The Environmentalist

by
EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - NIGHT

It is a modern three story wooden lodge. It has a long drive leading up to it. Everything is buried in snow.

JEANINE (V.O.)
I barely get a signal up here, you keep breaking up.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

JEANINE, (15), is a stunning little blonde girl with sapphire eyes. Her looks and frame are years beyond her age.

She talks on a mobile to her friend Tracy

TRACY (V.O.)
OMG, You should’ve seen it. Everyone was laughing at her. I almost... felt bad.

Tracy laughs.

JEANINE
Good. That’ll teach that fat, little, bitch to spread rumors about me.

TRACY (V.O.)
Well, not like they’re all rumors.

JEANINE
I don’t care. Not gonna be one-upped by someone with, like, zero social status.

Jeanine starts looking through the kitchen cupboards.

TRACY (V.O.)
I think she learned her lesson messing with you.

JEANINE
It’s like mom always tells me. “Sometimes it’s up to us to help the little people find their place in this world”.

TRACY (V.O.)
You’re such a heartless wench.
JEANINE
I know, I love it.

They both share a laugh.

TRACY (V.O.)
I can’t believe your dad built a lodge all the way out there.

JEANINE
It’s what rich people do. Wait til he gets the bill for my sweet sixteen. He’ll be glad I’m an only child.

TRACY (V.O.)
Where are your parents?

JEANINE
Those lushes went down the slopes twice and went straight to the lounge. They’re still there.

TRACY (V.O.)
They’re gonna be soooo polluted when they get home. They’re gonna bump ugliest tonight.

JEANINE
Ugh. I know. (Mocking) Tom! Tom! Oh my god! Oh my god! You’re so huge!

They both laugh again.

JEANINE
Thank god for IPODS. Downloaded the whole Beatles Anthology to get me through the week.

TRACY (V.O.)
I dunno how you listen to that crap.

JEANINE
Best band ever!

TRACY (V.O.)
So how’d you get home?

JEANINE
A cute-ass ski instructor named Will. He’s 23 and thinks I’m 19.
TRACY (V.O.)
OMG, you are such a tramp!

JEANINE
I know, I love it! I wouldn’t have been able to find this place by myself anyways. Let me call you back. I wanna find the vodka before those two get home.

TRACY (V.O.)
Call me back biatch.

Jeanine ends the call and heads out of the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jeanine walks into the large room and begins to scan her surroundings.

JEANINE
Now, where would they hide it.

Her cell phone rings. She puts it to her ear.

JEANINE
Hey biatch, I said I’d call back.

MAN (V.O.)
Hello Jeanine.

She looks at the number on her cell.

JEANINE
Who is this? How do you know may name?

MAN (V.O.)
I know a little about you, but I'd like to know more.

Jeanine smiles at this. She starts to twirl her hair and plucks down on the couch.

JEANINE
Is this Will? Ha, ha, funny. Trying to spook the out-of-town girl?

MAN (V.O.)
I don’t know Will. But you know what I do know?
JEANINE
How to masturbate in less then 15 seconds?

MAN (V.O.)
Very clever. No. What I know is that kept promises are the backbone to any successful relationship.

JEANINE
Okay. So, now I’m talking to Dr. Phil?

MAN (V.O.)
You make me a promise... and I’ll make you an even better one.

JEANINE
Oh, this sounds like fun. I’ll play.

MAN (V.O.)
If you promise not to hang-up on me...

JEANINE
Yes?

MAN (V.O.)
I’ll promise not to break into your house and kill you.

Jeanine stands up. Her confident, cool self has changed.

JEANINE
Okay, listen, joke’s not funny anymore asshole.

MAN (V.O.)
Sit back down Jeanine.

She looks around through the windows.

JEANINE
Are you watching me you perv. Well, you’d better run cuz I’m calling the cops.

MAN (V.O.)
They’ll never make it in time.
JEANINE
Listen asshole, my parents will be home any minute. My dad used to play college football. He’ll crush you.

MAN (V.O.)
Your parents? But... They’re already home.

She pauses for a moment.

JEANINE
No. No, I’m the only one here.

MAN (V.O.)
Check the bedroom.

Jeanine ends the call. She frantically starts dialing a number.

JEANINE
Come on. Come on. Where are you guys?

A muffled cell phone ring is heard off screen. Jeanine looks upward as she pulls the phone away from her ear.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

She walks down the hall with the phone in her hand.

JEANINE
Dad? Mom? You guys here?

She reaches for a door handle.

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

The door opens a ray of light into the dark room. Jeanine flips the light switch on.

She drops the phone as her eyes go wide. The walls around her and the back of the door are spattered with blood. She screams and runs off screen.
INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jeanine runs in and hastens through the cabinet drawers until she finds a large knife. She backs against the wall and squats down. She begins to cry.

She studies her surroundings. Then her eyes freeze. A message has been drawn with a finger through the frost on the outside of the kitchen window. It reads... “ANSWER THE PHONE OR YOU WILL DIE”. Her phone begins to ring off screen.

BANG! A huge thrust against the front door. As if a large man was trying to break it in. Then another. And Another. Getting louder. She drops the knife and covers her ears.

JEANINE
Please make it go away. Make it stop.

She looks at the message in the window...

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The banging continues. Wood is beginning to splinter. Jeanine runs into the hallway and picks up the phone.

JEANINE
I’m back. I’m back. Please stop.

The banging stops. There is a long pause of silence.

MAN (V.O.)
Your parents decided to sneak back to the house for a quickie. Unfortunately for Tom, I shot my rocks off before he shot his... You broke your promise Jeanine.

JEANINE
I know. I know. I’m sorry.

MAN (V.O.)
Now what’s to stop me from breaking mine.

JEANINE
What do you want from me?
MAN (V.O.)
I’ll give you one more chance. I want you to promise not to call the police. Then I want you to come outside and talk to me.

JEANINE
No. No fucking way you lunatic.

She peers around the corner down the stairs.

JEANINE
I’m calling the police.

MAN (V.O.)
Jeanine don’t...

She cuts him off and runs into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

She locks the door and dials 911.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
911. What is your emergency?

JEANINE
Please help me. There’s a man outside the house. He’s trying to break in. He..

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Ma’am, please slow down. What is your exact location?

JEANINE
Durango. Colorado. Fuck, I don’t know the address. Just trace the call.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Your on a cell phone ma’am, I need to direct your call to the appropriate dispatch.

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

A shot gun blast is heard off screen. A man in a ski mask runs in carrying a shotgun. He turns on the TV and the stereo and cranks the volume.
INT. BATHROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

Jeanine covers her exposed ear and tries to listen to the operator.

JEANINE
Oh god, please hurry. He’s in the house.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Mam, what is the homeowner’s name?

INT. KITCHEN – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

The masked man starts the microwave with gloved hands.

INT. BATHROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUOUS

JEANINE
My father’s name is Tom Schaefer. Tom Schaefer... Hello?

She looks at the phone in her hand. It reads “NO SIGNAL”. Jeanine crawls into the tub and pulls the curtain. She waits.

BOOM! A shot gun blast rips through the bathroom door. The outlets spark and then the whole house goes dark and quiet.

MAN (O.S.)
Give me the phone Jeanine.

He puts his hand through the hole in the door.

MAN (O.S.)
I won’t hurt you if you give me the phone.

JEANINE
You promise?

MAN (O.S.)
I think we’ve had enough promises. Give me the phone.

She reaches out of the tub and drops the phone in his hand. He pulls it through.

MAN (O.S.)
Are you scared Jeanine?
JEANINE
Yes.

MAN (O.S.)
Is this the most scared you’ve ever been?

JEANINE
Yes.

MAN (O.S.)
Good. I need you to remember this feeling. In a little over two years you’re going to gain majority control over your father’s company because he’s dead now. Understand?

JEANINE
I think so.

MAN (O.S.)
You’d better do more with your money then squander it on self-gratitude like your parents. I want you to give half every year to charity or I’ll come back. Understand?

JEANINE
Yes.

MAN (O.S.)
And I don’t want you giving to fucking cancer research or aids research or Red Cross. I like to kill people. I like dead people.

Jeanine sits up and wipes tears from her face.

JEANINE
Okay?

MAN (O.S.)
Do good for the environment. And help animals. I like animals.

JEANINE
I will. I’ll do what you ask.
MAN (O.S.)
I know you will. Because when
you’re big and rich and powerful,
you’ll know one man with a gun can
take it all away.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The masked man stands and looks at the phone in his hand.

MAN
I’ll leave your cell phone on the
kitchen counter. When you get the
nerve to come down, you can call
the police.

He starts towards the stairs.

JEANINE (O.S.)
Um... Thank you.

He pauses and stares at the hole in the door.

MAN
Just doing my part... To make the
world a better place. Goodbye
Jeanine.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

She listens for awhile as his footsteps become more distant
and eventually disappear. She leans her head against the wall
and sighs in relief.

JEANINE
Half to charity... Yeah Right.

BOOM! A shot gun blast rips through the back wall and takes
her head clean off.

The masked man’s head peers through the hole in the wall from
the other side.

MAN
Oh well, the world is still a
better place.

His head disappears from the hole.

MAN (O.S.)
One person at a time.
The frame pans back to encapsulate the bloody mess that is the bathroom.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.