

"ROTTED ROOTS"

Written By

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EXT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Halloween night, 2023.

We open on a nice suburban home in Lockwood, New York, outside of Albany. Music can be heard playing. Teenagers are talking and drinking. There appears to be a party happening.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

I'm telling you guys; that's exactly how it happened.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on DEMARCO CALIBER (18). High school senior. Athlete and asshole. He's wearing his varsity football jacket. DeMarco sits on the couch surrounded by three of his classmates.

TRAVIS LOTT (18), African American high school senior. Tan complexion. Handsome athlete but also book smart, a jock with a heart. Wearing his varsity football jacket.

DeMarco's sidekick, ELLIOT ROPER (18), ginger hair, smug attitude. High school senior. Also wearing his varsity football jacket.

JACKIE SALLINGER (18), popular and pretty. High school senior.

DEMARCO

Last year, Mitchell Kensington turned his family's annual Halloween party into a *slaughterhouse*. The guy was iconic. I mean, his mask alone is legendary.

The camera flashes through quick broken shots of a few party goers wearing the same mask. We see...

IT'S FLESH COLORED.

IT'S BLOOD SPLATTERED.

IT HAS AN UPSIDE-DOWN CRESCENT MOON SHAPED EYE.

THE LETTER "K" AND THE LETTER "M" WRITTEN IN BLOOD.

JACKIE

You're a dick, DeMarco. That guy killed his own brother.

ELLIOT

And their parents like, twenty years ago.

DEMARCO

(smirks)

Like I said...*iconic*.

DeMarco sips his beer.

JACKIE

I always wondered what happened to him. I mean, do you think he *really* died that night? Or is he still...out there?

ELLIOT

Never found a body.

DEMARCO

Which means that Mitch? Is still alive and can show up at *any* time. So, with that said...

(leans into Jackie)

Wanna stay over and let me *protect* you tonight, Jackie?

JACKIE

(rolls eyes)

I'd rather have my *head* carved into a "Jackie-lantern".

DEMARCO

Come on! My mom's got a *crazy* stash of painkillers...and we know how much you love those.

Jackie scoffs, insulted. She leaves the conversation.

DEMARCO

Hey, it's not my fault you got kicked off the cheer squad for being a pill popper!

(sips beer)

Prudey bitch. High school girls are such a *fucking* drag. Right, Trav?

TRAVIS

Or *maybe* bringing up her drug habits and brutal murders *isn't* the best way to turn a girl on. Just a thought.

DEMARCO

Dude, it's *Halloween*. Scaring girls is like foreplay.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

And you gotta scare them with stories about my dad...right?

OLIVER KENSINGTON (18) is standing in front of DeMarco, Travis, and Elliot. High school senior. Caucasian. Slim frame. Black curly hair. Outcast...THE SON OF MITCHELL KENSINGTON.

DEMARCO

Who the hell invited you?
(beat)
"Psycho Junior".

Oliver balls his fist, tightly. DeMarco notices and stands from the couch, ready for a fight. Elliot flanks him. Travis gets up from his seat, getting in between them and Oliver.

TRAVIS

Lay *off*, Marco.

Travis moves Oliver away from his two fellow athletes. Elliot watches Travis leave, then turns his attention back to DeMarco.

ELLIOT

Hey...you still doing that "thing" for Hannah?

DeMarco looks at Elliot mischievously.

DEMARCO

(smirks)
Oh, hell yeah. This party's about to get pretty fucking X-rated.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - CORNER OF BASEMENT - NIGHT

Travis and Oliver stand in a secluded corner. Oliver glares at DeMarco.

TRAVIS

Oli, listen...

OLIVER

*Don't...*call me Oli. My dad used to call me that.

TRAVIS

Okay. *Oliver*, it is. Look, you shouldn't give a shit about *anything* DeMarco says.

OLIVER

(beat)

Why do you give a shit? Most people in school treat me like I'm...the Patient Zero of Death.

TRAVIS

Well...*I'm* vaccinated.

Oliver laughs a little. He's not used to the jocks being so nice to him.

TRAVIS

By the way, *where's* your costume?

OLIVER

Where's yours?

TRAVIS

Uhhhh, *I'm* wearing it.

Travis spins around, showing off his "costume".

OLIVER

What are you supposed to be?

TRAVIS

Hottest guy in school. Not *everybody* can pull this off.

Oliver laughs again; Travis is brightening his mood.

TRAVIS

Come on. Let's get a drink.

Travis and Oliver begin to walk to the makeshift bar. As they do so, they pass two teenage girls sitting on a couch in the middle of a conversation. One of the girls reaches out, grabbing Oliver by the hand.

HANNAH

Hey. How's my favorite cousin doing?

This is HANNAH KENSINGTON (18). Long jet-black hair and dark eyes. African American and Caucasian. High school senior. A steely young girl.

OLIVER

(sighs)

I'm your *only* cousin. And you're lucky I can't say no to you because an aneurysm would've been way more fun than coming here.

TRAVIS

Oh, don't worry, *fun* is gonna be had. Right, Lily?

LILY

Alcohol makes *everything* fun.

This is Hannah's best friend, LILY WORTH (18). High school senior. Long blonde hair and blue eyes. Caucasian. Her hair is tied up in two ponytails to match the aesthetic of her cheerleader outfit.

TRAVIS

(to Oliver)

Vamos!

Travis puts his hands on Oliver's shoulders, ushering him away to the makeshift bar. Hannah turns her attention back to Lily.

HANNAH

So, like I was saying...Principal Phillips pulled me into his office today.

LILY

About what?

HANNAH

Kyle Milton. The kid who OD'ed last week. And now that *Jackie* got caught with those pills, Phillips is trying to find out who the "kingpin" is behind "The Cartel".

LILY

Ugh, *dramatic*. But *anyway*...

(smiles)

How was it?

HANNAH

How was...what?

LILY

Don't play dumb with me, Hannah. You and...

(whispers)

DeMarco.

(regular tone)

I mean, he is the world's biggest dick, but I've *also* heard he *has* the biggest di...

HANNAH

I gave him his varsity jacket back; how do you think it went?

LILY'S PHONE PINGS

Lily checks her phone.

LILY

I know we're not supposed to say this on October 31st but...I'll be right back.

Lily leaves the room, going upstairs. Hannah looks at her phone, staring at her screensaver. It's a photo of Hannah with her mother and father, smiling.

HANNAH'S PHONE PINGS

A notification pops up on her phone's home screen.

"NEW POST FROM LOCKWOOD LEAKS"

SOUNDS OF OTHER PHONES PINGING

Hannah doesn't open the post, she's too distracted, seeing her classmates check their phones. Some have shocked expressions on their face; others laugh in amusement but THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT HER. Just then, Hannah's attention is drawn to the sounds of a commotion on the other side of the basement.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

A crowd of students surround a fight, holding their phones out to record. Hannah breaks through the crowd, seeing Oliver being held back by Travis, and DeMarco being held back by Elliot. DeMarco has a bloody lip.

HANNAH

What the hell is going on?!

Oliver looks at Hannah, sadly, it's obvious she doesn't know.

OLIVER
 (breathing hard)
 DeMarco uploaded a video of the two of
 you having sex...to Lockwood *Leaks*.

Hannah's eyes dart to DeMarco, seeing the smug but proud look on his face.

HANNAH
 You *didn't*.

Oliver takes out his phone and shows it to Hannah.

DEMARCO
 I just wanted to have a memento of our
 first time together, babe. Well...of
 your first time.

Hannah doesn't have words; all she feels is embarrassment and the eyes of her classmates on her. Hannah hands the phone back to Oliver and leaves. Oliver follows behind her up the stairs.

DEMARCO
 You don't get to walk out on *me*
 without a little *payback*, Hannah!
 DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!

Travis looks at DeMarco, disgusted and disappointed.

TRAVIS
 (beat)
 You know, Marco...karma's a bitch.

Travis leaves the room, going after Oliver and Hannah.

EXT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The party goers are no longer outside. It's quiet. The party appears to be over.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

DeMarco sits on his couch, fully immersed in a video game.

ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE HOUSE GO OUT!

DeMarco looks around the now darkened basement.

DEMARCO
 (sighs)
 Fucking switchbox.

DeMarco turns on the light from his cellphone, making his way up the stairs.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

DeMarco walks into the kitchen, shining his light on the walls so he can find the electrical box. When he does, he flicks a switch, but nothing happens.

DEMARCO
 What the fuck, bro? Okay...flashlight.
 Let's find a flashlight.

DeMarco turns around, shining his light on the kitchen island. He opens a drawer, shining the light inside, rummaging around for the flashlight.

DEMARCO
 Where are you, you little bitch...

DeMarco closes the drawer, unable to find the flashlight. The light from his phone shines on something placed on the island.

DEMARCO
 The hell is this?

A CARD WITH "DEMARCO" WRITTEN ON THE FRONT.

Curious, DeMarco puts his phone down on the island, face up so the light continues to shine. He picks up the card and flips it open.

YOU LIKE TO BE ON CAMERA

A SHOWOFF NO DOUBT

HOW GOOD WOULD YOU

LOOK WITH YOUR INSIDES

ON THE OUT?

-KARMA

DeMarco laughs it off. He knows who did this.

DEMARCO

Real fucking funny, "Psycho Junior"!
 You came back to try and scare me?!
 Alright...well, don't be a little
bitch...COME AT ME BRO!

A few moments of absolute silence.

THE PANTRY DOOR FLIES OPEN!

Before DeMarco can move, someone is on him!

Long black trench coat. Black sweater. Flesh-colored mask with BLACK UPSIDE-DOWN CRESCENT MOON EYES and a WIDE BLACK CRESCENT MOON GRIN. The mask is flesh colored and splattered with blood with the word "KARMA" written across the forehead, also in blood.

THIS IS OUR KILLER..."KARMA".

Karma slams DeMarco hard into the refrigerator, their hands around his throat. DeMarco struggles against them, his football build allowing him to fight back. He headbutts Karma and pushes them away, making a run for the living room...

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DeMarco moves fast, looking back quickly, seeing Karma right behind him! DeMarco trips on the leg of a coffee table, hitting the floor, hard. Karma bends down and grabs DeMarco by the back of his hair, lifting his head to expose DeMarco's neck. With their free hand, Karma swiftly pulls out something from the inside of their trench coat...

CLOSE UP ON "THE JACKAL"; A LARGE, JAGGED HUNTING KNIFE!

DeMarco isn't down yet. He sends an elbow to Karma's face and frees himself from our killer's grasp, escaping imminent death. DeMarco sees the front door and makes a dash for it. He reaches the door, turning the doorknob...

KARMA STABS DEMARCO IN THE BACK!

DEMARCO SCREAMS IN PAIN!

DeMarco turns around and is met with Karma; their hunting knife coming straight at him! DeMarco ducks down to the floor and the knife hits the front door. DeMarco crawls quickly across the living room floor and makes it to his feet, seeing the patio door in the distance. DeMarco runs and Karma follows, hunting their prey.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Karma crashes into DeMarco, tackling him into the kitchen island from behind. Our killer grabs DeMarco's head, SLAMMING IT INTO THE ISLAND! Karma raises DeMarco's head slowly, blood dripping from the teenager's nose. He's dazed but still coherent.

Karma slams DeMarco's head into the island again, knocking the teen unconscious.

SLAM CUT TO:

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - NIGHT

A WIDE SHOT of a large Tudor style two story house that exudes wealth.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - HANNAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lily lies on one bed, scrolling through her phone while Hannah lies on her mother's lap in another bed.

EDEN KENSINGTON (41), jet black hair, African American. Miss America type of beautiful; strokes her daughter's hair. Hannah stares up at the ceiling.

HANNAH

Are you disappointed in me?

EDEN

The *only* thing I'm disappointed about is that you didn't let Oliver kick DeMarco's ass.

LILY

(thinks)

Oh! I got it. How about we put a cherry bomb in DeMarco's gas tank?

HANNAH

I don't wanna *kill* him, Lily.

EDEN

Well, he doesn't have to be *in* the car when we...

HANNAH

(amused)

Mom...

EDEN
 What?! *Nobody* hurts my baby girl and
 gets away with it.

LILY AND HANNAH'S PHONES BOTH PING

Lily checks her phone.

LILY
 (worried)
 There's...another new post. On
 Lockwood Leaks.

HANNAH
 (annoyed)
 Oh God.

Hannah moves from her bed to Lily's so she can see Lily's
 phone. Lily opens the notification. It's a video.

**DEMARCO IS TAPED TO A COLUMN IN HIS BASEMENT. BLOOD DRIPS
 DOWN HIS FACE FROM HIS FOREHEAD WOUND.**

HANNAH
 Is that...is that *DeMarco*?

Eden goes over to Lily's bed, curious to see what the girls
 are watching.

KARMA SLOWLY WALKS INTO THE VIDEO FRAME.

Eden's body freezes. She knows that costume and that mask all
 too well.

EDEN
 (voice shaking)
 Oh...my God.

DEMARCO (ON VIDEO)
 Please, let me go man! I'm sorry! It
 was just a joke, I--I didn't mean it!

HANNAH
 (scared)
 What...is *happening*?

Karma raises their hand...showing DeMarco their large hunting
 knife.

DEMARCO
 (crying)
 Please don't do this, Mr. Kensington!
 Please don't...PLEASE!

DeMarco's pleas fall on deaf ears.

KARMA BRUTALLY STABS DEMARCO IN THE ABDOMEN!

Hannah and Lily turn their heads away, but Eden is too shocked to move...her eyes are glued to the screen.

SOUNDS OF FLESH BEING CUT THROUGH AND BLOOD GURGLING!

Then...

A SPLASH!

Hannah turns her head slowly back to the phone. Lily also looks back at the phone. The three women can't believe what they're seeing.

DEMARCO'S LIFELESS BODY, STILL TAPED TO THE COLUMN. HIS INTESTINES ON THE FLOOR IN A POOL OF BLOOD.

DeMarco has been disemboweled.

Karma begins to carve something into DeMarco's forehead with the hunting knife. Once done, Karma walks out of the frame, leaving DeMarco's mutilated corpse behind.

INT. DEMARCO'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON DEMARCO'S FACE, BLOOD DRIPPING FROM HIS MOUTH.

THE WORD "KARMA" HAS BEEN CARVED INTO HIS FOREHEAD.

SLAM CUT TO BLACK:

LETTER BY LETTER, ONE BY ONE THE TITLE CARD REVEALS ITSELF IN RED INK, SPELLING OUT...

"ROTTED ROOTS"

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

NEXT DAY. Oliver, Hannah, and Eden sit on one side of the table, DET. MASON EWING (29) sits on the other side. Handsome man. Dirty blonde hair, young for the job but dedicated and experienced.

MASON

So...did either of you see anyone
wearing *this* costume...last night?

Mason points to a still photo of Karma, taken from the video
of DeMarco's murder.

HANNAH

No one that I can remember.

Oliver doesn't answer. He has a question of his own.

OLIVER

(beat)

Is my dad...*alive*?

MASON

(sighs)

Your dad's been missing for a year
so...that is a possibility.

HANNAH

You think my Uncle Mitch really could
have done this?

MASON

We're not ruling anything out. And
we're still pulling in students for
questioning.

EDEN

Detective Ewing, I *know* you're just
doing your job...but only *one* person
has ever worn that creepy fucking
mask.

MASON

You're right. And only *one* person has
ever cut the word "karma" into the
foreheads of their victims. So, going
with my gut, yes...

(beat)

Mitch *is* my number one suspect.

Eden, Hannah, and Oliver absorb that information.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

HUNTER BENNETT (40), gruff, burly, handsome in a lumberjack
sort of way, works on the doorbell which has a security
camera attached to it.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Eden's car pulls into the driveway. Eden gets out and walks over to Hunter.

EDEN
Hunter, hey.

HUNTER
Hey, Eden.

Hunter continues to mess with some wires for a moment, and then he stops.

HUNTER
These wires are all frazzled. Looks like water damage. You're gonna need a new unit.

EDEN
(sighs)
Probably because of that last storm we had. Thanks for trying.

HUNTER
Don't mention it.

Hunter can tell something is bothering Eden.

HUNTER
How did things go at the police station?

EDEN
Detective Ewing was just doing some routine questioning.
(beat)
But Hunter...I saw who was on that recording. Do you think Mitch could still be...

HUNTER
Alive? Oh, I *highly* doubt that.

Hunter sighs, thinking about their shared experience with the infamous Mitchell Kensington.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - EDEN'S BEDROOM - HALLOWEEN 2022 - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON A PAIR OF BLACK GLOVED HANDS STRANGLING EDEN!

Eden tries to pry the hands from her neck as they squeeze tighter. Harder. Making a dying move, Eden grabs the mask, ripping it off her attacker's head. Her eyes fill with shock, learning the IDENTITY OF HER ATTACKER.

EDEN
(struggling to speak)
Mi...tch...w..hy...?

MITCHELL KENSINGTON (43), Eden's brother-in-law, is the person under the "Karma" mask. His eyes are filled with crazy rage.

MITCH
(intense anger)
Sometimes *karma*...takes too long,
Eden!

This is it. Eden's vision begins to blur. Her life is over.

GUNSHOT!

Mitch is sent back by a bullet hitting him in the shoulder. He falls off of Eden and onto the floor. Eden coughs, thankful to have air in her lungs again. She turns her head, seeing the person who saved her life.

Hunter is standing in the doorway holding the smoking gun.

Mitch stands slowly, holding his knife, breathing hard. Eden trembles on the floor. Mitch raises the knife to bring down on Eden's head...

GUNSHOT!

The bullet sends Mitch backward and out the window, a short fall to the grassy ground below. Hunter moves to Eden's side, bending down to check on her.

HUNTER
Hey, hey. You alright?

Eden's eyes move slowly toward something on the floor.

CLOSE UP OF A MAN'S DEAD BODY, HIS THROAT SLIT WITH THE WORD "KARMA" CARVED INTO HIS FOREHEAD. THIS IS WESLEY KENSINGTON;

EDEN'S HUSBAND, HANNAH'S FATHER, AND MITCH'S BROTHER.

EDEN
 (dazed)
 Mitch...he killed Wes...

HUNTER
 (sadly)
 I know. But *you* are *safe*. You
 understand me?

Eden just nods her head slowly. Hunter gets up and walks over to the broken window. Eden reaches out and picks up Mitch's blood-stained mask from the floor, she stares at the word "karma" which has been drawn onto the forehead of the mask with Wesley's blood.

HUNTER
Shit!

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

MITCHELL'S BODY IS MISSING.

The only thing left behind is the long black trench coat he was wearing.

FLASHBACK ENDS

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - DAY - CONT'D

Eden shakes her head, pushing the memory away.

EDEN
 He was *gone*, Hunter.

HUNTER
 Yeah. And he probably died in the woods and his *body* got eaten by a bear or something.

Eden truly wants to believe Hunter, but she can't shake this nagging feeling.

EDEN
 Well, let's hope you're right. Because if Mitch *is* alive, he has unfinished business. And that includes you and me.

SLAM CUT TO:

EXT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - DAY

A WIDE SHOT of Lockwood High School. Nice sized campus littered with Fall leaves on a cold November day.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - CAFETERIA - TABLE - DAY

Hannah and Lily sit on one side of the table, Oliver sits on the other. The cafeteria is filled with other students sitting at tables and having conversations. Hannah and Oliver look deep in thought.

LILY

Soooo...Mitch killed you guys' grandparents. Twenty years ago.

OLIVER

And *then* he killed my Uncle Wes. Hannah's dad.

HANNAH

But...that was almost two decades after grandma and grandpa. Why would he wait so long? And let's just say he *did* survive those gunshots last Halloween...why would he wait an entire year just to come back now and...kill *DeMarco* of all people?

LILY

Recuperation, maybe? I mean, the guy was a murderer, *not* the Terminator.

Suddenly, Travis comes over. He takes a seat next to Oliver.

TRAVIS

Hey, I just back from the police station. Crazy shit, right?

LILY

(sighs)

I have to skip cheer practice, which *sucks*, and go there with my dad after school.

OLIVER

(to Travis)

Don't you usually...sit with your football buddies?

TRAVIS

Yeah, but you know what they say,
change is always good.

Travis looks at Oliver, concern on his face.

TRAVIS

How ya doin'? Detective Ewing thinks
that maybe your dad could be the one
who...ya know...

Travis really doesn't want to say the words, he knows what
the return of Karma could mean for Oliver.

OLIVER

I don't know if this was him. But it's
obvious *whoever* killed DeMarco...it's
either my *dad*...or someone inspired by
him.

(beat)

Either way, he's responsible.

Hannah's eyes take notice of a young man climbing off of a
ladder on the other side of the cafeteria. RORY BENNETT (19).
College student. Latino and Italian male. A backwards "dad-
hat" and fitted jeans showing his muscular lower body. A
definite hottie.

HANNAH

Um, I'll catch up with you guys later.

Hannah grabs her bag and leaves her seat hastily.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - HALLWAY #1 - DAY

Rory is walking down the hall; Hannah is quickly behind him.
Hearing her footsteps, he stops and turns around. Unable to
stop herself, Hannah crashes into Rory.

RORY

Whoa, Hannah! You good?

HANNAH

Yeah, yeah, I'm so sorry I was...just
trying to catch you before you left.

RORY

Well, next time make yourself known,
it's scary times around here. What's
up?

Hannah hesitates before speaking.

HANNAH

Rory...my Uncle Mitch hasn't been seen since your dad shot him. But after last night, me and my friends...

(beat)

We're just trying to figure out if he could be...*back*.

RORY

Maybe you and your *friends* should...leave that to the police.

HANNAH

The *same* police who twenty years ago put *your* father in jail for killing my grandparents when my *uncle* was the one who was responsible.

RORY

(beat)

I see your point. But uh, I...still don't see how I can help.

HANNAH

You can *help* by inviting me over to your house tonight? Preferably when your father is home so maybe I could...talk to him?

Rory tilts his head, pondering Hannah's request.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - HALLWAY #2 - OLIVER'S LOCKER - DAY

Oliver is taking stuff out of his locker and putting them into his book bag as Travis stands by.

OLIVER

So...how are you...feeling about all this? I know you and DeMarco were friends.

TRAVIS

Me and DeMarco were "friends" because we both liked to throw pigskin around. I *never* really liked him as a person.

Two female students run up to Oliver and Travis.

FEMALE #2

(excited)

Oh...my God! Would you sign this?

Female Student #1 holds out a book towards Oliver.

THE BOOK COVER READS:

"ROTTED ROOTS": YOU CAN'T ESCAPE KARMA, WRITTEN BY VIVIAN KENSINGTON

FEMALE STUDENT #1

Your mom's memoir about your "grands" being hacked up is *skyrocketing* online after last night. R.I.P. to her by the way.

FEMALE STUDENT #2

Yeah, and if I get *your* signature, the "Son of Karma"? I could *totally* sell it and have enough money to buy my dress for the Winter Prom.

FEMALE STUDENT #1

And I can *totally* see why people are buying this again after DeMarco. Can you *imagine*? She wrote a *book* about "The Karma Killings" not even knowing that her *own* husband was Karma.

FEMALE #1

Is there gonna be a sequel?

TRAVIS

(annoyed)

Ladies...I'm just going to say this in *your* language.

(leans in, high pitched voice)

"Byeeeeeeee".

FEMALE #1

Ugh! Whatever, Travis.

Oliver watches Jackie and her friend walk away.

OLIVER

I *hate* that fucking book.

TRAVIS

And I can understand why.

(beat)

So...the Winter Prom? Any prospects?
I'm sure some hottie is just *dying* to
go...

Oliver shoots Travis a look, hearing the word "dying",
triggering him. Oliver slams his locker closed and walks
away.

TRAVIS
(sighs)
Shitty choice of words, Trav.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - CLASSROOM - DAY

Lily is with Elliot in an empty classroom.

ELLIOT
(smirks)
You know this *isn't* standard head
cheerleader behavior, right?

Elliot hands her a wad of cash. Lily hands him a small brown
bag.

LILY
(smiles)
Well, I pride myself on breaking
stereotypes.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Am I interrupting?

Lily and Elliot look at the doorway, seeing PRINCIPAL
PHILLIPS (45), gray hair, handsome for an older man. Lily and
Elliot try to hide their nervousness.

LILY
You're the principal, Mr. Phillips,
how could you be interrupting us?
We're just little ol' students.

Principal Phillips steps into the room a little more.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS
How are you guys holding up
with...what happened to DeMarco?

Elliot looks down, the loss of his friend still very fresh on
his mind.

ELLIOT

DeMarco wasn't nice to everybody
but...no one should go out the way he
did.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS

(sighs)

Well, I want you to know that if you
ever need to talk, my door's always
open for you guys. Anytime.

RINGGGGG!

The bell goes off. Lunch is over.

LILY

(to Elliot)

We should...get going. I have gym.

Elliot walks out of the classroom first. Lily begins to
follow him.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS

Lily?

Lily stops in the doorway, turning around.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS

I meant what I said. My door *is* always
open...especially for you.

Lily smiles slightly, a little put off by the principal's
words. Lily leaves the classroom.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - LILY'S LOCKER - DAY

Lily is alone in the locker room, changing her clothes.

INT. GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - ENTRANCE DOOR - DAY

The entrance door to the locker room opens, slowly.

INT. GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - LILY'S LOCKER - DAY

Lily puts on a t-shirt and grabs a hair tie from her locker,
putting her hair into a ponytail.

ENTRANCE DOOR SLAMS SHUT!

Lily turns around, expecting to hear one of her classmates'
voices.

But she hears nothing.

LILY
 Laurie! Nobody wants to see your A-
 cups, you can get changed while I'm in
 here!
 (sighs)
 Weirdo.

No response.

LILY
 Laurie?

NO RESPONSE.

Lily walks slowly to the end of the lockers. She looks to the left at the entrance door of the locker room.

No one is there.

Curious, she begins to walk toward the entrance door.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - HALLWAY #3 - DAY

Lily opens the locker room entrance door, peering out into the hallway, looking in both directions.

The hallway is empty.

INT. GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Lily goes back inside and walks towards her locker. Though, she stops, noticing something on the floor nearby. She walks to her locker and bends down, picking up the item.

A SMALL BAG OF PILLS.

Lily eyes the bag quizzically.

ENTRANCE DOOR SLAMS SHUT!

Lily spins around at the noise. She moves to the end of the lockers and looks to the left at the closed entrance door.

No one is there.

Lily stares at the door for a moment. Then she exits the locker room.

EXT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

WIDE SHOT of a modest middle-class home.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hannah and Hunter are sitting down in his living room, Rory comes in with two cups. He hands one to Hannah and then sits down next to her.

HANNAH

Mr. Bennett, I don't wanna bring up bad memories but... before my grandparents were killed...you worked for them, right?

HUNTER

I was their handyman, yes.

HANNAH

Is there anything you can tell me about my Uncle Mitch's relationship with them? *Anything* that would explain why he killed my grandparents and why he could...possibly be...killing again.

HUNTER

(sighs)

Hannah, Mitch is worm food. Has been for three hundred and sixty-five days.

RORY

(sternly)

Dad, it's not like it's impossible that Mitch could be alive. I mean...he's *still* missing.

Hunter sighs. He decides to humor this "possibility".

HUNTER

Before your grandparents' murder, Mitch wasn't around the estate much. But when he *was*, there was this...cold between them. Like ice.

HANNAH

What about my father? What was...*his* relationship like with my uncle?

HUNTER

Mitch wasn't too keen on his brother. Wesley was your grandparents' favorite son. Seemed like he got whatever he wanted in life.

HANNAH

(thinks)

Including my mother.

(to Rory)

Her and my Uncle Mitch dated in college, but they broke up...and *then* she and my dad got together after college. In New York.

HUNTER

And *Mitch* got Wesley's "sloppy seconds" back here in Lockwood.

HANNAH

My Aunt Vivian. And they had Oliver.

RORY

Couple swap. Nice.

HANNAH

So...*maybe* my uncle hated my mother too? It doesn't explain why he murdered my grandparents, but it *could* explain what happened last year--why he attacked my mom *and*...killed my dad.

Something still doesn't make sense to Hannah.

HANNAH

But...it *doesn't* explain DeMarco.

RORY

What do you mean?

HANNAH

Well...my uncle *only* targeted his family. DeMarco was just a student. No connection to my family at all.

RORY

(thinks)

That's not really true, Hannah. DeMarco *was* connected to you. I mean...he *did* post that video of you.

HUNTER

So, what are you saying? "Mitch"
 filmed that kid's death and plastered
 it online to, what? Avenge his niece?

Hannah thinks that over for a moment. Suddenly, SOMETHING
 CLICKS.

HANNAH

(beat)

Or maybe it's simpler than that. Maybe
 it's just...what goes around...comes
 around.

The three of them ponder that notion.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING PARKING GARAGE - SECOND LEVEL - EARLY
 MORNING

NEXT DAY. The sky is still dark, the sun has yet to rise. A
 bunch of cars are parked in the garage.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS (O.S.)

(moaning)

Uh! Yeah! Right there! Right there! Oh
 my God!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING PARKING GARAGE - SECOND LEVEL -
 JACKIE'S CAR - EARLY MORNING

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS

(moaning)

Ughhhhhhh!

Principal Phillips breathes hard, reaching his climax. Jackie
 tries to hide her disgust as she gets off of him and sits in
 the driver's seat, getting dressed.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS

(breathing hard)

Now *that*...will *definitely* get you
 back on the cheerleading team.

JACKIE

(deadpan)

Great. Means I can make it to the pep
 rally tonight.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS

School spirit is very important.
 So...same time next week?

JACKIE
 (disbelief)
 But I...I thought this was...*done*.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS
 You were caught with the same *drugs*
 that caused one of your classmates to
 OD, and all I gave you was a
 little..."slap on the ass". So, *this*
 is done...

Principal Phillips kisses Jackie on the cheek.

PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS
 When I say it's done.

Principal Phillips gets out of the car. Jackie looks almost
 horrified. She speeds off. Principal Phillips watches the car
 drive away.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING PARKING GARAGE - FIRST LEVEL - EARLY
 MORNING

Principal Phillips exits the stairwell, entering the first
 level of the parking garage, ready to head to the high
 school.

CAR ALARM GOES OFF!

He looks around, nervous, wondering which car the alarm is
 coming from. He begins to walk quickly. Principal Phillips
 reaches his car and gets inside, slamming the door shut. His
 nerves on edge that someone may have seen his "intimate"
 moment with one of his students. He goes to start the car but
 something in the passenger seat catches his eye.

A CARD WITH "EUGENE" WRITTEN ON IT.

Principal Phillips picks up the card and flips it open.

YOUR JOB IS TO GUIDE THEM

BUT YOU TREAT THEM LIKE TRASH

YOUR BODY WILL BE FOUND

BUT IN HOW MANY BAGS?

-KARMA

A pair of black gloved hands wraps a thick wire around

Principal Phillips' neck! He grabs at the wire, trying to pry it from his throat. As Principal Phillips struggles to free himself, in the reflection of the rearview mirror he sees...

KARMA RISING SLOWLY FROM THE FLOOR OF THE BACKSEAT!

Principal Phillips eyes fill with fear as Karma pulls tighter on the wire around his neck...and tighter...until Principal Phillips' body goes limp.

EXT. REAR OF APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

The sun has risen.

A woman comes outside, still dressed in her sleepwear, garbage bag in hand. She begins to walk over to a dumpster. Though stops mid-way, noticing something on the ground.

A TRAIL OF BLOOD!

The blood trail leads towards the dumpster.

The woman continues to walk slowly, following the trail until she reaches the dumpster.

The lid is closed.

The woman's curiosity gets the best of her, and she opens the lid slowly...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A WIDE SHOT of the five-story apartment building as we hear...

THE WOMAN SCREAMING IN HORROR!

INT. POLICE STATION - MASON'S OFFICE - DAY

Mason walks back and forth, speaking into his phone, recording himself.

MASON

Mitchell Kensington's previous murders, his parents, his brother...were theorized to be crimes of passion. Impulsive. However, DeMarco Caliber's death was...different. Calculated. Performative.

(thinks)

There seems to be a change in approach.

MASON'S DOOR FLIES OPEN!

OFFICER HAYNES
Detective!

Mason looks at the officer, surprised by the urgency in her voice.

OFFICER HAYNES
There's been another murder.

Mason sighs, regretfully.

OFFICER HAYNES
(beat)
Also...something *else* was found at the crime scene. Something you're definitely going to want to see.

Mason looks intrigued.

EXT. REAR OF APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A forensics team is investigating the scene. A car pulls up. Mason gets out of the car, seeing the dumpster in the distance; he begins to walk toward it. When he reaches it, Mason takes a breath, bracing himself for what he's been told is inside. Mason opens the dumpster and jumps back...NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED HIM FOR THIS.

CLOSE UP ON PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS' SEVERED HEAD INSIDE OF AN OPENED BLACK GARBAGE BAG. THE WORD "KARMA" HAS BEEN CARVED INTO HIS FOREHEAD. OTHER SEVERED BODY PARTS LIE SCATTERED IN THE DUMPSTER, EACH ONE IN THEIR OWN OPENED BLACK GARBAGE BAG...FOR EVERYONE TO SEE.

FORENSICS TECH (O.S.)
Detective Ewing!

Mason turns, seeing the technician standing near a stretcher; a body bag lies on it. Mason walks over to them.

MASON
Let's see it.

The technician unzips the body bag halfway, revealing...

THE DECOMPOSED BODY OF A MAN WEARING A BLACK SWEATER WITH TWO

BULLET HOLES IN THEIR UPPER TORSO.

Mason can't believe his eyes. He thinks he knows who this is but he isn't sure.

MASON

Two gunshots to the chest. How long?

FORENSICS TECH

From the decomposition, my guess would be about...a year?

Mason knows for sure now.

MASON

(beat)

It...can't be.

(beat; to Forensics Tech)

Mitch Kensington?

FORENSICS TECH

We'll know for sure in a couple of hours after we run DNA on him. We also found this.

The technician hands Mason a small plastic bag with a gold ring inside.

FORENSICS TECH

It was in the victim's car. Killer must've have dropped it.

Mason examines the ring through the plastic bag. He notices something on the INSIDE RIM OF THE RING.

MASON

Well, we don't need DNA for this. I know exactly who this belongs to.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - LIBRARY - TABLE - DAY

Hannah, Travis, Oliver, and Lily sit together at a table. Hannah has a folder in front of her. Lily looks a little troubled, her mind still on the creepy encounter she had in the locker room the previous day.

TRAVIS

So, "The Hardy-Drew Crew" assembles.

OLIVER

Came up with that one by yourself?

TRAVIS

I think it has a nice ring to it.

LILY

What's in the folder?

HANNAH

Evidence to back up my theories.

(beat)

I had a thought. What if...DeMarco was killed because of me?

OLIVER

Why would you think that?

HANNAH

Because...Mitch's killings, were...sporadic, decades apart. Our grandparents in 2004 and then my father last year. But *both* murders had *one* thing in common.

(beat)

They were *all* Kensingtons.

LILY

You know what's always bugged me? Why etch-a-sketch "*karma*" into the heads of the people he killed?

Hannah takes a piece of paper out of the folder.

HANNAH

This is Mitch at our family's Halloween party last year.

CLOSE UP ON A PRINTED PHOTO OF MITCH WEARING A BLACK SWEATER, BLACK PANTS, BLACK BOOTS, AND A LONG BLACK TRENCHCOAT AS WELL AS THE FLESH-COLORED "KARMA" MASK. THOUGH THE BLOODY "KARMA" INSCRIPTION IS MISSING FROM THE MASK'S FOREHEAD.

HANNAH

Notice anything different?

Lily, Travis, and Oliver examine the photo. Lily notices something.

LILY

Didn't the mask have the word "*karma*" on it? I mean, that's what I've seen on Google.

HANNAH

It did. *After* he killed my dad, he must've used *his* blood to write it on the mask and then...carved that same word into my father's head.

OLIVER

Just like he did to our grandparents. And DeMarco.

TRAVIS

Well, in Hindu and Buddhism, the definition of "*karma*" is the sum of a person's actions in *this and* previous states of existence.

HANNAH

And *that's* why I think DeMarco was killed. It was his *karma*...for what he did to me.

LILY

But...what about your family? If Karma kills a person based off their actions...

Lily stops...thinking about the things she's done.

TRAVIS

Then what'd your family do to make *him* go after *them*?

HANNAH

That's what I don't know. Mitch had a specific agenda, but it seems like *this* Karma goes after...*anyone*. Anyone they deem immoral.

LILY

Like Dexter? That's *twisted*.

OLIVER

Makes sense though. DeMarco spread a sex tape for the whole school to see and...he was murdered on video.

TRAVIS

For *everyone* to see.

HANNAH

Which begs the question...if my Uncle

Mitch really *is* the one who's doing this, why change his M.O. now? Why not *immediately* go after my mother to finish what he started? *She's* the Kensington who got away.

LILY

Maybe he's...evolved?

TRAVIS

Or *maybe*...it's not Mitch at all.

The four of them think over that possibility.

HANNAH

And if it *isn't*...then we're dealing with an *extreme* vigilante situation here.

LILY

If you're a *shitty* person...

TRAVIS

You get the *shit* end of the stick. Literally.

OLIVER

Just like DeMarco.

Lily has a worried expression on her face. And oddly...SO DOES TRAVIS.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - BOYS LOCKER ROOM - TRAVIS'S LOCKER - DAY

Travis is changing his clothes for gym. He takes his shirt off.

SOUNDS OF SOMETHING SLAMMING AGAINST A LOCKER FOLLOWED BY THE EXCITED VOICES OF MALE STUDENTS.

The commotion catches Travis's attention.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - OLIVER'S LOCKER - DAY

The male students are huddled together, egging on the scene in front of them. Travis pushes through them, seeing Elliot holding Oliver against a locker.

TRAVIS

Hey!

Travis pulls Elliot off of Oliver and throws Elliot against another locker, gripping him by his shirt.

TRAVIS

You wanna take up DeMarco's dickhead mantle? *Be my guest. But you fuck with Oliver again? I fuck with you. Got it?*

Travis and Elliot have a stare down.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Aye, aye, save it for the field!

The boys look behind them, seeing their assistant football coach, MR. NONSKI (21), standing in the locker room. Bi-racial, very authoritative but young enough to still relate to high school students.

Travis lets Elliot go.

MR. NONSKI

(beat)

Alright. Let's go. We got drills to run.

Elliot gives Travis a dirty look, then exits the locker room with the rest of the male students. Oliver takes off his shirt and sits down on a bench; Travis sits next to him.

TRAVIS

What happened?

OLIVER

Elliot was being Elliot.

TRAVIS

Fair enough.

Travis can tell there's something on Oliver's mind.

TRAVIS

(beat)

You *can* talk about it, ya know.

OLIVER

(sighs)

About what?

TRAVIS

About your dad *possibly* being alive. I mean, that's *gotta* be a mind fuck.

OLIVER
(slightly annoyed)
Why do you care?

TRAVIS
(laughs slightly)
Is it so hard to believe that
someone...could actually care about
you?

OLIVER
(scoffs slightly)
Yeah. It is.
(sadly)
Because the only person who ever
really did...was my father.

Oliver's answer takes Travis back a bit.

TRAVIS
What about your mom?

OLIVER
(beat)
Even before my mom died, it was
like...she didn't wanna be around me.
Like, somehow, she--*knew* my father was
bad and that she was *scared* I
would...turn out to be just like him.
(voice cracks)
Sometimes, it was like...she couldn't
even stand to look at me.

Travis's heart softens, seeing how much Oliver has been
carrying all on his own.

TRAVIS
Well...can you?

OLIVER
Can I what?

TRAVIS
Can you...look at...you?

OLIVER
(sighs)
I try not to. My mom always used to
say, "you're the spitting image of
your father."
(beat)

Mirrors only reaffirm that.

TRAVIS

(beat)

Well, now *that's* a shame. Cause with those...

(laughs slightly)

Brownies you call eyes...I'm sure a mirror would be happy to see you.

Oliver and Travis smile at each other, locking eyes for A MOMENT TOO LONG. Oliver looks away quickly, feeling awkward.

OLIVER

I'll um...I'll see you out there.

Travis nods, Oliver leaves the locker room. Travis looks over at DeMarco's locker, the football players have turned it into a makeshift memorial with DeMarco's photo posted on the front.

Travis's mind goes somewhere...he looks disgusted and slightly scared.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Eden walks across the lawn, going to the mailbox and opening it. She sees something that stands out.

A MANILA ENVELOPE WITH EDEN'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS ON IT.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - ACROSS THE STREET - TREE LINE - DAY

UNKNOWN PERSON'S POV

In the distance, shrouded by the trees, someone watches Eden.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT LAWN - DAY - CONT'D

Eden stares at the manila envelope for a moment, noticing there isn't a return address. She takes the envelope out of the mailbox and pulls out what's inside.

A PHOTO OF A YOUNG EDEN AND A YOUNG MITCH IN COLLEGE, SMILING HAPPILY.

Curious, Eden flips the photo over...Eden covers her mouth, shocked at what she sees.

We don't see what's on the back of the photo yet, but it fills Eden with fear and panic.

EXT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - PARKING LOT - DAY

School has let out for the day. Students are leaving in pairs or small groups. Hannah, Lily, Oliver, and Travis are grouped together near one of their cars.

LILY

Guys, I've been thinking...are we *sure* about this whole "Karma killing people for doing bad things" scenario? I mean, *everyone* does bad shit, this *freak* can't...kill the whole town.

TRAVIS

No. But it means *anyone* could be on his list. Everyone has skeletons.

HANNAH

It just depends on *which* skeletons Karma knows about.

Oliver and Hannah share a quick but slightly nervous glance.

A motorcycle pulls up, the person takes off their helmet. It's Rory. The expression on his face shows something is wrong.

LILY

(smiles)

Rory Bennett. Former Crow QB and *total* Hot Pocket.

HANNAH

Rory, if you didn't *already* know from last year, this is Lily, Oliver, and Travis. What's going on?

RORY

Seriously? You guys haven't heard?

HANNAH

Heard what?

RORY

They found Principal Phillips' body this morning.

Hannah, Lily, Oliver, and Travis share worried and shocked expressions.

RORY
And...something else. Oliver, they...
(beat)
They found your dad's body too.

OLIVER
(shocked)
What?

HANNAH
They found Mitch?

RORY
I just saw it on the news. And
Phillips had the same thing carved
into his forehead that DeMarco did,
and Mitch's body was just...*there*. In
the dumpster with Phillips.

LILY
Dexter strikes again.

TRAVIS
Yeah. But it's not...

OLIVER
It's not my dad.

The teens take in this revelation.

POLICE SIRENS!

An unmarked police car pulls up. Mason gets out, he doesn't
have a happy look on his face.

MASON
Rory Bennett...I'm gonna need you to
turn around.

RORY
For what?

Mason forcefully grabs Rory by the arms and places him in
handcuffs.

MASON
Rory Bennett, you're under arrest for
the murder of Eugene Phillips. You
have the right to remain silent...

RORY
 (disbelief)
 What the fuck?! What are you doing?
 Let go of me!

Mason continues to read Rory his Miranda Rights as he walks him to the police car. Travis, Oliver, Lily, and Hannah look on in disbelief. Rory sits in the back of the police car, scared and confused...HIS EYES LOCK WITH HANNAH'S.

RORY
 Hannah, *call* my dad! I didn't do this!

Mason's car begins to drive away.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eden sits on the couch, staring at the photo she was sent earlier. Only one question on her mind as she stares at the sender's name..."KARMA".

EDEN
 Who are you?

The front opens slightly.

WIND CHIMES HANGING ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR JINGLE

The front door opens completely, Hannah and Oliver, walk in.

EDEN
 Where were you two? I was worried.

HANNAH
 We heard about the principal.

Hannah looks over at Oliver, she knows her cousin is struggling.

HANNAH
 And Uncle Mitch.

EDEN
 So, did I.

HANNAH
 Oliver needed some time so we...took a drive for a little while.

Eden sees the conflicted and sad look on Oliver's face.

EDEN
Come here, honey.

Eden stands from the couch and goes to Oliver, embracing him.

EDEN
I am so sorry.

Oliver pulls away from the hug.

OLIVER
You *don't* have to say that.

EDEN
Yes, I do. Mitch was...troubled.
(sighs)
But he was *still* your father.

Hannah, Oliver, and Eden sit on the couch.

OLIVER
(beat)
It's weird. I'd always thought he'd come back and...give me some sort of explanation for the things he's done but...now I'll never know why. I'll never know what changed him.

HANNAH
Mom...they *arrested* Rory. They think he's the killer.

EDEN
Hunter's Rory? That doesn't make any sense.

The last three Kensingtons sit in silence for a moment.

OLIVER
I'm gonna...go upstairs. Clear my head.

Eden watches sadly as Oliver goes up the stairs.

HANNAH
I called Mr. Bennett. Hopefully, he can get Rory released.

EDEN
(sighs)
Mitch just keeps ruining lives. Even

from beyond the grave.

HANNAH

(beat)

At least we know he's really gone now. You don't have to...look over your shoulder anymore.

EDEN

(sighs)

I was *positive* that all of this was *him*. And now...I don't know what to think.

Eden sighs, running her hands through her hair. Hannah's eyes go to a picture frame sitting on the coffee table.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF A YOUNG EDEN, MITCH, HIS BROTHER WES, AND OLIVER'S MOTHER, VIVIAN, IN FRONT OF LOCKWOOD UNIVERSITY.

HANNAH

(beat)

I never got it, mom. You and Uncle Mitch...you were in love once. *What* would make him do what he did to you and dad?

EDEN

(sighs)

Maybe Mitch always...resented me and your father for finding happiness together after we...ended things.

Hannah nods, understanding.

HANNAH

Is there *any* reason he would...resent my grandparents?

EDEN

Your grandparents *always* made Mitch the fall guy, while *Wesley*...got *all* the glory. And sometimes people can just...

(beat)

Break, Hannah. And sometimes the pieces don't come back together.

Eden sighs deeply. Hannah sees the toll this situation is taking on her mother.

EDEN
I'm gonna lie down for a bit.

HANNAH
Are you okay, mom?

EDEN
I'll be fine, honey. Don't worry about me.

Eden gets up from the couch and begins to walk upstairs.

HANNAH
Mom?

Eden stops, looking back at her daughter.

HANNAH
If you're *not*...fine? That's okay too.

Eden smiles slightly, then leaves. Hannah looks over at the couch where Eden was just sitting and sees something her mother must've dropped. Hannah picks it up, unfolding the paper.

THE PHOTO OF A YOUNG EDEN AND A YOUNG MITCH IN COLLEGE, SMILING HAPPILY.

Hannah stares at the photo for a moment, then turns it over...we finally see the message that disturbed Eden to her core.

MARCH 17TH, 2003

-KARMA

Hannah's eyes fill with worry, she recognizes the date...but why is the killer contacting her mother?

HANNAH'S PHONE RINGS

It's a number she doesn't recognize. Hannah answers.

HANNAH (ON PHONE)
Hello?

INTERCUT

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Rory stands by himself, holding the phone to his ear.

RORY
Hannah, it's me.

HANNAH
(concerned)
Rory. How are you?

RORY
Not good. I need your help.

HANNAH
What happened?

RORY
The police...they wanna know where I
was when Phillips was killed and...I
can't tell em'.

HANNAH
Why not?

Rory looks around to make sure no one is listening; his voice gets lower.

RORY
I do some side work for this guy,
fixing motorcycles, but where he gets
the parts from isn't really...*legal*. I
know he'll vouch for me, but I don't
wanna get him caught up with the cops.
And also...my dad will *kill* me if he
finds out.

HANNAH
(beat)
Okay. I think I have an idea. I'm on
my way.

Hannah ends the call. She grabs her car keys and goes to the front door, holding the wind chimes, so they don't make any noise when she opens the door.

Hannah exits the house.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver lies on his bed, holding a photo.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF A PRE-TEEN OLIVER AND MITCH SITTING ON A COUCH, SMILING HAPPILY.

Oliver stares at the photo, recalling the day it was taken. This is how he wants to remember his father.

OLIVER'S PHONE PINGS

Oliver turns over and checks his phone. It's a picture of Travis, shirtless and wearing his football helmet while making a silly face, followed by a text.

TRAVIS (TEXT)
SEE YOU AT THE PEP RALLY TONIGHT?

Oliver smiles a little.

WIND CHIME JINGLES DOWNSTAIRS

Oliver turns his head toward the bedroom door. It must be Hannah leaving for the pep rally.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON BLACK BOOTS AND A DRAPING TRENCH COAT WALKING INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

OLIVER (O.S.)
 Hannah?

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Oliver walks down the hallway quickly, passing Eden's bedroom, the door is closed.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

The front door opens, Oliver steps outside. He looks around. The car he and Hannah share isn't in the driveway.

BEHIND OLIVER, IN THE DISTANCE, A CLOSET DOOR UNDER THE STAIRCASE IN THE LIVING ROOM, OPENS, SLOWLY...

Oliver sighs, he'd hoped to drive with Hannah to the high school. He takes out his phone, writing a text.

OLIVER (TEXT)
**COULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE LEAVING.
 SEE U AT THE RALLY.**

Oliver sends the text. He waits for a response.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON BLACK BOOTS AND BLACK TRENCH COAT, WALKING UP THE STAIRS. THE PERSON HOLDS THE KARMA MASK IN THEIR LEFT HAND.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT - CONT'D

Oliver continues to look at his phone, waiting for Hannah to reply to his text. After a moment, he dials her number, waiting for an answer.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - EDEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door opens.

CLOSE UP ON BLACK BOOTS AND BLACK TRENCH COAT STANDING IN THE DOORWAY OF EDEN'S ROOM.

The door closes. Eden lies asleep on her bed. Karma walks slowly around the bed and stops, standing over Eden as she sleeps. Karma tilts their head, staring at her.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT - CONT'D

Oliver holds the phone to his ear.

HANNAH (ON PHONE)

I'm going to check on Rory, I'll meet you at the rally?

OLIVER

Um, yeah sure. I'll just call an Uber.

Oliver sighs. He ends the call.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - EDEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONT'D

Karma reaches into their trench coat, slowly pulling out a large butcher knife.

WIND CHIME JINGLES DOWNSTAIRS

Karma's head snaps toward the bedroom door.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Oliver comes up the stairs, walking past Eden's room, the door still closed. He goes into his room, closing the door behind him.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver goes to his closet, looking for something to wear to the pep rally.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON KARMA'S BLACK GLOVED HAND CAREFULLY CLOSING EDEN'S BEDROOM FROM THE OUTSIDE.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver pulls a shirt out of his closet, giving it the once over. He decides against it. Oliver pulls out another shirt...he looks satisfied with his choice.

WIND CHIME JINGLES DOWNSTAIRS

Oliver looks at his bedroom door, a curious expression on his face...maybe his Aunt Eden went out.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - EDEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door opens slowly. Oliver sticks his head inside.

Eden is still sound asleep.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

The front door opens. Oliver stands in the doorway, looking around the front of the estate. He and Hannah's car still isn't there.

Maybe it was just his mind playing tricks on him.

Oliver closes the door.

SLAM CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

The cell is quiet. Rory is sitting on the bench, head in his hands.

A DOOR OPENS

It's Hunter, escorted by Officer Haynes. Rory looks up, seeing his father.

RORY

Dad!

They both move toward the bars on Rory's cell.

RORY

I *didn't*...

HUNTER

Hey, you got *nothing* to prove to me. I know you're innocent.

RORY

Why would Detective Ewing think I did this?

HUNTER

Well, it's simple. *Mason* wants to continue his father's legacy of being a *fuck up* when it comes to the Bennett men.

INT. POLICE STATION - MASON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Hannah is standing in front of Mason. Mason sits at his desk.

HANNAH

I don't know *how* or *why* my uncle's body showed up in that dumpster...but Rory *isn't* the one who put it there.

MASON

(sighs)

Do you know about the Bennetts, Hannah?

HANNAH

Everyone does. This town *hated* Mr. Bennett for what they *thought* he did to my grandparents, *your* dad sent him to jail for ten years, and then *everyone* berated Rory's mom about her "killer boyfriend" til' she had a breakdown and got sent away.

MASON

Then three years ago? She killed herself. Hannah, that sort of...*trauma*...can really mess with a person.

(beat)

I feel for Rory but...

(sighs)

I *cannot* ignore the facts.

HANNAH
 (exasperated)
 And what are the facts?

HUNTER (O.S.)
 Same fucking question I got.

Hannah turns around, seeing Hunter standing in the doorway.

MASON
 (sighs)
 You wanna know the facts? Rory's high school football ring was found at the crime scene. *And he refuses to give me an alibi for when the murder occurred.*

HANNAH
 When was Principal Phillips killed?

MASON
 (beat)
 Sometime around 5 A.M. this morning.

HANNAH
 Then Rory *couldn't* have killed him. Because we were having sex at five o'clock this morning.
 (to Hunter)
Please don't tell my mom.

Mason scoffs. He knows what Hannah is doing.

MASON
 Lying to the police is a crime.

HANNAH
 Well, it's a good *thing*...that I am not lying.

Hunter smiles slightly, impressed by Hannah. He steps closer to Mason's desk, standing next to Hannah.

HUNTER
 When your father was Sheriff, he sent me to prison after Mitch used *my* tools to kill Hannah's grandparents, so he could *frame* me for it, and I lost a *decade* of my life based off "the facts". *Don't* follow that road, Mason. I wasn't a killer. And neither is my son.

The camera lingers on Mason's face. A tiny piece of him considering Hunter's words.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - GYM - PEP RALLY - NIGHT

It's game night!

Though the bleachers aren't filled with as many students as usual, the recent events keeping many of them at home.

INT. GYM - GYM FLOOR - NIGHT

Lily and the cheer squad perform a dance routine, amping up the audience.

INT. GYM - BLEACHERS - NIGHT

Oliver sits in the bleachers, alone.

INT. GYM - GYM FLOOR - NIGHT

The football players are lined up; the head football coach stands in the middle of the floor with a microphone.

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

We dedicate tonight's game to
Principal Phillips and our former
captain, DeMarco Caliber. This
win...is gonna be for them.

(beat)

So, let's give it up for the young man
who's gonna lead us to that
victory...our new team captain, Travis
Lott!

The crowd goes wild as Travis runs out, fully suited up in his football gear.

INT. GYM - BLEACHERS - NIGHT

Upon seeing Travis, Oliver smiles and claps.

INT. GYM - GYM FLOOR - NIGHT

The football players are huddled up, moving from side to side, energizing themselves for the game.

TRAVIS

On three...ONE!, TWO!, THREE!

FOOTBALL TEAM
FLY HIGH, CROWS!

The team breaks, jumping up and down, the crowd yells and screams. Travis takes off his helmet, feeling pumped. He looks up into the bleachers, his eyes finding Oliver.

Travis smiles brightly and then winks at Oliver.

After a moment of lingering eye contact between them, Travis runs out of the gym, headed to the football field. His team follows.

INT. GYM - BLEACHERS - NIGHT

The attendees sitting in the bleachers begin to disperse, exiting the gym to the field. Oliver stays seated, processing what just happened.

INT. GYM - GYM FLOOR - NIGHT

Lily, having noticed the exchange between Travis and Oliver, looks up at Oliver on the bleachers with a sly smile.

INT. GYM - BLEACHERS - NIGHT

Lily climbs up the bleachers, making her way over to him and sits down.

LILY

Well...you should be a little happier.

OLIVER

Why?

LILY

Because Travis? *Totally* crushing on you.

Oliver laughs nervously, a little embarrassed by Lily's accusation.

OLIVER

Travis has been with *half* the cheerleaders on your squad, Lily.

LILY

So? Sexual fluidity is the thing these days.

(shrugs)

Take a chance, Oliver. As we have seen

as of late, life is short as hell.

LILY'S PHONE PINGS

Lily checks her phone.

ELLIOT (TEXT)
LOCKER ROOM. FIVE MINUTES.

The message changes Lily's mood slightly.

LILY
 Um...I'm gonna run to the bathroom.
 I'll catch you out there.

Lily exits quickly, leaving through a door that leads back inside the school.

INT. GYM - GYM FLOOR - NIGHT

Hannah comes into the gym, looking around. Oliver is walking down the bleachers; he spots Hannah and goes over to her.

OLIVER
 Hey. Did you find out anything about Rory?

HANNAH
 He called in a lifeline, needed an alibi and...I gave him one. Detective Ewing let him go.

OLIVER
 (confused)
 Meaning he *didn't* have one?
 Hannah...we *know* my dad isn't the one doing this, so that means Karma 2.0?
 Could be *anybody*. Even...Rory.

HANNAH
 Rory had his reasons. And I believe him.
 (beat)
 I *think* he's being framed...the same way Mitch framed his father.

Oliver sighs, his mind going back to his father and his many misdeeds. Hannah touches his shoulder.

HANNAH
 Hey...it is *okay* if you're sad about

your dad really being gone.

OLIVER

(beat)

I am, but...it's more than that. When I thought my dad was the one behind this, a part of me...felt like I was *safe*. I knew *he* would *never* hurt me. But now? I'm fair game.

(sighs)

And so are you.

Hannah shakes her head. She understands what Oliver is referring to.

HANNAH

Oliver, we cheated on our *SATs*. We didn't put out *revenge* porn or do *whatever* Phillips did to get killed.

(sighs)

Besides...I think there are people hiding bigger secrets than us.

Hannah takes out the college photo she found of Eden and Mitch and hands it to Oliver.

HANNAH

I found it today at the house, my mom had it. Check the back.

Oliver flips the photo over, seeing the message.

MARCH 17TH, 2003

-KARMA

OLIVER

March 17th. That's your mom's birthday.

HANNAH

Yeah. But she was born in 1982, not 2003.

OLIVER

Why would *Karma*...send this to Aunt Eden?

HANNAH

Because I think "*Karma 2.0*" *knows* something about my mom's past.

Something that happened on this date.
 (beat)
 And whatever it is...she doesn't want
 anyone else to know.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - BOYS LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Lily walks into the locker room. It's quiet. An eerie feeling comes over her.

LILY
 Elliot?

Lily takes a few steps further into the locker room, cautiously. She looks to her right, down the row of lockers, seeing no one. Though, she does see something familiar on the ground.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #1 - NIGHT

Lily steps into the row of lockers, walks over to the item on the ground, and picks it up.

A SMALL BAG OF PILLS.

Just like the bag she found a few days ago in the girl's locker room. Lily looks up, noticing something else on the ground a few feet away from her.

ANOTHER SMALL BAG OF PILLS.

A TRAIL OF BREADCRUMBS.

Suddenly, Lily realizes...

LILY
 Oh Elliot, you *ASSHOLE!*

Lily begins to walk down the row of lockers, picking up another bag of pills, following them. Lily turns a corner, making a left, entering another row of lockers.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #2 - NIGHT

LILY
 (annoyed)
 Ugh! I cannot *believe* I've been
 thinking some *psycho* was after me and
 the *whole* time it's been you fucking
 with me!

Lily continues to pick up the little baggies.

LILY

This is *really* going to affect your
cut from our little entrepreneurship.

Lily reaches the middle of the row, picking up the last baggy. She looks at the locker to her left, noticing it's unlocked and that something is taped to the front of it.

A CARD WITH "LILY" WRITTEN ON IT.

Lily snatches the card off the locker, becoming more irritated. She opens it.

YOU FEED YOUR FRIENDS DRUGS

BROUGHT A LIFE TO ITS END

NOW IT'S TIME FOR A TASTE

OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE

-KARMA

Lily crumbles up the note, throwing it on the floor.

LILY

You are *so* getting your ass kicked,
Roper.

Lily pulls the locker open, ready to see Elliot inside, waiting to scare her.

ELLIOT'S DEAD BODY FALLS OUT, HITTING THE FLOOR!

TWO HUGE SYRINGES JAMMED INTO HIS EYES. THE WORD "KARMA" CARVED INTO HIS FOREHEAD.

LILY LETS OUT A BLOODCURDLING SCREAM!

CLOSE UP ON A PAIR OF BLACK BOOTS IN THE LOCKER ROOM, WALKING SLOWLY...

Lily stares at Elliot's body, still trembling in fear and shock. Sensing someone in the room with her, Lily turns her head slowly. Her blood runs cold as she looks into the black upside crescent moon eyes of Karma, standing at the end of the row of lockers.

KARMA MENACINGLY MOVES TOWARD HER!

Lily moves backward, not taking her eyes off of Karma. She turns the corner, making a right...

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #1 - NIGHT

Lily runs down the row of lockers to the entrance door of the locker room.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - ENTRANCE DOOR - NIGHT

Lily gets to the door, but Karma is on her! The killer grabs Lily by the hair, pulling her away from the door and throwing her to the floor.

LILY

Get the fuck away from me!

Lily shuffles backward across the floor. Karma stands some feet away from her, blocking the locker room entrance door. Karma breathes hard, the adrenaline of the chase running through them. Lily gets to her feet. Thinking fast, she runs down the last row of lockers, VANISHING FROM KARMA'S SIGHT.

Karma walks towards Lily's direction...

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #3 - NIGHT

Karma looks down the row of lockers. No sign of Lily.

SOUNDS OF A LOCKER DOOR SLAMMING CLOSED!

Karma tilts their head, knowing where the sound came from. They begin walking down the row of lockers...

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #2 - NIGHT

Karma comes around the corner, walking down another row of lockers. They stop near Elliot's body, in front of the unlocked locker where Elliot's corpse was hidden. The locker door is closed. Karma roughly pulls it open...

No sign of Lily.

Karma closes the locker door.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #1 - LOCKER - NIGHT

Lily is hiding inside another unlocked locker she's found in the row adjacent to locker row #2 where Karma is.

SOUNDS OF KARMA'S SLOW FOOTSTEPS...

Lily hears Karma coming her way. She tries to stay as quiet as possible.

Through the small grates in the locker door, Lily sees Karma, walk past the locker she's hiding in. A few moments later...

SOUNDS OF THE ENTRANCE DOOR OPENING...AND THEN CLOSING.

Lily doesn't move. But she knows she has to get out of this room. Gathering her courage, Lily opens the locker and steps out. The entrance door is only a few feet away from her.

THIS IS HER CHANCE.

Lily makes a dash for the door. She reaches the end of the row of lockers, almost there...

IMPACT!

Karma steps out from around the corner, having been hiding in locker row #2 and Lily collides right into them, sending her to the floor. Lily gets to her feet and tries to run but Karma runs swiftly behind her, grabbing Lily by the hair, pulling her towards him.

Lily fights back, twisting and turning, trying to break free of the killer's grasp but Karma flings her body from side to side, hitting her face against one locker after the next.

Karma pushes Lily against a locker, their left hand tightly pressed around her throat. Lily's face is tear stained. She's dazed. Her nose bloody from the impact on the lockers. She looks into the black upside-down crescent moon eyes of the flesh-colored mask as Karma raises their right hand.

A HUGE SYRINGE FILLED WITH LIQUID!

LILY
(crying)
I'm sorry...please...

Karma JAMS THE SYRINGE INTO LILY'S NECK! The liquid in the syringe enters her bloodstream and Lily's body convulses violently. Just when we think it's over...

KARMA FORCEFULLY SHOVES THE SYRINGE INTO LILY'S NECK!

The tip of the syringe protrudes out the other side of Lily's neck as her body goes limp.

INT. POLICE STATION - MASON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

WE OPEN on a clock on the wall displaying 8:16 P.M.

Mason stares at an average sized rectangular white board with two photos pinned to it, one in the upper right-hand corner and one in the upper left-hand corner. There's something written underneath both photos.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF HANNAH'S GRANDPARENTS BODIES.

"KAITLYN AND ASHTON KENSINGTON - KILL #1 - 2004 (MITCH)"

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF MITCH'S BROTHER, WESLEY KENSINGTON'S BODY.

"WESLEY KENSINGTON - 2022 - KILL #2 (MITCH)"

Mason picks up two more photos from his desk, each photo has the card that was sent to the victim, attached to it. He pins one photo to the lower right-hand corner and the other photo to the lower left-hand corner. Mason writes something underneath both photos.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF DEMARCO CALIBER'S BODY.

"DEMARCO CALIBER - 2023 - KILL #3 (???)"

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF PRINCIPAL PHILLIPS' SEVERED HEAD.

"EUGENE PHILLIPS - 2023 - KILL #4 (???)"

Mason continues to examine the board. He writes something else on it.

NEW PATTERN = NEW KILLER = NEW MOTIVE...WHAT IS THE MOTIVE?

Mason sighs deeply, knowing if he can figure out the answer to this question, he'd be closer to figuring out Karma's identity. Mason grabs the last photo off of his desk and pins it to the middle of the "murder board" he's assembled.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF MITCH'S DECOMPOSED BODY.

Mason stares at the photo intently.

MASON
(thoughtfully)
Who the fuck is following in your
footsteps, Mitch?

PRE-LAP

FOOTBALL TEAM (O.S.)
 (chanting)
 CROWS!...CROWS!...CROWS!

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - BOYS LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

A clock on the wall displays 9:22 P.M.

The football team walks into the locker room, celebrating their win.

TRAVIS
 We fucked shit up *tonight*, boys!

Travis and another player high five each other. Travis begins to walk to his locker, ready to shower and change.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
 WHAT THE *FUCK*?!

The loud voice grabs the attention of the boys in the room, including Travis.

INT. BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LOCKER ROW #2 - NIGHT

The football players group together on both ends of the row of lockers, shocked at what they're seeing. Travis moves through his teammates and his heart stops, stunned and mortified at the gruesome sight before him.

LILY AND ELLIOT'S DEAD BODIES LYING ON THE GROUND. LILY'S FOREHEAD HAS THE WORD "KARMA" CARVED INTO IT, JUST LIKE ELLIOT'S.

INT. POLICE STATION - MASON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mason's head lies on his desk, he's fallen asleep.

MASON'S DOOR OPENS.

OFFICER HAYNES
 Detective...

Mason's head snaps up, seeing Officer Haynes. From the downtrodden look on her face, he already knows what she's here to say.

MASON
(beat)
Kill number five.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - HANNAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

NEXT DAY. Hannah lies on her bed, staring into space.

KNOCK KNOCK

The door opens slowly.

EDEN
Hey...honey. I made breakfast, your
favorite. Chocolate chip pancakes.

HANNAH
My best friend is dead. I'm not really
hungry.

Eden nods, understanding.

EDEN
Do you um...do you know where Oliver
is? The school's been closed until
further notice, so...

HANNAH
He's...cleaning out Lily's locker for
me.

(beat)
I couldn't do it.

Eden sighs deeply.

EDEN
Hannah...I'm *here*. If you wanna talk.

Hannah stays silent. Eden knows her daughter needs some space. Eden closes the door, exiting the room. Hannah goes into her bedside drawer and takes out the college photo of the younger Eden and Mitch that was sent to Eden.

HER ANGER BUBBLES AS SHE STARES AT THE PICTURE.

EXT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - DAY

The campus is empty. Quiet.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - HALLWAY #1 - DAY

Oliver cleans out a locker. He looks at the last photo on the inside of the locker door.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF HANNAH AND LILY SMILING SITTING ON THE BLEACHERS IN THE GYM.

Oliver snatches the photo off the locker, putting it into his book bag. He puts his book bag over his shoulder and closes the locker door.

Oliver's eyes go wide at what he sees in front of him.

KARMA STANDS AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY, A FEW FEET AWAY FROM OLIVER!

Karma moves toward Oliver! Oliver takes off down the hall.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - HALLWAY #2 - DAY

Oliver comes running around a corner, Karma isn't too far behind. Karma catches up to Oliver and tackles him, they slide across the floor. Oliver tries to get to his feet, but Karma grabs him by his ankle, pulling Oliver back. Karma pulls Oliver toward them, Oliver kicks frantically, trying to get away.

Swiftly, Karma takes out their hunting knife and brings it down...MISSING OLIVER'S LEG BY MERE INCHES! Seizing the opportunity, Oliver kicks Karma in the face, grabs his bag, and takes off running.

INT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - HALLWAY #3 - DAY

Karma comes around the corner and stops.

No sign of Oliver.

Our killer is angry. Karma walks slowly, their breaths hard as they search for their prey, hunting knife in hand. Karma walks a little further...

IMPACT!

Karma is hit hard in the face with Oliver's heavy book bag and falls to the floor! Oliver comes out from his hiding spot, a classroom doorway between two sets of lockers. He looks down at Karma as they try to get up. Oliver turns around, seeing the exit doors...and he takes off running.

EXT. LOCKWOOD HIGH - FRONT STEPS - DAY

Oliver bursts through the doors. He looks back, expecting Karma to be behind him...but the doors stay closed. Oliver walks toward the doors and looks through the window panel.

Karma is nowhere to be seen.

Oliver continues looking through the window for a moment, but Karma never appears. He turns around and bumps into someone, startled. Oliver breathes a sigh of relief, seeing who it is.

OLIVER

Travis.

Travis notices Oliver is out of breath.

TRAVIS

Looks like you just saw a ghost.
(sips flask; whispers)
Was it Lily?

Oliver notices the redness in his eyes...something is wrong.

OLIVER

No, I um...

Oliver wants to tell Travis what just happened but he's more worried about Travis's off kilter demeanor.

OLIVER

Let's get outta here.
(beat)
You don't look so good.

EXT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Hunter is walking towards his car, he opens the door and gets in. Hunter starts the car and then goes into his glove compartment to get something...but he notices something else.

A MANILA ENVELOPE WITH "HUNTER" WRITTEN ON IT.

Hunter takes out the envelope and reaches inside, pulling out its contents.

A PHOTO.

Hunter looks at the photo and his usual hardened composure is shaken. He flips the photo around. Hunter's disbelief turns to seething anger.

HUNTER

FUCK!

Hunter slams his fist against the dashboard.

INT. CAR - DAY

Oliver and Travis sit in the car. Oliver stays quiet, looking at the steering wheel, his mind still on his experience with Karma.

TRAVIS

Hey...are you sure you're, okay?

OLIVER

(beat)

Yeah. Um...I'm fine. What were you...doing at school?

TRAVIS

Oh, I was just...walking around. Wondering if I'd get a wing dedicated to me...after *my* funeral. New team captain and all. Ya know.

OLIVER

Why would you...say something like that?

TRAVIS

(sighs)

Shit end of the stick.

(beat)

Lily's dad, he um...works at the hospital. And over the summer, she and Elliot started selling roids' to the team. And I guess when school started...they decided to go into the Oxy business.

OLIVER

That's where Jackie got the drugs?

(realizes)

Lily and Elliot...*they* were the reason Kyle Milton overdosed?

TRAVIS

And *that's* why they're dead.

(sighs)

You do the *wrong* thing and...

(whispers)

"Karma's gonna make it right".
 (regretfully)
 And I did something very wrong.

Travis drinks from his flask.

OLIVER
 You...you can talk to me, Travis.

Travis stares out off into the distance, his mind drifting.

TRAVIS
 At the end of the summer, me and
 DeMarco, we...snuck into party at the
 university. And...we split up for a
 bit. But then...I found him.
 (sighs)
 With a girl. In the bathroom. It was
 clear DeMarco had slipped her
 something...and he was...

Travis is unable to bring himself to say the words, but
 Oliver understands where he's going with his story.

OLIVER
 He...he raped her?

TRAVIS
 I *stopped* him before he could. But if
 I hadn't walked in when I did...
 (bites lip)
 God, I coulda' *killed* him right there.
 (beat)
 But I didn't. Instead, I just...got us
 the hell outta there.

Travis takes another drink.

TRAVIS
 Oliver, that girl...she ended up
 driving home. All fucked up on
 whatever DeMarco had given her
 and...she ran into a tree.
 (voice cracks)
 She *died*.
 (beat)
 And I *never* turned him in.

Oliver absorbs Travis's traumatic experience. But somehow, in
 this moment, HE FEELS CLOSER TO TRAVIS THAN HE HAS TO ANYONE
 IN A LONG TIME.

OLIVER

Travis, there's no way Karma can know what you did. And besides, we'll *protect* each other. You, me, and Hannah...

TRAVIS

(amused)

Protect each other? Yeah. Cause that worked out so well for Lily.

OLIVER

Everybody fucks up. I did.

(beat)

Me and Hannah...we cheated...on the SATs.

Travis looks at Oliver, surprised.

TRAVIS

You gotta be fucking shitting me.

OLIVER

No. We wanna go to the same college so...we wanted to make *sure* that we'd both get good enough scores to get in together.

TRAVIS

(smirks slightly)

I guess we've all done shit that could put us on Karma's "Dartboard of Death".

Oliver thinks back to his encounter with Karma.

OLIVER

I guess we have.

TRAVIS

(sips flask)

Maybe the two of us can get "His and His" matching coffins, huh?

Travis realizes what he just said, KNOWING WHAT IT IMPLIES. Embarrassment fills him.

TRAVIS

(stammering)

I didn't...I didn't mean...*that*.
I'm...

(raises flask)
Drunk.

Suddenly, Oliver leans in and kisses Travis, catching him off guard. Travis pulls back for a moment, surprised. Then he goes back in, this time with a deeper kiss. After a few moments, they pull back.

OLIVER
 (smiles sheepishly)
 Last thing Lily told me was
 that...life is short. And that I
 should...take chances.

TRAVIS
 Well...as team captain...I say...
 (small smile)
 Touchdown.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Eden is at the stove, stirring a pot slowly. Her mind preoccupied.

HANNAH (O.S.)
 What happened on your birthday in
 2003?

Eden turns around, seeing Hannah's very serious face. It's the face of a girl who is VERY TIRED AND ANGRY.

EDEN
 (distracted)
 Um...what did you say, honey?

HANNAH
Please don't lie to me. I know Karma
 contacted you. And I know it has
 something to do with this.

Hannah goes into her pocket, taking out the college photo of Eden and Mitch. She hands it to her mother.

HANNAH
Tell me.

Eden can no longer hide.

IT'S TIME FOR THE TRUTH TO COME OUT.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Eden and Hannah are sitting on the couch. Eden fiddles with her fingers, preparing to tell the hardest story of her life.

EDEN

(sighs)

When I was twenty...back when me and your Uncle Mitch were together...I got pregnant.

Hannah is floored by this new information.

HANNAH

I...I have a sibling?

EDEN

Had.

HANNAH

(beat)

What happened to the baby?

EDEN

Your grandparents. They didn't want a Kensington baby born out of wedlock.

(scoffs)

To *them*, "optics and reputation" were really important to the Kensington name, so...

(beat)

They threatened to revoke Mitch's inheritance if we didn't get rid...of the baby.

HANNAH

They made you have an abortion?

EDEN

They didn't believe in that. They paid for me to have the baby in *secret*.

Under the name, "Beth Evers". At Eagle's Nest.

HANNAH

The orphanage.

EDEN

Yes. And I gave birth on my birthday. March 17th, 2003. But I didn't even... look at my baby. I just told the nurse

to...take it away.

HANNAH

Was...Uncle Mitch there?

EDEN

I couldn't *let* him be there. He would've wanted to keep his child the minute he saw them and then he would've lost *everything*.

(sighs)

But a few months later, we found out that...

(fights back tears)

Our baby had died a few weeks after they'd been born. Mitch never got see his own child...because of *me*.

The anger Hannah's been feeling over her mother's lies of omission is replaced with sympathy. But she's also been putting things together.

HANNAH

So, you and Mitch lost a baby. And then you had *me* with *his* brother.

(beat)

That's why he went after you, isn't it? *That's why* he killed dad. Because he was able to have what Mitch couldn't.

EDEN

(painfully)

Not until he had Oliver. But his first child...

HANNAH

(pained)

All these years...you've *kept* this from me.

EDEN

I kept it from *everyone*! The *only* people who knew were me, Mitch, and your grandparents.

HANNAH

(realizing)

And that's why he killed *them* first. He blamed them. For his baby's death.

EDEN

I think so. But someone else *obviously* knows about my baby and they're...*taunting* me.

HANNAH

(understanding)

I think Karma is killing people because of the bad things they've done. So, if Karma knows what you did. That you gave you up your baby...*why* haven't they come for you?

Eden stays silent for a moment.

EDEN

Maybe they're saving me for last.

Eden begins to break down. Hannah's resolve softens, seeing the toll this secret has taken on her mother. She hugs Eden.

HANNAH

I'm sorry you had to hold onto this for so long.

EDEN

It's okay, honey...I'm okay. I'm just glad you know the truth now.

Eden and Hannah break the hug.

EDEN

Okay, so um...I'm gonna run to the store. I need to get eggs. Used them all for the pancakes this morning.

HANNAH

Okay.

EDEN

(smiles)

It'll be a family night. Just you, me and Oliver.

Eden gets up from the couch and grabs her bag, walking out of the living room. Hannah sighs, thinking of everything her mother just told her. She pulls out her phone and writes a text, sending it. Hannah waits for a reply.

HANNAH'S PHONE RINGS. CALLER ID SAYS "OLIVER".

Hannah answers.

HANNAH
Hey, why aren't you home yet?

INT. CAR - EVENING

OLIVER
I just dropped Travis off at his house. Hannah...Karma was at the school.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

HANNAH
Oh my God. Oliver, are you...

OLIVER
I'm okay, I'm...I'm fine. Where are you?

HANNAH
Home.

OLIVER
I'll see you when I get there.

The call ends. Hannah looks at her phone.

HANNAH (TEXT)
NEED A LIFT. HOW FAST CAN YOU GET TO MY HOUSE?

RORY (TEXT)
OMW.

INT. POLICE STATION - MASON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF HUNTER AND A WOMAN IN A PASSIONATE SEXUAL EMBRACE IN HUNTER'S HOME. THE PHOTO IS DATED 2/14/2020.

MASON
This is Vivian Kensington.
(realizing)
You were having an affair with Mitch's wife.

HUNTER
(deep sigh)
Me and Rory's mother were having

problems after she was released from the asylum. And Vivian was having her own issues with Mitch because of her book and we just...

MASON

Cheated on your spouses.

HUNTER

We didn't mean for it to happen, okay!

(beat)

Turn it over.

Mason flips the photo over.

MASON

(reading)

"Sins of the father, pass to the son, the price will be paid, when all is said and done."

(beat)

Karma.

HUNTER

That *shitdick* is threatening Rory.

MASON

I will keep Rory safe, *trust* me. But Hunter...

Mason begins to think, his mind racing.

MASON

A few months after this photo was taken, Vivian Kensington...fell down a flight of stairs in her house and broke her neck. It was ruled an accident.

HUNTER

Okay?

SOMETHING CLICKS IN MASON'S MIND.

MASON

But what if it *wasn't*? What if *Mitch*...killed his wife? And not because of *who* she was doing...but for *what* she was doing?

Mason goes to his murder board.

MASON

DeMarco Caliber exploited Hannah. Jackie Sallinger *admitted* she was blackmailed into a sexual relationship with Principal Phillips. And after questioning some of the *other* students, I found out Lily Worth and Elliot Roper were selling the drugs that killed Kyle Milton.

(beat)

It *all* makes perfect sense now. Karma *isn't* just a homicidal maniac, they're...*karma* personified...

Mason turns around to face Hunter.

MASON

Making people pay for their sins.

Hunter begins to understand.

HUNTER

And now Karma wants Rory to pay for my infidelity.

(worried)

I gotta get to my son.

Mason walks over to Hunter, putting his hand on his shoulder.

MASON

I told you; I am going to make *sure* Rory is okay.

Swiftly, Mason handcuffs Hunter's hands behind his back. Hunter looks at Mason, shocked and angry.

MASON

But I *can't* do that while worrying about you going out there and getting yourself killed.

HUNTER

Mason...get me the *fuck* out of these cuffs.

Mason walks to the door and closes it, locking it behind him.

HUNTER

Mason?!...MASON!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Travis is jogging slowly down the street in a sweatsuit, his ear pods in his ear.

TRAVIS (ON PHONE)

And she's not answering at all?

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver is looking out the window, holding the phone to his ear.

OLIVER

No. I can't reach her, neither can my aunt.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

TRAVIS

We've been dealing with a lotta shit this past week. She probably just needed some space.

OLIVER

Yeah, that's what I told her mom. She's pretty worried.

(beat)

Could you possibly cut your run short, so I don't have to worry about you too.

TRAVIS

I am *close* to my house, the streetlights are on, I will be fineeeee. Team captain, remember?

OLIVER

You're such a jock. Text me when you get home?

TRAVIS

I will do you one better. I will *video* call you from the shower.

OLIVER

(smiles slightly)

Be safe. Please.

TRAVIS

Always.

Travis ends the call. He turns on some music in his ear pods and continues jogging.

"BRING ME TO LIFE" by Evanescence begins to play

Travis looks across the street at someone wearing all black with a hoody and a cap that covers the majority of their face, jogging as well. The jogger waves politely as they pass each other. Travis waves back. As Travis continues his jog, the other jogger gets to the corner of the street...and stops. They turn around slowly. VERY MICHAEL MYERS.

CLOSE UP ON THE JOGGER AS THEY PULL BACK THEIR HOOD AND TAKE OFF THEIR CAP...REVEALING "KARMA".

Karma bends down and picks up a rock.

THEY BEGIN TO RUN IN TRAVIS'S DIRECTION.

Travis continues jogging, oblivious. His body gets closer in the frame as Karma runs faster, closing in on him.

BOOM!

Karma brings the rock down across Travis's head, knocking him out. They stare at the body of the unconscious young man, tilting their head, examining him.

EXT. EAGLE'S NEST - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

Hannah walks out of the orphanage; Rory is waiting for her outside. She looks completely stressed out.

HANNAH

They wouldn't tell me anything about "Beth Evers" even after I told them who she really was and that I was her daughter.

RORY

Don't worry, we'll figure something out.

Hannah looks down at her phone, feeling it vibrate.

CALLER ID SAYS "MOM".

Hannah hits the "ignore" button. She looks at her call log. There are missed calls from Oliver and Eden.

HANNAH

(sighs)

I still can't believe she had a baby
with my Uncle Mitch.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

And what a precious little boy he was.

Hannah and Rory, turn around startled by the voice that seemingly came out of nowhere. SISTER LYDIA (64), an elderly and kind of creepy looking nun, stands in the doorway.

HANNAH

Did you say...boy?

SISTER LYDIA

I...heard you speaking to the
director.

(beat)

You believe the "Evers" baby is going
to help find the person who's been
killing?

HANNAH

I do. But that baby *died*...

SISTER LYDIA

(beat)

The "Evers" baby *didn't* die. I *know*
because I was the one who delivered
him. And cared for him. Until he was
adopted.

Hannah and Rory's mouth drape open. Did they hear correctly?

RORY

Adopted?

SISTER LYDIA

Yes. The baby was adopted. Quietly. By
a close family friend of...Kaitlyn and
Ashton Kensington.

HANNAH

(to Rory)

My grandparents.

Hannah can't believe it.

HANNAH

Do you have an address?

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver lies on his bed, looking at his phone.

OUTGOING CALL - TRAVIS - 9:01 P.M.

Oliver looks at the time on his phone. It's 9:40 P.M. He sighs, he hasn't heard from Travis in over thirty minutes. He's worried.

OLIVER'S PHONE RINGS

Oliver sits up on the bed, seeing the name on the phone.

CALLED ID SAYS "TRAVIS".

Oliver smiles, his worry subsiding and his excitement returning. He answers.

OLIVER
Video call, my ass.

Travis doesn't respond.

OLIVER
Travis?
(beat)
You there?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

CLOSE UP ON TRAVIS'S MOUTH. A BLACK GLOVED HAND HOLDS THE PHONE TO THE SIDE OF TRAVIS'S SWEATY FACE. TRAVIS'S LIPS TREMBLE, FULL OF FEAR.

TRAVIS
(voice shaking)
Your family destroys...with their secrets...and lies. Face your karma...or he dies.

Oliver looks confused...and scared.

OLIVER
(tense)
Travis...

TRAVIS (ON PHONE)
Your family destroys...with their secrets and lies. Face your karma...

The black hand pulls the phone from Travis's ear and puts it to their own, revealing Karma. Travis is bound to a chair, his wrists taped to the arms of it.

KARMA
(deep voice)
Or he *dies*.

Karma ends the call.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - OLIVER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver stares at the phone in fear and shock.

OLIVER'S PHONE PINGS

A text comes in with a photo attached.

A PHOTO OF TRAVIS BOUND TO THE CHAIR AND NOW GAGGED!

TRAVIS (TEXT)
455 HICKORY STREET

-KARMA

OLIVER
SHIT! FUCK!

Oliver begins to panic, running his hands through his hair, thinking of what to do. Frantically, he dials a number.

EXT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Mason is sitting in his car, looking at the front of Hunter's house, seemingly waiting for Rory to come home.

MASON'S CAR PHONE RINGS

Mason answers.

MASON
Ewing.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

OLIVER
(panicked)
Detective Ewing, it's--it's Oliver.

Mason perks up.

MASON
Oliver, what's wrong?

OLIVER
It's Travis, Karma has him! He--he's
tied up in some *fucking* house!

MASON
Oliver, try to calm down. Do you know
where this house is?

OLIVER
455 Hickory Street.

MASON
(checks his watch)
Thirty-minute drive.

OLIVER
That place is ten minutes from here,
I'm closer.
(beat)
I'm *going*.

MASON
Oliver, no, *stay* home!

The line has already gone dead.

MASON
Dammit!

INT. RORY'S CAR - NIGHT

Rory is driving. Hannah sits in the driver's seat.

HANNAH
I have no idea what we're gonna find
when we get there.

HANNAH'S PHONE PINGS

Hannah checks it.

HANNAH
Oh my God.

RORY
What? What is it?

Hannah shows the phone to Rory. It's the photo of Travis,

gagged and bound. She looks back at the phone.

HANNAH

(reading)

"Face your karma or he dies."

(beat)

It's the same address. 455 Hickory
Street.

Rory steps on the gas harder.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Eden is being walked to Mason's office by Officer Haynes. Officer Haynes opens the door for her. Eden walks in, closing the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - MASON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Eden sees Hunter looking upset, sitting in a chair, still handcuffed.

EDEN

I came here looking for Mason and they told me you were in here. *Why* are you handcuffed?

HUNTER

Karma is going after Rory, and Mason locked me in here so he could play hero.

EDEN

(worried)

Oh no. That's where Hannah must be. It *has* to be.

HUNTER

What do you mean?

EDEN

I--I can't find her. She won't answer her phone, and she turned off her location so I can't *track* her. But she *has* to be with Rory.

Hunter is even more concerned now.

HUNTER

There's gotta be a spare key in here somewhere.

Eden begins to look through Mason's drawers. After a few moments of searching, she finds a pair of keys. She tries to unlock Hunter's handcuffs, and they come off.

EDEN'S PHONE PINGS

Eden checks it.

EDEN
(scared)
Hunter! I think I know where they're going.

Eden shows Hunter her phone.

UNKNOWN NUMBER (TEXT)
FACE YOUR KARMA OR HE DIES

455 HICKORY STREET

-KARMA

The message is accompanied with the same photo of Travis that was sent to Hannah and Oliver.

INT. FARMHOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

The door creaks open slowly.

Oliver walks inside, armed with a wooden baseball bat. The house is dusty and dark, no electricity.

Oliver walks through the foyer, cautiously, his heart beating fast. Scared. But determined.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Oliver enters the living room, shining a flashlight around. In the far corner, his heart stops, seeing the bound and gagged Travis. Travis's eyes open wide, relieved to see Oliver. Oliver runs over to him, putting the bat down, and ripping the tape off of Travis's mouth.

TRAVIS
Hey, hey, *gentle*. I thought you liked these lips.

OLIVER
You can really joke at a time like this?

TRAVIS
 (small smile)
 It's a gift.

Oliver finishes untying Travis, the two embrace.

TRAVIS
 Now let's exit stage "never coming
 back to this *shithole* again".

Oliver takes a moment. He makes a decision.

OLIVER
 No. Travis, I--I can't leave. My dad
 started all this...I wanna be the one
 to end it.

Travis looks into Oliver's eyes, understanding why he needs
 to do this.

TRAVIS
 Didn't think our first date would be
 like this but...I'm with you.

Travis kisses Oliver on the lips. Oliver picks up his bat and
 Travis looks around for a weapon. He goes over to the
 fireplace and grabs the fireplace poker.

TRAVIS
 I'll go up. You stay down.

Oliver nods his head "yes". Travis moves slowly up the stairs
 while Oliver heads to the kitchen in the back.

INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Travis comes up the stairs, making it to the second floor. A
 narrow hallway with three doors.

TRAVIS
 Just like Scooby-Doo, Travis...*just*
 like Scooby-Doo.

Travis pushes one door open slowly...an empty bedroom. He
 walks a little further to the next room and does the
 same...an empty bathroom. Travis's eyes look at the last and
 final door.

TRAVIS
 It's *always* the last room, isn't it.
Fucking typical.

Taking a deep breath, Travis walks slowly toward the third door.

SOUNDS OF A STRUGGLE AND ITEMS FALLING!

Travis hears a commotion downstairs.

OLIVER SCREAMS IN PAIN!

TRAVIS
(worried)
Oliver.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Travis races down the stairs.

TRAVIS
Oliver?!...Oliver!

Oliver stumbles out of the kitchen, holding his stomach,
BLOOD POURING FROM THE WOUND HE'S COVERING WITH HIS HAND.

TRAVIS
(worried)
No, no, no, no...

Travis catches Oliver as he collapses into his arms.

TRAVIS
Hey, hey, I gotchu', I gotchu'.

Travis gently lays Oliver on the floor. Oliver groans in pain, holding his stab wound.

OLIVER
(pained)
He...he was here, Travis.

TRAVIS
And here I thought you just *sucked* at playing with knives.

Travis takes off his shirt, leaving himself in his tank top. He presses the shirt against Oliver's wound, trying to keep calm.

TRAVIS
We are gonna keep pressure on this and *then* we're getting you to a hospital. All I need from you and those

beautiful brownies is to *keep* looking
 at me, okay? *Right...here.*
 (locks eyes with Oliver)
 Deal?

Oliver nods, doing his best not to succumb to the pain.

INT. MASON'S CAR - NIGHT

Mason is driving, determined to get to Travis and Oliver.

MASON'S CAR PHONE RINGS

Mason answers.

MASON
 Oliver, I am *almost* there!

TRAVIS (ON PHONE)
 Detective Ewing, it's Travis, we need
 help! Oliver's been stabbed, I think
 he's bleeding out...

THUD!

The line goes dead. Mason pushes the pedal to the metal.

POP!

One of the tires on the car pops, Mason presses on the
 breaks, the car screeches to a halt.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

Hannah and Rory have arrived at the farmhouse, standing in
 front of it.

HANNAH
 This is it.

RORY
 Creepy old house. *Very* on brand.

HANNAH
 (beat)
 Thank you. For sticking with me
 through all of this.

RORY
 (smiles)
 What are friends for?

The two share a small smile. Suddenly, Rory's eyes go wide, seeing KARMA RUNNING UP BEHIND HANNAH.

RORY

Hannah, move!

Karma runs swiftly at Hannah, but Rory pushes her out of the way to protect her from the killer's blade before it can pierce her back. Hannah falls to the ground. Karma tries to stab Rory, but he catches the killer's arm; they begin to fight for control of the knife.

RORY

Run!

Hannah doesn't want to leave Rory, but she also knows that Travis is still inside the house. Making a choice, Hannah gets up and runs into the farmhouse, closing and locking the door behind her.

INT. FARMHOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

GUNSHOT!

Hannah gasps. There's nothing but silence. She wants to go outside and check on Rory, but Travis is in danger.

It's a rock and a hard place.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hannah walks through the living room slowly. There is no sign of Travis or Oliver. She walks near the couch and stops, seeing a pool of blood on the floor and Oliver's flashlight. Hannah fears the worst. She picks up the flashlight and looks at the staircase...it's almost as if it's calling her. She walks slowly towards it, making her way upstairs...

INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hannah sees the three doors in the hallway, cautiously she goes into the first room.

INT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Hannah stays in the doorway for a moment...and then enters, shining the flashlight around the room. The bedroom is ordinary, the decor makes it seem as though it belonged to a woman. Hannah sees a photo in a picture frame on the dresser. She picks it up.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF A YOUNG BOY AND AN OLD WOMAN.

Hannah immediately knows who this is. It's her **brother**.

HANNAH
(softly)
You're real.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

Eden and Hunter have arrived. Eden moves swiftly toward the farmhouse.

EDEN
I swear, if that *fucker* lays one hand
on my daughter...

HUNTER
Eden...

Hunter grabs her hand.

HUNTER
(beat)
The two of us? We *beat* him before,
okay? And we will beat him ag...

GUNSHOT!

Blood splatters on Eden's face as a bullet flies through the side of Hunter's head. His lifeless body falls to the ground.

INT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Hannah hears the gunshot; her focus is pulled away from the photo of the brother she's never known.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT - CONT'D

Eden can't even speak...she just kneels down, looking at Hunter's body. The man who once saved her life and has now lost his own. Trapped in this terrible moment, Eden touches Hunter's face, her hand trembling.

Karma quietly walks up behind Eden, ready to strike. Eden doesn't hear them.

INT. FARMHOUSE - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Hannah is walking down the stairs; she needs to know where that gunshot came from.

RORY (O.S.)
 (screaming)
 DAD!

Rory's painful scream stops Hannah in her tracks.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

The front door opens, Hannah runs out. Though, she stops when she sees the sight in front of her.

Rory crumbled on the floor next to Hunter's dead body, sobbing.

HANNAH
 (disbelief)
 Mr. Bennett.

However, Hannah doesn't have time to comfort Rory because of what else she sees in front of her. Karma is holding Eden hostage...one arm around her neck, one hand pointing a gun towards Eden's head. Hannah starts to move toward them.

EDEN
 Hannah, baby, just run, just go!

HANNAH
 I am *not* leaving you!

EDEN
 (to Karma)
 Why...why are you doing this?

KARMA
 (beat)
 Because. The Kensingtons *destroyed* my father. You turned him into a killer. You *ruin* lives. And you *never...have...to* pay. Isn't that, right?

Karma pulls off their mask, FINALLY REVEALING THEMSELVES. Hannah can't believe her eyes.

MR. NONSKI
 (to Eden)
 Mom.

MR. NONSKI, THE ASSISTANT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH IS "KARMA"!

HANNAH
Mr. Nonski?

MR. NONSKI
(smiles)
I'd prefer big brother.

**Mr. Nonski will be referred to by his first name, "Gent",
from here on out.**

Eden can't believe what she's hearing. HER CHILD IS ALIVE.

HANNAH
(beat)
We might share a mother, but you are
not my brother. You're just my *psycho*
uncle's, *psycho* son.

GENT
Oh, we share more than that.
(taps Eden's face with the gun)
She doesn't know, does she?

HANNAH
Know what?

Eden knows she finally has to come clean. COMPLETELY.

EDEN
(beat)
The baby...didn't belong...to Mitch.
(teary)
It was your *father's*.

HANNAH IS FLOORED.

EDEN
I cheated on Mitch with your father in
college. But it *couldn't* come out that
it was his brother's baby so the two
of us...and your grandparents, we told
Mitch...that the baby was his.
(teary)
That lie is what started all of this.

Hannah is reeling from the full extent of her mother's lies.

HANNAH
(realizing)
Mitch...killed his parents for no
reason.

EDEN

And he became Karma because of us.
 (to Gent)
 How did you find out you were a
 Kensington?

GENT

Mitch told me. *Four years* ago. He said
 my dead grandmother left him a letter,
 telling him where to find me.
 (voice cracks)
 And I *finally* had a father. But then
 you *broke* him. And he took his last
 breath right in front of me.

EDEN

(realizing)
 Mitch went to you the night Hunter
 shot him.

GENT

He overheard you and my sperm donor
 talking about your *lie* at that
 Halloween party. And he told me
everything before he died. His last
 words?

(whispers into Eden's ear)

"They have...to face...their karma".
 And I agreed.

(beat)

Everyone, not just the Kensingtons,
needs to pay their karmic debts. In
blood.

Rory walks over to Hannah, wearing the face of a broken man.

RORY

(through gritted teeth)
 I swear to *God*; I will *kill* you.

GENT

(smirks)
 Now, now...I do the killing.

HANNAH

(beat)
 Where is Travis?

GENT

Travis was a bad boy. And *Oliver,*
 well...he was in the way.

HANNAH
 (concerned)
 What did you do to Oliver?

GENT
 Who cares?! All that matters...is you.

HANNAH
 What makes me so special?

GENT
 You're innocent. And this family
 destroys innocence.
 (presses the gun into Eden's face)
 That's why I put Mitch's body in the
 trash because *that* is how he was
 treated.
 (to Hannah)
 But I...am going...to save you.

HANNAH
 (beat)
 Fine. Then take me. Save me. But let
 our mother go.

GENT
 Can't do that. You see, *mom's* karma is
 to die. In *front* of her daughter. The
 same way Mitch, my *real* father,
 died...in front of me.

Hannah's eyes go wide, realizing the depths of Gent's
 insanity.

GENT
 Oliver's slut of a mother said it best
 in her book, little sis.
 (beat)
 "To cleanse the family tree, you
 have...to pull...the rotted...roots."

EDEN'S HAD ENOUGH.

Eden bites Gent's hand, causing him to drop the gun and let
 go of her briefly. They both grab the gun and begin fighting
 for control.

EDEN
 Rory, get Hannah out of here!

Rory grabs Hannah but she fights him off.

HANNAH

No! Mom!

Eden and Gent continue to fight for control of the gun.

GUNSHOT!

Hannah yelps, A stray bullet goes into Rory's stomach! He falls to the ground, holding his wound.

EDEN

Hannah, go!

Hannah takes off toward the farmhouse. Eden punches Gent in the face and runs behind Hannah. Gent points the gun in their direction.

GUNSHOT!

Eden goes down, a bullet hitting her in the leg. Gent takes off running toward the farmhouse.

INT. FARMHOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Hannah barges into the farmhouse but Gent is right on her tail and tackles her to the floor from behind, both of them crashing to the ground, sliding into the foyer. GENT'S GUN SLIDES ACROSS THE FLOOR. He gets on top of Hannah and flips her around, holding her arms down.

GENT

*WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?! I am trying
to SAVE YOU!*

HANNAH

*(beat; angry)
Save the melodramatics.*

Hannah knees Gent in the groin as hard as she can, he goes down. She gets up and runs into the living room, towards the stairs...

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gent runs behind Hannah and pushes her into the banister, she hits her head hard, but she's not down. Gent goes for her again, but she moves out of the way, he runs into the banister and is quickly hit in the back with Oliver's baseball bat that Hannah has found on the floor.

Gent turns around and she hits him again with the bat,

landing a blow to his shoulder. Hannah goes for another strike, but Gent blocks it, knocking the bat out of her hand.

GENT

JESUS! You're *just* like the rest of them, aren't you?! Just another *fucking...selfish...KENSINGTON!*

Gent pulls out his hunting knife from the holster on his waist and lunges at Hannah, she moves out of the way, causing him to hit the floor. Hannah kicks him in the stomach and runs to the front door, but Gent is too fast. He grabs her by the hair with one hand and puts the knife to her neck.

GENT

(laughs)

I guess this is what you call sibling rivalry, huh?

Hannah gathers her strength and places her foot on the front door, pushing back with all her might, causing them both to fall on the floor. Quickly, she gets up, grabs a lamp from an end table and throws it onto Gent; it breaks over his head on impact! Gent kicks Hannah's legs out from under her and she falls to the ground. He gets to his feet, walking toward her. STALKING HER.

GENT

If you don't wanna be my sister...than you'll just have to face your karma. For turning your back on family.

Hannah inches backward across the floor.

Then she sees THE FIREPLACE POKER TO HER RIGHT SIDE.

Gent lunges at her and in the last moment, Hannah grabs the poker and holds it up...

GENT IMPALES HIMSELF ON IT!

Hannah pulls the poker out of Gent's side. After a few moments, he falls to the ground. Hannah breathes hard, dropping the poker. She looks at Gent's motionless, body.

BOOM...BOOM...BOOM!

Hannah's head snaps toward the sound. It's coming from a closed CLOSET DOOR.

BOOM...BOOM...

THE CLOSET DOOR BURSTS OPEN!

Travis falls out of the closet and onto the floor. His hands taped behind his back; his face stained with blood that drips from his head.

HANNAH
(relieved)
Travis.

Hannah runs over to Travis and helps him to his feet.

TRAVIS
(breathless)
Where's...where's Oliver?

HANNAH
I--I don't know.

TRAVIS
Hannah, he's hurt. *Bad.*

Hannah touches the back of Travis's head and looks at her hand, stained with Travis's blood.

HANNAH
So are you.

TRAVIS
Screw me, we gotta find him.

Hannah helps Travis sit on the arm of the couch.

EDEN (O.S.)
You are so your mother's daughter.

Hannah turns around, seeing Eden standing in the doorway.

HANNAH
(relieved)
Mom.

Hannah goes back to checking on Travis.

TRAVIS
I'm good, I'm good. Go.

Hannah takes Travis's signal and runs over to her mother, hugging her. She looks down, seeing the blood dripping from Eden's leg.

HANNAH
 (worried)
 You've been shot.

EDEN
 (sighs)
 I've been through worse. Well...
 (groans)
 Not really.

Hannah smiles slightly.

EDEN
 I am so sorry...for everything, honey.

HANNAH
 Apologies later, escaping now.

Eden nods in agreement, ready to end this nightmare.

Suddenly, Gent opens his eyes. He sees his gun on the ground next to him. He grabs it and stands to his feet.

HIS EYES FOCUSED ON HANNAH.

Eden's eyes go wide, seeing Gent pointing the gun at her daughter. Gent pulls the trigger.

GUNSHOT!

SILENT SCENE IN SLOW MOTION CAPTURE BEGINS

Travis hears the shot, he turns his head, seeing Gent holding the gun. His eyes follow the bullet.

TRAVIS
 (yells)
 Haaaaanaaaaahhhh!

Hannah hears the gun go off and turns around, the bullet coming her way. Instinctively, Eden pushes her daughter out of the way. Hannah falls to the ground.

IMPACT!

THE BULLET HITS EDEN DIRECTLY IN THE CHEST!

HANNAH
 (screams in anguish)
 MOMMMMMMMMMM!

Eden's body falls to the floor. Her eyes dimming, slowly losing their light.

EDEN
(straining)
I...love...y...

The life in Eden's eyes fades away. Hannah trembles, seeing her mother lying dead before her. Gent maniacally looks at Hannah on the floor, THE SAME WAY MITCH LOOKED AT EDEN THE YEAR BEFORE WHEN HE ATTACKED HER. He points the gun at Hannah, ready to end her. Travis starts to move toward Gent...

SILENT SCENE IN SLOW MOTION CAPTURE ENDS

GUNSHOT! GUNSHOT! GUNSHOT!

Gent is hit three times in the upper body, falling to the ground. Hannah looks up. Mason stands in the doorway, holding a smoking gun...HE IS HANNAH'S SAVIOR. Hannah looks back at her mother's body.

Eden's eyes are open...but lifeless.

PRE-LAP

"MY IMMORTAL" by Evanescence begins to play

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

EMS and police are on the scene. Hannah stands by a stretcher that Rory is laid on, he's unconscious BUT ALIVE, she touches his face gently.

Hannah looks over at the front of the farmhouse. EMTs wheel out a body bag from the farmhouse...it's Eden. Hannah painfully watches as her mother's corpse is put into the back of another ambulance.

Hannah looks over at the back of another ambulance. Gent is lying on a stretcher inside. Unconscious and badly wounded...BUT ALIVE.

Travis, his head bandaged, walks over to Hannah.

TRAVIS
I'm really sorry...about your mom.

Hannah stays quiet, still processing the harrowing events of the evening. Travis stays silent, carrying his own pain.

EMT (O.S.)
We got another live one!

EMTs bring out another person from the farmhouse on a stretcher. IT'S OLIVER. Hurt. BUT ALIVE.

TRAVIS
(surprised; relieved)
Oliver?

Hannah is relieved. Travis looks back at her, worry on his face.

HANNAH
Go.

Travis nods and then hugs Hannah as one last display of comfort. He begins to walk away. Though he stops, and turns around, locking eyes with Hannah.

TRAVIS
Hannah?

Hannah looks at Travis, expectantly.

TRAVIS
(beat)
You are one hell of a Final Girl, Ms. Kensington.

HANNAH
(beat)
I am my mother's daughter.

Travis smiles slightly. He goes over to Oliver's stretcher as he's being put into the ambulance. Oliver is wearing an oxygen mask.

TRAVIS
Well...I'd say this was a memorable first date huh, Brownies?

Oliver reaches for the oxygen mask, taking it off his mouth.

OLIVER
(weakly)
Brownies?

TRAVIS
(beat; small smile)
Yay or nay on the nickname?

OLIVER
 (small smile)
 Guess it's better than...Oli.

Travis laughs, brushing Oliver's hair back with his hand. He looks over at the EMT.

TRAVIS
 I wanna go with him. If that's okay.

The EMT nods "yes". Travis boards the ambulance with Oliver. Hannah watches the ambulance leave and then sits on the steps of the farmhouse. Mason is talking to an officer and looks over, seeing Hannah sitting alone. He finishes up and then goes over to her, sitting down.

Hannah stares blankly at the ambulance which holds the body of her mother.

MASON
 I wouldn't blame you if you hated me for not killing him. But Hannah, I promise you...Gent is *never* going to see the light of day again.

Hannah stays quiet.

MASON
 His real name is Devin. Devin Isaacs. Gent Nonski was just...

HANNAH
 An anagram. For "Kensington". The family name.

MASON
 (realizing)
 Oh, shit.

HANNAH
 (beat)
 And that's all he wanted. Family. Just me. But now...Devin...will spend the rest of his life knowing the only family he has...that me and Oliver...will *hate* him until the day he dies.

MASON
 (sighs)
 Sounds like for *him*...that's a fate

worse than death.

HANNAH

It is.

(sighs)

I guess my Aunt Vivian was right with the title of her book.

Hannah turns her head, finally looking at Mason.

HANNAH

(beat)

You can't escape karma.

Mason smirks slightly. The camera lingers on her face. On the face of a hardened survivor. On the face of Hannah Kensington. A Final Girl. JUST LIKE HER MOTHER.

SLAM CUT TO:

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - NIGHT

TWO MONTHS LATER...

A WIDE SHOT of the Kensington estate, lit up from the inside.

INT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

It's the evening of the Winter Prom. Hannah stands in the mirror, adjusting her hair, dressed very elegantly.

OLIVER (O.S.)

Told you your hair looks *fine*.

Hannah looks up, seeing Oliver coming down the stairs, dressed in a tux and sporting a new shorter, cooler haircut.

HANNAH

You're my *cousin*. Your job is to protect my feelings.

OLIVER

I'm your *gay* cousin, so apparently, my job is to make sure you look good. Least that's what the podcasts say.

Hannah and Oliver laugh. The sorrowful air around Oliver seems to have changed, the dark cloud over him has now dissipated.

CAR HORN HONKS MULTIPLE TIMES

OLIVER
 (smiling)
 That's our ride.

HANNAH
 Right on time.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Hannah turns off the lights in the house, then walks outside with Oliver. They see Travis and Rory standing in front of a limo that's parked in the driveway. They're both smiling and dressed in tuxes, waiting for their dates. Hannah and Oliver walk up to them.

TRAVIS
Brownies! You look *pretty badass*. Very
 007.

OLIVER
 And you're still wearing your
 Halloween costume. Hottest guy in
 school.

TRAVIS
 (smiles)
 Not everybody can pull this off.

Travis kisses Oliver lightly on the lips.

TRAVIS
 So...is "The Hardy-Drew Crew" ready to
 party?!

HANNAH
 Most *definitely*.

RORY
 You look...really beautiful tonight,
 Hannah.

HANNAH
 (smiles)
 You don't look so bad yourself.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

The teens get into the limo, eager for the night's festivities to begin.

LIMO DRIVER

Hey, I was told to give you guys this.
Just a little something to start your
night.

The driver hands Hannah a bottle of champagne through the
partition. The partition rolls up, closing.

TRAVIS

Oh *yes, please.*

OLIVER

Who's it from?

Hannah sees a card attached to the bottle; the names
"HANNAH", "OLIVER", "TRAVIS", and "RORY" are written on it.

HANNAH

Well, it's addressed to *all* of us so
my guess would be...Mason.

Rory, Travis, and Oliver move in close to Hannah so they can
all read the card. Hannah opens it.

HANNAH

(reading)

"Karma is a cycle..."

Immediately, Hannah stops reading. Chills running down her
spine.

OLIVER

(reading)

"One that never ends..."

TRAVIS

(reading)

"It's only a matter of time..."

RORY

(reading)

"Until it begins again."

The four teens look at each other. Their faces worried,
confused, scared, and bewildered.

THE CAMERA FOCUSES ON HANNAH.

HANNAH

(disbelief)

You gotta be fucking shitting me.

EXT. KENSINGTON ESTATE - NIGHT

The limo pulls away, driving down the driveway, into the night. The camera pans slowly, resting on the darkened Kensington estate. The place where this nightmare began twenty years ago.

And the place where this nightmare may very well continue.

FADE OUT:

LETTER BY LETTER, ONE BY ONE THE TITLE CARD REVEALS ITSELF IN RED INK, SPELLING OUT...

"ROTTED ROOTS"