

THE TROPHY HUNTERS

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FADE IN:

EXT. ISLE OF EIGG - DAY

SUPER: "Isle of Eigg, Scotland, Present Day"

From a helicopter, we see the whole island on a cold winter's day.

NARRATOR

Nestled in the Inner Hebrides, Eigg is one of the Small Isles. The island is just nine kilometres long and five kilometres wide.

(beat)

But who knew such a peaceful looking place could have such a violent past.

We zoom in on Kildonan.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

In 617, every monk in the monastery at Kildonan were massacred by the local tribal queen from the mainland.

We zoom in on Galmisdale.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

In medieval times the island was held by Clan Donald, or MacDonalDs, as we say. But in 1577 a party of MacLeods staying on the island became too amorous with the local girls. The MacDonalDs killed several MacLeods, but some escaped, and came back with a mighty force.

We zoom in on Massacre Cave (south coast).

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The MacDonalDs hid in a long cave, so the MacLeods created a bonfire at the entrance to smoke them out.

(beat, angry)

Three hundred and ninety-five MacDonalDs killed in Massacre Cave, the whole population of the island, save one woman who swore revenge.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

(angrier still)

And it would have all remained buried, had a certain paleontologist not gone digging around the island for Woolly Mammoths.

EXT. DIG SITE - DAY

SUPER: Three weeks earlier

ALEX (Alexandra) MACLEOD (33), a beautiful but bitter Scottish paleontologist in winter clothes, brushes dirt from a mammoth hip in a shallow pit. Her overweight, lovable border collie, BEL, sits beside her. It is uncomfortably cold, dark, and damp. Alex LOOKS more puzzled with each brushing. A raven CAWS in the distance. Bel GROWLS.

ALEX

Just a bird. Quiet up, Bel! We're alone again. Like yesterday.

Alex looks up from brushing to STARE at her dog.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I know. My idea. Come out a weekend early before the reinforcements.

Alex points at the mammoth hip.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Wait 'til they see this!

We HEAR a goat (or something) CRUNCH twigs as it walks in the deep ravine. Bel GROWLS again. HERB BROWN (65, weathered Game Warden) STALKS Alex from behind. Bel GROWLS again.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Probably a goat. Quiet up, now. Help me find a damn projectile point.

Alex HEARS twigs breaking under Herb's feet and turns around with her trowel as a weapon. She SEES it's Herb.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Hi, Mr. Brown. You startled me.

Herb is perpetually angry. Today is no different.

HERB

Scouting for poachers. Come by boat or sea planes these days.

Herb approaches slowly with a rifle in hand.

ALEX

(rudely)

Haven't seen anyone. Need to check my digging permit again?

Angry with her question.

HERB

Nye. Seen it three years ago. Professor Alexandra MacLeod. University of Manchester. Islanders never forget. Find that elephant?

ALEX

Call me Alex. And it's a Woolly Mammoth. Heavy as an elephant. Shoulders up to three metres high. Giant tusks. Yep. Found the hip right here.

HERB

Who kilt it, Alex? Poachers?

ALEX

Not sure yet. Somebody, probably ten-thousand years ago.

HERB

How'd it git here? On the island, I meaning?

ALEX

Walked. Sea level was a hundred feet lower back then. It walked from the mainland. Hunters followed.

HERB

God damn poachers, I bet.

Herb ambles off like a hunter. Alex takes a trowel and DIGS deeper in the hole.

ALEX

(angry)

Projectile points got to be here somewhere! If I was a god-damn male professor, I'd have permanent contract two years ago!

EXT. FERRY BOAT - DAY

Crusty old ferryboat Scottish CAPTAIN (75; long beard, raincoat, hard of hearing) crosses choppy seas with four passengers: British Professor PERRY HENDRIX (75, wool suit and overcoat, pipe); British MARTIE SMITH (26) half-black, beautiful, but butch female; SUNNY MING (19) sexy Asian-Scottish female; and TREVOR ROSS (19) an upper-class Brit, shivering. They all have backpacks, except the old professor. Trevor's backpack is bright blue, the others are green. The three students each sit on large PLASTIC CONTAINERS marked as "FOOD," "CAMPING SUPPLIES," and "FIELD EQUIPMENT." They have to yell to be heard over the ROAR of the motor and CRASHING of waves against the boat. Martie introduces the group to the Captain.

MARTIE

Thanks for taking us out to The Isle of Eigg, Captain. I'm Martie Smith, Professor MacLeod's R.A.

CAPTAIN

R.A.?

MARTIE

Research Assistant. You know Professor-Emeritus Perry Hendrix.

CAPTAIN

Huh!

MARTIE

(loudly)
Professor-Emeritus Perry Hendrix.

CAPTAIN

Aye. Known him fifty years. What's Meritus?

HENDRIX

Emeritus. Means I'm retired, you old goat.

MARTIE

And these two are first-year volunteers, Trevor Ross and Sunny Ming.

Trevor and Sunny WAVE. The Captain GRUNTS, disapprovingly.

CAPTAIN

Hope this ain't a one-way trip.

TREVOR
 (shivering)
 Whatcha mean?

CAPTAIN
 Huh?

TREVOR
 (loudly)
 What do you mean?

CAPTAIN
 Gettin' back to the island's gonna
 be tough. Bad time of year!

HENDRIX
 Told MacLeod not to go out there.

MARTIE
 It's just three days. We'll be
 fine.

CAPTAIN
 Winter's come early.

HENDRIX
 She doesn't listen to me.

Trevor and Sunny see Martie SMILE.

MARTIE
 Aye. Don't listen to anybody. It's
 what I love about her.

TREVOR
 Wait 'til she sees there's only
 three of us!

Old Professor Hendrix GLARES at Trevor.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
 Four of us. Sorry, Professor.

SUNNY
 Wait 'til she sees it's us. Only
 one-semester in for Trevor and me.

HENDRIX
 She's expecting eight, seasoned
 diggers, and not me, that's for
 sure.

MARTIE

Can't think of a better way to spend the Christmas Break.

SUNNY

Me Da and Mum just shrugged, as usual.

TREVOR

That's my flatmate! They expected you to be an engineering major.

SUNNY

Or pre-med, but never a paleontologist. Tell 'em about your Da and Mum, Trevor.

TREVOR

They're royals. I told you this story. Ain't seen 'em since our African safari almost a year ago.

SUNNY

That's right.

MARTIE

Last year, me Da and Mum caught me shooting squirrels for fuckin' fun. Called me a horse's arse, they did.

SUNNY

So a squirrel died?

MARTIE

Hundreds of 'em. I hate 'em. I saved their tails. They were the arses. I had me a bloody good time.

TREVOR

My folks is angry 'cause they wanted me to be strictly upper-class, like them. I wanted to make it on my own. Huge disappointment -- white sheep of the family among the blue-bloods. Right?

Martie and Sunny CHUCKLE. Martie GRASPS a heart-shaped locket around her neck.

SUNNY

Me Da and Mum think I'm crazy.

MARTIE

Mine say I'm trouble.

TREVOR
 (laughing)
 Mine think I'm bloody dangerous and
 fuckin' trouble.

The Captain thinks he is being spoken to.

CAPTAIN
 If'n a storm blows in, you're all
 in trouble.

MARTIE
 We got our phones. Professor
 MacLeod will call if we need you.

CAPTAIN
 If'n it's choppiier than this, don't
 bother. Even that old Game Warden,
 Herb MacDonald's leavin' soon.

Hendrix SHARES his FLASK of scotch with the Captain.

HENDRIX
 You took me out to Eigg fifty years
 ago in worse seas than this.

CAPTAIN
 Aye. Nearly killed us both, and you
 didn't go back much!

Old Professor Hendrix STARES at the island as they approach.
 He SHAKES with Parkinson's, but the others SEE terror in
 Hendrix's eyes.

EXT. DIG SITE - DAY

Alex is frustrated, digging with a trowel, finding dirt.

ALEX
 I know you're in here somewhere.
 Carved ivory spearheads? Chipped
 flint blades? Where the hell are
 you? Blasted!

Alex digs and brushes the top of a front leg bone, and sees
 it is missing a finger bone. It ENDS abruptly in the soil.
 Alex PAUSES, puzzled.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 What? You can't just end there!

Alex brushes the partial finger bone. It looks perfectly
 sawed, as if by a modern surgeon.

Alex GRABS a MAGNIFYING GLASS and STARES in disbelief. She TOSSES down the magnifying glass and DIGS frantically.

A hundred metres away, the two ASSASSINS (30s), perfectly camouflaged and ten metres apart, lay behind sniper rifles and spotting scopes. They text each other. Assassin #1's text reads, "New camouflage fuckin' works, and Cousin said the new metal and heat sensors in the drone work great. They gonna be freaked." Assassin #2 text reads, "I'm taking fingers this time. Just fuckin' with the lady scientist. The nighttime technology tests are all I care about!" Assassin #1's angrily sends a text reply, "Don't forget why we're here. Cousin is paying a hundred thousand pounds for this job!"

ALEX (CONT'D)

You can't end there, you wanker
finger bone. Ivory and stone tools
don't cut that well! Cut looks
fresh!

She continues to DIG and BRUSH. She takes a photo of the smooth finger cut with a metre-stick (centimeters) for scale. Alex pets Bel.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What the bloody hell is going on
here, Bel? Do ya think fossil
hunters beat me to it yesterday?
Contaminated site? There goes any
hope of a permanent contract!

They HEAR TWIGS CRACKLE in the nearby ravine. Bel BARKS.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Something's bloody strange about
this!

Storm clouds MOVE IN.

ALEX (CONT'D)

We better rig a tarp over the site.
If it fills in with mud, we're
screwed. Damn it!

We HEAR wind howl.

EXT. DOCK - DAY

The research team unloads and helps old Professor Hendrix off the ferryboat. The Captain is in a hurry to shove off.

CAPTAIN

Told ya. Winter's come early.

HENDRIX

Careful with me. Only one good knee.

MARTIE

We'll call if the weather gets worse.

CAPTAIN

What?

MARTIE

(loudly)

We'll call if the weather gets worse.

CAPTAIN

Your damn phones won't work in a storm.

Trevor and Sunny set down their plastic boxes and whip out their cell phones. They read, "No Service."

TREVOR

Great!

HENDRIX

We can do without phones. Just be back here an hour after sunrise three days from now, Captain.

MARTIE

When the weather clears a little, we'll have reception.

SUNNY

By spring?

CAPTAIN

Old cabin used to have a short-wave. Game Warden has one on the other side of the island.

MARTIE

Game Warden. Right! For back up. See you in three days, Captain. Hour past dawn!

CAPTAIN

Aye! An hour past dawn. Now, shove off!

They push and kick the small ferryboat away, and it heads off, as the Captain WAVES to no one. Hendrix removes his FLASK and takes another swig.

HENDRIX

Looks like rain. Where is that old cabin, again?

MARTIE

(yells)

Three kilometers up the trail. Grab your backpacks and a container and let's move out!

The wind howls. Sunny and Trevor, with heavy backpacks and lifting heavy plastic containers lag behind.

SUNNY

(sarcastic)

Maybe I should have been an engineer.

TREVOR

You're Asian, ain't you?

SUNNY

Half-Asian. Half-Scot. I got all my math problems half-right. Maybe we're a lot alike?

TREVOR

We're flatmates, but we're nothing alike.

SUNNY

I mean, we turned out different from our parents.

TREVOR

Divorced royals. Neither wanted custody. No shite!

SUNNY

(laughing)

One bust for armed robbery and Da never trusted me again. And Ma believed in retroactive birth control.

TREVOR

You such a bullshitter, Sunny. But what's Martie's problem?

SUNNY

She's crushing on Professor MacLeod
in class, but MacLeod is straight.

TREVOR

(disgusted)

Boozing old man, a cruel
taskmaster, a bullshitter, and
bitter Professor! I'm in the Land
of Misfit Toys!

Sunny LOOKS around.

SUNNY

All we need is the Loch Ness
monster!

TREVOR

See what I mean, you're a
bullshitter. Trouble!

SUNNY

What until tonight, when old-man
Hendrix tells Professor MacLeod
that she didn't get a permanent
contract!

TREVOR

How'd you hear that?

SUNNY

Hendrix let it slip when I picked
him up at his house this morning.
He packed two extra bottles of
scotch. I just hope he doesn't die
on the way up the trail.

TREVOR

Poor Professor MacLeod.

SUNNY

Some way to spend Christmas Break,
huh?

The RAIN begins to fall.

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

An old, dilapidated cabin is the only thing separating Alex
and Bel from the storm. A small FIRE burns in an old stove,
with a tea pot atop, steaming. Two small, twin beds are on
either side. Three wood chairs and a small table fill the
cabin.

Aided by a GAS LANTERN, Alex writes in her notebook, as Bel starts to GROWL. Alex opens the door to the cabin, but SEES nothing.

ALEX
Who's there?
(yells)
I said, who's there?

WIND and RAIN fill the view. We HEAR thundering footsteps. Finally, we HEAR human GRUNTS.

TREVOR
Professor MacLeod? It's me, Trevor Ross. From your Intro to Paleontology class. Others are further behind.

Trevor appears, carrying his bright blue backpack and two large plastic bins.

ALEX
All eight of you?

TREVOR
Only four, if you count Professor Hendrix.

Trevor reaches the front door of the cabin.

ALEX
Four? We can't complete the dig with four! And Hendrix? What's he doin' here?

TREVOR
Don't know. I'm going back to help him up the trail. One knee is shot.

Trevor begins to head back as Alex DRAGS the two plastic bins inside. When she GRABS Trevor's bright blue backpack, he RACES back and takes it from her.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
I'll keep an eye on my personal gear, if that's okay.

Alex is caught off-guard.

ALEX
Sure, Trevor. No problem. I'll put on some hot soup and tea.

Trevor throws on his backpack, and RACES down the trail. Bel GROWLS.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Don't growl. He's cold, tired, and cranky. You should be used to that!

She PETS Bel, and puts a large pot on the stove.

Ten minutes later, Bel GROWLS again. Alex SNAPS her fingers, and the dog RACES to the corner of the cabin, and lies down.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Quiet up, Bel. Be nice! These are our guests, and we need them to dig.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

ALEX (CONT'D)
It's open, come in.

Alex RACES to help Hendrix, who is held up by Trevor.

HENDRIX
I'm too old for this shite.

ALEX
Professor Hendrix, I didn't expect to see you. Where's Martie?

Martie approaches the cabin, helped by Sunny.

MARTIE
Slipped on the wet trail. Sprained my ankle. I'm fine.

SUNNY
Didn't sound fine on the trail!

ALEX
Sunny Ming? From my Intro class?

SUNNY
Yes, but I'll try harder in field work.

ALEX
Try to find the first-aid kit in the camping gear and help me immobilize Martie's ankle.

Sunny finds the first-aid kit in the container marked "CAMPING SUPPLIES," but is bewildered. Alex tapes Martie's ankle. Martie winces in pain, but loves Alex's hands on her.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Where are all the grad students?

HENDRIX

We need to talk, Alex.

They gather around the stove. Everyone looks GLOOMY. Hendrix pulls out a bottle of scotch from his overcoat pocket, refills his flask, takes a swig from the bottle, and passes it to Alex.

ALEX

What's this about?

HENDRIX

Didn't get a permanent contract.

ALEX

What?

Alex hands to scotch Martie, who SMILES warmly at Alex, but Alex is PACING furiously.

HENDRIX

Your grad students scrambled for new advisors.

MARTIE

All I could recruit were these two first-year's.

Sunny and Trevor WAVE and SMILE. Martie takes a swig and hands the bottle to Sunny. Sunny doesn't drink, and hands the bottle to Trevor who does.

HENDRIX

The Dean gave you six months to publish something spectacular!

ALEX

Found something unusual today. Which means I may have a contaminated site. Fossil poachers may have beat me to the site!

MARTIE

What?

ALEX

Found the mammoth I was looking for
last summer.

SUNNY

What was so unusual that you found?

ALEX

It's what I didn't find.

Hendrix's EYES OPEN WIDE, like he'd seen a ghost.

HENDRIX

Didn't find?

ALEX

I dug and brushed down from the leg
to a perfectly severed finger bone.

Alex CHOPS at her upper thigh with her hand. Hendrix almost
faints. He falls back, caught by Trevor.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Can't find a blade of any kind. No
ivory. No flint. No stone tools,
and the sharpest cut I've ever seen
on any fossil! Anywhere!

MARTIE

No scratches? Must be scratches.

ALEX

Nothing!

HENDRIX

Get me my scotch back!

Trevor hands Hendrix the scotch, who CHUGS several gulps.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

We're going back to the mainland
tomorrow!

ALEX

I need this dig. I'm staying!

MARTIE

I'll stay, Professor MacLeod.

HENDRIX

Not with that ankle. Might be
broken.

Sunny CHECKS her phone.

SUNNY

No service.

HENDRIX

We'll call out on the Game Warden's radio in the morning. Storm won't last.

Alex CONFRONTS the tipsy Professor Hendrix.

ALEX

Why is the most famous professor on mammoth kill sites so anxious to leave?

HENDRIX

Nothing to be added on the topic. Contaminated site.

ALEX

You taught me there is always something new to learn.

HENDRIX

You're wasting your time! Fossil poachers ruined your find! There will be a blade in that hole or scratch marks somewhere. Same tired story.

ALEX

But, I've got to know!

HENDRIX

That's why you didn't get a permanent contract. Too much digging. Not enough writing, damn it!

Alex GRABS the scotch from Hendrix, and takes a swig.

ALEX

I'm onto something. I can feel it!

They HEAR eerie noises outside. Bel BARKS.

SUNNY

What was that?

ALEX

Bats probably.

Trevor and Martie check their phones.

MARTIE

No signal!

TREVOR

Nothing.

Sunny and Alex check their phones.

ALEX

How can this be?

HENDRIX

We should get out of here.

Alex holds the gas lantern and PAWS through the two big plastic containers marked: "Field Equipment" and "Camping Gear."

ALEX

Where's the food container?

MARTIE

When I twisted my ankle in the ravine, we had to leave the one container down the trail. It was raining and cold. I didn't know which container we left behind.

TREVOR

Want me to fetch it?

ALEX

Without a working cell phone for safety. No way.

(beat)

We'll feast on my soup and tea, the Professor's scotch will be dessert, and we'll get the food in the morning.

Hendrix STARES out the window. He's worried.

HENDRIX

Isn't there a short-wave radio?

ALEX

Decommissioned it last summer. Everybody had cell phones. Game Warden's got the only radio -- on the other side of the island.

TREVOR

(mumbles)

What if it's dead, too?

MARTIE

Hate to be a bother, but I could use help to the shitter.

ALEX

Sunny and I will help you. Then we'll have the soup, and get some sleep.

Sunny and Alex help Martie to her feet. She WINCES in pain.

MARTIE

I'm so sorry.

ALEX

(light-hearted)

Accidents happen. Wait 'til you see the size of the university medical report you gotta fill out! It'll make your dissertation look like a Tweet.

The trip to the outhouse is dark, slow, cold, and scary.

SUNNY

Maybe I'll hold it until we get home tomorrow.

ALEX

You can all go back. I'm staying to finish the dig.

MARTIE

I was afraid you'd say that!

They HEAR a GUST of wind. Bel BARKS, then stops barking.

Minutes later, Hendrix and Martie are in the two beds, and Alex, Sunny, and Trevor are in sleeping bags on the floor.

ALEX

Tell us about your first trip to the Isle of Eigg, Professor.

HENDRIX

I'd rather not.

MARTIE

Fifty years ago?

TREVOR

Even my parents weren't born.

HENDRIX

Paleontology was different. More like prospecting. Now with ground-penetrating radar, it's like kids hunting Easter eggs.

ALEX

He knows it's not that easy.

HENDRIX

I know. I know. But it was crude back then. No GPS to guide you. No cell phone to call for help.

SUNNY

Sounds familiar!

HENDRIX

I was out to find evidence of the first human hunting parties from the mainland.

ALEX

And he did. A dozen sites with musk ox, woolly mammoths, red deer, even an ancient reindeer. Made him famous.

HENDRIX

You're all familiar with stone tools. Every site had projectile points of some kind.

MARTIE

Every last one of 'em, Professor?

Hendrix takes a drink from his flask.

HENDRIX

Every one!

ALEX

So, if my dig site was compromised by fossil poachers and I don't find projectile points, I'm screwed.

HENDRIX

I'm sorry!

TREVOR

What if the hunters didn't damage their projectile points and kept them?

HENDRIX

Highly unlikely. You know the surest way the paleo-hunters killed a mammoth?

Everyone is glued to Hendrix telling his story.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

The bravest hunter would take a spear -- thick shaft about two-metres long, with a twenty-decimetre flint blade sharp enough to pierce any hide.

Sunny and Trevor GASP. Alex ROLLS her eyes.

SUNNY

Then what?

HENDRIX

The hunter would get the mammoth to chase him, then suddenly drop to the ground, roll, and as the monster was on top of him, he'd thrust the spear in below the chest and into the heart!

As Hendrix makes a thrusting move, Sunny and Trevor GASP again.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

Other hunters would finish him off.

TREVOR

What about the spear-thruster?

HENDRIX

If he lived, he was a hero. We don't know if there were many heroes.

SUNNY

What if Professor MacLeod's mammoth died of old age?

ALEX

There would still be scratch marks, or signs of scavengers afterward.

HENDRIX

(scoffs)

I don't believe it died of old age without a finger bone. Sounds like fossil poachers to me.

ALEX

I have photos -- but my camera's dead. So is my phone. But they're on the memory chips. I'll charge them with the generator tomorrow morning.

HENDRIX

(angry)

I'm telling you to let it go!

ALEX

We'll discuss it in the morning.
Good night!

They HEAR another GUST of wind. Bel BARKS, then stops barking. Everyone TOSSES and TURNS. The gas lantern goes out.

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - DAY

It's dawn. Trevor is gone, Martie WINCES in pain, and Sunny is asleep, as the two professors stir. Alex SEES that Trevor is gone, and she JUMPS out of her sleeping bag. She stares out the window to an overcast, but not stormy, day.

ALEX

Where's Trevor?

MARTIE

Sent him to get the food container.

ALEX

(angry)

You know the safety rules involving field work! No one goes anywhere alone!

MARTIE

I couldn't go. Sunny wouldn't wake up. She was up all night. Every little sound! Wimp!

HENDRIX

What's the matter?

ALEX

One of our first-years is missing.

Alex SHAKES Sunny.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Wake up, Sunny! I need you to go with me. Wake up!

SUNNY

Noises all night. No food. No sleep.

ALEX

We can't leave Trevor out there alone. University rules!

Sunny ties up her hiking boots, throws on a jacket and WOBBLER toward the door, while mumbling.

SUNNY

Can I go to the shitter alone, or do I need a chaperone? Or would that be a crap-erone? Can I crap alone, or can't I?

No one is amused.

ALEX

I'll join you for safety. Professor Hendrix, can you and Martie get a fire going and make tea?

HENDRIX

I was doing field work twenty years before you were born!

ALEX

I'll take that as a yes!

Alex STOPS before exiting the cabin.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You two stay put 'til we get back.

Bel BARKS, then stops. Bel and Alex exit the cabin to see Sunny exit the outhouse so FRIGHTENED that she is STIFF.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Sunny, what's wrong?

SUNNY

Heard something be-, be-, behind the shitter!

ALEX

A goat?

SUNNY

Bigger! Two of them!

ALEX
Hasn't been a bear out on this
island for centuries.

SUNNY
Strange shuffling around.

ALEX
Sure it wasn't the wind?

Alex LOOKS around, unconcerned. Sunny whispers.

SUNNY
Wind don't have pairs of feet, but
I didn't see nothin'!

ALEX
Stand here while I go, then we'll
go find Trevor.

SUNNY
Trevor. Hope he's okay.

Alex steps into the outhouse.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
Professor?

ALEX
Yes, Sunny.

SUNNY
It's not stormy any more. Why won't
my cell phone work? Generator's on
the blink too.

ALEX
You mean, no service?

SUNNY
I mean, no power, no nothin'! Dead
battery. Generator's a piece of
shit, too.

Alex can't start the generator. She exits the outhouse
frightened and wary.

ALEX
We gotta find Trevor!

They RUN down the trail.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Trevor (in shock) sits Indian-style with his bright blue backpack on, STARING out, as Alex and Sunny RUN to him.

ALEX
Trevor? You okay?

SUNNY
Trevor?

Trevor SOBS.

TREVOR
Just wanna go home.

ALEX
Captain will be back in just two more days!

TREVOR
I mean, home-home! Like other kids on Christmas Break.

SUNNY
Miss my Da and Mum, too.

Alex pats his shoulder.

ALEX
Afraid to face mine. Not getting a permanent contract.

TREVOR
Yeah. That sucks too. And my bloody phone don't work!

ALEX
Nobody's phone works. Maybe a satellite's out. Let's go find that food container, cook up a great breakfast, and get through these next two days.

TREVOR
Ain't no food container. Searched all over the ravine.

SUNNY
What?

ALEX
Maybe it was nudged by a goat, but it's gotta be there!

SUNNY
(mumbles)
Maybe we're not alone?

Alex scratches her head in disbelief.

ALEX
It's winter. Nobody's here. There's
the old Game Warden and us.

Trevor SNAPS.

TREVOR
Food container ain't where we left
it. No new footprints of any kind,
were around the site.

ALEX
Maybe somebody's here, but the rain
washed all the footprints away.

TREVOR
Maybe, but I don't like it. I'll
show ya!

ALEX
Great. Let's Go.

TREVOR
Then, I'm getting out of here!

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

They hike up the trail quickly. Half way to the cabin, in a
small ravine, Trevor stops and POINTS.

TREVOR
This is where Martie sprained her
ankle. That's where we put the
container. I carried the two other
bins to the cabin.

Alex and Trevor look for footprints in the mud, while Sunny
WALKS a few metres away into the ravine.

SUNNY
And I helped Martie.

ALEX
Here's where we left the food bin.
Then what?

TREVOR
See! No tracks!

Alex SQUATS and stares at the rain-soaked ground.

ALEX
There are a few crackers and some
tea in the other containers, but
we're going to have to some hunting
of our own.

TREVOR
The Isle of Eigg is a Game
Sanctuary. No hunting allowed.

ALEX
Our food's gone. We'll take only
one goat or a bird or two. Only
what we can eat.

They HEAR the CRACKLING of twigs as SEE a GUST of wind WHIRL
nearby, and they hear STOMPING, but they see no one! Bel
BARKS.

Sunny SCREAMS and POINTS. Herb Brown lies a few metres away
from Sunny. His rifle is by his side. Herb is shot in the
back and has one perfectly severed finger. The cut is
surgically straight. There is lots of blood. Sunny is in
SHOCK.

Alex and Trevor RACE to her side. Trevor SCREAMS and hides
his eyes. Alex HUGS Sunny.

TREVOR
Shit! Who's that?

ALEX
Herb MacDonald, the Game Warden.

SUNNY
I told you I heard something behind
the outhouse!

Assassin #1, is a hundred metres away behind a rock outcrop
with his rifle and spotting scope. He is breathing heavily.
He targets Alex, Sunny, and Trevor before relaxing.

Alex PICKS UP Herb's rifle and POINTS it at Trevor.

ALEX
Trevor, you were out here alone.

TREVOR

What? You think I killed him and took his finger, and took our food? That's messed up.

ALEX

We were all asleep in the cabin.

TREVOR

Any one of you could have snuck out, hid the food, and killed the old Scot.

Alex lowers the rifle.

ALEX

Guess so.

TREVOR

You're messed up!

Sunny breaks loose from Alex.

SUNNY

Yeah. That's messed up!

TREVOR

I'm getting off this island!

SUNNY

Me, too!

ALEX

Sorry. Stressed out. We have to report this right away!

A GUST of wind swirls nearby.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Somebody did this, and I don't think we're alone. But, that wind may be a common wind devil.

SUNNY

Great! Devils.

ALEX

Let's just get back to the cabin!

They start by walking, but soon they are RUNNING, and the STOMPING sounds and GUSTS of wind keep up with them, but at a distance. Alex, Sunny, and Trevor are terrified. Bel BARKS a lot.

EXT./INT. GUEST CABIN - DAY

Near the cabin, Sunny, who is the rear of the group slips and falls. Trevor keeps running, but Alex goes back to get her.

They STRUGGLE to get into the cabin.

Everyone is FRANTIC. Martie is in PAIN. Hendrix is TIPSY. Sunny is in SHOCK in the corner. Trevor and Alex are just plain SCARED. Martie is propped up with pillows on one bed.

ALEX

Martie, take this rifle and watch the door.

TREVOR

Why Martie?

ALEX

I know she didn't sneak out last night! And she can handle a rifle.

HENDRIX

What's going on?

ALEX

It was awful! The Game Warden was murdered.

TREVOR

And a finger was cut off.

Hendrix's EYES light up.

MARTIE

Somebody killed him?

SUNNY

Or some-thing!

ALEX

I don't get it? The severed finger bone?

TREVOR

All that blood! Who would do such a thing?

ALEX

We gotta call the constables!

Hendrix STARES out the window, then YELLS.

HENDRIX
You have to destroy it!

ALEX
What?

Hendrix faces Alex.

HENDRIX
Your mammoth site. Destroy it!
(beat)
Like I destroyed mine! Blew it up!

TREVOR
You mean, because of people who dig
up fossils and sell them to
collectors and museums?

HENDRIX
Fossil poachers probably killed the
Game Warden. They'll kill us if we
get in their way!

Everyone, but Sunny, crowds around Hendrix. Martie LIMPS over
in pain.

ALEX
But you could have saved the other
valuable fossils in the site. I
don't get it.

HENDRIX
I was young and scared. Fifty years
ago. A mammoth site on the other
side of the island.
(beat)
Damn poachers beat me to it!

ALEX
(angry)
So, you blew it up?

HENDRIX
Tusks gone. No projectile points.
God damn fossil poachers beat me to
the site!

ALEX
So you blew it up! So there's no
counter evidence to your human-
caused extinction theory! That's
bad science! You should be ashamed!

Sunny SPRINGS to life in a PANIC.

SUNNY

What if humans didn't kill them
all! What about UFOs? Aliens?

ALEX

(angry)

Or death by natural causes! I don't
believe any of this! There's no
evidence of UFOs or aliens.

TREVOR

How'd you explain the Game Warden's
body?

ALEX

This is crazy. You're all crazy!
I'm worried there's a murderer on
the island, and you're talking
about UFOs!

MARTIE

But Professor MacLeod, you said
your mammoth had a perfectly
severed finger bone!

Alex turns fiery mad.

ALEX

The dig is incomplete! I'm sure the
finger is there somewhere. And
projective points - like Professor
Hendrix says. Just gotta keep
digging!

Hendrix STARES of the window with a vacuous, worried look.

HENDRIX

Hope you're right.

ALEX

I gotta get to the Game Warden's
cabin across the island and call
out for help on his radio.

HENDRIX

(slurs)

I'll go with you.

ALEX

Professor, you stay here and watch
Martie and Sunny. I'll take Bel and
Trevor with me.

TREVOR
 (defensive)
 You still don't trust me!

Alex grabs a large knife from the table.

ALEX
 Trust you enough. Take the big
 shovel. Let's go. Back in an hour
 or two.
 (yells)
 Don't open this door for anyone!

Trevor GRABS a big shovel as he follows Alex outside. Inside,
 Sunny is SHAKEN. Martie cocks the rifle. Hendrix takes out
 his flask, drinks heavily, and stares out the window.

EXT. DIG SITE - DAY

Alex and Trevor RUN to the dig site. Alex STOPS and STARES at
 the missing finger bone, as Trevor SCRATCHES his head.

TREVOR
 Why we stoppin'?

ALEX
 I gotta know.

TREVOR
 We gotta call out on the radio for
 help!

Alex TURNS to Trevor.

ALEX
 I gotta know.

Alex paces four long strides from the hip bone, past the edge
 of the pit. She points to the ground.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Dig! Two feet down. Three at the
 most! Dig!

TREVOR
 But we learned to grid the site
 out, scrape slowly, and brush.

ALEX
 Dig, damn it! Fast as you can!

Trevor digs furiously.

TREVOR
What are we looking for?

ALEX
A skull! Tusks! Gotta be here!

TREVOR
This far from the hip?

ALEX
These beasts were huge! Dig!

TREVOR
How big?

ALEX
Skull half the size of a Volkswagen Bug. Ivory tusks as thick a man's leg, more than two-metres long. You gotta hit something.

TREVOR
I'll ruin your dig. This isn't right.

ALEX
Just dig!

Trevor doesn't dig too deep, but finds only soil. No bones. Alex paces from the hip again. The wind HOWLS. Bel looks that direction and GROWLS.

TREVOR
What's that?

ALEX
Wind. Keep digging.

Trevor DIGS like a mad man.

TREVOR
Nothin'.

ALEX
Gotta be here. Right there!

Alex collapses, almost in TEARS.

TREVOR
I'm sorry.

ALEX
That son-of-a-bitch Professor Hendrix knew!

TREVOR

Knew what?

ALEX

He knew fossil poachers had contaminated all the dig sites on the island. God damn him! Crazy old drunk! Let's go make that distress call on the Game Warden's short-wave radio. Leave the shovel.

TREVOR

I'll carry it!

They RACE off.

EXT./INT. GUEST CABIN - DAY

Martie aims the rifle at the front, Sunny holds an iron frying pan, and Hendrix hugs his flask, as the wind picks up outside the cabin.

Suddenly, they hear a man YELLING, and RUNNING toward the cabin.

LINUS

Open the door! Open the door!

Sunny OPENS the door PEEKS out. She SEES Constable LINUS RAVEN (35), a big Scottish brute of a man, DIVING toward the door. Linus is dressed in a wool sweater, peacoat, wool pants, and a wool knit beanie.

Instinctively, Sunny SWINGS the door open as Linus SOMERSAULTS in and KICKS the door shut.

Martie panics and PULLS the trigger on the rifle. It doesn't FIRE. Sunny RAISES her frying pan ready to strike, when they SEE Linus's BADGE.

LINUS (CONT'D)

I'm a policeman! Off duty. From Mallaig. Don't shoot me, or hit me with that pan!

Martie and Sunny STARE at Linus's badge.

MARTIE

I didn't mean to pull the trigger.

LINUS

If that was Herb MacDonald's rifle, he hasn't loaded bullets in the ten years I've been on the job!

SUNNY

Did you see his body?

LINUS

Why do you think I was scared? I don't carry a gun. Looks like the drug lords are back!

MARTIE

Drug lords?

LINUS

Island was used as a hub for heroin from Afghanistan into Great Britain. They didn't bother Herb, as long as he looked the other way!

HENDRIX

He must have stopped looking the other way!

LINUS

I've been looking for suspected drug dealers since the morning ferry. And my damn phone has no signal!

HENDRIX

You've known the Game Warden for ten years?

LINUS

We worked together. Used to. He tired of his job. Didn't report in last night or this morning. Not like Herb. And my office heard a rumor that a big drug deal might be going down. So I hopped the ferry from Mallaig.

HENDRIX

With that old Captain? And without a gun?

LINUS

Never needed one before, and when the Captain dropped me off, my phone didn't work.

(MORE)

LINUS (CONT'D)
I was yelling at him to turn
around, but he don't hear so good.

HENDRIX
He don't hear at all!

LINUS
He said he's coming back for you in
two more days.

MARTIE
I need medical attention! And we
need food!

HENDRIX
(angry at Martie)
Not to mention the dead Game
Warden. We want to get out of here.

LINUS
I heard strange winds out there. My
ancestors believe in evil spirits.

SUNNY
I told you!

HENDRIX
Spirits are a myth. The killer out
there is real!

LINUS
And I'm gonna find him! Who else is
on the island?

HENDRIX
Professor Alexandra MacLeod.

Linus's eyes light up, and he SMILES.

LINUS
Alex? Nice coincidence. Ran across
her last summer out here. Kinda
fell for that beautiful but bitter
paleontologist.

MARTIE
She's not bitter. She's
disappointed.

HENDRIX
In life! And, there's a second
student volunteer on the island.

SUNNY

Trevor Ross. They went to the Game Warden's cabin to use his radio to call out for help.

LINUS

I'd better get over there.

MARTIE

There's a killer loose! Nobody's safe.

SUNNY

And we don't have any food.

LINUS

Where's your food?

SUNNY

Somebody took it! Probably whoever killed the Game Warden.

LINUS

Captain said Herb don't get re-supplied 'til you leave in two days.

HENDRIX

Two days!

LINUS

Captain said an hour after dawn. Hope you can hunt.

MARTIE

Aren't you the hunter-type?

LINUS

I couldn't hunt a frozen turkey in a grocery store!

MARTIE

If nobody has bullets, we're all in a lot more trouble with a killer loose!

LINUS

Herb's killer weren't no regular killer. Took this finger! Trying to scare somebody!

Sunny, Martie, and Hendrix NOD their heads, "yes."

SUNNY

It worked!

LINUS

Back in an hour or two. Don't open that door!

Linus RACES off. Hendrix takes a drink and STARES out the window! He mumbles so no one hears him.

HENDRIX

Drug lords! Huh!

EXT. DIG SITE - DAY

Alex, Trevor, and Bel (the dog) arrive from one direction, and Linus Raven arrives from the other direction.

LINUS

Bel! Alex!

Bel runs to Linus and licks him like old friends. There is a bit of chemistry between Alex and Linus.

ALEX

You're the only one he does that too.

Linus goes to HUG Alex, but gets a cool response.

ALEX (CONT'D)

This is Trevor Ross. Sorry about Herb MacDonald. We're scared.

LINUS

You know about the drug lords?

Trevor and Alex have surprised looks.

ALEX

Drug lords? Here?

LINUS

Rumor has it that the Isle of Eigg has been a drug stepping-stone between Afghanistan and the UK for years.

TREVOR

You think they killed the Game Warden?

LINUS
I'll call for an emergency chopper
on Herb's radio?

TREVOR
Don't work.

LINUS
What?

TREVOR
Even with the generator?

ALEX
Both have been tampered with.

LINUS
No signal on my phone either.

ALEX
Figured out why?

LINUS
No. I'm scared too.
(points to the dig)
What did you find?

ALEX
Mammoth I located last summer.
After digging yesterday and today,
I found fossil poachers beat us
here. Took any projectile points
they found, a finger bone, skull,
and tusks. Arses!

LINUS
Huh? Herb was missing his finger.

TREVOR
And all that blood!

LINUS
Maybe the drug lords are gone
already.

ALEX
Don't know. You gotta gun?

LINUS
No bullets. But Herb kept a bow,
and some arrows under his porch.
Made his own arrows from flint.
Spearheads too.

TREVOR
Going hunting?

LINUS
We gotta defend ourselves, and
maybe eat.

ALEX
We took two bottled waters and one
can of corn. All he had. No food
anywhere!

LINUS
Maybe Herb was expecting gifts from
the drug lords.

TREVOR
He had the day after tomorrow
circled on his calendar with the
word 'Re-supply' written.

ALEX
Captain's coming for us then.

LINUS
I'll run for the bow and arrows.
Maybe we can get us a drug dealer,
or a rabbit or two.

ALEX
Hurry back to our cabin. We need
you!

LINUS
Then I should get a little more
sugar, don't ya think?

Alex steps to him, hugs him, and kisses him once on the
cheek.

LINUS (CONT'D)
Like last summer? Please, please,
please, please.

Linus SMILES. Alex kisses him firmly on the lips.

ALEX
Happy now?

LINUS
Happier tonight.

Linus starts to RACE away.

ALEX
I've got field notes to write up
tonight.

Linus GLANCES back and SMILES as he races off.

Then, another GUST of wind hits twenty metres away. They hear footsteps in the distance. Bel BARKS like crazy! They hear the SQUEAL of an animal. Alex pulls out her kitchen knife.

ALEX (CONT'D)
What was that?

TREVOR
Uh oh!

Trevor RAISES his shovel to strike.

ALEX
Look!

A dead goat, missing one toe appears twenty metres away. Alex THROWS the knife as far as she can.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Drug dealers don't do that!

TREVOR
No they don't!

ALEX
(yells)
Drop everything and run!

Trevor THROWS the shovel, but is reluctant to leave his backpack.

TREVOR
I'm taking my stuff!

Trevor puts on his heavy backpack. They RACE to their cabin. Trevor is slowed by his heavy load. Bel BARKS a lot! They hear wind gusts all the way back. As they approach the cabin, Alex yells.

ALEX
Open the door. It's us! Open the
door!

Trevor is thirty steps behind Alex. Sunny cracks open the door. She sees the terror in Alex's face and throws open the door. Alex and Bel DIVE through the open door. Martie, confused, in pain, and terrified, AIMS the empty rifle at Bel. Bel turns toward the OPEN DOOR and BARKS like crazy.

Alex POPS up and TURNS to look at Trevor. They see and hear no one else.

Trevor DROPS, shot in the back. Alex slams the door. Everyone ducks in fright.

Silence.

Minutes later, Alex looks out. We SEE his BACKPACK with packages of drugs and a revolver hanging out. Alex SCREAMS!

Everyone ducks and whimpers.

We HEAR a GUST of wind and STOMPING in the distance.

Alex, Sunny, and Hendrix PEEK OUT OF the window.

They SEE Trevor's body without a trigger finger, his back and finger oozing blood. Bel BARKS like crazy. Everyone is terrified!

A moment later, it is eerily quiet by Trevor's body. In a moment of insanity or courage, Alex CRAWLS out to retrieve Trevor's backpack. A BAG of heroin is spilled open. Seeing the revolver is now gone, Alex leaves the backpack and RACES back to the cabin. She's TREMBLING, trying to look calm.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It's not drug dealers! Barricade
the doors and windows!

Alex and Hendrix PUSH the table in front of the door. Sunny stands the other mattress against the window.

MARTIE

What's going on? Someone tell me
what's going on?

HENDRIX

They killed one of your drug-
dealing first-year's, and took his
finger.

MARTIE

Trevor? Drugs? He was practically a
duke! Who killed him?

ALEX

Don't know. Couldn't see them!

Sunny ARMS herself with fireplace poker.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Put the poker back. They can sense metal. Martie, put the rifle down, too.

Alex COLLAPSES and covers her head with both hands.

MARTIE

I don't understand!

HENDRIX

None of us do!

Sunny replaces the fire poker.

SUNNY

What are we gonna do?

Alex PACES in the tiny cabin. Hendrix takes a second bottle of scotch out and takes a swig.

HENDRIX

I know what I'm gonna do!

ALEX

Maybe they can detect metal from great distances. Herb had a rifle! Trevor had a pistol! Get all the metal away from your body.

Alex takes off Bel's collar.

SUNNY

What?

ALEX

Cell phones, coins, keys, belts, metal buttons on jeans, ball-point pens, hair clips, anything metal!

Everyone begins to remove metal. Sunny removes her jeans and reaches under her shirt to remove her bra.

SUNNY

Underwire, okay!

HENDRIX

What good is this going to do? We can't even see them!

ALEX

They could be snipers. Like assassins who can shoot and kill from hundreds of metres away.

HENDRIX
Why take fingers?

ALEX
They're sick. Deranged.

SUNNY
So it's like there's nothing there?

MARTIE
(terrified)
How do they shoot from far away in
this wind?

ALEX
(quivering voice)
Like the Game Warden, the goat, and
Trevor. They can do it.

SUNNY
What do you suppose happened to
Constable Raven?

Everyone's head drops.

INT. GAME WARDEN'S CABIN - DAY

Constable Linus Raven barricades the cabin from attack. We SEE and stuffed Sika deer's head on one wall and a bear rug on the floor. He SNEAKS peeks out a small window. He SEES the same dead goat twenty metres from the cabin.

LINUS
I know bait when I see it! But
those aren't drug dealers.

Linus RACES to a small generator but can't start it. It's hooked to a short-wave radio. The radio is silent, but Linus yells anyway.

LINUS (CONT'D)
This is Constable Linus Raven,
Mallaig Police. May Day, The Isle
of Eigg. Armed response is needed!

Linus moves the mattress and peeks out the window. The dead goat is gone. He RACES back to the radio.

LINUS (CONT'D)
Help! May Day! The Isle of Eigg.
Armed response is needed!

Linus trembles under a mattress.

Through the hole in the cabin's wall, he sees Alex's third container, marked FOOD, twenty metres away in a clearing.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST CABIN - DAY

Alex PACES as Hendrix drinks. Sunny HUGS Martie, who is in pain.

ALEX

Professor Hendrix, the least you can do is give Martie some scotch!

HENDRIX

Won't help me or her! Nobody's getting out of here alive. Your research assistant and I can't exactly run for it!

ALEX

We don't know who we're dealing with here.

HENDRIX

Look at the facts! They've got perfect camouflage! They can kill from a distance.

ALEX

Maybe we can foil them?

HENDRIX

They use bait! You told us about the dead goat in front of you?

ALEX

I'm a vegan. Their knowledge of bait is imperfect!

HENDRIX

They can sense our weapons and metal!

Alex PONDERs that one.

ALEX

How?

HENDRIX

And they kill even farther than my old elephant gun.

SUNNY

And they dismember the corpses like surgeons.

Alex throws up her arms in disgust.

ALEX

How? How? How? Is it terrorists testing new military equipment? Are they masochists, some kind of high-technology cult? Are they using drones?

SUNNY

Maybe they're not even human!

MARTIE

Stop with the UFO shite. Trevor was right. You're such a bullshitter, Sunny.

ALEX

If they came from another planet. Why here? Why now? I don't believe it. I'm a scientist! I need proof!

Hendrix hangs his head. Sunny gets defensive and leaves Martie's side to confront Alex.

SUNNY

Just because you don't believe in UFOs, or God, or the Devil, doesn't mean they don't exist!

ALEX

I never said they don't exist, I said there's no evidence they exist!

SUNNY

Seeing that Game Warden and Trevor isn't enough evidence for you?

Alex STOPS. Her head DROPS.

ALEX

Fossil poachers and murderers exist.

(beat)

That's all I know.

Hendrix is tipsy, but he stands as if lecturing a class.

HENDRIX

They're gonna starve us out or come
in and get us. Nobody's getting out
of here alive!

Alex is fiery mad. She turns to Hendrix.

ALEX

That's enough out of you,
Professor. One more word and I'll
load your pockets with metal and
throw you out that door myself!

Hendrix pauses in FEAR.

HENDRIX

You think your Scottish constable
friend will save you? Think again!

BACK TO:

INT. GAME WARDEN'S CABIN - DUSK

As day turns to night, Linus is in his peacoat and button-
less pants, and socks. He's busy stitching shrub branches to
a blanket (building camouflage). Linus talks to himself like
a madman.

LINUS

You probably sensed my belt buckle
and buttons -- fine. You probably
sensed up my coat buttons -- I
ripped them off, and you're not
bothering me. You probably sensed
up my steel-toed boots -- fine,
I'll wear Herb's old sandals.

(beat)

I can't see you now. I outsmarted
you. No metal on! And I plan to
crawl back to Alex's cabin and save
my friends, and there is nothing
you can do to stop me!

We hear STOMPING in the trees.

LINUS (CONT'D)

You don't scare me!

Linus covers himself with his camouflage blanket. He SINGS an
ancient Scottish song very quietly as he crawls away.

LINUS (CONT'D)

Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an'
a',
Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an'
a',
We'll up an' gie them a blaw, a
blaw,
Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an'
a'.

He begins crawling to Alex's Cabin in silence. The two Assassins STARE at their blank I-pads in the dark. They do not sense him leaving. Their drone reports nothing.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

Alex, Martie, and Sunny drink tea, and sit on one bed, while Hendrix MOPES and drinks scotch on the other bed. The box of crackers is empty.

The can of corn from the Game Warden's cabin sits alone on the table. Everyone STARES at it.

MARTIE

Think we should eat it?

SUNNY

Why not?

ALEX

Sure, let's have a party!

HENDRIX

They're toying with us. Like a cat
toys with a mouse.

Alex opens the can of corn, and they share the cornels.

ALEX

I refuse to be intimidated.

Everyone is silent.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Let's make a plan! What do we know
about them?

SUNNY

They can sense metal and kill
quickly from far away!

Alex grabs a pencil and science notebook and takes notes.

ALEX

Good. We can do without metal.

MARTIE

They might hit us with a laser gun or something.

ALEX

Let's assume they're humans, shall we?

Martie is silent and sad.

HENDRIX

They killed your student just thirty metres from the cabin, so they moved in closer when they needed to.

ALEX

Exactly, but we were so scared, we didn't see them. They might not be so technologically advanced, and they tried to bait us closer with a dead goat, so if they're hunters, they may be novices.

SUNNY

Nothing novice about the way they cut fingers from Trevor and the Game Warden and shot them in the back from far away in the dark!

ALEX

Point taken, but both victims had weapons. Metal weapons.

HENDRIX

So they like a challenge?

ALEX

Or they can't detect people without metal weapons? But, that hypothesis remains to be tested.

A quiet KNOCK on the door frightens them all to the back wall of the cabin. Martie WINCES in pain limping.

A second quiet KNOCK is followed by a whisper.

LINUS

It's Linus. Let me in.

No one moves, but Bel RACES to the door and WAGS his tail.

ALEX

Gotta be him. Bel doesn't like many people.

Alex opens the door just wide enough for Linus to crawl through, covered with his blanket of branches. He drags in a gunny sack of supplies: Bow and flint arrows, arrow-chipping rocks, a two-metre spear with flint blade, and a dead rabbit. Alex shuts the door, locks it, and HUGS Linus.

ALEX (CONT'D)

How did you make it here?

LINUS

(smiles)

Interesting question, not without elements of suspense and horror, but let's cook dinner first.

ALEX

Did you see what they did to Trevor?

LINUS

No.

ALEX

Thirty metres from the cabin! They shot him in the back, and cut off his finger. It was awful. You must have crawled right past him!

LINUS

Not there now. Nothing's there.

Alex, Sunny, and Hendrix STARE out the window. They see nothing.

ALEX

How 'bout some fresh rabbit?

Sunny RACES to the wood stove, and tosses in some wood.

LINUS

(yells)

No!

Sunny is STUNNED.

HENDRIX

Don't you yell at her!

LINUS

No metal!

ALEX

Exactly!

LINUS

Whatever. Maybe we can cook the rabbit with a campfire out back, as long as we don't use metal.

ALEX

Are you sure?

LINUS

Trust me. I built a small fire by your dig site to test it. Worked fine. I got zero metal on me! I'll show you.

HENDRIX

Can they see us?

LINUS

I don't know, but I wasn't as invisible as they are!

SUNNY

Can they hear us?

LINUS

I don't know. I was pretty quiet getting here. I'll fetch some firewood.

Linus keeps his camouflage blanket on as he starts to exit the cabin.

MARTIE

What's the camouflage for, if they can't see us?

LINUS

My security blanket. Got a problem with that?

MARTIE

No. No. Just askin'.

Alex LAUGHS.

ALEX

Haven't laughed in several days.

Linus heads out the door.

LINUS
(yells)
Looks good on you.
(whispers)
See -- can't hear us.

Alex THROWS on a sweatshirt. We SEE the sweatshirt's METAL ZIPPER.

ALEX
We'll help you collect firewood.
Come on, Bel.

Alex and Linus wonder to a nearby stand of trees. Bel remains closely behind. Alex whispers to Linus.

ALEX (CONT'D)
We were just beginning to make an
escape plan.

Linus turns to her and GRASPS her arms and whispers back, with terror in his eyes.

LINUS
They can kill us any time they want
to. I've seen what they can do.

ALEX
What?

LINUS
Didn't want to scare the others.

ALEX
Too late.

LINUS
Can't see them worth a damn.

ALEX
They could be a hundred metres
away.

LINUS
Never been so scared.

Alex SHIVERS.

ALEX
You? You okay?

Linus HUGS her deeply.

LINUS

Was singing my bag pipe death-song,
but I needed a couple more nights
with you!

Alex HUGS him back.

ALEX

Can we out-run them to the dock in
two days?

LINUS

You have a lame graduate student
and old drunk with one good knee.

ALEX

Lots of open ground for snipers.
Escape with them is not an option.

LINUS

They followed me. Watching me.
Tracking me like prey. I felt it.

Alex HUGS Linus.

ALEX

If escape is not an option, we'll
need another plan.

LINUS

What?

Alex looks back at the cabin.

ALEX

I don't want to scare them any
more.

LINUS

I agree. Don't know how.

ALEX

Stay positive, and keep thinking.

LINUS

I will. I will.

A GUST of wind SWAYS trees just twenty metres away. They hear
STOMPING. Bel BARKS. Alex and Linus stop hugging and DUCK.

ALEX

You think they're hunting?

LINUS

Deranged killers! Maybe cannibals!
Trying to scare us from ever
returning to the Isle of Eigg.
Takin' fingers!

ALEX

That's why they left Trevor's drugs
behind, but they're gone now!

They STAND defiantly toward the trees that swayed.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Show them we're not afraid.
(to Bel)
Stop barking!

Bel stops barking, but GROWLS in the direction of the wind.

LINUS

O-, O-, okay.

ALEX

I bet Herb's body is gone, too!

LINUS

It's gone!

ALEX

That means they clean up their
mess!

LINUS

What can we do?

ALEX

Hope we survive two more nights,
and make it to the dock after dawn.

LINUS

You think they'll let us pass?

ALEX

Maybe they won't see us if we avoid
metal.

LINUS

Sounds too easy.

ALEX

You made it from the Herb's cabin
to here. Maybe we'll be fine. Grab
some wood to burn.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
Dinner first, like you said. We'll
try to keep everyone calm.

They load up with wood and begin walking back to the cabin. They HEAR Martie SCREAM from the outhouse on the far side of the cabin. Bel BARKS and RACES her direction. Sunny takes three steps toward Alex and Linus, FREEZES, and yells.

SUNNY
Martie limped by herself to the
shitter!

Alex, Linus, and Bel RACE past Sunny and Hendrix, through the cabin and toward the outhouse. They open the outhouse door slowly. They see Martie, shot in the back, and with her a finger missing. They also see Martie's silver locket around her neck, and a knife cut that exposes her titanium knee.

ALEX
Oh my God!

Linus shuts the door, and they all race back into the cabin, where they huddle in shock.

Bel BARKS again and Alex and Sunny SCREAM. Alex helps Hendrix to Sunny and Linus. They huddle in fear.

Alex steps toward the window.

LINUS
I wouldn't do that!

Bel continues barking.

ALEX
Right.

Linus hugs Alex, and Sunny hugs Hendrix.

LINUS
Co-worker and friend. I'm so sorry.

ALEX
You were right. They can kill us
anytime they want to.

LINUS
We may both be right about avoiding
metal.

ALEX
Fake knee. Couldn't take it off.

LINUS
Titanium, I bet.

ALEX
And the locket she chose not to
take off.

LATER, a small fire burns below a rabbit, reminiscent of the Dark Ages, the four survivors gather around the fire. Hendrix wears his overcoat. Everyone is depressed and scared. Sunny is still shaking. We SEE the rabbit's head, body, and all four legs cooking. Alex examines Martie's locket. She opens it to see two tiny photos of Martie and her.

LINUS
Cleaned it the best I could with a
flint spearhead. Not as good as a
metal knife, but it'll taste good.

ALEX
And couldn't make a soup without a
metal kettle, but this will do.

Hendrix, tipsy, drinks his scotch.

HENDRIX
One rabbit all we got?

ALEX
No, one rabbit is all Constable
Raven got, and you should be
thankful for that!

LINUS
Especially if you saw how nervous I
was with the bow.

SUNNY
I wish I was an engineering
student, or pre-Med, but I'm
thankful.

ALEX
Constable Raven and I want to float
an idea that might get us out of
this mess.

Sunny perks up.

SUNNY
Anything that would get us out of
here!

ALEX

I'm willing to concede we're dealing with expert hunters.

SUNNY

You're kidding! After all we've seen? They're assassins, not hunters!

ALEX

That's just it! Could be a murder cult with advanced technology. I don't know.

HENDRIX

(angry)

What do you know?

ALEX

For one thing, I know you've been lying to me. You knew that fossil poachers beat me to my mammoth site.

Hendrix looks away. Sunny and Linus EYE Alex then Hendrix back and forth.

HENDRIX

I, I, suspected it.

ALEX

But you didn't stop my two years of planning, grant-writing, and hiring of students!

HENDRIX

(angry)

I made mistakes.

Alex pauses to THINK, and figures it out!

ALEX

(very angry)

You came out here to destroy me!

LINUS

(to Alex)

Keeping everyone calm?

HENDRIX

You all don't know what you're talking about.

Hendrix reaches into an inside pocket of his long overcoat and pulls out three sticks of DYNAMITE.

Alex RACES to him and WRESTLES the dynamite from his hands.

ALEX

Crazy old wanker! This stuff can go off any time. You could have killed us! What aren't you telling us?

Hendrix SLUMPS to the ground.

SUNNY

Professor Hendrix?

HENDRIX

(mumbles)

I thought they might be back.

Alex GRABS Hendrix's collar with both hands.

ALEX

Who? Who might be back?

Hendrix TREMBLES.

HENDRIX

I don't know. The fossil poachers.

LINUS

(whispers to Alex)

He's hiding something.

ALEX

(whispers back)

In addition to the DT's?

LINUS

He's convulsing. Like a heart attack or stroke. Quick, lay him down.

They carry Hendrix into the cabin, and lay him on the bed.

HENDRIX

We gotta stop them, or we'll all die!

ALEX

(yells)

Stop who?

HENDRIX

The MacDonalds! Revenge for
Massacre Cave in Fifteen-seventy-
seven when the MacLeod clan killed
almost four-hundred MacDonalds.

LINUS

The story is true, but, nobody
holds a grudge for over four-
hundred years!

HENDRIX

Scotts do. Why do you think I
legally changed my name from
MacLeod to Hendrix before college?
How do you think Professor
Alexandra MacLeod got her first
lecturing position at Manchester?

Hendrix turns away.

ALEX

What?

HENDRIX

Do you think the ancestors of the
MacDonald clan are going to let you
get dig your way to success here on
the Isle of Eigg?

Alex drops to her knees in despair.

ALEX

I've put everyone in great danger.
It's all my fault.

LINUS

They're hunting us like prey.

Sunny looks out the other window at the rabbit cooking on the
campfire. Bel BARKS. Sunny YELLS.

SUNNY

Our dinner! The rabbit!

Alex and Linus race to Sunny at the window. They all SEE the
cooked rabbit on the ground. A fork is beside the rabbit. Bel
BARKS.

ALEX

Like the goat Trevor and I saw
earlier. They are baiting us in
with food.

SUNNY

You're right, Constable. Like
common prey.

LINUS

Exactly.

ALEX

They'll kill us all!

Bel stops BARKING. They drop their heads and HUG each other.
Hendrix moans. Alex finally speaks in a low, determined
voice.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Who took the fork out by the
rabbit?

HENDRIX

I was hungry.

ALEX

Damn you! You tipped them off with
the metal.

LINUS

Never mind. It's gone.

SUNNY

Our dinner's gone?

ALEX

I've got to follow that rabbit.

LINUS

What?

SUNNY

No!

ALEX

I've got to know my enemy!

LINUS

Can't we wait until daylight, and
escape to the dock?

ALEX

You saw what they do to their
victims. They won't wait, and
neither will I.

Hendrix moans, again. Sunny HUGS Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'll just follow the bait a little ways. I'll be safe. No metal.

LINUS

Take my camouflage blanket. Move slowly. Zig-zag. Maybe stop frequently in case they sense heat.

ALEX

If they sensed heat, you wouldn't be here.

LINUS

Good point.

(beat)

Or maybe they are toying with us like a cat does with mice.

ALEX

I've got to know!

Alex checks herself for metal. She SEES the metal zipper on her sweatshirt, strips it off, and throws it to a corner of the cabin.

LINUS

I hope they can't detect the fillings in our teeth.

ALEX

Amalgam used in dentistry is half mercury and half silver, tin, and copper -- but too little to be detected by most metal detectors.

SUNNY

But how 'bout their metal detectors?

Alex puts on Linus's blanket.

ALEX

Linus made it here. It's a risk I'll have to take. Keep Bel here, and keep him quiet.

Alex slowly crawls out of the door. Sunny and Linus are terrified. Bel SQUEALS.

Alex CRAWLS beneath a blanket toward the rabbit. The rabbit is moved further toward the ravine.

Alex pauses, then crawls ahead within four metres of the bait. The rabbit moves again.

Alex crawls to the side, around the rabbit. The rabbit moves again, but on its original trajectory, pulled by thin wire.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Not tracking me?

Alex pauses, then crawls to the side even more. The rabbit moves again on it's original line.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Where is your twine? Where is your wire?

We HEAR Bel BARK back in the cabin. Alex looks back toward the cabin. When she turns her head back, the rabbit IS GONE.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 There goes dinner!

Alex CRAWLS back to the cabin. She is greeted with hugs by Sunny, Bel, and Linus.

SUNNY
 You're alive!

LINUS
 I'm so relieved. I almost fetched you.

ALEX
 I didn't see much.

Alex GRABS the gas lamp, RACES over to Hendrix, sets down the lamp, and GRABS his coat collars.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Why didn't you tell us?

Hendrix's EYES open widely. Linus, Sunny, and Bel crowd around him.

HENDRIX
 (mumbles in fear)
 You weren't ready. No one was ready!

ALEX
 Ready for what?

HENDRIX

The dig. Fifty years ago. My mammoth dig.

ALEX

What? Out with it.

LINUS

He's trying. Give him a break.

ALEX

(yells)
Out with it!

HENDRIX

My mammoth had no projectile points or scratches.

ALEX

There's more!

HENDRIX

(yells)
So I blew it up!

ALEX

You lied in your science publication?

HENDRIX

Had to!

ALEX

You knew fossil poachers got it! So you destroyed the evidence?

HENDRIX

Had to.

ALEX

Had to?

HENDRIX

I was sure the MacDonalds had poached the site. I would have been crucified by the scientific community.

LINUS

And the press.

SUNNY

That's bad science!

LINUS
That's a bad scientist.

ALEX
Should have told me. I would have never come here! Now, we might all end up like Herb, Trevor, and Martie.

Silence.

LINUS
What do we do now?

ALEX
I don't know.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Two armed drug dealers (PAPA is 50, JUNIOR is 25; Scottish mobsters with heavy accents; hunters in camouflage outfits) TIE up their motor boat. They GRAB automatic rifles and flashlights, and step on the dock. Suddenly, the motor on the boat starts smoking furiously.

PAPA
What the hell?

JUNIOR
Overheated or something?

PAPA
Call for a ferry pick-up in a couple hours.

Junior checks his phone.

JUNIOR
Don't work?

PAPA
No service?

JUNIOR
Yours?

Papa checks his phone.

PAPA
No service. What the hell? We'll use what's-his-name's phone, Ross, when we find him.

JUNIOR
Closest cabin on the trail, he
said. Three kilometres up.

The drug dealers GRAB flashlights. Neither works.

PAPA
Idiot! Did you check the batteries?

JUNIOR
Worked at home when I packed them.
Must have left them on.

They look back at their boat, now 20 metres away, floating,
with the engine smoking.

PAPA
Idiot! Didn't you tie up the boat?

JUNIOR
I was getting the gear!

PAPA
Idiot!

JUNIOR
We'll go back with Trevor. Buy
twenty boats later if you want to.

PAPA
Maybe Trevor's cell phone works.
Something's not right. Let's go!

They RACE away up the trail.

BACK TO:

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

Linus and Sunny gather around Alex. Hendrix remains asleep.

ALEX
Let's make a list.

SUNNY
A list?

ALEX
A list of everything we know about
them! Grab a notebook and pen.
(beat)
Wait -- a pencil. Might be metal in
the pen.

Hendrix curls up in a ball on his bunk, hiding his head under a blanket. Sunny returns with a notebook and pencil.

SUNNY

Ready.

ALEX

Their strengths: invisibility.

SUNNY

Snipers with camouflage.

LINUS

Pinpoint accuracy. At night.

ALEX

They sense metal.

SUNNY

Wait, Professor. Still writing.

(beat)

Okay.

LINUS

They use bait, pulled by wire we can't see.

ALEX

Expert dismembering.

They PAUSE to remember the cut-off fingers.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Their weaknesses: poor choice of bait.

SUNNY

Huh?

ALEX

I'm a vegan. They used a goat and a rabbit.

LINUS

You wouldn't have eaten the rabbit?

ALEX

Sure, I'm starving. But they don't know that! And, they can't detect us at night, if we have zero metal on us.

LINUS

At least, that's what we think.

SUNNY

And all the bodies are gone so they
clean up their mess.

They RACE to the window to PEEK out at the outhouse. Martie's
body is GONE! Sunny breaks down and CRIES.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Didn't mean mess. Didn't.

Alex and Linus HUG Sunny. Alex glances over at Hendrix.

ALEX

Our strength? We're a team!

LINUS

We can do this.

SUNNY

(wiping away tears)

Yes, we can.

(beat, yells)

Damn killers!

The two armed drug dealers (Papa and Junior) KNOCK on the
door with fancy semi-automatic hunting rifles in their hands.

ALEX

It's over for us.

Alex props open the door three inches. Linus and Sunny stand
behind her. Hendrix is out cold. Bel GROWLS.

PAPA

Where's Ross? He supposed to show
us good bird huntin' areas on the
island.

ALEX

Trevor Ross?

PAPA

Where's he at?

ALEX

Dead.

The two drug dealers nudge their way into the cabin.

JUNIOR

I know him. He ain't here.

PAPA

I see that!

LINUS
How did you get here? With modified
hunting rifles?

JUNIOR
They're legal where we's from.

Papa scowls at Junior.

PAPA
Last time. Where's Ross at?

SUNNY
They killed him.

PAPA
Who?

SUNNY
Murderers on the island.

ALEX
(angry)
Three people have been killed here
in one day.

JUNIOR
Ask 'em about the phones.

Papa's hands begin to SHAKE.

ALEX
What about our phones?

PAPA
Your phones work?

LINUS
Yours don't or you wouldn't be
asking.

PAPA
(glares at Linus)
Shut up or I'll shoot you.

LINUS
Get in line. Modified semi-
automatic rifles are never allowed
in game sanctuaries anywhere in
Europe.

Papa jams his rifle butt into Linus's gut. Alex and Linus
GLANCE at each other.

PAPA
You a cop?

LINUS
Paleontologist. Like the others.

No one flinches.

PAPA
Stay out of our way.

ALEX
Bigger issues here! We're being
hunted. So are you.

Papa GLARES at Alex.

PAPA
By hunters?

ALEX
Long-range snipers.

JUNIOR
(laughs)
Right!

PAPA
Search the cabin! Ross had a big
blue backpack.

Junior searches the cabin. He doesn't find the backpack and
SHRUGS.

ALEX
How exactly did you know Trevor?

PAPA
He owed us money. We said we'd be
even if he showed us where to hunt.

JUNIOR
So where's he at?

ALEX
(angry)
Dead, along with my research
assistant, and an old islander.
We're not making this up. We're
terrified!

Bel GROWLS at the back door, then BARKS.

SUNNY
They're back!

PAPA
Who's back?

ALEX
The killers.

They PEEK out the window and see their FOOD Container twenty metres from the cabin.

SUNNY
Our food. They stole it the first night.

ALEX
Using it as bait.

Papa points his rifle outside.

PAPA
Who? What happened to Ross? Where's the backpack?

ALEX
(angry)
You really want to know? They shot him in the back like cowards from a hundred metres away. Then they cut off his finger. Later, they took his body. You can't see them.

Junior SHAKES.

PAPA
Where's the big backpack at?

ALEX
They came back and cleaned up their mess. Everything vanished!

PAPA
Don't believe you! Where's it at?

ALEX
We're paleontologists. Even the passed-out old drunk over there. We don't know. Ask the real hunters!

Papa bursts out of the door, and SPRAYS a dozen bullets into the forest. He ducks back into the cabin.

PAPA
Nobody out there!

LINUS
Just 'cause you can't see 'em,
don't mean they're not there.

ALEX
They are out there. They put out
bait.

PAPA
Take me to them. Let's go see
what's in your food container.

ALEX
If we go out there, they'll kill
us.

PAPA
You go, Junior!

Junior looks HORRIFIED.

JUNIOR
Me?

PAPA
Keep the rifle on her.

ALEX
Not a good idea.

PAPA
Hurry!

Junior follows Alex out the door. She walks very slowly toward the food container. Junior takes even smaller steps and soon is five steps behind Alex. The others watch from the cabin. Linus and Sunny are terrified, and Papa SEES this.

Alex takes smaller steps when she is ten metres from the food container. Junior's rifle begins to shake.

JUNIOR
Who's out there?

Alex DIVES to the left. Junior's rifle begins FIRING toward the food container. Alex would have been killed. This time, they all HEAR bullets HIT TREES. Junior's drops his rifle in fear. He turns and RACES back to the cabin, with Alex right behind.

PAPA

What happened out there? I didn't see nothin'!

JUNIOR

Me neither! That's what I'm saying.

PAPA

Why you so scared?!

ALEX

You can't see them! That's why!

SUNNY

They hate metal. They'll kill us all.

Papa is hesitant to put his rifle down. His hands SHAKE. He HIDES his rifle in the corner of the cabin. Alex glances at the rifle.

LINUS

I'd get rid of all the metal close to your bodies, if I was you.

Papa and Junior quickly throw out pistols, and knives, cell phones, keys, and coins.

PAPA

I'll not give up my rifle.

ALEX

You'll regret that. And, if those are metal zippers on your jackets and jeans, they gotta go.

Papa and Junior swear in Gaelic as they disrobe.

Bel BARKS.

SUNNY

They're back!

Alex, Sunny, and Papa peek out the front window. Junior and Linus peek out the back window.

ALEX

They took your metal objects and clothes.

LINUS

You saw what they can do.

PAPA

(angry)

Damn it, you horse's arse! What do we do now?

ALEX

Make ponchos from the blankets. Then we wait.

Alex SEES the rifle in the corner and signals Linus with her eyes.

LATER

Papa and Junior wear their new ponchos, and everyone is quiet and frightened.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I think your rifles are useless. You have half the range they do.

PAPA

Half the range?

ALEX

And half the accuracy.

LINUS

But maybe okay in thick forest or ravine.

PAPA

How does they sense metal?

ALEX

Drone I imagine. They like the night. Don't think their heat sensors work.

SUNNY

Like science fiction, only we have lots of drones now.

ALEX

But if we could just get close to them...

(beat)

We might have a chance.

LINUS

That's it! The forests and ravines on the island.

ALEX
Take away their long-shots.

PAPA
Impossible! You people are crazy!
They island is too open. If they
have drones, they probably have
pistols too!

SUNNY
(angry)
I'm going to get picked up by the
ferry the morning after next. If
I've got to fight them, I will!

ALEX
That's the spirit.

Junior gains courage from Sunny.

JUNIOR
Count me in. I want to live.

ALEX
Reconnaissance!

PAPA
I'm not going near them!

ALEX
We'll find out where they are.
Where they're camped.

LINUS
How?

ALEX
I don't know yet!

PAPA
You have no plan?

ALEX
Making it up as I go. But, we'll
need some sleep. If they like the
night, we'll strike at dawn.

PAPA
With what?

Alex holds up three sticks of dynamite.

ALEX
With this!

They are all UNSETTLED as they try to sleep, except Hendrix who is conked out. Linus SNUGGLES next to Alex and comforts her. He covers them up with his camouflage blanket. They KISS quietly, like it's their last night on Earth. Their hands go wild beneath the blanket. We hear soft MOANS of joy.

Later, when everyone else is asleep, she whispers in Linus's ear.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Glad you came for me.

He whispers back.

LINUS
We'll get through this, and this time, I won't let you go.

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - DAWN

Alex opens one eye to see Hendrix is gone. She yells!

ALEX
Professor Hendrix is gone! Quick, we gotta get him!

Alex rummages through the cabin as the others stir.

PAPA
What! Who cares?

ALEX
He's got the dynamite!

SUNNY
The dig site!

LINUS
We need that dynamite!

JUNIOR
(to Linus)
For what?

LINUS
To battle the killers.

ALEX
No metal -- anywhere on you!

Papa grabs his rifle from the corner of the cabin.

PAPA

Junior, go with 'em. Make sure they come back with the dynamite. I'll keep an eye on the Asian girl and the dog.

He AIMS the rifle at Sunny and Bel.

ALEX

You're taking hostages?

PAPA

(to Alex)

We need you -- the smart one -- to get us out of here. You'll come back for your stinkin' dog!

SUNNY

Don't leave me.

Alex looks at Papa aiming the weapon.

ALEX

You'll be okay, Sunny. We'll be right back. Bel, stay!

EXT. DIG SITE - DAY

Alex, Linus, and Junior crawl slowly to the dig site under Linus's camouflage blanket. They see GUSTS of wind in the trees nearby. They hear STOMPING. Alex FREEZES.

JUNIOR

What's that mean?

LINUS

They're close.

ALEX

Or it was just wind. Not sure.

JUNIOR

I wanna go back.

ALEX

You're coming with us! Let's move.

They continue crawling. Everyone is frightened.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST CABIN - DAY

Papa sits next to his rifle and Bel growls at him. Sunny SMILES.

SUNNY

We'll be okay. Professor MacLeod is really smart.

PAPA

Who are these people after us? Hope Junior's okay.

SUNNY

Not sure. Snipers. Tell me about that fancy rifle of yours.

Papa reaches over and touches his rifle quickly.

PAPA

Baby's pure power.

SUNNY

How powerful?

PAPA

Me and Junior took out a whole herd of reindeer from our sleds.

SUNNY

Sleds?

PAPA

Snowmobiles.

SUNNY

Whole herd?

PAPA

'Bout twenty. We was out for racks. Biggest rack.

Papa removes a small bag of cocaine, and snorts a major dose.

SUNNY

You took your son into your business and sports life?

PAPA

(angry)
How I raise my kid is my own business!

SUNNY

Seems like he could be a good kid
is all.

PAPA

He's a damn good kid, and a great
shot!

SUNNY

Everybody's got their reasons for
killing things, I guess. Like the
hunters outside.

PAPA

You nature lovers never understand!

SUNNY

No, I never understood animal
killers. That's for sure.

PAPA

I don't get it. Most powerful
huntin' rifle made. Shot through
two moose at the same time once.
Junior must a missed 'em.

SUNNY

Yeah. Must a missed 'em.

Bel looks to the back door and BARKS.

BACK TO:

EXT. DIG SITE - DAY

Twenty metres from the site, they see Hendrix, who is three-
metres from the dig hole. Hendrix pulls out the three sticks
of dynamite and a small, old-fashioned metal cigarette
lighter.

ALEX

Professor, don't do it!

Hendrix looks back.

HENDRIX

They'll leave you alone if I
destroy the evidence.

ALEX

No. They won't!

Hendrix sets two sticks of dynamite aside, takes one in one hand, ignites the lighter in the other hand, and lights the fuse.

HENDRIX

It's evidence fossil poachers
destroyed our dig sites.

LINUS

Don't do it!

He tosses the dynamite in the dig hole.

ALEX

That's my research!

A seconds later, Hendrix is shot in the back, with a SURPRISED look on his face. The dynamite in the dig hole EXPLODES. Junior SCREAMS. Junior, Linus, and Alex retreat, crawling as fast as they can back into the forest nearby.

They wait. Hendrix is out of view. The Assassins are over one-hundred meters away, communicating on Ipads.

Assassin #1 texts Assassin #2. We see his text: "Damn it. Heat sensing in drone still not functioning." Assassin #2 texts back: "Cousin won't like that! Good thing we got the metal detectors." Assassin #1: "Get your goddamn finger, and meet me at their cabin!" Assassin #2. "Got it."

While the Assassins send texts, Alex huddles Junior and Linus around.

ALEX (CONT'D)

We gotta get the dynamite.

LINUS

They come back to clean up the
mess, remember! They have other
weapons.

Alex pauses. She looks away, then looks back.

ALEX

We gotta have it! I'll go. Take
care of the kid.

Linus COMFORTS Junior under the camouflage blanket, as Alex crawls slowly out of the forest.

She fetches the two sticks of dynamite and Hendrix's lighter, and turns to look at Hendrix. His trigger finger has been cut off. She returns and whispers to Linus and Junior.

ALEX (CONT'D)

The professor is dead. His finger
is gone.

Junior is in SHOCK. They have to coax Junior into crawling
back.

LINUS

You can do it.

ALEX

Just crawl.

LINUS

What's your name?

JUNIOR

(whispers)

Junior. Call me Junior.

ALEX

Come on, Junior. You can do it.

JUNIOR

They'll kill us, and cut us up!

LINUS

We need you on our team.

JUNIOR

Can't see 'em.

ALEX

I've got some ideas, and we have
two sticks of dynamite.

JUNIOR

Can't even see 'em coming!

ALEX

Let me worry about that!

JUNIOR

We're gonna die!

Linus and Alex PUSH and GUIDE Junior under the camouflage
blanket and toward the cabin.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - DAY

Sunny hides in the opposite corner as Papa PACES with his
rifle.

SUNNY

Game Warden had a rifle too. Right next to his body when I found him.

Papa stops pacing.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Shot in the back. No finger. Blood everywhere.

PAPA

Put a sock in it.

Papa PACES again.

SUNNY

Trevor had a gun too. A little pistol. Didn't help him.

Bel GROWLS. Papa STOPS and looks out the window.

PAPA

Belt up, I said.

SUNNY

Trevor didn't see anything. No finger again, but you know what was the weirdest thing?

PAPA

Just put a sock in it!

Papa looks out both windows.

SUNNY

Half a scream.

PAPA

Belt up! I mean it. I'll shoot you!

SUNNY

We only heard the first half of his scream.

Bel BARKS.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

They're back.

Sunny balls up in a fetal position in the corner. The rifle in Papa's hands SHAKES.

PAPA

What the bloody hell?

SUNNY
Put the gun down.

PAPA
It's mine.

SUNNY
Throw it outside. Give it to them.

Papa PEEKS out the window. He SEES nothing, which frightens him more. The Papa snorts a large amount of cocaine and YELLS.

PAPA
Can't see them! Can't see them!

Then, he SEES Trevor's bright blue backpack being pulled into the forest.

PAPA (CONT'D)
What color was Trevor Ross's
backpack?

SUNNY
Don't remember.

Papa cocks his rifle and aims it at Sunny.

PAPA
What color?

SUNNY
Bright blue, I think.

Papa looks out the window and SEES the backpack slowly pulled toward the forest, but he can't see the rope.

PAPA
Go fetch me that backpack.

SUNNY
No. Means nothing to me.

PAPA
Your life mean anything to you?

SUNNY
Today. Not so much.

Sunny doesn't move. Papa SHAKES. In a fit of drugged-out anger, he CHARGES out the front door toward the backpack, FIRING his rifle in every direction as he CHARGES into the forest. Papa YELLS.

PAPA

Me and Junior took out a whole herd
of reindeer from our sleds. We
will take you out too!

Papa's gun stops firing. We SEE Sunny with her hands over her ears. She still HEARS half-a-SCREAM. She DROPS her head and SHAKES. Papa lies face-down, shot in the back.

Bel STOPS barking.

Fifty metres from the cabin, Alex, Linus, and Junior continue crawling toward the cabin. They HEAR the shots and the half-scream. They SEE a GUST of wind in the nearby trees. They hear STOMPING. They FREEZE.

JUNIOR

Papa!

Alex, Linus, and Junior RACE to the cabin. They find Sunny in a fetal position in the corner hugging Bel. Alex RACES over to Sunny, and squats down to HUG her.

Junior looks out the window to see his father's corpse (shot in the back). He FALLS to the floor.

LINUS

What are we gonna do?

Alex stands defiantly and yells.

ALEX

We're going to fight back!

INT./EXT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

Alex PACES in the gloomy cabin. Sunny, Linus, and Junior STARE at Alex in disbelief.

ALEX

Each of the victims had metal on them. The Game Warden and Junior's dad had rifles, Trevor had a pistol, Martie had a locket around her neck and a titanium knee, and Professor Hendrix had a cigarette lighter.

LINUS

And dynamite.

SUNNY

More often weapons than not.

ALEX

But Martie's locket and knee
weren't threats. I don't get it.

LINUS

Does dynamite contain metal?

ALEX

This old dynamite is seventy-five
percent nitroglycerine, with
minuscule amounts of metal.

JUNIOR

Are they attracted to metal?

SUNNY

They sense it.

ALEX

They each had metal on them. Let's
go with what we know.

LINUS

And weaknesses?

ALEX

Just that they can't seem to see us
well at night if we don't have
metal on us, we move slowly, and
we're camouflaged.

SUNNY

They took our rabbit. How did they
find the rabbit?

ALEX

Hendrix's fork. But, how did they
kill the goat that they used to
bait Trevor and me?

LINUS

Maybe it had a radio collar?

ALEX

Why haven't they attacked Bel?

Bel WAGS his tail.

LINUS

They are not after dogs? Sounds
like they can track and kill any
living thing if they wanted to.

ALEX
I'm afraid so.

JUNIOR
All of us.

ALEX
Unless we go on the offensive.

Alex RACES to the window. She SEES Papa's body.

ALEX (CONT'D)
They clean up their messes. We
gotta act fast.

JUNIOR
We got no rifles.

SUNNY
We have to get to the dock in the
morning!

ALEX
They'll kill us if we try to
escape.

LINUS
I agree with Alex. We need to go on
the offensive.

ALEX
Get me the camouflage blanket,
dynamite, and stick matches. Quick!

They scurry around the cabin. Alex grabs a stick of dynamite. Sunny gets the stick matches. Linus hands her his camouflage blanket.

SUNNY
What's the plan?

ALEX
Papa still had all his fingers.
They'll come to remove a finger.
I'll sneak up close enough to throw
a stick of dynamite.

Linus brings out the flint-tipped spear.

LINUS
I'll go!

ALEX

Bel and me. Alone. I'm the only
MacLeod left here. I'm the one they
really want!

The LOOK of fear on their faces says it all.

LINUS

Don't go!

ALEX

You'll have one more stick of
dynamite if I don't make it.

Alex hands one stick of dynamite to Linus.

JUNIOR

I'll go. I can't go home without
the merchandise anyway.

LINUS

(angry)

Call it what it is: drugs!

JUNIOR

They killed Papa!

ALEX

You're not going. Watch, and learn
from whatever happens.

SUNNY

That's your plan? That's crazy!

Alex YELLS.

ALEX

I've got no metal on me. The
snipers can kiss my arse!

SUNNY

How will you get away?

ALEX

Run for it. Into the woods, so I
don't draw you into the fight.

LINUS

That's nuts! Horrible plan.

ALEX

You got a better one?

Everyone is silent. Linus HUGS Alex in a way only a lover would hug.

LINUS

Stay well under the camouflage blanket for cover.

SUNNY

Can't we just stay together, and all run to the dock at dawn?

ALEX

I'm not convinced they'll let us live that long. Stay with Linus. He'll get you to the dock if I...
(beat)
You know.

Alex holds the dynamite and a box of stick matches. She CRAWLS out the front door toward Papa's body. Bel follows her, GROWLING a little. Alex silences her. Sunny, Linus, and Junior PEEK out of the window in fear.

Alex pauses after crawling ten of the thirty metres to the body. She looks at Bel, who is silent.

In the cabin, Sunny looks away from the window. Linus RACES to the back door of the cabin and grabs the two-metre-long spear with a large flint blade.

JUNIOR

Where did you get that?

LINUS

It was Herb's, the Game Warden's. Thought it might come in handy.

Linus steps out of the front door holding the spear. Alex looks back and SMILES.

Alex crawls on. After twenty metres, Bel STARES at the dead body. Alex PETS Bel to calm him. Linus prepares to throw the spear.

In the cabin, Junior SHAKES in fear.

JUNIOR

(whispers)
Papa. I'm weak, Papa.

Alex slowly crawls forward. Suddenly, Sunny grabs the bow and arrows, RACES out the back door, and RUNS to the opposite side of the clearing from Linus.

SUNNY

(whispers to Alex)

I took archery at summer camp. I'll cover you, too.

ALEX

You people are incapable of following instructions!

Alex crawls a few more metres, now just a thirty metres from the dead body. Linus readies his spear. Sunny readies an arrow. Bel BARKS.

ALEX (CONT'D)

They're coming!

They all barely see a shadowy, black ninja-looking man near Papa's body.

Linus throws a spear over Assassin #2's head, and the Assassin fires a pistol at Linus who ducks behind the cabin.

LINUS

Over here! Over here!

Alex lights the fuse to the dynamite with a match. She lets it burn down under the blanket.

Sunny awkwardly sends an arrow in the direction of the shadowy figure, and he fires a shot in her direction. She jumps behind the cabin.

SUNNY

No! Over here! Over here!

As the shadowing figure bends over Papa to cut off a finger, Alex tosses the dynamite at the Assassin. Bel races behind the Assassin and barks like crazy, running back and forth. Alex yells at Bel.

ALEX

Heal!

Alex throws off the blanket, and runs to the cabin, with Bel following as ordered. The Assassin cuts Papa's finger off and begins to escape when the dynamite EXPLODES.

Alex is thrown to the ground. Sniper bullets fly overhead and hit the cabin several times. Alex crawls as fast as she can behind the cabin to reunite with Sunny and Linus.

LINUS

I think you got one!

ALEX

One! But there are more. And we don't know how many.

SUNNY

I gotta go pee. Almost wet myself back there!

Sunny races off in the forest.

Off in the distance, we see Assassin #1 sending a Text Message: "They're tougher than they look, Cousin. Lost #2. I've got clean-up to do. Stat!" Reply: "Careless idiots! Who said I wanted fingers? C."

LINUS

We got him!

More automatic rifle fire sends Linus, Bel, and Alex diving into the cabin. Sunny races in from the forest and dives in last.

Papa's and Assassin #2's bodies are gone, as is the camouflage blanket. Inside the cabin, the mood is bleak.

ALEX

There's more than one of them!

SUNNY

But we got one of them. The explosion!

LINUS

They could've killed you.

Bel STOPS barking.

ALEX

They could've killed all of us.

Alex RACES out and retrieves his spear and quickly returns to the cabin.

SUNNY

Where did they go?

ALEX

They already cleaned up their mess.

LINUS

No evidence. No loose ends.

ALEX

Exactly.

JUNIOR
Papa? Where did they take him?

ALEX
We don't know.

JUNIOR
Can't just disappear.

SUNNY
Well, they do!

LINUS
What about metal?

ALEX
Doesn't matter. They know where we
are. We gotta get out of here!
Quick!

Alex grabs the last stick of dynamite, her cell phone, her camera, the gas lantern, stick matches, and a blanket from one bed. Sunny grabs coats and the bow and arrows. Linus grabs the spear the other blanket from the bed. Junior grabs his cell phone. They CRAWL out of the back door with Bel following.

Alex guides them to a small grove of trees. They start a small campfire in silence.

JUNIOR
We killed one. We should be
celebrating.

LINUS
Maybe that made them angrier.

ALEX
Huddle up. We'll bury the metal
objects for now, and toss the
blankets around us all. Need to
stay warm.

SUNNY
Need food.

ALEX
We all do.

LINUS
Then what, I wonder?

JUNIOR
They'll finish us off.

SUNNY

We make a break for the dock?

In the distance, automatic rifle fire RIPS through the cabin. Alex hangs her head low.

ALEX

Need to get out of here!

LINUS

Something else bothering you, Alex?

Alex SNUGGLES next to Linus. Bel snuggles in front of Alex. Sunny SNUGGLES next to Junior.

ALEX

I was hoping to see you again, Linus. After last summer.

LINUS

You're the reason I came back.

ALEX

Now, Martie, Professor Hendrix, Trevor, the Game Warden, and Junior's Papa are dead!

LINUS

Not your fault, Professor. You didn't invite these killers.

ALEX

(angry)
Until they shot up the cabin, they were systematic. Calculating. Target-specific. Shot in the back!

LINUS

We've got to stay positive.

ALEX

They didn't kill me, or Sunny, or you, Linus. Or Bel.

JUNIOR

Or me. Yet!

ALEX

The question is why?

LINUS

Maybe they kill only mean people. It's not just MacLeods. That's for sure.

JUNIOR
Or maybe just one at a time.

They pause.

ALEX
With a certain amount of time
between killings to clean up their
mess? Bury bodies at sea?

They pause again. They drop their heads.

SUNNY
But we'll be okay, right?

ALEX
Don't know. Gotta think. Got an
hour before daylight. Get some
rest.

They huddle silently for a few moments.

ALEX (CONT'D)
There's some not adding up here.

LINUS
Bodies are. That's for sure.

ALEX
Something deeper. They could have
shot me out there, but they didn't.
Why?

LINUS
Why?

ALEX
Why didn't they shoot me? A
MacLeod!

SUNNY
They like using bait? Our food
container may have baited in the
Game Warden. The dead goat, our
rabbit, and our food box?

ALEX
But, they killed Martie in the
shitter. No bait there.

LINUS
It's metal, I tell ya. Two victims
had rifles, one had a pistol, and
you said Martie had the metal knee.

ALEX

(angry)

Rifles, shovels, and fake knees are not equally threatening, and I had dynamite, but they didn't kill me. Why?

LINUS

They're toying with us.

JUNIOR

Like a cat with a mouse.

SUNNY

Each victim in his or her own time.

ALEX

We don't even know how many of them we're dealing with: at least two, maybe more.

LINUS

Maybe many more.

That's a sobering thought. They STARE into the small fire.

ALEX

Professor Hendrix thought they were fossil poachers.

LINUS

He went crazy with revenge?

ALEX

Fossil poachers and killers. He would've panicked.

SUNNY

Right about that!

They pause.

ALEX

Can't keep all these deaths a secret.

LINUS

They cleaned up their mess! Who's gonna believe us?

JUNIOR

Nobody.

Alex STANDS defiantly.

ALEX
One more stick of dynamite. Let's
make 'em pay!

Alex CHECKS her phone.

LINUS
Any signal?

ALEX
Still dead.
(beat)
Sorry. Poor choice of words.

SUNNY
(chuckles)
Usually it's me who says something
stupid.

LINUS
Dawn is breaking. Ferry boat
Captain should be there in two
hours. What's the plan?

Alex begins walking the wrong direction. Bel follows.

SUNNY
Where you going? It's the other
way.

ALEX
I'll be back in twenty minutes. I
need to check out my dig site one
more time.

LINUS
Alex, we don't have the time!

ALEX
I need to check for the tusks.
Leave anything metal here. Pick 'em
up on the way to the dock.

LINUS
But Hendrix? The dynamite?

ALEX
(angry)
I gotta see it!

SUNNY
We'll all go then.

JUNIOR
Guess I gotta go.

Everyone leaves their cell phones behind, and Alex leaves her camera too, but matches and the dynamite. They begin to walk to the dig site.

When they are twenty metres away, and Bel starts barking.

ALEX
Run!

They run, and we HEAR STOMPING behind them in the forest all the way to the dig site.

EXT. DIG SITE - CONTINUOUS

It's still dark, Bel is growling, but the stomping in the forest ceases the dig site is in view. Bel stops barking. Alex stops.

ALEX
Looks safe, temporarily, anyway.
I'll go alone from here.

LINUS
You need a witness.

SUNNY
I gotta see it.

JUNIOR
Me too. Never seen a mammoth. 'Cept in cartoon Ice Age movies. Remember the scene...

Junior mumbles on as Alex GRABS the last stick of dynamite, and she and Bel lead the way to the dig site.

Alex finds the shovel and digs furiously where the tusks should be. The shovel hits something solid.

ALEX
I knew it.

LINUS
The skull and tusks?

ALEX
They're there. Hendrix was wrong.

SUNNY
Wrong about what?

ALEX

Real fossil poachers don't go after
finger bones.

LINUS

Somebody was messing with you?

ALEX

They were testing their saw!
They're not random snipers!

LINUS

Oh my God!
(beat)
What?!

ALEX

They hunt certain humans. The
MacDonald-MacLeod feud theory was a
red herring.

Alex rubs her hand across the grass.

LINUS

If it's not the MacDonalds doing
all the killing, who is it?

ALEX

And, why? I don't know yet, but
we're going to make them pay!

SUNNY

And get to the ferry dock, right?

ALEX

Right!

JUNIOR

Maybe will we be cleaned up, too?

SUNNY

I'm gettin' to the dock.

ALEX

Good attitude.

Dawn breaks. Alex, Linus, Sunny, and Junior turn from the dig site. They GASP as they see their plastic supply containers, two additional large containers, and a small cooler. They race over to the supplies. Sunny rips open their food container and grabs packages of biscuits. She shoves one in sweatshirt and shares the other. They gorge as Linus opens the killers' container.

ALEX (CONT'D)

We'll eat after we catch the ferry
to Mallaig.

Linus scavenges through the other containers.

LINUS

No weapons. We're stuck with a
spear.

Junior opens the cooler. They all see five severed fingers on
ice. Junior and Sunny spit out their biscuits. Bel BARKS.

ALEX

They probably buried the bodies at
sea, but haven't destroyed all the
evidence yet!

LINUS

There were only two sleeping bags,
so there's only one killer left to
protect their finger souvenirs.

Alex grabs Linus by the shoulder.

ALEX

I get it! They're not random
snipers, they're trophy hunters.
Sick, twisted, human-trophy
hunters.

LINUS

What? Why?

ALEX

Herb, the Game Warden, was a trophy
hunter. Bear rug, red deer mount in
his cabin. The shooters got him and
his finger in revenge.

LINUS

What about the others?

Sunny cringes. Junior listens in. Alex paces and yells.

ALEX

Martie filled me in about the
conversation on the ferry out here
by the team. Trevor went on
safaris. Hendrix shot elephants.
And Martie shot squirrels for the
hell of it, and saved their tails!

LINUS

All shot like cowards and fingers removed for revenge? You were right! It was never about the MacDonalds' feud with the MacLeods!

JUNIOR

(sadly)

Papa and me slaughtered reindeer by the dozens. They must be after me too.

ALEX

Sunny, did you ever trophy-hunt?

SUNNY

No, we're Buddhists -- respect all life.

Alex stops pacing.

ALEX

Quick! We got an hour 'til the ferry comes! Stay close together. All the other victims were isolated. Watch your backs!

They begin to run, looking back as they run.

LINUS

The last killer is probably leaving by helicopter with his trophies.

ALEX

Fuck their trophies! Run!

Alex leads them into a deep forest.

SUNNY

Aren't we going to the dock?

ALEX

We gotta lose 'em! Run!

LINUS

She's right. Long-range rifles suck in a thick forest.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

At the edge of the forest, before a large clearing, Sunny falls behind the group. Alex turns and SEES this.

ALEX
Keep up, Sunny.

SUNNY
Trying!

Sunny collapses to the forest floor. Everyone FREEZES. Bel also freezes, GROWLS, and BARKS.

LINUS
They're near.

ALEX
Sunny! Get up and run, Damn it!

Sunny panics. Alex returns to her.

SUNNY
(whispers)
Can't do this anymore. Ready to die.

Sunny takes a biscuit from her sweatshirt pocket and eats it. As she does, another biscuit falls out of her sweatshirt and onto the ground.

ALEX
You're okay! Now, get up, and run!

Alex looks back up the trail and sees a trail of biscuits.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(yells)
And, no more biscuits!

Alex pulls Sunny up, and drags her to the clearing. They can see the dock in the distance.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Almost there! Keep running!

LINUS
Let's go!

Alex leads, followed by Linus, Junior, and Sunny who struggles to keep up. From a nearby ridge, a shot rings out from behind them, and Trevor is hit in the back left shoulder. He screams and falls. They surround him.

TREVOR
Shite, that hurts. Hand me the packet in me left pocket.

Alex hands him a small plastic baggy of cocaine. Trevor snorts a large amount.

ALEX
You're going to be okay.

LINUS
Get him to the ferry.

Trevor struggles to speak in a drug stupor as they pull him to his feet.

TREVOR
I deserved it. For the reindeer. Go on without me.

ALEX
Everyone deserves a second chance.

Linus holds the spear with his right hind, and puts his left arm around Trevor. Bel growls. Linus orders Alex and Sunny.

LINUS
You two go on!

Alex hugs Linus. She kisses him hard.

ALEX
I won't leave you!

LINUS
My parents took me hunting as a child, and I killed an innocent doe. They might be after me, too. Get out of here. Get to that ferry.

They see the ferry pulling into the dock. The old Captain is waving to them.

ALEX
The killer will get you both. What will you do?

LINUS
I'm going to kill him the way my ancestors killed mammoths.

ALEX
That's crazy!

Bel barks.

LINUS
He's getting closer! Go!

Alex HUGS and KISSES Linus once more. Alex pulls Sunny with her, and Bel follows. Alex yells to the Captain, who can't hear a thing.

ALEX

Call the police! Call the police.

Linus helps Trevor toward the ferry. They struggle.

TREVOR

Go on. Leave me.

LINUS

It's the way it has to be. They clean up their messes. No loose ends! Let's go!

Linus struggles with Trevor as they hear two shots. Trevor is hit in the back, Linus is hit in the back-left shoulder. They both fall. Alex looks back with tears. Sunny pulls Alex toward the ferry. Bel follows. They hear two more shots, but they reach the dock and the ferry.

EXT. DOCK - DAY

The Ferryboat Captain is surprised to see only Alex, Sunny, and Bel. The sea is choppy.

ALEX

Captain, get us out of here, quick!
And call the police on that radio
of yours!

CAPTAIN

Where are the others? Sea's gettin
worse by the minute.

The Captain pulls away. They hear a shot, and the Captain is hit in the lower left back, but he stands at the wheel defiantly. Alex grabs the wheel to help. Bel sits by her.

SUNNY

My phone is working again! I'll
call the police.

Sunny yells into her phone.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Mallaig Police. Emergency. Isle of
Eigg dock. Armed shooter. This is
Sunny Ming with Professor Alexandra
MacLeod. The Captain's been shot.
Hurry!

Alex looks back toward Linus and Trevor while steadying the Captain.

They HEAR the rifle firing toward the ferry.

ALEX

Can't this thing go any faster?

CAPTAIN

Aye!

The Captain goes full throttle. Alex looks back. She sees the camouflaged Assassin #1 running, almost reaching the fallen Trevor and Linus. Alex glances at Sunny who looks guilty.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The gunman is running out of view, thirty meters from Trevor and Linus, whose bodies are in a slight depression on the landscape, with their heads toward the dock. Trevor is face-up, dead with a bloody chest and shoulder. Linus is face-down with a bloody head and back. His hands are clutching the spear, hidden under his body.

Assassin #1 races toward them with a pistol drawn and his sniper rifle in his other hand. As he runs to the bodies, he fires the pistol into Trevor's head. He is almost atop Linus' body and about to fire at his head, when Linus rolls, and shoves the spear into the killer's stomach. The killer's surprised eyes roll as he is lifted up. He dies slowly.

EXT. FERRY BOAT - DAY

Alex and Sunny see the faint image of the killer on the end of Linus' spear.

ALEX

He did it, Sunny! We're going to be okay!

Alex looks at Sunny who is smirking and eating biscuits. Alex pauses and thinks, as she steadies the Captain.

Alex sees a MORNING NEWSPAPER on the Captain's seat. The headline garbs Alex's attention: "Trophy Hunting Dentist Missing." Alex turns calmly to Sunny.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It was you all along.

(beat)

Buddhists, respect all life, huh?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

You drained our cell phones on that first night. You sabotaged our only generator, so we couldn't recharge them and call for help. I bet you took the battery out of my camera. Martie told me that you and Trevor were roommates. You knew about his past and the drugs! You paid those snipers to kill anybody who had ever trophy hunted! In the back! Trigger fingers removed. And you didn't call the police just now!

Sunny stands and moves toward Alex, but the seas are choppier now. Sunny is psychotic. She talks slowly.

SUNNY

You're not crazy, like the rest of them. You said everyone deserves a second chance. Even me?

ALEX

You were going to take a rented helicopter back to pick up the rest of the evidence -- and your trophies.

Sunny falls, but gets up, and continues moving to Alex.

SUNNY

(fake crying)
Don't hate me.

ALEX

But Linus spoiled it all by killing your hired sniper.

Sunny turns into a defiant lunatic.

SUNNY

Linus, your backwards constable? He still thinks it's all about trophy hunters! So do you, Professor!

Sunny reaches into sweatshirt and pulls out a hunting knife.

ALEX

You said I wasn't crazy like the rest of them. I've never been a trophy hunter, so you must have meant MacLeods.

SUNNY

How did you guess?

ALEX

That means your ancestors on your
mother's side, must be MacDonalds!

Sunny lunges with the knife at Alex, but misses.

SUNNY

That's right! Descended from the
lone survivor at Massacre Cave!
And, surprise, feuds do last four-
hundred years!

Sunny swings the knife at Alex but misses. Alex gently pats
the Captain on the head.

ALEX

You were right again, Grandfather!

The Captain smiles. Bel growls as Sunny falls back in the
unsteady ferry. Alex commands Bel and points at Sunny.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Bel! Sick MacDonald!

Bel leaps at Sunny and bites the arm holding the knife. Then,
she rips at her neck and other arm, and stands over Sunny in
complete control. Alex joins Bel, holding a small piece of
rope. Alex ties Sunny's arms, and Sunny screams.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What should we do with her,
Grandfather?

CAPTAIN

Jail's to good for a MacDonald!

ALEX

Exactly what I was thinking.

Alex stands up Sunny at the back of the ferry. Alex pulls out
the last stick of dynamite from her back pocket, and flips
out Hendrix's metal cigarette lighter. Sunny can't see what
Alex is doing.

SUNNY

Bring me in. I'll tell them
everything. I promise.

Alex lights the dynamite, and shoves it down the back of
Sunny's pants. We watch the fuse burn slowly.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

You can't do this! You can't do
this!

Alex finally pushes her OVERBOARD.

ALEX
Good dog, Bel. Never trust a
MacDonald.

We see an EXPLOSION beneath the surface.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Linus is in a policeman's uniform with a sling on one shoulder outside the station, when Alex and Bel walk up. ALEX smiles.

LINUS
Captain going to be okay?

ALEX
Perfect in a week or two. Back in
the boat in three weeks.

LINUS
So, Sunny stole the dynamite and
committed suicide to avoid
prosecution? Is that your story?

ALEX
That's my story.

Alex kisses Linus, as Bel wags his tail.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Linus, you never did tell me if you
have MacLeod blood in you, or
MacDonald blood?

LINUS
More Neanderthal blood actually.

Linus guides a smiling Alex toward the police station door.

ALEX
Good answer. No wonder Bel loves
you. Maybe me, too.

ROLL CREDITS

Inside a helicopter, flying over the Isle of Eigg.

NARRATOR

Mallaig police have concluded that the largest mass shooting in northern Scotland's history was the work of a crazed anti-hunting organization bent on killing anyone who had trophy-hunted for sport. Still, these killings pale in comparison to human massacres that occurred hundreds of years ago on this once-again peaceful, little island.

THE END

FADE OUT.