

LITTLE F%CKING MONSTERS

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Pasadena, California. A massive craftsman wonder glows a warm amber from the windows between its friendly, chocolate pillars. Crickets do their thing as the silver moon floods the front yard with light.

A SCREAM is faint but distinct from inside.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mid century furniture pops yellow and teal around the family room. The formal dining nook holds a heavy, Victorian table surrounded by white leather chairs. There's another SCREAM.

Upstairs, a long, dim hallway appears to breathe as shadows move across the gold leaf wallpaper. Light struggles to find its way out from under the bathroom door- feet on the other side dance frantic. The knob jiggles.

The door is FLUNG open. A NAKED MAN SCREAMS again while running from the toilet house. Steam pours out, the shower still blasting water.

NAKED MAN
HELP! (BEAT) HELP ME!

Carefully, but quickly, he runs down the stairs. His dick is enormous.

NAKED MAN (CONT'D)
HELP ME!

Something SCURRIES across his foot. He stops cold.

NAKED MAN (CONT'D)
EEEEEEEEKKKKKK!

He's tripped and TUMBLES down the stairs.

He lands hard on the floor, barely moving. High-pitched LAUGHTER comes from every corner. The naked man tries to gather himself and stand.

He looks to the front door. Renewed, he scrambles for the knob. Locked.

NAKED MAN (CONT'D)
NO!

Furious. He SHAKES the knob. The door doesn't open.

NAKED MAN (CONT'D)
HELP! HELP!

He POUNDS on the door. THWACK! He's stunned. A small dart juts from his neck. He reaches for it and pulls it out.

NAKED MAN (CONT'D)
Oh no.

He looks to the family room. The window.

SMASH! His Eames chair BOUNCES from the porch to the lawn. THWACK! Another dart. He reaches for it, slowly. His eyes are heavy. He pulls the dart from his neck and takes a single step before falling to the floor.

LAUGHTER. All around. On his back, his arms try to reach for anything. They drop to the floor. His vision goes blurry. The lights go out.

Small, dark figures climb his chest.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A slow, clumsy SHOUT ramps to a final SCREAM. Cut short, the scream is silenced. The neighborhood is peaceful once more.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

TIME LAPSE. Flashing lights. Squad cars. A coroner comes and goes. Officers and men in suits do the same. A realtor places a FOR SALE sign in the front yard. The house begins to age as dozens of potential home buyers visit the property. END TIME LAPSE.

ONE YEAR LATER.

A moving van pulls into the driveway. A slim man with a boyish face exits the driver's side; CORBIN MITCHELL, 41. He stands on the lawn, admiring the house.

CORBIN
(excited)
Would you smell that air?

From the passenger's side, a purple-haired girl wearing a SLAYER shirt, shorts and white Chuck Taylors squints at him; JADE MITCHELL, 17. Corbin looks to her.

JADE
What?

CORBIN
Would you smell it?

She looks around to see if he's talking to someone else.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
The air, honey. Would you smell the air out here?

JADE
Yes?

CORBIN
It's so fresh! Almost minty. It smells like... importance.

JADE
Dad, our house is less than three miles away. It's the same air.

CORBIN
No, Jade. The rat's nest with the crumbling foundation you're referring to is no longer our home. (BEAT) This. This is our home now.

He beams. She unloads the truck.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
I could honestly cry.

A black LAND ROVER parks at the curb. VIOLET MITCHELL, 39, exits. Her brown hair is tied back in a ponytail. She wears a faded YALE sweater and skinny jeans.

VIOLET
Please be careful with those first ones, sweetie. They're for your father's man cave.

JADE
Sure thing, mom.

She mimes opening one.

JADE (CONT'D)
Dildos? And this box too? Why, there has to be six or seven boxes filled to the brim! What kind of man needs this many dildos?!

Violet puts her arm around Corbin. He puts his around her. He weeps.

VIOLET
Kid found your stash.

CORBIN
She's old enough to know the truth.
(BEAT) It's beautiful.

VIOLET
We're all so proud of you, baby.
(BEAT) Should we go inside or... do you just want to stay here, softly crying?

CORBIN
I would like to go inside, but let the record show, Vi, that I am not afraid to embrace my emotions.

VIOLET
Duly noted.

She pats his stomach. They walk up the steps.

In the driveway, Jade organizes boxes. An older couple approach with their dog; TOM & LISA FULLER.

TOM
Hello!

LISA
Hi!

Jade gives them a warm smile and extends her hand. BARK! The dog loses its mind around her. Tom YANKS on the leash, Jade JUMPS back.

TOM
DOWN, MILO! NO!

Lisa pulls a water bottle from her fanny pack and SPRAYS the dog in the face.

LISA
NO! CALM! CALM!

Jade is terrified.

TOM
Sorry. So sorry. He isn't usually like this. (BEAT) MILO!

JADE
Oh. It's cool-

LISA
YOU WILL BE CALM! MILO!

The dog BARKS and STRUGGLES to break free.

TOM
You know what? Take the dog. Take him home. Away.

LISA
I'll take him then? Should I?

TOM
Yeah, because he's... you take him-GO WITH MOMMY, MILO!

LISA
COME WITH MOMMY!

She PULLS him away.

LISA (CONT'D)
So nice to meet you! Welcome to the neighborhood. MILO! HOW DARE YOU!

JADE
Holy shit.

TOM
Tom Fuller, pleasure.

They shake hands.

JADE
Jade. Mitchell. My, uh, parents are inside.

TOM
Where are you from?

JADE
Just down the street.

TOM
Oh, nice. You have a dog?

JADE
Can't say that I do, Tom.

TOM
Milo's great. Please don't take it personally. It's the house he doesn't like.

JADE
The house? Our house?

TOM
Yeah. Goes crazy every time we walk him past it. (BEAT) He must know something we don't, huh?

JADE
(concerned)
Probably.

TOM
It's an old house. They all are on this street. But this one? Drives the poor dog crazy.

JADE
Cool. That information isn't going to give me nightmares or anything. I'll sleep really well in the house that hides... dog, secrets.

TOM

Uh-huh. Please tell your parents we said hello. The wife and I will swing by once you're all settled in with a little house warming gift. Welcome to the neighborhood.

Jade looks back at her house, slightly nervous.

CUT TO:

COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Not quite a STARBUCKS but pretty close; teens and artists of all kinds work on laptops. A raven-haired girl in an impossibly short skirt, TARYN TREJO, 18, talks to a wiry boy. His name is DANNY PARK, 17.

TARYN

Robbie wants to try anal.

DANNY

Oh. With, like, a guy or would you put... things up...?

TARYN

The fuck, Danny? He doesn't want anything up *his* ass, he wants to put his things up *my* ass.

He's confused.

TARYN (CONT'D)

Deep in my ass. My GIRL ass!

DANNY

That's not so bad. People in prison do it all the time.

TARYN

Yeah and it's called "rape".

DANNY

I'm talking more about contraband. I saw a show where this breakdancer hid batteries and a switch blade up his rear. Another guy had a cell phone. They seemed fine.

TARYN

This is a totally different scenario.

DANNY

I dunno, the batteries were D's. It was for a boombox. He had like seven up there. (BEAT) Must have really loved breakdancing.

TARYN

Danny. Focus.

He makes eye contact then lowers his gaze to her body.

TARYN (CONT'D)

Could he seriously be bored with me already? I mean, I do literally everything else. And I devastate his dick, every time. (BEAT) I SOAK in the tub and oil my entire body before we make love... plus, look at this! My shit is TIGHT!

She smiles. Danny's eyes are locked onto her thighs.

TARYN (CONT'D)

Hello?

DANNY

OH! Sorry. Yeah. You... smush his genitals. Nice.

He crosses his legs.

TARYN

You too prude for this? (BEAT) Why are you sitting all weird? Did you jizz yourself or something?

DANNY

(nervous)

Ha! Jizz. No... you. Funny girl.

Jade takes a seat next to Taryn.

JADE

Did Danny just blast all his sperms?

DANNY

Taryn told me that her vagina is Chuck Norris and it jump kicks her boyfriend's privates when they're intimate.

TARYN

Robbie wants me to give up my butt.

JADE
Eww, fuck!

She HEAVES. Nothing comes out but other patrons are alarmed.

JADE (CONT'D)
What the hell is wrong with him?

DANNY
Maybe he's interested in the
scientific side of all this?

TARYN
Science?

DANNY
An uncomfortable situation,
perhaps, but a journey into the
unknown for both of you. Like
Madame Curie with radiation.

JADE
Except I'm pretty sure that bitch
never had to put a test tube up her
ass to find the cure.

DANNY
She never found a cure. There isn't
one. It's radiation. You just, die.

They stare at him. Jade looks to Taryn.

JADE
Did our autistic friend mention
when he was picking us up on
Friday?

TARYN
You can still get your mom's car
for the party, right?

There's a twinge of panic in his eyes.

DANNY
Definitely. No sweat. I have a
license. For driving.

Jade gives him a confused look. Taryn SIPS her coffee and
SPITS it out.

TARYN
(shouting)
FUCK YOUR GARBAGE COFFEE, TERRY!

She THROWS her drink at a sheepish barista.

JADE

Terry needs to go to Jamaica and
get his groove back.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Violet pulls various pieces of dinnerware from boxes and places them in the cherry wood cupboards. Corbin carries a large box of pans and HUMS a familiar tune.

CORBIN

I don't know why they keep making
music. For my money, it doesn't get
any better than SCATMAN.

VIOLET

Who's "they"?

CORBIN

Musicians? (BEAT) Where do you want
this box of back up pans?

VIOLET

Can you put them in the basement?

CORBIN

(excited)

HA! You bet your beautiful
backside. We have a basement!

VIOLET

Thanks, honey.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Corbin descends the stairs, slowly. He GRUNTS and GROANS while trying his hardest not to fall down the steps. He turns the corner- it's incredible.

The cavernous space is well-lit, completely finished, and even comes with a work room and storage racks.

CORBIN

I'm having the best day.

Corbin misses the last step.

CORBIN (CONT'D)

Kerp!

He CRASHES onto the floor. Pots go flying.

VIOLET (O.S.)
You alright?

Corbin springs to his feet.

CORBIN
Never better! (BEAT) Some, joker...
missed the step. I missed the step!

VIOLET (O.S.)
Be careful.

CORBIN
Ah-yeahp.

He places the box neatly on one of the shelves. Deep breath and a STRETCH. He looks around. DRIP. DRIP. DRIP.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
What's that now?

DRIP.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Hm?

He searches until he spots a leaky pipe in an industrial area of the basement. Pipes, wires, heating units and whatnot.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Little leaky guy? You can't be
doing that.

He fumbles around the corner and returns with a crescent wrench.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Let's give you what you need.

Corbin casually attempts to tighten the nut on the pipe. It doesn't budge. He puts his back into it. Nothing.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Ah. Stubborn? Oh, well-

He tries to CRANK it with all his might. He GRUNTS. Grunting leads to SHOUTING, which leads to SCREAMING.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
NO!

CLANG! His wrench collides with the pipe. It ECHOES around the house. He's surprised. The dripping stops. A smile creeps up across his face. Triumphant, Corbin turns his back to the pipe.

DRIP.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
No. I fixed you.

DRIP. He SHAKES his head. DRIP.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Damn you, pipe.

DRIP. He ATTACKS the pipe with the wrench- CLANG!

CUT TO:

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The sound of banging pipes causes the wall sconces to TWITCH, just slightly.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

CLANG! Corbin THRASHES the pipes again.

CUT TO:

MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The serenity of their FOUR SEASONS-esq bedroom is SHATTERED by the banging on the pipes.

INT. BASEMENT

Corbin is loosing it on the pipe.

CORBIN
SON OF A BITCH! PIPE!

CLANG!

CUT TO:

INSIDE THE WALLS - CONTINUOUS

Insulation and wires, flanked by lumber, and peppered with nails. CLANG!

Following a wire down, under the house, it's dark. Spider webs are everywhere. CLANG! A mouse RUNS by what seems to be houses made from coffee cans and shoe boxes.

Another mouse RUNS up a pipe, into the walls. CLANG! It SCURRIES past what appear to be houses made from milk cartons. A tiny figure walks into the doorway.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Corbin is SCREAMING. CLANG! SLOW MOTION, he raises the wrench. His eyes go WIDE. Spittle EXPLODES from his open mouth as he brings the tool down hard onto the pipe.

CUT TO:

THE ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

The CLANG of the pipe rings like cannon fire around the dark, dusty expanse of top-floor storage. The room falls silent.

Moments later, shadows appear to shift, spilling across the floor in every direction. Soft WHISPERS start faint and grow louder. Fragments of shadow break apart, becoming tiny, human silhouettes.

They listen.

INT. BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

A winded Corbin lies on the floor. DRIP. He refuses to hear it. DRIP.

CORBIN

No. You shit pipe.

DRIP. He pulls himself up.

CORBIN (CONT'D)

I've never hated anything more than
I hate you, right now.

The DRIP gives way to a much larger TRICKLE of water. He lightly TAPS the pipe.

BLAM! The spigot BLASTS free, propelled by a thousand gallons of water. The fire hose KNOCKS him down. He fights to get to his feet.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
 AHHH! (BEAT) VI! The house is
 flooding. Call the police!

He scrambles for the steps and slip-falls his way up them. Click. The lights go out. Water SPRAYS from the burst pipe. In the wall vents, tiny lights appear and move about, casting a glow around the little people.

EXT. PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Willow trees lean against the Spanish architecture that so many youths call "fucking school". RIIING! The shrill sound of the bell halts conversations of importance as well-dressed teens shuffle off to class.

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jade, Taryn, and Danny sit in the back of their English class. A thin albino boy takes his seat nearby; NILT FROSJOSTEN, 17. He looks back to them and smiles.

A handsome lad in a letterman jacket sees the albino and does not approve. He's GARRETT LOVELAND, 17.

GARRETT
 You're a fucking ghoul, dude.

Nilt looks to him and smiles.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
 Quit smiling at me you transparent
 piece of shit!

He THROWS trash at the boy.

NILT
 In my previous school, I obtained
 the abbreviated name of Smiles,
 because of my pleasant smile.

GARRETT
 They called you "smiles"?

NILT
 Yes. That is correct.

GARRETT

I'm going to take your shoes and push you down a hill.

TARYN

You're such an asshole, Garrett. Leave the little Swedish guy alone.

NILT

Oh. I don't wish to be rude, but I am from Finland. I'm Finnish.

A tall, bald man, mister THEO ELDER, 42, places his briefcase on his desk.

MR. ELDER

Nobody cares, Nilt. (BEAT) Hello students. I have a pinched nerve in my leg and it hurts. You can either put your heads down on your desk for the remainder of the class or speak softly to the person next to you. Either way, I'm going to be turning off the lights and...

TARYN

I don't know why Garrett is so mean to that little German kid.

DANNY

He's on the Lacrosse team, now. He has to act like the rest of those tool bags.

The room darkens.

TARYN

Nothing to add here, sweetie?

She speaks to Jade.

JADE

About what?

TARYN

Garrett being an asshole.

JADE

I don't think he's one of those. Things.

DANNY

Did you hear how he was talking to Smiles?

JADE
Who the shit is "smiles"?

TARYN
The fucking elf boy sitting right
there.

He turns around in his chair and WAVES. Jade does not
approve.

JADE
The fuck is this guy?

DANNY
Wow. You got it bad.

JADE
What are you talking about?

TARYN
We've been in this classroom for
months and you haven't even noticed
the delightful albino who sits four
feet away from you? (BEAT) You got
Garrett fever.

JADE
What? For Garrett? I got the hots
for him? PFFFT! Right.

She gestures and shakes her head as though she's a robot
caught in an endless loop.

JADE (CONT'D)
No. I'm just- I'm not. Pffft. What?

DANNY
(concerned)
You're so in love, your brain
stopped working.

JADE
Guys. He's cute, yeah, I get it.
But... he's not... my type.

TARYN
ARE. YOU. KIDDING ME?!

MR. ELDER (O.S.)
TARYN! MY LEG!

JADE
It's nothing. Whatever.

NILT
You truly care for him.

JADE
(angry)
Hey. Guy? Why don't you take your
thin, wispy penis and go fuck
yourself? Then get the two of them.
(BEAT) All of you. Jerk tits.

She scribbles in her notebook.

CUT TO:

EXT. JADE'S HOUSE

An overweight MAILMAN Santa Clauses his way up to the mail slot by the door. He's in a foul mood but puts the mail in the slot, nonetheless. Immediately, it's pushed back out, onto the porch.

MAILMAN
Come on. Not today.

He puts the mail back in the slot and it comes right back out. He GRUNTS in frustration and JAMS it back in the slot, but something blocks it from inside.

MAILMAN (CONT'D)
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DO THIS?!

He's pushing hard against the slot, destroying the mail. Behind him a thin, razor-sharp wire is affixed to the walkway by a pair of shadowy little creatures.

MAILMAN (CONT'D)
YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?! Ten
years. TEN YEARS! I've delivered
mail to this house, different
occupants but you all insist on
making my life miserable. (BEAT)
ARE YOU ALL MEMBERS OF SOME KIND OF
MAIL CARRIER HATE GROUP?!

He grabs the mail and stands.

MAILMAN (CONT'D)
FINE! FUCK YOUR MAIL!

He throws it against the door. He STOMPS off in a huff.

MAILMAN (CONT'D)
AND FUCK YOUR BUTTS!

A floor board pops up. He trips and lands neck-first on the wire- SLICE! His head comes clean off. Blood GUSHES down the steps as his body contorts. Quickly, a crude net is thrown over his head and it's dragged under the house.

A ballet of tiny creatures, obscured by the flurry of movements they create and harsh shadows cast by the noon-day-sun, move to simultaneously drag the body below the house and clean the steps in a flash.

A tiny man, no more than five inches tall steps out from under the house, into the light. He wears a rough-cut jacket and pants that seem to have been sewn from a single piece of scarf fabric. With a blood-smeared face, he NODS.

At the curb, the mail truck is put into gear and driven off; without anyone visible behind the wheel.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Jade and Corbin eat chocolate chip cookies around the island in their kitchen.

JADE

It's a bullshit scam, that's what it is, dad.

CORBIN

Now, you know I don't care for that kind of language, young lady, but I completely agree with you.

JADE

Damn right.

VIOLET

What's your father damn right about, sweetie?

JADE

Dad was just saying how the age of consent should be lowered to fourteen.

VIOLET

And you agree with that?

CORBIN

How could I argue with that face?

VIOLET

It's not easy.

Violet leans over and KISSES Corbin.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
What were you actually talking
about?

CORBIN
Plumber gouging us.

He fusses with his shirt.

JADE
You OK, old man?

CORBIN
I don't know how or why, but I've
lost like eight buttons in the
move. Random buttons from two of my
favorite shirts... I look like an
honest-to-goodness crazy person.

Violet smiles and picks up the empty plate of cookies.
Something MOVES on the counter.

VIOLET
AHH!

She drops the plate. SMASH! Corbin and Jade JUMP to their
feet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
A MOUSE!

CORBIN
WHAT?! Where?

She points to the sugar jar.

JADE
Don't hurt it!

Corbin walks cautiously toward the kitchen counter.

CORBIN
HA-HAH!

He POUNCES on the sugar. The girls WINCE.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
(confused)
Nothing?

VIOLET

How could it be nothing? I saw a mouse.

He shows her the open sugar container.

CORBIN

Are you sure it wasn't this sugar you saw?

She gives it a second. Her anger doesn't subside.

VIOLET

No. I didn't see the *sugar* scurry across the counter.

He takes a good look at it.

CORBIN

No?

VIOLET

NO! It must have- gone into the wall. Through a crack?

CORBIN

(smiles)

Oh. I see where you're going with this.

She opens her mouth to speak.

CORBIN (CONT'D)

You're on your period again. Aren't you?

JADE

HOLY SHIT, DAD!

CORBIN

Language. Aren't you getting old enough where that stuff in you all dies and your boobies get really hot in the middle of the night?

VIOLET

(shocked)

Uh-

CORBIN

Manuspause?

VIOLET

Call an exterminator.

She leaves the room.

CORBIN
Vi? (BEAT) Vi?

He looks to Jade.

CORBIN (CONT'D)
Your mother's on her period.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The stands are packed with teens and their families, CHEERING for the players on the field. TACKLE! Cheerleaders shake their asses and lead the onlookers in a CHANT.

Taryn is among the beauties. Danny watches her in the front row, adoring.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - LATER

Taryn exits the gym with two other girls.

TARYN
Night, ladies.

She spots a hunky bad boy standing next to a pay phone in the parking lot; ROBBIE WESTLAND, 21.

TARYN (CONT'D)
(excited)
Hey baby!

They HUG. He KISSES her and it's pornographic. He GRABS her buns.

ROBBIE
I've been thinking about this all day.

She pulls away.

TARYN
Did you watch the game?

ROBBIE
Pfft. No. (BEAT) Come on, let's get outta here.

TARYN
We did our new routine tonight. It was awesome.

ROBBIE

I bet.

He KISSES her again. Danny turns the corner around the gym and sees them. He stops and lurks for a second.

TARYN

Hold on.

He doesn't.

TARYN (CONT'D)

Robbie!

ROBBIE

What?

TARYN

Can you calm down for a second? I'm trying to talk to you.

ROBBIE

Yeah. Rah-rah, I didn't see it. You can give me a private reenactment later.

TARYN

No. I'm not in the mood.

ROBBIE

What the fuck, Taryn? I switched shifts so we could beef tonight. You're seriously gonna give me blue balls like that?

TARYN

Yes, I am. We're in a relationship, Robbie. I'm not some fleshlight that exists just to take your dick whenever you feel like getting off. (BEAT) I'm hungry and tired, and I don't really feel like fooling around. You should be cool with that.

ROBBIE

Whatever.

He moves away from her.

TARYN

What does that mean?

ROBBIE
I'm gonna blast one into a sock and
hang with the boys. Call me when
you're done being a bitch.

TARYN
Excuse me?

He leaves.

TARYN (CONT'D)
Robbie? (BEAT) ROBBIE!

Her eyes water. Danny approaches.

DANNY
Hey Taryn.

She WIPES her eyes.

TARYN
Uh, hey.

DANNY
You... OK?

TARYN
Yeah? Why wouldn't I be?

DANNY
The routine was great. I mean,
awesome, tonight.

TARYN
Thanks. I saw you in the stands.

DANNY
Right? All those fine ladies? No
chance I'd miss seeing, those...
hos.

She smiles.

DANNY (CONT'D)
No, that was rude. I shouldn't have
called them "hos".

TARYN
Most of 'em are. It's cool. You
hungry?

He NODS and they walk together.

EXT. JADE'S HOUSE - DAY

A beautiful day in Pasadena. Corbin MOWS the lawn in short shorts.

INT. JADE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jade listens to music while unpacking one of two remaining boxes in the corner of her room. She carries a pile of clothes over to her dresser, dropping them on the floor. She smells something.

JADE

The shit?

A faint trace of smoke snakes out from her closed closet door. She opens it. A crumpled T-shirt is burning on the floor below.

JADE (CONT'D)

FIRE!

She grabs a flannel from its hanger and smothers the flames. They go out. Her heart is racing.

VIOLET (O.S.)

Honey, do you smell smoke?

JADE

MOM! My shirt! It was just on fire!

VIOLET

(concerned)

Fire? Are you OK?

She takes a knee next to her daughter.

JADE

I smelled smoke, then found my shirt- someone set it on fire.

Violet inspects the shirt and finds a burnt cigarette nearby.

VIOLET

Were you smoking in your closet?

JADE

Mom? No, didn't you just hear me?

VIOLET

You know how I feel about drug use. Still, you don't need to hide things like this- your father and I are here for you.

JADE

First, *drug use*? It's a cigarette, not heroin. Second, I'm not hiding anything. I know you guys are cool- someone tried to burn our house down!

VIOLET

Well, it looks like the house'll be just fine. That reminds me, did you borrow any of my jewelry? I can't find that beaded necklace you gave me or my gold ring.

JADE

How does? I feel like you aren't here right now. Am I dreaming?

She pinches herself. Violet is waiting for an answer.

JADE (CONT'D)

What?

VIOLET

My jewelry?

JADE

No? I wouldn't borrow your stuff, mom.

VIOLET

Right, because nothing I own looks haunted. Must be in one of the boxes I haven't unpacked. (BEAT) Get moving, kid. Can't be late.

INT. GYMNASIUM

Kids play a dangerously unorganized game of basketball for P.E. Jade and Danny sit in the bleachers, decked out in school-issued gym clothes.

DANNY

Hey Jade?

JADE

Yes, Danny?

DANNY

Do you ever think old people
sometimes look like they've been
caught in a windstorm?

JADE

No Danny. No one has ever thought
that.

DANNY

But they look that way. Old people
always have messy, wind-swept hair
and improperly buttoned sweaters,
plus chapped lips.

JADE

How does the wind make someone
button their sweater the wrong way?

DANNY

It's like they did it in a hurry.
Like, a blustery wind was pummeling
them and they had to quickly find
shelter.

A lanky redhead joins them; TODD MURDOCK, 16.

JADE

You should give the elderly a
break. Life sucks for them.

TODD

You guys hear about Kevin's party?

JADE

Go away, Todd.

TODD

It's cancelled. Kevin's mom found
out and the whole thing's off!

JADE

Hey Todd?

TODD

What?

JADE

Is it weird having doll hair?

TODD

I don't have doll hair. Shut up,
Jade.

He leaves.

DANNY

Poor guy. He was struck by
lightening when he was nine and it
left his hair all splotchy and
frizzed.

TODD (O.S.)

I don't have doll hair!

DANNY

If there's no party on Friday, when
are you going to find the
opportunity to hook up with
Garrett?

JADE

(flustered)

Pff-

DANNY

You should throw a party.

JADE

Huh?

DANNY

Aren't your parents going out of
town next weekend? Your house is
super big. That's good for parties,
right?

JADE

But the party was supposed to be
this Friday.

DANNY

So? It'll take a day for word to
get out about Kevin's thing being a
bust... we can start telling people
about your party tomorrow.

JADE

You seem pretty OK with the party
being off this week. Relieved you
don't have to tell Taryn you never
got your license?

DANNY

(loud whisper)

You promised you wouldn't say! I
get to retake the test next week,
so, I'll get it in time.

JADE

You have such a boner for her.
Sucks that she's in love with
Robbie.

Wearing his letterman jacket, Garrett walks in and talks with
the P. E. teacher.

DANNY

Speaking of douche bags that girls
love.

She turns and spots Garrett.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hi Garrett.

JADE

What the balls are you doing?

DANNY

Being nice.

Garrett NODS and makes his way over to them.

JADE

Oh shit.

GARRETT

Hey Jade.

JADE

(loud)
Hey guy!

DANNY

Hi Garrett.

GARRETT

Hey Donald. Did you guys hear about
Kevin's party?

DANNY

Yeah, but it's cool. Jade is going
to host a party at her new place
next weekend.

GARRETT

Really?! That's awesome! What day?

DANNY

Saturday. But at night. It's an
evening party.

JADE

YES. There will be beers there and sex. But, not me. People maybe. Will... sex.

GARRETT

You alright?

She shrugs him off, cool as ICE.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Cool. I'll spread the word.

DANNY

It's a costume party.

GARRETT

What?

JADE

What?

DANNY

Costume parties are more fun. My parents' twentieth anniversary party was a costume party- we all had a great time.

GARRETT

Oh. Well. I bet you'll look hot.
(BEAT) See you later.

He leaves.

JADE

A fucking COSTUME party?!

DANNY

You should dress like a potato.

CUT TO:

EXT. JADE'S HOUSE

A dirty exterminator van parked at the curb. An equally dirty EXTERMINATOR exits the back of Jade's house with a tank of poison and a clipboard. He consults his notes and grabs his radio.

EXTERMINATOR

This is Dallas. I just finished at the Mitchell house- it's clean.

(MORE)

EXTERMINATOR (CONT'D)
 I couldn't find a thing. (BEAT)
 Gonna grab lunch and head in.

The bushes at the back of the yard SHAKE.

EXTERMINATOR (CONT'D)
 What the-

They shake harder, almost beckoning him. He cautiously approaches with his sprayer outstretched.

EXTERMINATOR (CONT'D)
 If you're a kid, please come out. I really don't want to poison you.

He inches closer. The shaking stops. He stops in his tracks.

EXTERMINATOR (CONT'D)
 Hello?

CRASH! A mutilated deer carcass is thrown at him and he takes a SCREAMING TUMBLE. He's face-to-face with a bloody deer skull. He screams again.

There's faint laughter all around. He heaves the deer off and stands.

EXTERMINATOR (CONT'D)
 You stupid kids! That is messed-up!
 (BEAT) I hope you all get Lyme disease from that deer!

He hurries off and drives away. The carcass is dragged into the bushes.

There's a TIME LAPSE from late afternoon, to evening, to morning; shadowy little creatures scurry about the yard.

A newspaper lands on the porch.

INT. JADE'S ROOM

She's asleep in her bed when the alarm goes off. Her eyes tighten. She STRETCHES. Groggy, she opens her eyes. Three tiny men stare down at her from the top of her headboard.

JADE
 (groggy)
 Wha?

LITTLE MAN
 Leave. This. Place.

JADE

AHHH!

She somersaults out of bed, still SCREAMING. She looks back—they're gone.

JADE (CONT'D)

MOM!!

Violet comes RUNNING into the room.

VIOLET

What?! What is it?!

Jade practically TACKLES her, she hugs her so hard.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Honey, what's the matter?

JADE

I saw something. Little-

VIOLET

Was it the mouse?

JADE

I don't know. They looked like... people.

VIOLET

People? Was someone in your room?!

JADE

No. Up. On my headboard. Little... people? I saw-

VIOLET

Little people? Were you having a dream, honey?

JADE

I don't think so. No. I was awake.

They walk over to the bed. Violet moves things around.

JADE (CONT'D)

Look under the bed too.

She does.

VIOLET

I don't see anything. People?

JADE

Yes.

VIOLET

Little, people?

JADE

I thought so.

Violet gestures "small" with her hand.

JADE (CONT'D)

Yeah. Like, five, six inches tall.

VIOLET

Oh, that was definitely a dream,
love.

She stands and HUGS Jade.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Why don't you get ready for school
and I'll make you breakfast, OK?

JADE

I-

VIOLET

Take a deep breath, Jade. It was a
bad dream. Take a shower and get
ready. I'll make you waffles, OK?

JADE

Yeah. Alright.

CUT TO:

SCHOOL COURTYARD - LATER

Students buzz about with their lunches in hand. Jade and Taryn sit next to each other against the handball wall.

TARYN

Are you taking drugs?

JADE

Fuck off.

TARYN

Not like, crack... Ambien or
something.

(MORE)

TARYN (CONT'D)

My dad takes it when he has to travel for work and he's always telling us about his crazy dreams.

JADE

No. I wasn't on anything.

TARYN

But you saw three, tiny little men. Staring at you. On your bed?

JADE

It's that tone- that tone and that look that makes other girls call you a cunt all the time.

TARYN

Who calls me a cunt?!

JADE

Your mother. Constantly. Look, I know it sounds crazy, but I think I saw little... goblins. Or something.

TARYN

They're goblins now?

JADE

Why can't you go with me on this?

TARYN

Because it's impossible. You were totally dreaming. It's OK. I dream about fucked up shit all the time! (BEAT) Two nights ago? I dreamt that the guy from the X-Men movies, the one in the wheelchair?

JADE

Professor X?

TARYN

I guess. The bald one? His legs don't seem to work?

JADE

That's the one.

TARYN

I dreamt that he tied me down and put his wheelchair up my ass.

JADE

The wheelchair? Like, the whole thing?

TARYN

Yes. It was horrible.

JADE

But, that's how he gets around. Did he have another chair near by, or, a guy holding him?

TARYN

Jade, focus, baby. His WHOLE CHAIR.

JADE

The gentleman's a paraplegic, Taryn. And a genius. He wouldn't get rid of his only means of conveyance without having a suitable backup at the ready.

TARYN

The point is, I'm nervous about taking my boyfriend's dick back there and it's giving me nightmares. You have to figure out what's going on in your life to make you think you're seeing little people.

She thinks for a minute.

JADE

I have no idea.

The bell RINGS. Taryn stands.

TARYN

Don't worry. You'll figure it out. See you after class.

She blows a kiss to her friend. Jade stands. Garrett approaches with two douchy looking pals. Jade panics.

GARRETT

Hey Jade.

JADE

(loud)
HEEYYY.

GARRETT

That was weird.

JADE
Like your junk! WWHAAT?

She wishes she was dead.

GARRETT
 Right. Everything coming together
 for the party next Saturday night?

JADE
 My party? That I'm throwing? You
 know it.

GARRETT
 Cool. I'll see you there.

JADE
 Cooooool. You think of a costume or
 you just gonna wear the *stupid*
asshole getup you rock every day.
 (BEAT) You know, I'm sorry. That
 was... supposed to be a joke and I
 think? It was super mean. I have- I
 go.

GARRETT
 Go?

JADE
 Go. I'm. Gonna go. See you later.
 You're nice. Not an asshole.

She takes a step away and stops.

JADE (CONT'D)
 I'm sure your junk isn't weird,
 either.

She CRINGES.

EXT. CHURCH

The girls walk arm-in-arm on the sidewalk and stop in front
 of a large, white church.

JADE
 Why are we stopping?

TARYN
 I have to adjust. Thong's twisting
 my lips.

JADE

Oh my fuck! TMI dude. I don't need
to know about your troubled labias.

Taryn shifts things around in her pants. They turn the
corner, into Jade's neighborhood.

TARYN

OH!

JADE

AHH!

They almost run into the Fullers and their dog, Milo.

TOM

Hello Jade!

JADE

(frantic)

Back up, their dog's crazy!

Milo WAGS his tail and seems to smile.

TARYN

What are you talking about?

She takes a knee and gives him SNUGGLES. He LICKS her face.

JADE

But, it was bonkers last time I met
him.

LISA

That's just around your house,
sweetie. Milo is a pushover.

JADE

Oh.

TOM

Have you all settled in yet?

JADE

Yeah. Pretty much. Still have some-

TOM

Fantastic! How does Thursday look
for dinner?

JADE

Well, I have to check with my
parents, but-

LISA
Thursday is perfect for us. Thanks.

JADE
What's happening here?

TOM
You check in with them and let us know, OK? Great.

LISA
Seven o'clock? We'll see you then!

JADE
Wait! I have to ask my parents.

They walk away.

JADE (CONT'D)
That's not how people do things.
I'm a child, they shouldn't even be talking to me without my grown-up present.

TARYN
They seem nice.

JADE
(mimicking)
They seem nice! Dummy.

Taryn gives her a look.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Corbin sleeps on the couch with a landscaping book on his stomach as Violet silently works away on her computer. Taryn and Jade watch a Monster Truck rally on TV. HONK! A car horn BLARES outside.

TARYN
That's me.

JADE
Aww, it's early, bitch! Just tell Robbie to come in and hang out. The two of you can make out on the love seat.

VIOLET (O.S.)
Nope.

TARYN
Not gonna happen.

She kisses Jade on the forehead.

TARYN (CONT'D)
I love you. No bad dreams tonight.

She grabs her backpack.

TARYN (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow. (BEAT) Bye Misses
Mitchell.

Violet puts down her laptop.

VIOLET
Have a good night, sweetie. Tell
your mom we said "hi".

HONK!

TARYN
Will do. Night!

JADE
UGH! I guess.

Taryn leaves.

VIOLET
Jade? What did Taryn mean when she
said no bad dreams?

JADE
Oh, nothing. She's just being
stupid.

Jade gathers up the various snack bowls and glasses they were using and walks them into the kitchen. She places the items on the counter and runs the water. As she washes a glass, a tiny man PEEKS OUT at her from the house plant next to the sink.

He watches her, crouched. She keeps washing. He stands, stumbles, and FALLS from the plant onto the counter, next to Jade.

They lock eyes. Jade GASPS and holds her breath. The little man stands and looks around, scared. Jade is frozen. He looks at her, seemingly at ease.

JADE (CONT'D)
You're real.

He grimaces.

LITTLE MAN

(soft)

Leave. This. Place. ALL OF YOU!

Angry, he SHRIEKS at her. Jade SCREAMS. He SCURRIES off.

JADE

MOM! DAD! AAHHHH!

Violet and Corbin come racing in.

VIOLET

What is it?

CORBIN

Honey! What happened?!

VIOLET

Did you see the mouse?

She RUNS to them. They all hug.

JADE

I saw one of the little men! He was watching me, and I made him mad. He screamed at me!

CORBIN

Little men? What are you talking about?

VIOLET

What did you see?

JADE

One of the little men. From my headboard. It was like, five inches tall- he told me to leave the house!

CORBIN

Is she joking? I don't get it.

VIOLET

She had a bad dream this morning-

JADE

It wasn't a dream! I SAW them! And I just saw another one! They're watching me! (BEAT) I have to get outta here. I can't stay in this house.

VIOLET

Take a deep breath, sweetie. The move has got you stressed. Your mind is playing tricks on you.

JADE

You think I'm seeing things?! It wasn't in my head! I saw it, him, I saw him right by the plant.

CORBIN

I don't know what I should do.

VIOLET

How about you look for this, little man and I'll take Jade upstairs.

Violet puts her arm around Jade and walks with her. Corbin scratches his head and moves toward the sink.

INT. JADE'S ROOM - LATER

Jade sleeps with her mouth open, SOAKING her pillow with all the spit.

Down the hall, in her parents' room, Violet and Corbin get ready for bed.

CORBIN

Do you think she's asleep?

VIOLET

For sure. I gave her something to knock her out.

CORBIN

My poor baby. What do you think is going on with her?

VIOLET

She was probably having a bad trip.

CORBIN

I'm sorry, a bad trip? You're Jerry Garcia all of a sudden?

VIOLET

She's seventeen, Corbin.

CORBIN

So?

VIOLET

And a senior in high school. She was probably experimenting.

CORBIN

The only experimenting my little girl takes part in involves baking soda, vinegar, and paper mache volcanos.

VIOLET

You didn't ever mess around with drugs when you were a kid?

CORBIN

Absolutely not. And neither would Jade. She's a good kid.

VIOLET

How else would you explain her seeing "little men" in her room?

CORBIN

She's stressed! Between planning for college and homework and boys? She's probably a ball of nerves.

Corbin climbs into bed.

VIOLET

She told you about a boy?

Violet gets into bed too.

CORBIN

Not really... I think she likes a guy who hasn't really noticed her. I over heard her talking with Taryn.

VIOLET

Well, even so, I don't think she's having stress hallucinations. It's either drugs... or...

CORBIN

Or, what?

VIOLET

Maybe she has, a mental issue.

CORBIN
That's ridiculous. It's an old house- we probably have a mouse or two running around and the shadows are freaking her out.

VIOLET
Maybe.

They kiss.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
We should talk to her about it.

He CLICKS off the light. ZZZAAAPPP! Corbin SHAKES as the lights in the room FLICKER.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
CORBIN!

He falls off the bed, taking the lamp with him. Violet moves quickly to the edge of the bed. Corbin's head SMOKEs. His finger tips are black.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
CORBIN!

CORBIN
Am I dead?

VIOLET
What happened? Are-

CORBIN
I can't really hear anything. Violet, if you're there? Stay away, OK honey? There could still be a wire loose. Plus I shit my pants, so I don't want any of that getting on you.

VIOLET
He's OK.

CORBIN
Must have crossed some wires in the basement. (BEAT) Might be deaf forever.

VIOLET
OK!

CORBIN
I really shit my pants good.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Taryn and Jade whisper as their English teacher scribbles on the white board.

TARYN

Did it look like the other ones you saw?

JADE

Yes, and no. It was like them but it was a different one.

TARYN

So you've seen four tiny men now? C'mon, Jade.

JADE

There could be more of them. They're super tiny, what if they're like cockroaches? Like, thousands of them in the walls?!

Nilt looks back at them. Taryn gestures to Jade, causing her to turn around and see Nilt.

JADE (CONT'D)

Eyes on the road, frostbite.

Embarrassed, he faces forward.

TARYN

It sounds crazy.

JADE

You sound crazy.

The bell RINGS.

EXT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Students pour from the room, into the hallway. The girls exit, together.

NILT (O.S.)

Misses Jade?

JADE

What do you want?

NILT

I wish to discuss the Robbelskivversmein you may have in your home.

TARYN

Speak English, man. We don't know what the hell you're saying.

NILT

Robbel- the "small, thieving men". When things have gone missing, or you find yourself the victim of jokes... pranks? Harmless follies at your expense, your home could be occupied by the Robbelskivversmein.

JADE

You know about the little men?

TARYN

Quit messing with my friend, Nilt. She's stressed and she doesn't need you making it worse with your fairy tales.

NILT

It's no fairies tales. In my country, we leave thimbles of milk and waxed linen shavings for them each night in order to stave off their torments. In some homes, an whole cupboard is assigned to the little ones.

JADE

What's a waxed linen shaving?

TARYN

That's enough. Fuck off, Nilt. Get outta here. (BEAT) You don't need to be listening to his lanky-ass right now.

JADE

I won't. I know he's just screwing with me.

TARYN

Good girl. I have to get to cheer, you going to be OK?

JADE

Me? Totally. All good.

TARYN
Call me later?

JADE
Yeah, girl.

As soon as Taryn is out of sight, Jade looks for Nilt.

JADE (CONT'D)
NILT!

Moments later, they sit next to each other on a bench.

JADE (CONT'D)
Are the little men dangerous?

NILT
Not necessarily. Have you provoked them?

JADE
I don't think so. Do they ever hurt people?

NILT
In some instances. Perhaps when a human is aggressive or refuses to give into their demands once they have revealed themselves...

JADE
I don't think I've done anything bad. Other than the one that screamed at me, I guess they've all been nice.

NILT
You've seen them? Not traces of them or shadows but the actual Robbelskivversmein?

JADE
(softly)
Yeah. Twice now. They were watching me from my headboard and then one of them... kinda screamed and then I screamed and-

NILT
They have revealed? You must appease them.

JADE
So they are dangerous? What do I
do? I mean-

NILT
HAVE YOU BEEN PLACING JAM ABOUT
YOUR HOME FOR THEM?!

JADE
JAM?! No?

NILT
Oh no! You foolish bitch! You must
do it at once! Every room of the
house!

JADE
Jam? Like, stuff you put on toast?

NILT
YES!

He SHAKES her.

NILT (CONT'D)
JAM! PLACE IT IN EVERY ROOM OR YOU
WILL SUFFER THEIR SCOURGINGS!

JADE
OK! SHIT!

CUT TO:

INT. JADE'S HOUSE

Slowly, the door opens. Jade enters with several jars of jam
in her arms.

JADE
Mom?

She comes all the way in and closes the door behind her.

JADE (CONT'D)
MOM! (BEAT) Dad?

No one's home. She hurries to the kitchen and places the jars
on the counter. Quickly, she opens one.

JADE (CONT'D)
Hey, little friends. I got you some
jam.

She walks to the cupboard.

JADE (CONT'D)
I'm going to leave this as an offering to you, cool? I don't want any trouble.

She places an open jar in the back of the cupboard.

JADE (CONT'D)
Got you a variety so you don't get board. And there's plenty more where that came from!

She carries two more open jars into the guest room.

JADE (CONT'D)
It doesn't stop at tasty jam either, guys! Whatever you need... I'll make sure you get it. Cool?

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

On her hands and knees, she places an open jar of jam under the sink, behind some cleaning products.

JADE
I'm going to put some of this stuff in every room for you. Treats courtesy of you pal, Jade.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She walks out of the bathroom, nervous.

JADE
Treats in every room but my parents', OK? Not because I don't want to but because I don't want them to find it and find out about you guys, cool? (to herself) I hope we're cool.

Before her, a closed door OPENS. She JUMPS.

JADE (CONT'D)
OH! Ha. Scared me a little, friends. Yeah, thanks for opening the door... I'll grab some jam for that room too.

SLAM! The door shuts as she walks by, making her run into the wall. LAUGHTER all around.

JADE (CONT'D)
Ha. Uh-huh. Pretty funny.

SMASH! She turns the corner to find all of the remaining jam splattered all over the kitchen floor.

JADE (CONT'D)
But-

She looks around, scared. There's a SCRATCHING sound that she can't quite make out. She walks to the counter and notices the random pictures on the fridge- the eyes and mouths of all the people in each picture have been scratched out.

JADE (CONT'D)
That's not good.

The front door opens.

JADE (CONT'D)
NO! PLEASE!

It's Violet with groceries.

VIOLET
Huh? Hey kiddo. (BEAT) Whoa? What happened here?

JADE
Uh, nothing. Just clumsy.

VIOLET
You OK?

JADE
Me? Totally.

VIOLET
Good. Can you clean that up and give me a hand with dinner? The neighbors are coming over tonight.

Jade grabs paper towels and Violet puts the food away. They each offer a concerned look at the other, behind their back.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Dirty dishes and empty glasses; Tom and Lisa Fuller sit at one end of the table with Violet and Corbin at the other end.

Patches of hair are missing on Corbin's head and his lips are a pale blue.

Smiles all around, except for Jade who sits in the middle.

TOM

That was a wonderful meal, Violet.

VIOLET

Thank you, Tom. Jade actually did most of the heavy lifting.

LISA

You like to cook, Jade?

She doesn't hear her.

VIOLET

Jade?

JADE

Huh?

VIOLET

The Fullers are thanking you for cooking dinner.

JADE

Oh. You're welcome.

LISA

You like to cook? Thinking about culinary school?

JADE

I'm not.

TOM

(uneasy)

So, uh, have you all settled into the house?

CORBIN

Sure have!

TOM

And how do you like it?

CORBIN

(excited)

We love it. I think Jade said it best when she called it "tits". Right, sweetie, the house is tits?

VIOLET

Corbin.

TOM

Ha ha! Great. So no ghosts or goblins around anymore?

JADE

What was that?

VIOLET

Come again?

LISA

Oh, Tom.

TOM

Now, now, they said everything was fine. (BEAT) I was just making a joke, you know, with what happened before you moved in-

JADE

What happened?

VIOLET

Calm down, honey. Tom said he was just making a joke.

TOM

Indeed! There weren't any ghosts... *but* the authorities never released how the previous owner died. Said something about being poisoned but that's not what killed him.

LISA

Maybe we should change the subject.

JADE

A guy was fucking MURDERED HERE?!

VIOLET

Language.

CORBIN

Great Gatsby. Murdered?! How did we not know that?!

TOM

I'm sorry, guys. I assumed your realtor told you. Isn't that the law? Don't they have to-

CORBIN

I guess not.

It's silent. Jade is ghost white. DING DONG! They JUMP.

JADE

I'll get it.

She RUNS to the door. It's Danny.

JADE (CONT'D)

Danny?

DANNY

Hey Jade. Got a second?

CORBIN (O.S.)

Everything OK?

JADE

Yeah! Just Danny.

DANNY

Yup. Just Danny. No one important.

JADE

Oh fuck off. We just found out some dude was murdered here before we moved in.

DANNY

Whoa. Really?

JADE

Maybe. Our asshole neighbors just told us.

TOM (O.S.)

Hey! We're not assholes!

JADE

Shit. SORRY! Let's talk outside.

She joins him on the porch and closes the door behind them.

JADE (CONT'D)

What's up, guy?

DANNY

I'm nervous.

JADE

Starting to get hair in strange places?

DANNY

Yeah but your mom seems to like it.
No, my driving test is tomorrow. I
don't think I'm ready.

JADE

Oh, buddy! You'll do great!
Besides, even if it goes horribly
wrong, you can always take it
again. Don't worry about it.

DANNY

No. I've failed the behind-the-
wheel portion of the test seven
times. Seven!

JADE

So.

DANNY

My sister told me that I only get
one more chance and then they
blacklist me until I turn 25!

JADE

Your sister is full of shit. They
let my dad have a license and
sometimes he takes "power naps" in
traffic.

She sees that he's upset.

JADE (CONT'D)

Aww. Danny? You'll do great. What
was the problem last time?

DANNY

I hit the curb coming back to the
DMV.

JADE

That was it?

DANNY

And I bumped into a sign in the
parking lot.

JADE

Anything else?

DANNY

No.

JADE

So, don't do that next time. (BEAT)
You got this, dude.

DANNY

You're a shitty liar.

JADE

Hug my body and think of Taryn.

They hug.

EXT. TARYN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sprinklers dust a tight, immaculate lawn with fine, shimmering beads of water before a modest three-bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is sparse but neat. Lit candles adorn every flat surface. Sexy JAZZ plays softly in the background. Robbie lies on the bed, wearing his boxers and mismatched socks.

Taryn fusses with her hair in the adjacent bathroom- door cracked just enough to see that she's not "in the mood".

ROBBIE

Babe. What's the hold-up? Your parents are going to be home soon and harsh my mello!

TARYN

Yeah. I'm coming.

She walks into the room. She's in her bra and panties.

TARYN (CONT'D)

How are you doing? Candles OK? Do we have enough?

ROBBIE

Oh yeah. If I were a woman in my late 50s, I'd be slippery as fuck right now.

TARYN

Gross.

ROBBIE

Taryn. Forget about the candles.

He sits up and takes her by the hand.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Come here. Next to me.

She sits on the bed next to him. There's a jar of green liquid on the nightstand.

TARYN
What's that?

ROBBIE
Something to help you relax.
It's mostly jalapenos and club
soda. I read about it in ASS PARADE
MAGAZINE. Supposed to loosen things
up back there. Take a swig.

TARYN
You first.

He takes a SWIG. Eyes wide. Deep breath.

ROBBIE
WHO-HA!

He COUGHS.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Wow. My asshole is going all dying-
fish on me!

He MIMES gasping for air and offers the drink to her.

TARYN
(disgusted)
I'm going to throw up.

ROBBIE
You want me.

She pulls him in and they kiss.

TARYN
That's spicy enough for me.

She lies on her stomach.

TARYN (CONT'D)
Rub my back?

He takes off his boxers in a hurry and gets to work, slowly but surely inching lower toward her backside.

TARYN (CONT'D)
Oooh.

ROBBIE
You ready?

She's nervous.

TARYN
Can you keep rubbing?

ROBBIE
Yeah...

He works around back there for a minute. She's not happy.

TARYN
Hey. Are you? It's... getting hot.

ROBBIE
Uh, yeah, baby. So hot.

TARYN
No, I mean, like hot. Did you put something on me?

ROBBIE
No? But, I'm starting to... tingle?

TARYN
AH, Robbie?! What the hell did you do to my ass?

ROBBIE
Ow. OUCH!

TARYN
AHH! GET OFF ME!

He rolls off the bed, landing hard on the floor.

TARYN (CONT'D)
My asshole is on FIRE!

ROBBIE
MY JUNK BURNS!

Taryn panics.

TARYN
Did you wash your hands after making that chili drink?!

ROBBIE
No?

TARYN
NO! YOU DUMB SHIT! You got chili
oil on us!

ROBBIE
It's in my pee hole! (BEAT) What do
we do?!

TARYN
We have to pour milk on us!

ROBBIE
I don't have any milk, Taryn!
(BEAT) AHH! MY DICK IS BURNING OFF!

TARYN
YOGURT!

ROBBIE
YOGURT?

TARYN
IN THE FUCKING FRIDGE! GO!

CUT TO:

KITCHEN

The fridge is open and looks like a bomb went off inside. Empty yogurt cups are everywhere. Taryn sits in a puddle of yogurt on the rug- a massive tub empty beside her.

Robbie has yogurt smeared all about his face and body with a generous smattering on his genitals.

TARYN
I definitely have a yeast
infection.

ROBBIE
(winded)
The yogurt made it worse. I'm
breaking up with you.

INT. JADE'S ROOM - LATER

One o'clock in the morning. Jade TOSSES and TURNS in her bed. She SNORES slightly then settles into a sound sleep.

At the foot of the bed, something begins to stir under the covers. A lump raises and moves toward Jade.

The lump under the covers travels up her leg and disappears in the tangle of fabric around her chest.

She sleeps like a stone.

Slowly, a little man emerges from the covers and stands on her chest, watching her. He wears a tattered cloak and worn pants with his chest exposed.

In his hand, the little man carries a long spear. He crouches and runs his hand along her skin. He watches goosebumps form and does it again.

He stands and locks eyes with a terrified Jade. He FREEZES. She SHAKES. The little man gives her a sly look and relaxes his posture. She tries to speak and the words refuse to leave her lips.

She opens her mouth and brings her hand to it, doing everything in her power not to scream. She takes a deep breath.

JADE
(whisper)
Hh... h-are... are-

The little man is confused.

JADE (CONT'D)
Are... y-you, what are you?

The little man stares at her.

JADE (CONT'D)
What do you want from us?

He's angry.

LITTLE MAN
(soft)
Leave.

JADE
Look, we can't just leave our house. Couldn't we work something out?

He perks up, then SHRIEKS at her.

LITTLE MAN
LEAVE THIS PLACE!

The little man lifts his spear and STABS it into Jade's leg.

JADE

MOM!

Frantic, she looks around the room- dozens of them. They're on her bookshelf, on her dresser, on her desk, everywhere.

She SHOUTS for help. Violet can be heard running down the hallway.

VIOLET (O.S.)

JADE! I'M COMING!

She BURSTS into the room. Jade is in hysterics in her bed.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

BABY. What is it?! What's wrong?

JADE

My leg! It stabbed me.

Her leg is fine.

VIOLET

What are you talking about? What stabbed you?

Jade is shocked. No spear. No wound.

JADE

One of the little men. It told me to leave... then it stabbed my leg with a little spear or something. Mom- it wants us to leave. They want us to leave the house.

Corbin stands in the doorway, concerned.

VIOLET

It was a bad dream, honey. (BEAT)
There aren't any little men trying to hurt you.

JADE

I can't believe you think it's all in my head. Things around the house are missing- buttons, jewelry, fabric from our clothes... food. We haven't had any mail for, like, weeks. They tried to set my closet on fire!

VIOLET

You think they're stealing our mail now?

JADE
DAD WAS ELECTROCUTED FOR FUCK'S
SAKE! This is serious!

VIOLET
Jade. We believe you, but it's hard
to understand exactly what's going
on. How about your father and I
take a look around your room?

JADE
Please.

VIOLET
And while we do, you should really
get some sleep.

JADE
How the hell am I supposed to
SLEEP?

CORBIN
I can give you a pill, kiddo. You
can sleep in our bed.

JADE
No, I wanna be in here when you
find one of them.

VIOLET
OK. That's fine.

She rubs Jade's back as Corbin begins his search.

CUT TO:

CORBIN & VIOLET'S BED - MORNING

Jade is passed out in her parents' bed. A bottle of Ambien
and her cell phone on the night stand next to her. BUZZ. A
text appears from Danny; WISH ME LUCK! Jade is out cold.

EXT. DMV - CONTINUOUS

The sun is shining on a crappy building where dreams go to
die. Danny wears a poorly fitting suit and holds his phone,
waiting for a wish of luck to come his way.

A balding INSTRUCTOR calls his name.

DANNY
That's me.

INSTRUCTOR

Please get in the vehicle so we can begin your test.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Danny grips the wheel of a 1996 Hyundai Elantra. He's sweating.

DANNY

This is my uncle's car. He's dead so it's mine now, I guess, but only if I get my license. (BEAT) My mom dropped me off and took the bus to the mall.

INSTRUCTOR

I don't care. Start the car and head right out of the parking lot.

He fires up the engine.

DANNY

Purrs like a kitten!

He struggles to put it in Drive. Instead, he puts it in Reverse.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Here we go.

The car moves backward and stops, abruptly. He throws it into Drive.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Sorry. Right, here we go.

The car leaves the lot and joins the road.

INSTRUCTOR

Turn left into the neighborhood, please.

DANNY

Left. You got it.

He does. They drive down a tree-lined street.

INSTRUCTOR

Please pull up to the curb and park.

DANNY

Why? Is it over already? Did I fail?

INSTRUCTOR

No! You're doing fine. It's part of the test.

DANNY

Oh. Sorry. Sure.

He does. He's driving perfectly. The instructor makes notes on his clipboard.

INSTRUCTOR

Very good. Let's press on ahead and get onto the freeway.

DANNY

The freeway?

INSTRUCTOR

Is that a problem?

DANNY

No, sir. Let's... go onto the freeway.

He enters the on ramp at a snail's pace.

INSTRUCTOR

You'll need to accelerate.

DANNY

But, there's a light up ahead.

INSTRUCTOR

Yeah and it's dark. No stopping. Speed up so we can merge!

Danny presses slow and heavy on the gas. He gets up to speed and keeps going.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Alright, you can slow down a little.

Danny doesn't hear him. Fear has washed over his body. He doesn't blink.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Mister Park.

He CLIPS a car's bumper.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
MISTER PARK! Pull over!

The car SWERVES across three lanes and nearly smashes into the median.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
NOT THAT WAY! TO THE RIGHT! THE
SHOULDER!

The car SWERVES the other way, across five lanes. He HITS two cars in the process and FISHTAILS, slightly. The instructor tries to grab the wheel and Danny freaks out.

DANNY
THAT'S NOT SAFE!

He BITES the instructor's hands.

INSTRUCTOR
AHH!

He drives off the freeway at one hundred miles an hour, SLAPPING the instructor's hands away. In the process, he PLOWS into two pedestrians. BLOOD on the windshield.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
OH NO! YOU JUST KILLED TWO PEOPLE.

DANNY
NO! It was you. This is all your
fault.

He makes a sharp turn and goes the wrong way down a busy street, SCRAPING a dozen different cars. The instructor dials 9-1-1.

DANNY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?!

INSTRUCTOR
Calling the POLICE!

DANNY
NO! My LICENSE!

He grabs the phone and THROWS it out the window.

DANNY (CONT'D)
The police can't know!

They SMASH through a fruit stand, killing the proprietor and a man on a bicycle.

INSTRUCTOR
 You just killed two more people!
 Please, STOP DRIVING.

They get back onto the freeway. Danny hits three more cars until a car hits him- they SPIN OUT and come to a stop in the middle lane.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
 AHHH!

The hysterical instructor throws open the door. He fidgets with the seat belt and RUNS from the car. HONK! SMASH! He EXPLODES as a SEMI crashes into him. Danny is covered in blood.

Carefully, Danny gets out of the car and looks around. Carnage. He SPRINTS away from the scene.

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

The offices are art deco and surrounded by palm trees.

INT. EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jade sits alone, angry, wearing a hospital gown. She looks up to see a massive CT scanner in front of her and Violet on the other side of a large window, looking in. A TECHNICIAN enters.

TECHNICIAN
 All set?

JADE
 I guess.

She lies down on the machine.

TECHNICIAN
 Close your eyes and try to relax.
 And whatever you do, don't move.

She's scared. Her mom gives her a thumbs up. Jade closes her eyes. The machine WURRS and BEEPS in the dark. The noise swells to an unbearable level.

EXT. JADE'S HOUSE

A worried Nilt KNOCKS on the front door, a stack of books under his arm. Something moves inside the vent by the eaves- he hears it.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Violet drives a very surly Jade home.

VIOLET

I don't know why you're so grumpy.
They didn't find anything- you
should be happy.

As they pull up to the house, Jade spots Nilt sitting on the front steps.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

One of your friends from school?

JADE

Uh... yeah.

They park in the driveway. Jade climbs out of the car.

JADE (CONT'D)

Nilt! I'm actually glad to see your
pasty ass. Tell my mom about the
little men.

He's flustered.

VIOLET

Jade. Please.

NILT

I'm, unaware of what you are
discussing about. With me?

JADE

Fuck a DUCK! Tell her!

VIOLET

I'm very sorry-

NILT

I am called Nilt.

VIOLET

Nilt? She's had a long day.

NILT

I have carried the notes for the
several classes you have missed,
madame Jade. May I review them with
you?

VIOLET

How thoughtful, Nilt.

JADE
Notes? I don't wanna-

NILT
(serious)
Please.

Jade reads his expression and NODS along.

JADE
Yeah, OK.

VIOLET
Would you like to come inside?

NILT
No, thank you. Outside will be
best.

Violet SHRUGS and goes inside.

JADE
Dude, I needed you to have my back
there... why'd you clam up in front
of my mom?

NILT
Your parents cannot help you.
Behold, a record book from my
grandmother's library.

He hands her an old book. She opens it.

JADE
I can't read Elvish.

NILT
The elderly. They cannot see the
creatures unless they choose to
reveal themselves. Youths, such as
we? We may see them, always. They
are unable to hide themselves once
a youth has spotted them.

JADE
My parents can't see them?

NILT
Your domicile, Jade, it carries a
dark secret.

He hands her another book; PASADENA PUBLIC RECORDS.

NILT (CONT'D)

It was built in 1889 by a Norwegian doctor; Aksel Nystedt who came to the United States after his wife and five children died, unexpectedly. He was hanged when the local authorities discovered he was murdering patients in his home.

Nilt opens another book and shows a scribble of the little men.

NILT (CONT'D)

His journals were discovered- the Robbelskivversmein were mentioned throughout. Perhaps he brought them from the old country, eventually succumbing to his madness.

JADE

Did anyone do anything about this?

NILT

The house was demolished and rebuilt years later. But, the original basement remained.

JADE

(whispers)

These things have been here for over a hundred years?

NILT

It is more worst. Every owner since has died in the house or on the property.

JADE

Bullshit.

NILT

It is not a joke, I assure you.

He puts another book in her arms.

NILT (CONT'D)

Read these book, and believe.
(BEAT) Jade? You must take leave of this place or face a most certain death.

EXT. TARYN'S HOUSE - DAY

There's a KNOCK at the door. Taryn opens it.

TARYN

Hey?

JADE

We're skipping school, I got something to show you.

INT. GARAGE - LATER

Taryn sits on a stool by a messy work bench. Danny stands next to her as Jade pulls a few items from her bag and places them neatly on the bench.

DANNY

What's going on?

TARYN

She didn't tell you?

JADE

No. I didn't. I wanted to show you both. At the same time. (BEAT)
Brace yourselves.

She reaches into her bag and pulls out a mason jar with one of the little men inside. Taryn SCREAMS. The little man COWERS.

DANNY

Oh my goodness!

JADE

One of the little men I've been seeing.

DANNY

What little men? How do I not know about this?!

JADE

I didn't tell you?

DANNY

I think I would have remembered you telling me about "little men".

TARYN

They're real.

JADE
Like I FUCKIN' said.

TARYN
What did your parents say when you showed them?

JADE
They think it's all in my head. They can't see them, anyhow. Showed my mom the jar and everything.

TARYN
Can't see them? Just *your* parents or-?

JADE
Old people, or adults, I really don't know.

She places the jar on the workbench, they surround her. Jade unscrews the lid.

DANNY
What are you doing?

JADE
It can talk. I want to ask it some questions.

TARYN
It TALKS?!

JADE
Why are you and your shithead friends tormenting me? Answer me!

It just looks up at them.

JADE (CONT'D)
Hand me that.

Danny hands her a mason jar filled with water. She removes the lid and pours some water into the jar with the little man.

TARYN
What the hell are you doing?

JADE
If you don't want to talk, I'll drown you. I'll fill up your jar, put the fucking lid on and TWIST.
(BEAT) What do you WANT?

DANNY
 Maybe we should take him to a
 scientist or something.

TARYN
 I can't believe they're real.

Jade pours more water into the jar.

JADE
 What are you planning? TALK!

The little man makes a noise.

DANNY
 I'm sorry, what?

LITTLE MAN
 Leave.

JADE
 Leave? You're going to leave?

It shakes its head "no". It points to Jade.

JADE (CONT'D)
 Me? You want me to leave?

LITTLE MAN
 Leave house.

JADE
 You want me to leave my house?

TARYN
 Holy shit.

JADE
 What about my parents?

LITTLE MAN
 Die.

TARYN
 What did it say?

LITTLE MAN
 You. All. (BEAT) Die.

DANNY
 Oh buttons.

JADE
 Hell no.

She DUMPS him and the water from the jar and holds him down. She picks up a stapler and STAPLES his feet to the bench, pinning him, upright. It SQUEALS and tries to SCRATCH her.

JADE (CONT'D)

You think you can just waltz into my house, threaten my family, and skip along your merry way? Oh, little buddy, hell's coming for you... and her name is Jade.

Jade picks up a hammer.

TARYN

What are you doing?

The little man SQUEALS and SWINGS his arms wildly. SPLORT! Jade CRUSHES him with a single blow from the hammer. Blood, organs and bone make the section of the bench look like a Pollock painting.

DANNY

OH!

TARYN

OH!

JADE

That was surprisingly easy. (BEAT)
Wanna help me do the same thing to a hundred more of these things?

DANNY

I'm in.

TARYN

They're bad, right?

JADE

They're worse than bad. They're little, fucking, monsters.

TARYN

OK. I'm in too.

CUT TO:

INT. WALMART

Jade and Danny each fill a shopping cart with garden tools, duct tape, various flammables, and junk food of all kinds.

Jade stops a friendly WALMART EMPLOYEE.

JADE

Do you have waxed linen shavings?

DANNY

Or just waxed linen that we can
shave ourselves?

The employee is sad and confused.

EXT. COPY STORE - CONTINUOUS

Office supplies and copy machines for days.

INT. COPY STORE

Taryn runs copies of a flyer for Jade's house party on
fluorescent paper.

EXT. GYMNASIUM

The cheerleaders enthusiastically pass the flyers out to
everyone as they head to their cars. The flyer reads COSTUME
PARTY!

EXT. HOUSE

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! Nilt answers, surprised. Jade and Danny
stand in front of shopping carts filled with the most random
things on planet Earth.

JADE

Nilt, Mother Russia is calling. She
needs you to help us kill a
shitload of Robbelskivversmein.
Will you answer the call?

NILT

Hello school associates. I'm
confused as I am not of Russian
descent. I'm Finnish.

JADE

You know, I'm fuckin' Finnish- I'm
finished with your bitch tits and
chalk dust complexion. We're
killing a bunch of tiny, awful
people this weekend and we need
your help, guy.

He's speechless.

JADE (CONT'D)
Got a hammer?

NILT
Yes?

JADE
Get it. We're fucking shit up.

MONTAGE:

Taryn gets out of the shower and gets into a cat suit.

Garrett does curls in his bedroom, shirtless. His ZORRO costume hangs on the door.

Nilt, Danny, and Jade use duct tape and a blow torch to make crazy weapons in Danny's garage.

Robbie hits on an underage girl outside a 7-11. They makeout.

SO MUCH alcohol is loaded into shopping carts by various teens.

Hobos push the carts to the registers and pay.

Taryn is ready. A sexy kitten.

Garrett meets up with the other jocks. He's Zorro.

Lined up and looking deadly, the weapons Jade and the others made fade into the background as Danny and Nilt dress like Frenchmen.

Robbie and the underage girl keep kissing.

Jade stands alone on the sidewalk, looking at her house. She's dressed like WEDNESDAY ADAMS.

JADE
Let's party, babies.

Taryn, Danny, and Nilt stand beside her. They nod to each other.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. JADE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Truckloads of rowdy teens are dumped onto the street and all over the lawn. Lights flash from inside. Music bumps.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

So many kids party like it's the end of the world. Double-fisting red cups and GRINDING on each other. Jade joins a chant of SHOTS in the kitchen as some dudes BREAKDANCE on the island.

Taryn dances with herself. Eyes closed.

DANNY

How long are we supposed to pretend to party?

Nilt drinks an entire bottle of vodka.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Taryn!

TARYN

Shut up! Jade will tell us.

She pulls him close.

TARYN (CONT'D)

Dance with me.

They do. It's painful to watch. Jade drinks a soda. Her eyes are darting around the room. She sees one of the little men in the AC vent. It signals across the room.

JADE

(soft)

What are you doing?

Her eyes follow his eye line. A cluster of little men work together to pull the plug on the stereo. She creeps under the vent and reaches up quickly, closing it on the little man. BLOOD.

She heads for the stereo when she slams into Garrett.

GARRETT

Hey.

JADE

Watch it, asshole!

GARRETT

Ouch. Is that any way to talk to Zorro? (BEAT) Jade? It's me.

He pulls his mask up. She's flustered.

JADE

Oh! Hey. I'm sorry. I didn't-

GARRETT

Your house is awesome.

JADE

Thanks. Your house is awesome too.

GARRETT

What?

The music STOPS. Everyone BOOS.

JADE

I'll be right back.

She goes behind the stereo- the cord has been severed. The little men are gone. Suddenly, music BLARES from outside.

JADE (CONT'D)

The shit?

She moves the curtain and spots a tricked-out Honda Civic parked on the front lawn; doors open, music bumps. The party goers don't miss a beat.

Robbie enters with a plastic bag in hand. Taryn makes a bee line for him.

TARYN

Robbie!

ROBBIE

I brought a bunch of hearing aide batteries.

He hands her the bag.

TARYN

What the hell are we supposed to do with these?!

ROBBIE

You asked me to bring supplies. Is beer in the kitchen, or?

TARYN

We're not together anymore, for your information.

Indifferent, he leaves her for the kitchen.

JADE
What's in the bag?

TARYN
Jack shit.

Across the room, one of the jocks take a tumble down the stairs.

JADE
Holy shit!

The guy offers a thumbs up from the floor and the kids all CHEER.

NILT
Do you believe he was tripped by
the little men?

Danny is already en route to question the jock.

DANNY
Hey man, you OK?

Danny looks up and sees a team of little men at the top of the stairs. They SCATTER.

There's a SCREAM from the bathroom. Jade runs to check it out.

EXT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Jade approaches, the door swings open. Two DRUNK GIRLS laugh.

JADE
What's up? I heard a scream?

DRUNK GIRL 1
Yeah, it was me. There was, like, a
rat or something by the toilet.

DRUNK GIRL 2
It was fucking gross. But I didn't
see anything.

DRUNK GIRL 1
I didn't really get a good look at
it.

JADE
Could it have been a little person?

DRUNK GIRL 2
Like a midget?

JADE
No. Smaller.

DRUNK GIRL 1
Whoa, I thought *I* was high.

DRUNK GIRL 2
What are you supposed to be? Like, an Amish person or something?

JADE
I'm Wednesday. Adams.

DRUNK GIRL 2
That doesn't make any sense.

JADE
She's from The Adam's Family. The show?

Clueless.

JADE (CONT'D)
You know, whatever. You have puke in your hair and you have... your pussy out. I can literally see your pussy.

DRUNK GIRL 1
You wish.

JADE
No. Dude.

She takes some puke from the one girl's hair and slaps it against the other girl's crotch.

JADE (CONT'D)
See? And now you have puke in your pussy. Gross.

The girls freak out and head back into the bathroom.

At the top of the stairs, Danny swallows hard and moves to the hallway. Shadows SCURRY all around him. He WHIPS around, scared.

LAUGHTER.

DANNY
I'm not afraid of you. I'm like a
thousand times bigger than you are.

THWACK!

DANNY (CONT'D)
Ouch!

Danny pulls a tiny spear from his neck.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Oh biscuits.

THWACK! THWACK! Three jut from his arm, one in his shoulder.

DANNY (CONT'D)
JADE!

THWACK! Another spear hits his neck. He runs and falls into Jade's room. Two dead teens lie topless on Jade's bed; dozens of tiny spears sticking in their bodies.

DANNY (CONT'D)
DANGER! NO!

He SLAMS into Jade.

JADE
Hey man. Calm down.

She sees the bodies.

JADE (CONT'D)
Are those dead people?

DANNY
I think so.

JADE
Great.

There's a loud CRASH. Cheers from downstairs.

Jade and Danny watch the madness from the stairs. Three seemingly lifeless bodies crowd surf, pushed up by the partying youth. Jade shouts down to Nilt.

JADE (CONT'D)
NILT!

He offers a confused "thumbs up".

JADE (CONT'D)
What happened?

NILT
They were dancing and fell to
sleep.

DANNY
They passed out?

JADE
Were they drinking?

NILT
It is impossible to say?

Another kid drops to the floor. CHEERS!

JADE
It's them. Get Taryn. Meet me in
the garage.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Violet drives the SUV with Corbin riding shotgun.

VIOLET
We're lost.

CORBIN
It's fine.

VIOLET
Why aren't you getting us
directions on your phone?

CORBIN
I've been distracted. By your
beautiful face.

VIOLET
Cute.

CORBIN
Why don't we pull over? We could...
get frisky.

VIOLET
You're a crazy person.

CORBIN
Crazy about that booty.

She smirks. The phone rings over the bluetooth.

VIOLET
Hold that thought. Hello?

TOM (ON THE PHONE)
Hello? Violet?

VIOLET
Hey Tom.

TOM (ON THE PHONE)
Hi. It's Tom. And Lisa.

CORBIN
Hey Tom! It's Corbin, I'm here too.

TOM (ON THE PHONE)
Ha! Looks like the whole gang's on the phone!

CORBIN
Except for Jade. She's staying at a friend's house.

CUT TO:

TOM'S HOUSE

Tom is on the phone, looking out his window at the house party.

TOM
Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, neighbors, but Jade's not where she said she'd be. She's hosting a house party. Across the street.

VIOLET (ON THE PHONE)
Are you kidding me?

TOM
Violet, I wish this was one of my classic, Tom goof-em-ups, but I'm afraid it's serious. Your daughter is throwing a wild party. (BEAT) If you'd like me to break it up just say the word.

CUT TO:

VIOLET'S CAR

CORBIN

I knew we shouldn't have gone on this trip. Staying with her friend, that's the oldest trick in the book! Tom, we'd love you to break up-

VIOLET

No thanks, Tom. We'll handle it.

TOM (ON THE PHONE)

Handle it? But, you're out of town.

VIOLET

We'll take care of it. Thanks for checking in, Tom.

TOM (ON THE PHONE)

Oh. Alright. Just a second, let me get Lisa to say hello.

VIOLET

Nope.

She hangs up.

CORBIN

You hung up on our neighbor.

VIOLET

I'm not really a fan of that guy.

CORBIN

He's got a fabulous sense of humor.

VIOLET

Uh-huh.

CORBIN

Plus, he called to tell us about our daughter's drug-sex party. I'm completely baffled as to why you refused his offer.

VIOLET

She could use the distraction.

CORBIN

You're not even a little worried about our baby? Our precious moonbeam angel cake?

VIOLET

She'll be OK. I'm actually more worried that if you keep talking, I won't be in the mood to pull over and have car sex with you.

CORBIN

I'll never say another thing again.

VIOLET

That's a good boy.

EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The blinker FLASHES as the car pulls over.

INT. GARAGE - LATER

Jade has their cache of homemade weapons laid out.

GARRETT (O.S.)

Jade?

JADE

GARRETT! Hey.

She's embarrassed.

JADE (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

GARRETT

I've been trying to find you all night.

JADE

Did you need to use the bathroom or something?

GARRETT

Heh. No. I mean, I did, but it's a party. I just used it.

JADE

Without permission? You're a real piece of shit, friend.

GARRETT

I don't know if you're joking or not.

JADE
I'm not. Manners are serious.

GARRETT
But I'm into it. I'm into you.

Slowly, they walk toward each other. He TRIPS over a pitchfork.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Ye-ouch! What is all this?

Nilt, Danny, Taryn, and Robbie enter. Jade is flustered.

TARYN
Are we interrupting?

ROBBIE
Fuck off if we are. You said we were gonna kill stuff. So, I'm here to kill something.

Garrett looks at all the weapons.

GARRETT
Kill stuff?

JADE
No. It's not like that-

GARRETT
Are you planning to kill everyone at the party?

JADE
What?!

ROBBIE
COOL!

JADE
NO! No. We're not going to hurt anybody.

DANNY
Well, kinda...

GARRETT
Jade? Can you help me out here?

She takes a deep breath.

JADE
OK, but you can't freak out.

NILT

His mind will be unable to process the truthfulness of your revelation.

ROBBIE

What's this guy? Like, a robot?

NILT

I collected a deceased specimen from under the fallen American football player. As to belay a potential panic. Shall I show him?

GARRETT

Show me what?

Nilt opens his fanny pack and shows Garrett a tiny, dead man. Garrett has no reaction.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

A little doll?

JADE

It's not a doll. It's real. There's hundreds of them living in the house.

GARRETT

Sure. I think I should get going.

JADE

I'm serious.

DANNY

It's not a joke, man. Look.

He shows the tiny spears.

DANNY (CONT'D)

They stuck me with a half dozen of these.

GARRETT

I know that you guys are making fun of me, but I don't get the joke.

NILT

We are guilty of no jesting.

TARYN

I thought Jade was smoking rocks when she told me about these little...

(MORE)

TARYN (CONT'D)
 things, but then I saw one. A
 living one. (BEAT) Jade has a
 serious boner for you, she wouldn't
 make this up.

Jade throws a mean look at Taryn. Garrett catches it but
 doesn't believe them.

TARYN (CONT'D)
 Look!

She takes the dead thing and drops it onto the floor. SPLORT!
 She squishes it with her shoe. Blood. Guts. Bones.

TARYN (CONT'D)
 Look at it. It's a tiny person!

Garrett is freaked out. Robbie takes a knee next to it.

ROBBIE
 That's tits.

He grabs a hammer from the pile of weapons.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
 I call this.

Garrett makes for the door.

JADE
 Garrett!

She follows.

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Garrett makes a hard left from out of the garage, toward the
 street when Jade stops him.

JADE
 Garrett. Wait. Please. I promise
 we're not crazy and we are NOT
 fucking with you.

GARRETT
 I don't know what you guys are
 planning, but it's crazy. I mean,
 tiny men? And you're going to kill
 them? What the shit, Jade?

She KISSES him. She's as surprised as he is. Garrett kisses
 back.

JADE
I've wanted to do that forever.

GARRETT
Really?

JADE
Yeah?

GARRETT
Cool. I didn't think you liked me
back.

JADE
Are you crazy?

GARRETT
You're always being weird and
calling me gay.

JADE
That's how I roll, dude. I forget
how to function when I'm around
you.

GARRETT
Because you like me.

JADE
Yes. I like you. I'm fucking crazy
about you.

GARRETT
Nice. Was that so hard to say?

JADE
Fuck off, guy.

They kiss.

TARYN (O.S.)
COUGH.

GARRETT
Did you just say "cough"?

TARYN
Yeah. We've all just been standing
here and you haven't noticed. We're
like, six feet away and you kept
ignoring us.

DANNY

We really should try to get the drop on those things while the party is in full swing.

GARRETT

You guys are serious, aren't you?

JADE

Yes. I'm not safe as long as they're in the house.

ROBBIE

Ugh. Will you two bitches shut up and grab a fucking machete already?

JADE

Your boyfriend's a real dildo, Taryn.

ROBBIE

I'm not her boyfriend anymore. I only came here to kill stuff and fuck a cheerleader. So, I just need to kill something and I can go home.

Taryn is upset. Danny takes her hand and smiles.

NILT

Perhaps we should visit both the highest and lowest points of the domicile? That is where they tend to congregate, according to the children's stories.

JADE

We've got a basement and an attic.

ROBBIE

Me and the dipshit albino got the basement. C'mon, you fucking pink-eyed nightmare.

JADE

You in, Gary?

GARRETT

Let's check out the attic.

They leave.

TARYN

What about us?

DANNY

We can head upstairs. There was a bunch of them.

TARYN

You don't have to keep holding my hand.

DANNY

OH!

He let's go.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Sorry.

She smiles.

INT. BASEMENT

The party booms in the background as Robbie and Nilt descend the steps. Robbie carries a hammer and an axe. Nilt packs a hefty crowbar.

NILT

(whisper)

We should keep the lights off.

ROBBIE

You an expert or something? How are we supposed to find them?

NILT

It is almost a certainty that they reside within the walls.

Something scurries. Robbie THROWS his hammer. CLANG! Corbin's back-up pots and pans spill onto the floor.

NILT (CONT'D)

We may have lost the element of surprise.

STICK! A tiny spear juts from Robbie's forehead.

ROBBIE

SHIT!

A cluster of little men celebrate for a second atop a nearby shelf. SMASH! Nilt EXPLODES them with his crowbar.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Nice, man.

NILT
They are surprisingly easy to
murder!

He falls hard onto his face.

ROBBIE
HA! They tied up your legs,
dumbass.

AXE! Robbie splits one of the little men in two against the
baseboard. As he struggles to pull the axe free, a dozen
pieces of rope are lowered behind him. Nearly a hundred of
the monsters slide down and leap onto his back.

They stab him like inmates in a prison riot.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
AHH!

He tries to swat them off.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Get 'em OFF ME!

NILT
Fall onto your back!

ROBBIE
My back?

He drops hard, pulverizing the army on his back.

NILT
Hurray!

They high-five. Robbie sits up and grimaces.

NILT (CONT'D)
Your back appears to hold evidence
of you taking a tumble through a
canned wild berry facility.

ROBBIE
Shut up, asswipe.

He takes off his shirt.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
Let's open up a few walls.

INT. ATTIC

Garrett and Jade enter the attic with crazy, colorful weapons in hand.

GARRETT
(whisper)
What are we supposed to be looking for?

JADE
Anything out of place.

She brings her finger up to her lips and points at a box. Slowly, Jade sneaks up to it. A family of six warm themselves around a small fire.

One of the children see Jade and SCREAM. The father drops to his knees and appears to plead with Jade.

GARRETT
What's it doing?

JADE
I dunno.

She CRUSHES them under her shoe.

JADE (CONT'D)
Seems strange that they'd be so out in the open like that.

She looks to Garrett as the top box falls from a stack in the corner.

JADE (CONT'D)
LOOKOUT!

Nails and miscellaneous roofing materials scrape down Garrett's side. His arm is bloodied.

GARRETT
AH!

Jade attacks the stack of boxes, but she's not fast enough.

JADE
Come out, you bitches!

Garrett is right behind her.

JADE (CONT'D)
You OK? Man, you arm's all torn up.

She notices blood running from his arm onto the floor.

JADE (CONT'D)

You should take that cape off and wrap it around your arm. So you don't bleed to death. Or whatever.

GARRETT

It's not that bad.

JADE

Your funeral, dude.

He takes off his cape and wraps his arm. Jade looks to Garrett as he takes a seat onto a box. CLICK! SNAP! RATCHET! Garrett JUMPS up from the box as the trapdoor into the attic snaps shut.

GARRETT

What the hell was that?!

Gas starts to pour from the vents.

JADE

That doesn't look good.

INT. JADE'S ROOM

Taryn examines the dead teens on Jade's bed. Danny looks through the closet for the little men.

TARYN

How many did they stick you with?

DANNY

Like five or six. But they were little, didn't even hurt.

TARYN

They probably had poison on them.

DANNY

Maybe.

TARYN

Maybe? I don't get why guys think acting retarded makes them tough.

DANNY

I appreciate your concern. I promise, when this is all over, I'll get to the doctor and have my unexplainable, mini spear wounds checked out.

TARYN

Good. (BEAT) I don't need you dying on us. It would really fuck up my evening.

DANNY

You think you'd be a wreck for a whole night?

TARYN

Probably not. Like an hour. But a SOLID hour.

DANNY

That's cold blooded. And I was gonna tell you... I love you.

He didn't mean to say that.

TARYN

Ha. (BEAT) What was that?

DANNY

Hum?

TARYN

Did you just tell me-

DANNY

I'm not finding any of them up here. Thinking about heading into the basement to check on the guys.

TARYN

Oh. Yeah, let's go.

INT. BASEMENT

Lights flicker. There's a sound of rushing water. Walls are ripped open, exposing support beams and insulation. Nilt and Robbie are bruised and battered but they keep swinging their weapons at each little village they expose.

NILT

Perhaps we have destroyed the majority!

Broken pipes spill water against the back wall.

ROBBIE

We aren't stopping until we kill
'em all.

Nilt peels back a section of dry wall, revealing milk carton and tin can huts. SMASH. Robbie takes an axe to each of them.

NILT

We are only collapsing their living
quarters. I think they have fled.

They both focus on the newly opened area- something tries to push its way through from the other side.

ROBBIE

The fuck is that?

BURST! Rats. Hundreds of rats pour from the opening, each ridden by one of the little men. Nilt and Robbie try to run but stumble.

NILT

I have resigned myself to death!

Robbie swings his axe wildly.

ROBBIE

Not today!

The rats swarm Robbie. He trips and lands hard against the wall. THWACK! A bloody pipe juts from Robbie's forehead.

DANNY (O.S.)

Guys! We're here to-

Danny and Taryn survey the chaos from the last step.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Help?

NILT

A pipe has bested him at the game
of life.

Taryn squeezes Danny's shoulder. The back wall gives way and a flood of rats and snakes pour into the basement.

NILT (CONT'D)

MORE RATS!

DANNY

AND SNAKES!

They all run up the stairs and slam the door behind them.
Nilt has cuts and rat bites all over the place.

TARYN

Were they riding the rats?!

NILT

And the snakes. It was remarkable.

TARYN

There had to be thousands of them!
How are we supposed to stop that
many?

DANNY

How does the military do it? That's
a thing, right? In history too,
haven't like dozens of dictators
killed a shit ton of people at the
same time?

TARYN

Yeah, with bombs.

NILT

And gas.

Danny looks past them to the drunken mayhem in the living
room. Bros are lighting their farts in a semi-circle and high
fiving.

DANNY

Fire.

TARYN

Fire? We can't burn down Jade's
house.

DANNY

Why not?

TARYN

It's her HOUSE.

DANNY

Let's ask her.

NILT

Have you seen Jade?

SMASH! Glass shards and a steamer trunk fall past the kitchen
window. They look at each other and make for the side yard.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nilt, Taryn, and Danny run outside and look up. Garrett and Jade struggle to keep from falling as they attempt to climb down the side of the house.

TARYN
 JADE!

JADE
 SHIT!

She SLIPS and falls. Nilt catches her with little effort.

JADE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Oh, you beautiful monster.

She leans into him so much. SLAM! Garrett falls onto Danny.

GARRETT
 WHOOPS!

DANNY
 FUCK!

TARYN
 DANNY!

Both boys are just fine.

JADE
 The attic. They boobie trapped it.

TARYN
 There's thousands of them in the basement.

JADE
 Where's Robbie?

NILT
 Jade? Daniel proposed burning your home to the ground.

They look to Nilt.

NILT (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 After some consideration, I believe it to be the only recourse.

JADE
 Yeah? Fire, huh?

DANNY

Most things don't like it when you
burn 'em.

TARYN

And even less things keep living
after you do.

NILT

Shall we initiate a civil
evacuation?

JADE

Nah. Let's just start a fire and
let everyone figure it out.

She takes Garrett by the hand.

JADE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Let's move, sugartits.

INT. KITCHEN

An Asian with spiked hair plays bartender behind the island.
Jade takes a bottle of whisky and HURLS it against the wall.

JADE

We're starting a fire.

She takes a BBQ lighter from the junk drawer and lights the
alcohol-soaked cabinet. WHOSH! Taryn smashes two more bottles
to fuel the fire. The Asian kid runs.

Flames devour the kitchen woodwork. The partygoers panic and
RUN.

Danny shows up with a gas can.

DANNY

We found this in the garage.

GARRETT

Jade? This is your house. Don't you
want to... run upstairs and save
some... things? Or, just NOT do
this? We can probably put out these
flames and call someone.

JADE

Won't do any good, Gary. These
things are killers. No one in safe
in this house as long as they're
alive.

She stuffs a dish towel into the gas can.

JADE (CONT'D)
 Could you be a sweetie and open
 that door?

She CRANKS the knobs on the stove. Confused, Garrett opens the door to the basement. Jade lights the towel and tosses the can down the stairs.

CUT TO:

BASEMENT

Thousands of little people celebrate and CHEER. They dance and clap as some ride rats and snakes like western trick riders.

TINK! THUNK! PLOP! The gas can tumbles down the steps and lands next to Robbie's body. The creatures look to the can.

LITTLE MAN
 OH NO!

KABOOM! At once, the crowd is enveloped in flames. They SCREAM and try to stop burning to death but fail, miserably.

EXT. HOUSE

Danny and Taryn stand next to each other on the lawn, watching the house burn.

TARYN
 Kind of a bitch move telling me
 that you love me, but then taking
 it back.

DANNY
 (flustered)
 I- I didn't take it back. I do.

He swallows.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 I've been crazy about you since we
 were kids.

TARYN
 That a fact?

DANNY

Yes. It is. I love you, Taryn. I
LOVE YOU!

He kisses her. There's a moment- Danny waits for her
reaction.

TARYN

We should get pizza after this.

DANNY

I'm sorry, what was that?

JADE

I turned the water off. Little
shits are gonna burn like WHA?!
Like a muthafuckin' tire fire, hoe!

GARRETT

We should probably call the fire
department, right?

TARYN

I'm sure the neighbors'll get
around to it.

Nilt appears next to Danny. Danny SHRIEKS.

NILT

I felt it wise to circle the
property and close off any areas
wherein the Robbelskivversmein
could find egress.

TARYN

Smart move, man.

NILT

I also felt it prudent to obtain a
few live specimens to validate our
story. Otherwise, we would be
labeled arsonists and find
ourselves periodically violated
against our will in American
prisons.

JADE

You have live ones in your bag?

He NODS.

DANNY

That's genius.

Sirens WAIL.

JADE

Keep a tight leash on 'em, man.

NILT

I have them zip-tied together about
the neck.

SMASH! The front door flies out from the house, propelled by
a massive fire ball. The gang all DUCK.

A faint MOAN can be heard, coming from inside the house.

DANNY

You guys. What is that?

JADE

Oh balls.

Staggering and moaning, hundreds of the little creatures are
locked together, taking the form of a giant man. It meanders
down the steps.

TARYN

It's got a GUN!

The little men strain to lift a .357 magnum. BLAM! It misses.
They duck and look to each other, scared. It moves closer
toward them, pushing them back toward the street.

BLAM! Garrett goes down.

JADE

GARRETT!

TARYN

JADE! LOOK OUT!

BLAM! Jade drops to her knees next to Garrett, dodging the
bullet that was meant for her. BLAM! Nilt drops. No one seems
to care.

Casually, Danny looks at Nilt, lying on the ground.

DANNY

We should get out of here.

The creature takes aim at Taryn; Danny grabs her in his arms
and spins around, covering her. BLAM! The bullet barely
grazes his shoulder.

The little men lock eyes with Jade. SLOW MOTION as it pulls the hammer back to line-up the next bullet in the chamber and steadies the weapon on Jade's face.

CRASH! A Fire Truck hops the curb and collides with the creature. The force POPS each little person like a pudding cup hurled at a wall.

A worried FIREMAN leaps from the truck.

FIREMAN

Oh fuck, man. I think I just killed a guy.

He surveys the blood on the front of the truck.

FIREMAN (CONT'D)

Shit... that's so much blood. Did you kids see me kill a guy? (BEAT) I don't see a body. Fuck.

DANNY

No, man. I didn't see anything.

TARYN

Yeah. Me neither.

FIREMAN

You kids are awesome. I'm gonna get the hose and wash all this shit off, then I'm gonna come back here with drugs for all of you.

JADE

My boyfriend was shot. Can you help him?!

FIREMAN

What did I JUST SAY?!

He scrambles to pull out the hose. Sirens WAIL. Police cars and a second fire truck arrive on the scene. The house burns.

Garrett is placed on a gurney and lifted into an ambulance as the sun comes up. Concerned, Jade watches him by the back doors. He COUGHS.

GARRETT

(soft)

So, am I your boyfriend, or?

JADE

I dunno. Whatever. Yeah?

GARRETT

Works for me.

He gives her a smile as they close the doors.

Nilt is loaded into an adjacent ambulance and no one seems to notice or care.

Danny sits on the curb, next to Taryn. He has his arm in a sling. She looks at him.

TARYN

You know you can relax.

DANNY

Huh?

TARYN

You took a bullet for me, Danny.

DANNY

I know.

TARYN

AND you told me you love me. (BEAT)
When this all settles down and you
get a shower, I am TOTALLY going to
suck your dick.

He GULPS.

TARYN (CONT'D)

No question.

DANNY

Cool.

She puts her head on his good shoulder. A large POLICE OFFICER walks by, glancing down at the two of them. He stops. Taryn and Danny look at him as he stares at Danny.

TARYN

Everything OK, officer?

His face changes to a look of AH HA! He pulls his Billy Club and nearly CRACKS it against Danny's face.

TARYN (CONT'D)

AHH! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

He POUNCES on Danny and three additional cops follow.

Moments later, Danny is in handcuffs, being dragged to a police car.

TARYN (CONT'D)

Danny! I LOVE YOU! I'll wait for you, Danny! I'll wait for you!

POLICE OFFICER

Hey bitch. Your little boyfriend? He committed eleven acts of vehicular manslaughter during a routine driving test. (BEAT) His story doesn't end well.

Bloody and swollen, Danny looks to Taryn from the car. Her look of horror fades and she shrugs her shoulders. Danny smiles. She does the same and pantomimes giving a blowjob.

Danny really smiles. She blows him a kiss. The Range Rover SCREECHES next to a fire truck.

VIOLET (O.S.)

JADE!

Violet and Corbin RUN to their daughter.

JADE

MOM! DAD!

They HUG.

VIOLET

Honey. Are you OK?

CORBIN

Do you have smoke inhalation? Should we get you on a respirator? (BEAT) SOMEONE GET MY BABY A RESPIRATOR!

JADE

Dad! No, I'm fine.

VIOLET

What happened, kid?

JADE

It was them, guys. The little men. But it's over now. We got 'em.

Corbin and Violet exchange concerned looks.

JADE (CONT'D)

I know you think I'm crazy, but we have proof.

She looks around the lawn and spots Nilt's bag.

JADE (CONT'D)

Watch.

She runs to the bag and throws open the flap. Empty.

JADE (CONT'D)

No.

She flips the bag upside down, dumping its contents.

JADE (CONT'D)

NO! Where'd they go?

Violet and Corbin approach and place their arms around her.

VIOLET

It's alright, love.

CORBIN

Let's get you some rest, princess.

JADE

NO! They were HERE! He HAD THEM!

She looks around, frantically.

JADE (CONT'D)

Nilt had three of them. He had them. (BEAT) Maybe, he's got them on the ambulance.

Her parents are scared.

JADE (CONT'D)

You have to believe me, it was them. ALL OF THIS WAS THEM!

In the distance, she spots one of the little men. He stares daggers at her.

JADE (CONT'D)

It was-

He brings his finger up to his lips and quickly makes a slashing gesture at his neck.

JADE (CONT'D)

THERE!

She points toward the bushes that flank the charred remains of their home. Corbin and Violet look and see nothing. The creature is gone.

JADE (CONT'D)

It was there. In the bushes. One of them was RIGHT THERE. (BEAT) I swear. YOU GUYS HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!

CORBIN

Of course we do, sugar.

VIOLET

Of course.

JADE

No you don't. You think I'm crazy.

VIOLET

No.

JADE

You DO! Taryn. ASK TARYN!

Taryn's mom helps her into her car and closes the door.

JADE (CONT'D)

TARYN! DON'T DRIVE AWAY! TARYN!

She grabs Corbin by his shirt.

JADE (CONT'D)

Dad, ask my friends. Any of them.

CORBIN

Sure thing, sweetie.

He nods to a couple of PARAMEDICS. They pull Jade to her feet and get her up onto a gurney.

JADE

What are you doing? MOM!

Her parents stand by as the paramedics STRAP her down.

JADE (CONT'D)

MOM! DAD! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

VIOLET

Just get some rest, honey.

CORBIN

Yeah, we'll come see you soon.

She's placed in an ambulance.

JADE

MOM! DAD! HELP ME! MOM!

The doors SLAM shut. She FIGHTS but can't move.

JADE (CONT'D)
LET ME OUT OF HERE! PLEASE!

She struggles to shake herself loose and stops cold.

JADE (CONT'D)
(whisper)
No.

A little man pops his head out from behind her shoe.

JADE (CONT'D)
Get away.

Another climbs up and stands next to the other.

JADE (CONT'D)
NO! LEAVE ME ALONE! HELP ME!

She looks around for someone to save her and suddenly, can't speak. Dozens of the little people appear from behind equipment, crawling out of drawers, sliding down from the ceiling on ropes.

JADE (CONT'D)
No. Please.

She looks up. A charcoal-smearred little man with a rat skull on his head is looking right back at her. It SHRIEKS.

JADE (CONT'D)
AAAHHHHHH!

THE END.