

THE CALLER

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EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

The moonlight beams behind a lone house in the middle of nowhere, miles from a town visible, deep in the background.

INT. SARA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

A pretty 22-year old brunette, is flipping through a magazine as a TV plays in the background.

She is SARA CONROY.

She turns the pages until she sees something she likes, then turns it to a sideways angle to get a better look.

SARA

Nice.

She flips the pages again. The PHONE RINGS. She answers it.

SARA (CONT'D)

Hello?

Nothing but background noise sounds from the other end.

SARA (CONT'D)

Hello?

We hear a CLICK followed by a DIAL TONE as the caller hangs up. Sara looks back to her magazine then puts it down in favor of the TV remote.

She flicks through the channels, eyes in a dead gaze as she watches uninterested by the usual line up of brain dead choices on offer. We hear them in the back ground as she channel surfs. Monster trucks. Cookery. Porn. Game show.

The phone RINGS again. She picks it up.

SARA (CONT'D)

Hello?

We hear LIGHT BREATHING from the other end.

SARA (CONT'D)

Hello, anybody there?

(beat)

Hello? Talk or I'm hanging up.

CLICK. The caller beats her to it.

SARA (CONT'D)

Jackass.

Sara puts the phone down.

EXT. FRONT YARD

A swing rocks gently in the breeze.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara makes a sandwich with a LARGE KITCHEN KNIFE then rinses it under the water and puts it in a draw, in a way that almost seems like she's hiding it. She grabs her snack and makes her way back towards the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sara is sitting back in front of the TV channel surfing and enjoying her now half-eaten sandwich.

The PHONES RINGS and Sara groans with her mouth full. She MUTES the TV, chews quicker to finish then SWALLOWS it to talk. She picks up the phone.

SARA

Hello?

(beat)

Do you want something or not?

Sara takes another bite of her sandwich and chews while she waits for a reply. No reply comes. Just slightly HEAVIER BREATHING than before.

SARA (CONT'D)

Get a life.

Sara hangs up, STANDS and heads back into...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara puts her plate in the sink, looks at the freezer a beat then opens it and scans the options on display.

She doesn't see what she's looking for and lets out a "Pfft" to herself, closes the door and writes 'ICE CREAM' onto a shopping list pinned to the fridge door with a magnet.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara sits back down on the couch and un-mutes the TV. As soon as the sound kicks back in, the PHONE RINGS again.

SARA

Jesus.

(picks up the phone)

Hello?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nothing.

SARA (CONT'D)
 Look, I know someone is there
 because I can hear you breathing.
 (beat)
 Do you want something or are you
 just really that low on things to
 do?

No reply.

SARA (CONT'D)
 They invented porn channels for
 jerk off's, so buy yourself a TV.

Sara hangs up.

SARA (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 Ass hole.

Sara puts the phone under a pillow and turns up the volume.

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - LATER

The swing has stopped moving.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sara sits watching TV. The MUSIC of closing credits sounds
 and the narrator speaks.

TV VOICE (O.C.)
 On the next episode of Van Halen
 and Sing--

Sara CLICKS OFF the sound and looks at the clock. 10PM.
 She chews her bottom lip in contemplation and the PHONE
 RINGS again. She answers reluctantly.

SARA
 What?

A MALE CALLER comes through.

CALLER (V.O.)
 Er, hello?

Sara sits up, surprised to hear a soft but firm, sexy male
 voice.

SARA
 Sorry, hello, err, sorry, who is
 this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)
An old friend.

SARA
Friend?

CALLER (V.O.)
Yeah.

SARA
And you are?

CALLER (V.O.)
What do you mean?

SARA
What's your name?

CALLER (V.O.)
Name?

SARA
Um, yeah. You know, what do
people call you?

CALLER (V.O.)
Oh. Right, I take it you don't
recognize me then.

SARA
Not ringing a bell, sorry.

CALLER (V.O.)
Shame.

SARA
Are you sure you dialed the right
number?

CALLER (V.O.)
I dialed correctly.

SARA
Are you sure?

CALLER (V.O.)
Positive.

SARA
And you don't wanna give me your
name?

CALLER (V.O.)
Nah, it's more interesting if you
guess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
(to self)
Of course it is.

Sara STANDS and we FOLLOW HER into the KITCHEN as she waits for the CALLER to speak.

CALLER (V.O.)
Are you there?

SARA
Yeah, for the moment.

CALLER (V.O.)
Upset?

SARA
No, just a little confused why you'd call without introducing yourself.

Sara stands at the sink and turns on the water.

CALLER (V.O.)
We've met.

SARA
Well, you don't sound familiar so I'm guessing we haven't.

CALLER (V.O.)
You sure of that?

Sara washes her dirty plate.

SARA
Okay, let me guess, you're the guy from the library who wanted my number but didn't get it, so you got it off the computer?

CALLER (V.O.)
Um, no.

SARA
Then I think you have the wrong number, because you sound nothing like anyone I know. Sorry.

CALLER (V.O.)
Do you just not wanna talk to anyone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

I'm still here aren't I? You called me, if you wanna talk then you have to have something to say first, but you don't even seem to have a name.

CALLER (V.O.)

So you wanna know my name?

SARA

Jesus Christ.

CALLER (V.O.)

Not quite.

Sara places the now clean plate on the side to dry. We FOLLOW HER back into the LIVING ROOM.

SARA

Look, I'm not really in the mood for any games, so if you're not interested in telling me our name then, I'm gonna go.

CALLER (V.O.)

Come on, I know you like games.

SARA

Are you serious?

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh yes.

Sara leans over the arm of the couch and picks up a HAIRBRUSH and grooms with it.

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

What's that noise?

SARA

None of your business.

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh, come on.

SARA

Brushing my hair. Tired.

CALLER (V.O.)

I'm boring you?

SARA

A little of both.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)
But we're just starting to heat
up.

Sara rolls her eyes.

CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I bet you have pretty hair.

SARA
I like to think so.

CALLER (V.O.)
I bet it's long and shiny, like a
porn star.

Sara pauses.

SARA
Creepy.

CALLER
You're welcome.

Sara tables the hairbrush.

CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So, can I join you, Sara?

Sara freezes.

SARA
What?

CALLER (V.O.)
I said, can I join you.

SARA
You said 'Sara'. How do you know
my name?

CALLER (V.O.)
Like I said, we've met.

SARA
Oh God, is this one of those
stupid voice changers, 'cos I'm
not in the mood for pranks.

CALLER (V.O.)
This isn't a prank... exactly.

SARA
Meaning?

CALLER (V.O.)
You never answered my question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
What question?

CALLER (V.O.)
Can I join you?

SARA
Joke's over Romeo. Go bother
someone else. See ya.

Sara goes to hang up the phone when she hears...

CALLER (V.O.)
Bitch.

Sara quickly puts the phone back to her ear.

SARA
What did you say?

A moment of breathing from the caller then he speaks.

CALLER (V.O.)
Oh, nothing.

SARA
Nothing? Oh sure, hey you know
what? I may not recognise your
voice, but I recognize your
breathing. You're the ass-hole
that's been calling and not
speaking. Do you really have
nothing better to do?

CALLER (V.O.)
Why would I call if I had nothing
to say?

SARA
I don't know, but that's exactly
what you seem to be doing right
now.

CALLER (V.O.)
I have plenty to say, that's why
I called.

SARA
If you had anything to say you'd
have said it by now, so I'm gonna
go.

CALLER (V.O.)
I'll just call back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Well, I'm not answering the phone again, so save yourself the hassle. Night, creep.

CALLER (V.O.)

Charming.

Sara hangs up.

EXT. FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

A FIGURE approaches the house from a distance.

INT. FOYER

Sara double checks the front door. Locked.

INT. BEDROOM

In the darkness, a SWITCH is flicked on and the room illuminates. Sara makes her way to a closet and scans through the clothing.

EXT. SARA'S BEDROOM WINDOW

We see Sara dressing in to her PJ's.

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Sara buttons up her pajama top and makes her way cautiously over to the window. She takes a quick glance outside then pulls the drapes closed.

INT. BEDROOM

Sara climbs into bed and turns off the light.

INT. FOYER

A SILHOUETTE appears on the glass of the front door and the door knob RATTLES.

INT. BEDROOM

Sara's eyes snap OPEN as she hears something downstairs. She gets out of bed and pulls out a baseball bat.

INT. FOYER

Sara carefully descends the staircase, bat in hand, pulled back and ready to swing.

She looks out through the glass of the front door... but no one is there. She heads for the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara creeps through the shadowy room with caution and pulls a LARGE KNIFE from a draw and puts the bat to one side. She triple checks all the locks. Safe.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara makes her way through the dark room, the only light reflecting on her knife coming from outside. Empty.

INT. FOYER

Sara pauses and takes another look at the front door. Nothing. She heads back into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara puts the knife back in the draw and picks up her bat. A SHADOWY FIGURE appears behind her. She turns to leave and straight into...

VOICE (O.C.)

Boo!

Sara SWINGS without looking hitting someone.

VOICE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Ah, shit!

SARA

JJ?

VOICE (O.C.)

Yeah.

Sara flicks on the light to reveal:

JJ RUSSO

She's also 22 and with long blonde hair, she stands holding her head and arm. Sara drops the bat and tends to her.

JJ

What the fuck was that for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
I'm sorry, I thought you were
someone else.

JJ
Who?

SARA
I don't know, a burglar or
something.

JJ
Well, I'm not.

SARA
Sorry, are you okay?

JJ
Fuck no, you hit me with a bat,
in the head.

SARA
Sorry, did I get you bad?

JJ
You didn't get me 'good'. My arm
took most of it but, yeah, kinda.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

JJ is sitting on the sofa. Sara walks in and hands her a
bag of frozen peas to ice her wound.

SARA
Here, ice. Kinda.

JJ
Thanks.

She takes them and applies the bag correctly.

JJ (CONT'D)
Who carries a baseball bat these
days?

SARA
It was for protection.

JJ
Ever heard of condoms?

SARA
Not that kind of protection. I
said I was sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
You better be, slugger.

SARA
You scared the shit outta me.

JJ
What are you doing going to bed
so early anyway, you know it's
Friday night, right?

SARA
And the fifteenth.

JJ seems a little puzzled.

JJ
Just another night to me.

Sara nods her eyes in the direction of a large FAMILY PHOTO
on the wall of a younger Sara and her PARENTS.

JJ (CONT'D)
October 15th, oh God, I'm sorry,
I didn't even think.

SARA
Isn't your car in the shop, how
did you get here?

JJ
Yeah, Justin dropped me off.
Gave him a handy for his
troubles.

SARA
Hmm. Handy.

JJ
God, men can suck sometimes, ya
know? Sometimes you just need
girls around you and no guys, no
guys at all.
(beat)
Except maybe for when some nut
job with a baseball bat leaps at
you from the shadows.

SARA
I said I was sorry.

JJ
I know, I'm just playing with ya.
(quick beat)
Or at least I will be if you let
me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ tickles Sara's ribs.

SARA
Knock it off.

Sara gently knocks JJ's hand away.

JJ
So, how's the coloring gig
treatin' ya?

SARA
It's not coloring, it's art.

JJ
You play with crayons for a
living.

SARA
Five year old's use crayons, I
work with pastels.

JJ
Crayons, pastels. Same thing,
different price tag.

JJ moves cushions on the couch looking for something.

SARA
What are you looking for?

JJ
The clicker thingy.

Sara grabs the remote and offers it to JJ.

SARA
You mean this?

JJ
(triumphantly)
Ha Ha!

JJ grabs the remote.

JJ (CONT'D)
Success.

SARA
You're welcome.

JJ flicks through the TV channels. Same bad choices as
before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA (CONT'D)

And to answer your question, I just made two grand for my last piece on eBay.

JJ throws Sara a look.

JJ

Bitch.

Sara smiles.

JJ (CONT'D)

Oh well, I may not make cash like that, but my tips are way better.

JJ grabs her purse and pulls out a WAD of small scraps of paper and slaps them down on the couch. Phone numbers.

SARA

Oh my God, so sinister.

JJ

The food isn't the only thing that's hot.

Sara grabs a note and reads from it.

SARA

For a good time call 'Redd'.

Sara grabs another.

SARA (CONT'D)

You're smokin', Todd.

Sara grabs another, looks at it with wide open eyes then reads it.

SARA (CONT'D)

Lets make a sandwich, Bryan and Joe-- oh my God.

Sara puts the paper back down and pushes the pile towards JJ. JJ grins back and puts the numbers back in her purse.

JJ

Maybe I should quit my gig and become an escort.

SARA

I wouldn't let you abuse yourself like that.

JJ

How could I abuse myself?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Others then.

(quick beat)

Have you ever thought of modeling?

JJ

You mean like nude, one of those artsy fartsy art classes with a bunch of strangers staring at my bits?

SARA

Err.. no, that's not what I meant.

JJ

Shame, a bunch of hot guys staring at me naked would probably get me a whole other bunch of numbers... and it would be easy to sort the gay from the straight from how they sit when they draw me.

JJ grins cheekily.

SARA

They make a lot of money.

JJ

(interested)

Like how much?

SARA

Three-hundred a session. One a week and you wouldn't have to work for a living.

JJ

How long is a session?

SARA

Couple of hours, not much more.

JJ

A hundred and fifty an hour just to sit around and let someone draw you naked?

SARA

I never said naked, and you'd have to sit completely still.

JJ

Ah see, I could never sit completely still.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ (CONT'D)

(beat)

Unless it was on someone's face.

JJ giggles again.

SARA

Hey, how did you get in?

JJ

I came in through the side door,
through the garage.

SARA

Oh shit, I thought I locked it.

JJ

Dumb dumb.

SARA

God.

Sara presses her hand against her forehead.

JJ

Headache?

SARA

No, just annoyed I forgot close
the damn thing, I was sure I'd
done it, but... tonight of all
nights.

JJ

What?

SARA

It's just, this guy called me.

JJ

Ooh, and?

SARA

Nothing just some creepy guy
looking to get some cheap tricks
over the phone.

JJ

Like 'freaky' creepy?

SARA

Is there a difference?

JJ

Well, how did he sound?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Actually, despite his annoying conversation style, he sounded pretty handsome. I know that's a stupid thing to say about someone from a voice, but--

JJ

No, I get it, first he's creepy, then you realize you like it and suddenly he's handsome.

SARA

Shut up.

JJ winks.

JJ

Did you get his number?

SARA

Is that really all you think about?

JJ

Well?

SARA

No, I didn't. I didn't even get his name.

JJ

What?

SARA

Yeah, he wouldn't give it to me but he seemed to know mine. Weird right?

JJ

'Seemed' to know?

SARA

Well, he called me Sara, so-- I don't know, I mean I didn't recognize the voice and I didn't hear any distortion for it to be one of those voice changer toys, so--

JJ

Could have been one of Toran's friends messing around.

SARA

I suppose so, but, when I told him I was hanging up--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
You hung up on him?

SARA
Well, let me finish and you'll
find out.

JJ
(miming)
Sorry.

SARA
Anyway, when I told him I was
hanging up on him, he called me a
bitch.

JJ
What?

SARA
Yeah, what's that about?

JJ
Maybe he was just drunk or
something.

SARA
I guess.

JJ
If he sounded hot I'd let him
talk to me any way he wanted.

SARA
Oh, I bet you would, sandwich
girl.

JJ grabs the pillow from behind her and playfully hits Sara
in the head with it.

JJ
I will not take this abuse from a
cartoonist. So a guy, who
sounded hot, calls you to get
some free phone sex and you hang
up on him?

SARA
I'm starting to assume you sleep
with every date.

JJ
What do you think?

SARA
Yes, I think you definitely do--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

(interrupting)

No, silly. About the guy.

SARA

I mean he didn't even give me his name, that's the weird thing to me. If you call up a girl wanting to talk, you introduce yourself, even if you give a fake name. I mean he could have just made something up, but he didn't even bother.

JJ

Oh well, at least you don't have to remember it, at least this way if you see him he can't get mad at you for forgetting.

SARA

I don't think I wanna meet that creep.

JJ

Doesn't sound like you'll have much of a choice, he knows your name and phone number, he probably knows where you live too.

SARA

Why do you say that?

JJ

Well, your cell was turned off when I tried to call you an hour ago, so he called you on your home phone, right?

SARA

Yeah.

JJ

Face it, he could knock on your door with a bunch of headless flowers at any minute.

Suddenly a single KNOCK on the front door is heard and the girls JUMP in surprise.

SARA

You heard that, right?

JJ

Yeah, I'm dumb, not deaf.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
What was that?

JJ
Err.. the front door, maybe?
(smiles)

Sara looks in the front door's direction.

SARA
Who would be calling at this
hour?

JJ lifts her arm above her head and points down to herself.

SARA (CONT'D)
Besides you, obviously?

JJ
I don't know, you should so check
it out.

Sara thinks about it a beat then stands.

SARA
Aren't you coming?

JJ
Hell no, if it's creepy stalker
guy with dead flowers, I want a
head start.

Sara exits alone.

INT. FOYER

Sara approaches the front door with caution. She gets up close to the glass and looks out. She breathes in slowly as if trying to stay quiet, then speaks.

SARA
Hello?

There's no sign of anyone on the other side of the door.

SARA (CONT'D)
Hello?

Sara cautiously looks out of the glass either side of the front door as before. Nothing.

SARA (CONT'D)
(to self)
Kids.

Sara turns back and straight into...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE
Aaauuuggghhh!!!

Sara JUMPS BACK in fright as JJ appears hands out like a zombie, laughing to herself.

SARA
Shit JJ, my heart nearly stopped.

JJ laughs her ass off.

JJ
You should have seen your face.

JJ SLAPS her thigh in celebration.

SARA
Fifteenth, remember.

JJ
Crap, I forgot. Sorry, I've had one too many.

Sara heads back to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara sits back down on the couch. JJ follows close by.

SARA
You could have given me a heart attack.

JJ
Sorry.

Sara looks at JJ with a small, forgiving smile, then playfully HITS her in the face with a pillow.

JJ (CONT'D)
Oh, it's on!

JJ grabs her own pillow, rises from the sofa and SWINGS her pillow at Sara's head.

SARA
Yeah?

JJ
Oh yeah, I got a black belt in pillow talk and fighting, bitch.

SARA
Pillow talk? Whenever you're in bed with someone your mouth's always full.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ thinks a beat, then gets it.

JJ

Hey.

BAM! Sara lands a blow to JJ's temple and she's knocked back off of the couch and onto the floor. Sara mounts JJ and rains blows down on her from above.

SARA

A drunk girl, is a girl open to attack.

JJ

Hey, no fair, you hit me while my guard was down.

SARA

Excuses, excuses.

Sara lands some more shots before...

EXT. HOUSE - THROUGH LIVING ROOM WINDOW

Through the window, we see JJ GRAB Sara's shoulders and PUSH her off the couch and onto the floor. JJ takes top position.

INT. LIVING ROOM

JJ knocks Sara's pillow out of her hands with one large strike with her own. Sara is defenseless.

JJ

Haha! Now you shall die, cartoonist. Eat my muff.

JJ covers Sara's face with her pillow in a fake attempt to suffocate her.

SARA (MUFFLED)

Quit it!

JJ

What?

SARA (MUFFLED)

You're gonna suffocate me.

JJ

I can't hear you.

Sara grabs JJ's hands and rolls her into an armbar.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ (CONT'D)
Augh! Yeld. Yeld!

Sara lets go.

JJ (CONT'D)
Still doing Ju Jitsu, I see.

SARA
Every Tuesday.

Sara gets off of JJ and lets her sit up.

JJ
Spoil sport.

JJ drops her bottom lip in protest.

SARA
If you were a boy they'd say you
have special needs.

JJ
And if you were a boy you could
take care of those special needs.

JJ jumps on Sara, holds her by her wrists and play rides
her.

JJ (CONT'D)
Oh Sara.

SARA
JJ, stop it.

JJ
Ooh, you're making me wet--

SARA
Oh God, you're twisted.

Sara glances at the window as SOMETHING MOVES quickly out
of the way outside.

JJ
You know you like it.

Sara throws JJ off of her and gets up.

SARA
Did you see that?

JJ
No, what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Outside, something moved by the window.

JJ

Oh God, it better not be a spider.

JJ gets behind Sara for arachnid protection.

SARA

No, something outside.

Sara edges slowly closer to the window to see what's out there. JJ relaxes.

JJ

It was probably just a stray animal or something. Maybe even a shadow from the trees outside of the window.

Sara takes a cautious look from behind the curtain.

SARA

No, this was much closer.

JJ

Well, let me know if you see a frat boy out there. I'll see him on his way.

Suddenly the phone RINGS and JJ SCREAMS in nervous surprise. Sara jumps.

JJ (CONT'D)

Is that lover boy?

SARA

God, I hope not, I'm not in the mood.

Sara stands staring at the phone for a beat.

JJ

Well, are you gonna answer it?

SARA

No, you know what, just let it ring.

JJ

Oh come on, it'll be fun.

JJ grabs the phone and picks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

JJ.

JJ

(into phone)

Hello, Conroy residence.

JJ jumps onto the sofa for a seat.

CALLER (V.O.)

Hmm, a new voice, could it be?

JJ

Can I ask who's calling?

CALLER (V.O.)

You sound striking.

JJ

(flirting)

You don't sound so bad yourself.
She was right, you do sound
handsome.

CALLER (V.O.)

Is that what she said?

JJ

Uh-ha.

CALLER (V.O.)

Interesting.

JJ smiles Sara's way.

SARA

Tell him to get a life.

JJ

(miming)

No.

SARA

Hang up, it's past late.

JJ

(to Sara)

Where's the fun in your life?

JJ presses the phone back to her ear.

CALLER (V.O.)

Hello? Are you still there?

JJ

Yes, I am. My name's JJ, how
about yours?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)
JJ, that's a pretty name. Are you friends with Sara?

JJ
Yeah, for the moment.

CALLER (V.O.)
Can I ask you something? Do you find her to be a little rude sometimes?

JJ
Oh, totally.

CALLER (V.O.)
Me too. You know, she hung up on me earlier.

JJ
Well that was cold of her, and I'd like to apologize for her behavior.

JJ covers the bottom receiver of the phone with her hand.

SARA
He flirts, you listen. I'm getting something else to eat.

JJ
So am I.
(grins)

Sara exits. JJ moves her hand away and speaks.

JJ (CONT'D)
Do you always call women this late at night, or is this a special occasion?

CALLER (V.O.)
Do you always talk to strange men you've never met?

JJ
Hey, I do believe I asked you first.

CALLER (V.O.)
You got me there. Actually no, tonight is a special occasion.

JJ
Oh, congrats then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)
And now your turn.

JJ
Er no, I never just talk to any
man.

JJ crosses her fingers.

CALLER (V.O.)
I bet that's not true at all now,
is it?

JJ
(playfully surprised)
Are you trying to call me a slut
or something?

CALLER (V.O.)
No, you just sound like you enjoy
the chase, that's all.

JJ
Okay, you got me.

CALLER (V.O.)
I thought so.

JJ
So what do you look for in a
woman?

CALLER (V.O.)
Well, it's not really what's on
the outside that counts, it's
what's on the inside that drives
me wild.

JJ
Ah, that sounds sweet.

CALLER (V.O.)
So, if you're not busy how about
we hook up sometime?

JJ rolls over onto her stomach.

JJ
I was just thinking along those
same lines.

JJ squeezes her ass.

CALLER (V.O.)
Good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

When do you feel like doing something then?

CALLER (V.O.)

Well, there's one last thing before we go any farther.

JJ

Oh yeah? What's that?

CALLER (V.O.)

Let's just say it's sort of a fetish.

JJ

Ooh, I like those. Kinky.

CALLER (V.O.)

It's a little different from what you're probably used to, I gotta say.

JJ

(to self)

You'd be surprised.

(into phone)

Hit me with it, big boy.

CALLER (V.O.)

(a little stricter)

I need to strangle you. Not for long, just until your eyes start to bulge, you won't black out or anything, I promise.

JJ's excited face turns into a blank dull stare as she sits back up.

JJ

Sorry?

CALLER (V.O.)

Come on, don't make me repeat it.

JJ

Excuse me, do what? I'm not sure I heard you properly.

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh, you heard me just fine. It doesn't have to be for very long, just until you need to breath again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
(suddenly cautious)
I'm afraid I'm not into that kind
of stuff.

CALLER (V.O.)
Have you ever tried it?

JJ
No and I'm not sure I want to
either.

CALLER (V.O.)
Well, are you sure you don't want
to?

JJ
Pretty sure. Sounds kinda scary.

CALLER (V.O.)
Some people love it, it's called
erotic asphyxiation, I think
you'd love it.

JJ
No thanks, that doesn't sound
like my cup of tea.

CALLER (V.O.)
Oh, don't be like that.

JJ
Look, I... I have to go.

CALLER (V.O.)
Just until your pretty face
loses...

JJ hangs up. Sara returns with a banana and a drink.

JJ
That guy was seriously creepy.

SARA
Yeah, I know, I told you,
remember?

JJ
No, I mean creepy, creepy.

SARA
And again, yeah I know, I told
you, remember?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

You didn't say he was like that, you just said he was weird and wouldn't give you his name, not that he liked to strangle people during sex.

SARA

He said that to you?

JJ

Well, yeah, didn't he to you?

SARA

Er, no because I wasn't flirting with him.

JJ

You said he sounded handsome though.

SARA

Yeah, and that was an observation, I didn't tell him that.

JJ

Well, next time warn me, okay?

SARA

I did warn you, and besides, he'll probably call back anyway, so consider yourself re-warned.

JJ

If he calls, you answer it this time.

SARA

I'm not answering it.

JJ

It's your house and your phone--

SARA

Who says anyone has to answer it? I was going to let it ring before you picked up.

JJ says nothing.

SARA (CONT'D)

So what was his name?

JJ

I don't know, he didn't say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
You didn't get it?

JJ
You didn't either.

SARA
Yeah, but I wasn't ready to
spread like butter.

Sara bites into her banana.

JJ
Oink, oink.

JJ watches Sara eat.

JJ (CONT'D)
You know it's impolite to eat in
front of a guest and not offer
them something.

SARA
Help yourself, you know where the
kitchen is.

JJ
I don't know where you keep your
one and only knife, which is
weird that you only have one, by
the way.

SARA
I don't want burglars stabbing me
with one of many of my own
knives, thank you.

JJ
Don't worry, I'm sure home
invader bring their own.

JJ gives a look and is silent a beat as she realizes what
she said.

JJ (CONT'D)
I'm not hungry anyway.

Sara rises from the sofa and yawns.

SARA
Well, I think I'll hit the hay.

JJ
What about me?

SARA
You're welcome to the sofa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
You've got a Queen sized bed.

SARA
Yes I do, Princess.

Sara grabs a pillow and fluffs it for JJ.

JJ
What about a sheet?

SARA
Ugh, hold on.

Sara EXITS the room and JJ makes herself comfy on the sofa.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara opens the tumble dryer and pulls out a LARGE BED SHEET. She turns to return to the living room but glances at the side door JJ 'broke in' through. She opens the door and reaches inside the GARAGE. She FLIPS A SWITCH and ELECTRIC DOOR closes. She closes the door and locks it.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara returns with a sheet. She snaps it in the air and covers JJ, laying on the sofa, in one swift move.

SARA
There ya go, happy?

JJ
Read me a story.

SARA
How about you read this.

Sara flips JJ the middle finger.

JJ
That will be all. Ta Ta.

Sara turns to walk away when the phone RINGS again.

SARA
Oh Christ.

JJ
He's gonna keep me awake all night, isn't he?

SARA
Even if I put it in the oven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara answers the phone.

SARA (CONT'D)
Hello, it's late and this better
be good.

CALLER (V.O.)
Check your mailbox.

The line goes dead. Sara looks at the phone confused.

JJ
Wrong number?

SARA
He said look in the mail box.

JJ looks at her watch.

JJ
It's past midnight.

INT. FOYER

Sara makes slowly for the front door and JJ follows nervously behind. Sara flips on the porch light and takes a look through the glass either side of the front door, then reaches for the lock.

JJ
Careful.

Sara un-clicks the lock and slowly opens the door. She prepares her bat, ready to swing.

JJ (CONT'D)
You see anything?

Sara turns her head back and forth scanning for someone. Nothing in sight.

SARA
No.

She stares out her front door to her MAILBOX. The flag is ERECT.

SARA (CONT'D)
Stay here.

JJ
(to self)
No fucking problem.

Sara makes towards the mailbox cautiously.

EXT. MAILBOX

Sara hurries towards the mail box looking left then right along the way. She opens the mailbox carefully with her bat and puts the flag down. She pulls out a brown ENVELOPE and takes another quick look left and right and goes to rip it open when...

JJ (O.C.)
What is it?

Sara jumps at the sound of JJ who is now by her side.

SARA
Jesus Christ, JJ.

JJ
Sorry.

SARA
Damn it, get back in the house.

Sara grabs JJ's hand and runs with her back inside.

INT. HOUSE

Sara and JJ rush back into the house. Sara locks the door behind them.

JJ
What do you think's inside?

SARA
I don't know.

Sara tears the envelope open and empties out the contents: A newspaper clipping that reads: DAUGHTER FORCED TO WATCH PARENTS GET BUTCHERED.

The color rushes from Sara's face and JJ glances at Sara nervously, unknowing of how Sara will react.

JJ
(almost to self)
That's not funny.

Sara shakes her head slightly in disbelief.

SARA
No, it's not.

The phone RINGS. Sara stares at it a beat, then approaches slowly, swallows and picks it up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA (CONT'D)
(slowly)
Hello?

CALLER (V.O.)
I've been thinking about your
hair, Sara. I bet it's the shiny
kind you can run your fingers
through over and over again for
hours.

A look of terror falls over Sara's face.

CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I bet you know my name now.

JJ folds her arms in fear from the look on Sara's face.

SARA
(almost whispering)
Cyrus.

JJ
What?

CALLER/CYRUS (V.O.)
We're not done yet, Sara.

JJ puts her hands to her mouth.

CYRUS (V.O.)
Not by a long way.

Sara hangs up.

JJ
Was that--?

SARA
Let's get the fuck out of here.

Sara grabs JJ's arm and pulls her into...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara bursts in and runs straight to a draw. JJ follows her
in.

JJ
Sara, what do you mean, it's him?
How can it be, isn't he in jail?

Sara pulls the LARGE KNIFE from the draw.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

He should be, but that was him on the phone and someone is out there, so either it's him or some psycho groupie who wants to help him finish what he started. Either way, we stay here, we're fucked.

Sara hands JJ the baseball bat and dials 911. It rings and Sara looks out off the window into the back yard for Cyrus until someone picks up.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

Sheriffs department.

SARA

Hello, my name is Sara Conroy, I'm at 65802 McGregor Hill Road--
(cut off)

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

(interrupting)

All officers are currently busy at the prison riot to ensure nobody escapes. If you'd like to...

(cut off)

SARA

(interrupting)

Someone already has escaped. Cyrus Skid. He's here and he's armed.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

Cyrus Skid? The serial killer?

SARA

Yes, him.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

What did you say your name was?

SARA

Conroy. Sara Conroy.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

(beat)

That Sara Conroy?

SARA

Yes, that one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

Oh my God, I-- I don't know what
to tell you, there's no one here
to take the phones if I--
(cut off)

SARA

(interrupting)

Listen to me, do you want to end
up one of those cops on the news
for leaving someone to die
because there was no one to
answer the phones if they did
their actual job and responded to
a call in order to save a life?

A beat of silence down the phone.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

No. Absolutely not. I'll be
there as soon as I can. Lock
yourself in a room and try to
stay quiet.

SARA

I have a car, we're gonna try and
make a break for it.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

We?

SARA

I have a girlfriend with me.

PHONE VOICE

Okay, find something to arm
yourself with first and--
(cut off)

SARA

(interrupting)

Done.

Sara hangs up, throws the phone on the counter and opens
the side door into the...

INT. GARAGE

Sara flips on a light and scans the room then makes towards
her car, guarding JJ as she does. She puts her key in the
door and quickly looks in the backseat. Empty.

SARA

Get in.

Sara unlocks the doors and they climb in.

INT. CAR

Sara keys the ignition and turns it. Nothing.

SARA

Come on.

She turns it again. Still nothing.

JJ

Oh no.

SARA

Not now.

A third attempt results in nothing, yet again.

SARA (CONT'D)

Shit.

Sara waits a beat before turning the key hard as far as it will go. Nothing happens. She looks around then gets out of the car.

JJ

Where are you going?

INTERCUT BETWEEN: Sara outside the car and JJ inside.

Sara pops the hood and inspects the engine. No Battery.

SARA

Oh shit.

JJ

What?

INSERT: A FIGURE ROLLS OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE CAR.

SARA

It's be tampered with.

Sara drops the hood, revealing CYRUS SKID, wearing a full body, prison issue black jumpsuit, standing by her door.

SARA (CONT'D)

JJ, lock the doors.

CYRUS

Hey, Sara.

JJ sees Cyrus, SCREAMS and locks both doors. Skid moves around the car towards Sara. Sara goes the opposite way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

JJ, grab the bat and the knife
and open the garage door.

JJ grabs the weapons and looks around for the door remote.
Outside, Sara and Skid move around the car.

JJ

Where's the clicker?

Sara glances back at the door.

SARA

In the glove compartment.

Skid moves faster towards Sara. She sees in time and runs.

JJ rummages through the glove compartment and finds the
remote. She points it and clicks. The garage door opens.
Sara stands like she's ready to make a tackle.

SARA (CONT'D)

JJ, get out of the car and get
ready to run.

Cyrus chuckles to himself.

JJ looks really unsure about what is expected of her.

JJ

What are you going to do?

SARA

Just do as I say and you'll be
fine. Okay?

JJ

Oh fuck.

JJ swallows hard and cautiously steps one foot out of the
car and stands. Cyrus is on the opposite side.

SARA

Good. Now when I say, I want you
to run to the front of the house,
unlock the door and wait for me,
okay?

JJ

Wait, why don't we just stay
inside the car?

SARA

Because he can get in through the
window. Now go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
What, now?

SARA
Yes, now. Go!

JJ flees the garage, whimpering.

Skid lunges at Sara with a knife. She avoids the blade and grabs his wrist. She gives it a TWIST and BANGS it against the wall and he drops it. Sara KICKS it under the car. Cyrus pushes Sara hard up against the wall.

CYRUS
Hello Sara, happy anniversary.

Sara KNEES him in the groin and he doubles over slightly.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE

JJ pulls out the keys and looks for the right one. There are many. She tries hem all.

INT. GARAGE

Sara and Cyrus struggle for a while before Skid STAMPS on Sara's ankle and she SCREAMS in pain.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE

JJ hears Sara's cry.

JJ
Sara?

INT. GARAGE

Sara gets hold of Cyrus' wrists, turns them over each other and PULLS him face first into the wall, he bounces off of it and hits the ground hard. She limps around the car looking for the kicked knife but it's nowhere to be seen.

SARA
Fuck.

Cyrus climbs back to his feet. Sara sees him and limps out of the garage as fast as she can.

EXT. GARAGE/HOUSE

Sara hops her way out of the garage and finds JJ waiting for her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
Oh my God, are you okay?

SARA
Run.

Cyrus exits the garage. JJ sees him.

JJ
Oh no.

JJ helps Sara around to the front door. Sara tries to open the door but it's still locked.

SARA
JJ, I told you to unlock it.

JJ
I couldn't find the right key.

JJ pulls out the keys and Sara snatches them from her hands. She finds the right key and something catches her eye off screen.

SARA
Oh shit.

Cyrus is almost at her side. Sara puts the key in the lock and Cyrus catches them up.

CYRUS
Hello ladies.

JJ screams and drops the baseball bat and knife. Cyrus SLAMS his body against Sara, pinning her to the door. JJ screams as she watches the whole thing. Cyrus CHOKES Sara until JJ picks up the baseball bat and WHACKS him in the head knocking him down.

SARA
Stab him.

JJ
What?

SARA
Get the knife and stab him in the neck. Quickly before he gets up.

JJ
I can't, Sara, I can't.

SARA
It's him or us. There's no time.

Cyrus rolls over. He grabs the fallen blade and stands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

Too late.

INT. HOUSE

The girls stumble inside as Cyrus makes for the door. Sara closes the door but his hand makes it inside the house before the girls can fully close it. His knife waves violently in the air as he tries to push his way in.

SARA

Push.

JJ

I'm trying.

Sara and JJ push from the other side but his arm is stopping it from shutting.

JJ (CONT'D)

He's too strong.

SARA

Just keep pushing.

JJ

I'm trying. I can't hold on much longer.

Suddenly, a pair of HEADLIGHTS flood the scene as a CAR pulls into the driveway.

JJ (CONT'D)

Someone's here.

Skid pulls his arm from the door and flees around the side of the house. The girls close the door and lock it.

JJ (CONT'D)

Who's that?

Sara peeks through the glass.

SARA

The police.

Sara unlocks the door and opens it again.

JJ

Sara.

Sara rushes outside as a POLICE CAR pulls up. Sara shouts at the car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
He's behind the house. He went
around back.

A young looking COP gets out of the car and draws his GUN.

COP
I saw. Get back inside and lock
the door. Don't come out until I
call to say it's safe.

SARA
Okay.

The cop raises his weapon and cautiously begins to walk
around the side of the house.

INT. HOUSE

Sara locks the door. JJ stands with her hands in a nervous
praying position.

SARA
In the kitchen.

Sara pulls JJ's arm to follow her as they make for the
other room.

EXT. HOUSE

The cop investigates the sides of the house slowly and
makes his way around the back. He checks all the visible
areas then HEARS something. He doubles back on himself and
raises his gun a little more. Something moves out the
corner of his eye. The cop turns to see Cyrus moving in
the shadows.

COP
Freeze!

Cyrus BOLTS and the cop gives chase around the outside of
the house but quickly loses him.

A CRASHING noise is heard and the cop approaches with
caution, his gun tightly held by both hands out in front of
him when...

Cyrus steps out from the shadows BEHIND the cop and THRUSTS
a knife into the left side of the Cops torso, right under
his raised arm and straight into the heart. BANG! The gun
goes off.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ and Sara comfort each other as the sound of cop and killer battling it out goes on outside the window. Multiple shots are fired. The whole clip? It suddenly goes quiet.

JJ
Is he okay?

Sara tries to see through the glass, but it's too dark.

SARA
(shouting)
Are you okay?

Suddenly, someone is SLAMMED momentarily against the window and blood smears the glass. JJ screams. Sara is calm.

Sara and JJ stay still for a beat, then the phone RINGS. Sara and JJ give each other a look. Sara answers it but says nothing.

CYRUS (V.O.)
Now I have a gun.
(laughs)

Sara hangs up.

SARA
Get up stairs.

INT. FOYER

JJ and Sara rush up the stairs.

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Sara and JJ enter. Sara pushes the bed behind the door to lock them in. JJ is inconsolable.

JJ
What do we do now?

SARA
I don't know.

JJ
Can't we just call the police again?

SARA
He said no one else was there to handle the phones. He came himself, there's no one to call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
No one at all?

SARA
No one close enough.

JJ
There must be someone.

SARA
It doesn't matter if there is, we can't put them in danger by bringing them out here with him down there. We'll just get them killed.

JJ
But what if we get lots of people, like Justin, Nick and Toran?

SARA
He has a gun, JJ, they don't.

JJ
Well, maybe they know someone who does have one.

SARA
We can't risk it.

JJ
What do you mean 'We can't risk it'? We can't not risk it.

SARA
Okay, say we call someone and we get them out here in time and they get themselves killed, then what? Could you live with that?

JJ
I don't know, but at least I'd live to regret it.

SARA
You might not.

JJ
But we have to do something or he's just going to get us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Look at it this way, if he knows there's only us here, then he's less likely to go full psycho on us and just break in here through the window or something.

JJ

Oh God.

JJ breaks down crying.

SARA

He was in the garage. How did he get in the garage?

JJ

The door was open when I got here, remember? That's how I got in.

SARA

Shit.

JJ

You must have locked him in when you closed it.

(beat)

Why didn't he just come through the door and up the stairs?

SARA

He likes to play games. Maybe he just didn't think to try it. Who knows?

JJ

What do you mean 'play games'?

SARA

When he had me and my parents tied up he... he went around us all to see who would scream the most. And I was the one that screamed the most, so he focused on hurting them to get the most out of hearing me scream for him to stop. He's a fucking sadist who feeds on fear.

JJ

Oh God.

(beat)

There's no way we can stay here all night, we need to find a way out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

We could run out of the front door, but he'd be right behind us, and I'm guessing he's a lot faster than either of us.

JJ

But surely he'll get bored of waiting down there if we're not there to play his game and he'll break in anyway.

SARA

That's why we lock ourselves in a room.

JJ

So we're just hoping for the best?

SARA

I've really got no better plan right now for getting the both of us out of here.

JJ

Well, what's to stop him just breaking through the door if he does get in?

SARA

The bed.

JJ

That won't hold him back, so what's the point?

SARA

So, should I move it?

JJ

No.

SARA

Then stop complaining.

JJ

Stop yelling at me.

Sara tries to comfort JJ.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Look, I'm sorry, but you're not thinking rationally right now, and I'm trying to think of a way to get us out of here, and in order to do that I need to make us as safe as I can so I can think properly. Okay?

JJ

(sobbing)

Okay.

Sara hugs JJ. She calms down a little... then the phone RINGS and JJ loses it again. Sara picks up the phone.

SARA

What?

CYRUS (V.O.)

Seems you've got a lot of fight in you these days.

SARA

Yeah well, you know, a girl's gotta know how to handle herself these days. There's a lot of psycho's out there with penis problems.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Ooh, such a potty mouth. Did your mother teach you to talk like that?

SARA

How dare you?

CYRUS (V.O.)

What, too soon?

Cyrus chuckles.

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

Look, why don't you just come downstairs, open the door and we'll sort this whole thing out?

SARA

The only thing that's getting sorted out is you, when I get my hands around your throat.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Ooh, sounds scary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Sara, don't antagonize him.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Yeah Sara, don't antagonize him.
You never know what he might do.

SARA

I know what you'll do, but first
I have to give you the chance,
and I'm not about to.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Do you really think you are in
control here? I can get in there
any time I want. I just don't
want to make a mess, like last
time. Do you remember last time?
I do. Tell me, how long did it
take to clean up after your
parents? Or should I say, how
long did it take to clean up your
parents?

Cyrus laughs down the phone. Sara hangs up and looks
around for something.

JJ

We need to call someone and get
as far away from here as
possible.

SARA

JJ, I've told you, we can't risk
someone else's life just to try
and escape, if you can think of a
way that will guarantee our get
away, then fine, we can call
someone, but until then I'm not
putting anyone else's life in
danger.

JJ

What if we sneak outside and hide
by the bushes and have someone
drive by, pick us up and drive
off.

Sara stops and thinks a beat.

SARA

It's too risky.

JJ

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Because he might find us.

JJ

We could be really quiet. He won't even know we've left the house.

SARA

You don't know how long it's gonna take them to get here.

JJ

Then maybe we could have them pull right up to the door and reverse away.

SARA

No, it's not safe. He could shoot right through the windscreen.

JJ

But we have to do something.

SARA

Look, the car's dead and I don't have a bike, so other than waiting here for the police to return to the station and see that no one is there and come looking for the car, I have nothing, but if you think you do then please, let me know.

JJ waits a while before speaking again.

JJ

Well, yours might be dead but, what about the cops' car?

Sara looks up with hope. She moves the bed from behind the door and exits. JJ follows her.

INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM

Sara enters without turning on the light and walks over to the window. JJ follows her. We can see it her parents' old bedroom, untouched. Sara looks out of the window and sees Cyrus pushing the police car away from the house.

SARA

Damn it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Why is he pushing it away, why doesn't he just take out the battery like he did with yours?

SARA

Probably afraid of setting of some alarm within the cars system and sending back up.

JJ

But it's close enough, I mean we can get to it, right?

SARA

If we can get the keys, which are probably in the car.

JJ

If they're in the car, why doesn't he just drive it away?

SARA

Yeah. The cop must have taken them when he got out so's not to let him escape in it.

JJ

So the keys are on the dead body? Outside. With him?

SARA

Exactly.

JJ

Shit.

SARA

We're gonna need another weapon.

JJ

What about the cops 'baton thingy'?

SARA

Also outside with him.

JJ

Damn.

(beat)

Sara, when we went into the garage, did you lock the side door?

SARA

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
And, the garage door is still
open right, so, he could get in.

SARA
Shit.

Sara flees from the room.

INT. FOYER

Sara runs down the stairs and into the...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara runs to the garage door and opens it.

INT. GARAGE

Sara places her hand on the door switch and pauses a beat. She watches Cyrus push the car away from the house in the distance as she thinks something over. JJ appears by her side.

JJ
What are you doing? Close it.

SARA
We need a weapon.

JJ
What? No, just close the door
and get back upstairs.

SARA
And wait unarmed until morning?

JJ
You'll get us both killed.

SARA
If I can get the baton I can get
the keys too, if I get the keys
we just need to hurt him enough
to get a small head start and get
up to the car.

JJ thinks it over until she sees something outside of the garage and suddenly looks scared.

JJ
Too late, he's coming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara watches Cyrus running towards the garage then PRESSES the button. The door closes quick enough, but he almost slides under the bottom before it hits the ground.

Sara stands still a beat before...

CYRUS (O.S.)

Sara!

JJ hides behind Sara as Cyrus taunts the pair from the other side of the door.

CYRUS (MUFFLED) (CONT'D)

Saaaraaa!

JJ pulls Sara inside the house and closes the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara locks the door and JJ snaps at her.

JJ

What were you thinking?

SARA

If I could have gotten around without him seeing me then we could get what we needed and get one step closer to getting out of here.

JJ

But he was at the front of the house. Step on one stone and he'd be all over you.

SARA

I know.

JJ

You'd be dead and I'd be dead too.

SARA

We're desperate. You want to get out of here just as much as I do. Right?

JJ

More so, I think.

SARA

Then one of us might have to take a risk in order to make that happen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Not that kind of risk, we don't.

SARA

Well, it's either do something risky, or barricade ourselves inside until help arrives.

JJ

Or call someone for help.

SARA

God damn it, JJ. I've told you, I'm not about to risk someone else's life.

JJ

But you will risk mine though, right?

SARA

What?

JJ

You're willing to risk my life by not calling anyone else for help. You're willing to risk me dying rather than call someone bigger and stronger, who can handle themselves better against him than either me or you can. Right?

SARA

I'm not talking about this.

Sara walks away.

JJ

Why not?

Sara turns back.

SARA

I'm just not.

The phone rings again and Sara answers immediately.

SARA (CONT'D)

Yes?

CYRUS (V.O.)

I've been thinking about that long, shiny hair of yours and how much fun it was to run my fingers through it. I can't wait to do it again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

You're not going to scare me.
I'm not the same fifteen-year-old
girl I was back then.

CYRUS (V.O.)

No, you're a woman now, and
that's much more fun.

SARA

This game is old already.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Then why are you still playing?

SARA

The only game I'm interested in
playing is baseball, but I don't
have a ball so how about you lend
me your head?

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh, I can lend you some balls,
but that attitude of yours tells
me you're less of a baseball girl
and more of a softball girl, if
you know what I mean.

SARA

Jesus Christ.

JJ

So you and JJ, are you-- ya know?

SARA

What, like you and your cell-
mate? No.

Sara hangs up.

JJ

I should have bought a taser when
I had the chance.

(beat)

Hey, he'll be expecting us to go
out of the front, right?

SARA

Probably.

JJ

So why don't we go quietly out
the back. Down the garden, over
the fence and make a break for it
over the fields? He won't be
able to see us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

And we won't be able to see where we're going. And when we don't answer the phone he'll just break in, see we're gone and come looking for us. It's two miles to town, we'd need a good ten minutes to get there, which means at least a five minute head start.

JJ

Maybe you could keep him on the phone while I go get help.

SARA

JJ, he--

The PHONE RINGS again. Sara answers it straight away.

SARA (CONT'D)

What the fuck do you want?

CYRUS (V.O.)

Well that's rude. I could have been anyone. Is that really a polite way to answer the phone?

SARA

Of course it's you, who else?

CYRUS (V.O.)

Ah, so you knew it was me again and still answered. My my, I think you might be getting a thing for me, Sara.

SARA

Yeah, it's called a pain in my ass.

CYRUS (V.O.)

I can be a pain anywhere you want, little lady.

SARA

No, you can't, you don't have the balls for the job. That's why you use a knife, to make up for where you're lacking as a man.

Cyrus chokes a little then speaks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh, I'm pretty sure I gave your mother more than she could handle. You should know, you were there.

SARA

The only thing you can do is go after weaker people. People you see as being helpless--

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh I remember your daddy putting up quite the fight... at first.

SARA

You can only go after people you see as being an easy target because deep down inside you know that you're weak.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Quite the psychology major, I see.

SARA

You can't handle the face-to-face interactions it takes to be a regular person, so you wave a weapon because you know no matter how many push ups you do, you'll never be what a woman wants and you'll always be alone.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Well, aren't we little Miss Freud. Did you learn all that online or have you actually left the house since I was last here?

SARA

I'm not afraid of you.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Sure you're not, that's why you worked so hard to keep me out of the house. Why you called the police as soon as you knew it was me on the phone.

SARA

That's called smarts.

CYRUS (V.O.)

It's called being afraid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Why don't you drop that knife and that gun and we'll see who's afraid of who.

CYRUS (V.O.)

I believe it's 'whom'.

SARA

Detracting from the topic, just like the coward you are.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh Sara, Sara. You really have become such a bore.

CLICK! Cyrus hangs up.

SARA

Hello?

JJ

What's wrong?

SARA

He hung up.

JJ

Well, good.

SARA

No he hung up. That means I was getting to him.

JJ

How do you know?

SARA

Because I was psycho-analyzing him. I bet he heard that same thing over and over in prison.

JJ

Does that mean you were right?

SARA

It means he doesn't like being talked to that way. He can't handle a real conversation, that's why he hung up.

JJ

What if he calls back?

SARA

We'll just do the same thing and piss him off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
Won't that just cause him to do
something drastic?

Sara thinks.

SARA
I don't know.
(beat)
We need that weapon, we have to
get it.

JJ
But you said it yourself, he has
a gun, we can't possibly go out
there.

SARA
Not if one of us keeps him busy.

JJ
Busy how?

SARA
I don't know yet, but as long as
we can hear where he is then we
can keep far enough away from
him.

JJ
Well, until we have a plan let's
get back upstairs before he comes
back.

JJ grabs Sara's hand and leads her to the stairs.

INT. BEDROOM

Sara and JJ enter and put the bed back behind the door.

JJ
How come you didn't recognise his
voice on the phone when he first
called?

SARA
He never really spoke. Just the
occasional whisper and laugh to
himself.

JJ
Didn't he speak at the trial?

SARA
Yeah, but only to say 'No
comment' and laugh some more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
What was it like? You know...

SARA
To see my parents murdered in
front of me?

JJ shrugs her shoulders.

SARA (CONT'D)
The worst thing a child could
witness. Parents are supposed to
be the shields that protect us
from the dangers of the world,
and mine were strapped to chairs,
helpless to help themselves, let
alone me. What do you think?

JJ
How did you get away?

SARA
My mom was made to tie me to the
chair, but she did it in such a
way that made it look secure but
had a flaw that I could exploit.

JJ
How?

Sara demonstrates on her own hand.

SARA
Your wrist is thinner than it is
wide, so you tie it widest side
up, then twist your wrist to
loosen the wrap to slip out of
it.

JJ
Huh. Clever.

SARA
Yeah.

The phone rings and both girls stop and look towards the
phone.

JJ
So much for not calling back.

Sara answers the call.

SARA
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (V.O.)
Oh, hi Sara, is JJ there please?

SARA
What do you want?

CYRUS (V.O.)
JJ, please.

SARA
(covering the receiver,
to JJ)
He wants you.

JJ looks terrified and shakes her head.

JJ
No, no way.

SARA
He's outside, he can't hurt you
with words.

JJ
I don't care, I don't wanna talk
to that creep.

CYRUS (V.O.)
I'm waiting.

Sara's eyes light up as she gets an idea.

SARA
Listen, keep him on the phone,
I've got a plan.

JJ
What plan?

SARA
There's no time, just keep him on
the phone as long as you can and
I'll be right back, I promise.

Sara forces the phone into JJ's hands then rushes out of the room. JJ swallows and lifts the phone slowly to her ear.

JJ
Hello?

CYRUS (V.O.)
Ah JJ, just the cutey with the
booty I wanted.

JJ wipes away a tear and tries not to make a sound.

EXT. HOUSE/DOOR

Sara looks left and right making sure the scene is safe then carefully and quietly opens the door. She sticks her head out and takes another look around, then places her back against the wall and begins to creep to the edge of the house.

INT. FOYER

JJ is standing at the bottom of the stairs biting her nails as she listens to Cyrus on the phone.

CYRUS (V.O.)

I'll be honest with you JJ,
you're not really my type. I
mean sure, you do have a really
nice ass on you but, you just
don't do it for me like she does.

JJ

Okay.

EXT. HOUSE

Sara quietly makes her way to the corner of the house and peeks around it: It's clear. She makes her way carefully down to the back of the house... she looks around the corner to see...

CYRUS'S BACK to her, so close that if she breathes he'll hear her.

CYRUS

(on the phone)

Anyway, that's why I called...

Cyrus trails off as Sara quickly but quietly doubles back on herself.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ paces around the kitchen as Cyrus taunts her on the phone.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Being as it's not you that I want
I have a proposition for you.

JJ

What kind of proposition?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (V.O.)

The kind that could ensure your safety. You wanna walk away from here in one piece, right?

JJ tries to hold back her tears but a few break out.

JJ

What do you want?

CYRUS (V.O.)

If you want to live, then all you have to do is unlock a door for me, or a window, and let me inside without her knowing.

EXT. HOUSE

The dead cops body lays still. Sara appears around the corner. She sees the body and pauses a beat before looking around and making towards it.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ seems a little calmer.

JJ

I won't do that, not to my best friend.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Do you think she'd do the same for you?

JJ

Yes, no question, she'd never leave me to save herself.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Are you sure? Are you sure she wouldn't just run away and leave you to take the pain?

JJ' eye widen as she realizes Sara left her alone.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

That's what she did with her mother. She escaped death once, you think she wants to have to chance it again?

EXT. HOUSE

Sara carefully rolls the cop onto his back and un-clips his baton from his belt and places it at her side and begins searching his bloodied body for the car keys.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ seems suddenly more nervous than before.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Listen, I'll get in there either way before Sun up, I'm just giving you the chance to save yourself, whether you choose to do so or not is up to you. So, what's it gonna be?

JJ looks towards the front door. Considering giving Sara up?

EXT. HOUSE

Sara finally finds the keys. She picks up the baton and turns back for the front door. She takes a few quick steps back towards safety when...

THE DEAD COPS' RADIO GOES OFF.

Sara turns sharply back to it. Seeing an opportunity to get help she takes a couple of steps towards it when suddenly...

CYRUS APPEARS BEHIND THE DEAD BODY.

Sara turns back and RUNS for the door. Cyrus gives chase. Sara disappears around the corner of the house.

Cyrus closes in fast. He runs to the corner and turns to look for Sara only to be met with A SMASH TO THE FACE from the police baton held by her.

Cyrus falls to the floor like a sack of bricks and Sara runs back into the house, locking the door behind her.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara enters and JJ stands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Okay, I got the keys, we just need to hold out a little until he is far enough away from the front door to make a break for it.

JJ

For how long?

SARA

I don't know.

JJ

So, we could be here all night?

Sara stands against the wall and looks out the window.

SARA

No, he won't wait that long.

JJ

If you have the keys, why didn't you just drive away?

SARA

Because I wouldn't do that to you. How can you even ask that?

JJ

Sorry, I'm just emotional.

SARA

Okay.

JJ

Wait, do you have an alarm? Maybe we could break a window and set it off and get help that way?

SARA

Well, it didn't go off when you came in, so I doubt it's working.

JJ

Do you think we'll make it?

SARA

At least one of us will.

JJ

What do you mean, one?

SARA

If one of us is done for the other can make a run for it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
You're gonna leave me?

SARA
No, I just said I wouldn't when I could have.

JJ
Yeah, but you just said--

SARA
Look, if one of us is-- look, say one of us gets sta... if the worst happens, and it's clear one of us is done for, the other person can make a break for it.

JJ
(an emotional mess)
Please don't leave me.

SARA
I won't.

JJ
But you just said--

SARA
That's a last resort outcome only. Think of it as me giving you permission to run if I get hurt... Just like my mother did me. Okay? I'm not just gonna leave you the second I see a chance to run.

JJ
But you have the car keys.

Sara thinks for a beat then takes out the keys and puts them in JJ's hands.

SARA
Here, you take them, just keep them in your pocket and don't lose them, whatever you do, okay?

JJ
Okay.

JJ puts the keys in her pocket and Sara rubs JJ's shoulders to comfort her.

SARA
What did he want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Who?

SARA

On the phone.

JJ

Oh.

(quick beat)

Just, wanted to talk about my ass
and what he'd like to do to it.
Usual creep stuff.

SARA

You did good.

JJ

(with hint of a smile)

Thanks.

(beat)

Do you think he's not breaking in
because of the alarm?

SARA

What do you mean?

JJ

Well, he doesn't know it's broken
right? So, is he not breaking in
to keep the police away?

SARA

He might have been, I don't know.
Maybe he was the one that
disabled it. Either way, now
he's killed a cop, I'm not sure
how much longer he'll stay
outside.

JJ

God, I wish I hadn't had so much
to drink.

Sara smiles.

JJ (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something?

SARA

Sure.

JJ

Why do you stay here? I mean, if
your parents were murdered here
then, why would you wanna stay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Because this is where I've always lived. It's where I have all my best memories.

JJ

And worst.

SARA

Yeah, but, I'm not gonna let him drive me away, otherwise he wins.

A beat of silence.

JJ

Do you think we could set a trap?

SARA

Like what?

JJ

I don't know, some kind of sledgehammer above the door type thing, like in Freddy one.

SARA

I wouldn't know how to put it together.

JJ

What about a trip wire or something? Just let him in the door somehow without it appearing obvious and lure him in to something deadly?

SARA

Do you have a trap in mind?

JJ

No but, I'm not the creative type, that's your job.

Suddenly A LOUD KNOCKING from the front door. Cyrus speaks from behind it.

CYRUS (MUFFLED)

JJ, come out and play.

JJ covers her mouth with both hands and holds back tears. Sara comforts her with an arm for a moment.

SARA

Ignore him. He can't get you in here and he can't get to you unless you let him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

I should have just gone home. I wish I'd never come here.

SARA

Hey, coming here you saved my life. Remember that.

JJ

What?

SARA

If you hadn't have come here I wouldn't have stayed up, or answered the phone. He'd have gotten bored, broken in and most likely, killed me in my bed. You being here kept me awake and helped me think about my surroundings. You gave me someone to take care of, too. I think that's why my Mom held in for so long. She had me to think of, because she knew, once he was done with her, it was my turn. And she was gonna hang in for every last second she could until I could get to safety.

JJ

So it's true?

SARA

What's true?

JJ

That you just left your Mom to die?

SARA

I didn't just leave her to die, she told me to go and get as far away as I could, and I--, wait, how do you know that?

JJ

He told me. On the phone. He said you left your Mom to die and that you'd leave me to die, too.

SARA

I thought he just wanted to talk about your ass.

JJ

Not just. There was other stuff. Well, just that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

My Mom wanted me to go and I
wasn't strong enough to stay.
You don't want me to go and I am
strong enough to stay.
Understand?

JJ no longer seems as trusting in Sara.

JJ

Okay.

SARA

JJ, I promise, I'm not going
anywhere.

JJ

Okay.

SARA

Okay?

JJ

Okay.

Sara looks out of the window and thinks a beat.

SARA

JJ.

JJ

What?

SARA

Maybe you're right.

JJ

About what?

SARA

Your escape idea.

JJ

Going over the back?

SARA

Yeah, but not quite. I think I
have it.

JJ

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

We open the back door and throw something heavy at the fence, he hears it and goes to check it out, he sees the back door is open and thinks we made a break for it. He heads after us over the fence, and we sneak out of the front door, into the cop car and drive away.

JJ

You think that would work?

SARA

Yeah, I think it could.

JJ

Could? Okay.

SARA

Shall we give it a try?

JJ

Sure.

SARA

Okay, we'll turn off all the lights and hide in the cubby by the front door. Okay?

JJ

Sure.

SARA

Okay. Let me just go to the bathroom, and we'll go.

JJ

Alright.

SARA

Back soon.

Sara exits leaving JJ alone. After a few seconds Cyrus speaks from somewhere outside the house.

CYRUS (O.C.)

I heard that.

JJ looks towards the window to see as Cyrus pins himself against the frosted glass to reveal his silhouette. She backs up against the wall, phone in hand, and quietly sobs to herself. Cyrus scrapes a knife down the glass slowly and JJ covers her teeth gritted mouth and backs into another room via an open doorway.

INT. LANDING

We hear the toilet flush.

INT. BATHROOM

Sara washes her hands in the sink and dries them.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ looks at the phone sitting on the table, grabs it and hits *69.

EXT. HOUSE

Cyrus' phone lights up in his hand. He picks up.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Hello?

INT. LANDING

Sara exits the bathroom, heads for the stairs but pauses then goes too...

INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM

Sara grabs a picture of her parents from the bedside table, pockets it and leaves.

INT. HALLWAY

Sara quietly makes her way downstairs and turns into the...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara appears in the doorway and FREEZES in fear as she sees CYRUS standing behind JJ with a KNIFE to her throat. Cyrus pulls his other hand from behind his back revealing the cops' gun.

CYRUS

Hi Sara. Why don't you come in and take a seat? Just like old times.

SARA

What the hell do you want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

You, to take a seat.

Cyrus pulls the knife closer to JJ's throat. JJ closes her eyes and grits her teeth a beat expecting to be cut.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now.

Sara sits.

JJ

Sara, please, just do what he says.

SARA

How did you get in?

CYRUS

JJ, you wanna fill her in?

Sara looks to JJ with confusion.

JJ

I'm sorry Sara, he just kind of slipped in somehow...

CYRUS

Oh, now that's not true, is it JJ? Come on, we're all friends here, you can tell the truth, she won't be mad, I'm sure.

SARA

JJ?

JJ

Well, I don't know, I mean...

CYRUS

Oh, come on, JJ, don't you wanna tell her about our secret phone conversation where you agreed to...

SARA

What?

JJ

He called me earlier and said he'd let me go if...

SARA

You let him in?

JJ

Sara, I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
How could you?

JJ
Sara, I'm sorry, I was just
scared and I thought I could get
help from somewhere if he let me
go and--

SARA
You really thought he was going
to let you go, you stupid bitch?

JJ
Sara, please, I'm sorry. Don't
be mad at me.

CYRUS
Yeah Sara, don't be mad at her,
survival is a very primal
instinct. It's what connects us
all. Now how about we stop this
melodramatic bullshit and you sit
down?

Cyrus rests his gun on JJ's shoulder. Sara stands a beat
in defiance then Cyrus cocks the gun.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Now.

JJ
Please Sara, just do what he
says.

SARA
No.

JJ
Sara he's going to kill us if you
don't.

CYRUS
Yeah Sara. He's going to kill
you if you don't do as he says.

Sara makes two fists.

SARA
He's gonna kill us anyway.

JJ
Sara, just sit down.

SARA
If I surrender he'll have both of
us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

Surrender? Come on, it's not like I don't already have you exactly where I want you.

SARA

Not exactly. Not yet.

JJ

Sara, please.

Sara doesn't take her eyes off of Cyrus.

SARA

JJ, shut up.

CYRUS

Oh, so rude.

Cyrus sees Sara's front foot seems to be moving back and forth a little like she's gonna do something.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Really, Sara? My knife is against your friends throat and you think charging at me will save her?

SARA

It's not about saving her, it's about killing you.

CYRUS

Hear that JJ? It's not about helping you but helping herself.

JJ cries.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Yet she tells you off for trying to help yourself.

SARA

What do you want?

CYRUS

Oh, come on, you know the answer to that question. I had such a good time last time I was here that, I just had to come again. Now, I gotta be honest with you, I had no idea you were gonna have a friend over, I had something entirely different in mind... but knowing I get to play a game just fills me with the warm and fuzzies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

We're not playing your game.

CYRUS

Not yet, but I'm sure you know where this is going, and how I'm a man of my word and if you don't do as I say, then both of you will die.

Cyrus points the gun directly at Sara's stomach.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Sit, or it's a shot to the gut.

Sara pulls out a chair far from the table and sits down.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

There's a good girl.

Cyrus pockets the gun.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now we can get started.

Cyrus removes the blade from JJ's throat.

SARA

What do you want from me?

CYRUS

Well, for starters I'd like some duct tape, how does that sound?

JJ

What do you want... oh no. No, no, no, no...

JJ starts to sob.

CYRUS

Oh, come on, it's not that bad.

JJ

I don't wanna be tied to a chair.

Cyrus searches through a draw for tape.

CYRUS

Not tied, taped.

JJ

I don't care, it's the same thing.

CYRUS

No, it's not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
Sara, help me.

CYRUS
What, like you tried to help yourself? Oh no, Sara's way past helping you, I think.

JJ
Sara, I'm sorry, please, I don't wanna be stuck to a chair.

CYRUS
If it helps, think of it like this, it Sara makes a break for it, I don't have to cut your throat in order to give chase. Okay?

JJ
(crying)
Oh God.

CYRUS
There ain't no such thing, honey.

SARA
Draw on your right.

JJ
Sara!

CYRUS
Why thank you, pretty and polite, whaddaya know?

Cyrus pulls out the tape and forces JJ into a chair opposite Sara and stretches the tape out. He looks at Sara watching.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
You know what? Why should I have all the fun? Sara, come and tape your friend up.

JJ
Oh God.

SARA
No.

Cyrus takes out his gun and fingers it.

CYRUS
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara stands slowly and walks around to JJ, avoiding passing Cyrus along the way. She opens the tape and grabs JJ's wrist.

JJ
Sara, what are you doing?

SARA
(quietly, angry)
Shut up and trust me.

CYRUS
Yeah JJ, trust her.

Sara positions JJ's fists thumb side up and pulls the sleeve of her shirt down to then begins wrapping the tape over it and securing her wrists to the arms of the chair.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Trust Sara the way she trusted
you before you opened up the door
to let in the guy who butchered
her daddy in front of her, just
so you could get away scott-free.

JJ holds back tears and whispers to Sara.

JJ
I'm so sorry.

Sara begins wrapping JJ's second wrist the same way as the first.

CYRUS
Such a good girl, Sara, always so
willing to help please others,
bringing joy into their lives
without even trying. Brightening
the lives of others just by being
around.

Sara finishes taping JJ's other wrist.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
That's it, teamwork. Again.
Doesn't it feel good?

Cyrus motions his gun for Sara to back up and sit down. She does.

SARA
What the hell do you want from
me?

CYRUS
What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

You already took everyone closest to me. What else could you possibly get from me?

CYRUS

Well, according to you, I just want to make myself feel better by going after someone I think I can take.

Sara looks like she regrets analyzing him.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

According to you, I just want to make myself feel more like a man by using a knife where I can't use... anything else. Right?

Sara stays silent.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

But we both know what I really want, don't we?

Cyrus leans in behind JJ and speaks right next to her ear.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I wanna play a game.

JJ holds back from sobbing aloud but tears stream down her face.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now, like last time there are three choices, number one we--

JJ

Wait, what? What do you mean?

CYRUS

Oh yeah, Sara probably never told about that night and how things really went down, did she? Tell me, JJ, what do you know about it?

JJ

I just know that you knocked on the door, killed Sara's dad and then her mom.

CYRUS

Really, is that all?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

She doesn't like to talk about it.

CYRUS

Really? Well, I can imagine. I doubt I'd feel too comfortable telling people that I'd killed my own mother in order to save my own skin, either.

JJ

What?

JJ looks at Sara in disbelief. Sara doesn't look away from Cyrus.

CYRUS

Oh yeah, see, I might have crashed the party and laid the ground rules, but it was Sara that chose to play.

JJ looks back and forth between Sara and Cyrus.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

With Sara and her mother, I put a knife in the middle of the table, and told them that one would have to kill the other in order to survive, and that if they chose not to play, that I'd shoot them both. And being a man of my word, Sara is still alive.

JJ

Sara.

CYRUS

You see, I'm not just a pain and pleasure kinda guy, I want to know that the person is still hurting long after it's all over. So the deal is, one kills the other, or I kill you both. It's that simple. And Sara here, well Sara was actually the only one who ever went through with it. None of the others did.

JJ

(to Sara)

How could you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

She told me to do it, my mother.
She told me it was her or both of
us and either way she was dead.

CYRUS

What an excuse.

SARA

She begged me to do it.

CYRUS

I've got a feeling that JJ isn't
the type to sacrifice herself,
and we all know that Sara is
willing to do whatever it takes
to survive, so, this time the
game will be a little different.
I will strap Sara to her chair
then whomever gets free of their
binds first gets to kill the
other one and live to see another
day.

JJ breathes in heavy and fast, like she's ready for it.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Sound fair?

Cyrus approaches Sara gently.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

You know what to do.

Cyrus is right next to her.

SARA

Yeah, I do.

Sara grabs the KETTLE and WHACKS him around the head with
it and runs around the other side of the table.

Cyrus goes after her from the other direction, Sara knocks
over a stool and Cyrus trips over it sending him over.

JJ

(yelling after Sara)
Sara, where are you going? Don't
leave me.

INT. HALLWAY

Sara runs to the front door and unlocks the door, she takes
out the keys and opens it to run when ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cyrus' hands SLAMS it shut with one hand and bangs Sara's head up against it with the other. She knees him in the balls and grabs a nearby lamp, SMASHING it over his head and breaking his grip. She runs up the stairs.

INT. LANDING

Cyrus gives chase and Sara pulls a picture frame off of the wall and throws it down onto Cyrus' head and he slips back down a few steps, it smashes all over the place.

Sara grabs a small ornament from the window-sill at the top of the stairs and throws it at him... Cyrus CATCHES it and throws it back, hitting Sara in the head. She clutches her head and blood trickles out through her fingers and down her forearm.

Sara throws one last picture frame at Cyrus, hitting him in the face and knocking him over, then runs into her bedroom.

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Sara closes the door and pushes her bed up against the back of the door. As soon as it's safely in place there is a massive THUD sound against it as Cyrus charges at it from the other side.

Sara holds the bed in place as she looks around the room for a weapon. Cyrus continues to kick and punch against the door.

Sara runs over to the window and opens it. She looks down. It's a long way.

CRASH! Sara looks back at the door to see a LARGE CRACK now appears across the wooden door as Cyrus has put enough force into it to break it a little.

Sara puts one foot onto the window-sill then looks back into the room.

EXT. LANDING

Cyrus takes a run up and puts all his weight into charging against the door. It BREAKS and he climbs into the room.

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Cyrus climbs in over the back of the bed. He sees the window is open and runs over to it. He looks down.

Sara rolls out from under the bed and takes aim at Cyrus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cyrus turns around just in time to see Sara charging at him. She KNOCKS into him full force and sends him flying out of the upstairs window.

Sara looks out and sees him land hard on his back. He moves a second then stops. Dead? ... His leg moves.

Sara runs to the door and climbs out over the broken wood.

INT. LANDING

Sara jumps out of her room and runs straight into...

INT. BATHROOM

Sara runs in and ELBOWS the vanity mirror, smashing it into large and small pieces. She looks around for something, she sees a small towel and wraps it around her hand and picks up a LARGE KNIFE-LIKE shaped piece of mirror and exits the room.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ is crying and pulling at her binds. We hear Sara's footsteps as she runs down the stairs. JJ stops crying at the sound and calls in fear.

JJ
Oh my God, no!

Sara appears and JJ instantly seems a little calmer. Sara goes straight for the window and looks out.

JJ (CONT'D)
Oh God, Sara, help me, please!

Sara sees Cyrus struggling to roll himself over. She runs over to the door and UNLOCKS it.

SARA
Flatten your hand and pull.

JJ
What? Sara, please, I'm sorry.

Sara exits the kitchen door and storms out like Ripley from 'Alien' on a mission.

EXT. BACK OF HOUSE

Sara charges out the back door and down the steps to look for Cyrus ... only to find Cyrus MISSING from where he landed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Shit.

She takes a 360 look around but doesn't see anything until...

INT. KITCHEN

JJ flattens her hand and pulls it. It gives way a little. She pulls at it harder and frees a hand. She pulls at the other hand.

EXT. HOUSE

Sara creeps quietly through the shadows in search of Cyrus when a NOISE sounds. She turns to see CYRUS CHARGING HER.

Cyrus knocks into Sara like a pro-Footballer and knocks them both over to the ground. Sara rolls back onto her feet and KICKS the crouching Cyrus in the face then runs around the other side of the house. Cyrus gets up and gives chase.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ frees herself and runs quickly EXITS.

INT. HALLWAY

JJ runs to the front door and LOCKS it. Just as she finishes SARA appears at the glass.

SARA

JJ, let me in.

JJ

No, you left me, and he only wants you.

SARA

JJ, he'll kill us both, now open the door.

JJ

No, he just wants you, and you wouldn't call for help, so it's your fault.

SARA

JJ, you have the phone now. If you wanna call someone you can, just let me--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara is cut off by the sound of Cyrus creeping up on her.

CYRUS
Come here, you little bitch.

SARA
JJ.

JJ
I'm sorry.

Cyrus SLAMS Sara up against the door. JJ sees and backs up away from it. Cyrus grabs Sara's hair and BANGS her head against the glass. JJ runs back into the kitchen.

Sara pushes an arm against Cyrus' throat and SCRAPES her glass blade across his face, cutting him deep. He loses his grip a little and Sara HEAD-BUTTS him, knocking him back. She breaks free and runs back around the side of the house.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ is looking at the phone when she hears something outside. She looks out of the blinds to see Sara running to hide.

JJ pulls the keys from her pocket. She looks as if she has an idea and looks towards the front door.

EXT. HOUSE

Sara slips into the shadows and Cyrus appears on scene to look for her.

CYRUS
You can't hide from me forever,
you know. You have to come out
sometime.

Sara watches him from the darkness.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
Face it, you have no one now.
Your mother's gone, your Daddy's
gone, now JJ doesn't want you for
betraying her and tying her up
like that, and then leaving her
strapped to that chair to be left
alone with me. I'm all you have
now, Sara. So how about you come
out and we finish this. I can
reunite you with your parents and
this can have a happy ending?

INT. COP CAR

The door opens and JJ enters, she sticks the keys in the ignition and turns it. The radio goes off.

RADIO VOICE

Available units, we have a report of two men in prison overalls heading towards the Newport bridge, please respond. Over.

JJ grabs the police radio and speaks into it.

JJ

Hello, is anybody there? Please, we need help.

EXT. BACK YARD

Sara slowly makes her way through the darkest areas in the yard so's not to be seen by Cyrus, whom we can HEAR in the background.

CYRUS

I can still remember your mom screaming in pain through her gag as I sliced across her shoulder blades, and how your daddy could only sit there, bleeding out.

A tear rolls down Sara's face as she slowly approaches Cyrus from behind.

EXT. HOUSE

A pair of hands search the dead cops' pockets. His uniform is open and we can see a white t-shirt under it.

CYRUS (O.C.)

Do you ever wonder, what might have been if you'd just taken the risk and come at me with the knife instead?

Success. Something, hidden by shadows, is pulled from one of the pockets.

EXT. BACK YARD

Sara picks up a potted plant. Cyrus stands waiting for an answer under the back light.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

Well? Don't you have anything to say?

Sara appears behind Cyrus, plant pot held high.

SARA

Yeah.

Cyrus turns and Sara brings the pot down hard on his face, KNOCKING him down.

SARA (CONT'D)

Shut the fuck up.

Sara runs towards the bottom of the garden. Cyrus stands, yells and gives chase after her.

Sara gets to the fence at the end of the yard and tries to climb it. She gets about 70% of the way before Cyrus catches up to her. He grabs her by the legs and pulls her back down and SWEEPS her to the ground. He mounts himself over her, grabs her wrist and SMASHES her glass weapon against the ground. It breaks.

CYRUS

More fight in you than your mother, that's for sure.

Sara struggles and Cyrus punches her in the face.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I'm sure you know already, but God, do you ever look like her. I gotta say, I was surprised when you actually stepped up to the plate and stuck that knife in her. I was actually looking forward to gutting her, but, oh well, can't have them all.

Sara tries to get herself up and Cyrus grabs her wrists and leans his weight forward over her.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Don't bother, it's no use.

Sara lifts her hips to try and get Cyrus off, but he just sits down hard on her, pinning her back to the floor.

SARA

You're a psychopath.

CYRUS

Ha! No shit. Well, it's been nice torturing you again.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I'd love to do it again sometime
but, sad to say, this is the part
where you die.

Cyrus forces Sara's hands together and sits on them.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Thanks for securing JJ so well,
I'm gonna have some fun with her.

Cyrus raises his knife high above his head.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Say hello to your mother.

BANG! A gun shot sounds and Cyrus is thrown to the ground
revealing JJ, cop gun in hand, standing behind him.

Sara scrambles to her feet and looks down at him a beat.
She holds her hands out to JJ for the gun. JJ goes to give
it her when Cyrus STANDS and JJ turns back towards him and
fires all rounds of the fresh clip into his chest.

Cyrus drops to the floor and JJ continues to squeeze the
trigger even after doing so results in 'Clicks' as the
chamber becomes empty.

Sara and JJ stand staring at each other not quite sure what
to say until JJ breaks the silence.

JJ

I radioed for help.

SARA

Okay.

JJ

From the car.

SARA

Good.

JJ

With the keys you gave me.

Sara nods.

SARA

Are you okay?

JJ

I killed someone.

SARA

Good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ
Am I going to hell?

SARA
You saved me.

JJ
Really?

SARA
Again.

JJ looks down at Cyrus. Sara takes the gun from JJ, puts her arm around her and leads her back up the garden towards the house. Their voices slowly fade out as they get further away.

SARA (CONT'D)
You locked me out.

JJ
I know. You tied me up.

SARA
Yeah, I did.

JJ
Why?

SARA
To stop him from killing you when I made a break for it.

JJ
You were gonna run all along?

SARA
How else would I get us help?

JJ
Phone?

SARA
Sorry.

MOVE IN SLOWLY ON CYRUS as we hear the girls talking in the background.

JJ
Did you have a plan all along?

SARA
No, I just ran out of options.

JJ
Oh, okay, so that's when you call for help?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA
I'm sorry I left you.

JJ
You better be, I think I've shit
my pants a little.

Sara laughs.

JJ (CONT'D)
It's not funny, I'm serious. I'm
gonna need to borrow some
clothes.

Cyrus breathes. He grabs at the front of his prison issue
jump suit and RIPS it open to reveal the word POLICE
written on the bullet-proof vest.

He sits up 'Boogy-man' style and heads slowly towards the
house. The girls can't see what's right behind them as we
CRANE SHOT into the air.

We watch Cyrus as he makes his way towards the house as
Sara and JJ slowly head to it's safety. They don't notice
what is happening behind them.

Over the top of the house we see FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS
followed by a stream a police cars heading for the house.

The girls enter the back door of the house, but leave it
wide open. Cyrus is approaching it. He's almost there...

CUT TO BLACK: