

TOGETHER AGAIN

Simply Scripts February 2025
Writers Tournament

ROUND ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - MORNING

Boards cover the windows of this dilapidated Victorian home. "FOR SALE" sign with "SOLD" sticker slapped across, sticks out of the unkempt yard.

A shiny Mercedes SUV pulls up the long driveway, small U-Haul trailer in tow. It stops under a carport draped in dead ivy.

Car door opens, PENNY WILSON (35), exits. She straightens her designer suit, slides her sunglasses down, and stares at the house as she apprehensively heads toward it. She chuckles.

PENNY

Let the trauma healing begin.

Penny walks up rotted porch steps to the front door. Key in, she jiggles the handle. It won't open. She bangs the door with her shoulder several times, harder and harder.

Finally, the door flies open, Penny stumbles in. From inside, a gust of wind pushes past her, slamming the door shut.

The gust causes dead leaves to swirl wildly around the porch, revealing a fallen sign, "COVINGTON HOUSE FOR GIRLS".

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Penny takes in her surroundings. Dusty wood floors, sheets over furniture, stained wallpaper. She kicks off her heels.

INT/EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

CLEANING MONTAGE:

. . . In sweat pants and T-shirt, Penny brings cleaning supplies from the U-Haul to the house. She struggles to open the front door. Bangs her shoulder against it till it opens.

. . . Clouds of dust billow out of the front door, now propped open with a chair, as Penny sweeps the living room.

. . . Penny pulls the "FOR SALE" sign from the yard, tosses it on a pile of wood planks that covered the windows along with the "COVINGTON HOUSE" sign.

. . . Penny carries paint cans, rollers, storage bins and lots of pillows and blankets into the house.

END CLEANING MONTAGE

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DUSK

Two cars are now parked behind Penny's. As a third arrives, Penny, LIZ (36) buzz cut, big smile, muscular, and SIMONE (34) very thin with lots of tats and piercings, exit the house. The front door slams hard behind them.

They rush to greet SARAH (35) natural beauty in thrift store ensemble, as she gets out of her car.

LIZ

Look at us! All together again!

Sarah gazes at the house, pretends to get back in the car. They laugh. Simone gently grabs Sarah's arm, pulls her out.

SIMONE

Oh no! Not doing this without you.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Through a small window, there's a view of the women in the driveway. They hug and greet each other (MOS). A window pane fogs, as if someone is breathing near it.

The back of Sarah's car opens. They cheer as she pulls out a case of wine, hands it to Liz who hoists it on her shoulder.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

As the ladies head back to the house, they don't see a translucent figure move past the window.

Penny tries several times to open the door.

PENNY

This fucking door.

She bangs the door with her shoulder until it finally opens. Everyone enters except Sarah, who stands just outside.

SIMONE

Take your time. Took me almost an hour and I still don't feel right.

Penny drags the wooden chair over, props it in front of the door. She smiles sympathetically at a very nervous Sarah.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dimly lit, it doesn't look so bad. With Liz's help, Penny hammers hooks in the walls, hangs strands of globe lights.

Simone and Sarah set up the floor with fluffy blankets surrounded by pillows, tissue boxes, snacks and wine bottles.

SARAH
Anyone go upstairs yet?

SIMONE
Hell no. I'm gonna stay right here.

Simone plops down, opens a can of soda, holds it up.

SIMONE
Eight months sober.

Sarah smiles, sits next to Simone, pours a glass of wine.

SIMONE
Not going up there and not going to
that damned basement either.

Clearly disturbed, Liz, Simone and Sarah glance at the basement door, which is boarded shut.

A couple globe lights explode, pushing Liz over the edge.

LIZ
Fuck this place! Why the hell did
you bring us here, Penny? Why the
hell did you buy this house?

Penny faces the wall as she hangs the lights. She doesn't turn around, her hands and voice trembling.

PENNY
I thought we could work out some
demons, and maybe, I could turn it
into the kind of place it should
have been.

As she continues to hammer hooks into the wall, the other ladies look at each other. Liz mouths to them, "I'm outta here". They nod in agreement.

LIZ
I think that's a great plan, Penny,
and I wish you the best, but I just
can't stay.

Penny turns, watches them slowly gather their belongings.

SIMONE
Me neither. Twenty years later and
I still have nightmares.

SARAH

Same. Too many terrible things happened here, Penny. This place is evil. I feel it to my core.

Penny's whole demeanor darkens.

PENNY

Don't pretend you all weren't a part of it. Sarah, you were the last to see Mica. What really happened to her? Simone, you said Chloe fell down the stairs, but we all knew you pushed her. And Liz, did you forget what you did to Nora? And to Sarah?

Humiliated, Sarah looks away. Liz becomes more angry.

LIZ

This is bullshit! You're not innocent, Penny! I'm not the same person I was here. This place made me do things I'm truly sorry for.

SARAH

We were all abused, Liz. And it made all of us do terrible things, even you, Penny! Don't know why I came back here!

Liz heads for the door, still propped open by the chair. She stops as it begins to shake and creak. More lights explode.

With amazing force, the door slams shut. The chair shatters, sending splintered wood throughout the room.

A large piece stabs Liz through the neck. Simone and Sarah panic as blood spews. Simone holds Liz as she chokes.

SIMONE

Someone call nine one, one!

Sarah grabs her phone. It explodes in her hand, blows her fingers off. She screams.

Liz lets out a final gurgle. Simone cries out, moves from Liz's lifeless body and runs toward the door. It won't open.

Simone looks at Penny, who stands calmly, blood oozing from places where splintered wood sticks out of her body.

SIMONE

What the fuck is wrong with you?

Penny blankly stares at Simone while Sarah, hand gushing blood, frantically tries to open windows, with no success.

PENNY

I was looking for some closure. I never planned on buying the house. But, they're all here. Said they needed my help. I thought I could make amends, somehow. But what they really want. . .is us.

As Sarah breaks a window pane, the strands of globe lights comes off the wall and winds around her body, like a snake.

Simone tries to pull the lights off Sarah, but they only get tighter, constricting her, until she finally suffocates.

Simone's eyes dart toward the stairs, she runs toward them.

As she tries to run up, a translucent figure pushes her back down. She tries again, gets pushed down again. Third try she looks at the figure closely, sees the face of a young girl.

SIMONE

Chloe?

This time Simone is thrown down the stairs. Her neck breaks.

As Penny stands alone in the dark, a transparent figure of a young girl approaches her. It whispers to her.

YOUNG GIRL

Remember what you did to me, Penny?

Penny sobs quietly, nods.

YOUNG GIRL

It's your turn now, then we'll all be together again.

Planks fly off the basement door. It flings open.

An invisible force drags Penny across the floor to the basement door. Faint screams are heard as her body disappears down the basement stairs.

Translucent figures of young girls float from different parts of the house to the open basement door, then disappear.

The door slams shut behind them.

FADE OUT