

"CAPTIVES"

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Moonlight cuts through tall trees; wind rustling across the branches. Mist hovers above overgrown grass.

BETH, 13, breaks the moonlight as she sprints, her beautiful face barely visible among a tangled web of long hair. Her slim blue jeans and plaid, button shirt are tattered; dirt stains etched on her skin.

Twigs snap under her feet as she runs; eyes darting over her shoulder as she breathes heavily.

BETH

Help! Someone please help me!

She pauses in a small clearing, turning in all directions.

BETH

Help! Anybody!

Something moves in the trees above. She quickly glances.

Nothing.

A dark figure cuts through the forest behind her. Beth quickly turns.

Nothing.

VOICES echo through the trees.

VOICES

(singing)

"Ladybird, ladybird fly away home..."

Tears stream down Beth's face.

BETH

Please don't hurt me. Please don't hurt me.

VOICES

(singing)

"...your house is on fire, your children shall burn..."

BETH

I don't want to die.

Dark figures dart through the trees around her.

VOICES

(singing)

"...all except one, and her name is  
Beth..."

An ominous figure stands in the mist across the clearing.

VOICES

(singing)

"...please help her, dear God, because  
she's scared to death."

Beth's gaze falls to the ground.

BETH

I just want to go home.

A dark figure suddenly overtakes her.

BLACK SCREEN

Beth breathes heavily.

A metal door SLAMS in the distance.

Several feet shuffle nearby.

BETH (O.S.)

Let me go!

Someone SCREAMS.

Beth sobs uncontrollably. She stammers through her words as  
more feet shuffle in the distance.

BETH (O.S.)

I promise I won't tell anyone. I  
promise.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

A metal door CREAKS open, light racing into the small room.

Beth huddles against the corner. A shadow breaks the light;  
footsteps echoing against the walls.

Beth squints; shielding her face with her hand.

BETH

What do you want with me?

The shadow remains motionless.

Beth shifts her legs, wincing.

BETH  
Please just let me go. I feel so  
cold...and I'm so hungry.

The mysterious figure steps away from the doorway as Beth  
wipes tears away from her cheeks.

An old 60'S SONG starts to play from the hallway.

The shadow reappears.

BETH  
(stuttering)  
What are you going to do to me?

The dark figure shoves a middle-aged man into the room,  
falling to his knees.

Beth's eyes dart from the man to the shadow in the doorway.  
She shakes her head, tears streaming down her face.

BETH  
Please don't make me do this.

The ominous figure remains still.

Beth's eyes rest on the man kneeling before her.

BETH  
Please. I don't want to hurt anyone.

She grips her stomach as she winces.

BETH  
Please.

The shadow closes the door, bathing the cell in darkness.

BLACK SCREEN

The man SCREAMS.

SUPER: "CAPTIVES."

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A massive van slowly enters; metallic doors closing behind.

BALD HENCHMAN, 36, and TATTOOED HENCHMAN, 39, step from the cab, moving to the rear of the vehicle.

They toss the doors open, pulling a man onto the concrete; a black pillowcase covering his head.

They yank the covering from his face. CARVER, 42, looks older than he actually is; worn, light stubble dotting his cheeks.

DRAKE, 44, grins, a sucker rolling between his teeth; his muscular, intimidating frame kneeling in front of Carver.

DRAKE

It's good to see you again, Carver.

CARVER

How'd you find me, Drake?

Drake chuckles briefly.

DRAKE

It wasn't easy, but I'm a patient man.

Carver swallows hard, his eyes falling to the floor.

CARVER

When did you get out?

Drake pulls the sucker from his mouth, waving it in the air.

DRAKE

Six months ago. Good behavior. You know...all that crap.

Drake lifts Carver's head, their eyes locked.

DRAKE

The others, though. They weren't as lucky.

Carver glances around the massive room.

Different equipment rests on small tables nearby. The tattooed henchman sits against the far wall, a laptop cradled in his lap as he types.

Carver glances over his shoulder as the bald henchman leans against the side of the van.

CARVER

What is this?

DRAKE  
One last job, my friend.

CARVER  
(shaking his head)  
I don't do this anymore.

Drake laughs.

DRAKE  
I know. You've been busy. Yale...  
University of Michigan...graduated top  
of your class.

Drake snatches a wallet from the nearby shelf, flipping it open. He retrieves the driver's license.

DRAKE  
(reading)  
John Graham.

He smiles, glancing to Carver.

DRAKE  
I think you could have picked a better  
name for a doctor.

He tosses the driver's license at Carver, the card tumbling to the floor.

CARVER  
I got out 14 years ago and I've been  
straight ever since Albuquerque. I put  
all of this behind me.

Drake points between him and Carver.

DRAKE  
Guys like you and me are never done,  
Carver. Not when you're as good as we  
are in this business.

CARVER  
(shaking his head)  
I'm telling you, I'm not doing it.

Drake nods, shoving the sucker in his mouth.

DRAKE  
How old is your daughter? Ella, is it?

Carver's eyes widen.

CARVER

13.

Drake stands, motioning to the bald henchman.

He nods, moving to a nearby room. He pulls a small girl from the darkness; a pillowcase covering her head.

He plants her on the concrete near Drake.

DRAKE

Because I brought her along as well.

He pulls the pillowcase from the her head.

ELLA, 13, sits with a piece of duct tape covering her mouth; her big, innocent eyes locked with Carver's through a curtain of hair. Headphones cover her ears; her small body trembling.

Carver struggles against his restraints.

CARVER

You son-of-a...

DRAKE

(pointing at Carver)

Watch yourself!

Carver locks eyes with Ella.

CARVER

Ella, everything's going to be okay.

Drake rubs Ella's head.

DRAKE

(nodding)

Everything WILL be okay...as long as daddy cooperates.

CARVER

Did you bring her medications?

Drake rolls his eyes, pointing to a handful of prescription bottles on the nearby table.

DRAKE

I'm not a monster, Carver. I promise no one will hurt her as long as you do your part.

CARVER  
(looking at Ella)  
And after this is all over?

A small smile pulls at the corner of Drake's mouth.

DRAKE  
The girl can go free.

CARVER  
(hesitantly)  
What am I breaking into?

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Later, Drake tosses photographs of a house onto a small table in front of Carver.

DRAKE  
(pointing)  
We're sitting about five miles west of this home just outside Lewisburg, West Virginia.

A quizzical look crosses Carver's face.

CARVER  
You drove us across two states just to break into a house?

DRAKE  
The family had this installed three years ago.

Drake tosses another photograph onto the table. Carver takes the photograph in his bound hands.

The picture depicts a massive safe sitting on a trailer.

CARVER  
Why would a family need a safe that size?

DRAKE  
We checked them out...or tried to. No bank accounts, no medical records. The house has been in the same family for years.

CARVER  
School records?



DRAKE

None.

Drake tosses a document on the table.

DRAKE

Two years ago, the family made several donations to local women's shelters. All in cash. 20 million in total.

He taps the picture of the safe.

DRAKE

Whatever money they have, they keep it close.

Drake tosses documents onto the table, different safe schematics etched on the pages.

DRAKE

The drill-point diagrams are in there.

Carver retrieves the documents from the table, glancing back-and-forth between them and the photograph.

CARVER

Dimensions?

DRAKE

9 by 7 by 14 feet. Eight inches of solid steel on every side.

CARVER

Any try-out combinations?

DRAKE

None.

CARVER

Why hasn't anyone else tried for it?

Drake shrugs.

DRAKE

A few guys in prison said they were going to try, but I never heard anything. The family has never filed a police report either. Guess they chickened out.

Carver tosses the photograph and documents onto the table.

CARVER

You realize I haven't done this in years?

A crooked smile crosses Drake's face.

DRAKE

You're the best, Carver. I'm sure you'll figure it out.

He glances over his shoulder to Ella.

DRAKE

For everyone's sake.

Carver picks at his bottom lip.

CARVER

I'm going to need a drill with the tungsten-carbide drill-bits. And a borescope.

Drake nods, turning to a nearby shelf.

DRAKE

It's all right here. All your usual equipment.

Carver retrieves the drill, turning it over in his hands. He glances at the other equipment resting on the shelf.

DRAKE

And a few extras just in case.

CARVER

(pointing)

I won't need the acetylene torch. We might as well leave the autodialer behind.

DRAKE

We're bringing all of it just in case.

Carver pulls a small cylindrical device from the shelf; eyes narrowing as it rolls around in his palm.

CARVER

What is this?

DRAKE  
Small explosive specifically made for  
locks.

Carver returns the device to the shelf.

CARVER  
Don't you think you're going a little  
overboard?

DRAKE  
I'm not taking any chances.

CARVER  
Do they have a security system?

Drake nods.

DRAKE  
Very basic. We've already disconnected  
it.

CARVER  
(looking at Ella)  
And when we're done, you let her walk?

DRAKE  
(smiling)  
You have my word.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The van winds down the quiet road; trees lining both sides.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Carver checks the drill and drill-bits, turning them over in his hands before shoving them into a backpack.

Ella nervously glances around the van as Drake's henchmen throw duffel bags over their shoulders; night vision goggles resting on their foreheads.

They quickly check their handguns; everyone shifting slightly as the van turns different directions.

ELLA  
Dad, who are these people?

Carver continues packing equipment into his backpack.

CARVER  
(not looking at Ella)  
Everything's going to be alright, El.

She slowly grips Carver's arm.

ELLA  
I'm scared.

Carver turns, resting his hand on her shoulder.

CARVER  
Me, too, but I need to do this. We  
just need to make it through the  
night.

He retrieves her prescription bottles from the backpack.

CARVER  
When was the last time they gave you  
the Paxil?

Ella's gaze falls to the floor, eyes narrowing.

ELLA  
I don't know. It's been a while.

CARVER  
And your supplement?

ELLA  
A few hours.

Carver dumps pills into his palm, handing them to Ella.

CARVER  
Just to be safe.

Ella takes the medication; Carver handing her a water bottle.

She shoves the pills into her mouth, gagging slightly before sipping water.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The van slowly pulls to the side; headlights going dark.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Carver brushes Ella's hair away from her face before closing the backpack.

CARVER

You'll be fine. I'll be back as soon  
as I can.

Drake slips a handgun into his belt, shaking his head.

DRAKE

The girl comes with us.

Carver whips his head toward Drake.

CARVER

Leave her out of this!

DRAKE

(shaking his head)

No. I can't leave a man behind to  
babysit. And besides...

Drake rests his hands on Ella's shoulders, smiling.

DRAKE

...she's my insurance.

He steps toward Carver, their faces just inches apart.

DRAKE

Who knows Carver. You may actually  
like it.

Carver shakes his head, tossing the backpack over his  
shoulder.

CARVER

Let's get this over with.

Drake glances to his henchmen.

DRAKE

Time to move.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Drake silently leads the group, quickly stepping through a  
crooked, barbed wire fence.

He turns, holding the fence open.

Carver nods, stepping through. He holds the wire for Ella.

Ella is partially through when her back leg hooks one of the barbs, tumbling into the tall grass.

CARVER

You alright?!

Carver quickly kneels beside her. Ella sits up, glancing at the tear in her jeans.

ELLA

Yeah, I'm fine. Just cut my pants.

Drake rolls his eyes.

DRAKE

Get her up.

Carver glares at Drake.

CARVER

Just give her a second.

Drake draws his gun.

DRAKE

I said...get her up.

Carver hesitantly hoists Ella from the ground, his hands resting on her shoulders.

CARVER

(whispering)

Stay close to me.

Drake glances past Carver, eyes narrowing. He motions to the bald henchman.

DRAKE

Watch out for that one. That would leave a mark.

Ella glances over her shoulder as the bald henchman nods, stepping through the fence.

A crooked, wooden post sits next to him; the sharp end catching the moonlight.

Carver pats Ella gently on the shoulder.

CARVER

C'mon. Let's go.

Ella glances down the other side of the fence.

A small sign glistens in the moonlight, reading: "PRIVATE PROPERTY. ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK."

EXT. MANSION - NIGHT

Drake quietly approaches the back door, pulling a cell phone jammer from his backpack. He turns on the device, returning it. He quickly draws his gun.

He glances at the tattooed henchman; motioning to the door.

The henchman nods, moving close to the door; a small electronic device in his hands.

Carver glances at the massive house rising above them, pulling Ella close to him.

Drake leans close to the tattooed henchman.

DRAKE  
(whispering)  
How long?

TATTOOED HENCHMAN  
Just a few more seconds.

The small device in his hands softly DINGS. He glances to the bald henchman, nodding.

The other man quickly moves to the door, shoving a device into the handle.

Drake briefly peers down at his watch.

The door suddenly CLICKS. The bald henchman motions to Drake.

He steps away from the door, Drake stepping in.

Drake slips the night vision goggles over his eyes as he raises his handgun close to his face. He quietly turns the handle, stepping into darkness.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Drake quietly moves by the long table; a strange metal apparatus resting on the wood. He glances over his shoulder to the rest of the group.

DRAKE  
(whispering)  
The basement entrance should be in the  
foyer.

INT. MAIN FOYER - NIGHT

The group steps into the massive room, glancing in all directions. Their feet glide across the intricate, tile floor as Ella gazes at the crystal chandelier above.

Drake points to the far corner, Carver and Ella following.

The henchmen follow; their heads swiveling, handguns raised.

A LAUGH suddenly echoes from the nearby staircase. The group turns, all eyes resting on the wooden banister.

Nothing.

Carver steps close to Drake.

CARVER  
(whispering)  
One of the kids?

Another LAUGH carries from the nearby living room.

Everyone turns, a tiny leg barely visible through the goggles as it disappears around the corner.

Drake motions to the henchmen who quickly pace to the living room.

Wood CREAKS from somewhere upstairs.

Carver pulls Ella closer; eyes narrowing as he scans the banister.

ELLA  
I'm scared.

Carver's eyes dart to Drake.

CARVER  
We need to leave. They may have  
already called the cops.

DRAKE  
One of my guys cut the phone line.

He pats his backpack.



DRAKE  
And cell phones won't work.

He glances at Ella.

DRAKE  
None of us are going anywhere.

The henchmen suddenly scream from the nearby room; GUNSHOTS ringing through the foyer.

Drake, Carver, and Ella rush to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The henchmen's night vision goggles and weapons lay on the floor; a small trail of blood stretching across the room.

Carver reaches for the firearm, the CLICK of a gun echoing behind him.

DRAKE  
Don't.

Carver glares at Drake.

CARVER  
Who are these people?

An ALARM suddenly sounds through the entire house; dim red lights turning on. Carver grabs Ella, walking back to the foyer.

DRAKE  
Get back here!

INT. MAIN FOYER - NIGHT

Carver and Ella quickly cross the massive room.

CARVER  
(not looking at Drake)  
We're leaving!

Drake enters, pointing his gun at Carver.

DRAKE  
No one is going anywhere!

Metallic shutters suddenly cover the front door and windows.

Carver, Ella, and Drake freeze, the sound of windows being covered echoing through the house.

The home goes silent as they stand bathed in red light.

Carver steps close to Drake.

CARVER  
(whispering)  
Why is there a second security system?

Drake's eyes dart around the room.

DRAKE  
(not looking at Carver)  
There was no information of a second system being installed. They built this themselves.

CARVER  
Why would they want to trap us in?

The wood CREAKS from the banister above them. Carver, Ella, and Drake quickly glance to the balcony.

Small, dark figures stand along the railing; their faces completely engulfed in shadow.

Carver, Ella, and Drake slowly step backward toward the covered front door; Carver shielding Ella.

CARVER  
(looking at Drake)  
Who are they?

Drake slowly pulls the night vision goggles from his head, dropping them to the floor.

CARVER  
Who are they?!

Their eyes dart to both sides of the room as more dark figures enter, surrounding them.

Carver glances over his shoulder to Ella trembling behind him.

CARVER  
No matter what, stay behind...

A dark figure suddenly overtakes him.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Carver slowly opens his eyes, a quizzical look crossing his face.

The room is upside down.

He attempts to move, but his hands are secured behind his back. He quickly glances to his feet; bound by a thick rope tied to the ceiling as he dangles over the long table.

Drake and his henchmen hang from the ceiling as well, struggling against their restraints.

Carver glances around the room, eyes widening.

MAMA, 45, stands at the head of the table, her long hair pulled back into a tight bun. She is beautiful, but something about her piercing eyes and seemingly perpetual smile is unnerving. She smooths the wrinkles of her old-timey dress with her delicate fingers.

A small firearm rests on the table in front of her.

MAMA

We're so glad you all chose to join us  
this evening.

AGNES, 18, sits close to Mama. Her head cocks to the side as she stares curiously at Carver; an eerie, white smile stamped on her face.

AGNES

He's very handsome. In kind of a  
rugged way.

SOPHIA, 9, sits on the other side of Mama, her chubby finger lazily tracing the metallic bowl in front of her.

SOPHIA

I like the big one. The one who  
squirms a lot.

Twins CHLOE and JANE, 15, sit close to Carver, their dark, identical features almost menacing as they stare unblinkingly at the hanging henchmen.

DRAKE

What the hell is this?!

Mama holds up one finger.

MAMA

Please watch your language around the children.

She motions behind Carver.

MAMA

I see you've brought one with you.  
Curious.

Carver struggles to look over his shoulder. Ella sits next to Beth, a solemn expression etched on her face. Her hands are tied to the chair, her body trembling as she stares at Carver.

Beth's snow-colored skin almost glows in the soft light; a perpetual look of sadness seemingly stamped on her face as her eyes rest on the table.

CARVER

(to Ella)

Did they hurt you?

Ella shakes her head.

Mama quickly moves around the table, her delicate hand brushing through Ella's hair.

CARVER

Don't touch her!

Mama smiles.

MAMA

Is that your father, young lady?

ELLA

(hesitantly)

Yes.

MAMA

What kind of criminal brings his own daughter with him to break into a house?

CARVER

Please don't hurt her.

Mama suddenly pulls a butcher knife, holding it to Carver's back.

MAMA

She's not the one I'm going to hurt.

ELLA

We were forced to come!

Mama glances down at Ella.

MAMA

What?

Ella motions with her head to Drake.

ELLA

We were forced to come! By him! Just please. Please don't hurt my dad.

Mama nonchalantly wanders around the table, standing in front of Drake.

MAMA

Is that true?

Drake locks eyes with Mama.

DRAKE

Maybe it is. Maybe it isn't. Look, I don't have time for these cheap scare tactics.

Mama slowly walks to the group's backpacks resting on a nearby table. She analyzes the autodialer, turning it over in her hand.

DRAKE

If you're going to call the cops, let's get on with it.

MAMA

Who said anything about calling the police?

She peeks into the backpack, her fingers running across the drill bits.

She quickly peers into another backpack, retrieving the acetylene gas cylinder.

She laughs, turning back to Drake as she turns the cylinder in her hand.

MAMA

You were planning on breaking into the safe, weren't you?

Beth's eyes widen, glancing between Mama and Carver.

Sophia laughs as Agnes rolls her eyes.

Mama shakes her head, moving back to the head of the table. She gently sets the acetylene cylinder on the wood, retrieving the firearm.

MAMA

(looking at the gun)

Criminals are always after the same thing. And you don't mind hurting someone to get it.

She locks eyes with Drake.

MAMA

Which is why I won't regret what happens here tonight.

A small gold cross slips from Carver's neck, dangling above the table.

Mama quickly moves to Carver, setting the firearm on the table next to Beth.

MAMA

What's this?

She pulls the cross from Carver's neck, rolling it in her skinny fingers.

MAMA

Are you a religious man?

Carver slowly nods.

Drake snickers, shaking his head.

Mama quickly wraps her fingers around his neck, squeezing.

MAMA

Is there something...amusing?

She releases him; Drake coughing as he swings above the table.

DRAKE

No. The thought of him sitting in a church just makes me laugh.

Mama moves back to Carver.

MAMA

John 3:16.

CARVER

(hesitantly)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Mama rolls the tiny cross between her fingers.

MAMA

(not looking at Carver)

Hebrews 11:6?

CARVER

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that...cometh to God must believe..."

Carver pauses, thinking to himself.

MAMA

"...that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

DRAKE

It doesn't matter how many scriptures you memorize, Carver. There's no redemption for you. In this life or the next.

Mama glares at Drake.

MAMA

(not looking at Carver)

What about 1 Chronicles 11:19?

CARVER

I'm not familiar with that one.

MAMA

"Shall I drink the blood of these men  
that have put their lives in  
jeopardy?"

Mama shakes her head, tossing the small cross onto the table.

MAMA

I can promise you one thing,  
gentlemen.

She carefully analyzes her butcher knife.

MAMA

God won't be anywhere near this house  
tonight.

Agnes gently grabs Mama by the arm.

AGNES

Do you want me to get the other  
children, Mama, before we begin?

MAMA

No. It's not their turn.

The two henchmen start to squirm as Mama slowly moves in  
front of them.

CARVER

Please, ma'am. Please let my girl go.

BETH

Mama.

Beth pushes her hair away from her face.

BETH

Maybe we should let her go.

MAMA

Beth, darling. We're not going to let  
her go.

She glances to the squirming henchmen; her hand running  
across their chests.

MAMA

Should we get started? We've already  
wasted so much time and besides...

She smiles.



MAMA

...my babies are hungry.

Mama suddenly jabs the knife deep into the bald henchman, twisting the blade. She withdraws the knife, steadying his body over the enlarged funnel.

Carver, Drake, and the tattooed henchman squirm as his blood pours into the funnel, running through tubes that lead to each bowl in front of the children sitting around the table.

Mama steps in front of the tattooed henchman, licking the blood from the blade.

TATTOOED HENCHMAN

Burn in Hell, lady! Burn in...

Mama jabs the knife deep into his chest, his eyes widening as she leans close to him.

MAMA

I said...watch the language.

She pulls the knife from his chest, blood pouring into another funnel.

Agnes, Sophia, Chloe, and Jane bury their faces into their bowls; blood spilling onto the table.

Carver and Drake freeze as the children glance to them.

The children's eyes are black; sharp fangs glaring through their blood-stained faces.

Mama moves in front of Drake.

DRAKE

What are you people?

MAMA

Survivors.

Beth quickly snatches the firearm sitting in front of her. She fires at the acetylene gas cylinder resting at the head of the table.

The small explosion knocks everyone to the floor; wood shards rocketing in all directions.

Carver and Drake fall onto the remains of the table as flames cover part of the room.

Several of the children SHRIEK at the nearby flames.

Beth quickly cuts Ella's restraints before moving to Carver, cutting him free. She tosses the knife to the floor.

BETH

We have to move. Now!

Carver nods, hooking Ella by the arm. He snatches a couple backpacks from the floor as they race for the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Carver glances over his shoulder, Beth right behind him as flames rise from the other room.

BETH

Don't stop! Just keep going!

Beth waves her hand furiously at Carver as she darts to the small cupboard under the sink.

She quickly rummages through chemicals, retrieving a bottle of bleach.

She rushes to a different cupboard, pulling a small container of vinegar; other chemicals spilling to the floor as several shrieks echo from the other room.

She quickly unscrews both chemicals, dumping their contents across the floor as she runs.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Drake quickly snatches the knife dropped by Beth, cutting himself free.

Mama and the children SHRIEK, black eyes shimmering in the dancing flames.

Drake quickly stands, retrieving his backpack and firearm from the floor.

Agnes suddenly jumps through the rising flames; tumbling into Drake.

She sinks her fangs deep into his arm.

Drake winces, striking Agnes across the face.

She crashes to the floor as Drake sprints for the kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carver's eyes dart both directions, breathing heavily as Ella moves to his side.

ELLA

Which way do we go?!

BETH (O.S.)

Left!

Carver startles slightly, turning as Beth sprints down the hallway after them.

Carver nods, grabbing Ella by the arm as he runs.

BETH

Give me your jackets!

A quizzical look crosses Carver's face.

CARVER

Why do you need our...

BETH

(interrupting)

Just give them to me!

Carver and Ella rip their jackets from their shoulders as they sprint, tossing them to Beth.

BETH

Keep going!

She darts into a nearby room.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

She quickly moves to the nearby laundry shoot, shoving the jackets into the opening. She smiles as she sprints back to the hallway.

INT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carver and Ella breathe heavily, surrounded by different doors. Carver grabs the handle of a nearby door.

BETH  
Not that one!

She rushes to another door.

BETH  
This way!

Beth darts through the door, Carver guiding Ella behind her. She slams it closed.

Drake rounds the corner, glancing in all directions. He rushes to the nearest door, attempting to turn the handle, but the door is locked.

He kicks the door hard, glancing over his shoulder.

He quickly retrieves his gun, unloading several bullets into the door near the handle.

He kicks it open, rushing into the empty room.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The overhead sprinklers click on, Mama quietly standing in the middle of the room as water trickles down her face.

Agnes, Sophia, Chloe, and Jane press against the walls; snarling as the small flames extinguish. Their black eyes gleam in the smoldering flames.

CHLOE  
Mama, what are you waiting for?! We need to find them!

Mama quietly holds her finger in the air.

MAMA  
Patience. Our guests aren't going anywhere. Like mice trapped in a cage with a snake.

She smiles as water runs down her face.

MAMA  
My little ladybird betrayed us, children. After everything I've done for her.

Mama moves toward the kitchen as Agnes grabs her hand.

AGNES

Let us find them.

MAMA

We'll find them together.

JANE

We'll find them and bring them back to you. Please?

Mama's eyes fall to the floor.

AGNES

It's like you said. They're not going anywhere.

Mama glances to each wet face, smoke swirling around them.

MAMA

Fine. Bring Beth and the girl to me.

JANE

And the men?

Mama smiles.

MAMA

Do what you want with them.

Sophia claps furiously, glancing to the other girls.

Mama glances to the floor; blood gathering around her shoes.

MAMA

But first, you'll need your strength.

She points to the henchmen's partially burned bodies crumpled on the floor; blood pooling around them.

MAMA

Clean up after you're done.

Mama exits the room as Agnes, Sophia, Chloe, and Jane tear into the bodies.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Beth slams the door closed behind Ella and Carver.

BETH

We can't stay here.

Carver breathes heavily as he runs his hand through his hair.

CARVER  
What the hell is going on around  
here?!

He turns, pointing his finger at Beth.

CARVER  
Stay away from us!

Beth rolls her eyes.

BETH  
If I wanted to kill you, you'd be dead  
already.

She points at Ella.

BETH  
But I'm curious. There's something  
strange about her. She smells...  
different.

Carver steps in front of Ella.

CARVER  
What are you people?!

A quizzical look crosses Beth's face.

BETH  
Isn't it obvious?

Ella cautiously peers around Carver.

Beth quickly moves across the room, plopping down on a stack of boxes.

BETH  
Out of your little group, I was hoping  
you were the smart one.

Carver paces, rubbing his forehead.

CARVER  
Just give me a second. I need to wrap  
my head around this.

BETH

We don't have much time. We can't stay here.

CARVER

All the exits are blocked, right?

BETH

Every outside exit, every window, is now sealed.

Carver stops pacing, his eyes locked on Beth.

CARVER

Until we're dead?

BETH

Right.

Carver shakes his head as he resumes pacing.

CARVER

Are there any surveillance cameras or motion sensors in the house?

BETH

None. As long as you can't get out, Mama knows it's only a matter of time.

CARVER

At least we have that advantage. And no emergency response signal was sent once the security system was triggered?

Beth cocks her head to the side, a crooked smile etched on her face.

BETH

What do you think?

Carver folds his arms across his chest, his gaze falling to the floor.

CARVER

There has to be a control panel for the security system.

Beth leaps from the boxes, strolling toward Carver.

BETH  
There is, but it's in the basement.

CARVER  
Can you get me to it?

BETH  
Yeah, but I need you to do something  
for me.

Carver's eyes narrow.

CARVER  
What?

BETH  
I need you to open the safe.

Carver throws his hands in the air.

CARVER  
You, too? Why do you need the money?

Beth smiles.

BETH  
It doesn't matter, but is it true you  
can open the safe?

Carver shakes his head.

CARVER  
Yes, but...how do we get down there?

Beth's gaze falls to the floor.

BETH  
They'll check the main rooms and  
hallways first, so we need to stay  
away from those as much as we can.

Carver nods.

CARVER  
So where is the last place they'd  
expect us to go that leads to the  
basement?

A small smile pulls at the corner of Beth's mouth.



BETH  
You won't like it.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Beth slowly opens a small section of the wall, peeking into the room. The quiet TICKING of a grandfather clock echoes against the walls.

She glances over her shoulder; Ella and Carver crouched in the darkness.

BETH  
It's clear.

They quietly move into the dimly lit room, Beth closing the hidden passageway behind them.

Carver and Ella scan the black-and-white images hanging on the wall.

ELLA  
Whose room is this?

Carver's eyes rest on an old photograph of Mama standing with a man and several small children.

He quickly glances at Beth.

CARVER  
Are you serious?

She shrugs, a smile stamped on her face.

BETH  
You asked for the last place they'd  
look for us.

She raises her hands, motioning to the room.

BETH  
This is it.

Ella continues to scan the old photographs.

ELLA  
What happened to her?

Beth's eyes rest on the photographs pinned to the wall.

BETH

She doesn't really talk about it. At least not in the last 50 years.

She runs her hand through her long hair.

BETH

All I know is that she lost her husband and all of her children.

She glances at Carver.

BETH

It wasn't long after when she was changed.

Carver's fingers gently glide across a worn Bible sitting next to the bed.

CARVER

Losing someone...changes you.

He glances around the room.

CARVER

Sometimes for the worse.

BETH

Not all the pictures are of her family, though. She just likes collecting them.

A puzzled expression crosses Ella's face.

ELLA

Why are there no boys?

BETH

What?

ELLA

Why are there only girls living in this house?

Beth shrugs.

BETH

Men have a hard time controlling the urges. They're...difficult to manage.

A small smile pulls at the corner of Carver's mouth.

CARVER

Are we talking about men in general?

Beth laughs.

Ella's eyes narrow, pointing to one of the photographs.

ELLA

Is this you?

BETH

No.

ELLA

It sure looks like you.

Beth's gaze falls to the floor.

BETH

That's why she chose me. Because I look like one of her daughters.

CARVER

Why do you stay here? I'm sure there were opportunities to escape over the years.

Beth's eyes rest on the photograph of Mama's family.

BETH

It's complicated.

CARVER

Then uncomplicate it.

Beth locks eyes with Carver.

BETH

Just because I look like a little girl doesn't mean you can treat me like one.

She points her finger at Carver.

BETH

You follow through on your part of the bargain and I promise you...I'll get you out of this house.

Carver holds his hands in front of him.

CARVER  
Fair enough.

He glances around the room.

CARVER  
So where's the bathroom?

BETH  
Really? You need to...

CARVER  
(interrupting)  
I need to check what equipment we have left.

Beth's eyes narrow, pointing passed Carver.

BETH  
Passed the closet. Through that door.

Carver nods, motioning to Ella.

CARVER  
El, come with me.

ELLA  
I'm just going to keep looking at...

CARVER  
Come with me.

Ella rolls her eyes, following Carver.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Carver quickly unloads the contents of his backpack on the counter.

Ella enters.

CARVER  
Shut the door.

Ella gently closes the door.

ELLA  
Why do I need to come with you?

CARVER  
I want to keep you as close as

possible.

Ella chuckles briefly.

ELLA

You know I can tell when you're lying,  
right?

Carver stops what he is doing, turning to Ella.

CARVER

I don't trust her.

ELLA

Why not?

CARVER

It just doesn't make sense. Why would  
she need the money from the safe?

Ella throws her hands in the air.

ELLA

Have you met her mom? Or her fake mom,  
I guess. Wouldn't you want to get away  
from her?

Carver picks at his bottom lip briefly. He shakes his head,  
turning back to the items on the counter.

CARVER

It just doesn't add up. I don't trust  
her.

Ella steps close to Carver.

ELLA

Well I trust her. I think she wants to  
help us.

CARVER

(nodding)

We just need to be prepared for any...

The vent on the wall behind them suddenly falls, crashing on  
the tile floor. Carver and Ella peer at the vent in the  
mirror. Nothing moves.

They both quickly turn, eyes widening.

Agnes falls from the vent; sharpened teeth gleaming against her crooked smile as she stands.

Carver quickly steps in front of Ella, his arm outstretched.

CARVER  
El, get behind...

Agnes leaps toward Carver.

Carver shoves Ella away as Agnes grabs him; tumbling onto the counter. Tools spill across the floor.

AGNES  
(smiling)  
Hey, handsome.

Carver grits his teeth, shoving his hand into Agnes' neck. Her sharp claws tear at Carver's shirt.

His eyes dart to Ella sitting frozen on the floor.

CARVER  
Ella, get out of here!

Carver's arms tremble as Agnes slowly pulls her sharp teeth close to his neck.

Beth bursts through the door, moving past Ella.

She grabs Agnes by the collar, tossing her into the tub. She leaps on top of her, pinning her to the ceramic.

BETH  
Agnes, don't do this!

Agnes kicks Beth into the nearby wall; Beth tumbling to the floor. She locks eyes with Agnes, jumping to her feet as Agnes climbs from the tub.

BETH  
Don't make me do this!

Agnes slams into Beth, pinning her against the wall.

AGNES  
You were always the weakest one.

Carver snatches Agnes, tossing her against the toilet. Shattered ceramic spills across the floor.

Agnes rolls onto her back as Carver moves toward her.

CARVER

Stop this!

Agnes slashes at his stomach, shredding his shirt. He winces, grabbing his abdomen as she kicks him away. Carver slides into the far wall.

Beth darts toward Agnes, but she leaps to the ceiling.

Carver's eyes widen as Agnes crawls across the ceiling, hovering above him.

He shields his face as she drops.

Beth steps over Carver, snatching Agnes from the air. She slams her against the wall, her hand jabbing into Agnes' chest.

Agnes freezes, eyes widening. She glances down; a drill-bit protruding from her chest.

Carver steps toward them.

CARVER

Don't move. I can...

Beth motions Carver away.

BETH

(interrupting)

Get back!

CARVER

I can help her!

Beth locks eyes with Carver.

BETH

You can't do anything now.

Carver freezes, eyes locked on Agnes.

Beth holds Agnes tightly as her body convulses slightly, her skin starting to turn gray. They both slowly sink to the floor, still embracing.

BETH

(whispering)

It's alright, Agnes.

AGNES  
I'm...scared...Beth.

BETH  
I know, but I'm here.

Agnes' entire body trembles; Beth's arms cinching.

AGNES  
Please...don't leave me.

Tears stream down Beth's face.

BETH  
I won't. I promise I'll be here the  
whole time.

Agnes smiles as her body finishes turning gray, going still.  
Beth remains motionless as Agnes crumbles into pieces; ash  
fluttering to the floor.

Everyone remains still for several seconds, their eyes  
resting on the ash-covered floor.

BETH  
(not looking at Carver)  
Now do you trust me?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mama sits perfectly straight at the piano; delicate fingers  
gliding over the keys as a CLASSICAL SONG echoes through the  
room.

Chloe and Jane stand motionless behind her, heads hanging.

CHLOE  
Mama.

MAMA  
Did you find them?

Jane swallows hard.

JANE  
There's something you need to see.

Mama continues playing.

MAMA  
Speak up, child. What's wrong?



CHLOE

It's Agnes.

Mama plays the wrong chord, quickly turning.

MAMA

Where is she?

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mama, Jane, and Chloe stand over the ashes strewn across the floor.

Mama slowly kneels, taking several ashes in her hand. She holds the ashes close to her chest, her bottom lip trembling.

MAMA

Find Sophia.

She quietly wipes her eyes, standing. She turns to the twins.

MAMA

Once you find her, the three of you stay together. Start with the other bedrooms. I'll take the attic.

She rests her hands on their shoulders.

MAMA

They took your sister from us. Tear this house apart if you have to.

Chloe and Jane nod.

JANE

Yes, Mama.

Chloe and Jane dart from the room.

Mama quietly rests her hands against the counter, glancing to the mirror. She has no reflection.

She punches the mirror, cracks snaking across the glass as she screams.

INT. VENTILATION - NIGHT

MAMA'S SCREAM races down the shaft.

Carver's eyes dart over his shoulder, peering into the darkness behind him.

BETH  
(whispering)  
Keep moving.

Carver turns, crawling down the shaft behind Beth and Ella.  
Ella coughs briefly, burying her mouth into her arm.

CARVER  
(whispering)  
How much further, Beth?

She glances over her shoulder.

BETH  
We should almost be to a drop in the ventilation that will run straight to the basement.

She turns, continuing down the shaft.

BETH  
Just around the corner up here.

All three turn the corner in the ventilation.

CARVER  
You doing okay, Ella?

ELLA  
I'm fine.

A soft CLING suddenly echoes down the shaft. Carver's eyes dart over his shoulder, shining his flashlight.

Nothing moves in the shaft.

CARVER  
Did you hear that?

A puzzled look crosses Beth's face.

BETH  
What?

Carver remains motionless, the light illuminating the shaft behind them. Nothing moves.

CARVER

Nothing.

He turns, crawling a few feet before another CLING echoes through the ventilation.

CARVER

I swear I heard...

He glances to his side, illuminating a connecting shaft. Sophia quietly crawls toward him; black eyes gleaming in the light.

Carver quickly turns, shoving Ella's feet forward.

CARVER

Move!

Beth, Ella, and Carver quickly crawl away from the Sophia.

SOPHIA

(smiling)

Why are you running?

Carver shines the flashlight over his shoulder as Sophia turns the corner, quickly gaining on the group.

CARVER

Faster!

BETH

We can't outrun her!

The group rounds a corner in the shaft.

BETH

We won't make it before she reaches us!

Carver continues to crawl as he glances over his shoulder; Sophia rounding the corner.

CARVER

Get us out of the ventilation!

BETH

It's not safe!

CARVER

Just do it!

Beth reaches a fork in the ventilation, glancing in different directions. Her eyes dart over her shoulder as she crawls.

BETH

This way!

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

The grate launches from the wall near the ceiling, Beth landing on the cement. She quickly turns, motioning for Ella to follow.

BETH

Come on!

Ella tumbles to the floor as Carver starts to hoist himself through the opening, but is pulled back.

INT. VENTILATION - NIGHT

He rolls onto his back, kicking Sophia away from him. He quickly climbs through the opening.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Ella reaches for Carver as he crashes onto the concrete, wincing. He motions Ella away, glancing above him.

CARVER

Ella, get back!

Sophia descends from the opening, crouching down; her eyes locked on Carver.

SOPHIA

That wasn't very nice.

Carver backs away as Sophia leaps toward him. Beth suddenly grabs her, tossing her across the room.

BETH

You're not going to hurt either of them, Sophia!

Sophia slowly stands, her head cocked to the side; a wry smile etched on her face.

SOPHIA

You already know how this night is going to end.

Beth glances to Carver and Ella, motioning to a door near the back of the garage.

BETH

Through that door. Under the table in the corner.

Sophia sprints toward her.

BETH

Go!

Sophia tackles Beth, rolling across the floor. Carver quickly guides Ella to the far door.

INT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Carver pulls several boxes from underneath the table, scattering them across the floor. A small, wooden door sits etched in the wall.

He pushes the door open, peering into darkness. He starts to crawl through the opening, but hesitates; his eyes darting over his shoulder. The sound of Beth and Sophia fighting echoes through the room.

Carver glances at Ella, a solemn expression on her face.

ELLA

We can't just leave her.

Carver peers between the open door and Ella.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Sophia slams Beth on the floor, black eyes peering down as she wraps her hands around Beth's neck.

SOPHIA

Just let me have them, Beth. Maybe Mama will forgive you.

Beth tugs at Sophia's hands.

BETH

There's...no going back, Sophia.

She tosses Sophia away from her; Sophia tumbling into different items stacked against the wall.

Beth quickly stands, coughing.

BETH  
Haven't you heard?

Sophia crouches, a small smile etched on her face.

BETH  
Agnes is dead.

Sophia's smile fades, her hands balling into fists.

SOPHIA  
Did you kill her?!

Beth slowly nods.

BETH  
I had no choice. You still do.

Sophia snatches a wooden pole from the floor, snapping it over her knee. She carefully analyzes the sharp, broken ends of both sticks.

SOPHIA  
(looking at the stick)  
You're right.

She glances at Beth, smiling.

SOPHIA  
This is my choice.

She rushes toward Beth, fangs glimmering in the overhead light.

Sophia waves the sharp sticks furiously at Beth as she dodges the attacks. One of the sticks cuts across Beth's leg.

She winces, swatting one of the sticks from Sophia's hand.

The stick crashes against the nearby wall.

Sophia leaps onto Beth, both of them tumbling to the floor.

Sophia smiles as she pushes the sharp stick toward Beth's chest; Beth pushing back.

SOPHIA  
Don't worry. It will be quick.

Carver suddenly grabs Sophia, tossing her over the car; crashing against the massive, metallic shutters.

BETH

What are you doing?!

Sophia leaps onto the hood of the car; eyes locked on Carver.

CARVER

Don't do this!

Sophia hunches, launching through the air toward Carver.

She collides with Carver; both of them tumbling to the floor.

Ella rushes into the room from the workshop door.

ELLA

Dad!

Carver pushes Sophia off him; one of the sharp sticks protruding from her chest.

He kneels beside her, eyes locked on Sophia as she slowly turns gray.

CARVER

(whispering)

I'm sorry.

He slowly takes her hand.

Ella quickly crosses the room, hugging Carver.

CARVER

I'm so sorry.

Tears trickle down his cheeks as Sophia turns to ashes, spilling onto the floor.

Carver buries his face in his hands as he starts to sob uncontrollably.

Beth stands behind him, her hand on his shoulder.

BETH

Thank you.

They all sit motionless as Carver continues to sob.

Beth's eyes suddenly dart to the door across the room.

BETH  
We need to leave. Now!

Ella attempts to lift Carver from the floor.

ELLA  
Dad, we need to go.

Carver sits motionless as he stares at the ash-covered floor, his body trembling.

ELLA  
We need to go!

Beth kneels beside Carver, their faces inches apart.

BETH  
If you don't get up right now, none of us will survive the night.

Carver's tear-stained eyes glance to Beth.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Mama bursts through the door, eyes scanning the room as she breathes heavily.

Nothing.

Her eyes rest on the black ashes scattered across the cement.

Her shoulders sink as she slowly walks to the ashes, kneeling on the floor.

She takes the ashes in her hands as her body starts to shake; tears streaming down her cheeks.

MAMA  
(to self)  
My baby. My dearest baby.

She screams, her hands rummaging through the ashes on the floor. She quickly stands, glancing around the room.

MAMA  
Where are you?!

She rushes to the workshop.



INT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Mama breaks the door, stepping into the room.

MAMA  
Where are you, coward?!

Nothing moves as she scans the room. She laughs to herself.

MAMA  
Run, but I'm going to find you! Do you  
hear me?! Before this night is over, I  
will find you!

Her voice echoes from the walls as she wipes her face.

MAMA  
You break into my house and kill my  
babies?! Which one of us is the real  
monster?!

She glances down at her black-stained hands.

MAMA  
At least I know what I am! Do you know  
what you are?!

Chloe and Jane burst into the room.

JANE  
Mama, what happened?! Where's Sophia?!

Mama turns, wiping her eyes as she walks past the twins.

MAMA  
Sophia is gone.

She pauses in the broken doorway, glancing over her shoulder.

MAMA  
The two of you stay together.

She locks eyes with Chloe.

MAMA  
They better pray you find them first.

INT. SECRET PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Carver's eyes scan the ceiling; the sound of FOOTSTEPS  
echoing from above.

Beth sits against the wall; light from a small flashlight illuminating their faces.

Ella steps near the opposite wall, Carver silently grabbing her arm. He points to the floor; a tangle of unkempt wires running along the edge.

He glances at Beth as she presses her finger to her lips.

The FOOTSTEPS slowly fade.

Carver sighs, resting his head on Ella's.

Beth steps close to Carver.

BETH

What happened up there? You froze.

Carver shrugs, his gaze falling to the floor.

CARVER

I watched a child turn to ash right in front of me, Beth. Can you blame me?

He glances to Beth.

CARVER

That's not something you forget.

Beth's eyes narrow, pointing at Carver.

BETH

Don't lie to me, Carver. There was something else going on.

Carver's eyes dart to Ella before falling to the floor.

ELLA

Dad?

CARVER

Something...happened during our last job 14 years ago.

He locks eyes with Ella.

CARVER

I'm not the man you thought I was, El. I've done some...bad things in my life.

Tears start to collect in the corners of his eyes.

CARVER  
Terrible things.

BETH  
Everyone in this house has done  
terrible things, Carver.

She points at Ella.

BETH  
Except her probably.

Carver wraps his arms around Ella, tears streaming down his  
cheeks.

CARVER  
I was ready to end it all...but you  
saved me, El. I wanted to be there for  
you.

He kisses her head.

CARVER  
And I'm sorry for dragging you into  
this. I'm so sorry.

ELLA  
No matter what happened...no matter  
what you did...that's not you. Not  
anymore.

BETH  
If I really thought you were a bad  
person, Carver...I never would have  
saved you.

Carver shakes his head.

CARVER  
"Saved." That's ironic.

He locks eyes with Beth.

CARVER  
No matter what I do, Beth, I'm going  
to Hell. There's no forgiveness for  
what I did.

Beth steps close to him.

BETH

We've both done terrible things. Maybe we're monsters...but you're worried about Hell? We're living it right now.

She grabs Carver's shirt, pulling him closer.

BETH

And if you want Ella to make it through the night...you better pull yourself together. Got it?

Carver slowly nods.

BETH

Good. Let's move.

Beth turns, moving down the corridor.

CARVER

Beth?

She glances over her shoulder.

BETH

Yeah?

CARVER

Why are you helping us?

Beth sighs.

BETH

Because I want out of this house just as much as you do.

She motions to Ella.

BETH

And she doesn't deserve this.

Carver nods.

CARVER

Thank you. For everything you've done for us tonight.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Beth slowly opens the door, scanning the corridor.

Nothing.

She glances over her shoulder.

BETH  
We're almost there.

Carver points over his shoulder.

CARVER  
What's with all the wiring in that  
passageway?

Beth turns.

BETH  
Most of it is connected to the  
security system. Mama ran the wiring  
herself. It runs along most of the  
house.

CARVER  
That's extremely unsafe.

A small smile pulls at the corner of Beth's mouth.

BETH  
You want to go upstairs and tell her?

She paces down the hallway as Carver and Ella follow.

CARVER  
None of this was on the blueprint.

BETH  
We did most of this ourselves. Took us  
years.

Ella wrinkles her nose.

ELLA  
What's that smell?

Beth points to a door as they pass.

BETH  
Storage. Don't worry about it. It'll  
help cover our scent.

She moves to a nearby door.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Beth quickly opens the metal door, pulling Ella and Carver into the room. She closes the door, moving past Ella.

Carver follows her, their eyes locked on the massive safe sitting against the far wall.

CARVER

(not looking at Beth)

First I open this thing, then you help us escape?

Beth quietly rests her hand on the safe.

BETH

Yes. You have my word.

Carver nods, pulling the backpack from his shoulders.

CARVER

Let's get this over with.

BETH

Wait.

Beth's gaze falls to the floor as everyone freezes. She glances to Carver.

BETH

There's someone else here.

Drake suddenly steps from the shadows, seizing Ella.

Carver and Beth turn; fire burning in Beth's eyes as she steps toward Drake.

Drake quickly points his gun at Ella.

DRAKE

Don't.

Beth freezes.

A small smile pulls at the corner of Drake's mouth.

DRAKE

I'd hoped you'd all make it down here eventually.

Carver slowly raises his hands.

CARVER

Drake, there's no need for any of this.

DRAKE

I'm not leaving here empty handed. Not after what happened earlier.

CARVER

You still want what's in the safe?

DRAKE

What do you think?

Carver points to Beth.

CARVER

I open the safe for her, she helps us get out. That's the deal.

Drake locks eyes with Carver.

DRAKE

That doesn't leave me with anything.

CARVER

It leaves you with your life!

Drake scratches at his discolored arm: black and blue skin surrounding the small bite mark.

DRAKE

I don't care what happens to her. She's a monster like the rest of them.

Beth clenches her fists; arms trembling.

DRAKE

(smiling)

Oh, did that upset you?

Carver gently places his hand on Beth's arm.

Drake rests the gun on Ella's shoulder.

DRAKE

Let's not make this more difficult than it needs to be.

ELLA

(not looking at Drake)

You're a dick.

CARVER

Ella!

Drake squeezes Ella's shoulder, leaning close.

DRAKE

What was that?

Ella turns, locking eyes with Drake.

ELLA

I said...you're a dick.

Drake glances to Carver as he smiles.

Carver shakes his head.

DRAKE

I'd rather be a dick, kid, than  
someone like your dad.

ELLA

You're nothing like my father.

Drake smiles, holding the gun close to Ella's cheek.

DRAKE

You're right, kid. I'm nothing like  
your dad.

He locks eyes with Carver.

DRAKE

Do you want to know what kind of man  
he is?

Carver's hands clench; his face glowing red.

CARVER

Don't do this, Drake.

He motions to the nearby safe.

CARVER

I'll open the safe for you. Just leave  
Ella out of this.

Drake chuckles.



DRAKE

Don't want her to know your secret?  
Who you really are?

Carver shakes his head.

CARVER

Don't do this.

Drake itches at the bite on his arm.

DRAKE

Damn, it's itchy as hell.

He points the gun at Carver.

DRAKE

What do I have to lose?

He hunches down, his mouth just inches away from Ella's ear.

DRAKE

He's a criminal, kid. And he killed  
someone for it.

Tears collect in the corners of Ella's eyes.

Carver shakes his head.

CARVER

Don't believe anything...

DRAKE

(interrupting)

His name was James. He was only 10-years-  
old.

Carver points at Drake.

CARVER

Stop, Drake! You son-of-a...

ELLA

(interrupting)

Is that true?

CARVER

Ella, we don't have time to...

ELLA

Is that true?!

Carver hesitates, his gaze falling to the floor.

CARVER

Yes.

Tears stream down Ella's cheeks as Drake laughs.

DRAKE

Looks like it's a hard day for the kid to grow up, eh, Carver?

CARVER

It was an accident.

Drake points the gun at Carver.

DRAKE

Now...whaddya say we get that safe open?

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Later, Carver carefully drills into the safe; the drill-point diagrams resting on the floor.

Drake sits against the corner of the room itching his arm; the gun still cradled in his hand as Ella sits close to him.

Beth sits against the far wall, her eyes locked on Drake.

DRAKE

(smiling)

One move, girl, and the kid is as good as dead.

Beth continues to glare at Drake.

DRAKE

You must really hate me, don't you?

BETH

It's hard to respect a man who uses a child as a shield. And, yes, I do hate you.

Drake motions to Carver kneeling in front of the safe.

DRAKE

I'm just waiting to collect. Then I'll be on my way.

A small smile stretches across Beth's face.

BETH

You're not going anywhere. I'm just hoping I'm the one who gets to kill you.

Drake smiles as he scratches his arm.

DRAKE

Looks like we'll just have to wait to see what happens.

BETH

I hope sooner rather than later.

Drake pulls Ella a little closer, glancing to Carver.

DRAKE

What's taking so long, Carver?

Carver carefully pushes the drill through the metal.

CARVER

(not looking at Drake)

I'm almost through the hardplate.

DRAKE

You should've been done with this 10 minutes ago.

Carver removes the drill, feeding a small scope through the hole. He slowly moves the scope as his eyes rest on a small monitor in his hand.

CARVER

I haven't done this in years.

DRAKE

If we still had the acetylene, the torch...

CARVER

(interrupting)

Wouldn't do us any good. This thing has a thermal relocker.

He pulls the scope from the entry point, carefully sliding the drill back through the hole.

CARVER

And if I break the glass, the bolts  
will be released. Then none of us are  
getting in.

He drills a little further, reinserting the scope into the  
entry. He manipulates the lock; eyes resting on the tiny  
monitor in his hand.

Something CLICKS in the safe as Carver slowly manipulates the  
locking mechanism.

Drake stands, pulling Ella to her feet. He motions Beth  
toward Carver.

DRAKE

Stand over by Carver.

Beth stands next to Carver as something CLICKS in the safe  
again.

CARVER

Almost there.

Another CLICK echoes through the room. Carver slowly stands,  
his hands resting on the massive handle.

Beth slowly places her hand on Carver.

DRAKE

Let's go, Carver. We're running out of  
time.

Carver turns the massive handle.

BETH

(whispering)

I'm sorry.

A quizzical look crosses Carver's face.

CARVER

For what?

He pulls the metal door open, peering into darkness. He  
retrieves his flashlight, illuminating the inside of the  
safe.

PAPA suddenly emerges, black eyes locked on Carver; fangs  
glimmering in the dim light. His massive frame towers above  
everyone in the room.

DRAKE

What the...

Beth shoves Carver from Papa's path, quickly moving to Ella as Drake unloads several rounds into Papa's chest.

She pulls Ella toward Carver.

CARVER

Who the hell is that?!

Papa grabs Drake, fangs sinking into his shoulder. Drake winces, punching him across the face.

Papa stumbles into the nearby wall, turning as Drake unloads the rest of his clip into him.

BETH

(to Carver)

Just go! Back to the passageway! Take the 2nd right straight to the storage room!

She motions to the door.

BETH

You have to hurry! They'll be coming!

She turns, rushing toward Papa and Drake.

BETH

I'll take care of them!

Carver snatches Ella and his backpack from the floor, sprinting from the room.

Drake shoves another clip into his gun, aiming at Papa. Beth quickly grabs his arm, pointing the firearm toward the ceiling. Bullets puncture the concrete above them.

Beth slashes at Drake's chest, shoving him to the floor.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carver and Ella sprint from the cellar.

CARVER

They'll be here any...

He glances over his shoulder as FOOTSTEPS echo from behind.

Mama, Jane, and Chloe dart around the corner, sprinting toward them.

Carver grabs Ella's arm, moving to the nearest door.

CARVER

In here!

He pulls Ella into the dark room, slamming the door closed.

INT. HUMAN STOREROOM - NIGHT

Overhead fluorescent lights flicker; a light HUM echoing against the walls.

Ella covers her nose, turning.

ELLA

What's that...

Bodies hang upside down from the ceiling in tight rows, filling the room. Several glass storage units filled with bags of blood line the far wall.

A centrifuge rests on a table near the storage units.

Ella vomits.

Carver wedges a chair under the door handle.

CARVER

That won't hold for long.

Ella wipes her face with the back of her hand.

ELLA

Who are these people?!

Carver quickly glances around the room. He retrieves his flashlight, turning off the lights.

ELLA

What are you...

He smashes the light switch, grabbing Ella's arm.

CARVER

Move!

They sprint through rows of dangling bodies.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mama's gaze alternates between where Carver went and the open cellar door where Beth fights with Drake and Papa.

She motions in Carver's direction.

MAMA

Chloe!

Chloe sprints for the door where Carver and Ella escaped.

MAMA

Jane, with me!

Mama and Jane rush into the cellar.

INT. HUMAN STOREROOM - NIGHT

Chloe slams against the door, the chair shifting slightly. She bursts through; the chair crashing to the floor.

She reaches for the light switch, feeling the broken box.

She smiles.

CHLOE

C'mon, young man. We both know how this is going to end.

She slowly steps between hanging bodies; eyes scanning the darkness.

CHLOE

I'm sure we can find a spot for you in here.

FOOTSTEPS shuffle nearby.

Chloe smiles as she follows.

CHLOE

I promise I'll make it quick.

More FOOTSTEPS.

CHLOE

At least it's not Mama who...

A flashlight suddenly turns on, shining directly into Chloe's face. She SNARLS; black eyes reflecting in the light.

Carver rushes from the side, striking Chloe across the face with the centrifuge.

She tumbles to the floor, light dancing around her.

CARVER

El, keep the light on her!

Chloe attempts to shield her face from the light. Carver strikes her with the centrifuge again, disappearing into darkness.

Chloe recovers, leaping toward the ceiling.

Ella quickly scans the ceiling. Nothing.

An eerie silence echoes through the room. Ella frantically scans with the flashlight, revealing Carver briefly.

CARVER

Turn the light...

He turns just as Chloe leaps toward him. He uses the centrifuge to shield himself.

They crash into the glass storage lining the wall. Blood bags fall to the floor; crimson spilling in different directions.

Chloe straddles Carver.

He grabs her by the neck, his other hand quickly searching the ground.

CARVER

El, get out of here!

Ella suddenly strikes Chloe in the head with the flashlight.

Chloe SNARLS, slashing at Ella with her claws, cutting across her arm.

Ella winces, falling to the floor.

CARVER

No!



Chloe suddenly freezes, glancing down. A massive glass shard protrudes from her chest.

Fire burns in Carver's eyes.

CARVER

Don't ever touch my girl.

He shoves Chloe off as her body starts to turn gray, moving to Ella.

She covers her arm with her hand.

CARVER

Keep pressure on it. I'm getting you out of here.

He scans the nearby shelves with the flashlight. He retrieves several medical supplies, shoving them into his backpack.

He also grabs a few blood bags, carefully packing them.

He takes Ella in his arms, hoisting her from the floor.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Jane pins Beth's arms behind her back, dropping her to her knees.

Drake's body convulses on the floor next to her, his eyes wide as he stares toward Mama. Blood pools from his body, staining the concrete.

Mama slams Papa into the wall before tossing him to the floor, his arms pinned behind his back.

She glances to Drake writhing on the concrete.

MAMA

(not looking at Beth)

You've really made a mess of things tonight, haven't' you?

She locks eyes with Beth.

MAMA

Now, choose your next words very carefully, Beth. Who killed Sophia and Agnes?

Beth swallows hard, shaking her head.

BETH  
I didn't know they were gone.

MAMA  
Don't lie to me, child.

BETH  
I brought the man and his son straight  
here after we ran from the dining  
room.

Her gaze rests on Papa pinned to the floor.

BETH  
I wanted him to open the safe.

MAMA  
And where are they now?

BETH  
I don't know. They ran as soon as my  
dad attacked the other guy.

Mama's eyes narrow, motioning to Drake on the floor.

MAMA  
So you're saying he killed them?

BETH  
Looks that way.

Mama and Beth stare at each other in silence briefly. A small smile pulls at the corner of Mama's mouth.

MAMA  
You've always been a terrible liar,  
little ladybird.

She suddenly drives a small, wooden stake through Papa's chest, a deafening SHRIEK coursing through the room.

BETH  
No!

Beth struggles against Jane's grip as Mama stands from the floor, moving away from Papa; a wry smile etched on her face.

MAMA  
I'm sorry, child, but it had to be  
done. Let her go.

Jane releases Beth. Beth quickly moves to her father, hands trembling around the stake protruding from his chest.

MAMA

An eye for an eye.

Beth looks directly into her father's eyes, tears streaming down her cheeks.

BETH

Dad, look at me. Look at me!

Her father's face starts to turn dark gray.

BETH

I love you.

Her father's entire body turns gray; crumbling into countless pieces. His ashes fall to the floor, Beth kneeling in the middle of them.

MAMA

I took care of you, Beth. And you repay me by trying to destroy everything I've built for my family.

BETH

(whispering)

I'll kill you.

MAMA

What was that?

Beth slowly glances to Mama.

BETH

I said...I'm going to kill you.

MAMA

You're not going to hurt me. I'm your mother.

BETH

You're nothing like my mom...before you killed her! Before you ruined my family! And for what?!

MAMA

(pointing at Beth)

I'm the ONLY family you have now!  
There's no one left to help you!

Beth glances to Drake as his body stops convulsing. His eyes slowly open, black eyes glancing to Mama.

Beth smiles.

BETH  
Are you sure?

Drake suddenly stands. His hand cinches around Mama's neck, slamming her into the nearby wall.

MAMA  
Jane...grab Beth!

Jane quickly moves to Beth.

Beth snatches the stake from the floor, jamming it deep into Jane's chest. Jane SHRIEKS, falling back onto the concrete; her body convulsing.

Mama struggles against Drake, tumbling to the floor.

MAMA  
No!

Jane's body goes stiff; her skin turning gray. Beth moves to the door, slamming it closed behind her.

Mama slams Drake into the concrete, her eyes darting to Jane as her body turns to ash.

Tears stream down her cheeks as she snatches the stake from the floor, rolling Drake onto his back.

She peers down at Drake, hesitating.

INT. SUPPLIES ROOM - NIGHT

Beth enters through the open ventilation shaft. She is struck to the ground as she attempts to stand.

She rolls onto her back, Carver standing over her; a sharp, broken broom handle clenched in his hands.

Ella quickly grabs his arm.

ELLA  
Don't!

Carver freezes, glaring down at Beth.

CARVER

Who are those people hanging in that room, Beth?!

BETH

Murderers. Rapists. Pedophiles. That's who Mama hunts. Criminals.

She locks eyes with Carver.

BETH

People like your friends. Remember? You broke into OUR house.

Carver tosses the broom handle to the floor, pacing away.

Beth stands.

CARVER

(pointing at Beth)

What the hell happened up there?!

Beth's eyes fall to the floor.

BETH

I needed your help to free my dad.

CARVER

You lied to us! If you'd have told me your father was inside...

Beth locks eyes with Carver.

BETH

(interrupting)

Would you have opened it?

CARVER

Of course not!

BETH

Then I had to lie to you.

She glances at Ella standing against the wall.

BETH

What would you have done, Ella, to bring your father back?

She motions to the room around them.

BETH

Knowing that he's been a prisoner for years and there's nothing you could do about it?

CARVER

(pointing at Ella)  
Leave her out of this!

BETH

(looking at Ella)  
You'd do the same thing. I can see it in your eyes.

She motions to Carver.

BETH

You'd do anything for your father. The same way I'd do anything for mine, but that doesn't matter now.

Tears trickle down her cheeks.

BETH

She killed him.

Ella slowly moves to Beth, embracing her. Beth sobs as she wraps her arms around Ella.

ELLA

I'm sorry.

Beth notices a bandage tied around Ella's arm.

BETH

What happened?

CARVER

She was cut by one of them earlier, but I got her patched up. For now.

Carver slumps to the floor, running his hand through his hair.

CARVER

Ella has hemophilia. That's why she needs to be careful.

Beth pulls away from Ella, shaking her head.

BETH

I put both of you in danger. And for that, I'm sorry.

She retrieves the broken broom handle from the floor. She slowly moves to Carver, holding the stick in front of her.

BETH

Please.

Carver locks eyes with Beth.

BETH

You'd be doing me a favor.

Carver takes the stick. He stands, peering down at Beth.

CARVER

I've spent years trying to make up for my mistakes, Beth. I don't care to make another one.

He kneels, wrapping his arms around her.

CARVER

We've both done terrible things, but that doesn't make us monsters. Maybe we don't deserve to make it out of this...

He pulls away, glancing at Ella.

CARVER

...but she does. And I need your help to get her out of this house. Can you do that?

Beth slowly nods. She suddenly winces, grabbing her stomach.

Carver steps back.

CARVER

What's wrong?

BETH

I need blood.

She rests against the wall; arms wrapped around her waist.

Carver retrieves his backpack, ripping it open. He tosses a bag of blood to Beth.

CARVER

Here.

Beth tears the corner, shoving it into her mouth.

ELLA

What happens if you don't drink blood?

Beth wipes her mouth.

BETH

Pain. Fatigue. Eventually I would die.

CARVER

Like your body is trying to fight an infection. You need the white blood cells, hormones, protein...

Beth nods, finishing the bag. She rests her head against the wall.

CARVER

(pointing at his backpack)  
There's two more bags in there in case you need them.

BETH

Thank you. You didn't have to do that.

CARVER

I know, but it's the least I could do. Now...tell me about the security system.

BETH

Mama is the only one who knows the access code to the shutters, but the main control panel is located in the basement.

CARVER

Great. Where in the basement?

BETH

There's a hallway that connects to the room where the bodies are hanging. You follow that and it will run into the door to the mechanical room.



Carver's gaze falls to the floor.

BETH

But how are you going to make it?  
You're going to run into someone down  
there.

Carver glances around the room, his eyes scanning the  
supplies on the nearby shelves.

CARVER

There has to be something we can use.  
Check all the shelves. Look for  
anything that may be useful.

Beth nods, darting to the other side of the room.

Ella moves to Carver as he kneels, slipping his backpack from  
his shoulders. He dumps the contents onto the floor.

His eyes narrow as he snatches one of Ella's medication  
bottles from the floor, turning it over in his hand.

"ALLICIN" is listed on the ingredient label.

He glances toward the ceiling.

One of the sprinkler heads hangs directly above him.

Carver smiles.

CARVER

I think I know how to get us out.

INT. HUMAN STOREROOM - NIGHT

Mama slowly pushes the door open, peering into darkness.

MAMA

Chloe!

Nothing.

She reaches for the light switch, feeling the broken box.

She retrieves a small flashlight from her pocket, scanning  
the room.

Mama steps passed hanging bodies, glancing in all directions.

She pauses; light resting on blood smeared across the floor.

She kneels beside the blood, eyes widening as she notices ashes spread across the floor.

Her body trembles as she rolls the ashes between her fingers.

MAMA  
(to self)  
What did they do to you?

She holds the ashes close to her chest, rocking back and forth.

MAMA  
(to self)  
I'm sorry, Chloe. I'm sorry.

Tears stream down her face; fire burning in her eyes.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mama marches toward a door, keys cradled in her hand. She quickly unlocks it.

Several SNARLS echo through the doorway as she smiles.

MAMA  
Kill them all.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Carver analyzes plastic coverings wrapped around his arms. He turns to Beth as she crams supplies into a small duffel bag.

CARVER  
Once I'm in the room, where's the control panel?

BETH  
Far back corner to the left.

CARVER  
(nodding)  
And the water tanks?

BETH  
On the right. Against the wall.

She closes the duffel bag, tossing it over her shoulder.

CARVER

Do you remember where to put the explosives?

BETH

Yeah.

CARVER

Don't forget to put them near the wiring. Anywhere the insulation has worn away.

Carver glances across the room.

Ella sits at a small table, a pile of powder collecting in front of her. She quietly pulls pills from her medication bottle; grinding them with a small tool.

Carver rests his hand on Ella's shoulder.

CARVER

How's it coming?

ELLA

(not looking at Carver)

Almost done. Just a couple more pills.

Ella finishes grinding the remaining pills. She carefully pushes the powder into the empty medication container.

CARVER

Hang on a second.

He tosses some of the powder into a water bottle, shaking it. He retrieves a syringe from the nearby table, filling the tube with water.

He places a cap over the needle, handing it to Ella.

CARVER

Keep it with you. Just in case.

Ella nods, shoving the syringe into her pocket.

CARVER

I'll be right back.

ELLA

There's got to be another way.

Carver shoves the medication bottle into his backpack, closing it.

CARVER  
(shaking his head)  
This is the only option we have right now.

Ella locks eyes with Carver.

ELLA  
How do you know it's going to work?

CARVER  
(smiling)  
I don't, but I believe it will.

He embraces Ella. He quickly moves to the ventilation shaft, glancing over his shoulder to Beth.

CARVER  
You ready?

Several SHRIEKS suddenly echo from somewhere else in the house. Carver, Ella, and Beth quickly glance to the ceiling.

ELLA  
What was that?

Beth listens briefly; more SHRIEKS echoing.

BETH  
She's let them all out.

Carver stands, moving away from the ventilation shaft.

CARVER  
Who?

BETH  
The younger ones. The ones who haven't been turned for very long. She's set them loose.

CARVER  
How many?

BETH  
You don't want to know.

Carver rubs his forehead.

CARVER

Great. I'll be dead before I can get anywhere near the mechanical room.

Beth's eyes fall to the floor.

BETH

Not if I can pull them away first.

She quickly moves to the door.

BETH

(not looking at Carver)

Give me 60 seconds, then head to the basement.

CARVER

What are you going to do? This won't work if you don't...

BETH

(interrupting)

I'll take care of it.

Beth snatches a piece of metal pipe standing against the wall, turning to Carver and Ella.

BETH

I'm going to distract them. Give them someone to chase. That should buy you some time.

She hands the pipe to Carver.

BETH

Shove this through the handle after I leave. I'll find another way in.

Carver nods.

Beth grabs the door handle, glancing over her shoulder.

BETH

Good luck.

CARVER

You, too.

Beth opens the door, sprinting away. Carver closes the door, sliding the metal pipe through the handle.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Beth sprints down the narrow corridor, pounding her fist against the wall.

BETH  
Hey, hey, hey!

She rounds the corner, striking the wall as she runs.

BETH  
What are you waiting for?! I'm right here!

She stops, glancing both directions.

BETH  
C'mon!

SNARLS suddenly race toward her.

Beth turns, staring at the dark passageway ahead.

Several children suddenly emerge; black eyes and sharp fangs gleaming back at Beth as they charge.

She sprints in the opposite direction.

INT. HUMAN STOREROOM - NIGHT

Carver slowly steps through the hanging bodies; his flashlight scanning in all directions.

A SHRIEK echoes from somewhere else in the house.

His light focuses on a door against the far wall.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carver quietly closes the door behind him. His eyes scan the row of empty holding cells to his side as he moves down the narrow corridor.

Another SHRIEK echoes from somewhere above.

He cautiously glances around the corner as he reaches the end of the hall.

Nothing moves in the darkness.

His flashlight scans different labels etched on the doors as he steps, reading "SUPPLIES" and "STORAGE."

INT. SECRET PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Beth quickly pulls a small explosive from the duffel bag, placing it near a group of wires running along the wall.

SNARLS race toward her. She sprints away from the device as several children round the corner, chasing after her.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carver's light fixes on a door at the end of the corridor; "MECHANICAL" etched on the label.

He grabs the handle as a loud BANG echoes down the hallway. He turns, his flashlight scanning the darkness.

FOOTSTEPS crashing against concrete rush toward him.

He quickly opens the door, stepping into the room.

INT. MECHANICAL ROOM - NIGHT

Carver quietly closes the door, pressing his shoulder against it. He slides one of the drill bits through the handle; securing it in place.

He remains motionless for several seconds; more FOOTSTEPS echoing from the nearby hallway.

He glances over his shoulder, scanning the room.

A massive water tank stands against the wall.

He quickly moves to the tank, dropping his backpack from his shoulders. He retrieves the medication bottle, hands trembling as he unscrews the lid.

A loud BANG echoes through the room as something crashes against the door.

Carver opens a small latch near the top of the water tank; pouring the powder from the medication bottle.

Another BANG echoes through the room.

He closes the latch, returning the empty bottle to his backpack.

Carver moves around a massive generator resting in the middle of the room as something continues to ram the door.

He finds the control panel etched into the far wall, flipping the cover open.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Beth slams the door closed, grabbing a nearby couch.

She quickly pulls the couch in front of the door, sprinting for the ventilation grate across the room.

Something BANGS against the door as she grips the grate; gritting her teeth as she pulls.

The door splinters; SHRIEKS echoing from the other side.

Beth's knuckles burn white as she pulls on the grate.

BETH  
(to self)  
C'mon!

The door cracks; small arms reaching into the room.

Beth rips the grate from the wall, tossing it to the floor.

The door shatters; wood ricocheting in different directions as children pour into the room.

Beth dives into the ventilation, children swiping at her legs as she crawls away.

INT. MECHANICAL ROOM - NIGHT

Carver quickly opens the back of the small monitor, attaching the cords to the control panel.

Another BANG echoes as something slams against the door.

He switches several dials on the panel; changing the placement of different fuses.

He glances to the monitor; code racing across the screen as he peers over his shoulder.

The hinges on the metal door start to disconnect from the wall as the BANGING grows louder.



CARVER  
(to self)  
I don't have time.

INT. SECRET PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

The ventilation grate drops from the wall, Beth tumbling onto the wood floor.

She stands, fishing one of the explosives from her duffel bag as SHRIEKS echo from the ventilation.

She wedges the small explosive against wires running along the floor.

Small hands grip the edge of the ventilation as she sprints from the pursuing children.

INT. MECHANICAL ROOM - NIGHT

Drake bursts into the room; black eyes reflecting in the flickering overhead lights as the door SLAMS into the wall.

His head tilts in different directions as he scans the room.

Nothing.

He slowly steps toward the water tank, resting his hand against the cold cylinder.

He glances over his shoulder toward the control panel.

Drake moves around the generator toward the device.

Carver suddenly emerges from his hiding spot, lunging at Drake; a drill bit raised in front of him.

Drake quickly turns, attempting to dodge the attack.

The drill bit plunges into Drake's shoulder. He SNARLS, striking Carver away from him.

Carver slides across the floor.

He quickly stands as Drake sprints toward him.

He shoves his forearm into Drake's mouth; fangs clamping onto the plastic shielding.

Carver punches Drake across his face, shoving him into the nearby wall. He seizes the drill bit protruding from Drake's shoulder, pulling it from his body.

Drake swats the bit from his hand, shoving Carver to the floor; the plastic covering dangling from his mouth.

He tosses the plastic to the floor before pouncing on Carver; sharp claws tearing at Carver's clothing.

Carver winces, grabbing Drake by the neck.

More SHRIEKS race toward them from the nearby hallway.

Carver glances to the door, eyes widening as two children with black eyes race into the room.

Drake sinks his fangs deep into Carver's hand.

CARVER

No!

Carver punches Drake across the face; tumbling to the floor.

Carver attempts to stand, but is tackled by the two children. He struggles against their tiny hands, sharp fangs sinking into his skin.

He winces.

Drake quickly stands, a wry smile on his face.

CARVER

C'mon, Drake! Finish it!

Drake lunges for Carver.

Beth snatches him from the air, slamming him into the wall.

She smiles as she drives a wooden stake deep into his chest; Drake SHRIEKING as he grips the stake with his hands.

Beth quickly turns, pulling the two children from Carver. She tosses them over the generator.

BETH

Carver...

CARVER

Take care of them!

Beth quickly scans the concrete floor; eyes resting on one of the drill bits nestled against the wall.

She snatches it from the floor as one of the children leaps onto the generator.

The child sails toward Beth. Beth slams the bit into her as she flies through the air.

The child lands on the hard floor, her body convulsing as her skin turns gray.

The other child slams into Beth; sharp claws digging into Beth's back.

Carver quickly grabs the wooden stake lying on the floor. He stumbles toward the child, driving the stake into her back.

The child SHRIEKS, scampering away from Beth and Carver. It suddenly tumbles to the floor, convulsing.

Her body goes rigid; skin turning dark gray.

Carver collapses on the floor, Beth moving to his side.

CARVER

Get the door.

Beth quickly closes the door, returning to Carver.

Several blood-stained patches cover his body; bite marks etched into his skin.

CARVER

How bad is it?

Beth shakes her head.

A brief chuckle escapes Carver's lips.

CARVER

Help me up.

Beth tosses Carver's arm over her shoulder, lifting him from the floor.

CARVER

Take me to the control panel.

Carver limps with Beth toward the panel. He winces as he flips the cover open; the small monitor blinking prompts.

Beth's gaze falls to the floor.

BETH  
Carver...

CARVER  
(not looking at Beth)  
I'm almost done.

He switches different fuses and protruding wires.

BETH  
Carver...

CARVER  
Ella is the only thing that matters,  
Beth!

INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Ella paces, her eyes locked on the concrete floor.

ELLA  
(to self)  
Where are they?

Something SLAMS into the nearby door.

She freezes, eyes widening. She remains motionless for several seconds.

She quietly steps toward the door, pressing her ear against the cold metal.

ELLA  
(whispering)  
Beth?

Another BANG vibrates through the room. Ella quickly backs away, bumping into a shelf.

She glances in all directions, eyes resting on the open ventilation as another BANG echoes through the room.

INT. MECHANICAL ROOM - NIGHT

Carver closes the cover to the control panel.

CARVER

I'm done!

He slumps to the floor; Beth helping him rest his back against the wall.

CARVER

Her security system is impressive, but she's overloaded the circuit breaker and she used the wrong fuses.

He winces, grabbing his side.

CARVER

The system is using a lot of electricity...putting a lot of strain on the old wiring. When the power surge...

BETH

(interrupting)  
Just rest, Carver.

He nods, resting his head against the wall.

CARVER

How much time do I have?

Beth's eyes fall to the floor.

BETH

With how many times you were bitten...maybe a couple minutes.

Carver shakes his head, his bottom lip curling as he punches the wall. Beth attempts to lift him from the floor.

BETH

C'mon, let me get you back to Ella.

CARVER

No! I don't want her to see me like this.

Beth slumps against the wall next to Carver.

BETH

I'm sorry, Carver. I'm sorry about all of this.

Carver shakes his head.

CARVER

It wasn't your fault. Just get Ella out of here and it'll be alright.

BETH

What do you want me to tell her?

Carver swallows hard, his breathing shallow.

CARVER

Tell her I'm sorry. I wanted to be a good father, but the things I've done...the things I regret...they've caught up to me.

Beth shakes her head.

BETH

You're a good father, Carver. You remind me of mine.

Her gaze falls to the floor.

BETH

And if that's the case, Ella adores you. No matter what you do.

Carver silently grasps Beth's hand.

CARVER

Thank you.

He pulls a wooden stake close to his chest, glancing at Beth.

CARVER

There is one last thing you can do for me.

Beth shakes her head, tears streaming down her cheeks.

BETH

No.

He extends the stick toward her.

CARVER

Take it.

BETH

Please don't make me do this.

CARVER

I need you to.

A small smile pulls at the corner of Beth's mouth as she wipes her cheeks.

BETH

You wouldn't do it for me.

CARVER

It wasn't your time yet.

Beth hesitantly takes the stake.

Carver slumps to the floor, laying on his back. His hand trembles as he removes his watch, handing it to Beth.

CARVER

The security system is going to overheat at approximately 6:43 AM, causing a power surge. I've programmed the shutters to raise at the same time, but you'll only have 10 seconds.

A puzzled look crosses Beth's face.

BETH

What happens after 10 seconds?

CARVER

If we've placed everything correctly, the surge should cause an electrical fire that will be too much for the aluminum wiring. The system overload will cause the shutters to close again.

He locks eyes with Beth.

CARVER

They'll be trapped. And with the explosives next to the wires, the fire will spread quickly. They're all going to burn. Every last one of them.

Carver pulls her close.

CARVER

Promise me you'll get her out. Promise me you'll keep her safe.

BETH

I promise.

Carver nods, laying his head on the hard floor; his eyes rolling to the ceiling.

CARVER

I can feel it. Like ice coursing through my veins.

He glances back to Beth.

CARVER

Is this what death feels like?

BETH

Yes.

CARVER

Do you believe in God, Beth?

Beth's gaze falls to the floor, remaining silent briefly.

BETH

I don't know. If he's there, why would he allow a creature like me to exist?

CARVER

(smiling)

So that you could be here to save my little girl.

Carver glances at the stake cradled in Beth's hands.

CARVER

Let's get this over with already. I'm sure it's going to hurt like hell.

Beth positions herself over Carver as he swallows hard.

CARVER

Tell Ella that I love her.

Carver closes his eyes.

Beth hesitantly raises the stake in her trembling hands. She glances down at Carver, tears streaming down her cheeks.

CARVER

(not looking at Beth)

And Beth?



She hesitates.

CARVER  
(whispering)  
Thank you.

She closes her eyes.

Ella suddenly bursts through the door as Beth drives the stake deep into Carver's chest.

ELLA  
No!

Carver grinds his teeth; hands trembling around the stake.

Ella attempts to run toward him, but Beth stops her; holding her tightly.

ELLA  
What did you do?!

BETH  
I had to, Ella.

Carver's body suddenly convulses, back arching.

Ella struggles against Beth.

BETH  
Don't look.

ELLA  
Let me go!

Tears roll down Beth's cheeks as she holds Ella tighter.

BETH  
I'm sorry.

ELLA  
Dad, I love you!

Carver's body goes still, turning dark gray. His body disintegrates, ashes covering the floor.

ELLA  
Get off me!

Beth releases Ella.

She slowly shuffles across the room. Tears stream down her cheeks as she stands on the edge of Carver's ashes.

She kneels, running her hand through the ashes as she sobs.

Beth gently places her hand on Ella's shoulder.

BETH

Ella...

Ella swats her hand away, quickly standing.

ELLA

Don't touch me! Just stay the hell  
away from me!

She sprints for the open door.

BETH

Ella!

Beth snatches Carver's backpack from the floor, racing after Ella.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ella rounds the corner, sprinting for the human storeroom.

Beth suddenly grabs her shoulder, tossing her into one of the empty prison cells.

She enters the cell, quietly closing the door behind them.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Ella stumbles into the wall, glancing over her shoulder.

ELLA

What are you...

Beth quickly covers her mouth, pinning her against the wall.

BETH

(whispering)

Quiet!

They both sit motionless for several seconds.

A nearby door suddenly SLAMS against a wall; FOOTSTEPS  
echoing down the hallway.

Several shadows pass underneath the door.

Beth and Ella remain quiet as the FOOTSTEPS fade into the distance.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Later, Beth pulls a raincoat from her duffel bag, tossing it over her shoulders.

She glances at her watch before turning to Ella; her eyes locked on the floor.

BETH

It's almost time. Are you ready?

ELLA

(not looking at Beth)

My dad has always been there to protect me. And now that he's gone, I don't know if I can do this on my own.

She locks eyes with Beth.

ELLA

I'll never be as strong as him.

Beth kneels next to Ella, resting her hand on her shoulder.

BETH

He loved you. You meant everything to him. And if he didn't think you could do this, he wouldn't have taken the risk.

ELLA

Does it bother you? What we're about to do?

Beth remains silent for several seconds. She motions to the cell around them.

BETH

This is where it all started for me: in a cell not too different from this one. I thought things would be...better once I got out, but I couldn't have been more wrong.

She stands, resting her hand on the concrete wall.

BETH

This entire house is a prison. And all of us are just...captives. People trying to cheat death. Trying to...avoid the consequences of our actions.

She rests her back against the wall.

BETH

So in answer to your question, 'no.' After everything we've done over the years...we all deserve to burn.

ELLA

(not looking at Beth)

Just because we make mistakes, doesn't mean we deserve to die.

Ella glances to Beth, tear stains on her cheeks.

ELLA

My dad was a good man. He made mistakes, but in the end, he was a good man.

She stands, tossing the backpack over her shoulders.

ELLA

And you're not a monster, Beth. You never were. You didn't choose this life. Mama chose it for you.

Beth smiles.

BETH

Thanks, Ella.

She glances at her watch.

BETH

I promised your father that I'd get you out of here.

She gently rests her hand on Ella's shoulder.

BETH

It's time to go.

Ella nods.

ELLA  
Let's finish it.

Beth slowly turns, eyes narrowing.

ELLA  
What is it?

Soft PIANO MUSIC echoes through the house above them.

BETH  
Music.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Beth and Ella slowly approach the foyer; soft PIANO MUSIC floating toward them.

ELLA  
Who is it?

BETH  
(not looking at Ella)  
Mama.

The music grows louder as they reach the end of the hallway. Beth glances over her shoulder.

BETH  
Whatever happens, stay close to me.

Ella nods.

INT. MAIN FOYER - NIGHT

Both of them cautiously peer over the wooden banister; PIANO MUSIC echoing against the walls.

Several children stand motionless in the massive room, their black eyes focused on Beth and Ella.

Beth glances at her watch. She gently takes Ella by the hand, leading her toward the staircase.

They descend the stairs; the children's eyes following them.

Mama plays the piano from the nearby living room. She sits perfectly straight; her back turned to the foyer.

She stops playing as Beth and Ella reach the bottom of the stairs.

She moves to the foyer; a strange smile etched on her face.

MAMA

Over the years, I've come to realize that music can improve any situation. Even nights when it feels as though your heart has been ripped from your chest.

She locks eyes with Beth and Ella.

MAMA

Where is the man who took some of my children away from me tonight?

BETH

He's gone.

MAMA

Well at least that's taken care of.

Ella's jaw tightens, her hand slipping into her pocket. Beth gently squeezes her arm.

MAMA

Now what do we do about the two of you? After all these years, I expected more from you, Beth.

Beth glances from Mama to the children standing around her; their black eyes gleaming in the soft light.

BETH

Please just let the girl go. You can deal with me on your own.

Mama's eyes narrow.

MAMA

My child, the girl isn't going anywhere.

Beth's eyes dart to the army of children.

BETH

She's leaving. Untouched. Do you understand me?

MAMA

I'm afraid no one is ever allowed to  
leave, little ladybird.

She motions to the massive room around them.

MAMA

Everything we've worked so hard to  
build over the years would be  
compromised.

Beth swallows hard, glancing at her watch. She glances back  
to the children standing in front of her.

BETH

Then I'm sorry. For all of you.

She quickly pulls the hood of her raincoat over her head as  
the watch BEEPS.

INT. MECHANICAL ROOM - NIGHT

Sparks rocket from the control panel as several fuses burst  
into small flames.

INT. MAIN FOYER - NIGHT

A quiet HUM echoes through the room.

The sprinkler system overhead suddenly ignites, water raining  
on everyone.

MAMA

(smiling)

How is this supposed to...

Mama screams as the water trickles down her cheeks, her hands  
quickly covering her face as she hunches over.

The children scatter, screaming as they attempt to find  
cover.

Beth quickly pulls Ella through the crowd, running for the  
front door.

BETH

C'mon!

She shoulders some of the children from their path.

The metallic shutters covering the doors and windows suddenly raise, exposing the exit.

Mama glares at them from across the room, her black eyes reflecting in the water.

MAMA

Stop them!

One of the children grabs Ella by the arm. She quickly turns, swatting their hand away.

Beth shoves two children from her path, glancing over her shoulder.

BETH

(to Ella)

Five seconds!

Ella nods, leaping over another body as the water scorches their skin.

Mama screams, flying across the room.

BETH

Ella, behind you!

Beth shoves Ella to the side, Mama slamming into her. They slide across the tile floor; crashing into the nearby wall.

MAMA

What have you done?!

Beth quickly kicks her away, jumping to her feet.

She snatches Ella from the floor.

BETH

We need to go!

Several children burning from the water swipe at Beth and Ella as they sprint.

They crash through the front doors just as the metal shutter slams closed; children clawing at the cover.

EXT. MANSION - NIGHT

Beth and Ella sprint toward the forest.



BETH  
Don't look back!

INT. MAIN FOYER - NIGHT

Mama pulls a small remote from her soaked dress, pointing it at the shutter. She presses several buttons, the shutters not moving as the other children claw at the metal.

Her jaw tightens.

MAMA  
Why isn't this working?!

The sprinkler system suddenly stops.

A low RUMBLE echoes through the house; walls trembling.

Mama and the children stop, their eyes darting to the ceiling.

MAMA  
What was...

One of the walls across the room suddenly bursts into flames, quickly consuming the wood paneling.

The children SHRIEK, scattering in different directions.

MAMA  
No!

Mama turns to the metallic shutters, quickly pressing buttons on her remote.

Another wall bursts into flames.

MAMA  
What have you done, Beth! What have you done!

Mama breaks the remote against the nearby wall, turning to her scattered children.

MAMA  
It's going to be alright!

She quickly snatches some of the nearby children, huddling with them in the middle of the foyer as more walls ignite.

Smoke gathers around them, children trembling in her arms.

MAMA  
 (whispering)  
 It's going to be alright.

She wraps her arms around the small group as others frantically sprint in different directions; their bodies consumed in flames.

MAMA  
 (singing)  
 "Ladybird, ladybird fly away home..."

Mama's eyes dart around the room, her jaw tightening. She pulls the children around her into her chest.

MAMA  
 (singing)  
 "...your house is on fire, your children shall burn..."

Fire burns in her eyes.

MAMA  
 (singing)  
 "...all except one...and her name...is...Beth."

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ella and Beth breathe heavily; standing along the treeline as massive flames rise into the dark sky. Ella sighs.

ELLA  
 It's over.

Beth steps forward, eyes narrowing.

ELLA  
 What is it?

She remains motionless.

BETH  
 It's not over.

Her eyes widen, turning to Ella.

BETH  
 Run.

A puzzled look crosses Ella's face.

ELLA  
But who...

BETH  
(interrupting)  
Run!

Beth grabs Ella by the arm, forcing her into the woods. Both of them sprint, Beth glancing behind them as they run.

BETH  
She's gaining on us!

Beth and Ella dart through tall trees, their eyes glancing in all directions.

Beth snatches the backpack from Ella, ripping it open.

BETH  
Keep going!

ELLA  
What are you...

BETH  
(interrupting)  
Just keep going!

Beth retrieves the extra bags of blood; tearing them apart as she slings the crimson fluid across the trees as she runs.

Ella sprints away from Beth as she veers a different direction, disappearing deeper into the forest.

A dark figure suddenly perches on the branch of a tall tree, eyes scanning the forest; her severely burnt face partially concealed by her tangled hair. Her bottom lip trembles.

MAMA  
I know you're here.

Nothing moves in the woods as she jumps to another tree, her head jerking in all directions.

MAMA  
Do you really think you can protect  
her from me?

She smiles, dropping to the ground below. She wipes blood from a nearby tree; rolling it between her fingers.

MAMA

Oh, child. I made you. And I can  
unmake you.

Beth suddenly collides with Mama, shoving her across the  
ground. Mama spins, fire burning in her eyes.

MAMA

Do you remember the last time we were  
in these woods? You were so scared. So  
afraid to die.

BETH

You always talked too much. And now...

Beth smiles.

BETH

...I'm not afraid of you anymore.

Mama rushes toward Beth, gritting her teeth.

They savagely fight through the trees, both of them tossing  
each other across the ground; claws tearing at their skin.

Mama slams Beth into the ground, shoving her knee deep into  
her chest.

MAMA

(smiling)

You see? I told you this is how it  
would end.

Beth coughs, glancing in all directions.

MAMA

Don't worry. I'll find the girl.

Beth struggles against Mama's body laying on top of her.

BETH

Let her go.

MAMA

(shaking her head)

Child, I'm not going to hurt her. You  
took my entire family away from me.

She smiles.

MAMA

It's time to start again.

Mama lifts Beth into the air, slamming her against a tree.

Beth winces as Mama pulls a massive branch from the trunk; shoving it through Beth's abdomen.

Beth screams, her hands clenching at the branch.

Mama slams her head against the trunk, their faces just inches apart.

BETH

Just...kill...me.

Tears stream down Mama's scarred face.

MAMA

You're still my child. There are some things I just can't do.

She glances over her shoulder toward the horizon; soft light trickling over the trees.

MAMA

But the sun is coming up soon.

She turns back to Beth, a bright white smile etched on her face. She gently kisses Beth on the forehead.

MAMA

(whispering)  
Goodbye, ladybird.

Mama drops to the forest floor, disappearing into the trees.

Beth struggles against the branch protruding from her stomach.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ella pauses near the barbed wire fence, dust fluttering through the air. Her eyes dart to each side, scanning the fence line as she breathes heavily.

MAMA (O.S.)

Child! You won't make it far!

Ella sprints down the fence line.

ELLA  
 (to self)  
 Where is it, where is it.

MAMA (O.S.)  
 It's pointless to run!

Ella pauses as she reaches the warning sign hanging on the crooked fence; a smile pulling at the corner of her mouth.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Beth grits her teeth as she grips the branch protruding from her stomach. She pulls, but the branch is immovable.

She closes her eyes, wincing as she pushes against the trunk. Her body slides along the branch.

BETH  
 (to self)  
 C'mon!

She screams as the branch suddenly breaks; crashing into the grass below.

She clutches at the partial branch still protruding from her stomach. She shrieks as she rips it from her body; tossing it to the side.

She slowly stands, fire burning in her eyes.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Mama breaks through the trees, exiting near the fenceline.

She smiles, eyes locked on Ella near the crooked fence.

MAMA  
 There's no need to run.

ELLA  
 I'm done running.

Mama slowly steps through the tall grass toward her.

MAMA  
 I'm not going to hurt you, girl. I'm  
 going to change you. Make you stronger  
 than you could possibly imagine.

ELLA

I don't want to be anything like you.

Mama's smile fades.

MAMA

Would you rather be like your father?  
Weak? Fragile?

Ella's bottom lip curls.

ELLA

He wasn't weak.

Mama steps closer.

MAMA

He was a pathetic criminal. And a  
murderer.

ELLA

I'm glad he killed 'em. They were all  
monsters anyway.

Mama pauses, hands clenching.

MAMA

What did you call my babies?

ELLA

Monsters.

MAMA

Choose your next words carefully,  
child. My patience is running thin.

Ella steps back slightly.

ELLA

I'm glad they all burned.

Fire burns in Mama's eyes.

MAMA

Do you want to die, child?! Is that  
what you really want?!

Ella stands tall; raising her head in the air.

ELLA

You talk too much.

Mama bolts for Ella; black eyes burning.

Ella locks eyes with her, stepping back slightly.

Mama quickly closes the distance between them.

Ella suddenly dives to the side; exposing the sharp, wooden post she passed earlier.

She closes her eyes.

Nothing.

Soft LAUGHTER carries through the woods.

Ella rolls to her back, eyes widening as she glances to the wooden post.

Mama stands just inches from the stake; a smile stretching from ear to ear. She taps her finger on the pointed stick.

MAMA

You thought you were so clever,  
didn't...

Her head suddenly jerks over her shoulder as Beth sails through the air toward her.

Mama snatches Beth by the neck, slamming her to the ground.

MAMA

I should've killed you years ago!

Ella slams her syringe into Mama's neck; injecting the fluid.

Mama backhands her; Ella sliding through the tall grass.

She claws at her neck, fire burning in her eyes as she steps toward Ella.

Beth grabs her from behind. She turns, throwing Mama into the wooden stake; the sharp post piercing Mama's chest.

She screams, her trembling hands grabbing at the stake.

BETH

Yes, you should've.

Mama's body starts to convulse.



Ella stares wide-eyed as Mama's skin turns dark gray. Her screams cease; her motionless body hanging on the post.

Her body turns to ash, fluttering over Ella as it disappears into the morning sky.

Beth quickly moves to Ella.

BETH  
Are you alright?!

She quickly looks her body up and down.

BETH  
Did she touch you?!

ELLA  
I'm fine.

Beth's eyes continue to scan her entire body.

ELLA  
Really, I'm fine, Beth.

She nods, helping Ella to her feet.

ELLA  
And thank you.

BETH  
(smiling)  
I made a promise I had to keep.

Ella glances toward the brightening horizon.

ELLA  
The sun is coming up soon.

She glances to Beth.

ELLA  
We need to get you...

BETH  
(interrupting)  
No.

A shocked expression crosses Ella's face.

ELLA  
What do you mean 'no?!' You'll die!

Beth nods, glancing toward the horizon.

BETH  
It's time.

ELLA  
(shaking her head)  
Beth, you don't need to do this.

BETH  
I know, but I want to do this.

Tears start to collect in Ella's eyes, her gaze falling to the ground.

ELLA  
Aren't you afraid to die?

BETH  
I was, but now that you're safe...

She gently lifts Ella's face, their eyes locked.

BETH  
...I can face whatever is waiting for me on the other side.

Ella silently throws her arms around Beth.

ELLA  
Do you want me to wait with you?

Beth pulls away, wiping tears from her eyes.

BETH  
No. I don't want you to see this.

Ella nods, glancing back to the horizon. Beth gently rests her hand on Ella's shoulder.

BETH  
You're a good person, Ella. Don't ever let anyone take that away from you.

Ella nods.

BETH  
Some people choose to be monsters, but you? You're nothing like the rest of us. Stay that way.

Tears roll down Ella's cheeks.

ELLA

I will.

Beth turns, shuffling through the tall grass. She glances over her shoulder.

BETH

And thank you.

A puzzled expression crosses Ella's face.

ELLA

For what?

BETH

For saving someone like me.

Ella smiles briefly as Beth wanders further into the forest.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Ella shuffles down the middle of the road; eyes resting on the dirt in front of her as sunlight breaks over the trees.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Beth stands among flowers in a clearing; the same clearing we saw in the beginning. A small smile stretches across her face as sunlight starts to bathe the trees around her.

She slowly closes her eyes.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Ella does not look up as SIRENS fill the air, several cars racing toward her down the road.

She glances over her shoulder through the trees, a huge trail of smoke stretching into the sky as the mansion continues to burn in the distance.

A second, small trail of smoke also rises into the sky.

Ella wipes tears away from her cheeks as the police cars skid to a stop on the road, officers rushing toward her.

THE END