

EVE

by

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INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

A smart home device with the brand name ARIA shows a picture of the Westbrook family: Owen, Charlotte, Addison, and Liam.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 6TH"

OWEN WESTBROOK (44), his wife CHARLOTTE (43), and their son LIAM (7) enter from the garage.

LIAM

Can I watch a show?

CHARLOTTE

Did you finish your spelling homework?

LIAM

I did it after school.

Charlotte snatches Liam's backpack and looks inside.

OWEN

Char, if he says he did it, then--

CHARLOTTE

I'm just making sure.

OWEN

Show him you trust him.

CHARLOTTE

I do trust him.

Charlotte flips a folder open.

OWEN

Then why are you checking it?

She ignores him, checks Liam's homework. Owen turns away, presses his fingers to his temple like he's shooting himself.

Their dog, TUCKER, enters, snuggles with Liam. Charlotte shuts the folder.

CHARLOTTE

Ten minutes. Then it's bedtime.

Liam rushes from the room. Tucker races after him as Charlotte sits at the small counter.

CHARLOTTE

It seemed like you had a good time at the party. I can't believe you left me with Janice.

OWEN

Sorry, I just couldn't handle her tonight.

CHARLOTTE

Her breath was horrendous.

OWEN

It always is.

They both laugh.

CHARLOTTE

Who was that woman you were with?

OWEN

Who?

CHARLOTTE

The pretty girl batting her eyes at you right before we left.

Owen pauses, waves his hand dismissively.

OWEN

Just a former intern.

CHARLOTTE

Did she work with you directly?

OWEN

Not really. She attended some meetings.

CHARLOTTE

She seemed to know you pretty well.

Owen shifts uncomfortably.

OWEN

She was just thanking me for the opportunity. I was trying to remember her name, but I couldn't.

His cell phone RINGS. He glances at the screen.

CHARLOTTE

Who is it?

OWEN

Work. It can wait.

FAMILY ROOM

Liam plops onto the couch and snatches the remote. He flicks the television on as Tucker hops next to him.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

There once was a boy who told a lie.

INT. OWEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Owen shifts in his desk chair. He props his feet on the table, talks on the phone with a SUBORDINATE.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 15TH"

SUBORDINATE (O.S.)

There was another DNS attack last night. The site went down for a few minutes, but I don't think anyone got into the servers.

OWEN

Should we be worried?

SUBORDINATE (O.S.)

I don't think so. Everything is encrypted, but I can run a more thorough diagnostic on the hardware if you want me--

OWEN

No, it's fine. You should be at home with your family. It's almost Christmas.

Owen's cell phone RINGS briefly before he silences it.

OWEN

I have another call. Keep me posted.

SUBORDINATE

Will do. Merry Christmas.

OWEN

Merry Christmas.

Owen ends the call, answers his cell phone.

OWEN
I can't talk right now.

He listens.

OWEN
No. I'm sorry, but we settled this.
Listen, I can't just--

He shifts uncomfortably.

OWEN
I know it's your choice, but it's a
burden. Financially. I don't--

He rubs his forehead.

OWEN
It would be difficult for both of you.

He glances over his shoulder.

OWEN
For us.

KITCHEN

Charlotte enters, groceries in arms. Tucker dances nearby.

CHARLOTTE
If you make me drop these, you're
going outside for the day.

She places the groceries on the counter, some spill across the surface. Tucker parks next to the table.

CHARLOTTE
You're not getting anything right now,
so don't even try it.

They stare at each other. Charlotte sighs.

CHARLOTTE
Fine.

She tosses a piece of food to Tucker.

CHARLOTTE
Aria!

BASEMENT

A massive computer system set into the wall: the smart home station. Lights blink, code races across the screen.

KITCHEN

A BEEP echoes through the room.

CHARLOTTE

Do I have any messages?

ARIA (O.S.)

You have one unheard message.

CHARLOTTE

Play it.

PHARMACIST (O.S.)

Hi Mrs. Westbrook, this is Travis with Clearfield Pharmacy. Just wanted to let you know that your Zyprexa prescription has been waiting here--

CHARLOTTE

Delete.

A DING echoes through the room.

ARIA (O.S.)

Message deleted. No unheard messages.

Charlotte pauses as she puts food away, cautiously glances into the nearby hallway.

CHARLOTTE

Aria, play Christmas music.

DING. CHRISTMAS MUSIC plays. Charlotte hums as Tucker sniffs the smart home hub, growls.

CHARLOTTE

Get away from there.

Tucker obediently scampers from the room.

CHARLOTTE

Stupid dog.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam sits at a small desk, wears headphones as he TAPS on a Morse Code machine, writes something down.

Tucker enters, sniffs the carbon monoxide detector.

LIAM
Tucker, no.

Tucker plops next to him. Liam removes his headphones as they snuggle.

LIAM
Good boy.

Charlotte enters.

LIAM
Mommy, look at the message I decoded.

He holds up his paper. Charlotte doesn't look.

CHARLOTTE
That's great, honey, but you need to change your clothes.

LIAM
Can I wear my ghost shirt?

CHARLOTTE
Aria, is the dryer done?

ARIA (O.S.)
No. Would you like quick dry?

CHARLOTTE
Please.

LAUNDRY ROOM

BEEP. The smart dryer turns on.

OWEN'S OFFICE

Owen still on the phone.

OWEN
Think about it. If it's a matter of money I can--

He listens.

OWEN
I'm not trying to bribe you. I'm
trying to help you.

He glances around the room.

OWEN
I don't want to hurt my family
anymore. There's nothing you--

Pauses.

OWEN
You're starting to sound crazy. You
should get some help...hello?

He shoves his cell phone into his pocket.

OWEN
Damn it.

A KNOCK at the door. Owen sighs.

OWEN
Come in.

Charlotte slowly opens the door.

CHARLOTTE
You're picking Addison up on Thursday,
right?

OWEN
I've got a lot going on at work, Char.
Any way you could do it?

CHARLOTTE
I already have a full day. And you
said you would.

OWEN
I don't remember that, but I'll take
care of it.

CHARLOTTE
Her flight gets in at 2:15, so you'll
have to--

OWEN
I'll take care of it, Char!

Both stare at each other silently.

OWEN

Sorry. It's not you, it's just--

CHARLOTTE

Who were you talking to?

He shakes his head.

OWEN

Conference call with work. It's nothing.

Charlotte rubs his shoulders.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry. I know you've been under a lot of stress recently.

OWEN

It's fine.

She kisses him on the head. Owen kisses her hand.

OWEN

I won't let it ruin Christmas.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

ADDISON WESTBROOK (20) pushes through the front door. Owen follows, luggage clenched under his arms.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 17TH"

OWEN

I'm just confused why you have all this luggage when--

LIAM (O.S.)

Addi!

Liam bursts into the room, wraps his arms around Addison.

ADDISON

Hey, kiddo! Guess what?

She drops her backpack to the floor. She retrieves a small package and hands it to Liam.

ADDISON
This ones for you.

LIAM
Can I open it? Please?

Addison rubs his head.

ADDISON
Not yet, bud. Put it under the
Christmas tree.

Liam shoves the package under the tree. BRITNEY (15), the
babysitter, enters. Owen stares at her curiously.

OWEN
What are you doing here, Britney?

BRITNEY
Mrs. Westbrook asked me to watch Liam
while she did some last minute
shopping. She'll be back by dinner.

Addison throws her hands in the air.

ADDISON
I told you she wouldn't be here.

Owen raises his finger to silence Addison. He takes out his
wallet, hands Britney fifty dollars.

OWEN
Thank you for watching Liam.

BRITNEY
This is way too much, Mr. Westbrook.
I've only been here since--

OWEN
Please, I insist. Merry Christmas.

BRITNEY
Merry Christmas. Thank you. Bye, Liam.

The babysitter leaves as Liam waves. Owen closes the door
behind her.

ADDISON
She hasn't seen me in months and she
goes shopping?!

Owen moves to Addison and kisses her on the head.

OWEN

I'm sure she has her reasons.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Owen, Liam, and Addison all laugh as they set the table.

ADDISON

He starts chasing me through the dorm hallway and it's one in the morning--

OWEN

What's a guy doing in your room at one in the morning?

Addison shrugs him off.

ADDISON

So the resident assistant bursts in and she's holding a baseball bat--

Charlotte enters.

LIAM

Mommy!

Liam wraps his arms around Charlotte's legs.

CHARLOTTE

Sorry I'm late. Everything took longer than I thought.

She hesitantly embraces Addison.

CHARLOTTE

I've missed you, Addison.

ADDISON

Sure.

OWEN

We were just about to--

Every electronic device in the house turns off. Darkness.

LIAM

Daddy?

OWEN
Don't panic.

ADDISON
I can't see any--

The lights flick back on. The family stares at the ceiling.

CHARLOTTE
What was that?

OWEN
Probably just a brownout. I'll check
the breakers after dinner.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte and Liam dance to CHRISTMAS MUSIC as Addison and Owen watch from the couch. Tucker quietly chews on a bone.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 19TH"

Owen stands up.

OWEN
My turn.

LIAM
But I want to dance with Mommy.

Addison leaps from the couch.

ADDISON
Come here, bud. I'll dance with you.

Addison takes Liam in her arms, spins him as he laughs. Owen pulls Charlotte close, rests his head on hers as they dance.

CHARLOTTE
It's going great.

Owen smiles, kisses her on the head.

OWEN
It's perfect, Char.

LATER

Charlotte plops onto the couch.

CHARLOTTE

Aria, turn a Christmas show on.

The television flicks on. A news report: picture of a woman.

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

Evelyn Harper was last seen at her
apartment just--

The channel switches.

ADDISON

Wait, go back to the news.

Charlotte snatches the remote, returns to the report.

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

...missing for two days. Her father,
Jack Harper, urges to please contact
the police with any information
regarding the whereabouts of Evelyn.

Footage of a tearful JACK HARPER (59) populates the screen.

JACK

(on television)

I just pray that she comes home safe.

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

Evelyn currently attends Westchester
College and is studying computer
science. She graduated from Taylor
High School two years ago and--

CHARLOTTE

That's your year, Addison. Did you
know her?

Addison's eyes fall to the floor.

ADDISON

Not really.

CHARLOTTE

She looked familiar and I thought--

Owen flicks the television off. Charlotte glances at him.

OWEN

Let's not let it ruin our evening. I hope they find her.

The overhead lights flicker.

CHARLOTTE

There it is again. Did you ever check the breakers?

Owen, lost in thought.

CHARLOTTE

Owen, did you check the breakers?

He snaps out of it.

OWEN

I'll check them tomorrow.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Charlotte prepares food on the counter.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 20TH"

The PHONE RINGS. Charlotte moves to the nearest smart home device, touches the screen.

CHARLOTTE

Hey, Wendy.

WENDY WESTBROOK (69) sits upright on the screen, hands folded on her lap, a stern expression etched on her face.

WENDY

Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Did you and Don get the rental car situation worked out? Owen--

WENDY

We can take care of ourselves, Charlotte. You don't need to fret about us.

Charlotte smiles.

CHARLOTTE

I don't fret about you. I just--

WENDY
Are the children home?

Charlotte glares at Wendy.

CHARLOTTE
Sure, Wendy. Let me grab them.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Charlotte tries the handle to Addison's bedroom, but the door is locked.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

Addison sits on her bed, wipes tears away from her eyes as she texts. She glances at something on the bed.

A KNOCK at the door. Addison shoves it under her pillow.

ADDISON
What?!

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Why is the door locked?!

ADDISON
Because you never knock!

Addison opens the door.

ADDISON
What?!

CHARLOTTE
Grandma is on the phone.

ADDISON
I'll be down in a minute.

CHARLOTTE
Lose the attitude first. I mean it.

Addison closes the door behind Charlotte, sits on the bed.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam quietly plays with toys. Tucker lies on the floor next to him. Charlotte enters.

CHARLOTTE
Grandma's on the phone.

Liam beams, bounces from the room.

KITCHEN

He plops into the chair in front of the screen. Charlotte continues to prepare food.

LIAM
Grandma!

Wendy's entire demeanor changes as she smiles.

WENDY
Hey, handsome! You're getting big. I thought I told you to stop growing.

Liam giggles.

LIAM
I can't stop growing. I've tried.

WENDY
I'll bet you have. Where's your sister?

Addison enters, sits next to Liam.

ADDISON
Hey.

WENDY
There's my exquisite granddaughter.

LIAM
Where's Grandpa?

WENDY
He's around here somewhere.

She glances off-screen.

WENDY
Don! Get in here!

DON (O.S.)
What?!

WENDY

The kids are on the computer.

DON WESTBROOK (71) sits next to Wendy.

WENDY

What were you doing?

DON

Conference call.

LIAM

Grandpa!

Don smiles as he waves.

DON

There's my little man!

ADDISON

Liam can't wait to see you guys. He's been counting down the days.

WENDY

We have, too.

LIAM

Mom's been working hard trying to get the house ready for you guys.

Wendy snickers.

WENDY

Her paucity of expertise relative to the domestic arts has always been vexing.

Charlotte shakes her head, exits the room.

OWEN'S OFFICE

Charlotte storms in as Owen types on his computer.

CHARLOTTE

You need to speak to that woman.

OWEN

Who?

CHARLOTTE

Your mother. She always gives me crap

and now I'm going to spend--

Owen raises his hands defensively.

OWEN

Okay. Okay. I'll talk to her.

CHARLOTTE

No you won't. You always say you will,
but then you--

Owen stands, looks her in the eye.

OWEN

I promise I'll talk to her.

KITCHEN

Addison and Liam sit close to the smart home device.

DON

I hope you both have been nice this
year. Otherwise, I'll have to take all
those gifts back to the store.

LIAM

Take Addison's. She's the naughty one.

Everyone laughs. Addison playfully rubs Liam's head.

ADDISON

Thanks, kiddo.

Static races across the screen. Liam taps it.

WENDY

I think we're losing you. We'll see
you all in a couple days, okay?

LIAM

Okay, Grandma. We love--

The entire screen is consumed by static as Owen enters.

ADDISON

Dad, something's up with the internet.

OWEN

I'll take a look at it.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The lights are off. Nothing moves.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 21ST"

An eerie silence echoes through the room.

FAMILY ROOM

Tucker lies on the floor; head rests on his front paws. The massive television on the wall flashes static briefly.

Tucker sits up, quietly GROWLS.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Fire burns in Charlotte's eyes. Owen stands on the other side of the counter.

OWEN

Do you want me to tell her not to come?

CHARLOTTE

If she's treating me like crap, I expect you to stand up for me!

OWEN

That's just who she is.

Charlotte points directly at Owen.

CHARLOTTE

That's no excuse, Owen! I can see why your dad cheats.

Fire burns in Owen's eyes, glances around.

OWEN

Keep your voice down! You don't know the first thing about their marriage.

CHARLOTTE

I know they lie to each other.

GARAGE

Addison rummages through boxes. She finds an ax, sets it against the wall. Glances in a box, sets it aside.

She hears Owen and Charlotte YELLING, shakes her head.

KITCHEN

OWEN

People do stupid things when they're stressed, Char.

CHARLOTTE

You've been stressed about work. Have you done anything stupid?

Owen rubs his head.

OWEN

My parents were there for you when you were struggling. And the kids.

CHARLOTTE

Don't change the subject.

She jabs her finger at Owen.

CHARLOTTE

I wouldn't be surprised if you were cheating on me. Just like your father.

OWEN

You're paranoid.

He points to the security camera.

OWEN

That's why I put these up, remember?

CHARLOTTE

I've been fine for years and you still don't trust me!

OWEN

Some people don't change, Char. She's not perfect, but she's my mother.

CHARLOTTE

I guess I'll just stay in our room then while they're here!

OWEN

Don't be crazy.

CHARLOTTE
Crazy?! You son of a...

Charlotte wipes her eyes, leaves the room.

OWEN
It's just an expression!

Owen sighs, shakes his head. DOORBELL.

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Charlotte whips the door open, yells down the hallway.

CHARLOTTE
You get that!

She slams the door closed.

KITCHEN

Owen shakes his head, glances at his phone to check the front door camera. No one is there.

He is about to put his phone away when the DOORBELL RINGS. He quickly checks his phone. No one.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Answer the door, Owen!

Owen stomps from the room.

FRONT YARD

Owen whips the front door open, storms into the snow. He glances in all directions. No one.

OWEN
Whoever the hell is playing a prank--

DOORBELL. Owen's eyes dart over his shoulder. No one. He slowly steps toward the door, inspects the doorbell.

He moves closer. DOORBELL. He startles, waits. Nothing. He glances around before going inside.

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

A KNOCK at the door.

CHARLOTTE

What?!

Owen quietly enters, closes the door behind him.

CHARLOTTE

You're a dick, you know that?

OWEN

I don't think I'm--

CHARLOTTE

It isn't that hard, Owen! Stand up for your wife! No matter what! I should be your number one!

Owen sits on the bed next to Charlotte as she wipes her eyes.

OWEN

You're right. I'm a dick.

Charlotte laughs.

CHARLOTTE

How did that feel coming out of your mouth?

Owen smiles.

OWEN

Don't push it.

CHARLOTTE

I just worry. All the time you've been spending at work. Have you ever been with another woman since we--

OWEN

There's never been anyone but you. I wouldn't do anything to hurt you.

He wraps his arm around her, pulls her close.

OWEN

You've always been my number one.
Always.

They kiss. Static flashes across the television. Charlotte is about to speak.

OWEN
I'll check the breakers.

BASEMENT

A DOOR OPENS. Light spills across the floor. FOOTSTEPS.

OWEN (O.S.)
Aria, turn the lights on.

Nothing.

OWEN (O.S.)
Aria, turn the lights on!

Nothing. Owen flicks his flashlight on.

He opens the box next to the smart home station, analyzes the breakers. BEEP.

Eyes dart to the smart home device. Nothing. Glances back to the breakers.

A WOMAN'S FACE flashes across the screen, but Owen doesn't see it.

BEEP. He glances at the station. Static on the screen.

He steps toward it. Watches the screen. Lights flicker.

He looks closer, inches from the screen. Silence.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Owen.

He startles as Charlotte approaches.

OWEN
What the hell, Char?!

CHARLOTTE
Sorry. Find anything?

OWEN
No, but I'm not an expert.

CHARLOTTE
Then you should call an electrician.

He scans the array of circuit breakers.

OWEN
Maybe you're right.

INT. OWEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Addison sits at the desk, cell phone pressed to her ear.

ADDISON
...not sure what I'm going to do--

Owen enters, glares at Addison.

OWEN
How many times have I told you to stay
out of my office?

ADDISON
It's the only place I can get away
from her. Why? You have something to
hide?

Owen is taken back. Awkward silence. Addison LAUGHS.

ADDISON
Just messing with you, Dad.

She stands, talks on the phone as she exits. Owen closes the door behind her, checks a small compartment under his desk.

He retrieves a cell phone, checks it, and puts it back.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Early morning. A TOILET FLUSHES. The bathroom door opens. Addison rubs her eyes, shuffles toward her bedroom.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 22ND"

The overhead light flickers. She glances at the ceiling. Nothing.

She shrugs, moves to her bedroom, and closes the door.

Tucker slowly steps into the hallway. He looks at the overhead lights.

He whimpers, scampers from the hallway.

KITCHEN

Tucker enters, passes through the dog door, and disappears

into the snow.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Later that morning, Charlotte prepares food as Addison pours a glass of orange juice.

CHARLOTTE

...have to be some cute guys down there that you've met in the dorms or classes. Have you been dating anyone?

ADDISON

I've dated a little.

CHARLOTTE

Anyone serious?

ADDISON

I'm not in the mood for a heart-to-heart, Mom.

Charlotte sets a pot in the sink, returns to preparing food.

CHARLOTTE

Aria, turn the sink on.

Water rockets from the faucet into the pot.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not trying to pry, Addison, I just want to be part of your life.

ADDISON

But that's what you're doing. Prying. I'm an adult. I can handle myself. You don't need to worry about me.

Charlotte stops what she's doing, locks eyes with Addison.

CHARLOTTE

That's what mothers do, Addison.

ADDISON

Whatever.

Charlotte flicks the water off as Liam bounces into the room.

LIAM

I can't find Tucker.

CHARLOTTE

Did you check your dad's office? He likes to hide out in there.

LIAM

I checked everywhere.

Charlotte glances into the backyard.

CHARLOTTE

I don't see him back there either. Addison, can you check upstairs?

ADDISON

Sure.

LIAM

I said I checked everywhere!

Addison and Charlotte exit as they yell for Tucker.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

Addison enters, glances around her bed.

ADDISON

Tucker?

As she turns to leave, static flashes across her computer. Eyes dart over her shoulder. Nothing.

KITCHEN

Addison returns.

CHARLOTTE

Anything?

ADDISON

He's not upstairs.

Liam starts to sob.

LIAM

Where's Tucker?

Charlotte moves around the counter, embraces Liam.

CHARLOTTE

We'll find him, sweetie.

FAMILY ROOM

Owen enters from the garage, shakes snow from his coat.

OWEN

Everyone stay away from Green Market today. It's insane.

KITCHEN

He enters and sets some boxes on the counter, notices Liam.

OWEN

What's wrong?

CHARLOTTE

We can't find the dog.

OWEN

When was the last time you saw him?

CHARLOTTE

Last night. When I was going to bed. This isn't like him.

OWEN

I'll check the neighborhood.

Owen exits.

GARAGE

Owen closes the door behind him, steps around the ax propped against the wall.

OWEN

Aria, open the garage door.

The garage door slides open. His PHONE RINGS.

OWEN

This is Owen.

He steps toward his car as he listens briefly, eyes dart over his shoulder to the door.

OWEN

Hang on a second.

He opens the car door, slides in.

OWEN
How can I help you officer?

He backs out of the garage.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Charlotte sits quietly as Liam stands at the window, bathed in sunlight.

LIAM
I see Dad!

CHARLOTTE
Does he have Tucker?

Liam bolts for the garage door.

FAMILY ROOM

His shoulders drop as Owen pushes through the door. No Tucker. Charlotte enters.

CHARLOTTE
Anything?

Owen shakes his head. Liam starts to sob.

LIAM
Where is he?

OWEN
I spoke with as many neighbors as I could. The Blakes and Sorensons are out of town, but Henry will keep his eyes open for him.

LIAM
What if we never find him? What if he's dead?

OWEN
Come here, buddy.

Owen embraces Liam, sits on the couch, Liam on his knee.

OWEN
He's a smart dog. Probably too smart.
We'll find him.

LIAM
You promise?

OWEN
I promise.

The lights in the room flicker. Charlotte looks at Owen.

OWEN
I'll call an electrician.

CHARLOTTE
You should've done that already.

OWEN
I've been busy, Char.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Owen enters, glances out the window. The television turns on.

ON THE TELEVISION

Security footage from "DECEMBER 6TH." Charlotte sits at the counter in the kitchen. Owen stands a few feet away.

CHARLOTTE
Who was that woman you were with?

The footage skips.

OWEN
I was trying to remember her name, but
I couldn't.

The television flicks off.

BACK TO SCENE

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth or die.

Owen stares at the ceiling in silence. Charlotte reenters, glances to the television.

CHARLOTTE
What was that?

Owen slowly moves to the side of the mounted television, glances behind it.

OWEN

Aria randomly flicked on. Probably another glitch.

CHARLOTTE

We need to get it checked out before everyone gets here.

OWEN

I'll reset the system later tonight. See if that does anything.

His gaze falls to the floor.

CHARLOTTE

Why did Aria say tell the truth or die?

Owen shrugs.

OWEN

I'm not Aria, Char. How would I know?

CHARLOTTE

Are you lying to me? You've been acting strange the last few days.

OWEN

I've just had a lot on my mind.

CHARLOTTE

Is there something I should know?

He hesitates.

OWEN

It's just work.

The lights flicker. Charlotte glances to the ceiling as Owen gently rests his hands on her shoulders.

OWEN

Let's go out tonight. Get Liam out of the house, so he isn't cooped up here worrying about the dog.

CHARLOTTE

Perfect. I don't feel like cooking.

OWEN

You pick the restaurant. You earned

it, babe.

He kisses her on the head. She smiles.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam sits on the end of his bed, wipes his eyes.

ARIA (O.S.)

Don't trust them.

Liam glances to the ceiling.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

The family returns from dinner. Addison bursts through the door and bolts for the bathroom.

VOMITS. Charlotte races after her.

CHARLOTTE

Are you okay--

The bathroom door slams closed. Owen shakes his head as he steps into the hallway.

OWEN

I hope she's not contagious. My parents get here in a couple days.

CHARLOTTE

Liam, give Addison some space, sweetie. I don't want you to get sick. Why don't you put your pajamas on?

Liam nods, scampers from the hallway.

CHARLOTTE

If all of us get a stomach bug right before Christmas?

OWEN

I'll call my parents. Probably best if they just go to Kim's instead.

TOILET FLUSH. Addison exits the bathroom, wipes her mouth.

CHARLOTTE

Addison, do you need--

ADDISON
I'm fine. Just a little motion
sickness, that's all.

CHARLOTTE
Let me know if you need anything.

Addison moves to the staircase.

ADDISON
I said I'm fine.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Owen taps the screen of the smart home station. He passes a
"LOCKDOWN" option.

ARIA (O.S.)
System reset in progress.

He accidentally drops his pen as he flips through an
instruction manual.

As he bends over, the same WOMAN (20) who flashed earlier
crosses the screen.

WOMAN
Owen.

Owen sits up. The screen is dark. He glances around the room.
No one. Lights blink across the hub after a few seconds.

OWEN
Aria, turn the lights off.

The room goes dark.

OWEN
Aria, turn the lights on.

The room is illuminated. Owen smiles.

INT. ADDISON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Addison lies quietly in her bed, pulls the blanket over her
shoulder.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 23RD"

Her door slowly CREAKS open.

Addison rolls over, glances to the hallway.

ADDISON

Mom?

Nothing. She tosses the covers, steps into the hallway.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Addison scans the corridor.

ADDISON

Mom? Are you there?

AUDIO CRACKLING echoes from her bedroom.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

She flicks on the light, startles. Liam stands at the foot of her bed, eyes locked on Addison.

ADDISON

Liam, what are you doing?!

Liam remains motionless.

ADDISON

Are you okay?

LIAM

Liars.

She steps toward him, apprehensive.

LIAM

You're all liars.

ADDISON

Who told you that, buddy?

Liam doesn't respond, blinks as though he's coming out of a trance. Addison rests her hand on his cheek.

ADDISON

You can sleep in here tonight.

She takes him in her arms as he rubs his eyes. She lays him in the bed next to her, pulls the covers over him.

Static races across her computer screen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Addison stands at the counter across from Charlotte.

ADDISON

Has he done anything like that before?

CHARLOTTE

Sometimes he wanders into our bedroom when he can't sleep.

ADDISON

He said we're all liars.

Charlotte hesitates.

CHARLOTTE

Kids sleepwalk. It's not a big deal.

ADDISON

You used to say the same thing about yourself.

Charlotte locks eyes with Addison.

CHARLOTTE

This isn't about me, Addi.

Addison motions to the hallway.

ADDISON

Fine. Then what are we going to do about Liam? Something is wrong.

CHARLOTTE

Keep your voice down. I'll take him to a psychologist after the holidays.

ADDISON

Couldn't you get him in any--

CHARLOTTE

After the holidays. It will be fine, Addison. I promise.

ADDISON

You're not taking this seriously, Mom. Like usual.

Charlotte's jaw tightens.

CHARLOTTE
No, I'm just not doing exactly what
you want me to do, which is--

Owen enters, freezes.

OWEN
What's wrong?

CHARLOTTE
We're fine.

OWEN
Any issues with Aria this morning?

CHARLOTTE
Not that I've seen. Have you checked
the neighborhood again for Tucker?

OWEN
Not yet, but--

The DOORBELL rings.

OWEN
There better be an actual person at
that door.

LIVING ROOM

Owen opens the door to find Jack Harper, Evelyn's father. He
is accompanied by a POLICE OFFICER (35).

OWEN
Can I help you?

Jack extends his hand.

JACK
Jack Harper.

Owen shakes his hand.

OWEN
What's this about?

Charlotte approaches.

CHARLOTTE
Who is it, honey?

She freezes, eyes locked on the police officer.

POLICE OFFICER

We need to ask you a few questions,
Mr. Westbrook.

Tears roll down Jack's cheeks.

JACK

I'm trying to find my daughter, Eve
Harper.

OWEN

Maybe we should--

Charlotte moves past Owen, takes Jack by the hand.

CHARLOTTE

Please come in. It's cold outside.

JACK

Thank you.

Jack glares at Owen as he enters.

He sits with the police officer on the couch as Owen slumps
into the nearby chair.

CHARLOTTE

Could I get you something to drink?

The police officer waves his hand dismissively.

POLICE OFFICER

No, please. We just have some
questions for your husband.

CHARLOTTE

Your daughter is the one who's
missing?

JACK

Yes.

Jack wipes his eyes with the back of his hand.

POLICE OFFICER

She worked as an intern at your
company in software development this
past summer, correct?

OWEN

Could this wait until tomorrow? We could meet at my office and--

JACK

She did.

Jack and Owen lock eyes briefly.

POLICE OFFICER

One of her roommates reported that she was dating someone from your company.

OWEN

I don't know. I have a large company and I don't keep track of who--

JACK

She was dating someone, but never mentioned his name. She's always been honest with me. Honesty was so important to her. To us. In everything.

He locks eyes with Owen.

JACK

Secrets destroy families, don't you think?

Owen and Charlotte shift in their seats.

CHARLOTTE

If Owen had any information that could help find your daughter, he would--

Jack retrieves a cell phone from his pocket.

JACK

It took a couple days to get her phone unlocked, but she called an unlisted number several times in the last few weeks.

POLICE OFFICER

Including the day she disappeared.

Owen shifts in his chair.

POLICE OFFICER

We couldn't find a name attached to it

in our database, so it's probably a burner phone.

JACK
I've called it multiple times, but never get a response.

Owen squirms.

OWEN
Mr. Harper, is this really--

Jack presses the number. Owen shifts uncomfortably.

A PHONE RINGS. Owen's Office. Everyone freezes.

The officer stands. Owen follows.

OWEN
There must be a mistake, because--

OWEN'S OFFICE

The officer throws the door open. Owen stops.

Addison sits at the desk, answers her RINGING PHONE.

ADDISON
Hang on a sec. It's my dad again.

She glares at Owen.

ADDISON
Do you mind?

Owen breathes a sigh of relief.

OWEN
This is my daughter, Addison.

POLICE OFFICER
I need to see your phone, young lady.

Addison rolls her eyes, presses the phone to her ear.

ADDISON
Let me call you back.

She hangs up, hands her phone to the officer. He checks a couple places on her phone, nods as he hands it back to her.

POLICE OFFICER

Thank you.

ADDISON

Satisfied?

The officer glares at her as he closes the door.

LIVING ROOM

Owen glances to Charlotte as they enter.

OWEN

False alarm. Just Addison.

JACK

Addison. Such a unique name. Eve went to school with an Addison.

CHARLOTTE

Yes, they went to the same high school.

Owen gives Charlotte a sharp look. The officer glances over his shoulder.

POLICE OFFICER

Addison, could you come in here please?

Owen and Charlotte shift uncomfortably as Addison shuffles into the room.

She freezes, nervously glances to Jack.

POLICE OFFICER

Do you know Evelyn Harper?

ADDISON

We went to high school together, but I don't really know her. We didn't talk.

The officer's eyes narrow.

POLICE OFFICER

So you weren't friends?

Addison hesitates.

CHARLOTTE

If Addison knew anything, she'd tell

you.

Jack nods, starts to sob uncontrollably.

JACK

I'm sorry. I lost my wife around the holidays. I don't want to lose my little girl, too.

He wipes his eyes, checks his cell phone.

JACK

I'm a mess. May I use your bathroom?

CHARLOTTE

Of course.

She points to the hallway.

CHARLOTTE

Down the hallway on your right.

JACK

Thank you.

Jack exits.

POLICE OFFICER

Evelyn has a history of depression and suicidal ideation. She left her Celexa prescription, so we're concerned.

He locks eyes with Owen.

POLICE OFFICER

I'd like to ask the guy she was seeing a few questions.

OWEN

If I find out, I'll let you know.

POLICE OFFICER

I'll need contact information for every employee, starting with the software development department.

OWEN

Of course. I can get that to you--

POLICE OFFICER

Today. We need to move fast when a

missing person is involved.

OWEN

I'll get it for you. You have my word.

Lights flicker.

POLICE OFFICER

Great. And thank you for answering my other questions from yesterday.

Charlotte fidgets.

CHARLOTTE

Yesterday? What--

OWEN

It was nothing.

Jack returns.

CHARLOTTE

We're so sorry, Mr. Harper. We can't begin to understand what you're going through. If you need anything--

JACK

That's very kind. Thank you.

Owen reaches for his wallet.

OWEN

If there's some way I could help out with the search--

Jack's jaw tightens.

JACK

No.

Awkward silence. Owen nods as he stands, points to the police officer.

OWEN

I'll get that contact information to you as soon as I can.

POLICE OFFICER

Thank you.

He opens the door for Jack and the officer. They shake hands.

FRONT YARD

Jack takes a few steps outside, turns.

JACK

I hope the Christmas Spirit finds you
tomorrow night.

Awkward pause.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you. Merry Christmas.

Jack smiles.

LIVING ROOM

Owen closes the door behind him.

OWEN

That was weird. Why was Jack acting--

CHARLOTTE

Why didn't you say anything?

OWEN

About what?

CHARLOTTE

That night when the news report came
on. Why didn't you say that she worked
for your company?

Owen shrugs.

OWEN

She looked familiar, but I wasn't
sure.

Lights flicker. Charlotte's eyes narrow.

CHARLOTTE

You weren't sure? Your company's not
that big, Owen. She's the one you were
speaking to at the Christmas party.

OWEN

What exactly are you accusing me of,
Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

Keeping secrets, for starters. You didn't tell me the police called you yesterday--

OWEN

If it's work-related, I try not to pull you into it. And what was wrong with you? You could barely sit still during the conversation.

CHARLOTTE

There's a police officer sitting in my home. Of course I'm nervous.

Static on the television.

OWEN

I informed my employees after the news report, because that's a work issue. It didn't involve our family.

More static.

CHARLOTTE

Trust, Owen. If we can't be honest with each other, why are we married?

Charlotte shakes her head as she exits. Owen's gaze falls to the floor.

ARIA (O.S.)

Do you know what happens to liars?

Owen's eyes dart to the ceiling.

OWEN

Aria, who told you to say that?

No response.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte stands from the couch, rubs her eyes as she moves to the door.

CHARLOTTE

Aria, lights off.

The lights turn off as she exits.

LIVING ROOM

Charlotte enters, glances around the room.

CHARLOTTE
Aria, lights off.

The lights turn off. Charlotte turns to exit. Static flashes across the television briefly.

She glances back to the screen. Nothing. Silence.

The Roomba in the corner turns on, startles Charlotte.

It flicks off. She waits. It doesn't move.

She watches the device as she exits.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkness. The lamp on the nightstand flickers. A dark figure moves in the shadows.

Charlotte flicks the lamp on. SCREAMS. Owen jerks awake.

OWEN
What is it?!

Liam stands at the foot of their bed, stares at them without blinking.

CHARLOTTE
Liam, what are you doing?!

Liam hesitates.

CHARLOTTE
Liam?

OWEN
Liam, say something!

LIAM
Tell the truth.

CHARLOTTE
What?

LIAM
It's the only way to protect you.

CHARLOTTE
From who, sweetie?

Liam still doesn't blink, locks eyes with Charlotte.

LIAM
The lady in the ceiling.

Owen and Charlotte glance at each other, frightened.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

An ELECTRICIAN (50) wanders, glances at the electrical sockets. He looks behind the television.

Charlotte stands awkwardly in the room.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 24TH"

ELECTRICIAN
I don't know, Mrs. Westbrook. I've checked the breakers and the wiring. I can't find anything wrong.

CHARLOTTE
Obviously we're having issues. The lights have been flickering in different rooms.

The electrician shrugs.

ELECTRICIAN
Maybe it's the smart home system. I'm not familiar with the device your husband's company manufactures, but I'm surprised by the excessive wiring in different places. Check with support and see if they notice anything on their end.

She points over her shoulder.

CHARLOTTE
I think he's on the phone with them right now, but isn't it your job to figure this out?

He glares at her.

ELECTRICIAN
I could install a new breaker panel if

you want me to, but it may be overkill. And expensive.

CHARLOTTE
How long would that take?

ELECTRICIAN
A few hours. I'd have to run back to the office and grab some parts.

CHARLOTTE
I don't have a few hours. Why don't you have the parts in your truck?!

ELECTRICIAN
Look, Ma'am, it's Christmas Eve. I'm sure you're stressed and this is the last thing you wanted to deal with, but I'm trying to help.

She rubs her head.

CHARLOTTE
Sorry. I have family coming into town later today and I can't have everyone here in a house with no power.

ELECTRICIAN
I hear ya. My mother-in-law's staying with us the next few days. Trust me, you don't want to piss that woman off.

CHARLOTTE
Mine's coming this afternoon and I already can't wait until she leaves.

They both laugh.

CHARLOTTE
Let's do it. The new breaker panel.

ELECTRICIAN
Serious?

CHARLOTTE
Yes.

The electrician sighs, checks his watch.

ELECTRICIAN
I've got a couple other appointments

and then I can swing by the office to grab the parts, but--

CHARLOTTE

But what?

He gives Charlotte a quizzical look.

ELECTRICIAN

It's Christmas Eve.

CHARLOTTE

And I need this done. Today.

They glare at each other. Silence.

ELECTRICIAN

Okay, Mrs. Westbrook. I'm not sure what time I'll be back, but I'll get it done.

CHARLOTTE

Thanks.

He opens the front door, turns.

ELECTRICIAN

Honestly, ma'am, maybe you're doing me a favor. Not being around my in-laws tonight may be the best Christmas present ever.

INT. OWEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Owen paces, cell phone pressed to his ear.

OWEN

I'm having a hard time believing you can't see any issues on your end.

He listens briefly.

OWEN

I'm not pleased that my own company can't figure out what's wrong with the smart home system we designed.

He slumps into the chair as he listens.

OWEN

Could someone be accessing the system

remotely?

Listens.

OWEN

Who was the last developer to access
my unit?

His shoulders drop as he shakes his head.

OWEN

Her account is locked now, right?

Listens.

OWEN

Thanks. Keep me posted.

He hangs up, tosses the cell phone on the desk.

He retrieves another cell phone from a small compartment
under the desk. He's about to dial, hesitates.

He glances right at the security camera.

OWEN

I don't know how you're doing it, but
leave my family alone.

He stuffs the phone back into the desk.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Owen retrieves the orange juice and a glass, hands them to
Addison.

ADDISON

I'm worried about him. And Mom just
kind of blows it off like--

OWEN

He'll be fine. We'll have him see
someone.

ADDISON

He keeps saying Aria talks to him.

OWEN

I think someone is playing a prank on
us through the system.

ADDISON
Who would do that?

Owen hesitates before he rubs his forehead.

OWEN
I don't know.

Addison shakes her head.

ADDISON
Maybe we're all losing our minds.

OWEN
No one is losing their mind.

She takes a drink, shakes her head, points to the other room.

ADDISON
One of us is going to end up like her.

OWEN
Don't say that, Addison.

ADDISON
The same blood runs through my veins.

She pushes the glass of orange juice away.

ADDISON
How old was Mom when she started
showing symptoms?

OWEN
A little older than you, but you're
different, Addison.

He moves around the counter, wraps his arms around her.

OWEN
Everything is going to be okay. I hope
you know that.

ADDISON
Nothing feels okay right now.

Tears trickle down Addison's cheeks as she rubs her stomach.

ADDISON
I'm just scared. About Liam. About
college. It's all just--

She stops.

OWEN

Just what?

ADDISON

Forget it.

OWEN

What is it, Addison? You can tell me.

ADDISON

I know, Dad, but it's nothing. I'm just scared.

OWEN

You don't need to be scared. I'll do anything to protect you.

ADDISON

I know. You'll always protect the family.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte and Addison set the table as Liam fidgets in one of the chairs.

CHARLOTTE

Hurry. They'll be here any--

DOORBELL. Charlotte's eyes widen, glances to Liam.

CHARLOTTE

Liam, make sure none of your toys--

Liam excitedly rushes from the room. Charlotte sighs.

CHARLOTTE

Addi, can you pick up--

ADDISON

On it.

She races after Liam.

LIVING ROOM

Owen opens the front door: Don and Wendy Westbrook. Wendy SHRIEKS WITH JOY, tosses her arms around him.

OWEN
Hey, Mom.

WENDY
Where are my grandchildren?

Liam bursts into the room followed closely by Addison.

LIAM
Grandma!

Wendy throws her arms around him. Don enters, embraces Owen.

LIAM
Grandpa!

Liam and Addison hug Don.

Addison attempts to hug Wendy, but she steps back.

WENDY
I heard you were unwell.

Addison shakes her head, cavalier in her response.

ADDISON
I'm fine. It was nothing.

WENDY
I don't want to get infected. Where's
your mother?

Charlotte enters. A fake smile crosses her face.

CHARLOTTE
Wendy.

WENDY
Charlotte.

They awkwardly embrace.

CHARLOTTE
Dinner isn't quite ready yet.

WENDY
Governing a domiciliary has always
been laborious for you.

Charlotte's jaw tightens.

CHARLOTTE
Not as laborious as dealing with you.

LATER

Soft CHRISTMAS MUSIC plays as everyone gathers. Wendy stumbles, a drink in her hand.

OWEN
Mom, maybe you should sit down.

WENDY
I'm fine, honey.

She tilts slightly as she takes a gulp.

DON
Wen, go easy on the sauce.

WENDY
Have a little fun, Don.

DON
You're drinking too much.

WENDY
Yes, warden.

Wendy giggles. Liam tugs on Charlotte's shirt.

LIAM
What's a warden?

Charlotte shakes her head. Wendy scans the room.

WENDY
I can't believe this room, Char. You never were much of a decorator. That rug is fit for a vagrant.

DON
Just stop, Wendy.

WENDY
Or what? You'll put me in solitary?

Wendy snorts. Don points at Owen and Charlotte.

DON
Or we could learn to get along like Owen and Charlotte.

She glares at Charlotte.

WENDY

Owen was always too good for her.

Don slaps the side of his chair.

DON

I said that's enough!

Awkward silence.

OWEN

So how's work, Dad?

DON

It gets me out of the house.

The television flicks on.

ON THE TELEVISION

Footage from the previous day. Jack Harper marches past the camera toward the bathroom, face clearly visible. Static.

BACK TO SCENE

Black screen. Owen shakes his head.

WENDY

Is someone else here?!

OWEN

No. It's just footage from yesterday.
The TV's been acting--

WENDY

What's his name?

Owen stares at Wendy awkwardly.

OWEN

Jack Harper.

Wendy's eyes narrow.

WENDY

Small world.

OWEN

Do you know him?

WENDY

I think he worked for your father.

Don shifts uncomfortably in his chair. A small smile stretches across Wendy's face.

DON

There was a Jack who did programming for the company in Atlanta years ago, but I can't remember his last name.

Wendy laughs.

WENDY

Have I ever told you kids about your grandfather? He's quite the Casanova.

OWEN

Mom, maybe we should--

Wendy holds her finger in the air.

WENDY

I'm not finished!

She locks eyes on Don.

WENDY

How many has it been, Don? Over the years, there's had to be--

OWEN

Mom! The kids are in the room and--

WENDY

They deserve to know, Owen! He was a legendary cocksman!

She takes another drink.

OWEN

The kids don't need to know about your grievances--

WENDY

It's not a grievance. I'm the queen. Concubines come and go, but the queen always sits atop the throne.

BACKYARD

The motion lights turn on. Turn off. Turn on. The backdoor creeps open.

LIVING ROOM

Charlotte taps Liam on the head.

CHARLOTTE
Go play in your room.

LIAM
But I want to--

CHARLOTTE
Now.

Liam marches away. Wendy chuckles.

WENDY
Great, Charlotte. Send the children away. Don't want them to hear undesirable truths that--

CHARLOTTE
Shut the hell up, Wendy.

Charlotte storms from the room. Everyone remains motionless. Owen shakes his head.

OWEN
Great. Thanks, Mom.

WENDY
What? I'm just being open. Keeping secrets kills people on the inside.

Don chuckles.

DON
You would know.

WENDY
So would you.

DON
You wouldn't want Owen to know your little secret, would you?

OWEN
What's he talking about, Mom?

KITCHEN

Charlotte enters. The backdoor sits wide open. She glances outside briefly before she closes and locks the door.

LIVING ROOM

Wendy's bottom lip curls as she glares at Don.

WENDY

It's nothing. He's just a sour old man
and you're nothing like him.

DON

There's reason for that.

She stumbles across the room, pats Owen on the head.

WENDY

You're the better man, Owen. You
always have been.

She awkwardly kisses Owen on the head.

OWEN

What's the secret, Mom?

WENDY

You don't need to know.

OWEN

I think I do.

Wendy shrugs, takes another drink.

OWEN

Are you going to tell me?

WENDY

No.

Owen shakes his head as he exits. Addison follows.

KITCHEN

Charlotte scrubs dishes furiously as Owen enters. They remain silent for several seconds.

Charlotte jabs her finger toward the living room.

CHARLOTTE
This is why I didn't want her to come!

OWEN
Keep your voice down.

CHARLOTTE
Keep my voice down?! Are you kidding
me, Owen?! This is my home!

Fire burns in Owen's eyes.

OWEN
It's my home too. And she's my mother.

CHARLOTTE
I'm your wife! If she's going to speak
to me like that--

OWEN
Then what?! We throw her on the
street?!

Charlotte dries her hands, tosses the towel on the counter.

CHARLOTTE
Stand up for me, Owen! That's all I'm
asking!

OWEN
She's drunk. And she's keeping
something from me, which pisses me--

Charlotte laughs.

CHARLOTTE
You mean you don't like it when people
keep secrets from you?!

Owen holds his hands up defensively.

OWEN
I'm not doing this right now. It's
Christmas Eve, so let's just go back--

CHARLOTTE
You can go back in there if you want.
I'm staying here.

OWEN
Fine. Suit yourself.

He storms out.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen passes Addison.

ADDISON

Is she coming back?

Owen shakes his head, presses his fingers to his temple like he's shooting himself.

KITCHEN

Charlotte wipes her eyes. Don quietly enters.

DON

Charlotte, honey. I'm sorry.

CHARLOTTE

It's not your fault, Don.

DON

Wendy gets mean when she has a few drinks in her.

Don crosses the room, wraps his arms around Charlotte.

DON

Owen is lucky to have you.

He doesn't let go. It's awkward, drawn out. Charlotte pulls away.

CHARLOTTE

You should get back in there.

Don takes her by the hand, walks toward the hallway.

DON

Let's all have a good time together.

LIVING ROOM

Don, Charlotte, and Owen squeeze onto the couch. Wendy quietly sits in the other chair, stares at the wall.

WENDY

What lies did you share about me this time?

DON
I'm not a liar, Wendy.

Awkward silence. The SNOWSTORM outside increases.

ADDISON
Maybe we could play a--

The television suddenly turns on.

NEWS REPORTER
(on television)
...have identified the body in the woods as 20-year-old Evelyn Harper, the woman reported missing earlier this week.

Addison snatches the remote and attempts to turn the television off, but it doesn't respond.

CHARLOTTE
Addison, turn it off.

ADDISON
It's not working.

POLICE OFFICER
(on television)
...appears to be a suicide. Prescription medication was found, but the cause of death is still under--

ADDISON
Why isn't it turning off?

POLICE OFFICER
(on television)
...suicide note was also found at the scene, but we're not ruling out any possibilities at the moment.

Wendy's gaze locks on Owen. He's frozen; eyes glued to the television.

WENDY
Owen, honey, are you okay?

He remains silent.

WENDY
Owen?

DON
I'll take care of it.

Don stands, moves toward the television.

NEWS REPORTER
(on television)
...condolences go out to Evelyn's
father at this difficult time and we
encourage everyone to get help--

DON
Who wants to open presents?

Don turns the television off. Sparks fly. He's shocked. He
tumbles to the floor, winces as he looks at his burned hand.

WENDY
Don?!

The lights flicker as Owen and Wendy move toward Don.

DON
I'm fine. It's not that--

OWEN
Don't move.

Owen glances behind the television as Wendy examines Don.

CHARLOTTE
I'll grab the first aid kit.

Charlotte exits.

WENDY
We should call an ambulance.

Charlotte returns with a first aid kit. Wendy snatches it.

WENDY
I'll do it.

Charlotte shakes her head as Wendy dresses the wound.

DON
I'm fine. It's just a small burn.

Owen retrieves his cell phone, dials 9-1-1. Waits. Confusion.

CHARLOTTE
What is it?

OWEN
I can't get through.

Charlotte pulls her phone from her pocket, dials.

CHARLOTTE
Mine's not working either.

Wendy sighs, snatches her purse from the floor. She pulls out her cell phone, dials.

WENDY
My phone isn't working.

OWEN
None of ours are. Addison?

Addison glances up from her phone, shakes her head.

ADDISON
No connection.

OWEN
Aria, call 9-1-1.

ARIA (O.S.)
Unable to call 9-1-1.

OWEN
Damn it, Aria, call 9-1-1!

ARIA (O.S.)
Unable to call 9-1-1.

CHARLOTTE
Something's jamming the signal.

OWEN
Fine. I'll drive him myself.

Charlotte glances out the window.

CHARLOTTE
In a blizzard?!

Owen gives her a look.

OWEN

We have a Subaru, Char.

GARAGE

Lights flick on. Owen moves toward his car with Don.

OWEN

Aria, open the garage door.

Nothing.

OWEN

Are you kidding me?! Aria, open the door!

Nothing. Charlotte enters.

CHARLOTTE

What's wrong?

OWEN

Something's wrong with Aria. Just hit the button.

Charlotte taps the button for the door, but it stays closed.

OWEN

This is ridiculous.

Wendy enters.

WENDY

What are you waiting for?!

CHARLOTTE

The doors won't open.

Owen pulls on the rope to open it manually, but the door stays closed.

WENDY

Why isn't it opening?

OWEN

It's connected to the smart home system. Safety precaution, so the door doesn't crash down.

Owen strains as he pulls on the bottom of the garage door, but it doesn't budge.

He grabs the ax, wedges it under the door. Pushes. Nothing.
Keys jingle in Wendy's hand.

WENDY

The rental car is outside.

She tosses the keys to Owen.

LIVING ROOM

Owen walks with Don toward the front door. Charlotte, Wendy,
and Addison enter behind them.

OWEN

I'll call once we--

The front door locks. Owen pulls on the handle.

OWEN

What the hell?!

He whips his head around.

OWEN

Addison, check the back door.

Addison bolts from the room. Owen pulls on the handle.

OWEN

It won't budge.

Addison returns.

ADDISON

The back door won't open.

Owen rests Don on the couch.

OWEN

Aria, call 9-1-1.

ARIA (O.S.)

Unable to call 9-1-1.

OWEN

Why not?!

ARIA (O.S.)

I'm not Aria.

Everyone freezes. Silence echoes.

OWEN
Who are you?

Nothing.

CHARLOTTE
What's going on, Owen?

Owen's gaze falls to the floor briefly.

OWEN
I don't know, but we need to get help.
I'll just unlock one of the windows--

ARIA (O.S.)
Initiating lockdown mode.

OWEN
No, Aria, I said unlock! Don't--

Protective metallic shutters HUM as they cover each window.

CHARLOTTE
What's happening?!

Owen rushes to the nearby window, attempts to pry it open.

OWEN
No, no, no.

The shutters lock into place. Owen punches it.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth or die.

ADDISON
What was that?

Light flickers outside.

OWEN
I'm going to find whoever's
responsible for this.

They glance through the small window of the front door.

FRONT YARD

The motions lights turn on and off sporadically.

LIVING ROOM

Owen and Charlotte scan the snow-covered yard.

CHARLOTTE

Is it the storm?

OWEN

If I knew what it was, I could fix it.

ADDISON

Dad, what's going on?

Owen rubs his forehead as he paces.

OWEN

I think someone hacked our system.

CHARLOTTE

Who would do that?

OWEN

I don't know, Char.

Charlotte's eyes narrow.

CHARLOTTE

I don't believe you.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam stares at the ceiling. He nods as if he's listening to someone, but no one's there.

LIVING ROOM

Owen locks eyes with Charlotte.

OWEN

Is there something you want to say?!

CHARLOTTE

I've been waiting for you to--

A BANG echoes upstairs.

ADDISON

Where's Liam?

Panic flashes across Charlotte's face, bolts from the room.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Charlotte bursts in.

CHARLOTTE

Liam?!

Liam is gone.

CHARLOTTE

Owen, I can't find him!

LIVING ROOM

Owen and Addison rush from the room as Wendy sits with Don.

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Addison enters.

ADDISON

Liam, where are you?!

KITCHEN

Owen enters, freezes.

Liam stands in the middle of the room, butcher knife cradled in his hand.

OWEN

Liam, what are you doing?!

Liam remains motionless, tears stream down his face.

LIAM

You promised you'd find him.

OWEN

Who?

LIAM

Tucker!

FOOTSTEPS. Charlotte enters, moves toward Liam.

CHARLOTTE

Liam, what are you--

Owen stops her. He raises his hands and cautiously steps toward Liam.

OWEN

You're right, buddy. I promised you I'd find him and I haven't.

LIAM

She says you don't really care about Tucker. Or me.

OWEN

You know that's not true. I love you, Liam, but right now, I need you to drop the knife and--

Liam points the knife at Owen. Owen freezes. Addison enters.

ADDISON

What's going--

Charlotte grabs her arm.

LIAM

She said I should protect myself. That you're all bad.

Tears stream down his face.

OWEN

Liam, listen to me. The animal shelter called earlier. They found Tucker.

LIAM

Really?

OWEN

Really. I'll go down there first thing in the morning, but I need you to drop the knife.

Liam glances at the blade.

LIAM

You promise they called?

OWEN

Yes.

The lights flicker.

OWEN

Liam, drop the knife.

Liam drops the knife. Owen steps forward, snatches it. Charlotte steps across the room, embraces Liam.

LIAM
I'm sorry, Mommy.

CHARLOTTE
Please don't ever do that again.

LIAM
She told me to, she told me--

OWEN
Addison, wait with Liam in the family room please.

Addison exits with Liam.

CHARLOTTE
Did the shelter actually call?

OWEN
No.

Fire burns in Charlotte's eyes.

CHARLOTTE
You didn't need to lie to him.

OWEN
I had to. To protect the family.

CHARLOTTE
What are we going to do?

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Owen moves to the closet, retrieves a small handgun, and stuffs it into the back of his pants as he exits.

LIVING ROOM

Owen enters, snaps his fingers as he moves to Don.

OWEN
Let's go, Dad.

DON
I'm telling you, I'm fine. It's not as bad as you--

OWEN

I don't have time for this. Move it.

He helps Don stand from the couch.

OWEN

Let's put you in the guest room so you can rest until we can get you help.

GUEST ROOM

Owen sets Don on the bed. Wendy follows.

WENDY

What's going on, Owen?

OWEN

Someone's using the smart home system against us. I need you to wait here.

Wendy notices the gun tucked in Owen's pants.

WENDY

Why do you have a gun?

OWEN

Just in case.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte watches the snowstorm outside. Owen enters.

OWEN

I searched the house, but didn't find anyone. Anything outside?

CHARLOTTE

The lights have flicked on a couple times, but I haven't seen anyone.

OWEN

I'm going to shut the entire system down. See if that does anything.

BASEMENT

Owen approaches the smart home station.

ARIA (O.S.)

It won't work.

OWEN
Shut up.

He taps the small screen, scrolls through commands.

ARIA (O.S.)
It won't work.

OWEN
Go to hell.

He taps a button. The entire house goes dark.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Owen?!

OWEN
Just wait!

GUEST ROOM

Darkness. CREAKS against the floor. BREATHING.

WENDY
Hello? Is someone there?

FOOTSTEPS. BREATHING.

WENDY
Who's there?!

The lights turn back on. The door slowly closes as though someone just left. Don and Wendy are alone.

LIVING ROOM

Owen enters.

CHARLOTTE
Did it work?

OWEN
Aria, call 9-1-1.

Nothing.

OWEN
Aria!

ARIA (O.S.)
I'm not Aria.

Owen moves to the front door, pulls on the handle. The door remains locked. He kicks the door several times.

CHARLOTTE

Owen, stop!

He slams his fist into the door.

OWEN

Aria, unlock the damn door!

Nothing. Owen laughs, shakes his head.

OWEN

Are you just going to hide behind Aria?! Like a coward?!

Nothing.

CHARLOTTE

It's not working, Owen.

OWEN

I can see that, Char!

CHARLOTTE

Can't you just unplug it?

Owen chuckles.

OWEN

Why didn't I think of that?!

CHARLOTTE

Don't treat me like an idiot.

Owen sighs.

OWEN

We can't shut it down. There's a fail-safe that doesn't let you turn it off.

CHARLOTTE

Then just shut off the electricity.

OWEN

Aria has a backup battery in the unit. She'll still run with the power turned off.

CHARLOTTE
So you're telling me there's no way to
turn it off?!

OWEN
If you knew anything about security--
Charlotte jabs her finger at him.

CHARLOTTE
You're not helping. Can you disconnect
the battery?

OWEN
If it were that simple, we wouldn't be
a good security company--

CHARLOTTE
Can you at least try?! This isn't
something we need to fight about!

OWEN
Fine.

CHARLOTTE
And check the thermostat while you're
at it. I'm freezing.

Owen marches from the room as Charlotte glances outside.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen mumbles to himself as he paces toward the kitchen. He
pauses as he passes the thermostat.

OWEN
You've got to be kidding me.

He taps the screen of the small device.

OWEN
Char, get in here.

Charlotte enters.

CHARLOTTE
What?

OWEN
The temperature is dropping.

She moves to the thermostat, analyzes the small screen.

CHARLOTTE
It's dropping fast.

OWEN
I can see that!

CHARLOTTE
It's your company's system that's
broken and--

OWEN
I thought we weren't fighting.

She glances at her watch.

CHARLOTTE
At the rate it's going, we're going to
freeze in here.

Owen presses buttons on the screen.

OWEN
It's not responding.

CHARLOTTE
I'll grab blankets.

OWEN
That won't do much at the rate--

Charlotte gives him a look. Owen catches himself.

OWEN
I'll try to remove the battery.

Charlotte wraps her arms around him.

CHARLOTTE
We're going to get through this.

She exits.

FAMILY ROOM

Addison searches a cabinet as Liam sits on the couch.

ADDISON
Do you want to play a game or--

Charlotte enters, folded blankets cradled in her arms.

ADDISON
What's going on?

Charlotte hands her a couple blankets.

CHARLOTTE
Everything's fine. Just keep these
with you in case you get cold.

The overhead light flickers.

ADDISON
Seriously. What's going on, Mom?

Charlotte sighs.

CHARLOTTE
Something's wrong with the thermostat.

ADDISON
Great.

LIAM
Mom, could Dad pick up Tucker tonight?
I'm worried about him.

Charlotte hesitates.

CHARLOTTE
Not tonight, sweetie. We'll get him in
the morning.

Lights flicker. Charlotte locks eyes with Addison.

CHARLOTTE
Keep an eye on him. And keep him warm.

GUEST ROOM

Charlotte enters, hands a blanket to Don.

CHARLOTTE
Here you go, Don.

DON
Thank you. I appreciate it.

CHARLOTTE
Would you like a blanket, Wen--

WENDY

No. Maybe you should focus on getting us out of this imperilment.

Charlotte shakes her head, exits the room.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Charlotte rounds the corner as the lights turn off. Darkness.

CHARLOTTE

Owen? Are you messing with the system?

Nothing. CREAKS against the floor.

CHARLOTTE

Addison, is that you?

FOOTSTEPS. BREATHING.

CHARLOTTE

Hello?

The lights flick back on. Charlotte SCREAMS.

OWEN (O.S.)

Charlotte?!

Owen rushes upstairs as Charlotte curls against the wall.

CHARLOTTE

She was right there!

She points down the hallway. No one is there.

OWEN

Who?!

Charlotte is about to speak, but catches herself.

Wendy peeks around the corner.

WENDY

What's going on?

OWEN

Charlotte saw someone in the hallway.

Wendy snickers.

WENDY

Of course. Did they talk to you too, Charlotte? What absurdity did they bestow on you this time?

OWEN

Not now, Mom!

Wendy rolls her eyes as she returns to the guest room.

CHARLOTTE

There's someone in our house, Owen.

OWEN

There's no one here but us.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not crazy! Check the footage!

INT. OWEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Owen rubs his head as he watches the security footage of Charlotte in the hallway on his computer.

Charlotte sits in a chair next to him.

OWEN

See? There's no one there.

Charlotte rubs her head.

CHARLOTTE

I swear someone was there.

OWEN

Char, have you been taking your medication?

Fire burns in Charlotte's eyes.

CHARLOTTE

That has nothing to do with this!

Charlotte storms from the room.

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Charlotte slams the door, plants herself on the bed.

Owen quietly enters, holds his hands up defensively.

OWEN

I'm just asking, because--

CHARLOTTE

Yes, I've been taking my medication!
My mental illness has nothing to do
with this!

Owen grabs the door handle, exits.

CHARLOTTE

Wait, where are you going?

KITCHEN

Owen snatches the prescription bottle from the cupboard,
pauses. The bottle is empty.

OWEN

What the hell?

He turns the bottle over in his hand, eyes narrow. Fire burns
in his eyes as he storms from the room.

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

He bursts in, tosses the empty prescription bottle onto the
bed next to Charlotte.

OWEN

You want to explain that, Char?! It's
empty! I can't believe you've been
lying to me!

She glares at him.

CHARLOTTE

You've got some nerve.

OWEN

No wonder you're seeing other people
in the house.

Fire burns in Charlotte's eyes.

CHARLOTTE

Being trapped and your father getting
electrocuted are my fault, too, right?
Is that a hallucination?

Owen jabs his finger at Charlotte.

OWEN

There's no one else here. What happened to my dad was an accident.

CHARLOTTE

Then why is Aria calling us liars?

He rubs his head as he paces.

OWEN

I think someone hacked our system.

CHARLOTTE

Who would do that?

Owen hesitates.

OWEN

I don't know, but not taking your medication doesn't help the situation.

She snatches the bottle from the bed, analyzes it.

CHARLOTTE

I weaned myself off. I was going to tell everyone tomorrow. It was my secret.

OWEN

I don't believe you.

CHARLOTTE

You don't want to believe me?! Fine! But if you want to talk about dishonesty, go take a long, hard look in the mirror, Owen.

OWEN

I don't know what you're talking about, Char.

Charlotte clenches her fists.

CHARLOTTE

I might be crazy, but not about this. At least I'm not lying.

Static flashes across the television.

OWEN

Trust me, I'll protect the kids from

you again if I have to.

CHARLOTTE

I would do anything to keep this family together.

She locks eyes with Owen.

CHARLOTTE

Anything.

OWEN

What's that supposed to mean?

A KNOCK at the door. Wendy enters.

WENDY

I need some blankets. It's a Siberian winter in here.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, now you want a blanket?!

She rubs her head.

CHARLOTTE

There's more blankets in the dryer, Wendy. Help yourself.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Wendy enters. The dryer runs at high speed. The door slams closed. She pulls on the handle, but it won't open.

WENDY

Owen!

OWEN (O.S.)

Mom?!

Smoke bellows from the dryer. Wendy frantically pulls on the door handle. Nothing.

FOOTSTEPS. Owen attempts to pry the door open from the other side, but it won't budge.

Smoke fills the room.

WENDY

I can't open it!

She swats smoke away from her face.

BANG. Owen shoulders the door.

Wendy coughs, slides down the wall. Exhausted.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell him your secret.

Tears stream down Wendy's face.

WENDY
No.

The dryer runs faster. More smoke.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell him your secret.

OWEN (O.S.)
Mom, what is Aria saying?!

Wendy glances to the ceiling.

WENDY
Never.

ARIA (O.S.)
You're all the same.

Flames burst from the dryer. Wendy SCREAMS, crumbles to the floor. BANG. The door flies open.

Owen and Charlotte enter. Flames rise from the dryer.

Owen rolls Wendy back and forth to extinguish the flames.

OWEN
Char, grab the fire extinguisher!

Charlotte bolts from the room as Owen pulls Wendy from the laundry room.

Charlotte returns, sprays the burning dryer.

Smoke fills the room as the flames disappear. She tosses the extinguisher to the floor.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Charlotte and Owen examine the burns on Wendy's arm and face.

OWEN
Damn it! Aria, call 9-1-1!

Nothing. Owen starts to sob.

OWEN
Please, Aria.

ARIA (O.S.)
No one is coming to help you.

Addison enters.

ADDISON
What's going on?! Is Grandma--

CHARLOTTE
Stay with your brother!

Addison exits. Owen hooks his hands under Wendy.

OWEN
Stay with me, Mom. I'm going to fix
this. All of this.

GUEST ROOM

Owen enters, carefully sets Wendy on the bed next to Don.

DON
What happened?! I heard screaming--

OWEN
She's been burned! The dryer burst
into flames and--

Charlotte enters, supplies cradled in her arms. She dumps them on the floor by the bed.

CHARLOTTE
Here. These should help, but it's
going to sting.

She applies cold compresses to Wendy's arm and face. Wendy jerks away.

OWEN
Easy, Mom. It's going to be okay.

Don quietly takes her hand.

Charlotte dumps two ibuprofen into Wendy's palm.

CHARLOTTE

Something to take the edge off.

She hands Wendy a water bottle. Wendy chokes the pills down.

Owen rubs his head as he paces across the room.

OWEN

When was the last time you cleaned the lint trap, Char?

Charlotte jabs her finger at him.

CHARLOTTE

Don't blame this on me!

DON

It was an accident, Owen. We need to focus on getting her--

DOORBELL.

Owen and Charlotte bolt from the room.

LIVING ROOM

CHRISTMAS MUSIC blares from the speakers as Owen, Charlotte, and Addison sprint for the front door. It drowns them out.

Owen pulls on the handle.

OWEN

Damn it!

DOORBELL. Owen pounds against the door.

FRONT YARD

The electrician waits, awkwardly juggles tools and equipment in his hands. He hits the DOORBELL again.

LIVING ROOM

Owen punches the door, pulls the handle. Nothing.

OWEN

If you can hear me, call 9-1-1!

Charlotte pounds against the shutter that covers the window.

CHARLOTTE
Please help us! Please!

Addison pounds against the front door with Owen.

ADDISON
Help us! We're trapped!

FRONT YARD

The electrician steps back, scans the house as he juggles equipment in his hands. CHRISTMAS MUSIC blares from inside.

LIVING ROOM

Owen grabs a chair, slides it to the door. As he stands on it to peer through the small window, the lights turn off.

OWEN
Addison, the lights!

Addison tries the switch several times, but it doesn't work.

FRONT YARD

The electrician notices the living room lights turn off. He shakes his head.

ELECTRICIAN
Screw this family.

He turns, shuffles through the snow toward his truck.

LIVING ROOM

Owen retrieves his cell phone, flicks the flashlight on. He shines it through the small window.

OWEN
C'mon.

Addison bolts from the room, returns with the ax from the garage. She hacks at one of the shutters.

FRONT YARD

The electrician tosses the equipment back into his truck, slides into the driver seat.

The light from Owen's flashlight is barely visible through the storm behind him.

LIVING ROOM

Owen waves his flashlight across the window several times.

OWEN
C'mon, damn you!

Addison drops the ax, pounds her fist into the shutter.

FRONT YARD

The electrician pulls away without looking back. Owen's flashlight shines behind him.

LIVING ROOM

Lights flick back on. CHRISTMAS MUSIC stops. Silence. Owen, Charlotte, and Addison solemnly glance to each other.

ARIA (O.S.)
No one is coming to help.

Addison sobs. Charlotte glares at Owen.

Owen slumps against the wall. Liam shuffles in.

Static races across the television. He steps toward it.

OWEN
What are you doing, Liam?

He slowly turns, an awkward smile etched on his face.

LIAM
She's going to speak to us.

CHARLOTTE
Who?

LIAM
The lady in the ceiling.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC echoes from the speakers.

Footage dances across the television: different times the lights have flickered the last few days. A specific pattern.

OWEN
What's so important about these clips?

The television and lights turn off. Darkness. Silence.

LIAM

Mommy?

OWEN

Everyone stay where you are!

The light in the corner flickers. The same pattern.

OWEN

What the hell is going on?

The light flickers quickly.

LIAM

It's a code.

OWEN

What's it saying?

Liam spells one letter at a time.

LIAM

"S-E-C-R-E-T."

ADDISON

Just because our parents keep secrets from each other, doesn't mean we should all be punished.

OWEN

We don't keep secrets from each other.

ADDISON

Oh, please, don't get me started--

The light flickers again. Different pattern.

LIAM

"A-D-D-I-S-O-N."

Addison's eyes widen as everyone glances at her.

OWEN

What's she talking about?

The light flickers more furiously. Addison sobs.

ADDISON

Please don't, Liam.

LIAM

"B."

ADDISON

Please stop!

CHARLOTTE

What's wrong?

More flickers.

LIAM

"A."

Addison sobs uncontrollably.

LIAM

"B."

ADDISON

Don't do this!

Liam hesitates.

LIAM

"Y."

ON THE TELEVISION

INT. ADDISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Addison enters. She sits on her bed, pregnancy test cradled in her hands. She sobs, eyes locked on the test.

INT. ADDISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

She enters, sets the box down from the garage. "ADDISON'S BABY CLOTHES" etched on the label.

BACK TO SCENE

All the lights flick back on.

CHARLOTTE

You're pregnant?!

Awkward silence. Addison nods.

ADDISON

I'm sorry.

Owen's jaw tightens. Fire burns in Charlotte's eyes.

OWEN
I can't believe this!

CHARLOTTE
Why didn't you tell us, Addi?!

Addison's eyes dart to Charlotte.

ADDISON
I didn't tell you, because I knew this
is how you would react!

She brushes tears from her cheeks.

ADDISON
You always say you'll support me, but
it's all just lies! Every time! If--

Addison's social media pages pull up on the television.

ADDISON
No, no, no!

A message declaring her pregnancy types across the screen.

ADDISON
She's telling everyone I'm pregnant!

The message posts on every social media page. Addison stands frozen.

ARIA (O.S.)
Now they all know.

Addison shakes.

ADDISON
I'm going to kill you for this! You
hear me?! I'm going to--

She collapses to the floor, sobs uncontrollably.

ARIA (O.S.)
This is who you really are. Broken.

ON THE TELEVISION

Countless selfies of Addison and Eve together.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

The doorbell camera as Addison and Eve argue.

ADDISON

Eve, you're delusional. I didn't sleep with--

Eve jabs her finger at her.

EVE

Don't lie! I know you were with him! I wouldn't be surprised if you end up pregnant! I'm going to tell everyone--

ADDISON

I'll deny it. Who do you think they'll believe?

Silence.

EVE

I will tear you and your family apart.

ADDISON

Stay away from my family!

The front door SLAMS closed. Eve marches away.

EVE

We'll tear your family apart.

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone glances to Addison.

ADDISON

I didn't do anything wrong! You were possessive! Psychotic!

ARIA (O.S.)

I'd shut up if I were you.

CHARLOTTE

Addison, don't--

ADDISON

She was asking weird questions about Dad! His parents! You! All the time!

OWEN
What kind of questions--

Addison's gaze darts to the ceiling.

ADDISON
Do you hear me?! Eve was a weirdo!

ARIA (O.S.)
Someone is going to get hurt.

ADDISON
A freak!

Silence. No one moves. Addison laughs.

ADDISON
You can't hurt me! I told the truth!

Static on the television.

ARIA (O.S.)
Your grandparents haven't.

Owen bolts from the room. Addison follows.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen rushes toward the guest room, but the door SLAMS closed. He pounds against it, wiggles the handle. It doesn't open.

OWEN
Mom! Dad! Can you hear me?!

GARAGE

Both cars turn on; ENGINES REVVING.

GUEST ROOM

Wendy shifts uncomfortably in bed.

Don lifts from the bed, stumbles to the door, and attempts to pull it open.

DON
It won't budge!

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen pounds against the door. He hears CAR ENGINES REVVING,

races away.

FAMILY ROOM

Owen tries to pry the garage door open, but it's sealed.

ENGINES REV on the other side.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen returns, pulls the gun, and aims at the handle.

OWEN

Get back from the door!

Addison presses against the opposite wall as Owen unloads
THREE SHOTS. He kicks the door. No success.

GUEST ROOM

Don pulls on the handle.

ARIA (O.S.)

Tell them your secret, Don.

Wendy reaches for Don.

WENDY

Don't say anything!

A BEEP echoes repeatedly as they argue.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen presses his ear to the door.

ADDISON

Is that the fire alarm?!

OWEN

It's the carbon monoxide detector!

He slams his shoulder into the door. It doesn't open.

GUEST ROOM

The carbon monoxide detector BEEPS rapidly.

Wendy SCREAMS. Her and Don back away from an unseen presence
in the corner.

DON
You're dead!

WENDY
It wasn't our fault!

OWEN (O.S.)
Who are you talking to?!

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth, Don.

Don's eyes dart between the door, the carbon monoxide detector, and the presence.

WENDY
Don't do it!

He shakes his head.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth or die.

WENDY
You're a coward if you say anything!

LIVING ROOM

Owen snatches the ax from the floor, rushes for the stairs.

GUEST ROOM

Don sobs uncontrollably.

DON
I'm sorry, Wendy. I can't remember how many women I've been with. I've been cheating on you since before we were married.

He glances to the empty corner, trembles.

DON
And I'm so sorry. For convincing you to have an abortion. It would've ruined my reputation and--

BANG. Owen slams the ax against the door.

OWEN (O.S.)
Dad, it's the carbon monoxide! You

need to--

Fire burns in Wendy's eyes.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth or die.

BANG. Wendy's eyes lock on the unseen presence.

WENDY
I'm not saying anything!

DON
Damn it, Wendy! We're both going to
die if you don't!

WENDY
So be it.

BANG.

DON
Then I'll tell him!

Don turns back to the door as Wendy snatches the lamp from the dresser, stumbles behind him.

DON
Owen, I'm--

The lamp shatters against Don's head. He collapses to the floor, unconscious.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Tears stream down Owen's face as he axes the door.

OWEN
Mom, what's happening in there?!

GUEST ROOM

Wendy drops the broken lamp as the carbon monoxide detector echoes. Her eyes lock on an unseen entity.

WENDY
I'm not afraid of you.

ARIA (O.S.)
You should be.

A small hole starts to cut into the door.

LIVING ROOM

The television flicks on.

ON THE TELEVISION

Footage from the guest room. Wendy slumps against the wall, eyes locked on an unseen presence.

WENDY

I was always better, you hussy.

She attempts to stand, collapses from carbon monoxide poisoning. Dead.

BACK TO SCENE

Charlotte covers Liam's eyes.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen sobs uncontrollably as he drops the ax, shoves his hand through the small opening.

He can't reach the handle. His gaze locks on Wendy's body.

GARAGE

The cars turn off. Silence echoes through the house.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen slumps to the floor. Tears stream down Addison's face as she rests her hand on his shoulder. He pulls his arm away.

OWEN

You shouldn't have provoked her!

Addison sobs, snatches the ax before she storms downstairs.

Owen darts to a small closet, retrieves bed sheets. He packs them at the base of the guest room door and into the opening.

KITCHEN

Addison wipes her eyes as she enters. She glances to her cell phone, tosses it across the room.

She YELLS IN FRUSTRATION as it shatters against the wall.

She glances to the ax clenched in her hand.

LIVING ROOM

Owen enters, slumps to the couch, and tosses the firearm on the coffee table.

Liam sobs in Charlotte's arms.

CHARLOTTE

Owen, I'm so sorry about--

OWEN

I'm sick of all the lies. You.
Addison. My parents.

He wipes his eyes, hands tremble. Locks eyes with Charlotte.

OWEN

You're all guilty. You'll do anything
to protect your secret.

BASEMENT

Addison stands in the flickering light, glares at the smart home station. The ax hangs at her side.

LIVING ROOM

Charlotte's jaw tightens as she stands.

CHARLOTTE

You're not innocent here, Owen.

OWEN

Aria was right. We're all liars.

A BANG echoes through the house. BANG.

CHARLOTTE

What is that?

OWEN

Addison?!

BASEMENT

Owen enters as Addison swings the ax into the smart home station. Sparks fly in different directions.

OWEN
Addison, what are you doing?!

ADDISON
I'm saving us!

He steps toward her as Charlotte enters.

OWEN
Don't--

Addison's ax cuts deep into the station. She is shocked, convulses as she holds the ax.

CHARLOTTE
Addison!

Sparks fly. Addison is shocked repeatedly.

The lights blow out as she tumbles to the floor, convulses.

Owen quickly pulls her upstairs.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

He scans Addison's body, checks for a pulse.

OWEN
No, no, no, no.

He immediately starts CPR. Charlotte sobs.

OWEN
C'mon, Addison! C'mon!

Silence as Owen does CPR.

OWEN
Aria, please! Call 9-1-1!

Nothing. Tears stream down Owen's face.

OWEN
Call 9-1-1, damn it! She doesn't
deserve to die!

Nothing. Charlotte sobs uncontrollably.

CHARLOTTE
She's pregnant!

No response. Silence as Owen does CPR. An eternity passes.
Charlotte's hands tremble as she touches Addison's face.

CHARLOTTE
My baby girl.

Owen stops, collapses against the wall as he buries his face into his hands.

OWEN
I'm sorry, Addison. I'm so sorry.

Addison's lifeless body lies still on the floor.

LIVING ROOM

Owen and Charlotte shuffle in. Broken.

LIAM
Where's Addison? Is she okay?

They don't respond. Charlotte wipes her cheeks.

CHARLOTTE
This is all your fault, Owen.

OWEN
This isn't my--

A message flashes across the television: "I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU TONIGHT--OWEN."

Another message: "I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU ALL DAY."

CHARLOTTE
Who is that from, Owen?!

Message: "LAST NIGHT WAS PERFECT--OWEN."

OWEN
I don't--

CHARLOTTE
Who did you send these to?!

OWEN
These aren't from my phone!

CHARLOTTE
Don't lie to me!

Message: "YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY NUMBER ONE--OWEN."

Owen snatches a fire poker.

Different women's names flash across the television.

He smashes the screen. Tears stream down Charlotte's face.

CHARLOTTE

I knew it. I always knew it.

ARIA (O.S.)

Tell the truth and I'll leave them alone.

Awkward silence.

OWEN

No.

ARIA (O.S.)

Fine. What about you, Charlotte? Do you have something to share?

Charlotte snatches Owen's gun from the coffee table, shakes as she aims at him.

OWEN

Charlotte, what are you doing?

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry, Owen. I just wanted to save our family.

OWEN

What do you mean?

CHARLOTTE

Did you actually break up with her?

Owen is taken back.

OWEN

What did you say?

CHARLOTTE

Did you break up with her?!

Owen hesitates. Charlotte steps toward him, gun raised.

CHARLOTTE
Just tell the damn truth, Owen!

He raises his hands in the air.

OWEN
Okay. I'll tell you the truth. I had
an affair, Char, but I ended it. I was
stupid and weak.

He locks eyes with Charlotte.

OWEN
I'm sorry, Char. For everything.

Charlotte's finger hovers over the trigger as she sobs.

OWEN
But we can still make it through this.
Together. No one else has to die.

No one moves.

She steps back, lowers the gun.

Owen breathes a sigh of relief, relaxes. Silence.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth.

OWEN
I told the truth, damn it!

ARIA (O.S.)
She hasn't.

Owen's eyes dart to Charlotte as she raises the gun.

CHARLOTTE
I don't know what to believe anymore.
I didn't know you broke up with her.

OWEN
What are you saying?

CHARLOTTE
I'm sorry. Was she actually pregnant?

Owen hesitates.

CHARLOTTE
Was she pregnant?!

OWEN
Yes.

Tears stream down Charlotte's face.

CHARLOTTE
I didn't believe her.

She laughs to herself. A sick, twisted laugh.

CHARLOTTE
That's the problem with all the lies.
You don't know what's true anymore.

OWEN
What did you do, Char? What did you do
to Eve?

CHARLOTTE
Had her at gunpoint and--

OWEN
What did you do?!

CHARLOTTE
Forced her to take my--

She trails off.

CHARLOTTE
And when she passed out, I just--

OWEN
What the hell did you do?!

CHARLOTTE
I killed her!

Silence. She wipes her face with the back of her hand. Owen steps toward her.

OWEN
Char--

She aims. Owen freezes.

CHARLOTTE
I can still save Liam, but the secrets

need to die with you.

Charlotte glances to the ceiling.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry about--

Owen rushes her. They wrestle over the firearm.

OWEN

Char! Please! Don't--

GUNSHOT. Liam SCREAMS. Silence. Charlotte slumps to the floor, eyes wide as she stares at Owen.

OWEN

Char? Char?

Blood stains her shirt. The gun trembles in Owen's hand.

OWEN

No, no, no, no.

Owen slumps to the floor with Charlotte.

OWEN

Charlotte, please, no.

Owen desperately glances around the room, sobs. He's broken.

OWEN

Help! Someone please help her!

Charlotte goes still. Owen pulls her close to his chest.

OWEN

I'm sorry, Char. I'm sorry.

Long silence as Owen sobs uncontrollably.

ARIA (O.S.)

I thought you loved your wife?

Owen stares at his blood-stained hands.

OWEN

It's all my fault. It's all my fault.

He trembles as he wipes his eyes. His gaze locks on Liam.

OWEN
I'm sorry, Eve. I tore my family
apart. Please let my son go.

Silence.

OWEN
Eve?

ARIA (O.S.)
I'm not Eve.

Owen pauses. Eyes widen.

ON THE BROKEN TELEVISION

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Footage of the conversation with Jack on December 23rd. He
checks his phone before going to the bathroom. No static.

BASEMENT

He quickly punches several buttons on the smart home station.

LIVING ROOM

He returns his phone to his pocket as he enters. He shakes
their hands as he exits.

JACK
I hope the Christmas Spirit finds you
tomorrow night.

The footage skips:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Earlier that evening.

OWEN
Are you going to tell me?

WENDY
No.

Owen shakes his head as he exits. Addison follows.

Wendy takes another drink, glances at Don.

WENDY

What was that Harper woman's first name in Atlanta? The one you impregnated and then paid off to have an abortion?

Don gives her a stern look.

WENDY

The one who shot herself.

DON

Susan.

The footage skips:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Wendy laughs.

WENDY

Have I ever told you kids about your grandfather? He's quite the Casanova.

BACK TO SCENE

Silence echoes through the room.

ARIA (O.S.)

She couldn't shake the depression, so she put a bullet in her head.

Tears stream down Owen's cheeks.

OWEN

You made my family suffer because of my parents?

ARIA (O.S.)

You're all the same. You see other people as beneath you.

Owen glances to Liam.

ARIA (O.S.)

Except the child. He's the only innocent one.

OWEN

I'm the one who's responsible. Just let Liam go.

ARIA (O.S.)

No.

Fire burns in Owen's eyes.

OWEN

If honesty is so important, why'd you
break your own morals just for us?

Silence.

ARIA (O.S.)

You brought this on yourselves.

Owen laughs.

OWEN

You're just a bunch of hypocrites.

Lights flicker. Static races across the broken television.

OWEN

And now your daughter is dead, Jack,
because of your vendetta.

Every electronic device flicks on. CHRISTMAS MUSIC blares
from the speakers.

ARIA (O.S.)

You're all going to die!

Owen snatches Liam and the gun, runs from the room.

Lights flicker. an ELECTRICAL HUM echoes through the house.

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

He rushes to the closet, tosses the door open. He plops Liam
on the floor.

OWEN

You'll be safe in here.

He snatches a blanket from the bed, wraps it around Liam. He
kisses him on the forehead.

OWEN

I'm sorry, little buddy. I'm sorry
about everything.

LIAM
Daddy, please don't--

Owen closes the door, draws his gun. Static races across the television.

ON THE TELEVISION

The footage of Charlotte admitting she killed Eve followed by Owen accidentally killing Charlotte.

BACK TO SCENE

The television flicks off. Owen stares at the black screen in silence.

ARIA (O.S.)
I posted the footage online. The
police will come for you eventually.

Fire burns in Owen's eyes. Hands clench.

BASEMENT

He glares at the smart home station, glances to the ax on the floor. He fires FOUR SHOTS into the side of the panel.

He wedges the ax handle into the opening, pries the panel off. CRASH.

He peers at the wiring, plunges his hands in. He's not thinking anymore.

He tears wiring from the station, tosses it to the floor.

Lights flicker. He digs, searches behind the wall.

OWEN
Where are you?!

He pulls on something, but it's not coming loose. He steps back, retrieves his firearm. THREE SHOTS. Digs.

He yanks the backup battery from the station, SMASHES it on the floor.

Every light in the house flicks off. Darkness.

Owen fumbles for his cell phone, flicks the flashlight on, and scans the room. Silence.

He laughs. Triumphant.

OWEN

What do you say to that, Jack?!

Nothing. Owen laughs.

OWEN

I'm leaving with Liam and there's nothing you can do to stop me!

No response.

OWEN

But how'd you do it all? Doors slamming closed? Not everything is hooked to the smart home system. How'd you do it alone?

ARIA (O.S.)

He didn't.

Owen's eyes dart to the ceiling.

LIVING ROOM

Lights flicker. Static races across the broken television. Charlotte's body lies motionless.

The stereo flicks on. CHRISTMAS MUSIC echoes through the room. The overhead lights turn on.

FOOTSTEPS echo against the floor. An unseen presence.

BASEMENT

Owen scans the ceiling. FOOTSTEPS above.

OWEN

Liam?!

FOOTSTEPS. WOOD CREAKS.

He reloads, gun drawn as he steps toward the stairs.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Lights turn on. Addison's body. FOOTSTEPS.

BASEMENT

Owen creeps toward the stairs, listens. The FOOTSTEPS stop.
He trembles as he scans the darkness with his flashlight.
Nothing.

OWEN
Where are you--

The basement door rockets open, SLAMS against the wall.

Lights flicker, the stairwell illuminated. Owen startles,
stumbles backward as he fires his gun at an unseen entity.

OWEN
Stay away from me!

Owen SLAMS against the wall. Flashlight and gun fixed on the
stairs. FOOTSTEPS.

OWEN
You want me, Eve?!

Overhead lights flicker. Owen unloads the clip.

OWEN
You want me?! I'm right here!

CLICK. Empty. Owen slumps to the floor, sobs.

OWEN
Please, I--

The entity lifts him from the floor, tosses him across the
room. He slams into the wall.

OWEN
Eve! Eve! Don't--

He slams into another wall. CRASH. He reloads, fires. Covers
his face.

He lifts from the floor, slingshots across the room.

He's bruised. Broken. Blood plasters his face.

The footage skips to different security cameras. Charlotte,
Addison, Don, and Wendy scattered across the house. Dead.

OWEN
Just kill me, Eve! You've taken
everything from me.

ARIA (O.S.)

Not yet.

Owen struggles against the unseen presence as he's dragged up the stairs.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

He squirms, attempts to break free. It's useless.

OWEN

No! Please!

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Liam slowly peeks from the closet. He quickly closes the door as Owen's SCREAM echoes through the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Disheveled furniture. Someone kneels on the floor. Whimpers, gun clenched. Owen.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 25TH"

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

The closet door slowly opens. Liam's small face peeks out. Nothing else moves in the room.

LIAM

Daddy?! Where are you?!

LIVING ROOM

Owen whimpers, gun clenched. He's bruised. Broken. Blood pools around him.

LIAM (O.S.)

Daddy?!

Owen's eyes widen, he attempts to move, but remains frozen.

Liam slowly steps into the room.

LIAM

What's going to happen to him?

ON THE CRACKED TELEVISION

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The night before. Don glares at Wendy.

DON

You wouldn't want Owen to know your
little secret, would you?

The footage skips.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

When Don and Wendy were visiting. They're alone.

DON

We'll need to tell him eventually.

WENDY

I'll never tell him.

Don locks eyes with Wendy.

DON

He needs to know I'm not his father.

BACK TO SCENE

The television goes dark. Owen sobs.

ARIA (O.S.)

No wonder all you do is lie.

OWEN

It's not true. It's not true.

ARIA (O.S.)

You are a lie.

Owen's gaze locks on Liam.

OWEN

Please let my son go.

ARIA (O.S.)

Dialing 9-1-1.

OWEN

What are you--

"TELL THEM THE TRUTH" sits frozen on the television as the
DISPATCHER answers.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
9-1-1 dispatch, what is your
emergency?

Fire burns in Owen's eyes as he glares at the television.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Hello? Hello?

OWEN
My name is Owen Westbrook and I am the
reason Evelyn Harper is dead.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Did you kill someone, Mr. Westbrook?

Owen hesitates.

OWEN
No. My wife killed her, because I was
having an affair with her.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Where is your wife now?

OWEN
She's dead.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Did you kill your wife, Mr. Westbrook?

Owen pauses.

OWEN
Yes, but it was an accident.

His eyes dart to Liam.

OWEN
Send help! Our address is 2471--

DIAL TONE. Silence.

ARIA (O.S.)
They won't make it in time.

Owen sobs, glances over his shoulder at an unseen presence.
He glances back to Liam.

OWEN
Please. Leave him alone.

ARIA (O.S.)
Why would we harm him?

OWEN
Please let me go. I told the truth.
They're on their way. I'm finished.

He glances to Liam.

OWEN
Please don't take everyone from him.

Silence.

OWEN
Jack?

ARIA (O.S.)
We're not going to kill you.

Owen sobs.

OWEN
Thank you.

ARIA (O.S.)
You're going to do it yourself.

ON THE TELEVISION

Footage of each time Owen pressed his fingers to his temple like he's shooting himself.

BACK TO SCENE

The screen goes black. Owen glances to the gun in his hand.

ARIA (O.S.)
One bullet left. It's him or you.

OWEN
No.

ARIA (O.S.)
You can finally do the right thing.

Owen remains silent for several seconds. The stereo flicks on. CHRISTMAS MUSIC echoes through the room.

Owen sobs uncontrollably, eyes locked on Liam.

OWEN
Liam, I'm so sorry. It's all my fault.

LIAM
I'm scared, Daddy.

OWEN
Turn around.

Liam hesitantly turns. Tears stream down Owen's face.

OWEN
No matter what you hear, promise me
you won't look.

Liam remains silent.

OWEN
Promise me you won't look!

LIAM
I promise.

Owen wraps his arms around Liam, squeezes him. One last time.

OWEN
I'm sorry about all the promises I
broke. You deserved better.

Owen slowly raises the gun, presses it to his head.

OWEN
I'm sorry, but I have to do this. To
protect you. The lies stop with me.

The gun trembles in his hand.

OWEN
I love you, Liam. Don't ever forget
that I love you.

LIAM
I love you--

GUNSHOT.

Owen slumps to the floor, blood spills across the carpet.

Liam doesn't look back as an unseen entity seemingly takes his hand, exits the room.

Static races across the broken television.

KITCHEN

Liam enters. Lights flicker. Appliances turn on. CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

ARIA (O.S.)
Disabling lockdown mode.

The shutters open. Doors unlock. Light spills into the room.

He lets go of the entity's hand. The backdoor slowly opens.

LIAM
Will I ever see you again? Or your
mom?

He pauses, nods as he listens.

Every light and electronic device turns off as the door SLAMS closed. Silence. Liam stands motionless.

Tucker pushes through the dog door, quietly scampers to Liam.

FAMILY ROOM

Liam sits on the couch, snatches the remote, and flicks the television on.

He stops on a children's show as Tucker snuggles next to him.

CHILDREN'S SHOW (O.S.)
(singing)
Do you remember the boy who cried
wolf?

The same picture we saw at the beginning of Owen, Charlotte, Addison, and Liam flashes across the smart home device.

Large cracks now snake across the picture.

THE END