

**STICKS**

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EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD/STREET -- DAY

1

A long stretch of road through a pleasant neighborhood on a hazy summer day. All the houses have healthy, green lawns with mailboxes lined up at the sidewalk. A white convertible with the top down comes into view from afar.

TITLE CARD: "JUNE 24, 2006"

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The death toll in Philadelphia has risen. Police found another body on the street this morning, this time in the western section of the city. Sources are saying that 21-year-old Carl Finney was possibly the victim of another drive-by shooting a few nights ago.

The car whizzes down the street.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

2

Reveal the backs of driver JUSTIN and passenger ERICA in the convertible. Both are 20 years old, just finished their second year of college. Justin has a golden, curly mop of hair. He wears a striped polo and jeans that are ripped at the knees. Erica, a cute redhead, wears a bright tank top and dark jeans, and some funky jewelry around her neck.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Family members say they have no idea who would have done this, or why. This is further proof that Philadelphia is experiencing the worst kind of increase a city of its size can have: Finney is now #170 on the long list of homicide victims this year.

The sun is shining but there are some clouds in the sky.

EXT. NEW JERSEY GAS STATION -- DAY

3

The convertible pulls into the gas station, next to the highway.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

In other sad news, there has been some new evidence on the case of Jessica Schaeffer, the teenager from Yatesville, Pennsylvania, who has been missing for several weeks...

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

4

A group of OFFICERS, 30's to 50's, in uniform. Flashlights aim on a clump of blond hair on the ground, next to three bloody teeth.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 ... Authorities say Schaeffer's hair  
 and teeth were found in the woods  
 near Highway 81.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

5

Justin parks next to the pump. He leaves the radio on and carefully listens with a horrified Erica.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 ... Along with these items, police  
 have found two of Schaeffer's fingers  
 with the help of police dogs.

ERICA  
 Eew! Fingers?

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

6

A dog sniffs a bloody finger on the ground and licks it. An INVESTIGATOR puts the two fingers in a plastic bag for evidence.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 Jessica's parents aren't giving up  
 hope just yet, but are preparing  
 themselves for the worst...

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

7

Justin and Erica are glued to the radio.

JUSTIN  
 Holy shit.

The gas station ATTENDANT, an Indian man in his 40s, comes to the window as the news report wraps up.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 (To ATTENDANT)  
 Hi. Can you fill it up with Premium?

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 ... There are no prime suspects in  
 the case yet.

(MORE)

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Please visit our website to see a recent picture of Jessica Schaeffer, and let us know if you've seen her or if you know any information...

The Attendant points to the third sign, Premium.

JUSTIN  
 Yes. Premium.

ATTENDANT  
 OK, buddy. cash or credit?

The Attendant moves away.

ERICA  
 Aw, you guys are buddies.

JUSTIN  
 What did I miss? Do they know who did it?

ERICA  
 No, they said there were no prime suspects yet. How scary is that?

JUSTIN  
 So, she's dead.

ERICA  
 Well, they don't know. They're hoping she's not.

JUSTIN  
 But hair, and teeth, and fingers?! She's dead.

ERICA  
 That is so awful. Let's call Suzie and tell her the plans are off!

JUSTIN  
 (Laughs)  
 No way, we can't do that.

ERICA  
 I don't want to die in the woods!

JUSTIN  
 You're not going to die in the woods. You're going to die sad and alone in your rocking chair, granny.

ERICA  
 Yeah, if I'm lucky!  
 (MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

Those teeth and fingers and Blair  
Witch evidence were found close to  
where we're going, Justin!

(mocks Tyler Perry's  
"Madea" voice)

Hellur!

JUSTIN

I'll protect you. And by "protect  
you," I mean I'm running the hell  
out of there and leaving your sorry  
ass to the wolves.

They laugh. Erica looks at her directions.

ERICA

All right, asshole, so it's 11:30...  
and it'll take us like 3 hours...

JUSTIN

No, it's not gonna take us 3 hours.

ERICA

To Wilkes-Barre?

JUSTIN

It's gonna be like 2. 2 and a half  
at the most. Definitely not 3.

ERICA

Are you sure?

JUSTIN

Yeah, that's what my dad said.

ERICA

Yeah, I see he wrote all these nice  
directions for you. And pictures?

She points to a face drawn in the middle of the paper, next to  
the words "Burger King."

JUSTIN

Ah yes. My dad wanted to make sure  
we understood that we have to pass  
the Burger King on the right.

ERICA

Can we stop there and eat?

JUSTIN

Already?

ERICA

I haven't eaten anything yet. I  
need french fries.

is that a face  
of the "Burger  
King"?

JUSTIN

Fatty.

Erica rolls her eyes and looks out to the nearby shops.

ERICA

Can we at least stop by that Dunkin Donuts?

JUSTIN

Ooh, yeah actually. I wanna try one of their fruit smoothie things.

ERICA

You love smoothies.

JUSTIN

That's what I need in the morning. Fruit. Not coffee. I'm going to put the top up since it's supposed to rain today.

Justin presses a button for the top to slowly start closing.

ERICA

Yeah, good call. But fruit doesn't get me going. I need coffee to feel alive.

JUSTIN

Eew, doesn't it make you gassy?

ERICA

Yes. Be prepared.

JUSTIN

Coffee makes me have to poop instantly.

ERICA

Let's hope I won't poop in your car.

JUSTIN

Eh, it needs to be cleaned anyway.

Justin clips the top in place. The gas stops pumping and the Attendant comes back.

ATTENDANT

36.

JUSTIN

How much?

The Attendant points to the screen displaying the price. \$36.00.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oh, OK.

(To Erica)

Wow, 36 is a lot for gas.

Erica gives him money.

ERICA

Here's a 20. That's like half.

JUSTIN

Awesome, thank you. I'll buy your coffee.

ERICA

Whatevs.

Justin gives the Attendant money.

JUSTIN

(To Attendant)

Thanks.

He starts up the car.

EXT. NEW JERSEY GAS STATION -- CONTINUOUS

8

Justin drives the car out of the gas station.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- LATER

9

They pass different things on the highway. Billboards, rest stops, fast food places, lots of trucks.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

10

Justin sips his smoothie, and Erica drinks her coffee. An upbeat pop song plays on the radio.

The humorous duo have been friends throughout high school, so their bond is strong. They briefly dated four years ago but realized they were better friends than as significant others. They barely remember that short relationship... or at least want to make it seem that way.

JUSTIN

OK, so what do we need to look out for?

They both look down to the directions in between them. Justin accidentally swirves the car a bit, scaring them both.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oops, sorry.

ERICA

Eyes on the prize!

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)  
 (Looking at the paper)  
 Um... so we passed the Burger King,  
 right?

JUSTIN  
 Um... I don't know. I think so?

Erica looks around. She points ahead.

ERICA  
 Look, there's that lumber store.  
 That's on here.

JUSTIN  
 Oh, good.

ERICA  
 OK, so the New Jersey Turnpike should  
 be up on the right soon.

JUSTIN  
 OK.

Justin gets in the right lane. They see a sign for "NJ TURNPIKE -  
 STAY IN RIGHT LANE."

ERICA  
 OK, yeah. It's coming up.

Then there's a sign for "541 NORTH" and an arrow to the right.

JUSTIN  
 Wait... is this what we want?

ERICA  
 Um...

JUSTIN  
 Is the New Jersey Turnpike "541?"

ERICA  
 I don't know.

JUSTIN  
 I guess it is, since that last sign  
 said "Stay in the Right Lane."

Justin turns right and keeps going. They get on another highway.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 Hmm... wait...

ERICA  
 Maybe this isn't it?



JUSTIN  
 (Laughs)  
 We're lost already.

ERICA  
 I don't think this is it.

JUSTIN  
 Ugh. I'll turn around.

Erica looks behind them.

ERICA  
 Yeah, turn around.

Justin does a U-turn and goes back where he came.

JUSTIN  
 Should I call my dad?

ERICA  
 Well, wait, let's see.

Erica looks down at the map. Justin looks for signs. He sees one that shows where to keep going for the New Jersey Turnpike.

JUSTIN  
 Oh, easy.

ERICA  
 Yeah, looks like we can just get back on.

JUSTIN  
 Look at us. Dumb and Dumber...

JUSTIN & ERICA  
 Er!

They laugh and drive on.

JUSTIN  
 Mock.

ERICA  
 Yeah!

JUSTIN  
 Ing.

ERICA  
 Yeah!

EXT. HIGHWAY -- LATER

so it is important  
 that you film this on  
 a cloudy day

A bird joins a group of other birds sitting on a telephone wire. The clouds above them are getting darker.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

12

A more mellow, indie song plays on the radio. The two listen to it in silence, as they sip from their almost-empty cups. Erica is looking up at the sky.

ERICA

I'm glad you put the top up. It looks like it's gonna pour soon.

JUSTIN

I know. So annoying. It's been raining so much this summer.

ERICA

Yeah. Global warming, I guess?

JUSTIN

Is that what Al Gore said in the movie?

ERICA

I don't know, I didn't see it.

JUSTIN

Me neither. So much for doing our part to save the planet.

ERICA

(Laughing)

Bad liberal college students.

JUSTIN

Sorry, earth! I'm excited to see Suzie and Luke and Carla.

ERICA

Me too.

JUSTIN

Have you talked to them at all since school ended? 'Cuz I haven't.

ERICA

No, not really. Suzie's never online, so we just text here and there. And she takes forever to respond on Facebook.

JUSTIN

So do you!

ERICA

Well, sorry if my whole life doesn't revolve around online friendships. I have real-life friends, ok?

JUSTIN

Really? I'd love to meet them.

ERICA

I'm gonna unbuckle your seat belt.

JUSTIN

And, ew, are you saying my whole life revolves around Facebook? I didn't even have it 'til a few months ago.

ERICA

Yeah, and you've been on it nonstop. Mr. "I'll Never Join That."

JUSTIN

Well, you once had a MySpace.

ERICA

I know. Kill me now.

JUSTIN

Yeah, so that's really cool.

ERICA

You've made your point!

JUSTIN

Can we look it up at Suzie's house?

ERICA

No! Oh, Suzie called me yesterday to wish me a happy birthday though, which was nice of her.

JUSTIN

Yeah, that's nice.

ERICA

I haven't really talked to Carla since finals.

JUSTIN

Yeah, she's not really the keep-in-touch kind of gal. I did see her once on campus though a few weeks ago at summer school.

ERICA

Retard!

JUSTIN

You failed that class, too, so zip da lip.

do you think filming in the convertible will be noisy? we may have to have the top up and windows up and have a tow truck pull it while you guys are talking. this will make it much quieter.

ERICA

Did you guys talk? Or did she see you and run off shrieking?

JUSTIN

She did actually. I forgot to bathe that morning. No, we talked for a bit, but of course I was running late to class so I had to skedaddle.

(Pause)

I wonder what we'll do in Wilkes-Burrrr.

ERICA

Yeah. I have a feeling there's not gonna be much to do in the 'Burr.

JUSTIN

Out in the boonies.

ERICA

The sticks.

JUSTIN

Eek!

ERICA

I guess we'll just go to the pizza place Carla works at?

JUSTIN

Yeah, that's what I was thinking. She's working there tonight, right?

ERICA

Yeah, that's what Suzie said.

JUSTIN

Well, I love pizza.

ERICA

Our big Saturday night event. "Live from Guido's Pizzeria, it's Saturday night!"

They laugh. It suddenly begins to rain.

JUSTIN

Oh, fuck.

ERICA

(whining)

This trip sucks already!

JUSTIN

Where do we have to go now?

ERICA

We have to get on 81.

JUSTIN

Suzie didn't tell me if that was,  
like, Exit 81 or something else...  
but I guess it's Exit 81.

ERICA

Yeah, probably.

Justin's phone starts vibrating.

JUSTIN

Oh, shit. My phone.

He digs into his pocket to try to grab it. Erica tries to help him out by holding the wheel.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sorry, thanks.

Justin looks at his phone.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oh, speak of the devil!

Justin flips the phone open and puts it on speaker.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

(Into phone)

Suzie!

SUZIE'S VOICE

Hey Justin Timberlake.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

What's up baby?

SUZIE'S VOICE

Not much. We're just wondering how  
you guys are doing.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

We're good. We're on the Pennsylvania  
Turnpike, looking for 81. Now, is  
it *Exit 81*? Or is it something else?

SUZIE'S VOICE

Um... I don't think it's *Exit 81*.  
Hold on...

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

Oh, OK.

A beat later.

SUZIE'S VOICE

Yeah, we don't remember which Exit it is exactly.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

OK...

SUZIE'S VOICE

But it's not *Exit 81*. It's some Exit number that will say Highway 81. That's what you want.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

Oh, woopsy. We'll look for that then.

SUZIE'S VOICE

Sorry. But just call me on Luke's grandparents' phone if you need help, since my phone keeps losing a signal up here. You have that number right?

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

OK. Yeah, I have that saved in here from yesterday.

SUZIE'S VOICE

OK great, talk to you guys soon!

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

Bye Suz.

ERICA

(Into phone)

Ciao bella!

Justin hangs up.

JUSTIN

So it's not *Exit 81*.

ERICA

Yeah, that's confusing.

JUSTIN

Yeah, so hopefully we didn't pass it already, because I haven't really been looking.

ERICA  
 (Laughing)  
 Me neither.

JUSTIN  
 Shit.

ERICA  
 I don't think we passed it. It says  
 on these directions that we're  
 supposed to be on here for at least  
 an hour.

JUSTIN  
 Yeah, that's true.

ERICA  
 So we should be good.

JUSTIN  
 Let's hope.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- LATER

13

It's a little darker now. They're laughing.

ERICA  
 ... I don't know why MTV still tries  
 to pass that up as reality.

JUSTIN  
 It has to be staged. The awkwardness  
 is too intense.

ERICA  
 Audrina's eyes. Hilarious.

JUSTIN  
 Yes! She's my favorite. It's so  
 dumb, but I can't look away.

Erica sees a sign and points.

ERICA  
 Look, Highway 81!

JUSTIN  
 Sweet! We found it!

ERICA  
 Can you get in the right lane?

JUSTIN  
 Yeah.

Justin switches to the other lane and goes up the ramp.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Wilkes-Barre, here we come!

EXT. HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

14

The car merges onto Highway 81. Soft thunder is heard above.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- LATER

15

Erica's phone rings. It's the Ghostbusters theme.

JUSTIN  
Looks like someone needs your  
ghostbusting skills.

ERICA  
(Fishes through purse)  
It's probably my dad. The only person  
who calls me.

Erica looks at the caller ID on her phone.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
Oh. Unknown number.

JUSTIN  
It's the killer!

They laugh. Erica answers her phone, putting it on speaker.

ERICA  
(Into phone, hesitant)  
Hello?

SUZIE'S VOICE  
Hey girlfriend, it's Suzie. Where  
are you guys now?

ERICA  
(Into phone)  
Hi stranger. We're on 81 and we've  
been looking for 29 for a while now.

SUZIE'S VOICE  
Oh, really?

Erica looks out the window to see a sign.

ERICA  
(Into phone)  
Yeah. Um... we just passed a sign  
for Scranton.

SUZIE'S VOICE  
Wait, Scranton? You guys went too  
far!

(MORE)



SUZIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
Once you get on 81, you're not on it  
long because 29 is like right there.

ERICA  
(Into phone)  
Oh, no.

Erica and Justin share an annoyed look.

SUZIE'S VOICE  
Just try to turn around if you can.  
And look for 29.

ERICA  
(Into phone)  
OK. Um... it's 2:10 right now, so,  
uh... Give us another hour and  
hopefully we'll see you soon. Watch  
us break down in this crappy weather.

SUZIE'S VOICE  
(Laughs)  
No, think happy thoughts! Just call  
me if you aren't sure where to go,  
'cuz we're just hanging.

ERICA  
(Into phone)  
OK, great. Sorry about that. Bye.

SUZIE'S VOICE  
No, prob! Bye.

Erica hangs up and sighs.

ERICA  
We went too far.

JUSTIN  
Dammit! We've been on here for a  
while Erica.

ERICA  
I know! So I guess we'll just have  
to get off at the next exit.

JUSTIN  
This sucks! I thought we'd be there  
by now.

ERICA  
You jinxed us! Good thing we didn't  
have a set time to be there.

JUSTIN  
I'll just get off here.

erica or justin should  
say "we should have a  
Garmin Nuvee - then  
we wouldn't be lost"  
WE SHOULD get  
funding from Garmin  
towards the film cost  
it will be product  
placement!!!!

Justin turns right and goes down a ramp to an exit. They drive down a street filled with car dealerships on both sides. There are no signs anywhere that say "81."

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

What is this strange land?

ERICA

Here, turn into this gas station.  
We can just ask them how to get to  
Wilkes-Barre.

JUSTIN

Are we even near Wilkes-Barre?

ERICA

Are we alive? Is this a dream?

They laugh. Justin turns into the gas station as Erica puts on her hoodie.

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #1 -- CONTINUOUS

16

Justin parks the car and the two get out. A muddy BLACK JEEP is parked behind them on the other side of the lot. A MAN, 40s, leans against it, puffing away on a cigarette. He's not unattractive, but looks rough and weathered. He's completely still, showing no emotion, just watching them.

this guy  
may look  
like Bobby  
Cobleigh -  
the tire guy  
in Riverside

Erica locks eyes with him quickly before she and Justin enter the convenience store.

INT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #1 STORE -- CONTINUOUS

Justin and Erica go to the register and speak to the CASHIER, a man in his 30s who looks bored out of his mind as he reads the paper. He seems intrigued by these strangers.

JUSTIN

Hi. We were wondering if you know  
how to get to 29 from here?

CASHIER

Where you two from?

JUSTIN

Philly.

CASHIER

What are you doing here then?

ERICA

Visiting a friend. So, 29?

CASHIER

You want to make a right outta here and go straight through a few lights, like 3 of them, and see signs for 81. You go up the ramp and look for signs for 29 a few miles ahead. That'll get you to other main roads, like Route 11, or...

JUSTIN

Yeah, Route 11. I think that's what we need actually.

CASHIER

What town does your friend live in?

JUSTIN

Um... We should be able to find it. Thank you for your help.

ERICA

Thanks very much.

CASHIER

You're very welcome, cutie.

Erica looks back at him, grossed out.

CASHIER (CONT'D)

I get off in 20 minutes. When do you get off?

ERICA

Excuse me?

CASHIER

Your friend can watch, I don't mind!

ERICA

Not interested. At all.

The cashier chuckles as the two quickly leave.

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #1 -- CONTINUOUS

18

The two walk back to the car quickly.

ERICA

Not in your dreams, asshole. As if.

JUSTIN

What the fuck? That was disgusting.

ERICA

He had like five teeth, so what do you expect? Eew, let's just speed out of here.

JUSTIN

Yeah, we just get back on this road, whatever it is, and 81 is just a few streets away.

ERICA

All these numbers. 81, 29, 11.

JUSTIN

I know. And math is not our forte. Just ask Professor Wu.

ERICA

Ugh, fucking Wu.

Justin unlocks the car, but Erica stops in her tracks.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Wait, I have to use the bathroom... but I don't wanna go back in there.

JUSTIN

No way. Just, um, go in the bushes?

Justin gets in the car, but leaves the door open.

ERICA

No way! It's raining.

JUSTIN

It's just misty. No one's around.

POV FROM INSIDE JEEP:

We watch Erica and Justin interact. Heavy breathing is heard.

ERICA

Crap. I really have to go.

JUSTIN

#1 or #2?

ERICA

None of your business!

JUSTIN

Well how long will you take?

ERICA

Can we go to another gas station?

JUSTIN

Erica, no! We have so much more driving to do. No more stopping!

ERICA

Justin, come on!

JUSTIN

Just go over there under the roof  
and pee in the bushes.

ERICA

Will you keep an eye out? Please?

JUSTIN

Yeah, of course! Go.

Erica looks around, not noticing the stranger in the jeep. The POV from inside the truck follows her run behind the station and squat in the bushes. The breathing quickens.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

(Calling to Erica)

OK, I'm starting the car!

ERICA

Wait!

Erica finishes peeing and quickly zips up her jeans. She runs to the car as Justin starts it up. Out of the convenience store runs a LITTLE GIRL, 6, followed by her MOTHER, late 30s. Both look lower class. Neither Erica nor Justin notice them. The cashier steps outside too.

OUT OF POV FROM INSIDE JEEP.

As Erica reaches for her door handle, Justin reverses the car a little bit, making her lose her grip.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Son of a bitch!

She sees the Cashier staring at her.

CASHIER

You need my help again, baby?

ERICA

Justin, open the fucking door!

JUSTIN

Oh, shit. Get in!

Justin unlocks Erica's door and she gets in. Before she can even shut the door, he reverses the car quickly. Suddenly, the little girl comes into view right behind the car and screams.

ERICA

Wait, stop!

The headlights from the jeep turn on, blinding them. Justin suddenly screeches to a halt. The girl is fine, but frozen, and her mother comes running to her, screaming with rage. Bags fall on the ground.

MOTHER

Oh my God! LeeAnne! Are you OK,  
honey?

(to Justin)

What the fuck are you doing?!

ERICA

(Getting out)

Sorry! Is she OK?

JUSTIN

Shit! I didn't see her!

The woman hits the trunk of the car with her hand.

MOTHER

You little shits! You could have  
killed a goddamn child, you know  
that? Fucking idiots!

She swings her purse at Erica. Erica puts her hands up, backing  
away. Justin gets out of the car.

JUSTIN

Jesus Christ, lady!

ERICA

Ma'am, we're very sorry. She just  
ran out!

MOTHER

Don't fucking "Ma'am" me, you stupid  
bitch! I'm calling the cops.

ERICA

Whoa, there's no need for that.

The mother grabs Erica's arm violently.

MOTHER

I'll kill you.

JUSTIN

Oh, fuck.

(to Cashier)

Call the cops!

The cashier just stands there. The woman lets go of Erica and  
picks up her bag. The little girl stares at Justin.

MOTHER

I got your license plate number.

(to Justin, pointing)

I see your car again, say a prayer.

(to daughter)

LeeAnne, let's go!

The girl keeps staring at Justin.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 (Walking away)  
 Now, goddammit!

With that, she runs off after her mother. Erica and Justin get back in the car and shut their doors.

ERICA  
 Holy fucking shit! Did you see what she did to my arm?

They shield their eyes from the glaring lights behind them.

JUSTIN  
 I can't fucking see. Who is this guy?

Finally, the lights go out. They see what the jeep looks like, but can barely see the shadow in the driver's seat.

ERICA  
 I'm, like, shaking.

JUSTIN  
 I'm so sorry, Erica. It's ok now.

He looks out his window but doesn't see the Cashier anymore. He then fully reverses and gets back on the road.

EXT. ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

19

The black jeep pulls out and follows them at a distance.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

20

JUSTIN  
 We are not in Philly anymore.

ERICA  
 That was scary. That woman is not well.

JUSTIN  
 And her kid was weird.

ERICA  
 And the guy that worked there. Ugh, let's just forget about the whole thing. So fucking weird.  
 (Pause)  
 I wonder if there are houses up in there. Like the Hollywood hills.

JUSTIN  
 More like the hills have eyes.

ERICA

(Laughing)

The Hills Have Heels. The cast of  
MTV's "The Hills" in a Hills Have  
Eyes sequel. Let's write it!

They see a sign up ahead near an upward ramp.

JUSTIN

Yes! Look, here's a sign for 81!  
Back to the highway!

ERICA

Back to the future. Away from here.

EXT. ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

21

Justin drives up the ramp and gets back on Highway 81.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- LATER

22

It's no longer raining now, but the clouds are still dark. Signs  
on the side of the roads say "BEWARE FALLING ROCK." Solar-powered  
windmills are spinning in the distance.

Straight ahead is a tunnel under a huge mountain.

INT. TUNNEL -- MOMENTS LATER

23

The car drives through the dark tunnel.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

24

Erica sits with her eyes shut. More catchy indie music plays on  
the radio. The black jeep is still behind them in the distance.

They drive by a large sign that says "WILKES-BARRE" and has the  
number "11" under it.

JUSTIN

Route 11, Wilkes-Barre.

Erica keeps her eyes closed.

ERICA

Please get us there asap.

JUSTIN

You OK?

Justin moves over in the right lane as they get closer to the  
exit. Erica opens her eyes and sighs.

ERICA

Yeah, it's fine. Oh, wait, there's  
another Wilkes-Barre exit up there.



JUSTIN

What?

Indeed, there is a sign ahead for "WILKES-BARRE" and "BEAR CREEK."

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Bear Creek?

ERICA

Hmm... shit, is that us?.

JUSTIN

Well, what do the directions say?

ERICA

(Looking down)

Um... I don't know, hold on.

JUSTIN

We'll just go down this one. I don't think we want Bear Creek. Sounds like "Wolf Creek" anyway, and that movie freaked me out.

ERICA

Didn't see it.

Justin turns the car down the ramp.

EXT. ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

25

The car goes down the hill into a very densely-populated shopping area. Restaurants and stores are on either side of them.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

26

The two are looking around.

JUSTIN

Do you see Route 11 anywhere?

ERICA

No. I don't even think this is where we want to be.

JUSTIN

Well, what the fuck? It's like 2:45 now. What the hell, Wilkes-Barre?!

ERICA

I guess we should just turn around again. For the 20th time today.

Justin sighs and turns around. He makes a left at the light and travels back up the hill past this shopping complex.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I do love me some Target though.

Justin, becoming irritable, gets back onto 29 and travels down the highway.

JUSTIN

Ok... so here's the next one. This better be it.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

27

We see the sign for "WILKES-BARRE" and "BEAR CREEK." Not far behind it is another sign that says "WILKES-BARRE" and "ALLENTOWN" under it.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

28

Erica sees the sign.

ERICA

Look. Another sign for Wilkes-Barre!

JUSTIN

How many exits can this stupid town have?

ERICA

How can Wilkes-Barre be this big? I never heard about it until Carla.

JUSTIN

This is like the freakin' Twilight Zone. Should I take this one or the next one?

ERICA

Uh...

JUSTIN

Quick! What do you think?

ERICA

I don't know.

They pass by the "BEAR CREEK" exit.

JUSTIN

Well, we missed that one.

ERICA

I never heard of Bear Creek anyway. At least Allentown is recognizable.

JUSTIN

Yeah, let's just do that one and hope for the best.

As Justin tries to get in the right lane for the upcoming exit, a FADED BLUE PICK-UP TRUCK out of nowhere whizzes by and blocks them from getting in.

ERICA

Ooh, shit!

JUSTIN

Oh, you gotta be kidding me.

Justin nervously swerves the car while honking, and Erica's coffee cup falls into her lap. The remaining coffee stains her jeans.

ERICA

Aah, Justin!

JUSTIN

Shit, sorry.

ERICA

Do you have napkins?

JUSTIN

Fuck, we missed the exit!

Erica opens the glove compartment and searches through CD's and other junk. She finds one crumpled napkin.

ERICA

I'll just use this.

JUSTIN

I cannot believe that guy! I am so sick of driving!

ERICA

Do you need me to drive?

JUSTIN

Should we just call them? This is really getting frustrating.

ERICA

I'm just nervous because every time we call or they call we're always lost and so far away.

(Trying to lighten  
the mood)

We should have just booked a limo! I could have worn my prom dress from last year.

JUSTIN

Seriously. A limo sounds fucking great right about now.

ERICA

I'm getting a headache. I think I've been in the car too long.

JUSTIN

It's probably all these circles we've been going in.

ERICA

(Lowering her window)

Yeah, I need some air.

JUSTIN

Go for it. I guess I'm gonna have to find a way to turn around. A-fucking-gain!

The CD in the radio starts skipping.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I hate this CD player.

Justin bangs it. That doesn't help. The music still skips.

ERICA

You want to put in my iPod? I have some good music on there.

JUSTIN

Oh, I don't have one of those adapter things.

ERICA

Oh, you don't?

JUSTIN

No.

ERICA

You never drive while listening to your iPod?

JUSTIN

No.

ERICA

Oh. That's weird.

JUSTIN

I just still make mix CD's. Old school. Can you get my case out of the glove compartment?

Erica opens the compartment and pulls out a CD case. She flips through it.

ERICA

Can I pick something out?

JUSTIN

I was gonna put in one of my recent mixes. Cool?

ERICA

Actually, can we just turn off the music for a while?

JUSTIN

Sure.

ERICA

Sorry, I just feel nauseous. You don't have any Advil or Tylenol or something in here, do you?

JUSTIN

No.

ERICA

Didn't think so.

JUSTIN

You need me to pull over?

ERICA

No, no. I don't want to waste any more time. You want me to drive?

JUSTIN

I thought your head hurts?

ERICA

Yeah, but it might not if I drive.

JUSTIN

What, my driving is causing you migraines?

ERICA

Just keep it cool, 2 Fast 2 Furious.

JUSTIN

(Laughs)

Can you give me the directions?

ERICA

It's fine. I'll help you.

JUSTIN

No, no. Shut your eyes.

Erica looks down at the directions.

ERICA

Oh, wait. Whoa, this is actually the exit we want.

JUSTIN

What?

ERICA

Well, it says here, that we should get on 11 at Nanticoke. And...

(points)

Here's Nanticoke right up ahead.

The sign ahead indeed says "NANTICOKE."

JUSTIN

So we didn't have to get off in Wilkes-Barre at all?

ERICA

I guess not? I'm sorry, I should have been looking more closely at the directions.

JUSTIN

Wow. This is ridiculous. You sure?

Justin takes the directions out of Erica's hand.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

So all that for nothing.

ERICA

It's coming up quick. Can you get in the right lane?

Justin looks in his mirror.

JUSTIN

Yes.

He moves over and goes down the ramp.

EXT. ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

29

The car travels down a small road amidst the mountainous areas. They pass a sign for "SUGAR NOTCH" and "ASHLEY."

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

30

JUSTIN

Sugar Notch Ashley?

ERICA

(Laughing)

What a great name!

JUSTIN

Yeah, I wanna name my kid that.

ERICA

Like Ashley Parker Angel! From O-Town!

JUSTIN

Who had another crappy reality show on MTV!

ERICA

Sugar Notch Ashley Parker Angel.

JUSTIN

That will be the name of my daughter. Or son.

They laugh, blowing away any tension between them. The faded blue pickup truck is still following them at a distance, yet they've been too preoccupied to notice. Justin's phone rings.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Shit. It's probably Suzie. Since we're hours late.

Justin digs out his phone and puts it on speaker.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

(Into phone)

Suzie?

LUKE'S VOICE

Hey, it's actually Luke.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

Hey Luke! Sorry it's taking us so long. We're looking for 11 now.

LUKE'S VOICE

(Relieved, yet displeased)

Oh, OK, good. You have to take Route 11 South. I think you make a left on that, since a right takes you North.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

OK.

LUKE'S VOICE

And then you'll just go straight down on Route 11 and it's a long winding road, so you'll have to go slow.

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

OK.

LUKE'S VOICE

And you'll see a few gas stations on 11. There's like a PSC, a Shell, on your right, and then I'm pretty sure there's a Sunoco on your left. Just park there and we'll meet you, OK?

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

Oh, OK, you're gonna meet us? That's so awesome.

ERICA

(Into phone)

You're a lifesaver, Lukey.

LUKE'S VOICE

Yeah, there's a Shell on your right. Then that Sunoco on your left, OK?

JUSTIN

(Into phone)

OK, thanks so much Luke. We'll see you guys soon.

LUKE'S VOICE

OK, bye.

Justin hangs up the phone.

ERICA

That's wonderful.

JUSTIN

Yeah, a Sunoco station.

ERICA

(Laughing)

Or was it Shell?

JUSTIN

I think it was Sunoco.

ERICA

Oh, look! 11 South!

They see the sign that says "11 NORTH" and "11 SOUTH," but they're both on the right.

JUSTIN

Wait, they're both going to the right.



ERICA

Oh, what?!

EXT. ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

31

Justin's car goes past the turn for Route 11 because they are in the left lane while many cars drive in the right lane.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

32

The two are laughing hysterically, because they're so angry.

JUSTIN

WHAT THE FUCK, Erica!

ERICA

Oh my God!

JUSTIN

Erica, this is insane!

ERICA

I'm dying! I cannot believe that just happened!

JUSTIN

I'm gonna throw up. I can't do this anymore.

ERICA

Why does God hate us?

JUSTIN

I thought I had to make a left! That's what Luke just said!

ERICA

I know!

They laugh and follow the street down the bend.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Justin, look!

There's a sign straight ahead saying "11 SOUTH."

JUSTIN

What is this? So is this actually 11 South?

ERICA

Didn't we just see it over there? Are there two 11 South's?

JUSTIN

I'm just gonna vomit all over the steering wheel. And crash. And die.

ERICA

I'm so done.

EXT. ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

33

The car drives down a small winding road, passing by dilapidated bars and stores. Every now and then small dirt roads split off to go into dark, quiet neighborhoods hidden in the woods.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

34

Justin spots the gas stations.

JUSTIN

Gas stations up ahead. Here's Shell.

ERICA

Yeah, skip that.

Justin drives past. The faded blue pickup truck is back, following them more closely now. Erica sees this in her rear view mirror, and remembers it from before, but she keeps quiet.

JUSTIN

I don't even know what his car looks like. Here's the Sunoco station.

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #2 -- CONTINUOUS

35

Justin turns his car into the Sunoco gas station and parks on the side. The two get out for some air.

JUSTIN

(Bending over)  
Ugh, my legs...

ERICA

God it feels good to stretch.

The two stretch and stand on either side of the car. Justin sticks out his butt to fart.

JUSTIN

That felt good.

ERICA

Yeah, when we get to Suzie's I'm gonna have to...

Erica makes a signal at her butt.

JUSTIN  
Good old Dunkin Donuts!

ERICA  
It's just dookie.

The faded blue pickup truck pulls into the station and parks near them. They both notice.

JUSTIN  
Isn't this the douche who cut me off  
a while back?

ERICA  
Yeah. I wasn't gonna say anything,  
but I feel like he's been driving  
behind us for a long time.

JUSTIN  
Really? You think he's following  
us?

ERICA  
I don't know, I just think I've seen  
that car at different times throughout  
our trip. And now he's parking here.

The two look at each other, freaked out. Erica, more scared than she lets on, tries to change the subject.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
Anyway. So, should we call them?

JUSTIN  
Yeah, I'll text them.

POV FROM INSIDE PICKUP TRUCK:

The gaze is on Justin and Erica.

OUT OF POV.

Erica sees a few houses high in the mountains, looking very peaceful, but still a bit creepy.

ERICA  
Wow, look at those houses up there.

JUSTIN  
Where?

Erica points to the secluded areas. Justin looks up.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Oh, wow, yeah. Imagine if you fell.

As they talk, the YOUNG MAN, probably 25 years old, turns off his truck and steps out. He's wears a ratty tank top and dirty jeans that haven't been washed in a long time. His hair is greasy, his body thin but muscular. He spits and turns around to pee right there outside. Erica and Justin try to ignore him.

ERICA

Yeah. It makes me think of this story I heard a long time ago.

JUSTIN

Oh yeah?

ERICA

In dance class, this girl told it to us once.

JUSTIN

As you were doing the Macarena?

ERICA

(Laughs)

Yeah. She said she knew this girl...

JUSTIN

Who knew a girl who knew another girl...

ERICA

No, she just knew this girl from school that was home alone one night. And she lived in a big house like that up in the hills in the middle of nowhere.

Justin looks up at the houses in the mountains.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

36

Erica sits on the couch, watching a scary movie and eating popcorn. Behind her, it's pouring rain in the backyard.

ERICA (V.O.)

And it was raining and thundering and lightning and the power went out...

The lights suddenly go out. Erica jumps, spilling her bowl of popcorn onto the floor. She looks around, afraid.

BACK TO:

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #2 -- DAY

37

Justin eagerly listens to Erica's story.

JUSTIN

Love it.

ERICA

And... it's hard to explain... but she was sitting on the couch with her back to these glass doors that led to the backyard...

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

38

Erica rigidly sits on the couch.

ERICA (V.O.)

... And she was hoping that the power would turn back on, so she's sitting there looking at the blank TV waiting.

Just then, a SHADOW creeps slowly behind her near the patio doors.

ERICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And, out of nowhere, she saw this shadow of a person walking right behind her outside!

Her eyes go wide with fear. She crawls off the couch to the floor, hiding.

BACK TO:

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #2 -- DAY

39

JUSTIN

Oh, shit!

ERICA

Yeah, like she could see it in the reflection on the TV.

JUSTIN

Oh my God, that's scary!

The driver of the pickup truck smiles as he smokes. Erica sees this but tries to totally ignore it. She goes back to the story.

ERICA

Yeah, so she freaked out, thinking someone was walking around in the rain, trying to break in.

JUSTIN

What did this girl do?

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

40

Erica runs through the house at frantic speed. She grabs the cordless phone.

ERICA (V.O.)  
She jumps up and hides in her room  
until her parents come home.

She hides in a closet, sits on the floor, and makes a call.

BACK TO:

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #2 -- DAY

41

JUSTIN  
Phew.

ERICA  
But no, it gets better. It gets so  
much better.

JUSTIN  
Oh no.

ERICA  
Her parents come home and are so  
freaked and they call the cops  
because...

JUSTIN  
Shit, what?

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

42

The lights come back on. Erica walks downstairs into the family room with her MOM and DAD. They and a few COPS are shocked to see footprints on the carpet near the patio doors.

ERICA (V.O.)  
Because when the power came back on,  
they saw muddy footprints in the  
family room where the TV was. The  
guy wasn't walking around in the  
backyard, he was actually in the  
house!

A man's hand opens the patio door. A pair of men's boots enter.

ERICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Someone left the glass doors unlocked!

A MAN, late 30s, dressed all in black with a hood, wanders through the house. His fingers drum along the kitchen counter.

As Erica comes downstairs and watches a movie, the man sits nearby in the next room, where he can get a good view of her.

BACK TO:

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA GAS STATION #2 -- DAY

43

Justin is creeped out.

JUSTIN

Oh my God, you're kidding! This story can't be real.

ERICA

It is. This girl from dance was like really good friends with the girl in the story.

JUSTIN

How could she not have, like, felt a presence in the room? Or heard someone right behind her?

ERICA

I don't know. I guess the rain and thunder were so loud she couldn't tell.

JUSTIN

That is wack. Thank God she wasn't murdered.

ERICA

I know, right? She's lucky she didn't end up like that girl on the radio.

Just then, the driver of the pickup truck opens the back of his truck to reveal a bunch of trash bags. Erica gets a good view of this, but Justin is facing the opposite direction. One bag is covered in red liquid. Erica is disgusted.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

JUSTIN

What?

ERICA

(Shaking her head)

Don't turn around.

The man looks over at Erica, and she quickly turns her head away. He smiles, then throws his trash into the dumpster. The red bag makes a loud thud.

Justin turns around to see what he's doing, but quickly looks back, playing it cool.

The driver then walks past them to the convenience store. They avert eye contact.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Did you see that?

JUSTIN

What is it? Trash? It smells.

ERICA

Yeah, the bags looked really heavy. And one even looked like it had, like, blood on it, or something.

JUSTIN

No way.

ERICA

Way.

JUSTIN

Heavy, bloody bags? As in, like, dead bodies?

ERICA

No.

JUSTIN

Like that girl on the radio?

Justin turns around and looks at the dumpster.

ERICA

Eew, Justin, why did you have to go there? Now I'm really grossed out.

JUSTIN

You brought her up! You never know! That's not that far from here.

ERICA

Stop!

Justin creeps over to the trash, but it smells too bad.

JUSTIN

It smells like a dead animal. Maybe it's roadkill.

ERICA

That's delicious.

(Looking)

Oh, here they are!

They turn to see LUKE parking his SUV behind theirs. SUZIE is in the passenger seat, waving.



JUSTIN

(Waving)

Yay!

Suzie jumps out, very excited. Suzie has beautiful long brown hair, and wears a long sleeve button-up shirt (it could be Luke's) and shorts with the edges frayed.

Luke, however, just sits in the car, smiles slightly and waves. He has very dark hair, buzzed close to his head. He wears a t-shirt with a cartoon on it, and slightly baggy jeans.

These two have been in a relationship for years, since high school. They're very much a unit.

ERICA

Suzie!

SUZIE

Hey guys!

JUSTIN

Suzie, my love!

Suzie hugs Erica, then hugs Justin.

SUZIE

It's so great to see you guys!

ERICA

You look great. Work those legs, girl!

SUZIE

Thank you! You guys look great, too.

JUSTIN

Sorry it took us forever.

SUZIE

Oh God, no problem. I'm sorry! You guys must be tired.

JUSTIN

Yeah, kinda. Should I follow you guys to the house?

SUZIE

Yeah, it gets kinda confusing from here, because the road is so curvy. So just stick behind us and we'll go slow!

JUSTIN

OK, cool.

Suzie gets back in Luke's car.

ERICA  
(To Justin)  
Can I drive?

JUSTIN  
Is my driving making you that sick?

ERICA  
No, no, I feel totally fine now. I  
just think it'd be fun to drive.

JUSTIN  
All right. I'm putting my life in  
your hands.

Justin throws her the key. She misses it and it falls to the ground.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
And there goes my life.

They get in the car.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

44

Erica turns the car back on.

ERICA  
Um... so, could Luke not get out of  
the car?

JUSTIN  
I was thinking the same thing! He  
just, like, waved. Awkward.

ERICA  
Yeah. What a welcome!

JUSTIN  
(Sarcastic)  
This night is gonna rock.

ERICA  
(Laughing)  
Yeah, baby! How do I work this thing?

JUSTIN  
Do you know what you're doing?

ERICA  
Hey, I passed my driver's test on  
the first try.

JUSTIN  
Whoa. That was harsh.

ERICA

That was way harsh, Tai.

They laugh. Erica reverses the car to pull out and follow Luke. Once she is fully reversed, facing the gas station convenience store, she tries to put the gear in drive.

JUSTIN

You just hold that button as you move the gearshift. I know, it sticks sometimes.

ERICA

(Shifting gears)

OK, there we go.

They both look up through the windshield and see the driver of the pickup truck staring at them, as he walks by.

ERICA (CONT'D)

This guy is so creepy.

JUSTIN

Why is he staring at us?

The driver slowly walks off to his truck while keeping his gaze.

ERICA

I am so tired of these weirdo's.

JUSTIN

Let's please go. He looks like he escaped the local mental institution.

Erica drives out of the station, following Luke down South 11. The driver watches them go and then gets in his car, turns it on, and follows them.

EXT. ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

45

Erica does her best to keep up with Luke, who is driving much faster than she is. The pickup truck follows Justin's car at a distance.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

46

Erica steps on the gas.

ERICA

He's driving really fast.

JUSTIN

He knows we're following him, right?

The road is very winding, so it gets hard to drive.

ERICA  
This is hard. Shit.

Erica passes a car coming the opposite way... but just barely misses it.

JUSTIN  
Erica!

ERICA  
What? This is fun, right?  
(Singing)  
Rollercoaster of love.

JUSTIN  
Rollercoaster of hate.

They laugh. Erica focuses on trying to reach Luke's car.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
You know, it's funny. That story  
you were telling me back there about  
that girl and the guy in her house...

ERICA  
Yeah?

JUSTIN  
It reminds me of this urban legend I  
remember hearing about years ago.  
It was even in this movie I rented a  
long time ago called "Campfire Tales."  
It was kinda bad, but had a decent  
cast and the stories they told in it  
were pretty dzzzamn scary like this  
one.

ERICA  
(Laughs)  
Dzzzamn. What was it?

JUSTIN  
So it's kinda like that story. This  
husband and wife are very rich and  
live in a huge mansion in the middle  
of nowhere.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

47

A 10-year-old BOY plays video games in his room, with his golden retriever at his side.

JUSTIN (V.O.)  
 They have this only son who's like  
 10 or so. Maybe younger, maybe older.  
 And a dog.

The boy jumps when thunder strikes outside.

JUSTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 And the dog always sleeps under this  
 boy's bed, and whenever he gets  
 scared, he reaches his hand out and  
 his dog is there for him and they  
 calm each other down.

He holds his hand out over the edge of the bed. The dog licks  
 his hand and he pets it.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

48

ERICA  
 Aww, I wanna cuddle with my doggie  
 right now.

JUSTIN  
 (Laughs)  
 Same. And so anyway, one rainy,  
 gross night, there was this really  
 creepy bum.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

49

A MAN, late 30s, dirty and emaciated, creeps around the back of  
 the mansion in the rain. His hands touch the windows and doors.

JUSTIN (V.O.)  
 He was so freakin' scary in the movie.  
 He had long gross hair, beard, hadn't  
 showered in like... years.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

50

ERICA  
 Eew, bums.

JUSTIN  
 And somehow, I forget how, but the  
 story goes that he's able to break  
 into this mansion quietly in the  
 middle of the night during a storm.

ERICA

I love it how these mansions are so  
easy to break into in these stories.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

51

The man stalks up the stairs and stops once he's on the landing.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

So he sneaks upstairs... I guess he  
just wants to live in the house and  
take over.

He touches a family portrait hanging on the wall, making it rock  
back and forth on its hook.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

52

ERICA

Oh, yeah I heard there was a bum  
that broke into someone's house one  
time and lived there for days or  
weeks or something actually.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- DAY

53

Erica lays in bed. She hears a noise coming from downstairs, and  
goes to investigate.

ERICA (V.O.)

And when the girl stayed home from  
school one day, she finally realized  
this guy was in their house.

She sees a MAN in his late 30s rummaging through their kitchen  
and she screams. She runs away, but the man chases after her.  
He grabs her and covers her mouth.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

54

ERICA

So he tied the whole family up and  
dropped them off in the middle of  
nowhere and just lived in their house.

JUSTIN  
 What da fuck! What happened to the  
 family?

CUT TO:

EXT. FICTIONAL FIELD -- MORNING

55

The bodies of the Erica, her Mom, and Dad, are bound together.  
 Their skin is raw and dehydrated. Flies buzz around them.

ERICA (V.O.)  
 They died I guess.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

56

JUSTIN  
 Oh my God. Well, this is a similar  
 story I guess, and the homeless guy  
 wanted somewhere to stay. So the  
 boy is in his room and he wakes up  
 and holds his hand out for the dog  
 to make sure it's okay.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

57

The boy holds his hand out over the edge of the bed while keeping  
 his eyes on the nearby window.

JUSTIN (V.O.)  
 The dog licks it and everything, and  
 the boy happens to look in the mirror  
 across the room...

He looks over to the mirror on his bedroom door.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

58

JUSTIN  
 ...And this is so fucking scary, I'm  
 getting chills just remembering it  
 in the movie...

ERICA  
 What?

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL HOUSE -- NIGHT

59

In the reflection is the face of the man from outside under the boy's bed. He licks the boy's fingers, and cackles with bone-chilling laughter.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

He hears this awful, creepy laughter in the room as he sees the man under his bed smiling at him! He was licking his hands, not the dog!

The man climbs out of bed and grabs the boy's arm. He bites his hand, blood splurting.

BACK TO:

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

60

ERICA

EEW!!!

omg

JUSTIN

Isn't that so disturbing? I guess he just killed the boy there and then killed the parents too. He had killed the dog earlier somehow when the boy was sleeping.

ERICA

Yeah, I heard a story like that where the boy heard, like, a dripping from the bathroom and found his dog hanging there in the shower, all bloody and disgusting.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL BATHROOM -- NIGHT

61

In the shower, blood drips down the drain from something above.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

Yeah! Yeah, I think that's how this story goes.

CUT TO:

INT. FICTIONAL BATHROOM -- NIGHT

62

Two POLICEMEN, 40s, rip open the shower curtain and find the bloody golden retriever hanging from the shower head.

BACK TO:



INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- DAY

63

JUSTIN

Or at least that's how it went in  
the movie.

ERICA

That is so creepy.

JUSTIN

Yeah, I'm scared now.

(Looks in side mirror)

Especially because that fucking truck  
is behind us!

ERICA

(Looks in rearview  
mirror)

No fucking way!

JUSTIN

(Looking back)

Do you really think he's following  
us?

ERICA

Shit, yes! He's been driving behind  
us all day!

JUSTIN

All right, well, if he follows us to  
the house, we'll call the police.

ERICA

Should we call them now?

JUSTIN

Um... no, no. It might turn out to  
be nothing.

ERICA

I'm, like, legit scared right now,  
Justin. Should I turn down a street  
and get away from him?

JUSTIN

No, keep going. We're fine. We're  
probably almost there.

ERICA

Where the hell are we going? This  
road doesn't end!

JUSTIN

Just be careful. Don't kill us,  
Erica!

ERICA  
He's gonna fucking kill us!

Justin smiles, but Erica is on the edge of her seat.

EXT. ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

64

Luke's car turns off the winding paved road onto a dirt road, and Justin's car follows.

EXT. DIRT ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

65

Luckily, the pickup truck drives by without hesitation.

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

66

ERICA  
OK, false alarm. He just passed us.

JUSTIN  
Thank God.

The two look around.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
This is quiet back here. Ch-ch-ch-ha-ha-ha.

ERICA  
Oh God, no more scares for today.  
I'm beat. Look, I guess this is it.

They look ahead to see Luke turning into a long dirt driveway. They follow him, seeing a house beyond some trees. It's totally normal and quaint, nothing eerie or creepy about it. What is creepy are the dark woods nearby.

Surrounding the house is a lawn covered with random items: flags, flower pots, garden gnomes... even a gravestone.

JUSTIN  
Is that... a grave?

ERICA  
Oh, whoa. Is that real?

Justin lowers his window all the way down. It's not merely a grave, it's basically a memorial to someone, covered with bouquets of flowers, an American flag, etc.

JUSTIN  
(Reading the name)  
Lieutenant Christopher Williams. I guess he's a family member? That's kinda...

ERICA

Weird.

JUSTIN

But, I mean, it's nice.

ERICA

Yeah.

JUSTIN

It's cool they want to honor him  
like that... but... yeah, they have  
a dead body in their front yard.

ERICA

(Laughing)  
They totally do.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

67

Suzie and Luke are already out of their car. Erica parks the car  
between the back porch and Luke's car. Luke heads for the door.

JUSTIN

Wow, Luke, this is awesome.

LUKE

Thanks.

SUZIE

Welcome! Do you guys need help with  
your stuff?

JUSTIN

Oh, no, I'm good. I barely have  
anything.

ERICA

Yeah, I got it.

Justin and Erica grab their bags from the car and shut their doors.  
Luke goes inside.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Which way do I turn the key to lock  
it, Justin?

JUSTIN

Oh that's OK. I'll just leave it  
unlocked.

ERICA

You sure?

JUSTIN

No one's gonna come around, right?

SUZIE  
You'll be fine.

ERICA  
OK then. Hopefully all your mix  
CD's don't get stolen.

Erica hands Justin his keys, which he puts in his backpack.

JUSTIN  
Oh, like you would miss them.

ERICA  
What?

JUSTIN  
(to Suzie)  
She went through all my CD's and  
hated everything.

ERICA  
I did not!

SUZIE  
You are so hard to please, Erica.

ERICA  
I am not!

JUSTIN  
Are to.

Erica slaps Justin's shoulder. Justin puts his hand in front of Erica's face.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
(to Suzie)  
Anyway!

SUZIE  
It's so good to have you guys here.

ERICA  
Aw, thanks for having me, Suz!

JUSTIN  
And me!

SUZIE  
(Lowers her voice)  
Like, I've been having fun... but  
this is all we've been doing the  
whole week.

JUSTIN  
Oh, really?

SUZIE

Yeah. It's been relaxing, but also kinda boring. So I'm glad you've arrived.

ERICA

Yeah, totally. We came just in time before you lost your mind!

JUSTIN

Is there... a grave over there?

ERICA

Yeah, is that real? We were wondering.

SUZIE

(Nodding, smiling)

Yeah, crazy right? It's his grandfather's brother. They buried him here themselves, like, a long time ago. Decades ago.

JUSTIN

Wow. Well, that's interesting.

SUZIE

It's totally freaking you guys out, isn't it? Come in before the zombies attack.

Suzie holds the door for them as they enter.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

68

Suzie leads them into the family room. There are couches across from each other, along with a big lounge chair in the corner. The wallpaper looks very 70's.

SUZIE

This is their family room. TV and everything... That's Charlie, he won't bite, he loves people.

Luke's old golden retriever CHARLIE comes running to them. He quickly smells Justin's crotch.

JUSTIN

Whoa there, puppy.

SUZIE

Oh, Charlie, stop that!

Suzie pushes Charlie away.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

You guys can sleep here on these couches tonight, if that's okay. Or, I mean, if you want, we can sleep here and you guys can have Luke's bed?

JUSTIN

Oh, no, no. That's okay.

ERICA

Yeah, we don't want to intrude on the love-fest.

SUZIE

(Laughing)

*This* is the love-fest.

JUSTIN

Hey, check out the knight. That's freaky.

He points to the corner of the room. There stands knight armor in the form of a person behind the lounge chair.

ERICA

(Jumps back)

Ooh, that scared me! I didn't even see that!

SUZIE

Yeah, that's the knight. His grandparents are so weird, they collect random stuff like that.

JUSTIN

Wow, that's kinda cool. A knight in shining armor to protect them.

SUZIE

Oh, shit, I almost forgot! I have to give you your birthday present, you old son of a gun.

ERICA

Aw, Suzie! You didn't have to get me anything!

Suzie reaches behind the big chair in the corner of the room and pulls out a small wrapped present.

SUZIE

Oh, it's nothing. I was in Target, and saw it and just immediately thought of you.

where will we get a knight? hahaha I better look on Craigslist and eBay

we should get  
Target as a  
"product  
placement" store

ERICA  
Yay, Target! We passed by one earlier  
today... when we were lost.

JUSTIN  
Ugh, don't remind me.

SUZIE  
Aww, I'm sorry you guys had such a  
horrible time. But you made it!  
Now the fun can begin!

ERICA  
Woohoo!

Justin pulls out his digital camera.

JUSTIN  
What's in there? Candy?

SUZIE  
Close.

Erica unwraps the gift and it's a bundle of granola bars.

ERICA  
Oh my God, this is amazing!

SUZIE  
Your favorite snack!

JUSTIN  
Oh God, you aren't sick of those?

ERICA  
No way, these are my crack. The  
only good thing in the cafeteria!

SUZIE  
I had to get you some. I'm sure  
you're running out.

ERICA  
I am! Thank you, Suzie.

They hug.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
I'm actually starving but I'll save  
these for dessert tonight after pizza  
with Carla.

SUZIE  
Oh, Carla. She's been so M.I.A.  
I've only seen her, like, literally  
once since I've been here.

(MORE)

SUZIE (CONT'D)

(To Justin)

And that was when I called you last week.

JUSTIN

Right, right. You guys were at her house.

SUZIE

Yep. Hanging on the porch. What people typically do here.

ERICA

Well, I hope we get to see her house. Or the porch, at least.

SUZIE

I hope so, too. Who knows. But Luke is actually making dinner for us tonight. If we go to Carla's restaurant, I guess we can get a slice too if we're still hungry.

JUSTIN

Perfect! So guys, we're juniors now! Can you believe it?

ERICA

Oh God, don't even...

SUZIE

Sophomore year flew faster than freshman year! How is that possible?

ERICA

When do classes start again?

JUSTIN

Like, the last week of August.

SUZIE

No, I think it's actually, like, a week late this year. I think the first week of September.

JUSTIN

Oh really? One extra week of summer, baby!

SUZIE

You guys wanna see the rest of the house? Shall I be your tour guide?

ERICA

Hottest tour guide ever.



SUZIE  
 Hmm... where's Luke? LUKE?!

LUKE (O.S.)  
 Yeah?

SUZIE  
 He's in the kitchen. Come on.

They follow her into the next room.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

69

Luke is at the sink, rinsing things off. Suzie leads her friends into the mostly clean, but very lived-in, kitchen.

SUZIE  
 This is la cocina.

ERICA  
 Very nice.

LUKE  
 Do you guys want hot dogs or hamburgers? I'm making veggie burgers for Suzie.

ERICA  
 Thanks so much Luke. I'll have a veggie burger too. Those are better.

JUSTIN  
 I'll have hot dogs. Thank you Luke.

LUKE  
 Cool. We have corn on the cob and potatoes, too.

SUZIE  
 Oh yeah, and we have potato salad in the fridge. You guys have to have some!

Suzie opens the fridge and shows them the salad. Justin and Erica don't really want any.

JUSTIN & ERICA  
 Sure.

LUKE  
 Suzie made it, so it's not good.

SUZIE  
 Rude!

Justin sees a big cage by the table. A colorful little bird is inside.

JUSTIN

Ooh, birdie.

ERICA

In the kitchen?!

LUKE

Yeah, we just stuck him there. He likes it.

SUZIE

Sometimes he makes noises when he hears things. It's so annoying when it happens in the middle of the night.

ERICA

Ooh, what kinds of noises could he be hearing in the middle of the night?

JUSTIN

Oh, snap! She went there.

SUZIE

Don't go there, girlfriend.

ERICA

I went there.

LUKE

I keep telling Suzie I know why he's making noise at night but...

SUZIE

Oh, Luke! Stop it.

JUSTIN

What?

Suzie and Luke give each other a look. He chuckles.

SUZIE

Luke told me this scary story the first night I came here last week and I got scared.

LUKE

Of course.

SUZIE

And so he won't stop bugging me about it. Asshole.

ERICA

What is it? What'd you tell her Luke?

LUKE  
You really wanna know?

SUZIE  
You don't wanna know.  
(To Luke)  
They're gonna be scared, too.

LUKE  
You guys are pussies.

JUSTIN  
I can handle it.

ERICA  
No, he can't.

They laugh. Luke heads for the door with the food.

LUKE  
All right, I gotta take this stuff  
out now since it looks like it's  
gonna rain again soon.  
(To Suzie)  
So that means *you* can tell them!

Suzie rolls her eyes. He goes outside to the grill in the backyard, which is visible from the kitchen window.

SUZIE  
Do you guys really wanna know?

JUSTIN  
Yeah!

ERICA  
(Sitting at table)  
I don't know.

LUKE  
(From outside)  
She's being dramatic!

SUZIE  
Yeah, I'm making it sound worse than  
it really is.

JUSTIN  
Just tell us, ho!

Justin sits at the table next to Erica. The bird in the room suddenly shrieks.

ERICA  
Birdie is getting pissed.

SUZIE

Okay, the bird can't stand the suspense. So basically it was the first night here. I was kinda scared just 'cuz, I mean... this place is so... out in the middle of nowhere. And we were outside and I said, "how freaky would it be if some scary monster man just came out of the woods right now?" You know, since the woods are right there

JUSTIN

(Laughing)

Monster man.

SUZIE

Quiet! And so, Luke said that when he was little and spent a lot of time here with his grandparents, his grandfather would actually tell him that a man lived in the woods and would come out if he was being bad.

(Raises voice for  
Luke to hear)

Since Luke was such a little punk!

ERICA

So is that it?

SUZIE

I knew I was being too dramatic.

JUSTIN

I think it's scary, Suzie.

SUZIE

His grandfather really freaked him out. Like whenever he was gonna do something bad, he'd remember the man in the woods. Luke would wanna go back there a lot and mess around, but his grandfather would always remind him that if he went in the woods, he would never come back.

ERICA

Yeah, that is pretty freaky-deaky.

SUZIE

Little family anecdote to keep you up at night.

Justin goes to the window, looking past Luke to the woods. The tree branches are very still. Just then, a horrifying MOUNTAIN MAN, covered in mud and dirt, creeps out from behind a thick tree.

He stands there, growling at Luke and baring his gnarly teeth, and then turns his focus to Justin.

Charlie barks, and Justin shakes the image from his mind. Just his imagination.

ERICA

The man in the woods. Sounds like a movie, or some scary story to tell at a campfire.

Justin makes a growling noise with his hands shaped like claws. This makes Charlie bark more.

SUZIE

Quit it, Wolverine! It's ok, Charlie.

JUSTIN

Luke, did you ever see the man from the woods?

Luke pops his head into the window.

LUKE

If I told you, I'd have to kill you.

JUSTIN

(Laughs)

All right, Goldeneye. I must say, I do like this house. Your grandparents seem really cool. Where are they again?

LUKE

On a cruise.

SUZIE

They're hippies. You gotta love the weird knick-knacks and stuff everywhere. Let me show you more.

JUSTIN

OK.

The three exit the kitchen.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - LUKE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

70

It's somewhat bare, but has its share of things on the desk. Posters and a painting are hung on the wall. Some clothes are scattered on the floor. Suzie walks in comfortably, but Justin and Erica hang in the doorway.

SUZIE

This is Luke's room. It's small.

ERICA

Very nice.

JUSTIN

Oh, wow, that's an awesome painting.  
Did he do that?

SUZIE

No, I did that actually.

ERICA

What?!

JUSTIN

You did that?

Erica and Justin take a few steps into the room to get a better look at the painting. It's of a group of super-heroes, very detailed and colorful.

SUZIE

Yeah, a couple years ago in high school we were in the same art class and he kept saying he wanted to buy that from me because it was so good. So I eventually let him have it for free, but only on the condition that he take me out on a date. And he did.

JUSTIN

Aww, high school romance.

ERICA

Wow, Suzie, I'll go out with you if you paint me something too.

SUZIE

Ooh, how enticing. Let me get my brushes.

They all laugh.

ERICA

(Quietly)

Is everything okay with Luke?

SUZIE

(Confused)

Yeah...

ERICA

He just seems kinda out of it or something.

SUZIE

Oh, no, no. He just had trouble sleeping last night. I think the bird was making a lot of noise. I couldn't really hear it, I actually slept pretty well finally.

ERICA

Oh, ok.

SUZIE

Anyway, you guys will love the next room, it's basically called the "South of the Border" room.

ERICA

The "South of the Border" room? Sounds like a party.

SUZIE

Oh yeah.

Suzie leads them to...

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - "SOUTH OF THE BORDER" -- CONTINUOUS

71

The theme of the room is very Mexican. Bright red walls, sombreros displayed around the room. A pinata hangs from the ceiling. A closet is on the right side of the room with two sliding doors.

JUSTIN

Oh, wow! I love this room!

SUZIE

Isn't it great?

ERICA

That's so funny! So they just have... a Mexican-themed room?

SUZIE

Yeah.

ERICA

Have they been to Mexico?

SUZIE

I don't even know. Probably.

ERICA

This is so random.

Justin wears a sombrero.

JUSTIN

We could have dance parties in here! Muchas fiestas!

SUZIE

Ooh, yeah. This is perfect for that tonight! And, last but not least, I'll show you his grandparent's room real quick.

She leads the way out.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - GRANDPARENT'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

72

The three of them walk into the bedroom. It has a lot of knick-knacks throughout, and a large bed in the center. The desk is full of papers, books, and photo albums.

SUZIE

The bathroom's the best. It's bright green.

ERICA

Speaking of the bathroom, I have to go. Can I use this one?

SUZIE

Sure. It's right in there. Enter at your own risk!

ERICA

Thanks.

Erica walks into the private bathroom and shuts the door. A parking meter is in the corner near the toilet. Some Caution tape is hung around the walls.

JUSTIN

His grandparents seem super crazy. In a good way.

ERICA (O.S.)

This bathroom is blinding!

JUSTIN

So what's the deal? Are we definitely hanging out with Carla later?

SUZIE

Ugh, I have no idea. She's working until midnight at the restaurant.

JUSTIN

Midnight? Shit.

SUZIE

Yeah, so... I don't know. I'm hoping she doesn't give us some lame excuse like she has before.



JUSTIN  
 (Looking around)  
 She's the queen of excuses.

SUZIE  
 I know, it's really annoying  
 sometimes. I really want her to be  
 here for our little mini-surprise  
 for you guys!

JUSTIN  
 Wait. Surprise?! Is the man from  
 the woods gonna give us a show?

SUZIE  
 Oh God. Don't say that!

Erica jolts out of the bathroom.

ERICA  
 Boo! What's this surprise?

SUZIE  
 Well, I probably will have to tell  
 you soon because I don't even know  
 if it'll still work.

ERICA  
 Oh?

SUZIE  
 Just put it out of your minds. I  
 have to wait to hear from Carla.

ERICA  
 B-t-w, weirdest bathroom I think  
 I've ever been in.

LUKE (O.S.)  
 Yo! Food's almost done!

SUZIE  
 OK! Let's eat.

ERICA  
 Yay! Feed me.

They leave the room.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

73

The foursome are at the end of their dinner. A few empty beer bottles and a white wine bottle are on the table. The bowl of the unpopular potato salad is still half-full. Justin, Erica, and Suzie are reminiscing about school as Luke listens.

JUSTIN

I cannot believe I forgot all about that! That's a great story.

ERICA

I think dorm life is so awkward.

SUZIE

It's gonna be nice not having to deal with shitty roommates.

ERICA

Yeah! Cool roomies only!

Erica and Suzie high-five.

SUZIE

So do you know what you're doing about the fall, Justin?

JUSTIN

Well, I actually have some good-slash-weird news.

Erica looks at him, her face slowly dropping.

ERICA

You're transferring?

Justin nods with a smile.

SUZIE

(Smiling)  
Justin!

ERICA

(Hurt)  
What?

LUKE

Where?

SUZIE

Are you moving to New York?

JUSTIN

(Nodding)  
I got in!

SUZIE

Wow, so you're really going?

JUSTIN

Yep!

SUZIE

Asshole!

JUSTIN

Sorry, guys!

LUKE

Congratulations.

JUSTIN

Thank you, Luke.

ERICA

When were you going to tell me this?

JUSTIN

Now. With everybody.

ERICA

We drove the whole way here, and you never mentioned it.

JUSTIN

Because I wanted to wait to tell everyone at the same time.

It's a little tense now.

SUZIE

Are you gonna live in a dorm there?

JUSTIN

Not sure yet, I'm meeting with the dean about classes and housing on Monday. That'd be cool though if I had my own New York apartment, right?

ERICA

This Monday?

JUSTIN

Yeah.

ERICA

I just can't believe you did all this and didn't tell me.

SUZIE

Well... it's OK, we knew he wasn't happy.

JUSTIN

Yeah, you knew I was applying to places.

ERICA

I did, it's just... Wow, I didn't know you were *that* unhappy in Philly.

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

I figured after 2 years you'd just be cool with it. Sorry we couldn't make it more fun for you.

SUZIE

Oh, 'Rica.

JUSTIN

'Rica, please! I had a great time with you guys! What have we just been doing for the past hour? Reminiscing about how much fun we've had!

SUZIE

Poor Luke's heard me tell these stories before.

LUKE

Yeah, I'm having deja vu.

Suzie touches Luke's arm and smiles, but he doesn't reciprocate.

JUSTIN

Sorry Luke. But nothing's changing, I'm just gonna be in a different city. Not that far away at all!

ERICA

You're sleeping on the floor tonight.

JUSTIN

(Trying to be silly)  
Don't be jealous, 'Rica.

ERICA

Stop calling me 'Rica! Bad nickname, guys. And who said I was jealous?

SUZIE

(to Justin)  
You're gonna be the jealous one, Mr. Big, when you'll be on the lonely couch and Erica will be sleeping with us in our bed.

ERICA

Ooh la la.

LUKE

Wow. I thought you said I was never allowed to partake in that, babe.

They laugh and Luke gets up to start gathering plates.

SUZIE  
Don't get too excited now.

LUKE  
You guys done?

JUSTIN  
Yep, thank you.

ERICA  
You need help, Luke?

SUZIE  
Oh, you don't have to do that now.

LUKE  
No, no, it's fine.

SUZIE  
Sit and talk with us. We can do the dishes later.

LUKE  
I'd really rather just clean these up now. And I didn't go to your school so I don't even know what you guys are talking about anyway.

Things are now a little tense between Suzie and Luke.

SUZIE  
Well, we can talk about something else.

LUKE  
I don't have school stories to share.

SUZIE  
Well, that's fine. Let's change the subject.

LUKE  
It's fine. I don't feel like talking anyway, I'm tired. No offense, guys.

JUSTIN  
It's OK.

Luke gathers the plates and takes them over to the sink to wash them. Suzie feels awkward. Brief silence.

ERICA  
So... there's gotta be a way we can rescue Carla from work.

SUZIE  
I really hope it works out tonight.

JUSTIN  
It probably won't.

ERICA  
Dammit, Carla! We drove all the way up here to visit her, too. We could have just driven down to Maryland to see you guys at your place.

JUSTIN  
Yeah, that's true actually. W-T-F?

ERICA  
I am not L-O-Ling.

SUZIE  
No L-M-A-O for me.

LUKE  
S-T-F-U.

Everyone laughs. Luke lightens up a little.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
It's more fun up here in the woods than in Baltimore anyway.

SUZIE  
Are we still gonna do the surprise?

LUKE  
I guess we'll try. Talk to her.

ERICA  
What is the surprise, Luke?

SUZIE  
(to Erica)  
You'll see.  
(to Luke)  
I already talked to her many times. Maybe you should talk to her.

LUKE  
I'm not talking to her. I don't even really like her.

SUZIE  
Since when?

LUKE  
She's your friend.

SUZIE  
You like Carla!

LUKE

If she can hang, fine. If not, fine.

Suzie is confused by Luke's behavior.

ERICA

Is it a birthday party for me?

JUSTIN

Oh, get over yourself.

ERICA

Excuse me?!

During this next conversation, Luke manages to finish cleaning the dishes and walks out of the kitchen.

JUSTIN

Switching to another subject. Have you guys seen that "Dateline" show? With the child molesters? I saw it the other night for the first time and it was freakin' fantastic.

ERICA

"To Catch a Predator," you mean?

JUSTIN

Yes! So creepy!

ERICA

I was watching it, too!

SUZIE

Oh yeah! I've heard about that show.

ERICA

Oh my God, it's so crazy! It was showing all these disgusting creepers entering the homes of young girls.

JUSTIN

Yeah, and they think it's a girl in the other room when really it's just an actress. And then the reporter guy comes out and interviews the sickos.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

74

Luke is sitting in the big, comfy chair watching TV. Suzie, Justin, and Erica come in.

SUZIE

What's on?

LUKE

"CSI" re-runs.

Suzie hesitantly sits on Luke. He allows it.

JUSTIN

Ya know, I've never really watched this show.

ERICA

Yeah, same. And it's like the #1 show on television somehow.

SUZIE

All those spin-offs.

JUSTIN

My mom loves the "Miami" one.

ERICA

*Welcome to Miami...*

JUSTIN

(Singing)

*Bienvenido a Miami.*

ERICA

Will Smith should guest star on that one.

JUSTIN

Jada wouldn't allow it.

ERICA

I'm so full.

JUSTIN

Well you devoured that granola bar in seconds.

Erica and Justin each sit on a couch.

SUZIE

I guess we can just watch TV for a little bit until we figure out what we're gonna do? I mean, we could take you guys, like, into the more "town" part of the town, but...

LUKE

That's kind of a long drive. And nothing's really going on out there. It'd be a pain.

JUSTIN

Oh... no prob.



Justin and Erica are bummed, but try to hide it.

SUZIE

And I guess it wouldn't make sense to go see Carla at her job since she's doing the phone orders tonight, not waiting tables.

JUSTIN

Well, let's prank call her!

ERICA

That *is* our favorite thing to do on a Saturday night.

LUKE

(to Suzie)

Yeah, I don't want to go all the way down there for nothing. We might as well just stay here.

SUZIE

I'll text her.

Justin and Erica look at each other briefly, a bit disappointed. Justin looks over at the clock: 9:07. The group watches TV.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE -- NIGHT

75

A light misty rain falls. The house and its surroundings are still. The moon is full.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- LATER

76

Some time has passed. Justin's eyes are heavy. Erica is curling her hair, looking bored. Everyone looks pretty dissatisfied. The clock reads 10:49.

During the commercial break, a loud clip suddenly begins. It shows a WOMAN covered in blood screaming and an INTRUDER in black standing over her. Then it goes back to another normal commercial. Charlie stands in front of the TV, growling.

LUKE

Whoa. Did anyone else just see that?

JUSTIN

See what?

SUZIE

Yeah.

ERICA

Yeah, wait... what was that?

LUKE

Did you see it?

ERICA

Yeah. It was like, bloody, right?

LUKE

It wasn't even like a commercial.  
It didn't fit with anything else.

ERICA

Yeah! It was something, then it quickly changed to like 2 seconds of blood and screaming.

JUSTIN

I totally missed that.

SUZIE

I don't feel right after seeing that.

JUSTIN

What if it's a sign? The TV is haunted! Luke, is the house haunted?

LUKE

No. But then again my great uncle *is* buried outside.

SUZIE

Eew. It was probably just a clip from a movie or something that they screwed up.

JUSTIN

I'm gonna watch "CSI" more often.

Suzie gets a text.

SUZIE

(Opens phone, sighs)  
Ugh, Carla.

ERICA

What'd she say?

Justin and Erica perk up, desperate for some excitement.

SUZIE

(Reading text)  
"Sorry guys, it looks like I'm going to be here past midnight, it's busier than usual. Tell them I say hi."

ERICA

What?!

LUKE

She's probably lying. That place is rarely ever that busy.

that is cool - a 2 second spot of BLOOD hahahahahahahahah a

SUZIE

This pisses me off. She knew you guys were coming all the way up here! I'm going to text her back. What should I say?

JUSTIN

Say, "Carla, what da fuck?"

ERICA

Ask her if there's any way she can get out early this one time since friends from out-of-town are here.

JUSTIN

Way out-of-town. Hours-of-getting-fucking-lost out-of-town.

SUZIE

I'll just try to call her. I'm interested to see if work really sounds that busy.

JUSTIN

Put it on speaker! Can we mute the TV?

Suzie calls Carla and puts the phone on speaker. Luke mutes the TV, but still doesn't really care about the group's dilemma.

CARLA'S VOICE

Hey.

SUZIE

(Into phone)

Hey Carla. How's it going?

CARLA'S VOICE

It's so busy here, did you get my text?

SUZIE

(Into phone)

Yeah. So you definitely won't be able to hang out at all tonight?

CARLA'S VOICE

No, I don't think I can. It sucks. They're asking me to stay after midnight.

SUZIE

(Into phone)

It's really that busy?

CARLA'S VOICE

Yeah!

SUZIE

(Into phone)

Well, do you want to come over when you're done? We'll probably still be awake.

CARLA'S VOICE

Um... maybe. I might be kinda tired.

SUZIE

(Into phone)

... Ok.

CARLA'S VOICE

Sorry guys.

SUZIE

(Into phone)

All right, well, call us if things change.

CARLA'S VOICE

Ok, will do. Sorry.

SUZIE

(Into phone, short)

It's fine. Good luck. Bye.

CARLA'S VOICE

Bye.

Suzie hangs up the phone and looks at everyone, disappointed. Charlie the dog stands by the door, scratching at it.

LUKE

Oh, I should let Charlie out. He probably has to go.

Luke gets up and opens the door for Charlie to run out.

SUZIE

Is it wet outside?

LUKE

Yeah, kinda.

JUSTIN

What a crappy night.

Charlie is heard barking outside in the background.

LUKE

(Annoyed)

And now he's gonna bark non-stop.

ERICA

Why?

LUKE

Probably found a rabbit or something  
and wants to let the whole world  
know.

JUSTIN

He must think Erica's the boogeyman.

ERICA

(Sarcastic)

Ha-ha.

ooooooh....this  
must be the  
good  
part .....hahaha  
hah

Charlie's barking suddenly stops after a high-pitched whimper.  
Everyone looks to the door. Luke goes to the kitchen.

SUZIE

What was that?

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

77

Luke looks out the back window. From his POV, we don't see any  
movement in the backyard.

LUKE

I guess he did find a rabbit to chase  
after.

JUSTIN

Or maybe a raccoon or fox or  
something.

LUKE

Yeah... whatever.

Luke leaves the window.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

78

Luke returns to the family room.

SUZIE

Should we go out and check on him?

LUKE

No. He's fine. He's a dog.

Luke and Justin both sit back down.

SUZIE

Well, I guess we should just tell  
them the surprise.

LUKE

Yeah, I guess so. Since it's pretty  
much ruined now.

ERICA

It is? Just tell us, you guys!

SUZIE

Well...

(smiles)

We thought it'd be fun to make s'mores outside.

ERICA

Aw! Yes!

JUSTIN

(Laughs)

That is so us!

SUZIE

Exactly! I thought it'd be perfect since we get them at Cosi in the city all the time. It's a lame surprise, isn't it?

ERICA

No, no! That's totally awesome.

JUSTIN

I could so go for s'mores right now! Would we make them here?

LUKE

Well, yeah, we can use the grill for fire. I just don't know if it'll work since it's been raining.

SUZIE

And Carla was going to bring the graham crackers and chocolate. We don't have that stuff here.

JUSTIN

Aw Dzzamn! Friendship terminated.

ERICA

(Laughs)

Dzzamn, I could kill a bitch!

SUZIE

Well, we do have marshmallows. We could just roast them, I guess?

LUKE

You wanna just heat up marshmallows? And pretend we're having actual s'mores?

COSI - product placement!

SUZIE

Well, Luke, what else are we supposed to do? Do you want to drive into town to get stuff?

ERICA

Is it raining now?

SUZIE

Umm... I don't think so.

Suzie, Erica, and Justin walk into the kitchen.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

79

They look out the window. No rain.

SUZIE

No, it's not.

JUSTIN

Neato! Let's bounce.

SUZIE

Sorry we don't have the other ingredients for proper s'more-making.

JUSTIN

I don't mind. I'm excited to check out those scary woods!

ERICA

I hope no monster men steal our marshmallows.

SUZIE

Oh, hell no. I will beat their ass.

Luke is already out the door.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get my hoodie.

Suzie goes down the hall. Erica puts her colorful rain boots on while Justin opens the marshmallows and starts eating.

ERICA

Whoa! Don't eat them now. There aren't gonna be any left, tubby!

Justin opens his mouth and shows her his chewed-up marshmallow, grossing her out. Erica tries to snatch the bag from him but he holds on tight. He then runs out the door.

gross - good! haha

ERICA (CONT'D)

Give me those!

She runs after him.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE / BACKYARD -- CONTINUOUS

80

Justin runs out of the house laughing, with Erica on his heels. Justin stops and sticks his butt out.

JUSTIN  
I'm gonna fart!

Erica kicks it and steals the marshmallows from under his arm.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
(Wiping off butt)  
Ow! Now my butt's all slimey.

ERICA  
Aw, did you shit your pants?

JUSTIN  
(Laughing)  
No! You disgust me.

ERICA  
(Suddenly serious)  
No, you disgust me. I can't believe you didn't tell me earlier.

JUSTIN  
What?

ERICA  
About New York. It's like, what am I gonna do now, Justin?

JUSTIN  
What are you talking about? You and Suzie are gonna be fine! I relied on you all the time.

ERICA  
Exactly. And so that made me rely on you, too. Now it's like I have to start all over again.

JUSTIN  
I really don't see what the big deal is, Erica. You're fine, you have lots of friends at school and you'll make even more this year.

ERICA  
Well, I hope your new school gives you what you need then.



JUSTIN

I hope so, too. I'm sorry you're that upset over this, but it shouldn't really be a surprise.

(Beat, looking around awkwardly)

Where's Luke?

ERICA

And where's the dog? Charlie?

Suzie walks to them.

ERICA (CONT'D)

(to Suzie)

We can't find them.

SUZIE

Luke must be playing a trick on us.

JUSTIN

Uh oh.

They all face the woods.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

It's so dark out here.

SUZIE

Yeah, pitch black.

JUSTIN

Like the movie "Pitch Black." Where's Vin Diesel when we need him?

ERICA

Suzie, hold me.

SUZIE

Luke?

Silence. Luke suddenly juts out from behind a tree only a few feet in front of them. They all jump.

LUKE

Ha!

JUSTIN

Oh, shit!

ERICA

Luke, why would you do such a thing?

SUZIE

Asshole. Go heat up your shit.

LUKE  
Don't tell me what to do, woman.

ERICA  
Oh, there's Charlie Brown!

Charlie comes running out of the woods nearby.

SUZIE  
Charlie was at the Chocolate Factory.

He barks at them.

LUKE  
Eew, he looks dirty. Dammit, Charlie.

ERICA  
(Petting Charlie)  
Aw, he can't help it.

JUSTIN  
I'm seeing a mutual attraction here  
between Erica and Charles.

ERICA  
We understand each other.

Justin takes a picture of them with his digital camera.

JUSTIN  
Dare you to french kiss.

ERICA  
Eew!  
(Pause)  
It's too early for that.

SUZIE  
Looks like he really got into a mess.  
Luke, we'll have to clean him off  
before going back inside.

Luke hunches over a pile of logs near the woods.

JUSTIN  
Need help, Luke?

LUKE  
No.

Luke lights a match and tries to set the logs on fire. Justin takes pictures of this, and also takes pictures of the creepy surroundings.

ERICA  
That flash is so bright!

Justin takes a picture right in her face and laughs.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
Stop! I'm blind!

Erica puts her hands out pretending to be a blind person. She walks over to Suzie and mimes touching her breasts, which, of course, Justin documents on camera.

JUSTIN  
Marco.

ERICA  
Polo. We're playing this backwards!

Erica tries to touch Justin but he runs away.

SUZIE  
Luke, did we lock the door?

LUKE  
What?

SUZIE  
I think I was the last one out of the house and I didn't lock the door.

LUKE  
That's fine.

SUZIE  
Are you sure?

ERICA  
Suzie's a scaredy cat.

LUKE  
(to Suzie)  
Do you want to lock it?

JUSTIN  
She's afraid of the mountain man, or whatever that story was.

ERICA  
Oh, Justin!

JUSTIN  
What?

ERICA  
Don't bring that shit up. I'm scared now, too!

Luke laughs. He lights another match and tries to light the wet wood, but can't.

SUZIE

It's fine. I'm just a wuss.

JUSTIN

It's OK, I feel your fear. That's why I'm documenting the creepiness.

Justin takes a picture of Erica and Suzie posing. Charlie suddenly barks again and runs over to Luke.

LUKE

Charlie, why are you barking? It's just us.

JUSTIN

He's scared too. Oooh. That means we should *really* be scared.

ERICA

Why?

JUSTIN

Well, dogs sense things, don't they? If they're scared, that means shit is bad. They have a sixth sense.

ERICA

Well, so does Haley Joel Osment.

JUSTIN

We should have invited him!

ERICA

Call him. He'll protect us.

JUSTIN

He blocked my number. Too much stalking.

They laugh.

SUZIE

You *would* stalk Haley Joel Osment.

ERICA

Well... at least I'll die with the people that matter most to me.

SUZIE

Aww.

ERICA

NOT!

SUZIE

You bitch.

JUSTIN  
 (Mimicking Erica)  
 SNOT!

Justin runs up to Erica and takes a picture up her nose.

ERICA  
 Justin, you're ruining my 20/20  
 vision!

JUSTIN  
 Extreme close-up.

SUZIE  
 Luke, should we give up?

LUKE  
 No, I almost got it.

ERICA  
 You can do it, Luke! Work your magic.

Justin looks up at the trees, and so do Erica and Suzie. The  
 branches slowly move in the wind.

JUSTIN  
 It's so quiet.

ERICA  
 You ruined it!

Justin takes pictures of the woods.

JUSTIN  
 It's like in "Saw." When the guy is  
 in his apartment and the lights aren't  
 working. And he's using his camera  
 to try to see things, but it's  
 actually just making things scarier.  
 You know, because the flash is so  
 quick and bright that really you're  
 only making it harder to see.

ERICA  
 Then stop doing it, fool.

LUKE  
 I liked "Saw."

JUSTIN  
 I liked it too. But the sequel  
 sucked.

LUKE  
 The sequel did suck.

SUZIE

I only saw the first one.

ERICA

I haven't seen any of those disgusting movies. I have class.

SUZIE

Oh, class my ass.

JUSTIN

Yeah, you're the trashiest one here!

ERICA

You'll be sorry you said that.

JUSTIN

Oh yeah?

ERICA

Yeah!

Erica runs after Justin throughout the backyard. Charlie starts growling at the woods.

SUZIE

What is his deal?

LUKE

He's so weird. Charlie! Stop it!

Charlie now barks at the woods.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna take him inside. This is annoying.

SUZIE

Here, I'll do it. You try to get that working.

LUKE

I almost got it.

SUZIE

Charlie, come on. Come on, doggie.

Charlie is hesitant at first, but lets Suzie pull him away. Justin and Erica come back.

JUSTIN

(Clutching stomach)  
Cramp.

ERICA

Bye, Charlie! I'll give you a kiss goodnight later.

wow - we are going to need a well trained dog!

SUZIE  
Oh, he'll be waiting.

Suzie laughs and takes him inside.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

81

Suzie enters the house and drags Charlie inside.

SUZIE  
Now, behave.

As she goes to leave, she grabs the keys near the door, but a noise comes from the family room. She freezes, looking around. Charlie's tail is wagging as he stares at the knight of shining armor. She looks at it too.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE / BACKYARD -- CONTINUOUS

82

Luke is finally able to light up the wood.

LUKE  
Yes!

JUSTIN  
Oh, sweet.

ERICA  
(Applauds)  
Bravo, Luke!

Luke bows. Suzie locks the back door and walks back down to them. Erica unravels the marshmallow bag.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
Now we can stuff our faces.

SUZIE  
Yay, Luke! You are on fire!

Just then, bright car headlights turn on behind Suzie, coming from the front yard! The sound of a car starting is heard.

JUSTIN  
Holy shit!

ERICA  
Whoa!

Suzie turns around to see what they are staring at. From their POV, they can't see the car, but can definitely see that the bright lights are coming from one. The sound of a car's tires on gravel is heard as the lights move.

SUZIE  
Someone's here!

Luke, confused, walks to her.

JUSTIN  
Is it Carla?

Luke goes to the front yard as the lights become less extreme.

LUKE  
Hello?

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE / FRONT YARD -- CONTINUOUS

83

The group runs out just in time to see the same faded blue pickup truck from earlier back out onto the dirt road, leaving the property. Justin and Erica look at each other, grabbing one another in shock.

ERICA  
Oh my God! That's the car, Justin!

JUSTIN  
What the fuck?!

Luke holds up a hand and waves to the truck.

LUKE  
Oh. Thanks, Tommy!

The creepy driver from earlier smiles, waves back, and gives a honk before driving off.

SUZIE  
Who was that?

LUKE  
That's Tommy. Animal Control.

JUSTIN  
What?

LUKE  
He drives around this area to make sure no dangerous animals from the woods cause any problems.

SUZIE  
(Noticing)  
What's wrong? Did he really freak you guys out?

JUSTIN  
We saw that car...

ERICA  
So wait, you know that guy, Luke?



LUKE

Yeah, I've known him for years.  
He's a family friend. Just doing  
his job.

ERICA

And he comes over at this hour on a  
Saturday night?

LUKE

(Laughing)

Yeah, then he goes to his weekly  
Animal Control rave. No, I don't  
know, he comes randomly.

The group laughs. Justin and Erica take a breath, relieved.

JUSTIN

Does he pick up road kill too?

LUKE

Uh, yeah I think so. Why?

ERICA

That was kinda scary there for a  
second.

SUZIE

Yeah, weird timing. And it's weird  
we didn't see him or hear him at all  
since we were out here.

LUKE

Tommy's stealthy like that. Shit,  
the grill!

Luke runs back to the grill. Suzie follows him. Justin and Erica  
stay back and whisper.

JUSTIN

Holy shit.

ERICA

So know each other?!

"so know each other?" ????????

JUSTIN

I guess he isn't a stalker slash  
serial killer.

ERICA

Oh my God. My heart.

JUSTIN

You should have seen your face.

ERICA

You should have seen *your* face!  
Let's just drop it. How embarrassing.

They laugh hysterically and run after their friends.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE / BACKYARD -- CONTINUOUS

84

Justin and Erica join Suzie and Luke at the grill.

SUZIE

So how should we roast the  
marshmallows?

Luke holds up some long sticks from the ground.

JUSTIN

Sticks? That's sanitary.

LUKE

Oh, it's fine. Haven't you ever  
gone camping?

JUSTIN

Hmm, I don't know if I want to dirty  
up my nice clean marshmallows.

LUKE

If you don't want to use this, you  
could always use your hand and burn  
it off.

ERICA

(to Justin)

Dare you to burn your hand off.

JUSTIN

Dare you to actually use that dirty  
stick.

ERICA

Sure.

Luke passes out sticks to everyone.

JUSTIN

It's like drawing straws.

LUKE

Which one of us will survive the  
night? Joking, joking.

Erica doesn't hesitate and actually puts her marshmallow on the  
tip of the stick. She holds it over the fire.

ERICA

Ta-da.

SUZIE

Nicely done.

Erica's marshmallow gets on fire and she quickly blows it out.

JUSTIN

Fire is so mesmerizing.

ERICA

(in a Witchy voice)

How's about a little fire, Scarecrow?

Suddenly, Charlie starts to bark from inside the house.

JUSTIN

(to Erica)

You just scared ToTo, ya wicked witch!

LUKE

I don't know why he won't shut up.

SUZIE

Maybe that guy really bothered him.  
I locked the door.

LUKE

You have the key?

Suzie pulls the key out of her pocket and waves it in the air.

LUKE (CONT'D)

OK. Just ignore him. He'll hopefully  
stop soon.

The group sits on the various chairs and logs near the grill.  
Each put their marshmallows on sticks and lean into the fire.

JUSTIN

We should tell scary stories.

SUZIE

Eh, I don't know.

ERICA

A long time ago, there was this kid  
named Justin.

LUKE

I'm freaked out already.

They laugh. They're surprised by Luke's humor.

ERICA

We were freaked out earlier when  
Justin and I were telling each other  
scary stories in the car.

JUSTIN  
We should re-enact them!

SUZIE  
No! Just shut up and eat your damn marshmallows.

ERICA  
Wow, Suzie. What's up your big butt?

JUSTIN  
That huge log she's sitting on.

SUZIE  
It's scary enough out here without any stories. Look at the woods all around us!

They all look behind them at the eerie woods. Charlie has stopped barking so things are very quiet and still. Just then, a stick loudly snaps behind them, and the sound echoes. The group smiles and looks at one another. Nervous energy in the air.

JUSTIN  
*"I like big butts and I cannot lie, you other brothers can't deny..."*

ERICA  
*"When a girl walks in..."*

JUSTIN & ERICA  
*"With an itty-bitty waist and a round thing in your face you get sprung!"*

LUKE  
These s'mores are lame.

ERICA  
Let's go throw eggs at Carla's house.

JUSTIN  
Yeah and play ding-dong-ditch.

SUZIE  
Let's get arrested.

JUSTIN  
Yeah!

ERICA  
(Dancing)  
*"Fellas, yeah! Fellas, yeah! Does your girlfriend got the butt?"*

JUSTIN & LUKE  
*"Hell yeah!"*

ERICA  
*"Tell 'em shake it."*

ALL  
*"Shake it."*

ERICA  
*"Shake it."*

ALL  
*"Shake it."*

ERICA  
*"Shake that healthy butt!"*

Justin gets up and dances around the fire with Erica.

ALL  
*"Baby got back!"*

Justin and Erica shake their butts around the fire, as Suzie and Luke laugh and clap their hands. Charlie suddenly howls and barks at a louder and more rapid pace. The friends abruptly stop, and suddenly hear movement in the woods behind them. They turn around.

JUSTIN  
 Oh, fuck.

awesome

More movement from within the woods, very close to them. Justin jumps and instinctively goes to grab Luke, but he stops himself. Suzie and Erica automatically hold onto each other.

SUZIE  
 Guys, what is that?

Charlie doesn't shut up. The girls start to back away. There is suddenly an animal standing within the trees, growling at them.  
 A WOLF.

a rabid wolf

LUKE  
 Holy shit!

They run to the house, the girls leading. The wolf chases.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Suzie, get the key!

Suzie sticks her hand in her pocket as she's running. She's able to get the key out quickly.

JUSTIN  
 Oh my God, hurry!

They all stop at the door as Suzie inserts the key. She's able to open the door and they jump inside.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

85

They slam the door shut as the wolf arrives. Charlie stands up against the door and barks ferociously. Luke pulls Charlie down and locks the door.

ERICA  
Oh my fucking God!

LUKE  
Get down, Charlie! Down! Suzie,  
help me!

Suzie tries to grab Charlie by the collar. They're able to pull him farther away from the door and he stops.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

86

The bird is flying around its cage, making noise.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

87

Justin looks out the door window and sees the wolf has disappeared.

JUSTIN  
It's gone.

ERICA  
Was that a dog?

LUKE  
That was a wolf.

JUSTIN  
Jesus fucking Christ.

ERICA  
Where'd it go?

Erica also looks out the door.

LUKE  
Fuck, I left the grill on. And our  
food is out there.

SUZIE  
Forget it. Let the wolf eat it.

ERICA  
Yeah, don't go out there.

LUKE  
I've never seen a wolf around here  
before.

SUZIE  
So much for fucking Animal Control.

ERICA

Do you think it'll be able to get  
in?

LUKE

No, no. We're fine. I'll call Tommy.  
Plus...

Luke pulls a rifle from the discreet shelf above the basement  
door nearby.

JUSTIN

Whoa. Shit!

SUZIE

Oh, Luke. No!

LUKE

We'll use it if we have to. I doubt  
we'll even need it.

JUSTIN

Is that loaded?

LUKE

(Checking)  
Yeah, two rounds.

ERICA

Oh, God.

SUZIE

Luke, put it away!

LUKE

OK, OK.

Luke puts the rifle back up on the shelf. They stand there, out  
of breath and quiet. They look at each other, and then all burst  
out into laughter.

JUSTIN

(Falling to his knees)  
I almost pissed my pants!

ERICA

Me too!

SUZIE

(Sitting)  
I am literally shaking.

JUSTIN

I was so scared when I heard it moving  
in the woods, I tried to hold Luke's  
hand!

LUKE

Yeah, you did!

They howl with laughter. Tears are in their eyes.

SUZIE

It felt like one of those scary movies where I wasn't gonna get the key out fast enough.

ERICA

Exactly!

JUSTIN

No, you were awesome. I would have dropped that shit. And we'd all be goners.

LUKE

A fucking wolf!

The bird noises start up again briefly. They look around the room, and at each other. Justin looks down the hall and sees a FIGURE all in black standing there, staring at them. He suddenly jolts forward and runs to them, wielding an axe! Everyone screams their last scream.

omg

Justin snaps out of his imagination and looks over at his friends.

JUSTIN

Suzie, you didn't lock the door right away, did you?

SUZIE

... No.

JUSTIN

I'm kinda nervous that something might be in here.

ERICA

What, do you think a wolf opened the door and walked in? He's in your bed, Goldilocks.

JUSTIN

Well, I don't know! That guy Tommy could have done something. Shouldn't we check?

LUKE

Tommy wouldn't do anything.

SUZIE

No, that's a good idea. We should check every room to make sure.



LUKE

You guys.

ERICA

I'm scared again. Can we all hold hands?

Erica reaches out for Luke's hand, but he walks past her in front of the group.

LUKE

As if.

SUZIE

(to Erica)

Whoa, you just got denied.

JUSTIN

That's gotta hurt.

ERICA

Thanks, Luke. You make me puke.

Luke leads the way into the hallway.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

88

Luke walks into the room carelessly and turns the light on.

JUSTIN

Be careful, Luke!

LUKE

Nobody in here.

Luke turns the light out and goes back into the hall.

ERICA

Wait!

Erica turns the light on again and pokes her head in, as do Justin and Suzie. They try to push her in the shower.

JUSTIN

He's in the shower!

Erica kicks the sheet open. Nothing there.

ERICA

Coast is clear. For now, at least.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

89

The four re-group.

SUZIE

Next room. Go, Luke.

LUKE

You guys are so stupid. Thanks for making me be the first one to die.

JUSTIN

You're a good man. Charlie Brown.

ERICA

Charlie seems calm now.

Luke turns the light on in his bedroom.

LUKE

Oh my God!

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - LUKE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

90

Luke walks into the room, and the rest poke their heads in.

JUSTIN

What?!

SUZIE

I hate this game.

Nothing is out of ordinary in the room. Luke lifts up the covers on his bed and gives a fake scream.

LUKE

It's Bigfoot!

ERICA

Yo, Bigfoot probably lives around here. Check your closet, Luke.

Luke rolls his eyes.

JUSTIN

Do it! That's where they always hide.

Luke slowly goes for the closet door handle, and then throws it open. Nothing.

LUKE

No strangers from the woods here.

Suzie glares at Luke.

SUZIE

(Shaken)

Luke. We just had a fucking wolf chase us home. I really don't want to hear any more jokes about the woods!

JUSTIN  
 (Totally joking)  
 Are you guys breaking up?

ERICA  
 Maybe we should break up into groups.

SUZIE  
 I call Erica.

ERICA  
 You guys can check the Mexican room  
 or whatever it's called, and we'll  
 check the bedroom.

SUZIE  
 Wait, the bedroom is scarier.

JUSTIN  
 Nope, you already called it! You  
 get the bedroom! Come on Luke, let's  
 do some male bonding south of the  
 border.

The group leaves the room. Luke turns out the light.

LUKE  
 That sounds so wrong.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

91

Erica and Suzie link arms and head into Luke's grandparents'  
 bedroom.

ERICA  
 Good luck, boys.

Suzie flicks on the light and the girls go in.

JUSTIN  
 You can go first. I'll be back-up.

LUKE  
 You gonna try to hold my hand again?

JUSTIN  
 That was completely accidental! But  
 yes, it might happen again.

Luke turns the light on in the "South of the Border" room and  
 they head in.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - GRANDPARENT'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

92

Erica and Suzie are looking around the room.

SUZIE  
I'll check the bathroom.

ERICA  
I'll check the closet.

SUZIE  
Ready... set...

BOTH  
Go!

They run to opposite sides of the room and quickly check. Nothing out of the ordinary.

ERICA  
All clear over here.

SUZIE  
Same.

They look at the bed. They both crouch down to see if anyone could be hiding under it.

ERICA  
Nothing.

SUZIE  
(Lowering her voice)  
I think I'm gonna break up with Luke.

ERICA  
What?!

SUZIE  
Don't say anything, Erica.

ERICA  
Wait, really? Why?

SUZIE  
I don't know. I just... I just don't think there's anything there anymore.

Erica is really surprised.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - MEXICAN ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

93

Luke goes to the corner where the sliding closet doors are.

LUKE  
OK, you ready?

Justin makes a gun signal with his hands.

JUSTIN  
Go for it. I got your back.

Luke braces himself and slides the closet door open quickly. He then jumps back gasping, causing Justin to freak out and scream.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

OH MY GOD!

Erica and Suzie run into the room.

excellent

ERICA

What?!

SUZIE

What is it?!

Luke cracks up.

JUSTIN

Luke, you fucker! He just scared the shit out of me. Fuck-face fucker!

LUKE

I jumped and then he *really* jumped.

Erica walks over to Luke and inspects the closet.

ERICA

Luke, you're evil.

JUSTIN

Male bonding is done for the evening. I'm dumping you.

Erica gives Suzie a quick look because of this innocent joke. Charlie barks from the family room.

ERICA

Uh-oh.

They all leave the room.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

94

The group re-enters the family room. Erica pets Charlie. Luke looks out the window in the storm door to see if the wolf is still outside. Nothing.

SUZIE

I'm still freaked out.

JUSTIN

Wait! We didn't check *this* closet.

Justin points to a closet near the front door, next to the TV. It's behind a tall fake plant and a hat rack.

ERICA

Oh, shit. Yeah! It's a secret door.

LUKE  
(Doubtful)  
Oh. That closet?

JUSTIN  
Can I move this?

LUKE  
If you must. We didn't check the  
basement either.

Justin moves the fake plant aside.

ERICA  
Oh, he's def in the basement.

LUKE  
Thanks. All right, on the count of  
3. 1, 2, 3!

omg

Luke opens the basement door. Nothing. Justin slides open the closet door. And out pops the MAN from earlier who had the black jeep at the gas station! Justin screams, as do the rest of them, shocked to his core to see this stranger in the house. The man pulls out Luke's rifle and shoots Justin in the chest. Suzie gets sprayed with Justin's blood. Luke looks at the shelf above the basement door and sees that the man took his rifle.

ERICA  
Oh my God! Justin!

LUKE  
Oh my God!

Justin's body falls back and hits Suzie, forcing her into the comfy chair. The chair hits the knight of shining armor, making the armor fall to the floor with loud bangs around Justin's body. The girls are screaming in horror. Charlie barks ferociously.

The Man points the rifle to Erica, who grabs onto Suzie. They start running to Luke at the door, but Suzie trips over Charlie. This prompts Charlie to run to the intruder. He jumps on top of the him, trying to bite him, but the man pushes him off. He shoots the dog, killing him immediately.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
No!

awwwww

MAN  
Now I can have some peace and fucking  
quiet!

He throws the empty rifle at them, hitting Erica with it specifically. The force makes Erica back up into Luke, accidentally pushing him to the floor. Luke accidentally forces Suzie into the doorway. Suzie quickly opens the storm door and stumbles outside screaming, past the cars and into the distance.

Erica, not thinking, quickly just turns down into the basement since that door is still open.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

95

The bird flaps around in the cage, disturbed by the commotion.

Luke tries to crawl outside the storm door, but the man grabs his hair/head and violently pulls him back. Luke screams and the man kicks him repeatedly in the side.

Erica, crawling midway down the basement stairs, looks back and cries, horrified to see Luke being beaten. She sees a full can of paint next to her on the step and grabs it. She chucks the paint can at the man's head, causing him to leave Luke alone and clutch his bleeding head. Luke tries to move away quickly. The killer then focuses on Erica with the most intense eyes and quickly descends the stairs.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

96

Erica screams hysterically now as she tumbles down the steps.

ERICA

Get the fuck away from me!

Erica throws various objects behind her, although she isn't aiming properly. The intruder jumps off the stairs, crashing onto Erica's body. Erica screams in pain.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Luke!

The man pushes Erica's head into the floor, breaking her nose.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

97

Suzie runs as fast as she can away from the house, screaming for help. It's not even words she's saying, it's the sound of fear.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

98

Luke coughs and gasps for air. The sound of the chaos from below forces him to action, yet he can't move quickly. He reaches for the phone on the wall and dials 9-1-1. He leaves it on the kitchen counter and lets it ring as he crawls to the drawers and searches for extra bullets.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

99

Justin's and Charlie's bloody bodies lay lifeless on the floor.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

100

The man flips Erica over so that she's facing him, and he starts choking her. She reaches up to try to scratch his face or eyes, but the man bites her fingers. Erica howls in pain.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS 101

Luke pulls out a drawer completely and drops it onto the floor, making the utensils and other kitchen objects fly out. He throws another drawer onto the floor. One object accidentally hits the birdcage, making it fall down with a loud crash. The bird flies around inside, agitated.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS 102

The man sees a few stacks of paint cans in a corner. He lets go of Erica and walks over to them. Erica, gasping for air, tries to crawl towards the stairs but the pain is throbbing and slowing her down.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS 103

Luke rummages through all the crap on the floor for bullets. The bird is able to escape from its cage, and flies around the room noisily. Luke finally finds three bullets!

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE / WOODS -- CONTINUOUS 104

Suzie is now in the woods, trying to figure out a way to the road. She looks behind her at the house in the distance.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS 105

The man throws a can of paint at Erica, hitting her hand as she tries to reach for the first step. She screams. Then another, which hits her back. She coughs and sobs.

ERICA  
Please God, stop!

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 106

Luke runs to the rifle, which is near Charlie's remains. He grabs it, trying to hold back his vomit. The noises from downstairs are some of the most violent things imaginable and he loads two bullets into the rifle as quickly as he can with shaky hands.

INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS 107

The man grabs one more can and walks over to Erica. He sits on Erica's back again, forcing her still.

ERICA  
We didn't do anything!

He then raises the can of paint high up above his head. He throws it down with brute force with a grunt. Erica's blood and paint splash onto his face.

fantastic



INT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

108

Luke runs to the basement door and aims the rifle at the bottom of the stairs at the intruder.

LUKE

Hey!

Fury clearly displayed on his face, Luke pulls the trigger. The loud gunshot jolts his body back.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

109

The gunshot echoes loudly, making Suzie stop in her tracks.

SUZIE

Oh my God.

She's out of breath. She falls to her knees and clutches her chest. She looks at the house through the trees.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Luke!

Nothing but an echo of her voice is heard. But suddenly, a growl comes from somewhere behind her. She gasps, quickly getting up and looking around. The growling continues, and she runs as fast as she can back to the house. The wolf shoots out of the darkness, right on her tail. She screams as she runs full-speed.

She gets out of the woods and runs to the cars parked outside of the house. She stops in between the cars, first trying the driver's side of Luke's car, but it's locked. Then she quickly tries the passenger side of Justin's car, which is unlocked, just as the wolf comes around Luke's car.

omg

INT. JUSTIN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

110

Suzie shuts the car door and reaches for the keys in the ignition, but realizes there are none. Just then, the wolf jumps through the passenger window, which Justin left open. Suzie screams in pain as the wolf claws at her back and arm. She presses on the horn and, luckily, Luke comes out of the house.

EXT. GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

omg

111

Luke sees the wolf bite Suzie's right arm.

LUKE

Suzie!

He limps over and aims his rifle at the wolf. He shoots, but misses. It lets go of Suzie and runs away in fright.

SUZIE

Oh my God! Oh, fuck, Luke!

Luke limps to her aid.

LUKE  
Suzie, your arm!

SUZIE  
We have to go. The keys aren't in here. Where are they?

LUKE  
I have mine. But I can't drive. He got me bad. I can't breathe.

SUZIE  
I'll do it. I can drive.

LUKE  
No, you can't.

SUZIE  
Give me your keys.

Luke gives her his keys and limps to the passenger side of his car. Suzie goes to the driver's door. She puts the key in the lock with her left hand and fumbles with it to unlock the door.

INT. LUKE'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

112

Suzie opens the door and sits in the driver's seat.

LUKE  
I called 9-1-1.

SUZIE  
Is he dead?

LUKE  
I think so. I shot him.

SUZIE  
Can you get in?

LUKE  
Yeah.

Suzie shuts her door and tries to use her left hand to put the key in the ignition. Luke carefully gets himself in his seat and shuts the door.

SUZIE  
What about them?

LUKE  
They're in there, but...

SUZIE  
Luke, where are they?

LUKE

It's just us, Suzie. We gotta go.

SUZIE

Oh my God. Where do we go?

LUKE

Just get to the main road.

Luke rolls down his window and sticks his head out to vomit. Something is suddenly thrown at the windshield - it's the dead bird from inside! Then the slap of the storm door closing is heard. They immediately look over to see the man slowly creeping out from behind Justin's car, as if he is an animal. His right shoulder is bleeding from the gunshot.

SUZIE

Oh my God, Luke! He's alive!

ohhh so cool

Luke vomits out the window, unable to control himself. The man runs to their car, just as Suzie is able to finally turn the key and start it. She reverses, but the man is at Luke's window already. He grabs Luke in order to hold onto the side of the car. Suzie steps on the gas pedal after shifting gears and floors the car forward, swerving to get in the direction of the dirt path. The man isn't sliding off. Luke is screaming in pain.

since Luke was eating marsh mellowes then he vomits white stuff ha

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Get off of him!

Suzie's swirving causes the bullets in Luke's hands to fall to the floor. In an attempt to get the man off of Luke and the car, Suzie makes a sharp left turn onto the dirt path... but hear's a sickening sound. The force of the man's tight grasp around Luke's neck causes Luke's neck to break. His body is lifeless.

Suzie screams in horror at the death of her boyfriend. With her damaged right arm, she grabs the empty rifle and tries to poke the man with it, but he grabs it and pushes it away. The end of the rifle hits the car radio, causing the loud electronic song "We Are Your Friends" by Justice, to play. The man throws the rifle out and starts climbing into the car on top of Luke's body.

\*\*\*

Suzie's driving too fast down the dark, winding path. She flicks on the headlights and gasps when she sees the black jeep parked on the side of the road. Sitting inside of it are the unmistakable MOTHER and LITTLE GIRL from the gas station earlier during the scuffle in the parking lot, staring at them. Suzie doesn't know them, of course, and honks her horn multiple times.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Help us!!!

The man gets in Suzie's face and laughs maniacally. Just then, Suzie sees the wolf in the middle of the road. She gasps.

\*\*\*

do we need the rights to "We are your friends" ????????

Impulsively, she swerves the car to the right so that she won't hit the wolf, and heads right for a thick tree. She screams, and the car crashes into it. All three bodies hit the windshield.

EXT. LUKE'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

113

Luke's car is smashed against the tree. The lights flicker. The music skips, but still plays the full song.

CUT TO: BLACK

Once the music cuts out, only the stillness of the woods is heard. Crickets chirp. The wind blows. Sirens are heard in the distance. We hear movement: the pitter-patter of the wolf's paws on the ground. It's heavy panting. Then, footsteps are heard on leaves. Rustling in the bushes. A stick snaps.

awesome - perfect segue to  
Sticks II