

Dead Filter

By

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A high-school vlogger is cursed with a phone filter that  
will kill her unless she sends it to kill her friends,  
one-by-one.

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**INT. MORNING SHOW - DAY - 2002 NEWS FOOTAGE**

OLD FOOTAGE WITH A 9:16 RATIO (as if it were being watched on a PHONE).

SARAH STAR, 29, nervous and eager, stares into the lens of the TV camera, struggling to hold a fake smile.

HOST 1

Our very own Sarah Star is here  
to talk about internet chatrooms:  
what you think you know may not  
be quite so, dot com!

Host 1 laughs at his bad joke, Sarah doesn't even blink, she sits behind a glass desk with TWO BUBBLY ALL-AMERICAN HOSTS beside her.

HOST 1

(to camera)

Sarah's been a member of the Good  
Morning family for years, but has  
had a few *medical issues*, so it's  
just super you're doing better.

SARAH

Thanks Jane, I feel perfect.

HOST 2

That's so good to hear.

SARAH

Are all the cameras on me?

HOST 1

That's how it works.

Host 2 laughs, trying to cover the awkward tension.

SARAH

(to camera)

I see you.

Sarah reaches into a bag, pulls out a GUN - BANG - she shoots herself through the roof of her mouth.

Blood and viscera splatter the studio, but at the moment of absolute hysteria, the VIDEO is "SWIPED UP" (as if by an omniscient hand scrolling through a phone).

**MONTAGE:** Videos reminiscent of TIK-TOKs - filmed from PHONES or WEBCAMS, featuring the main cast.

**INT. KORI'S ROOM - NIGHT - LIVESTREAM VIDEO**

KORI, 18, attractive and confident, twerks on a livestream with thousands of viewers, the chat messages are full of love, hate, anger and envy. Kori glances back at the stream with soulless eyes.

SWIPE TO NEXT VIDEO

**INT. LUCAS'S ROOM - NIGHT - LIVESTREAM VIDEO**

A door to a small bedroom is being filmed shakily by ARABELLA, behind the camera. LUCAS, 18, hispanic, zen and kind, bursts through the door.

LUCAS

Are you okay? What happened?

ARABELLA(O.S.)

(in a silly voice)

We're out of WATERMELON!

From behind the camera, Arabella throws a WATERMELON at Lucas, he drops it on the floor. The CAMERA shakes as she laughs. Lucas's face drops.

LUCAS

Hey, yo, look, we need to talk,  
this isn't working--

SWIPE TO NEXT VIDEO

**INT. CHLOE'S ROOM - NIGHT - LIVESTREAM**

CHLOE, 17, an edgy, cynical, troll plays on TWITCH (a VIDEO-GAME takes up most of the screen, and Chloe appears in the corner). The game's screen reads "DEFEAT".

CHLOE

Fucking silver junglers inting my  
lane! Every time! Like what's the  
fucking point!

Chloe quickly clicks a button that says "PLAY AGAIN".

SWIPE TO NEXT VIDEO

**INT. ATTIC - NIGHT - LIVESTREAM**

OMA, 80, holds up the phone, not knowing she has opened livestream, her whole face fills the frame - classic grandparent facetime.

OMA  
My stardust?... Stardust?  
(in German)  
I see you?

SWIPE TO NEXT VIDEO

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT- LIVESTREAM**

The face of an excited, anxious girl fills the screen, our hero: MAINE ARKWRIGHT, 17, desperately putting on her best influencer smile. Her room is typical American teen: constructed from countless vlogs - fairy lights, cuddly toys, pictures of friends (well, her one friend, Chloe).

MAINE  
Hey besties! It's your main girl here. And oh my God, like, you wouldn't believe my night. So I wore my mom's vintage top to this party, and this guy spilled four loko all over it, it was insane-- Frick!

Maine resets the camera, annoyed at herself.

MAINE  
(to herself)  
Can't say insane, offensive to crazies... Okay. Reset. Happy, smile, energy, they like you.

Maine frames herself again, she tries a VLOGGER SMILE, but her eyes are full of painful desperation.

MAINE  
Hey besties! It's your main girl here. It's like I am and I just got back from this party-- FRICK! What's that smile!

Maine pulls at her hair in self-punishment. A clock on the wall reads - 9PM, she frames it out.

MAINE  
Come on! Smile normal, smile like a person.

Maine pulls the camera up to her face, the pained grin still there.

MAINE  
Hey guys, it's your main girl here, coming at y'all-- FUCK!

Maine slaps herself.

MAINE  
 They can tell! They can tell  
 you're not real!

**THE FIRST NON-PHONE SHOT:** Maine slaps herself again and again.

THE ASPECT RATIO SLOWLY WIDENS OUT to 16:9:

MAINE  
 Energy. Excitement. Interaction.  
 Clickable. They need you. They  
 love you. They SEE YOU!

FADE TO BLACK.

# **INT. ATTIC - NIGHT**

OMA, Maine's grandma, mid-stage Alzheimer's, sits in an easy-chair, reading an ANTIQUE BOOK. Maine shimmies through the dim, cluttered room, lit solely by a TV - the dust in here is older than Maine herself.

*Unless otherwise indicated, Oma speaks German fluently, Maine replies in weak German.*

MAINE  
 Oma? Time to eat okay?

Maine reaches Oma, holding a bowl of soup, she notices another uneaten bowl on a TV tray beside Oma.

OMA  
 Stardust?

MAINE  
 No. It's Maine, it's...

OMA  
 Stardust, you are sad.

MAINE  
 Sad? No, I'm fine... your  
 medicine?

Oma tries to show Maine the antique book, but Maine just puts it to one side. She picks up a box of ARICPET pills (for Alzheimer's), she opens the tab labeled "THURSDAY NIGHT".

Oma reaches out and hugs Maine, who tries not to tear up as Oma strokes her hair.

OMA  
 It will be okay my stardust, they  
 will love you as I love you. The  
 Gaze will find you.

Maine gives Oma a weak smile then pops the pills in her mouth. Oma swallows as Maine picks up the soup, spooning out a bit to feed Oma.

**LATER:**

Oma reads her book, Maine sits beside her, on her phone:

BING - a message pops up from "WIFEY", it's a picture of Kori, the twerking livestreamer, showing a lot of cleavage as she does her makeup.

**WIFEY:** How other girls spend their nights Vs. how I spend mine.

A picture of CHLOE (Wifey) pulling a grotesque face at the camera as she sits in bed, with a bag of Cheetos and an Xbox controller.

**Maine:** One for the gram. Wyd?

**WIFEY:** Furiously masturbating. But I'll take a break for you.

Maine chuckles, spirits lifted. Beside her, Oma studies the book intensely, it has a strange symbol on the front - a rectangle with two eyes in the middle.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Maine is entranced by her phone: the video shows SARAH STAR, the suicidal presenter, talking in a Youtube style vlog. She holds up her hand, painted on it is the same symbol as Oma's book.

SARAH  
... Attention, hold their  
attention, that's your only job--

Maine absently paints the same symbol on her own hand as she watches the video. CHLOE scampers in with a wine bottle, already drunk.

CHLOE  
This one looks fancy, it's got  
fucking wire and everything.

Chloe sees the Sarah Star video and grabs the phone.

CHLOE  
(mocking)  
What the fuck did I say about  
watching those? Bad Maine. Bad!

Chloe closes the Sarah Star video, the next video below is a livestream of Kori, Chloe rolls her eyes.

CHLOE

There's enough bullshit online.

Chloe types in Kori's chat "kys thot."

A message pops: YOU HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM KORILOVES STREAM. Chloe giggles and pours the wine.

CHLOE

So fucking salty, like if you're gonna put your tits on display, you're gonna get milked.

MAINE

I don't know?... She looks happy?

CHLOE

Of course she looks happy. They look exactly how you want them to. Big smile, rattling off buzzwords, besties, simps, relationship goals--

MAINE

-- Okay, but like would a relationship be so bad?

CHLOE

If you want me to go down on you, all you have to do is ask.

Maine scoffs at the joke - KNOCK KNOCK - DEL ARKWRIGHT, 20, Maine's psychedelic, technophobe brother opens the door, holding a different bottle of wine.

DEL

I'm proud to see you participating in illicit activities, but go for the cheap stuff and kill the CCTV or it'll come back to haunt you.

CHLOE

Fuck the cheap stuff, come do a video with us, we're parodying the livestream-thots!

DEL

And what kind of brother would I be if I whored out my sister for fake internet points?

CHLOE

The best kind! Come on, it's satire, you fucking liberals love satire!

Del takes a large drag on a joint, holding in the smoke, ready to pontificate.

DEL

If these videos made you happy,  
it'd be cool, but they don't.  
You're filtering your soul  
through an algorithm designed to  
cause addiction, but the only way  
you'll ever be happy again is if  
you learn to live life without an  
audience.

Del exhales smoke. Chloe and Maine burst out laughing. Del simply smiles, as Maine staggers up, holding her glass.

MAINE

Time to go.

Maine shoves the door on Del, but he holds it open with his foot - sibling teasing.

DEL

Oh you want me to leave?

Maine strains, but Del suddenly moves his foot, she SLAMS into the door, breaking the glass into her palm.

MAINE

Frick!

Maine locks her door and looks at her palm, bloody, she pulls a small piece of glass out. Chloe cackles with laughter, videoing the whole thing with Maine's phone.

CHLOE

Let's go, parody bitch, your best  
Insta-thot impression!

Maine struggles into the role, faking a vlogger smile.

MAINE

Like, oh my God, besties, like  
I'm having such a fricking  
awesome time being alive.

CHLOE

More!

Maine gets more into it, moving closer.

MAINE

Don't scroll! Whatever you do!  
Stay with me. Don't look at those  
twerking twelve year olds, those  
scripted Asian panty slips.



CHLOE

Come on! You know you fucking hate them!

MAINE

The attention addicts, the challenge cucks, the beauty bimbos with recycled butt implants. Forget all of them because you're mine!

Maine grabs her phone, the blood dripping from her palm, the symbol still on the back of her hand.

MAINE

You're going to love me! Worship me, simp for me, fund my ego. Watch my whole life in 15 second clips, share me with your friends, cry for me, jerk for me, lust for me, kill for me and I'll give you everything you want. I'll give you pleasure and addiction and a need you can never satisfy.

Chloe leans back, worried, as Maine rants, possessed - her voice is unnatural: scratchy and harrowing.

MAINE

I'm your God and your whore and your secret and your shame and your mother. I'm the only one who understands you, because I'm all you've got, at the end of it all, at the end of your life, I'm the only one who truly sees you. I see you!

**SHRIEK** - A blood-curdling banshee wail explodes from Maine's phone.

Maine flinches and drops it, breaking the spell.

CHLOE

What the fuck was that?... Maine?

Maine looks around, dazed, then picks up her phone, she wipes the blood off. A little rectangle symbol flashes in her notifications.

MAINE

Livestream notification...

CHLOE

No, I mean the impression. Fucking A plus.

MAINE

It says I have a filter to gift?... "The Gaze... for those who crave attention."... I have twelve hours to send it?

Chloe looks at the phone, suddenly Kori's Livestream pops up on mute, she is still doing makeup in a low-cut top.

CHLOE

Short ban... well, we know who craves attention?

Maine hovers over a "SEND GIFT" button beside Kori's face, but suddenly an ADVERT pops up, saving Kori from the gift.

AD GIRL

Besties, have you even heard of blockchain, no cap--

CHLOE

-- Fucking stealth ads.

Maine swipes, now there is a different girl, ARABELLA, 18, streaming from a rave, she screams into the camera.

ARABELLA

I love you all!

CHLOE

Love her back.

Maine clicks SEND GIFT. Chloe chuckles and downs her wine, but Maine feels uneasy. She stares at the BLOODY thumbprint on the phone as Arabella dances on the screen.

**LATER:**

Chloe sleeps beside Maine, who is lit by her phone as she scrolls through videos of SARAH STAR.

BING - A notification pops up from an anonymous chat app called ANON.

**MESSAGE:**

**1802:** You up?

**Maine:** Sleep scrolling. Bit late for you isn't it?

**1802:** Never too late for you. How was your night??

**Maine:** Nice, maybe, IDK.

**1802:** Why IDK?

**Maine:** I don't know how many more of these nights I really want.

Chloe reaches over in her sleep and cuddles Maine, who sighs.

**Maine:** Can I add you on Insta? I know that's not the point of this app, but I wanna know who you are?

Maine waits, tense, then her face drops.

**1802:** I don't have the usual socials. I kind of like the whole anonymous thing on this app. We can share and connect without all the looks, likes, followers. Sorry.

**Maine:** Haiku instead?

**1802:** In the winter night, warm bodies daring to dance, knowing they are free.

The phone's blue-light fills Maine's face as she smiles.

#### **INT. CLASSROOM - DAY**

Maine sleeps, leant against her hand - SHRIEK - the same banshee scream as before explodes from Maine's phone. Maine flinches, the TEACHER looks up from her desk. Maine mouths "sorry", then checks her phone under the table.

CHLOE

That's what you get for reading  
some incel's haikus every night.

MAINE

Arabella opened the gift.

Chloe, beside Maine, leans over and looks at Arabella's LIVESTREAM:

#### **INT. ARABELLA'S ROOM - DAY - LIVESTREAM**

Arabella paces in her messy room, clearly still high.

ARABELLA

Just got back from the realest  
rave, love you whoever sent this  
gift, you're a star!

Arabella clicks a button, the SCREEN goes slightly DARK and BLUE-TINTED.

ARABELLA

Dark blue? Okay, not my scene  
y'all, you gotta see these eyes.

Arabella pushes the camera into her heavily dilated eyes, when she pulls it back out there is a WOMAN stood in the doorway behind her, Arabella yelps.

The WOMAN has a slight BLUE GLOW around her and wears a TATTERED DRESS. Her face is demonically shattered open, leaving fragments of a jaw, half an eye and a mess of cartilage and bone, like a bomb has literally just exploded in her mouth - this is **THE GAZE**.

ARABELLA

Oh my God! That is legit!

Arabella waves behind her at The Gaze and then laughs, she can only see it on the phone screen.

ARABELLA

Oh my God you guys, it so got me,  
like I am literally shaking.

Arabella pans down to show her hands which are SHAKING.

Arabella pulls the camera back up to her face, The Gaze has now jumped one yard behind her; Arabella screams.

ARABELLA

Ah! My God! This is legit...  
this... this filter makes me feel  
weird.

Arabella brings the camera close to her mouth and whispers into it.

ARABELLA

It's real you guys. Like. It.  
Might. Get. Me--

The Gaze's hand suddenly phases through Arabella's face.

Arabella, frozen on the screen, The Gaze's hand protruding from her face like a broken bone.

Mouth writhing, eyes bleeding, choking, she drops to the floor.

#### **INT. CLASSROOM - DAY**

Chloe and Maine watch the livestream, not even flinching as Arabella chokes to death on the floor of her room.

CHLOE

Like. It. Might. Be. Cringe...  
fucking nice AI though, you see  
the blood detail?

SHRIEK - Maine's phone screams again, the Teacher glares.

CHLOE

You gotta put that shit on  
silent.

MAINE  
I did... it's a message from  
Arabella.

Chloe glances over, the message reads "I SEE YOU."

CHLOE  
I see you? Is that like a thanks  
for the filter?

Maine taps off the message and sees another GIFT.

MAINE  
There's another gift. 12 hours to  
send it.

CHLOE  
Oh sick, send it to me at the  
party tonight, we'll fuck with  
some people.

MAINE  
You know... I've been thinking,  
I'm not really up for the party.

CHLOE  
Come on. Mommy and Daddy aren't  
back till next week, we'll clean  
up all the sex crime victims by  
then.

Maine gives a weak smile and then looks back at her phone  
as the TIMER on the GIFT counts down: 11:58:54,3,2,1

# **INT. LUNCH-HALL - DAY**

Maine eats by herself, scrolling mindlessly, Chloe slams  
her tray down.

CHLOE  
Glitter tits is dead.

MAINE  
What?

CHLOE  
She fucking OD'd. That's why she  
hit the ground like a roofied  
freshman.

MAINE  
What!

Chloe shows Maine her phone, there is a twitter video of  
ambulances outside a suburban house.

MAINE  
Shit... shit! You don't think...  
the filter?

CHLOE  
What? Maine?

Maine shoots up, whipping her neck around the room:  
everyone is staring at their phones - they know!

A STUDENT looks up at Maine, she freaks out and flees.

**INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine fast-walks down the hallway, looking at the video of  
Arabella's livestream on her phone, Chloe catches up.

CHLOE  
What the fuck Maine?

Maine yanks Chloe into a quiet corridor.

MAINE  
What if the filter did something?

CHLOE  
She OD'd Maine, they did like  
fucking CSI tests and everything.

MAINE  
She ODs right after she opens  
that filter?

CHLOE  
She miscounted her xannies, it  
happens, opioid America bitches.

Maine shows Chloe the video, The Gaze has its hand through  
Arabella's face.

MAINE  
Its hand was through her face!

CHLOE  
Maine, it's just good AI, you've  
seen fucking deepfakes right?

MAINE  
What about the message? How did  
she send that after she OD'd?

CHLOE  
(clutching at straws)  
A glitch? Or she scheduled it or  
whatever--

MAINE

-- We have to tell someone.

CHLOE

Oh what? "Hi Mr. Long dick of the law, I accidentally hired a headless woman to kill someone through an online filter, you wanna fucking enema me with Prozac now or later?"

MAINE

She's dead Chloe.

CHLOE

And the world has lost a wonderful, beautiful, busty vlogger, but it will recover.

Maine looks around, shaking with fear and adrenaline.

CHLOE

Look, if you're that stressy, just like, delete the video--fuck--delete the whole app, put it out your mind.

Maine clicks the app and clicks UNINSTALL - PING - ERROR.

MAINE

I can't... it won't let me uninstall.

SHRIEK! - the countdown timer reads 09:00:00

MAINE

Fuck! Fuck... we have to get Del to cancel the party.

CHLOE

No! No, you're just freaking out--

MAINE

-- Then lets just stay at yours tonight, please.

CHLOE

It's my mom's drinking night and my dad'll be back from the store with cigarettes any minute now.

Maine shrinks back, even Chloe's jokes aren't getting through to her.

CHLOE

Look, here's an idea, Arabella's friends will be at the party. They'll tell you about the bad pills and you'll feel better okay?

Chloe gives Maine a quick comforting hug. Maine looks down at the COUNTDOWN - 08:59:03,2,1

CHLOE

Trust me, I'll take care of you.

#### **INT. MAINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Packed with partying teenagers, the soundscape is a cacophony of cheers, yells and off-key singing. Drinks spill, lights flash, everyone videoing on their phones.

#### **INCREDIBLY QUICK-CUT MONTAGE - CHLOE GETS DRUNK**

- Chloe dances with riotous teens and falls into a plant.
- Chloe drunkenly lobs a horrible shot in beer pong.
- Chloe jumps up on a table, Maine stops her from falling.
- Kori sits on Del's lap as Chloe violently curses at her, but it is drowned out by the music. Maine watches on with worry.
- Chloe downs the vodka straight.
- Chloe throws up in a toilet, with Maine holding her hair.

#### **INT. MAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Maine tucks Chloe into bed, she looks down at her oldest friend with a mix of regret and pity.

#### **INT. UPPER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine trudges out and looks over a balcony, anxious about the horde of partiers.

SHRIEK - The countdown on Maine's phone reads 02:00:00

Maine sidles back down the dark hallway, puts on soundproof headphones, sits on the floor and pulls up the video of Arabella's death.

As Maine loses herself in the video, a FIGURE appears further down the hallway. The strobe lights obscure the figure as it creeps towards Maine.



Closer and closer - a woman, in a dress, like The Gaze, hair erratic and wild. Maine focuses on the video, oblivious to the rest of the world.

Every strobe FLASH jumps the woman closer.

Closer.

The Woman reaches out for Maine, but stumbles.

Maine flinches, but the Woman is caught by a pair of strong hands.

Maine finally gets her bearings, she sees the woman is just OMA, her grandmother. The arms stopping Oma from falling belong to LUCAS, 18, Hispanic, zen, kind.

LUCAS  
You're gonna have to teach me  
that dance move.

Lucas steadies Oma, then sways her in a small dance spin. Oma smiles.

OMA  
(in English)  
Savior.

LUCAS  
My Dad calls me Lucas, but I'll  
take that.

Oma slaps his face gently with affection as Lucas grins.

MAINE  
Oma, are you okay?

OMA  
(back to German)  
I try to explain but my head  
fills with sand. Time. Sand. My  
focus. My attention.

MAINE  
Okay, it's okay. Let's get you  
upstairs.

#### **INT. ATTIC - MOMENTS LATER**

Lucas and Maine help Oma into the room, she shakes them off and pushes through to a shelf full of books.

OMA  
It will come, it is free and will  
not... be... stopped...

MAINE

(to Lucas)

Alzhemier's... she hasn't come  
downstairs in like two years.

Maine slowly approaches Oma, trying to calm her, Oma spins  
around and hands Maine an open book.

OMA

You can find the secrets and stop  
it before the attention is on  
you.

MAINE

(slow German)

Oma, I can't read German. Only  
speak... you sit... you read your  
book, it's okay.

Maine tries to move Oma to her chair, but Oma shoves the  
book at Maine more violently. Lucas moves over and sits in  
a chair beside Oma's easy-chair.

LUCAS

Oma, would you read to me?

Oma takes the book, sits down in her chair and reads to  
Lucas in German.

Maine takes a box of pills, and pops one in Oma's mouth,  
she reads under-her-breath, slowly losing focus until she  
is just mouthing the words and staring at her book. Once  
she is entranced, Lucas stands up.

MAINE

Thanks.

LUCAS

My mom had it... early onset, she  
was fifty... she'd still try to  
read to us, like it was a bedtime  
story... it's hard watching them  
go slowly.

The song changes, Lucas glances downstairs, Maine sits  
beside Oma.

MAINE

You can go and have fun you know,  
you don't have to like... stay up  
here with me.

LUCAS

Vibe's a bit off tonight... the  
whole thing with that girl from  
your school? Arabella?

Maine nods, trying to keep calm.

LUCAS  
Did you know her?

MAINE  
Arabella? Not really, like  
online, retweets and stuff.  
(quickly changing subject)  
Listen, really, I'm gonna stay  
here and look after Oma, please,  
you have fun, be free.

Maine cringes at herself, but Lucas smiles, squeezes Oma's hand in goodbye.

LUCAS  
(to Maine)  
Since I'm the savior, I'll save  
you a dance.

They share a smile as Lucas leaves.

#### **INT. UPPER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Lucas's smile drops as he steps into the hall. He glances to some teens further down, then slyly slips into Maine's room.

#### **INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Lucas pulls out a phone, not his, but Arabella's, there is a photo of her and her friends as the background.

Lucas swipes to Arabella's LIVESTREAM PAGE and scrolls down to the gift from "MAINEGIRL" (Maine's account). He is clearly here to find out what happened to Arabella.

Lucas paces over to Maine's desk and searches through her drawers. On top of the desk is a scribbled drawing of the rectangle symbol, Lucas notices.

Lucas takes out his own phone and snaps pictures - evidence.

#### **INT. ATTIC - LATER**

Maine stares at the countdown - 01:00:05,4,3,2,1 - SHREIK - the phone jabs her with an alert. Maine muffles it against her jumper, Oma's eyes flicker, she is asleep in her chair, the book with the symbol in her lap.

Maine opens the **ANON APP** - several messages from Maine to 1802:

**Maine:** Hey, wyd?

**Maine:** You had a good day?

**Maine:** You mad at me?

**Maine:** I'm sorry.

NO REPLY.

She scrolls up in the chat and reads a past haiku:

MAINE  
Famous prophets dare. To tell  
tales of man's envy. For sin  
never ends.

Maine sighs, then opens a Sarah Star Video.

SARAH  
(on Maine's phone)  
Hello my darling. You want people  
to like you don't you? I'll show  
you how...

The video drones in Maine's ear. Del slowly creeps up behind her. He moves his face closer and closer to hers till he is right over her shoulder - she yelps in fright - this is clearly something he's been doing to her all their lives.

MAINE  
(sarcastic)  
Thank you for that.

DEL  
Would you care for a minor  
psychedelic?

MAINE  
What do you think?

DEL  
Chloe drunk again?

MAINE  
She's fine and I'm fine, so just  
let me be fine on my own.

Del steps further into the room, ignoring Maine's request.

DEL  
I like this room. CRT TV, old  
school, no internet, no wifi, no  
vibes. Feels like the rest of the  
house is corrupted. Old house  
desecrated by new technology.

MAINE

You know sometimes people don't  
say everything they're thinking?

Del shrugs and smokes a joint.

DEL

Lucas's been asking about you.  
You've had quite the effect.

MAINE

You know him well?

DEL

Most interesting Teetotaller I've  
ever met.

MAINE

He's sober?

DEL

Does that work for you?

Maine flushes red, embarrassed.

MAINE

What? No-- I don't need him to  
"work for me"-- Anyway! What  
about you and tits-for-followers?

DEL

Chloe's nickname for Kori?

MAINE

Listen, how is she? Like, has she  
said anything about Arabella? I  
know they were friends...

DEL

You could ask her yourself? You  
have more in common than you  
think.

Maine considers, nervous, but knows what she has to do,  
she gets out of the chair.

#### **INT. KITCHEN - LATER**

A group of teens play "never have I ever" around a table:  
Del, Kori, Jake, Floyd, Maine, Lucas. Kori livestreams.

KORI

Never have I ever smoked a bong.

Del scoffs, Kori sits back on his lap and shoots him a  
cute glare. Others drink, Maine doesn't. Lucas sips a  
glass of water, his eyes never leave Maine, suspicious.

JAKE  
Never have I ever jerked off at  
school... Floyd.

Floyd drinks.

FLOYD  
What? I'm proud to love myself.

KORI  
Maine, your go.

MAINE  
Uhh, never have I ever...  
given... a blowjob...

The others look at her.

MAINE  
To, like, a dog...

Floyd bursts out laughing, Kori looks quizzical.

KORI  
Okay, like, if you know someone  
here has actually done that, it's  
genius, if not, then you just  
like absolutely trolled yourself.  
Down it.

Maine stutteringly downs her drink as Kori videos.

FLOYD  
Okay, never have I ever gone down  
on a dead girl... Jake! I've seen  
Bella's snapchat!

JAKE  
Oh fuck you Floyd!

Floyd giggles as Jake gets up to confront him. Lucas  
glares, enraged, but trying to keep calm.

FLOYD  
It's a joke, it's a fucking joke!

Jake grabs Floyd, they grapple childishly.

JAKE  
She fucking OD'd you little  
bitch!

FLOYD  
That wasn't no OD, I know a  
fucking OD!

Maine looks up in alarm as Jake chases Floyd.

MAINE

What do you mean? Floyd?

JAKE

Say you're fucking sorry!

Floyd staggers into the raging crowd, Maine hurries after him, Lucas watches with venom.

**EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT**

Maine rushes out - SHRIEK - she checks her phone, 30 minutes left on the countdown.

MAINE

Floyd?

FLOYD (O.S.)

He hit me in the fucking balls.

Maine rounds a corner to see Floyd holding his crotch.

MAINE

What was that you said about Arabella not being an OD?

FLOYD

My Dad's a nurse, that shit just didn't look right...

Maine pauses, considering her next move, she takes a breath, determined.

MAINE

I think, maybe... maybe that filter she was using on her stream had something to do with it. You know about coding and AI right? Maybe it caused epilepsy or triggered something?

FLOYD

Maybe man... I'd have to see how the filter works.

MAINE

I have it. Someone sent me a link. I can forward it as a gift.

Maine shows Floyd her phone with the *gift*.

MAINE

But we need to be careful with it, if anyone--

LUCAS (O.S.)  
-- Hey, you guys alright?

Maine shuts up as Lucas wanders outside to Maine and Floyd, who slyly taps on Maine's phone. Lucas sees he's stumbled onto something.

LUCAS  
What were you guys talking about?

MAINE  
Nothing, just... nursing Floyd's balls.

LUCAS  
Right, well, I gotta talk to you, if you've got a sec?

Maine tries to act casual.

MAINE  
Okay. Yeah, cool... Floyd, stay here. I'll be one sec.

Maine grabs her phone off Floyd and walks inside with Lucas. Floyd yanks out his own phone with a grin.

**INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Lucas ushers Maine into a quiet room, there is a dude passed out in the corner.

LUCAS  
This could just be classic jock-eat-jock bullshit, but I heard some dude saying Arabella sent you a text from her phone... *after* she died.

Maine freezes in panic, but tries to remain calm.

MAINE  
Who, uhm... yeah, I don't know about that, so like, who was saying it?

LUCAS  
Na, I just heard it in the crowd, something about a livestream gift?

MAINE  
Right, thanks.

There is an awkward pause as Lucas expects more.



LUCAS  
I mean... did she? Just, I  
figure, with that rumor going  
round that it weren't an OD,  
lotta people gonna be saying  
shit--

SHRIEK - Maine's phone screams.

MAINE  
Shit!

Maine pulls out her phone and sees Floyd on LIVESTREAM,  
the filter is on and The Gaze is stood way behind him in  
the garden.

MAINE  
Floyd!

Maine sprints out leaving Lucas bewildered.

**EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine catches Floyd as he videos.

MAINE  
Floyd! Stop streaming--

Maine gasps she can see The Gaze, stood in the garden, in  
reality.

MAINE  
What the fuck?

FLOYD  
Bro this filter is so sick, for  
real I don't know how they got it  
so crisp.

MAINE  
Floyd, turn around, you can see  
that right?

FLOYD  
(looking at the phone)  
Yeah, I see it, it's dope!

MAINE  
Not the filter! Turn around! It's  
there!

Floyd glances back, there is nothing in the garden from  
his POV - only Maine can see The Gaze in reality, everyone  
else needs the screen.

FLOYD  
Maine, you tripping.

Lucas rushes out.

MAINE  
Tell me you can see that!

Maine points to The Gaze, Lucas squints at the garden.

LUCAS  
See what?

MAINE  
Fuck!

Maine holds up her phone, it shows the livestream of The Gaze.

LUCAS  
Man, that thing was on Bella's  
stream!

Floyd peers at his phone, currently both him and The Gaze are on the screen, like a selfie.

FLOYD  
Yo, why ain't it moving though?  
Is that like a glitch?

Floyd shakes his phone left and right.

MAINE  
Floyd, turn it off!

The Gaze leaves the frame completely, but when it next comes into frame, it has jumped one step closer. Floyd flinches.

FLOYD  
Shit! probably not coded to move  
man, like a jump-scare bot,  
still...

Maine approaches him, hands up, like calming a wild animal.

MAINE  
Floyd. Just turn it off,  
please...

FLOYD  
(trance-like)  
Man, look at these viewers bro...

LUCAS  
Maine, what's happening?

Maine sees a bunch of PARTIERS are at the windows of the conservatory, staring out at Floyd.

FLOYD  
They love me.

Floyd flicks the camera. The Gaze is right over his shoulder now, perfectly still.

MAINE  
Floyd, for fuck's sake! Stop letting it move.

FLOYD  
3K viewers, they... see me.

The PARTIERS are in all the windows of the house, staring at Floyd, trance-like.

FLOYD  
They wanna see it move.

MAINE  
Floyd, what are you doing?

Floyd's eyes - hypnotised.

FLOYD  
They wanna see...

Floyd holds the camera up to his face, obscuring The Gaze.

MAINE  
No!

Too late - from Maine's POV, The Gaze pushes its face through Floyd's.

Their two faces imposed on one another, a grotesque horror mask.

Maine stares, terrified.

Floyd coughs - blood. Just a little, then more and more! He chokes.

He drops to the floor, still grasping the phone, which videos his corpse.

MAINE  
Floyd!

Maine rushes to Floyd and turns him over, he bleeds from the eyes just like Arabella.

LUCAS  
What the fuck?

Maine glances up at The Gaze, terrified. Lucas quickly grabs a POTTED PLANT and throws it where The Gaze stood--

SMASH - the pot shatters, dirt spills everywhere, but from Lucas's POV, it looks like the pot has smashed on thin air.

The Gaze turns its head with a creak to stare at Maine.

Maine blinks, and suddenly The Gaze is gone.

LUCAS  
(to the inside)  
Help! Yo, we need help!

Teenagers stagger out, no longer in a trance - the music still blares, but Maine's phone SHRIEKS - a new countdown: 11:59:58,7,6...

FADE OUT

#### INT. MAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Police lights flash outside. Maine hands Chloe her phone. Chloe takes her hand.

MAINE  
Just make sure Oma is okay, and keep this safe, I'm gonna tell them what happened.

CHLOE  
They won't believe you... I barely--

MAINE  
-- I have to try.

Maine pulls away from Chloe and leaves the room.

#### INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Maine sits on one side of a table, TWO POLICE OFFICERS sit on the other.

MAINE  
(mid-conversation)  
Look, I know how this sounds okay? But it's real. You can see it in both the videos. Arabella and Floyd, that can't be a coincidence right? The filter... that's what killed them.

The Officers look at each other.

OFFICER 1  
Ms. Arkwright, have you taken any  
drugs tonight?

Maine's face drops.

**INT. POLICE CELL - NIGHT**

**CCTV MONTAGE:** - A cell door is slammed, Maine is stuck inside.

- Maine bangs on the door.
- She shouts at the CCTV.
- She paces.
- She sits on the bed, curled up and finally falls asleep.

**INT. POLICE RECEPTION - DAY**

Del sits impatiently in the police reception, Chloe presses her face against the reception glass, OFFICER 3 sits behind it.

CHLOE  
You can't keep her in there.

OFFICER 3  
She was intoxicated, underage  
with no adult supervision.

DEL  
Man--

OFFICER 3  
-- No competent adult  
supervision.

CHLOE  
Floyd wasn't even doing drugs, it  
can't have been an OD--

OFFICER 3  
-- Whatever little challenge it  
was, I'm not buying it.

CHLOE  
Challenge?

OFFICER 3  
I pulled a kid out a car last  
March, driving on the free-way,  
(MORE)

OFFICER 3 (cont'd)  
no headlight challenge. I've seen  
broken limbs, stomach pumps, and  
now whatever this little ghost  
thing is...

Officer 3 turns around a monitor, it shows a video of A  
TEENAGER in a bedroom, the sound is muted but it has the  
same dull blue color as The Gaze filter. The video is  
blurry and pixelated, but The Gaze walks into the room.

CHLOE  
Del!

Del hurries to the counter and watches the video:

The Gaze walks up behind the Teen and then grabs him.

The Teen coughs up blood and falls to the floor.

The Gaze suddenly stops, pulls off a mask, revealing a  
NORMAL TEENAGE BOY. The boy falls to his knees as the  
other teen coughs and chokes on the fake blood, shaking  
violently - it was all faked.

OFFICER 3  
The kid had an allergic reaction  
to the blood capsules he was  
using for the prank.

CHLOE  
This isn't a fucking prank! You  
bastard!

OFFICER 3  
Yeah, well, all cops are bastards  
right? Go post about it.

Officer 3 sits back down. Chloe grunts, frustrated. She  
pulls out Maine's phone, the countdown is at 00:05:44,3,2

#### **INT. POLICE CELL - DAY**

Maine sleeps in bed - SHRIEK - the phone from reception  
wakes her.

#### **INT. POLICE RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER**

Chloe looks at herself on Maine's phone, a livestream has  
opened with the dull blue filter.

DEL  
What happened?

CHLOE  
Nothing! The countdown ended.

Chloe moves the phone about, suddenly, behind Chloe - The Gaze is in frame.

CHLOE  
Del! It's here!

Del tries to look at the screen, but as he does, he blocks the view of The Gaze, when he turns back, it is gone.

DEL  
Where'd it go?

Chloe moves the phone around the reception area, eventually she catches a glimpse of The Gaze as it slips past the reception and down a hallway.

CHLOE  
It's going for Maine!

**INT. POLICE CELL - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine bangs on the cell door.

MAINE  
Hello!

OFFICER 2 (O.S.)  
(other side of the door)  
Step back from the door.

MAINE  
Did you hear that scream?

The hatch in the door opens, revealing Officer 2.

OFFICER 2  
Step back.

Maine takes a step back, now she can see through the hatch: The Gaze is stood behind Officer 2.

Maine flinches back. Officer 2 unlocks the door.

MAINE  
No! Wait! Don't open it!

Officer 2 opens the door and steps in, The Gaze lingers behind him. Maine stares in horror, Officer 2 notices and turns, nothing is there from his POV.

OFFICER 2  
What are you seeing?

MAINE  
Nothing, I'm fine, just shut  
the--

The Gaze steps into the room, this is the first time we've  
seen The Gaze move. Maine flinches back.

OFFICER 2  
Are you feeling okay?

Maine sprints for the open door, but Officer 2 grabs her.

OFFICER 2  
Hey! Woah! Easy!

MAINE  
Let me go!

OFFICER 2  
Eat your food. Eat it, then we'll  
talk.

Officer 2 forces Maine back onto the bed.

OFFICER 2  
Relax! You're... You're... really  
pretty.

The Officer's eyes are trance-like, The Gaze hovers over  
his shoulder as he stares down at Maine.

MAINE  
What?

Officer 2 shakes his head, as if fighting himself.

OFFICER 2  
Sorry, I didn't mean... I'm  
sorry...

He fights himself as he hurries out, slamming the door.

MAINE  
No! Wait!

# **INT. POLICE RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine can be seen on the CCTV, alone, crawling up against  
the back wall. Chloe bangs on the reception glass.

OFFICER 3  
Your friend is fine, she's in  
shock, now sit down!



CHLOE  
Maine! Maine!!

**INT. POLICE CELL - CONTINUOUS**

Maine's head jerks towards the hallway.

MAINE  
Chloe!

The Gaze steps forward.

**INT. POLICE RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS**

CHLOE  
See! She's screaming! Get her out!

OFFICER 3  
Sit down or you're arrested.

Chloe looks at the CCTV, then puts her wrists together.

CHLOE  
Fine fine! Fucking arrest me you cuck. Hurry up!

OFFICER 3  
I'm not wasting time with--

Officer 3 glances at the CCTV of Maine, he stops mid-sentence, as if hit by a spell, then slowly reaches out and picks up a police RADIO.

OFFICER 3  
(trance-like)  
Someone check on the girl in 4.  
You need to see her.

**INT. POLICE CELL - CONTINUOUS**

The Gaze steps closer.

MAINE  
Please, I didn't mean to hurt anyone, I just thought it was... a gift?

The Gaze forces Maine right into a corner and then looks down, the half-jaw of its shattered face almost smiles.

MAINE  
The gift...  
(screaming)  
The gift! Chloe! Send the gift!

**INT. POLICE RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS**

Chloe quickly taps Maine's phone, but Officer 3 snaps out of his trance and grabs at the phone.

OFFICER 3  
Hey, you can't film in here!

CHLOE  
Get off!

Chloe yanks the phone back.

**INT. POLICE CELL - CONTINUOUS**

The Gaze reaches out, closer and closer, an inch from Maine's face.

MAINE  
Chloe! Send it!

The Gaze's half-eye, open wide.

Maine shuts her eyes, about to die... then... she opens them. She is alone in the cell, The Gaze is gone.

Officer 1 hastily opens the door to find Maine shaking in the corner.

**INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY**

Maine sits across from the officers, "confessing". They're buying her story.

MAINE  
I drank too much and I think maybe I took something and I was scared that Floyd had... overdosed... doing some... challenge. I made up the story about the filter. I'm sorry, I know I shouldn't have.

**EXT. CRAYTON STREET - MOMENTS LATER**

Chloe, Del and Kori wait outside as Maine walks out. Chloe rushes up and hugs her desperately.

CHLOE  
Are you okay?

MAINE  
Who did you send it to?

CHLOE  
I saw it Maine, it was there--

MAINE  
-- Who did you send it to Chloe?

CHLOE  
I just picked the first name I  
saw. Tammy Ackerman.

Maine grabs her phone off Chloe and clicks Tammy's name to  
call her - the phone rings out.

MAINE  
No answer... We have to stop her  
opening the gift.

KORI  
Woah, woah! Maine. Just calm  
down, Chloe told us about this  
filter thing--

CHLOE  
-- I told Del, I don't know why  
the fuck you're here.

MAINE  
You saw it Kori?

KORI  
Maine, you're in shock, it was  
just a filter--

MAINE  
-- It's real--

CLUNK - the slam of a CAR DOOR. They all turn to see Lucas  
approaching from across the street.

MAINE  
Is that... Lucas?

DEL  
He's been waiting all night.

Lucas strides up, the others try to look nonchalant.

MAINE  
Lucas, what are you--

LUCAS  
-- I know what I saw.

The others all pause, tense.

LUCAS  
I'm not leaving till you explain.

Maine sees Lucas's car and makes a decision.

MAINE  
I'll explain, if you drive.

Maine strides towards it, Lucas turns, confused.

**INT/EXT. LUCAS'S CAR/ROADS - DAY**

Lucas drives, Maine sits beside him, Del, Kori and Chloe in the back.

LUCAS  
Man, just run it through one more time.

MAINE  
I send the gift, whoever opens it, the woman appears and kills them.

CHLOE  
Or if the countdown ends, she comes for Maine.

MAINE  
She appears on livestream, but then she can't get through doors or walls--

CHLOE  
-- But if you move your phone, she can reappear wherever you move your phone to.

LUCAS  
And we can only see her through the filter?

MAINE  
But I can see her in real life.

DEL  
Makes sense.

They shoot Del a glance, Kori rolls her eyes.

KORI  
Guys, if this is like a prank or some shit, cool, they do major views, but--

SHRIEK - Maine fumbles out her phone.

MAINE

Tammy opened it.

Maine holds up her phone, it shows a PASTOR preaching in a church. The camera is held from behind him, by a member of the choir. Way in the background, is The Gaze.

KORI

She's in the choir, her Dad's a pastor somewhere, uhm... St. Matthews?

CHLOE

No! St. Mary's. I saw one of her fucking "Jesus be with you" Insta posts.

Chloe looks at Tammy's stream, The Gaze strides down the aisle.

Maine Googles St. Marys.

MAINE

Okay, next left. 2 blocks!

LUCAS

What are you gonna do?

MAINE

Shut off the phone, stop it touching her? Whatever we can.

Lucas looks at Maine with genuine admiration - *she does want to stop this.*

CHLOE

And if that thing turns on us?

MAINE

Let it fucking try.

Lucas nods agreement, they're on the same wavelength. Chloe glares, jealous, as he slams a left and the car barrels round a corner.

# **EXT. CHURCH - DAY**

SCREECH - Lucas's tires halt outside a church. Maine rushes out.

PASTOR (V.O.)

We are God's children, and like any children, we stray, we lose ourselves to vanity, and all of life's little vices.

**INT. CHURCH - DAY**

Maine bursts through the doors, the congregation turn.

MAINE

Tammy! Shut off the stream!

**Maine's phone:** The Gaze is at the alter.

Maine looks up, but can't see The Gaze.

**Maine's phone:** TAMMY, 18, smiling, turns the camera to her face.

TAMMY

The lord has touched me, I feel  
him in my heart.

**Maine's phone:** Tammy stands up in the middle of the choir and spreads her arms wide, almost grateful.

MAINE

Tammy!

Maine sprints down the aisle, towards the choir, but still can't see Tammy.

PASTOR (V.O.)

There is always a path back to  
the Lord.

Maine pushes through the choir, trying to find her.

MAINE

Tammy! Tammy!

Lucas and Chloe crash through the door, looking around desperately.

Maine backs away from the shocked choir, she looks around, everyone is looking at her with worry.

MAINE

I can't see it, I can't find her!

PASTOR (V.O.)

No soul is truly lost.

CHLOE

Maine! The stream, the pastor!

Maine looks at the pastor in this church - it's a WOMAN.

**Maine's phone:** The Pastor is a MAN, the entire congregation is stood up and watching as Tammy holds the phone up to herself, The Gaze right behind her.

MAINE  
Wrong church.

TAMMY  
They see me.

**Maine's Phone:** Tammy giggles and spins around in joy, whirling and whirling, The Gaze getting closer and closer.

**Maine's phone:** Suddenly the phone clatters to the floor, there is an angled view of the congregation reacting in shock as Tammy's shaking, body falls in front of the camera.

**Maine's phone:** Blood pours from her eyes as she convulses.

Maine closes her eyes, harrowed.

At the entrance to the church, Kori stares at her own phone, horrified.

KORI  
It's real.

#### INT. MAINE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chloe angrily flicks through TV channels, Kori is on the phone, Del meditates.

Maine sits at a table, worried, alone. Lucas watches her, conflicted, he takes Arabella's phone out of his pocket. He stares for a moment, then makes his choice, pockets the phone and goes over to Maine.

LUCAS  
You okay?

MAINE  
I don't know how to stop it...

LUCAS  
We'll figure it out.

Maine glances up at Lucas, grateful, but Chloe interrupts the moment with an angry yell. A TV shows a NEWS CHANNEL with the headline "OVERDOSE CHALLENGE".

CHLOE  
The fucking overdose challenge?  
MSM dickheads.

Kori hangs up her phone, frustrated.

KORI  
No one believes me. The Channel 5 reporter called me an attention seeking bitch.

CHLOE  
How did she know?

Kori shoots Chloe a look. SHRIEK - Maine checks her phone.

MAINE  
10 hours.

KORI  
We could dump the phone, or like,  
mail it to China?

LUCAS  
We gotta take it somewhere  
public, lots of witnesses--

MAINE  
-- No. No. You saw how people  
reacted to Floyd, they all knew,  
they were drawn in by it... We  
don't know what it's capable of,  
so we keep it contained, in here.

CHLOE  
We could still use it?

MAINE  
What?

Chloe shows a Facebook page on her phone, with a picture  
of a man making a white power symbol.

CHLOE  
This guy has one of those "white  
is right" pages, he's neo-nazi,  
modern KKK, and he's got his  
fucking livestream link right  
there.

MAINE  
You want us to murder someone?

CHLOE  
He's evil. Like, actually evil,  
this is like finding Hitler's  
twitter account. Just watch one  
of his videos.

Maine types on her phone.

MAINE  
I can't add anyone new.

CHLOE  
Fuck...

They pause, thinking.



LUCAS  
What if we destroy the phone?

They all look at each other, intrigued.

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

Maine places her phone on a kitchen island, steps back and lifts a HAMMER above her head. She stares down at the phone, her eyes glazing over.

CHLOE  
Well?

MAINE  
Well what?

CHLOE  
Hit it.

MAINE  
Hit what?

Chloe glances at the others, worried.

CHLOE  
The phone Maine, hit the phone...

Maine's eyes flicker, like she's just woke up.

MAINE  
Right, yeah, of course.

Maine raises the hammer again, but can't bring it down, she just stares, trance-like.

CHLOE  
Maine, why aren't you hitting the phone?

MAINE  
Why would I hit the phone?

Del steps forward.

DEL  
Do you remember our conversation just now? The plan...

MAINE  
Yeah, of course, I...

Maine stops, she can't remember. Chloe grabs the hammer.

CHLOE

Fuck this.

Chloe raises the hammer, but on the down-swing her hand goes limp and she drops it. She pauses, then glances around, worried.

CHLOE

What the fuck are you looking at?

KORI

It won't let us.

MAINE

You know what you want to do, but you just lose focus.

Lucas picks up the hammer, closes his eyes and breathes.

LUCAS

(to himself)

Break the phone, break the phone,  
break the phone!

Lucas swings the hammer down - SMASH - Lucas lets go of the hammer, almost falling to the floor.

Maine rushes to his side and helps him up, they look at the kitchen island - the phone is in tact, the hammer hit just beside it, cracking the island top.

KORI

What now?

LUCAS

Keep our heads you know? This don't work, there'll be another way... It comes out the camera right? Maybe we can block that--

MAINE

-- Tape it up, put it in a drawer?

CHLOE

Bury the fucking thing!

The others all nod. Maine checks the phone.

MAINE

8 hours, we bury it.

**INT. DEL'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Del and Kori lie in bed, he strokes her hair, she looks at her phone.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Maine lies in bed, scrolling through Sarah Star videos.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Lucas sits in the kitchen, on his phone, scrolling through his camera roll - pictures of Lucas and Arabella kissing, cuddling, smiling together - a couple.

Lucas stares at a bottle of whiskey in front of him, tempted, but trying to resist. Chloe saunters in, Lucas flinches and pockets his phone.

CHLOE

Just fucking chilling in the dark?

LUCAS

Nothing more peaceful than a 2am kitchen.

Chloe grabs two glasses.

LUCAS

No thanks, I don't drink.

Chloe pours both anyway, she slides one to him and sits down - like a detective ready to grill a suspect.

CHLOE

So, just, remind me how you know Del?

LUCAS

Played some league with him, before he quit technology.

CHLOE

You ever met Maine before? Or Kori?

LUCAS

Na, but I like meeting new people.

Chloe gulps the whiskey.

CHLOE

You know she's only here because  
it'll make a good Insta story.

LUCAS

Nah, man, I see her, she cares.

CHLOE

(smirking)

Do you recognize me? From her  
video. The viral one, went round  
the local schools?

Lucas squints, trying to keep the mood light.

LUCAS

No. But my night vision's pretty  
bad.

CHLOE

13... I was 13 years old, she  
invites me round. Pours vodka  
down my neck, then her and her  
gaggle of bitches film me puking,  
pissing myself, put it up on  
liveleak. Next morning I'm "piss  
girl".

LUCAS

I'm sorry.

CHLOE

Don't be. I've got middle-eastern  
men in my DMs offering me a  
hundred bucks for an ounce of  
urine.... but seriously, that's  
who Kori really is.

LUCAS

Did you get it taken down?

CHLOE

(sarcastic)

Oh yeah, I just took down the  
entire internet, wasn't hard.

LUCAS

You know, I get it. One instant  
changing your life.

CHLOE

If you say so.

LUCAS

Del tell you I'm sober?... My mom  
had early-onset Alzheimer's. When  
it was bad, I used to lift a

(MORE)

LUCAS (cont'd)  
bottle and get out the house,  
hiding - parking lots, strip  
malls... one night I came home,  
my mom was in the bath, fully  
clothed, wrists cut...

Chloe looks up at Lucas, sizing him up.

LUCAS  
I got her to the hospital in  
time. But she never told me what  
happened. Did she do it herself?  
Was it Dad? Did they decide  
together?... I never drank after  
that... if I'd been there... if  
I'd been able to handle it--

Chloe suddenly scoffs, shaking her head with laughter.

LUCAS  
What?

CHLOE  
Is that the line you're gonna try  
on Maine?

The whole tension is broken, Lucas is aghast, Chloe thinks  
she has him figured out.

LUCAS  
What?

CHLOE  
I've seen you looking at her.

LUCAS  
That's not-- you don't  
understand--

CHLOE  
-- You fucking guys, "oh, I'm too  
damaged, I'll never love anyone,  
except maybe... you?" Give me a  
break.

LUCAS  
It's not a line-- That's the  
truth.

Chloe stands up.

CHLOE  
If you wanna stop this thing,  
fine, but don't fuck with Maine.  
She's been through enough.

Chloe strides out, leaving Lucas broken.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - DREAM**

A BABY lies on the floor, crying softly, surrounded by candles. Painted beneath the baby is the rectangle symbol.

A WOMAN stalks into the darkness of the room, the candles flicker, we can't see her face. She reads from the antique book.

WOMAN

(German)

Der Geist der Aufmerksamkeit will  
take your soul.

The woman cuts her hand with a knife, the blood drips on the baby's head, she wails softly.

WOMAN

(German)

Hold the attention of the world.

The woman brings the knife down, closer and closer to the baby, but--

**INT. ATTIC - NIGHT**

Maine is jolted awake by Oma, it was just a dream. Oma pushes the same antique book as in the dream into Maine's hands.

MAINE

(German)

Oma, I told you, I can't read,  
only speak.

Oma pushes the book again, Maine looks down at it, there are medieval drawings on the page: a ghost in a mirror.

Maine looks curiously, but-- SHRIEK - her phone distracts her.

Maine quickly gets her phone out, a notification from the LIVESTREAM app - I SEE YOU - the countdown is 00:00:10. Maine stares at the phone, Oma tries to push it out of her hand.

OMA

(English)

Stardust... my Stardust.  
Distracts. The world is filled, I  
feel... her gaze.

MAINE

Oma... you're speaking--

CHLOE

-- Maine.

Chloe rushes in, breaking the moment. Oma flinches dropping the book, almost scared of Chloe.

CHLOE

We need to get rid of them.

MAINE

What?

CHLOE

The others are gonna fuck this up. Kori's in it for views, Del's high as fuck, and Lucas has got some fucking game I can't figure out. We can handle it ourselves.

MAINE

Chloe. Calm down. Did something happen?

OMA

Her mind. Corrupt.

Maine glances at Oma, confused, but Chloe takes Maine's hand.

CHLOE

Maine, we can do this together.  
Just us.

Maine looks into Chloe's eyes, desperately afraid of letting down her friend, but knowing she needs to.

MAINE

Chloe... it can't always be just  
us--

SHRIEK - Maine flinches and checks her phone, the countdown is at 00:00:09.

MAINE

Nine minutes. Come on, we have to  
get ready.

Maine turns to Oma and helps her into her chair.

MAINE

(weak German)

Oma, you need to stay here...  
I've got some *friends* over.  
You'll be okay... take your  
pills, please...

Maine finds Oma's pill box and takes out one, she slowly puts it in Oma's mouth, then leaves with Chloe. Oma twitches, as if fighting her own mind, then spits out the pill.

OMA  
No... I will... I will show...  
show my Stardust.

Oma, determined, grabs the antique book and opens it: an old drawing of a coffin being buried in the dirt with a woman trapped inside.

**EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT**

Drizzling rain, our five heroes stand outside a conservatory. 20 yards away, there is a mound of dirt where the phone has been buried. Chloe checks her phone.

CHLOE  
Twenty seconds.

KORI  
What if this doesn't work?

LUCAS  
Man, it will, we got this.

SHRIEK - Maine winces.

MAINE  
Ah.

CHLOE  
What?

MAINE  
You didn't hear that?

Chloe and Lucas shake their heads.

MAINE  
It's like echoing...

Maine looks at the mound nervously. Kori's eyes go wide and glazed.

CHLOE  
Do you see it?

MAINE  
No, but I can feel it... pulling  
me.



CHLOE

What do you mean feel it?

MAINE

Like when you feel someone  
watching you... you just know  
their eyes are on you...

Kori suddenly sprints for the mound.

DEL

Kori!

CHLOE

What the fuck?

Maine goes to run after, but Chloe grabs her.

CHLOE

Leave the bitch!

Kori drops to her knees and digs at the mound, the rain  
lashes down.

LUCAS

Man, what's it doing to her!

Maine sprints into the garden after Kori.

MAINE

Kori stop!

Maine reaches Kori, the wind howls a gale.

MAINE

Kori! Can you hear me?

Kori just digs furiously. Maine approaches cautiously.

MAINE

It's okay. It's Maine, we're  
gonna go inside... just stop...  
just... just...

Maine takes one step across an invisible line, then drops  
to her knees beside Kori and scrambles through the dirt.

LUCAS

Maine!

Lucas rushes to help her, but Del holds him back.

DEL

Too late.

Maine yanks the phone out of the dirt, but Kori grabs it  
off her, they grapple and fight as the rain pours.

KORI

It's mine!

Kori claws at Maine, Del and Lucas rush up and separate them.

LUCAS

Get her inside!

Del pulls Kori back as Maine shakes off Lucas and grabs the phone for herself.

LUCAS

Maine don't!

Maine suddenly freezes, knelt in the dirt, holding the phone.

MAINE

It's here.

**Maine's Phone:** selfie style, the dull-blue filter is on the phone, the livestream is on, The Gaze is in the garden behind Maine, frozen in the phone frame.

Lucas is right beside The Gaze, but doesn't even realize it, The Gaze blocks their path back to the conservatory.

MAINE

It's not moving... it's stuck!

CHLOE

(realizing)

That happened with Arabella... and Floyd.

MAINE

It can't move if it's on screen with whoever opened it.

Maine gets to her feet, holding the phone steady, her and The Gaze are in frame at all times.

LUCAS

Okay... Plan B? Keep it in frame, get inside. It can't move through doors--

MAINE

-- I'm gonna start walking, the rest of you, get inside! If I die, you've got to find a way to stop it. Okay!

The others back into the conservatory. Maine looks into her phone, The Gaze is over her shoulder, stood there, watching. Maine paces back.

Step by step.

MAINE

Okay... okay...

**Maine's phone:** The Gaze is closer and closer as Maine steps back - it's right over her shoulder.

Maine keeps The Gaze in frame as she slowly rotates around her, almost a dance.

**Maine's phone:** The Gaze is facing away from the phone and Maine can walk towards the conservatory.

MAINE

I've got it!

Maine hurries towards the conservatory, keeping herself and The Gaze in frame, but the further she gets, the dimmer The Gaze seems in the dark of the night.

MAINE

I can't see. It's gonna move!

LUCAS

Just run! Get in and get it in frame!

#### INT. CONSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

Maine sprints, crashes through the door, Lucas slams it shut. Maine pulls the phone up.

MAINE

Fuck!

**Maine's phone:** She stands in the conservatory, The Gaze is right outside the door, face pressed against the glass - both trapped in the frame.

LUCAS

Don't move.

MAINE

Kori! You okay?

Del holds Kori in his arms at the back of the room.

KORI

Maine... I can't take my eyes off you.

POP - Suddenly, the lights in the house snap off - The Gaze disappears in the darkness.

CHLOE

Shit!

MAINE

It's okay, it's trying to scare us, make us move the phone.

SHRIEK, SHRIEK, SHRIEK - a cacophony of shrieks from inside the house.

LUCAS

What the hell was that?

Lucas paces through the dim conservatory and peers through a set of double doors into the kitchen.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

The TV is on, it lights the whole room with a VIEW of EIGHT SECURITY CAMERAS: bedrooms, living room, dining room, porch, back garden, and finally a black section of the screen.

LUCAS

The cameras. Maine! The CCTV's on the TV.

**INT. CONSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS**

Maine paces back, getting as close to the outside as she can, but The Gaze isn't there.

MAINE

It's gone!

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

On the TV, The Gaze appears in a bedroom.

LUCAS

Man, it's in the bedroom!

Chloe rushes through and looks at the TV, The Gaze disappears.

CHLOE

No it's gone.

Maine and Del rush in and look at the TV. Kori lingers behind.

MAINE

What the fuck's going on?

The Gaze appears in the dining room.

CHLOE  
Dining room!

The Gaze disappears again. They all desperately scan the screen.

LUCAS  
Shit! It's...

Lucas looks around and sees a CCTV camera in the corner of the kitchen!

LUCAS  
Maine! The doors!

Maine instantly pulls the phone up, selfie style, capturing herself in frame with The Gaze, who stands in the double doors separating the kitchen and the conservatory.

MAINE  
We can't run from it...

KORI  
Maine, let it see you. You're so pretty.

Kori paces towards Maine, but Chloe grabs her.

CHLOE  
Stay the fuck away from her!

Chloe shoves Kori into another room and slams the door shut. Del is too busy staring at The Gaze to notice.

DEL  
It's really here.

MAINE  
It's got too many tricks.  
Whatever we do, it'll find a way.

Del walks towards The Gaze, from his POV there is nothing there, he reaches out his hand but can't quite touch anything, like an invisible forcefield. The Gaze *is physically there*, but only Maine can see it without the filter.

MAINE  
Del?

Del looks into the air, entranced.

DEL  
(to The Gaze)  
Is it peaceful?

MAINE

Del, what are you doing?

LUCAS

Maine... do you know, what you look like?

Lucas stares at her, his eyes hypnotised.

CHLOE

It's me and you... right Maine?

Maine looks at Chloe, who also stares. All Maine's friends slowly approach her, step by step.

MAINE

Guys, stop... Stop!

DEL

(to The Gaze)

What do you want?

The Gaze smiles at Del.

Kori suddenly strides back in holding a COLT HANDGUN.

MAINE

Kori? Kori don't!

BANG BANG BANG - everyone flinches at the noise. GLASS WINDOWS shatter from the bullets.

Everyone snaps out of the trance, Lucas rushes between Maine and The Gaze, shielding her, but knocking the phone out of her hand, it skitters across the floor.

MAINE

The phone!

Maine scrambles across the floor, but The Gaze teleports around Lucas, appearing between Maine and the phone.

Maine screams and scrambles back as The Gaze glides towards her, Kori trains the gun - BANG, BANG - The Gaze keeps coming.

The Gaze lunges. Chloe dives for the phone.

Maine scrambles back, The Gaze's hand outstretched - it disappears. Maine stops, terrified.

MAINE

What?

The Gaze is gone. Maine looks up, wide-eyed, Chloe stands with Maine's phone in her hand, breathing heavy.

MAINE  
What did you do?

CHLOE  
I had to send it... I'm sorry.

MAINE  
Who?

CHLOE  
I just clicked as fast as I  
could.

Chloe looks up at Kori with regret, Kori's phone SHRIEKS  
in her pocket. Her face drops.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER**

Our heroes sit around, with the lights on, exhausted.

MAINE  
When it was stood there, stuck on  
the screen, there was something  
about it that was so... familiar.

KORI  
I remember digging up the phone,  
but it's like it wasn't really  
me, like I was in a dream. Then  
you pushed me out and I snapped  
out of it.

MAINE  
You all said... strange things.

They all look at each other, worried.

DEL  
It *wants* something. When I asked  
it a question, it understood--

CHLOE  
-- Don't start with your  
psychedelic bullshit.

DEL  
It smiled at me... if we can keep  
it stable, we might be able to  
find out what it wants.

MAINE  
Our first priority is making sure  
Kori is safe.

KORI

Lock me up.

MAINE

What?

KORI

Somewhere it can't get in. No cameras, no light even--

CHLOE

-- Could bury her--

MAINE

-- Kori, you don't have to--

KORI

-- This buys us some time... and maybe... maybe we can communicate with it.

Del gives Kori a thankful smile.

MAINE

In that case, the bathroom is probably the best bet. We can take the lightbulb out, no electronics, cover the door, put some food in there...

KORI

That sounds good.

MAINE

It sounds fucking awful, but it's all we've got.

Kori looks at her phone.

KORI

11 hours, but... I don't wanna wait... let me just ring my family, then we go.

Kori tries to hold herself together as her and Del leave. Chloe walks past Lucas, out of the room. Maine approaches Lucas quietly, he looks shell-shocked.

MAINE

You okay? You didn't say a word.

LUCAS

When that thing was in here, all I could think of was... you... I wanted to help it get to you...



MAINE

But you didn't, you got between  
us--

LUCAS

-- What if I was blocking your  
view? So it could get past?

Maine considers this, it could be true. Lucas pauses, as if figuring it out himself.

LUCAS

I think it *knows* things about us.  
What's going on in our heads...

MAINE

What do you mean?

LUCAS

It's about Arabella...

Chloe strides in behind Maine and locks eyes with Lucas, who loses his nerve.

LUCAS

Just... I think that thing knows  
how guilty you feel about her...  
it can play on your guilt. So  
when it comes next time, be  
careful... that's all.

MAINE

Okay. Thanks.

Lucas gives a quick smile and hurries past Maine, leaving her thinking. She looks into the living room to see Kori and Del hugging.

MAINE

My guilt...

**INT. MAINE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine walks up to the two of them.

MAINE

Kori, can we... talk?

KORI

Sure.

Maine and Kori go off to one side, Maine struggles to speak, but plucks up the courage.

MAINE

You know when you were streaming  
and you got those hate comments?

KORI

You're gonna have to be more  
specific.

MAINE

Insta thot, show tits, pedo-bait.

KORI

Still more specific.

MAINE

They're me. I wrote them.

KORI

People have told me that they'll  
burn my house, kill my family,  
rape me... I think I can let you  
off for talking about my tits.

MAINE

No no no, don't let me off for  
this. I... I just thought 'why do  
you get all the attention', you  
know? And then I typed and it  
just...

KORI

Made you feel better?

MAINE

I think... I think this whole  
thing is happening cause I wanted  
it to. Cause of how much I hated  
people like you.

KORI

You remember when my nudes got  
leaked?

MAINE

Yeah. Fuck. And... I shared them  
as well and--

KORI

-- I went from 4,000 subs to  
80,000.

Maine pauses as she works out what Kori's saying.

KORI

You can be nice and sweet all you  
want, but sometimes the internet  
is painfully simple.

MAINE

Hate and naked women.

KORI

People say 'fuck the haters', but  
honestly that just makes more  
hate... Maine this isn't your  
fault.

Kori and Maine hug, Chloe walks past the door, carrying a box, she looks in enviously.

MAINE

I promise I'm gonna get you out  
of this.

#### INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Maine creeps into the room, Oma is asleep in her chair, surrounded by books scrawled with her spidery writing. Maine lifts one up and reads it, there is a haiku in English.

MAINE

Souls desperate with need.  
Perfect vessels for spirits.  
Desire never dies.

Maine's eyes well up as she reads it, she's exhausted and it's all getting too much. She slumps down beside Oma, then takes out her phone and opens the Anon app and  
**MESSAGES 1802:**

**Maine:** Hey, I found a haiku, and thought of you...

Maine starts typing out the haiku.

#### INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see the haiku received on a phone, it's Lucas's phone.  
Lucas is 1802.

**Another Maine Message:** My Oma wrote it.

Lucas realises that he has been talking to Maine all along.

He types "Maine?" but his fingers hover and he deletes it, and instead types, "it's beautiful." Chloe walks in.

CHLOE

Who are you messaging?

LUCAS  
No one, just scrolling.

Chloe narrows her eyes in suspicion, meanwhile, across the room, Kori talks on the phone.

KORI  
Hi Mom, hi, yeah, I'm just over at Del's... yeah it's fun, we're just like watching movies and hanging out... mmmm... oh well, yeah that's not meant to do that, just uhm, just go into settings and then app management...

Kori stifles back tears.

KORI  
App management, uhm, you know, don't worry Mom, I'll do it when I get back and then-- hold on... Mom, I love you and you're the best Mom in the whole world and uhm... no no, I'm just, I guess I'm just tired... Okay... I love you, bye bye bye.

Kori hangs up and breathes out, almost wiping away tears, she smiles weakly at Del.

In Kori's lap is a notepad, on it she crosses out the word 'MOM'. The rest of the pad reads: 'DAD, GRANDMA, JACKSON, ALEX, MARY'.

#### **INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

The bathroom door is open, inside is full of food cans and water bottles. Our heroes wait, Kori steadies herself.

DEL  
Ready?

KORI  
100 percent no, but that's life.

Del hugs her, then she steps inside the bathroom.

KORI  
Uhm... okay, here we go? God those are shitty last words... uh, be good to each other? Be kind... God bless America?... Ah fuck it, it doesn't matter anyway.

Kori gives the briefest of smiles, her eyes honest.

She closes the door. Del and Lucas pull down a big GREEN SHEET over the door - the kind influencers use as a green screen.

Maine takes out Kori's phone, it reads 'CLICK TO OPEN GIFT'. Maine clicks and places the phone so it faces the bathroom door.

MAINE

We're going!

The group all wait with baited breath, suddenly the lights SNAP OFF, the phone flickers and The Gaze appears in front of the door.

MAINE

It's here!

Lucas and the others check their phones, they all have the livestream up, and can see The Gaze on the stream, but not in reality.

KORI (O.S.)

What's it doing?

DEL

It's just standing.

The Gaze reaches out to touch the bathroom door, but then remains still.

MAINE

It's stuck.

The Gaze flickers.

CHLOE

Okay... it's fucking glitching?

The Gaze turns its head to Chloe, who steps back in panic.

Suddenly several versions of The Gaze superimpose on top of each other, like it's struggling--

SHRIEK SHRIEK SHRIEK, the versions of The Gaze shriek. Everyone flinches in fear, the sound is all consuming, but it steadies and snaps back to one single Gaze.

KORI (O.S.)

What's happening?

LUCAS

It's stable.

Maine checks her own phone.

MAINE

No message, no gift, it's just  
locked on a livestream.

Del paces closer to The Gaze, checking his position on a  
phone.

DEL

Hello? How are you?

CHLOE

Okay, so you're going for the  
beta DM vibes.

DEL

What do you want?

Del moves around The Gaze, but it just stays still.

Maine inspects The Gaze, looking at its half jaw and  
destroyed face. She crouches and looks at The Gaze's hand.  
Faintly carved into the back of its right hand is the  
rectangle symbol.

MAINE

No...

Maine stands up and looks at The Gaze's half-face.

MAINE

(to herself)

How didn't I see it?

LUCAS

Maine?

Maine grabs Del.

MAINE

Del, I need you to look at it.  
Does... does it remind you of  
anyone?

DEL

What?

MAINE

Just really frickin look at it  
okay!

Del stares, he shakes his head slowly, scared.

MAINE

It's Mom.

DEL  
 Mom and Dad aren't back 'til next  
 week--

MAINE  
 -- Our real mom.

Del's face drops, this is brutal to even think about.  
 Maine brings up a SARAH STAR video on her phone.

DEL  
 We told you not to look at those.

Maine skips through the videos until Sarah holds up her  
 hand, showing the symbol.

MAINE  
 Look at her hand, the symbol...

Del pushes away the phone, seriously terrified for the  
 first time.

DEL  
 It's not her...

Chloe and Lucas look on, concerned, but don't interfere.

MAINE  
 When she... when it happened. The  
 way she shot herself... look at  
 its face...

Del glances up at The Gaze's half-face and looks away,  
 ashamed, anger boiling up.

MAINE  
 If it's mom, there might be a  
 reason--

DEL  
 -- You didn't know her.

MAINE  
 She might be trying to come back  
 to us? Or just talk--

DEL  
 (angry)  
 -- You know why Dad has so many  
 cameras in the house? Cause of  
 Mom, cause the one time he wasn't  
 watching her...

Del trails off as he looks up at The Gaze.

MAINE

What?... Del?

Del finally cracks, his face harrowed.

DEL

She turned your baby monitor off... if I hadn't woken up...

MAINE

What happened?

DEL

She tried to kill you.

Maine's stares in shock.

DEL

I was four. I had a nightmare, I ran into your room. You were on the floor, she had a knife, her hands were covered in blood, that's... that's all I remember.

Maine realises her dream of being a baby was not a dream, but a memory.

MAINE

That's when...

DEL

The psych ward. The diagnosis was postpartum depression, but she was manic even before. She was in there 6 months, then she came out, happy, cured... three months later, she went on TV and... well...

MAINE

Why didn't you tell me?

DEL

Only one of us needed to be fucked up.

Maine hugs Del, he holds back tears.

MAINE

It's her Del. It really is.

DEL

There's something you have to see.



**INT. OFFICE - NIGHT**

Maine and Chloe watch as Del opens a video on a laptop:  
SARAH STAR appears.

MAINE

I've seen Mom's videos, they're  
just about being famous, what it  
takes, the desire, the price--

DEL

-- Those weren't the only ones. I  
found these on Dad's old laptop.  
He didn't delete them properly.

SARAH

(on the laptop)

Smile, energy, you need your  
energy up, they need to want to  
like you...

DEL

There's hours of it. Some are  
like the ones on the internet,  
but others...

Del clicks another clip: Sarah is reading an OLD BOOK.

SARAH

The mirror was given as a gift to  
the fairest in the land and with  
the gift came the attention of  
all the kingdom's bachelors.

DEL

When I first found it, I thought  
they were bedtime stories for  
us... but I couldn't bare to  
watch them.

Maine comfortingly squeezes Del's shoulder.

MAINE

Skim through.

Del skims through the clip.

SARAH

... They will love you, because  
of me, the way I should have  
really loved you...

MAINE

Back a bit.

Del pulls the clip back.

SARAH

The Gaze will be your path to salvation. They will love you, because of me...

MAINE

The Gaze. She said "The Gaze" right?

SARAH

I will always be behind you, watching, loving.

CHLOE

Behind you... watching... she knew about this?

MAINE

(realizing)

She did it on purpose.

CHLOE

Why didn't you show us this!

DEL

I hadn't seen this one. I only watched a few, I tried to forget they even existed.

CHLOE

What about your Dad?

MAINE

He would have thought it was part of her psychosis.

Sarah holds up her hand with the symbol on it.

SARAH

Paint the symbol, cut your palm, repeat the key phrase - I see you.

MAINE

She wanted this to happen.

Del stands, clearly distressed.

DEL

I can't watch her Maine. I'm sorry. I'm gonna check on Lucas and Kori.

Maine nods as she takes Del's place at the computer.

MAINE

Chloe, I'm gonna transfer the videos over, skim through as many as you can. If my mom started this, maybe she knows how to stop it.

Chloe nods, she gets out her phone and puts an earbud in.

**INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Del approaches Lucas, who sits beside the bathroom door, The Gaze stands beside it.

DEL

How is she?

Lucas shakes his head - BANG - Kori knocks on the door.

KORI (O.S.)

Del, hi, Del... how many viewers do I have?

DEL

What?

KORI (O.S.)

The stream, do they like me?

DEL

Kori, what are you talking about?

The Gaze slowly presses its hand against the door, like it's activating Kori.

KORI (O.S.)

(in her streamer voice)

Hi guys, remember to keep putting hearts in the chat, I love you so much, I'll see you soon.

Kori giggles as Del and Lucas share a worried look.

**INT. OFFICE - NIGHT**

**MONTAGE** - Overlapping videos of Sarah Star are watched by Chloe and Maine. We hear and see fragments of each video:

SARAH

There will be a video of my sacrifice, the first part of the ritual... the second part can be completed whenever you're ready.

Sarah reads from an old book.

SARAH

The attention comes from those  
weakest. The Gaze will give you  
it all.

Sarah does her makeup for the camera.

SARAH

You will be loved how I should  
have been... you will be  
everything I was meant to be.

Maine finally takes an earphone out.

MAINE

She wants me to be loved?... But,  
how? All this does is kill  
people... Chloe?

Chloe is focusing on a video, she keeps her earphones in.

SARAH

(in Chloe's video)  
The Gaze will corrupt those  
around you, turn them to her  
will...

MAINE

Chloe...

Maine's reaches out to Chloe, but--

LUCAS (O.S.)

(from downstairs)  
Maine! Maine get down here!

Maine turns in shock.

MAINE

Chloe! Come on!

Maine shakes Chloe, who snaps from the trance. Maine runs from the room, but Chloe turns back to the video to listen to the last bit, we now see Sarah is reading from Oma's antique book with the rectangular symbol.

SARAH

You will betray the ones you  
love.

#### **INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine rushes down to find Lucas and Del by the the bathroom door.

MAINE

What's wrong!

BANG BANG BANG - Kori bangs on the door.

KORI (O.S.)

They need to see me!

DEL

I told her the viewers dropped,  
she started screaming and  
freaking out--

BANG - Kori shoulders the door, raging inside.

MAINE

Kori stop!

KORI (O.S.)

You don't know! I need it!

LUCAS

It's your mom, she's doing  
something.

BANG - Kori again. The Gaze presses her head to the  
bathroom door.

KORI (O.S.)

Let me out! I'm gonna die... if  
they don't see me, I'm gonna die!

DEL

This will pass, it's just a  
moment--

SMASH - the sound of shattering glass from the bathroom.

LUCAS

What was that?

MAINE

The mirror!

KORI (O.S.)

If they can't see me, I'm not  
real.

The Gaze raises one hand and holds it over her wrist.

MAINE

She's gonna cut her wrists...

Lucas steps back in horror as Del goes to open the door,  
Chloe finally comes down stairs, still in a trance.

DEL  
Get her out!

MAINE  
No Del!

Del pushes Maine off, but Lucas grabs him before he can open the door.

LUCAS  
Del think! It'll kill her!

Del tries to shove Lucas off, they struggle. Chloe sees her chance.

CHLOE  
Hey!

Chloe rushes into the two of them, helping pull Del back, but as she does, she takes Lucas's phone out of his back-pocket.

KORI (O.S.)  
I see you!

DEL  
We have to help.

Lucas holds Del back, but Chloe has slipped away to the edge of the room with his phone.

Maine glances down at Kori's phone facing the door, getting an idea.

MAINE  
Kori! Your followers! What about them.

KORI (O.S.)  
My loves...

MAINE  
Talk to them Kori. They need you.  
They want you alive!

KORI (O.S.)  
What do they say about me?

Lucas and Del stop struggling, they look at the bathroom door with awe.

MAINE  
They love you.  
(reading comments)  
Patrick901 says you're his  
favorite streamer. JontyClass  
says you got him through his  
(MORE)

MAINE (cont'd)  
 exams. Fallon says you have a  
 beautiful voice, you should do  
 ASMR.

KORI (O.S.)  
 Thank you Fallon.

CLINK CLINK - the sound of glass dropping to the floor.  
 Maine waves Del over, he looks at the chat on Kori's  
 phone.

DEL  
 Parcellforce wants to have your  
 snapchat, GarethG18 says hello  
 from Finland.

Kori laughs from inside the bathroom.

KORI (O.S.)  
 Shout out to Finland!

LUCAS  
 (to Maine)  
 You did it.

Lucas, Del and Maine kneel by the door, but Chloe is off  
 to one side, scrolling through Lucas's phone, horrified.

DEL  
 Foxfire says he loves you because  
 you're so real.

KORI (O.S.)  
 You're real too! I love you. I  
 see you all.

Chloe suddenly rushes over and grabs Maine.

CHLOE  
 I told you he was fucking lying!

MAINE  
 -- What?

Chloe shoves Lucas's phone in Maine's face, it shows a  
 picture of Arabella and Lucas kissing.

CHLOE  
 He was fucking Arabella!

MAINE  
 What?

LUCAS  
 That's not it, I... you don't  
 understand--

Chloe shows more pictures.

CHLOE  
That's why he's here.

MAINE  
Lucas?

LUCAS  
I'm sorry, I thought if I told  
you, you'd make me leave--

MAINE  
-- I killed your girlfriend.

LUCAS  
No! We broke up before this  
happened.

CHLOE  
Like we'd fucking believe you.

LUCAS  
Maine, I'm sorry--

CHLOE  
-- You need to get the fuck out!

The Gaze turns to the fighting teens as Chloe tries to  
push Lucas out the door.

LUCAS  
Maine! Please, I want to help.

CHLOE  
Bullshit, you're helping her!

MAINE  
Stop!

LUCAS  
I'm trying to help!

Chloe and Lucas fight, shouting over each other, it's  
messy and childish, but suddenly--

OMA (O.S.)  
The Gaze has corrupted us all!

OMA - At the top of the stairs, wild eyed, like a  
harbinger of doom.

Everyone freezes and looks up at her, even The Gaze.

OMA  
She is in our hearts, a poison, I  
have the antidote.



MAINE

Oma?

OMA

Come. Quickly, while my mind is  
lucid.

Oma hurries along the corridor. Maine looks at Lucas, who  
freezes.

MAINE

You stay down here... Del, watch  
him!

Del nods, still whispering at the door to Kori. Maine and  
Chloe head for the stairs.

# **INT. ATTIC - NIGHT**

Maine and Chloe push into the attic, the stacks of books  
are disordered, the low-ceiling boxes everything in. The  
TV is off and the room is lit by candles.

MAINE

Oma?

Oma bustles out from behind a stack, collecting old books.

OMA

(broken, but still coherent  
English)  
I tried to warn you, but The Gaze  
distracted. My mind was not  
clear, until now.

MAINE

You're speaking English?

OMA

The Gaze. Focuses the attention.

MAINE

Mom... it's Mom isn't it?

OMA

It is and it is not. She is the  
spirit of your mother, my  
stardust. But The Gaze is merely  
a shadow of her last moments, an  
echo of the soul.

Oma spreads several open books on a table, they show  
drawings and impressions of The Gaze.

OMA

Der Geist der Aufmerksamkeit, the  
spirit of attention, the curse of  
Narcissus, a reflected  
Wiedergänger... In old England,  
it was known as The Gaze.

Oma shows a drawing of a spirit staring in a mirror.

OMA

Tales of those who looked in the  
mirror and saw The Gaze, soon  
found themselves dead. Poison,  
seizures, epilepsy. Stories of  
sudden death: noblemen,  
aristocrats, kings, lovers.

Drawings with dates ranging from 1300-1800 AD.

MAINE

But... Mom was born in the 70s?

OMA

A gaze is *created*. The  
Aufmerksamkeit ritual. A summoner  
kills the sacrifice, smears the  
blood on a conduit, adds their  
own blood and a new Gaze is born.

MAINE

But I didn't...

**MEMORY FLASH** - Maine's bloody hand with the symbol holding  
her phone in her room.

MAINE

I didn't mean to.

CHLOE

Why would she curse Maine?

OMA

I told her of The Gaze, but she  
did not think it a curse, but a  
gift!

Oma turns pages in the book.

OMA

The Gaze gives the attention of  
all.

A drawing of a man being worshiped by a village.

OMA

Those who The Gaze stalks are  
worshiped, revered.

A drawing of a RICH LORD holding up a MIRROR, The Gaze is in the reflection.

OMA

She appears in the reflection,  
but as long as both her and her  
prey are contained in the  
reflection, The Gaze is trapped.

MAINE

The livestream, it's acting as  
the conduit, like the mirror.

OMA

The prey will have the attention,  
but this will inflate the ego,  
make the prey more and more  
desperate, no matter how much,  
the attention will never be  
enough.

A drawing of a CRYING WOMAN grabbed by a HORDE OF MEN.

OMA

When the soul is most desperate,  
The Gaze feasts.

A drawing of the Crying Woman being choked by The Gaze.

CHLOE

But we have her trapped now, we  
can stop her right?

OMA

Many have tried to trap The Gaze  
throughout history, but she is  
never trapped for long.

A drawing of a RICH LORD hiding a MIRROR in a CHEST.

OMA

She will find your insecurities,  
your need for attentions -  
social, platonic, romantic,  
perverse, religious.

A drawing of a RICH LADY opening the CHEST and releasing  
the mirror containing The Gaze.

OMA

One of you will break. Become the  
servant of The Gaze. And then she  
will be free.

A drawing of the RICH LADY watching as THE GAZE strangles  
the RICH LORD. Chloe stares at the drawing with horror.

CHLOE

See! Lucas! I told you Lucas  
would help her.

OMA

It could be any. Some are more  
resilient than others.

MAINE

Mom knew this would happen?

Oma pulls out an old PHOTO ALBUM, she opens it to show  
pictures of Sarah Star.

OMA

Your mother understood The Gaze's  
power, she thought she could  
subdue it, by creating a gaze  
that would be too weak to feast.

Oma looks up at Maine.

OMA

The sacrifice would be an infant.  
Feeble, slow, controlled.

MAINE

She tried to kill me...

OMA

When it happened, I lost my mind,  
I tried to explain, but I  
couldn't, every moment felt like  
a waking dream.

More pictures of Sarah holding Maine as a baby.

OMA

Eventually she came to a new  
idea. She would be your gaze. She  
thought she could control  
herself, give you the attention,  
but never feast.

Maine stares at a picture of her mother, harrowed.

MAINE

Is there a way to stop her?

OMA

The Gaze feeds on a corrupted  
soul, desperate for attention;  
but if the soul is pure, egoless,  
absent of desperation, The Gaze  
will starve.

CHLOE

So we send it after an egoless  
soul?

MAINE

Del... We can use Del, he doesn't  
care about any of that bullshit,  
he doesn't need attention!

OMA

Perhaps... but only once in  
history has The Gaze starved this  
way.

CHLOE

Are there any other ways?

OMA

There are more stories, with my  
mind returned I am only  
scratching the surface, I will  
keep working, but still I fade in  
and out. Maybe I can help, if you  
send her to me?

Oma takes hold of Maine's hand, pleading.

OMA

Let me see my stardust.

MAINE

No. Oma. I won't do that to you.

OMA

(whisper)  
My stardust...

Oma seems to trail off, staring at nothing. Maine touches  
her shoulder gently.

MAINE

Oma.

OMA

I fade still... I'm sorry...

MAINE

Is there any other way? Anything  
at all?

OMA

The Gaze will only stop if it  
can't feed, or if the summoner  
dies.

Maine remains stonefaced, she knew it would come to this.

**INT. UPPER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine and Chloe walk down the stairs and out onto the dark hallway.

MAINE

If Del can do it... maybe we have  
a chance--

CHLOE

-- We have to get rid of Lucas.

MAINE

No, we need the help.

CHLOE

You heard Oma, your mom is  
controlling him!

Chloe is breathless, we see just how young she really is,  
a confused teenager.

MAINE

She's in all our heads. Not just  
him.

CHLOE

He lied to us.

MAINE

He was scared--

CHLOE

-- Why the fuck are you defending  
him? Do you like him?

MAINE

What?

CHLOE

I can help you. I care about you.

MAINE

Chloe--

Chloe cuts Maine off with a kiss, Maine steps back in  
shock.

CHLOE

I'm the only one you can trust.

MAINE

Chloe, what are you doing?

CHLOE

I'm telling you what you need to  
fucking hear. Your mom killed

(MORE)

CHLOE (cont'd)  
Arabella, and Lucas will help her  
kill you. That's what he wants,  
deep down. He doesn't care about  
you.

MAINE  
Don't say that.

Chloe tries to pull Maine in again.

MAINE  
Stop! Chloe... Just...

Maine pulls back.

MAINE  
I have to kill my brother's  
girlfriend, then ask him to risk  
his life, and it's all my fault.  
So if you're really my friend.  
Just help me.

Chloe nods, Maine turns and walks down the hallway, but as  
she does, Chloe's smile fades.

#### **INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Maine walks down the stairs, Lucas stands up as she  
approaches, Del is still whispering to Kori through the  
door.

LUCAS  
Maine, I'm sorry--

MAINE  
-- Save it. We all fucked up, but  
I know you want to fix this.

LUCAS  
I really do.

MAINE  
There is a way.

Del turns to Maine with hope, The Gaze lingers over him.

#### **LATER:**

Del slumps against the wall, beside The Gaze. Kori mumbles  
incoherently from the bathroom. The others stand in front  
of him.

DEL  
So she comes for me, she can't  
feed and she dies?

MAINE

As long as you truly don't want  
the attention.

DEL

I have to be *egoless*?

MAINE

There is another way. This all  
ends if The Gaze kills me.

DEL

No.

MAINE

Let's at least discuss--

DEL

-- Maine, I'm not letting you  
take that option. That's the end  
of the discussion.

Maine looks at Del, heartbroken.

MAINE

Del... for this to happen, you  
know Kori has to die?

Del glances to the bathroom.

KORI (O.S.)

They see me, they want me, I  
give, I'll take, there is all, so  
much, take my soul, my heart.

DEL

It... might be kinder that way.  
Death is just a transition.

LUCAS

Do you really believe that?

DEL

I have to.

Del turns to the bathroom door as Kori babbles.

KORI (O.S.)

(insane ranting)

I love you, I see you, I'm Kori,  
I'm 5'1". No jumping tutorial.  
Keep me company, I'm trying to  
study, stop me scrolling, I'll  
stop for you, I love you...



DEL

They love you Kori, we all love you.

Del flings open the door. Kori scrambles out and grabs her phone, reading her livestream with desperate, wild eyes.

KORI

Follow me, please follow, I mentioned you, support, cancer, charity, the makeup's from MAC, thank you, thank you. I love you, I love you all...

Lucas takes Maine's hand, a natural response, Chloe notices with venom.

Kori moves the phone closer and closer to her face as she sobs. The Gaze reaches towards her.

On the Livestream, joyful tears of blood fall from Kori's eyes. She drops to the floor, an influencer's smile still plastered on her face.

Maine watches as The Gaze vanishes, her phone SHRIEKS.

MAINE

12 hours.

Maine places her phone on a shelf behind her, Chloe glances at it, planning.

Del kneels down and closes Kori's eyes, he takes the phone and closes the livestream.

DEL

Help me move her to a bedroom, we can let the police in when it's all over.

MAINE

It's on you Del, whenever you're ready to face Mom.

Del pauses, considering.

DEL

Let me meditate, prepare my mind. One, maybe two hours, then we'll end this.

Maine hugs Del.

**INT. DEL'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Del sits on the floor, cross-legged, he looks out the window at the night sky - 4 am - the milk-white of the dawn is just cresting the horizon.

Del opens a tin, takes out a tab of acid and puts it on his tongue.

**INT. ATTIC - NIGHT**

Maine looks through the stacks of books in Oma's room. Oma is asleep in her chair, a book on her lap. Lucas walks in.

LUCAS

Looking for another way?

MAINE

Maybe there's something Oma didn't know?

LUCAS

I can help if you want? I got that speed-reading shit down.

Maine shakes her head, Lucas senses the tension.

LUCAS

I shoulda told you about everything.

MAINE

But you didn't.

Lucas waits, Maine is struggling to get it out.

MAINE

Did you love her? Arabella?

LUCAS

Honestly?... No... it was just a *thing*. She didn't even want it to be public, I think she was... embarrassed about me. Sober guy, no socials... whatever... we broke up, but--

MAINE

-- But you still came here, for her.

LUCAS

I wanted to find out what happened.

MAINE

I killed her. That's what happened.

LUCAS

Your mom killed her.

MAINE

Chloe thinks you're going to help her. My mom.

LUCAS

No. I wouldn't--

MAINE

-- She says I can't trust you.

LUCAS

I get it. She can't trust people, after what happened, the piss girl thing.

MAINE

The piss girl thing?

LUCAS

Kori filming her...

Oma stirs in the chair, Maine notices and gestures for her and Lucas to leave.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Maine closes the door behind her and Lucas.

MAINE

Where did you hear that story?

LUCAS

Chloe told me what Kori did--

MAINE

-- Kori didn't do anything.

LUCAS

She got her wasted, videoed her, put that shit online--

MAINE

-- Chloe brought the vodka, she begged to be filmed, she put it up herself, from Kori's account. Kori deleted it, but by then it'd already been downloaded.

LUCAS  
Chloe did it to herself?

MAINE  
She has a lot of... issues.

Lucas pauses, considering the information.

LUCAS  
Was Tammy Ackerman one of the  
people at Kori's when it  
happened?

MAINE  
Yeah. Why?

LUCAS  
I'm just thinking...

**INT. UPPER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Chloe creeps outside Maine's room and listens at the door.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

LUCAS  
She sends The Gaze to Tammy, now  
she sends it to Kori--

MAINE  
-- They were accidents.

LUCAS  
Were they though?

Maine looks worried.

**INT. UPPER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

The faint outline of The Gaze appears from the darkness  
over Chloe's shoulder - it's just a shimmer of the real  
thing.

Chloe looks down the hallway and sees the stairs to the  
attic, she walks towards them, as if drawn by a force.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Maine shakes her head slowly.

MAINE  
What are you trying to say?

LUCAS  
The two times she's sent The  
Gaze, it's to people she hates...

MAINE  
She wouldn't do that--

LUCAS  
-- I'm just saying we should be  
careful.

**INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS**

Chloe walks through the attic, she sees The Gaze stood  
beside a stack of books, showing her the way.

Chloe walks over, takes one from the pile and opens it.  
The text is in German, but the title reads "TRANSFERENCE".

Chloe stares at the pages, as The Gaze watches over her  
shoulder - like a puppet master.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Lucas moves towards Maine, but she backs off.

MAINE  
You don't even want to be here.

LUCAS  
What?

MAINE  
It's my mom making you stay.

**INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS**

Chloe walks over to Oma, still asleep in her chair.

CHLOE  
Oma, I need your help.

Oma wakes gently, Chloe shows her the book titled  
"Transference."

CHLOE  
What is this? Is it another  
ritual.

Oma takes the book and reads it, realizing.

OMA  
Yes... yes! Transference, the  
summoner can be changed.

CHLOE

What?

OMA

This ritual allows another to  
take the curse, control the gaze.  
The original summoner is free.

Chloe stares in wonder, coming up with a plan.

CHLOE

Oma, let me take it from Maine.  
Save her... show me how to do the  
ritual.

OMA

I can help you... if you help  
me...

Chloe's eyes sparkle with lust.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Maine tries to keep her emotions in check, she wants him,  
but fights it.

LUCAS

Maine, I told you, I'm here to  
help.

MAINE

You're still lying.

LUCAS

Okay. The truth? I'm here for  
you.

MAINE

You don't even know me.

Lucas takes a breath, ready to admit his secret.

LUCAS

A life lived in shade.  
Flowers remain trapped inside.  
Be your own sun, bloom.

Maine's eyes widen in shock, putting it together.

MAINE

You? Anon? You're... 1802?

Lucas nods.

MAINE  
You sent the haikus, this whole  
time?

LUCAS  
I should have told you. I  
promise, no more secrets--

Maine suddenly kisses Lucas.

**INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS**

Oma stares into Chloe's eyes.

OMA  
I want to see my daughter, my  
stardust.

**INT. DEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Del meditates, but slowly opens his eyes, sitting across  
from him is the faint outline of Sarah Sparks - as she was  
before she died - smiling.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Maine and Lucas kiss each other on the bed, it is not  
frantic, but comforting and sweet.

**INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS**

Maine's PHONE and Chloe's PHONE are placed on the wooden  
floor. The rectangular symbol is drawn around them by Oma.

Oma takes Chloe's hand and draws blood from it with a  
knife.

**INT. DEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Del stands up, face to face with Sarah.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Lucas strokes Maine's hair as they gaze into each others'  
eyes.

**INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS**

Chloe's phone SHRIEKS. She taps it several times.

Oma's phone SHRIEKS. Oma lifts it up, the front-facing camera is on, Oma sees herself on the screen.

The Gaze appears behind her, sat on the bed. Oma smiles.

CHLOE

I can hold the phone, if you want  
to see her.

OMA

I can see my stardust.

Oma puts down the phone and turns, she looks at The Gaze, seemingly able to see it, then hugs The Gaze.

**INT. DEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Del hugs Sarah, stood up in his room, as the dawn-light peaks over the horizon.

**INT. MAINE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Maine sleeps soundly in bed, but Lucas is not there.

**INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS**

Chloe rests Oma in bed, blood trickling from her eyes, a smile on her face.

LUCAS (O.S.)

What did you do?

Chloe's head snaps round, Lucas is in the attic doorway.

CHLOE

Lucas?

LUCAS

What the fuck did you do?

Chloe's phone SHRIEKS in her hand. Lucas's eyes flick to it.

LUCAS

That's not Maine's... how do you  
have that?

CHLOE

I took control, to save Maine.



LUCAS  
You're lying.

CHLOE  
This is all your fault!

LUCAS  
What?

Chloe steps closer, Lucas can see she has lost her mind, fully controlled by The Gaze.

CHLOE  
She was my only friend and you  
had to ruin it!

LUCAS  
Chloe, her mom is doing this to  
you--

CHLOE  
-- Shut up! Why couldn't you just  
leave us alone!

LUCAS  
We can still fix this. You made a  
mistake, Maine will understand--

CHLOE  
-- She's mine!

LUCAS  
You can still send it to Del.  
Please!

CHLOE  
Shut up!

LUCAS  
Just send it to Del!

Chloe considers, her finger hovering over her phone, Lucas stares, his eyes pleading. Finally, Chloe taps her phone, Lucas exhales relief.

LUCAS  
Thank you.

Lucas's own phone SHRIEKS.

LUCAS  
No...

CHLOE  
You want to be her hero. Prove  
it...

Lucas gets out his phone and stares at the screen, a notification reads "YOU HAVE BEEN GIFTED THE GAZE".

CHLOE

Open it.

Lucas backs away, towards the door.

CHLOE

Stop! You leave and the next one goes to Maine.

LUCAS

You wouldn't.

CHLOE

If I can't have her--

LUCAS

-- Listen to yourself Chloe--

CHLOE

-- Open the fucking gift right now! Or I send it to Maine.

Chloe lifts her phone.

CHLOE

I'll queue the gift, no turning back.

Chloe's finger hovers over her phone.

CHLOE

Lucas!

LUCAS

Okay! Okay...

Lucas lifts up his phone.

CHLOE

Show me!

Lucas turns, so that the phone is facing both him and Chloe. He clicks the gift, the camera on the phone snaps on, showing him and Chloe in the hazy blue filter.

**Lucas's Phone:** The Gaze appears behind them, Chloe smiles.

CHLOE

Closer.

Lucas steps back, towards Chloe. Chloe reaches out, about to block the view of the phone so that The Gaze can move.

Her eyes, wide. Her hand, an inch away--

Lucas shoves her towards The Gaze and sprints out of the room.

CHLOE

Fuck!

LUCAS (O.S.)

Maine!

**INT. UPPER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Lucas sprints down the long hall, his phone is up, catching glimpses of The Gaze coming after him:

**Lucas's Phone:** The frame crashes left and right, The Gaze jumping forward. Again and again.

It's right behind him--

LUCAS

Maine!

Maine crashes out of her room, into the hall.

MAINE

Lucas?

Lucas freezes.

LUCAS

Stop! Don't move.

Lucas steadies the phone, The Gaze is directly behind him, reaching out, inches away, but now it's frozen.

Maine stands on the other side of the phone, she can't see The Gaze.

MAINE

What happened?

LUCAS

Your mom's here! She's behind me.

MAINE

No. No she isn't, I can't see her.

LUCAS

Chloe took control. She killed Oma and then sent The Gaze to me!

CHLOE

He's lying!

Chloe barges into the hallway.

CHLOE

Oma begged me to help, she didn't want to put you through the pain.

MAINE

She's dead?

CHLOE

She just wanted to see her daughter!

LUCAS

Don't listen to her.

MAINE

Chloe... you have control...

CHLOE

I'm trying to save you!

MAINE

Then why send it to Lucas?

CHLOE

He... threatened me.

Chloe steps forward.

MAINE

No! Stay there.

CHLOE

Maine, who are you going to believe?

Maine looks to Lucas, she's made her decision.

MAINE

Lucas. Keep my mom in frame. Get downstairs, get in the conservatory, lock the door.

Lucas starts to walk, like he's on a tight-rope, The Gaze stuck behind him.

CHLOE

Maine, he doesn't even like you--

MAINE

-- Shut the fuck up. I'm not listening to you anymore.

Maine backs out, keeping her eye on Chloe.

CHLOE

I did it for you Maine. This was our chance. It was a gift!

Maine rounds a corner, Chloe chases after.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Lucas is at the bottom of the stairs as Maine comes around.

MAINE

Go!

Maine runs down the stairs, Chloe chasing behind.

Lucas sprints off, keeping The Gaze in the frame of the phone as he runs, it jumps closer and closer.

**INT. CONSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS**

Lucas and Maine crash through the set of double doors into the conservatory, the doors separate the conservatory from the kitchen.

Maine slams the doors shut and turns the lock.

BANG - Chloe crashes into the doors and bangs on them.

**Lucas's Phone:** Lucas raises the phone so both himself and The Gaze are in frame - Lucas on the conservatory side of the doors, The Gaze in the kitchen.

CHLOE

Fuck you!

LUCAS

I've got it.

Chloe grabs a chair and flings it against the door - CRANG - the chair bounces off the glass, but doesn't break it. Chloe screams.

MAINE

(to Lucas)

You're gonna have to face it.

LUCAS

I can't.

MAINE

You can. Be egoless,  
self-confident.

LUCAS

Maine, I can't do it!

MAINE  
You don't need the attention.

LUCAS  
I do.

MAINE  
No! No, you're better than that--

LUCAS  
-- I need it from you!

Maine looks deep in Lucas's eyes. In the background, Chloe rushes out of the kitchen, Maine and Lucas don't notice.

LUCAS  
I like you Maine. I want *your* attention... that means I can't face The Gaze.

Maine takes Lucas's hand.

MAINE  
Then we fight her together.

LUCAS  
How?

MAINE  
My mom thought she could control this. Maybe there's something she knew that we're missing.

LUCAS  
Okay, we double check the books and the videos, as long as we keep her in frame.

MAINE  
We just have to deal with Chloe...

Maine notices Chloe is gone.

MAINE  
Where did she go?

SMASH - The outer glass window of the conservatory is shattered. Chloe stands outside, holding a shovel.

She sweeps aside the glass and clambers through.

MAINE  
Keep Mom in frame!

Maine rushes over to Chloe as she tumbles into the conservatory.

CHLOE  
Let it happen!

Chloe scrambles for Lucas, but Maine drags her to the floor.

MAINE  
Chloe stop!

Chloe kicks at Maine, trying to get free. Maine grapples on top of her.

CHLOE  
Please! I just want it to be like before!

LUCAS  
Del!

Chloe struggles underneath Maine, who looks up to see Del walk into the kitchen, behind The Gaze.

MAINE  
Del! She's here! She's in Chloe's head!

The Gaze turns to Del, welcoming.

DEL  
It's just a transition.

The Gaze lifts its hand, Del copies The Gaze and lifts his: he holds the colt handgun, Maine stares in horror.

MAINE  
Del... what are you doing.

DEL  
I heard her Maine. She just wants to see us.

CHLOE  
Do it!

MAINE  
Del! Del please put it down!

DEL  
I'm going to see Mommy.

Del raises the gun to his head - BANG!

MAINE  
No!

The bullet explodes through his skull, shattering the GLASS DOOR into the conservatory.

Lucas flinches at the explosion, losing composure. Chloe elbows Maine in the face, breaking her nose, blood spurts.

Chloe rushes up to Lucas and grabs at his phone, but he flings her off.

The Gaze moves through the shattered door, stalking towards Lucas and Chloe as they grapple.

Maine holds her bloody face and scrambles through the shattered glass towards Chloe and Lucas.

With all her strength, Maine pulls Chloe off and smacks her face against the floor.

Chloe's mouth explodes with blood as she screams and crumples to the floor, dazed.

MAINE

Lucas! The phone!

Maine searches the floor - a jigsaw of blood and glass.

She grabs the phone and holds it up, searching for The Gaze.

MAINE

Where is it? Chloe! Chloe, tell me where it is!

Maine looks through the filter of Lucas's phone, but The Gaze is nowhere.

SHRIEK - Chloe's phone, in her pocket. Chloe sits up, bloody and dazed.

MAINE

No... no...

Maine quickly turns Lucas over and sees his face - eyes and nose dripping with blood - DEAD - killed by The Gaze.

MAINE

No! Lucas!

Maine sobs. Chloe clumsily pulls out her phone, still dazed, but Maine surges over and grabs it.

CHLOE

Maine! I'm sorry!

Maine grapples on top of Chloe, holding her down in the broken glass - straddling her with one leg pinning each of her arms.



CHLOE

Maine!

MAINE

This is your fault.

Maine holds Chloe's phone to her face, the face ID unlocks it.

CHLOE

Please! I love you!

MAINE

No, you don't.

Maine hovers her finger over the phone, Chloe finally breaks.

CHLOE

What are you gonna do! I'm the summoner! Destroy the phone, hide it, it's not gonna work!

Maine considers for a second.

CHLOE

She'll always come back to me!

Maine presses a button and drops the phone, the screen cracks, she slumps off Chloe, exhausted.

CHLOE

What did you do? It won't work  
Maine... Maine!

There is ANOTHER SHRIEK from elsewhere in the house, Chloe looks into Maine's determined eyes, realising what has happened.

Maine just sits back, surrounded by the chaos - blood, glass, the bodies of her brother and the boy she loved.

THE ASPECT RATIO SLOWLY CLOSES IN, THEN **FADES TO BLACK**.

On the RIGHT SIDE of the screen, a LIVESTREAM CHAT slowly appears one at a time, it's the typical CHAT you find in any girl streamer's channel:

"I LOVE YOU!!!"

"She still streaming?"

"KEKW"

"onlyfans when"

"Jumping tutorial"

"helo from Philipine"

"M"

"!KISS"

"FFAKE"

"Tlts or GTFO"

**INT. MAINE'S HOUSE, MAINE'S BEDROOM - DAY - LIVESTREAM**

FILMED VERTICALLY FROM A FRONT FACING PHONE CAMERA:

The PHONE is held in place and shows MAINE sat at her desk, eating cereal, behind her The Gaze lingers - she has sent The Gaze to herself. There are 87,345 viewers.

CHAT CONTINUES TO THE SIDE:

"F for Cereal"

"NEW HERO"

"pog"

"Slut"

"mommy milkers"

"e-thot"

"love her"

"Fake Ad"

"Hot"

"What's your favorite cereal?"

**EXT. STREET - DAY - LIVESTREAM**

Maine walks down the street, holding her phone, The Gaze stands at the far end of the street.

Maine turns a corner, The Gaze appears behind her.

CHAT GOES WILD.

This is Maine's life now, a 24/7 livestream to contain the curse. Maine's face is vacant and hollow, a waking death.

All the while, the never-ending CHAT continues with a constant ECHOCHAMBER.

"Thumbs up"

"Maine shake"

"Hewo"

"Tony Montana"

"Crackhead"

"Attention seeker"

"marry"

"onlyfans?"

"Stfu shes beauti"

**INT. LIBRARY - DAY - LIVESTREAM**

Maine reads a book, The Gaze behind her.

**INT. MALL - DAY - LIVESTREAM**

Maine picks out clothes, still holding up the camera, with The Gaze behind her.

**INT. MAINE'S HOUSE, MAINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LIVESTREAM**

Maine sleeps in bed, the camera is fixed in place, The Gaze waits beside her, watching her sleep, like a loving mother.

FADE TO BLACK.