

EVE

by

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INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

A smart home device with the brand name ARIA shows a picture of the Westbrook family: Owen, Claire, Addison, and Liam.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 6TH"

OWEN WESTBROOK (40s), his wife CLAIRE (40s), and their son LIAM (7) enter from the garage.

LIAM

Can I watch a show?

CLAIRE

Did you finish your spelling homework?

LIAM

I did it after school.

Claire snatches Liam's backpack and looks inside.

OWEN

Claire, if he says he did it, then--

CLAIRE

I'm just making sure.

OWEN

Show him you trust him.

CLAIRE

I do trust him.

Claire flips a folder open.

OWEN

Then why are you checking it?

She ignores him, checks Liam's homework. Owen turns away, presses his fingers to his temple like he's shooting himself.

Their dog, TUCKER, enters, snuggles with Liam. Claire shuts the folder.

CLAIRE

Ten minutes. Then bedtime.

Liam rushes from the room. Tucker races after him.

CLAIRE

It seemed like you had a good time at the party. I can't believe you left me with Janice.

OWEN
Sorry, I just couldn't handle her
tonight.

CLAIRE
Her breath was horrendous.

OWEN
It always is.

They both laugh.

CLAIRE
Who was that gal you were with?

OWEN
Who?

CLAIRE
The pretty girl batting her eyes at
you before we left.

Owen pauses.

OWEN
Just a former intern.

CLAIRE
Did she work with you directly?

OWEN
Not really. She attended some
meetings.

CLAIRE
She seemed to know you pretty well.

Owen shifts uncomfortably.

OWEN
She was just thanking me for the
opportunity. I was trying to
remember her name, but I couldn't.

His cell phone RINGS. He glances at the screen.

CLAIRE
Who's calling so late?

OWEN
Work. It can wait.

FAMILY ROOM

Liam plops onto the couch and snatches the remote. He flicks the television on as Tucker hops next to him.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

There once was a boy who told a lie.

INT. OWEN'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Owen shifts in his desk chair. He props his feet on the table, talks on the phone with a SUBORDINATE.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 15TH"

SUBORDINATE (O.S.)

There was another DNS attack last night. The site went down for a few minutes, but I don't think anyone got into the servers.

OWEN

Should we be worried?

SUBORDINATE (O.S.)

I don't think so. Everything is encrypted. I can run a more thorough diagnostic on the hardware if you want.

OWEN

No, it's fine. You should be home with your family. It's almost Christmas.

Owen's cell phone RINGS briefly before he silences it.

OWEN

I have another call. Keep me posted.

SUBORDINATE

Will do. Merry Christmas.

Owen ends the call, answers his cell phone.

OWEN

I can't talk right now.

He listens.

OWEN

No. I'm sorry, but we settled this. I can't just--

He shifts uncomfortably.

OWEN

I know it's your choice, but it's a burden. Financially. It would be difficult for you.

He glances over his shoulder.

OWEN

For us.

KITCHEN

Claire enters, groceries in arms. Tucker hops nearby.

CLAIRE

If you make me drop these, you're going outside for the day.

She places the groceries on the counter, some spill across the surface. Tucker pauses, WHINES.

CLAIRE

You're not getting anything, so don't even try.

They stare at each other. Claire sighs.

CLAIRE

Fine.

She tosses a piece of cheese to Tucker.

CLAIRE

Aria!

BASEMENT

The ARIA base station in the wall. Lights blink, code races across the screen.

KITCHEN

A BEEP echoes through the room.

CLAIRE

Any messages?

ARIA (O.S.)

You have one new message.

CLAIRE

Play it.

PHARMACIST (O.S.)

Hi Mrs. Westbrook, this is Travis with Clearfield Pharmacy. Just wanted to let you know that your Zyprexa prescription has been waiting here--

CLAIRE

Delete.

A DING echoes through the room.

ARIA (O.S.)

Message deleted. No new messages.

Claire pauses as she puts food away, cautiously glances into the nearby hallway.

CLAIRE

Aria, play Christmas music.

DING. CHRISTMAS MUSIC plays. Claire hums as Tucker sniffs the smart home hub, GROWLS.

CLAIRE

Get away from there.

Tucker obediently scampers from the room.

CLAIRE

Stupid dog.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam sits at a small desk, wears headphones as he TAPS on a Morse Code machine.

Tucker enters, sniffs the carbon monoxide detector.

LIAM

Tucker, no.

Tucker plops next to him. Liam removes his headphones as they snuggle.

LIAM

Good boy.

Claire enters.

LIAM
 Mommy, look at the message I decoded
 from my friend, Brian.

He holds up his paper. Claire doesn't look.

CLAIRE
 That's great, honey, but you need to
 change your clothes.

LIAM
 Can I wear my ghost shirt?

CLAIRE
 Aria, is the dryer done?

ARIA (O.S.)
 No. Would you like quick dry?

CLAIRE
 Please.

LAUNDRY ROOM

BEEP. The smart dryer turns on.

OWEN'S HOME OFFICE

Owen still on the phone.

OWEN
 Just think about it. Please. If it's
 a matter of money I can--

He listens.

OWEN
 I'm not trying to bribe you. I'm
 trying to help you. I don't want to
 hurt my family anymore. There's
 nothing you--

Pauses.

OWEN
 You're starting to sound crazy. You
 should get some help...hello?

He shoves his cell phone into his pocket.

OWEN
 Damn it.

A KNOCK at the door. Owen sighs.

OWEN

Come in.

Claire slowly opens the door.

CLAIRE

You're picking Addison up on Thursday, right?

OWEN

I've got a lot going on at work, Claire. Any way you could do it?

CLAIRE

I already have a full day. And you said you would.

OWEN

I don't remember that, but I'll take care of it.

CLAIRE

Her flight gets in at 2:15, so you'll have to--

OWEN

I'll take care of it, Claire!

Both stare at each other silently.

OWEN

Sorry. It's not you, it's just--

CLAIRE

Who were you talking to?

OWEN

Conference call with work. It's nothing.

Claire rubs his shoulders.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry. I know you've been under a lot of stress recently.

OWEN

It's fine.

She kisses him on the head. Owen kisses her hand.

OWEN
I won't let it ruin Christmas.

FAMILY ROOM

Tucker enters, pauses halfway across the room. His eyes lock on the security camera. Ears rise. He GRUNTS.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

ADDISON WESTBROOK (20) pushes through the front door. Owen follows, luggage clenched under his arms.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 17TH"

OWEN
I'm just confused why you have all
this luggage--

LIAM (O.S.)
Addison!

Liam bursts into the room, wraps his arms around Addison.

ADDISON
Hey, kiddo! Guess what?

She drops her backpack to the floor. She retrieves a small package and hands it to Liam.

ADDISON
This one's for you.

LIAM
Can I open it? Please?

ADDISON
Not yet, bud. Put it under the
Christmas tree.

Liam shoves the package under the tree. BRITNEY (15), the babysitter, enters. Owen stares at her curiously.

OWEN
What are you doing here, Britney?

BRITNEY
Mrs. Westbrook asked me to watch
Liam while she did some last minute
shopping. She'll be back by dinner.

ADDISON

I told you she wouldn't be here.

Owen raises his finger to silence Addison. He takes out his wallet, hands Britney fifty dollars.

OWEN

Thank you for watching Liam.

BRITNEY

This is way too much, Mr. Westbrook.
I've only been here since--

OWEN

I insist. Merry Christmas.

BRITNEY

Merry Christmas. Thank you. Bye,
Liam.

Britney leaves as Liam waves.

ADDISON

She hasn't seen me in months and she
goes shopping?!

Owen moves to Addison and kisses her on the head.

OWEN

I'm sure she has her reasons.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Claire and Liam dance to CHRISTMAS MUSIC as Addison and Owen watch from the couch. Tucker quietly chews on a bone.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 19TH"

Owen stands up.

OWEN

My turn.

LIAM

But I want to dance with Mommy.

Addison leaps from the couch.

ADDISON

Come here, bud. I'll dance with you.

Addison takes Liam in her arms, spins him as he laughs. Owen pulls Claire close, rests his head on hers as they dance.

CLAIRE
It's going great.

Owen smiles, kisses her on the head.

OWEN
It's perfect, Claire.

LATER

Claire plops onto the couch.

CLAIRE
Aria, turn a Christmas show on.

The television flicks on. A news report: picture of a woman.

NEWS REPORTER
(on television)
Eve Harper was last seen at her
apartment just--

The channel switches.

ADDISON
Wait, go back to the news.

Claire snatches the remote, returns to the report.

NEWS REPORTER
(on television)
...missing for two days. Her father,
Jack Harper, urges to please contact
the police with any information
regarding the whereabouts of Eve.

Footage of a tearful JACK HARPER (50s) populates the screen.

JACK
(on television)
I just pray that she comes home
safe.

NEWS REPORTER
(on television)
Eve currently attends Westchester
College and is studying computer
science. She graduated from Taylor
High School two years ago and--

CLAIRE
That's your year, Addison. Did you
know her?

Addison's eyes fall to the floor.

ADDISON
Not really.

CLAIRE
She looks familiar.

Owen flicks the television off. Claire glances at him.

OWEN
Let's not let it ruin our evening. I
hope they find her.

Every electronic device in the house turns off. Darkness.

LIAM
Mommy?!

CLAIRE
Don't panic.

The lights flick back on. The family stares at the ceiling.

CLAIRE
What was that?

Owen, lost in thought.

CLAIRE
Owen, what was that?

He snaps out of it.

OWEN
Probably just a brownout. I'll check
the breakers tomorrow.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Claire prepares food on the counter.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 20TH"

The PHONE RINGS. Claire moves to the nearest smart home device, touches the screen.

CLAIRE
Hey, Wendy.

WENDY WESTBROOK (60s) sits upright on the screen, hands folded on her lap, a stern expression etched on her face.

WENDY

Claire.

CLAIRE

Did you and Don get the rental car situation worked out? Owen--

WENDY

We can take care of ourselves. You don't need to fret about us.

CLAIRE

I don't fret. I just--

WENDY

Are the children home?

Claire glares at Wendy.

CLAIRE

Sure, Wendy. Let me grab them.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Claire tries the handle to Addison's bedroom, but the door is locked.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

Addison sits on her bed, wipes tears away from her eyes as she texts. She glances at something on the bed.

A KNOCK at the door. Addison shoves it under her pillow.

ADDISON

What?!

CLAIRE (O.S.)

Why's the door locked?!

ADDISON

Because you never knock!

Addison opens the door.

ADDISON

What?!

CLAIRE

Grandma's on the phone.

ADDISON
I'll be down in a minute.

CLAIRE
Lose the attitude first.

Addison closes the door behind Claire, sits on the bed.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Tucker lies on the floor next to Liam as a remote control car cruises around them.

Claire enters. The car slams into her foot as SIRENS go off.

CLAIRE
Dang it, Liam!

LIAM
Sorry, Mom.

CLAIRE
Grandma's on the phone.

Liam beams, tosses the controller down as he bounces from the room.

KITCHEN

Liam plops into the chair in front of the screen. Claire continues to prepare food.

LIAM
Grandma!

Wendy's entire demeanor changes as she smiles.

WENDY
Hey, handsome! You're getting big. I thought I told you to stop growing.

LIAM
Can't stop growing. I've tried.

WENDY
I bet you have. Where's your sister?

Addison enters, sits next to Liam.

ADDISON
Hey.

WENDY
There's my exquisite granddaughter.

LIAM
Where's Grandpa?

WENDY
He's around here somewhere.

She glances off-screen.

WENDY
Don! Get in here!

DON (O.S.)
What?!

DON WESTBROOK (70s) sits next to Wendy.

WENDY
What were you doing?

DON
Conference call.

LIAM
Grandpa!

DON
There's my little man!

ADDISON
I thought you retired? Dad said--

DON
I'm still on the Board. You know me.
It's hard to let go.

WENDY
Difficult to let go of controlling
underlings? Owen is quite adept at
managing the company without you.

Don and Wendy glare at each other.

ADDISON
Well Liam can't wait to see you.
He's been counting down the days.

WENDY
We have, too.

LIAM

Mom's been working hard trying to get the house ready for you guys.

Wendy snickers.

WENDY

She's always been vexed by the domestic arts.

Claire shakes her head, exits the room.

OWEN'S HOME OFFICE

Claire storms in as Owen types on his computer.

CLAIRE

You need to speak to that woman.

OWEN

Who?

CLAIRE

Your mother. She always gives me crap and now I'm going to spend--

OWEN

Okay. Okay. I'll talk to her.

CLAIRE

No you won't. You always say you will, but then you--

Owen stands, looks her in the eye.

OWEN

I promise I'll talk to her.

KITCHEN

Addison and Liam sit close to the smart home device.

DON

I hope you both have been nice this year. Otherwise, I'll have to take all those gifts back to the store.

LIAM

Take Addison's. She's the naughty one.

Everyone laughs.

ADDISON
Thanks, kiddo.

Static races across the screen. Liam taps it.

WENDY
I think we're losing you. We'll see
you in a couple days, okay?

LIAM
Okay, Grandma. We love--

The entire screen is consumed by static as Owen enters.

ADDISON
Dad, something's up with the
internet.

OWEN
I'll take a look at it.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The lights are off. Nothing moves. An eerie silence.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 21ST"

FAMILY ROOM

Tucker lies on the floor; head rests on his front paws. The massive television on the wall flashes static briefly.

Tucker sits up, quietly GROWLS.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Fire burns in Claire's eyes. Owen stands on the other side of the counter.

OWEN
Should I tell her not to come?

CLAIRE
If she's treating me like crap, I
expect you to stand up for me!

OWEN
That's just who she is.

CLAIRE
That's no excuse, Owen!

GARAGE

Addison rummages through boxes. She finds an ax, sets it against the wall. Glances in a box, sets it aside.

She hears Owen and Claire YELLING.

KITCHEN

Owen shakes his head.

OWEN

Some people don't change, Claire.
She's not perfect, but she's my
mother.

CLAIRE

That's no excuse!

OWEN

You're paranoid.

He points to the security camera.

OWEN

That's why I put these up, remember?
Who knows. Maybe you guys will get
along.

CLAIRE

I guess I'll just stay in our room
while they're here!

OWEN

Don't be crazy.

CLAIRE

Crazy?! You son of a...

Claire wipes her eyes, leaves the room.

OWEN

It's just an expression!

Owen sighs, shakes his head. DOORBELL. Tucker BARKS.

OWEN

Tucker, quiet!

He glances at his phone to check the front door camera. No one is there.

He is about to put his phone away when the DOORBELL RINGS. He quickly checks his phone. No one.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
Answer the door, Owen!

Owen stomps from the room.

FRONT YARD

Owen whips the front door open, storms into the snow. He glances in all directions.

An old van sits across the street.

OWEN
Whoever the hell is prank--

DOORBELL. Owen's eyes dart over his shoulder. No one. He slowly steps toward the door, inspects the doorbell.

Closer. Closer. DOORBELL. He startles, waits. Nothing.

CLAIRE'S BEDROOM

A KNOCK at the door.

CLAIRE
What?!

Owen quietly enters, closes the door behind him.

CLAIRE
You're a dick, you know that?

OWEN
I don't think I'm--

CLAIRE
It isn't that hard, Owen! Stand up
for your wife! No matter what! I
should be your number one!

Owen sits on the bed next to Claire as she wipes her eyes.

OWEN
You're right. I'm a dick.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE
How did that feel coming out of your
mouth?

Owen smiles.

OWEN
Don't push it.

They kiss. Static flashes across the television. Claire is
about to speak.

OWEN
I'll check the breakers.

BASEMENT

A DOOR OPENS. Light spills across the floor. FOOTSTEPS.

OWEN (O.S.)
Aria, turn the lights on.

Nothing.

OWEN (O.S.)
Aria, turn the lights on!

Nothing. Owen flicks his flashlight on, passes the furnace.

He opens the box next to the smart home station, analyzes the
breakers. BEEP.

Eyes dart to the smart home device. Nothing. Glances back to
the breakers.

On the screen, numbers shift, contort to form--

A WOMAN'S FACE (20s), but Owen doesn't see it.

BEEP. He glances at the station. Static on the screen.

He steps toward it. Watches the screen. Lights flicker.

He looks closer, inches from the screen. Silence.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
Owen.

He startles as Claire approaches.

OWEN
What the hell, Claire?!

CLAIRE
Sorry. Find anything?

OWEN
No, but I'm not an expert.

CLAIRE
Then call an electrician.

He scans the array of circuit breakers.

OWEN
Maybe you're right.

INT. OWEN'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Addison sits at the desk, cell phone pressed to her ear.

ADDISON
I'm not sure what I'm going to do.

Owen enters, glares at Addison.

OWEN
How many times have I told you to
stay out of my office?

ADDISON
It's the only place I can get away
from her. Why? You have something to
hide?

Owen is taken back. Awkward silence. Addison laughs.

ADDISON
Just messing with you, Dad.

She exits. Owen checks a small compartment under his desk. He retrieves a cell phone, checks it, and puts it back.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Early morning. Silence.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 22ND"

Tucker stands motionless, GROWLS at the laundry room door.

LAUNDRY ROOM

The dryer TUMBLES briefly, flicks off.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

A TOILET FLUSHES.

Addison walks out of the bathroom. The overhead light flickers. She looks up. Nothing.

She moves to her bedroom.

Tucker slowly enters, looks at the overhead lights. The wall vent CLOSES.

He WHIMPERS, scampers away.

KITCHEN

Tucker disappears through the dog door into the snow.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Claire prepares food as Addison pours a glass of juice.

CLAIRE

There have to be some cute guys down there. Have you been dating?

ADDISON

A little.

CLAIRE

Anyone serious?

ADDISON

I'm not in the mood for a heart-to-heart, Mom.

Claire sets a pot in the sink, returns to preparing food.

CLAIRE

Aria, turn the sink on.

Water rockets from the faucet into the pot.

CLAIRE

I'm not trying to pry, Addison, I just want to be part of your life.

ADDISON

But that's what you're doing. Prying. I'm an adult. I can handle myself. You don't need to worry about me.

CLAIRE
That's what mothers do, Addison.

ADDISON
Whatever.

Claire flicks the water off as Liam rushes into the room.

LIAM
I can't find Tucker.

CLAIRE
Did you check your dad's office? He likes to hide out in there.

LIAM
I checked everywhere.

Claire glances into the backyard.

CLAIRE
I don't see him back there either.
Addison, can you check upstairs?

ADDISON
Sure.

LIAM
I said I checked everywhere!

Addison and Claire exit as they yell for Tucker.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

Addison enters, glances around her bed.

ADDISON
Tucker?

As she turns to leave, static flashes across her computer.
Eyes dart over her shoulder. Nothing.

KITCHEN

Addison returns.

CLAIRE
Anything?

ADDISON
He's not upstairs.

Liam starts to sob.

LIAM
Where's Tucker?

Claire moves around the counter, embraces Liam.

CLAIRE
We'll find him, sweetie.

FAMILY ROOM

Owen enters from the garage, shakes snow from his coat.

OWEN
Everyone stay away from Green Market
today. It's insane.

KITCHEN

He enters and sets some boxes on the counter, notices Liam.

OWEN
What's wrong?

CLAIRE
We can't find the dog.

OWEN
When was the last time you saw him?

CLAIRE
Last night. This isn't like him.

OWEN
I'll check the neighborhood.

Owen exits.

GARAGE

Owen closes the door behind him, steps around the ax propped
against the wall.

OWEN
Aria, open the garage door.

The garage door slides open. His PHONE RINGS.

OWEN
This is Owen.

He steps toward his car as he listens briefly, eyes dart over his shoulder. He opens the car door, slides in.

OWEN

How can I help you officer?

He backs out of the garage.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Claire sits quietly as Liam stands at the window.

LIAM

I see Dad!

CLAIRE

Does he have Tucker?

Liam bolts for the garage door.

FAMILY ROOM

His shoulders drop as Owen pushes through the door. No Tucker. Claire enters.

CLAIRE

Anything?

Owen shakes his head. Liam starts to sob.

OWEN

I spoke with as many neighbors as I could. The Blakes and Sorensons are out of town, but Henry will keep his eyes open for him.

LIAM

What if we never find him? What if he's dead?

OWEN

Come here, buddy.

Owen embraces Liam. He sits on the couch, Liam on his knee.

OWEN

He's a smart dog. Probably too smart. We'll find him.

LIAM

You promise?

OWEN

I promise.

The lights in the room flicker. Claire looks at Owen.

OWEN

I'll call an electrician.

CLAIRE

You should've done that already.

OWEN

I've been busy, Claire.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Owen enters, glances out the window. The television turns on.

ON THE TELEVISION

Security footage from "DECEMBER 6TH" of Claire and Owen in the kitchen.

CLAIRE

Who was that gal you were with?

The footage skips.

OWEN

I was trying to remember her name,
but I couldn't.

The television flicks off.

BACK TO SCENE

ARIA (O.S.)

Liars die.

Claire enters, glances to the television.

CLAIRE

What was that?

Owen slowly moves to the side of the mounted television, glances behind it.

OWEN

Aria randomly flicked on. Probably
another glitch.

CLAIRE

We need to get it checked out before everyone gets here.

OWEN

I'll reset the system later tonight. That should fix it.

CLAIRE

Why did Aria say liars die?

OWEN

I'm not Aria, Claire. How would I know?

CLAIRE

Is there something I should know?

He hesitates.

OWEN

No.

Owen gently rests his hands on Claire's shoulders.

OWEN

Let's go out tonight. Get Liam out of the house, so he isn't cooped up here worrying about the dog.

CLAIRE

Perfect. I don't feel like cooking.

OWEN

You pick the restaurant. You earned it, babe.

He kisses her on the head. She smiles.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam sits on the end of his bed, wipes his eyes.

ARIA (O.S.)

Don't trust them.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

The family returns from dinner. Addison bursts through the door and bolts for the bathroom.

VOMITS. Claire races after her.

CLAIRE
Are you okay?

The bathroom door slams closed. Owen shakes his head as he steps into the hallway.

OWEN
I hope she's not contagious. My parents get here in a couple days.

CLAIRE
Liam, give Addison some space, sweetie. I don't want you to get sick.

Liam nods, skips away.

CLAIRE
If all of us get a stomach bug right before Christmas?

OWEN
I'll call my parents. Probably best if they just go to Kim's instead.

TOILET FLUSH. Addison exits the bathroom, wipes her mouth.

CLAIRE
Addison, do you need--

ADDISON
I'm fine. Just motion sickness.

CLAIRE
Let me know if you need anything.

Addison moves to the staircase.

ADDISON
I said I'm fine.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Owen taps the screen of the smart home station. He passes a "LOCKDOWN" option.

ARIA (O.S.)
System reset in progress.

He accidentally drops his pen as he flips through an instruction manual.

As he bends over, the same WOMAN who flashed earlier crosses the screen.

WOMAN

Owen.

Owen sits up. The screen is dark. He glances around the room. No one. Lights blink across the hub after a few seconds.

OWEN

Aria, turn the lights off.

The room goes dark.

OWEN

Aria, turn the lights on.

The room is illuminated. Owen smiles.

INT. ADDISON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Addison lies quietly in her bed, pulls the blanket over her shoulder.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 23RD"

KITCHEN

Water DRIPS in the sink. Nothing moves.

ARIA (O.S.)

Backdoor unlocked.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

Her automatic door slowly CREAKS open.

Addison rolls over, glances to the hallway.

ADDISON

Mom?

Nothing. She tosses the covers, steps into the hallway.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Addison scans the corridor.

ADDISON
Mom? Are you there?

AUDIO CRACKLING echoes from her bedroom.

ADDISON'S BEDROOM

She flicks on the light, startles. Liam stands at the foot of her bed, eyes locked on Addison.

ADDISON
Liam, what are you doing?!

Liam remains motionless.

ADDISON
Are you okay?

LIAM
Liars.

She steps toward him, apprehensive.

LIAM
You're all liars.

ADDISON
Who told you that, buddy?

Liam doesn't respond, blinks as though he's coming out of a trance. Addison rests her hand on his cheek.

ADDISON
You can sleep in here tonight.

She takes him in her arms as he rubs his eyes. She lays him in the bed next to her, pulls the covers over him.

Static races across her computer screen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Addison stands at the counter across from Claire.

ADDISON
Has he done anything like that before?

CLAIRE
Sometimes he wanders into our bedroom when he can't sleep.

ADDISON
He said we're all liars.

Claire hesitates.

CLAIRE
Kids sleepwalk. It's not a big deal.

ADDISON
You used to say the same thing about yourself.

CLAIRE
This isn't about me, Addison.

ADDISON
Fine. Then what are we going to do about Liam? Something is wrong.

CLAIRE
Keep your voice down. I'll take him to a psychologist after the holidays.

ADDISON
Couldn't you get him in any--

CLAIRE
After the holidays. It will be fine, Addison. I promise.

ADDISON
You're not taking this seriously, Mom. Like usual.

CLAIRE
No, I'm just not doing exactly what you want me to do, which is--

Owen enters, freezes.

OWEN
What's wrong?

CLAIRE
We're fine.

OWEN
Any issues with Aria this morning?

CLAIRE
Not that I've seen. Have you checked the neighborhood again for Tucker?

OWEN
Not yet, but--

The DOORBELL rings.

OWEN
There better be an actual person at
that door.

LIVING ROOM

Owen opens the door to find Jack Harper, Eve's father. He is accompanied by a POLICE OFFICER (30s).

OWEN
Can I help you?

Jack extends his hand.

JACK
Jack Harper.

Owen shakes his hand.

OWEN
What's this about?

Claire approaches.

CLAIRE
Who is it, honey?

She freezes, eyes locked on the police officer.

POLICE OFFICER
We need to ask you a few questions,
Mr. Westbrook.

Tears roll down Jack's cheeks.

JACK
I'm trying to find my daughter, Eve
Harper.

OWEN
Maybe we should--

Claire moves past Owen, takes Jack by the hand.

CLAIRE
Please come in. It's cold outside.

JACK

Thank you.

Jack glares at Owen as he enters.

He sits with the police officer on the couch as Owen slumps into the nearby chair.

CLAIRE

Could I get you something to drink?

POLICE OFFICER

No, please. We just have some questions for your husband.

CLAIRE

Your daughter is the one who's missing?

JACK

Yes.

Jack wipes his eyes with the back of his hand.

POLICE OFFICER

She worked as an intern at your company in software development this past summer, correct?

OWEN

Could this wait until tomorrow? We could meet at my office and--

JACK

She did.

POLICE OFFICER

One of her roommates reported that she was dating someone from your company.

OWEN

I don't know. I have a large company and I don't keep track of who--

JACK

She was dating someone, but never mentioned his name. She's always been honest with me. Honesty was so important to her. In everything.

He glances between Owen and Claire.

JACK
 Secrets destroy families, don't you
 think?

Owen and Claire shift in their seats.

CLAIRE
 If Owen had any information that
 could help find your daughter, he
 would--

Jack retrieves a cell phone from his pocket.

JACK
 It took a couple days to get her
 phone unlocked. She called an
 unlisted number several times in the
 last few weeks.

POLICE OFFICER
 Including the day she disappeared.

Owen shifts in his chair.

POLICE OFFICER
 It's a burner phone.

JACK
 I've called it multiple times, but
 never get a response.

Owen squirms.

OWEN
 Mr. Harper, is this really--

Jack presses the number. Owen shifts uncomfortably.

A PHONE RINGS in Owen's office. Everyone freezes.

The officer stands. Owen and Claire follow.

OWEN
 There must be a mistake, because--

OWEN'S HOME OFFICE

The officer throws the door open. Owen and Claire stop.

Addison sits at the desk, answers her RINGING PHONE.

ADDISON
 Hang on a sec. It's my dad again.

She glares at Owen.

ADDISON
Do you mind?

Owen breathes a sigh of relief.

OWEN
This is our daughter, Addison.

POLICE OFFICER
I need to see your phone, young lady.

ADDISON
Why?

POLICE OFFICER
To check your call history.

Addison rolls her eyes, presses the phone to her ear.

ADDISON
Let me call you back.

She hangs up, hands her phone to the officer.

ADDISON
Don't you need a warrant for this?

He checks it, nods as he hands it back to her.

POLICE OFFICER
Thank you.

ADDISON
Satisfied?

The officer glares at her as Jack enters. Addison freezes.

JACK
Addison. Such a unique name. Eve went to school with an Addison.

CLAIRE
Yes, they went to the same high school.

Owen gives Claire a sharp look.

POLICE OFFICER
Do you know Eve Harper?

ADDISON

We went to high school together, but I don't really know her. We didn't talk.

POLICE OFFICER

So you weren't friends?

Addison hesitates.

CLAIRE

She'd tell you if they were.

Jack nods, starts to sob uncontrollably.

JACK

I'm sorry. I lost my wife around Christmas. I don't want to lose my little girl, too.

He wipes his eyes, checks his cell phone.

JACK

I'm a mess. May I use your bathroom?

CLAIRE

Of course.

She points to the hallway.

CLAIRE

Down the hallway on your right.

JACK

Thank you.

Jack exits.

LIVING ROOM

The officer enters followed by Owen and Claire.

POLICE OFFICER

Eve has a history of depression and suicidal ideation. She left her Celexa prescription, so we're concerned. I'd like to ask the guy she was seeing a few questions.

OWEN

If I find out, I'll let you know.

POLICE OFFICER
I'll need contact information for every employee, starting with the software development department.

OWEN
Of course. I can get that to you--

POLICE OFFICER
Today. We need to move fast when a missing person is involved.

OWEN
I'll get it for you. You have my word.

POLICE OFFICER
Great. And thank you for answering my questions yesterday.

Claire fidgets.

CLAIRE
Yesterday? What--

OWEN
It was nothing.

Jack returns.

CLAIRE
We're so sorry, Mr. Harper. We can't understand what you're going through. If you need anything--

JACK
That's very kind. Thank you.

Owen reaches for his wallet.

OWEN
If there's some way I could help out with the search--

JACK
No.

Awkward silence. Owen nods as he stands, points to the police officer.

OWEN
I'll get that contact information to you as soon as I can.

POLICE OFFICER

Thank you.

He opens the door for Jack and the officer.

FRONT YARD

Jack takes a few steps outside, turns.

JACK

I hope the Christmas Spirit finds
you tomorrow night.

Awkward pause.

CLAIRE

Thanks. Merry Christmas.

LIVING ROOM

Owen closes the door behind him.

OWEN

That was weird.

CLAIRE

Why didn't you say anything?

OWEN

About what?

CLAIRE

That night when the news report came
on. Why didn't you say that she
worked for your company?

OWEN

She looked familiar, but I wasn't
sure.

Claire's eyes narrow.

CLAIRE

You weren't sure? She's the one you
were speaking to at the Christmas
party.

OWEN

What exactly are you accusing me of,
Claire?

CLAIRE

Keeping secrets, for starters. You didn't tell me the police called you yesterday.

OWEN

If it's work-related, I try not to pull you into it. And what was wrong with you? You could barely sit still during the conversation.

CLAIRE

There's a police officer sitting in my home. Of course I'm nervous.

Static on the television.

OWEN

I informed my employees after the news report, because that's a work issue. It didn't involve our family.

CLAIRE

Trust, Owen. If we can't be honest with each other, why're we married?

Claire shakes her head as she exits.

ARIA (O.S.)

You're a liar.

Owen's eyes dart to the ceiling.

OWEN

Aria, who told you to say that?

No response.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Silence. The automatic basement door is closed.

FAMILY ROOM

Claire stands from the couch, rubs her eyes as she moves to the door.

CLAIRE

Aria, lights off.

The lights turn off as she exits.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

The basement door is open. Claire briefly glances inside before she closes it.

LIVING ROOM

She enters, glances around the room.

CLAIRE
Aria, lights off.

The lights turn off. Claire turns to exit. Static flashes across the television briefly.

She glances back to the screen. Nothing.

The TICKING OF A CLOCK echoes as she steps toward the television. Step. TICK. Step. TICK.

She reaches for the television.

The Roomba in the corner turns on, startles Claire.

It flicks off. She waits. TICK. TICK. TICK. It doesn't move.

She watches the device as she exits.

INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkness. The lamp on the nightstand flickers. A dark figure moves in the shadows.

Claire flicks the lamp on. SCREAMS. Owen jerks awake.

OWEN
What is it?!

Liam stands at the foot of their bed, stares at them without blinking.

CLAIRE
Liam, what're you doing?!

Liam hesitates.

OWEN
Liam, say something!

LIAM
Tell the truth.

CLAIRE

What?

LIAM

It's the only way to protect you.

CLAIRE

From who, sweetie?

Liam still doesn't blink.

LIAM

The lady.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

An ELECTRICIAN (50s) glances at the electrical sockets. He looks behind the television.

Claire stands awkwardly in the room.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 24TH"

ELECTRICIAN

I've checked the breakers and the wiring. I can't find anything wrong.

CLAIRE

Obviously we're having issues. The lights have been flickering in different rooms.

ELECTRICIAN

Maybe it's the smart home system. Check with support and see if they notice anything on their end.

CLAIRE

Isn't it your job to figure this out?

He glares at her.

ELECTRICIAN

I could install a new breaker panel if you want, but it may be overkill. And expensive.

CLAIRE

How long would that take?

ELECTRICIAN

A few hours. I'd have to run back to the office and grab some parts.

CLAIRE

I don't have a few hours. Why don't you have the parts in your truck?!

ELECTRICIAN

Look, ma'am, I'm sure this is the last thing you wanted to deal with, but I'm trying to help.

CLAIRE

Sorry. I have family coming into town later today and I can't have everyone here in a house with no power.

ELECTRICIAN

I hear ya. My mother-in-law's staying with us the next few days. Trust me, you don't want to piss that woman off.

CLAIRE

Mine's coming this afternoon and I already can't wait until she leaves.

They both laugh.

CLAIRE

Let's do it. The new breaker panel.

The electrician sighs, checks his watch.

ELECTRICIAN

I've got a couple other appointments and then I can swing by the office to grab the parts, but--

CLAIRE

But what?

ELECTRICIAN

It's Christmas Eve.

CLAIRE

And I need this done. Today.

They glare at each other. Silence.

ELECTRICIAN

Okay, Mrs. Westbrook. I'm not sure what time I'll be back, but I'll get it done.

CLAIRE

Thanks.

He opens the front door, turns.

ELECTRICIAN

Honestly, ma'am, not being around my in-laws tonight may be the best Christmas present ever.

INT. OWEN'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Owen paces, cell phone pressed to his ear.

OWEN

I'm having a hard time believing you can't see any issues on your end.

He listens briefly.

OWEN

I'm not pleased that my own company can't figure out what's wrong with the smart home system we designed.

He slumps into the chair as he listens.

OWEN

Could someone be accessing the system remotely?

Liam bounces in.

LIAM

Hey, Daddy! I let my friend, Brian, know about Tucker missing using Morse Code and he said--

Owen covers the phone.

OWEN

I can't talk right now, bud. I'm on the phone.

LIAM

But--

OWEN
Not. Right. Now.

Liam hangs his head, shuffles from the room.

Owen returns to his call.

OWEN
Who was the last developer to access
my unit?

His shoulders drop as he shakes his head.

OWEN
Her account is locked now, right?

Listens.

OWEN
Thanks. Keep me posted.

He hangs up, tosses the cell phone on the desk.

He retrieves the other cell phone from the small compartment under the desk. He's about to dial, hesitates.

He glances right at the security camera.

OWEN
I don't know how you're doing it,
but leave my family alone.

He stuffs the phone back into the desk.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Owen retrieves the juice and a glass, hands them to Addison.

ADDISON
I'm worried about him. And Mom just
kind of blows it off like--

OWEN
He'll be fine. We'll have him see
someone.

ADDISON
He keeps saying Aria talks to him.

OWEN
I think someone is playing a prank
on us through the system.

ADDISON
Who would do that?

Owen hesitates.

OWEN
I don't know.

ADDISON
Maybe we're all losing our minds.

OWEN
No one is losing their mind.

She takes a drink, shakes her head, points to the other room.

ADDISON
One of us is going to end up like
her.

OWEN
Don't say that, Addison.

ADDISON
The same blood runs through my
veins. How old was Mom when she
started showing symptoms?

OWEN
A little older than you. We were
still in North Carolina at the time,
but you're different, Addison.

He wraps his arms around her.

OWEN
Everything is going to be okay.

ADDISON
Nothing feels okay right now.

Tears trickle down Addison's cheeks as she rubs her stomach.

ADDISON
I'm just scared. About Liam. About
college. It's all just--

She stops.

OWEN
Just what?

ADDISON
Forget it. It's nothing.

OWEN

You don't need to be scared. I'll do anything to protect you.

ADDISON

I know.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Claire and Addison set the table as Liam fidgets in one of the chairs.

CLAIRE

Hurry. They'll be here any--

DOORBELL. Claire's eyes widen, glances to Liam.

CLAIRE

Liam, make sure none of your toys--

Liam excitedly rushes from the room. Claire sighs.

CLAIRE

Addison, can you pick up--

ADDISON

On it.

She races after Liam.

LIVING ROOM

Owen opens the front door: Don and Wendy Westbrook. Wendy SHRIEKS WITH JOY, tosses her arms around him.

OWEN

Hey, Mom.

WENDY

Where are my grandchildren?

Liam bursts into the room followed closely by Addison.

LIAM

Grandma!

Wendy throws her arms around him.

OWEN

Your room is ready. Temperature just the way you like it. As you know, our company's ventilation system--

DON (O.S.)
Is the best smart home ventilation
unit east of the Mississippi.

Don enters, embraces Owen as they both laugh.

OWEN
Good to see you, Dad.

DON
It's good to see you, too.

LIAM
Grandpa!

Liam and Addison hug Don.

Addison attempts to hug Wendy, but she steps back.

WENDY
I heard you were unwell.

Addison shakes her head, cavalier in her response.

ADDISON
I'm fine. It was nothing.

WENDY
I prefer to not be infected. Where's
your mother?

Claire enters. A fake smile crosses her face.

CLAIRE
Wendy.

WENDY
Claire.

CLAIRE
Dinner isn't quite ready yet.

WENDY
Governing a domiciliary has always
been laborious for you.

Claire's jaw tightens.

LATER

Soft CHRISTMAS MUSIC plays as everyone gathers.

LIAM
Maybe we could all go look for
Tucker and--

Wendy stumbles, a drink in her hand.

OWEN
Mom, maybe you should sit down.

WENDY
I'm fine, honey.

She tilts slightly as she takes a gulp.

DON
Go easy on the sauce.

WENDY
Have a little fun, Don.

DON
You're drinking too much.

WENDY
Yes, warden.

Wendy giggles. Liam tugs on Claire's shirt.

LIAM
What's a warden?

Claire shakes her head. Wendy scans the room.

WENDY
I can't believe this room, Claire.
You never were much of a decorator.
That rug is fit for a vagrant.

DON
Just stop, Wendy.

WENDY
Or what? You'll put me in solitary?

Wendy snorts. Don points at Owen and Claire.

DON
Or we could learn to get along like
Owen and Claire.

WENDY
Owen was always too good for that
southern tart.

DON
I said enough!

Awkward silence.

ADDISON
This is almost as exciting as when
the cop came the other day.

Owen and Claire give Addison a sharp look.

WENDY
Why was a cop here?

CLAIRE
It was nothing. Jack Harper was just
here with a cop looking for his
missing girl.

Don glances to Owen. They have an unspoken exchange.

WENDY
Jack Harper? Small world.

CLAIRE
Do you know him?

WENDY
Wasn't he involved in that lawsuit
years ago?

Don shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

DON
There was a Jack who tried to sue
the company a while back, but I
can't remember his last name.

Wendy laughs.

WENDY
Right. Have I told you kids about
your grandfather? He may act
charming, but if you cross him--

OWEN
Mom, maybe we should--

WENDY
I'm not finished!

She glances at Don.

WENDY

What was it? Allegations that his wife died from a faulty system?

OWEN

Mom! The kids are in the room and--

WENDY

So your grandfather took him to court and buried him in legal fees. Beat him into submission.

She takes another drink.

OWEN

The kids don't need to know about your grievances.

WENDY

It's not a grievance. Indigent families always try to take advantage of the prosperous. Families like your mother's.

BACKYARD

The motion lights turn on. Turn off. Turn on. The automatic backdoor creeps open.

LIVING ROOM

Claire taps Liam on the head.

CLAIRE

Go play in your room.

LIAM

But I want to--

CLAIRE

Now.

Liam marches away. Wendy chuckles.

WENDY

Great, Claire. Send the children away. Don't want them to hear uncomfortable truths.

CLAIRE

Shut the hell up, Wendy.

Claire storms from the room. Everyone remains motionless.

OWEN
Thanks, Mom.

WENDY
What? I'm just being open. Keeping
secrets kills people on the inside.

Don chuckles.

DON
You would know.

OWEN
What's he talking about, Mom?

KITCHEN

Claire enters. The backdoor sits wide open. She glances
outside briefly before she closes and locks the door.

LIVING ROOM

Wendy's bottom lip curls as she glares at Don.

WENDY
It's nothing. He's just a sour old
man and you're nothing like him.

DON
There's reason for that.

She stumbles across the room, pats Owen on the head.

WENDY
You're the better man, Owen. You
always have been.

She awkwardly kisses Owen on the head.

OWEN
What's the secret, Mom?

WENDY
You don't need to know.

OWEN
I think I do.

Wendy shrugs, takes another drink.

OWEN

Are you going to tell me?

WENDY

No.

Owen shakes his head as he exits. Addison follows.

Wendy takes another drink, glances at Don.

WENDY

What was that Harper woman's name?
The one whose husband tried to sue
the company?

Don gives her a stern look.

WENDY

Something about an electrical fault
that caused a fire?

DON

Susan.

KITCHEN

Claire scrubs dishes furiously as Owen enters. They remain silent for several seconds.

CLAIRE

This is why I didn't want her here!

OWEN

Keep your voice down.

CLAIRE

Keep my voice down?! Are you kidding
me, Owen?! This is my home! If she's
going to speak to me like that--

OWEN

Then what?! We throw her on the
street?!

Claire dries her hands, tosses the towel on the counter.

CLAIRE

Stand up for me! That's all I'm
asking!

OWEN

She's drunk. And she's keeping
something from me, which pisses me--

CLAIRE

You mean you don't like it when people keep secrets from you?!

OWEN

I'm not doing this. It's Christmas Eve, so let's just go back--

CLAIRE

You can go back in there if you want. I'm staying here.

OWEN

Fine. Suit yourself.

He storms out.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen passes Addison.

ADDISON

Is she coming back?

Owen shakes his head, presses his fingers to his temple like he's shooting himself.

KITCHEN

Claire wipes her eyes. Don quietly enters.

DON

Claire, honey. I'm sorry.

CLAIRE

It's not your fault, Don.

DON

Wendy gets mean when she has a few drinks in her.

Don crosses the room, wraps his arms around Claire.

DON

Owen is lucky to have you.

He doesn't let go. It's awkward. Claire pulls away.

CLAIRE

You should get back in there.

Don takes her by the hand, walks toward the hallway.

DON

Let's all have a good time together.

LIVING ROOM

Don, Claire, and Owen squeeze onto the couch. Wendy quietly sits in the other chair, stares at the wall.

Awkward silence. The SNOWSTORM outside increases.

ADDISON

Maybe we could play a--

The television suddenly turns on.

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

...have identified the body in the woods as 20-year-old Eve Harper, the woman reported missing earlier this week.

Addison snatches the remote and attempts to turn the television off, but it doesn't respond.

CLAIRE

Addison, turn it off.

ADDISON

It's not working.

POLICE OFFICER

(on television)

...appears to be a suicide. Prescription medication was found, but the cause of death is still under--

ADDISON

Why isn't it turning off?

POLICE OFFICER

(on television)

...suicide note was also found at the scene, but we're not ruling out any possibilities at the moment.

Wendy's gaze rests on Owen. He's frozen; eyes glued to the television.

WENDY

Owen, honey, are you okay?

He remains silent.

WENDY

Owen?

DON

I'll take care of it.

Don stands, moves toward the television.

NEWS REPORTER

(on television)

...condolences go out to Eve's father at this difficult time and we encourage everyone to get help--

DON

Who wants to open presents?

Don turns the television off. Sparks fly. He's shocked. He tumbles to the floor, winces as he looks at his burned hand.

WENDY

Don?!

The lights flicker as Owen and Wendy move toward Don.

DON

I'm fine. It's not that--

OWEN

Don't move.

Owen glances behind the television as Wendy examines Don.

CLAIRE

I'll grab the first aid kit.

Claire exits.

WENDY

We should call an ambulance.

Claire returns with a first aid kit. Wendy snatches it.

WENDY

I'll do it.

Claire shakes her head as Wendy dresses the wound.

DON

I'm fine. It's just a small burn.

Owen retrieves his cell phone, dials 9-1-1. Waits.

CLAIRE
What is it?

OWEN
I can't get through.

The others try their phones.

CLAIRE
Mine's not working either.

WENDY
My phone isn't working.

OWEN
None of ours are. Addison?

ADDISON
No connection.

OWEN
Aria, call 9-1-1.

ARIA (O.S.)
Sorry, could you please repeat that?

OWEN
Damn it, Aria, call 9-1-1!

ARIA (O.S.)
I don't understand that command.

OWEN
Fine. I'll drive him myself.

Claire glances out the window.

CLAIRE
In a blizzard?!

Owen gives her a look.

OWEN
We have a Subaru, Claire.

GARAGE

Lights flick on. Owen moves toward his car with Don.

OWEN
Aria, open the garage door.

Nothing.

OWEN
Are you kidding me?! Aria, open the door!

Nothing. Claire enters.

CLAIRE
What's happening?

OWEN
Something's wrong with Aria. Just hit the button.

Claire taps the button for the door, but it stays closed.

OWEN
This is ridiculous.

Wendy enters.

WENDY
What are you waiting for?!

CLAIRE
The doors won't open.

Owen pulls on the rope to open it manually, but the door stays closed.

WENDY
Why isn't it opening?

OWEN
It's connected to the smart home system. Safety precaution, so the door doesn't crash down.

Owen pulls on the bottom. He grabs the ax, wedges it under the door. Pushes. Nothing.

Keys jingle in Wendy's hand.

WENDY
The rental car is outside.

LIVING ROOM

Owen walks with Don toward the front door. Claire, Wendy, and Addison enter behind them.

OWEN
I'll call once we--

The front door locks. Owen pulls on the handle.

OWEN
What the hell?!

He whips his head around.

OWEN
Addison, check the back door.

Addison bolts from the room. Owen pulls on the handle.

OWEN
It won't budge.

Addison returns.

ADDISON
The back door won't open.

Owen rests Don on the couch.

OWEN
Aria, call 9-1-1.

ARIA (O.S.)
Unable to call 9-1-1.

OWEN
Why not?!

ARIA (O.S.)
I'm not Aria.

Everyone freezes. Silence echoes.

OWEN
Who are you?

Nothing.

CLAIRE
What's going on, Owen?

OWEN
We need to unlock one of the windows--

ARIA (O.S.)
Initiating lockdown mode.

OWEN
No, Aria, I said unlock!

Protective metallic shutters HUM as they cover each window.

CLAIRE
What's happening?!

Owen rushes to the nearby window, attempts to pry it open.

OWEN
No, no, no.

The shutters lock into place. Owen punches it.

ARIA (O.S.)
Liars die.

ADDISON
What the hell?

Light flickers outside.

OWEN
I'm going to find whoever's
responsible for this.

They glance through the small window of the front door.

FRONT YARD

The motions lights turn on and off sporadically.

Exhaust spews from the old van across the street.

LIVING ROOM

Owen and Claire scan the snow-covered yard.

CLAIRE
Is it the storm?

OWEN
If I knew what it was, I could fix
it.

ADDISON
Dad, what's going on?

OWEN
I think someone hacked our system.

CLAIRE
Who would do that?

OWEN
I don't know, Claire.

Claire's eyes narrow.

CLAIRE
I don't believe you.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam stares at the ceiling. He nods as if he's listening to someone, but no one's there.

LIVING ROOM

Owen paces.

OWEN
Is there something you want to say?!

CLAIRE
I've been waiting for you to--

A BANG echoes upstairs.

ADDISON
Where's Liam?

Panic flashes across Claire's face, bolts from the room.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Claire bursts in.

CLAIRE
Liam?!

Liam is gone.

CLAIRE
Owen, I can't find him!

LIVING ROOM

Owen and Addison rush from the room as Wendy sits with Don.

CLAIRE'S BEDROOM

Addison enters.

ADDISON
Liam, where are you?!

KITCHEN

Owen enters, freezes.

Liam stands in the middle of the room, butcher knife cradled in his hand.

OWEN
Liam, what are you doing?!

Liam remains motionless, tears stream down his face.

LIAM
You promised you'd find him.

OWEN
Who?

LIAM
Tucker!

FOOTSTEPS. Claire enters, moves toward Liam.

CLAIRE
Liam, what are you--

Owen stops her. He raises his hands and cautiously steps toward Liam.

OWEN
You're right, buddy. I promised you I'd find him and I haven't.

LIAM
She says you don't really care about Tucker. Or me.

OWEN
You know that's not true. I love you, Liam, but right now, I need you to drop the knife.

Liam points the knife at Owen. Owen freezes. Addison enters.

ADDISON
What's going--

Claire grabs her arm.

LIAM
She said I should protect myself.
That you're all bad.

Tears stream down his face.

OWEN
Liam, listen to me. The animal
shelter called earlier. They found
Tucker.

LIAM
Really?

OWEN
I'll go down there first thing in
the morning, but I need you to drop
the knife.

LIAM
You promise they called?

OWEN
Yes.

The lights flicker.

OWEN
Liam, drop the knife.

Liam drops the knife. Owen steps forward, snatches it. Claire
steps across the room, embraces Liam.

LIAM
I'm sorry, Mommy.

CLAIRE
Please don't ever do that again.

LIAM
She told me to.

OWEN
Addison, wait with Liam in the
family room please.

Addison exits with Liam.

CLAIRE
Did the shelter actually call?

OWEN
No.

CLAIRE
You didn't need to lie to him.

OWEN
I had to. To protect the family.

CLAIRE
Then maybe you should protect the family from your secret hacker.

CLAIRE'S BEDROOM

Owen moves to the closet, retrieves a small handgun, and stuffs it into the back of his pants as he exits.

LIVING ROOM

Owen enters, snaps his fingers as he moves to Don.

OWEN
Let's go, Dad.

DON
I'm telling you, I'm fine. It's not bad.

OWEN
I don't have time for this. Move it.

He helps Don stand from the couch.

OWEN
Let's put you in the guest room so you can rest until we can get you help.

GUEST ROOM

Owen sets Don on the bed. Wendy follows.

WENDY
What's going on, Owen?

OWEN
Someone's using the smart home system against us. I need you to wait here.

Wendy notices the gun tucked in Owen's pants.

WENDY
Why do you have a gun?

OWEN
Just in case.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Claire watches the snowstorm outside. Owen enters.

OWEN
I searched the house, but didn't
find anyone. Anything outside?

CLAIRE
The lights have flicked on a couple
times, but I haven't seen anyone.

OWEN
I'm going to shut the entire system
down. See if that does anything.

BASEMENT

Owen approaches the smart home station.

ARIA (O.S.)
It won't work.

OWEN
Shut up.

He taps the small screen, scrolls through commands.

ARIA (O.S.)
It won't work.

OWEN
Go to hell.

He taps a button. The entire house goes dark.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
Owen?!

OWEN
Just wait!

GUEST ROOM

Darkness. BREATHING.

WENDY

Hello? Is someone there?

The same woman's face flashes across the ARIA panel.

The lights turn back on. The automatic door slowly closes as though someone just left. Don and Wendy are alone.

LIVING ROOM

Owen enters.

CLAIRE

Did it work?

OWEN

Aria, call 9-1-1.

Nothing.

OWEN

Aria!

ARIA (O.S.)

I told you. I'm not Aria.

Owen moves to the front door, pulls on the handle. The door remains locked. He kicks the door several times.

CLAIRE

Owen, stop!

He slams his fist into the door.

OWEN

Aria, unlock the damn door!

Nothing. Owen laughs, shakes his head.

OWEN

Are you just going to hide behind
Aria?! Like a coward?!

Nothing.

CLAIRE

It's not working, Owen.

OWEN

I can see that, Claire!

CLAIRE

Can't you just unplug it?

Owen chuckles.

OWEN

Why didn't I think of that?!

CLAIRE

Don't treat me like an idiot.

OWEN

We can't shut it down. There's a fail-safe that doesn't let you turn it off.

CLAIRE

Then just shut off the electricity.

OWEN

Aria has a backup battery. She'll still run with the power turned off and everything stays locked down.

CLAIRE

So you're telling me there's no way to turn it off?!

OWEN

If you knew anything about security systems--

CLAIRE

You're not helping. Can you disconnect the battery?

OWEN

If it were that simple, we wouldn't be a good security company--

CLAIRE

Can you at least try?! This isn't something we need to fight about!

OWEN

Fine.

CLAIRE

And check the thermostat while you're at it. I'm freezing.

Owen marches from the room as Claire glances outside.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen mumbles to himself as he paces toward the kitchen. He pauses as he passes the thermostat.

OWEN

You've got to be kidding me.

He taps the screen of the small device.

OWEN

Claire, get in here.

Claire enters.

CLAIRE

What?

OWEN

The temperature is dropping.

She moves to the thermostat, analyzes the small screen.

CLAIRE

It's dropping fast.

OWEN

I can see that!

CLAIRE

It's your company's system that's broken and--

OWEN

I thought we weren't fighting.

CLAIRE

At the rate it's going, we're going to freeze in here.

Owen presses buttons on the screen.

OWEN

It's not responding.

CLAIRE

I'll grab blankets.

OWEN

That won't do much good.

Claire gives him a look. Owen catches himself.

OWEN

I'll try to remove the battery.

Claire wraps her arms around him.

CLAIRE

We're going to get through this.

She exits.

FAMILY ROOM

Addison searches a cabinet as Liam sits on the couch.

ADDISON

Do you want to play Two Truths and a
Lie or--

Claire enters, folded blankets cradled in her arms.

ADDISON

What's going on?

Claire hands her a couple blankets.

CLAIRE

Everything's fine. Just keep these
with you in case you get cold.

ADDISON

Seriously. What's going on, Mom?

Claire sighs.

CLAIRE

Something's wrong with the
thermostat.

ADDISON

Great.

LIAM

Mom, could Dad pick up Tucker
tonight? I'm worried about him.

Claire hesitates.

CLAIRE

Not tonight, sweetie. We'll get him
in the morning.

Claire glances at Addison.

CLAIRE
 Keep an eye on him. And keep him
 warm.

GUEST ROOM

Claire enters, hands a blanket to Don.

CLAIRE
 Here you go, Don.

DON
 Thank you. I appreciate it.

CLAIRE
 Would you like a blanket, Wen--

WENDY
 No. Maybe you should focus on
 getting us out of this imperilment.

Claire shakes her head, exits the room.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Claire rounds the corner as the lights turn off. Darkness.

CLAIRE
 Owen? Are you messing with the
 system?

Nothing. CREAKS against the floor.

CLAIRE
 Addison, is that you?

FOOTSTEPS. BREATHING.

CLAIRE
 Hello?

In the darkness--

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
 You're all going to die, Claire.

CLAIRE
 Who are you?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
 You already know, don't you?

Claire hesitates.

CLAIRE

Eve?

FOOTSTEPS. BREATHING. They're getting closer. Closer...

CLAIRE

Where are you?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Behind you.

The lights flick back on. Claire SCREAMS as she turns.

OWEN (O.S.)

Claire?!

Owen rushes upstairs as Claire cowers against the wall.

CLAIRE

She was right here!

OWEN

Who?!

Claire is about to speak, but catches herself.

Wendy peeks around the corner.

WENDY

What's going on?

OWEN

Claire saw someone in the hallway.

CLAIRE

I didn't see anyone! I could hear her!

Wendy snickers.

WENDY

Of course. What absurdity did they bestow on you this time, Claire?

OWEN

Not now, Mom!

Wendy rolls her eyes as she returns to the guest room.

CLAIRE

There's someone in our house, Owen.

OWEN

There's no one here but us.

CLAIRE

I'm not crazy! Check the footage!

INT. OWEN'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Owen watches the security footage of Claire in the hallway on his computer.

Claire sits in a chair next to him.

OWEN

See? There's no one there.

CLAIRE

What about the audio?

OWEN

Nothing. It's clear.

CLAIRE

I swear someone was there.

OWEN

Claire, have you been taking your medication?

CLAIRE

That has nothing to do with this!

Owen holds his hands up defensively.

OWEN

I'm just asking.

CLAIRE

Yeah, I've been taking my medication!

Owen grabs the door handle, exits.

CLAIRE

Wait, where are you going?

KITCHEN

Owen snatches the prescription bottle from the cupboard, pauses. The bottle is empty.

OWEN
What the hell?

He turns the bottle over in his hand, eyes narrow. Fire burns in his eyes as he storms from the room.

OWEN'S HOME OFFICE

He bursts in, tosses the empty prescription bottle onto the desk next to Claire.

OWEN
You want to explain that, Claire?!
It's empty!

She glares at him.

CLAIRE
You've got some nerve.

OWEN
No wonder you're hearing imaginary people in the house.

CLAIRE
Being trapped and your father getting electrocuted are me seeing things, too, right? Is that a hallucination?

OWEN
There's no one else here. What happened to my dad was an accident.

CLAIRE
Then why is Aria calling us liars?

OWEN
I think someone hacked our system.

CLAIRE
Who would do that?

Owen hesitates.

OWEN
I don't know, but not taking your medication doesn't help the situation.

She snatches the bottle from the desk, analyzes it.

CLAIRE

I weaned myself off. I was going to tell everyone tomorrow. It was my secret.

OWEN

I don't believe you.

CLAIRE

You don't believe me?! Fine! But if you want to talk about honesty, go take a long, hard look in the mirror.

OWEN

I don't know what you're talking about, Claire.

CLAIRE

I might be crazy, but not about this. At least I'm not lying.

Static flashes across the television.

OWEN

Trust me, I'll protect the kids from you again if I have to.

CLAIRE

I would do anything to keep this family together.

She locks eyes with Owen.

CLAIRE

Anything.

OWEN

What's that supposed to mean?

A KNOCK at the door. Wendy enters.

WENDY

I need some blankets. It's a Siberian winter in here.

CLAIRE

Oh, now you want a blanket?!

She rubs her head.

CLAIRE

There's more blankets in the dryer, Wendy. Help yourself.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Wendy enters. The dryer runs at high speed. The automatic door slams closed. She pulls on the handle. It won't open.

WENDY

Owen!

OWEN (O.S.)

Mom?!

Smoke bellows from the dryer. Wendy frantically pulls on the door handle. Nothing.

FOOTSTEPS in the hallway. Owen attempts to pry the door open from the other side, but it won't budge.

Smoke fills the room.

WENDY

I can't open it!

She swats smoke away from her face.

BANG. Owen shoulders the door.

Wendy coughs, slides down the wall. Exhausted.

ARIA (O.S.)

Tell him your secret.

Tears stream down Wendy's face.

WENDY

No.

The dryer runs faster. More smoke.

ARIA (O.S.)

Tell him your secret.

OWEN (O.S.)

Mom, what is Aria saying?!

Wendy glances to the ceiling.

WENDY

Never.

Flames burst from the dryer. Wendy SCREAMS, crumbles to the floor. BANG. The door flies open.

Owen and Claire enter. Flames rise from the dryer.

Owen rolls Wendy back and forth to extinguish the flames.

OWEN
 Claire, grab the fire extinguisher!

Claire bolts from the room as Owen pulls Wendy from the laundry room.

Claire returns, sprays the burning dryer.

Smoke fills the room as the flames disappear. She tosses the extinguisher to the floor.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Claire and Owen examine the burns on Wendy's arm and face.

OWEN
 Damn it! Aria, call 9-1-1!

Nothing. Owen starts to sob.

OWEN
 Please, Aria.

ARIA (O.S.)
 No one is coming to help you.

Addison enters.

ADDISON
 What's going on?! Is Grandma--

CLAIRE
 Stay with your brother!

Addison exits. Owen hooks his hands under Wendy.

OWEN
 Stay with me, Mom. I'm going to fix this. All of this.

GUEST ROOM

Owen enters, carefully sets Wendy on the bed next to Don.

DON
 What happened?! I heard screaming--

OWEN
 She's been burned! The dryer burst into flames and--

Claire enters, supplies cradled in her arms. She dumps them on the floor by the bed.

CLAIRE

Here. These should help, but it's going to sting.

She applies cold compresses to Wendy's arm and face. Wendy jerks away.

OWEN

Easy, Mom. It's going to be okay.

Don quietly takes her hand. Claire dumps two ibuprofen into Wendy's palm.

CLAIRE

Something to take the edge off.

She hands Wendy a water bottle. Wendy chokes the pills down.

OWEN

When was the last time you cleaned the lint trap, Claire?

CLAIRE

Don't blame this on me!

DOORBELL.

Owen and Claire bolt from the room.

LIVING ROOM

CHRISTMAS MUSIC blares from the speakers as Owen, Claire, and Addison sprint for the front door. It drowns them out.

Owen pulls on the handle.

OWEN

Damn it!

DOORBELL. Owen pounds against the door.

FRONT YARD

The electrician waits, awkwardly juggles tools and equipment in his hands. He hits the DOORBELL again.

LIVING ROOM

Owen punches the door, pulls the handle. Nothing.

OWEN

If you can hear me, call 9-1-1!

Claire pounds against the shutter that covers the window.

CLAIRE

Please help us! Please!

Addison pounds against the front door with Owen.

ADDISON

Help us! We're trapped!

FRONT YARD

The electrician steps back, scans the house as he juggles equipment in his hands. CHRISTMAS MUSIC blares from inside.

LIVING ROOM

Owen grabs a chair, slides it to the door. As he stands on it to peer through the small window, the lights turn off.

OWEN

Addison, the lights!

Addison tries the switch several times, but it doesn't work.

FRONT YARD

The electrician notices the living room lights turn off. He shakes his head.

ELECTRICIAN

Screw this family.

He turns, shuffles through the snow toward his truck.

LIVING ROOM

Owen retrieves his cell phone, flicks the flashlight on. He shines it through the small window.

OWEN

C'mon.

Addison bolts from the room, returns with the ax from the garage. She hacks at one of the shutters.

FRONT YARD

The electrician tosses the equipment into his truck, slides into the driver seat.

The light from Owen's flashlight is barely visible through the storm behind him.

LIVING ROOM

Owen waves his flashlight across the window several times.

OWEN
C'mon, damn you!

Addison drops the ax, pounds her fist into the shutter.

FRONT YARD

The electrician pulls away, passes the old van without looking back. Owen's flashlight shines behind him.

LIVING ROOM

Lights flick back on. CHRISTMAS MUSIC stops. Silence. Owen, Claire, and Addison solemnly glance to each other.

ARIA (O.S.)
No one is coming to help.

Addison sobs. Claire glares at Owen.

Owen slumps against the wall. Liam shuffles in.

LIAM
I could try to contact my friend.

Static races across the television. He steps toward it.

OWEN
What are you doing, Liam?

He slowly turns, an awkward smile etched on his face.

LIAM
She's going to show us something.

CLAIRE

Who?

LIAM

The lady.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC echoes from the speakers.

Different clips of Addison dance across the television.

OWEN

What's so important about these clips?

ON THE TELEVISION

Security footage of Addison in her bedroom as she holds a pregnancy test, sobs.

BACK TO SCENE

Awkward silence.

CLAIRE

You're pregnant?!

Addison nods.

ADDISON

I'm sorry.

OWEN

I can't believe this!

CLAIRE

Why didn't you tell us?!

Addison's eyes dart to Claire.

ADDISON

Because I knew you'd be mad!

She brushes tears from her cheeks.

ADDISON

You always say you'll support me,
but it's all lies!

Addison's social media pages pull up on the television.

ADDISON

No, no, no!

"I'M PREGNANT!" types across the screen.

ADDISON
She's telling everyone!

The message posts on every social media page. Addison stands frozen.

ARIA (O.S.)
Congratulations.

ADDISON
I'll kill you! I swear I'm going--

She collapses to the floor, sobs uncontrollably.

ARIA (O.S.)
You had this coming.

ON THE TELEVISION

Countless selfies of Addison and Eve together.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

The doorbell camera as Addison and Eve argue.

ADDISON
Eve, you're delusional. I didn't
sleep with--

EVE
Don't lie! I know you were with him!
I wouldn't be surprised if you end
up pregnant!

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone glances to Addison.

OWEN
You knew Eve?

ADDISON
I didn't do anything wrong! She was
possessive! Psychotic!

ARIA (O.S.)
I'd shut up if I were you.

CLAIRE
Addison, why didn't you say--

ADDISON
She was asking weird questions about
Dad! His parents! You! All the time!

OWEN
What kind of questions--

Addison's gaze darts to the ceiling.

ADDISON
Do you hear me?! Eve was a weirdo!

ARIA (O.S.)
Someone is going to get hurt.

ADDISON
A freak!

Silence. No one moves.

ARIA (O.S.)
Anyone who doesn't tell the truth
will die.

Addison laughs.

ADDISON
You can't hurt me! I told the truth!

Static on the television.

ARIA (O.S.)
Your grandparents haven't.

The vent on the wall closes.

Owen bolts from the room. Addison follows.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Wall vents shut as Owen rushes toward the guest room, but the automatic door slams closed, LOCKS.

He pounds against it, wiggles the handle. It doesn't open.

OWEN
Mom! Dad! Can you hear me?!

BASEMENT

The furnace HUMS.

GUEST ROOM

The wall vents open.

Wendy shifts uncomfortably as Don lifts from the bed, stumbles to the door, and attempts to pull it open.

DON
It won't budge!

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen pounds against the door. He hears VENTS CLOSING around the house.

He pulls the gun, aims at the handle.

OWEN
Get back from the door!

Addison presses against the opposite wall as Owen unloads THREE SHOTS. He kicks the door. No success.

GUEST ROOM

Don pulls on the handle.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell them your secret, Don.

WENDY
Don't say anything!

A BEEP echoes repeatedly as they argue.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen presses his ear to the door.

ADDISON
Is that the fire alarm?!

OWEN
It's the carbon monoxide detector!

He slams his shoulder into the door. It doesn't open.

GUEST ROOM

The carbon monoxide detector BEEPS rapidly.

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth, Don.

DON
About what?!

ARIA (O.S.)
The lawsuit. Ten years ago.

Don's eyes dart between the door and the carbon monoxide detector.

WENDY
That woman's death wasn't his fault!

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth or die.

LIVING ROOM

Owen snatches the ax from the floor, rushes for the stairs.

GUEST ROOM

Don sobs uncontrollably.

DON
I'm sorry, Wendy. There was a fault
in the system and we covered it up.
That woman died because of us.

BANG! Owen slams the ax against the door.

WENDY
You lied to me?!

DON
It would have bankrupt the company!

OWEN (O.S.)
Dad, it's the carbon monoxide!

ARIA (O.S.)
Tell the truth or die.

BANG!

WENDY

I'm not saying anything!

DON

Damn it, Wendy! We're both going to die if you don't!

WENDY

So be it. I'm not a coward.

BANG!

DON

Then I'll tell him!

Don turns back to the door as Wendy snatches the lamp from the dresser, stumbles behind him.

DON

Owen, I'm--

The lamp shatters against Don's head. He collapses to the floor, unconscious.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Tears stream down Owen's face as he axes the door.

OWEN

Mom, Dad, what's happening in there?!

GUEST ROOM

Wendy drops the broken lamp as the carbon monoxide detector echoes.

WENDY

I'm not afraid of you.

ARIA (O.S.)

It doesn't matter.

A small hole starts to cut into the door.

LIVING ROOM

The television flicks on.

ON THE TELEVISION

Footage from the guest room. Wendy collapses from carbon monoxide poisoning. Dead.

BACK TO SCENE

Claire covers Liam's eyes.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen sobs uncontrollably as he drops the ax, shoves his hand through the small opening.

OWEN

Mom! Dad!

He can't reach the handle. He gazes at Wendy's body.

BASEMENT

The furnace turns off. Silence echoes through the house.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen slumps to the floor. Tears stream down Addison's face as she rests her hand on his shoulder. He pulls his arm away.

OWEN

You shouldn't have provoked her!

Addison sobs, snatches the ax before she storms downstairs.

Owen darts to a small closet, retrieves bed sheets. He packs them at the base of the guest room door and into the opening.

KITCHEN

Addison wipes her eyes as she enters. She throws her cell phone across the room.

She YELLS IN FRUSTRATION as it shatters against the wall.

She glances to the ax clenched in her hand.

LIVING ROOM

Owen enters, slumps to the couch, and tosses the firearm on the coffee table.

Liam sobs in Claire's arms.

OWEN

I'm sick of all the lies. You.
Addison. My parents.

He wipes his eyes, hands tremble.

OWEN

You're all guilty.

BASEMENT

Addison stands in the flickering light, glares at the smart home station. The ax hangs at her side.

LIVING ROOM

Claire's jaw tightens as she stands.

CLAIRE

You're not innocent here, Owen.

OWEN

Aria was right. We're all liars.

A BANG echoes through the house. BANG.

CLAIRE

What's that?

OWEN

Addison?!

BASEMENT

Owen enters as Addison swings the ax into the smart home station. Sparks fly in different directions.

OWEN

Addison, what are you doing?!

ADDISON

I'm saving us!

He steps toward her as Claire enters.

OWEN

Don't--

Addison's ax cuts deep into the station. She is shocked, convulses as she holds the ax.

CLAIRE

Addison!

Sparks fly. Addison is shocked repeatedly.

The lights blow out as she tumbles to the floor.

Owen quickly pulls her upstairs.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

He scans Addison's body, checks for a pulse.

OWEN

No, no, no, no.

He immediately starts CPR. Claire sobs.

OWEN

C'mon, Addison! C'mon!

Silence as Owen does CPR.

OWEN

Aria, please! Call 9-1-1!

Nothing. Tears stream down Owen's face.

OWEN

Call 9-1-1, damn it!

Nothing. Claire sobs uncontrollably.

CLAIRE

She's pregnant!

No response. Silence as Owen does CPR. An eternity passes.

Claire's hands tremble as she touches Addison's face.

CLAIRE

My baby.

Owen stops, collapses against the wall as he buries his face into his hands.

OWEN

I'm sorry, Addison. I'm so sorry.

Addison's lifeless body lies still on the floor.

LIVING ROOM

Owen and Claire shuffle in. Broken.

LIAM

Where's Addison? Is she okay?

They don't respond. Claire wipes her cheeks.

CLAIRE

This is all your fault, Owen.

OWEN

This isn't my--

A message flashes across the television: "I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU TONIGHT."

Another message: "I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU ALL DAY."

OWEN

These aren't from my phone!

Message: "LAST NIGHT WAS PERFECT."

CLAIRE

Stop lying to me! You've been lying to everyone! I already know about--

Message: "YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY NUMBER ONE."

Owen snatches a fire poker.

Different women's names flash across the television.

He smashes the screen. Tears stream down Claire's face.

CLAIRE

I knew it. I always knew it.

ARIA (O.S.)

Tell the truth and I'll leave them alone.

Awkward silence.

OWEN

No.

ARIA (O.S.)

Fine. What about you, Claire? Are you ready to die for him?

Claire snatches Owen's gun from the coffee table, shakes as she aims at him.

OWEN

Claire, what are you doing?

CLAIRE

I'm sorry, Owen. I just wanted to save our family.

OWEN

What do you mean?

CLAIRE

Did you actually break up with her?

Owen is taken back.

OWEN

What did you say?

CLAIRE

Did you break up with her?!

Owen hesitates. Claire steps toward him, gun raised.

CLAIRE

Just tell the damn truth, Owen!

OWEN

Okay. I'll tell you the truth. I had an affair, but I ended it. I was stupid and weak. I'm sorry, Claire. For everything.

Claire's finger hovers over the trigger as she sobs.

OWEN

But we can still make it through this.

No one moves.

She steps back, lowers the gun.

Owen breathes a sigh of relief, relaxes. Silence.

ARIA (O.S.)

Tell the truth or die.

OWEN
I told the truth, damn it!

ARIA (O.S.)
She hasn't.

Owen's eyes dart to Claire as she raises the gun.

CLAIRE
I didn't know you broke up with her.

OWEN
What are you saying?

CLAIRE
Was she pregnant?

Owen hesitates.

CLAIRE
Was she pregnant?!

OWEN
Yes.

Tears stream down Claire's face.

CLAIRE
I didn't believe her.

She laughs to herself. A sick, twisted laugh.

CLAIRE
That's the problem with all the
lies. You don't know what's true
anymore.

OWEN
What did you do, Claire? What did
you do to Eve?

CLAIRE
I just went to talk to her.

OWEN
What did you do?!

CLAIRE
But she wouldn't listen.

OWEN
What did you do?!

CLAIRE
I took her out to those woods--

OWEN
What the hell did you do?!

CLAIRE
I killed her!

Silence. She wipes her face with the back of her hand. Owen steps toward her.

OWEN
Claire--

She aims. Owen freezes.

CLAIRE
I can still save Liam, but the secrets need to die with you.

Claire glances to the ceiling.

CLAIRE
I'm sorry about--

Owen rushes her. They wrestle over the gun.

OWEN
Claire! Please! Don't--

GUNSHOT. Liam SCREAMS. Silence. Claire slumps to the floor, eyes wide as she stares at Owen.

OWEN
Claire? Claire?

Blood stains her shirt. The gun trembles in Owen's hand.

OWEN
No, no, no, no.

Owen slumps to the floor with Claire.

OWEN
Help! Someone please help her!

Claire goes still. Owen pulls her close to his chest.

ARIA (O.S.)
No one is coming to help you.

Long silence as Owen and Liam sob uncontrollably.

LIAM

Dad!

Owen's eyes dart to Liam.

LIAM

I know how we can get help!

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Owen plops Liam at the desk: the Morse Code machine. Liam slips the headphones on.

LIAM

I've been practicing with my friend.
He can get help.

FRONT YARD

The side door opens on the old van across the street. A dark figure exits, taps on their phone.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

An ELECTRICAL HUM echoes through the house.

The smoke detector sparks. The bulb in the nearby lamp BURSTS. Owen pulls Liam away from the desk.

LIAM

What's happening?!

OWEN

She's trying to stop us.

He kicks the lamp from the desk.

OWEN

You can do this, Liam.

BACKYARD

The dark figure quickly moves to the circuit box attached to the house, flips the cover open.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam TAPS on the machine.

LIAM

S-O--

Every light flicks off. Darkness. The ELECTRICAL HUM fades.
Owen fumbles for his phone, turns the flashlight on.

LIAM

What happened?

OWEN

She cut the power.

He quickly analyzes the Morse Code machine.

OWEN

We just need batteries!

Owen bolts from the room followed by Liam.

KITCHEN

Owen pulls drawers from the counter, tosses them to the floor. CRASH!

He kneels, rummages as Liam enters.

He snatches batteries from the floor, sprints from the room.

OWEN

Come on!

BACKYARD

The dark figure pulls a firearm from their coat, pulls the slide back. CLICK.

LIAM'S BEDROOM

Owen shoves one of the batteries into the Morse Code machine.

The light turns on as Liam slides into his chair, throws his headphones on. He TAPS on the machine.

LIAM

S-O-S.

OWEN

You're doing great. Just stay focused.

He snatches a blanket, wraps it around Liam.

OWEN
Send him our address, too.

Liam furiously TAPS on the machine. Stops. Listens.

OWEN
Did he respond?!

LIAM
Not yet, but I don't know if Brian--

TAPS echo through the headphones. Liam frantically responds.

OWEN
What did he say?

LIAM
"R." That means he got the message.

Owen laughs. Triumphant, glances to the ceiling.

OWEN
What do you say to that?!

Nothing.

Lights blink across the Aria unit on the wall, but Owen doesn't notice.

OWEN
We're getting out of here, buddy. We just need to wait--

ARIA (O.S.)
Backdoor unlocked.

Owen's gaze darts over his shoulder.

LIAM
What was that?

OWEN
Get in the closet. And stay quiet.

He draws his gun, quickly SHOOTS the security camera.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Owen steps into each bedroom. GUNSHOTS echo as he destroys the security cameras.

He SHOOTs the camera in the corridor, turns his flashlight off. He aims as he slowly steps toward the stairs.

The clock in the living room STRIKES midnight.

SUPER: "DECEMBER 25TH"

He quietly moves toward the banister, peers into the living room below.

He waits. Nothing moves. And then--

The dark figure steps into the room below.

Owen quickly flicks his flashlight on to reveal--

Jack.

Owen FIRES, barely misses Jack as he ducks around the corner.

OWEN

Jack?!

Jack FIRES BACK. Owen recoils against the wall.

OWEN

Why are you killing my family?!

JACK

Because you killed my wife! It was a fault in your system and you buried the evidence!

OWEN

I didn't know anything about that!

JACK

Lies! Your family took everything from me!

Jack aims at the banister as he steps toward the stairs.

OWEN

You've lost, Jack. Help is coming.

JACK

They won't make it in time. And I've already lost everything.

He flicks his flashlight on, fires two shots at Owen. Plaster explodes next to Owen as he dodges.

Owen fires back as he ducks into the bathroom, kicks Liam's remote control car against the wall.

OWEN

It was all you, wasn't it? Lights flickering. Doors opening. Claire thought she was going crazy.

JACK

There was nothing supernatural about it. I just exploited your system. And watched you tear each other apart.

Jack inches closer, passes the sealed door of the guest room.

Owen pops into the hallway, fires three shots.

Jack ducks into Addison's bedroom as Owen's gunfire ricochets off the wall.

Owen scrambles down the corridor, fires blindly at Jack before he hides in Claire's bedroom.

A shot HITS THE ARIA UNIT on the wall and sparks into flame.

OWEN

I'm sorry about your wife, Jack. My father made mistakes, but he was a good man.

Jack smiles, taps a button on his phone.

ON EVERY TELEVISION IN THE HOUSE

When Don and Wendy were visiting. They're alone.

DON

We'll need to tell him eventually.

WENDY

I'll never tell him.

DON

He needs to know I'm not his father.

BACK TO SCENE

The screen goes dark. Owen sobs.

JACK

No wonder all you do is lie. You are a lie.

OWEN

It's not true. It's not true.

JACK

You both need to die.

Owen glances at his gun. Empty. He tosses it to the floor.

OWEN

Not everyone deserves to die, Jack!
Addison didn't deserve it!

He searches the floor in the darkness, finds--

A toy remote controller. He glances to the hallway.

JACK

I had nothing to do with that.
Addison died by her own hand.

OWEN

You refused to save her!

Jack reloads.

OWEN

And she was pregnant! Just like Eve!

Jack aims, scans the darkness of the corridor.

JACK

Eve wasn't pregnant. It was a ruse.
Just to see what you'd do.

He peeks into the bathroom, inches toward Claire's bedroom.

OWEN

Then you're all liars, too!

Jack glances over his shoulder as flames creep up the wall
from the broken Aria unit.

JACK

It doesn't matter. No one is leaving
this house alive.

He's about to reach Claire's bedroom when--

The SIRENS on the remote control car go off.

Jack whips around.

Owen explodes into the hallway, grabs Jack from behind.

They SLAM against the wall as they struggle. Jack's phone crashes to the floor. His gun slides into the bathroom.

Owen punches Jack repeatedly, shoves him into the bathroom. Jack is dazed. Blood plasters his face.

Owen notices Jack's phone on the floor, quickly pulls the bathroom door closed.

He holds the handle, reaches for Jack's phone.

He snatches it, views the open app: "WESTBROOK SECURITY SYSTEM."

He quickly clicks different buttons.

ARIA (O.S.)
All doors unlocked.

Flames climb the walls. Faint SIRENS echo outside.

OWEN
Liam, run for the front door!

Liam bolts from his room toward the stairs. He COUGHS as smoke fills the hallway.

GUNFIRE rockets through the bathroom door. Bullets rip through Owen's shoulder and stomach.

He stumbles backward against the wall, goes still.

Jack bursts from the bathroom, glances at Owen's body before he races after Liam.

LIVING ROOM

Flames consume the furniture, climb the wall.

Liam barrels down the stairs, sprints for the front door. He's almost there. Just a few more feet.

Jack aims over the banister, squeezes the trigger, and--

An injured Owen grabs him from behind. The GUNSHOT hits the wall above Liam.

Liam tosses the front door open, glances back to his father. One last time.

LIAM
Daddy, c'mon!

OWEN

I need to keep him here!

Owen and Jack BANG into walls as they struggle. Smoke swirls around them.

OWEN

I'm sorry about all the promises I broke! You deserved better!

SIRENS grow louder.

OWEN

I love you, Liam! Don't ever forget that I love you!

Tears trickle down Liam's cheeks.

LIAM

I love you, too.

OWEN

Now go!

FRONT YARD

Liam bursts through the front door.

A DOG BARKS outside.

LIAM

Tucker?!

Tucker bounces in the snow toward Liam.

His neighbor, HENRY (50s), shuffles behind him.

HENRY

Liam, What's going on?! I just got home and found your dog on my porch.

He notices the fire, pulls Liam to safety.

The SIRENS grow louder.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Jack's gun is knocked across the floor.

JACK

No!

Jack elbows Owen, shoves him into the wall.

LIVING ROOM

Jack bolts down the stairs, reaches for the front door when--

The automatic door SLAMS closed. LOCKS. His eyes dart over his shoulder.

GUNSHOT!

Owen stands at the top of the stairs, gun clenched in his hand. Smoke rises from the barrel.

He tosses Jack's phone into the fire.

Blood stains Jack's shirt. He tumbles to the floor. Dead. Jack's coat ignites. Consumed by fire.

Owen clenches his stomach. His hand is stained red.

Fire covers the ceiling. Cracks. drywall CRASHES to the floor.

The fire encircles Owen. Smoke fills his lungs, COUGHS.

He's trapped!

He glances at the gun. Heat presses against his skin.

He raises the gun to his head, locks eyes on the camera.

OWEN

The lies stop with me.

He SCREAMS as he musters his strength and--

FRONT YARD

Windows break. A FAINT GUNSHOT. Fire consumes the home.

Henry wraps his coat around Liam, cradles him in his arms.

LIAM

Daddy?!

SIRENS in the driveway. FOOTSTEPS. YELLING. Police officers rush to Liam.

POLICE OFFICER

What happened?!

LIAM

Please, my dad is still in there--

POLICE OFFICER

A fire truck is coming.

The officer glances to Henry.

POLICE OFFICER

Stay with him.

Tucker BARKS. Liam embraces him as he sobs uncontrollably.

LIAM

I love you, Tucker. You're safe now.

Liam glances to the burning house.

LIVING ROOM

The same picture we saw at the beginning of Owen, Claire, Addison, and Liam flashes across the smart home device.

Large cracks snake across the picture as it's consumed by flames.

THE END