

"CHICKENS ROAM FREE"

Written by
Zapryan Tolev

zapryantolev@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. JASON'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

JASON, 24, fit and neatly dressed, is a good-looking young man with a calm demeanor. He places a black travel bag next to a dark green one in the trunk of his car.

TREY, 24, is short and a little chubby. He is dressed in scruffy clothes, wears glasses, a field watch, and has medium-length hair. Trey is standing next to Jason, slouching on his phone.

TREY

Dude, did you see what she posted on the 'gram?

Jason closes the trunk.

JASON

No. And guess what? I don't give a shit.

Jason heads for the driver's seat.

Trey briefly looks up at Jason, then back at the phone, and heads toward the passenger's seat. He walks fast, still staring at his phone.

TREY

You got to see this.

Trey slides his fingers along the screen in a "zoom in" action.

TREY (CONT'D)

I think I can see her nips. The right one, at least. Or maybe it's a shadow? I'm not sure...

Jason and Trey simultaneously open the car doors and get in the car.

INT. DRIVEWAY/JASON'S CAR - DAY

Jason and Trey sit in the car and close the doors.

TREY (CONT'D)

You're the expert.

Trey shows the phone screen to Jason.

TREY (CONT'D)

What do you think?

Jason looks for a moment and turns away.

JASON

I don't want to see that.

Jason puts his seatbelt on.

TREY

Just zoom in. You'll see it.

JASON

Stop it! I told you, I don't want to see it.

TREY

Oh, come on. Get over it already.

JASON

I'm over it. You are the one that keeps obsessing.

Trey puts his seatbelt on.

TREY

Hey, I asked, and you said she's fair play. If you are not okay with it, you can--

JASON

I'm cool with it. You're just being annoying about it.

Jason puts the key in the ignition.

JASON (CONT'D)

Just ask her out, like a normal person, and stop with the stalking. Zooming in on her nipples and shit? What the fuck, dude?

TREY

Not everyone is like you, Jay. Things don't come easy for me. I got to find the right angle.

Jason starts the car.

JASON

Yeah, sure...

INT. STREET/JASON'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Jason pulls over to the side of the road.

INT. STREET/JASON'S CAR - DAY

Jason turns off the engine. He presses a button that opens the trunk.

Jason looks at Trey.

Trey is staring at his phone.

Jason takes Trey's phone.

JASON
Give me that.

Jason puts the phone in the glove box.

TREY
What are you doing? I need my
phone.

Trey reaches for the glove box.

Jason places his hand on it. He applies force, preventing Trey from opening it.

JASON
Just give it a rest for a while,
okay?

The right back car door opens. KEVIN, 24, jacked and good-looking enters and sits on the back seat. He is wearing a tank top and a baseball cap.

Kevin closes the car door.

Trey points at Jason with his index finger.

TREY
This is not over.

Jason puts on a wide fake smile.

TREY (CONT'D)
You are such a psycho.

Trey turns around and looks at Kevin.

TREY (CONT'D)
Kev, my man!

Kevin slides to the middle of the back seat.

KEVIN
Hey, bro!

Trey and Kevin shake hands arm-wrestle style.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Good to see you, guys.

Jason turns as well.

JASON
Good to see you, Kev. It's been ages.

Jason and Kevin also shake hands arm-wrestle style.

KEVIN
Yeah, it's been a minute, huh?

JASON
Yeah. Is he coming?

KEVIN
Oh, yeah. He forgot something in the house. So, are we really doing this or what?

TREY
Fuck yeah, Kev!

KEVIN
I'm pumped up like a motherfucker!

TREY
Yeah?

Kevin flexes his muscles.

KEVIN
Fuck yeah, bro! Look at this shit!

We hear the TRUNK CLOSING.

TREY
You've been working out, huh?

KEVIN
Every day, twice a day, bro!

TREY
Twice a day?

The left back car door opens. Kevin looks, then moves from the middle of the seat to the right side. MAX "BIG MAN", 24, enters and sits. Max is a tall, big and strong young manly man with a deep voice.

MAX
What's up, guys?

JASON
Big Man!

TREY
Big Man in the house!

MAX
You guys need to--

We hear approaching HONKING.

Everyone turns to their left and looks through the car's windows.

A SILVER SEDAN passes by.

KEVIN
What the fuck!?

Kevin takes out his phone and taps on the screen.

TREY
Was that them?

JASON
Yeah, it's them.

TREY
But, there was a guy driving.

JASON
Really? I didn't see a guy.

Trey takes off his glasses and offers them to Jason.

TREY
You wanna try my glasses? There was clearly a guy driving.

JASON
How are you so sure? It could've been one of the girls. You could barely see through the windows, and they went by so fast.

Trey puts his glasses back on.

TREY
His head was shaved.

JASON
What?

Kevin is looking at his phone.

KEVIN

It's a guy!

TREY

This sucks!

JASON

I can't believe this. I thought we agreed "no other people"? It was kind of the whole point, right?

TREY

Yeah.

MAX

Someone brought their boyfriend, huh? Man, if I knew we could do that...

KEVIN

(at Max)

Hey, man. I've been meaning to ask you. Were you gay all the time?

Jason closes his eyes and lowers his face into his hand.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I mean, like, in high school and shit?

Jason opens his eyes and removes his hand from his face.

JASON

Out of all the dumb shit you say, Kev... I mean, this one makes top ten, for sure.

TREY

Maybe even top five.

JASON

I don't know about that. He says a lot of dumb shit.

TREY

That's true. Still...

KEVIN

What? What are you guys talking about? It's a legit question.

JASON

No, it's not.

KEVIN

Yeah, it is!

MAX

It's okay. Yeah, I was. I didn't tell you, guys... I was scared you won't hang out with me anymore. And I knew you'd relentlessly make fun of me.

JASON

Of course, we would've hung out with you. We might've had a little bit of fun with it. Sure. I mean, we are your friends, right? Who else is going to give you shit? Still might, too.

TREY

I'm not. I don't wanna die a violent death.

JASON

We were your closest friends, and we got to find out from a fucking Instagram story?

MAX

Yeah, sorry about that.

JASON

You know we love you, right? No matter what. You should've told us. That's all I'm saying.

MAX

I know. I just... It's not easy, you know? Look, let's just go. It's a long trip anyway.

JASON

Alright. Let's do this.

Jason starts the car.

TREY

(at Jason)

Did I tell you about my Max dream back in the day?

JASON

What dream?

TREY

In sixth grade, I had this dream that Max murders us all. It was very violent and felt so real.

JASON

Come on. He is, like, the nicest guy. He's not going to murder us.

KEVIN (O.S.)

What about in kindergarten? Were you still... You know?

MAX (O.S)

I'm not making any promises.

Trey swallows nervously.

Jason smiles and shakes his head. He puts the car in gear and steps on the gas.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Jason's car is moving slowly on a narrow road surrounded by woods. The silver sedan is following.

SUPERIMPOSE: "Liberty Hill, Alabama"

INT. ROAD/JASON'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Jason is driving. Trey is looking at his phone.

Jason yawns. He rubs his eyes.

Kevin and Max are sleeping in the back seat with mouths wide open. Max snores while Kevin rests his head on Max's shoulder.

TREY

There's got to be a dirt road around here.

Jason is looking around through the car windows.

JASON

I'm not seeing shit.

TREY

The GPS is barely working.
(loud)
Where the fuck did you bring us,
Jay!?

Kevin and Max wake up.

KEVIN

What? What's going on?

TREY

We are in the middle of the woods in Fucksville, Alabama, is what's going on.

JASON

Relax, Trey. We'll find it.

Jason resumes looking around through the car windows. He looks to his right and points.

JASON (CONT'D)

Look, I think that's it.

Through the car windows, we can see a dirt road leading into the woods.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Jason's car and the silver sedan get on the dirt road and disappear into the woods.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A beautiful clearing in the forest is covered with short green vegetation. Small blooming flowers are scattered across.

Various INSECT SOUNDS and BIRDS CHIRPING can be heard.

A chicken is scratching and pecking the ground.

The chicken lifts its head and clucks, then is back at scratching and pecking the ground. Suddenly, the chicken runs away. We begin to hear SOUNDS OF APPROACHING CARS that soon overpower the sounds of nature.

Jason's car and the silver sedan appear. The cars park near each other. The silver sedan is slightly behind and to the right of Jason's car.

The engines turn off, and we can again hear the various INSECT SOUNDS and BIRDS CHIRPING.

Jason and Trey get out of the car.

Trey walks up in front of the car.

TREY

Was that a chicken?

Jason joins Trey.

JASON

What? Where?

Max and Kevin get out of the car as well.

TREY

You really need to get your eyes checked.

Kevin and Max walk in front of the car and stand next to Jason and Trey.

Kevin turns his cap backward and looks around.

KEVIN

This place is rad. I'm totally digging the vibes.

JASON

I told you, guys, it would be worth it.

TREY

Yeah, we'll see about that.

Max takes a deep breath smelling the air.

MAX

This is just gorgeous. And it smells so... wonderful.

Everyone looks at Max.

MAX (CONT'D)

What?

KEVIN

You make it too easy, bro. You make it way too easy.

MAX

Okay, you don't have to say it.

KEVIN

I might say it.

TREY

Don't say it.

Kevin shakes his head. He looks ahead.

KEVIN

Look at that! That is so sick!

In the middle of the clearing is the CABIN. It is a wooden cabin built with logs. It looks old yet maintained.

The cabin has a slightly raised roofed deck resting on stumps. Three wooden steps lead to the deck, where simple wooden benches are placed along the railing. Two withered wooden rocking chairs are on each side of the front door.

On the right side of the cabin, a large woodpile is neatly stacked next to the cabin's wall. On the same side, a chimney is coming out of the roof. On the opposite side, another smaller chimney is coming out of the roof.

On the clearing, in front of the cabin and to the left, we see a rectangular wooden table surrounded by wooden benches. Not far from the table, a firepit with wood piled up and ready for a fire to be started.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Are we really spending the whole summer here?

ASHLEY, 24, is an attractive young woman dressed in daisy dukes and a sling crop top. She walks up to Jason.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I mean, I don't think you thought this through, Jay. It's nice and all, but it's going to get boring really fast.

JASON

It's not going to get boring. We have plenty of things to do. There is a lake nearby. We can even drive right up to the water. We got a town a few miles away, where we could get supplies, and whatever we need. And since you brought your boyfriend, I'm sure you will be properly entertained, Ash.

ASHLEY

Why is everyone so upset about that?

JASON

Are you kidding me right now?

ASHLEY

What?

KYLE, 27, tall with a shaved head, walks up to Jason and Ashley.

KYLE

Maybe, I should just go.

ASHLEY

You're not going anywhere.

KYLE

Everybody's been treating me like shit this whole time! Everywhere we've stopped along the way. I'm not spending my summer like this.

Ashley gets close to Kyle. She puts one of her hands on his chest and the other around his waist.

ASHLEY

Relax, baby. They are just being assholes!

Kevin steps forward and joins the argument.

KEVIN

No, you are being the asshole, Ash! We said no boyfriends, girlfriends, or anybody but us. It was supposed to be like the old days.

OLIVIA, 24, is a little shy and naturally beautiful brunette wearing a sundress. She approaches Kevin.

OLIVIA

It can never be like the old days, Kevin.

KEVIN

Well, that sucks.

OLIVIA

Yeah, it does.

KEVIN

It sucks big swollen balls!

Trey puts his hand over his crotch.

WILLA, 24, a hot punk rock chick with a sleeve tattoo, joins as well. She has dirty blond hair and heavy make-up.

WILLA

Guys, relax. Before we make any rash decisions, let's go ahead and get properly fucked up tonight, okay? What do you say?

KEVIN

Fuck yeah! That's what I'm about,
baby! Whooooooo!

Willa walks toward the cabin. Jason joins her. The rest follow.

EXT. CABIN/DECK - DAY

Willa and Jason walk up the three wooden steps leading to the deck. Dreamcatchers are hanging from the deck's ceiling on both sides of the deck's entrance. They are made from chicken feathers and small bones.

Willa and Jason stare at the dreamcatchers as they walk by them.

Once on the deck, they walk toward the cabin's front door but stop in the middle of the deck and look at what's in front of them.

The cabin's front door is made from three wide wooden planks. In the upper part of the middle plank, we see a carving in the form of a chicken footprint.

On both sides of the door, windows are covered by wooden shutters with rusted metal hinges. The window on the left is small, and the one on the right is double the size. In the middle of each shutter is a carving in the form of a chicken footprint.

In front of the door, on the deck's floor, two baskets are placed. One is filled with eggs and one with fresh vegetables and mushrooms.

Everybody gets on the deck.

TREY

Check this out.

KEVIN

They left us a welcome gift.

WILLA

That's cool.

ASHLEY

I'm not eating that!

TREY

Why not?

ASHLEY

I don't know. It could be laced with poison, or someone could've jerked off on it, or with it, or whatever.

TREY

Eww!

JASON

Jesus, Ash!

ASHLEY

I'm not eating it!

JASON

Okay, okay...

KYLE

You're right to be cautious, babe. I had a roommate who rubbed eggs on his balls.

TREY

Why would he do that?

KYLE

I don't know. The guy was a fucking maniac.

MAX

I don't know about you, guys, but I'm hungry for some real food.

Max walks up closer to the door and picks up the baskets.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm cooking us a meal.

OLIVIA

I'll help.

Olivia walks up to Max.

MAX

Alright.

Max steps aside.

Olivia grabs the door's handle and pushes it down. The door makes a CREAKING sound as it's being pushed open.

INT. CABIN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone is inside the cabin looking around.

It is dim as the only light is coming from the opened door.

The cabin interior is almost entirely wooden. The living room's walls, ceiling, and flooring is all wood, except for a stone fireplace on the eastern wall.

A wooden table sits in the middle of the living room, surrounded by a big couch, a smaller couch, and two armchairs. All wooden with upholstery and cushions made with animal furs. Under the furniture is a large rug also made with animal furs.

Across the living room, opposite the front door, a dark hallway begins.

Kevin sits on the big couch. He runs his fingers on the furs.

KEVIN

Check this out.

Trey sits on the smaller couch and places his palms on the furs.

TREY

It feels so good.

OLIVIA

Yeah, right! They murdered all these animals, so they can... sit on them, and... walk on them. It's disgusting!

Kyle and Ashley are holding each other.

ASHLEY

It totally is!

Kyle nods in agreement.

JASON

Hey, you don't know that. Maybe they found them dead or something and just made use of them.

OLIVIA

Yeah, sure...

Kevin rolls his eyes.

KEVIN

Enough with the vegan shit.

OLIVIA
I'm not even vegan, Kev. I'm a
vegetarian. There is a difference.
Not that you--

KEVIN
Whatever. Tomayto, tomahto.

OLIVIA
What?

ASHLEY
Guys, please tell me this place has
power?

JASON
Well, technically, it's not on the
grid, but there's got to be a
generator in the back.

ASHLEY
You don't know for sure?

JASON
Of course, I do. I specifically
asked.

TREY
Yeah, what about fuel?

JASON
There should be enough fuel to last
us a long time. Don't worry about
it. I got you covered. I even
brought a solar charger in case
something happens. God forbid any
of you miss on your Instagram
stories and shit.

ASHLEY
Okay. You don't have to be a dick
about it.

Max is looking around at the walls.

MAX
Jay is always prepared.

On the walls, numerous wooden shelves are installed. Placed
on these shelves, we see old metal cups, teapots, and
various housewares.

Dried herbs, onions, and garlic are hanging from nails
hammered into the wooden walls.

Max walks up to the dried onions and garlic. He puts down the baskets and tears off an onion bulb and a bulb of garlic. He smells the garlic.

MAX

Mmm, let's get this meal started.

KYLE

Cool, dude. I'm a go get our bags from the car.

ASHLEY

Okay, baby. I'll walk with you.

KYLE

Alright.

Ashley and Kyle walk away toward the front door.

JASON

Yeah, let's all do that.

MAX

Hey Jay, me and Liv are getting started on the food. Will you get our bags, too? I got some herbs in there I might use.

JASON

Okay. You got it.

Everyone, except Max and Olivia, is leaving the cabin.

INT. CABIN/KITCHEN - DAY

The shutters of the front windows are opened, and light is coming into the cabin.

The kitchen is small and part of the living room. It is on the western wall, opposite the fireplace. There is a small window on the kitchen wall. Its shutters are opened, and old sheers cover the glass.

The kitchen has a wooden plot, a few wooden cupboards, drawers, a freestanding fridge, and a stove. The stove is powered by wood and has its own small stone chimney.

Max is next to the stove. He cracks an egg in a cast iron pan placed on the stove's plate.

The egg lands in the pan. The yolk has a dark orange color.

MAX

Look at these eggs. Such a dark rich color.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
That's good, right?

MAX
It's very good. It means these chickens are eating healthy stuff. I mean, I've seen some good color in the grass-fed free-range stuff they sell in the city, but this is some next-level shit.

Olivia is chopping vegetables and mushrooms on a plot near Max. She is having a difficult time cutting. She looks at the knife. It is old and worn.

OLIVIA
This knife is so dull.

MAX (O.S.)
Really?

OLIVIA
Yeah.

MAX
Give me a sec.

Max takes the pan out of the heat, stirs the eggs a little, and heads toward the couches, where a bunch of travel bags are placed.

On the big couch, a big black travel bag, a red one, a dark green bag, a brownish leather bag, and a gray bag are resting. Next to the couch is a big black travel bag on wheels.

Next to the smaller couch, we see a huge light pink travel bag on wheels, while another black bag and a smaller denim one are on the couch itself.

Max leans over the brown leather bag and begins to unzip one of the side compartments.

Ashley emerges from the dark hallway.

Max stops in the middle of unzipping and looks up at Ashley.

MAX
Hey, Ash.

ASHLEY
Hey.

Max abandons the unzipping and straightens his back.

MAX

What's wrong?

ASHLEY

Nothing.

MAX

Come on. You can tell me.

ASHLEY

This place is... Something's not right with it. It's creeping me out.

MAX

Why? I think it's actually kinda nice.

ASHLEY

I don't know. It's just a feeling I get. Ever since we got here... Anyway, I need a shower asap. I don't know how I'm going to get through that.

Ashley goes to the smaller couch and grabs the denim bag. She puts the bag's strap over her left shoulder.

MAX

Is it that bed? How are the bedrooms?

With her right hand, Ashley grabs the pink bag on wheels by its handle and extends it.

ASHLEY

It's not terrible, but let's just say... not what I am used to.

MAX

I get it.

Ashley heads for the dark hallway. She is carrying the denim bag and rolling the pink one on the wooden flooring.

Max watches her disappear into the darkness of the hallway.

Max leans back over the brown leather bag. He finishes unzipping and takes out a leather roll.

Max places the leather roll on the table and unrolls it, revealing multiple types of knives of different sizes and a meat cleaver. Max touches the meat cleaver. His fingers move to one of the bigger knives. He takes it out.

Max walks up to Olivia and gives her the knife.

MAX

Try this one.

Olivia takes the knife and looks at it.

OLIVIA

Nice!

MAX

Yeah, set me back a fortune. Be careful with it, though. It is really sharp.

Olivia takes a mushroom from one of the baskets. She carefully cuts it.

OLIVIA

Hey, am I doing this right?

Max looks at Olivia cutting.

MAX

Yeah, maybe a bit thinner slices with the mushrooms.

Olivia cuts a thinner slice.

OLIVIA

Like that?

MAX

Perfect.

OLIVIA

Okay. You are the expert.

MAX

Oh, come on!

Max gets back to the pan with the eggs and puts the pan back on the stove. He cracks another egg.

The dark orange egg yolk lands in the pan.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A GRAY ROCK, the size of a man's fist, is sitting on the ground.

A hand reaches and picks up the rock.

We now see that Trey picked up the gray rock. He brings the gray rock close to his face and looks at it from each side.

As hard as he can, Trey throws the gray rock into the woods.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A chicken is scratching and pecking the ground.

BIRD SONGS mixed with INSECT SOUNDS can be heard.

The gray rock hits the chicken.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Trey is facing the forest. His glasses are crooked. He fixes them and looks to his right, where we see Kevin and Kyle are walking ahead.

TREY

Hey, guys, wait for me!

Trey runs toward them.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

On the ground, the bloody carcass of the chicken is next to the gray rock. We hear heavy BREATHING. A pair of large dirty hands pick up the dead chicken with care. The heavy BREATHING intensifies.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Trey catches up with Kevin and Kyle and walks with them.

KYLE

...and I was, like, "Dude! What the fuck?".

TREY

What are you guys talking about?

KEVIN

His roommate is the shit, bro!

KYLE

Nah, he was a fucking psycho! I'm telling you... One time I walked on him sucking his own dick!

KEVIN

No way!

KYLE

And you know what he did when he saw me come in?

TREY

What?

Kyle stops walking. Kevin and Trey stop as well.

KYLE

He kept going. He was looking at me, right into my fucking eyes. Never broke eye contact. And I froze. It's like my brain wasn't able to process what was happening. The dude was just going at it. I don't even know for how long. Until eventually... he came. And then... and then he swallowed his own cum.

KEVIN

What the fuck!?

TREY

What?

KEVIN

No fucking way!

TREY

Eww!

The gray rock hits Trey on the side of his face and knocks him down.

INT. CABIN/BATHROOM - DAY

Ashley is taking a shower. She turns it off and squeezes her hair from the excess water.

She steps out of the shower and grabs a towel.

A small window on the wall covered with a drape. Vague TAPPING is coming from its direction.

Ashley looks up.

She walks slowly toward the window. She gets close, reaches for the drape, and swiftly moves it to the side.

A chicken is on the window sill. It is immediately spooked, flaps its wings, and jumps off the window sill.

Ashley is startled. She drops her towel. We see her naked body.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ashley walks angrily through the living room, heading for the front door. She is dressed in a short skirt and a revealing top. Her hair is still wet.

Olivia is cutting vegetables. Max is on the stove making the scrambled eggs. They both stop and look at Ashley.

OLIVIA
Are you okay, Ash?

ASHLEY
Even the birds are perverts in this
fucking place!

Ashley storms out of the living room.

EXT. DECK - DAY

Ashley comes out of the cabin through the front door.

ASHLEY
Oh, my God! What happened?

Kevin and Kyle are supporting Trey walk up the deck's stairs. Trey's left side of the face is bruised and a little bloody. His glasses are crooked. The frame is broken.

Kyle is helping Trey with one arm, and with the other, he is holding the gray rock.

KEVIN
A flying rock hit him in the face.

ASHLEY
What do you mean "a flying rock"?

Kevin and Kyle help Trey sit on one of the wooden benches.

Kyle is breathing heavily.

KYLE
I don't know, babe.

Kyle places the gray rock on the wooden bench next to Trey.

KYLE (CONT'D)
It came out of nowhere.

The gray rock is smeared with some blood, dirt, and parts of green vegetation.

KEVIN (O.S.)
Maybe a bird dropped it.

KYLE

No way!

KEVIN

Why not? Eagles can lift whole rabbits and shit. This rock is not that big.

KYLE

Right. I see your--

TREY

It wasn't a fucking bird!

Trey takes off his broken glasses and looks at them.

TREY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

ASHLEY

What was it then?

Trey puts the glasses back on. He picks up the gray rock, brings it in front of his face, and looks at it.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/DEAD TREE - DAY

Behind the cabin, close to the tree line, a single DEAD TREE is standing. The soil under the tree, and a small area around it, are dry and bare. Small bones, feathers, and whole eggshells are hanging from thin twine tied up on its withered branches.

Jason and Willa are by the Dead Tree looking at it.

Willa is close to one of the branches. She carefully touches an eggshell with the tip of her index finger.

WILLA

This is so creepy.

JASON

Oh, come on!

WILLA

What? You don't think this is creepy?

JASON

I mean... Not really.

Willa carefully grips one of the eggshells with the tips of her fingers.

JASON

Be careful...

The eggshell breaks.

WILLA

Shit!

Jason gets really close to Willa.

JASON

You okay?

WILLA

Yeah, I'm okay.

Jason grabs Willa's hand and looks at her palm. He looks into her eyes.

WILLA

I told you, there's nothing. It's just eggshells. Look.

Willa moves away from Jason, grabs another eggshell, and purposely breaks it.

JASON

Don't do that!

WILLA

Why not?

Willa breaks another eggshell.

JASON

Stop it!

She giggles.

WILLA

What?

She grabs another one with her fingers and holds it.

WILLA (CONT'D)

What are you gonna do about it?

Jason gets real close to her.

JASON

Look, someone did this. Maybe it means something to them.

WILLA

Oh, yeah?

JASON
Yeah, you think--

ASHLEY (O.S.)
Oh my God! What happened?

Jason and Willa turn toward the cabin.

Willa looks at her hand. Pieces of broken eggshells are stuck to her fingers.

Jason looks at Willa.

She rubs off the broken pieces of eggshells.

WILLA
Sorry...

JASON
We should get back.

WILLA
Yeah. Sure. She calls, and you must follow.

Willa walks away in the direction of the cabin.

Jason takes a deep breath, exhales, and follows her.

The hanging eggshells, feathers, and bones are gently moved by a slight breeze. Through them, we are watching Jason and Willa walking away toward the cabin. We begin to hear approaching BREATHING and FOOTSTEPS.

The ground under the tree is sprinkled with broken eggshells. An old woman's hands reach and touch the ground.

TONGUE CLICKING

One of the wrinkled hands carefully picks up pieces of eggshell and puts them in the palm of the other.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/TABLE - DAY

Everyone is at the wooden table in front of the cabin.

Ashley is sitting on the bench facing the clearing. She is in the middle of the bench. On her left is Kyle, and on her right is sitting Olivia.

Opposite Ashley is Trey. He has a few small medical tapes on the left side of his face. He is wearing a new pair of glasses. On his left is sitting Kevin and on his right is Willa.

Next to Willa, at the table's end, is Jason and opposite him, at the other end, is Max who is standing and is serving his own plate.

A plate of scrambled eggs with a side of fried vegetables and mushrooms is in front of everyone. On the left side of each plate, a fork is placed on a white paper napkin, and on the right, a knife is also resting on a white paper napkin.

No one is eating.

Max finishes serving his plate. He sits down.

KYLE

This looks fucking awesome!

Ashley gives Kyle a stern look.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

What?

KEVIN

Fuck yeah! Big Man does it again!

MAX

Enough with the "Big Man" shit, okay?

KEVIN

Okay...

Everyone is looking at each other, and still, no one is eating.

JASON

You guys seriously think our hosts have somehow poisoned or, I don't know... jerked off with the food or something!?

Max grabs his fork. He scoops some of the eggs and puts them in his mouth. He does the same with some of the veggies and shrooms.

Max chews. He swallows with extreme exaggeration.

He takes a deep breath and exhales.

MAX

See? All good.

TREY

Technically, some poisons can take a long time before--

JASON

Jesus!

TREY

What? I'm just sayin'...

Jason looks at his plate. He grabs the fork and starts eating.

Willa starts eating as well.

ASHLEY

I'm not eating this!

Kyle pushes the plate away from him.

KYLE

Me, too, baby.

Max points at Kyle's plate.

MAX

Give it to me then.

Olivia reaches, takes Kyle's plate, and gives it to Max.

MAX

Thanks, Liv.

Using his fork, Max transfers the food from Kyle's plate to his.

KYLE

How about I feed you some of my natural protein?

OLIVIA

Eww!

ASHLEY

What?

OLIVIA

Nothing.

ASHLEY

Don't pretend to be such a prude, Olivia!

OLIVIA

I'm not a prude! And I am certainly not pretending to be anything. I just don't want to hear about that kind of stuff in the middle of lunch.

ASHLEY

Then how about you don't make a thing out of it!?

OLIVIA

Fine! Whatever.

ASHLEY

You know what? Screw this! I'm going back inside.

Ashley gets up. Kyle stands up as well. He looks ahead and freezes.

KYLE

What the hell...

TREY

What?

A couple of dozen chickens are roaming freely around the clearing.

Trey gets up and looks around.

TREY (CONT'D)

I told you, guys, I saw a fucking chicken.

Everyone gets up and looks around.

KEVIN

Damn, dude, that's a lot of chickens.

More chickens are entering the clearing, coming from the surrounding woods. They are clucking, scratching, and pecking the grounds.

ASHLEY

They're all a bunch of creeps, too.

JASON

What are you talking about?

ASHLEY

One of them was perving on me while I was taking a shower.

KYLE

What? You recognize which one, babe? I'll fuck it up for you!

Olivia rolls her eyes.

ASHLEY

I don't know. They all look the same to me.

Chickens get closer to the table.

WILLA

They seem to be friendly.

KEVIN

Chickens are dumber than a box of cocks, dude!

TREY

Coming from you, Kev, that means a lot.

KEVIN

What? No, I'm telling you, they're really fucking stupid.

Everyone is looking at Kevin.

KEVIN

What?

Ashley turns to Kyle.

ASHLEY

Let's go inside.

KYLE

Okay, babe.

Ashley and Kyle walk away toward the cabin.

A large curious chicken approaches Max. He quickly steps forward and grabs the chicken.

Max is holding the chicken close to his chest. He swiftly rings its head and kills it.

JASON

What the fuck!?

WILLA

Holly shit!

OLIVIA

What did you just do?

MAX

What?

Max grabs the chicken by its feet. He relaxes his arm and lets it hang by his legs.

MAX (CONT'D)
It's just dinner.

The chicken flaps its wings.

Kevin, Willa, Trey, and Olivia are startled.

KEVIN
Dude, it's still alive!

OLIVIA
Oh, my God! Don't kill it again.

TREY
I think it's already dead. Just reflexes or something.

Max lifts the chicken by its feet. He brings it in front of him and stretches his arm forward.

The chicken is hanging still.

MAX
It's dead, alright.

The chicken flaps its wings.

MAX (CONT'D)
It's just that the body hasn't caught up to it yet.

OLIVIA
I think I'm going to be sick.

Max relaxes his arm and lets the chicken hang by his leg.

MAX
Hey, where do you guys think chicken meat comes from? Chickens have to die for it. That's the way it works. At least here, they live a happy life.

In a final effort, the chicken stirs slightly.

OLIVIA
Did you have to do it in front of me?

MAX

Well, sorry, Liv. But I mean, it came to me. It was right there. I saw an opportunity and... I took it. I ended it quickly, though. I doubt that it even realized what happened.

KEVIN

Yeah! They don't know nothing, dude!

Upset, Olivia turns her back on Max and walks away in the direction of the cabin.

JASON

You shouldn't have done it, Max.

MAX

Really? You, too?

Jason shakes his head and walks away toward the cabin.

MAX

Fuck me...

WILLA

I'm down for some roasted chicken.

KEVIN

Same. Hey, we should get another one. Make ourselves a little feast. I need protein for the guns.

Kevin flexes his arms.

MAX

Let's deal with this one first.

KEVIN

(at Willa)

Okay. Hey, did you guys bring the booze?

WILLA

Yeah, it's in the trunk.

KEVIN

Alright, let's go unload.

WILLA

Okay.

Willa and Kevin head toward the cars.

MAX
Hey, Trey?

TREY
What?

MAX
You busy?

TREY
No, why?

MAX
We got to defeather this chicken.

Max walks toward the cabin. Trey joins him.

TREY
So, you want me to pluck his
feathers or?

MAX
Yeah, but first, we got to bring a
pot of water to boiling and soak it
in it for a bit.

TREY
Really? Why?

MAX
Yeah, that way, the feathers will
come off real easy.

TREY
I didn't know that.

MAX
I'll show you how to do it.

TREY
Okay.

INT. CABIN/ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kyle and Ashley are kissing.

Ashley takes off Kyle's shirt. She kisses his chest, then
his abs, and goes down on him.

Kyle closes his eyes and faces the ceiling.

KYLE
Oh, fuck!

Kyle opens his eyes.

KYLE (CONT'D)
What the fuck?

ASHLEY
What?

Ashley gets up. She sees Kyle looking at the ceiling and looks up herself.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
What is that?

KYLE
I'm not sure.

Kyle climbs on the bed and reaches for the ceiling.

KYLE (CONT'D)
What the fuck is that!?

Kyle touches the ceiling.

Various sizes of chicken skulls and beaks are embedded into the wood.

Kyle runs his fingers on the surface of the ceiling. One of the chicken beaks breaks off and falls.

Kyle flinches.

The chicken beak lands on the wooden floor.

Kyle gets off the bed. He picks up the beak and looks at it.

The beak is on top of Kyle's fingertips.

KYLE
This place is creepy as fuck!

ASHLEY
That's what I've been saying!

Kyle drops the beak.

KYLE
Shit!

The beak lands on the floor, bounces, and disappears under the bed.

Kyle bends over to look for it.

ASHLEY
Leave it.

Kyle straightens his back and looks at Ashley.

KYLE
You wanna get out of here?

ASHLEY
I want to, but we can't.

KYLE
Why not?

ASHLEY
Everybody already hates me.

KYLE
What are you talking about? No one
hates you, babe.

ASHLEY
Yes, they do. It's because I
brought you--

KYLE
I told you I could go.

ASHLEY
No. I don't want you to go. And if
I leave, they'll never forgive me.
Plus, we can't leave them with just
one car. How are they going to get
back? It just doesn't work. We have
to stay.

Kyle gets close to Ashley and puts his hands on her waist.

KYLE
You're so considerate, babe.

ASHLEY
Oh, yeah?

KYLE
Mhm. I like that.

They kiss passionately.

KYLE (CONT'D)
I really like that.

They continue kissing.

Under the bed, through a narrow crevice in the wooden floor,
a small dirty hand squeezes through and collects the chicken
beak.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/FIREPIT - NIGHT

Just above the tree line, a full moon shines with soft light.

CRACKLING

Wood is burning in the firepit.

Everyone is sitting on the ground around the firepit.

Empty bottles of beer and hard liquor are resting on the ground. A few are still standing half full. Plates with gnawed chicken bones keep them company.

Jason is staring at the hypnotizing flames.

Trey throws a piece of wood into the fire.

TREY

We're out.

Jason comes out of it.

JASON

I'll go get some more.

Jason gets up. He pats down his pants from the dirt.

Willa gets up as well.

WILLA

I'm coming with you.

Jason and Willa walk away.

Kevin takes a drink from a bottle of vodka.

KEVIN

(slurring)

Are these two finally gonna fuck or what?

Max tries to take the bottle of vodka from Kevin.

MAX

Give it to me.

Kevin quickly moves the bottle close to his chest.

KEVIN

(slurring)

Hey, don't be trying some shit with me! I'm getting fucked up tonight, alright?

Kevin waves the bottle around.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(slurring)
Ain't nothing none of you guys can
do about that!

TREY
You're already fucked up, Kev.

KEVIN
(slurring)
So, what? You my mother or
something?

Trey shakes his head.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(slurring)
Didn't think so.

KYLE
I got to say. The chicken was
delicious.

TREY
It really was.

Olivia is staring at the fire.

MAX
Yeah, we'll see if we can catch
some more tomorrow.

Olivia looks at Max.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'll make sure you are not around,
Liv.

OLIVIA
Whatever...

ASHLEY
I don't know if you guys should be
doing that.

TREY
What do you mean?

ASHLEY
These chickens must belong to
someone.

OLIVIA
Probably the people that live here.

ASHLEY
Exactly.

TREY
They left us the baskets with food,
though. Maybe they left us the
chickens, too. You know, like part
of the experience or something.

OLIVIA
Yeah, right...

MAX
I don't know. We got to ask Jay if
he knows something about it.

EXT. CABIN/WOODPILE - NIGHT

Willa and Jason are taking wood from the woodpile.

WILLA
I like it here.

JASON
Yeah?

WILLA
It's nice.

Jason smiles.

WILLA (CONT'D)
You wanna--

KEVIN (O.S.)
(yelling)
Hey, Jay! Can we eat the chickens
or what?

JASON
He's really fucked up.

WILLA
Yep.

JASON
Come on.

Jason heads for the firepit. Willa follows him.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/FIREPIT - NIGHT

Jason and Willa put the wood on the ground.

MAX

You know anything about these chickens, Jay?

Jason and Willa sit down.

JASON

What do you mean?

MAX

I mean, when you were renting this place, did they say anything about chickens walking around?

JASON

No. Nothing like that. We shouldn't be eating them. I figure that much.

TREY

Why not?

JASON

Because they are not ours, Trey. It's not like we are starving.

MAX

They are delicious, though.

JASON

Sure.

KEVIN

(slurring)

Better than anything I've ever tasted.

Kevin takes a drink from the bottle.

TREY

They're wild chickens.

JASON

How do you know that they're wild?

TREY

Well, I don't "know" know, but they don't look domestic to me.

JASON

You're such a smartass, you know that?

WILLA
Guys, wait! What if we pay for
them?

TREY
Pay for them?

WILLA
Yeah, we put aside whatever a
chicken costs. Actually, we double
that since they are free-range or
whatever, and there you go, problem
solved.

JASON
I don't know...

OLIVIA
Why don't you guys just get regular
chickens from the store? They
already died for you.

WILLA
Because they taste like shit
compared to this.

TREY
Yeah, you don't get it, Liv.

Olivia grabs a bottle sitting on the ground and takes a
drink.

ASHLEY
I still don't think we should be
doing this.

KYLE
I'm with you, babe. It was really
good, though.

ASHLEY
Yes, it was.

KYLE
Real tasty.

MAX
Well, can't you just call them and
ask, Jay?

WILLA
Shit. Why didn't I think of that?

Willa laughs.

WILLA (CONT'D)
Am I fucked up, too?

KEVIN
(slurring)
You're fine.

Jason takes his phone out of his pocket.

JASON
You know what? It's getting late. I
don't want to bother them now.

Jason puts the phone back into his pocket.

JASON (CONT'D)
I'll do it first thing tomorrow.

MAX
Alright. Well, I'm going to bed.

Max gets up.

Kevin BELCHES loud and long.

ASHLEY
Nice!

MAX
(to Kevin)
And you are coming with me.

KEVIN
(slurring)
No, I'm not.

MAX
Yeah, you are.

KEVIN
(slurring)
Fine! Big man...

Kevin gets up with effort. He hugs the bottle.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(slurring)
I'm taking her with me.

MAX
Sure. Come on now.

Max supports Kevin as he walks away toward the cabin.

Jason stares at the flames.

TREY (O.S.)
(muffled)
Maybe we should all hit it.

Fire burning in the pit. Flames are slowly dying.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/FIREPIT - DAY

Smoldering ashes in the firepit.

Roosters CROWING.

Gnawed bones on the plates crawling with ants. Empty bottles lying around.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/DEAD TREE - DAY

Eggshells hanging from twines, swinging with the light breeze.

Roosters CROWING.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Smoke is coming out of the chimneys.

Roosters CROWING.

INT. CABIN/KITCHEN - DAY

Trey is pouring coffee from a metal coffee jug into a rugged pine green ceramic mug placed on the kitchen plot. The coffee mug has a handcrafted chicken footprint on it.

Trey places the coffee jug on the plot and picks up the mug.

LOUD SNORING.

Trey looks toward the couches.

Kevin is passed out on the big couch, hugging an empty vodka bottle. He is snoring with his mouth wide open.

Trey walks quietly, holding the coffee mug, heading toward the cabin's front door.

EXT. DECK - DAY

The front door opens. Trey walks out and closes the door. He walks across the deck.

Trey walks down the deck's three steps looking at his watch.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Trey is looking at the morning sky. He takes a deep breath smelling the air.

Roosters CROWING.

Trey exhales. He takes a sip from the coffee mug.

Trey takes a step forward.

CRACKING.

Trey freezes. He looks down, then takes a step back.

On the ground, a few dozen eggs are arranged, spelling the word "RUN". One of the eggs is smashed. Its yolk is splattered on and around its broken shell.

TREY

What the...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY (LATER)

On the ground, a beetle is crawling near the broken egg. A foot crushes the beetle.

Jason, Kevin, and Trey are standing next to the eggs arranged to spell the word "RUN".

Kevin is scraping his right shoe on the ground.

JASON

What the fuck did you do that for?

Kevin stops scraping.

KEVIN

What are you talking about, dude?

Kevin resumes scraping.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

It was a nasty bug coming for us.

JASON

It wasn't coming for us.

EXT. DECK - DAY

Ashley and Kyle come out of the cabin's front door.

Olivia is standing by the deck's entrance.

ASHLEY
What's going on?

OLIVIA
Someone wrote "RUN" on the ground
with a bunch of eggs.

Ashley walks up closer to Olivia.

ASHLEY
What?

OLIVIA
Look.

Olivia turns toward Jason, Trey, and Kevin standing near the eggs, spelling "RUN".

Ashley and Kyle walk down the tree steps connecting the deck with the clearing.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Ashley and Kyle are standing near Trey, Jason, and Kevin, looking at the eggs on the ground.

KYLE
We need to get the fuck out of
here!

ASHLEY
Yeah...

JASON
What are you guys talking about?

ASHLEY
Are you not seeing this? It
literally says "RUN" on the ground.

KYLE
Spelled with eggs.

JASON
It's probably just some kids trying
to fuck with us.

TREY
What kids? You said that no one
else lives around here for a mile
or so.

JASON
Sure, but they could be camping
nearby or--

KEVIN
I don't know, dude. This is
freaking me out.

Kevin puts his right hand on his stomach.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

Kevin walks away toward the treeline.

TREY
Are you okay, Kev?

KEVIN (O.S.)
I'm fine.

JASON
Leave him be. He's just hungover.
Look, let's not get too crazy here.

Willa and Max walk up and look at the eggs on the ground.

WILLA
Wow! That's a... That's a little
concerning.

MAX
Come on. It's probably some kids.

JASON
That's exactly what I said!

ASHLEY
You guys are unbelievable!

MAX
You know what I see?

KYLE
What?

MAX
Breakfast. So, don't step on any
more of them, alright? I'll go get
one of those baskets.

Max heads for the cabin.

JASON
Come on, guys. Let's go get ready
for the lake.

Jason leaves for the cabin. Ashley, Willa, and Kyle follow
him.

Trey is looking down, staring at the eggs spelling "RUN".

ASHLEY (O.S.)
 You guys are not taking this
 seriously enough. Something's off
 about this place.

Trey looks up. He turns around and walks toward the cabin.

EXT. DECK - DAY

Trey walks up the three steps connecting the clearing with the deck. On the second step, the plank breaks, and his foot sinks in. Trey trips and falls face down, hitting his forehead and breaking his glasses.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
 (muffled)
 Oh, my God, Trey! Are you okay?

EXT. LAKE/BANK - DAY

Trey is wearing a new pair of glasses. His forehead is bruised and has a big medical tape on it. His nose is swollen and sporting medical tape as well.

Trey turns to his left. The medical tapes on the side of his face have started to age.

We can now see that Trey is sitting on the bank near the lake. He is wearing swimming shorts and a t-shirt.

Trey is looking at Ashley and Kyle sitting on the bank nearby.

Ashley is in a two-piece swimsuit. Kyle has swimming shorts on. He is putting sunscreen on Ashley's back.

Trey looks away.

Jason sits next to Trey. He is wearing shorts and a t-shirt. He has a beer bottle in each hand.

Jason offers Trey a beer.

JASON
 I got you a beer.

TREY
 I'm not in a mood.

Jason looks in the direction of Kyle and Ashley.

JASON
 I see.

Jason looks at Trey.

JASON (CONT'D)
You got to let that go. Just like
you told me to.

TREY
And you did?

JASON
Yeah, I did. Long time ago.

Jason places Trey's beer bottle on the ground.

JASON (CONT'D)
Why do you not believe me?

TREY
It's just my luck, man. Why did she
have to bring that guy with her?

JASON
Listen. Forget about the guy. She's
not for you. Trust me. She's hot
and all, but... You don't really
know her, Trey. I'm telling you.
Let that shit go.

Jason twists the cap of his beer and takes a drink.

Trey takes the beer off the ground. He twists the cap off,
takes a drink, and looks in the direction of Kyle and
Ashley.

Kyle is putting sunscreen on Ashley's back. He stops and
offers the bottle of sunscreen to Ashley.

KYLE
Do me now, babe.

Ashley takes the bottle of sunscreen.

ASHLEY
Okay.

Kyle turns his back to Ashley.

KYLE
Don't go too crazy with it. I don't
like how it feels.

Max walks by Ashley and Kyle. He has his regular clothes on.

ASHLEY (O.S.)
You're such a baby.

Kevin is lying on the ground nearby. He has swimming shorts and black sunglasses on.

Max sits next to Kevin.

Kevin sits up.

Max checks out Kevin's body.

MAX

Damn, you're jacked, Kev. You look real good.

Kevin takes off his sunglasses. He's got bloodshot eyes.

KEVIN

Are you hitting on me, bro?

MAX

No. Fuck no! I was just making an observation. You're not even my type.

KEVIN

Why not?

MAX

I don't know. You are just not. Do you want to see my boyfriend?

KEVIN

Sure. Wait! Are you gonna show me his dick? 'Cause, I don't wanna see that.

MAX

No! I'm not going to show you his dick. What are you talking about, Kev?

KEVIN

I don't know. I just thought you might do that, that's all.

MAX

Why would I do that?

KEVIN

I don't know. I'm sorry, okay? Let me see.

MAX

I'm not showing you his dick, Kevin!

KEVIN

No. I mean, let me see him, not his dick.

MAX

Okay.

Max reaches into his pocket and takes out his phone.

KEVIN

Alright. Let's see what this dude's got that I don't.

EXT. LAKE/WATER - DAY

Willa and Olivia are in the water up to their waist. They are close and facing each other. Both are dressed in two-piece swimsuits.

WILLA

You like it here?

OLIVIA

I guess.

WILLA

What's going on with you? You've been more quiet than usual.

OLIVIA

Not much.

WILLA

Come on. Tell me, tell me, tell me, tell me!

OLIVIA

What? There's nothing to tell.

WILLA

Really? Is that how you gonna play it?

Willa stares at Olivia with eyes wide open.

OLIVIA

What?

WILLA

So, there is nothing to tell? Your life is that boring?

OLIVIA

It actually is.

WILLA
I don't believe you.

Olivia runs her palms along the water surface.

WILLA (CONT'D)
What about Trey?

OLIVIA
See, that's why I shouldn't tell
you things!

WILLA
Well, you should, and you did. You
told me you are into him.

OLIVIA
That was ages ago. I liked him for,
like, five minutes. It was a moment
of weakness that I now regret.

WILLA
I think you should regret it after
the summer. What are your other
options anyway?

Olivia twirls her hair.

OLIVIA
What do you mean?

WILLA
Well, Jason is obviously mine.

OLIVIA
Okay... Does he know that, by the
way?

WILLA
I think he does, even if it's still
on a subconscious level.

Olivia laughs.

WILLA (CONT'D)
So hands off that one.

OLIVIA
Sure.

WILLA
Max is gay. Kevin--

OLIVIA
Can you believe that?

Willa scoops water with her palms and splashes it on her shoulders.

WILLA

Yeah, definitely a surprise there. But not when you really think about it. It makes sense, you know? He never had a girlfriend or showed any interest in any of us.

OLIVIA

I never noticed that.

WILLA

At the time, neither did I.

OLIVIA

I wish he would have told us.

WILLA

Yeah. Well, he did it on his own time, once he was ready, I guess.

OLIVIA

Yeah.

WILLA

So, he's out. Now, Kevin is... I mean he is hot and all--

OLIVIA

There is no fucking way!

WILLA

Right. So who's left? Trey is the natural choice. And you liked him once. It's just perfect!

Olivia strokes her hair.

OLIVIA

I don't have to be hooking up with anybody.

WILLA

Yes, you do. Have some fun! After this summer, there is a good chance most of us will never see each other again. It's a miracle we managed to get this thing together. And everybody actually came. You believe that? Ash, of course, had to fuck it up somehow.

OLIVIA

Is it me, or is she even a bigger bitch than she used to be in high school?

WILLA

I don't think it's you. Forget about her. Focus on that guy over there.

Willa looks in the direction of Trey and Jason sitting on the bank drinking beer.

WILLA

Think about all that delicious dick you are missing on.

OLIVIA

Oh, my God! You are such an animal!

Willa smiles, flutters her eyelashes, and submerges in the water.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Chickens are roaming free around the clearing.

EWELL HENN emerges from the tree line and enters the clearing. We can only see him from the middle of his neck down to his knees. He is a large man wearing a dirty shirt that was once white and withered old pants.

On each side of Ewell's waist, there are two hand-woven baskets attached to his belt. One of the baskets is half full with eggs. The other is empty.

Ewell walks through the clearing at a fast pace heading for the firepit.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/FIREPIT - DAY

Plates with chicken bones are sitting on the ground. Ants and various bugs are crawling all over them.

Ewell kneels on the ground. He takes the bones, shakes the bugs off them, and carefully places them in the empty basket attached to his belt.

EXT. LAKE/BANK - DAY

Trey and Jason are sitting on the ground, each with a beer in hand.

Jason takes a drink.

TREY
Did you call the owners?

JASON
What?

TREY
About the chickens?

JASON
Oh, I forgot.

Jason reaches into his pocket.

JASON (CONT'D)
I'll do it now.

TREY
It's not gonna work. There is no
service out here.

Jason takes out his phone, unlocks it, and looks at the
screen.

JASON
Yeah, well, then I'll do it when we
get back.

Trey takes a drink from his beer.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Jason's car and the silver sedan arrive.

The cars stop. Everyone gets out.

Max looks up at the sky.

MAX
We better get inside. Heavy rain is
coming.

Trey looks up.

TREY
What are you talking about?

INT. CABIN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Trey is looking out the window.

HEAVY RAIN can be heard.

Trey's face lights up.

Ashley and Kyle are sitting on the small couch. Max, Willa, and Olivia are on the big couch. Kevin and Jason are sitting in the armchairs.

LOUD THUNDER

Trey walks from the window to the big couch and sits next to Max.

TREY

You should be a meteorologist or something.

Max smiles.

Jason takes out his phone. He unlocks it and looks at the screen.

JASON

Still nothing.

Jason puts his phone back into his pocket.

MAX

You guys hungry?

KEVIN

Always, bro.

Max gets up and walks away toward the kitchen.

INT. CABIN/KITCHEN - DAY

Max opens the fridge.

MAX

Let's see what we got.

Max takes a deep breath. He exhales.

MAX (CONT'D)

I can work with this.

MAX (CONT'D)

(louder)

We need to go shopping tomorrow.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jason is sitting in the armchair.

JASON

Okay, we'll go first thing tomorrow.

The sound of RAIN dies down.

Willa gets up from the big couch.

WILLA
I'm coming with you.

JASON
Alright.

Willa heads for the window.

KEVIN
Can I come, too?

JASON
Sure.

Willa gets to the window and looks outside.

WILLA
Looks like it's starting to--

A raw egg hits the glass and splatters on the window right in front of her face.

Willa is startled.

KYLE
What the fuck was that?

Everyone gets up.

Willa steps back away from the window.

Another egg hits the window.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Max walks toward the living room.

MAX
What's going on?

An egg hits and splatters on the kitchen window behind Max. He stops and turns to look.

Egg yolk drips down the glass.

MAX (CONT'D)
What the...

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jason walks up to Willa.

JASON

You okay?

WILLA

Yeah.

Jason puts his arms around Willa.

The sound of an egg hitting the cabin's wall can be heard. Then another. And again. The sounds intensify as dozens of eggs are hitting the walls and windows.

Everyone is looking around as they hear the sounds of smashing eggs.

And suddenly, it stops.

Kevin and Trey exchange a glance.

KEVIN

What the fuck was that?

TREY

I don't know.

Jason lets go of Willa.

JASON

Stay here.

WILLA

Wait...

With determination, Jason walks toward the front door.

EXT. CABIN/DECK - DAY

Jason comes out of the front door.

The cabin's walls and the deck are stained with egg yolk, whites, and shells.

Jason flinches. He covers his nose.

Jason walks across the deck, then down the three steps. He avoids the broken second step.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Jason walks a dozen feet away from the cabin, then stops. He turns around and looks at the cabin.

The cabin is stained by egg yolks, whites, and shells.

Jason looks to his left.

The clearing is empty. There is no movement at the treeline.

Jason looks to his right.

There is no one on the clearing. Again, there is no movement at the treeline.

EXT. DECK - DAY

Kevin comes out of the front door. He flinches and covers his nose.

KEVIN

What the fuck is this smell?

Trey comes out of the front door and grabs his nose.

An egg splattered on the deck's wooden floor. Trey walks up to it. He squats and looks at the broken egg.

TREY

It's the eggs. They're rotten.

Kyle comes out of the front door. He immediately covers his nose.

KYLE

Jesus Christ, dude!

KEVIN

Fuck me! I'm gonna be fucking sick!

Kevin gets inside the cabin.

Ashley is about to come out, but Kyle puts his arm in the way and stops her.

KYLE

Stay inside, babe. It smells like ass out here.

Trey gets up. He looks at Jason, who is standing in the clearing looking around.

Trey walks toward Jason. After a few steps, he slips. He barely manages to avoid a fall and remains standing.

KYLE

You okay, dude?

Trey's glasses are crooked.

TREY

Yeah. I'm fine.

Trey fixes his glasses in place.

TREY (CONT'D)

Whew! That was close. Can't afford to lose another pair.

KYLE

How many pairs do you have left?

TREY

It's the last one. That's why I said... Never mind.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Jason reaches into his pocket and takes out his phone. He taps a few times on the screen and brings the phone next to his ear.

Trey approaches Jason.

Jason looks at the phone's screen, taps on it, and puts the phone back into his pocket.

JASON

It just goes straight to voicemail.

TREY

Are you calling the owners?

JASON

Yeah. These fucking kids, man. They are taking it too far.

TREY

Are you sure it's kids, though?

JASON

Who else will throw eggs and rocks at people!?

Jason shakes his head and walks away toward the cabin.

JASON (CONT'D)

I'm not cleaning or paying for any of this fucking mess!

Trey watches Jason walks away.

Jason takes out his phone, taps on the screen, and brings the phone next to his ear.

Trey looks around the clearing.

JASON (CONT'D)(O.S)

Fuck!

INT. FOREST CLEARING/JASON'S CAR - DAY

Jason is staring ahead with his hands on the steering wheel.

Willa and Kevin are sitting in the backseat. Willa is on her phone.

WILLA

There's no service.

KEVIN

Really?

WILLA

Yeah.

KEVIN

Probably the storm last night.

WILLA

I guess.

The front passenger's door opens. Max gets it and sits. He puts on his seatbelt.

Max looks at Jason.

MAX

Are you okay?

Jason keeps staring into space.

Max puts his hand on Jason's shoulder and gently shakes him.

MAX (CONT'D)

Hey?

Jason snaps out of it.

JASON

What?

Max let's go of Jason's shoulder.

MAX

We're all here. Let's go.

Jason rubs his nose.

JASON

Sure.

Jason starts the car.

EXT. FOREST/DIRT ROAD - DAY

A chicken is walking on the road.

Birds CHIRPING.

We begin to hear the sounds of an APPROACHING CAR.

INT. DIRT ROAD/JASON'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Jason, Max, Willa, and Kevin are sitting in silence. There is a distinct frown on Jason's face.

Max leans forward. He squints his eyes.

MAX

Is that a... There is chicken on
the road.

Max looks at Jason.

MAX (CONT'D)

Slow down, Jay.

Jason accelerates.

Max looks at the road, then back at Jason.

MAX (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Willa and Kevin lean forward and look at the road.

EXT. FOREST/DIRT ROAD - DAY

The chicken is pecking and scratching the dirt. In the background, Jason's car is approaching fast.

The right front car tire is about to run over the chicken at high speed.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/DEAD TREE - DAY

Trey is standing in front of the dead tree. He is looking at the eggshells and feathers hanging from its desiccated branches.

Olivia joins him.

OLIVIA

Hey.

TREY

Hey.

OLIVIA

Have you ever seen something like this?

TREY

No.

OLIVIA

The people that own this place must really love their chickens.

TREY

Yeah. A little too much if you ask me.

Olivia gets closer to Trey.

OLIVIA

So... What are your plans for the day?

Trey turns to Olivia.

TREY

Who? Me? No plans.

OLIVIA

Well, do you want to hang out?

TREY

Okay.

Olivia smiles.

Trey smiles back at her. A raw egg hits the right side of his face.

Olivia is startled. She takes a step back.

OLIVIA

Oh, God, Trey! Are you okay?

Egg yolk is dripping from Trey's head. He looks to his right at the tree line.

TREY

These fuckers!

Olivia watches Trey as he walks away toward the tree line.

OLIVIA

Wait! Where are you going?

TREY

I'm gonna catch these fuckers and
teach them a lesson!

Trey enters the forest and disappears into the vegetation.

Olivia cautiously approaches the tree line. She turns back
and looks at the cabin.

Olivia enters the forest and disappears into the thick
vegetation.

EXT. FOREST/DIRT ROAD - DAY

Feathers and blood on a car tire.

Max places the carcass of a disfigured chicken in the trunk
of Jason's car. He closes the trunk.

Max walks up to the passenger's seat.

Birds CHIRPING.

Rooster CROWING.

Max puts his hand on the door handle, looks around at the
forest, then opens the door and enters the car.

INT. DIRT ROAD/JASON'S CAR - DAY

Max sits in the car and closes the door.

Jason is looking down, staring into space.

MAX

What's going on with you?

Jason looks up at the dirt road. He starts the car.

JASON

I'm fine.

Max turns the key and turns off the engine. He takes the key
out of the ignition.

MAX

You are not fine.

KEVIN

Yeah, dude. What's going on with
you?

MAX

You're always the calmest person in a room. And now what? You are purposely running over chickens?

Jason takes a deep breath. He exhales.

JASON

I wanted this to be a great summer. Filled with fun and adventure. Instead, it's been a complete fucking disaster! And I'm the one to blame for it.

WILLA

What are you saying? It's not a disaster. I love it out here.

MAX

What are you talking about, Jay?

JASON

Trey gets hit by a rock! Then he falls down and almost breaks his fucking head. Like the guy doesn't have enough problems. Now the cabin is covered with eggs that smell like shit! There are chickens just roaming around everywhere. Shitting on everything!

Rooster CROWING.

JASON (CONT'D)

And these... these fucking roosters won't even let me sleep. I'm not used to getting up at five in the morning. Are you!?

Rooster CROWING.

JASON (CONT'D)

And she... She brings her dumbass of a boyfriend. When we specifically agreed... We all agreed, right? No other people! How fucking difficult is that!?

WILLA

Oh, I see.

JASON

You don't see anything. Okay? I know what you are thinking. I know
(MORE)

JASON (cont'd)
what you are saying. But you're wrong. It's not about her. It's just another thing that is wrong. It's wrong! Everything is going wrong!

WILLA
Okay, okay...

MAX
You are overreacting, Jay.

JASON
Am I?

KEVIN
Yeah, dude. I never even thought about it like that.

Jason turns back and looks at Kevin.

JASON
That's because thinking is not your strong side, Kev.

WILLA
Hey! Now you're just being mean.

KEVIN
Yeah, dude. What the fuck did I do?

MAX
Look, no one is blaming you for anything.

Jason turns to Max.

JASON
Fine! Whatever. Just give me the keys.

Jason holds his hand out.

MAX
Let me drive.

JASON
I'm not going to run over any more chickens. I promise. Just give me the keys, and let's go see what other surprises this wonderful place has to offer.

Max hesitates, then he puts the car key in Jason's hand.

JASON (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Jason puts the key in the ignition.

Rooster CROWING.

JASON (CONT'D)

I'm not making any promises about the roosters. If I see one, there is a good chance I'll strangle it with my bare hands.

Jason starts the car, puts it in gear, and presses the gas hard.

EXT. FOREST/DIRT ROAD - DAY

Feathers and blood on a still car tire.

The sound of an ACCELERATING ENGINE.

The tire spins fast and throws dirt behind it straight at us.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ashley and Kyle are strolling among the trees holding hands.

Kyle points ahead.

KYLE

Hey, look, babe.

ASHLEY

What? Where?

Kyle lets go of her hand. He hurries ahead.

About a dozen feet away, he squats next to a tree.

Ashley approaches Kyle. Over Kyle's shoulder, a chicken nest with eggs is revealed.

KYLE

Look at this.

Kyle gets up. He looks at Ashley.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Someone's making babies.

Ashley crushes the eggs with her foot.

KYLE (CONT'D)

What the fuck did you do that for?

ASHLEY

The world doesn't need any more of this... vermin.

KYLE

Chickens are not vermin. What are you...

Ashley turns her back on Kyle and walks away.

Kyle looks down at the nest.

In the nest, the eggs are smashed. In the mix of yolk, shells, and whites, we can see bloody chicken fetuses.

Kyle puts his hand over his mouth.

KYLE

Jesus...

He takes a deep breath, then exhales.

Kyle looks in Ashley's direction.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Fuck me...

(louder)

Wait!

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Olivia is walking among the trees. She sees Trey standing ahead.

Trey is still and looking down.

Olivia gets to Trey and stands next to him.

OLIVIA

What is that?

Countless small piles of dirt on the ground. Some are less obvious and covered with small vegetation. Others are very fresh. The place looks very well maintained.

TREY

I believe these are graves.

OLIVIA

What...

Trey walks a few feet and squats. He puts his hands on the ground and leans forward, taking a close look at one of the fresh piles.

There is a small stick tied with twine in the form of a chicken foot stuck in the back of the pile.

TREY

I think these are chicken graves.

Olivia walks up to Trey. She leans forward to take a look.

OLIVIA

We need to get the hell out of this place.

Trey gets up. He cleans his hands from the dirt.

TREY

Come down. It's not that big of a deal.

Olivia straightens up and looks at Trey.

OLIVIA

Yes, it is. Think about it. These people bury their chickens in graves with little tiny tombstones made of sticks. They have a chicken graveyard for fuck sake! Not to mention, all the other chicken stuff around here.

TREY

I admit, it is a little wild--

OLIVIA

We killed and ate one of these chickens, Trey. I mean, you guys did. But they're probably not going to care about the details. I'm telling you. We need to get the fuck out of here!

TREY

I don't know, Liv.

Trey looks beyond Olivia. He freezes. His upper eyelids raise.

OLIVIA

What? What is it?

Olivia turns back. She freezes and swallows nervously.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Kyle catches up with Ashley. He grabs her arm and faces her.

ASHLEY

Let me go.

Kyle lets go of her arm.

KYLE

Okay, okay. Why are you so mad at me?

ASHLEY

I'm not.

Ashley crosses her arms in front of her chest. She looks to the side.

KYLE

Yeah, you are. Come on, just tell me.

Ashley looks at Kyle.

ASHLEY

Are you really going to choose these chickens over me?

KYLE

What? No! I'm not gonna choose any chickens over you. What are you talking about?

ASHLEY

Then do it.

KYLE

Do what?

Ashley points to the ground nearby.

Kyle looks in the direction where Ashley is pointing.

A chicken nest with about a dozen eggs.

Kyle walks up to the nest.

KYLE

You want me to crush these eggs?

Ashley walks up to Kyle.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Look, I'll choose you over chickens any time anywhere, babe. But this is just pointlessly killing these unborn chicks. I don't wanna do that.

ASHLEY

So, you are choosing them over me?

KYLE

No!

ASHLEY

Then do it.

Kyle looks at the nest. He scratches his head.

KYLE

I just...

He takes a deep breath and exhales.

Kyle hesitantly lifts his foot over the eggs in the nest. He looks at Ashley, then beyond her. He freezes. His eyes open wide.

ASHLEY

What?

Ashley turns back. She freezes. Her eyes become wide open. Her jaw drops.

EXT. TOWN/STORE - DAY

Jason's car is parked in front of a grocery store. While Jason is leaning on the side of it, the trunk of the car is wide open.

Jason unwraps a pack of cigarettes. He throws the wrapping on the ground. He opens the pack, removes the top foil, and throws it on the ground.

The foil lands on the concrete, next to the crumpled cellophane wrapping.

Jason takes a cigarette out and lights it up.

Willa comes out of the store carrying four plastic bags filled with products.

She passes by Jason, heading for the car's trunk.

WILLA

Since when do you smoke?

Jason shrugs his shoulders.

Willa gets to the trunk. A look of genuine disgust appears on her face.

WILLA (CONT'D)

God...

JASON

What?

WILLA

I forgot there is a dead chicken in the trunk.

JASON

There's plenty of room. Just put the bags to the side.

Willa puts the bags in the trunk.

She walks up to Jason.

WILLA

Can I have one?

JASON

Sure.

Jason reaches into his pocket, takes the pack out, opens it, and offers it to Willa.

Willa takes out a cigarette and puts it in her mouth.

Jason lights it for her.

Willa takes a deep drag. She looks up at the sky and exhales.

WILLA

Oh, man. I missed this.

INT. STORE - DAY

Max and Kevin are pushing a big cart overflowing with groceries.

Behind the counter, next to the cash register, is an old man, the STORE OWNER. Skinny and missed a few morning shaves, he is reading a newspaper. A few feet away from him, the STORE OWNER'S DAUGHTER is arranging a shelf. She is a young red-haired woman in a summer dress.

Max and Kevin get to the cash register. They begin to put products on the counter.

The store owner folds the newspaper and puts it away under the counter.

STORE OWNER
You boys sure ain't just passing through. Stocking up like this.

KEVIN
No, we are staying at a cabin outside of this town.

STORE OWNER
Which one?

KEVIN
I don't know. It's has a lot of chickens running around.

STORE OWNER
You must be staying at the Henn's place then.

The store owner begins to mark the products.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
Those poor folks. Lost their jobs. Lost more than that.

The store owner makes a "crazy" gesture by pointing at his temple and spinning his index finger.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
If you know what I mean...

The store owner's daughter turns around and sees her father gesturing.

STORE OWNER'S DAUGHTER
Daddy!

The store owner is marking the products Max and Kevin are placing on the counter.

STORE OWNER
What? I mean no disrespect. Not having will do things to you. A lot of folk 'round here left with no jobs. Nothing to do and too much time on their hands. Now they have to give their homes to strangers just to make due. I sure wouldn't like to be doing that myself. No offense. You seem like good enough boys.

The daughter sighs. She begins to put the already marked products in bags.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
(points at Max)
You. You look mighty familiar. You
from 'round here?

Max places a carton of eggs on the counter.

MAX
No.

The store owner turns to his daughter.

STORE OWNER
He look familiar to you?

The store owner's daughter looks at Max, then at her dad,
and shakes her head.

STORE OWNER'S DAUGHTER
No, daddy.

STORE OWNER
Hm. Must be the old eyes then.

STORE OWNER'S DAUGHTER
If only they made those things
called glasses.

STORE OWNER
Don't you get me started on that! I
see plenty enough. Don't need no
glasses. Wrapped around your head,
pushing down onto your nose. Like
parasites. Don't need no parasite
on my face! You boys know what I'm
talking about?

Max and Kevin share a glance.

MAX
Uhm, sure...

KEVIN
Yes, sir.

STORE OWNER
See, they know what I'm talking
about.

The daughter smiles at Max and Kevin.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
Glasses. No, thank you, mister.
Don't need no glasses.

EXT. STORE - DAY

Jason and Willa are both leaning against the car, smoking cigarettes.

JASON
Why are they taking so long?

WILLA
Max is on a shopping spree.

JASON
I guess it's better to stock up
instead of coming here every other
day.

WILLA
Yeah.

Jason takes a drag from his cigarette. He exhales.

JASON
Hey, I'm sorry about earlier. I
don't know what it is about this
place...

WILLA
Don't worry about it. You just need
to relax. Let all that stress out
of your body.

Jason smiles.

JASON
Why do you like me all of the
sudden?

WILLA
I've always liked you. You were too
busy to notice.

JASON
Well, I'm not busy now.

The store door opens. Max and Kevin come out carrying many bags with groceries.

Willa looks at Jason.

WILLA
Let's go.

JASON

Alright.

Jason throws his cigarette on the ground and steps on it.

He lifts his foot, revealing the disfigured mixture of tobacco, paper, and ashes. Next to it are the cigarette pack wrapping and foil.

Willa flicks her cigarette.

The cigarette lands on the concrete. It rolls, then stops still. Smoke is coming out of the tip.

JASON (O.S)

Are you sure you didn't forget a bunch of stuff? Seems a little light.

MAX (O.S)

Okay, that's very funny.

While smoke continues to come out of Willa's cigarette, we hear the CAR DOORS CLOSING and the ENGINE STARTING. We hear the CAR DRIVING AWAY until the sound fades and cannot be heard anymore. Then we begin to hear approaching FOOTSTEPS. A foot stepping on the smoking cigarette.

The store owner is standing over the wrappings and burnt cigarettes. He has a broom and a shovel. He sighs and shakes his head.

The store owner sweeps the garbage into the shovel.

STORE OWNER

Better not be making a mess over there at the Henns' place. Mhm.

The store owner walks away toward the store.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)

Glasses. Don't need no glasses. Mhm.

Once he reaches the front door, the store owner opens it. He enters the store and closes the door behind him.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Both cars are parked. There is no one in them or around them.

Chickens CLUCKING.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/DEAD TREE - DAY

The eggshells and feathers are swung slightly by the gentle breeze.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A chicken scratching and pecking the ground.

The chicken lifts its head and CLUCKS.

BLACK SCREEN:

SUPERIMPOSE: "DINNER WITH THE HENNS"

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/TABLE - DAY

Jason's eyes are closed. He slowly opens them with effort, as if he is waking from a deep sleep. His eyes slowly adjust. Jason looks around. He is moaning. His mouth is gagged.

The whole table is revealed with everyone sitting in the same places as they were during their first meal there.

Ashley is sitting in the middle of the bench facing the clearing. On her left is Kyle, and on her right is sitting Olivia.

Opposite Ashley is Trey. On his left is sitting Kevin and on his right is Willa. Next to Willa, at the table's end, is Jason, and opposite him, at the other end, is Max.

All of them are gagged with dirty rags. Their hands are tied in front of them. Ankles are tied together. Rope is wrapped around their waists and thighs, bounding them to the benches.

Jason moves around, attempting to get free.

Jason notices Willa staring at him. She shakes her head "Don't!".

Jason stops struggling. He is breathing heavily through his nose.

IDA HENN, an old woman with long grey hair, supporting herself with a cane, approaches Jason from his left.

She looks down at Jason.

IDA HENN

Well, well. Look who came to. I thought we may not get a chance to speak.

Jason looks at Ida. He attempts to talk through the gag.

Ida looks up behind Jason.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

Go on then.

JIM BOB HENN is standing not far behind Jason. He is a large middle-aged man wearing a dirty sleeveless shirt. On his naked shoulder, there is a brand in the form of a chicken foot. On his belt, there is a large knife in a leather sheath.

Jim Bob walks up to Jason and removes the gag with his filthy fingers.

Jason swallows. He looks up at Ida. His eyes are wide open.

JASON

What the fuck is this!?

Ewell is standing a few feet behind Kyle and Ashley. We can now see his face, and it is not easy on the eyes. The two hand-woven baskets attached to his belt are filled with eggs.

Ewell takes a step toward Jason.

Ida gives Ewell a stern look.

Ewell stops walking.

Ida looks at Jason.

IDA HENN

We don't use this kind of language
'round here. Not while kids are
watching.

Ida turns and looks behind her.

About a dozen feet away from Ida is standing TELORIA. She is a skinny young woman. On her left is a shy little girl by the name of WILLIE MAE, and on her right is PERCY, a small boy bursting with energy. Teloria is holding them both by the shoulders.

PERCY

Can I do it now, grandma? Can I do
it?

IDA HENN

Sure, you go ahead.

Percy escapes from his mother's hand and runs toward the firepit.

EXT. FIREPIT - DAY

In the firepit, all of the travel bags are piled up. On some of them, wet stains are visible.

Percy reaches into his pocket and takes out a matchbox. He lights a match and touches it to the pink travel bag with the wheels. It quickly catches on fire.

The flames rapidly spread and engulf all of the bags.

EXT. TABLE - DAY

Ashley is looking toward the firepit. She moans. A tear runs down her face.

With effort, Jason tries to turn around, attempting to see what's going on behind him. He manages to turn his neck enough and see the burning luggage out of the corner of his eye.

Percy runs toward Teloria.

Jason looks up at Ida.

JASON

What the fuck are you doing?

IDA HENN

What did I say about the language, young man?

Ida turns to Teloria.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

Get the children inside. They're still too young for what's coming.

Teloria grabs each child by the hand and walks toward the cabin.

Percy is reluctant. He looks up at his mother.

PERCY

But I wanna see, mama.

TELORIA

Listen to your grandma. Go on.

Ida looks at Jason.

JASON
Why are you burning our stuff?

IDA HENN
'Cause you ain't gonna need it no more.

JASON
What?

Ida gets closer to Jason.

IDA HENN
The disrespect you have. To our people. To the chicken.

JASON
What? The chicken? Is this about the chickens? Okay, look... I am sorry about the chickens. Okay?

Ida shakes her head.

IDA HENN
Hm...

JASON
We'll pay for them. I... I tried to call you. I've been trying to call you since yesterday.

IDA HENN
You don't get it, do you? The chicken is life. You have no respect for life. Why should we respect yours?

JASON
What?

Ida looks at Ewell.

Ewell walks up to Jason.

Jim Bob moves out of the way, and Ewell gets behind Jason.

Jason looks to his left, then to his right.

JASON (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Jason leans backward and looks up, trying to see what's going on behind him.

Ewell places his palm under Jason's chin. With his fingers, he squeezes Jason's jaw and opens his mouth.

With his other hand, Ewell reaches for the basket and grabs an egg. He puts it in Jason's mouth.

Jason struggles. Ewell puts another egg. The egg breaks and yolk spills around Jason's mouth. Ewell stuffs another egg in Jason's mouth. And another. And another.

Jason's eyes begin to redden. He is struggling to breathe.

Jason suffocates and stops moving.

Ewell lets go.

Jason's eyes are bloodshot. His mouth is overflowing with egg yolk, whites, and shells.

Everyone "sitting" at the table is freaking out. They are all struggling, screaming and moaning through the rags stuffed in their mouths, twisting and turning, trying to break free from the ropes.

Yolk is dripping down Jason's face from his mouth and nostrils.

Yolk drips on the ground. BERNICE, a large black chicken, appears and pecks at it.

ELROD HENN grabs Bernice and lifts her to his chest. Elrod is an old skinny man. He has a neckless made of chicken bones, beaks, feathers, and twine. A large mummified chicken foot is hanging at the end of the neckless.

Elrod looks at the chicken and gently pets it.

ELROD HENN

Now, this here's Bernice. She may not look like much, but she's real smart.

Elrod places Bernice on the table.

ELROD HENN (CONT'D)

She can tell a man's soul just by giving them one look.

Elrod nudges Bernice forward.

ELROD HENN (CONT'D)

Go on now.

Bernice begins to walk on the table, heading toward Max.

Bernice walks by Willa and Kyle.

Willa is watching the chicken with terror in her eyes.

Bernice continues walking. When she gets to Trey and Ashley, the chicken stops and looks around.

Trey is still. He is staring at the chicken. Drops of sweat have formed on his forehead.

Bernice turns to Ashley.

Ashley is sobbing. Tears are running down her face.

Bernice approaches Ashley. The chicken extends its neck and looks at Ashley, moving its head abruptly, as birds do.

Tears are running down Ashley's face. A teardrop runs down her cheek, then down her neck. A knife's tip touches the side of her neck. We can now see a dirty big hand holding a large knife. Another dirty hand is placed on the top of her head.

Ashley's eyes widen.

The hand drives the knife through Ashley's neck. Then twists it so that the sharp blade faces toward us. The hand drives the knife forward, cutting through her trachea. The hand on top lets go. Ashley's head tilts backward, exposing her severed windpipe.

Ashley's body is convulsing. Blood squirts from her open neck.

We can now see that hand holding the knife belongs to Jim Bob. He wipes the bloody knife on the belly area of his dirty shirt.

Ashley's body stops convulsing. One last squirt of blood out of her open neck.

Kyle is freaking out. He attempts to scream through the gag. He moves around, trying to get free.

Jim Bob grunts. He gets behind Kyle and places his hand on top of Kyle's head.

Jim Bob places the tip of the knife at the base of Kyle's skull. He presses hard until the knife sinks into Kyle's head.

Kyle stops moving. His body relaxes.

With effort, Jim Bob takes the knife out of Kyle's skull.

Kyle's lifeless body leans forward. His head bounces as it hits the tabletop.

The roping keeps Kyle sitting on the bench.

Bernice flaps her wings, jumps off the table, and walks away.

ELROD HENN
Where you heading at?

Elrod goes after the chicken.

IDA HENN
Leave her be.

Elrod stops walking and looks at Ida.

ELROD HENN
I'll go see what she's up to.

IDA HENN
No. You stay here.

ELROD HENN
But I...

Ida gives Elrod a stern look.

ELROD HENN
Alright, alright. If that's what you want, I'll oblige, sister.

Ida looks around at the ground.

IDA HENN
You bring the toolbox?

Elrod looks around.

ELROD HENN
It's not here?

IDA HENN
No, it ain't here.

ELROD HENN
Well, I guess I forgot.

IDA HENN
Go get it then.

Elrod turns toward the cabin. He takes a step and stops.

Trey is breathing heavily. More sweat has formed on his forehead.

ELROD HENN (O.S.)
But where is it?

IDA HENN (O.S.)
Where did you last leave it?

Trey turns to his left and looks at Kevin.

Kevin is frozen in shock.

ELROD HENN (O.S.)
I left it in the generator shack.

IDA HENN (O.S.)
Where do you think it might be then?

Trey turns to his right and looks at Willa.

Willa is shivering.

ELROD HENN (O.S.)
I don't know. Oh, it's in the generator shack. I'll go get it.

Ida shakes her head.

With the help of her cane, Ida walks up behind Willa.

IDA HENN
I'll tell you what. It ain't always easy to care for your kinfolk.

Ida places her hand on Willa's shoulder. Willa twitches as soon as the old woman's hand touches her.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)
Don't be afraid now. It's not your turn yet.

Ida squeezes Willa's shoulder.

Willa stops shivering.

Ida leans forward and speaks close to Willa's right ear.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)
I've got something special planned for you.

Ida lets go of Willa's shoulder.

Willa resumes shivering and starts sobbing.

Ida walks by Trey. He is looking forward, not moving or making any sounds.

Ida gets behind Kevin.

Kevin turns back, trying to look at Ida. He attempts to speak through the gag.

Ida looks at Jim Bob.

Jim Bob walks around the table, starting from behind Kyle, and ending up next to Kevin.

Jim Bob removes Kevin's gag and steps away.

KEVIN

Please. Don't kill me. I don't
wanna die.

Ida gets on Kevin's left side and looks down at him.

IDA HENN

You don't?

KEVIN

No. Please...

IDA HENN

You think Eustice wanted to die?

KEVIN

Who... Who's Eu... Euste...

IDA HENN

Eustice.

Ida shows her palm to Kevin.

On Ida's palm, there is EUSTICE, a desiccated disfigured lump barely resembling a crushed beetle.

Kevin looks at it. His mouth is open. His lower lip trembles. He slowly smiles. His smile transitions to quiet laughter.

KEVIN

Eustice?

The quiet laughter transitions to a maniacal one.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Eustice? You people are fucking
insane!

Kevin's laughter dies down. He looks around at the Henns.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
So, I stepped on your bug? So what?
Huh? You gonna kill me for that?
Fuck you! I'll step on a thousand
bugs! You fucking demented fucks!
(struggles to break free)
Let me go! You fucking fucktards!

Jim Bob is breathing heavily. There is growing anger visible on his face.

Elrod walks up to Jim Bob and places a rustic toolbox on the ground.

ELROD HENN
Found it. Guess what? It was in the
generator shack.

Jim Bob reaches into the toolbox and takes out an old rusted pruning saw with a withered wooden handle.

Jim Bob looks at the saw and grunts. He begins to walk toward Kevin.

Ida moves out of the way.

Jim Bob gets behind Kevin.

KEVIN
Stay away from me, you crazy fuck!

Jim Bob takes off Kevin's hat and throws it toward the table.

The hat lands on the tabletop.

Max looks at the hat, then he looks at Kevin.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Get away from me!

Jim Bob puts Kevin in a headlock.

KEVIN
What? What are you doing?

Jim Bob places the rusted saw blade on top of Kevin's head.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

No! Let me go!

Jim Bob saws into Kevin's head.

Kevin screams and struggles as the blade saws into his skull.

Ida is watching with delight while the sounds of bone being sawn can be heard.

Ida looks at Ewell.

IDA HENN

Go in the basement and get the shotgun.

Ewell walks away toward the cabin. After a few steps, he stops. He reaches into one of the baskets attached to his belt and takes out an egg.

He cracks the egg on his thumb knuckle.

Ewell opens the egg above his mouth and lets the raw egg fall into it.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Ewell turns and looks at Ida. He swallows.

EWELL HENN

I was hungry, mama.

IDA HENN

Go get the shotgun, I said!

EWELL HENN

I'm fixin' to, mama.

IDA HENN

Well, quit fixin' and go on then!

Ewell walks away toward the cabin.

The pruning saw is embedded halfway through Kevin's head. Blood, hair, and bone fragments are stuck on the rusted teeth of the blade.

Kevin's lifeless body is leaning backward, supported by the roping.

Ida approaches Kevin and takes a closer look.

IDA HENN

Hmm. You ain't stepping on no bugs
no more, are you?

LOUD SOBBING.

Ida looks up.

Olivia is sobbing uncontrollably.

Ida smiles.

IDA HENN

And what do we do with you?

Ida walks around the table, heading toward Olivia.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

You may not be the worst of them,
but it's the company you keep
that's working against you.

Ida gets to Olivia and removes her gag.

Olivia quiets down but is still sobbing. She looks up at
Ida.

OLIVIA

I'm sorry.

Ida sits on the tabletop next to Olivia.

IDA HENN

I know you are, child. But we can't
let you go. You must see that.
Here's what I can do for you. I'll
let you live... with us... for
breeding.

OLIVIA

What?

IDA HENN

My boys. They'll breed with you.

Jim Bob grunts. He licks his lips.

OLIVIA

No. Please...

IDA HENN

It's the way to go. Or you prefer
to join your friends?

Olivia is breathing heavily. She looks around, then back at Ida.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)
Hm. I reckon you wouldn't.

Ida gets up from the table and looks at Elrod.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)
Take her to the summer trailer. And don't let your cousins touch her.

ELROD HENN
I ain't gonna, sister.

IDA HENN
You tell them I said so.

Ida scratches her crotch.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)
Best you put her in the shelter. And take the key with you.

ELROD HENN
I will, sister.

Ida looks at Olivia.

IDA HENN
Those boys, bless their hearts, ain't the most smartest.

Olivia begins sobbing.

Elrod gets to Olivia. He puts her gag on, then begins to untie her.

ELROD HENN
Don't worry, child. I ain't gonna hurt you.

Elrod finishes untying Olivia and removes the ropes from her.

ELROD HENN (CONT'D)
I ain't gonna breed with you neither.

Olivia's sobbing intensifies.

Elrod helps Olivia get up.

ELROD HENN (CONT'D)

You behave now. You don't wanna
make me mad as all get out, do you?

Olivia quiets down. She and Elrod walk away toward the tree
line.

Ewell approaches Ida with a shotgun in his hands.

EWELL HENN

I got it, mama.

IDA HENN

Good.

Supported by her cane, Ida walks by Max. Ewell follows her,
carrying the shotgun.

Jim Bob is standing near the toolbox. Ida and Ewell get to
him.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

(at Ewell)

Give the shotgun to your brother.

Ewell hands the shotgun to Jim Bob.

Ida looks at the toolbox sitting on the ground.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

Get that hammer. The big one.

Jim Bob bends over the toolbox, which exposes his hairy ass
crack.

Jim Bob grabs a large vintage plumb sledgehammer.

Ida gets behind Trey. Jim Bob joins her.

Jim Bob puts the heavy hammer on the ground, leaving the
handle erect in the air. He places the shotgun on the
ground, next to the hammer.

Ida gets between Trey and Willa. Willa is still shivering.
Trey is calm, looking ahead.

Ida looks down at Trey.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

What about you? You're awful quiet?

Jim Bob removes Trey's gag.

Trey swallows. He is looking ahead into space.

TREY

I got nothing to say to you.

A subtle smile on Ida's face.

IDA HENN

Hm.

TREY

I wouldn't ask you what I did. It doesn't matter.

(looks at Ida)

There is no logic in crazy, is there?

Ida's smile disappears. She looks at Jim Bob, then moves out of the way.

Jim Bob's hand grabs the handle of the hammer.

With both hands on the handle, Jim Bob raises the hammer high above Trey's head.

Jim Bob releases a powerful blow and smashes Trey's head.

Blood splatters on Willa's face. She is trembling. She slowly turns her head to look at Trey. As she catches a glance at the aftermath, she quickly looks away. She begins breathing heavily. Ida's old wrinkled hands remove Willa's gag.

We see Jim Bob's large dirty hands squeeze Willa's mouth open. The shotgun barrel is forced into her mouth. She is breathing heavily through her nose.

We hear the sound of a gun being COCKED.

Willa stops breathing. Her eyes widen.

A finger pulls the trigger.

The back of Willa's head explodes into bits and pieces.

Bits and pieces of skull, flesh, and brains fall all over the ground. Chickens rush to peck at them.

Ida looks at the chickens pecking.

IDA HENN

Hm.

Rooster CROWING.

Ida looks at Jim Bob.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

Well, that's was some good ol'
funnin', wasn't it?

Ida laughs.

Jim Bob laughs awkwardly.

Ewell laughs as well.

Max is moaning and struggling.

Ida stops laughing.

Ewell also stops laughing.

Jim Bob stops laughing and heads toward Max.

Jim Bob gets to Max. He looks at Ida.

Ida nods.

Jim Bob tears off the sleeve of Max's shirt, exposing a
chicken foot brand on his shoulder.

JIM BOB HENN

I told you, mama. I told you it was
him.

IDA HENN

Hm. You did, didn't you?

JIM BOB HENN

I did, mama.

Ida walks toward Max. She gets near him and leans on the
table.

Ida looks at Jim Bob.

IDA HENN

Go on then.

Jim Bob is removing Max's gag.

IDA HENN (CONT'D)

Mossie Jefferson Henn. I remember
you. Your father sent you away
because of your... "ways".

Max catches his breath. He swallows, then looks at Ida.

MAX

My "ways"? You sure got that wrong,
you crazy bitch!

Jim Bob slaps the back of Max's head.

JIM BOB HENN
You watch your mouth, boy!

Ewell steps forward.

EWELL HENN
Should I egg him, mama?

IDA HENN
Hold on, now. He's kin. Let him speak.

MAX
My father didn't send me away because of my "ways". He was too fucked up on moonshine to notice anything that was going on around him. He couldn't take care of me. No, I chose to go live with my cousins when they offered at my mother's funeral. They were smart enough to get away from this sick place.

IDA HENN
She died too young, your mother.

JIM BOB HENN
Mhm.

MAX
No, that son of a bitch killed her. He'd beat on her every day. Wore her down 'til she got sick. And none of you did anything about it!

IDA HENN
Well, he's gone now.

MAX
Gone? Gone where? Is he dead?

IDA HENN
He died few summers back.

MAX
Good riddance!

IDA HENN
Hm. You bring these people here?

MAX
No, it was...

Max looks at Jason.

MAX (CONT'D)

It was him. If I knew exactly where we were going, I would have never come to this rotten place. Believe me, I wouldn't dare bring my worst enemies here, let alone my friends.

Max looks at his dead friends around the table. His eyes water.

Ida gets up.

IDA HENN

I listen to you talk, Mossie. I listen to you talk, and you are a Henn no more.

MAX

It's Max now. And yeah, I am definitely not a fucking Henn, you old hag!

Jim Bob grunts.

IDA HENN

Well, we better treat you as a guest then.

Ida walks away.

Ewell steps toward Max and reaches into one of his baskets with eggs.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING/TABLE - DAY - LATER

An eyeball on the ground.

A chicken approaches the eyeball and pecks at it.

Bernice passes by the chicken, pecking the eyeball, and jumps up.

Bernice lands on the table next to a cattle gun. She takes a few steps, then stops and takes a shit.

Bernice clucks.

Max is dead, with the right side of his face resting on the table. His left eyeball is missing. Yolk is dripping from his mouth.

Bernice turns and walks toward Max.

IDA HENN (O.S)
Let's clean this mess before our
new guests arrive.

JIM BOB HENN (O.S)
What should we do with the cars,
mama?

Bernice is now next to Max's head. She pecks at where his
eyeball once was.

IDA HENN (O.S)
Put them with the rest, like you
always do. And quit asking me about
that! You asked the last time, and
the time before... You keep asking
and asking... It's about time you
learn, Jim Bob.

Bernice abandons pecking at the eye socket and jumps on
Max's head.

JIM BOB HENN (O.S)
I'm sorry, mama.

Bernice clucks.

IDA HENN (O.S)
I ain't gonna be around forever.
All y'all need to learn!

Rooster CROWING.

FADE OUT.

THE END