



BLOOD DRIVE

By

Jeff Reese

While partying in Baja, a spring breaker's baby sister is kidnapped. In order to see her sister again, she has to drive an old freight truck across the border before nightfall.
But is she really transporting drugs?

Genre: Thriller

WGA#1410636

Email: jnreese54@gmail.com

BLOOD DRIVE

EXT. BAJA - THE GEORGES' SEA CLIFF VACATION RENTAL - DUSK

Blood red horizon.

Pounding surf.

Distant, repeated BLARE of a diesel truck's HORN.

WILD PARTY NOISE, topped by HEAVY METAL MUSIC.

Super: SPRING BREAK
BAJA

The remote cliff house and grounds are packed with college students, doing everything an all-nighter craves.

INT. GEORGES' SEA CLIFF RENTAL - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Wasted Frat boys and sorority girls grind to the music.

Some laugh at a wacky variety show ala *Sabado Gigante* playing on a 75" flat screen.

At the couch, Freshman train wreck RUSTI GEORGE, a porcelain volcano in red hair, and her French cousin, mulatto beauty GABBY, out pace their rivals in a girl-on-girl tongue wrestling match.

A small crowd spurs the girls on, including Rusti's current fling, B-team linebacker KEVIN, and his geek buddy BARRY.

Revealing her pro status, Gabby adds some hand action and Rusti flinches, breaking away to catch her breath.

The onlookers sound their disapproval but it dies away as they follow Rusti's gaze to the TV up on the wall.

ON TV: Above a news banner, reading, "*Víctimas de Cártel de Narcóticos!*", a daytime phone video pans a roadside littered with piles of decapitated adults...and children.

Grimacing, Rusti crosses to the wall TV, followed by Kevin, Barry and Gabby.

She focuses on one pile of corpses and the body of a headless child, sprawled across the top.

RUSTI
(pointing)
What's this?

KEVIN
(half laughs)
An old episode of Narcos?

BARRY
No, it's a real news report on
some drug cartel massacre.

Gabby pulls Rusti back towards the couch.

GABBY
Come on, cousin, I hate to lose.

Rusti follows Gabby back to the couch, when the
distinctive SOUND OF A DRAINING JUICE BOX stops Rusti in
her tracks and her eyes turn to see...

...an equally-redheaded, small nuisance, sucking on a
juice box as she stares in judgment at her big sister.

Brushing Gabby aside, Rusti drags ARIEL a few feet away.

RUSTI
(hushed)
Ariel, what're you doing? I
thought we had a deal.

Ariel doesn't flinch from her expression.

ARIEL
I needed a juice.

RUSTI
Okay, you got it. Now go!

Ariel stands defiant as Gabby walks over.

Too impaired for a standoff, Rusti shows her defiance by
grabbing Gabby's hand and pulling her towards the patio.

RUSTI
Let's go for a swim.

Concerned, Gabby looks to Ariel but Rusti pulls her away.

RUSTI
Don't worry about her. She's my
headache, not yours.

Heading for the deck, Rusti sneaks a look back to see
lonely little Ariel shuffling off to her room.

MANDY (O.S.)
Uh, Rusti?

Rusti turns to see blond and bothered MANDY WILSON, Rusti's BFF, sandwiched in between wasted Kevin and Barry as they gesture wildly towards the front door with a pair of sleeping bags.

KEVIN

What about our road trip, babe?

Retreating, Rusti grabs Mandy and drags her, along with Gabby, to the deck.

RUSTI

Get rid of your frat boys, Kevin.
We'll be down at the beach.

Kevin and Barry react with a grimace and groan.

EXT. VACATION RENTAL - DECK - NIGHT

Exiting, Rusti hesitates at the window to Ariel's room.

Through the window, Ariel's slumped over on her bed, ignoring whatever music's playing on her earbuds as she eyes a framed photo on the night stand. The photo shows a younger Ariel and Rusti, mugging for the camera.

Rusti taps on the window and waves.

RUSTI

Ariel? Sorry, I snapped at you
little mer --

Seeing Rusti, Ariel yanks the blinds closed.

EXT. BEACH NEAR VACATION RENTAL - NIGHT

Descending the path in a huff, Rusti staggers out of her shorts and top when she spots a grinning Gabby stripping off everything.

Wasted Mandy eyes them both as she timidly slips off her jeans.

Flush with courage, Rusti loses her bra and underwear and races Gabby to the water.

Mandy throws a cautionary look up to the cliff house and trips up on her jeans, now around her ankles.

Flat on her butt, Mandy watches her best friend swim out with 'the french cousin', unaware of Kevin and Barry staggering up with the sleeping bags.

EXT. SURF - HUNDRED FEET FROM BEACH - NIGHT

Rusti pulls up to catch her breath and clear her head.

Hearing a not-so-distant DIESEL TRUCK HORN, she turns and looks back to the cliff house.

INT. VACATION RENTAL - ARIEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ariel opens the blinds to find her big sister gone. Deserted Ariel turns her gaze back to the photo on the night stand.

Someone bangs against her door and Ariel recoils in fear.

INT. VACATION RENTAL - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bouncing off Ariel's door, A guy, bent on stripping a bikini girl's top, pursues her through the crowded room.

EXT. FRONT OF VACATION RENTAL - NIGHT

Darting out the front door, past milling stoners, the guy and bikini girl play 'cat and mouse' through the maze of cars, vans and SUVs parked outside.

As bikini girl rounds the rear of a van, a freight truck comes right at her, blaring the same horn Rusti heard.

Yanking her top off, the Guy inadvertently pulls her back to safety just as the diesel rolls to a noisy stop.

The gathering crowd stares past her breasts at the truck.

THROUGH THE CAB WINDOW

The emaciated DRIVER looks down at the group with defeated eyes and calls out in broken English...

DRIVER

Run, all of you! Run away!

His shaking hand raises a gun to his temple.

EXT. SURF - HUNDRED FEET FROM BEACH - NIGHT

Hearing a faint POP, Rusti spins around in the water and spots Mandy on the beach.

Deliberate but off balance, Mandy strips for the drunken duo as they bellow out, "Love The One You're With".

Pissed, Rusti turns to swim to shore when Gabby comes up behind and pulls Rusti back against her.

GABBY
Relax, cousin. It's spring break.
As you said, "nothing counts".

Gabby slides her arm around Rusti's chest as she runs her tongue up the side of Rusti's neck.

Too wasted to resist, Rusti's eyes drift off as her head lolls back onto Gabby's shoulder.

I/E. MONTAGE MASSACRE - NIGHT

-The truck's cargo doors burst open.

-Teens, fleeing, flying, flung about like rag dolls by unseen enemies.

-Horrificed faces, screaming, writhing, washed in blood.

INT. VACATION RENTAL - ARIEL'S ROOM - END MONTAGE - NIGHT

The bedroom door bursts open. Ariel throws her arms in front of her face, screaming in terror.

EXT. BEACH NEAR VACATION RENTAL - NIGHT

The ROAR of the TIDE drowns out Ariel's scream and Rusti's final moan before Rusti passes out in her unseen lover's arms, snug inside a sleeping bag.

Unnoticed, someone walks up along side Rusti wearing a pair of light-skinned boots, splattered with blood. A man's hand reaches down and holds the photo of Ariel and Rusti along side Rusti's blissful face.

EXT. SAME - MORNING

Asleep on her side, Rusti awakes to see a sort of red 'X' spray-painted in the sand beside her.

Her eyes trail up from that to a storm, filling the horizon, initiating a groan.

The arm she rests her head on, arches and flexes its wrist, revealing its darker color.

Rusti rolls over to see Gabby, smiling back at her.

Rusti quickly rolls back.

Spotting her clothes, just out of reach, Rusti clutches the covers to her chest as she leans for her underwear.

Stretching too far, a breast comes free, triggering a nearby "whoa".

Bare-assed and hungover Kevin sits cross-legged, struggling to focus on Rusti's chest.

Naked Gabby climbs out of the sleeping bag, picks up Rusti's clothes and stops inches from Kevin's face, galvanizing his gaze.

She smiles down at Kevin and nods to the sleeping nudes beside him.

GABBY

So stud, did you "love all the ones you're with"?

Kevin turns to see Barry, not Mandy, butt up against him. Kevin bolts back, yelping.

Startled awake, Barry and Mandy both wince as they sit up.

Laughing, Gabby turns back to catch Rusti's guarded gaze.

GABBY

So, cousin, was it too good to give up?

Grabbing her things, Rusti's eyes dart to Mandy.

Curled up in a tight ball, mortified Mandy looks from the cliff house, to Rusti.

MANDY

We're going to get hell for this.

Rusti looks away, stopping at the red 'X' in the sand.

EXT. PATH LEADING TO VACATION RENTAL - MORNING

The group rounds the path leading back to the house with Gabby lagging behind.

RUSTI

My folks are fifty miles out to sea, chasing Moby Dick. They won't be back till Saturday.

MANDY

What about your sister?

Rusti stops.

RUSTI

Shit.

Like a cold wind, Gabby brushes past.

GABBY
Obviously, that's why I am here,
right? Blame all your shit on the
French bitch --

Gabby abruptly stops at the top of a bluff, gawking. The others rush up and join Gabby in staring at...

...a rusted old freight truck.

The trailer emblazoned with a large red cross above the lettering: 'Blood Transport'.

The truck blocks the view of the grounds and house.

KEVIN
Talk about desperate for
donations.

Walking up to the truck, they flinch and grimace over some putrid smell as they're besieged by flies.

BARRY
What is that smell?

MANDY
Dead fish?

RUSTI
Those fuckers egged the place!

They all cross around the cab and stop.

There, at Mandy's feet, is the decapitated head of bikini girl. Her face, frozen in fear.

Barry throws a hand up to muffle Mandy's scream as he scopes the area.

The decapitated bodies of the college students, are piled in several heaps.

Fighting to speak, Rusti can only sputter...

RUSTI
Ariel!

She turns for the house, but Gabby grabs her back.

Enraged, Kevin rushes up to a pile, pulls a machete free and charges off around the corner of the house.

BARRY
Kevin! Wait!

EXT. CLIFF SIDE OF VACATION RENTAL - MORNING

Barry, Mandy and Gabby race around the corner to find Kevin staring down at more bodies, flopping around in the tidewater as sharks tug at their flesh.

Mandy turns away in revulsion and spots Rusti clutching Ariel's pink iPod as she frantically digs through a pile of bodies.

MANDY

Rusti!

Mandy rushes over and pulls Rusti away, as Kevin and Barry take up the search, shoving bodies aside.

Rusti pulls away from Mandy and rushes into the house.

GABBY

Don't!

INT. VACATION RENTAL - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Oblivious to the ransacked interior, Rusti's eyes dart past the debris, scanning for Ariel.

RUSTI

Ariel?!

Gabby, Kevin and Mandy enter behind her.

Brandishing the machete, Kevin 'bulls' his way through the interior, looking for bad guys.

Gabby stops to try the phone and finds it dead. She turns and scans the room.

Rusti heads straight for Ariel's room in the back.

GABBY

(calling out)

Anyone see a cell phone?

Mandy turns to the window and spots Barry, outside, pulling cash from the wallet of a corpse and stashing it in his pants pocket.

Barry reaches for another corpse's wallet when he catches Mandy through the window, staring in disdain.

Rusti finds Ariel's door blocked by upended furniture.

RUSTI

Ariel, it's me, baby! I'm coming!

Kevin comes up, flings the bulky pieces away and Rusti throws open the door.

INT. ARIEL'S ROOM - VACATION RENTAL - MORNING

Rusti rushes into the room but Ariel's not there. Rusti looks under the bed then throws open the closet.

RUSTI
Ariel, I'm here! It's safe!

Closet empty, Rusti spins around.

RUSTI
Come out, please!

On the bed, next to Ariel's old teddybear, the photo of them has been torn in half with Rusti's half, missing.

Barry enters.

BARRY
I looked everywhere.

Mandy throws him an icy stare.

GABBY
Any cell phones?

Evasive, Barry looks away, shaking his head, 'no'.

GABBY
That's strange? Why are there no
cell phones?

The FAINT SOUND of the STEEL DRUM INTRO TO "UNDER THE SEA" from 'Little Mermaid' jerks Rusti around, frantically listening for its origin.

RUSTI
That's Ariel's ringtone!

Rusti rushes out, followed by the others.

INT. VACATION RENTAL - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

They split up, scrambling through the shambles to find the cell phone.

EXT. FRONT OF VACATION RENTAL - MORNING

Rusti rushes out and stops at hearing the sound coming from the truck cab.

She rushes up, throws open the door and screams at seeing the dead driver, a gun in hand and a hole in his temple.

RUSTI
Ariel?!

Beyond revulsion, Rusti yanks him out and he tumbles to the ground as she dives into the cab.

The others rush out of the house and stop as Rusti exits the cab, clutching Ariel's pink cell phone.

The display screen cracked and blank, Rusti chokes back a breath as she taps the call button.

RUSTI
Ariel?

Hearing familiar sobs and sniffing, Rusti exhales.

RUSTI
Where are you?

Ariel's muted voice quivers with fear.

ARIEL (V.O.)
Don't know. Rusti, where were you?

RUSTI
Baby, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Over the phone, Rusti hears Ariel's muffled scream as some commotion is heard, jostling the phone.

RUSTI
Ariel?!

ARIEL (V.O.)
Rusti!!!

Silence. Then, the graveled and grating tone of an aging druggie...

DAMON (V.O.)
"Rusti", the redhead. Lucky day.
(chuckles)
For me, at least.

Rusti rushes away from the truck, scanning the surrounding terrain as she rants on the phone.

RUSTI
Where's my sister, you asshole?!

DAMON (V.O.)
Ooh, a real red hot. Ever eat one?

RUSTI
WHERE IS SHE?!!

DAMON (V.O.)
"Spicy, chewy and oh, so yummy."

RUSTI

Listen to me, you fucking perv, if you don't give me my sister right now, so-help-me-God, I'm calling the police and --

DAMON (V.O.)

Wait? Don't you wanna know what I taste like?

Rusti screams in frustration and throws down the phone.

MANDY

Rusti, no!

Realizing her mistake, Rusti swoops down to retrieve the phone, pleading frantically as she tries to reconnect.

The phone rings, startling her.

RUSTI

(answering)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry! Please, don't hurt my sister!

ARIEL (V.O.)

Rusti?

Rusti sobs with relief, muttering "thank you, thank you".

ARIEL (V.O.)

He's so scary --

On the phone, another muffled scream, and commotion.

RUSTI

Ariel?! Ariel?! I'm sorry, baby! I'm gonna try get you back, okay?! I swear! Whatever it takes!

DAMON (V.O.)

Way to play, Red. Okay, your sister and I are headed for El Paso. I want you to bring the truck and join us.

Rusti whips around to stare at the truck.

DAMON

But hands off what's in back --

RUSTI

I don't know how to drive a truck!

Damon chuckles.

DAMON (V.O.)
That's just what the last driver
said. But because he wanted to see
his daughter again, he learned.
Fast.

Rusti looks at the dead man on the ground and shudders.

RUSTI
Isn't there another way?! Please?!
My family has money --

DAMON (V.O.)
(snorts)
"Money"?

RUSTI
There must be something else I can
do?!

DAMON (V.O.)
Oh sure. Stay there and imagine
all the fun things I'm gonna do to
your sweet, innocent, baby sister.

RUSTI
(sobbing)
All right, all right!! I'll do it.

The laughter stops.

DAMON (V.O.)
Hot and smart. Good. There's a
truck manual in the glove box.
Find it. Read it.

Rusti turns and runs back to the cab and climbs in.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MORNING

Rusti's eyes dart about the squalid interior.

The others rush up to the cab doorway and Gabby grabs
Rusti's leg causing her to jerk.

GABBY
What is it?! What do you need?!

RUSTI
Glove box?!

Gabby leaps up, reaches over her and opens the glove box.

Rusti rummages around and pulls out a dog-eared booklet.

RUSTI
It's here! I found it!

DAMON (V.O.)
Congratulations. Here's your
prize.
(off, to Ariel)
Say, 'see you soon, sis'.

ARIEL (V.O.)
Rusti?

RUSTI
Ariel, I, I'm coming!

DAMON (V.O.)
Directions are on the map in the
box. Stick to the route. No stops.
Touch the back doors and she dies.

Rusti reaches in and pulls out a folded map.

DAMON (V.O.)
Oh, and one last thing. Be there
by sundown.

The phone clicks off and Rusti gasps through her sobs.

EXT. TRUCK CAB - MORNING

Rusti pivots in the seat, eyeing the stormy horizon as
she dials on the cell phone.

KEVIN
What? Babe?

MANDY
You calling your folks?

Gabby squats and checks out the truck manual.

GABBY
What did he want with the manual?

Rusti gets no answer on the phone.

RUSTI
Answer, damn-it!

BARRY
Signal probably can't get through
the storm, kiddo.

Jumping out, Rusti knocks the phone in frustration.

RUSTI
The guy said I gotta drive the
truck to El Paso if I want to get
Ariel back!

Barry whips around to the piles of bodies.

BARRY
Oh shit! She's been kidnapped by a
cartel!

Barry turns to the truck.

BARRY
There must be millions worth of
drugs in this truck?

Rusti blurts out a pained laugh.

RUSTI
Perfect! All I have to do is get
it past the border! Before dark!

Gabby springs to her feet, startling everyone.

GABBY
That's eight hours away. Come on!

All four gawk at Gabby.

GABBY
(to Rusti)
Your overseas Uncle owns a
trucking company, remember?

With a sigh, Gabby turns and climbs up in the cab.

A moment later, the engine starts up, the brakes release
and the truck rumbles out to the road. It stops and idles
as Gabby climbs out onto the step.

GABBY
Well?!

Mandy turns and shoves Rusti towards the house.

MANDY
We'll need more than sleeping bags
for this trip!

INT. VACATION RENTAL - ARIEL'S ROOM - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Now in shorts, high tops, a blouse and hoodie, sobbing
Rusti sits on Ariel's bed, desperately listening on her
phone for her mother's voice.

RUSTI
(hushed)
C'mon, c'mon, c'mon, Mom, pickup!
Shit! What the fuck am I to do?!

She grabs the teddybear and starts thrashing it around.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Dressed for the drive, Gabby climbs in behind the wheel and immediately pulls things out of the glove box.

She finds a wall calendar, with various dark red double-digits scrawled over each of the previous days.

GABBY
(indicating numbers)
What are these? Number of stops?

Beside her, Mandy's on Barry's lap, busily spray cleaning the dashboard and other surfaces while Barry tosses stuff to Kevin in the sleeper space behind the seat.

BARRY
Or the daily take, in thousands?

Kevin utters a "Whoa" as he slips an old hunting rifle down behind the seat.

One by one they turn to see a hapless Rusti, outside, staring at the horizon as she dials her phone.

She gives up and heads to the truck with a duffle, pausing to pick up the pistol from the dead driver.

Climbing in, Rusti sits between Gabby and Mandy, straddling the gear shift as she puts the gun in the glovebox and tosses her bag over her head to Kevin.

Rusti then reaches in her hoodie and pulls out the now-slightly battered teddybear and sets it on the dashboard.

GABBY
We good to go?

The others look to Rusti and nod. She nods her thanks.

She touches her finger to her lips and then to the bear. Mandy follows suit.

The girls then look to Gabby but she just rolls her eyes, releases both brakes and throws the shifter into gear.

EXT. INTERSECTION OF MAIN ROAD - MORNING

Vehicles yield the right of way as the old Red Cross transport roars through a wide turn onto the main road, revealing the large universal symbol of hope on its side.

A moment later, a black Lexus LS slowly trails behind.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

The five rumble along, packed into a space for two, studying the unfolded map and its bold, inked-in route that ends in a RED X.

BARRY
Most likely, this is their high percentage route. We should get through --

Mandy throws him a look.

BARRY
...will get through, arguably.

Focusing on the RED X, Rusti looks to the others.

RUSTI
Which one of you spray-painted that red 'X' in the sand?

Kevin, Mandy and Barry turn to her, "What?".

RUSTI
It was there this morning, right next to my...

Rusti cuts herself off, spooked.

MANDY
A red 'X'?

Kevin sucks air and turns to pull a spray paint can, stained in red, from the sleeper space.

BARRY
Shit. It wasn't an 'X', it was a cross. Like on the truck.

KEVIN
You mean they knew where we were?

MANDY
And didn't cut our heads off.

They turn to Rusti and find her attention diverted to the truck gauges in front of her.

RUSTI
What are all these?

Gabby nods at each one in order.

GABBY
Speedometer, tachometer, fuel, air pressure --

RUSTI
"Air pressure"?

GABBY
For the brakes. Battery voltage,
Oil Pressure and Temp,
Transmission temp and...

Gabby stops herself at noticing the last gauge.

She thumps the glass, but the needle doesn't budge.

RUSTI
What's wrong?

Gabby signals and downshifts as she steers the truck over to a stop on the shoulder.

RUSTI
We're stopping?

Kevin reaches down for the rifle.

KEVIN
What is it?

GABBY
Probably nothing. I just want to
check something.

Concerned, Rusti looks on as Gabby unhooks the ring of keys from the ignition key and climbs out the door.

EXT. TRUCK - DAY

As Gabby makes her way to the back, Rusti jumps out, hiding the pistol in her waistband.

RUSTI
Where are you going?

Gabby checks the tires, making her way to the rear of the trailer.

GABBY
(indicating doors)
I just want to check --

RUSTI
No!

Scanning around as she goes, Rusti rushes up to Gabby at the rear of the trailer.

They are joined by Kevin, Barry and Mandy, rushing around from the other side.

KEVIN
What is it?!

Kevin has the rifle tucked at his side.

GABBY
Will everyone relax. I just want
to check the load.

Rusti spots the black Lexus, with tinted windows, rolling
to a stop on the shoulder, a hundred yards back.

She turns back to them with desperation in her eyes.

RUSTI
You can't!

Kevin and Barry turn to see the car and 'get it'.

RUSTI
No one can. Or they'll kill her.

MANDY
How would they know?

KEVIN
They're watching us.

Barry turns back to the trailer with a look of awe.

BARRY
Jesus, they must have tons of shit
in there?

Gabby turns from Barry back to the tires showing no sign
of a bulge.

GABBY
"Tons"?

RUSTI
Come on, let's go!

The cell phone RINGS and Rusti looks to the others with
concern as she answers it.

RUSTI
Hello?

DAMON (V.O.)
You've stopped.

Rusti's eyes dart about, stopping at the tires.

RUSTI
We just needed...to check a tire.

DAMON (V.O.)
The tires are fine, Red. Drive.

Reacting, Rusti's eyes shift from the tire to the distant Lexus and a nano-second later she blurts out....

RUSTI
Wait?!

Apprehensively, Rusti heads off to the Lexus.

DAMON (V.O.)
What, now?

MANDY
(hushed, to Rusti)
Where you going?

Rusti gestures to the car and mouths, 'Ariel'.

RUSTI
(into phone)
We don't know these back roads.

DAMON (V.O.)
You got the map. What's the problem?

Kevin turns to the Lexus, nods and follows.

RUSTI
Are the roads safe for the truck?
Anything we should look out for?

EXT. HUNDRED YARDS DOWN THE ROAD - DAY

Getting close enough, Rusti and Kevin stop at seeing only one person, the driver, through the darkened windshield. And he's not on a cell phone.

DAMON (V.O.)
... the old mining road's steep and winding. But... once you get through the tunnel and down the other side, it's a smooth ride, right to the border.

RUSTI
Sounds good. See you later.

She winces at her perky response and pockets the phone as they move closer to the vehicle.

Behind the wheel, FAUSTINO, a scarred and formidable Latino in his forties, stares right at them.

He bursts from the car, charging at them, causing the two to stagger back in fear.

Kevin manages to fire off a rifle shot past Faustino and Faustino bolts back, throwing up his hands.

FAUSTINO
Whoa, kid! Don't shoot!

Anxious Rusti whips the pistol out and aims at Faustino as Barry, Gabby and Mandy rush up.

BARRY
Kevin, what are you doing?!

KEVIN
He fucking killed them all!

BARRY
Kev, stop!

MANDY
You don't know that!

Kevin gestures with the rifle and Faustino steps away. Rusti walks up to the driver's side and looks in.

FAUSTINO
What do you want?

RUSTI
Where is she?

FAUSTINO
Who? I just stopped for a stretch.

Rusti reaches down to release the trunk lid.

Faustino lunges at her, knocking the gun from her hand.

But before he can reach for his own gun, a rifle shot shatters the car windshield beside him and he freezes.

Rusti retrieves the pistol and turns to the open trunk.

RUSTI
She's not here.

All that's in there are a shotgun, ammo and a large metal cooler. Cautiously opening it, Rusti freaks at finding several plastic liter bags of blood packed in ice.

Slamming the cooler shut, Rusti turns back to Faustino and puts the pistol to his temple.

RUSTI
Whose blood is that?!

FAUSTINO
Why, your truck ain't got enough?

Faustino flinches when Kevin shoots another window.

FAUSTINO
It's mine. For an operation.

BARRY
You shoot him and we're fucked!

FAUSTINO
Listen to your friend, Miss.

RUSTI
(near tears)
Where's my sister?!

BARRY
Forget it, Rusti, he doesn't know.
He's just some low-level muscle,
sent to shadow the truck. Ariel's
probably across the border by now.

Shifting her gaze from Barry back to Faustino, she catches Faustino checking the sun's position.

FAUSTINO
Better hurry.

With a grunt, Kevin puts two rounds in the front tire.

Faustino turns from the deflated tire to Kevin.

FAUSTINO
You just made a really big
mistake.

KEVIN
Yeah? Well, it looks like I'm a
whiz at it.

Both Rusti and Barry look to each other, then Kevin.

Kevin pulls Faustino's cell phone from his breast pocket and smashes it under his foot as he waves Faustino off with the rifle.

KEVIN
Fucking go! Go! Run, asshole!

Faustino glares at Kevin, backs away and runs off.

Relishing his Rambo-vibe, Kevin takes out another tire.

Meanwhile, Mandy and Gabby are busy eyeing the horizon.

GABBY
Cousin?

Mandy pats Rusti's shoulder.

MANDY
B.F.?

There's a crack of thunder and Rusti turns to the storm on the horizon.

RUSTI
Sssshit! Let's go!

The cell phone rings and she whips it out as they all run back to the truck.

RUSTI
(into phone)
I KNOW, I KNOW! DRIVE THE FUCKING
TRUCK!!!

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - DAY

The truck speeds down a rural road, passing rundown farms and wilted crops.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

As Gabby drives, her eyes dip down to the pale, slender thighs pressed against hers.

Her eyes then move up to a portion of Rusti's breast, peeking through an opening in her blouse.

Rusti's hand moves in and fidgets with the spot and Gabby's eyes continue up to meet Rusti's conflicted gaze.

Kevin's hand reaches over the seat and plants itself on Rusti's knee, turning everyone towards Mr. Bruised Ego.

Dutifully, Rusti takes his hand in hers and Kevin turns back to the window, the victor.

Gabby's attention slowly returns to the road, giving another rap on the suspension gauge, in passing.

Rusti sneaks her gaze from Kevin back to Gabby and takes her own slow tour down Gabby's striking profile when something catches the corner of her eye.

Rusti turns to see the watchful teddybear, staring from the dashboard.

She gives an awkward smile in reply, which fades as...

FLASHBACK - INT. RUSTI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

PRE-TEEN Rusti is walking down the hall, in soccer garb, proudly holding a 2nd place ribbon.

She finds her thirty-something parents in baby Ariel's room, happily playing with the TWO YEAR OLD.

INT. RUSTI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - ARIEL'S ROOM - DAY

Rusti enters with the ribbon for some much-needed praise when she spots the three of them playing with *her* teddy.

Sensing the potential catastrophe, MOM turns to Rusti and smiles soothingly.

MOM

Rusti, your baby sister just adores your old teddy bear. You don't mind, do you?

DAD turns and smiles for added ammunition and Rusti caves, slowly shaking her head.

DAD

Thanks, pumpkin. You're a saint.

Mom and Dad turn back to laugh and play with Ariel.

Rusti's face droops and she discards her red ribbon on her way out the door.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Rusti is jolted out of the daydream as the truck suddenly lurches into a lower gear.

GABBY

Merde!

Rusti turns to Gabby just as a Mexican Army armored assault humvee passes them and pulls in front of the truck.

Gabby looks out the side mirror.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - DAY

A small convoy of humvees and a troop carrier are trailing the truck.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Kevin, Mandy and Barry strain to see out the side mirrors.

Rusti turns from the map to the road ahead.

GABBY
When's the turn off?

RUSTI
Not for another ten miles.

BARRY
They're gonna stop us before then.

MANDY
Why? It's just the army.

BARRY
Who do you think's fighting the
drug war?

Gabby turns and half-laughs at seeing Kevin reaching for the rifle.

GABBY
Hold on, Rambo, you gonna stop
them with your big gun?

Kevin whips a look to Gabby.

KEVIN
What, you're the Jedi truck
master, can't you out run them?

Gabby can't help but laugh as she points to a button on the console.

GABBY
Sure, just push that button, Luke
and we'll jump to light speed.

KEVIN
Fucking French dyke!

GABBY
'Broke Back Mountain' boy!

Kevin lunges toward Gabby, causing her to swerve.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - DAY

Across the road, a local police SUV's parked behind a farmer's flatbed truck, packed with produce.

The two COPS turn from 'shaking-down' the farmer to notice the truck swerve, causing a domino effect with the convoy.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

As Gabby tries to steady the truck the others struggle to hold Kevin back, throwing arms up while pulling at his black T-shirt.

GABBY
Are you insane as well as stupid!?

KEVIN
Don't fuck with me, bitch!

GABBY
What, only pricks allowed?!

Kevin starts to lunge again but Rusti elbows him in the stomach.

Gabby stops herself at seeing something in the side mirror.

GABBY
(indicating mirror)
Cousin?!

Rusti turns to the mirror.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - DAY

The command humvee pulls out of the convoy line and moves up along side the truck.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Rusti sits back in the seat, trying to think as Mandy and Barry struggle with a flailing Kevin.

BARRY
Kevin, for Christ's sake, stop it!

Keying off Barry's line, Rusti reaches for Kevin's neck and forcibly yanks his black T-shirt off.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - DAY

As the command vehicle pulls up along side the cab, the stone-faced COMMANDER scans the truck from his passenger window.

When they catch up with the cab of the truck and the driver's side window, Gabby leans back in the seat as Rusti leans forward, wearing what looks like a nun's habit.

With her palms pressed together, Rusti smiles apologetically to the Commander.

The Commander shifts his gaze to the large RED CROSS on the side of the truck, as his DRIVER asks...

DRIVER (O.S.)
MI6 or CIA?

The Commander merely shrugs.

COMMANDER
(aside)
Does it matter?

With an official smile, the Commander nods 'goodbye' to Rusti, turns to his driver and gestures to drive on.

The truck pulls to the shoulder of the farm road as the rest of the convoy passes and drives on.

Back down the road, a black Lexus SUV, also with tinted windows, rolls to a stop along the shoulder.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

Rusti slowly pulls the T-shirt from her head and tosses it back to Kevin as she stares off to nowhere.

Barry points off to the big barn of a deserted farm.

BARRY
Quick, they may double back. Let's
hide the truck in that barn.

GABBY
Got it.

As Gabby drives on, Mandy gapes at Rusti.

MANDY
Jesus, B.F., that was a fucking
miracle.

Equally stunned, Rusti nods to Mandy and Barry before turning to petulant Kevin and slugging him in the chest.

RUSTI
Way to go, Dickhead!

Grinning Gabby tops that with a LOUD SHIFT INTO SECOND.

EXT. FARM GROUNDS & BARN - DAY

As the truck slows before the barn, Barry and Kevin jump out to pull the barn doors open.

EXT. FARM ROAD - NEAR FARM - DAY - SAME TIME

The Lexus turns down a backroad to the deserted farm.

BACK TO THE BARN - SAME TIME

The truck enters the barn and then the three girls come out just as there's a CRACK OF THUNDER from the horizon.

Startled, they turn to see the storm about a mile off.

Ariel's CELL PHONE RINGS, giving them another start.

Everyone scans the horizon but Barry. He looks up.

BARRY

GPS.

Rusti goes to hit the 'call' button.

BARRY

Don't answer it. We need to see if the Army's doubling back first.

RUSTI

He'll wanna know why we stopped.

BARRY

If we're captured, he'll know soon enough.

GABBY

Go. Hulk and I will stand guard.

Petulant Kevin flips Gabby the finger.

Barry shoves Rusti and Mandy towards the road and they take off running.

Gabby turns and opens the barn doors.

GABBY

Hulk, come.

KEVIN

Fuck you, diesel dyke.

Gabby smiles to herself as she slips inside.

With a grumble, Kevin stomps in, leaving the doors ajar.

A moment later, the Lexus comes from behind the farm house, cuts the engine and rolls to a stop behind the barn.

EXT. FARM ROAD - DAY

Rusti reaches the shoulder of the road, barely breaking a sweat. Mandy and Barry catch up, panting and wheezing.

BARRY
Ease off, Elektra. We're here.

The three look down the empty road to the horizon.

They turn to go back when a small cloud of dust rises on the horizon and they dive into a drainage ditch.

INT. BARN - DAY

Random slivers of daylight peer through the cracks and holes, faintly illuminating the empty interior surrounding the truck.

The only sounds come from the wind blowing the doors open and closed and the COOING pigeons up in the hay loft.

Gabby and Kevin slowly move around the darkened barn, checking out the space, ending at the wooden loft ladder.

Gabby reaches out to climb it.

KEVIN
Hey, we're supposed to be guarding the truck.

One rung up, she turns to him, eye-to-eye.

GABBY
Such a hardass? *Pourquoi?*

A taunting smile and prod of her finger.

GABBY
We both got laid last night.

Kevin goes to hit her but Gabby yanks his shirt, pulling him nose-to-nose.

GABBY
You know what they say, "Once bitten, you never go back."
Or can you?

Kevin's face registers the new location of Gabby's hand.

GABBY
Pity. You really are a hulk.

EXT. MAIN ROAD SHOULDER - DAY

As the three hide in the ditch, the first drops of rain fall and Mandy throws up her hands to guard her hair.

MANDY
Oh great.

Distracted, Rusti looks back at the barn and sees no one.

RUSTI
Where are they?

BARRY
Probably inside with the truck.

With a tinge of envy...

MANDY
Battling to the death over you.

INT. BARN - DAY

Pounding against the ladder, Kevin humps away, as Gabby applies a hickey, humming, "Row Your Boat", in rhythm.

Other SOUNDS go unnoticed; FALLING RAIN, BARN DOORS RATTLING, CARGO DOORS CREAKING, then, eventually, small objects dropping with a THUD to the ground.

EXT. MAIN ROAD SHOULDER - DAY - RAINING

The three lay dead-quiet in the now muddy ditch as the humvee slows to a stop, some fifteen feet away.

The phone gets out a half-ring before Rusti shuts it off.

The humvee driver kills the engine and all is silent except for the GENTLE RAIN.

INT. BARN - DAY - RAINING

'Coming out of light speed' with a shudder and a grunt, Kevin gives a celebratory 'whoop'.

KEVIN
Yeah, the big man's still got it.

Gabby playfully slaps his butt as she heads for the barn door carrying her jeans and underwear.

GABBY
Let's tell everyone the good news.

KEVIN
What? No! Gabby!

Pivoting as he yanks his pants up, Kevin trips over something on his way to stop Gabby.

Half falling, he throws himself against the door as she reaches for it.

KEVIN
No need to tell them, babe. I mean, it's not that big a thing.

GABBY
"Hulk swings both ways?" Your entire school will want to know.

Freaked, Kevin sucks air and Gabby smirks...

GABBY
No better than a vibrator. Move! I need to pee.

Kevin jolts back as Gabby throws open the door and exits.

In the light that floods in, Kevin notices the object he tripped over.

It's a headless pigeon.

KEVIN
What the fuck!

Kevin turns to see other headless pigeons.

KEVIN
Double Fuck!

His eyes dart up to the pigeon free loft then back down to find the cargo doors ajar.

KEVIN
Triple Fuck!

He rushes back to the cab.

INT. TRUCK CAB (IN BARN) - DAY - RAINING

Kevin leaps in through the Driver's side and struggles to free the rifle from behind the seat.

Outside the cab, the barn door SLAMS SHUT, throwing the barn back into darkness.

EXT. MAIN ROAD SHOULDER - DAY - RAINING

Hearing 'hoots', whistles and catcalls, coming from the humvee, Rusti shifts in the ditch to see half-naked Gabby leave the barn and enter an outhouse.

RUSTI
(hushed aside)
We need to get back to the truck.

She goes to rise and both Mandy and Barry shove her back down in the mud.

INT. TRUCK CAB (IN BARN) - DAY - RAINING

Kevin hits the headlights and checks the side mirrors.

KEVIN
(calling out)
Gabby?

Seeing or hearing nothing, he slowly exits.

INT. BARN - DAY - RAINING

Brandishing the rifle, Kevin heads for the barn doors.

The truck lights bump off, halting Kevin with a 'yelp'.

He flattens himself against the trailer wall, just below the Red Cross emblem, swinging the rifle left and right.

He then moves sideways along the truck till he reaches the end and darts for the barn door.

A cargo door creaks open and Kevin pivots, ready to fire.

He stops at seeing the interior, now open to view.

Like the idiot he is, Kevin steps closer for a better look at this 'Pandora's box'.

KEVIN
(mutters)
No way.

Fearfully, he backs away and bumps into..., someone?

The yellowed nail of a man's index finger, glides over Kevin's bright red hickey and Kevin bolts around.

In a flash, the rifle's flung into the air as Kevin's yanked back into the trailer.

INT. FARM OUTHOUSE - DAY - RAINING

Jolted by Kevin's (O.S.) TORTURED SCREAM, Gabby drops out of her squat over the outhouse 'seat' and scrambles to pull her pants up before exiting.

EXT. MAIN ROAD SHOULDER - DAY - RAINING

The humvee's LOUD RADIO SQUAWK AND ENGINE-STARTUP mask the DISTANT SCREAM as the humvee U-turns and departs.

EXT. FARM GROUNDS & BARN - DAY - RAINING

As a mud soaked Rusti, Mandy and Barry rush towards the barn, they spot the Lexus SUV speeding off.

Gabby's pulling and pounding to open the barn doors.

GABBY

Kevin, open up, damn you!

RUSTI

What's wrong? What happened?

Barry spots an axe on the ground and picks it up to help Gabby pop the latch and open the doors.

INT. BARN - DAY

Light floods in revealing, on the sealed cargo doors...

..."STOP FUCKING AROUND AND DRIVE!!!", spelled out in Kevin's blood while his severed head rests on the stoop, stuffed with a dead pigeon and the rifle stands erect, planted in the asshole of his prone body.

The four freeze in the doorway and again Barry has to muffle Mandy's scream.

MANDY

What happened?!

BARRY

That cartel goon got his revenge.

Enraged, Rusti turns and shoves Gabby.

MANDY

And where were you?! What the hell happened?!

GABBY

I was...! Nothing --

Rusti shoves her again.

RUSTI
"Nothing"? I saw you come out!

Gabby gives a defensive shrug.

GABBY
Alright, I fucked him! Okay?! Now
we four have something in common.

Barry and Mandy look away, but Rusti throws a punch,
which Gabby ducks as she tackles Rusti to the ground.

As they roll and wrestle, grunt and howl, hit and kick,
the cell phone rings, effectively ending the fight.

Rusti throws a last punch before turning away to answer.

RUSTI
(into phone)
Yes?!

DAMON (V.O.)
Got my message?

RUSTI
You killed my boyfriend, asshole!

DAMON (V.O.)
Oh, should I have killed your
other bed buddy?

Rusti goes silent, her eyes darting over to Gabby pushing
Mandy and Barry away as she struggles to her feet.

DAMON (V.O.)
Tough one, huh? Relationships can
be such a bitch. I'm just glad
I've finally found *my* soulmate.

Rusti's too distracted exchanging looks with Gabby.

EXT. BARN - DAY - RAINING

Rusti stands outside the barn doors, guiding as Gabby
backs the truck out and turns it towards the road.

The rain is falling pretty hard now and Rusti watches as
it washes the blood from the cargo doors.

She then walks over to join Barry and Mandy at Kevin's
grave, under a nearby tree. She reaches for the rifle in
Barry's hands, but he grips it, staring her down.

Gabby walks up and the three turn to stare at her.

GABBY

We should get going before this
road turns to mud.

Before they can react, they're caught in the glare of a
SUVs high beams.

The approaching police SUV, (from the earlier scene), hits
its hazards as it rolls to a stop.

The two COPS slowly exit the car, eerily indiscernible
behind the glow of the hazards and headlights.

The fearful four whisper between them as they look to the
grave, then the truck.

MANDY

Oh my God, what do we do now?!

BARRY

Rot in a Mexican prison.

RUSTI

No!

HECTOR, the senior of the two cops, calls out in pretty
good English...

HECTOR

What emergency brings you out
here?

Confused, they turn to each other before realizing he's
referring to the red cross on the truck.

RUSTI

We're uhm,...

GABBY

...bringing blood to the town up
ahead and made a wrong turn.

HECTOR

You mean, El Topo?

RUSTI

Yeah, El Topo. And once we get
back on the main road...

The rain STOPS as the cops are heard drawing their
sidearms.

HECTOR

You'll still be hundreds of
kilometers in the wrong direction.

BARRY

Fuck.

Barry drops the rifle and throws up his hands.

BARRY
Stop, don't shoot! We're not
carrying blood.

RUSTI
What are you doing?!

BARRY
They're going to find out anyway.
Maybe they'll go easy on us?

MANDY
Barry, don't!

BARRY
(to Cops)
The truck's really full of --

Panicked, Rusti hits Barry over the head with her pistol,
knocking him unconscious.

MANDY
Rusti?!

TWO SHOTS are FIRED. One hitting a truck tire.

The girls dive for cover.

HECTOR
Alto, alto!! Drop the weapon!
Hands in the air!

The girls rise, huddled together, hands in the air.

With guns aimed, the cops rush from the shadows into the
glow of the headlights.

Hector stares warily while NESTO, his young deputy, ogles
the girls like top prizes in a Mexican game show.

HECTOR
(aside)
Nesto.

Nesto snaps out of his fantasy and darts forward, merely
stepping over Barry, to kick the pistol and rifle away.

He then gestures to the girls to turn around and put
their hands against the truck.

Mandy hyperventilates as Nesto pats her down, lingering
with a moan at her breasts before moving down to insert
his hands into her pants.

Enraged, Rusti turns and shoves Nesto, sending him back
on his ass.

RUSTI

Get your hands off her, asshole!

Gabby cringes and Hector sighs, shaking his head as he crosses to Rusti.

Rusti turns to him just as the back of his free hand meets her cheek, sending her sprawling to the ground.

MANDY

Rusti?!

Mandy starts toward Rusti, but Gabby holds her back.

Hector walks up and stands over Rusti.

HECTOR

Respect must be shown.

A defiant Rusti just stares up at him as she strokes the side of her face.

Hector smiles and aims his gun at another tire.

Gabby steps forward and drops to her knees, casting her eyes down in submission.

Rusti staggers to her feet.

RUSTI

Gabby, don't!

Hector grabs Rusti by the arm as he turns to Nesto, like an impatient parent and gestures to each of the choices.

Nesto walks up to Gabby and looks her over, but shakes his head.

Hector shoves Rusti forward and the deputy instinctively guards his groin as he shakes his head.

He then turns to Mandy, the quivering blond beauty, and almost spends his load just looking at her.

Hector nods and sighs with relief.

Nesto reaches out for Mandy when Rusti grabs his hand away and slaps it against her own breast.

RUSTI

Why settle for white, when you can
have red?

Rusti musters a coy smile and Nesto goes from apprehensive to eager.

Grimacing slightly from Nesto's groping, Rusti turns to Hector with a no-nonsense glare that says, "Well?".

GABBY
Cousin!

MANDY
No!

RUSTI
Shut up!

Hector nods to Rusti and tosses the girls a pair of handcuffs and gestures towards the unconscious Barry.

Gabby stoops down and handcuffs Barry.

Hector then gestures for the girls to enter the barn and they exchange one last look with Rusti before walking in.

Before he follows them, Hector speaks calmly and professionally to Rusti.

HECTOR
You will get in the backseat,
disrobe and lay down on your
stomach with hands at your side.

They both look at Nesto.

HECTOR
My deputy will then... conduct a
cavity search for any possible
contraband you may be concealing.

Hector turns and follows the other girls into the barn as he takes out another pair of handcuffs.

Rusti returns her attention to leering Nesto and brushes his hands away from her chest.

RUSTI
You've sampled enough.

She turns away, sucks in a breath and heads for the back of the patrol car.

INT. BARN - DAY

Hector loops the handcuffs behind the door latch and cuffs each of their wrists, so they face each other.

Turning, a headless pigeon catches Hector's attention, producing a vague reaction, till he spots the others. Nervously, he scans the loft as he backs out.

EXT. PARKED PATROL CAR - DAY

At the rear passenger door, Rusti looks in through the window at the ripped and heavily blood-stained backseat. Her fear overtakes her defiance and convulsions cause her hand to shake as she opens the door.

Right behind her, impatient Nesto is already undoing his belt buckle as he pushes her down onto the seat.

HECTOR (O.S.)

Nesto!

Nesto turns in the direction of his partner, then back to Rusti, as he closes the door behind her.

NESTO

Disrobe.

EXT. REAR OF PARKED TRUCK - DAY

Nesto walks up to the panel doors where a rattled Hector waits, holding the truck keys and Ariel's phone.

Hector tosses the pink phone to his deputy as he turns his attention to the ring of keys in his hand.

HECTOR

(in Spanish;
subtitled)

Nesto, no witnesses. When you're done with her, everything into the barn and torch it.

INT. BARN - DAY

The girls struggle to see or hear anything through the crack in the doorway.

Giving up, they turn back to each other and find it uncomfortable to make eye contact.

MANDY

You think she'll be okay?

GABBY

If she doesn't piss them off.

MANDY

Oh shit.

INT. BACKSEAT OF PATROL CAR - DAY

Still convulsing, Rusti lies face down on the seat, naked from the waist up, slowly pulling her shorts and underwear down as she tries to allay her fears.

RUSTI
(mumbles)
...pop him like some puny --

Outside, Ariel's cell phone RINGS and Rusti's head shoots up past the front seat in a huff.

RUSTI
Don't touch that! Don't answer it!

EXT. REAR OF PARKED TRUCK - DAY - RAINING

Nesto, reacting to her anger, smiles playfully as he answers the phone.

NESTO
Hola?

Rusti bursts out of the car, clutching her top to herself as she charges at Nestor.

RUSTI
Drop that phone, you shithead!

Startled, Nestor fumbles the phone as he stumbles back.

Rusti lunges for the phone and Hector turns and slugs her with the ring of keys, knocking her unconscious.

HECTOR
Jesus, what is it with you
Americans and your cell phones?

Nursing his hand, he picks up the phone to listen, but the call clicks off.

The rain resumes and an exasperated Hector turns to Nesto as he gestures to Rusti's body.

HECTOR
(in Spanish;
subtitled)
Go! Do it!

Wincing, Hector turns to his task of opening the cargo doors as Nesto drags Rusti back to the car.

INT. BARN - DAY - RAINING

Mandy listens at the crack in the door, trying to hear anything over the POURING RAIN. Gabby pulls at the wooden slat they're handcuffed to, trying to free them.

GABBY
I knew it the day I arrived.

MANDY
Rusti and I have been BFs since third grade and she has never ever said or did...anything.

GABBY
So?

MANDY
Why not?

Gabby merely groans and returns to prying the slat free.

INT. BACKSEAT OF PATROL CAR - DAY - RAINING

Gazing at Rusti's naked backside on the seat, Nestor 'jumps the gun' in the midst of dropping his pants and curses under his breath.

He quickly sets about cranking himself up as his free hand slowly glides up the back of her long slim leg.

EXT. REAR OF PARKED TRUCK - DAY - RAINING

Hector tries the umpteenth key but still no luck.

Behind him, the Lexus returns, coming right at him.

INT. BARN - DAY - RAINING

The girls are now wet and shivering from the rain. Given up on freeing them, Gabby's eyeing the loft as Mandy looks on, petulant.

MANDY
Have you done *all* your cousins or is Rusti special?

Grunting, Gabby spins to slug Mandy, but the cuff stops her and she turns in a huff.

MANDY
Well?

GABBY
If I say 'yes' will you shut up?

MANDY

Fine.

Gabby turns to her with guard down.

GABBY

Elle est très spéciale.

Mandy nods in agreement and they both divert their eyes in Rusti's direction.

MANDY

You cold?

Gabby steps in and they embrace to keep warm.

INT. PARKED PATROL CAR - DAY - RAINING

Nesto's finally revved up and ready to *put it into drive* when someone walks up behind him.

Nesto's hands reach for but barely graze Rusti's bottom before they're yanked back.

A MUFFLED SCREAM fades to GURGLING, as blood sprays the back of Rusti's thighs.

INT. BARN - DAY - RAINING

Gabby and Mandy are still huddled together for warmth.

Sensing something, Gabby's eyes dart up to the loft to find nothing.

From outside, there's a PEAL of METAL-HITTING-METAL followed by other BANGING and SCRAPING SOUNDS.

MANDY

You hear that?

GABBY

What is it?

EXT. REAR OF TRUCK - DAY - RAINING

The last sound heard, the panel doors CLANGING SHUT. A trail of blood flows down from the doorway and disappears with the last of the rain.

INT. BACKSEAT OF PATROL CAR - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ariel's RINGTONE rouses Rusti and her hand reaches back to rub at her glistening clean thigh, stamped with a lipsticked kiss.

Her eyes open to the pink cell phone lying beside her face, along with the truck keys and handcuff keys.

Groggy, she merely lifts the phone to the black and blue side of her face and winces from the contact.

Over the phone, comes a listless voice...

ARIEL (V.O.)
Rusti?

Throwing an arm across her chest, Rusti rises.

RUSTI
I'm here, Ariel. Are you okay,
baby? How do you feel?

ARIEL (V.O.)
Real tired.

Scanning the area and seeing no one, Rusti grabs her clothes to get dressed.

RUSTI
Ariel, listen to me. We were
stopped by some cops --

ARIEL (V.O.)
He knows. The bad man said, "it's
safe now so get dressed and drive
the truck."

Spooked, Rusti stops in the middle of pulling her top on.

RUSTI
He said, "get dressed"?

EXT. PARKED PATROL CAR - DAY

The sun emerges as Rusti springs from the patrol car, yanking up her shorts.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Rusti charges around the side of the barn and halts at seeing empty terrain, for miles.

Confused, Rusti brings the phone back to her ear.

RUSTI
(hushed)
Ariel, do you know where you are?

Ariel's voice turns fearful.

ARIEL (V.O.)
No. I can't see a thing, Rusti.
They put me in a cage with no
light.

RUSTI
Sweetie, don't be scared. This'll
all be over soon. I promise.

Rusti ends the call and heads back to the patrol car,
scanning the farm grounds as she goes.

INT. PARKED PATROL CAR - DAY

Rusti reaches into the backseat for both sets of keys.

EXT. REAR OF PARKED TRUCK - DAY

Walking up, she finds Barry on the ground, regaining
consciousness as he gawks at...

...the beheaded cops, lying there with their pants down
and their heads buried in their butt cracks.

BARRY
What happened?

The shakes return as Rusti stares at the bodies.

The phones "Under the Sea" RINGTONE plays a bit before
she answers.

DAMON (V.O.)
Ever see that cartoon, Beavis and
Butthead?

Rusti again pans the area as she talks on the phone.

RUSTI
Who are you?!

DAMON
Oops. My bad. Hi, I'm Damon. I'm
tall, lean, currently single and a
Scorpio,... who fucking hates
having his things messed with.

Rusti hangs up and frees Barry as she nods to the bodies.

RUSTI
Do something with them. We can't
have the police coming after us.

Rusti turns and heads into the barn for Gabby and Mandy.

INT. BARN - DAY

Rusti throws the door open and halts at seeing Gabby and Mandy, hugging.

RUSTI
What the...?!

Mandy jumps back with a mixed look of relief and embarrassment.

Rusti grabs Mandy's wrist and twists to uncuff her.

MANDY
Rusti, thank God, you're okay.
Gabby was just keeping me...owe!

Mandy tries to catch Rusti's gaze but Rusti looks away.

MANDY
Did they...?

Shaking her head, Rusti points to the truck outside.

RUSTI
Go, tend to your frat Boy Wonder.

In a huff, Mandy turns and leaves.

GABBY
Your anger is about me, not her.

RUSTI
Shut up.

Rusti grabs Gabby's wrist to uncuff her, but Gabby yanks Rusti to her.

RUSTI
Have to hurry and change the tire.

Gabby turns Rusti's face to see her black and blue side.

Rusti's vacant tone reveals the fragility underneath.

RUSTI
I think they're doping Ariel.

Gabby pulls her into an embrace and Rusti breaks down.

EXT. REAR OF PARKED TRUCK - DAY - LATER

Gabby and Rusti are eyeing the replaced tire.

GABBY
How did they change it so fast?

Gabby turns to scan the farm grounds.

GABBY
Who are these people?

Crossing, Barry totes the cop's heads, by their hair, to the cruiser, revealing two faces, frozen in fear.

BARRY
Free market entrepreneurs.

Mandy walks out of the barn carrying an empty gas can and deposits it in the cruiser's trunk. The four then push the cruiser into the barn and close the door.

Mandy looks at the spot where the bodies were found.

MANDY
Where's the blood?

All four look to the spot and Rusti shrugs.

RUSTI
Washed away with the rain?

MANDY
Should we say a few words, like we did for Kevin?

In answer, Gabby strikes a match and flings it.

GABBY
Amen.

EXT. TRUCK ON FARM ROAD - MOVING - DAY

In the distance, black smoke rises from the burning barn as the truck banks hard onto the main road and roars off.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY - LATER

In the quiet cab, Rusti's by the door, anxiously eyeing another wave of the storm, through the side mirror.

Behind her, in the sleeper space, Barry stares off as Mandy tends to his head wound.

At the wheel, Gabby looks over at Rusti, just as Rusti turns to her, indicating the storm.

GABBY
I know. Driving as fast as I can.

Rusti then notices annoyed 'Mama' Mandy, eyeing her.

Mandy picks up the truck manual and tosses it at her.

MANDY
Here. Be useful.

They exchange a mutual annihilation glare and turn away.

Too anxious to focus, Rusti merely thumbs through the manual, finding random doodles in dark red on various pages. Figures resembling Munch's 'The Scream' cower below crosses, dripping with blood.

Unnerved, Rusti tosses it in the glove box.

RUSTI
Reminds me of school.

EXT. TRUCK ON ROAD - MOVING - DAY - LATER

The truck slows down and turns onto the old mining road, past a road sign,

' El camino de la mina del diablo '

*' Curvas peligrosas
10 kilómetros '*

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Seeing the passing sign, they look to Gabby.

GABBY
"The Devil's Mine road. Dangerous turns, ten kilometers". I think?

Barry gives a bitter laugh.

BARRY
The devil's road is dangerous.

EXT. MOVING TRUCK ON ONE-LANE MOUNTAIN PASS ROAD - DAY

Scenic but dangerous, the old mining road skirts between a crumbling mountain and deep ravine.

Swerving through the hairpin turns, the truck's right tires occasionally skim the cliff edge.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Gabby strains at the wheel as the others gawk out the window at the steep drop beside them.

On top of that, the storm has caught up with them as the first drops of rain hit the windshield.

GABBY

Merde!

Gabby stiffens in the seat as she jams on the brake, getting the other's attention.

Remembering the other brake, Gabby slams her hand down on the trailer brake button.

EXT. TRUCK ON ONE-LANE MOUNTAIN PASS ROAD - DAY - RAINING

The trailer almost jackknives off the cliff as the nose of the cab stops inches from a road closure barricade, thirty feet before the tunnel.

And to punctuate the moment, it starts to pour.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY - RAINING

Shielding her eyes as she leans out the window, Gabby reads the makeshift sign on the road block.

GABBY

It says, there was a cave in and
they won't start blasting till
...tomorrow.

MANDY

Oh, no!

Seeing a stunned Rusti, Gabby looks out her side window.

GABBY

I can turn the truck around and
find another road --

RUSTI

No, we have to get through!

BARRY

I say we pull out twenty-thirty
pounds of coke, send the truck
over the side and tell them it was
an accident.

The others turn to him.

BARRY

What? We then hitch a ride into
some nearby town, sell the stuff
and pay off our student loans.

GABBY

Crash the truck?

BARRY

It almost just happened, Gabby!

Mandy turns to him, fearfully.

MANDY

I don't know, selling drugs?

RUSTI

What about Ariel?!

Barry sighs and looks away.

RUSTI

This truck is my only chance of getting her back!

BARRY

Come on, Rusti. They killed everyone else. You think these people keep promises?

Silence as the others take this in.

Rusti turns to Mandy.

Mandy diverts her eyes to the rain outside.

MANDY

I think, as soon as the rain stops, we turn around and --

EXT. ONE-LANE MOUNTAIN PASS ROAD - DAY - RAINING

Holding a flashlight, Rusti jumps out in the pouring rain and runs past the road block into the tunnel.

MANDY (O.S.)

Shit, Rusti, you do this every time! It's either your way...!

A moment later, Gabby climbs out and follows.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY - RAINING

Mandy starts to follow, but Barry pulls her back.

BARRY

Help me find something to put the drugs in.

MANDY

Barry...

He reaches for the key chain, shutting off the engine.

The faint SOUND of a DOOR HINGE over the rain outside causes Mandy to jolt back.

MANDY
You hear something?

Barry shrugs as he rummages through the sleeper space.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY - RAINING

Rusti's flashlight, the only light source, leads the way as she looks for the cave-in.

Some sixty feet in, Rusti finds it. A rock slide blocks one lane and huge boulders are scattered about the other.

RUSTI
(to self, mocking)
"As 'Stubborn Girl' summons her
strength to move half-ton boulders
she can't help but sense that all
of this... IS SO FUCKING UNFAIR!!"

A SCUFFLING's heard against the tunnel wall.

Rusti sweeps her light but nothing's there.

RUSTI
Gabby?

SCUFFLING along the opposite wall. Then the ceiling.

As she pans the area, a tall silhouetted man, (DAMON), quietly comes up behind her.

GABBY (O.S.)
(from the entrance)
Rusti?

When Rusti turns back, she's alone.

She starts to return when something swoops past.

It grazes her chest and she screams.

She whips the light around searching the air as Gabby rushes up.

GABBY
What?! What happened?!

RUSTI
(indicating)
Something scratched me!

Gabby unbuttons Rusti's top and checks the area.

GABBY
There's a mark.

Rusti recoils in disgust.

More SCUFFLING from above.

Gabby takes the flashlight and aims it at the ceiling.

Hanging from the ceiling, SQUEALING bats squirm and cower from the light.

GABBY
Bats.

Both girls grimace.

Rusti looks away and spots something outside the tunnel.

In the lingering glow of a lightning flash, a figure ducks behind the rear of the truck.

Rusti spins around to Gabby.

RUSTI
The cargo doors!

EXT. ONE-LANE MOUNTAIN PASS ROAD - DAY - RAINING

The two race in the rain to the back of the truck, and halt at finding Barry and Mandy.

RUSTI
What is it?! What's wrong?!

Rusti spots the keys, rifle and book bag in his hands.

RUSTI
What the fuck?

She lunges for the rifle and they wrestle with it.

BARRY
Damn-it Rusti, if we stay with
this truck, we'll all be dead!

With a head-butt, she nabs the rifle and turns it on him.

MANDY
Rusti, don't!

Rusti jams the rifle muzzle between his eyes.

RUSTI
Touch these doors and I will --

Gabby grabs the rifle away and flings it into the ravine.

GABBY

Now help me turn the truck around.

The three gape at her as she looks up and the rain stops, bathing her in sunlight as she heads for the cab.

As if on cue, the phone RINGS and Rusti throws a look at Barry as she answers.

DAMON (V.O.)

Poor little Ariel's praying that you're coming to save her.

That catches Rusti and she calms, somewhat.

RUSTI

I am. I swear it. But the tunnel's caved-in. We'll never make El Paso before dark.

DAMON (V.O.)

Don't sweat it, Red. I've got a plan B. You'll love this place.

RUSTI

What?!

DAMON (V.O.)

Tic-Tok rated it a ten. And you'll easily make it there before dark.

RUSTI

But my sister --?!

DAMON (V.O.)

Will be waiting, jeez. I promise.

Rusti turns to see a skeptical Barry, watching her and she diverts her eyes as she heads for the cab.

EXT. TRUCK MOVING ON THE ROAD - DAY

The truck reaches the bottom of the mining road, turns right on the rural road and drives off.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY - LATER

Glum, tired Rusti sits between Gabby and Mandy, staring at the teddy bear on the dashboard.

As she focuses on the stitched repair work around the bear's neck, she nods off.

FLASHBACK - EXT. BACKYARD OF RUSTI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

FOURTEEN YEAR OLD Rusti storms out the screen door, carrying the teddy bear and heads to the garden shed.

A moment later, a sobbing FIVE YEAR OLD Ariel comes out and stops, pleading hysterically.

ARIEL

Rusti, no! Don't hurt him!

Rusti drops the bear and picks up a shovel to dig a hole.

RUSTI

What did I say about messing with my stuff?!

ARIEL

I won't do it again! Please?!

Little Ariel rushes to Rusti to stop her, but Rusti pushes her down and resumes digging.

ARIEL

He didn't do anything!

Ariel scrambles to her feet at seeing Rusti drop the bear into the hole and cover it over.

ARIEL

Stop it! You'll kill him!!

Ariel lunges forward to rescue her bear as Rusti comes down with the shovel, accidentally severing the bear's head at the neck.

Rusti freezes in place as a screaming Ariel drops down to scoop up the body and head.

Holding the severed parts, Ariel's eyes dart up at Rusti.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Rusti bolts with a gasp and the others turn in concern.

Her guilt carrying over, Rusti manages an...

RUSTI

I'm sorry... 'bout...

Rusti notices Gabby trying to shake off fatigue.

RUSTI

Cuz, show me how to drive.

Mandy throws Rusti a look, then back to the window.

GABBY
What? Why? I'm fine.

MANDY
(without looking)
Don't waste your time, just do it.

Gabby looks at the deserted road, then at Rusti, then the floorboard.

GABBY
Look at the floorboard. There's three pedals. From left, brake, accelerator and clutch.

Rusti looks down between Gabby's legs.

GABBY
Now look at the shifter. The thing between your legs. There's a button on the side, called a splitter. It takes you from the first six gears to the second six.

Rusti examines the gear shift.

GABBY
Your uncle used to say, that shifting's like ballroom dancing.

Barry smirks and the girls turn in reaction.

Outnumbered, Barry looks away to the passing scenery.

Rusti turns back to Gabby and nods.

GABBY
It's all about feel and rhythm.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Now Rusti is behind the wheel with Gabby right beside her, straddling the stick as her hand guides Rusti's through the shifting process.

GABBY
Check your tachometer.

Rusti nods as she looks.

RUSTI
It's at thirteen hundred.

GABBY
(with rhythm)
Okay, foot off the pedal and...

Gabby's hand steers Rusti's on the shifter, over and down into sixth gear.

GABBY
...back on the petrol.

Rusti's foot presses down on the gas pedal, completing a fluid shift.

Caught up in their accomplishment, Rusti and Gabby exchange a grin and a squeeze of the hand.

GABBY
Way to go. You're halfway there.

Rusti's grin falters.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - DAY

Gears GRIND as the big diesel truck picks up speed.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Mandy and Barry 'mouth' along as they stare at the view.

GABBY
(rhythmic)
*Pedal..., onze, petrol. Pedal...,
douze, petrol...*

Rusti successfully reaches 12th gear and the cab breaks out in mock jubilation.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - DAY

Roaring down the road, the truck HORN BLARES.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Rusti and Gabby are laughing as Rusti's hand comes to rest on Gabby's.

Their light-hearted mood dies away as their fingers intertwine.

Finally, Rusti pulls her hand free to scratch an itch on her chest.

Gabby turns to find herself scrutinized by wary Mandy.

Feeling something, Rusti looks down and notices a spot of blood, spreading on her blouse.

BARRY (O.S.)
I have a plan.

She masks the spot with her hand as she turns to Barry.

RUSTI
We don't need a plan.

Turning to the window, Mandy smirks and shakes her head.

BARRY
There's a reason Scumbag wants us
to drive to some little out-of-the-
way town, Rusti.

Gabby nods slowly at Barry's inference.

GABBY
Either he's got a buyer waiting or
he's found some other poor slob to
drive the rest of the way.

BARRY
That's my guess.

RUSTI
Fine, either way I get Ariel back.

MANDY
No. Either way we get our heads
cut off.

They all pause to mull the point.

GABBY
Why don't we take the drugs and
when they come for the truck --?

RUSTI
No, that's what the cops tried to
do, remember? We're being watched.

MANDY
(looking up)
It's like they've got their own
fucking spy satellite.

BARRY
Rusti, I'm pretty sure there's a
buyer waiting. I could slip away
from the truck and get to him
first, before Scumbag does.

GABBY
And do what?

BARRY
(ala Brando)
Make him an offer he can't refuse.
A loaded truck for a small girl.

RUSTI
What makes you think the buyer's
going to do anything for us?

BARRY
Simple capitalism. I just convince
the buyer Scumbag's his
competition and Scumbag's
eliminated.

Rusti shakes her head, gripping the spot on her blouse.

BARRY
Why not? It'll work.

GABBY
We do need something, Cousin.

BARRY
I can do this! I practically have
my MBA! This is first year stuff!

RUSTI
Forget it! I already have a plan.

Rusti turns back to the road ahead.

RUSTI
When we reach the town, you three
are getting out and I'm making the
exchange alone.

GABBY BARRY
“Alone”?! That’s dangerous! What?! Are you crazy?!

Without turning from the window...

MANDY
So Scumbag's your new BF now?

RUSTI
Ariel's still alive!

Pissed, Mandy turns to Rusti, brushing away her tears and spots Rusti's blood stained chest.

MANDY
God, you're such a fucking chore!
Gabby, take the wheel!
(to Rusti)
Move!

Gabby slips behind the wheel as Mandy reaches into the sleeper space to retrieve some first-aid items.

When she lifts Rusti's top, Rusti brushes her hand away.

RUSTI
I'll do it.

MANDY
Whoa, what a surprise.

Mandy flings the items into Rusti's lap.

Rusti lifts her top to reveal blood oozing out of a nasty, swollen scab.

Despite her mood, Mandy cringes at seeing it.

MANDY
What the hell, Rusti?! Something
clawed you!

Gabby throws a quick look at the wound.

GABBY
Rusti, that needs a clinic.

RUSTI
No! No more stopping! I'm fine!

Rusti prepares to apply a small 'pinky' band-aid but Mandy pulls the tiny strip away and holds it up.

MANDY
You're kidding, right?
(muttering)
Bleeding bonehead...!

Mandy pulls a bottle of tequila from the sleeper space and grins wickedly as she holds it up.

MANDY
This is gonna hurt like hell.

Mandy's grin vanishes as Rusti gives a nod of trust, takes a deep breath and sits back.

Mandy pours the alcohol along the wound and immediately it SIZZLES, SPUTTERS and spews out cream-yellow pus.

Rusti's chest heaves and bucks violently as she releases a bloodcurdling scream.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - DAY

The truck swerves erratically across lanes, coming to a stop on the shoulder.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

In the stunned silence, pus-splattered Gabby, Mandy and Barry look from the unconscious Rusti to each other and finally to the bottle of tequila.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE SHOULDER OF ROAD - DAY

As the truck pulls away, the half-full tequila bottle flies out the window.

RUSTI'S DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. BEACH AT VACATION RENTAL - NIGHT

It's last night. Down on the beach. Back in the bag.

Gabby's straddling Rusti, leaning in to kiss when Rusti's eyes pop open, literally glowing red with intensity.

Rolling her over in the bag, Rusti's mouth dives onto Gabby's neck, sucking Gabby's breath away.

A distant sound; a CHILD'S WHIMPER pricks Rusti's ears and her head bolts up, revealing a drop of blood trickling down the side of Rusti's mouth.

RUSTI

Ariel?

Gabby's hands reach up to pull her back down.

GABBY (O.C.)

No, don't stop. You're having fun.

Another DISTANT WHIMPER and Rusti springs to her feet as the glow of her eyes, turns to yellow.

On their knees, naked Barry, Mandy and headless Kevin 'make the 'beast with *three* backs'.

MANDY

Jeez. Loosen up, BF.

BARRY

Yeah, it's spring break.

Coming from up the cliff, a CHILD SCREAMS and Rusti takes three strides and leaps into the air.

STILL DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. VACATION RENTAL DECK - NIGHT

Rusti crash lands on the deck, rolling to a stop outside Ariel's window. When her eyes open, the glow's gone.

Pulling herself up to the window, Rusti sees the back of a tall man, (Damon), pinning Ariel down on her bed with one hand while the other holds a blood-filled syringe.

ARIEL

Rusti!!

RUSTI

Ariel!!

Rusti tries to bust through the window, but it's too late as the tall man sinks the syringe into Ariel.

RUSTI

Noooo!!

Pounding on the window, Rusti stops at seeing Damon step aside to reveal Rusti's doppelganger, not Ariel, rising from the bed.

For a brief second, they stare at each other, prey and predator.

The Doppelganger's eyes glow red as she crashes through the window at Rusti, knocking her to the deck.

Unable to fight off her mauling double, Rusti looks away for help and comes eye-to-eye with Kevin's severed head.

KEVIN

Relax, Red. Nothing matters,
remember?

END DREAM
SEQUENCE

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - NEAR DARK

Awakening with a gasp, Rusti's eyes dart about and settle on the view outside.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - NEAR DARK

Blood red horizon.

The cautionary-yellow glow of the truck's rear flasher illuminates the cargo doors as the truck downshifts to turn off past the road sign...

BIENVENIDOS A LA PIMIENTA

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - TWILIGHT

Rusti turns to notice the others eyeing her, warily.

RUSTI
What? What's wrong?

MANDY
You...okay?

Rusti straightens up and glances down at her gauze-bandaged wound, carefully touching it.

RUSTI
Wow, the itch is gone? Thanks.

Mandy gives a guarded nod of welcome.

AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE turns everyone to the road ahead.

EXT. LA PIMIENTA MAIN STREET - TWILIGHT

The shots are merely the intro to a rap tune blasting on the speakers of a convertible, parked at the curb.

The truck screeches to a halt on a wide street, clogged with college students on spring break.

At the corner, a MEXICAN DEALER openly sells drugs to a group of students as another MEXICAN in a baggy POLICE UNIFORM stands guard with a semi-automatic assault rifle.

INT. TRUCK CAB - TWILIGHT

Rusti's eyes scan the crowd with growing anxiety.

RUSTI
What's this? Why are they here?

GABBY
Maybe the hurricane drove them inland?

BARRY (O.C.)
Or hassle-free drugs?

Rusti turns to see Barry eyeing the dealer at the corner whose holding a huge roll of Yankee hundreds.

INT. EL RASTRO TRANQUILO MOTEL - FRONT DESK - NIGHT

As they pile in through the door...

RUSTI
They'll kill us and everyone else around here, Barry!

BARRY
Not if I handle it right!

The young, pregnant DESK CLERK turns from gawking out the window at the chaotic pool area.

DESK CLERK
No vacancy.

MANDY
We just need one room.

DESK CLERK
No vacancy.

RUSTI
But we have to be here.

MANDY
It won't be for long.

This invokes raised eyebrows from the clerk.

Backing away from the counter, the clerk knocks things over, drawing Rusti's attention to the woman's condition.

RUSTI
(to clerk)
Careful.

BARRY
He's butchered everyone else,
Rusti! What makes you think we'll
be spared?!

Rusti looks away with a reluctant sigh and half mumbles.

RUSTI
Because he thinks I'm a 'red hot'.

GABBY
A what?

MANDY
'Red hot'?

The clerk's eyes dart to Rusti.

MANDY
You think we're safe because a
mass-murdering Scumbag thinks
you're sexy?

GABBY
Oh God, Cousin, that's sick.

BARRY
You actually think that means
something?

DESK CLERK (O.C.)
"Rusti, the red hot"?

Spooked, they turn to the clerk.

The clerk crosses herself and turns away.

They watch as she reaches for a room key, turns and slowly places it on the counter.

DESK CLERK
Around back, by the vending machines.

Two small girls, ages five and seven, rush in from a back room, squealing, as the older one chases the younger.

The two dart around the clerk and the clerk cautiously pulls them in close to her with a tight grip as she stares at Rusti.

The youngest pulls a small teddy bear from behind her and, mimicking her mother, grips the bear tightly.

Rusti stares at the two daughters and their anxious mother and musters a smile.

RUSTI
(to little girls)
Going home now?

The daughters nod and Rusti mutters to herself as she reaches for the key...

RUSTI
Good.

MANDY (O.C.)
Barry?!

Rusti turns to see that Barry's gone.

MANDY
The idiot!

They rush out the door and the hapless clerk locks the door behind them, offering a hollow prayer.

DESK CLERK
Vaya con Dios.

EXT. EL RASTRO TRANQUILO MOTEL - NIGHT

The girls rush out to the front of the motel and stop.

Barry disappears into the spring break crowd.

RUSTI&MANDY

Barry?!

The girls rush off into the crowd.

EXT. LA PIMIENTA MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Down at the corner, Barry stops in front of the drug dealer and guard and flashes his killer smile.

BARRY

Buenas noches. I'm here to see
your head of acquisitions?

The dealer and the guard just stare at him.

BARRY

I don't have a set appointment,
but trust me, he's going to want
to hear what I have to offer.

The dealer and guard turn to each other and shrug.

EXT. LA PIMIENTA MAIN STREET - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

The girls zigzag through the crowd and reach the corner,
but Barry, the dealer and the guard, are gone.

Ariel's phone rings and the three turn to each other.

MANDY

(indicating phone)
He doesn't know anything. So,
don't let on.

Gabby nods in agreement, adding...

GABBY

Just be your usual cranky self.

Rusti throws her a look as she answers the phone.

RUSTI

(into phone)
Yeah, I'm here.

Over a line, crackling with static...

MOM (V.O.)

Rusti? Is that you?

Rusti all but jumps back.

RUSTI

Mom?!

Gabby and Mandy cringe.

MOM
Are you having a party?

RUSTI
No, no, we went in to town. How's
fishing? You and Dad catch much?

Sounding rushed...

MOM (V.O.)
No time for chit-chat, sweetie.
Another storm is coming, so the
Captain's heading back to port.

Rusti's jaw drops.

RUSTI
What?

MOM (V.O.)
We'll be back sometime tomorrow
morning.

Panicked, Rusti throws her hand over the phone.

RUSTI
They'll be back in the morning!

MANDY
Don't worry, I'll stop Barry! Go
make the exchange!

Mandy charges off into the crowd.

MOM (V.O.)
You're answering Ariel's phone? Is
she okay?

Rusti hesitates a moment.

RUSTI
Yeah. It's been a long day, Mom.
She's, uh, she's here snoozing.

MOM (V.O.)
Oh, well, give her a kiss from us.

Gabby turns her attention back in the direction of the
motel and the truck and gawks at what she sees.

MOM (V.O.)
I tried calling your cell, but
there was no answer. What
happened, you lose it again?

A rumbling shakes the ground beneath them and Rusti whips around to see what Gabby's gawking at...

EXT. LA PIMIENTA MAIN STREET (OTHER END) - NIGHT

Down by the motel, the Mexican Army convoy, from earlier, rolls in, dispersing the crowd.

EXT. RUSTI AND GABBY AT CORNER - NIGHT

RUSTI
Mom, gotta go!

Rusti gives a muffled scream as she slams the phone shut.

RUSTI
I am so totally screwed.

Rusti and Gabby take off, back through the crowd.

EXT. LA PIMIENTA SIDE STREET - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER

Mandy comes rushing around the corner of a side street and stops at seeing Barry, the dealer and the guard, about to enter a bank.

Too short of breath to holler, she runs towards them.

As she passes a narrow alley, someone grabs her from behind and yanks her back into the darkness.

INT. BANCO DE SEGURIDAD - NIGHT

Barry, the dealer and the guard look back in reaction to a girl's scream. Seeing nothing, they turn and enter.

BARRY
(to dealer)
Your boss works in a bank?

The dealer chortles as he locks the doors behind them and signals the guard to frisk Barry.

When the guard finishes, the dealer leads Barry to the back offices.

They pass an armed and dangerous group of men, in shirts and ties, lounging in front of an open bank vault.

Inside the vault, it's wall-to-wall cash, knee deep.

The dealer tosses them a two gallon-sized zip-lock bag full of cash and they toss him another bag loaded with 'product'.

BARRY
Business must be good?

DEALER
(nodding)
We're adding a drive-through.

The dealer's about to knock on a door, when it opens and a guard ushers out two sobbing FEMALE STUDENTS, adjusting their clothes as they go.

At seeing Barry, the two girls lunge forward in desperation.

STUDENT 1
Help us?!

STUDENT 2
We need five thousand dollars!

STUDENT 1
Please?!

They scream and wail as the guard yanks them away and gruffly shoves them out a back door.

The dealer turns to Barry with a shrug.

DEALER
Damn credit crunch. Everyone's hurting.

Outside, the SOUND of TWO POPS, ends the WAILING.

Barry turns to the door in reaction and jolts back when the dealer taps him on the shoulder.

DEALER
Cesar will see you now.

Barry struggles to turn on his killer smile as he enters the room.

EXT. FRONT OF MOTEL - NIGHT

Rusti and Gabby dart past the humvee rolling down the street and rush up the motel driveway.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

They zigzag through the crowd of partying students at the pool.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - NIGHT

The girls dart around vehicles and more students as they rush towards the truck, out beyond the parking lot.

Rusti clears the last row of cars and sprints for the cab, when she bangs into the hood of an oncoming humvee.

Bouncing back, she looks through the windshield and stares right into the eyes of the Commander.

Squinting at her with uncertainty, the Commander turns his gaze to the red cross on the truck's side panel and turns back, nodding.

His eyes never leave her as he exits the passenger side of the humvee.

Gabby rushes up and stops as the driver pops out, pointing his sidearm at her.

The Commander gives Rusti his official smile as he eyes her attire.

COMMANDER
Buenas noches,...Sister.

INT. BANCO DE SEGURIDAD - CESAR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Barry's sandwiched in between two guards, watching...

CESAR, who's Barry's age and maturity, sitting behind his desk, chuckling and hooting at his iMac screen as he jabs his joystick, playing 'Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas'.

CESAR
You got GTA: San Andreas?

BARRY
What, yeah. It's killer.

Cesar and the guards laugh and nod in acknowledgment.

CESAR
So, you say the truck load's worth millions?

Barry nods.

BARRY
Less, my 'finders fee' of ten --

CESAR
Two.

BARRY
Two percent.

They nod to each other before Cesar turns his attention to his guards.

CESAR
Someone's moving product through
my town? Why don't I know this?

The guards shake theirs heads and Barry shrugs.

BARRY
He must be meeting someone else
and they're gonna force you out.

Enraged, Cesar jumps up from his desk.

CESAR
"Someone else"?! Who?!!

The dealer rushes in.

DEALER
¡Cesar, soldados!

EXT. LA CALIENTE MAIN STREET (SOUTH SIDE) - NIGHT

Two humvees take up a blockade position at the end of the street and the students disperse.

EXT. LA CALIENTE MAIN STREET (NORTH SIDE) - NIGHT

A similar action takes place at the north end of town.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - NIGHT

Rusti and Gabby watch the Commander directing his three squads of soldiers and three humvees to take up positions surrounding the truck.

The girls are jolted by the RINGING pink cell phone in Rusti's hand.

Gabby darts in front of Rusti to shield her from everyone as Rusti answers the phone.

RUSTI
(hushed, into phone)
It's not my fault!

DAMON (V.O.)
Relax, Red. They're here by
invitation.

RUSTI
(hushed)
"Invitation"?!

DAMON (V.O.)
Now here's what I want you to do.

EXT. BANCO DE SEGURIDAD - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER

Barry's ushered along as Cesar and his men storm out with a small arsenal and jump into waiting SUVs.

EXT. ALLEYWAY, FURTHER UP STREET - NIGHT

With her hands bound and duct tape over her mouth, hapless Mandy watches as the SUVs drive off.

From the shadows behind her...

FAUSTINO (O.C.)
(low & cryptic)
Too late.

Mandy's eyes close and her head droops forward in defeat, just before she's yanked back into the darkness.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - NIGHT

Rusti scans the perimeter.

The Commander tries to read the busted display on Ariel's cell phone.

His Driver tries each of the truck keys on the door lock.

RUSTI
FYI, the last two guys who tried
to open those doors --

The Driver cuts her off with a chortle.

HUMVEE DRIVER
...were not highly trained
soldiers of the Mexican Army!

The Driver turns to have a good laugh with the other men.

Rusti turns to Gabby, who's been standing against the doorway of the cab, subtly rummaging under the seat.

Gabby nods to Rusti as she retrieves something from under the seat and hides it behind her.

Rusti turns back to the Commander and extends her hand.

RUSTI
If you want us, we'll be in our
room. Phone, please?

The Commander presses a random button on the phone and puts it to his ear.

A MUFFLED RING TONE comes from the trailer, but only Rusti hears it as DISTANT GUNFIRE erupts.

Everyone else whips around to the gunfire as Rusti presses her ear to the trailer wall.

Hearing RADIO SQUAWK coming from his humvee, the Commander tosses the cell phone to Gabby as he and his Driver rush to the mobile unit.

The Driver answers the radio call and turns in alarm.

HUMVEE DRIVER
(to Commander)
Our southern check point is under
attack!

Gabby crosses up and leans in to Rusti.

GABBY
(indicating gunfire)
Mandy didn't make it.

Rusti's lost in thought as she turns to Gabby, then to the Commander.

The Commander points to his troops and barks out orders in Spanish.

Soldiers scramble into two humvees and pull out, leaving the Commander, his Driver and only a squad behind.

The Commander points to the tree line and the remaining soldiers fan out in that direction.

As he turns to talk on the radio he barks out something to his Driver, pointing to the cargo doors.

COMMANDER
¡Ábralo!

Drawing his sidearm, the Driver rushes back to the doors.

RUSTI
No!

A shot rings out and everyone ducks as the Driver's body slams against a cargo door and slumps to the ground.

A commotion ensues as the Commander and the other soldiers scramble for cover.

More shots from the tree line and the soldiers respond.

As bullets fly, Gabby grabs Rusti and runs off.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

Reaching the pool area, Rusti and Gabby find everyone gawking at the gun battle like it's some reality show.

A trio of FRAT IDIOTS rush up in excitement.

FRAT1
Are they narco terrorists?

FRAT2
Is it a drug war? Anyone die yet?

FRAT3
Can we go out there and watch?

Gabby and Rusti brush them away and rush off.

Clueless, the stooges grab their iPhones and turn to film the action.

EXT. OUTSIDE MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

As the two round a corner to the vending area and their room, Gabby reveals the item she was concealing.

GABBY
What does he want us to do with
the spray paint?

Rusti grabs the can and sprays a 'cross' on the door.

GABBY
A red cross. Of course.

The cell phone rings and Rusti answers in a rage.

RUSTI
Tell me my sister's not in there?!

DAMON (V.O.)
Relax, Red. She's safely tucked
away. As you should be.

RUSTI
(into phone)
They're shooting all around you!

GABBY
They're in the truck?! I knew the
load was too light!

DAMON (V.O.)
Go inside, lock the door and stay
there till I send for you.

RUSTI
(into phone)
Fuck you, I'm getting her out!

Rusti turns for the truck but stops dead at hearing Ariel's anguished scream over the phone.

RUSTI
(into phone)
Ariel?!

DAMON (V.O.)
You know, I forgot how much little kids hate shots.

RUSTI
Don't! Stop it!!

DAMON (V.O.)
Forget what's going on outside the truck, Red. The only thing you need to fear is me.

Rusti reluctantly turns back to the door.

DAMON (V.O.)
Now stay in that room, no matter what. Do you understand?

RUSTI
Look, there's a lot of people out here.

Something akin to bliss...

DAMON (V.O.)
Hundreds.

He clicks off.

Confused, Rusti turns towards the truck.

GABBY
We better get inside, right?

Rusti heads for the truck.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - NIGHT

In the heat of the gun battle, Cesar's men close in and the soldiers fall back to the humvee and truck.

Cesar drags Barry along as he acts out GTA: San Andreas.

Desperate, the Commander grabs a shoulder-mounted rocket launcher and aims it at the panel doors of the truck.

COMMANDER
(calling out)
Stop, or I'll blow up the truck!

A panel door flies open, distracting the Commander.

Wearing only a dirty, tattered flannel nightgown, a young, winsome Latina, BIANCA, appears in the trailer doorway and gazes down at them with doleful eyes.

BIANCA
Please, Señores, don't harm us?

Cesar turns to Barry with rage in his eyes.

Bianca looks down at the Commander and her face brightens.

BIANCA
¿Papá?

COMMANDER
No. Soy el Comandante Cruz.

Her melancholy returns and she stoops, extending her hand to the Commander, seemingly to be helped down.

Taking her hand, the Commander gets yanked up to the doorway like a sack purse.

She rips his head half-off, showering herself in his spurting blood.

The rest of the unholy pack emerge from behind her and leap from the doorway.

Anyone holding a weapon, opens fire..., and then stops.

Suspended in air, the undead FIVE, (three men and two women), resemble some Über-junkie freak show.

The sweaty, ashen, pot-marked skin of their sunken faces stretch back to reveal their yellow, smoke-stained fangs as their swollen, bloodshot eyes dart about, selecting their targets.

Smiling gleefully, they dive upon the gawking men below.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

Hearing the silence broken by bursts of gunfire, mixed with blood-curdling screams, Rusti and Gabby turn to the gawking students.

RUSTI
Run!!

The students scramble in chaos.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - NIGHT

The gunfire has all but stopped, leaving sporadic screams as the vampires quickly dispatch the remaining few.

Defiant Cesar backs away from aged and tarnished ANGEL.

CESAR
Swallow this, you cock sucker!

He shoves the muzzle of his weapon into Angel's gaping mouth and fires, but she just appears bored as the bullets fly out the back of her head.

Angel bites down, sealing the muzzle and then, in a blur of motion, rips his penis out of his pants.

Cesar screams, grabs his crotch and drops to his knees.

With a saintly smile, Angel pulls his mouth open and shoves his bloody member in.

ANGEL
Now who's the cock sucker?

His screams now muffled, Angel lifts him up and sinks her teeth into his throat, silencing him forever.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

In the chaos, Rusti turns for the front office.

GABBY
Rusti, no!!

Gabby grabs her.

RUSTI
Let me go!

Rusti screams out as she wrestles with Gabby to get free.

Just as she does, one of the vampires, big hulking MORGAN, lands in the pool area, startling them both.

A screaming student rushes past Morgan and gets lifted off her feet, by the neck.

Morgan stares right at Rusti as he sinks his teeth into the writhing student.

Two other members of the pack, Rig and mad-dog Reefer, land in the pool area and begin to pick off the scurrying students.

Rusti rushes off and Gabby chases after her.

They pass the pool party's wet T-shirt contest winner fleeing from biker-babe vampire, CARMEN.

Carmen grabs the T-shirt and winner's tits come free as she tumbles to the ground.

Panicked, winner hesitates wondering whether to cover her chest or her neck.

CARMEN

Tough choice, Barbi.

Carmen sinks her fangs into Winner's inner thigh and Winner's head lolls back with a gasp.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - NIGHT

Barry, hiding under the truck, stares at all the dead bodies, trying to calm himself.

A man's light-skinned boots step down from the back of the trailer, causing Barry to gasp.

Barry cringes as the boots come around the corner of the truck and stop behind where Barry's hiding.

Barry silently mouths the words, "Please, please, please, don't --".

Barry gets yanked out by his feet and then rolled over, yelping at what he sees above him.

DAMON (O.S.)

Aren't you one of Red's bed buddies?

Barry quickly flashes the smile and extends his hand.

BARRY

Yeah, how you doin'?

Damon's hand comes down to grip Barry's.

DAMON (O.S.)

Great. I see you're here with the drug lord and not in your room.

BARRY

Yeah, well, I was..., Listen, you looking for a really super CPA?

DAMON (O.S.)

Oh, always.

Barry's yanked clean off the ground.

INT. EL RASTRO TRANQUILO MOTEL - FRONT DESK - NIGHT

The door flies open and Rusti rushes in to find the room deserted.

RUSTI
Senora?!

Gabby rushes in and slams the door behind her.

GABBY
What the fuck, cousin!? Are you insane?!

RUSTI
Gabby, go to the room! I'll be right there!

Rusti rushes into the back room.

Realizing Rusti's intentions, Gabby looks under the desk, then goes to the closet and opens it.

GABBY
They're here!

Rusti rushes back just as Gabby helps the pregnant desk clerk out, followed by the frightened daughters.

RUSTI
(to clerk)
Come with us to safety.

Rusti picks up the youngest daughter, who's still clutching her teddy bear and the clerk picks up the other daughter.

EXT. FRONT OF MOTEL - NIGHT

Gabby leads the way, fighting against the flow of fleeing students.

A student slams into the desk clerk causing her to fall back, dropping her daughter.

Seeing that, the other child jumps out of Rusti's arms.

Reefer appears and pounces on the elder daughter.

DESK CLERK
¡Nina!

The clerk dives on Reefer and they roll away into the fleeing students.

Rusti rushes over and scoops up the elder daughter, who's choking on her own blood.

Turning back, Rusti freezes at seeing a blood-spattered teddy bear, being trampled under people's feet.

Rusti spins around, frantically searching for the little girl when Gabby rushes back and grabs the elder daughter from her.

GABBY
Come on!

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

A demoralized Rusti bolts the door as Gabby sets the girl down on the bed.

Hysterical, the girl grabs onto Gabby, afraid to let go.

As Rusti wipes the bear off on her blouse and hands it back, she sees the blood gushing from the girl's neck.

RUSTI
(indicating)
Gabby!

Gabby presses her hand against the girl's puncture wounds to stop the bleeding but it keeps coming.

Rusti rushes into the bathroom and returns with rolls of toilet paper and several towels.

She hands Gabby a big wad of toilet paper which Gabby presses against the wound.

Rusti then wraps a hand towel around the girl's neck and knots it tight.

Screams from outside turn all three to the room's frosted picture window as blurred figures stream past.

Now shaking violently, the girl coughs out blood as she tries to speak.

ELDER DAUGHTER
¿Mamá --?

EXT. FRONT OF MOTEL - NIGHT

Hurdling over the desk clerk's lifeless body, students flee the motel, pouring into the street.

Angel, Carmen and Rig are waiting at the entrance, like bears, picking off spawning salmon.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

The street's choked with fleeing students and cars trying to escape.

Walking along the line of bumper-to-bumper traffic, Bianca stops at one crowded car and looks in.

BIANCA

¿Papá?

The car window closes and Bianca's head slumps in despair before ripping the door off and diving inside.

EXT. MAIN STREET (CORNER) - NIGHT

Reefer's cornered the drug dealer, forcing all the drugs down the dealer's throat. Reefer then gives the dealer a good shaking to blend it all before going for his throat.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

The blood-spattered light-skinned boots step over piles of spring break corpses littering the pool area.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The girl is sandwiched in between Rusti and Gabby, on the floor, barricaded behind a toppled table.

Rusti stares at the bear in the girl's arms as Gabby stares at the frosted window across from them.

GABBY

The screams seem further away.

Outside the frosted window, a fleeing figure runs into a taller figure, (Damon), and gets lifted up by the neck.

Damon then turns to the window and waves.

GABBY

Rusti?

Rusti turns her attention to the window.

DAMON

(through the glass)

See you soon.

Rusti can only nod.

Damon turns and goes, still holding the flailing figure.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The outside world is silent.

As the girl stares at the teddy bear in her arms, her eyes grow distant.

ELDER DAUGHTER
(faintly)
Vaya a mi casa...

The bear slips from the girl's arms as she slumps over.

Rusti and Gabby turn to her, pulling her back to reveal vacant eyes.

Rusti and Gabby try in vain to revive the child when a rap on the door catches them.

BIANCA (O.S.)
You can come out and see your
sister now. Alone.

Gabby and Rusti stare at each other, then kiss goodbye.

EXT. MOTEL POOL AREA - NIGHT

Walking into a surreal setting, Rusti finds little Ariel, standing shin deep in bodies. She stares listlessly at a pool filled with bloated floaters.

RUSTI
Ariel?!

Rusti stumbles over limbs and torsos to pull the catatonic Ariel into her arms.

RUSTI
Thank God, thank God, thank...

Cold, rancid air hits the back of her neck and Rusti blanches.

DAMON (O.C.)
No, thank Damon.

Without letting go of Ariel, Rusti peers over her shoulder.

Looming over her with a mottled mane of bottle-black hair, mascara and gold studs, DAMON could pass for Keith Richard's older, creepier brother.

DAMON
Hello, Red. Finally, face-to-face.

The rest of the vampires converge and Rusti steps in front of her sister.

Seemingly 'high', the vampires are barely able to walk as they fling bodies aside to free up pool chairs.

Damon teeters slightly as he cordially extends a bloody hand to Rusti.

DAMON
Damon Bane. Man of his word.

Bitter Bianca steps up behind him.

BIANCA
"Man of his word?!"

DAMON
Fuck.

Without turning, Damon snaps...

DAMON
Shut up and get in the truck!

BIANCA
(mimicking)
"If you do as I say, no harm will come to your 'budding flower' of Buenos Aires."

Pissed, Damon turns on her, but she doesn't flinch.

Morgan inches over to get between Damon and Rusti.

BIANCA
Six years later, I am like you! A monster!

She spits in Damon's face.

Morgan's eyes meet Rusti's and he nods towards the exit behind her.

Still clutching her catatonic sister, Rusti backs away as the others watch Bianca and Damon.

DAMON
(to Bianca)
You ungrateful bitch! I gave you my heart!

BIANCA
What?! You raped me and turned me into this and I should be thankful?!

DAMON
You're better off than your dear
devoted 'papa'!

Damon mimes 'offing himself' with a gun.

Rig and Reefer smirk.

Bianca's eyes well-up with tears.

BIANCA
No, it is he who is better off.

Bianca turns and drags herself off towards the truck.

Carmen and Angel throw a cold stare at Damon before
turning to catch up with her.

Wild-eyed Reefer rises to follow after them, but Carmen
and Angel cut him off, and he backs away.

Carmen and Angel appear to comfort Bianca as they exit.

DAMON
(to Rig)
Take care of the bodies!

Rig pulls out a machete and skulks away.

Damon turns back for Rusti but Morgan blocks his view.

MORGAN
Boss, we should hold up here and
make repairs on the truck.

Rusti and Ariel reach the corner leading to the room.

DAMON
"Hold up"? Fuck that, it's Spring
Break, baby! Patch the damn holes,
Morgan. This tour's headin' south!

Rusti grabs Ariel's hand to run, but screams instead at
coming face-to-face with a salivating Reefer.

Damon walks up to them.

DAMON
(to Reefer)
Go play with the bodies.

Giggling Reefer, tears a leg off a dead body and sucks
on the open artery as he rushes off.

Damon backs Rusti against a wall.

RUSTI

Look, 'Damon', I've done what you asked of me, now let us go.

DAMON

"Go"? Whoa, Red. You and I are just getting started.

RUSTI

Started?!

DAMON

From the moment I saw you last night, I knew we had a future.

He brushes a fingernail across her bandaged chest wound and she recoils, punching him in the face.

That only succeeds in knocking the smirk away.

DAMON

Maybe you need to cool off first.

Damon lifts her up by her blouse and flings her into the pool, ten feet away.

EXT. THE MOTEL POOL (UNDERWATER) - NIGHT

The underwater pool lights reveal Rusti sinking amidst lifeless bodies and thrashing about as she becomes entangled in their limbs.

Losing breath, she battles for an opening to the surface when a hand grabs her collar and yanks her up.

EXT. THE MOTEL POOL - NIGHT

Morgan lifts her to her feet beside the pool.

Gasping for air, Rusti frantically spins around and stops at seeing a listless Ariel clinging to Damon.

RUSTI

Ariel?

Unresponsive, Ariel merely reaches in Damon's coat pocket to retrieve a pink sugar cube and pops it in her mouth.

Damon leers as he applauds Rusti's sheer wetness.

DAMON

And the new winner of the wet tee competition is...

RUSTI

Fuck you! Haven't you gotten
enough to feed on already?

Morgan cracks a smile and Damon throws him a stare as he
points off towards the truck.

DAMON

The fucking holes won't plug
themselves, Morgan!

Morgan gives Rusti a last look then exits.

To calm himself, Damon strokes Ariel's head as he surveys
the carnage.

DAMON

All-in-all, very successful night.
A cartel, a small army and maybe a
third of the houses at S.D.S.U.

Rusti's eyes dart from Ariel to Damon as he approaches.

DAMON

Before this, it was just a small
drug party or a cartel village.
But you've inspired me.

Again, she cringes away from his foul breath as he leans
into her and presses his hand against her chest wound.

She shudders uncontrollably and he savors the moment
before noticing the horizon and grabbing Ariel to go.

RUSTI

Don't take her?! You promised!

Damon stops, turns back to Rusti and looks into her eyes.

DAMON

Trade places and I'll let her go.

Rusti's struck dumb.

Her silence sours his expression and he kicks several
bodies out of his way as he lifts Ariel and walks off.

DAMON

Fine then. Drive my truck for the
rest of her life.

Desperate Rusti rushes him and he spins to present his
fangs at the neck of Rusti's listless sister.

Rusti backs off and Damon sighs as he turns to go.

DAMON

Another night with baby sister,
but I'll be dreaming it's you.

Defeated, helpless, Rusti watches Damon carry Ariel away.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAWN

The same expression, hours later.

Huddled in a corner, wrapped in a bath towel, clutching
the teddy bear.

From somewhere outside, the FAINT SOUND of a young girl's
ANGUISHED MOAN brings Rusti out of her tearful trance.

Hearing another cry, Rusti gets to her feet and heads for
the door, past a sleeping Gabby.

EXT. MOTEL VENDING AREA (OUTSIDE ROOM) - DAWN

Stepping out into the deserted vending alcove, Rusti
trips over something at her feet.

Barry's severed head rolls around like a wobbling top.

Rusti throws her hand over her mouth to stifle the urge
to vomit.

A girl's SCREAM comes from the direction of the truck and
Rusti rushes off.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - DAWN

Rusti struggles to make her way through the obstacle
course of decapitated corpses, when something stops her.

With limbs splayed against the back of the truck by thick
chains and blood draining from her cut throat, the
weakened Bianca writhes as the first rays of sunlight
creep up towards her.

Above her, written in her blood, a message reads; "Dear
Red, hope you're not an ungrateful bitch".

BIANCA

¿Papá?! ¿Papá?!

Light reaches Bianca's feet. They smolder and burn.

As the sun moves up her body, she lights up.

Rusti pulls her towel off to snuff out the flames but the
towel ignites and Rusti jumps back to avoid the fire.

BIANCA
¿PAPÁ?!!!

Bianca's voice dies out in the roaring fire.

Hapless Rusti stands there in her underwear, watching the Latina's body turn to ash and scatter with the wind.

EXT. MAIN STREET - MORNING

Shuffling down the street in shock, Rusti wanders past headless bodies and abandoned cars.

Back up the street, Gabby comes running out of the motel.

GABBY
Rusti?!

Oblivious, Rusti turns a corner and looks at the ground.

With arms reaching out, the small decapitated body of the younger daughter looks more like a headless doll.

Sobbing, Rusti reaches down to the body when a glint of something catches her eye.

EXT. ANOTHER LA PIMIENTA SIDE STREET - MORNING

At the end of the street, the shiny metal handles on the doors of the Catholic church, glimmer in the morning sun.

INT. TOWN CATHOLIC CHURCH (MAIN SANCTUARY) - MORNING

Rusti enters looking for solace and finds the sanctuary demolished and littered with bodies.

Totally defeated, Rusti collapses in a pew.

Her eyes wander, stopping at a relief of 'Our Lady of Guadalupe', radiating serenity from a mountaintop.

Rusti closes her eyes and prays.

MANDY (O.S.)
Rusti?

Rusti turns to see Mandy and Gabby standing in the aisle. Gabby has Rusti's clothes. Mandy has the pink cell phone.

Rusti cries with joy as she bear hugs her BFF. They laugh and cry and stagger about.

MANDY
Good news.

Rusti pulls away, gawking.

MANDY
Your mom called to say "mañana".

Laughing through her tears, Rusti hugs her again.

RUSTI
My bestest bitchenest BFF!

MANDY
And don't you forget it!

They rock around and finally release each other.

RUSTI
I thought you were...

MANDY
No...
(looking off)
...thanks to Faustino.

Rusti turns and jerks back at seeing Faustino again.

INT. SAME - MORNING - MINUTES LATER

Faustino combs the sanctuary, searching for something.

The girls follow closely.

RUSTI
That big hulky one's your partner?

FAUSTINO
DEA agent Morgan Sloan. Only, we
had no idea he was going to...
(stops himself)
...things would turn out this way.

Faustino rifles through the pockets of a corpse.

FAUSTINO
The embassy bureau had received
reports on a Damon Bane dating
back as far as sixty-seven.

Faustino moves on to another body and searches.

MANDY
Nineteen sixty-seven?

FAUSTINO
Yeah. But the bureau just thought
the guy was a myth.

He moves on to the last body.

FAUSTINO

I mean, the reports were coming in
from Juarez, all the way down to
the tip of Argentina.

Finding nothing, Faustino stops to scan the Sanctuary.

FAUSTINO

Then, in eighty-two Morgan and I
got a tip about a drug lab, deep
in the Colombian jungle.

He hones in on rows of votive candles back in the corner.

FAUSTINO

When we found it, it was burnt
out, rusted and riddled with
bullet holes. It had been hit long
ago. There were some remains, both
human and animal...

Faustino hurries over to the candles and the girls rush
to keep up.

FAUSTINO

...and a journal, from nineteen
sixty-seven, about a top secret
"bio-warfare" project.

Looking down at the rows of candles before him, Faustino
focuses on the only one that's lit.

RUSTI

Damon was the one who hit the lab?

Faustino throws her a look.

FAUSTINO

Yeah. Dumb ass thought he was
hitting a heroin plant.

Faustino snuffs out the candle and gingerly lifts the
candle jar, revealing a small folded slip of paper
underneath, attached with candle wax.

FAUSTINO

The stuff was designed to kill
drug-laced blood cells, instead it
'super charged' them.

A reflection of sunlight shifts into Rusti's eyes.
Wincing, she moves slightly to get out of the way.

FAUSTINO

But new blood's needed each night,
the super cells burn so fast.
Without it..., they starve.

RUSTI
Sunlight ramps up the process?

Faustino nods as he turns to read the message.

FAUSTINO
My orders have been only 'to keep
it contained' and...

GIRLS
"Contained"?!

Troubled by the note, Faustino crumples the paper and paces around.

FAUSTINO
I know, I know. Innocent people
were dying.
(trailing off)
And the bureau truly regrets --

MANDY
That's it?!

The bright sunlight shifts into Rusti's face again and she squints as she looks to the source.

Sun reflects off *Our Lady of Guadalupe's* glass pendant.

Ashamed, Faustino drops into a pew.

FAUSTINO
The lab was ours, the country
wasn't. So, our secret lab. Our
secret screw-up.

RUSTI (O.S.)
Fuck your secret, this ends today.

She and Faustino exchange a nod before returning her gaze to the relief of *Our Lady, ... standing atop the mountain.*

EXT. LA PIMIENTA SIDE STREET - MORNING

Faustino's SUV pulls up to a hardware store.

As everyone piles out, the pink cell phone rings.

RUSTI
Go ahead, we don't have much time.

FAUSTINO
You know what to say?

RUSTI
Yes, go!

Faustino turns and enters the store with the girls.

RUSTI
(into phone)
So, where to now?

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - MORNING

In the dim blue glow of sixties black lighting, Damon lounges over a large, steel mesh animal cage. Inside, a twitching Ariel, claws for more sugar cubes.

DAMON
(into phone)
Get any sleep last night?

RUSTI (V.O.)
I spent the time thinking.

Piqued, Damon stops taunting.

DAMON
"Thinking", about...?

RUSTI (V.O.)
Your offer.

Damon sits up.

DAMON
Yes, and...?

RUSTI (V.O.)
Okay.

Damon stands and paces a floor littered with confiscated cell phones, trying to sound calm.

DAMON
Great. We'll make the exchange tonight when we get to --

RUSTI (V.O.)
No. I wanna do it at noon.

DAMON
"Noon"? Hell no. Nothing happens during the day.

RUSTI (V.O.)
Hey, do you want me or not?

Bemused, Damon cracks a smile as he lays face down across the cage to resume taunting Ariel.

DAMON
Doesn't give me much time to
spruce up the place.

RUSTI (V.O.)
There'll be plenty of time, later.

Damon's grin broadens.

RUSTI (V.O.)
Now let me talk to the big guy?

Grin gone, Damon flips over and stares at the ceiling.

DAMON
Why?

Above him, Morgan and the rest of the pack are lounging
around on the shag-carpeted ceiling, eavesdropping on
Damon's phone call.

Damon turns away from them, on his side.

DAMON
What you want to talk to him for?

RUSTI (V.O.)
Hey, I'm just following your
little code of ethics,...keeping
promises, thanking people...

Damon pauses to mull this.

RUSTI (V.O.)
The man rescued me from the pool.

Damon hesitates, then leans up to hand the phone off.

EXT. LA PIMIENTA SIDE STREET - HARDWARE STORE - MORNING

As Faustino and the girls exit the store with a long,
thin cardboard box and a large, loaded duffle bag, Rusti
turns and hands the phone to him.

MORGAN (V.O.)
Yeah?

Fingering his partner's note, Faustino turns away, his
voice quivering as he speaks into the phone.

FAUSTINO
It's me. I got your message. So
I'm shutting this op down today.
Be ready, my friend.

A second of silence on the phone and then a SNUFFLE.

MORGAN (V.O.)
You're welcome. Don't mention it.

Faustino runs his arm over his eyes before handing the phone back to Rusti.

FAUSTINO
(to Rusti & Gabby)
Remember, careful what you say in the cab, they got it bugged.

A very distant RUMBLE OF THUNDER comes from the western horizon and they turn in reaction.

RUSTI
Fuck. The second storm.

FAUSTINO
Let's go!

They load the stuff in the SUV then Faustino and Mandy jump in and peel off.

Rusti and Gabby turn and hurry off towards the truck.

EXT. MOTEL BACK LOT - MORNING

As the girls race to the truck, Rusti stops by the humvee and stoops to pick up the rocket launcher.

RUSTI
(hushed shout)
Gabby?

Gabby turns and Rusti displays the launcher.

Gabby just waves her off before jumping in the driver side of the cab.

Lugging the launcher, Rusti stops by the panel doors and gives them a gentle pat.

RUSTI
Hang on, sis.

Rusti opens the passenger side of the cab and heaves the launcher in, initiating a muffled YELP from inside.

EXT. TRUCK ON THE ROAD - MOVING - LATER THAT MORNING

Downshifting, the truck slows and turns onto the old mining road.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

While Gabby drives, Rusti carefully sets the rocket launcher in the sleeper space.

The pink phone RINGS and the two exchange a look before Rusti answers.

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - MOVING - DAY

Turned away, Damon can't see Morgan slowly inching towards the latch to Ariel's cage.

DAMON
(into phone)
What's going on? You've left the
main road?

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

RUSTI
(into phone)
Relax, we're just going back to
that tunnel so you can have some
darkness during the exchange.

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - MOVING - DAY

Damon turns, just missing Morgan's attempt at the lock.

DAMON
(into phone)
How thoughtful.

RUSTI (V.O.)
I'm a woman of my word.

Clicking off, Damon looks at Morgan and grins.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Rusti's grinning as well. Gabby looks over and gets a 'thumb's up'.

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - MOVING - DAY

Walking away from Morgan, Damon's grin drops.

DAMON
Take him.

Morgan looks up to see the others, leaping down on him.

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

A demolition team exits the tunnel, running a wire from the charges to the detonator as Faustino's SUV roars up and dovetails to a stop.

Faustino jumps out, flashing his badge and rattling off something in Spanish as Mandy exits to unload the long, thin box and loaded duffel bag from the hardware store.

EXT. TRUCK ON ONE-LANE MOUNTAIN PASS ROAD - MOVING - DAY

The truck groans, chugging up the winding road, scraping and skirting through the turns.

On the horizon, the storm's close behind.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Gabby pounds the pedals as she shifts and down shifts, wrenching the steering wheel left then right.

Rusti looks up at the sun and winces.

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - MOVING - DAY

As a brawl rages around him, and the trailer pitches from side-to-side, Damon calmly reaches into the cage and offers Ariel more pink sugar cubes.

DAMON

How about we start with some more candy.

Recovered from last night, a fearful Ariel swats the cubes away and scoots to the back of the cage.

Damon flips out and rips the cage door right off.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Somehow hearing ARIEL'S MUTED SCREAM, Rusti whips around.

RUSTI

She's screaming! Stop the truck!

GABBY

Hold on, we're here!

Rusti turns back to see the tunnel ahead and leaps out the door as the truck slows.

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

The truck comes to a stop, halfway into the tunnel.

Rusti rushes over to Mandy.

RUSTI
I heard Ariel scream!

Mandy tosses a pair of coveralls at her.

MANDY
Quick, put this on!

Pulling the coveralls on reveals that it is covered with strips of reflective mylar tape.

Mandy reaches into the bag and pulls out a crowbar.

Also in a mylar jumpsuit, Faustino rushes over from the demolition crew.

FAUSTINO
The charges are ready!

MANDY
Rusti heard Ariel screaming
inside!

Mandy tosses him the crowbar.

FAUSTINO
Plan 'B', it is.

Mandy pulls out two MECHANIC'S CREEPERS and hands them off.

FAUSTINO
As soon as we get Ariel out, and
the truck in, the whole side of
the mountain will come down,
sealing it forever!

Gabby rushes up, lugging the rocket launcher.

GABBY
Rusti, I want to do more than
translate..., I could shoot this?

FAUSTINO
What the hell?!

RUSTI
(indicating launcher)
Plan 'C'.

Faustino half laughs as he removes the muzzle cap and flips the sight into place.

RUSTI

Gabby, you gotta stay with the crew, tell them when to blow it.

FAUSTINO

(indicating launcher)

Take this with you. If the charges fail, aim for the truck and fire.

GABBY

How?

FAUSTINO

(indicating muzzle)

Read the instructions.

Dubious, Gabby heads over to the demolition crew.

Mandy picks up the long cardboard box and rushes off with Faustino and Rusti to the panel doors of the truck.

Faustino jumps up on the trailer ledge and in one thrust, pops the door lock with the crowbar.

He's knocked off as Rig throws open the doors to kick Morgan's badly cut body off the truck.

RIG

Fucking narc!

Seeing Morgan smolder, Rusti drops down and with unknown strength, rolls him under the truck, out of the sun.

Mandy steps in behind her, holding a full length mirror and reflects sunlight up into the trailer at Rig.

Rig throws his arms in front of his face as he howls and catches fire.

Faustino and Rusti grab Rig by the legs and yank him out past them, to writhe and burn on the ground.

The reflected light brings anguished screams from the rest of the pack as they scramble around the ceiling like crabs scurrying away from boiling water.

Faustino and Rusti climb up on the lip with their creepers and glide into the trailer on their stomachs.

Out of reach of the pack, with the reflection off their coveralls blinding the vampires, Faustino and Rusti arrive at the cage, untouched.

Faustino pops the lock and Rusti crawls in.

Ariel leaps into her arms and they hug with relief before scrambling out of the cage.

RUSTI

Hurry now, lay on the skateboard thing and I'll push you out, then run and wait with cousin Gabby!

ARIEL

Aren't you coming?

RUSTI

I'll be right behind you. I promise.

Rusti gives a shove, sending Ariel off on the creeper.

Rusti then looks over at Faustino who's scanning the ceiling.

RUSTI

What?

FAUSTINO

Where's --?!

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - TRUCK UNDERCARRIAGE - DAY

Under the truck, A severely cut and burned Morgan opens his eyes to see Damon extract himself through a 'smuggler's trapdoor' at the front of the trailer.

Seeing Damon then head towards the cab, Morgan strains to crawl away.

At the trailer doors, Mandy helps Ariel off the truck while juggling to hold the mirror in place.

As Mandy pushes the creeper back to Rusti, the truck lurches forward, catching her off-guard.

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOVING - DAY

Damon pats the wheel.

DAMON

Like riding a fucking bike.

He grinds up the gears trying to shift to second.

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - MOVING - DAY

Another lurch, and the light's gone and Rusti and Faustino look up to see the pack about to pounce.

The light flashes back in and the pack pulls back.

Rusti jumps on the creeper and she and Faustino roll for the exit.

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

As the truck lurches further into the tunnel, Mandy and the mirror try to keep up.

She stops when she realizes she's out of the light.

As Faustino and Rusti fly out the doorway, Reefer swings down from the ceiling, feet first, shattering the mirror in Mandy's hands.

Reefer turns to jump Rusti when Mandy grabs a piece of the broken mirror and stabs him through the heart.

Turning, Reefer grins and lunges at Mandy when the shard catches the light and sets him off like a match.

Relieved, Mandy leans back against the trailer and gets yanked up by Carmen, disappearing into the trailer as the truck moves into the tunnel.

RUSTI

Mandy?!

Rusti jumps onto a creeper and catches a tow from the truck as it vanishes into the pitch black of the tunnel.

FAUSTINO

Rusti?!

Faustino turns and calls out to Gabby and Ariel, standing with the demolition crew at the detonator.

FAUSTINO

If we're not out in two minutes,
blow it up!

Faustino rushes in after Rusti.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

The truck rolls to a stop in front of the cave-in.

Frustrated Damon jumps out to clear the big boulders out of the way, but that only succeeds in bringing down more.

Damon then spots the wire leading to the C-4 charges at each support column along the tunnel.

His eyes follow the wire right out the entrance.

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

Ariel looks up at her anxious cousin and holds her hand to calm her.

ARIEL
It's okay, Gabby, she'll be back.
She promised.

Gabby nods, noticing the approaching storm clouds.

GABBY
She better move her sweet ass!

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - DAY

Rusti leaps into the trailer and spots Carmen crouching over an unconscious Mandy, ready to sink her fangs.

Rusti raises the creeper, like a club, ready to strike.

RUSTI
Get off her, you fucking hag!

Pissed, Carmen turns and leaps at Rusti.

Rusti pulls back to swing when Morgan brushes her aside, grabs Carmen and drags her out, kicking and screaming.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Morgan heads for the entrance, carrying Carmen, when Faustino rushes up. They share a silent moment, then...

MORGAN
She's in the trailer. Take care.

Faustino can only nod as he watches his partner carry the vampire outside and they both burst into flames.

INT. TRUCK TRAILER - DAY

Rusti lifts Mandy up and Mandy whimpers out a laugh.

MANDY
"Rusti to the rescue." Ariel okay?

RUSTI
(nods)
Thanks to you.

Rusti gets a shoulder under Mandy's arm and starts for the cargo door.

MANDY
Who's got your back?

RUSTI
You do.

MANDY
Damn straight.

Mandy tries to laugh but winces instead.

Her eyes dart to Rusti's.

MANDY
B.F.F.'s...?

RUSTI
Always.

Relieved, Mandy passes out.

RUSTI
And forever.

Faustino rushes up and hoists Mandy's body over his shoulder.

FAUSTINO
Come on, it's gonna blow!

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Down off the trailer, Rusti turns back to take Mandy over her shoulder as Faustino jumps down. They then rush out the entrance, but stop short.

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY - RAINING

Outside, in the rain, Gabby and Ariel are kneeling on the ground with Angel, looming over them.

Her eyes raging, Rusti lowers Mandy to the ground and spins around to see Damon standing there, smiling.

DAMON
No need to rush, now.

Damon holds up the severed detonator wire.

In a blur of motion, Damon wraps the wire around Faustino's neck and garrotes him.

The girls turn away in revulsion as Faustino's body slumps to the ground.

Eager not to waste, Angel leaves the girls and descends on Faustino.

Damon steps up to Rusti and again his finger crosses her chest scar causing her to shudder.

Sensing something, Rusti turns towards the entrance.

DAMON (O.S.)
Now, about that exchange.

Rusti stares into Damon's blood red eyes.

RUSTI
Gabby, Ariel, run!

Rusti throws her weight into Damon catching him off balance and tumbling back.

Rusti whips around and picks up Mandy and the four run.

DAMON
(to Angel)
Get them!

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

The four run for the car with Angel closing on them when the storm breaks and Angel nearly gets caught in a patch of sunlight.

The breaking clouds now turn the area into a moving checkerboard.

As they move with the sun, Rusti hands off Mandy to Gabby before turning away.

GABBY
Where are you going?!

RUSTI
Plan 'C'!

Rusti zigzags her way over to the rocket launcher with Angel, right on her heels.

Angel maneuvers herself between Rusti and the launcher, but instead of trying to flank her, Rusti just dives right at her, sending them both rolling on the ground.

When they stop, Angel's on top, smiling..., till she sees Gabby and Ariel.

The shards of mirror in their hands, hit Angel's face and light her up like a roman candle.

Rusti rolls away from the flames and crosses to pick up the launcher.

She turns toward Damon and he backs away into the tunnel as she approaches.

She stops just outside and they face each other.

Damon goes to speak.

RUSTI
No exchange.

Damon shrugs.

DAMON
Fine. There'll be other Red Hots.

He looks into her eyes, smiles, turns and heads for the trailer.

DAMON
(over his shoulder)
Oh, and you know you can't kill me
with that thing, right?

As he walks into the darkness, his laughter echoes back.

Rusti brings the launcher up to her shoulder and peers through the sight. Dissatisfied, she flips it closed, squints into the darkness and smiles.

RUSTI
No, but I can give you the burial
you've always deserved.

Her trigger finger launches the rocket.

INT. TRUCK IN TUNNEL - DAY

Just as Damon closes the cargo doors behind him, the rocket races past...

INT. FURTHER IN TUNNEL - DAY

...and hits its target; THE SUPPORT COLUMN STRAPPED WITH A BLOCK OF C-4.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

A CHAIN OF BLASTS SINK the side of the mountain.

EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Smoke, dust and debris swirl about the area.

A worn and ragged Rusti George strides out of the haze and over to the girls just as Mandy's coming to.

MANDY
(groggy)
Whoa. What did I miss?

The others start to laugh and help Mandy to her feet when they hear the pink phone RING.

Spooked, Rusti yanks it out of her pocket as Mandy and Gabby look on.

They eye each other, then slowly, look to the tunnel.

Fed up, Rusti goes to throw the damn thing away when...

ARIEL
Hey! What did I say about messing
with my stuff?!

Ariel elbows Rusti and grabs her mermaid phone away.

She then walks on, answering the call...

ARIEL
(into phone)
Hello? Oh, hi, Mom. How's things?
Really? Uhm no, I'm just tired.
Right? Well, don't tell Dad, but
this vacation sucks.

Rusti, Mandy and Gabby break out laughing.

And as they head for the SUV, both Rusti and Ariel throw a hand up to shade their eyes from the sun.

FADE OUT.

THE END