

NOT LEAVING, NOT MOVING

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FADE IN:

EXT. LAKE - DAY

ERIKA (16) comes out of the water in a tiny bikini. She is dripping wet and scrumptious to the leering eyes of RJ (16). He sits on the pier.

Erika comes over to him. He's a good looking kid himself with a full head of slicked back hair and an athletic body in swim trunks.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Three bratty fifth graders tromp through the woods. They are TYSON, RORY, and JESSICA. Tyson is Erika's younger brother.

EXT. LAKE

Erika looks deep into RJ's eyes.

ERIKA  
Do you know anything about  
ASMR?

RJ  
What?

ERIKA  
(laughs)  
It makes you feel good.

She starts tapping her nails on a bottle of sun screen.

ERIKA  
Close your eyes.

EXT. WOODS

The kids walk a narrow path almost made invisible by brush and trees.

TYSON  
You know what you have to do.

RORY  
What's your sister doing?

TYSON  
Probably losing her virginity.

JESSICA  
I thought she already wasn't a  
virgin.

EXT. LAKE

Erika runs her thumb along the bristle of a hairbrush.

ERIKA  
Do you like that?

RJ  
Yeah, do it some more.

She holds his head in her hands and makes licking sounds next to his ear.

RJ cannot control himself and pulls off Erika's bikini top, showing her breasts.

RIKA  
RJ! The kids'll come back!

RJ  
So we'll get a towel.

He grabs a beach towel and puts it across his back. Then he lies on top of her.

EXT. WOODS

The path opens on a clearing or dirt and gravel.

TYSON  
You sit there by the opening  
and no matter what happens you  
don't move. You don't turn  
around.

JESSICA  
For how long?

TYSON  
Until we come back.

RORY  
Or until you chicken out.

TYSON  
All you can say is not  
leaving, not moving to  
challenge it.

EXT. LAKE

RJ moves fast and hard inside of Erika.

EXT. WOODS

Jessica sits down in front of a gaping, cavernous hole in the side of a cliff. The trees that grow around the opening all bend toward the shape of the cave, the branches look like an awning or a hood to the gaping mouth.

TYSON  
It's supposed to be 60,000  
years old.

RORY  
No it's not, ass-hat.

TYSON  
Whatever, fool. . . It's a  
bottomless pit. Nobody knows  
how far down it goes.

RORY  
A kid died in there. A week  
later he came out and would  
avoid everybody.

JESSICA  
Shut up, you guys!

The boys laugh at her.

TYSON  
Well?

JESSICA  
What?

RORY  
Start saying it.

Jessica rolls her eyes.

JESSICA  
Fine.

The boys stand in front of her, arms crossed.

JESSICA  
Whatever. Not moving---

TYSON  
Not leaving, not moving.

JESSICA  
Not leaving, not moving.

RORY  
You have to keep saying it.

JESSICA  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving.

TYSON  
Keep going.

JESSICA  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving--- This is  
fucking lame!

RORY  
Keep doing it!

TYSON  
I'll go next. I promise.

JESSICA  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving---

RORY  
Later.

The boys start to walk.

JESSICA  
Hey!

TYSON  
We'll be right back.

JESSICA  
I'm not going to sit here like  
a retard saying that over and  
over. When are you fools  
coming back?

RORY  
After I get a look at Tyson's  
sister!

JESSICA  
Perverts!

Jessica sits alone. She looks back into the cave. She sighs.

JESSICA  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving.

A sound. Branch snap.

JESSICA  
You guys?

She looks to where they left.

JESSICA  
If you guys are there I'm  
coming over. I'm not sitting  
here anymore.

JESSICA'S POV

The forest. No Tyson or Rory in sight.

BACK TO SCENE

JESSICA  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving.

EXT. LAKE

Tyson and Rory hide behind a thick of bushes, spying on  
Erika and RJ. They've got their bathing suits on, sitting on  
the pier.

RORY  
She's fine.

TYSON  
I've walked in on her before  
in the shower.

RORY  
Eww, she's your sister.  
Still. . .

RJ moves in to kiss Erika. He puts his hand on her shoulder.  
Then her breast.

RORY  
That RJ's a lucky dog.

RJ turns and sees them. He gets up.

TYSON  
(to Rory)  
Split!

RJ  
(running toward  
them)  
Scram!

TYSON AND RORY

race back through the woods.

RJ

Stops and goes back to Erika.

RJ  
I hate kids.

EXT. WOODS

Tyson and Rory walk back down the path.

TYSON  
Let's see if do-do is still  
saying it.

The boys return to the cave. Jessica is not there.

TYSON  
Hey, Jess! Jessica!

RORY  
Where did she go?

TYSON  
She's messing with us.  
Jessica!

RORY  
I bet she left because she's  
mad at us.

Tyson walks around the cave. He sits down.

RORY  
What are you doing?

TYSON  
I'm going to try it.

RORY  
Shouldn't we keep looking for  
Jessica?

TYSON  
Dude, she's probably hiding  
and is waiting for me to start  
doing it cause I told her I  
would.

RORY  
What should I do?

TYSON  
Watch.

Tyson sits cross legged on the ground. He closes his eyes.

TYSON  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving.

RORY  
What's really supposed to  
happen anyway?

TYSON  
Rory, will you shut up? I'm  
trying to concentrate.

Rory looks annoyed but stays quiet.

TYSON  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving.

He stops.

RORY  
Wh---

TYSON  
Sshhh!

Tyson sits with his eyes closed intensely.

TYSON  
Not leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. Not  
leaving not moving.

EXT. LAKE

Rory comes racing out of the woods. Hyperventilating.

RORY  
Erika!

RJ  
What's that fat fuckin' kid  
want?

Erika looks and sees the tears in his eyes.

ERIKA  
Oh my God!

RORY  
They're gone!

He gets to the pier. Erika and RJ see the kid is in total shock.



RORY  
They. . . They disappeared!

RJ  
What's going on, man?

ERIKA  
Ro-Rory, is that your name?  
Tell me what happened. Where's  
my brother?

RORY  
I don't know. I don't know  
what happened. I want to wake  
up.

RJ  
He's freaking out.

ERIKA  
Rory. Rory, listen to me. What  
happened to my brother?  
Where's that other girl that  
was with you?

Rory can't speak. He trembles and shakes uncontrollably.

RJ  
This is messed up.

Fear comes over Erika's face.

ERIKA  
What happened to my brother?

INT. HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Erika sits on living room sofa. Her parents, CHASE (41) and  
BROOKE (39), on either side facing her. DETECTIVE BROYARD  
(34) in the middle.

Erika is being questioned by Broyard.

Her mother is distraught.

Her father is angry.

The detective is patient.

Erika looks devastated. She is wearing a jean jacket and  
shorts.

Her mother clutches tissue.

BROOKE  
My God, Erika. Those children  
were your responsibility.

BROYARD  
Now, when you were on the pier  
with. . .

ERIKA  
RJ.

BROYARD  
Yes, RJ. . .

Upon hearing the name, Chase scowls, shifts his feet.  
Broyard takes note, turns to him.

CHASE  
It's nothing. It's just  
that. . . we've discussed how  
we feel about Erika seeing  
him.

ERIKA  
The challenge the kids were  
doing was based on some  
internet videos.

BROYARD  
Explain it to me.

ERIKA  
You sit in front of a cave,  
any cave, and say Not Leaving,  
Not Moving.

BROYARD  
And then what?

ERIKA  
Then. . . I don't know. You  
disappear, something takes you.  
I---

CHASE  
Christ.

BROYARD  
What do you think happened,  
Erika?

ERIKA  
I don't know. We went back and  
looked and they were gone.

BROYARD  
Could they be pranking you?  
I mean, let's scare big  
sister?

BROOKE  
Tyson wouldn't behave like  
that.

BROYARD  
Not even if his friends egged  
him on?

CHASE  
Oh, come on. Doesn't anybody  
realize these children have  
been taken? I mean,  
disappearing into caves.  
Excuse my language detective  
but can we cut the shit?

BROYARD  
I understand how you feel.  
I just want to get a baseline  
on what the kids believe they  
were doing. If they were near  
a cave they could have fallen  
in---

ERIKA  
But there's nothing! I saw it  
myself. There is absolutely  
nowhere they could have gone.  
The wall in the back is solid  
and there's no hole in the  
ground. It's all solid ground.

BROOKE  
What does it sound like to  
you, detective? What happened?

BROYARD  
Right now it sounds like they  
left on their own.

CHASE  
Or someone took them.

INT. ERIKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Erika crosses her room in a towel. She uses another one to  
dry her wet hair.

Knock at the door.

ERIKA  
Just a minute.

She slips into a dry tank top as the knock comes again.

ERIKA  
I said just---

The door opens. Chase stands in the door frame.

CHASE  
Your mother and I are going

to form a search party to look  
for the missing kids. I'm  
assuming you'd like to come.

ERIKA  
I'll join in later.

CHASE  
Later?

ANGLE ON CHASE

Shows him with a bent-up coat hanger behind his back.

BACK TO SCENE

CHASE  
I'm very disappointed that RJ  
was present at the lake.

Erika scoffs at him.

ERIKA  
Oh, you think it's his fault,  
huh?

CHASE  
Your mother did the laundry  
and saw blood in the center of  
the bedsheets. I know you are  
sexually active.

ERIKA  
You're disgusting! That's none  
of your god damn business!

CHASE  
(raises his voice)  
It is very much my business.

He composes himself. He stares at her until she feels  
uncomfortable.

CHASE  
Maybe it is best if you stay  
inside tonight.

He lets the coat hanger be seen. She crosses her arms, turns  
away from him.

He grabs her arm. She resists at first, then lets him. She  
glares up at him.

ERIKA  
I won't scream.

CHASE  
You've built up quite a

Resistance. If only you'd  
Quit defying me.

He stands firm before her. Now from his pants pocket he produces a lighter and heats up the end of the coat hanger.

CHASE  
Just be my pure girl, and it  
Will all go away.

ERIKA  
Fuck you.

Chase sets his jaw. He grabs her arm forcefully. He jabs the hot end of the coat hanger into the underside of her arm.

Despite her determination to remain rock solid, pain turns her face into a grimace and a tear runs down her cheek.

She lets out a small cry and stifles it with her other hand.

INT. HALLWAY

Brooke stands in the middle of the hall. She turns and walks away.

INT. ERIKA'S BEDROOM

The hot poker is removed from Erika's underarm. Chase takes a breath and steps back. Erika wipes her eyes.

She lies down on her bed, facing away from her father.

For a second, Chase looks remorseful.

CHASE  
Erika, I'm---

ERIKA

Wipes at more tears, sniffs. Her face is set hard.

BACK TO SCENE

CHASE  
Please don't go anywhere  
tonight. Your mother and I  
will be back.

He exits the room, closing the door.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

MOOSE (25), MICAH (19), and REBEKAH (18) at the cave. Loud hip hop music blares from Moose's jeep.

Moose is large with close cut hair. Micah has a short afro and beard. Rebekah is petite.

They smoke blunts.

MICAH  
This bullshit, yo.

Micah coughs loud, talks loud, does everything loud.

MOOSE  
Dat's what they say.

REBEKAH  
Fuckin' the internet is whack,  
yo.

MICAH  
So what you supposed to do?

MOOSE  
Sit wit yo back to it and say  
not leaving, not moving.

REBEKAH  
People are supposed ta  
disappear inside. They never  
come back out. Dat shit leads  
ta hell.

MICAH  
(laughing)  
Yo, expect me ta believe dat  
voodoo bullshit? Come on dawg.  
You crazy.

MOOSE  
Chill.

Micah takes a long toke off his spliff and blows smoke into the cave.

MICAH  
Yo, dead-ass spirit. Dead-ass  
poltergeist. Whatever da fuck  
it is you supposed to be. Not  
fuckin leaving! Not fuckin  
movin!'

Moose and Rebekah laugh at him.

REBEKAH  
Boy, you a fool.

MICAH  
Not fuckin leaving not fuckin  
moving. Not fuckin leaving not  
fuckin moving. Not fuckin  
leaving not fuckin moving.

MOOSE  
Ya have ta sit on the ground.

MICAH  
I ain't sittin' on no dirty  
ass ground.

He walks into the cave still shouting.

MICAH  
Not fuckin leaving not fuckin  
moving. Not fuckin leaving not  
fuckin moving.

REBEKAH  
Yo, be careful, Micah.

MICAH (O.S.)  
Not fuckin leaving not fuckin  
moving.

Sound like rushing water, thunder, earthquake. The ground  
inside the cave collapses.

MOOSE  
Da fuck?

REBEKAH  
Micah?

Rebekah runs to the cave.

MOOSE  
Stay outta there!

Moose runs after her.

INT. CAVE

The ground is hard. The cave walls have no openings. Where  
he was there is not even the sign of a cave-in. It is like  
nothing, including Micah, was ever there.

Moose wraps his thick arms around her waist and carries her  
out.

EXT. WOODS

Rebekah screams and cries.

REBEKAH  
It's real! It's fuckin' real!

MOOSE  
Naw. . . Naw, he--

Rebekah turns on Moose. Her eyes are daggers and she flails  
her arms at him.

REBEKAH  
Why the fuck did you make his  
ass do that shit?

MOOSE  
Shut yo fuckin' mouth!

REBEKAH  
Don't you tell me ta shut the  
fuck up!

She turns back around to face the cave.

REBEKAH  
Miiiiicaaaahhh!!!

MOOSE  
This ain't happenin.' This  
ain't happenin.'

CLOSE on Moose. He puts his hands to his head, covers his  
ears to block out Rebekah's piercing screams.

MOOSE  
Shut up, shut up, shut up!

Rebekah is finally silent. She sits on the ground, defeated.  
Pulls her knees up and sobs silently.

MOOSE  
Boy jus' done disappeared.

Moose picks up a large log and throws it. He pounds his  
fists on the hood of his jeep.

MOOSE  
Damn!

INT. ERIKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Erika on the phone with RJ.

RJ (V.O.)  
That detective was a trip.  
It's like he was already  
making me out to be a suspect  
or something.

ERIKA  
I know. He was only---

RJ (V.O.)  
What? You're on his side?

ERIKA  
No.

RJ (V.O.)



Erika, what's going on?

ERIKA  
Nothing, I--- I have to go.

RJ (V.O.)  
Erika---

ERIKA  
Call you back.

She hangs up.

She looks at her phone. Sends a text.

SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.

Looks at message. Adds:

XOXO

Hits send.

Her phone rings but she ignores it.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Erika walks up to the cave site. She's in her jean jacket, hands in pockets. She stands a few steps back from the ominous black mouth of the cave. She looks around, takes some breaths.

ERIKA  
Not leaving.

She shuts her eyes, shakes her head from side to side.

ERIKA  
Not moving.

Opens her eyes. Shuts them again.

ERIKA  
(louder)  
Not leaving, not moving. Not  
leaving not moving. You hear  
me? Not leaving, not moving.  
Not leaving, not moving.

She sits down with her back to the cave entrance.

ERIKA  
Not leaving not moving not  
leaving not moving not leaving  
not moving not leaving not  
moving.

She presses her fists against her temples and chants it out aggressively.

ERIKA  
Not leaving not moving not  
leaving not moving not leaving  
not moving not leaving not  
moving.

INT. BLACKNESS

Erika opens her eyes. The forest, the ground she was sitting on are gone. She stands in a panic.

TYSON (O.S.)  
Erika.

She turns, sees her brother.

ERIKA  
Tyson!

He runs to her and she hugs him tight.

TYSON  
Everything's ok. I'm fine.

ERIKA  
Where are we?

TYSON  
I don't know, but it's like  
this now.

Jessica and Micah step up.

JESSICA  
Hey.

MICAH  
(flashes a peace  
sign)  
'Sup. Micah.

TYSON  
(to Erika)  
He's cool.

MICAH  
Yeah, man, dees kids helped  
Me a lot.

Erika looks around. There's nothing but black and a crystal ball floating in midair.

ERIKA  
How did this happen?

TYSON  
This is what happens when you  
Say the words. Look.

He takes her to the crystal ball. It shows the woods from the point of view of the cave entrance, like a porch camera.

TYSON  
We saw you there. We watched  
you sit in front of the cave.  
There's no sound but I knew  
you were going to do it. I knew  
you would be here.

Erika puts her hands on the crystal ball. She pushes it. It gives but comes back to its place.

ERIKA  
What is this thing?

The rest shrug their shoulders, shake their heads.

ERIKA  
I still don't get it. You guys  
have been here the whole time?

TYSON  
Yeah.

JESSICA  
It was really scary at first.  
I was all alone until Tyson  
showed up. Then Micah.

ERIKA  
We've got to get out of here.

MICAH  
Can't do, sis. Ain't no way  
out dis.

ERIKA  
We can't just stay here.

TYSON  
The thing is. . . we all feel  
fine.

JESSICA  
Yeah. We don't sleep. We don't  
feel hungry.

MICAH  
Fo' real, dawg.

ERIKA  
(shakes her head)  
No. No.

TYSON  
Don't panic, Erika. Please.

She looks at the crystal ball. It shows RJ come up to the cave. It appears as though he is looking right at her.

ERIKA

RJ!

MICAH

He can't see ya, sis.

ERIKA

Ssshhh!!

Micah backs off.

Erika looks at RJ in the crystal ball.

ERIKA

Don't say it. Please, don't  
Say it.

RJ turns back and walks away. Erika shuts her eyes.

MICAH

My nigguh done da same thang,  
Yo. Jes watch his big black  
Ass standin' there then homes  
left. I was like, shit, fo'  
real, dawg?

TYSON

Erika, are mom and dad  
worried?

Erika considers a moment.

ERIKA

The hell with them.

JESSICA

I miss my family a little, but  
it's ok.

Tyson holds her hand. Erika puts a hand on her shoulder.

MICAH

We got ya, lil' chick.

TYSON

Erika, how did you feel when  
RJ left?

ERIKA

I was glad, actually.

She breaks into a smile.

ERIKA

I can't believe it! It's like  
I left something behind, but  
Something brand new is

Beginning.

MICAH  
Shit, don't tell me we's dead.

ERIKA  
No, I don't think so. I think  
We're very much alive.

TYSON  
What do we do now?

ERIKA  
We go forward.

The four of them walk away from the crystal ball. They walk  
into the black until they are no longer visible.

The crystal ball shuts off.

FADE OUT.