

WARNING SHOT

Written by

Breanne Mattson

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

1

This is one of those country cemeteries that would be an ordinary pasture without the grim slabs.

AUDREY, 30s, in a flowing dress that gently rolls like waves in the breeze, stands next to...

CHEYENNE, 8, an adorable little likeness of her mother.

Together, they're a symbol of all that's beautiful about life. They gaze blankly at a casket in an open grave, pondering mortality.

AUDREY

We should go.

She puts her hands on Cheyenne's shoulders. Steers her toward a single car parked on the gravel road.

CHEYENNE

How come everyone left so soon?

AUDREY

Probably had things to do.

CHEYENNE

There weren't that many people.

AUDREY

Grandpa was pretty old.

CHEYENNE

Then it seems like he would have had more friends than anyone.

AUDREY

Most of his friends have already died, sweetie.

2 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

2

The house is small with add-ons, isolated and derelict, with a couple of dilapidated buildings behind it, an old barn and machine shed. Other than the dusty road leading to it, it's surrounded by woodlands.

Audrey's car pulls up the gravel driveway, stops behind the house. Audrey and Cheyenne climb out, scan the area.

CHEYENNE

Have I ever been here before?

AUDREY

Yes. You were too young to remember. I usually visited while you were with grandma and grandpa.

They approach the barn like they're walking in the park.

CHEYENNE

I thought this was my grandpa.

AUDREY

No, this was my grandpa.

Cheyenne drifts toward a field as Audrey reaches the doorway.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Don't go too far, Cheyenne. And don't get your dress dirty.

3 INT. BARN - DAY

3

Audrey steps cautiously into the dingy building. It's filled with a lifetime's worth of dusty old farm equipment. A COIL OF ROPE hangs on the wall.

Audrey touches an old harness, smacks the dust off her hands.

4 EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - DAY

4

Cheyenne approaches a large woodpile. When she gets close... a covey of quail suddenly erupts from the pile, their TWEETING filling the air.

Caught off guard, Cheyenne falls back onto the ground. She watches in wonder as the birds fill nearby trees.

Audrey steps out of the barn to see what's going on.

AUDREY

What did you do?

Cheyenne climbs off the ground and shrugs.

CHEYENNE

Nothing. I just walked to the woodpile.

AUDREY
Well, come away from there. Don't
bother the birds.

Cheyenne makes her way back.

CHEYENNE
I didn't.

Audrey brushes Cheyenne's dress off.

AUDREY
I told you not to get dirty and
it's the first thing you did.

CHEYENNE
I'm sorry.

She points to a dusty spot on Audrey's dress. Audrey brushes
it off.

AUDREY
I guess I should have told myself
not to get dirty too.

They share a laugh. Audrey puts her arm around Cheyenne.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's look around some
more.

CHEYENNE
Are we going into the house?

AUDREY
I have to get the key from Mr.
Pendleton.

5 INT. BOBBY'S OFFICE - DAY

5

BOBBY, 30s, affluent and sleazy, paces behind his desk.

BOBBY
Those water rights have been in his
family since the eighteen hundreds.

We now see the two men Bobby speaks to...

First there's JAWARI, late 30s, an African-American with a
moustache. His face has a gentle quality.

Then there's RAINY, 30s, slouched in his chair. His eyes
would be completely empty except for a sinister tinge.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
The old man's personally owned them
since nineteen-thirty-nine. It's
going to take some persuasion.

Bobby leans over his desk to bring full attention to what
he's about to emphasize.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I want you to persuade him. Do you
two know each other?

Jawari and Rainy look each other over.

JAWARI
I've seen him around.

RAINY
I got a friend who said he bought a
skimpy bag of weed from him.

Jawari stiffens, offended.

JAWARI
I don't sell skimpy bags.

RAINY
Had a bunch of stems in it.

JAWARI
Bullshit.

Bobby dismisses them with a wave as he sits.

BOBBY
All right, all right. Jawari,
Rainy. Rainy, Jawari. Can you two
work together?

Rainy leans on Bobby's desk with a smart aleck smirk.

RAINY
Hey, man, I'm a professional.

Bobby looks at Jawari for an answer. Jawari nods.

BOBBY
All right, listen. I just want you
to loosen the old man up. Do not
kill him.

JAWARI
When do you want it done?

BOBBY
 Tomorrow. Around noon. Just hold
 him there. I'll drop by later with
 the papers.

RAINY
 What if he gives us trouble?

Bobby flashes Rainy a sharp look.

BOBBY
 Listen, asshole. What did I just
 say? Do not kill him. He can't sign
 any papers dead.

RAINY
 I was just asking. He might have a
 shotgun or something.

BOBBY
 He's in his nineties. Can't you
 handle a guy in his nineties?

6 EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY 6

The back door of a tiny trailer opens. Audrey leans out,
 hanging off the doorframe.

AUDREY
 Cheyenne! Dinner's ready!

She retreats, closing the door, almost like a cuckoo clock.

7 INT. AUDREY'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - DAY 7

Audrey turns from the back door, makes her way through the
 modest family area and to the...

8 KITCHEN 8

She stops over the stove where a pot of soup simmers. Grabs a
 ladle and stirs.

Cheyenne rushes through the front door, breathing heavily,
 carrying a piece of paper with tape on it.

AUDREY
 Why are you out of breath?

CHEYENNE

James and Chris were chasing me and Lucia. They said they were going to throw us in the pond.

AUDREY

Oh really? Go wash up.

Cheyenne starts for the bathroom.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

What's that?

Cheyenne hurries back, still hyper, holding the paper out.

CHEYENNE

It was on the door. What's for dinner?

She hands Audrey the paper and scurries off.

AUDREY

Vegetable soup.

Audrey examines the paper. It's a FINAL EVICTION NOTICE. She frowns, looks up. Cheyenne's already in the bathroom with the water running. Audrey calls out.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

What did you think of the farm? Did you like it?

CHEYENNE (O.S.)

Yeah! It was okay!

Audrey pulls two bowls from the cupboard.

AUDREY

Just okay?

Cheyenne comes back to the kitchen as Audrey fills a bowl.

CHEYENNE

It was fun to run around. There's lots of places to go.

They sit at the table to eat. Audrey nudges a package of crackers toward Cheyenne.

AUDREY

There's crackers if you want.

Cheyenne grabs some, crushes them over her soup.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

So, you know, Grandpa was kind of a hermit in his old age. I'm probably the only family he really had any contact with.

She waits for a reaction. Cheyenne sips her soup.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

He might leave me something in his will.

CHEYENNE

Really? Like what?

AUDREY

Like, I don't know. Mr. Pendleton hinted he might leave me the farm.

CHEYENNE

Really?

Audrey hesitates, trying to be tactful.

AUDREY

It has a lot more space than the trailer.

CHEYENNE

Do you have to work tonight?

Audrey's a little surprised by Cheyenne's disinterest.

AUDREY

Yes.

CHEYENNE

Who's watching me?

AUDREY

Lucia's mom.

Cheyenne looks up, grinning. Audrey smiles.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Don't let the boys throw you in the pond.

Cheyenne giggles.

9 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

9

It's a small all-night place. Audrey finishes scribbling down an order for a TRUCK DRIVER at the counter.

AUDREY
Would you like more coffee?

*

TRUCK DRIVER
No thanks.

*

*

AUDREY
I'll put this right in.

*

*

She glides to a table as TWO CUSTOMERS leave behind scattered empty dishes.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Thanks, guys.

She stacks dirty plates. Notices the tip. She picks up... maybe a dollar and a half in change. Total. She's stunned.

10 INT. MARTY'S OFFICE - LATER

10

MARTY, the owner, 50s, sits at his desk looking over tax papers, confused and frustrated. Audrey knocks.

AUDREY
Got a minute?

Marty glances at his watch.

MARTY
A minute is about all you got. I'm stressin' over this tax mess. This is my last extension.

Audrey sits across from him.

AUDREY
I'm having some hard times financially.

Marty gestures at the tax papers.

MARTY
Aren't we all?

AUDREY
I need to make some extra money.

MARTY

That's what tips are for. You want more money? Flirt with the customers more.

AUDREY

I'm not asking for a raise. I was just wondering if I could get some extra hours.

MARTY

I'm looking at cutting back hours as it is.

AUDREY

I got a kid, Marty.

MARTY

Please don't give me a sob story. I get at least one of those a week.

Marty goes back to work, ignoring her. Defeated, Audrey starts to leave. Marty sighs, rubs his face.

MARTY (CONT'D)

All right, look. You need some extra cash and I need to relax. We're a match made in heaven.

He shrugs, wondering if she gets his meaning. She gets it and she doesn't appreciate it. She summons courage.

AUDREY

You owe me overtime pay.

MARTY

(annoyed)

I told you, you'll get your overtime when I get my tax refund.

AUDREY

I know you have the money. You just bought a new car.

MARTY

So we've come to this? You wanna play hard ball? Might I remind you that there's no actual record of this alleged overtime.

Audrey stares in disbelief. It quickly turns to anger.

AUDREY

I knew you would do this.

MARTY
You all agreed to it.

AUDREY
You changed all our time-sheets.

MARTY
You signed them.

AUDREY
What choice did we have?

MARTY
I'm gonna pay you. I just can't do
it right now. You'll just have to
wait... like we agreed.

She turns away, speaking under her breath.

AUDREY
Asshole.

MARTY
I heard that. That's a code of
conduct violation. I could dock
your pay for that.

She walks away while he's talking.

11 EXT. PARKING LOT - NEXT DAY 11

Jawari parks his car a few spaces over from Rainy's truck.
Rainy climbs out, clumsily carrying a rifle and a handgun,
all while holding onto a plastic ring for a sixpack of beer.

12 INT. JAWARI'S CAR - DAY 12

Jawari watches stunned as Rainy awkwardly climbs into his
car. Once settled, Rainy holds up the sixpack.

RAINY
Wanna beer?

JAWARI
What the fuck is wrong with you?

RAINY
What? It's just beer.

JAWARI
I'm talking about you carrying guns
right out in the open.

RAINY

Nobody saw me.

(re: the rifle)

Besides, this isn't a gun. It's a rifle.

JAWARI

You really think we need an assault rifle for an old man?

RAINY

Here's your weapon.

He gives Jawari the handgun.

JAWARI

A six shooter?

RAINY

It's a thirty-eight. That's respectable.

JAWARI

How come I get a six shooter like I'm a fuckin' cowboy and you get a semi automatic rifle?

RAINY

Man, 'cause that's what I got. That was my daddy's gun.

JAWARI

Daddy? You call your old man daddy?

RAINY

What is your problem? I just thought we'd have a beer together.

Jawari glances at the chamber.

JAWARI

Where's the bullets?

Rainy digs them out of his pocket.

RAINY

I got your bullets right here, man.

He pulls out six bullets, hands them to Jawari.

JAWARI

Six bullets? That's all I get?

RAINY
 How many do you need? It's a six
 shooter. Besides, we're not
 supposed to kill anyone, remember?

Jawari stuffs the bullets in his jacket pocket.

RAINY (CONT'D)
 You got any weed?

Jawari gives Rainy an annoyed look.

JAWARI
 It's all stems, man.

RAINY
 Oh, come on, man. You know I was
 just messin' with you about that.
 Besides, I know your personal stash
 will be the good shit.

Jawari hesitates, then pulls a fat bag from his pocket. Rainy
 grins from ear to ear.

RAINY (CONT'D)
 That's what I'm talkin' about.

13 INT. MR. PENDLETON'S OFFICE - DAY

13

MR. PENDLETON, 80s, a relaxed folksy lawyer, removes a key
 from a drawer. He steps around his desk to meet Audrey and
 Cheyenne.

AUDREY
 This is Mr. Pendleton. He's
 handling Grandpa's estate.

Mr. Pendleton smiles at Cheyenne.

MR. PENDLETON
 My, I never knew he had such a
 pretty great granddaughter.

Cheyenne smiles.

CHEYENNE
 My great grandpa had an estate?

MR. PENDLETON
 Yes, he owned eighty acres.

Cheyenne has no idea how much that is, but it sounds
 impressive.

CHEYENNE
Wow, that's a lot.

MR. PENDLETON
Yes, it is.

He looks up at Audrey as he hands her the key.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
Do you have any plans for it if he
leaves it to you?

Audrey stares at the key, cautious about her words.

AUDREY
It needs a lot of work. I probably
couldn't sell it for much. I've
been wondering if it wouldn't be
cheaper to live there.

Cheyenne looks up. This is news to her.

MR. PENDLETON
Well, the will won't be officially
executed until next week. We'll go
over the specifics then.

Audrey glances down at Cheyenne, smiles awkwardly. Mr.
Pendleton picks up on her distress.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
I was at the funeral. I don't know
if you saw me.

AUDREY
Yeah, thanks. And thanks for the
flowers.

MR. PENDLETON
You know, I worked with your
grandfather on my very first job.
We were just boys.

AUDREY
I didn't know that.

Mr. Pendleton smiles at the thought.

MR. PENDLETON
Picking the best corn we ever ate.

Audrey smiles. Mr. Pendleton turns to Cheyenne.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
The first time I saw your mother,
she was younger than you are now.

CHEYENNE
Really?

MR. PENDLETON
And do you know, she ran away from
me?

Cheyenne giggles. Audrey tries to recall.

AUDREY
Seriously?

MR. PENDLETON
I stopped by for a visit one day.
They said you took time to warm up
to people. After about ten minutes,
I caught you spying on me from the
corner of the house. Another ten
minutes and you were offering me a
cup of pretend tea.

Audrey and Cheyenne laugh.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
By the time I left, you were
hanging onto my neck. They had to
pull you off me.

AUDREY
So I warmed up to you finally?

MR. PENDLETON
Oh yeah. You were a clever one too.
You used a coffee can lid for a
Frisbee and got it stuck on the
roof. You tied a rope to a baseball
mitt and threw it up there.

AUDREY
Now that sounds like me.

CHEYENNE
Did she get it down?

MR. PENDLETON
She sure did.

As the laughter subsides, Mr. Pendleton gives Audrey a
sympathetic look.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
An answer has no purpose without a
problem, you know.

Audrey stares at him, perceiving he's referring to her
current situation now.

AUDREY
But is there always an answer?

MR. PENDLETON
Oh, I think a clever girl will find
one. Sometimes you just need to
repurpose a few things.

AUDREY
And if that doesn't work?

MR. PENDLETON
Leave it to the wind. It'll
eventually blow off whatever's on
the roof.

AUDREY
I'm the one who runs away, though,
remember?

MR. PENDLETON
But you come back.

His words lift Audrey's spirits a little. She glances at the
key and returns a fragile smile.

AUDREY
Thanks.

14 INT. BOBBY'S GRANDFATHER'S BEDROOM - DAY 14

Bobby helps his GRANDFATHER out of a wheelchair and into bed.

BOBBY
I'm going to meet with the old man
this afternoon.

His grandfather strains to climb into bed. He coughs, sickly.
He's on his deathbed.

GRANDFATHER
I quit worrying about that old man
thirty years ago. We hated each
other but we respected each other.

He nestles into a comfortable position. Bobby sits at his side.

BOBBY

But you could never get him to sell. Even Dad couldn't do it.

GRANDFATHER

I don't want you to end up like your father.

BOBBY

I won't. I'm gonna show you I can run the business.

His grandfather puts his hand on Bobby's. Reminisces.

GRANDFATHER

What are you gonna do, Bobby? In my day, when you didn't like someone, you told him to his face, right before you loosened his jaw for him. If he had any guts, he cracked a chair over your head.

He coughs. Bobby watches, knowing he's the last remnant of his family with his grandfather so close to perishing.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

The old days are gone. Washed away like a creek bed. You can't just muscle your way around anymore. No one respects guts anymore.

He closes his eyes, drifts off. Bobby clutches his hand.

BOBBY

I'm gonna make you proud of me.

His grandfather grumbles under his breath.

GRANDFATHER

Thanks for helping me off the shitter.

15 INT. JAWARI'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

15

Rainy finishes off a beer.

RAINY

We need some more beer. You got any money?

JAWARI

I will after we get this job done.

RAINY

We need some money now.

16 EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

16

Jawari's car pulls to a stop at a red light. Rainy's elbow hangs out the open window. He looks over at the driver of the car in the next lane.

It's a pretty blonde woman, 20s. NOTTA CHANCE. Her window is partially up and there's a splotch of birdshit on it.

RAINY

What's your name, darlin'?

She gives Rainy a cold sneer.

NOTTA

Notta.

RAINY

Notta. Is that Mexican?

NOTTA

No.

RAINY

Notta what?

NOTTA

Notta chance.

Jawari bursts out laughing. Rainy glances at him, turns playfully back to Notta.

RAINY

You got birdshit on your window.

NOTTA

Why don't you lick it off?

Rainy hangs out the window.

RAINY

You think I won't?

A sly grin sneaks onto Notta's face. She's game.

NOTTA
I'll give you ten dollars if you
lick that birdshit off.

Rainy climbs out. The light turns green.

JAWARI
Hey, come on, man. The light turned
green.

Rainy steps toward Notta's car.

RAINY
Bitch, do you even have ten
dollars?

He gets close enough to see down into Notta's car. She pulls a ten dollar bill from her wallet. Rainy sees she has a lot more money. She waves the ten.

NOTTA
I don't believe you'll do it.

He looks into her eyes with a smart aleck smirk as he sticks his tongue out and... licks that birdshit off her window like it's chocolate and whipped cream.

Notta's mouth falls open.

RAINY
Mmmmmmmmmmm. Now gimme my money.

Notta, still shocked, holds out the ten. Rainy grabs it with one hand and with the other... slings open a balisong (a.k.a. a butterfly knife), presses the blade against Notta's throat.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll take the rest of it too.

Jawari sees what's going on from his car. Scans, panicked.

JAWARI
What are you doing, man? Let's get
out of here.

Notta holds up the wallet. Rainy grabs it, backs away.

RAINY
Remember, I got your address. If
you call the police, you better
hope they find me before I find
you.

As he climbs into Jawari's car, Notta can't help but ask...

NOTTA

If you were going to rob me, why did you lick the birdshit off my window?

Rainy hangs out the window as Jawari pulls away.

RAINY

That's just somethin' for you to remember me by, darlin'.

He laughs like a crazy man as they drive off.

17

INT. AUDREY'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

17

Audrey bickers with an upset Cheyenne.

AUDREY

I'm sorry I didn't say anything before. It's not set in stone.

CHEYENNE

What about school? Will I still go to the same school?

AUDREY

No.

CHEYENNE

What about all my friends?

AUDREY

Honey, I don't know what's going to happen. All I know is we can't afford the rent anymore.

CHEYENNE

What about dad? Can we ask him to help us?

AUDREY

Your dad doesn't give us any money.

Cheyenne's eyes well with tears.

CHEYENNE

But if he knew we might lose our home, then he might.

AUDREY

All he'd do is try and take you away from me.

(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Is that what you want? To live with your dad? You'd still have to change schools.

It gets really quiet for several moments. Both Audrey and Cheyenne gaze ahead, pondering. Then...

CHEYENNE

I know the birthday cards from dad are really from you.

Audrey glances between Cheyenne and the road, surprised.

AUDREY

How do you know that?

CHEYENNE

No postage stamps or return address. So you can't threaten me with living with dad. I already know he wouldn't take me.

Audrey smiles, bittersweet, at Cheyenne.

AUDREY

You're pretty smart, you know that?

CHEYENNE

Yes. Just don't put a bumper sticker on the car about it.

They share a laugh.

18 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY 18

Jawari's car pulls up the driveway, parks behind the house.

19 INT. JAWARI'S CAR - DAY 19

Jawari and Rainy scan the area.

RAINY

This place is a piece of shit.

JAWARI

Yeah, but there's supposedly a lot of water around here.

RAINY

Seems weird Bobby would go through all this trouble for some water.

JAWARI
He's just trying to impress his
grandfather.

20 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

20

Jawari and Rainy get out. Jawari puts his gun in his jacket.
Rainy hangs his rifle over his shoulder.

JAWARI
You have to carry that out in the
open?

RAINY
I'll stick it down in my pants.
(grabs his crotch)
Nobody will see it next to my dick.

Jawari rolls his eyes. They walk toward the back door.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Where's yours?

JAWARI
If it was up your ass, I bet you'd
know where it was.

RAINY
Damn, brother, what spoiled your
taco?

JAWARI
(defensive)
Taco? What do you mean by taco?

RAINY
Ain't that what they eat down there
in Dominica or wherever?

JAWARI
Fuck you, man.

They arrive at the door. Jawari knocks. They wait idly.

RAINY
So how long did it take you to
smear that doo-doo across your lip?

Jawari rubs his moustache, self-satisfied.

JAWARI
Shit, I shave twice a day.

Rainy bangs on the door.

RAINY

Open up, old man! We know you're in there!

(re: Jawari's moustache)

If you shave twice a day, I shit gold bricks. You could hardly tickle a twat with that Velcro looking thing.

JAWARI

You can kiss my damn ass, cowboy. I get more pussy than you can imagine.

RAINY

Well, if we're counting imaginary pussy, then I guess you're gonna win.

Rainy bangs on the door again.

RAINY (CONT'D)

You're not fooling anyone! We know you're in there!

A few more moments go by.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I don't think he's in there.

Jawari turns and scans the grounds.

JAWARI

He must be around here somewhere.

The two men spread out as they approach the barn.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

You check the woods on that side and come up behind the barn. I'll check the other side and come up by that woodpile.

Rainy stops near a tree while Jawari is still close by.

RAINY

I hate trees.

JAWARI

How can you hate trees? No one hates trees.

RAINY

I do. Once when I was hiding out from the police, I was stuck in the woods for weeks. Nothin' but goddamn trees everywhere.

JAWARI

No one hates trees, man. It's impossible.

RAINY

Fuck trees.

Rainy looks up the tall tree with contempt.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna piss on this goddamn tree.

Rainy unzips his pants, and true to his word, starts peeing on the tree. He flips the tree off.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Fuck you, tree.

Jawari shakes his head and moves on.

21 EXT. FARMHOUSE ROAD - DAY 21

Audrey's car crunches gravel along the road toward the farm, stirring up dust and ping-pong rocks off the fender wells.

22 INT. AUDREY'S CAR - DAY 22

Dust floats past the windows.

AUDREY

I'll never get used to all this dust. I hope the gravel doesn't tear the car up.

They pull up next to a large mailbox. Audrey lowers the window, opens the box. It's filled with letters and newspapers. Audrey takes them in.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

We've got to cancel Grandpa's paper.

CHEYENNE

The mailbox is so big.

AUDREY

We could live in the mailbox if the house doesn't work out.

They giggle as Audrey raises the window.

23 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY 23

Audrey's car pulls up the driveway and parks behind Jawari's.

24 INT. AUDREY'S CAR - DAY 24

Audrey studies Jawari's car, confused.

CHEYENNE

Whose car is that, Mom?

AUDREY

I don't know.

25 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY 25

Audrey and Cheyenne get out of the car. Audrey pulls out the key as she walks toward the door.

AUDREY

Maybe it's someone from the lumber company. I think Grandpa was going to thin the forest.

Cheyenne separates, toward an apple tree in the back yard.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Don't you want to see inside?

CHEYENNE

I just want to see the apples.

Audrey arrives at the door, unlocks it.

AUDREY

Okay, but don't eat any apples until you let me check them out first.

Then... the massive TWEETING of a large covey of quail grabs Audrey's attention. She turns to see the birds filling the trees. She steps away from the house, calls out.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
 Cheyenne, I told you not to bother
 the birds!

CHEYENNE (O.S.)
 I'm right here, Mom.

Audrey looks toward a bush near the apple tree. There's Cheyenne, looking right at her.

Audrey isn't sure what to think. She looks toward the woodpile with an uneasy feeling.

AUDREY
 Wait here.

Audrey cautiously approaches the woodpile, scanning.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARN

Rainy hides in the back. Jawari is crouched behind the woodpile. Rainy peeks around the corner and pulls back.

Jawari peeks through an opening in the woodpile.

Audrey stoops a little as she steps nearer. She searches the woodpile until she lays her eyes...

Directly on Jawari's. Audrey's eyes widen in terror.

Jawari stands. Audrey turns and runs, screaming...

AUDREY (CONT'D)
 Cheyenne, get in the car! Get in
 the car and lock the door!

Cheyenne sees Jawari chasing her mother. She reacts quickly. Climbs into the car and locks the door.

26 INT. AUDREY'S CAR - DAY

26

Cheyenne clambers to the driver's side and opens the door. She locks it again, then pushes it wide open.

She barely makes it back over before Audrey scrambles in. Audrey slams the door just as Jawari reaches for the latch.

JAWARI
 (outside)
 Open the door! Open the door!

Audrey fumbles for her keys in a panic. Drops them in the passenger floorboard. Cheyenne grabs them, finds the key.

CHEYENNE

Here it is!

Jawari bangs on the window as Audrey gropes the ignition. She manages to get the key in and start the car.

JAWARI

Open up! We're not gonna hurt you!

Audrey backs up with Jawari following, banging on the roof.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

We're not gonna hurt you!

Audrey works the shifter into drive. As she starts to pull forward...

Rainy appears at the passenger side window with the rifle aimed directly at Cheyenne.

RAINY

Stop the car or I'll kill the kid.

Audrey freezes instantly, horrified.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Put the car into park.

Audrey hesitates. Not defiantly but paralyzed with fear.

Rainy aims upward. BANG! Fires off a round, then aims at Cheyenne again.

RAINY (CONT'D)

That was a fucking warning shot.
Put the car into park or I'll shoot
her.

Audrey struggles to get her bearings. Puts the shifter into park. Rainy keeps his rifle trained on Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Unlock the door.

Audrey fights to focus, then unlocks her door.

27

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

27

Jawari opens the door.

JAWARI

Get out.

He takes her by the arm as she climbs out. Looks at Rainy.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do with them?

Rainy lowers his rifle.

RAINY

You see any rope around here?

28

INT. FARMHOUSE FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

28

Rustic charm, fallen into disarray. Dusty unkempt furniture, deteriorated over years of wear and neglect.

Audrey and Cheyenne, both with their hands bound behind them, are marshalled into the kitchen and family room area. It's so small the kitchen table is adjacent to the couch.

Rainy pushes Audrey onto the couch. Cheyenne sits beside her. Rainy tosses the extra rope onto the table. Kneels in front of Cheyenne.

RAINY

Let's start with names. I know you're Cheyenne. That's a pretty name. Is it because you're shy?

Cheyenne shakes her head. Rainy's attention turns to Audrey.

RAINY (CONT'D)

What's your name?

Audrey is so scared, her mouth is dry when she speaks.

AUDREY

Audrey.

RAINY

Audrey? That's not that pretty. What's your middle name?

AUDREY

Michelle.

RAINY

Michelle. That's much better.

He looks up playfully at Jawari.

RAINY (CONT'D)

(sings Beatles' song)

Michelle. Ma belle.

He laughs. Jawari keeps a stony face.

JAWARI
Hey, man, can I talk to you?

RAINY
In a minute.
(to Audrey)
Where's the old man?

Audrey absorbs a moment, confused as to what they want.

AUDREY
Grandpa?

RAINY
Yeah, Grandpa.

AUDREY
He died.

Jawari steps forward.

JAWARI
Died? Who owns the water rights?

AUDREY
Water rights? I don't know. Whoever
he left them to, I guess.

JAWARI
When will we find out who gets 'em?

AUDREY
The will gets read next week.

Rainy stands.

RAINY
We can't watch them for a whole
week.

Jawari steps toward the next room.

JAWARI
Let's talk.

They go into the...

It's as large as the other two rooms put together, with a large open space in the middle of the floor. Jawari faces Rainy so they can talk privately.

JAWARI

Okay, first off, I don't like you pointing a rifle at a kid.

RAINY

Really? The old man was once a kid. Audrey was once a kid. If someone's seventeen and turns eighteen tomorrow, do I have to wait until tomorrow for it to be okay to point a rifle at them?

JAWARI

I've had it with your smartass bullshit.

RAINY

I've had it with your pussyfooting.

JAWARI

Hey, fuck you, cowboy.

RAINY

Fuck you, Zulu.

JAWARI

Hey, I was born in America, dumb shit. And do you even know what a Zulu is?

RAINY

Yeah, he's the guy who spends all day playing with chicken bones 'cause he's got the best drugs.

JAWARI

That's a sangoma, dumbass.

RAINY

It's all ooga booga shit to me, buddy.

They stare holes into each other another moment, then look toward the next room.

RAINY (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do with them?

30 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

30

Jawari and Rainy return.

JAWARI
(to Audrey)
If you'll sign the water rights
over, we'll let you go.

RAINY
We don't even know if she'll get
them.

Jawari keeps his gaze fixed on Audrey.

JAWARI
If she does, then we'll already
have the contract. How about it?

Audrey stares, confused a moment, then gently nods.

AUDREY
Okay.

JAWARI
Bobby will be by in a bit with the
papers. You sign and that's it.

Rainy kneels in front of Cheyenne.

RAINY
What about you, shy one? You know
anything about this?

She shakes her head.

RAINY (CONT'D)
(to Audrey)
Does she talk?

AUDREY
She's scared.

RAINY
(to Cheyenne)
You mad at me because I pointed a
rifle at you?

Cheyenne nods.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Yeah, well, if you don't talk, I'm
gonna aim it at you again. And this
time, I might fire it.

JAWARI

Damn it, Rainy, I told you not to threaten the kid with a rifle.

RAINY

You said you didn't want me to point it at her. Did I point it at her?

(to Cheyenne)

Go on, shy one.

Cheyenne looks to her mother for approval.

AUDREY

Go ahead and answer him, sweetie.

CHEYENNE

Mom and me can't afford rent so we thought we might move in here.

RAINY

Well, now, that's interesting. How do you know you'll get the house?

AUDREY

We don't.

RAINY

Was I talking to you? Let her answer.

CHEYENNE

Mr. Pendleton said we'll probably get it because Grandpa was a hermit and didn't have much family left.

Jawari reaches into his jacket.

JAWARI

So that's it then. She'll probably get the water rights too. Problem solved.

He pulls out his gun. Sets it on the table as he sits.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

All we have to do is wait for Bobby.

Rainy swaggers to the refrigerator. Noses around inside.

RAINY

I need a fucking beer.

He goes through the cupboards.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Damn. What did the old man eat?
Chipped paint? There's more mouse
shit than food in these cupboards.

JAWARI

He was ninety. Maybe mouse shit was
his secret to longevity. Why don't
you eat some, cowboy?

RAINY

You think I won't? How much?

JAWARI

I told you, I don't have any money.
You got some beer in the car,
remember?

RAINY

Oh, that's right. Why don't you go
get it for me?

JAWARI

Fuck you.

Rainy playfully checks out Audrey.

RAINY

Audrey, go get my beer.

AUDREY

Untie me.

Rainy chuckles.

RAINY

She's got wit. I like that.

Rainy eyes Audrey as he sits next to Jawari. Speaks quietly.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Hey, man, step out for a spell.

Jawari looks at Rainy. Glances at Audrey.

JAWARI

We didn't come here for that.

RAINY

I know, but, you know...

Jawari gives Rainy a look that says he's not playing around.

JAWARI
Leave her alone.

Rainy smirks, not intimidated, but provocative.

RAINY
You draw the line at pushing around
old men, huh?

JAWARI
Just leave her alone.

Rainy stands, slings his rifle over his shoulder.

RAINY
You must be the life of the party,
Zulu.

He saunters to the door. Winks at Audrey right before he walks out. She cringes.

Jawari digs the bullets out of his jacket, puts them down on the table. Picks up the gun and opens the revolver.

He picks up one bullet, pauses before shoving it in the chamber.

He looks at Audrey. She's frightened. He looks at Cheyenne. Same frightened face.

JAWARI
Don't worry. It's for him, not you.
Just in case.

He continues loading the gun.

AUDREY
Please don't let him hurt us.

Jawari pauses again, looks at Audrey. Softly nods.

31 EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - DAY

31

Rainy ambles to the car. Notices the tree he peed on earlier as he passes by. Smirks, flips it off.

RAINY
Fuck you.

He leans in the car, rummages around, pulls away with a sixpack. Pulls one free and sets the rest on the roof.

PSSSHHHT. Pops the can open. Takes a big long guzzle. Lets out a loud obnoxious sigh.

He wanders down the driveway, notices the woodpile. Picks a rock off the driveway and throws it...

POP! The rock bounces off a log. TWEETING erupts as quail rush for the trees.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Loud ass birds.

32 INT. FARMHOUSE FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER

32

Jawari finishes rolling a joint. Lights it and takes a puff. Rainy enters with three beers left hanging off the ring.

RAINY
Why didn't you tell me you were firing one up?

JAWARI
You didn't ask.

Rainy sets his beer on the table, reaches for the joint.

RAINY
Let me have some of that.

Jawari hands it to him.

JAWARI
Here. Maybe it'll mellow you out.

Rainy takes a big draw. Blows out a fog of smoke, coughing.

RAINY
(while coughing)
Goddamn, this shit could bore a hole through a bank vault.

Jawari laughs.

JAWARI
Nah, man, it's an acquired taste.

Rainy holds it out to Audrey.

RAINY
You want some?

AUDREY
No, thank you.

RAINY
 You sure? It'll loosen you up. Get
 the tension out. And believe me,
 darlin', I can see you're under a
 lot of pressure right now.

Audrey just shakes her head. Rainy holds it out to Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)
 What about you?

AUDREY
 She doesn't want any.

RAINY
 I didn't ask you.

Cheyenne glances at her mother, then shakes her head.

RAINY (CONT'D)
 Well, suit yourself.

Rainy takes another big draw.

JAWARI
 You know what you are, cowboy?
 You're a glutton. You don't know
 when to quit.

Rainy coughs a cloud of smoke, hands the joint to Jawari.

RAINY
 If you want it back, you could just
 ask. You don't have to get
 personal.

Jawari laughs, taking the joint. Rainy stares at Audrey with
 that sinister tinge blooming in his eyes again. He squeezes
 between her and Cheyenne.

Jawari notices, keeps an eye as he takes a draw. Rainy looks
 Audrey up and down.

RAINY (CONT'D)
 Comfortable?

AUDREY
 No. Would you be, tied up with two
 psychos in your house?

RAINY
 It's not your house yet, remember?
 Besides, Jawari isn't a psycho.

He laughs. Jawari laughs along with him.

RAINY (CONT'D)
The worst thing Jawari has ever
done is sell skimpy bags of dope.

JAWARI
Hey, I told you, man. I don't sell
skimpy bags.

RAINY
Well, now, my friend wouldn't lie.

JAWARI
Your friend is a lying sack of
shit.

RAINY
Now, take it easy. There's nothin'
wrong with turning a profit.

He looks down at Audrey's lap.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Getting a little extra out of a
deal...

He puts his hand on her leg.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Is there?

He eases up her leg. Audrey, horrified, looks at Jawari.

JAWARI
Hey, man, come on.

Rainy pauses, looks at Jawari.

RAINY
You know something, Jawari? I'm
getting awful tired of your
blocking. What are you, Zorro?

JAWARI
Man, all we got to do is wait for
Bobby. You wanna fuck something
that simple up?

Rainy contemplates, then leaps off the couch. Walks around to
the other side of Jawari.

RAINY
You're a real killjoy, you know it?

JAWARI
Just chill, man.

Jawari takes a draw with his back to Rainy. Rainy raises his rifle, pointed toward the ceiling.

RAINY
Why don't you take a nap?

BAM! He brings the rifle butt down on the back of Jawari's head. Audrey screams. Jawari slumps forward, falls from the chair into a heap on the floor.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Damn, that guy was annoying. He'll be pissed when he wakes up.

He steps toward Audrey. She draws back, terrified.

AUDREY
Please don't hurt us.

He sits between her and Cheyenne again.

RAINY
Don't fret, darlin'. I wouldn't dream of forcing myself on you. You know what I want? I want you to ask for it. Go on. Ask for it.

Audrey is so nervous, she can hardly speak.

AUDREY
I -- I don't know what you want me to say.

RAINY
I want you to ask... for... it.

AUDREY
I can't.

RAINY
You can. And you will.

AUDREY
Cheyenne. Can she leave...

RAINY
No, fuck that. You can say it with Cheyenne here. She's too young to understand anyway.

AUDREY

I can't.

Rainy stares at her long and hard.

RAINY

Okay, then.

He turns a chair facing the doorway to the next room. Pulls Audrey off the couch and sits her in the chair. Grabs some rope and ties her ankles to the chair legs.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Then you can sit here and see what happens next.

AUDREY

Please. I don't know what you want me to say.

Rainy grabs Cheyenne by the arm.

RAINY

Maybe Cheyenne will ask for it.

He pulls Cheyenne off the couch. She breaks into tears, scared to death, even though she doesn't understand what's happening. Audrey is horrified.

AUDREY

No, please, just tell me what you want me to say.

Rainy pulls Cheyenne along, toward the next room.

RAINY

Come on, Cheyenne, let's leave Audrey to think about things.

AUDREY

Please, I'll say whatever you want.

Rainy forces Cheyenne into the next room, out of sight, leaving Audrey not knowing what's happening. Audrey screams with tears streaming down her cheeks.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Take me! Take me!

Her pleas are met with eerie silence.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Take me! Take me! Take me!

The silence is terrifying. Audrey can hardly speak from crying. She makes one last desperate call.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Take me!

She finally breaks down, sobbing uncontrollably. Rainy peeks back in the doorway, holding his hand over Cheyenne's mouth.

RAINY

Well, if you're gonna beg...

He pushes Cheyenne down on the couch. Loosens the binds around Audrey's ankles.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I knew my charm would wear you down.

Audrey's eyes meet Cheyenne's. The girl is traumatized.

AUDREY

Sweetie, I need you to be strong for mama, okay? It's going to be all right.

Then... KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK, at the front door. Rainy shushes Audrey. He peeks out the window.

RAINY

I think it's one of those door to door proselytizers.

He waits. There's the sound of a pamphlet being left in the door. Rainy shakes his head, steps to the...

33 EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

33

The man, DAVID, 30s, is walking away carrying a Bible when Rainy opens the door. The pamphlet flutters to the porch.

RAINY

What's this?
(picks it up)
Why, it's a pamphlet. Whatever could it be about?

A smile fills David's tender face as he returns. He's innocent.

DAVID

Hi. My name is David. I just wanted to drop by to see if you've heard the good news concerning our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

RAINY

Do you know what country you're in?

David's smile fades.

DAVID

I'm sorry?

RAINY

It's a simple question, David. Do you know... what country... that you are in?

David digests, unsettled by the awkwardness.

DAVID

America.

RAINY

That's right. This is America.

DAVID

I'm sorry, I don't know what you're getting at.

Rainy points down the road.

RAINY

Did you see that church on the corner down there?

DAVID

Yes, the big one? It's nice.

RAINY

Well, it's one of about a million on damn near every corner in the country. Do you really think you're gonna run into someone who's never heard of Jesus fuckin' Christ.

David just stares speechless.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I'll tell you where you need to go. You need to go to one of those remote areas of Africa, with all those crazy tribes that worship tigers and shit. That's where you'll find people who've never heard of Jesus.

David shakes his head, trying to focus.

DAVID

Okay. I'm sorry to bother you.

RAINY

Wanna know why Christians don't go to places like that to proselytize? Because you'll get a spear in your ass, that's why. They'll make a necklace out of your fucking head.

DAVID

I'll move on.

He starts to turn and sees...

Audrey in the window, horror all over her face. She mouths, "Help me." David turns away.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Have a good day, sir.

Rainy glances toward the window, suspicious. Audrey's gone. He leans back in the doorway. Looks at David walking away.

RAINY

You saw something, didn't you?

David turns around.

DAVID

I'm sorry?

RAINY

Don't act stupid. You saw something, didn't you?

DAVID

I don't know what you're talking about. I'll move on.

He turns away. Rainy grabs his rifle, walks out, pursuing.

RAINY
That's why I hate you people.
You'll lie like the devil the
second it suits you.

David turns, sees the rifle. Runs away. Rainy chases.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Oh, now you're gonna run away like
a little pussy.

Rainy gets close enough, RAPS David on the head. David hits
the ground, senses reeling.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I hate liars, David.

34 INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 34

Rainy shoves David, hands bound behind him, to the floor.
This is the living room with the large open space.

RAINY
I'm not trying to be an asshole. I
just want you to admit you lied.

He walks into the next room, still talking. David listens,
frightened, unsure what's going to happen.

RAINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Audrey here did something to tip
you off.

We hear Audrey moan as Rainy grabs her. FOOTSTEPS approach.

RAINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Then you acted like you were
leaving when you were really going
for help.

Rainy tugs Audrey into the room, shoves her to the floor.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Then I asked you if you saw
something and you lied.

35 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 35

Cheyenne toils with her binds. She glances cautiously between
Jawari unconscious on the floor and the doorway to the next
room.

36 LIVING ROOM - DAY

36

David looks up at Rainy with a tight face.

DAVID

Look. I don't know what's going on.
I don't know why you didn't just
not answer the door.

RAINY

This isn't about me not answering
the door. This is about you lying
and not being able to admit it.

DAVID

Okay, I lied.

Rainy kneels by David.

RAINY

Well, now, that's not a sincere
admission, now is it, David?

DAVID

I don't know what you want me to
say.

RAINY

Yeah, there's a lot of that going
around.

He stands, grabs the strap to his rifle to hold it secure.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I just want you...

He kicks David in the stomach. David draws in, groaning.

RAINY (CONT'D)

... to admit...

Rainy kicks him again. And again. And again. While Audrey
screams for him to stop.

RAINY (CONT'D)

... you lied. Now is that...
so hard? Just... admit...
you lied.

AUDREY

Stop it! Leave him alone!
Please! Stop it!

Rainy finally stops, breathing heavily. Gazes down at David.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I just want a little sincerity,
David. Is that too much to ask?

37 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 37

Cheyenne works to free herself. She's halfway there. She focuses on the gun. Resting on the table. Then...

Jawari groans. Cheyenne quickly hides her hands behind her.

38 LIVING ROOM - DAY 38

David looks up with watery eyes, completely sincere.

DAVID
I wasn't sure what I saw. I thought
I kind of knew. But I wasn't sure.
I didn't know what I was going to
do.

He looks at Audrey, face filled with regret.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I don't know if I would
have helped you. I wasn't sure what
I saw. I probably wouldn't have
gotten involved.

RAINY
Did you hear that, Audrey? Mr.
Christian was just going to leave
you here to rot. It's okay,
sweetheart. You still have me.

Rainy pulls David up to his knees.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I bet you wish that prayer bullshit
really worked right about now,
don't you?

JAWARI (O.S.)
Hey, cowboy!

Rainy whirls to see Jawari pointing the gun.

JAWARI (CONT'D)
I ought to blow your head off.

Rainy steps back.

RAINY

Come on, Zulu. You're not mad at me over that little bump on the head, are you? I was just trying to get a little time alone with my lady.

Jawari steps closer, still aiming the gun. Notices David.

JAWARI

Who the hell is this?

RAINY

That's my new friend, David. He likes to preach the gospel when he isn't leaving women and children behind to save himself.

JAWARI

I owe you a whack.

BAM! Jawari cracks Rainy on the head with the handle of his gun. Rainy drops to the floor like a sack of flour. Jawari feels his head, grimaces.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

I hope his head hurts as much as mine when he wakes up.

He turns toward Audrey and David.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

What happened?

AUDREY

David knocked and he answered.

Jawari shakes his head, tries to think.

JAWARI

All right. Let's all go in the other room. We're gonna wait for Bobby.

39 INT. BOBBY'S OFFICE - DAY

39

Bobby stuffs papers in his satchel. His grandfather steps into the room. Bobby pauses when he sees him.

BOBBY

What are you doing out of bed?
Where's your wheelchair?

GRANDFATHER
Needed to walk a bit. Get the blood
going.

Bobby goes back to filling his satchel.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)
Off on business?

BOBBY
Yeah, I got somethin' I gotta take
care of.

GRANDFATHER
Busy man.

He makes his way to a chair, eases into it.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)
When I was young, when I built all
this, I was a busy man. I had
nothing, and I wanted everything.

BOBBY
Yeah, I know. You told me.

GRANDFATHER
My father told me, "If you wanna
make a million dollars, you're
gonna have to do a million dollars
worth of work."

BOBBY
Yeah, I know. You put it in a frame
and hung it in your office.

GRANDFATHER
Everybody thinks getting rich is
getting lucky. They think of
winning the lottery, or hitting the
jackpot, or picking the right
stocks. They don't think about the
hard work. The sacrifice. They
didn't see me digging wells,
shoveling mud so thick I couldn't
lift my boots out of it.

Bobby opens a desk drawer. Inside is a PISTOL. He glances at
his grandfather to make sure he can't see, then sneaks it
into his satchel.

BOBBY
They know who you are once you got
money, though, don't they?

His grandfather nods, preoccupied.

GRANDFATHER

I worked so hard to make sure my children wouldn't have to. Now I wonder if I did the right thing.

Bobby stops in the middle of closing his satchel.

BOBBY

Why would you say that? We've got money, don't we? That's power. Nobody pushes us around.

GRANDFATHER

I remember the thirst, Bobby. The parched mouth and the blistered lips. It was all about the land and the pipes in those days. They worked us like a chain gang. Somebody else decided when you got a break. When you got a drink. I said to myself, one day I'm gonna have all the water. I'm gonna dig in this dirt until the land bleeds. No one is ever gonna tell me when I can drink again.

Bobby rounds the desk to help his grandfather up.

BOBBY

Come on. Let's get you back to bed.

His grandfather ignores him, lost in nostalgia.

GRANDFATHER

A man should have a right to drink water whenever he wants.

BOBBY

I agree, but I gotta go.

Bobby's grandfather stands to go with him.

GRANDFATHER

I remember the Bendix washing machine.

Bobby helps his grandfather walk to the bed. He's still going on about the past.

GRANDFATHER
When you get old, things change.
You can't stop it.

BOBBY
I know.

Bobby helps him sit on the edge of the bed.

GRANDFATHER
Your grandmother was right, you
know?

BOBBY
About what?

GRANDFATHER
About the vacation. She wanted us
all to go to the World's Fair. Expo
fifty-eight. In Brussels. Your
father was just a boy. Your
grandmother said we needed to spend
time together as a family. I yelled
at her and gave her this spiel
about providing a better life for
us.

Bobby helps him lie back.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)
Now look at everything. My son went
to prison because he wanted money
the easy way. He didn't want to
earn it. And water? You just turn
on the faucet. Nobody thinks twice
about it. Your grandmother is gone,
God rest her soul, and there'll
never be another like her. And me?
I'm lying here taking my last
breaths, wishing I'd gone to
Belgium when I had the chance.

Bobby pulls the blanket up for him.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)
They say nobody dies wishing they'd
worked more. But they don't tell
you what you do wish for. All the
little things that meant nothing
before become so important.

Bobby frowns, impatient and disinterested.

BOBBY
I really gotta go, okay?

He moves toward the door, leaving his grandfather staring wistfully at the ceiling.

GRANDFATHER
That's life, Bobby. Nothing becomes everything and everything becomes nothing.

41 INT. FARMHOUSE FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

41

Audrey and Cheyenne are on the couch. David sits in a recliner next to it. Jawari is at the table with his gun on top.

JAWARI
This was just supposed to be a simple job. All we had to do was get the old man to sign the papers. Now here we are with three hostages. The old man is dead.

Jawari pauses, thinking. Audrey breaks the silence.

AUDREY
If I sign the papers whenever this Bobby gets here, will you let us all go?

JAWARI
That's the plan. You can't tell anyone.

AUDREY
We won't say anything. I don't even want the water rights. You could have just asked me for them. I can't take care of all the pipes and filters anyway.

Jawari gazes at her a moment, then laughs.

JAWARI
We could have just asked for them.

He laughs harder. As it dissipates, Audrey takes a chance.

AUDREY
So how did you get mixed up in all this? You seem nice.

Jawari stops laughing, looks at her.

JAWARI

Lady, don't get the wrong idea. I'm not that nice.

Audrey hesitates, still trying to gauge Jawari.

AUDREY

Thank you.

JAWARI

What is this? You trying to use psychology or something?

AUDREY

I'm just thankful for what you did.

JAWARI

Really? 'Cause it sounds like you're trying to get to know me. Like maybe you think if I get to know you, I'll be more reluctant to hurt you.

AUDREY

It's not like that.

JAWARI

You watch too much TV, Audrey.

Audrey decides it's best to just stay silent. Jawari rises.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

I have to go to the bathroom. You think you can stay here without supervision while I do that?

Audrey nods. Jawari steps to the door.

JAWARI (CONT'D)

I can hear what's going on out here.

He steps into the next room. Audrey, Cheyenne and David exchange nervous glances.

Audrey quietly rises, motions Cheyenne and David to come with her. David balks. Audrey and Cheyenne sneak to the front door. Audrey stops, notices David has stayed behind.

Their eyes meet. David shakes his head, trying to discourage them. Audrey struggles to get her bound hands high enough to unlock the bolt.

CLACK. It's not that loud, but in this quiet room, and under the circumstances, it may as well be pots and pans clanging.

Audrey manages to turn the doorknob.

CREAK. The door opening is like tires squealing in the silence. Audrey opens slowly to mitigate the noise.

Finally, it's open enough. Audrey backs out.

42 EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY 42

As soon as Audrey turns to run, she bumps right into... Jawari. She gasps.

JAWARI
I knew I couldn't trust you,
Audrey.

He ushers them back into the...

43 INT. FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 43

Audrey and Cheyenne step back into the room.

AUDREY
Can you blame us?

Jawari gestures for them to sit.

JAWARI
No, but it means I can't leave you
alone for a second.

Audrey and Cheyenne sit back on the couch. Jawari sits at the table, rubs his face, disappointed.

JAWARI (CONT'D)
Damn, Audrey. I really do have to
shit, too.

AUDREY
I promise I won't do it again.

JAWARI
You think I'm gonna trust you now?

AUDREY
There's no way I can know whether
or not it's a trick.

JAWARI

I know I can trust preacher. Damn, preacher, I can't believe you didn't even try to escape.

DAVID

I'm trying to keep us alive.

JAWARI

Looked more like you were trying to keep yourself alive.

44 LIVING ROOM - LATER 44

Rainy rouses. Feels his head. Winces. Struggles to get his bearings. Looks over and sees the rifle next to him.

45 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 45

Rainy appears in the doorway, rifle trained on Jawari.

RAINY

Zulu?

Jawari looks up, not the slightest bit scared.

JAWARI

Put the gun down. You're not going to shoot anyone.

RAINY

First off, I told you, it's a goddamn rifle.

He lowers the rifle, focused on a rant now.

RAINY (CONT'D)

A rifle! Don't you know the fuckin' difference!

He holds the rifle up by the barrel.

RAINY (CONT'D)

A rifle has a goddamn rifled bore! It causes the bullet to come out spinning! Like a football! A gun has a smooth bore so its accuracy is shit!

He aims the rifle at Jawari.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Secondly, I thought you knew me better. What makes you think I won't shoot your ass dead?

Jawari picks the MAGAZINE for the rifle off the table, holds it up for Rainy to see.

JAWARI
I took the bullets out. You'd think a gun expert such as yourself would have noticed his magazine was missing.

Rainy spins his rifle over, sees the empty slot.

RAINY
Son of a bitch.

JAWARI
You're done playing cowboy. From here on, we just wait for Bobby.

Rainy stares a moment, then lowers the rifle, completely changing his tune. Ambles toward Jawari.

RAINY
Ah shit, I was just messin' with you. I wasn't gonna shoot you.

Jawari grabs his gun, points it at Rainy.

JAWARI
Just have a seat. We wait for Bobby.

RAINY
Can't I even sit at the table?

JAWARI
That's too close.

RAINY
Fine. I'll sit on the couch with Audrey.

JAWARI
No.
(to David)
You sit on the couch.
(to Rainy)
You take the recliner.

David switches to the couch. Cheyenne scoots over to be in the middle. Rainy saunters to the recliner.

RAINY
Fine. I wanted the recliner anyway.

JAWARI
I can't believe the mess you've made.

Rainy plants himself in the recliner.

RAINY
Me? I was just having a little fun. Like the old days. Rape, pillage, burn and all that.

Rainy glances at the small wood-burning stove next to him. There are several thin logs on top and a couple of larger ones at the base. Rainy pulls out his balisong.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Do you mind if I whittle while we wait?

He grabs a thin log. Slings the knife open by spinning it gracefully around his fingers.

JAWARI
I thought you hated trees.

RAINY
I do. That's why I don't mind cutting them up.

Jawari sighs. Rainy idly whittles.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll carve you a little tiki statue.

Jawari rolls his eyes. A few moments of silence go by.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Hey, Audrey? Want me to make you something?

Audrey pauses, staring, not sure what to say. Turns away.

AUDREY
Just make your tiki statue.

RAINY

I don't think Jawari appreciates my efforts. Besides, you're much prettier than Jawari.

AUDREY

I don't want anything from you.

RAINY

Oh, Audrey, that's cold. That hurt my feelings.

AUDREY

I doubt you have any feelings.

RAINY

That's not true. I'm a sensitive guy. Really.

He's met with cold silence.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Let me ask you something. If I was just some guy you met. And you didn't know anything about me. Would you even talk to me?

She turns her face toward him, still not answering.

RAINY (CONT'D)

If I just walked up to you somewhere and you didn't know me. If we talked, just about simple things. And I didn't do anything to creep you out. What would you think of me?

Audrey vacillates, uncertain, then softly answers.

AUDREY

You might fool me.

Rainy smiles.

RAINY

I fool myself sometimes.

Audrey raises her chin, strong with a bit of defiance.

AUDREY

But I do know you.

The smile fades from Rainy's face.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I know all I need to know. You're evil. You're cruel and vicious. You're a monster. And I wouldn't want to talk to you. I wouldn't want to see you. I wouldn't want to have anything to do with you.

Rainy scowls, speechless for once. Jawari laughs. Rainy glances angrily at him. Jawari keeps laughing as he pulls a bag and rolling papers from his jacket pocket.

JAWARI

You struck the fuck out, man.

RAINY

Hey, fuck you, Zulu.

Jawari just laughs more. Starts rolling a joint. Rainy fights to compose himself. When he calms down enough, it's like another personality washes over him. He chuckles.

RAINY (CONT'D)

That's pretty good, Audrey. You really got me. That's funny.

He starts whittling again.

RAINY (CONT'D)

You know what I'm gonna make you, Audrey? A little giraffe. You like giraffes, don't you? Everyone likes giraffes. I don't know anyone who doesn't like giraffes.

JAWARI

I didn't think there was anyone who didn't like trees.

Rainy pauses.

RAINY

I was in the woods for weeks. All those trees became like prison bars. Who's ever had an experience like that with giraffes?

(to Audrey)

Do you like giraffes, Audrey?

AUDREY

I don't have anything else to say to you.

Jawari laughs as he puts his joint in his mouth.

JAWARI
Ooh, she shuts him down
completely.

RAINY
Hey, let me have a hit off that.

Jawari digs out a lighter.

JAWARI
Nope. You stay over there.

Rainy eyes Jawari a moment. Smirks with a chuckle as he resumes whittling. He focuses on Cheyenne.

RAINY
What about you, shy one? Do you
like giraffes?

Cheyenne nods.

RAINY (CONT'D)
You know, a lot of people think
giraffes are weak because they got
those long necks. But did you know
a giraffe could kick a lion's head
off?

Jawari laughs.

JAWARI
A giraffe couldn't kick a lion's
head off. Not with those bony legs.

RAINY
They're bigger than you think.

JAWARI
They're not that big.

RAINY
Their legs can get taller than a
man. Their hindquarters can get
bigger around than my waist.

Jawari keeps laughing as he blows smoke.

JAWARI
Bullshit.

Rainy shakes his head.

RAINY
I can't believe you're going to
smoke that all by yourself.

JAWARI
Hey, man, you ever heard of paying
for it?

RAINY
I paid for the beer.

JAWARI
I didn't drink any beer.

RAINY
How much you want for a joint?

Rainy pulls out his (Notta's) wallet. Slips out two dollars.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll give you two bucks.

JAWARI
Two bucks?

RAINY
How much you want?

Jawari starts rolling a joint.

JAWARI
I'll take two bucks and you calm
the hell down, how's that sound?

Rainy grins. Sets his sights on David.

RAINY
So what church do you belong to? I
know you're not Mormon. They travel
in pairs.

He glances at Jawari. They both laugh. David speaks softly.

DAVID
Church of the Living Word.

RAINY
What is that, Jehovah's Witnesses?

DAVID
It's protestant.

RAINY

What do they think about you being
a homo?

David looks up, stunned silent.

RAINY (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. You know
that's a sin according to your
bible, right?

David forces a response.

DAVID

I'm not gay.

RAINY

Just like you didn't see Audrey?

David averts his eyes, caught out.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I bet you spent your whole life
trying to get away from it. I bet
you try and pray it away every day.

David insists.

DAVID

No... I don't... I'm not...

RAINY

It's in the eyes.

DAVID

You can't tell if someone's gay
just by looking at them.

RAINY

Yes, you can.

He leans a little closer to David, provocatively.

RAINY (CONT'D)

They promised you inner peace, but
you didn't get shit, did you? Door
to door in the hot sun for Jesus,
and all you get in return is hi and
bye on Sunday. Put your money in
the plate and see you next week.

DAVID

No. It's more than that.

RAINY
You ever feel the Holy Spirit in
you?

*
*
*

 DAVID
A couple of times.

*
*

 RAINY
Ever speak in tongues? Allah ballah
ballah...

*
*
*

Jawari bursts out laughing. Tosses the joint to Rainy.

*

 JAWARI
There you go, man. Just mellow out.

Rainy sticks the joint in his mouth.

 JAWARI (CONT'D)
 (re: his lighter)
I want this back.

Jawari tosses the lighter. Rainy catches it. Lights the joint
and takes a big draw. Blows smoke like all the tension is
leaving his body with it.

 RAINY
Ah. This is some fine green, my
friend. Not nary a crack or a pop
of stem nor seed.

He tosses the lighter back. Jawari catches it.

JAWARI

I told you my stuff doesn't have a bunch of stems in it.

Jawari pulls out a small bag of cocaine. Rainy perks up. Jawari spreads some of the powder onto the table top.

RAINY

You need to borrow my knife?

Jawari pulls a switchblade from his pocket. Pushes a button forward... FLICK. A blade springs out. Jawari grins.

JAWARI

No, thank you, cowboy. I got a real knife.

He starts cutting up the coke.

RAINY

A balisong is better than a switchblade.

JAWARI

Come on, seriously? Think about it. My flick to your click-clack. See the difference? Two steps to one.

RAINY

Fan knives are more reliable.

JAWARI

You push a button, you got a knife. What could be more reliable? Besides, everybody knows switchblades are cooler than butterfly knives. There isn't even a competition.

Rainy starts carving on his log.

RAINY

You can't carve a giraffe with a switchblade. The blade's too flimsy.

Audrey interrupts...

AUDREY

Do you have to do all this in front of my daughter?

Jawari pauses, almost as if he sees her point. Rainy blows smoke right toward Audrey and Cheyenne.

RAINY
You can't get high off secondhand pot smoke. If you could, we'd all be high off Jawari.

BING. Jawari retracts the blade of his knife.

JAWARI
It's just some coke. I'll keep it away from her.

RAINY
I'll tell you what, Audrey. I'll put out the joint if you'll tell me about yourself.

Audrey looks at Rainy, reluctant to agree.

AUDREY
What do you want to know?

RAINY
What do you do for a living?

AUDREY
I'm a waitress. Now will you stop blowing smoke at us?

Rainy takes a draw. Blows smoke at Audrey.

RAINY
After you answer some questions.

AUDREY
How many questions?

RAINY
Oh, I don't know. Let's say, five.

AUDREY
I've already answered one.

RAINY
Okay, then. Four more. Were you ever a cheerleader?

Audrey is caught off guard.

AUDREY
What does that have to do with anything?

RAINY
I'm asking the questions.

AUDREY
No.

RAINY
Were you popular in high school?

AUDREY
That's completely subjective.

Rainy wags his finger at her as he leans forward.

RAINY
No. No, see, it's not. Whether or not you were popular in high school will tell me virtually everything about you.

AUDREY
How is that?

RAINY
Because high school is where people are shaped for the rest of their lives. What you were then versus what you are now tells me everything.

Audrey muses over those words a moment.

AUDREY
Well, I don't know whether I would be considered popular or not.

RAINY
Yes, you do. People know whether or not they were popular in high school.

Audrey pauses, hesitant to answer.

AUDREY
I was valedictorian.

Rainy leans back excitedly.

RAINY
I knew there was something about you. And now you're a waitress. See, that tells me a lot. Did you go to college?

Audrey answers with an air of sadness.

AUDREY
I went for a couple of years but
had to drop out.

Rainy puts the joint out. It's nearly finished now anyway.

RAINY
Look how much we've learned in just
four questions. You were
valedictorian. You dropped out of
college and became a waitress.

Rainy leans forward with a telling smirk.

RAINY (CONT'D)
And don't think I didn't notice the
wording. You "had to" drop out. Not
"I dropped out." But "had to."

AUDREY
It doesn't mean anything. Lots of
people drop out of college.

RAINY
Not lots of valedictorians.

AUDREY
It had more to do with money than
anything else.

RAINY
A valedictorian who can't get a
scholarship?

AUDREY
Is that your final question?

RAINY
No. My final question is...

He ponders. His eyes rest on... Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)
My final question is, did you drop
out because you were pregnant?

Audrey gazes at him, stunned speechless. She looks at Cheyenne. Cheyenne looks up at her mother.

AUDREY
Cheyenne is the best thing that
ever happened to me.

Rainy sighs, annoyed.

RAINY
That's what every parent says.
That's such a generic load of
bullshit.

He leans toward Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Let me tell you something, shy one.
People lie like lies will magically
turn to money. And no one lies more
than parents.

AUDREY
Sounds like someone had a bad
childhood.

Rainy smirks.

RAINY
Kids come from fuckin'. So don't
act like you did somethin' noble.

AUDREY
Do you have to talk that way in
front of Cheyenne?

Rainy shifts his focus back to Cheyenne.

RAINY
Parents have babies for two
reasons. They can't control
themselves sexually and babies are
cute.

Rainy's aggression unsettles Cheyenne. Her eyes well up.

RAINY (CONT'D)
But babies grow up. And as they do,
the shine wears off. Then parents
start resenting the burden. That's
all parents.

AUDREY
Leave her alone.

Cheyenne starts crying.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
That's not true, Cheyenne.

RAINY

It is true. All parents reach a point where they long for the freedom they once had. They secretly dream of all the things they might have achieved if they weren't stuck.

Audrey looks at Cheyenne, desperate to comfort her.

AUDREY

That's not true. I've never once regretted having you.

RAINY

See, Audrey, you're just like everyone else. Why can't you just be honest?

AUDREY

You've had your last question. Now it's my turn to answer.

She looks down at a tearful Cheyenne.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

This is the truth, Cheyenne, I swear. Yes, I've had regrets in life. I've screwed up a lot of things. But I screwed them up. Not you.

She looks up at Rainy.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

It's true. I got pregnant in college. I dropped out because I couldn't afford it.

Nostalgia washes over her face.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life anyway. Motherhood seemed as good a purpose as any.

Audrey's eyes meet with Cheyenne's.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

It was the hardest thing I've ever done. It was tough and I barely scraped by. I thought so many times I'd never make it. But I swear, I never once regretted it.

Cheyenne faintly smiles. Rainy gauges Audrey, unconvinced.

RAINY
There's something you're not
telling us.

Cheyenne looks indignantly toward Rainy.

CHEYENNE
Why are you so mean?

Jawari laughs as he pulls out a straw.

JAWARI
Yeah, cowboy, why don't you tell us
about your family?

He snorts a line of coke off the table. Sniffs and tweaks his nose.

RAINY
I'll tell you about my family if
you'll give me a couple of lines.

Jawari nods.

JAWARI
Okay. I gotta hear this.

RAINY
Well, I wasn't no high school
valedictorian, I can tell you that.

He and Jawari snicker.

RAINY (CONT'D)
My old man was a con artist.

JAWARI
Why am I not surprised?

RAINY
We travelled from place to place
all the time. I was helping him run
a shell game when I was only six.

Jawari laughs.

JAWARI
Little Rainy.

RAINY

I remember he broke into a used car lot office to steal keys one Sunday afternoon. And some people showed up thinking the lot was open. He sold 'em a car.

JAWARI

He sold 'em a car?

Rainy drifts off. Shakes his head in disbelief.

RAINY

He filled out the paperwork and everything. He even pretended to call and check on their credit.

He looks up at Jawari, still in awe after all these years.

RAINY (CONT'D)

The banks weren't even open.

JAWARI

Damn, Rainy, your old man had a big set of balls on him.

RAINY

I asked him why he did it and he just said, "I don't know, I just wanted to see where it went."

AUDREY

Where was your mother?

Rainy snaps out of his trance, looks at Audrey.

RAINY

I never knew her.

Jawari snorts another line. Raises his head, twitching.

JAWARI

So you just ran around with your dad? That's pretty cool.

Rainy drifts off again. This time there's something eerie about the whole thing.

RAINY

When I was twelve, we broke into a house to rob the place. There was just supposed to be a woman alone. My dad made me wait in the living room. I could hear her begging.

Audrey swallows, nervous about where this is going. David and Jawari both have the same look.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Then I heard these noises. I didn't really know what it was at the time. Then her husband came home. I ran to get my dad. When I opened the door, I saw him on top of her. He was so mad.

Rainy sinks deeper into the memory.

RAINY (CONT'D)

He threw a pillow at me. Told me to get out. I guess the pillow hitting a lamp let her husband know we were there. He got a gun.

Rainy's eyes look as if he's there, witnessing it all over.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I climbed out the window first and hid in the bushes. I heard a shot. I saw my dad hit the ground. He just looked at me. His eyes were open but I could tell he was dead.

Jawari gazes at Rainy, spellbound.

JAWARI

Wow. That's fucked up, man.

RAINY

I went to a state house. I've been a menace to society ever since.

He chuckles. Stops laughing when David speaks.

DAVID

"Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

JAWARI

Is that from the Bible?

DAVID

Jesus said it. When they came to arrest him, one of his disciples cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus put the ear back on and said those words.

JAWARI

Jesus put someone's ear back on?
After it was cut off?

Rainy glares, fighting to contain a dark fury.

RAINY

Give me some Kool-Aid and a glass
of water and I'll show you how to
turn water into wine.

DAVID

Jesus's miracles are documented.

RAINY

By who? His disciples? The same
people who made a living off him?
That's a little like Copperfield's
cable pullers claiming he can
really fly, isn't it?

DAVID

There were others. Jesus healed
people.

RAINY

Ever hear of the immune system?

DAVID

The immune system can't make the
blind see.

RAINY

Ever hear of a setup? You fake
stuff for money.

DAVID

All those people wouldn't lie.

RAINY

'Cause people are known for their
honesty, right?

David pauses, musing. Looks away.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Wanna see a magic trick? I bet I
can make a line of coke disappear.

(to Jawari)

What do you say, bro? Look, I'll
put the rifle down.

Rainy lays his rifle on the floor. Holds up the knife.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll put the knife down.

He sets it on the stove-top and shows his hand empty, front and back. Holds up the log.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll put the log down.

He sets the log down NEXT TO THE KNIFE. Raises his hand to show it empty, PALM SIDE ONLY.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I need something to help me relax
after all this emotional
outpouring.

As he says this, we move behind him where we see... the knife blade is clipped between his middle fingers, hidden from view. Jawari laughs, oblivious.

JAWARI
Okay, come on. You earned it.

Rainy slowly approaches, hands still in the air.

RAINY
Did I ever tell you why I was on
the run from the police when I
spent all those weeks in the woods?

Jawari shakes his head, holds a straw out. Rainy reaches for it with his empty hand. With his other hand, he...

Flicks his wrist, slinging the knife into his hand.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Murder.

He grabs Jawari's hand as he stabs him in the gut. Jawari grunts, doubles over. The hostages stiffen, horrified.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I killed my ex girlfriend and her
lover. I had to change my identity
and everything.

He lets go. Jawari slumps over, leaving Rainy with a bloody knife in one hand and the straw in the other. He snorts a line off the table. Shakes his head, twitching.

RAINY (CONT'D)
That's what I'm talkin' about.

Jawari shoves Rainy away. Grabs his switchblade and starts to push the button. Rainy puts his hand over it...

BING. The spring releases but the blade doesn't emerge.

RAINY (CONT'D)
See, the thing about switchblades,
the blade has to lock.

He stabs Jawari in the gut again. Jawari grunts.

Rainy steps back. Jawari turns the knife handle upside down. The blade limply slides out.

RAINY (CONT'D)
If something blocks it on the way
out, it's like a limp dick. I told
you balisongs were better.

Jawari carefully grabs the blade with index finger and thumb. Pulls it out until it locks with a CLICK. He looks up at Rainy, face pale. Sweating. Quivering.

RAINY (CONT'D)
What's a matter, Zulu? You look a
little peaked.

Jawari raises his blade. The two men square off for a knife fight. Rainy laughs playfully.

RAINY (CONT'D)
This is one of those "what if"
scenarios, like what happens when a
shark meets a killer whale?

He waves his knife.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'm the killer whale and you're the
shark.

Jawari takes a meager stab at Rainy and misses. Rainy slashes Jawari's arm. Jawari yells.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Looks like the killer whale is
winning.

Rainy stabs Jawari in the stomach. Twists the blade. Jawari's eyes have a look of certain death.

RAINY (CONT'D)
That's the same look my daddy had.

Jawari slumps to the floor by the table. Rainy kneels, wipes the blood on the back of Jawari's shirt.

When he stands, he folds the knife and puts it away. Snorts another line.

He raises his head, sniffing and fidgeting. Audrey and the others watch, panicked. Rainy picks up the magazine.

AUDREY

Please don't hurt us.

Rainy steps toward the recliner.

RAINY

My giraffe's not good enough for you, remember?

He grabs the rifle. Inserts the magazine.

AUDREY

I'll do anything you want. Just don't hurt Cheyenne.

David sits forward.

DAVID

Look, there was no reason for this to escalate to murder. There still isn't. He may still be alive.

Rainy glances at Jawari. Slides a round in the chamber.

RAINY

Thanks for pointing that out, David.

BANG! He shoots Jawari in the back. The hostages avert their eyes.

RAINY (CONT'D)

This is just sell-out central around here today, isn't it? First Audrey drags you into it. Then you try to weasel out of helping her. Now you want to make sure Jawari is dead.

DAVID

I didn't mean it like that.

RAINY

What you mean is to keep yourself alive. Even at the expense of poor Audrey and Cheyenne here.

He aims the rifle at David.

RAINY (CONT'D)

So I'll tell you what I want you to do. I want you to pick someone. Whoever you pick gets killed and the other two can live. Which one's it gonna be, David?

David fights to keep composed. Sweat beads on his forehead.

DAVID

I can't make that choice.

RAINY

Oh, but you must. You're the one who goes around door to door asking everyone to make the most important decision of their lives right there on the spot.

DAVID

I can't.

RAINY

You better.

David's eyes dart around. His mind races for a way out. Finally, he relents.

DAVID

No. I won't choose.

RAINY

All right, then. I'll make you choose.

Rainy trains the barrel directly at Cheyenne's face.

AUDREY

No. Please. Don't hurt my daughter.

RAINY

Shut up.

AUDREY

Shoot me!

RAINY

Shut up! You're too good for me!

Then... David leaps from the couch and runs. Rainy aims. David reaches the threshold to the...

46 LIVING ROOM - DAY

46

BANG! A bullet rips through his knee. David groans as he tumbles to the floor. Rainy storms into the room.

RAINY

You cowardly piece of shit!

He pulls David up, leans him against the doorframe.

47 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

47

Rainy tromps to Cheyenne and aims at her face again. Tears stream down the little girl's cheeks.

RAINY

(to David)

I'm going to count down from ten to one. You're going to choose between yourself and Audrey. If you don't make a choice by the time I get to one, then your choice is Cheyenne.

Audrey bawls helplessly.

AUDREY

Please don't hurt my daughter.

RAINY

Shut up! You don't get a choice. The choice is David's. Are you ready, David?

DAVID

Please...

David tries to move his leg. Yells in pain.

RAINY

Here we go.

Audrey begs while Rainy counts. We cut back and forth between the faces of all of them.

Everyone turns toward Audrey. The room seems to freeze that way for a moment.

Audrey fights back a flood of emotions.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

In college. At a frat party. I was smart enough to get a scholarship and dumb enough to think this guy cared about me.

Her eyes turn glassy. Like she can see it all again.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I wanted to impress him. I was nervous and I drank too much. The music was so loud. There were so many people. It was hot and stuffy. I got nauseous, so I asked him where the bathroom was. I remember tripping on the stairs. He caught me and we laughed at how tipsy I was. I trusted him.

(getting more immersed)

When he pushed me on the bed, I didn't even know where I was at first. The room was spinning. When I told him to stop, he said it was my idea. I remember his weight. The pressure. I couldn't move. I could barely breathe. I felt like I was in a coffin. But he wouldn't stop.

She pops back to the present, glances around.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I turned him in to the president. It was his word against mine and he said it was consensual. When I wouldn't let it go, I was expelled.

She pauses, staring into empty space.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I just left. I just gave up. I thought my life was over.

Tears well in Audrey's eyes as they fix on Cheyenne.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

And then the day came when I saw her. They put her in my arms and it was like... she was magical or something.

(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

She was so small and frail and she needed me to take care of her.

She looks up at Rainy, teary-eyed.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

So I carried on. The days went by and things got a little easier. Then one day I realized... she saved my life.

Audrey turns sadly to Cheyenne. This is the big one. It's scary but it's time to confess the whole story.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Thomas, the man you know as your father, was my first husband. The truth is, the reason he doesn't pay child support is because he doesn't have to. After we divorced, he asked if he could still see you and I said yes. He helped us for a while but after he remarried, he... he quit.

Finally, the floodgates give way and Audrey breaks down.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

He's a good man. And I am so sorry I lied to you. Your real father doesn't want anything to do with you. I was too scared to tell you the truth. Because I'm a coward.

Cheyenne's eyes reach out with the kind of forgiveness only a child can offer so quickly.

CHEYENNE

You're not a coward, Mom. I forgive you.

Rainy sneers. He's had enough.

RAINY

Well, didn't this all just turn into family time. But it doesn't change a thing. David has already agreed to go the Jesus route.

AUDREY

No one agreed to anything!

DAVID (O.S.)

Audrey?

She looks at David. He's filled with a calmness.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's okay.

Cheyenne manages to get her hands free. She looks toward... the gun, sitting on the table.

Rainy raises the barrel toward David, braces the stock against his shoulder once again.

RAINY
Yeah, see? He wants to do it.

Then... Cheyenne jumps from the couch, grabs the gun. It's so big comparatively, she can hardly hold it up. Audrey's eyes widen in horror.

Rainy grins.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Do you even know how to use that thing, shy one?

BANG! Cheyenne wildly fires toward the ceiling, the kick knocking her down. Pieces of ceiling fall on Rainy.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Shit!

While Rainy is distracted, Audrey leaps from the couch and rushes at him, screaming. Shoulders him with all her might. They both trip over David's legs and...

48 LIVING ROOM - DAY

48

They slam onto the floor. The rifle slides near a buffet table. Rainy grabs Audrey and pulls her down. She kicks him repeatedly. The kicks are ineffective and Rainy laughs.

RAINY
Oh, darlin', stop it. You're turnin' me on.

49 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

49

Cheyenne climbs to her feet, lugging the gun. David waves her over with a nod. She hurries to him. He holds out his binds. Cheyenne furiously tugs at them.

50 LIVING ROOM - DAY

50

Rainy climbs on top of Audrey, still laughing. Audrey is fighting so hard, it's about all he can handle.

RAINY

I love a woman who can wrestle.

This goes on until... David raises the gun barrel to Rainy's temple, ropes still hanging off his wrist.

DAVID

Get off her.

Everything stops. Rainy stares at David. It's quiet for several moments. Then...

From outside, TIRES CRUNCH ACROSS GRAVEL. A car stops in back. A CAR DOOR OPENS. CLOSES.

Everyone stays still and quiet. After a few moments, we hear the BACK DOOR OPEN. FOOTSTEPS.

51 INT. FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

51

*

Bobby enters carrying a satchel. The first thing he notices is Cheyenne. He looks at her, shocked.

BOBBY

Who the fuck are you?

CHEYENNE

Cheyenne.

Bobby notices David sitting in the doorway to the living room with his leg bleeding.

BOBBY

Who the fuck are you?

DAVID

David.

Bobby sees Jawari lying dead on the floor.

BOBBY

What the hell is going on here?

He steps so that he can see into the living room. He sees Rainy on top of Audrey on the floor. He sees that David is pointing a gun at Rainy.

Blue (mm/dd/yyyy)

79A.

Rainy? BOBBY (CONT'D)

RAINY

Uh... we had some issues.

BOBBY

What the goddamn hell is going on here? What happened to Jawari?

RAINY

We got into it and I accidentally killed him.

AUDREY

That's not true.

RAINY

Shut up, Audrey! You don't know what the hell you're talking about!

BOBBY

Where's the old man?

RAINY

He's dead.

Bobby angrily throws his hands in the air.

BOBBY

Goddamn it! I told you not to kill the old man!

RAINY

He was already dead.

BOBBY

Well, where is he?

AUDREY

He died four days ago.

RAINY

The will doesn't get read 'til next week.

Bobby stares slack-jawed a moment. Glances at David.

BOBBY

Why is this asshole pointing a gun at you?

RAINY

He got it while I was wrestling with Audrey. She's probably gonna get the water rights next week.

Bobby reaches into his satchel.

BOBBY
Then she can go ahead and sign.

He whips out his pistol, points it at David.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
First, you can put that gun down.

David starts to set the gun down on the living room side.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
On the other side. Over here.

David sets the gun down on the family room/kitchen side.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Slide it away.

David shoves the gun. It slides to a stop a few feet away, near the door.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
(to Rainy)
Get your gun.

Rainy grimaces.

RAINY
It's a rifle.

BOBBY
I don't give a good goddamn if it's
Jawari's dick, pick it up.

Rainy sighs, stays on his knees and leans across the floor to grab the rifle.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Untie her.

Rainy unties Audrey. Bobby puts his pistol back into his satchel and pulls out a contract. Rainy hands it to Audrey. Bobby holds out a pen.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Sign it.

Rainy hands Audrey the pen. She doesn't even try to read the contract, she just signs it. Rainy hands the items back to Bobby. He stuffs them into his satchel. Lowers the satchel by David, who eyes it intently.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Now, what you may not realize is that wills are retroactive. It doesn't matter when it's read. The date of ownership of bequeathed items legally begins the moment the decedent dies.

Bobby looks at Rainy with eyes of cold stone.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I'm going to leave now so you can clean up.

AUDREY

We were promised we'd be let go!

He scans between the two rooms, glancing at Jawari.

BOBBY

I wanted things to stay simple but as you've seen, Rainy is somewhat of a loose cannon. I think it's best at this point to just clean up and go home.

Then... David grabs Bobby's satchel, pulls him into the living room. Bobby trips over David's legs, falls on top of Rainy.

DAVID

Run!

Audrey climbs to her feet and jumps over David, grabbing Cheyenne and pulling her along. As Audrey opens the door, Cheyenne snatches the gun off the floor.

Rainy gets to his feet, rifle in hand.

BOBBY

Go get them. I'll watch him.

Rainy jumps over David. As he does, David grabs his ankle and trips him. Rainy hits the floor, scrambles to his feet. He starts to kick David.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Go on. I'll take care of him.

Bobby kicks David in his injured knee. David screams in agony. Rainy scuttles out the door.

52 EXT. FARMHOUSE - GROUNDS - DAY

52

Rainy bursts out the door in time to see Audrey and Cheyenne running away. He aims his rifle.

Audrey and Cheyenne barely make it behind the tree that Rainy peed on earlier before... BANG! A bullet smacks a patch of bark off the trunk. Rainy laughs.

RAINY
Fuckin' tree!

BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG! He fires round after round as he closes in.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TREE

Audrey, back to the trunk, holds Cheyenne tightly to her while bullets riddle the tree. BANG, BANG, BANG! Pieces of bark explode on both sides.

Then... silence. Audrey listens. Starts to peek when... Rainy's face pops up.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Boo!

Audrey flinches, screams, quickly tucks Cheyenne behind her.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'm gonna miss you, Audrey. This is the most excitement I've had since my daddy tried to drown me.

BEHIND AUDREY

While Rainy talks, Cheyenne slips the handle of the gun into Audrey's hand.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Well, that and killin' my ex girlfriend.

AUDREY
And her lover.

Rainy grins.

RAINY
And her lover.

He raises the rifle, calls to the house.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I got 'em!

While he's distracted, Audrey whips the gun around and points it at him. Rainy does a double-take.

AUDREY

I've got a gun too.

RAINY

Audrey, Audrey, Audrey. I'm disappointed in you. This is a rifle.

AUDREY

I'm sorry. You have a rifle. And I have a gun.

RAINY

Thank you. But what you don't have... is the balls.

He starts to make a move. It's cut short...

BANG! A bullet streaks by Rainy's ear, leaving a trail of blood across the side of his head. Audrey screams, taken off guard by the recoil. Rainy yells as he's thrown back. He hits the ground with a thud.

AUDREY

Come on!

She starts to run. Cheyenne grabs the barrel of Rainy's rifle, jerks her hand back when it burns.

CHEYENNE

It's hot.

Audrey grabs her.

AUDREY

Let's go!

They head for the barn. Rainy grabs the side of his head.

RAINY

Audrey, you bitch!

Rainy stumbles to his feet. Starts for the barn. Notices the tree. Angrily kicks it.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Fuckin' tree.

He turns and staggers toward the barn.

53 INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER 53

The door creaks open. Rainy peeks in cautiously. Steps in just as cautiously, scanning the area.

RAINY
I'm impressed, Audrey. I misjudged you. That doesn't happen often.

He steps further in, looking around, assessing. There's a loft above on one side, long abandoned livestock stalls on the other. A door out the back.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I forgot I was dealing with a high school valedictorian.

He snickers to himself.

RAINY (CONT'D)
You got guts, Audrey. And you're smart. And that's a dangerous combination.

He turns, certain she'll give herself away.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I know you're in here.

54 EXT. BARN'S BACK DOOR - DAY 54

Audrey waits by the side of the door with a shovel in her hands. Breathing heavily, trying to keep as quiet as she can. The gun is tucked into her pants.

RAINY (O.S.)
You could have killed me. But you couldn't bring yourself to do it.

55 INT. BARN - DAY 55

Rainy nears the back door. He trains his rifle on the loft.

RAINY
You don't have the kind of guts it takes to kill a man. It's the eyes. Something about the eyes.

BANG! He fires a round into the loft. It blasts a chunk of the old wood into dust, tearing a hole through the floor.

56 EXT. BARN'S BACK DOOR - DAY 56

Audrey flinches at the sound.

RAINY (O.S.)
I sure hope shy one wasn't in that
loft.

57 INT. BARN - DAY 57

BANG! BANG! BANG! Several holes are blasted into the loft. Rainy turns toward the back door.

RAINY
Where did you go, Audrey? Did you
go off into the woods?

He starts to step through the doorway.

RAINY (CONT'D)
It's scary out in the woods --

Suddenly, the back of a shovel flies right toward his face.

PING! It smacks him square in the nose, knocking his head back. He falters, hits the dirt. Audrey screams, charging in with the shovel over her head. She levels it like an axe splitting wood. Rainy puts his arms up to shield himself.

CRACK! Right across his forearm. Rainy yells. He tries to aim his rifle while Audrey draws back again. Just as he aims... Audrey screams, swings like a baseball bat.

WHACK! Knocks the rifle out of his hand and into a stall. Rainy manages to grab the shovel's handle near the scoop. Audrey tries to pull it back. Rainy laughs.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'm gonna bury you with this
shovel.

Audrey abandons the shovel, runs out the back door.

58 EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - DAY 58

Audrey runs for her life. Approaches a bush.

AUDREY
Cheyenne!

Cheyenne peeks out from behind the bush. Audrey grabs her hand as she goes by.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Let's go!

The two of them head for the woods.

59 EXT. BARN'S BACK DOOR - MOMENTS LATER 59

Rainy totters out the door with his rifle. He snuffles from his possibly broken nose and grunts from his busted forearm. Not to mention the blood across his temple from the bullet.

60 EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - DAY 60

Rainy staggers into the open, near the woodpile. Bobby hangs out a window in the living room.

BOBBY
What's going on out there?

Rainy calls out to him.

RAINY
I think I'm in love!

BOBBY
Quit fuckin' around!

Rainy regains some composure, stomps off toward the woods.

RAINY
Oh, I'm done playing.

61 INT. WOODS - DAY 61

Audrey and Cheyenne pause to listen.

RAINY (O.S.)
The next two shots you hear are gonna be the last!

AUDREY
He's coming after us. Let's go.

They turn and continue on, deeper into the woods.

62 INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY 62

Bobby pulls back into the house.

BOBBY
I'm tired of all this messing
around.

He sits on the buffet. David sits in the doorway. Sweat beads on his face and his breathing has become erratic.

DAVID
I can't believe you're going to
kill a mother and her little girl.

BOBBY
Yeah, well, you're next, if that
helps you forget.

He chuckles. David turns away. Notices something.

63 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 63

By Jawari's body. The switchblade.

64 LIVING ROOM - DAY 64

David looks back at Bobby. Bobby pulls out a cell phone. Glances at his watch.

BOBBY
I wonder if I still have time to
file today with the Water Resources
Department.

He pauses, looking at David.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
The kid was probably just going to
be another nobody anyway.

Bobby starts dialing. David looks at the switchblade again. Can he sneak to it before Bobby notices?

BOBBY (CONT'D)
(phone)
Yeah, how late are you open?

He climbs off the buffet, leaving his satchel behind.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 How long does it take to process a
 transferral of water rights?

He turns his back absentmindedly. David sees his chance.

65 FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

65

David crawls across the floor toward Jawari.

BOBBY (O.S.)
 Oh really? So there's really no way
 I could make it today.

David grits his teeth, fighting the pain. Trying to do this
 as stealthily as he can.

BOBBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 So if I get there first thing
 tomorrow morning, I could have the
 rights in my company name before
 the day is out?

David is almost there. Then he notices... eerie silence. He
 pauses. Looks back at the doorway. Nothing. What is Bobby
 doing? David waits. Waits. Then...

BOBBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 That's great. I can be there by
 nine. Can I get your name?

The conversation is winding up. David hurries.

66 LIVING ROOM - DAY

66

Bobby turns around as he speaks.

BOBBY
 Thank you, Karen. I'll see you --

He stops cold when he sees the empty doorway.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 Tomorrow. Bye.

He shuts the phone off, eyes blazing. Rushes to the doorway.

67 FAMILY ROOM / KITCHEN - DAY

67

David is at the front door, reaching for the knob.

BOBBY
Trying to escape? What's the matter
with you?

Bobby kicks him. David grunts, slides down onto the floor.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I can't believe you thought you
could crawl away.

Bobby kicks him again. David groans, doubling over.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I should have shot you right from
the get-go.

He grabs David. Turns him over to pull him up.

DAVID
Go to hell.

David stabs Bobby in the leg with the switchblade. Bobby screams as he falls back onto the floor with the knife still stuck in his leg.

BOBBY
You son of a bitch!

David crawls toward the doorway to the living room. It takes all his strength but he desperately forces himself.

Bobby grabs the knife handle. Screams as he pulls the blade out. Struggles to climb to his feet.

David passes the threshold. Bobby lurches after.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You should have slashed my throat.

68 LIVING ROOM - DAY

68

David reaches the middle of the floor when Bobby limps in with the switchblade.

BOBBY
You made the same mistake I did.

David climbs up the buffet. Reaches for the satchel. Just as he touches it...

Bobby stabs him right in the back. David cries out. Falls back to the floor. The satchel drops beside him. Some papers slip out. The pistol slides out on top of them.

Bobby draws back and stabs David in the back again. And again. And again. Until...

KINK! The blade breaks off. Bobby sees the broken metal, angrily tosses the handle away. He grabs the pistol. Uses the buffet to pull himself to his feet.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I bet you wish you'd killed me from
the start now, don't you?

David strains to turn himself over. Looks up at Bobby, quivering. He's about to die and he knows it.

DAVID
I don't have any more regrets.

He relents and succumbs.

69 EXT. WOODS - DAY

69

Audrey and Cheyenne hike through overgrowth. Climb down into a large shallow pit, grown over with grass. In the middle, Audrey stops. Looks around, confused.

AUDREY
Wait a minute.

Cheyenne stops. Watches her mother.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I remember this. This is the
reservoir. Or it was.

She glances around again, double-checking.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
The reservoir was right here. I'm
sure of it.

CHEYENNE
What happened to it?

AUDREY
I don't know.

She scans ahead. Points.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
If I remember right, the creek must
be right over there somewhere.

70 IN ANOTHER AREA

70

Rainy trudges along, searching. He pauses, noticing something. A leaf about the level of his head.

He steps closer. Takes the leaf into his hand and sees... blood. He feels his temple. The blood is his own. He smacks the leaf aside in frustration.

RAINY
Fucking circles!

He looks down a pathway. The depth of field contracts. The trees appear to close in. Rainy shakes it off. Looks another direction. The trees close in that direction too.

He looks another direction. Same thing. Then another. Once again, the trees are closing in. He calls out.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Audrey!

71 AUDREY

71

Whirls, hearing him. She turns to Cheyenne.

AUDREY
He's gotten farther away. He must be going the wrong way. Let's go.

They head into a long stretch of woods, angled downward.

72 RAINY

72

Runs through the forest like a madman. He trips over a root sticking out. Smacks the ground. He raises his face, then pauses, hearing something. The gentle WHOOSH of water.

RAINY
The creek.

He climbs to his feet, moves its direction.

73 AUDREY

73

Reaches the edge of the creek, followed by Cheyenne. They're about twenty feet up and it's a steep drop on both sides.

CHEYENNE
Should we go downstream? Maybe the water isn't as deep.

Audrey studies the drop, covered with thick exposed roots.

AUDREY

No. I think the roots will hold.

She climbs down, stepping on roots like crooked ladder rungs. Audrey pauses when she's completely over the side.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Okay, Cheyenne. Be very careful.
I'll be right below you.

Cheyenne balks, extremely nervous.

CHEYENNE

I'm scared.

AUDREY

I know you are, sweetie, but we'll
be down before you know it.

74 RAINY

74

Forces his way through small branches. Emerges at a large creek bed. Smiles.

It's much lower than where Audrey and Cheyenne are but the bed covers a larger area. Rainy's footsteps sink in the soft bed as he approaches the creek.

Rainy drops to his knees at the bank. The creek flows peacefully. Rainy splashes water on his face, upsetting the tranquility.

75 AUDREY

75

Keeps one hand free to catch Cheyenne.

AUDREY

Make sure you have your footing
before you take your next step.

Cheyenne reluctantly places her foot on a root. It slips off. She screams.

76 RAINY

76

Raises his face, looking upstream. Grins. Grabs his rifle. Splashes across the creek to the other side.

77

AUDREY

77

Clutches Cheyenne.

AUDREY

It's okay. I've got you.

Cheyenne holds onto her mother, paralyzed with fear.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Climb onto my back.

Cheyenne hesitates. Tries to pull herself together.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Come on, Cheyenne. We don't have time. You can do it.

Cheyenne shakily climbs onto Audrey's back. Audrey navigates the roots, struggling with the additional weight.

They finally reach the very narrow creek bed. The creek, on the other hand, is wide and the water is rushing. Audrey sets Cheyenne down. Surmises.

CHEYENNE

Are we going to cross it?

AUDREY

I don't think we have a choice.

Audrey climbs down into the water. It's nearly waist deep.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Climb on.

Cheyenne climbs onto Audrey's back and Audrey wades across.

78

RAINY

78

Follows the creek on the other side. The whoosh of water is faster now. He treks uphill.

79

AUDREY

79

Is right at the bank. One more step and she'll be there. She loses her footing and falls forward. Cheyenne catches the edge of the bank while Audrey goes under.

CHEYENNE

Mom!

Cheyenne's face fills with panic. She pulls herself onto the narrow bank.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

Mom!

Audrey breaks the surface, gasping. Reaching for the bank.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

Mom!

Cheyenne looks back and sees a root. She grabs it with one hand. Reaches for Audrey's hand with the other.

Smack! Their hands clasp. Cheyenne pulls with all her might. Audrey claws at the bank. With Cheyenne's help, Audrey manages to pull herself to the bank.

She climbs out of the water. Rests on the bank. Struggles to catch her breath.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

What happened?

AUDREY

An undercurrent caught my foot.

Cheyenne looks at her mother, shaken by the whole thing.

CHEYENNE

Are you okay?

Audrey nods, still catching her breath.

AUDREY

Thanks.

CHEYENNE

All we got is each other.

Audrey smiles with tears of pride welling in her eyes.

AUDREY

That's plenty. Let's go.

They pull themselves to their feet. There's another "root ladder" going up the other side.

CHEYENNE

I think I can do it myself this time.

AUDREY
 You sure?
 (off her nod)
 Okay, then, go on. I'll be right
 behind you.

Cheyenne starts climbing up the roots.

80 BANK/WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

80

Just as Cheyenne is about to reach the top...

A rifle lowers into her face. Her eyes widen. Audrey,
 realizing Cheyenne has stopped, looks up to see... Rainy.

RAINY
 What do we have here? This is a
 regular reunion. Speaking of, you
 must have had your first high
 school reunion by now.

AUDREY
 I didn't go.

Rainy shakes his head.

RAINY
 Well, that's a shame. And you were
 valedictorian. I would have thought
 you would have felt obligated to
 attend.

AUDREY
 I couldn't get the night off.

RAINY
 Waitress duty called, eh?

AUDREY
 I would appreciate it if you would
 stop pointing that gun in my
 daughter's face.

Rainy smirks.

RAINY
 Audrey, how many times do I have to
 tell you? It's a goddamn rifle.

He braces the stock against his shoulder. Desperate, Audrey
 looks toward Cheyenne.

AUDREY
Cheyenne? It's not hot right now.

Cheyenne's eyes move to the rifle barrel. Rainy smiles playfully, oblivious.

RAINY
Yes, it is rather nice out here by the creek, isn't it?

AUDREY
(to Cheyenne)
Push it up.

CHEYENNE
When?

Rainy gets suspicious.

RAINY
What are you two talking about?

AUDREY
Now!

Cheyenne grabs the rifle barrel, shoves it upward. From behind, Audrey reaches over and points her gun at Rainy. His eyes widen.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
This is your last warning shot, motherfucker.

BANG! Rainy grunts. Looks down. A bloodstain on his shirt over his chest grows with the pump of his heart. He looks at Audrey in disbelief.

Cheyenne pulls the rifle from his limp hand. It clangs down the drop and splashes into the creek.

Rainy stands. Looks at his own blood on his trembling hands. Struggles to speak.

RAINY
If it... hadn't been... for that... fuckin' tree.

He falls over the edge. Tumbles down the drop and splashes into the water.

Cheyenne and Audrey climb up into the woods by the drop. Audrey gazes down, stunned by her own actions. After a few moments, she realizes something.

AUDREY
Okay, step back.

She motions for Cheyenne to clear some room.

CHEYENNE
What are you going to do?

Audrey raises the barrel into the air.

AUDREY
There needs to be two shots.

81 INT. FARMHOUSE - FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 81

Bobby finishes pulling David's body next to Jawari's. In the distance, there's a MUFFLED BANG. Bobby looks up.

BOBBY
There went the other one.

He limps into the...

82 LIVING ROOM - DAY 82

He puts his papers back into his satchel. Puts his gun back in. Takes the phone and dials.

83 INT. BOBBY'S GRANDFATHER'S BEDROOM - DAY 83

RING. Bobby's grandfather grumbles in his sleep, half awakened by the ringing phone. It keeps RINGING until the old man finally answers it.

GRANDFATHER
What?

INTERCUT - BOBBY AND HIS GRANDFATHER ON THE PHONE

Bobby turns excitedly, hearing his grandfather's voice.

BOBBY
It's Bobby.

GRANDFATHER
I was sleeping.

BOBBY
I know but this is important.

GRANDFATHER
Well, it damn well better be.

BOBBY
I got 'em, Grandpa. I got the water rights.

Grandfather recoils in disbelief.

GRANDFATHER
You're jerking my chain.

BOBBY
No. I really got 'em.

GRANDFATHER
I don't believe a word of it.

BOBBY
It's true. I swear. The old man died.

GRANDFATHER
Died? When did that happen?

BOBBY
Four days ago.

GRANDFATHER
Four days ago! I can't keep up with it anymore. I wish I'd known. I would have gone to the funeral. Or sent flowers or something.

Bobby can't wipe the smile off his face.

BOBBY
I got his granddaughter to sign.

Grandfather's face goes blank.

GRANDFATHER
You muscled his granddaughter?
Which one?

BOBBY
Who cares?

Grandfather asks more sternly this time.

GRANDFATHER
Which one?

BOBBY

Audrey.

Grandfather thinks back. Nostalgia fills his face.

GRANDFATHER

Yes, Audrey. I remember little Audrey. I haven't seen her in years. What's she doing now?

BOBBY

Who cares? We got the water rights.

GRANDFATHER

You didn't hurt Audrey, did you?

Bobby hesitates, just now realizing he may have screwed up.

BOBBY

No. Of course not.

GRANDFATHER

I'd be very upset if anything happened to Audrey.

BOBBY

She's fine.

GRANDFATHER

I always liked her. If I remember right, she was the one who always liked to rub my whiskers.

BOBBY

Fuck Audrey, okay? She's fine.

Grandfather's face takes on a chilling tone.

GRANDFATHER

Don't talk to me that way.

Bobby turns immediately submissive.

BOBBY

I'm sorry.

GRANDFATHER

I'll smack your nose around to the other side of your head.

BOBBY

I'm sorry, okay? I didn't mean it. Audrey's fine, okay? I'm just tryin' to tell you something.

The DOOR OPENS from the next room. Bobby glances that way.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I can get the rights transferred
tomorrow morning.

GRANDFATHER
Listen, Bobby. You're next in line.
If you screwed this up, it's over
for you.

BOBBY
I didn't screw it up. It's fine.

Bobby calls out to the next room.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Rainy, hurry up. I gotta get going.
You need to clean up before it gets
dark.

Audrey appears out of the shadows, aiming the gun. Bobby
freezes, shocked to see her. Audrey steps into the room.

AUDREY
Hang up the phone.

GRANDFATHER
What's going on, Bobby?

BOBBY
Nothing. I'll call you back.

GRANDFATHER
Something's wrong, isn't it?

BOBBY
No. Everything's fine. I just gotta
get off the phone.

Grandfather lowers his head. He knows something's wrong. His
last hope for a legacy has just vanished.

GRANDFATHER
You're just like your father,
Bobby.

He hangs up.

END INTERCUT

84 INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

84

Bobby disconnects. Drops the phone in the satchel.

AUDREY

No one told you to drop the phone
in the satchel.

BOBBY

I'm sorry. You wanted the phone to
call the police?

Bobby starts to reach in. Audrey raises her gun higher.

AUDREY

Don't.

Bobby stops, frowns. He steps into the open as Audrey steps
further in.

BOBBY

Hey, now, I didn't kill anybody.
All I wanted was for you to sign
the papers. All I wanted was the
water rights. I just told those
guys to get the old man to sign.
When they found out he was dead,
they should have left. I didn't
know what they were gonna do.

Audrey fixes the gun on Bobby. He stares down the barrel,
visibly shaken. Audrey's aim is steady. Her face is sure.

AUDREY

I want you to reach in slowly. If
you want to live... take out the
phone. If you want to die... take
out the gun.

Bobby vacillates. Then he reaches into the satchel so slow,
it seems like forever. He nervously clutches something.

Audrey watches, wearing a poker face.

BOBBY

Well, I've already got the
signature. So I guess there's no
sense in any more violence.

He raises the satchel with his hand still in it...

BANG! Blood spatters as a bullet rips through his chest. He
groans, wildly raising the satchel into the air.

BANG! He fires a round, blowing out the side of the satchel, and into the ceiling. Pieces of ceiling rain down on him.

We follow him as he falls back in SLOW MOTION, his face filled with disbelief. All the way until he hits the floor with a RESOUNDING THUMP. Dead.

85 EXT. FARMHOUSE - GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER

85

Audrey ambles out the back door with the gun slack in her hand. Scans the barn and woodpile area as she approaches.

AUDREY

Cheyenne!

BEHIND THE BARN

Cheyenne peeks out from the bush she hid behind earlier.

AUDREY

Approaches the woodpile.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Cheyenne! It's okay!

CHEYENNE (O.S.)

Here I am!

Cheyenne comes running. Audrey looks at her like it's the most amazing thing she's ever seen.

AUDREY

Cheyenne.

They run into each other's arms. Hug tightly, trying to absorb the moment for all it's worth.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I love you.

CHEYENNE

I love you too.

They pull back with bittersweet faces.

AUDREY

We don't have to live on the farm.

Exhausted smiles are as close to giggles as they can manage. They slip back into a hug, propping each other up.

86 INT. MR. PENDLETON'S OFFICE - DAY

86

SUPER: "One Week Later."

Mr. Pendleton sits at his desk and reads from a file.

MR. PENDLETON
And so this concludes his last will
and testament. The house is
officially yours.

He closes the folder.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
I'm not sure if you'll want to live
in it now or not, given all that's
happened. But it's yours to do with
as you please. Are there any
questions?

Audrey and Cheyenne, dressed nicely, sit across from him.

AUDREY
I didn't hear you mention anything
about the water rights.

MR. PENDLETON
Water rights? Your grandfather got
his water from the district.

Audrey is confused. This is news to her.

AUDREY
But I thought Grandpa's water was
gravity fed from a creek. I
remember playing around the
reservoir when I was a kid.

MR. PENDLETON
Yes, when you were a child, maybe.
But he switched to district water
over twenty years ago. He was too
old to maintain the pipes.

AUDREY
Then who owns the water rights?

MR. PENDLETON
The state. The law is that if water
rights aren't exercised for five
years or more, they go into
forfeiture.

AUDREY

Did Grandpa know this?

MR. PENDLETON

I don't know. He would have been nearly eighty when it went into forfeiture. It's entirely possible he couldn't read or understand the notices.

AUDREY

I don't think he did. So Grandpa couldn't have sold the water rights even if he wanted to?

MR. PENDLETON

He could have gotten them from the state. Anyone could.

AUDREY

You mean those rights were up for grabs for anyone who wanted them?

MR. PENDLETON

Yes, anyone.

Audrey stares, completely flabbergasted. She can't process it. Mr. Pendleton becomes concerned.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

She doesn't answer. She just stares, distant.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)

Audrey?

Finally, Audrey breaks down. She buries her face in her hands and cries. It upsets Cheyenne.

CHEYENNE

What's wrong?

MR. PENDLETON

It'll be all right. You can sell off some of the trees to the sawmill. That should get you by.

CHEYENNE

Don't cry, Mom.

As Audrey's "crying" progresses, it becomes more and more evident that she's not crying at all. She's laughing.

AUDREY
I'm not crying, sweetie.

She raises her face. She's on the verge of crying, but laughing nonetheless.

CHEYENNE
What's so funny?

AUDREY
All they had to do was ask.
She keeps laughing and fighting back tears.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
All they had to do was ask.

FADE OUT.