

# ROGUE PHOENIX

Written By

Cobby Hemingway

Short Film Speculative Screenplay

Draft - V.02 (03.13.2019)

Copyright (c) 2019 No portion of this script/screenplay may be performed, reproduced, quoted or published in any medium or by any means including educational purposes without the expressed written permission of the author.

FADE IN:

**EXT. FOREST - DAY**

We're gliding over the woods just below the mountain side.

Beautiful. Unencumbered. Peaceful. A valley of trees entangled together like a silent army as the harmonic sounds of nature take control.

**EXT. WOODS - DAY**

Large trees, towering over the rocks and grass that live below them.

Slowly, we begin moving down from the treetops to the ground where ELIZABETH (16), jogs pass us.

She moves through the woods with elegance through the unforgiving terrain... She's done this before.

Her breaths are shallow but have a strength to them as she steps over dead leaves and branches, snapping them apart.

She moves his determination, fierce, then stops, reaching her resting point.

She doesn't bend down to relax, stays upright, gazing at the nature in front of her.

She takes a deep breath, preparing to start jogging again when, she glances to her side...

Notices a LAKE with SWANS swimming peacefully in it's waters, takes it in, their beauty and grace, majestic and yet mysterious...

BIRDS leave the tree behind her, an entire flock leaving the nest, their home.

**INT. CABIN - DAY**

Elizabeth enters, hangs her jacket on a COAT HANGER by the door.

She takes off her shoes and heads down the hall.

**INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - DAY**

Elizabeth has a towel wrapped around her, wet hair, standing in front of a cabinet mirror, staring at her reflection, looking at her SCARS.

She opens the cabinet takes out a bottle of pills, administers one and puts the bottle back, shuts the cabinet.

**INT. CABIN - DINING ROOM - DAY**

The fireplace, clacking as the flames survive in the tight space.

Elizabeth is eating alone at a dining table. Isolated.  
Unfazed by the silence.

**INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY**

Water pouring down the drain, the sink tab is open.

Elizabeth cleans the dishes, takes a washing soap and pours it into the sponge.

She squeezes the sponge and watches as foam rises to the surface. She finishes cleaning the dishes, closes the tab...

The power goes out. Elizabeth looks around, flicks a light switch.

Nothing. No electricity. She sighs, annoyed.

**INT. CABIN - DAY**

Elizabeth puts on her shoes, grabs her coat, leaves the home, making sure to LOCK the door behind her.

**EXT. CABIN - DAY**

Stepping outside, she gets inside an old car parked closed by.

She tries to start it, but the engine struggles to turn on. After a few tries, it finally roars to life!

She smiles but it's short lived, as the car dies another humiliating death moments later.

Behind the wheel, she's annoyed. Nothing's working out today.

She exits vehicle, SLAMS the door shut. Elizabeth starts walking, heading down the path into town.

**INT. TOWN - AUTOMOTIVE STORE - DAY**

Elizabeth, stepping into an auto motive store, begins searching for something.

She turns to an aisle, keeps looking. Taking her a while before...

ELIZABETH

(to Stanley)

Where do you have the spark plugs?

STANLEY (70's), the store clerk behind the counter, looks up from his news paper, points her to the plugs on the upper corner of the shelf.

STANLEY

They should be there.

Elizabeth resumes her search, speaking as she looks.

ELIZABETH

I saw them--

She finds them, takes one, moves to the counter, takes a few cookies and chocolate from the micro stand on top of the counter.

STANLEY

Still working on that piece of shit  
on four wheels?

ELIZABETH

You still working in this shit  
hole?

He chuckles softly.

STANLEY

I don't know why you don't get a  
new one.

ELIZABETH

Because then I'd be bored with  
nothing to do.

STANLEY

(smiling)

That's probably true.

Stanley takes the plug, scans it, along with the sweets.

STANLEY

Did you hear the news?

ELIZABETH

About the weather? If only that  
were true.

STANLEY

I wouldn't count on those idiots to  
tell me if it's going to rain or  
not.

ELIZABETH

Neither do I.

Stanley takes out a bag, drops the items inside it.

Elizabeth takes a couple of dollars from her back pocket,  
gives them to Stanley.

STANLEY

But they do say to expect some  
harsh weather and some floods.

ELIZABETH

I can't wait to be swimming with  
the cockroaches and sea worms then.

He smiles at her comment.

STANLEY

Don't drown, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

I can't drown, otherwise who's  
going to be a pain in your ass?

She takes the bag as he snickers.

ELIZABETH

(as she grabs the bag)

Thanks.

She heads out.

ELIZABETH

(as she leaves)

Don't drown. I need you to be a  
stick in my ass too, okay?

STANLEY

(laughing)

Bye, Elizabeth.

**EXT. CABIN - DAY**

The car hood is wide open, Elizabeth finishes up fixing the  
car, geese and the smell of fuel on her clothes and skin.

She closes the hood, hops inside the vehicle, takes out the  
key and puts it in the ignition...

The car roars with life once again. Elizabeth smiles, happy  
that the car still works.

She turns it off, exits, shuts the door behind her.

**EXT. CABIN - CHOPPING-BLOCK - DAY**

AN AXE HEAD splits a LOG.

Elizabeth chops the wood.

Chop!

CHOP!!

CHOP!!!!

The axe buries itself in the wood base. Hard. Deep. She  
winches, hold her shoulder as pain courses trough her body  
like small knives cutting into her skin.

She stands erect over the axe and base. She takes a hold of the axe's handle.

SCARLET (V.O.)  
You can't keep doing this.

**INT. PHOENIX HOUSE - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

A little girl's room.

SCARLET PHOENIX (20's), is sitting across from ELIZABETH (9), both of them on Elizabeth's bed.

Elizabeth exhales, containing her annoyance.

ELIZABETH  
You said that if someone is bothering me that I needed to make sure they don't do it again.

SCARLET  
That's not what--!

Scarlet stops herself, takes a deep breath, calming herself.

SCARLET  
You tell them "no"... "Stop",  
"that's not nice"... That's what I meant, I don't mean getting into fights.

Scarlet takes another breath, clearly upset.

ELIZABETH  
Did I do a bad thing?

SCARLET  
Yes, Elizabeth. You did.

ELIZABETH  
Mom...

Scarlet gazes at her.

ELIZABETH  
I'm sorry.

Scarlet sighs, relieved.

ELIZABETH  
Please don't hate me.

SCARLET  
What?... No, no. Honey, I don't hate you. I could never hate you.

Scarlet doesn't say anything, hugs Elizabeth.

Elizabeth stares at the emptiness in the room, teary-eyed.

**EXT. CABIN - CHOPPING-BLOCK - DAY**

Elizabeth CHOPS another piece of wood, then takes the chopped logs and starts taking them inside.

**INT. CABIN - DAY**

Silence and stillness in the air. It's all suddenly interrupted when...

KNOCK!

KNOCK!!

KNOCK!!!!

Someone KNOCKS on the front door.

Elizabeth walks to the door, opens it and sees...

TIMOTHY (18), standing outside. He's wearing a BIKER HELMET and is carrying a small cuisine box.

His bike is behind him next to the car.

TIMOTHY

Hey. I'm--

ELIZABETH

Timothy. Yeah, I know who you are.

He's surprised and confused.

TIMOTHY

Ah... Yeah... How--?

ELIZABETH

You're the one who accidentally released the animals from the petting zoo last thanks giving.

His tone changes from confident to awkward. He's busted.

TIMOTHY

Ah... Yes, I did do that.

She chuckles at him, her eyes move down to the box in his hand.

ELIZABETH

What's that?

TIMOTHY

A cupcake... It's just... I just heard it was your birthday. So.

ELIZABETH

Thanks. I mean it's not for another eleven mouths but thanks.

She takes the box.

TIMOTHY

Yeah. Well, sorry. I should have--

ELIZABETH

It's fine... It's very nice of you,  
thanks.

A moment of awkward silence.

TIMOTHY

So...

ELIZABETH

So...

More awkward silence. Then. Elizabeth steps aside.

ELIZABETH

Do you want to come inside?

TIMOTHY

Oh, no. I don't want--  
(quickly changes thought)  
Okay, sure.

He steps inside. Elizabeth closes the door when he enters  
and LOCKS it.

**INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY**

They enters the kitchen.

Elizabeth sets the box on the counter.

ELIZABETH

So, what do you do? Apart from  
setting pets into the wild?

TIMOTHY

Ah... I deliver news papers.

ELIZABETH

Really?... Have you broken any  
windows?

TIMOTHY

No. Not yet.

She turns away from him, starts making coffee.

Timothy looks around, notices that the place is stripped of  
any personal effects.

TIMOTHY

Where are your parents?



He can't see it. But she shows a slightly concern. Like she has something to hide something.

ELIZABETH

They went out for groceries.

She puts a cup on the counter, pours some coffee inside and turns to him, hands him the cup.

ELIZABETH

Where are your parents?

TIMOTHY

Working. My dad is the commissioner chief.

ELIZABETH

He's a cop?

TIMOTHY

No. He runs the post office.

ELIZABETH

(fake surprised)

Oh.

TIMOTHY

Yeah.

Another moment of odd silence.

ELIZABETH

Be careful on your way home.

TIMOTHY

(realizes)

Oh! Yeah, sorry.

He makes his way to the front door, goes to open it, but it's locked.

Timothy laughs nervously as he unlocks the door and exits.

Elizabeth moves to the window, watching him as he leaves.

**EXT. PHOENIX HOUSE - YARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

ELIZABETH (11), is digging a hole in the ground with a gardening shovel.

She takes a SMALL SEED and sets it in the hole, covers it up.

**INT. PHOENIX HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Elizabeth steps inside...

Leaving a trail of dirt in her path.

Her eyes move to a little PUPPY standing in the room, watching her. She's watching back at it, both in a deep staring contest.

Elizabeth picks up the puppy, leaves the room with it.

**INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY**

Elizabeth is preparing something to eat. The peace and quiet is soothing...

Then, out of the nick of the woods, a loud THUMP grabs her attention.

She turns her head to the window, in the direction of the sound.

She opens one of the drawers, where a GUN is stashed away, resting. Elizabeth grabs it and slowly makes her way to the window, peeks outside...

Nothing. Only the empty and haunting woods that surround her.

Elizabeth grabs her coat from the hanger, puts it on, exits the safety of her cabin.

**EXT. CABIN - DAY**

Elizabeth steps outside, gun in hand, carefully making her way down the steps, heading towards the origin of the sound.

Looking around, slightly paranoid, scanning her surroundings.

She reaches a BUSH, looks behind it, gun aiming at it, ready to shoot...

She finds, KURTIS (30), lying on the ground, unconscious, his skin is pale, BLOOD flowing down from his head.

Elizabeth moves to him, cautiously, making sure nobody else is around.

She looks down on him, staring, trying to identify him. She turns her head to the woods. Where did he come from?

Elizabeth looks around, her paranoia setting in more intensely. She bends down, hesitantly checking his pulse.

Her hand touches his skin...

He GRABS HER HAND!

Elizabeth pulls away, startled, taking a few steps back as she aim her gun at the man.

KURTIS  
(struggling to speak)  
Help... Me...

She stares at him as he slowly loses consciousness.

**EXT. CABIN - LATER**

Elizabeth, using all of her strength to drag Kurtis inside. Struggling. Determined.

Kurtis, struggling to breathe. Breathing shallow. Uneven.

THUNDER roars in the distance as Elizabeth brings him inside.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Kurtis now lies in bed. Elizabeth opens his jacket...

Revealing a GUNSHOT wound on his abdomen. Bleeding. Slowly.

She doesn't seem shocked or surprised by the wound. Instead she smiles, intrigued, and examines it. Like it's a rare species.

Elizabeth rushes out of the room.

**INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - DAY**

Elizabeth steps inside the bathroom. Starts searching in the cabinet for something.

She takes some gauze and medical tape, leaves with them in hand.

**INT. CABIN - KITCHEN**

She moves to the kitchen, takes a BOTTLE OF LIQUID COURAGE, rushes back into...

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - DUSK**

She brings the items to the night table, opens the drawer, pulls out a needle and string.

She opens the BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL and showers her hands with it. Takes the bottle and gently pours it on the wound.

With her fingers, she gently expands the wound, trying to get a glimpse inside...

ELIZABETH  
No bullet.

She takes the needle and starts sewing the wound shut. Expertly. Confident. Unafraid. Doing it at a slow pace.

MOMENTS LATER

Elizabeth covers the now closed wound with gauze, tapes it in place, closes Kurtis' jacket, drapes a blanket over his cold body as he shivers.

She stays with him for a moment, watching him suffer, completely disconnected from the situation.

**INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

A RADIO is resting on the counter. Elizabeth listens carefully as the voice of a NEWS COMMENTATOR speaks through the device.

NEWS COMMENTATOR (V.O.)  
(on radio)  
Temperature's thirty degrees as the rain storm gets closer. There's a flood alert and citizens are advised to stay inside--

Elizabeth turns off the radio, thinks for a moment. In deep thought, going through all of the possibilities.

She stays with those thoughts for a long moment. Her eyes move to the bedroom where Kurtis lies.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth sits inside the old car, inserts the key and tries to turn it on...

ENGINE STALLING.

She turns it off.

ELIZABETH  
Oh, come on. Come on.

She turns the key again and the engine keeps stalling. Elizabeth sighs in frustration.

Her anger, building, like a raging bull staring at red. She starts BANGING on the wheel violently.

ELIZABETH  
FUCK!

She takes a deep breath, calming herself.

ELIZABETH  
I just fucking fixed you!

She pulls on a lever and the hood POPS OPEN. Elizabeth exits the car and checks under the hood, her eyes squint as she tries to see in the dark, realizes she can't.

Elizabeth SLAMS the hood down, heads inside.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth is sitting on the floor, next to the bed, her eyes piercing through dark, staring at the moon out the window.

Her eyes drift towards Kurtis who's in deep sleep, watches him carefully, suspicious.

DR. STEVENS (V.O.)

I'm going to ask you a few questions...

**INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

A vintage decorated room, a table in the middle of the space with a desk on the far right corner of the room.

DR. STEVENS (30's), sitting on the floor across from a eleven-year-old Elizabeth, also sitting on the floor.

There's a file in Stevens' lap, a pen in hand.

DR. STEVENS

And I want you to answer them truthfully. Okay, Elizabeth?

She's distracted, playing with a PUZZLE, solving it as fast as she can and succeeding, doesn't answer.

DR. STEVENS

Elizabeth. Have you ever felt scared or alone?

Elizabeth takes a moment to respond, thinks about it.

ELIZABETH

Yes.

DR. STEVENS

(writes something down)

Okay.

Stevens glances at the puzzle, notices she's half way done.

DR. STEVENS

Have you ever hurt anyone or wanted to hurt other?

ELIZABETH

No.

DR. STEVENS

(writes something down)

Okay.

Stevens looks up, watching as she keeps tackling the 100 piece puzzle with ease.

DR. STEVENS

How do you feel about animals?

ELIZABETH

Their fine.

DR. STEVENS

You had a puppy, right? And that puppy grew and became a mommy but then her babies got lost. Do you know what happened?

ELIZABETH

Mommy said they walked to a farm where they met a nice family that will take care of them.

DR. STEVENS

How does that make you feel?

ELIZABETH

Sad, I guess.

Stevens writes something down, looks up...

Elizabeth is finished with the puzzle, his eyes stare at the picture in wonder.

DR. STEVENS

Very impressive.

SCARLET (O.S.)

Doctor?

Stevens turns, meets Scarlet's worried gaze.

DR. STEVENS

Why don't you step outside for a moment. We'll be done soon.

Scarlet stares at Elizabeth, reluctantly complying with the doctor's orders.

Dr. Stevens' eyes move to Elizabeth as she takes a new puzzle from the shelf.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth, still sitting on the floor, spacing out as her eyes watch Kurtis.

She snaps out of the trance, gazes at the room, leaning her head back, against the wall, and closing her eyes. Falling asleep.

**EXT. FOREST - NIGHT**

Rain pouring down. The wind, blowing at full strength.

The valley of harmonic sounds becomes the valley of nature's roar as the sounds of nature intensifies, building into a crescendo.

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT**

Elizabeth, wearing a rain coat, makes her way through the woods, her eyes trying to peers through the surrounding darkness.

The rain hitting her. She spots a building down the path, heads towards it.

**INT. RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Elizabeth enters, raindrops slide down from her coat to the floor. She closes the door behind her and LOCKS it.

A radio is on the news channel, a NEWS REPORTER is heard on the other end.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)  
(on radio)  
Stay tuned to this channel for all updates... Issuing weather warnings for the following boroughs:  
Seaborne, Garen's Well, Lizbound,--

Elizabeth speaks over the radio as the news reporter continues.

ELIZABETH  
Hello?

Elizabeth moves to the back of the counter. She eyes a FLASHLIGHT, resting in plain view, takes it.

NEW REPORTER (V.O.)  
(on radio)  
Reston, Longbanks North, and Matukashti-Sentima.

She glides her hand over the items on top of the desk behind the counter, heading for the radio.

Listens to every word with great attention.

NEW REPORTER (V.O.)  
(on radio)  
Two to four incidents of water accumulation have been reported. A total power outage of Seaborne has been reported. The following--

She turns off the radio, sits on a chair, notices a FAMILY PORTRAIT of the ranger's family, all of them smiling.

Elizabeth focuses on it, remembering, picks it up, looks at it.

**INT. PHOENIX HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

The house packed in boxes.

Elizabeth's sixteen-year-old hand reaches inside one of the boxes, pulls out a PICTURE of her and her mom when Elizabeth was a baby.

She takes the picture, turns to someone behind her, still looking at the photo.

ELIZABETH

I need you to promise me something.

Her eyes look up from the picture to...

JOHNATHAN (40's), who's standing in front of her, a face of sorrow on him, trying to hide his pain.

JOHNATHAN

Anything.

Elizabeth sets the picture inside the box again and starts closing it.

Her eyes on John.

ELIZABETH

I need you to promise me that I'll never see you again.

JOHNATHAN

I'm not sure that's a good idea.

ELIZABETH

You have to.

JOHNATHAN

Look, I know I haven't been there in a long time but I think I've done enough to--

She's disappointed, tries to hide it.

ELIZABETH

What you chose is your own doing... But you need to sign the documents...

He looks at her, guilty.

ELIZABETH

The lawyer wants them by Sunday. Once that's done we'll both be out of each others lives... For good... Promise me you'll sign.



JOHNATHAN  
 (very hesitant)  
 I promise.

ELIZABETH  
 Thank you.

Elizabeth's eyes drift to the window for a moment, stares at the beautiful day outside, then they return to Johnathan.

She steps closer to him.

ELIZABETH  
 I need one more favor to ask you.  
 And it's not easy... But it's  
 important to me.

JOHNATHAN  
 Okay.

ELIZABETH  
 I don't want your help. Not the  
 money. Not the... Nothing. I'll  
 work on my own and start brand new  
 but I'm not doing that with your  
 help.

Johnathan meets her gaze, his eyes close to tears. This is killing him.

ELIZABETH  
 Can you do that?

He goes to speak but no words come out. A moment silence as he searches for the right thing to say.

JOHNATHAN  
 What about Alex?

**INT. WOODS - RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Elizabeth snaps out of the memory. Realizes what she's doing, sets the photo down back where it was.

She takes a PEN AND PAPER and WRITES A NOTE, takes some tape and sticks the note on the counter.

Elizabeth exits, passing by her note that reads:

"I have an emergency, please hurry - 642 Woodland Road.  
 Cabin 225"

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT**

The rain has lessened a little.

Elizabeth, pointing the flashlight to light her way, walking back home, following a public path.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth reaches her cabin, goes to head inside, stops as she's noticing...

The cabin door is ajar.

Elizabeth stares at the door in confusion. She turns off the flashlight, carefully moves forward.

She pulls out her gun, tucked away in the back of her pants, heads inside.

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth slowly peeks her head inside the house, notices her coat hanger on the floor, MULTIPLE WET FOOTSTEPS on the floor, leading to the bedroom.

She steps inside, moves closer, deeper into the cabin...

She hears indistinct voices speaking amongst each other, coming from the bedroom.

Elizabeth moves down the hall, sees a DEXTER (30's), talking with someone, out of view.

She moves closer and closer. With every step her heart races. Beating faster.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

She steps inside, aims the gun at THREE MEN, all of them standing over Kurtis who is still out cold.

ELIZABETH

Who the fuck are you?

She gets closer, using the gun to signal the men to get back.

After a few seconds, DANIEL (50's), steps into the room.

Like if she had eyes in the back of her head. She quickly turns, gun aimed at him now.

Daniel raises his hand, unarmed. A look of shock on his face.

DANIEL

Hey... Take it easy... Take it easy.

She looks at them, glances at the FOUR MEN standing in the room.

ELIZABETH

Who the fuck are you people?

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Daniel sits on the couch, a glass of water in his hand. Elizabeth is sitting across from him.

DANIEL

Sorry, if we scared you. We just didn't know if could last another second in that storm.

ELIZABETH

So, you guys got lost?

DANIEL

Yes. We were on a hike when the storm hit.

(points to Edward)

Edward said there was going to be a storm... We should have listened.

(chuckles)

It seemed like it wasn't going to happen. We just wanted to see the landscape, it seemed like a good idea. You know, the sunsets, wilderness, big sky.

EDWARD (30's), inserts himself into the conversation.

EDWARD

We were stupid.

JAMES (20's), the youngest member of the group, corrects him.

JAMES

We are stupid.

The men snicker and smile in response. Dexter, continues to explain.

DEXTER

We got separated when we got attacked by a psycho in a red robe.

ELIZABETH

Red rope?

EDWARD

Yes. That asshole came out of fucking nowhere.

DANIEL

He took a swing at us. We tried to jump him but... He pulled out a gun. So, we ran.

JAMES

He shot Kurtis and the gunshots. Bang. Bang. Bang.

DANIEL

When we knew it was safe, we started looking for each other. We couldn't find Kurtis...

Daniel glances at the hallway that leads to the bedroom.

DANIEL

But I'm glad you found him before anything bad could happen.

ELIZABETH

Where were you guys attacked?

JAMES

A few miles from here. I think two maybe three.

ELIZABETH

I didn't hear a gunshot.

DEXTER

Yeah. It was further than that--

DANIEL

It must have been six or ten miles. I don't know. This weather really makes it hard to tell.

ELIZABETH

And you were all able to just find each other?

DANIEL

Well, we got lucky.

DEXTER

Blind faith if you will.

DANIEL

It's a miracle you found him alive. With the temperatures dropping, who knows what might have happened.

JAMES

We're really sorry for intruding. We thought the place was empty.

ELIZABETH

It's fine. No harm done.

Elizabeth looks at them, trying to read their faces.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth moves into the room. Daniel follows behind her.

ELIZABETH

He was out when I found him.

DANIEL  
How did you find him?

ELIZABETH  
I didn't... He just appeared.

DANIEL  
Is he going to be okay?

Elizabeth meets his gaze, thinking how to deliver the news.

ELIZABETH  
No... Not here. He needs a hospital. I did the best that I could but... He's got a few hours at best. Sorry.

DANIEL  
And the roads? Can't we take him to the hospital?

ELIZABETH  
With the mud piles and a parked car out front that doesn't work? Good luck. And before you ask, even if I had a phone, the lines are down. Look bottom line is, he's going to die if we don't get him out of here.

Daniel says nothing, unable to think with his friend on deathbed. He turns his gaze to Kurtis. Hoping. Wishing things were different.

DANIEL  
Are you sure you've tried everything.

She looks at him.

ELIZABETH  
Your friend back there said something about, "blind faith"?...

Daniel meets her gaze and nods, "yes".

ELIZABETH  
I really hope he's very spiritual.

She's about to leave the room when.

DANIEL  
I never asked your name.

ELIZABETH  
Elizabeth.

DANIEL

Elizabeth...  
 (re: to her name)  
 It's lovely.

Elizabeth's eyes glance at his arm...

He's bleeding, the red stain tackling his sleeve.

ELIZABETH

You're bleeding.

He turns to his arm, eyes the wound.

**INT. CABIN - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

Daniel is sitting on a chair as Elizabeth sews his wound shut.

DANIEL

It must be interesting.

ELIZABETH

What?

DANIEL

Your story... You're up here.  
 Alone. It's easy to see you're not  
 an adult. It's not... Normal.

She sticks the needle into his skin, causing him to grunt in pain.

ELIZABETH

My family is out here on  
 vacation...  
 (mocking)  
 A family getaway.

DANIEL

How old are you?

ELIZABETH

Sixteen.

DANIEL

(chuckling)  
 Oh, boy.

ELIZABETH

What?

DANIEL

When your parents get back, we're  
 probably going to jail.

Daniel turns his head, looking at her handy work. Impressed.

DANIEL

Are you planing to be a doctor?

ELIZABETH

No.

DANIEL

Where did you learn to do that?

ELIZABETH

I just... I've always had an interest on these things but never the drive to learn them all.

DANIEL

I see.

She smiles at his response. Elizabeth doesn't answer, focused on her work.

**INT. PHOENIX HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Elizabeth sits on the floor, in a now EMPTY ROOM, stripped of furniture, photos, anything and everything personal. Gone.

Her eyes wandering around the room.

ALEX (O.S.)

I'm really sorry for what happened.

She turns her head to the side...

ALEX O'HARA (17), is sitting next to her on the floor.

ALEX

I know that seeing her like that was... But you'll be fine. Okay?

She doesn't respond, her gaze moves down to the floor, she can't look at him.

ELIZABETH

I can't do this.

Alex looks at her. Confused.

ELIZABETH

I think we need to break up.

ALEX

Elizabeth--

ELIZABETH

Alex, I need a new start... I don't want to be a burden or--

ALEX

You're not.

She meets his gaze. Confronting him.

ELIZABETH  
Alex, please...

ALEX  
We can get--

ELIZABETH  
Just fucking go.

Alex stares at her intensely. His confusion rises.

ALEX  
What's going on with you?

ELIZABETH  
Just go... I don't want to hear from you. I don't want any text from you. I don't want anything to do with you ever again.

ALEX  
Babe, what--?

ELIZABETH  
Alex...

His confusion turning. Slowly it becomes anger.

ELIZABETH  
We're done.

He doesn't say a word. He rises from the floor, STORMS out of the house.

Elizabeth finds herself alone.

DANIEL (V.O.)  
Elizabeth?

**INT. CABIN - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth comes to.

Daniel, looking at her, wondering.

ELIZABETH  
What?

DANIEL  
I'm wondering if I'm going to live.

She looks at the wound, examines it.

ELIZABETH  
I think you might live.



DANIEL

Ah, good.

RAINDROPS crashing on the window. The wind blowing more intensely.

Elizabeth notices the chaos going on outside.

ELIZABETH

I'm going to see if I can start the car before the weather gets worst.

DANIEL

You're going out right now?

ELIZABETH

It's not that bad and I'm the only one with a rain poncho that fits.

DANIEL

Let me help.

ELIZABETH

You'll mess up the new stitches. Besides. I'm a big girl.

She heads out. Daniel stays, watching her as she leaves.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth is wearing her rain poncho. She plops open the hood of the car, sets down some tools on top of the battery.

Uses the flashlight to navigate through the parts.

LATER

She slams the hood shut, hops inside the vehicle.

**INT. ELIZABETH'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT**

She gets inside, shuts the door, tries to turn the car on...

The engine struggles, doesn't start.

Disappointed, she retrieves the key, turns her gaze to the GLOVE BOX, opens it and takes out a PHONE stashed away inside.

She unlocks it, the display shows a THREE BAR COVERAGE. She's got a strong signal.

Elizabeth dials a number...

The line on the other end RINGS and RINGS. Then, a RANGER'S VOICE answers.

Elizabeth goes to talk until she realizes.

RANGER (V.O.)

(on phone)

This is the Greenwood ranger station. We can't take your call right now but leave a message and we'll get back to you.

She's hit the answering machine.

ELIZABETH

(hangs up)

Fuck.

She glances to the cabin, making sure that none of the men are watching her.

She dials another number. The line RINGS and RINGS...

No one answers.

ELIZABETH

(hangs up)

Shit.

She stares ahead at the cabin, the men's shadows can be seen moving around inside through the windows.

Elizabeth rubs her temple, thinking of what to do.

ELIZABETH

(softly)

Fuck.

Elizabeth steps out the car and heads inside with her phone in hand.

**INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Dexter opens the fridge, retrieves a can of sausages.

Elizabeth enters to find...

Timothy standing in the room, wearing a rain coat.

Elizabeth sets the phone on the counter.

Daniel notices Elizabeth setting her phone on the counter. He stares at it for a moment, watching it, near his grasp.

She hangs her poncho on the hanger.

TIMOTHY

(to Elizabeth)

Hey. I wanted to check in. Make sure you were okay.

DANIEL

It's very nice of you.

TIMOTHY  
(to Elizabeth)  
What's going on?

ELIZABETH  
I think that they told you?

TIMOTHY  
Yeah. Attacked by a weirdo who  
didn't get the memo about  
Halloween.

EDWARD  
We're lucky to be alive.

DANIEL  
Our friend Kurtis in the bedroom,  
isn't so lucky. We have to get him  
to a doctor.

TIMOTHY  
The roads are flooded. I had to  
walk to get here.

ELIZABETH  
You walked?

TIMOTHY  
(to Elizabeth)  
Yeah...  
(to Daniel)  
I'm sorry, I can't help.

ELIZABETH  
What about the ranger station.

DANIEL  
We pass that on our way over here,  
the place is empty.

ELIZABETH  
But maybe there's someone there  
now. They could call for help and  
get Kurtis to a hospital.

TIMOTHY  
I'll go. I know the area and... I'm  
already soaked.

EDWARD  
I'm coming with you. You'll need  
someone who can explain to them  
what happened.

TIMOTHY  
(to Elizabeth)  
What are you going to do?

ELIZABETH

I'm coming with you.

DANIEL

Who'll take care of Kurtis? I can't do it... I need you to keep him alive... He's my best friend, please.

Elizabeth sees the pain and fear in his eyes.

ELIZABETH

Okay.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Timothy searches in Elizabeth's closet. She creeps up next to him.

ELIZABETH

Hey, do you think these guy's story is... Off?

TIMOTHY

What do you mean "off"?

ELIZABETH

They walk ten miles at night? In this weather? Escaped from a psycho in the woods who wears a red robe?... They came for a hike with no boots, no proper clothing, and not a scratch on them...

(whispering)

I think you shouldn't go with him.

TIMOTHY

You're being paranoid. Everything's fine and I'll be back before you know it.

Timothy takes a TOWEL from the closet, leaves...

Kurtis starts to groan, trying to speak but no words are coming out.

Elizabeth moves to him.

ELIZABETH

You're going to be okay. Help is on the way... Your friends are in the other room. Just hang tight, okay?

She's about to leave when...

TAP!... TAP!!... TAP!!!

Kurtis is tapping on the night stand next to the bed, grabbing her attention.

Elizabeth turns, sits by his side on the bed. Kurtis opens his mouth, struggling to speak.

KURTIS

Not... Friends.

Elizabeth, shocked by the news, stares at him straight in the eyes.

ELIZABETH

(deadpan)

Then who the fuck are they?

KURTIS

They'll... Kill... You.

Elizabeth takes a GLASS OF WATER that's resting on the night table, hands it to Kurtis who drinks some of the liquid.

Once he's done. Elizabeth takes back the glass as he continues to speak. Struggling.

KURTIS

Robbed... Avalon... Cartel.

Elizabeth glances behind her, making sure no one is at the door...

There's no one there. Elizabeth moves her gaze to Kurtis once again.

ELIZABETH

The Avalon syndicate? What are you doing up here?

KURTIS

Hiding.

ELIZABETH

Hiding. But it looks like they found you either way.

He nods his head, a look of guilt upon his face as he gazes at the sixteen-year-old who saved his life.

Elizabeth turns her head to the door, uncertain of what to do.

KURTIS

Please... They'll... Kill me.

Elizabeth sets the glass of water on the table, takes out her gun, tucks it under the sheets, next to Kurtis' hand.

ELIZABETH

(as she tucks him in)

What do we do now?

He shakes his head, "I don't know".

KURTIS

Run... They'll... Kill... You.

FOOTSTEPS approaching. Elizabeth turns her head to the door...

It's Daniel. He leans against the door frame, like he's trying to block it.

DANIEL

How's he doing?

ELIZABETH

He's fine.

She turns her head back to Kurtis.

ELIZABETH

(resumes tucking him in)

He'll make it.

Like a magic act. The lights turn on. The power's back.

DANIEL

Finally.

**EXT. FOREST - NIGHT**

The forest winds have lessened. The rain that pours down is now thin, barely visible.

The leafs and trees dance at the cold breeze that pushes them from side to side.

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

James is looking out the window.

JAMES

The rain seems to have stopped...  
Never thought our fishing trip  
would end like this.

Elizabeth is cooking in the kitchen.

ELIZABETH

Fishing? I thought you guys were  
hiking.

JAMES

What?

Elizabeth SNEEZES!

JAMES

Bless you.

ELIZABETH

Thank you. Oh! Looks like the cold  
is getting to me.

James moves to Dexter who's eating a sandwich. His elbows  
are on the table.

JAMES

Dex.

He ignores him.

JAMES

(discreetly)

Dex!

Dexter turns his head to him. What?

JAMES

No elbows at the table.

DEXTER

Are you serious?

JAMES

Yes, I'm serious.

Dexter takes his elbows off the table, glares at James.  
Happy?

James moves to the kitchen, near to Elizabeth.

JAMES

(clears his throat)

Ahem. Swans.

ELIZABETH

What?

JAMES

What I wanted to hunt, swans. I had  
an idea of cooking one. Daniel and  
the others didn't want to, they  
wanted to hike and... It was four  
against one.

ELIZABETH

You know it's illegal right?

JAMES

No, it isn't.

ELIZABETH

It is here. The town's mascot is a  
swan. Here they're part of the  
culture and even some stories and  
mythologies.

JAMES

I didn't know that.

Elizabeth notices Dexter's plate is now empty. No sandwich to be seen anywhere.

ELIZABETH

Are you done with that?

Dexter shakes his head, "yes".

She takes the plate and brings it to the sink, start washing it.

JAMES

Why aren't you with your parents?

ELIZABETH

(caught off guard)

Excuse me?

JAMES

I mean why aren't you with your parents right now.

ELIZABETH

I just... Wanted some time alone.

JAMES

I thought it was a family vacation.

ELIZABETH

It's complicated.

JAMES

What's why you're alone up here in the middle of nowhere?

Elizabeth sighs with annoyance, takes a look around, notices something.

ELIZABETH

Where's Tim?

JAMES

Who?

ELIZABETH

Timothy and your friend. They should have been back by now.

Edward enters the cabin holding the towel over his hand, shivering a little.

EDWARD

The rain is not fully gone but that wind can still freeze your--



ELIZABETH  
 (to Edward)  
 Where's Timothy?

EDWARD  
 At the ranger station. You were right, there was someone there. They thought that it would be safer if Timothy stayed behind, since he's a minor.

ELIZABETH  
 Why didn't they come with you.

EDWARD  
 They stayed behind to call for help. I thought I was best needed here, so. I came.

ELIZABETH  
 I'm going to go check on Kurtis.  
 (points to the fireplace)  
 Warm yourself up.

Edward complies. Happy. He was clearly going to do it anyway. He puts his hands near the fire, warming them.

Elizabeth heads into the bedroom.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth moves to Kurtis, makes a "Shh" signal to him with her finger, takes the gun, hiding under the blanket, in Kurtis' hand.

She tucks the weapon in the back of her pants, takes her coat from the closet, puts it on.

**INT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth grabs her phone, still resting on the counter as she heads for the door when.

DANIEL  
 Where are you going?

ELIZABETH  
 To find my parents. They should have been back by now. I'm going to the ranger station to see what they know.

EDWARD  
 That's not a good idea.

ELIZABETH  
 Why?

DANIEL  
It's not safe.

ELIZABETH  
I'll manage.

DANIEL  
I'll come with you then.

ELIZABETH  
And explain to my parents why I'm  
being escorted by a man twice my  
age? No thanks.

She forces herself pass him, exits, shuts the door behind her.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth rushes down the steps, moves to the back of the cabin.

**EXT. BACK OF THE CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth walks to the back of the house, hides there, pulls out her phone, opens it...

It doesn't turn on. She stares at her reflection on a black screen.

Elizabeth presses the power button. Doesn't work. She presses it again, holds for five seconds.

NOTHING.

She flips the phone, opens the back to expose the battery only to discover...

NO BATTERY!

She stands there in a moment of shock. Elizabeth takes the gun from her back, checks the ammo...

EMPTY, NO BULLETS.

In a bitter rage she THROWS the items. Breathing heavily. She puts her hand on the back of her head, thinking.

Her eyes wander as she looks around for something. Anything.

ELIZABETH  
(softly)  
Fuck.

She relaxes and slowly regains composure. Elizabeth heads off into the woods, heading to the ranger station.

**INT. RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Moonlight spills into the rooms, giving some visibility to the space.

Elizabeth steps into the ranger station. All the lights are off.

She treads carefully through the dark. The silence growing on her. Tension building as the quiet grows.

Her eyes gaze through the dark and notice the office door in the back is ajar.

She moves to it, making her way down the station. Her eyes looking around for anything or anyone.

She notices two desks that rest across from each other. The desk items are on the floor...

A SMALL SPLATTER OF BLOOD on the floor and desk.

Elizabeth stares ahead, moving closer to the door. Her hand reaches for the knob, gently pushes the door open...

Her eyes widen at the sight of TIMOTHY and the RANGERS lying in a pool of his own blood. Dead.

Elizabeth watches the BODIES, unfazed by it. She takes a few steps back when...

A HAND CREEPS UP BEHIND HER!

SOMEONE GRABS her, wrapping their arm around Elizabeth's neck.

Elizabeth doesn't scream, she immediately begins to struggle, fighting for her life.

She lifts her feet and pushes herself off, against the wall. The weight pulls her down, gravity starts to take over.

Elizabeth falls on top of...

EDWARDS, who is left out of breath.

She rolls off him before he can grab her again, they both rise with a menacing fire in their eyes.

Elizabeth quickly turns, grabs a SHARP pencil from the desk as Edward charges at her. She turns around and...

STAB!

Edward's expression turns white, takes a few steps back, looks down at his chest...

Elizabeth retrieves the sharp pencil from his HEART as blood starts to pour out of the small hole.

He eyes Elizabeth who quickly charges at him now.

Elizabeth, in a mountain of fury, STABS Edward multiple times. Violently. Unfazed. Unworried. Unafraid.

The blows knock Edward off balance, sending him down. She continues to attack him in a VIOLENT MANNER.

Stabbing everything she can...

Soon she takes a breather. Calming down. Her eyes stare at Edward, choking on his own blood.

He takes his last aching breath and dies before her eyes.

Elizabeth rises, unafraid and unbothered by her actions. She stands over the body, smiles. Like she's satisfied with the kill.

**INT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Daniel paces back and forth across the room. Dexter and James watch him, quiet, not saying a word.

Daniel pulls out a PHONE and dials...

**INT. WOODS - RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Elizabeth, thinking, zoned-out with her eyes on Edward's body. After a moment...

Edward's pocket starts to VIBRATE.

Elizabeth turns her gaze to his pocket. She bends down, reaches inside and pulls out a CELLPHONE.

She answers the call, puts the phone to her ear...

DANIEL (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Is it done?

She doesn't answer.

DANIEL (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Ed?

ELIZABETH  
Hi, Daniel.

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Daniel paces back and forth until he hears Elizabeth's voice.

He shares a look with Dexter and James, puts the call on speaker.

DANIEL  
(shocked)  
Elizabeth, how are you doing? Is  
Edward there?

INTER-CUTTING: ELIZABETH AND DANIEL.

Elizabeth glances at Edward's body, smiles, and with a blunt tone answers Daniel's question.

ELIZABETH  
No... He's dead, I killed him.

Daniel glances at his crew, confused. Shocked.

DANIEL  
What do mean?

ELIZABETH  
He tried to kill me. I'm guessing  
is because I found the bodies.

Daniel thinks, unable to come up with a logical explanation.

DANIEL  
I don't--

ELIZABETH  
You haven't killed me and that's  
fine because I haven't killed you  
either. I know that Kurtis is not  
your friend just like there was no  
man in a red robe.

DANIEL  
Oh, no. The man in the red robe was  
real. Until we killed him, the same  
way we are going to kill you. And  
Kurtis, got away because of that  
dumb fuck in red.

ELIZABETH  
And you can't kill him because he  
hid the money. Isn't that right?  
So, you can't kill me, I'm his only  
chance.

Daniel, growing increasingly frustrated and angry at her logic.

DANIEL  
Not really. We talked an hour ago  
and you leaving was the perfect way  
to make him... Go for a swim.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Elizabeth's bed is now empty. Kurtis is nowhere to be seen. Dried blood lies on the mattress and sheets.

**INT. RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Elizabeth, stumped, uncertain of what to do.

INTER-CUTTING: ELIZABETH AND DANIEL.

DANIEL

We had to work fast. I really didn't get the time to enjoy it but with you... I'll take my precious time.

ELIZABETH

I think you should be picky about the cabins you enter. You don't know what kind of monster could be lurking inside.

Daniel chuckles amused, smiling.

ELIZABETH

Open the box.

Daniel's smile fades, shares a look with Dexter and James.

DANIEL

(confused)

What box?

ELIZABETH

The box on top of the shelf in the kitchen.

Daniel looks up, notices a SMALL METAL BOX resting on top the of the shelf.

LATER

James stands on top of the counter to reach the box. He hands the box to Dexter who opens.

His face contorts to shock. He sets the box down on the counter.

Daniel bumps the box's contents, impatient...

PHOTOS. BRACELETS. SOUVENIRS. TEETH. Some covered in blood while other items are clean.

The photos show gruesome and sadistic acts of torture against people. Some men. Some women. Some children.

One of the photos shows a DYING SCARLET laying in a bed, badly beaten and bruised. Cuts all over her body, her mouth covered by a BLOODY SHIRT.

The men share a look. James is particularly horrified by the objects, hides his disgust. Acting like a tough guy.

Daniel speaks into the phone with his authoritative tone.

DANIEL

You're--

ELIZABETH

They all suffered... They all felt  
the agonizing fear that took over.

Daniel listening carefully, taking her words seriously.

DANIEL

You're only one against three. In  
the middle of a storm. Alone. And  
with nowhere to go.

ELIZABETH

You're underestimating me,  
Daniel... In case you don't know  
already or can't put it together...  
I've done this before.

Daniel staring at the phone in speaker mode. He glances at  
Dexter and James who are looking back at him.

ELIZABETH

You kill because is your job... I  
do it for fun. For pleasure. I'm  
going to kill you slowly and  
painfully and after I'm done, every  
witness will suffer the same fate.

Daniel's tone changes to a menacing one. Serious. Deadpan.

DANIEL

You're dead.

ELIZABETH

No, Daniel. I'm not, I'm still very  
much alive... Do you know what the  
three of you against me in this  
forest is going to be?...

Daniel doesn't answer, waiting for her response.

ELIZABETH

Carnage.

Elizabeth hangs up.

END OF INTER-CUTTING: ELIZABETH AND DANIEL.

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Daniel, Dexter, and James share a look.

DANIEL

I want her buried six feet under.

**INT. RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Elizabeth enters the office where the bodies lie, she starts searching the ranger's corpses, finds nothing. Their guns have been stripped away.

She turns to one of the desk, moves to it, in a hurry, opens one of the drawers...

Finds a pair of SCISSORS, take them, keeps searching for anything useful.

Elizabeth glances at the front counter, notices her note will hanging there. She moves to it, rips it off and pockets it.

DANIEL (V.O.)

She's one person.

JAMES (V.O.)

(anxious)

Who's a fucking serial killer!

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Daniel eyeing James very fiercely. Asserting authority over the anxious and doubtful member.

DANIEL

She's alone.

JAMES

Who killed all those people alone.

DEXTER

What are we going to do?

DANIEL

Remember that snitch in Everfield?

They shake their heads, they remember.

Daniel takes out a GUN, tucked away behind his pants. He checks the ammo, loads the weapon, stares at his men with a fire in his eyes.

DANIEL

Check your guns...

As Dexter and James check their own guns. Daniel continues.

DANIEL

We corner her and we make sure that each of us puts a bullet in her skull.

Daniel pulls the gun barrel back, loading a bullet in the chamber.



**INT. RANGER STATION - NIGHT**

Dexter enters first into the station, the lights are off, James follows second as Daniel steps inside as third.

They gaze at Edward's dead body for a moment, watching as the blood dries into the floor.

An unbearable silence that defined the room for what it is...

A MURDER GROUND.

The group spreads out, searching for her...

Nothing.

DEXTER

She's not here.

Daniel thinks, soon realizing.

DANIEL

(realizes)

The car!

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

The group rush back to the cabin area, they notice that the car is still there, untouched.

They rush inside, guns ready to fire.

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

The group of men burst through the door, separating like a SWAT team as they search the cabin.

DANIEL

She can't be far... The floods. The rain. She'll freeze to death or drown.

JAMES (O.S.)

Guys.

Dexter and Daniel gaze at James who's by the bedroom door. They move to him, entering the bedroom.

**INT. CABIN - ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

The bedroom is now clean, spotless, but the group focuses on the message written in BLOOD on the wall:

"Pride and greed destroyed them both, if they had been kind then they wouldn't have croaked".

DEXTER

What the fuck does that mean?

JAMES

It's a Blackburn verse. They taught  
it to us at school.

Daniel watches the message, his anger building.

DANIEL

Find her. Now!

The team heads out, exiting the cabin.

**EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS - NIGHT**

The wind whistles outside.

James finds himself alone, aiming his gun at the darkness,  
ready to shoot at anything that moves.

He tightens his jacket, searching for warmth. His eyes  
scanning his surroundings.

He soldiers on, battling fear and anxiety.

James moves carefully...

SNAP!

He quickly turns, responding to the sound of a snapping  
twig. The sound echoes through the woods.

James steps closer, trying to find the origin of the sound.

Then, like a predator with no mercy...

SLASH!

Elizabeth, creeps up behind him, quietly, cutting his  
jugular with the scissors, blood pours out.

James turns, FIRES his gun and misses.

Elizabeth takes away the gun and pushes him to the ground,  
watches as James struggles to live, dying quickly.

He inhales deeply...

Doesn't exhale. He's dead.

Elizabeth moves on, leaving the body in plain sight.

**EXT. CABIN - CHOPPING-BLOCK - NIGHT**

Elizabeth makes her way down the woods, aiming at the  
darkness with James' gun, about the pass the chopping block  
when...

BANG!

She falls to the ground, dropping James' gun, Elizabeth quickly hides behind a tree.

She examines her shoulder...

A GUNSHOT WOUND.

She tries to hide her pain, unsuccessfully, rises, sticking close to the tree.

She turns her head, sees...

A gun creeping up next to the tree, slow, predatory.

She KNOCKS the weapon out the assailant's hand, looks at him...

It's Dexter. He tackles her to the ground.

Elizabeth struggles, fighting to stay alive as Dexter punches her. Hard.

Elizabeth kicks his nose, stunning him. She rises and punches his throat. Dexter coughs in response to the hit.

Elizabeth rushes to Dexter's gun but Dexter grabs her and she punches him as hard as she can.

He grabs her hair and pulls her away before she can reach the gun, THROWING her to the side.

Dexter grabs his gun.

Elizabeth grabs the axe.

Dexter quickly turns to face her.

Elizabeth turns just as fast, swinging the axe...

BANG!

A loud gunshot.

Dexter stares into Elizabeth's glaring eyes for a moment.

Then, Dexter loses balance, starts falling back, dropping his gun...

The axe is penetrating his chest.

Elizabeth retrieves the blade, looks at the blood covered axe.

Her eyes then turn to Dexter. She stares into his fearful eyes.

ELIZABETH  
I'll make his quick.

She raises the axe...

PLUMMETS THE BLADE WITH FULL FORCE!

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT (LATER)**

Daniel makes his way back to the cabin. His eyes stare in great surprise at James' and Dexter's dead bodies hanging from a tree near the cabin.

He carefully moves closer to the cottage, wondering how did she do this.

Every step feels like an eternity as he waits for her to jump out at him. Watching and scanning his surroundings. Preparing to kill on sight.

Elizabeth watches him from a distance, Dexter's gun in hand.

Daniel moves closer to the cabin, glances at a SMALL PHOENIX carved on the wood of the cabin.

CLICK!

Elizabeth stands behind him, gun aiming at the back of his head.

She glances at his gun.

ELIZABETH

Drop it.

He complies with her demand.

DANIEL

Let's not get hasty.

ELIZABETH

I don't like hasty.  
(serious)

Move.

She gently pushes him with the gun, guiding him inside the cabin.

**INT. CABIN - NIGHT**

Elizabeth forces Daniel inside.

He sees a different setup since he's last been inside...

A LARGE PLASTIC SHEET is laid across the floor. All furniture has been wrapped in plastic sheets.

Daniel realizes what this means. He quickly turns but before he can do anything...

BANG!

He screams in pain, falling to the floor, folding his leg.

Elizabeth watches him in agony for a moment, then shoots him in the other leg. His scream intensifies.

Daniel looks up at her...

This--

-- is the end.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry... You'll be ash soon.

Daniel looks at her, hiding his pain the best he can, fearful, knowing his fate.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

The soothing breeze whistling as silence filled the air. The rain doesn't pour and the blistering sounds of nature can't be heard.

Death hangs in the air...

Daniel SCREAMS, a mournful. Painful. An agonizing scream. It echoes through the forest.

Loud. Clear. And terrifying.

We start pulling back, getting further away from the cabin as the screams intensify.

Then, just as the horror reaches a tipping point...

CRACK!

A BONE SNAP!

CUT TO BLACK.

We're engulfed in a black screen, nothing is heard. No sound. No visual. Nothing.

Until we slowly begin to...

FADE IN:

**INT. CABIN - DAY**

Elizabeth is clean, wearing different clothes.

She's cleaning the floor. No blood on it. A moment of peace.

KNOCK!

KNOCK!!

KNOCK!!!!!!

SOMEONE knocks on the door. Interrupting the peace.

Elizabeth goes to the door, opens it, sees...

TWO POLICE OFFICERS standing outside. Their name tags revealing their identities.

MICHAEL SAGE (40's), and AARON WILLIS (20's).

SAGE  
Miss Phoenix?

ELIZABETH  
Yes.

SAGE  
I'm officer Sage and this is officer Willis. Do you mind if we ask you a few questions?

ELIZABETH  
Not at all...

She moves aside, giving them space to walk through, inviting them in.

ELIZABETH  
Please, come on in.

The officers step inside as Elizabeth shuts the door behind them, LOCKS the door.

**INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

The officers walk into the living room. Elizabeth follows behind them.

They look around, surprised at...

How clean the place is. It's spotless. No dust. No smell. No bodies.

SAGE  
This is a nice place.

ELIZABETH  
Thank you... What's this about.

She invites them to sit down and they comply.

WILLIS  
There was a murder at the ranger station.

ELIZABETH  
(shocked)  
Oh, my god.

WILLIS

We wanted to know if you knew one of the victims. Timothy Hardwell?

Elizabeth thinks for a moment, trying to remember or more accurately, pretending to remember.

ELIZABETH

No, sorry. It doesn't ring a bell.  
(corrects herself)

Oh! No. Yeah, it does. Isn't he the kid that accidentally released the animals from the petting zoo in thanks giving?... He's dead?

Her face contorts. Revolted and shock.

SAGE

Yes. Unfortunately. We wanted to ask you if you heard something last night between seven and three?

ELIZABETH

No, sorry. I was asleep. I'm a very heavy sleeper, I slept trough the storm.

SAGE

Wow.

ELIZABETH

Sorry. I wish I could help.

WILLIS

Are you sure you don't remember anything?

Elizabeth thinks, trying to remember.

ELIZABETH

No. I'm sorry, I... Don't know what to say.

WILLIS

Do you live alone out here?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

WILLIS

How old are you? You can't be more than fifteen.

ELIZABETH

(correction)

Sixteen, actually. I got emancipated last year. Do you want to look at the documents.

Before they can answer she leaves for the bedroom and returns with a DOCUMENT in hand.

She hands the paper over to the cops, who examine it.

They nod, "okay", and return the document to her.

ELIZABETH

Do you guys have any other questions I can answer?

SAGE

No. Not for now.

The cops rise.

ELIZABETH

Do you guys have a card or something I can call or is that just in movies?

Willis, realizes, reaches into his pocket, pulls out a card and gives it to her.

She takes the card and holds it, like she's cherishing a trophy.

ELIZABETH

I'll call you if I remember anything.

WILLIS

Thank you for your time.

The officers leave the cabin. Elizabeth opens the door, allowing them to exit.

She watches them leave in a POLICE CAR and shuts the door when they're out of sight. LOCKS the door.

**EXT. LONG ROAD - DAY**

A long and empty road. Surrounded by an alluring landscape, filled with nature's finest green.

Elizabeth walks down the street, a backpack on her shoulders. She steps further and further away from the cabin and the town...

A car is heading down the road, away from the town and the woods. It gets closer and closer.

Elizabeth turns, hearing the vehicle approaching. She sticks her thumb out, asking for a ride.

The car rushes pass her, uninterested in giving anyone a ride.



Elizabeth eyes the car as it gets further away. Unbothered. She keeps walking in the same direction she was headed.

**INT. PHOENIX HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

Elizabeth opens the door, walks into the empty kitchen. The only thing that's left is an old landline phone on the wall.

She sets her backpack down, stands in the emptiness for a moment, smiles, great opportunities ahead...

RING! RING! RING!

The landline phone receives a call.

Elizabeth turns to it. Confused. Surprised. That shit still works?

She moves to the landline, picks it up, hold the receiver to her ear.

A YOUNG FEMALE VOICE speaks to her on the other end.

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)  
(on landline)  
You're prolific.

Elizabeth doesn't understand.

ELIZABETH  
What?

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)  
(on landline)  
Fifty-two kills in one year. That's impressive... I knew you'd be back. It was just a matter of when.

ELIZABETH  
(distress)  
Who are you? Is this a joke?

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)  
(on landline)  
Your mimicking is impressive, must have taken you years to perfect it... I wonder if Jennifer Hill picked up on that before you killed her.

Elizabeth reacts to the name. Clear it means something to her.

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)  
(on landline)  
Don't worry, I won't snitch. If I did that, then, we won't be able to meet each other.

ELIZABETH

What do want?

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)

(on landline)

To arrest you. But that will come  
in time.

ELIZABETH

Who are you?

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)

(on landline)

Just... An interested party... When  
can we start?

ELIZABETH

Start what?

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)

(on landline)

A game... Cat and mouse. Tom and  
Jerry. Do you understand?

Elizabeth smiles, intrigued by this person.

ELIZABETH

When?

YOUNG FEMALE (V.O.)

(on landline)

I'll wait until you're settled in,  
I promise.

The caller on the other line hangs up. Elizabeth smiles,  
absolutely interested and exited by this. A thrill. A rush.

She hangs up the phone and we...

CUT TO BLACK.

END CREDITS

THE END