEDIC  
I asked if you're alright.

EMMA  
Um.

PARAMEDIC  
You were here during the explosion?

EMMA  
Oh, I'm fine - well, I mean, maybe  
some bruising on my side here...

PARAMEDIC  
Well here.

He places his hands on her ribcage and moves them slowly  
about, stopping when necessary to apply pressure.

PARAMEDIC  
This hurt?  
(she shakes her head)  
Here?  
(again, no)  
And--

Emma cringes a bit.

PARAMEDIC  
Little bit of pain?

EMMA  
Just a little.

PARAMEDIC  
Scale of one to ten?

She considers for a quick moment.

EMMA  
Just bruised.

PARAMEDIC  
Okay, ma'am, anything else?

EMMA  
Thank you.

PARAMEDIC  
 (nods)  
 Try to get some rest tonight, okay?

She nods.

PARAMEDIC  
 Have a good night.

He walks away. Emma makes her way to Josh.

EXT. AMBULANCE

Josh sits at the back of the vehicle now in dry clothes.

Emma walks up.

EMMA  
 You look like you might live.

JOSH  
 (laughs a bit)  
 Doing my best.  
 (off Ambulance Medic)  
 This guy's got me flying pretty  
 high at the moment.

Emma laughs... and they stand in silence for an awkward beat.

JOSH  
 Umm, hey, you might want to get  
 checked out, too--

EMMA  
 Oh, no, I just--

JOSH  
 I've been hogging this guy for over  
 half an hour now.

EMMA  
 No, no, I was just officially  
 inspected. I'm fine.

AMBULANCE MEDIC  
 (finishing up)  
 There you go, buddy, you should be  
 good for a while. And feel free to  
 dope yourself up in about four or  
 five hours - any kind of OTC  
 painkiller will do the trick.

Josh hops down.

JOSH  
 Thanks a lot.

They walk away.

AMBULANCE MEDIC  
Have a better one.

They continue for a bit, silently. Josh glances over, looking her over as discreetly as possible - making sure she is, indeed, okay...

CUT TO:

Several officers are walking away, leaving BISHOP standing by himself. He moves to a nearby car and takes a seat on the hood.

IN THE DISTANCE he looks at the woods. A slight haze of fog has settled around it. He only stares...

EMMA (O.S.)  
Bishop?

He barely turns away as Emma and Josh walk up.

EMMA  
Hey, you alright?

BISHOP  
I'm... fine.

EMMA  
Have you... talked to anybody?

BISHOP  
Just made a statement is all.

EMMA  
Oh, so you...?

BISHOP  
No.

Josh and Emma glance at each other. Bishop catches it. He stands finally.

BISHOP  
There's nothing to tell.

He begins to walk. Josh and Emma look at each other worried and fall into step behind him:

JOSH  
Really? I'd say there's a pretty damn good bit to--

BISHOP  
To what? What are you going to  
(MORE)

BISHOP (CONT'D)  
 tell them? An invisible yeti  
 attacked us and destroyed the  
 building?

JOSH  
 Why not, we can't all be crazy.

BISHOP  
 You'd be surprised.

Josh stops him:

JOSH  
 Then what? We just forget about  
 it?

BISHOP  
 Sounds good to me.

EMMA  
 Hey!

SHELLEY (O.S.)  
 I'm telling you, it was at least  
 seven feet tall and like, really  
 furry I think...

Emma, Josh and Bishop all turn upon hearing this. They see  
 Shelley in the distance yammering away to a couple of cops...

SHELLEY  
 But, I don't know how else to say  
 this, but... none of us could like  
see it.

Bishop is already running towards her.

JOSH  
 Hey, no!

Josh takes off after Bishop. We follow him as he tackles  
 Bishop.

BISHOP  
 Damn it Bentham!

They begin to struggle.

BISHOP  
 Get... off!

Bishop pushes Josh away and begins to stand. Josh is already  
 back on him though.

JOSH  
 This isn't right, Bishop!

Bishop pushes him away again - and this time when Josh goes to come back Bishop catches him and thrusts him hard towards the ground. Josh falls, his face smacking the pavement.

Bishop continues towards Shelley, leaving Josh behind. We move past Josh and continue on following Bishop.

JOSH (O.S.)

Bishop!

Bishop is almost upon Shelley.

SHELLEY

And it was so powerful--

BISHOP

Shelley.

She turns.

SHELLEY

Bishop! See look, Bishop'll tell ya'll.

BISHOP

(to Shelley)

Stay right here.

Bishop moves the officers off to the side. They talk quietly.

OFFICER 1

Bishop, did I just hear that girl right--

BISHOP

Sorry but I think Shelley's still in a bit of shock is all.

Officer 1 shoots Officer 2 a look. Back to Bishop.

OFFICER 1

So no...?

Now it's Bishop that fires a look - "Come on, really?"

OFFICER 1

Right.

Officer 1 looks over Bishop's shoulder at Shelley. She smiles and waves.

OFFICER 1

She gonna be alright?

BISHOP

Yeah, yeah, I'll take care of her. Don't worry.

Officer 1 nods.

OFFICER 1  
So, you still okay?

BISHOP  
Yeah... Thanks.

The officer nods again.

OFFICER 1  
Have a good night, Bishop.

Bishop nods as they walk away. He releases a sigh when they're out of sight.

JOSH AND EMMA have just walked up to Shelley.

SHELLEY  
(off Josh's face)  
Dear god what happened to you?

Josh nods over her shoulder where we see Bishop approaching.

SHELLEY  
(to Bishop)  
Did you tell 'em?

Bishop ignores the question.

SHELLEY  
Hey, wait, so you didn't?

BISHOP  
Not now, Shelley.

SHELLEY  
What, so I'm crazy?

BISHOP  
Alright, that's enough! From all of you!

EMMA  
(calm, serious)  
Bishop.

He turns to her.

EMMA  
You can't do this.

Bishop releases a heavy sigh...

BISHOP  
I need to get some sleep. We all do.

EMMA

Bishop.

BISHOP

Look, there's nothing we can do right now. It's over. Everything that needs to be said has been said.

JOSH

How can you even think of sleeping now?

BISHOP

It's dead! That's really all I really need to think about. And if tomorrow anyone comes across a charred invisible monster corpse, then, well... we'll all go from there.

JOSH

Bishop?

He waits.

JOSH

What makes you think there's just one?

And Bishop is speechless. He stares at Josh, looking to see if he can decide if Josh really believes what he just said. Josh holds his gaze. Bishop slowly shakes his head.

BISHOP

No...

SHELLEY

Hey, yeah, why not?

Bishop shakes his head and turns away to think. He glances around the entire scene, at the fading chaos... and finally comes to rest at the carnage that once was the campus security building.

EMMA

(to Josh)

You think so?

JOSH

I mean... I mean... there has to be right?

SHELLEY

Yeah. I mean have you ever heard of there just being one of anything?

Bishop sighs, his shoulders slump.

JOSH  
Bishop...?

Bishop turns back.

JOSH  
There was also blood leading into those woods. I swear.... Alive or dead, we have to look--

BISHOP  
Two hours, then. We'll look around in those woods for two hours. We see no sign of anything, we're out.

Everyone stands silently for a moment... and then Josh nods.

CUT TO BLACK

A beat... and then KEYS JINGLING and the next moment the trunk door of Bishop's car is opened where we see Bishop, Josh, and Emma all staring down at us... A look of excitement on their face quickly vanishes.

JOSH  
Come on, really?

EXT. BISHOP'S CAR - REVERSE ANGLE

The group is staring in the trunk to see what Bishop's packing... which is:

JOSH  
Two pistols and a shotgun? That's it?

BISHOP  
Son, just what in the hell do you think officers carry around in their trunks?

They ramble on a bit more as we PAN away to see Shelley, slowly backing away and taking a seat on the curb; the gravity setting in...

Josh pulls out his Glock; examines it.

JOSH  
I doubt this things any good anymore.

Bishop takes the gun, goes to examine it, and water leaks out...

BISHOP  
I definitely wouldn't trust it.

Bishop tosses the gun in the trunk and hands him one of the pistols.

BISHOP  
The shotgun's mine.

They continue on some more, and it's Emma that finally notices Shelley. She looks back to the two men still talking, and slowly walks over to Shelley.

EMMA  
Hey.

It takes her a moment, but Shelley finally looks up.

EMMA  
You okay?

SHELLEY  
I... I can't do this. I...

And tears begin to well up. Emma quickly takes a seat next to her.

EMMA  
Hey, hey?

Shelley looks at her.

EMMA  
You're fine, okay?

Shelley doesn't say anything.

EMMA  
(reassuringly stern)  
Okay?

Shelley gives a slight nod.

AT BISHOP'S CAR

Bishop glances over his shoulder to see the two girls talking. He turns back to the guns, inspecting them.

JOSH  
What do we do if we find a body?

Bishop doesn't answer; only shakes his head, remaining focused.

EMMA

Puts her arm around Shelley.

SHELLEY  
I'm such a coward...

EMMA

Hey.

Shelley glances up.

EMMA

You realize that out of all of us  
you're technically the only one  
that's killed one of those things?

Shelley almost laughs.

SHELLEY

I just really feel like I should go  
with y'all. Y'know?

EMMA

I know.

SHELLEY

You really think there are others  
out there like Josh said?

Emma takes a moment to think before she lies:

EMMA

No... And it definitely doesn't  
take four people to go looking in  
the woods for nothing.

Shelley smiles.

SHELLEY

Thanks, Emma...

(pause)

So... you two do have a thing going  
on don't you?

Emma laughs, shakes her head... She goes to say something, but  
only shakes her head some more and doesn't respond. She looks  
up towards:

JOSH

Who's looking back at her. They exchange smiles. Josh turns  
back, where Bishop is glancing at him.

Bishop waits...

JOSH

(finally)

What? No, I said no, we don't have  
a thing going on, okay?

Bishop cocks an eyebrow.

SHELLEY (O.S.)

Hey?

They turn (Josh nearly jumps) to see Shelley is suddenly behind them.

BISHOP  
(nods)  
Shelley.

SHELLEY  
I... I'm not gonna go.... You guys  
don't need me.

From the look on her face we understand... And so do Bishop and Josh.

JOSH  
What, you're just going to leave us  
all to be massacred then?

EMMA  
Josh!

But Josh is smiling; it was obviously a joke. Shelley smiles.  
Josh nods to her.

JOSH  
Look, if you tell the chief I came  
in early, you're off the hook.

Shelley gives a small chuckle.

JOSH  
Go home, Shelley. We'll be just  
fine.

Emma smiles at Josh and then turns to walk Shelley away.

EMMA  
We'll call you, okay?

Josh holsters his gun. Bishop, holding the shotgun, takes the other pistol and shuts his trunk.

BISHOP  
Anything else?

EMMA  
(calling back)  
Yes!

EXT. PARKING LOT, EMMA'S CAR

Josh and Bishop stand as Emma rummages through her car. They wait.

BISHOP  
(finally)  
Is this really necessary?

Emma finally emerges.

EMMA  
Completely necessary.

She begins to switch lenses on her camera.

EMMA  
If we find a body people are going  
to want to know what did it, right?

BISHOP  
And how do you expect to photograph  
something you can't see?

EMMA  
Well...

She finally snaps the lens into place.

EMMA  
I don't know. We'll carry around a  
glass of water or something.

Bishop forces a smirk.

BISHOP  
We're leaving.

Emma smiles and tosses her camera around her shoulder.

EXT. WOODS

Josh, Emma, and Bishop stand at the edge of the woods. It's  
the same spot Josh entered earlier.

Emma is staring into the woods. She clicks her flashlight on  
- the beam slicing into the dark woods... then she clicks it  
off... then on again.

EMMA  
Think we have everything we need?

Bishop looks down at his flashlight; clicks it on and shines  
it into the woods as well.

BISHOP  
Morgan, I'm not even sure what we  
do need.

He looks over to Josh.

BISHOP  
Still what you want, hero?

Josh glances at Bishop, then into the woods.

JOSH  
(finally)  
Well it's not like they're zombies  
for chrissake.

BISHOP  
(huffs)  
Yeah.... Know that for certain?

Emma rolls her eyes at them.

EMMA  
(shrugs)  
Well come on then.

She enters the woods first. The two men follow suit.

BISHOP  
(mumbles)  
You two deserve each other.

JOSH  
Oh give it a rest.

EMMA (O.S.)  
Huh?

ON THE SAME TRAIL AS BEFORE

They walk. They're light beams cutting this way and that.  
Josh and Emma are chatting.

EMMA  
Maybe they're aliens!

JOSH  
Oh, Jesus.

EMMA  
Why not?

Josh shakes his head; smiles.

EMMA  
No, seriously, why not?

Bishop is up ahead, guiding the way. He comes to the metal  
power box from earlier. Further up the trail he can make out  
the lights from the outside classroom.

BISHOP  
Tell me again, Bentham. What was  
it that you saw?

Josh and Emma stop talking and he catches up to Bishop:

JOSH  
It was...  
(thinks; finally)  
Flesh. Had to be.

A dark look crosses Bishop's face.

BISHOP  
Y'all two just stay close, okay?

Bishop continues up the trail; Josh and Emma follow.

EXT. OUTSIDE CLASSROOM

The same as before; lights still humming.

The gang moves about quietly: Quiet breathing... Quiet steps  
as they walk up the stairs... Quiet searching.

Finally convinced there is once again nothing there, they  
reconvene.

BISHOP  
(to Josh)  
You said there was nothing here  
before either?

Josh shakes his head. Bishop nods; glances around again.

BISHOP  
Well, let's keep moving.

They continue on, down the stairs, towards where Josh had his  
first encounter.

FURTHER

JOSH  
It was right along here.

Bishop's flashlight beam eventually comes to a set of  
footprints. He follows them... and they lead to another, now  
bigger set of prints. Bishop remains focused.

The bigger prints then lead, abruptly to a disheveled patch of  
dirt, indicating a struggle. As Bishop focuses his beam more  
closely it becomes clearly evident that there is a large  
amount of blood mixed in as well.

BISHOP  
[ "Get over here" ]  
Bentham.

Josh rushes over and they squat to examine...

BISHOP  
Well, I don't see any body parts  
but I take it this is probably your  
blood?

Josh looks closely...

JOSH  
(shakes head)  
No.

Bishop's curiosity is peeked.

BISHOP  
Sure?

Josh continues staring, trying to be sure.

JOSH  
I was...  
(indicates)  
Over there. This isn't mine.

Emma squats beside them. They take it in for a moment.

BISHOP  
Well... I guess we know that it  
bleeds... And if it does that then  
maybe we won't have to blow up more  
buildings just to kill another.

JOSH  
I guess.

Emma watches with her own flashlight... her beam eventually begins to follow the tossed-about soil/blood mixture as it leads completely off the trail, into the woods.

Bishop and Josh's beams make their way over as well.

Bishop sighs. It may as well count for all of them. They stand - and continue to do so for a beat...

Once again Emma is the first to enter - much more reluctant this time.

OFF THE TRAIL

The gang continues.

EMMA  
How deep do these woods go?

BISHOP  
A mile or two I think.

JOSH  
They lead to a stream eventually, I think.

BISHOP  
Yeah. How'd you know that?

JOSH  
Biology one. There's another trail somewhere that leads to that as well... Guess we missed it.

Bishop glances at his watch.

EMMA  
What's beyond the stream?

JOSH  
Don't really remember. More woods I guess.

Bishop, confused, flicks at his watch.

BISHOP  
Any of y'all got the time?

Josh checks his wrist - no watch - then searches his pockets for his cell phone before he remembers:

JOSH  
Sorry. I had to toss mine.  
(realizes)  
Literally.

Emma pulls hers out; checks it.

EMMA  
Going on three-thirty.

Bishop sighs at his watch.

BISHOP  
Guess this can go in the same pile as your phone, Bentham.

JOSH  
That thing wasn't waterproof?

BISHOP  
I think it more has to do with all the diving to the ground for dear life I've had to endure tonight.

Josh nods - "Yeah, yeah" - and they continue on.

FURTHER

Their beams still guiding the way.

EMMA  
So Bishop, when's Baby Bishop due?

JOSH  
You're having a kid?

EMMA  
It's his grandkid.

Bishop almost cracks a smile.

BISHOP  
About another month probably.

EMMA  
Yaay!

Bishop shakes his head.

BISHOP  
Come on Morgan, stay focused.

And that's when Emma's beam finds a DEER - so sudden it's almost as if it wasn't there until the light touched it.

Which is why Emma gives a startled SCREAM.

Josh and Bishop both turn and aim their weapons - until their beams find the deer as well... they lower them.

BISHOP  
Jesus Christ, Morgan!

EMMA  
(catching her breath)  
I'm so sorry!

Josh pats her back, keeping his beam on the deer as it runs off.

BISHOP  
You alright?

Emma finally nods.

And Josh's beam, having followed the deer until it completely disappeared, finds something else... His eyes widen.

In the distance we see a figure tied to a tree...

Josh stares on unable to make out exactly what it is.

EMMA  
 Sorry about that... that was...  
 wow, I'm lame.

Josh has already begun walking towards the tree. In the background, Bishop and Emma remain.

BISHOP  
 We can't be having you do this all  
 night. You know that, right?

EMMA  
 Sorry, I was just caught off guard.  
 It made me jump.

Josh pays no attention as he moves farther and farther away.

BISHOP  
 You've come face to face with an  
 invisible yeti tonight and that  
 made you jump?

EMMA  
 Knock it off.

Josh comes to an abrupt halt - we see horror in his eyes.

JOSH  
 Guys?

Emma and Bishop finally look around to see Josh is gone.

EMMA  
 Josh?

They finally see where he is and begin to make their way towards him.

BISHOP  
 Bentham, I told you to stay close,  
 didn't I?

Josh has continued moving forward again... he stops again and this time he begins to gag...

EMMA  
 Hey, wait up!

Josh covers his mouth and nose and continues on...

And we finally pan around to see it up close...

There, tied upside down against the tree by vines is the GUY (first victim) from earlier... Gutted, and ripped apart. We see only as much as Josh's light allows us to until we PAN back around to see Bishop and Emma finally catching up with Josh.

They freeze when they see it. Emma covers her mouth.

BISHOP  
Oh... geez...

Emma starts to break down... tears well up and she turns away and squats to the ground.

Bishop stands speechless for a beat...

Finally, he forces himself forward and puts his hand on Josh's shoulder.

BISHOP  
Come on...

He glances over his shoulder to see Emma still turned away. He turns back to Josh.

BISHOP  
Let's cut him down.

Without a word, Bishop and Josh move towards the body, out of our sight.

We move back towards Emma, who's finally found a nearby tree to sit against. Her hand still covers her mouth as she sits in shock.

We hear Bishop and Josh starting their work off-camera.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
Alright, you hold and I'll cut.

Emma tries to control herself. She forces her breathing to slow and shuts her eyes tightly.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
Ready?

We hear Bishop's knife sawing at the vines - one SNAPS:

BISHOP (O.S.)  
Whoa, whoa - you got it?

JOSH (O.S.)  
I've got him.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
Look, just--

JOSH (O.S.)  
 (loosing it)  
 I said I got him, just keep going.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
 Just make sure--

JOSH (O.S.)  
 God-DAMNIT, BISHOP!

And with that everything goes silent. The tension in the air skyrockets. Emma begins to lose it again... tries to shake it off.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
 (finally)  
 Bentham...? Bentham look at me.  
 (beat)  
 Breathe easy.

Emma slows her breathing once again... her eyes slowly open.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
 Alright... now on the count of  
 three, help me lower him....  
 One... two... three.

We hear another vine SNAP and then the rustle of leaves on the ground as the two men slowly maneuver the body.

BISHOP (O.S.)  
 Alright, slowly now... whoa--

And then we hear the low THUD as the body finally hits the ground. Emma closes her eyes at the sound but doesn't tense up... she lets the moment pass...

A hand touches her shoulder, her eyes snap open.

It's Josh, squatting in front of her.

JOSH  
 You okay?

She doesn't speak - the answer is there, though. Josh stands and offers his hand. She takes it.

They walk up to Bishop, who is examining the body. He doesn't look up.

BISHOP  
 Morgan, I do believe I left my  
 phone at the podium. Will you  
 please call 911?

EMMA  
 (nods)  
 Of course... Is he...?

BISHOP  
(nods)  
Yeah...

Emma nods.

EMMA  
I'll call, just give me a minute.

Bishop nods, understanding.

Emma begins to walk away.

JOSH  
Hey...

Emma stops.

EMMA  
Just a few minutes by myself, okay?  
Josh sees it's pointless to argue. He nods.  
Emma continues on.

BISHOP  
Gonna need that camera, too, when  
you get back.  
Josh moves back to Bishop.

BISHOP  
You can take a breather too if you  
want.

JOSH  
Thanks. I'll wait for her to get  
back, though.

Josh squats next to Bishop. They both stare at the body.

BISHOP  
This is... beyond fucked up.

JOSH  
I was honestly hoping very much  
that we wouldn't find anything.  
(beat)  
I was really almost sure we  
wouldn't.

BISHOP  
I just want to know what it is  
we've found... or found us, I  
guess.

JOSH  
 We can't tell a lie about something like this, can we? No one would believe there's something in these - or even the neighboring woods for that matter - that did... this.

BISHOP  
 Bentham, we've got nothing to show...

EMMA

Is now walking by herself.

BISHOP (V.O.)  
 What can we tell them?

Emma pulls out her cell phone. She checks the screen to see that she has no signal. She whispers to herself:

EMMA  
 Great.

Up ahead she hears something... whatever it is, though, it's not a threatening sound... she moves forward.

BISHOP AND JOSH

Stand finally.

BISHOP  
 I just don't know, Bentham...

JOSH  
 You think maybe it's some kind of experiment?

Bishop shoots a look. Josh nods.

JOSH  
 Right. Stupid.

BISHOP  
 Where'd that girl get off to?

Josh shines his light in the direction she went.

EMMA

Finally comes to:

EXT. STREAM

The woods come to an end and the sky finally opens up. The FULL MOON shines bright.

Emma, relieved, checks her phone again.

Still no signal. She frowns.

She does notice, however, just how bright things are from the moon... she clicks off her flashlight.

EXT. WOODS

Josh and Bishop are making their way towards Emma's direction. Josh stops and turns back to the body.

JOSH

You think we should just leave it?

BISHOP

We won't be gone long. Come on.

EXT. STREAM

Emma walks to the edge of it. She squats down... the calm water reflects the moon beautifully.

Emma can also just make out her own reflection. She reaches down and cups several pools of water in her hands and splashes it against her face.

And for a few moments she savors the quiet and she savors the cold water on her skin...

And then we hear the creature's PUR from behind.

Emma stops breathing... water falling off her face back into the stream... drip... drip...

And then the PUR comes again and Emma dives head on into the stream.

EXT. WOODS

Bishop and Josh are walking.

BISHOP

I'm just going to put this out there for you, Bentham. If ever there was a time to put your arm around the girl and comfort her, this would be that time.

Josh doesn't respond for a moment...

JOSH  
Probably the last thing that should  
be on either of our minds.

BISHOP  
I'm just talking.

JOSH  
I know... You're weird, Bishop.

EXT. STREAM

We see the moon once again reflected in the stream...

And then the silhouette of the creature steps in front of it.

It gives a low PUR/SCREECH...

We PAN over until we come to two legs, standing ankle deep in the shallow water. We tilt up, and there's Emma, staring at the reflection. She's wet and starting to shiver... but she remains quiet.

Whatever the creature is, it obviously can no longer sense her.

And then Emma's eyes catch something else.

In the direction she came, she can now see Bishop and Josh's flashlight beams cutting out of the woods.

And there she is, unable to call for help, unable to warn them, unable to take a single step...

The beams continue to grow brighter as they get closer and closer.

Realizing, Emma fishes her jacket pockets... and finally pulls out her gun.

She points in the direction where the reflection is leading from. Her hands are shaking and she slowly steadies them.

Finally, she has a good aim and pulls the trigger--

CLICK. It's the sound of the gun hammer hitting a bullet that's too wet to fire.

Still the light beams grow closer.

Emma, furious with herself, removes the clip from the weapon. She pops the wet bullet out of the chamber and discards it. She shakes the clip, though only a few drops of water actually come out.

In the distance there's the faint chatter of Josh and Bishop - barely audible... but enough for Emma to hear... and enough for the creature as well.

She watches the reflection as it turns slowly in the boys' direction.

Emma puts the top end of the clip to her lips and blows softly into it...

The reflection shows the creature moving slowly in the light beams' direction.

Emma continues to blow...

The reflection is now starting to detract as the creature moves slowly away from the stream.

Emma finally puts the clip back into the gun and cocks it.

She takes aim again... steadies herself once more... and we focus on her lips as she:

EMMA  
(yells)  
GET DOWN!

We hear the creature snarl as it turns around.

But that's all it has time to do until Emma FIRES her weapon.

EXT. WOODS

Josh and Bishop hit the ground as the gun fires off:

	JOSH		BISHOP
Shit!		God!	

EXT. STREAM

Emma fires once... twice... three times... CLICK.

Frustrated she tries again...

CLICK.

And that's when we hear the creature making its way towards her.

EXT. WOODS

Josh and Bishop both pull out their weapons and make for the opening in the woods, towards the stream...

EXT. STREAM

The creature's footsteps close in towards Emma...

Then stop abruptly when they come to the stream's edge.

Emma, having braced herself, looks on curiously.

Again, the creature seems too afraid to enter the water... or perhaps unable?

Emma's curiosity is broken when she sees Josh and Bishop exit out of the woods.

She only has seconds. The creature obviously hasn't seen the boys exit, so Emma does the only thing she knows and throws her gun as hard and as far as she possibly can...

We hear the gun land in a far off brush and the creature immediately SHRIEKS and rushes towards it.

When it's clear it's far enough away, she turns to Josh and Bishop:

EMMA

Get in the water now! Get in!

No arguments there - Josh and Bishop break for the stream.

EMMA

Come on, go!

And in an instant they rush into it, to her side...

EMMA

Alright, now don't say a word--

JOSH

Are you--?

EMMA

Shhhh!

And they go quiet. The water settles around them and soon there is no sound save for crickets and all other creatures of the night.

And in the distance we hear the creature pur once more.

Emma reaches into her coat and pulls out her camera... She presses a button to ready the flash.

Everyone speaks VERY LOW NOW:

BISHOP

Emma...

EMMA

It can't hurt.

She points it in the direction... takes a deep breath... and presses the camera's top button--

The camera FLASHES-- then gives an abrupt spark, which causes Emma to yelp (she quickly covers her mouth) and drops the camera into the water.

Josh and Bishop barely notice the last part, they're much more focused on where the light just flashed to...

JOSH

(finally)

I think it's gone...

Bishop nods.

Emma bends down and retrieves her saturated camera. Josh eyes it...

JOSH

Well there goes any hope of proof  
to go along with our grand article  
on this thing.

It was meant as a kind enough gesture, but Emma is staring at the water leaking from her camera.

EMMA

(suddenly remembering)

I've got it--!

JOSH/BISHOP

Shhhhh!

They're quiet again. Beat.

More calmly, Emma whispers:

EMMA

It's afraid of water!

BISHOP

[that's insane]

What?

EMMA

No, think about it. It kind of  
backed off with the sprinklers  
earlier, didn't it?

The two men wait.

EMMA  
Come on, I'm not crazy. There's something about water it doesn't like!

JOSH  
Bishop, I did lose it that first time when I jumped into the fountain.

BISHOP  
Alright, whatever, will you two just shush!

Bishop obviously more worried about the creature returning. They understand and face the direction the creature disappeared to...

Moments pass and nothing happens.

Bishop looks down and reaches into the water... fishes around until he pulls out a large pebble.

He takes aim and launches it into the brush...

They wait... Nothing stirs...

EMMA  
(finally)  
Guys, I'm freezing.

They wait for another moment to pass.

JOSH  
Okay, let's get out of here.

EMMA  
Wait, no, didn't you just hear me?

JOSH  
You're freezing?

EMMA  
That thing is afraid of the water, we can't leave it!

BISHOP  
She's probably right.

Josh sighs - he can't argue.

JOSH  
Well...

He looks around.

JOSH  
 (off stream)  
 Okay, so where will this take us?

Bishop looks around as well.

BISHOP  
 My sense of directions a little off  
 right now.

JOSH  
 If nothing else we definitely  
 shouldn't go in the same direction  
 as... that thing.

BISHOP  
 Fair enough.

EMMA  
 God my feet are freezing...

Josh examines her feet.

JOSH  
 You're not wearing boots? Why--

EMMA  
 (shivering,  
 frustrated)  
 I forgot.

Josh looks to Bishop. Bishop rolls his eyes - "I really don't have time for this."

JOSH  
 Okay.

Josh squats.

Emma looks at him curiously.

JOSH  
 Well come on then, get on.

Now it's Emma who looks to Bishop.

Bishop, still rolling his eyes, turns away from them:

BISHOP  
 (mumbling to himself)  
 Jesus...

JOSH  
 This is very uncomfortable.

Finally Emma begins to maneuver herself onto his back.

Very awkward.

But at last they're fixated.

JOSH  
Comfy?

EMMA  
Enough.

Bishop finally turns back.

BISHOP  
We're leaving.

They begin to walk.

JOSH  
So why do you think it's afraid of  
the water?

EMMA  
Who knows?

JOSH  
Yeah... Probably not a good time to  
be questioning the motives of an  
invisible boogeyman.

They continue...

JOSH  
That body...? Should we, you  
know... maybe try to go back for  
it? Leaving it there seems kind  
of...

No one says anything for a moment. Bishop is obviously  
thinking it over.

BISHOP  
We'll come back.

JOSH  
So you think it'll--

BISHOP  
We'll come back.

And that's that. Josh nods.

FURTHER DOWNSTREAM

JOSH  
This stream really is out in the  
middle of nowhere...

It was obviously an attempt at trying to keep conversation going. By everyone else's silence, it didn't work. Josh returns to his thoughts - very sad ones from his looks.

Emma, still on Josh's back, is gazing up at the moon - still big, full, and bright. She rests her chin on Josh's shoulder.

And even amidst Josh's sad thoughts, a grin plays on his lips. Neither he nor Emma seems to notice it.

Bishop glances up at the moon, then down at his flashlight, then straight in front of him. He flicks the light off. There doesn't seem to be much difference.

Josh notices, looks up at the moon as well... and then flicks his light off as well.

JOSH

Guess there really is no need for them.

Emma smiles... and then searches her pockets and pulls out her cell phone and checks the time.

EMMA

The sun'll be up in an hour or two anyway.

BISHOP

You got any signal on that thing yet?

EMMA

Nope.

JOSH

You really need to switch networks.

Bishop comes to a stop. Josh follows suit.

Bishop glances around... thinking... He bends down and grabs several more pebbles out of the stream and then throws them all in various directions.

Again, they wait in silence. Again, nothing stirs.

JOSH

You thinking it's time to get out of the water?

BISHOP

That or we all end up with pneumonia... if we don't already have it, of course.

Emma sighs.

JOSH  
Oh, are you getting restless back there?

Emma rolls her eyes.

BISHOP  
This looks like about as good place as any to get off.

JOSH  
So which side do you think we should take? The one where we've definitely seen one of those things... or the other?

EMMA  
Where it probably came from, along with lots of others.

Bishop considers.

BISHOP  
Let's do this. We'll track about a mile or so into these woods over here. If we don't see anything, we go back the opposite way. At least that way we know we'll eventually come to the campus grounds.

Josh and Emma both consider quietly.

JOSH  
(finally)  
You're the professor.

And with that they exit the stream and make their way into OTHER SET OF WOODS.

EXT. OTHER WOODS

The gang progresses slowly; Emma is now walking again.

EMMA  
Déjà vu, anyone?

JOSH  
How far have we been?

BISHOP  
Not far enough. Now quiet, both of you.

Beat.

EMMA  
(whispers)  
Once again, déjà vu.

FURTHER

Bishop slows to a stop. He's looking up at the sky.

HIS POV - The trees have pretty well blocked out all of the moonlight.

Around them it is noticeably darker.

Bishop pulls out his flashlight.

JOSH  
You know that may draw its attention.

BISHOP  
Didn't seem to bother you before.

JOSH  
I wasn't sure there was anything to bother before.

He and Bishop lock gazes - Bishop isn't about to argue. He flicks the light on.

And then Josh's gaze catches something up ahead in the light.

JOSH  
What's that?

Emma and Bishop turn.

In the distance ahead there's definitely some kind of large structure.

EMMA  
Is that a house? Out here?

Bishop moves forward. Josh and Emma follow after a moment.

EXT. OLD SHACK

The gang stops in front of it: an old, busted up shack with god knows how many years of wear and tear that have eroded upon it...

EMMA  
Kinda odd isn't it?

JOSH  
Well... not really.

EMMA

How's that?

JOSH

There's these woods behind my parents house in Glenwood. When my brother and I were kids we'd always use to go exploring and one day we found an old shack out there, too.

EMMA

Weird.

JOSH

We used to have campfires with my best friend next door and his dad would always tell ghost stories about the house. An old witch named Rita used to live in there, he'd tell us--

BISHOP

You two.

He doesn't say "Zip it" but the message is clear.

EMMA

You think maybe... they live in there?

Bishop doesn't answer. He's still thinking the place over.

JOSH

You really want to go in there?

Bishop pulls his shotgun from over his shoulder and holds it at his side.

BISHOP

It's only a small cabin - probably only two or three little rooms.

JOSH

That's a viable argument to go in there because...?

Bishop doesn't respond at first. He shines his flashlight in the direction they've been going. He stares out as far as he can see. Then he turns and looks the way they came.

BISHOP

The way I see it, we're probably going to have to wind up going back to the campus anyway. We'll check in here just in case there is anything - however unlikely - and then make our way back.

Josh sighs as he pulls out his gun...

JOSH  
(shrugs)  
Okay then.

Bishop leads the gang up the debilitated stairs and porch.

AT THE FRONT DOOR

They stop. Bishop checks that Josh and Emma are ready behind him. He readies his own weapon.

INT. OLD SHACK

CU-- Front door

It CREAKS open slowly. There the gang stands, Bishop's flashlight cutting through the dark.

We PULL BACK as they move in cautiously. They whisper as they talk:

JOSH  
Oh dear god this is fucking creepy.

BISHOP  
*Shut up...*

JOSH  
Let's just hurry this up.

EMMA  
I feel a little exposed back here.

JOSH  
Well, Emma, would you like to hold my gun?

EMMA  
(beat)  
No.

BISHOP  
Just watch where you step. Got a feeling this floor's a little... tricky.

JOSH  
What gave that away?

BISHOP  
Seriously, Bentham. Knock. It. Off--

And then the house gives off a very unsettling CREAK and EVERYTHING goes quiet.

Bishop aims his beam in the direction it sounded like it came from...

The LIGHT HITS a bedroom door, half-opened.

BISHOP  
Morgan?

EMMA  
Yeah?

BISHOP  
Hold this.

He hands her the flashlight.

BISHOP  
Keep it steady.

EMMA  
Okay...

BISHOP  
Josh?

JOSH  
Yeah.

Josh pulls out his gun. Bishop raises his weapon. They move forward...

The door looms in front of them... They move closer, inch by inch - a close knit trio of explorers...

And they're finally upon it. Bishop pauses a moment... and pushes the door the rest of the way open...

BISHOP  
Emma?

Emma adjusts her arm to light the room.

We catch various pieces of the room... ratty furniture... piss-stained walls... et cetera.

And then there's a STEP.

Only it's not coming from the bedroom, it's coming from the hallway to their immediate right. They all look over...

At the end of the hall is a window, but nothing else...

Until a figure steps from the shadows and before our eyes can adjust it takes off into a fully fledged SPRINT right towards the gang.

Bishop turns and takes aim--

Just as Emma turns the flashlight and we get a glimpse of what is obviously a human being--

EMMA  
Bishop, no!

She pushes the shotgun away from the figure - it fires - hits the wall - and the figure is on them, tackling Josh to the ground - his gun is thrown.

JOSH  
Jesus!

The figure moans, arms flailing; attacking Josh.

JOSH  
For the love of--

Bishop cocks his shotgun and places it to the figures head.

This stops everything.

Beat.

The figure finally looks up; the light from the flashlight reveals the face of a young man no older 18: disheveled, wild eyes.

BISHOP  
STAND UP!

Bishop keeps his gun poised as the boy stands. Josh slowly follows.

BISHOP  
Now talk!

EMMA  
Bishop...

Emma has aimed the light at the boy's clothes... BLOODSTAINED.

Bishop looks up at him again and they lock eyes.

And then the boy lunges towards Bishop - Bishop, cat-like as ever, swings the butt of the gun around and cold conks the boy in the head. He hits the ground, OUT COLD as we:

BLACK OUT:

EMMA (O.S.)  
Bishop!

Beat.

FADE IN:

We're still INSIDE THE SHACK (LIVING ROOM). It's dark. We can JUST make out a figure sitting in front of us.

A flashlight clicks on and the beam illuminates the face in front of us.

It's the boy. He's now tied to a chair - ratty old clothes used for rope.

He twitches... and comes awake, immediately wincing at the light. He struggles with his "ropes," doesn't get anywhere.

BISHOP  
Oh, calm down.

There's a lot of anger in this kid, though, and it takes him a while to settle down.

BISHOP  
Better?

EMMA  
Bishop, stop blinding him.

Bishop shines the light away. They wait...

BISHOP  
Well I don't suppose you want to tell us who you are, or why you're hanging out in a crap shack like this all night?

The kid glares up... then slowly looks back down. A hint of sadness.

Josh moves and squats in front him (eye level). He waits until the kid looks back up...

JOSH  
(calmly)  
Do you have a name?

They hold each other's gaze.

Then the kid makes like he wants to say something... but doesn't. His arms twitch as if he's forgotten they're bound.

Josh looks at him curiously.

JOSH  
Just a name, man--

EMMA  
Guys...?

They all turn to Emma.

Emma moves closer to the boy. He looks up at her.

EMMA  
He's a mute.

They all look back to the boy... He looks down again.

BISHOP  
How do you know that?

Emma moves to the boy and begins to untie his arms.

BISHOP  
Wait, wait - Morgan!

EMMA  
Relax, his legs are still tied, if  
he tries anything he'll, well,  
it'll actually be a little funny.

And at last his arms are untied. Everyone waits. The boy  
looks back to Emma... and SIGNS "Thank you."

EMMA  
You're welcome.

BISHOP  
Emma, you sly dog.

Emma ignores him.

EMMA  
What's your name?

He signs his name.

EMMA  
Ben?

He nods.

EMMA  
Okay, Ben...  
(looks around)  
Do you live here?

Ben frowns. Shakes his head. He signs again.

JOSH  
What'd he say?

EMMA  
He's... waiting?

Ben nods.

EMMA  
Are you expecting someone?

Ben's face tenses, his breathing increases.

EMMA  
Ben?

He shakes his head. His signs are much more direct now; stern.

JOSH  
Emma?

EMMA  
He's waiting for morning.

Ben continues his signs.

EMMA  
Waiting until the right time...  
until he can... see them?

JOSH  
Them?

Ben repeats.

EMMA  
Them?  
(getting it)  
Them!

JOSH  
Them!

EMMA  
You've seen them?

Ben sits for a few moments... preparing himself... he finally looks to all of them again...

He begins to sign. Emma translates:

EMMA (O.S.)  
They've always been around. When  
we were younger, Anna and I used to  
pretend they were make-believe.

JOSH (O.S.)  
Who's Anna?

Ben's face tenses again at the name, but he continues.

EMMA (O.S.)  
But they were there all along...  
When we'd think we saw something  
out the corner of our eye, it was  
them. When we'd hear a noise come  
from nowhere, it was them... Always  
there... Always watching.

Ben stops. Reaches into his pocket... pulls out a small make-up mirror; sets it on his knee. Everyone stares curiously.

He continues.

EMMA (O.S.)  
We found a way to watch them.

Ben hesitates now... he holds his tears back quite well. He continues...

EMMA (O.S.)  
They were our little secret.  
Something we had that no one else  
ever would.... Last night we  
finally followed them... home?

And Ben stops.

Beat.

EMMA  
Ben, where's Anna now?

He doesn't respond.

JOSH  
(getting it)  
Oh, Jesus...

Ben glances up at him.

EMMA  
Ben?

He signs again....

JOSH  
Well?

EMMA  
They live in the trees?

Ben stops again.

JOSH

Ben?

Ben looks at him.

JOSH

We can get them, okay? We know a way.

Ben looks at him, intrigued.

JOSH

They're afraid of water.

Ben frowns again... and shakes his head "no."

JOSH

No - yes! They are. We saw it.

Ben signs. Josh waits. Now Emma frowns.

EMMA

No eyes?

And then Josh frowns.

JOSH

There's no way.

Ben signs.

EMMA

They hear... they smell.

Ben then holds the mirror and points to his own eyes. The message is clear: "I saw for myself."

Ben's eyes then cut to the window.

Everyone follows his gaze.

OUTSIDE there's light. The sun hasn't risen, but the light has finally come.

BISHOP

We need to get back.

And while they're all looking, Ben's eyes find Josh's gun, still lying by itself on the ground, mere feet away.

And before anyone can turn back to him, Ben shoves Emma down hard and lunges for the gun - the chair follows with him but it's no matter, he reaches it in seconds and turns to face--

Bishop, now aiming his shotgun at him again - Ben takes aim as well.

BISHOP

Don't!

Everyone goes still. Ben's eyes cut to Emma, who seems a bit hurt.

BISHOP

Ben, look at me... Ben!

He looks back to Bishop.

BISHOP

Ben, put it down. You know we won't hurt you.

Ben shakes his head; looks back to Emma. He points the gun from her to his legs: "Untie me."

Emma, looking betrayed, nods and slowly makes her way to him.

Ben looks back to Josh and Bishop.

Emma begins to untie his feet.

JOSH

Ben, this won't bring her back.

But it's obvious there's no arguing with him anymore.

Emma finally finishes... Ben stands, still holding the gun stern. He moves to the doorway.

He looks to Emma, makes one last sign, and then disappears out the doorway.

JOSH

What was that?

EMMA

He said don't follow me.

EXT. OLD SHACK

Ben runs off into the woods.

A HEAVY MORNING FOG has set in and he's quickly disappearing into it.

The gang exits from the house and looks around just in time to see him fade away completely.

BISHOP

We got to kill that thing before it kills him.

JOSH  
You don't think he's that stupid?

BISHOP  
It killed his girl, he's plenty  
stupid. Let's go.

EMMA  
Here.

She hands Bishop Ben's mirror.

EMMA  
He dropped it, and you're currently  
the only one armed, so...

They rush down the stairs and move in the direction Ben  
disappeared to.

BISHOP  
Doubt it'll help in this damn fog.

JOSH  
No kidding.

EXT. WOODS

Ben comes to a stop. He looks around but in this fog  
everywhere is the middle of nowhere.

He checks the gun, makes sure the safety is off... He checks  
the chamber as well.

Satisfied, he moves forward more slowly now...

THE GANG

Move forward cautiously as well.

JOSH  
So they've watched these things for  
years and suddenly now they go on a  
rampage. That makes a lot of  
sense.

BISHOP  
Not much of anything has made a lot  
of sense today.

JOSH  
At least the sun'll be up soon.

Emma glances up at the sky.

The fog is lighter up there and through it we see a sky full  
of gray clouds.

EMMA  
Doubt it.

Josh glances up.

JOSH  
Wonderful.

BISHOP  
I was kind of anxious to know what they were doing out here in the middle of nowhere anyway.

JOSH  
They were kids, Bishop, come on.

They continue for a moment.

JOSH  
Besides, didn't you hear him? Those things found them first.

EMMA  
God, that's... creepy.

Bishop comes to a halt. He's annoyed.

BISHOP  
Jesus... I can't see a fucking thing!

JOSH  
I'd say that that probably works to our advantage as well but... well fog isn't a problem if you don't have any eyes, I guess.

Bishop shakes his head - he can't figure out what to do.

BISHOP  
This stuff isn't going away, either, for at least another half hour.

EMMA  
Come on, let's just keep moving. If we're lucky, Ben'll just wind up lost.

BEN

Stops again, listening as if he's just heard something. He looks around carefully...

He reaches down and grabs a handful of dirt and gravel and chucks it... It does nothing but rouse the fog to twist with the wind speed.

Nothing responds. Ben continues forward... He checks his pocket... then the other... he's lost something.

BISHOP

Is walking, his gun back over his shoulder, examining Ben's mirror... He finds Emma in the reflection. She sees him.

EMMA  
Having fun with that thing?

BISHOP  
If this is what winds up saving us,  
I'll be highly unsettled.

Emma smirks in the reflection.

BEN

Walking, his back to us, slows his pace...

He's looking around now, and by his demeanor it seems that's he's now on familiar ground... He readies his weapon; grasps it with both hands and places it to his chest.

He does all of this while looking up at the trees, which we hardly see at all.

THE GANG

Is still in motion. Bishop is still trying to focus his thoughts.

BISHOP  
I really need a cigarette.

JOSH  
Yeah, that wouldn't attract a big,  
scary monster.

Bishop shuts his eyes and rubs his temple for a moment.

JOSH  
(to Emma)  
Maybe we should've brought Shelley  
after all.

EMMA  
I thought she quit.

JOSH  
I've got a blown to shambles campus  
security building that says  
otherwise.

Emma lets that stir for a moment.

EMMA  
So smoking saved our lives...?

Josh lets THAT stir for a moment.

JOSH  
Honestly, I'm finding it hard to disagree.

BISHOP  
You two... seriously.

They both go silent, message clear.

Emma glances up at the sky again... the dark clouds have a hint of red from a distant sunrise.

JOSH  
You gotta wonder if we should just let the kid have his go with thing, y'know?

BISHOP  
You know better than that.

JOSH  
I know only what we've been taught in criminal justice, and that all revolves around situations that are... that aren't this.

Bishop doesn't respond for a moment - a furrowed brow indicates his contemplation with the notion... He finally just shrugs.

BISHOP  
The kid'll probably find it before we do anyway... But we can't just leave him to die.

No one says anything for a beat...

BISHOP  
Okay?

JOSH  
Okay.

Bishop nods--

And a GUNSHOT explodes in the distance--

CUT TO:

## A GUN

Being held in the air - smoke still twisting out of the barrel.

We TILT DOWN... Ben's arms hold the gun high above his head... DOWN FURTHER we find Ben, his eyes shut - meditative.

He slowly opens them, pulls the gun back down to his chest, readying it - the shot obviously a ruse to bring the creature out.

## THE GANG

Is steady running... No one talks... only the sound of their footsteps...

## BEN

Waits...

Beat...

There's a PUR in the distance - not enough to pinpoint.

Ben waits; listening closely...

A CRACK of a twig. Closer, but not good enough.

And then, off to his right... a movement?

Ben catches it out of the corner of his eye... he turns.

HIS POV - At first nothing... The fog is still thick... We can't be sure...

And then a second movement and we realize it's the FOG ITSELF that has moved.

The giant figure of the creature bubbles inside the fog as it moves closer now...

Ben raises his weapon.

## THE GANG

Stops at the sound of TWO MORE GUNSHOTS.

They wait in silence for more...

JOSH  
(to Bishop)  
You have enough shells?

Bishop shrugs him off, still waiting...

BEN

Watches the creature as it dashes through the fog, moving away now.

Ben doesn't have to think before he begins a chase.

THE GANG

Comes abruptly to a spot where the fog is less thick - it's almost a relief to them, until they notice something else.

They're looking up now.

They've found themselves in an orchard of giant trees... but what sticks out the most are the branches.

The Gang stares awestruck: The branches from each tree stretch far and wide... So much so that they intertwine with other branches, forming a beautiful, messy spider web in the sky...

Emma now understands Ben as she whispers:

EMMA

The trees...

Josh hears her... and realizes:

JOSH

Oh, shit...

Their attention is pulled once again as suddenly in front of them, at a distance--

BEN steps out from behind a tree.

He eyes them closely and places his index finger to his lips...

Which is just about the time that Emma's CELLPHONE starts to ring.

Angle On - The Gang

As Emma begins to fumble for her phone to silence it... and in the background behind them the fog begins to move.

Ben raises his weapon to fire, and the Gang hits the deck!

Ben sprints towards them, then past them towards the creature.

EMMA

Ben!

But it's no matter, Ben is moving into thicker fog again.

Emma finds her phone, silences it and checks the caller ID - it's Shelley. Emma answers:

EMMA

Hello!

But Shelley has already hung up.

BEN

Fires off another round - the creature SCREECHES, gives back an angry SNARL.

Ben fires again but the creature has moved out of the way and he misses.

He tries to keep up now as the creature begins moving away quicker and quicker.

He fires several more shots - another SCREECH.

And then abruptly we hear the footsteps stop, as does Ben...

THE GANG

Trying to follow stops as well, waiting to hear something - anything.

BEN

Waits for a moment... Then raises his gun in the air again and pulls the trigger--

CLICK.

Out of bullets.

Ben's eyes widen as he stares down at the gun...

And he doesn't see the fog begin to move around his neck--

And he's suddenly being strangled. He chokes and gags but he's just not strong enough. He wrestles around but again it's no help.

He's pulled back up abruptly and we hear the crackling of bones.

And right before we cut away, we realize not only is he being strangled, but that his neck is being stretched from his torso as well--

THE GANG

Moves forward. Bishop stands, ready to fire.

EMMA

Ben!?

And then a slight snarl in the woods... Something is tossed in their direction.

The fog obscures it as they inch forward to see an object roll, appearing suddenly out of the fog.

No matter how out of focus the fog makes it, the horror of the object being BEN'S HEAD is no less traumatizing.

Emma SCREAMS--

Josh abruptly covers her mouth.

Emma is breaking down again. Josh forces himself not to look at the head. He locks eyes with Bishop.

BISHOP

Get her out of here.

Josh pulls Emma away, still covering her mouth.

Bishop turns back in the direction of the head... He forces himself not to look down at it. He moves forward...

JOSH

Ducks himself and Emma behind a tree, and sits her up against it.

JOSH

Emma?

Emma sobs steadily, eyes closed.

JOSH

Emma!

He puts his hands on her shoulders - she tries to fight him off, but he holds her steady... she eventually runs out of strength.

Josh forces himself to breathe evenly and calmly.

JOSH

Emma just breathe... breathe like me, okay.

He takes in several big breaths, lets them out. Emma tries to follow but it's a chore.

And then her phone rings again. She finds it instantly but Josh yanks it from her hands. He answers:

JOSH  
Hello!?

SHELLEY (V.O.)  
(from phone)  
Josh?

JOSH  
Shelley?

SHELLEY (V.O.)  
Josh, hey what's going--

JOSH  
Shelley--

SHELLEY (V.O.)  
Josh hey, what--?

JOSH  
Shelley, Shelley - Shelley, listen  
to me!

BISHOP

Is barely breathing, staying as quiet as possible. The shotgun is against his shoulder, ready to fire. Bishop also has the mirror out, using it to search as well...

THUNDER rumbles overhead.

Beat...

It rumbles again, lower this time.

Then COMPLETE SILENCE.

At least until we hear a GRUNT.

Bishop turns in its direction, waits only a moment before--

The fog moves, and he FIRES.

A SCREECH, the creature moves, but Bishop is on it again - he FIRES again.

The creature's movement, though, indicate only minor grazes--

But Bishop, still following the creature steady, has it's movements down to a T and we see the confidence in his eyes this time when he FIRES ONCE MORE.

The MASSIVE SCREECH/PUR lets us know the hit was good.

And it's with this hit that the creature finally seems to be set off for good. Instead of running away, it's moving back towards Bishop, slowly speeding up... or at least as fast as it can.

Bishop sees this, goes to fire, but the gun CLICKS. He reaches for more shells, knows he doesn't have the time:

BISHOP

Shit!

He holds up the mirror, looks in its reflection, see the figure of the creature trucking towards him--

And Bishop takes off in the opposite direction.

EMMA

Still sits by the tree... she's calmer now, but no less out of it.

JOSH (O.S.)

The trail that leads to the stream,  
Shelley, you know where it is!  
Everybody, call everybody!

Emma isn't even listening...

Something strikes her shoulder...

THUNDER rumbles.

A beat.

And then something strikes her shoulder again.

This snaps her out of it...

EMMA

Rain...?

She looks up:

EMMA

Rain--!?

And she stops.

CU-- A pair of DEAD EYES slowly come into focus.

EMMA'S FACE

In a state of shock as she looks up... Something drips onto her forehead, but we see that it clearly isn't rain.

A BLOODDROP.

JOSH (O.S.)

Emma?

Josh finds her looking up, follows her gaze.

And there she is, in full view, high atop the tree.

ANNA, hanging upside down, just like our FIRST VICTIM. Her throat hanging completely open, blood stains all over her face as a result...

Josh doesn't take his eyes off it... but he still moves close to Emma and pulls her away. She doesn't fight. She doesn't do much of anything.

And then, running up quickly behind them:

BISHOP

Bentham! Morgan! Move! MOVE!

Bishop, amidst running, is also trying to reload his gun.

Josh begins to shake it off, and pulls Emma even faster now.

JOSH

Emma! Emma come on!

She begins to run, whether she knows it or not.

And they're off.

Bishop is almost upon them--

He sees the dead girl Anna as he passes, which only serves to make him go even faster.

BISHOP

Faster than that, go!

And as he catches up, he grabs Emma's other arm and together all of them are in a sprint for their lives.

Behind them the creature is grunting - the way it's footsteps crash to the ground as it runs indicates a nasty limp.

But still it comes.

Josh turns to look around, sees it coming up.

BISHOP

Bentham, stay focused, just move.

THUNDER rumbles again. It's closer now.

We hear the loud steps from behind loom closer as well.

Bishop holds the mirror in front him, keeping track of the creature.

Josh forces another glance back.

The leaves and debris being kicked up indicate the creature is around twenty yards away and closing.

JOSH  
We won't make it.

BISHOP  
Do as I say!

And then Josh takes Bishop's arm and begins to remove it from Emma's underarm.

JOSH  
Get to the stream!

BISHOP  
Wha--

JOSH  
Just go!

And with that, Josh forces Bishop's arm to wrap around Emma completely. He's now in charge--

Josh snatches the mirror from Bishop and immediately drops back.

BISHOP  
Bentham!

But Bishop doesn't stop.

BISHOP  
Fuck!

And it's this gesture that forces Emma to come somewhat out of it:

EMMA  
(through heavy  
breathing)  
Josh?

JOSH

Waits, seeing the creature in the mirror, forcing himself to look back and forth from it to the woods where the creature's footsteps are coming closer and closer... Josh is calculating his moves... watching precisely where the creature's steps lands.

It's almost upon him - Josh gives one more look into the mirror and in one insane movement, thrusts downward towards the creature's legs--

And he SMACKS it hard-- the blow driving into his shoulder and spinning his face into the dirt--

The creature is heard screeching again and we know by the sound of a heavy THUD that it's hit the ground as well...

Josh lays, dizzy, disoriented from the hit. He tries to focus his eyesight...

And then he tries to stand... but falters back to the ground.

He lies there, trying to catch his breath, waiting...

There's silence... He manages to sit up and listen--

Which is when he's knocked abruptly back to the ground - THREE LONG CUTS INSTANTLY GASH HIS FACE - his head smacks the ground hard--

EMMA (O.S.)  
(calling from a  
distance)

JOSH!

We then PAN over to see the footsteps starting to crash into the ground again as they begin the chase again.

BISHOP AND EMMA

Are coming to a break in the woods.

They slow...

EMMA  
Bishop, we have to go back.

BISHOP  
Can't.

EMMA  
We have--

BISHOP  
We can't!

Behind them the creature's steps can just barely be heard. It's still coming though.

Bishop forces Emma running again.

The break comes closer and closer...

Until finally, THEY'RE OUT.

They come running out of the woods where they're back at the:

EXT. STREAM

They stop... for only a moment. And then they're off again until come to the very edge of the water and they both slide down to their knees as if sliding into home base.

The fog has lifted completely here... only the dark clouds and thunder remain.

They both sit for a moment, catching their breath...

But this only causes Emma to start to panic.

EMMA

I can't just stay here...

BISHOP

We stay here.

Emma is in tears again.

EMMA

We... can't...

Bishop puts his arm around her and steadies her... she puts her head down...

Bishop now calms his breathing, closes his eyes just for a moment...

And then something grasps hold of him.

Like Ben, the creature is beginning to strangle him - his arm flail and smack Emma who looks up to his eyes starting to bulge...

EMMA

Bishop!

We PAN over to the water where we see Bishop and the CREATURE'S REFLECTION.

And Bishop is suddenly being dragged up to his feet... he wrestles with the creature - the fight more even with its injuries... All the same, it's still stronger, and Bishop can't loosen the grip.

Emma struggles to her feet and grabs the shotgun. She aims it towards Bishop.

BISHOP  
 (barely able to speak)  
 Shoot it!

EMMA  
 (through tears)  
 I can't...!

And she's right, there's no way to tell where or what she'll hit...

BISHOP  
 Em-ma!

Emma's still aiming the gun but there's just no use.

And in one instant Bishop is able to gasp for breath:

BISHOP  
 Emma!  
 (struggles)  
 Just do it!  
 (even harder now)  
 Can't... let... it live...!

And that's when Bishop takes one hand, grabs the barrel, and places it up against his jaw.

Emma's eyes widen at what she knows he's doing - she tries to pull it away but he holds it firm.

BISHOP  
 (on his last breaths)  
 Fire when I tell you.

Bishop then takes his other arm, reaches upwards, and grasps his hand around the creature.

In the WATER'S REFLECTION WE SEE HIM pull himself up towards the creature's head.

The creature grunts.

Finally Bishop has a strong hold on it. He pulls it against the back of his head.

ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD

We see that something is burrowed into his hair, and we know it's the creature's face when we hear its breath and see it cause Bishop's shirt to ripple.

JOSH

Comes to the edge of the woods now, his face blood soaked.

It takes him a moment to process the situation.

He sees Emma struggling to force the gun away from Bishop's head. He understands what's going on:

JOSH  
Bishop!

And he takes off towards them.

Emma turns to see Josh rushing towards them, yelling Bishop's name. She's shocked for a moment--

And Bishop sees his chance--

JOSH (O.S.)  
Bishop, no, no, wait - wait!

Bishop closes his eyes...

BISHOP  
Oh god...

He then gives a forceful tug at the gun and Emma - caught off-guard - tries to pull back again--

Which is when the gun is accidentally set off--

The powerful slug causes Bishop's head to lurch back - a loud SCREECH from the creature--

And blood splatters all over Emma's face--

Just as Josh tackles her to the ground.

But it's too late, and she's already screaming...

We PULL BACK as Josh fights to settle her down, but her screams continue to carry...

Back further where we see in front of them, Bishop's lifeless body in the water.

Josh continues to struggle, but Emma's hysterical now...

Her screams begin to fade as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREAM - LATER

ON THE WATER - In its reflection we still see clouds in the sky...

A drop of rain ripples the water... Another drop... Then another.

A FOOT SPLASHES the water into chaos. It moves forward, out of frame... another foot walks by... several more now.

And then we find:

SHELLEY

Who comes to a stop. In front of her she sees Josh, sitting now on the opposite side of the stream, away from Bishop's body, his back to us.

More rain drops. Behind her a swarm of police officers...

JOSH

Sits, holding Emma in his arms. She's now asleep.

Ben's mirror rests on Josh's knee, just next to Emma's nose... it fogs with her breaths.

He only stares at it, near catatonic.

Shelley emerges from behind him.

SHELLEY

Josh...?

Across the stream Shelley sees Bishop's body now... She covers her mouth

SHELLEY

Josh - Josh what happened!?

Josh, still staring forward, only shakes his head.

JOSH

(mumbling)

No one will believe...

Shelley squats to his side as we begin to pull back.

The rain falls more steadily now... getting harder.

SHELLEY

Josh? Josh look at me? Was it that thing? Josh did it do this? Is Emma okay?

We continue pulling back as Shelley continues to try and focus Josh's attention...

Her voice slowly drifts away as we continue back, now moving across the stream. It's now steady pouring rain...

And still further we pull back until we move across Bishop's lifeless frame, lying half in the water, obscuring most of his head...

And as we move back a little further we see the body of the creature. The heavy rain allowing us to just make out its lifeless frame as well...

MUSIC UP: "Evil" by Interpol

The last thing we hear Shelley say is:

SHELLEY  
Are there any more? Josh is there  
any more out there, please...?

No one has yet to notice the creature's body as we:

FADE OUT.

THE END