

B L E E D I N G   I N   T H E   D A R K

written by

Chris Wood

redwood52@hotmail.com

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Text over black:

In May 2014, five young women went to a rave near Bakersfield, California and were never seen again.

This is their story.

Out of respect for the dead, the names and locations have been changed.

The rest has been told exactly how it is believed to have occurred.

FADE IN:

On an upper middle class neighborhood.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A family of three eat breakfast;

The Dad, TOM, is in his late 40s with a thinning hairline. He wears a suit.

The Mom, CAROL, is a housewife in her 40s and looks it.

The Daughter, OLIVIA, is a 16 year old waif who has no sense of fashion.

OLIVIA

So dad, last night I had a dream that you and mom bought me a new car and I was exceedingly happy.

CAROL

Sounds like a dream alright.

She and Tom laugh. Olivia pouts.

OLIVIA

You're mean.

TOM

You've been sixteen for nearly eight months and I haven't even seen you look for a job.

OLIVIA

I tried. No one will hire me.

TOM

If you put as much effort into job hunting as you did into Face Book you'd have eight jobs by now.

OLIVIA

How am I supposed to get to the job without a car, huh?

CAROL

The buses run just fine.

Olivia groans.

Tom accidentally spills coffee on his shirt.

TOM  
Goddamnit.

He heads upstairs just as the doorbell rings.

TOM  
I'm going to be late. Will one of  
you get that?

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - DAY

The faucet runs. Tom gives up on his stained shirt and puts on a clean one.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Tom comes downstairs and it's quiet.

TOM  
Hon, have you seen my red tie? I  
can't find it.

Pause.

TOM  
Carol? Olivia?

He heads for the living room and sees Carol on the floor unconscious.

TOM  
Carol? Oh my God.

A TASER sends 1 million volts through his body and knocks him out cold.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tom wakes to find himself duct taped to a chair.

Carol and Olivia are duct taped to chairs next to him. All three are gagged. The women panic.

Standing in front of them is a HOODED GIRL. She's lean and not very tall. Everything about her is odd, even her stance.

She pulls back her hood to reveal her pretty brown face, which can't be more than 20 years old.

Tom's eyes balloon when he sees her.

ERICA

So. You do remember me. That should make things easier.

Erica pulls out a knife and stabs Tom in the leg. The duct tape muffles his screams.

Erica wipes off her knife and gives Tom a moment to calm down before she removes his gag.

TOM

Bitch.

ERICA

Don't I know it. I bet your family would like to know who I am. Why I'm here. Why don't you tell them.

All eyes on Tom.

TOM

I swear I don't know this girl. She's fucking crazy!

That's not what Erica wanted to hear.

Tom watches Erica pull Olivia's hair back. She holds her knife under Carol's nose.

TOM

DON'T YOU TOUCH MY LITTLE GIRL!

ERICA

You haven't given me a reason not to. You know what I want to hear. Say it.

Tom focuses on the fear etched across his daughter's face. Then he looks away. He can't face his family.

TOM

I wasn't even the one that took you! You're not even my type!

ERICA

Do I look like I give a shit? Tell them what happened. Tell them what you and your buddies do to innocent young girls or I start cutting.

TOM

You're not so fucking innocent.

Erica tugs on her blade. It pierces the skin under Olivia's nostrils. She's crying.

TOM

Don't hurt her. I'm the one you want. Hurt me. Just leave them alone.

ERICA

I want the others. All of them. You're going to give them to me. Or I'm going to burn this house down around you.

Tom has tears in his eyes now.

TOM

Okay. I'll tell you everything. They're... They're...

He's sobbing. His voice fades into a whisper. Erica leans in to hear him;

Tom's teeth clamp down on her ear. She screams and pulls away. Tom falls backwards and breaks the chair. He rips through the duct tape.

Erica crashes through a glass coffee table and loses her knife.

Tom's leg wound slows him down, but not long enough for Erica to recover. He kicks her hard in the stomach, twice.

Erica picks up a shard of broken glass and jams it in Tom's knee. He screams and loses balance.

Erica uses his weight against him and he falls on his back.

Erica tries to recover her knife, but Tom grabs her wrist. He's too strong. She can't break his grip.

So she balls the fist of her free hand and shoves it into Tom's mouth and down his throat.

Tom tries to strangle Erica, but her arm is so far down his throat his eyes roll back into his head and he chokes.

Erica waits until he goes limp and removes her arm.

She breathes. She's winded and bleeding from her ear and cuts from the broken glass.

Erica notices Carol and Olivia starring at her when;

Tom's body suddenly springs back to life!

Erica grabs her knife and slashes Tom's throat. His blood sprays Erica's face.

Tom convulses as the life leaks out of him and soaks into the carpet.

Carol and Olivia are scared out of their fucking minds.

Erica ignores their squealing and tries to light a cigarette. It takes a few tries before her lighter finally works.

Erica stares at Tom's dead body, thinking. His blood is deep red. She's angry. This was not part of Erica's plan...

His cell phone.

She scrolls through his text messages. She finds a lead.

Then she scrolls through his videos and plays one;

We hear sounds of a woman screaming. Torture. We hear a man, Tom, laughing and taunting her.

Erica shows Carol and Olivia the video. Carol won't look, but Olivia does. She's disgusted, but she can't turn away.

ERICA

This is what your husband was. What your father was. This is why he deserved what he got. I'm sending this video to everyone in his contact list. Don't blame me for what happened here. Blame him.

Erica pockets the cell, grabs the family's cordless house phone and leaves.

Carol and Olivia continue to sob through their gags.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Erica dials 911 on the cordless handset and tosses it before she heads off into the distance and disappears.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

It's a big room. The LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN, DINING ROOM and BEDROOM are all visible from any standpoint.

Only the bathroom and closets have doors.

It's a guy's place, and you can tell because it's messy and nothing matches.

In bed:

JASON, early 20s lies in bed. Decent looking Asian guy. Good hair. Been growing a beard for a few days.

KATE, early 20s lies next to him. Blonde. Attractive, but not drop-dead. She's Detroit pretty.

They share a post-sex cigarette and listen to music blasting through the walls from somewhere else.

JASON

See? Isn't this much better than sneaking into your dorm?

KATE

Yeah, but that's not saying much. Untreated kidney stones are better than having sex in my dorm.

Kate looks around at the messy room.

KATE

You should really think about cleaning this place up.

JASON

If you're volunteering have at it. I'll supervise while playing Wii Tennis.

KATE

My vagina just slammed shut.

Jason tickles her and all is forgiven.

JASON

My folks have been threatening to disown me if I don't come visit them.

KATE

I thought you said you'd never go back there as long as you live?

JASON

If guilt-tripping were an Olympic sport, believe me, my folks would get the bronze.

Kate hops out of bed to get dressed.

Jason marvels at her ass. Kate notices and playfully covers up.

JASON

Hey, no fair.

Kate laughs and retrieves her clothes, which are all black.

JASON

Are you sure you're not a vampire or some other light-sensitive creature of the night?

KATE

I believe the term you're looking for is "goth". And no. My whole family wears a lot of black. We're sort of like The Osbournes, only without a TV show. Or the drugs.

JASON

Great. I can't wait to meet them.

Kate scoffs. She smokes a cigarette near the window.

KATE

Right. Just as soon as I meet yours. Or would bringing a white girl home bring too much shame and dishonor to your family and force you to perform harakiri?

JASON

My parents already disgraced our family when they started shopping at the Gap and listening to Kenny Chesney.

Jason admires Kate at the window. The light hits her just right.

Jason pulls out his expensive camera and starts stealing shots. Kate makes faces at him.

JASON  
You're really picturesque. You should model. You'd be good at it.

KATE  
Being good at modeling is like being good at eating cereal.

Jason invades Kate's personal space. He teases her with his lips. She kisses Jason. He likes the way she tastes.

KATE  
One of my friends from high school is taking me to this big party tonight and I want you to be my plus one.

JASON  
I hate parties. You know I hate parties.

KATE  
But you like me, don't you? And I'm going to be there. So why not be my arm candy?

Jason's not so sure.

KATE  
Please? Pretty please? With cherry on top?

JASON  
I'm deathly allergic to cherries.

KATE  
There's free booze.

JASON  
Sold.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kate and Jason have been waiting for a while. Jason's annoyed.

KATE  
She'll be here.

JASON  
I have to pee.

KATE  
You shouldn't have drank so much water.

JASON  
I don't want to get a hangover.

KATE  
You plan ahead too much. You need to be more spontaneous.

JASON  
My uncle was like that. He went on a surprise trip to the Bahamas and his plane crashed. Spontaneity can eat a dick.

A white Jetta arrives and two people hop out:

RACHEL, 20s, a gorgeous brunette with dyed red streaks in her hair who's big in all the right places.

MATEO, 20s, a handsome Hispanic guy who has the look and shape of an athlete.

Kate's face lights up when she sees Rachel, who greets her with a big smile and open arms.

RACHEL  
Kate!

KATE  
Rachel!

Rachel captures Kate in a big bear hug, then jumps right to scrutinizing her outfit.

RACHEL  
Still rocking the emo look I see.

KATE  
Black is nature's Photoshop.

RACHEL  
Well this is my man, Mateo. Mateo, that's Jason. He knows karate and shit. Just kidding. But not really. Now let's go get shitfaced.

They pile into Rachel's car.

INT. RACHEL'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Rachel drives. Mateo's up front with her. Kate and Jason in back.

Mateo flips through radio stations until he finds the loudest, most annoying piece of shit song playing.

Rachel loves it, of course. Jason shoots Kate a concerned look. She shrugs.

Rachel sneaks looks at them through her rearview mirror.

RACHEL

I see someone's excited.

KATE

What gave us away?

Mateo doesn't understand. Rachel turns down the music.

MATEO

Kate, Rachel tells me you've never been to a rave before.

KATE

No, but I hear the beer is spectacular. I plan to experience some major drunkage.

JASON

You and me both.

RACHEL

Don't anybody get too drunk. One of us needs to be able to drive home. Not it.

MATEO

Not it.

JASON

Not it.

KATE

Fuck.

RACHEL

It's just as well. You've always been the calm, laid back one. Now me?

RACHEL(cont'd)

I have a terrible habit of being morbidly hot-blooded, isn't that right sweetie?

MATEO

Of course. It's what makes you so sexy.

RACHEL

I think it's because I'm a quarter Latina on my mother's side.

KATE

Wait, I thought you said you were a quarter French?

RACHEL

I am. That's two quarters.

JASON

But no one can really be part French. France is a country, not a race. It'd be like saying you're a quarter Californian. It doesn't make sense. You're a white girl. Own it.

RACHEL

Don't belittle my ancestry, Jason. I'm proud of where my genes come from.

KATE

I'm convinced I must be part black, which would explain why my ass is so fantastic. I've got one of those... what do the rappers call it?

MATEO

Apple Bottom.

RACHEL

Yes! Exactly! She has a major apple bottom.

JASON

Hey Kate, maybe you should audition for a rap video.

KATE

You know I can't dance for shit.

RACHEL

Who said anything about dancing?  
All you'd have to do is shake your  
ass at the camera while someone  
pours liquor on you. Ability to  
dance isn't exactly a requirement.

JASON

Now Rachel, don't you think you're  
being a little judgemental? I'm  
sure those girls have to at least  
graduate from some kind of Ass  
Shaking Academy in order to be in  
one of those videos, am I right?

Everybody laughs.

Rachel speeds. The car flies down the dark empty road.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Rachel's Jetta leaves the city behind and enters the open  
rural area.

The car cruises past a huge billboard ad for a local law  
firm, the face of which being that of our good old buddy,  
Tom.

EXT. RAVE - NIGHT

It's like a huge outdoor nightclub out in the middle of  
nowhere. The pulsing music can be heard for miles.

PARKING LOT

Rachel's car joins the endless rows of others. They can feel  
the music even from this distance.

RACHEL

Everybody got their phones? Good.  
Remember, don't drink or smoke shit  
that isn't yours, got it?

MATEO

Why are you looking at me?

RACHEL

Because you're the one who always  
drinks and smokes shit that isn't  
his. You too, Kate.

KATE  
What? That's bullshit.

Jason agrees. Kate pinches him.

JASON  
Hey, I'm just being honest.

KATE  
I'll punch you so hard you'll piss  
blood.

JASON  
With those little T-Rex hands of  
yours? I'd like to see you try.

Jason takes off running and Kate chases him. He lets her catch up. They play fight.

INSIDE RAVE

There's at least 200 people here, maybe more. Maybe a lot more. It's like a concert without a musical act.

The DJ tries to fill that void. Hordes gather around his station as he works his turntable the way Jimi Hendrix worked a guitar.

Kate's in awe. It's like the people are all connected in one big circuit and it electrifies her.

Kate turns back and her friends are gone. Where are they?

She starts to search, but a girl grabs Kate and dances with her. Then a guy joins in. Kate's sandwiched in between.

A hand places a pill in Kate's palm. She deliberates for a moment, then swallows it.

The lights get brighter. The colors more vivid. The music more serene.

The crowd swallows Kate and she slides down its throat and into its stomach where the real party is.

A pair of sparkling blue eyes catch Kate's attention. They belong to a handsome blonde guy with a movie star smile;

ANDREW. He takes Kate into his arms and they dance. They're both sweaty and mashed together. They kiss.

Kate realizes her mistake and pulls away. She has to get out of here.

OUTSIDE RAVE

Kate vomits. The music feels so far away here.

Kate loses her balance and falls down. A hand reaches out and helps her up.

ERICA

You okay?

KATE

Yeah. I just. I think I drank too much.

Kate vomits some more. Erica holds her head.

KATE

Thanks. I'm Kate.

ERICA

Erica.

Kate tries to light a cigarette, but she doesn't have a light. Erica lights it with her zippo.

KATE

You're real helpful.

Kate offers Erica the cigarette.

ERICA

I'm trying to quit.

Kate continues to hold the cigarette out. Erica finally takes a drag.

KATE

My father used to say smokers don't quit, we just have moments of weakness.

ERICA

Sounds like my kind of guy. My father told me never to get into cars with strangers. If only I had listened. See you around.

Erica puts up her hood and heads towards the sea of parked cars just as Kate's cell phone rings.

## ENTRANCE OF RAVE

Kate meets up with Jason and Mateo.

JASON

Where the hell were you? I've been looking everywhere.

KATE

I'm here now. Where's Rachel?

MATEO

We were hoping she was with you. I lost her in the crowd and she's not answering her phone.

KATE

She probably lost it. That girl would lose her tits if they weren't attached.

JASON

Mateo, go back to the car and make sure she's not there. Kate and I will go back in and look for her.

MATEO

Be sure to ask around where they keep the liquor.

KATE

That's the first place I plan to look.

## INSIDE RAVE

Kate and Jason enter the fray. Somehow it seems denser and darker than before.

Kate sees a girl who could be Rachel and heads for her. But it's not Rachel.

Kate turns back and she's lost Jason again. She's looking for him now, but instead she finds Andrew.

They have to yell at each other over the noise.

ANDREW

I hope I'm the one you seem to be looking for.

KATE

Not quite. Look, what happened back there between us...

ANDREW

It's okay, you don't have to apologize. It happens all the time. When in Rome, you know?

KATE

I'm looking for my friend. She's my height. Dark hair with red streaks. Pretty. Crazy. Pretty crazy.

ANDREW

I like her already.

Jason appears.

JASON

Who's your new friend?

ANDREW

I'm Andrew.

JASON

I'm her boyfriend.

Andrew smiles at Kate.

ANDREW

You two make a cute couple.

JASON

I found Rachel. She's over here.

Jason leads the way. Kate follows. And so does Andrew.

PARKING LOT

Mateo's having trouble finding Rachel's Jetta. But he does and finds no Rachel.

Something nearby catches his eye.

A van. A guy standing near the back. He's nervous. Waiting.

Mateo starts to ignore the guy and head back to the rave.

Until two other guys appear, holding an unconscious girl. All three guys load the girl into the back of the van.

INSIDE RAVE

Jason, Kate and Andrew find Rachel hanging out with a group of strangers.

RACHEL  
Where the hell were you guys? I've been looking all over for you!

KATE  
Why haven't you been answering your phone?

Rachel starts laughing hysterically. Something's wrong with her. Kate feels Rachel's forehead.

KATE  
She's burning up.

JASON  
She's probably just a little buzzed.

KATE  
No, I know what that looks like. She's high on something. Rachel, what did you take?

RACHEL  
Nothing. I just had a few drinks is all. What's your problem?

Kate hooks Rachel's arm around her shoulder. Jason helps her.

RACHEL  
What are you doing?

KATE  
We're going to find Mateo and we're getting out of here.

RACHEL  
Wha? Already? But we just got...

She vomits.

Kate and Jason help carry her out. Andrew follows them.

PARKING LOT

The girl being loaded into the van suddenly comes to life and struggles against the guys holding her.

GIRL  
HELP!

One of the guys punches the girl in the face and knocks her out cold.

MATEO  
Hey! What the fuck are you guys  
doing over there?

Mateo approaches the van.

PETE, a heavy set guy in his late 20s or early 30s, speaks for the trio.

PETE  
Mind your own business, asshole.  
This doesn't concern you.

MATEO  
What are guys doing with that girl?

The other two guys are DARIUS (late 20s) and GUNNAR (late 20s). They move to surround Mateo.

MATEO  
Trust me guys, you don't want to do  
this.

PETE  
Just finishing what you started.

Mateo sees how this is going to go so he throws the first punch and nails Darius pretty good.

But Mateo's not James Bond and he goes down. The trio stomp the hell out of him.

Darius cradles his nose. Blood gushes out of it.

DARIUS  
I think the bastard broke my nose.

GUNNAR  
That's what you get for taking all  
night. We should be out of here by  
now. We're still two girls short.

Kate and Jason appear still carrying Rachel, who's barely conscious.

Pete, Gunnar and Darius trade looks. They know what to do.

It takes Kate and Jason a moment to recognize who the beaten and bloodied guy on the ground is.

KATE

Mateo?

Before Jason can react, he's struck on the back of the head with something hard. The butt of a gun. Held by Andrew.

Jason falls down, and Rachel with him.

Kate screams and runs. But Andrew's arms wrap around her. His hand covers her mouth.

Gunnar has a cloth soaked with chloroform and uses it to knock Kate out.

Andrew looks around to make sure there aren't any witnesses.

ANDREW

Load the girls in the van.

DARIUS

What about the men?

Pete holds a gun to Mateo's head.

PETE

I say we do them right here.

Andrew snatches Pete's gun away.

ANDREW

No bodies means no evidence. We take them with us.

Gunnar and Darius use zip-ties to bind Kate, Jason, Rachel and Mateo's hands and feet.

They're gagged and loaded into the van along with THREE CAPTURED GIRLS.

Pete drives the van while Gunnar rides shotgun.

Andrew gets into a nearby truck with a tarp covering its bed. Darius joins him.

They leave the rave unnoticed.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Andrew's truck drives ahead to watch for any law enforcement while the van trails behind.

Clearly this isn't their first rodeo.

INT. VAN (MOVING) - NIGHT

The van's suspension is shit so it's a bumpy ride.

Jason wakes. He's in pain. The zip-ties cut into his skin. He bleeds a little.

Pete keeps his eyes on the road.

Gunnar looks back to check on their human cargo every so often, but mostly stares forward.

Jason uses his foot to shake Kate awake, but she won't wake. He shakes her harder and she stirs.

Gunnar turns back and Jason plays dead. Gunnar notices nothing out of the ordinary and stares forward.

Jason shakes Kate some more and her eyes open. She and Jason communicate through looks.

Jason eyes the back doors. Maybe there's a way they can get them open and escape.

Slowly, quietly, they slither their way closer to the back doors.

Gunnar starts to look back when Pete's cell phone rings.

ANDREW (VOICE)  
Patrol car. Half a mile.

PETE  
Got it.

ANDREW (VOICE)  
Don't do anything stupid.

PETE  
I said I got it you cunt.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Andrew's truck passes the PATROL CAR.

The van trails several cars behind it, coming up slow. It'll pass the patrol car in a minute or two.

INT. VAN (MOVING) - NIGHT

Pete and Gunnar try not to act too suspicious as they inch closer. They can't take their eyes off the patrol car.

This is all good news for Jason and Kate.

Kate's in a better position so she's the one who stands on her knees. Her eyes fixed on the back of Pete and Gunnar's heads.

Kate's hands, tied behind her back, feel for the back door's handle. She gets a grip.

Gunnar turns around.

Kate pulls the handle. The doors won't open.

Gunnar steps over the unconscious bodies in the back as he moves for Kate.

Kate pulls the handle harder. No go.

Gunnar reaches for Kate. Jason tries to block him as best he can, but his tied hands and feet don't make him much of an obstacle.

Kate pulls the handle again. The doors open. She loses her balance and falls backwards towards the pavement;

But Gunnar grabs her.

All the while Pete keeps the van steady. Any change in speed might draw the cop's attention, so he keeps driving.

Gunnar pulls Kate back in and shuts the doors seconds before the van passes the patrol car, which takes the next exit and disappears.

INT. VAN (MOVING) - NIGHT

Gunnar's angry. He punches Kate in the face. It knocks the wind out of her. Jason yells through his muzzle.

Gunnar punches Kate again.

PETE

Calm the fuck down back there. The big man's not going to like her all bruised.

GUNNAR

This little bitch almost got us caught.

PETE

You'll get the chance to take it out on her soon enough.

Gunnar holds Kate's face, forcing her to look him in the eye.

GUNNAR

You hear that, sweetheart? Pretty soon you're going to wish you felt as good as you do right now.

Jason thrashes, trying to break through his zip-ties. Gunnar punches him in the stomach. Then in the face.

GUNNAR

And that goes double for you, Jackie Chan.

Another punch to Jason's face.

Andrew's truck turns off of the highway and the van follows.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

The pickup and the van drive down a long dirt road that cuts deep into the woods, far from civilization.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Nestled deep in the woods:

An old, beautiful two-story FARMHOUSE. It's wood construction with a stone chimney. Big front porch.

A few hundred yards away from the farmhouse is an old BARN.

Tall slanted trees surround the property like a fence.

A man exits the farmhouse. Big. Bald. A brawler's mug.

This is HOUSTON, 40s. He sees headlights from the pickup and the van approaching in the distance.

HOUSTON  
Billy, open up the barn.

No response.

Houston marches back into the farmhouse.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

BILLY lies asleep on the floor.

He's a kid barely out of his teens. He's skinny and his clothes are outdated and dirty. The way he acts and moves, he probably has mild autism.

Houston shakes him awake.

HOUSTON  
I said get up, boy. It's time to work.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Billy runs to the barn and opens its doors so the van can drive inside while the pickup parks near the farmhouse.

Andrew meets with Houston.

HOUSTON  
You're late.

ANDREW  
There was a complication, but we got away clean.

HOUSTON  
Tom with you?

ANDREW  
He didn't show. I thought he might have come straight here.

HOUSTON  
I'll swing by his place in the morning, make sure everything's copacetic.

ANDREW  
He's not going to be happy we  
started without him.

HOUSTON  
I don't give one damn, two shits,  
or three fucks about his happiness.

Houston approaches the barn. Andrew keeps up.

HOUSTON  
You boys had better have picked out  
some real lookers this time or I'm  
going to kick your asses up and  
down this farm.

ANDREW  
Trust me, no dogs this time. I even  
found a real pretty blonde just for  
you.

HOUSTON  
Real blonde? Not one of those dye  
jobs?

ANDREW  
No sir, real and authentic.

HOUSTON  
She better be.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

What used to be horse stables have been converted into  
holding cells.

Pete, Gunnar and Darius march the girls out of the van.

To do this they must cut the zip-ties binding the girl's  
legs, but leave the ones tying their hands behind their  
backs.

The girls are lined up and forced onto their knees. Five  
girls total, including Kate and Rachel. Many of them cry.

PETE  
Quiet.

At least two of the girls continue to whimper through their  
gags.

Pete grabs one of them by the hair and pulls it back hard.

PETE

I said shut. The fuck. Up.

The girl holds her breath. She doesn't make another sound.

Houston enters the barn like he owns the world, because he does. This small part of it, at least.

HOUSTON

Get those gags off so I can get a good look at them.

Gunnar and Darius have that honor. Houston scrutinizes each girl. Aside from Kate and Rachel there's:

ZOEY, 20s, a brunette.

VIVIAN, 20s, a Chinese girl.

LINNEA, 20s, a blonde.

HOUSTON

My name is Houston, and I'm your new owner. There's no phones or cell coverage or people around here for miles. You need to understand that you're ours. We have you. And if you don't do what we say when we say it, you are going to die.

His words send a chill down the girl's spines.

ZOEY

I have money. My parents have money.

HOUSTON

Not interested. Who else wants to bargain?

LINNEA

I'm not even from here, okay? I'm here on a student visa. I'm a Swedish citizen. My government will come looking for me. So please just let me go, okay?

Houston gets a closer look at Linnea. He likes her.

HOUSTON

Sweden, huh? I hear that got some real pretty blondes out there.

He runs his fingers through Linnea's golden locks. She shudders.

Houston notices her dark roots and pushes her away.

HOUSTON

Fucking dye job. I specifically told you boys to bring me a real blonde, not another goddamn fake.

That brings him to Kate. Her roots are blonde. He smiles.

HOUSTON

There. That's more like it. You and I are going to have a hell of a good time.

Noise from the van. It's Jason, still fighting against his zip-ties.

Houston is not happy to see him.

HOUSTON

Either that is the ugliest girl I have ever seen or one of you just came out of the closet.

ANDREW

Like I said, a little complication.

DARIUS

The oriental one broke my nose.

HOUSTON

Then I owe him a beer. Bring them on over here.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Billy's the only one not invited to the festivities. He walks the grounds with a feisty GERMAN SHEPHERD named POOCH in tow.

Billy doesn't notice there's something moving underneath the pickup truck's tarp.

TARP POV - Eyes spy Billy. The eyes sink down, hidden underneath the tarp.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Jason and Mateo are dumped on the floor in front of Houston. He's not impressed.

Mateo's still in pretty bad shape from his beating. Houston removes their gags.

HOUSTON  
What's your name, boy?

Jason says nothing.

Darius kicks him in the back. Houston stops him from going any further. He sifts through Jason's wallet.

HOUSTON  
Jason Lam of California.  
Sagittarius. Organ donor.

Houston motions to Andrew to get Mateo's wallet.

ANDREW  
Mateo Rodriquez from Arizona.

HOUSTON  
A Mexican with actual legal documentation? Ain't that a goddamn surprise. You boys know any of these girls?

Jason and Mateo say nothing.

Gunnar points to Kate and Rachel.

GUNNAR  
They were with those two.

Houston sifts through Jason's wallet further and finds a picture of him and Kate.

HOUSTON  
Holy shit, are you banging the blonde one? My God what has this country come to.  
(to Kate)  
Have you no self respect? There must be dozens of handsome young white boys lining up to be with you and you choose this slant eyed son of a bitch?

Kate won't look at him.

Angry, Houston marches over to her.

HOUSTON  
I'm talking to you.

JASON  
Leave her alone.

HOUSTON  
Why? What will happen to me if I  
don't? You going to do some karate  
bullshit and kick my ass?

PETE  
I'd pay to see that.

Gunnar pulls out some money.

GUNNAR  
I got twenty bucks on the Asian  
kid.

ANDREW  
I'll make it a hundred.

DARIUS  
I'll make it two hundred.

Houston likes those numbers.

HOUSTON  
(to Jason)  
Tell you what. We'll cut you loose.  
And if you beat me, I'll let you  
and your girlfriend go.

JASON  
No you won't. You're going to kill  
us either way. Right?

HOUSTON  
Maybe. But at least this way you  
have a chance. That's better than  
nothing, isn't it?

What choice does Jason have?

He nods.

Houston and his boys are excited. Andrew throws a knife onto  
the floor near Jason. He uses it to cut through his zip-ties.

HOUSTON

Get Billy in here. I want him to see this.

Darius leaves the barn.

Jason stands, the knife clutched tight in his hands. He and Kate exchange looks. She fears for him.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Darius calls out to Billy.

DARIUS

Hey retard. Get in here.

Billy hurries over. He and Darius go back into the barn.

Now that the coast is clear;

Erica comes out from under the pickup's tarp, a messenger bag hooked over her shoulder. She climbs out of the truck bed;

And comes face to face with Billy's dog, Pooch. It bares its teeth and growls at her.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Andrew, Pete and Darius have front row seats to the Jason Vs. Houston fight while Gunnar keeps an eye on the girls and a barely conscious Mateo.

Kate and Rachel trade looks. Kate motions to the barn door, which is locked. Rachel shakes her head. She's terrified.

Jason is no fighter. He has never done anything like this before. Houston, however, is having a blast.

Jason keeps his distance. The other boys push him towards Houston.

PETE

Come on! Do it!

DARIUS

Yeah! Get some!

ANDREW

Fight you pussy!

The pressure gets to Jason. He lets loose an insane warcry as he charges Houston with the knife.

Houston easily dodges Jason's blade and punches him. The blow nearly knocks Jason out. He's dizzy.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Erica faces down Pooch. His teeth are sharp. If he lunges he could bite her face off.

Erica isn't scared. She kneels down and maintains eye contact with Pooch. Slowly, she approaches him.

Pooch barks at her. The noise inside the barn is so loud Houston and his boys can't hear.

Erica gets nose to nose with Pooch. She whispers into his ear. She scratches his head and rubs his ears.

Pooch licks her face.

ERICA

Good boy. Now go on.

Pooch trots off.

Erica gets inside the pickup's cab. She finds the keys.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Jason recovers and charges Houston again. He cuts Jason across the stomach. Kate can't bear to watch.

Jason gives up on the running charges and simply tries to stab him. Houston deflects and slashes Jason across his back.

Jason drops to his knees. He can't take any more.

HOUSTON

Oh come on boy. You're hardly trying. Your woman is watching. You think she'll ever want to suck your little yellow cock again now that she knows how much of a punk ass piece of shit you are?

Jason gets angry. He's going to try one last charge.

Houston anticipates and has his knife ready to strike the death blow.

It's going to happen in 5, 4, 3, 2--

BLARING MUSIC brings the fight to a dead stop. It's coming from outside the barn.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Erica has repositioned the pickup. It's aimed right at the barn doors. Its radio is cranked all the way up to 11.

The parking brake is on. A large rock pins the accelerator down as the back tires spin hard.

Erica pops the brake and the driverless pickup rockets towards the barn at top speed.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

CRASH!

The barn doors explode into splinters as the pickup charges through.

The men jump out of the way, except for Gunnar, who gets mowed down by the pickup.

JASON

RUN!

The girls sprint out of the barn. Kate is the last of them. Darius grabs her by the hair.

But Jason tackles the guy to the ground and holds him there.

KATE

JASON!

JASON

GO! GET OUT OF HERE! RUN!

She leaves him.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

The girls escape into the trees, but Kate hesitates.

RACHEL

Don't stop! Keep going!

KATE

But what about Jason? And Mateo? We can't just leave them!

RACHEL

We'll get help and we'll come back.

KATE

But they could be dead by then!

RACHEL

And we'll be dead too if we don't--

GUNSHOT!

Pete shoots in the girls' direction.

Blood sprays Kate's face.

Part of Rachel's head is destroyed. She blinks, then collapses. Dead.

Kate's shocked. She can't move. But Pete's gunshots force her to. She flees into the woods.

Houston stops Pete from shooting.

HOUSTON

They're no good to us dead. Idiot.

PETE

But they're running away!

HOUSTON

That just means we get to chase them.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Jason's just starting to get the best of Pete when Andrew stabs him in the back.

Jason screams. The wound disables him, but doesn't kill him.

Houston surveys the damage to the barn.

HOUSTON

Who did this?

Andrew shows him the rock wedged against the pickup's accelerator.

ANDREW

Looks like we have an uninvited guest.

Gunnar is trapped underneath one of the pickup's tires. Somehow he's still alive.

Most of Gunnar's body has been crushed. He's in terrible pain. He cries.

HOUSTON

Gunnar. I don't know how to tell you this, but you're all fucked up.

GUNNAR

Get me to a hospital. Please.

HOUSTON

Now you know we can't do that. You're just going to have to take this one for the team.

GUNNAR

Please!

HOUSTON

I'm sorry, kid.

Houston covers Gunnar's mouth and nose until he stops breathing. Houston takes a moment to mourn him.

HOUSTON

Gear up. We need to go get those girls back.

DARIUS

What about these two?

He's referring to Jason and Mateo, who's barely alive.

Houston gives his boys a look. They know what to do.

Pete uses his revolver to shoot Mateo in the head.

Darius approaches Jason with a machete. He's too weak to crawl away. He puts his hand up in defense.

Darius hacks it off. Jason screams.

Darius brings the machete down on Jason's neck. It doesn't slice all the way through.

Darius brings the machete down a second time. Then a third, which removes Jason's head from his body.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Houston, Andrew, Pete and Darius gear up with mostly bladed weapons, except Andrew packs a bow and some arrows.

Houston hands Billy a knife. He hesitates to take it.

HOUSTON

Come on, boy. It's time you became a man.

BILLY

But I don't want to go. I want to stay here.

Houston slaps Billy so hard he falls down.

HOUSTON

Do what I say. And don't you dare cry.

Billy's angry, but restrains himself.

Houston hands him a knife and this time Billy takes it.

The five of them head into the woods. Billy calls to Pooch and he joins them.

INT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Zoey, Vivian and Linnea have regrouped and help each other slip out of their zip-ties with the aid of some slick mud.

ZOEY

We need to run.

VIVIAN

Where to? Do you even know where we are?

LINNEA

Who cares? Just pick a direction and keep going until we find help.

Kate catches up to them.

ZOEY

Where's the other girl?

Kate's still in shock. The other girls notice the blood spatter on Kate's face.

LINNEA

Holy shit.

They help Kate out of her zip-tie.

ZOEY

Come on. We have to run. Hurry before they catch up to us.

KATE

No. We... we have to go back.

VIVIAN

What? No no no. Fuck that. We're lucky we got away from those assholes in the first place!

KATE

They still have my boyfriend. I won't leave here without him.

ZOEY

Do what you want, but I'm not hanging around so I can get myself raped and murdered.

KATE

Please. I need your help. I can't do it alone.

ZOEY

Tough shit.

VIVIAN

She's right. They already killed that other girl. If they catch us again we're dead for sure.

KATE

Fine. I don't need your help. I'll do it on my own.

She heads back the way she came.

LINNEA

Don't be stupid. Come with us.

ZOEY

Let her go. We have to worry about ourselves now. Come on. We just have to keep...

She runs into a tree. Only, it's not a tree.

It's a large caveman-like man with long stringy hair that hangs in his face.

This is NED.

He's holding a heavy steel mallet and brings it down on Zoey's face.

Part of her skull caves in. Her eyeball comes out. She falls to the ground.

The other girls scream and take off running.

Ned doesn't chase them. He's an odd sort. He bends down to get a better look at Zoey. She's still breathing.

Ned brings his mallet down on her throat, crushing it.

Houston and his brood arrive. Houston is not happy.

HOUSTON

Goddamnit, Ned. Jesus fucking Christ in a convent. We did not go through the trouble to get these girls just so you could kill them before we're done with them.

Ned says nothing. He's not much of a talker.

Darius is busy reading the tracks in the dirt.

DARIUS

They split up. They're close, but we could still lose them.

HOUSTON

You, Pete and Billy go one way. Andrew and Ned are with me. Keep your radios handy.

ANDREW

What about the one who crashed the truck into the barn?

HOUSTON

We'll figure that out after we get these girls. Let's get this done quickly.

Houston, Andrew and Ned go one way.

Pete, Darius, Billy and Pooch go another.

EXT. THE WOODS (KATE'S LOCATION) - NIGHT

Kate's been running for a while. She stops to catch her breath.

She notices Vivian sitting on the ground hiding behind some bushes.

KATE

What are you doing?

VIVIAN

I twisted my ankle.

Kate comes over to Vivian.

KATE

If we circle back to that farm maybe we'll find a phone. Or maybe we could get the keys to that van.

VIVIAN

My ankle hurts too much. I won't make it that far.

KATE

You have to try.

VIVIAN

My name is Vivian. Vivian Liu. If you get away, please tell my family I love them. Tell my father I didn't mean those things I said.

Kate helps Vivian stand up.

KATE

You can tell him yourself.

EXT. THE WOODS (LINNEA'S LOCATION) - NIGHT

Linnea's having a hard time traipsing through the woods when she hears Pooch's barking in the distance.

It's getting closer.

Linnea takes off running. She has a hard time trudging through the dense woods and stumbles.

She recovers and keeps moving. But she can only run for so long. She stops near a thick tree, exhausted and huffing.

She hears footsteps approaching.

Linnea holds her breath and hides behind the tree.

She listens, waiting for the footsteps to fade away...

But they just get closer until they're right on top of her.

It's Pete. A sick smile on his face.

Linnea takes off running. But Darius is ahead of her so she runs in a different direction.

Linnea looks back and sees both Pete and Darius coming for her.

Linnea's so focused on them she doesn't look where she's going and runs right into Billy.

A moment of stillness.

Both Billy and Linnea look down and see his knife buried in her gut. Both are horrified by this.

Linnea pulls away and the bloody knife slides out of her. She can't breathe. Neither can Billy.

Linnea doubles over and she dies.

Pete and Darius catch up. They are not happy.

PETE

Fucking retard! What the fuck did you do?

DARIUS

How the fuck are we going to explain this to Houston?

PETE

He's going to tear your ass up for this, Billy. You just bought yourself the winning ticket in the most seriously fucked sweepstakes.

Darius laughs.

DARIUS

I can't wait to see that. Maybe he'll let us join in, huh?

Scared shitless and horrified by what he has done, Billy takes off running.

PETE

Dumbass. Go bring him back.

DARIUS

You go bring him back.

Pete aims his revolver at Darius. Darius sighs and goes after Billy. Pooch goes with him.

Pete stares down at Linnea's body.

PETE

Such a damn waste.

He uses his foot to roll her over onto her stomach. He stares at her ass...

Pete unbuckles his belt;

He stops when he hears a SOUND behind him. Pete turns around. Nothing there.

Another SOUND. Like fast moving footsteps. Pete can't tell where they're coming from.

PETE

Darius?

Silence.

Then Pete catches a glimpse of SOMEONE ducking behind a tree a few yards away, but the darkness makes it hard to see.

Pete draws his revolver.

PETE

Darius, if that's you I swear I'm going to kick your balls right into the roof of your mouth.

Silence.

Pete approaches the tree and circles around it...

No one's there.

FOOTSTEPS BEHIND HIM;

Pete turns around, but there's nothing there. Everything's dead quiet.

SOMEONE creeps around when Pete's back is turned, but when he tries to spot them they disappear.

Pete whips out his radio.

PETE

Darius? Stop playing around you cocksucker!

DARIUS (VOICE)

Pete? What the hell are you talking about?

PETE

I know it's you fucking around with me out here so just stop.

Pete turns around;

A nasty, wet, MEAT CUTTING SOUND...

DARIUS (VOICE)

What? I'm still looking for Billy and I can't see fucking shit out here. Pete? Pete are you there?

It takes Pete a moment for his eyes to focus on:

Erica's face.

Her knife is jammed all the way into Pete's stomach.

Pete moves to aim his revolver.

Erica pulls her knife out and slashes Pete's wrist. He SCREAMS and drops the revolver. He cradles his bleeding gut.

PETE  
You stupid little cunt.

ERICA  
You should be running.

PETE  
I'm not afraid of you.

ERICA  
Your mistake.

She kicks Pete's revolver over to him. He bends down to pick it up.

Erica runs fast and knees him right in the face. Pete falls down. He's slow trying to get back up.

Erica stabs Pete's spine and pulls her knife out at an angle, cutting a huge gash out of Pete's back.

He collapses. His legs won't work. He crawls

PETE  
My legs! I can't... I can't feel my  
legs! Fuck! My legs! Oh God!

Erica takes a moment to think. Her knife is sticky with blood.

Erica rolls Pete over just like he rolled over Linnea and rakes Pete's back with her knife.

Pete screams louder than a woman in labor. The back of his shirt looks like it's been through a paper shredder.

Pete screams. His radio is nearby. He reaches for it.

Erica stabs his hand half a dozen times.

Erica pulls back Pete's hair, exposing his neck. She holds her knife to it.

ERICA  
Do you remember me?

Pete's in so much pain he can't speak. Erica's knife gives Pete's neck a little kiss and he bleeds.

PETE  
Yeah, I remember you.

ERICA

I want you to beg for your life.

PETE

Please. Please don't kill me. Oh God. I have a son. Please just let me go.

Erica rolls him over onto his back and stakes two smaller knives through his wrists, pinning him to the ground.

Erica rifles through his wallet before she straddles him, her crotch practically in his face. Pete's petrify.

ERICA

Are you afraid of me now?

Pete hesitates to answer.

PETE

Yes.

ERICA

Good boy.

Erica carves. She starts at Pete's hairline and cuts around past his sideburn and jaw, underneath his chin.

Pete's screaming as she does this. He screams so much he loses his voice.

Erica ignores him and keeps cutting. She's much too focused on her work of art.

EXT. THE WOODS (KATE'S LOCATION) - NIGHT

Kate struggles to help Vivian through the woods, but she doesn't have the strength.

VIVIAN

Go. Just leave me.

KATE

No. I can't do that.

VIVIAN

We can't both get away, but you can. Just go.

KATE

No!

Houston sees them. He and Andrew are coming.

Vivian pushes Kate away.

VIVIAN  
Get out of here! Go!

Kate runs.

Andrew captures Vivian.

HOUSTON  
Take her back to the farm.

Vivian tries to fight Andrew, but a punch to the face knocks her out cold. He throws her over his shoulder and heads back to the farm.

Meanwhile;

Kate's been active for so long she can't go much further.

Houston's in no rush to catch her. He follows her at a casual pace.

HOUSTON  
Where do you think you're going? I told you, there's nothing out here. You could run for four hours straight and you wouldn't see another human being.

Kate slows down. She's pushing her body as hard as she can, but at this point speed walking would be a hurdle for her.

HOUSTON  
Why do you think we set up shop all the way out here? No neighbors. No roads. No nothing. Just privacy.

Kate collapses. She sucks in air. Her lungs are on fire.

KATE  
I'll give in. I'll let you have me. But only if you let Justin and Mateo go. Let them go and I promise I won't resist.

Houston kneels down to her eye level.

HOUSTON

When you girls took off I couldn't leave anyone behind to guard your boyfriend, and we don't exactly keep prisoners, so we...

Kate reads between the lines. She cries.

HOUSTON

I do appreciate the offer though. I'm not a bad man. I have a good heart. I promise to be gentle.

He touches her hair. He's a fool for blondes.

Kate shoves a handful of dirt in his face and runs.

HOUSTON

Fucking bitch!

Kate enters a really dense part of the woods. She looks back and doesn't see Houston.

A pair of hands grab Kate and sling her against a tree. She blacks out.

It's Ned.

He's about to smash her skull with his mallet.

Houston stops him.

HOUSTON

No, Ned. Wait until I'm done with her. Then you can have the remains.

Houston starts to pick Kate up.

She suddenly comes to life and screams. She resists Houston.

He punches Kate. Her head snaps back and she's out like a light.

EXT. THE WOODS (ERICA'S LOCATION) - NIGHT

Erica's still cutting into Pete's face, exposing the tissue underneath.

Pete's screams morph into wet muffled gurgles.

Erica literally rips Pete's face off. Then she stands up and stomps him in what's left of it.

Erica has so much pent up anger and aggression that none of this satisfies her. She's almost crying now. And Pete's still moving.

Erica jams her knife into Pete's stomach. Somehow he still has the strength to try and fight her off, but it's useless.

Erica drives the blade up Pete's belly, up to his chest, ripping it open.

Pete's still alive through all of this.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Kate hits the floor hard. The jolt wakes her. She coughs. Her hands are zip-tied behind her back again.

She sees Jason's decapitated body and she loses it. Kate violently thrashes, trying to break through her zip-ties.

HOUSTON

Hey Goldilocks. Cut that shit out. I hope you enjoyed your little midnight stroll because you're not getting away this time. You may think this isn't going to happen, but it is. Just accept it. It'll make things go a lot easier.

Houston bends down to get a closer look at Kate. He runs his fingers through her blonde hair and down her face.

HOUSTON

Our babies are going to be so beautiful.

His fingers get close to Kate's mouth. She bites them.

HOUSTON

IIIIIIIIEEEEEEEE!!!!

He slaps Kate across her face until she lets go. Her lip is split. She spits blood.

Houston cradles his bleeding fingers. The bite wasn't too deep. He laughs.

HOUSTON

My oh my, boys. Looks like we've got ourselves a biter here.

KATE  
Where's Vivian?

HOUSTON  
The oriental? Andrew's taking good care of her. I've never cared for that interracial bullshit. But Andrew? He can't get enough of it. So you won't have to worry about him coming after you. Just me.

His words strangle any vestige of hope Kate may have had.

KATE  
How long have you been doing this?

HOUSTON  
Years.

KATE  
It won't last. Eventually you'll slip up and you'll get caught.

HOUSTON  
Maybe. But not tonight.

Billy is pushed into the barn by Darius.

HOUSTON  
Where's the other girl?

DARIUS  
Why don't you ask dickhead over here.

This news annoys Houston.

HOUSTON  
Where's Pete?

DARIUS  
I thought he'd be back here already.

Houston talks into his radio.

HOUSTON  
Pete, come in. Pick up goddamnit. Pete.

ERICA (VOICE)

Pete's not here right now. But if you'd like to leave a message I'll make sure he gets it.

Houston and the others are taken by surprise.

HOUSTON

(to Darius)

Go get Andrew.

(into radio)

I must say you have a real sexy voice. Who might this be?

ERICA (VOICE)

The one who ruined your barn and killed one of your boys. Well, two, counting Tom. You remember him, don't you?

Darius comes back with Andrew. He's shirtless, but his pants are still on.

ANDREW

What the hell do you want? I was just getting started.

Houston motions for him to shut up and listen.

HOUSTON

(into radio)

That sure is a familiar voice you have. I just can't seem to place it.

ERICA (VOICE)

I'm the one that got away.

Andrew recognizes the voice.

HOUSTON

I don't hear any police sirens, so I'm guessing it's just you out there. Big mistake. Real big. And now you don't even have the element of surprise. You're dead, little girl. There's only one of you and six of us.

A GUNSHOT on Erica's end.

ERICA (VOICE)  
Five. And now I have a gun. You're  
all going to die.

Houston laughs. The balls on this girl.

HOUSTON  
Do you hear fear in my voice?

ERICA (VOICE)  
I'm going to kill you. And everyone  
you love. And I'm going to burn  
your fucking house down.

HOUSTON  
Good luck bitch.

End of transmission.

Houston punches Andrew's face. Andrew doesn't fight back.

HOUSTON  
You told me she didn't get away.  
You told me she was dead.

ANDREW  
There's no way she could have  
survived.

HOUSTON  
Then who THE FUCK was I just  
talking to? A fucking ghost? She  
killed Gunnar and she said she got  
Tom. Now Pete. That's on you.

DARIUS  
At least she didn't bring the cops.

HOUSTON  
Now that worries me. Either she's  
fucking stupid or she's out of her  
goddamn mind. Or both. Either way  
she's dangerous. We need to take  
care of this. Now.

ANDREW  
I say we sit tight and wait for her  
to come to us.

HOUSTON  
Fuck that. I'm not going to be a  
sitting target. Grab your shit.  
We're going hunting.

Billy's been brooding the entire time, still traumatized by what he did.

BILLY

I don't want to go. I just want to stay here.

HOUSTON

Boy, don't make me tell you twice.

DARIUS

Where the hell did Ned go?

ANDREW

Probably wandering around the woods jerking off like he always is.

DARIUS

What if he runs into that girl?

HOUSTON

He'll kill her or she'll kill him. Either way I'd call that a win.

Vivian is brought in and thrown into one of the holding cells.

Her shirt has been ripped and she has no shoes, but she appears to be physically in tact.

Mentally, however, is a different story.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Darius leads Houston, Andrew and Billy into the woods.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Kate's trying to free her hands from her zip-tie.

She attempts to slip one hand free, but it's too tight. Her skin breaks. She bleeds. It hurts. But her hand slips free.

KATE

Vivian. We have to get out of here before they come back. Do you hear me? Vivian?

Vivian's catatonic. She won't be much help.

Kate slips off her bra from underneath her shirt and removes its underwire. She tries to pick her cell's lock.

VIVIAN

What are you doing?

KATE

My first boyfriend was kind of a thief. He had a lock picking kit and everything. He taught me a few tricks.

It takes Kate a while, but she picks the lock. She escapes and works on picking Vivian's lock.

KATE

We're getting out of here.

VIVIAN

What's the point? They're just going to catch us again.

KATE

No they're not. They're busy chasing another girl, the one who crashed the truck. She's already killed two of them.

VIVIAN

I like her already.

Kate picks the lock.

VIVIAN

BEHIND YOU!

It's Ned.

Kate dives out of the way before he can bring his heavy mallet down on her.

Kate tries to run, but Ned grabs Kate by the hair and reels her in.

Vivian escapes her cell and finds a nearby knife. She stabs Ned in the back. He barely feels it.

Ned's arm swings around and he punches Vivian. She hits the floor.

Ned's mallet comes down on Vivian's knee, shattering it. She screams.

KATE  
LEAVE HER ALONE!

Kate pulls the knife out of Ned's back and stabs him with it. He still doesn't feel it.

Ned punches Kate in the face. She drops the knife.

Ned picks her up and throws her against the wall. Any wind Kate had in her lungs has been thoroughly knocked out.

Ned returns his attention to Vivian. She's crawling away. She actually manages to stand up on her good knee and hops.

Ned takes his time stalking her. No rush. He kicks her and she loses her balance. She hits the floor.

Ned's still not ready to make the final kill. He's in no hurry.

Vivian's tired of crawling.

VIVIAN  
Do it! If you're going to do it  
then just fucking do it already! Do  
it! Do it! DO IT!

Ned raises his mallet up high over his head. It's the last thing Vivian sees before she shuts her eyes.

The mallet hits home.

Kate's dazed.

From her position she sees Ned's mallet hitting Vivian over and over again. It makes a horrible meat-packing sound.

When he's done, Ned turns his attention to Kate again and approaches. His mallet is wet with blood.

EXT. THE WOODS (PETE'S MURDER SITE) - NIGHT

Darius leads the group to Linnea's dead body, where they find Pete nearby.

Despite having his face ripped off and his guts being disemboweled, he is still breathing.

Billy looks like he is going to piss himself.

ANDREW  
Jesus fuck.

DARIUS  
How is he even still alive?

ANDREW  
I thought she just shot him?

Houston studies Pete the way a cop would examine a crime scene.

HOUSTON  
That was just for show. She wanted us to find him like this. She's trying to scare us.

DARIUS  
Well mission fucking accomplished!

HOUSTON  
Could you be a bigger pussy?

DARIUS  
She ripped his face off. She fucking ripped his fucking face off and pulled his goddamn guts out. Forgive me for not being as laid back about this as you are.

ANDREW  
So what now, boss?

Houston looks around.

HOUSTON  
Where the hell did Billy go?

Andrew and Darius don't see him either.

DARIUS  
The girl will make mince meat out of that boy if she finds him.

ANDREW  
I say let her. He never had the stomach for this.

HOUSTON  
Back to the farm. Now.

DARIUS  
What about Pete? Are we just going to leave him like this?

HOUSTON

There's only one thing we can do  
for him now. The honor is yours.

Darius bends down besides what's left of Pete.

DARIUS

Sorry man. Nothing personal.

He slits Pete's throat. Pete convulses, then finally dies.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Kate staggers to her feet. Ned approaches her. He's blocking  
the only way out.

But the barn is big. There's room to maneuver.

Kate moves left. Ned matches her.

Kate moves right. Ned matches her.

Ned picks up the knife Kate dropped and throws it at her. It  
catches her hair and pins Kate to the wall.

Ned closes in.

Kate pulls at her hair, but that's no good. She grips the  
knife and manages to pull it from the wall.

Kate defends herself with the knife, but it doesn't scare  
Ned. He's still coming.

KATE

Come on. Come on!

Ned swings his mallet at her;

Kate dodges, but manages to cut Ned's arm. He answers with a  
left hook to Kate's face. She's dazed, but mobile.

Kate runs for the crashed pickup truck. She ignores Gunnar's  
mangled body and crawls under the truck.

Instead of crawling after her, Ned jumps in the truck bed.

A quiet moment.

Kate can't tell where exactly Ned is. Should she crawl out  
and make a run for it?

Suddenly a hand grabs for Kate's leg. She kicks it away and crawls to the opposite end of the truck.

But the hand reaches under the truck again and grabs her hair. She uses the knife to cut through her hair.

Kate rolls out from under the pickup. But before she can stand Ned pounces on her.

Kate manages to stab Ned's right hand, the one holding the mallet. He drops it.

Ned pins her down. He scratches at her clothes and breaks her skin. She bleeds.

Kate fights hard. She kicks him hard in the guts. Ned slaps her across the face. She doesn't stop struggling.

Ned chokes her. Kate's face turns red. She goes limp.

Ned reaches for his mallet;

Kate suddenly comes to life, grabs her knife, and slashes Ned across the face.

It buys Kate enough time to stand. She's exhausted.

Ned cradles the bleeding gash in his face. He's angry now. He runs at her.

Kate swings the knife and misses. Ned captures her in a bear hug and squeezes. She drops the knife.

Kate knees Ned in the balls. He lets her go.

Kate picks up his mallet and clubs him in the head with it.

Ned falls down. He's dazed.

Kate staggers for the broken barn doors.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Kate exits the barn;

And is immediately grabbed by someone. Kate's adrenaline is pumping. Her instinct is to fight them.

ERICA

Calm down. Hey. Calm the hell down.

Kate focuses on Erica's face.

KATE

You?

Erica looks inside the barn and sees Ned starting to regain his senses.

ERICA

You didn't kill him?

KATE

What?

ERICA

He's still alive. You didn't kill him. You need to finish it.

KATE

What?

Erica pulls her back into the barn.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Kate breaks free of Erica's grip.

KATE

What are you doing? We have to get out of here.

ERICA

Not until he's dead.

KATE

That was you on the walkie-talkie.

ERICA

Yeah.

KATE

We need to go. The others could be back here any minute!

Kate breaks for the exit again, but Erica guards it.

ERICA

You're right, Kate. These men want to kill is. They won't stop until they do.

Erica aims Pete's revolver at Ned.

ERICA

So why the hell didn't you finish him off?

KATE

I had a chance to get away and I took it.

Kate's eyes fall on Vivian. Her face is completely caved in.

KATE

I didn't want to end up like her. And the others.

The sight of Vivian's smashed face disgusts Erica, but she buries her feelings deep and sobers.

ERICA

I get it. You were scared. But what you did was stupid.

Ned stands and moves for Erica. She cocks her revolver and aims right between Ned's eyes. He keeps his distance.

ERICA

Don't you fucking try it, asshole.  
(to Kate)  
You see? He would have gotten right back the fuck up and chased you with the weapons you left behind. If we're going to get out of this alive you can't do stupid shit like that again, agreed?

Kate thinks. It makes sense.

ERICA

Good. Now kill him.

KATE

What?

ERICA

We don't have a lot of time here, Kate. There are four more left. I need to know you have what it takes. I need to know you are capable of taking a life.

Kate's anxious. She's never had to consider something like this before.

KATE

Okay. Okay. Give me the gun and I'll do it.

ERICA

No. I only have three bullets left and I'm not wasting them.

Erica pulls a knife from her messenger bag and hands it to Kate.

ERICA

Use that.

KATE

No way. Just give me the gun.

Erica removes the bullets from her revolver.

KATE

What the hell are you doing?

Ned comes at Erica. She has her knife. She welcomes him.

Ned tries to grab her just like he tried to grab Kate.

Erica anticipates and slices his stomach.

It barely slows Ned down. He charges towards her again.

Erica crouches and slashes his leg. He falls to one knee.

Erica gets behind him and slashes the back of his other leg.

Ned collapses onto his stomach.

ERICA

See? He's big and slow. We're small and quick. They underestimate us because they're stronger. But strength doesn't mean shit if they can't walk.

Erica slashes Ned's Achilles tendons. He'll never walk again.

ERICA

Now finish him off.

Kate takes one step back.

KATE

Why can't you just do it so we can get out of here?

ERICA  
Goddamnit Kate.

Erica grabs Kate and pushes her towards Ned, who's crawling on the ground and reaching for Kate.

ERICA  
If you want to live past today you  
need to stop fucking around and do  
what needs to be done.

Kate deliberates. She's stressed beyond belief.

Ned grabs her foot. His hand reaches up her calf. He's starting to pull her down.

He does.

Ned's crawling on top of her. She looks to Erica for help, but she stays put.

Kate panics and thrust her knife into Ned's chest.

Then she does it again. Three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine more times.

All of Kate's pent up anger and frustration is expelled through the tip of that knife.

Ned collapses on top of her. Dead.

Kate's crying. Ned's blood is all over her clothes.

Erica pulls Ned's body off of her. She helps Kate up and holds her.

ERICA  
It's okay. It's over. You did  
great.

Kate beats her fists against Erica's chest and pushes her away. Kate's pissed off.

ERICA  
You can be mad at me all you want.  
After. Now we have to move.

KATE  
You're fucking insane!

ERICA

If that's what helps us to survive  
then I'll be the craziest bitch in  
existence.

Kate sees the blood on her hands. It's so thick and red. She  
tries to wipe it off. It won't come off.

Kate freaks.

KATE

Oh God... oh my God... oh my God...  
oh my God...

Kate bolts out of the barn.

Erica slits Ned's throat. Just to be sure.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Kate drops to her knees and vomits.

Erica holds Kate's head as she vomits.

ERICA

This seems a little familiar,  
doesn't it?

Kate spits and gives Erica a dirty look.

ERICA

Listen, I know what you're going  
through. That awful feeling in the  
pit of your stomach? I got that  
too. It's a good thing, Kate. It  
means you're willing to do what's  
necessary to survive.

Kate stands and keeps her distance from Erica.

KATE

You weren't taken with the rest of  
us. What the fuck are you even  
doing here?

ERICA

It doesn't matter now.

KATE

The hell it doesn't. How the fuck  
did you get here?

This is not a question Erica wants to answer.

ERICA

I was hidden in the back of the truck. They didn't see me.

Kate's trying to wrap her head around that one.

KATE

Wait, so you came here on purpose? Did you know what they were going to do to us?

ERICA

I can explain. Later. Now we need to move.

KATE

No, I want to know right fucking now!

Erica ignores her and walks over to the van. She slashes the tires.

KATE

What the hell?!

ERICA

I couldn't find the keys. And I don't know how to hotwire a car. How about you?

KATE

No.

ERICA

Then if we can't use it neither can they.

KATE

But what if we find the keys? You're trapping us here with them.

ERICA

No, I'm trapping them here with us.

KATE

Difference being?

Erica heads for the tree line.

ERICA

The best thing we have going for us is they don't know where we are. We need to find a good place to hide until they come back. Then we'll make our move.

KATE

Maybe there's a phone in the house?

ERICA

There isn't. And they dumped the phones they took from the girls. It's just us, Kate. No police, no calvary, no white knight coming to the rescue. Just us.

KATE

Then what were you planning to do if...

Static crackles from Erica's pocket. It's the radio she stole from Pete.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Pick up. Come on. I know you can hear me. It's Erica, isn't it?

Andrew's voice sends a jolt of anger and disgust through Erica's entire body.

KATE

Turn it off.

Erica signals for her to shut up. Kate grabs for the radio.

KATE

I said turn it off.

Erica shoves her away. She's dead serious.

ERICA

Don't. Don't even.

Kate backs off.

ANDREW (V.O.)

I remember when I first saw you. That concert outside of Fairfield. You were so very gorgeous. I knew I had to have you.

Rage slowly snakes its way across Erica's face.

ANDREW (V.O.)

Most girls we have to drug or drag  
kicking and screaming. But not you.  
You were so into me all I had to do  
was ask and you came with me  
willingly. I like to think you knew  
what was going to happen. I think  
you wanted it. I think you enjoyed  
what we did together.

Erica's eyes grow wide. Her nostrils flare. She's beyond  
pissed off.

She's in an entirely different zip code of pissed off.

ANDREW (V.O.)

It can be like that again. Just  
give yourself up and we can go back  
to the way it used to be. Just me.  
And you. Together.

Erica presses her radio's transmit button, which cuts Andrew  
off.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Houston and Darius are heading back to the farm. Andrew  
trails behind so he can use his radio in private.

Silence from Erica's end.

Andrew listens intently, waiting...

He hears Erica breathing.

ERICA (V.O.)

I killed your boy with the mallet.  
I'm saving you for last.

The line goes dead on her end.

Andrew snap to attention.

ANDREW

Shit! She got Ned!

The trio run towards the farm.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Erica sees flashlights bouncing around in the woods and getting closer.

Erica smashes the radio.

ERICA

They're coming. We need to move.

Erica pulls Kate towards the tree line on the opposite side of the farm from where Houston and his gang are coming.

But Kate resists. She's upset.

KATE

You knew. You knew who they were.  
You knew what was going to happen  
to us.

ERICA

Now is not the time...

KATE

YOU FUCKING KNEW!

Erica grabs Kate and covers her mouth.

She drags Kate around the side of the barn, hiding them from view just as Houston and his gang emerge from the woods.

Houston, Andrew and Darius head straight for the barn.

If they were to walk around to the opposite side they'd catch the girls. Luckily they don't.

If Erica or Kate move too fast the others might hear them, so they stay put and don't make a sound.

They can hear what's going on inside the barn.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Like a backwoods Sherlock Holmes, Houston surveys the crime scene while Andrew checks on the cages.

ANDREW

I can't find the blonde one.

HOUSTON  
That's because your little black  
whore set her free.

Darius is busy freaking out over the state of Ned.

DARIUS  
Holy shit. Holy fucking shit man.  
She killed Ned. How the hell did  
she do that?

HOUSTON  
With a seven inch hunting knife by  
the looks of it.

DARIUS  
Fuck man. That's it. I'm not  
sticking around to get my throat  
slit and my guts yanked out. I'm  
done.

Darius gets the hell out of there.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Darius reaches the van. Erica and Kate can see him. If Darius  
turns around he'll see them.

But Darius's attention is focused on the van's slashed tires.

DARIUS  
Fuck!

Darius kicks the van.

Houston follows him outside. Darius heads away from the farm.

HOUSTON  
What the hell do you think you're  
going?

DARIUS  
Getting the fuck out of dodge.

HOUSTON  
No you're not. You're staying right  
here with the rest of us and seeing  
this thing through.

DARIUS  
The hell I am. This is all on  
Andrew. He's the one she wants.  
This ain't got shit to do with me.

HOUSTON  
You want to leave? Fine. Go. Go on.  
But it'll cost you a hand.

Darius stares at Houston for a moment.

DARIUS  
What?

HOUSTON  
Your hand. I don't care which one.  
Cut it off. Then you can leave.

DARIUS  
You're not serious.

He is. Andrew joins them. He's curious to see where this is  
going.

DARIUS  
Someone is out here trying to kill  
us! Now is not the time for us to  
turn on each other.

HOUSTON  
But deserting your friends like a  
pussy is just fine? Just leave the  
rest of us to handle it while you  
sneak away? That hardly seems fair,  
does it?

Houston stares Darius down. Darius reacts like a man with a  
gun to his head. He is scared of this man.

Darius takes one step backwards, away from Houston.

Houston takes two steps towards Darius.

DARIUS  
Come on man.

HOUSTON  
When you joined our little  
fraternity you said you'd do  
whatever it took to keep it going.  
Remember that?

Darius says nothing. His eyes are glued to the knife in Houston's hand.

DARIUS  
So you want to kill me now?

HOUSTON  
I didn't say anything about killing you. I just want your hand. If you die in the process that's really not my problem, now is it?

Darius stalls. He's not sure what to do next.

HOUSTON  
Or you can stay here and help us catch this bitch and keep both of your hands. How's that sound? Better?

Darius can't stand up to Houston's poker face. He folds.

HOUSTON  
That's what I thought. Now take your sorry ass to the house and make yourself useful.

Darius obeys. He looks the way a child does after being sent to its room.

Houston and Andrew wait until Darius is out of earshot.

ANDREW  
Maybe he's right. It's not like she can go to the cops. Not now. There's no shame in packing up and starting new some place else.

HOUSTON  
It's too late for that now.

ANDREW  
How come?

HOUSTON  
Because now it's personal.

Houston and Andrew follow Darius inside the farmhouse.

Erica and Kate quietly slip away into the woods.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Kate's lungs breathe in as much air as they can.

KATE  
Oh my God. Holy shit.

ERICA  
Keep your voice down. Sound travels  
out here.

From their position, Erica still has a decent view of the  
farmhouse. She watches for activity.

But her attention is drawn to Kate, who's staring at her.

KATE  
Who the hell are you?

Erica won't answer that. Or maybe she just can't.

KATE  
They kidnapped you just like they  
kidnapped the others. That much I  
get. But you escaped, right?

ERICA  
Something like that.

KATE  
Then why didn't you just go to the  
fucking cops?

ERICA  
I did. They weren't interested.  
Maybe if I was more like you they  
would have listened.

KATE  
What the hell's that supposed to  
mean?

ERICA  
It means I was young black girl  
from the ghetto with a drug charge  
accusing a group of white guys  
whose names she doesn't know of  
raping and torturing her. No one  
cared about me, Kate.

ERICA(cont'd)

I lost two brothers and five  
cousins to violence and the cops  
never did shit because nobody gives  
a fuck about people like us. Not  
the police, not the media, nobody.

Erica takes a moment. This isn't easy for her.

ERICA

When I got away I spent three days  
in the woods hiding. By the time I  
made it back to civilization I was  
delirious and dehydrated. I  
couldn't remember much of what  
happened. At first. It took months  
before it all come back to me. And  
I still didn't know where this  
place was.

Kate's trying to put the pieces together.

KATE

Then how did you know they'd be at  
the rave?

ERICA

I was driving down the highway and  
saw a big billboard for a law firm.  
And lo and behold, I recognized one  
of them. He led me there.

KATE

You could have warned us.

ERICA

Would you have believed me?

Kate thinks. The answer is obvious.

ERICA

Besides I didn't know who they  
would take. It could have just as  
easily been someone else instead of  
you. I just recognized the truck  
and I hid inside.

KATE

But why? Why come back? Why risk  
it?

Erica lifts up her shirt. There's dozens of old scars all  
over her stomach and back, and more we can't see.

ERICA

They took everything from me. So I decided to return the favor in kind.

KATE

But you're a murderer now. People are dead. Jason. Rachel. Mateo. Those girls.

ERICA

I'm sorry about them. If I could have done this without them dying I would have. But we have to think about us now. We're alive. I plan to keep us that way.

KATE

How?

Erica's not so sure about that part.

KATE

What was going through your head? How could you think you could do this all by yourself?

ERICA

I don't know. I just knew I had to. I had to try.

Kate shivers.

KATE

I'm cold. And hungry.

Erica tosses her a candy bar. She also hands Kate an extra knife.

KATE

Tell me we're going to win and I'll believe you.

Silence.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Houston peaks out of a window. He watches the tree line, but doesn't see anything out of the ordinary.

Darius is with him and he's jittery as hell. Andrew's nowhere in sight.

DARIUS  
You sure they can see us?

HOUSTON  
If they're watching they can.

DARIUS  
And you're sure this'll work?

HOUSTON  
If you've got a better idea I suggest you speak the fuck up.

Darius says nothing. He can't keep still.

DARIUS  
Were you really gonna cut off my hand?

Houston gives Darius a look.

Hell yes he was.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

From her position, Erica has a decent view of the farmhouse. She can see people moving around behind the curtains.

KATE  
What are they doing?

ERICA  
I don't know. They're just in there. Waiting.

KATE  
What if they don't come out? Are you going to go in?

ERICA  
There's a generator in a shack just off the property. I'll cut the power and set the damn place on fire and make them come out.

Erica suddenly realizes.

ERICA  
Wait. Where's the other guy?

KATE  
What other guy?

ERICA

The one with the dog. He never came back. Where the hell is he?

BILLY (O.S.)

Here I am.

Erica and Kate turn around;

Billy's standing behind them. He's dirty and tired.

Erica aims her gun at him. Billy puts his hands up in defense.

BILLY

Wait! Just wait a minute. I don't want to hurt you. I want to help you.

Erica's this close to blowing Billy's brains out.

ERICA

Get on your knees. Quietly.

Billy does. He's so scared he could shit.

BILLY

Please. Just listen to me. Hear me out. I'm not with them. I never touched any of those girls. I swear. I want to help you. Please. I just want to help.

ERICA

I don't believe you.

Erica jams her gun in Billy's eye. He's almost crying now.

KATE

Wait.

ERICA

Why? So he can get the chance to double cross us? Fuck that.

KATE

He snuck up on us. If he was still with the others they'd be here by now, right?

ERICA

I don't care. He's one of them. Kate. He has to die.

Billy squirms. His eyes are shut tight.

KATE

Just look at him. I saw the way they treated him. I believe he wants to help us.

BILLY

That's right. I hate it here. If you'd seen the things they've done. All the people they've killed... I'm sick of it and I want out.

KATE

What can you do to help us?

BILLY

I don't know. What do you want me to do?

ERICA

What are they planning?

BILLY

I don't know.

Erica doesn't like that answer.

BILLY

Honest. I ran off after we found Pete. He deserved what he got. They all deserve it. Please. When you finish with them just promise to take me with you.

Erica and Kate exchange looks.

Erica's not sold.

KATE

We need help, Erica. With him on our side it evens the odds. We should trust him. Think about it. We need all the help we can get right now.

Erica's conflicted, but she agrees.

ERICA

Okay. With three of us I think we can make this work, but we can't stay in one place too long. We need to move.

They move through the woods. Kate leads, with Billy behind her and Erica behind him.

Erica grabs Billy's hair and pulls it back to expose his neck and slits his throat.

Kate turns around just in time for a jet of blood to spray her in the face. It gets in her mouth. She gags.

Billy clutches his throat and collapses. He convulses while he bleeds out.

Kate freaks. There's blood all over her. In her hair. Soaked through her blouse.

KATE  
JESUS CHRIST! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!

ERICA  
We can't trust him, Kate. He's one of them.

KATE  
He was going to help us!

ERICA  
He killed one of the girls. The blonde. I saw him. He stabbed her right in the gut. I wasn't about to give him the chance to do the same to me.

Billy's still writhing in the dirt. He's trying to say something, but the words are garbled.

The sight of him bleeding turns Kate's stomach.

KATE  
Would you at least put him out of his misery?

ERICA  
Sorry but I'm all out of mercy. If you care so much why don't you do the honors? Here.

She hands Kate her gun.

KATE  
I didn't think you'd want to waste a bullet on him.

ERICA  
You're awful with a knife. And to  
be honest I hate guns.

GUNSHOT!

Erica screams and falls down. She's been winged in the arm.  
But not by Kate.

ANDREW  
Funny, I never liked guns either.

Kate's petrified. She shoots at Andrew. The shots miss. She's  
out of bullet.

ERICA  
Kate run!

Kate freezes.

Andrew comes at her.

Erica pulls a knife from her messenger bag and staggers to  
her feet.

She throws her knife at Andrew and nails him in his side.

ANDREW  
Fuck!

He pulls the blade out.

Erica has another knife and tries to stab him in the heart,  
but Andrew holds her off.

ERICA  
Kate get the fuck out of here! Keep  
running! Don't look back!

Kate does as she's told and disappears into the darkness.

Erica wrestles with Andrew. She's trying to stab him, but her  
wounded arm gives him the advantage.

Andrew knocks the knife out of her hand, but he has to drop  
his gun in order to do it.

Erica captures the gun. She aims at Andrew's head and pulls  
the trigger.

But nothing happens.

ANDREW  
Damn thing always jams.

He punches Erica in the face. She's down for the count. She's not getting back up.

Andrew checks his stab wound. It's not serious.

He takes a moment to breathe and examines Billy, who's finally stopped moving.

ANDREW  
You really should be thanking me. I could have killed you.

ERICA  
You should have.

ANDREW  
Nah. What would be the fun in that? I'm going to keep you alive as long as possible, princess.

ERICA  
I'm going to fuck you all the way up.

ANDREW  
You'd need a fucking bazooka to take me down.

EXT. THE WOODS (KATE'S LOCATION) - NIGHT

Kate's running. She stops to catch her breath. She can still see the floodlights from the farm.

She continues to move away from the farm...

She stops.

She really just wants to keep on walking and never look back...

She keeps moving away from the farm.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Houston and Darius come out to meet Andrew, who has Erica and her messenger bag in tow.

Erica's hands and feet are bound by zip-ties.

HOUSTON  
Well I'll be goddamned.

ANDREW  
She was watching the house just  
like you said. Didn't even see me  
coming.

HOUSTON  
Let me get a look at her.

Andrew stands Erica up and keeps her from falling down.

ANDREW  
She killed Billy. He wasn't even  
trying to hurt her and she opened  
his throat anyway.

A flash of anger from Houston.

He punches Erica in the face, hard. Her lip splits.

DARIUS  
You fucking animal.

Darius punches Erica in the gut. She falls down and coughs.  
Darius kicks Erica in the stomach. She spits blood.

ANDREW  
Hey, don't go bruising her all up.

DARIUS  
Fuck you asshole. This little  
jungle bunny has a lot worse  
coming.

HOUSTON  
Where's the blonde?

ANDREW  
Still out there. Unarmed. She's all  
yours. But this one? She's my  
property.

DARIUS  
Don't risk it. Just kill her and be  
done with it.

HOUSTON  
Darius is right. She dies.

ANDREW

Come on. At least give me some time with her.

HOUSTON

No. This ends right here right now.

Houston takes Darius's gun and aims at Erica's head. She stares down the gun barrel. Unafraid. She's prepared.

But Andrew blocks the shot.

ANDREW

An hour. Give me one hour. You owe me that much.

Houston doesn't like it, but concedes.

HOUSTON

If an hour passes and she's still breathing I'll start cutting chunks off the both of you.

Houston tosses Darius's gun back to him before they head out into the woods in search of Kate.

Andrew drags Erica inside the farmhouse by her feet.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Erica's in a lot of pain, but she keeps her wits about her. She's looking around, trying to find a way out.

Andrew drags her towards the basement door. He has to stop for a moment to unlock it.

And that's when Erica sees it:

The head of a nail sticking out of a floorboard.

Erica rolls over onto her stomach and hooks part of the zip-tie binding her hands around the head of the nail.

From Andrew's perspective it looks like she's trying to crawl away.

ANDREW

Seriously? You aren't going anywhere, girl. Not this time.

Andrew grabs Erica's feet and pulls her along, causing the nail to cut into the zip-tie, but not enough to break it.

INT. FARMHOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Andrew pulls Erica down the stairs. She covers her face to protect it from hitting the steps.

The place is a dungeon in every sense of the word. It's dark and there's old dried blood on the concrete floor.

There's a hook hanging from the ceiling. Andrew hangs Erica on it by the zip-tie binding her hands.

Erica's trying to break through the zip-tie without drawing attention, but the damn thing is just too strong.

Andrew sifts through Erica's messenger bag. It contains knives, a little food and water, and her taser.

ANDREW

I know we don't exactly have a lot of time, but I need to know.

Andrew browses through a drawer full of knives and other killing tools.

ANDREW

After you escaped and I couldn't find you I thought maybe the coyotes got you. I checked the news and the papers every day for weeks.

Andrew takes a pair of huge scissors from the drawer and teases Erica with them.

ANDREW

You did it. The impossible. You got away clean. So why take the risk? Why come back?

Erica's not talking to this piece of shit.

ANDREW

I have a theory.

Andrew removes Erica's jacket by cutting through it.

ANDREW

Who were you before we brought you here? Were you studying to be a doctor or a lawyer? Were you starting a business? Were you getting married?

Andrew removes Erica's shredded jacket and takes off her shoes and socks.

ANDREW

Know what I think? I think you were a nobody. Just another boring unimportant girl with no aim or purpose.

Andrew puts down the scissors and drags his fingers across Erica's body, mapping her curves.

ANDREW

But we changed that, didn't we? We motivated you. Gave you a goal. A purpose. That's why you didn't go to the cops. You wanted us all to yourself. We made you. And now I'm going to unmake you.

He cuts through the zip-tie binding Erica's feet together in order to pull her pants down.

Erica kicks, but hanging from the hook doesn't give her much leverage.

This amuses Andrew.

ANDREW

Yeah. That's it. That's what daddy likes. Fight. Come on. Keep it up. Don't stop.

What Erica's really doing is putting more pressure on the zip-tie binding her hands, but she doesn't have the strength to break it.

Erica tires out. She's spent all her energy. She's finished.

Andrew feels her up. He's in love with her body. He unbuckles her pants and starts to unzip them.

ERICA

You were right.

ANDREW

About what, sweetheart?

ERICA

When we met at that concert. I was into you. I liked you so much. I would have done anything you asked me to.

ANDREW  
Oh, but you will. You're mine now.

ERICA  
Only for an hour. Then I have to die. Or else you'll anger your master.

ANDREW  
He's not my master.

ERICA  
Then don't obey him. I can still be yours for a long time to come.

Andrew stares at Erica the way a fat kid stares at Christmas dinner...

But he shakes it off and returns to the drawer full of bladed weapons.

ANDREW  
Sorry hon, but you went too far.

Andrew takes a fillet knife from the drawer.

ANDREW  
I saw what you did to Pete. If I gave you half the chance I know you'd do the same to me.

Erica shakes her head. She's on the verge of crying.

ERICA  
No.

ANDREW  
Oh yes you would.

ERICA  
No...

Andrew approaches Erica. She waits until he gets just close enough...

ERICA  
I'm gonna do worse.

Her legs shoot up and hook around Andrew's neck and squeezes. His instinct is to pull away.

This gives Erica the extra weight she needs to break through her zip-tie.

She and Andrew crash to the floor. He drops the fillet knife. He gets his hands on her and they struggle for control.

Erica scratches, claws and bites. She's a cornered animal fighting for her life. Andrew bleeds. He's in pain.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Houston's following Darius, who's following Kate's tracks in the dirt, but he's having a tough time.

HOUSTON

Well? Don't tell me you lost her.

DARIUS

No, it's just, it sorta looks like...

The tracks point back towards the farm.

DARIUS

Shit.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Kate appears. The farm's numerous floodlights make her a sitting duck.

The farm's electricity is being provided by a generator in a small shack not far from the farmhouse.

Kate picks up a nearby shovel and smashes it.

The entire farm loses power and goes dark.

INT. FARMHOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Andrew has his hands on Erica's throat. He's squeezing the life out of her just when the lights go out.

It's the distraction Erica needs to escape his grip.

Andrew recovers his knife and stumbles around in the dark trying to find her.

His knife slashes at the air, hoping to get lucky and hit flesh.

ANDREW

Where are you?! The door's locked  
so you're not going anywhere! Come  
on! Come at me you fucking bitch!

Erica's taser lights up in the darkness. Andrew's body seizes  
with 1 million volts of electricity and he goes down.

Erica grabs the fillet knife and slits Andrew's wrists. He  
won't be using his hands for a while.

Then she slits his Achilles tendons. He won't be walking  
right ever again either.

Erica finds a flashlight. Andrew's still paralyzed, but he  
can see the fillet knife dripping with his blood.

ERICA

It's not a bazooka, but it'll do.

Erica slices Andrew open just below his rib cage.

Then she reaches inside the gash, into his chest, and grabs  
his heart.

She pulls it out of his body and shows it to him.

Andrew's face is frozen with unimaginable terror.

ERICA

Now don't you wish you never met  
me?

Erica uses the fillet knife to stab Andrew's throat and face  
until he's finally deader than dead.

Erica's so angry and emotionally taxed she doesn't stop  
stabbing until she hears banging on the basement door.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Kate's trying to open the basement door.

KATE

Erica?

ERICA (O.S.)

Kate?

KATE

Are you okay?

ERICA (O.S.)  
Never better. Open the door.

KATE  
I can't. And the others are coming.

ERICA (O.S.)  
Run. Just get out of here. Don't  
let them catch you.

KATE  
What about you?

ERICA (O.S.)  
Don't worry about me. Just get your  
ass out of here! Go!

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Kate runs out of the farmhouse just as Houston and Darius  
emerge from the woods.

Kate bolts.

Darius aims his gun at her, but Houston stops him from  
firing.

HOUSTON  
What have I told you about shooting  
at the merchandise? Go check on  
Andrew. I got the blonde.

DARIUS  
Why can't I go after the blonde and  
you check on Andrew?

Houston slaps Darius upside his head.

HOUSTON  
That's why. Now do as I fucking  
say.

They split up.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

It's dark.

Darius enters. He's ready to shoot the first thing that  
moves.

DARIUS  
Andrew? You okay? Andrew?!

Darius finds a spare key and unlocks the basement door.

It's pitch black inside. Darius trains his gun on the opening.

DARIUS  
Andrew? If you're in there you  
better say something you  
cocksucker.

Silence...

A small throwing knife shoots out of the darkness and into Darius's arm. He screams.

Erica comes running at him like a crazy woman. She's covered in blood and holding the fillet knife.

But Darius fires. Erica's shot in the leg. She screams and stumbles.

Darius pulls the knife out of his arm. He doesn't take the pain very well.

Erica writhes in agony from the gunshot. She can't stand. She's defenseless.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Kate runs. Houston's hot on her tail.

Kate suddenly cries out in pain and falls.

Her leg's slashed by barbed wire from an old broken fence half buried in the mud.

She's in so much pain. But the sight of Houston's machete getting closer forces her onto her feet.

HOUSTON  
Haven't we been here before? Don't  
get me wrong, I love it when a  
woman plays hard to get. But you're  
kinda overdoing it, don't you  
think?

Kate trips and falls. She hits the ground hard and scrapes her arm. She's bleeding.

HOUSTON  
Aw. Poor baby.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Darius aims his gun at Erica.

She summons up enough strength to kick the gun out of his hand. It slides across the floor.

The move causes Erica a tremendous amount of pain in her wounded leg.

She and Darius both eye the fillet knife.

They dive for it.

Darius elbows Erica's nose, smashing it.

Darius captures the knife. He gets on top of Erica. He brings the knife down.

Erica grabs his wrists, stopping him. But she's weakened and he's stronger. The blade is aimed right for her heart.

ERICA  
No no no no no no no no no...

The knife is going to come down.

Erica manages to shift Darius's aim. The knife stabs her through the shoulder instead.

It goes in slow, maybe an inch and a half at a time.

Erica screams in incredible pain.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Kate staggers to her feet. She's angry. She's done running.

She pulls out the knife Erica gave her and keeps the tip aimed at Houston.

HOUSTON  
Careful now. You might cut yourself.

KATE

I'm tired of you. I'm tired of your  
shit. You're never going to have  
me. Not while I'm still breathing.

Houston shrugs.

HOUSTON

Makes no difference to me. Either  
way, this is happening. I am going  
to have you.

KATE

Come and get it.

Houston smiles as if he were just asked out on a date.

HOUSTON

Well challenge accepted, darlin'.

Houston circles around Kate. She keeps her knifed trained on  
him, but it's clear her leg is causing her pain.

Houston suddenly moves in on her;

Kate swings her blade at him. Houston backs off, laughing.  
This is foreplay.

HOUSTON

Whoa. Some fight in you, girl. I  
like that. But that leg of yours  
doesn't look so good. Must hurt  
like hell. Want me to kiss it and  
make it all better?

Kate lashes out at Houston again. But that damn leg of hers.  
It's draining her strength.

She's shaking like a leaf in a hurricane. Her eyes are heavy.  
She can barely keep her balance.

Houston walks up to her and simply pushes Kate over. She  
collapses. Her knife falls in the dirt.

Houston takes a second to marvel at Kate's body.

Then he stakes his machete into the ground. He loses his  
shirt. He unzips his fly.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Erica's still screaming in pain.

Darius slowly pulls the knife out of her shoulder. He aims to stab her in the face. Through the eyeball.

Darius is smiling as he does this. He's won and he knows it. The blade's tip inches towards Erica's left eye.

Erica's trying her damndest to fight back, but it's not enough. It's just not enough.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Houston smells Kate. He breathes her in. He fingers her hair. He loves those blonde locks.

He spreads her legs.

Kate suddenly springs to life and fights him. She's berserk.

Houston keeps punching Kate in the face until she goes limp.

Houston starts to slide off his pants.

Kate's hand feels around...

She finds the knife she dropped.

Houston quickly steps on her hand and kicks the blade away.

HOUSTON

Uh-uh-uh. We can't have any of that.

Kate's powerless.

Houston climbs on top of her.

HOUSTON

You are so beautiful.

Kate's mouth opens. She bares her teeth;

And bites down on Houston's nose.

Houston screams. He can't pull her off.

Kate bites down harder and Houston's nose disappears inside Kate's mouth.

Houston's still screaming. He can't believe what's happening.

Kate's teeth find his throat and tears a chunk off.

Houston falls on his stomach. He's bleeding so much.

Kate gets on her feet and picks up his machete.

Kate slashes his back up pretty good. But it's a heavy weapon and she's clumsy with it. She drops the machete.

Kate picks up her knife and stabs Houston in the back over and over again until he goes limp.

Kate tires out and breathes for a moment.

Then she starts laughing. A sick, disturbing laugh that morphs into sobbing. She's exhausted. Traumatized.

Kate limps back towards the farm, leaving the knife sticking out of Houston's back.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The tip of Darius's blade is still coming at Erica's eye. It slices off some of her eyelashes.

Then Pooch suddenly gallops through the door. His jaws clamp down on Darius's arm. He screams.

DARIUS

Stop! Stop you stupid fucking mutt!

But Pooch won't let go.

Darius stabs the dog with the fillet knife. It whimpers and lets go, leaving Darius's arm chewed up and bleeding.

All the while Erica has crawled over to Darius's gun.

She aims at him.

DARIUS

Bitch, you better not miss or else--

Bang. She doesn't miss.

The bullet destroys Darius's front teeth and goes out the back of his neck at an angle.

Darius hits the floor hard.

ERICA

Thanks for the advice, asshole.

Erica takes a moment to rest.

The gun's empty so she tosses it. She sees her bleeding shoulder wound and it frightens her.

Somehow, Darius is still alive. Or at least his body is still twitching.

Erica's hurt all over, but she braves the pain in order to pick up the fillet knife and jams it into Darius's eye.

She moves the knife all around like she's digging for something, then finally slashes Darius's throat.

ERICA

Fucker.

Erica crawls over to Pooch. His breathing is shallow. He eventually stops all together.

Erica holds him, mourning him.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Erica exits the farmhouse. She stumbles and collapses in the dirt. She doesn't have the energy to go any further.

Erica stares up at the night's sky. Dawn is approaching.

Kate's smashed face comes into view.

ERICA

Wow. You look like I feel.

KATE

That makes two of us.

Kate sits Erica up. She's still too weak to stand.

ERICA

What happened?

KATE

I won.

ERICA

You killed him?

KATE

Yeah.

ERICA

Where? I want to see.

Erica tries to stand, but stumbles. Kate helps her up.

KATE

Look at you. You're hurt. And so am I. We need to get out of here. We need to get to a hospital.

ERICA

Look into my eyes. I'm not leaving here before I know for sure that every single one of them is dead.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Kate helps Erica inside. Kate's horrified at the sight of Darius and Pooch.

The house has a gas stove.

Erica pulls out the gas line. Gas leaks into the house.

EXT. THE FARM - NIGHT

Erica holds Kate for support as they move away from the farmhouse before it explodes into flames.

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Kate and Erica limp through the woods.

KATE

How are we going to explain all of this?

ERICA

We don't. We keep it to ourselves.

KATE

I can't do that. My boyfriend is dead. My best friend is dead. What am I going to tell their parents? And what about all those other dead girls? Their families deserve to know what happened to them.

ERICA

If you want to go to the cops, fine. Just don't expect me to go with you.

KATE  
I can't do it alone.

ERICA  
You killed in self defense. Not me.  
I fucking murdered those pricks.

KATE  
But they were bad.

ERICA  
You think the law gives a shit?  
They'll crucify me. But they'll  
love you. Trust me, you're going to  
be a real media darling with a book  
deal and--

KATE  
WATCH OUT!

A MACHETE SWINGS AT ERICA;

And it hits flesh.

It's Houston. Somehow that bastard's still alive.

It takes Erica a second to realize she's not the one who got hit. Kate protected her from the blade.

The machete is buried deep in Kate's gut. She spits up blood. Houston yanks the blade out and Kate drops.

Erica stumbles backwards as Houston swings at her. She dodges, but the machete nicks her arm. It hurts.

Erica's on the ground. She tries to crawl away.

Houston swings his machete. Erica just barely rolls out of the way.

Houston's blind with rage. He won't stop until one of them is dead.

Erica looks around for something, anything that might help her.

She grabs a shard of wood on the ground. It's barbed and has a pointy tip, but it's too blunt to pierce skin.

Houston's machete swings at Erica again, but this time the blade plows into a tree. Houston tugs. It won't budge.

This is Erica's chance.

She calls up every last ounce of strength in her body to jump to her feet and jams the shard of wood right into Houston's exposed nasal cavity.

Houston pulls at it, but it's jammed up there pretty good. He uses both hands. He pulls it out, along with chunks of flesh.

Erica sees Kate's knife is still buried in Houston's back.

Erica removes the knife and uses it to cut Houston's Achilles tendons. He collapses.

Erica moves in for the kill, but stops when she hears Kate coughing.

Erica holds Kate, who's trembling from shock.

KATE

I guess I should have made sure he was dead before I turned my back on him.

ERICA

Yeah. You should've.

Erica tries to stop the blood from rushing out of Kate's gaping stab wound.

KATE

How bad is it?

ERICA

It's okay. It's going to be okay. I'm going to get you to a hospital. You're going to be fine.

KATE

Liar.

Erica tries to lift Kate up, but in her condition it's impossible.

Kate cries.

KATE

I'm scared. I'm so cold. I don't want to die out here.

ERICA

You're not. You're at home. In your room. In your bed. You're warm. You're safe. That's where you are. Can you see it?

Kate's fading fast.

KATE

No. I can't. I just see...

She's gone.

Erica cries.

Houston tries to get up, but the pain is too much. He crawls over to his machete.

But Erica grabs it.

Houston looks up to see Erica standing over him.

HOUSTON

Go... to... hell--

The machete cuts through his neck, making a human pez dispenser out of him.

Houston reaches up to feel his neck, but he can't find it. Blood spurts out of the wound.

ERICA

Sorry. Didn't catch that.

Houston's dead. Deader than dead.

Erica slumps to the ground and rests against a tree. She wants to smoke a cigarette, but she can't find a light.

ERICA

Fuck.

The fire from the burning farmhouse illuminates the forest behind her as the sun comes up.

It's a new day.

FADE OUT.