

SUNRISE TRAIL

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The forest is dense enough to get lost in. Menacing trees with finger-like branches extend. The sun reflects off the leaves.

The area is quiet with no wildlife.

A body hangs from a large tree. The hands and feet are tied as the body struggles and sways, slowly coming to a stop.

Blood drips from the hand and splatters on the ground.

LEAVES CRUNCH.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY (A FEW DAYS LATER)

A car TRUNK SLAMS. A MOM (40's), DAD (40's), AND DAUGHTER (18) stand around the car. They carry backpacks, preparing for a hike.

Dad writes in a small journal. He places it in his pocket.

DAD

Are we ready to go?

Mom zips up her BLUE JACKET. She checks her bag.

MOM

Umm, yeah, I think so.

The Daughter excessively sprays herself with bug spray.

DAD

You going to save any for the rest of us?

DAUGHTER

Listen, I'm not going to wake up tomorrow with bites all over my face.

Dad takes the bottle.

DAD

I guess you can buy the next one. Let's get going, we've got a few good miles to go.

MOM
 (sarcastically)
 Great honey.

The family departs down a trail.

EXT. TRAIL

The ground beneath their feet CRUNCHES as they press ahead, Dad leading the way. Their daughter lags behind.

DAD
 Hey slowpokes, are you already
 wanting to rest?

DAUGHTER
 (snarky)
 No, but not all of us wanted to
 come today.

DAD
 We've all been cooped up at home.
 Good to get out here. Plus, you
 used to love this stuff when you
 were younger.

DAUGHTER
 Key words, used to. Like five
 years ago.

DAD
 (to himself)
 Well, you did like it.

DAUGHTER
 Oh my God, Oh my God.

Mom turns around sharply.

MOM
 What is it?

DAUGHTER
 I walked into a spider web.

Mom snickers.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)
 Don't laugh. I could've died.

MOM
 All that bug spray should protect
 you.

DAUGHTER

(mocking)

All that bug spray should protect me.

(normal voice)

Spiders are still gross. Anything with eight legs shouldn't be alive.

The family continues walking, ascending an incline.

EXT. HILL TOP, INTERSECTION

Two paths divert in a Y shape. A planted, wooden sign labeled "Sunrise Trail." An arrow points to a trail, obstructed slightly. The sign appears newer.

DAD

Should we go down this trail?

MOM

Sure. Burning a few more calories never hurt anyone.

The family heads down the trail.

A faint scream echoes.

All three stop.

DAD

What was that?

MOM

I have no idea.

The scream echoes a second time.

DAD

It sounds like someone calling for help.

The scream echoes a third time, louder, drawn out.

Mom pulls out her cell phone: "NO SIGNAL."

MOM

I've got no service. Anyone else have a bar?

Dad checks his phone.

DAD
Nothing. We should check it out.
Somebody could be hurt.

The family continues off in search of the scream.

EXT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS

The family approaches an old TWO-STORY HOUSE next to a familiar large tree (the tree the body was hanging from). The area is eerily quiet as if the house's presence scared away all of nature's offerings.

No windows are boarded, although difficult to see in. The front porch has a single step leading to a door. The house has an uninviting look on all sides.

DAUGHTER
You think the scream came from in there?

DAD
I mean, if someone's hurt, we have to go in there.

DAUGHTER
How does somebody live here? How do you get a car up here?

MOM
I don't know.

Dad calls out to anybody potentially in the house.

DAD
Is anybody in there?

No response.

DAD (CONT'D)
I'm going to go check it out. You both can stay here, okay?

MOM
I think we should keep trying the phones.

DAUGHTER
This doesn't look right.

DAD
You two, keep trying the phones.

Dad takes Mom's hands, looking at her.

DAD (CONT'D)
If someone is hurt in there, I
can't leave them.

Mom nods in agreement and they release hands.

Dad walks to the door and knocks. He opens the door and disappears out of sight.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

MOM
Honey, can you hear us?

No answer. The daughter calls out.

DAUGHTER
Dad.

No response again.

MOM
I think we should go in and check
on him. And then we get out of
here.

DAUGHTER
Best thing you said all day. Find
dad and get the hell out.

MOM
Language.

DAUGHTER
I think the circumstances justify
it.

They both enter the house.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS

The inside is illuminated slightly by the sun through the windows. Dust floats through the air. Cobwebs settle in the corners.

Ahead of Mom and Daughter is a hallway that runs into the dark. There are no furnishings.

To the left is an opening leading to a living room. To the right are a set of closed doors.

Under the feet are old floorboards. Some missing, some broken.

MOM

You think we should split up?

DAUGHTER

Have you ever watched a horror movie? We stick together.

A FOOTSTEP CLOPS down the hallway.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)

What was that?

MOM

Honey, is that you?

DAUGHTER

Dad, we're here. Checking in on you.

The footsteps come closer and closer, louder and louder. Nothing is visible.

Mom reaches in her bag, pulling out a flashlight. She shines it down the hall.

MOM

You see anything?

DAUGHTER

No, and I think we should go back outside.

Mom turns towards her Daughter, shining the light in her face.

MOM

Without your dad? Something might be wrong with him.

The Daughter shields her eyes.

DAUGHTER

Can you put the light down.

MOM

Sorry.

Mom lowers the light.

MOM (CONT'D)
Okay, how about you go out and I'll
stay and look for him.

DAUGHTER
Breaking my don't split up rule,
but I'd just feel more comfortable
out there.

The Daughter turns around to see the door no longer there. A barren wall replaces it.

The Daughter's eyes widen, momentarily paralyzed with fear.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)
Mom, where's the door?

Mom turns around, seeing the door not there.

Mom walks up to it and places her hand on the wall as if checking for an illusion effect.

MOM
We came in this way, right?

The Daughter paces, visibly distraught.

DAUGHTER
Yes, like thirty seconds ago. It
was right here.

MOM
It's okay, we'll figure this out.

The footstep returns right behind Mom and Daughter followed by a DRAGGING sound. HEAVY, SLOW BREATHING moves the hairs on the back of their necks.

Mom and Daughter both turn around, lifting their eyes, to see a tall figure appear behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME, BEDROOM - DAY

A cell phone ALARM RINGS.

ZARA COHEN (30), commonly known as Z, reaches for the phone to disable the alarm. She is a Black female with long, curly hair, and a lover of tattoos as they coat her arms.

The family dog, Baxter, sits on the side of the bed with an empty food bowl.

Z
Is it time to get up?

Baxter barks.

Z (CONT'D)
I guess it is.

INT. HOME, KITCHEN

Z fills Baxter's bowl with food. She pets his head.

Z
You live the best life don't you.

WILLOW (O.S.)
Who's living the best life?

Z's wife, WILLOW PALMER (30), enters in her robe. Her white skin matching the color of the robe. She places her hands on her belly, which is carrying their child.

Z
Baxter does. This dog kindly brought his food bowl to the bedroom today.

WILLOW
When you're hungry, you're hungry.

Z
Speaking of hungry, what are you making? I'm starving.

WILLOW
You're asking the pregnant mom here to make you breakfast?

Z embraces Willow clearly trying to suck up to her wife.

Z
I've been running to the store for you. Buying exotic chocolates. You can make me some eggs.

WILLOW
I'll have them right up.

Z
Thanks my love.

Willow walks over to the fridge to get the eggs. She is HUMMING A SONG.

WILLOW
Can you at least get some coffee
brewing?

Z
On it.

Z brews a pot of coffee.

WILLOW
Any who, are you excited to see
your sister today?

Z
(eagerly)
Yes, I'm ready. It's been so long
since we've seen each other.

WILLOW
What time again?

Z
She said nine, but that could mean
any time.

WILLOW
You're right about that.

Willow pours a cup of coffee that finished brewing.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
But I'm excited for you. Baxter
and I should have a great weekend.
Luckily I was able to get vacation.
Surprisingly the station hasn't
been too busy.

Z
I appreciate you taking the time
off. I really don't like kenneling
Baxter.

Baxter's ears perk up.

Z (CONT'D)
Don't worry boy, you're staying
here with mom.

WILLOW
Always good to take some time away.

Z
I love you.

WILLOW
I love you too.

INT. HOME, BEDROOM

Z finishes packing her bag. She reaches to the top shelf of the closet to grab her sleeping bag.

Willow enters holding a small, METAL BOX.

Z turns around, and jumps, startled by Willow's presence.

Z
You just gave me a heart attack.

WILLOW
I'm pretty good at that, aren't I?

Z
The best. Hey, isn't that your dad's box?

WILLOW
Yeah. Sometimes I look at this stuff to remind myself never to be like him, to become better

Z
I get it.

WILLOW
He's just been on my mind recently.

Z
My therapist had me list out trigger items that could cause me to remember what happened to me, that way I could avoid them if possible.

WILLOW
It's almost the anniversary of his death.

Z
May I ask what's in there?

WILLOW
I'll show you another time...if you survive the weekend.

Z
I'm quite capable of surviving a weekend with my sister.

Z kisses Willow.

Z (CONT'D)
Now I have to finish up in here. I think I got everything.

WILLOW
I told you to make a list.

Z
I did....in my head.

WILLOW
I'm not driving out to you to bring deodorant.

Z reaches into her bag, pulling out deodorant. She hovers it in front of Willow's face.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Good.

Willow exits the room.

Z zips up her bag and leaves.

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM

A KNOCK on the door.

Z (O.S.)
Be right there.

Z approaches the door, dropping her bags by the door.

COURTNEY COHEN (31), Z's sister, stands there. She is Caucasian with short, dark hair. Z was adopted at birth into Courtney's family.

Z (CONT'D)
It's about time you get here. You sleep in again?

COURTNEY
No.
(pause)
The guy who was in my bed did. Had to kick him out, and he wanted breakfast. Just a messy morning.

Z

At your age, I'm surprised you can still bring them home.

COURTNEY

(sarcastic)

Ha. Ha.

(normal tone)

I'm only one year older than you so don't act all high and mighty, or should we talk about who you've brought home. You remember Dino Ned?

Z

Come on, he wasn't that bad.

Willow enters the living room.

WILLOW

Did I just hear Dino Ned?

COURTNEY

Yes you did you beautiful pregnant creature. Correct me if I'm wrong but did he or did he not leave dinosaur themed underwear in your bedroom.

Z

Look, dinosaurs are cool. I can't blame the guy for wearing them.

COURTNEY

You were in college.

WILLOW

She packed a few pairs up Court. Don't let her lose any. And come in. Not surprised your sister hasn't invited you in at this point.

Z

Yes, come in.

Courtney enters the home and closes the door behind her. She notices PUZZLES hanging on the wall.

COURTNEY

What's with the puzzle decor?

Z

I've taken a liking to them. There really fun. Speaking of puzzles, Willow and I did an escape room last night.

COURTNEY

I'm sure that was fun.

WILLOW

It was not. She picked a horror themed one, and not even like a normal house, it was bloody, it was gross.

Z

It was amazing. But we won. Beat the clock.

WILLOW

You are smart. She figured out most of it. Not even sure why I was there.

Z

You were there as my eye candy.

Z winks at Willow.

COURTNEY

Oh my God, you're disgusting. By the way Willow, how is the pregnancy going?

WILLOW

It is wonderful, and even though we pick on Z, she is a great help and loving wife.

COURTNEY

She was always good at caring for other people. But glad to hear it. Sorry we can't stay long, we've got a big weekend ahead of us.

WILLOW

Yes, I'm excited to have some peace and quiet in the house.

Willow places her hand on Courtney's shoulder.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

The earlier you leave the better.
Me and the baby need some time away
from you know who.

Z

Hey Voldemort, I can hear you, and
regardless of your perspective, you
love having me around.

WILLOW

I do, but not this weekend.

Z pets Baxter and talks to him.

Z

I'm gonna miss you boy. Be good
for momma and baby for the next few
days. Don't let her on that radio
the entire time.

COURTNEY

Radio?

Z

She talks to these weird people all
over. Does the weird tapping
thing.

Z air taps in pretend Morse Code.

COURTNEY

Oh. Fun.

WILLOW

It is fun.

Z

It's real nerdy is what it is.

Z moves over to Willow and speaks to the baby.

Z (CONT'D)

And you be good for your mom,
otherwise I'll have to hear it when
I get home. That's one thing you
should know about her. She drones
on and on.

WILLOW

Okay, I think you said enough.
Don't make a pregnant woman slap
you.

Z kisses Willow's belly, and stands back up.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

It was good seeing you Courtney. I hope you survive with her.

COURTNEY

I've lived with her for a long time. You accepted the ring though.

WILLOW

Yeah, I did.

Z

I love you.

WILLOW

Yeah, I love you both. Don't let the monsters get you.

Courtney and Z leave the house.

Willow smiles. She looks down at Baxter.

Baxter whines.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

We'll be okay without her.

CUT TO:

INT. COURTNEY'S CAR - DAY

The radio is playing a heavy metal song. Z uses the passenger side dash as a drum set.

Courtney looks at her, stunned at the activity.

Z turns the volume down.

Z

What? It's good shit.

COURTNEY

I've had to listen to this since we shared a bedroom together. I wouldn't describe it as good.

Z

It's just powerful. Loud, raw energy.

Z wipes sweat from her brow.

Z rests her head on the window staring outwards. Her smile disappears.

Courtney looks at Z. She notices the change in mood.

COURTNEY

You know, I haven't been a good sister and keeping up with, well, you know, you. Since the accident happened.

Z

I felt abandoned. You rarely reached back out. I needed you. You just...left.

COURTNEY

I'm sorry. You know me. I keep to myself, and it's like a fucking curse. I care, but I'm a shitty sister to you, and a shitty friend to them. That's why I wanted this weekend, to try and be better.

(pause)

How have things been?

Z looks at Courtney.

Z

Shitty barely describes how I felt. What happened in your life to where you couldn't reach out? Watching your best friend send a bullet through their brain is just...

(looks back out the window)

I thought about ending things myself, ya know?

Courtney wipes away tears.

COURTNEY

I'm sorry. Not sure how many times I can say it. I'm not surprised you'd want to end things, hell, I'd think the same thing.

Z looks back to Courtney.

Z

But you know I'd drop everything to help you, so, where were you?

COURTNEY

I don't know. I know it's a worthless answer. That's why I wanted this weekend for us. To start fresh. So, uh, how has therapy been?

Z

Things are getting easier. If it wasn't for Willow and Baxter, I'm not sure where I would be.

COURTNEY

I don't know how I'd handle therapy.

Z

Yeah, you're kind of a bitch.

COURTNEY

I'm not that bad.

Z

Pfitt, who told you that?

Z breaks a smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT

Courtney and Z exit the vehicle and grab their belongings.

Tucked away in the corner is an SUV. Light coating of dust. A stick figure family sticker is on the back window with a father, mother, daughter, and dog.

Z

Looks like we're not the only ones here.

COURTNEY

Yeah, from what I read, not many people know of this place. Kind of a secret, I think, a hidden gem.

Z

You were always interested in finding places in the middle of nowhere.

COURTNEY

I actually had some help finding this place. I was chatting with someone on a hiking blog, and was recommended this location. Told me it was a great, quiet place to reconnect with family. It was kind of like they knew what I wanted.

Z

With how dense this place looks, we might end up getting lost. How far away is the site?

COURTNEY

I think two miles. There is no mapping of this area anywhere, so all I have are directions from this blogger.

Z

Let's hope they know the area and don't send us careening off a cliff.

Courtney locks the door.

Z carries a small cooler of food along with a backpack.

Courtney carries a backpack and sleeping bags.

COURTNEY

Ready?

Z

Yup.

Z glances back at the car.

Z (CONT'D)

I hope whoever they are they're not going to our spot.

COURTNEY

There's lot's of spots I assume. We'll be fine.

Z and Courtney start on the trail.

EXT. TRAIL

Z and Courtney come to a large rock.

Z sits on the rock. It is clear Z is not in as good of shape as Courtney. She sprawls out.

Z
How much longer?

COURTNEY
We're about a mile in, so halfway.
Are you that out of shape?

Z
I just need a minute.

COURTNEY
You need more water and less
Mountain Dew.

Z
You're probably right.

Z takes a few deep breaths before she gets off the rock, ready to continue walking.

Z (CONT'D)
Okay, let's go.

COURTNEY
Married life treating you alright?

Z
Now you're interested in my
marriage?
(chuckles)
It's great.

COURTNEY
And whose idea was it to get
pregnant?

Z
Both, but Willow wanted to carry.
In fact, she demanded it.

COURTNEY
You know who the dad is?

Z
Only on paper.

COURTNEY
You two will be great parents. You
decide on a name yet?

Z

Willow likes Mallory.

COURTNEY

Cute. Are you doubting your parenting skills?

Z

No, but not having parents is a bit of a downer. Our parents both died, and Willow's side of the family is, how you say, complicated.

COURTNEY

Every family has complications. You know, you haven't told me much about this girl you married. What's complicated? Give me some gossip.

Z

She doesn't tell me much, and this is just pieces of what I've put together, but her parents made her do things against her will. I think they were in some cult. Every time I try to understand she shuts me out. Says it's complicated.

COURTNEY

A cult? Feel there's always a documentary about people surviving them.

Z

It's almost the anniversary of her dad's death. I don't even know how long he's been gone.

COURTNEY

What about her mom?

Z

No idea. I've heard phone calls before where I swear she's said 'mom,' but when I confront her she says it's nobody.

COURTNEY

Maybe she's got a whole secret life you don't know about. A secret cult life.

Z
She's been preoccupied lately.

A distant scream interrupts.

COURTNEY
Did you hear that?

Z
Yeah, you think it's an animal?

COURTNEY
I don't think so.

The scream echoes again, but louder.

Z
Did you hear the word help?

COURTNEY
Possibly, but it sounds far away.
Let's keep walking.

They reach a Y intersection with a sign reading "Sunrise Trail."

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
It sounded like it might've come
from this direction.

Z
Should we help them?

COURTNEY
I think so. I packed my gun just
in case.

Courtney pulls up her shirt to reveal a GUN holstered on her hip.

Z
Of course you did.

COURTNEY
Better to have it and not need it,
then need it and not have it.

An earsplitting scream breaks their communication.

Courtney unholsters her gun, low ready position

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
That's it, let's go.

Z
Shit.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

COURTNEY
I think we're close.

Z
I wasn't hoping to be running
today.

They approach the house nestled in the woods

Z (CONT'D)
Whoa, where'd this come from? I'm
not going in there.

Courtney approaches the front of the house.

The door slowly CREAKS OPEN and a distressed child's voice
emits from the house. The voice is of a little girl, AMY
WILDER (10), but her name is not known at this time.

AMY (O.S.)
Help, I'm hurt. Is anyone there?

COURTNEY
Yes, someone is here.

AMY (O.S.)
It hurts so bad. My arm.

COURTNEY
Can you come outside?

AMY (O.S.)
No, please help. I'm bleeding.

COURTNEY
How did you get here?

Amy doesn't respond.

Z tugs on her sister's shirt.

Z
I don't like this.

Courtney ignores the comment.

COURTNEY
Can you tell me your name?

AMY (O.S.)
 (shrieking)
 Please don't hurt me!

Z and Courtney both jump back.

COURTNEY
 We have to go in. I've got the
 gun, we'll be safe. She could be
 hurt.

Z
 I can't. This doesn't feel right
 at all.

COURTNEY
 Okay, we won't walk in, but we'll
 poke our heads in. We see nothing,
 we leave. Okay?

Z
 Okay, but I'm not sticking my head
 in there.

Courtney approaches the door first, pushing it open. She
 pokes her head in...

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

...and sees a NON-DISCERNABLE SHAPE on the ground in the
 hallway.

Z (O.S.)
 Anything?

COURTNEY
 What is that?

Z (O.S.)
 What is what?

COURTNEY
 I don't know. It's too dark to see
 but it could be the girl.

Courtney calls out to the shape.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
 Hello? Little girl?

Z (O.S.)
 I think it's time we go. This
 doesn't feel right.

Courtney fully steps into the house.

Z (CONT'D)
Why are you going in?

Z follows Courtney inside. She sets the cooler down by the door.

Down the hallway, the shape comes more into view.

COURTNEY
I see something on the floor. Z,
can you reach in my bag and grab my
flashlight? Front pocket.

Z gives Courtney the flashlight.

Courtney turns the flashlight on.

Z
What is it?

COURTNEY
It looks like a blanket of some
kind.

Courtney approaches the shape and moves it with her foot.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
It's a blue jacket. Seems new.

Z breathes a sigh of relief.

Courtney folds the jacket and sets it off to the side.

Z
A jacket had you worried.

COURTNEY
I'm more worried about who that
voice belonged too. They sounded
so scared.

Z
We can call someone when we get out
of here.

COURTNEY
I'm not leaving yet. If someone is
hurt, we'd be complete dicks to
leave them.

Z

Then you can stay. I'm going outside. This isn't normal. There are no signs that anyone is here. No trash outside, no vehicles, no footprints. Think about it, if someone was hurt, they wouldn't have completely shut up now.

COURTNEY

Then fucking go, okay? I just need a few minutes. You're being a bitch.

Z

Abandon me again. You're pretty good at that.

COURTNEY

Don't be like that.

Z turns around sharply, now in a foul mood, and leaves the house...

EXT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

...walking a few steps before turning around. She takes in the size of the house, looking for deformities or things that shouldn't be there.

Z looks to the right of the house and sees a large, crooked tree with a large overhanging branch. She walks over to it.

IN FRONT OF THE TREE

Z touches the trunk of the tree. Her eyes then follow the long branch to its end. She walks under the branch looking back and forth at the branch and the ground.

Z

Where the fuck are we?

Z takes a next step but stops before setting her foot down. There is blood on the ground. She squats down and looks closer.

Z (CONT'D)

Blood.

Z stands back up. She starts to walk back towards the front of the house.

From a window on the second floor, a silhouette of someone stands with their fingertips scratching at the glass.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

The room is mostly barren besides a few pieces of furniture to include a standing wardrobe, a desk, and a bookshelf.

Courtney is swaying her flashlight around the room. Dust cover all of the items that she can see.

Courtney walks over to the desk and notices a HANDPRINT imprinted on the dust. She places her own hand over the print. The hand size is similar to hers.

COURTNEY

Maybe you're not a child.

The sound of footsteps echo behind Courtney who turns around to see Z walk into the room.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I see you decided to help me out.

Z

I saw blood outside.

COURTNEY

What?

Z

Under that large tree. There was a small pool of dried blood. Maybe you're right that someone is hurt.

COURTNEY

There's a handprint over here on this desk as well. Come look.

Z walks over to the desk to see the handprint.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

It's about the size of my hand.
The voice might've been...

The doors to the wardrobe open with a soft CREAK.

DAUGHTER (O.S.)

Leave now.

Z and Courtney look towards the wardrobe.

Courtney is shining her flashlight to the wardrobe.

COURTNEY
Is someone in there?

Courtney inches closer to the wardrobe. She is standing directly in front of it.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
There's no one in here.

Courtney shuts the wardrobe doors.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Let's just get out of here.

Z
I thought you'd never say so.

Z and Courtney both leave the room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Z and Courtney are moving down the hall at a quick pace clearly wanting to get out as fast as possible.

Z and Courtney both stop roughly halfway down the hallway to see something terrifying - the door to outside is no longer there.

Z
What the fuck?

COURTNEY
No, no, no.

Z
The front door is gone. It's just
fucking gone.

Z clasps her hands over her head.

Courtney walks to the wall and begins pressing on it trying to find a seam.

Z (CONT'D)
I told you we shouldn't have come
in here. I knew it. This is how
we die.

COURTNEY
Nobody is going to die. We'll
figure this out. Somebody is
probably playing a prank on us.

Z
 Oh, I'm sure. We're the next
 contestants on 'Scared Shitless.'
 I can tell you my pants are already
 full.

Courtney pulls out her cell phone: "NO SIGNAL."

COURTNEY
 Shit! I've got no service. How
 about you?

Z pulls her phone out.

Z
 Same, nothing.

COURTNEY
 Let's go in this living room, and
 see if we can find a way out.
 There's more light.

They both enter the living room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, LIVING ROOM

Z and Courtney stand in the room. Normal furnishings, yet
 they have an older look to them. Rot and dust cover
 everything. To the right is a staircase leading up.

Z
 Let's just break a window.

COURTNEY
 Or we can see if it opens first.

Z
 I'd rather bust the window.
 Whoever put us here can foot the
 bill.

Courtney attempts to open the window but strains herself.
 She tries the other window. Nothing on either window
 suggests them being nailed or bolted shut.

COURTNEY
 They're all budged shut.

Z
 Okay, my turn.

Z finds a small, wooden chair.

COURTNEY

Really?

Z

You said my way.

COURTNEY

Actually I didn't.

Z slams the chair at the window which doesn't shatter, unlike the chair which smashes into pieces.

Z

Okay, fucking bulletproof windows.
Fantastic.

Z finds a loose brick in the fireplace. She launches it at the window, but it bounces off.

Courtney strafes to the side to miss the flying brick.

COURTNEY

Watch where you throw shit!

Z goes up to the window and rashly bangs her hands on the glass. A small cut opens and bleeds.

Z

Somebody help us! Please.

COURTNEY

Hey, sis, your hands. Let me see them.

A defeated Z sits on a chair while Courtney pulls out a first aid kit from her bag.

Courtney rinses some alcohol on the wound and places a band-aid.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

There. Should be better.

Z

What are we going to do?

COURTNEY

We find the door. This is a house.
Every house I've been in has at least two. There must be another one. A back door.

Z
 You're right. We didn't even begin
 to look elsewhere.
 (stands up)
 Let's not waste anymore time.

COURTNEY
 Start on the first floor, work our
 way up.

Courtney starts looking around the living room as a start.

Z reaches into her own bag taking a flashlight.

Z notices a picture on the wall of a PERSON WITH OUTSTRETCHED
 ARMS WITH A HOUSE IN THE BACKGROUND. She looks at it closer,
 touching it. The shading is blacks and oranges. A small
 letter is on the bottom right: "L."

Z
 Huh, what a weird picture.

COURTNEY (O.S.)
 You say something?

Z
 Nothing important. Just a weird
 looking picture. One that you
 wouldn't want hanging in your
 house.

Z abandons the painting moving closer to her sister.

Z (CONT'D)
 Find anything?

COURTNEY
 Nope, you? Other than your creepy
 painting?

Z
 Nope.

COURTNEY
 It's only the first room. Don't
 give up yet.

They exit the room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Courtney opens the door to the room across the hall,
 revealing it to be a DINING ROOM.

COURTNEY

Well, at least we can eat here.

Z

I can't even think about food now.

Courtney enters the room.

Z takes a step and hears a SNAP at the end of the hall. She looks, shining her light, and sees a pile of something at the end.

Z enters the dining room.

At the end of the hallway, two GLOWING EYES appear from the pile. The eyes move from the floor to about human height accompanied by the sound of cracking bones. The eyes, and whatever they're attached to, disappear into a nearby room - Z and Courtney are not alone in this house.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, DINING ROOM

A giant, wooden table is in the center of the room. Dishes line the table covered in dust.

Courtney glides her finger across the table disturbing the dust. She sees other signs of dust being disturbed just like the handprint on the desk.

COURTNEY

I'm thinking of that handprint, and if someone else is here, why they're not making themselves known. We could all work together to get out.

Z

It's probably because they're dead.

COURTNEY

No optimism.

Z

Not sure how you can be optimistic.

Z notices another painting on the wall. This one is of a GIANT, BLACK BIRD WITH LEGS. The wings stretched upwards. The bird looking forward. The same "L" in the bottom corner.

Z (CONT'D)

This looks familiar.

COURTNEY

What does?

Z

The image on this painting. I feel like I've seen it somewhere before.

COURTNEY

Maybe it will come to you soon. Are you hungry?

Z

I wasn't a few minutes ago, but now, I guess I could eat. What have you got cause I didn't pack any food.

COURTNEY

On me, I've got granola bars, crackers, just small things. There was more in that cooler you were carrying. You got it?

Z sucks air in through her teeth.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

What is that for?

Z

I left it on the porch before we walked in.

COURTNEY

Of course you did.

Z

How was I supposed to know we were going to be stuck here. Five star review for your blogger. I'll take a granola bar.

Courtney hands Z a bar.

Z reaches into her bag and grabs some water.

COURTNEY

Toss me that bottle please.

Z

Well, let me take a drink first. Jeez.

Z takes a drink, and passes the bottle to Courtney.

COURTNEY
Ready to keep going?

Z
Yeah.
(takes a bite of the
granola bar)

Z and Courtney exit the dining room through a wall opening into the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, KITCHEN

Courtney walks over to the stove, and clicks the knob to turn it on.

COURTNEY
Unsurprisingly the stove doesn't work. We can't cook the food that you left outside.

Z walks over to the fridge and puts her hand on the handle.

Z
You know what, I'm not opening this.

Z goes over to the sink and turns the SQUEAKY HANDLES.

COURTNEY
No fresh water?

Z
I don't think you're getting anything fresh out of this house.

Courtney opens the door on the other end of the room.

COURTNEY
This is back to the hallway.

Z
It's looking like there's no way out of this mess.

COURTNEY
We've still got some places to check. Don't get your hopes up just yet.

Z and Courtney exit the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Z and Courtney stand in the hallway with two doors left to check.

Z looks for the pile she noticed earlier.

Z

Huh.

COURTNEY

What's huh?

Z

Thought there was something here.
Guess my mind is already playing
tricks.

COURTNEY

You think we should split up and
I'll take one room and you take the
other?

Z

Splitting up seems like a dumb,
fucking idea.

COURTNEY

Yeah, but getting out of here is
priority. It's only these two
rooms.

Z

Fine. You're lucky I love you.
I'll take this one.

COURTNEY

And I'll take this one. See you in
a few minutes. Meet back up here.

Z turns towards her door and enters the room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BATHROOM ONE

The bathroom is small. A bathtub, toilet and sink are all
that is in it. Z looks in the bathtub to see bloodstains.

A piece of paper, partly crumpled, rests at the bottom of the
tub.

Z picks the paper up which reads: "THE LITTLE GIRL TOLD US
DAYTIME IS THE BEST TIME TO MOVE. SHE KNOWS THERE'S AN EXIT
BUT WHERE?"

Z pockets the note.

Z's FLASHLIGHT FLICKERS. She hits it.

Z

Come on.

The flashlight stops flickering.

Z swings the light around the bathroom one more time before exiting.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Z takes a few steps until she's standing in front of the back wall. She places her hands on the wall and pushes, hoping to find a back door.

There is a light breathing coming from inside the wall.

Z places her ear up to the wall.

EERIE VOICE

He's awake. You're too late.
Hide.

Z pulls her ear away from the wall.

From behind her she can hear something shuffling towards her except the sound is coming from under the floor.

Z's head movements follow the sound as it goes under her feet. The sound then begins to move into the wall where she's standing as if someone is climbing up the wall.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

Z enters the room. She tries speaking but no words are coming out.

COURTNEY

What? What is it?

Z puts her finger to her mouth.

Z

Shhh.
(mouths)
Quiet.

COURTNEY
(whispering)
What happened?

Z
S...S...something is here.

COURTNEY
What did you see?

Z pulls the note out of her pocket. She hands it to Courtney.

Courtney reads the note silently.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Where did you find this?

Z
In the bathtub.

Courtney puts the note in her pocket.

Courtney walks over to the door and pokes her head out. She sees nothing, and pulls her head back in.

Z finds a chair near the desk and sits in it.

Courtney kneels in front of Z.

COURTNEY
I don't see or hear anything.

Z
Something was walking under the floor.

COURTNEY
Okay. What's the plan then? Hole up in here?

Z
Tell me you found a door or something.

Courtney shakes her head.

COURTNEY
We have to check the rest of the house. We're not even sure what it is you heard. It could've been a rat.

Z
Big fucking rat.

COURTNEY
I could shoot it.

Z
You know what, I'm glad you brought
it.

Courtney unholsters her gun, readying the weapon for
potential use.

COURTNEY
I've got this. Let's go check out
upstairs.

Z
You're right. But you're going
first.

Z and Courtney leave the study, Courtney leading the way.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Courtney and Z tiptoe down the hallway to the end.

Courtney pokes her head around the corner into the living
room, and sees nothing.

COURTNEY
(mouths)
I see nothing.

They both cautiously enter the living room.

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM

Both Z and Courtney scan the room.

Courtney tilts her head towards Z before approaching the
stairs. She puts her foot on the first stair when a loud
CREAK from the above floor startles them both.

Courtney turns to Z.

COURTNEY
(mouths)
Hide.

Courtney moves to hide under a nearby couch.

There is a large chest in the corner with a hinged lid looks big enough to fit in.

Z opens the lid and climbs in. She peers out from the opening.

A PALE MONSTER descends the stairs, creakiness from its joints. The body is off-white and mangled. There appear to be no eyes, and it's hair is missing chunks. A scar is across it's stomach. It exits the room.

MONSTER
I can smell you, Zara.

Z's mouth becomes agape. She shudders.

Courtney crawls out from under the couch accidentally leaving the gun.

Z stays in the box.

Courtney crouch walks to Z.

-- From this point on, it should be noted that Z and Courtney will talk in a lower register as to not draw unwanted attention from the Monster. --

Z
It kn...kn...knew my name.

COURTNEY
We need to go up.

Z
I c...c...can't. My name. It knew me.

Courtney lifts the lid on the chest.

COURTNEY
Take my hand.

Z grabs Courtney's hand. She climbs out of the box.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
We're going upstairs.

Z shakily nods.

Z and Courtney walk to the stairs.

Courtney puts a foot down applying weight.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Walk where I walk.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

Z and Courtney cautiously step to the landing.

On this level there are four rooms, two on the left and two on the right. One of the rooms has no door.

The floors have drag and scratch marks. Bloodied fingernails are stuck in the rotting floorboards.

COURTNEY
Let's start in this room over here.

Courtney turns the doorknob, swinging the door open.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Oh no.

She walks in the room first.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BEDROOM ONE

Courtney and Z enter a child's room. Old toys are strewn on the floor. Dolls with broken faces line shelves. A twin-sized bed sits off in the corner. A closet opposite the bed.

Z slowly shuts the door behind her.

Z
This is creepy. It's always dolls.

COURTNEY
Let's take a quick look. Check the closet.

Z walks over to the closet and pulls open the double doors. She searches the closet methodically, using her instincts at solving puzzles.

Z kneels down checking the floor and notices a small hole in the back of the closet wall, one that would normally be missed.

Z puts her finger through the hole as far as it could go.

Z
There's something back here.
(to Courtney)
Hey Court, come over here.

Courtney walks over, standing behind Z.

Z (CONT'D)
There's something behind this wall.
Maybe a way out.

COURTNEY
We can't smash it and risk that
thing coming up here.

Z stands up. She shines the flashlight as she runs her hand across the wall. She runs her hand along the side wall up to the ceiling.

Z finds a small letter engraved on the ceiling: "L"

Z's pushes on the letter which indents before a piece of the ceiling falls.

Z grabs the ceiling cutout before it hits the floor.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Nice catch.

Z reaches into the cutout space.

Z
There's a cord.

Z pulls the cord.

A soft CLICK.

COURTNEY
You did something.

Z
Try pulling on the wall.

Courtney puts her finger into the hole, grabbing onto the wall.

Courtney pulls out a rectangular piece of the wall running from floor to ceiling out.

COURTNEY
It's dark in here.

Courtney shines the flashlight into the newly found space.

On a small table rests an old-style doll house, resembling the house they are in now. The only item in the space.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

It's a...
 (perturbed)
 ...doll house.

Z

It was hidden for a reason.

COURTNEY

We can't pull this table out.
 It'll make too much noise.

Z

Let's lift it out.

Z and Courtney take the doll house out of the closet and set it on the ground.

Z (CONT'D)

Grab the table.

Courtney gets the table, setting it next to the dollhouse.

Z and Courtney both put the dollhouse on the table.

Z blows on the dollhouse. Dust flies into the air.

Courtney almost sneezes, but stops.

Z (CONT'D)

Sorry. You want to open it?

COURTNEY

No thanks. You can do the creepy stuff.

Z opens the doll house.

EIGHT MINIATURE DOLLS are in different rooms each with one arm pointing in a direction. The dolls appear to be stitched, no faces.

Z

You see, they're each pointing to the next doll. Like it was purposefully set up this way.

Zs' finger follows the direction of the doll's hands.

Z (CONT'D)

The last hand points down the hallway.

z reaches into the back of the dollhouse.

Z (CONT'D)

There's something here.

Z pulls out a mini chest. She flips open the chest, revealing a key and sliver of paper.

COURTNEY

A key. For what?

Z

The missing door. It's like an escape room.

COURTNEY

Except if we don't get out of here, we die.

Z looks closer at the key. An engraved sun symbol is on the end of the handle.

Z

A sun. I wonder what it means.

COURTNEY

Maybe the letter will tell us. The paper looks really old, be careful with it.

The paper has some letters BOLDED (although it is not noticed at this time it does have significance). The words look as if written in a hurry. There is no author to the note. At the bottom of the note is a image of a church steeple.

Z

I can't explain everything here but you deserve answers. This key will help you escape. We never should've accepted, but we were young, you have to understand. He forced us. They're watching me. Catching onto me. I had to work in secret to put an exit into this house. A hidden door. Only I know about it. Follow the paintings. There are five and they each have something you need for the key. I'm sorry for all we've done to everybody past, present and future. You have to try and end this. I'm not sure what you'll be up against but be careful. It changes with each person. I wanted out but was threatened to be killed. I had no choice but to stay.

(MORE)

Z (CONT'D)

I know I'll pay for my sins but if I can do one good thing, I can be more at rest. L. P.S Tell them light will always prevail.

COURTNEY

What the hell does that mean?

Z notices five indentations on the end of the key.

Z

Look at the handle. It looks like something fits into these slots.

COURTNEY

Follow the paintings? They have something we need? What paintings?

Z

I think I've seen some of them already. There's two downstairs.

COURTNEY

We can't trust this.

Z

Right now, it's our only chance. We just need to find three more paintings. The note even says the key is for a door.

COURTNEY

Okay. We better get a move on. I'm even more sick of this place. They're treating our lives like a game.

Z folds the note, placing it in her pocket.

Courtney turns to leave the room.

Standing by the door, which is now open, is the young girl, Amy. She is wearing a bloody, flower print dress and is missing her right arm.

Amy looks directly at them, a look of anguish and tiredness on her face.

Courtney covers her mouth, startled, attempting to hide a yelp, but a small noise escapes.

Z hears the noise from Courtney. She sees Amy, but isn't startled.

After a moment, Courtney lowers her hands.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Who are you?

Amy says nothing but looks at Courtney with awe.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
I'm Courtney. This is my sister
Zara. Are you the little girl who
called out to us earlier? When we
were outside?

AMY
You look like my mom.

Courtney smiles.

COURTNEY
We found a note.

Courtney pulls the bathroom note from her pocket. She opens it.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
What does this mean?

AMY
They were nice people.
(pause)
He doesn't see and hear well when
it's daytime.

A loud CREAK from the stairs

AMY (CONT'D)
You need to hide.

Courtney hides under the bed.

Z enters the closet, closing the doors, but leaving them slightly ajar.

COURTNEY POV

The Monster is at the top of the stairs, standing near the door to the doll room. It calls out angrily.

MONSTER
Come here, Amy.

Amy slowly walks to the Monster and touches its hand.

The Monster reacts as if it's blind, sensing the touch and looking down towards Amy.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
There you are. Where are they,
Amy?

Amy doesn't respond, but instead looks at the floor.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Where are they?

Amy lifts her head up to look at the Monster.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
You think by helping them, you'll
be able to leave?

Amy TAPS on the Monster's hand.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
You don't know where they are?
I'll deal with you later.

BACK TO SCENE

The Monster moves into the bedroom and bumps into the dollhouse.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
This wasn't here before.

The Monster wraps both of its arm around the dollhouse and crushes it.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
I'll find you, Zara. Just wait
until dark.

The Monster leaves the room. Footsteps recede.

Courtney comes out from under the bed.

Courtney goes to the closet and opens the door.

Z is sitting on the ground with her knees pull inwards.

Z
I don't understand how it knows my
name.

COURTNEY
It's gone for now.

Courtney sits next to Z and holds her hand.

Z

This all can't be real.

COURTNEY

We can avoid it if we're careful.
Come on up. I need your help to
find these paintings. You've got a
wife and almost born child to get
home to.

Z takes a couple of deep breaths.

Z

Okay, but just so you know, you'll
be on mega baby-sitting duty when
the baby is born while I take a
long vacation.

Courtney hugs Z.

Z (CONT'D)

Since you're the reason I'm here.

COURTNEY

Thanks for reminding me, asshole.

Z and Courtney both walk to the bedroom door.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I don't know where it went, but
let's go down the hall, work our
way across and back down.

Z and Courtney exit the room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BEDROOM TWO

Courtney and Z enter the master bedroom. A large bed sits in
the middle, with a worn out mattress and metal frame.

Courtney shuts the bedroom door.

COURTNEY

Another bedroom.

Z walks over to the window and lifts it. It doesn't budge.

Z sees dried blood on the window sill.

A dried blood path leads from the window sill to the right.

Z follows the blood.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
So, with that note, do you think
someone is really helping us?

Z
I don't know. Whoever wrote it
seemed scared. They signed it L
which is how the paintings are
signed. It's small print, but it's
there.

COURTNEY
What are you doing?

A dried, bloody handprint on the wall.

Z touches the handprint.

A THUD from behind the wall.

Z and Courtney jump.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Was that you?

Z
Shhh!

DAUGHTER (O.S.)
Is someone there?

Z looks at Courtney, and then back to the wall.

Z
Y...yes, my name is Zara. My
sister Courtney is over there.

DAUGHTER (O.S.)
Zara? You must be happy

Z
Why would I?

DAUGHTER (O.S.)
You're going to be a mom.

Z shudders.

COURTNEY
Who told you this?

DAUGHTER (O.S.)
The man who lives in the box.

Courtney walks to the wall.

COURTNEY
What is he? What is this place?

DAUGHTER (O.S.)
It will be night soon. Need to
hide.

Scratching sounds from the wall that move and fade.

Z puts both hands on the wall.

Z
No, help us.

Z looks down on the floor. She sees a folded up photograph.

COURTNEY
That was fucking weird. Why are
you so popular?

Z grabs the photograph.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
What did you find?

Z opens the photograph.

Z sees the front of the photo. She flips the photo around
and drops the photo. Her mouth agape as she steps backwards
sluggardly.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Zara, are you okay?

Z tries to speak but can't. Her back hits the wall. She
slides down.

Courtney picks the photo up.

INSERT PHOTO - FRONT OF PHOTO

An ultrasound of a child at a stage of pregnancy

BACK OF PHOTO: "BABY MALLORY. MOMS WILLOW AND ZARA."

BACK TO SCENE

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
How did this get here?

Courtney walks over to Z.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Are you going to be okay?

Z
I think I'm going to be sick. I don't know what the fuck is going on here, but I want to leave right fucking now.

Courtney places her hands on both of Z's shoulders.

COURTNEY
I want nothing else, but we're stuck. We need to find those paintings.

Z
I don't think I can.

COURTNEY
Yes, you can. I'm right here with you. I'm not going anywhere.

Z
That's what you said when we were kids, but you did leave me.

COURTNEY
Are you going to keep bringing this up? We're in a fucked situation and this is all you care about?

Courtney stands up and turns away. She begins walking to door.

Courtney approaches the door and stops. She turns and looks at Z.

Z is now standing.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Z
Me too.

COURTNEY
Let's check the next room. I didn't see any paintings in here. You?

Z shakes her head. She walks to Courtney.

Z
Can I have that picture?

Courtney hands Z the ultrasound photograph.

Z rubs her fingers on the photo and smiles.

Z pockets the photograph.

Z and Courtney exit the room and enter the room directly across the hall.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BEDROOM THREE

Courtney and Z enter although this room doesn't have a door to shut.

Courtney walks to the closet and opens the door.

A painting hangs on the wall.

Courtney takes it off the wall. She walks to where Z is standing.

COURTNEY
I think I found one.

Z
Bring it to the window.

The picture is of A GROUP OF EIGHT PEOPLE IN A CIRCLE, AN EXTENDING SHADOW IN THE MIDDLE.

Z (CONT'D)
Look here, eight people in the circle. Just like the doll house.

Z rubs her hand all over the front feeling for something out of place.

Z (CONT'D)
Something about these paintings is supposed to help us.

Z flips the painting. She rubs her hand all over the back.

The back of the painting has a paper backing.

Z peels the paper back. Nestled inside is a piece of metal.

Z takes it.

COURTNEY

What is that?

Z takes out the key from her pocket. She connects the two pieces together.

Z

It fits. Now the doll house led us to the key, which led us to the paintings. Look at this person with their arm elevated. They're pointing somewhere. Hold the painting up just like you found it.

Courtney holds the painting up.

Z (CONT'D)

The hand is pointing down.

COURTNEY

The first floor.

Z

The study area.

COURTNEY

A path to the exit.

Courtney quietly puts the painting on the floor.

A RASPY BREATH comes from inside the closet.

Courtney and Z look at the closet.

Courtney reaches for her gun but it's not there. She quietly pats her body. She looks at Z.

Z

(mouths)

What are you doing?

COURTNEY

My gun.

Z rolls her eyes.

Two hands grab onto the top of the closet frame as the Monster pulls itself into view, down to the floor.

Courtney and Z freeze in place.

The Monster advances further shifting it's head around. It hums a song.

Z tilts her head as if she has heard the song before.

The Monster passes Courtney and Z, grazing by them with inches to spare. It leaves the room.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
(mouths)
Let's go, now.

Z stands in place momentarily still transfixed by the song hummed by the Monster.

Courtney tugs on Z's shirt getting her attention.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
(mouths)
Now.

Z and Courtney both leave the room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

Z and Courtney walk to the stairs.

The Monster exits the opposite room behind Z and Courtney. It searches and follows.

Z looks behind her. Her eyes widen.

Z grabs Courtney and pulls her into the last room on the floor.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BATHROOM TWO

The bathroom looks much like the one downstairs. Covered in filth and decay. A dust covered mirror above a rusted sink.

Z and Courtney step into the bathtub.

Courtney's foot slips, creating a noise.

The Monster walks in front of the bathroom and stops. It enters the bathroom.

The Monster approaches the bathtub. It wraps its hands on the edge of the tub, opening its mouth to reveal jagged teeth and dried blood. It smiles.

The sun casts shadows signifying a setting of the sun.

MONSTER
(slowly)
There. You. Are.

The Monster abandons the bathtub.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
I'll see you soon.

The Monster leaves the room. Its footfalls recede.

COURTNEY
It saw us.

Courtney steps out of the tub.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
We were right. It couldn't see us
before.

Z
But now we're losing daylight.

Z stands up from the bathtub. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

Z opens her eyes.

Amy stands behind Courtney.

Z (CONT'D)
Amy.

Courtney turns around to see Amy.

Z (CONT'D)
How are you?

AMY
You found a way out?

COURTNEY
We think so. We found a key.

AMY
You need to be extra careful. It's
almost night. He changes at night.

Z
How come you're helping us?

AMY

I'm so tired. He doesn't let me rest. So many people are dead. I want it to stop.

COURTNEY

We're going to stop it. All of this.

Amy smiles but it quickly diminishes.

AMY

Nobody has ever made it through one night.

Z

(to Courtney)

We need the rest of the paintings.

(to Amy)

Thank you, Amy. This monster has never dealt with us before.

Amy disappears.

COURTNEY

Let's go.

Z and Courtney both exit the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, LIVING ROOM

Z approaches the painting that she noticed earlier. She grabs the painting off the wall, removes the backing, and dislodges the metal piece.

Courtney looks under the couch and sees her gun. She retrieves it and places it in her waistband.

COURTNEY

Found the gun.

Z

Get ready to use it. One more painting down.

COURTNEY

Suns moving fast.

Z

Next one is the dining room.

COURTNEY

Maybe we'll be out of here quicker
than we think.

Z and Courtney exit the living room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BASEMENT - NIGHT

The Monster stands in the corner of a dimly lit basement.
Light creeps in through a very small window. It begins to
hyperventilate.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, DINING ROOM

Z approaches the painting of the black bird. She grabs the
painting off the wall, taking off the backing, retrieving the
metal piece.

Z

Three down, two to go.

COURTNEY

Maybe the paintings are clues left
by whoever is helping us.

Z

Makes sense. We've got the bird,
séance, and the house.

COURTNEY

Conducting a séance to some other
worldly being. Creating a house
that keeps you locked in.

Z walks over to the window.

Z

Night is here.

A loud wail pierces the house.

COURTNEY

What was that?

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BASEMENT

The Monster bends over backwards; both hands and feet touch
the floor arching its stomach in the air. It moans again as
its stomach SPLITS OPEN AT THE SCAR, blood pours out.

From the gash, another creature climbs out. The disfigured head, torso, and arms are visible as its legs and feet are occupied by the former.

The Monster moves forward on the hunt.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, DINING ROOM

Z and Courtney are standing in place.

Z

We have to get to that study.

Courtney moves over to the door and peeks around the corner, shining the light down the hall. She sees nothing.

COURTNEY

The coast is clear. I think we can get down there.

LOUD, RAPID FOOTSTEPS sound off upstairs and move down the upstairs hallway to the stairs.

Courtney closes the doors and hides under the table.

Z climbs under the table. Flashlights off.

The door bursts open as the Monster enters the dining room. It CHITTERS as its joints pop.

The Monster slows its pace as it wanders the dining room, exiting through the door it entered.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Z and Courtney get up from under the table.

Courtney pulls her gun out. She takes the safety off.

Z and Courtney walk into the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, KITCHEN

Z and Courtney proceed to walk to the kitchen door.

Courtney kicks a can. The CAN RATTLES.

Z and Courtney stop walking.

In the upper corner of the kitchen the Monster rests in a spider-like position, its eyes glowing. It climbs down.

Z turns around and sees the Monster in the moonlight.

Z
Courtney, behind you!

Courtney turns quickly and turns on the flashlight.

The Monster is blinded and stumbles.

Courtney fires the gun. The bullet hits the target.

The Monster yowls.

Courtney and Z rush out of the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

Courtney climbs in the large wardrobe. She pulls the door shut.

Z hides under the desk, pulling a chair in front of her for cover.

The Monster enters the room just as the sisters get into a hiding spot.

Z POV

Z sees the Monster's legs from under the desk.

MONSTER
Amy! Where are you?

Amy walks into the room.

The Monster turns around, seeing Amy.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
There you are. Why don't you help me find them.

AMY
I won't.

The Monster gets down to her eye level.

MONSTER
You'll never leave me, so it's best you do as I say. Or should I tear off your other arm? Maybe one of your legs?

AMY
You don't own me.

MONSTER
But I do. You stay here with me,
and in exchange, I don't send you
down to him.

Courtney slips in the wardrobe creating a KNOCK.

The Monster advances to the wardrobe.

BACK TO SCENE

The Monster approaches the wardrobe.

Courtney bursts out of the wardrobe with her flashlight on.

The Monster is blinded again.

The Monster tries to leave the room, but Amy is blocking the exit.

MONSTER (CONT'D)
Get out of my way.

Amy looks to where Z is and offers a half smile before returning her gaze to the Monster.

AMY
Leave them alone!

The Monster growls and pushes Amy into the wall opposite the study entryway before exiting the room.

Amy hits the wall.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, LIVING ROOM

Courtney seeks refuge back under the couch.

The Monster enters the room.

MONSTER
I know you're in here. Nobody ever
escapes. You're no different.

The Monster moves over to the chest that Z was hiding in earlier.

The Monster smashes the box.

Courtney climbs from under the couch. She pulls out her gun and readies it.

COURTNEY
Hey, you ugly mother fucker.

The Monster turns and rushes at Courtney.

Courtney fires off one round into it's head.

The Monster falls to the ground.

Courtney walks up to the Monster, firing off one more bullet into it's head, execution style.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

--With the Monster seemingly dead, the characters don't have to speak in a lower register anymore, and speak in their regular voice--

Courtney appears in the doorway.

Z exits from under the desk.

Z
What happened?

Courtney holds up her gun as if she's in an old western movie.

COURTNEY
I took care of the problem.

Amy stumbles into the room before collapsing.

Z
Oh my God, Amy.

Courtney and Z kneel next to her.

COURTNEY
Amy, can you hear me?

Amy looks at Courtney.

AMY
I'm sorry.

COURTNEY
You don't have to apologize for anything.

AMY

Lots of people have come here. I helped him kill all of them.

Z

Why do people come here?

AMY

To feed the one under the ground.

Z

You don't have to worry anymore. My sister killed him for you.

AMY

You *killed* him?

COURTNEY

I did. Two bullets to the head. I don't think he'll be getting up.

Z

Lucky you had that. If we knew how quick it would go down, you should've used it earlier.

COURTNEY

I know. Hesitated when I shouldn't have.

Z

But you did it, and we're safe.
(looks to Amy)
Amy?

Amy is non-responsive.

Z pushes slightly on Amy to try to get a response.

Z (CONT'D)

Shit.

COURTNEY

We should find the other paintings.

Z nods in approval.

Z and Courtney search the room with their flashlights.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

It has to be here. If we're right about the path.

Z sees a bookcase. Something is sticking out from behind it.

Z

Hold on.

Z moves over to the bookcase and pulls it out. There is a painting behind it.

Z (CONT'D)

Found it. Come grab the other side of this shelf.

Z and Courtney move the bookcase away from the wall.

A painting OF A GIANT SUN WITH INTERLOCKING RAYS is on the wall.

Z pulls the key out of her pocket.

Z (CONT'D)

It's the same symbol.

COURTNEY

Seems culty.

Z

You're probably right. I keep thinking about that bird. It's all connected somehow. It's...

COURTNEY

It's what?

Z

The bird, I know where I've seen it. The escape room I did the other day with Willow. It was a horror themed one. That bird was on a picture frame. Both have a bird with legs.

COURTNEY

Is the bird like a demon or something?

Z

Maybe.

COURTNEY

You know when I planned this trip, none of this what I had in mind.

Z

Let's just find the next piece. We're so close.

Z removes the back of the painting, taking the metal piece hidden away.

Z looks at the front of the painting for a direction for the last painting.

Z (CONT'D)
I don't see any sort of direction.

COURTNEY
Let me look.

Z turns the painting towards Courtney.

Courtney eyes gloss over the painting.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
I don't see anything. Hmmm. Wait a minute.

Courtney looks at the eyes on the sun. The pupils are aimed downwards.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
I think I found something. The eyes.

Z looks back at the painting.

Z
They're looking down.

Z looks downwards.

Z (CONT'D)
What's below us?

COURTNEY
I'd assume a basement.

Z
Great. How do we find that?

COURTNEY
I don't know. I want to go back and look at the monster though.

Z and Courtney move towards the door.

Z looks down at Amy.

Z
I think she's sleeping.

COURTNEY
Is she a ghost?

Z
I don't know. We owe it to her to
try and help.

Z and Courtney leave the room.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, LIVING ROOM

Courtney and Z stand over the body of the Monster.

Blood has pooled around its head. Getting a clearer look at the "night" version of the Monster, they can finally see a clearer version of what looks like two different bodies forming one body.

Z
(disgust)
It's so foul.

Z finds a nearby rod and uses it to prod the Monster, moving the skin around.

Z (CONT'D)
Hey sis, look at this.

COURTNEY
What is it?

Z
This marking here.

COURTNEY
It's definitely something.

Z puts the rod down and grabs the skin, stretching it, revealing a tattoo.

Courtney gags.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Now that's foul. It looks a little
like the key.

Z
Matching cult tattoos. Groovy.
So, the painting alluded to a
basement.

COURTNEY

We can split up, check the rooms again.

Z

With this thing dead, we don't have to sneak around anymore.

COURTNEY

Let's make it quick. I'll stay down here, you check upstairs.

Z

Yell if you found something.

Z moves up the stairs.

Courtney goes back to the study to accomplish the same feat.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

Courtney gets the sudden urge to use the bathroom.

COURTNEY

Of course, I knew I'd have to go eventually.

She walks to the door and looks across at the bathroom.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Ugh, let's just get this over with.

She exits the room.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

Courtney comes back into the room and starts looking at the bookcase again. She finds A little, black book and opens it. There is no name of an owner in the book.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

A diary?

She begins skimming the pages and finds an entry dated: "September 3, 2020."

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

We've been trapped for hours. There is a creature here. It doesn't seem to notice us much. We're looking for a door, but my wife and daughter can't find one. We're not in a normal house.

Courtney flips the page to find a jagged edge where a page was torn out.

Courtney flips another page. She continues reading.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

It killed her. My daughter. We'll never get out. I can't find my wife. If you find this, you're fucked. You were probably brought here too. You talked with someone online, right?

Courtney looks up from the diary.

DAD (O.S.)

(shakily)

You can't kill it. You can't kill it. You can't kill it.

Courtney jolts and shines her light around. She sees the Dad standing and facing the corner.

COURTNEY

Hello?

Dad continues repeating the phrase.

DAD

(shakily)

You can't kill it. You can't kill it. You can't kill it.

Courtney's flashlight flickers. She smacks it and the light is back on.

Dad is no longer in the corner.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BEDROOM ONE

Z walks toward the dollhouse

MOM (O.S.)

You can't kill it. You can't kill it. You can't kill it.

Z turns to face the closet. She shines the light inside.

Z

Hello?

Z stands up and exits.

Mom slowly walks out of the closet space. Her body mostly obscured by darkness.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

Courtney approaches the corner where Dad was standing.

COURTNEY
Is someone here with me?

Courtney turns and comes face to face with the Dad, although his eyes are gouged out.

DAD
You can't kill it.

Courtney stumbles backwards catching herself before she falls.

COURTNEY
(frightened)
Fuck!

DAD
It doesn't die. My daughter. It ate her.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, LIVING ROOM

The Monster lays motionless as the bullets are lifted from it's head by some force. They roll onto the ground.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BEDROOM THREE

Z walks into the bedroom.

Z
Where didn't we look?

Z looks to the closet. She walks towards it.

MOM (O.S.)
You can't kill it. You can't kill it.

Z turns around and sees Mom in the doorway.

Z
Who are you?

Mom looks at Z, her eyes gouged out as well.

MOM
Have you seen my daughter?

Z
No.

Mom laughs before crying again.

MOM
I want my daughter. He keeps us
always searching. Never finding
each other.

Z
I think I found a way out. I'll
send people back and we'll tear
this house down.

Z returns to the closet. She looks up and sees an opening in
the ceiling.

Z (CONT'D)
This is how you get around.

Z turns back around to see Mom has vanished.

Z grabs a chair and places it on the closet floor. She
stands on it and climbs into the ceiling.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, LIVING ROOM

The Monster stirs and stands back up.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

The Dad turns away from Courtney and walks away, talking and
repeating the same line.

DAD
You can't kill it. You can't kill
it.

Amy wakes up. She gasps.

AMY
What happened to me?

COURTNEY
Amy?

RAPIDLY PACED FOOTSTEPS come down the hallway.

The Monster enters the study.

Courtney pulls out her gun. She aims and fires, but nothing comes out.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Shit.

The Monster snarls and charges at Courtney.

AMY

Courtney, you have to run!

Courtney dodges out of the way, and unclicks the safety. She fires the weapon.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, ATTIC

The attic space while not small, is not overly large. Old wood panels encompass walls and flooring.

Z squat walks towards the other side.

Z hears gunshots.

Z

No. Courtney.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, STUDY

The Monster is on the ground, writhing, attempting to stand up.

Courtney slips and twists her ankle.

COURTNEY

Fuck!

Courtney hobbles to the door.

The Monster stands up.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Z is at the other end of the hallway.

COURTNEY

Go, Zara! It's not dead!

Z

Courtney.

Courtney stops.

The Monster stands behind Courtney with its hand through her chest. Blood drips from her mouth.

Courtney looks down to the wound.

The Monster speaks in Courtney's ear.

MONSTER

I got you.

Courtney coughs blood.

COURTNEY

Zara.

Courtney groans and using all remaining strength, throws her gun to Z.

Z almost collapses, but adrenaline is pumping through her. She reaches and grabs the gun.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

I love...

Courtneys head drops.

Z

I'll come back for you. I love you.

Z distraughtly leaves back to the crawl space

The Monster lowers its head and wraps its mouth around Courtney's head, biting down. It pulls up, tearing off her head. Flesh and gore fall to the floor.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, ATTIC

Z squats and walks through the attic space.

Z reaches the end of the area. There is large gap big enough for someone to climb down the wall.

Z uses the framework of the wall as a ladder and descends down.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, BASEMENT

Z drops down into the basement.

Bones and clothing are scattered across the floor.

Z scans the room, and directly in front of her is the last picture which is just a solid color of black.

Z grabs the painting and removes the metal piece which is wrapped in paper.

Z pulls the key and the other pieces out of her pocket. She attaches all the pieces creating an elaborate key.

Z opens the paper and reads.

Z
Left wall, black block, push.

Z looks around the room.

Z finds a fire poke and takes it.

Z walks to the left wall. She finds the black block and pushes it with her hands.

Footsteps echo behind Z.

Z turns around shining her flashlight. She sees a long tunnel with no end.

Z takes the fire poker and jams it into the black block.

Z (CONT'D)
Come on, I didn't come this far to die.

She rams the fire poker into the block again.

The WALL HISSES as blocks collapse, revealing a door.

AMY (O.S.)
You found the way out?

Z turns around. She nods her head.

AMY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about your sister.

Z wipes tears away.

Z
Now is no time to stress about it.
We need to go.

Z looks behind Amy.

The Monster emerges from the tunnel.

Z (CONT'D)
Amy, stay out of the way.

The Monster charges at Z.

Z drops the fire poker and lifts the gun but is too slow.

The Monster hits Z knocking her backwards.

Z hits the wall, injuring her shoulder. She drops the gun.

MONSTER
You think you can leave here?
Nobody leaves here.

Z rolls and regains her footings.

Z
Okay you ugly son-of-a-bitch, let's
see what you got.

The Monster charges.

Z dives out of the way, falling onto her stomach. She crawls.

The Monster sinks a claw into Z's leg. Blood seeps out.

Z (CONT'D)
Gah!

Z's dragged backwards. She grabs onto the fire poker.

Z (CONT'D)
No, no, no, no.

The Monster picks her up.

Z still has the fire poker in her hand.

Z (CONT'D)
(forcefully and angrily)
This is for my sister!

Z takes the fire poker and rams it down the throat of the Monster.

The Monster drops her and stumbles back.

Z grabs a block, tossing it at the Monster's head, knocking it down.

Z picks the block back up and stands over the body. She brings the block down on the head, smashing it in, spraying blood everywhere. She screams with every smash.

The Monsters lays unmoved.

Z limps over to the door.

Z picks up the key and places it in the keyhole.

The key disappears into the door. The DOOR CLICKS and swings inwards.

Dirt is on the other side of the door, but there is moonlight shining down.

Z looks back to see Amy cowering against the wall.

Z (CONT'D)
You can stand up. It's over.

Amy looks to Z and to the Monster.

Z (CONT'D)
Come on, let's get out of here.

AMY
I can't go anywhere.

Z
Yes you can.

Amy stands up. She shakes her head.

AMY
I have to stay. You need to go out there and end all of this.

Z
I don't know how to do that.

Amy smiles.

AMY
You found a way out of this place.
You can do anything. Now go.

Amy hands Z her flashlight.

Z smiles. She takes the flashlight.

Z
I'll do everything I can.

Z turns back towards the door. She starts pulling at the dirt, and dragging herself up.

EXT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS

Z takes in a deep breath. She removes her shirt and wraps it on her leg.

Z walks in front of the house, seeing the cooler left behind.

Z
Courtney, I'll be back for you.

Z hobbles back towards the car.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Z tries to open the car door, but it's locked. She feels under the car, by the tire, finding the spare key.

Z gets in the car and drives home.

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM

Z enters the home.

Z
Willow! Are you here?

There is no response. Baxter is also not around, but Z doesn't notice, her mind fixated elsewhere.

There is a landline phone hooked in the house.

Z calls Willow.

WILLOW (V.O.)
Zara? What's going on?

Z (INTO PHONE)
(in tears)
I need you to come home now. Where are you?

WILLOW (V.O.)
I went out for a bit. I'm on my way. Stay put.

Z (INTO PHONE)
Please hurry.

Z hangs up the phone.

Z takes off her shirt that was on her leg. The bleeding has stopped. She throws the shirt away.

INT. HOME, BATHROOM

Z is sitting in the shower, knees covering her face, crying. Finally able to let her emotions go in regards to Courtney.

Z
I'm so sorry Courtney.

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, KITCHEN

Z sees her laptop. She grabs the laptop and sits at the table.

Z types in a search engine keywords related to the black bird and demons. A familiar image comes up.

Z
Malphas. That's who you are.

Z continues typing in the search engines for missing persons. She comes across a missing Dad, Mom, and Daughter with details about the last vehicle they were seen in.

Z (CONT'D)
(horror-struck)
The van

Z finds multiple headlines related to missing persons.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

"String of new missing persons still under investigation, resembles 1980 case"

"Missing persons cases gone cold"

"No suspect found in missing persons cases"

"Disappearances seem random, police unable to find motive"

"Parents plead to kidnapper of daughter, "Please return her.""

BACK TO SCENE

Z looks at this last headline and her eyes scan to the photo attached. The missing girl is Amy and was last seen wearing her flower dress.

Z (CONT'D)
 Amy. What year was this?
 (Moves cursor around)
 1980. You've been stuck in that house for that long?
 (pushes air out of her nose)
 Where's that letter?

MOMENTS LATER

Z returns to her computer with the letter. She looks at the words closely. She notices bolded letters. She writes them out.

Z (CONT'D)
 L, U, X, V, I, R, T, U, S. Lux
 Virtus?

Z types these letters in the search engine.

Z comes across a church with the same Latin name. She clicks on images of the church.

Z finds an image of the sun symbol carved into a piece of stone.

Z (CONT'D)
 It can't be.

Z zooms in on the symbol.

Z looks at the post script on the note.

Z (CONT'D)
 Tell them light will always prevail.

Z finds a phone number and calls the church.

A TIRED MALE answers the phone.

TIRED MALE (V.O)
 (yawns)
 Hello?

Z (INTO PHONE)
 Hi. My name is Zara, and this is going to sound strange, but I have a feeling I should call you.

TIRED MALE (V.O.)

What makes you think you need to call here?

Z (INTO PHONE)

Ummm. Okay. Light will always prevail.

There is a long pause on the line.

The line opens again. A fiery, female voice, The CHURCH OWNER, answers.

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

You got out? Blessed be.

Z (INTO PHONE)

Can you help me?

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

We've been waiting for so long for this phone call. Yes, we can help you.

Z (INTO PHONE)

Can you explain what is going on?

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

Not over the phone, but just know you're still in danger. No one is supposed...

The line disconnects leaving a dial tone.

Z (INTO PHONE)

Hello? Hello? Shit.

Z hangs up the phone.

WILLOW (O.S.)

Zara? Are you here?

Z runs to Willow's voice.

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM

Z throws herself at Willow.

WILLOW

Baby, what happened? Where's Courtney? Oh my God, are you hurt?

Z
I, I...

WILLOW
Let's go sit down. Tell me
everything.

INT. HOME, KITCHEN

Z and Willow are sitting at the table. Z let out everything.

Willow has a look of shock on her face with a hint of 'I'm not sure I believe you.'

WILLOW
This is, uh, pretty unbelievable.

Z
You don't believe me?

WILLOW
No, I do. It just doesn't make any
sense.

Z
No, it doesn't. We have to go back
for Courtney. I can't leave her
there.

WILLOW
We can wait until morning. It's
really dark, you're absolutely not
in a good state of mind. You need
rest.

Z
I don't need rest. I need my
sister. I can't sleep knowing
she's still there with that
monster.

Willow's face twitches at the sound of 'Monster.'

Willow holds Z's hands.

WILLOW
Hey, hey, I can't understand what
you've endured, but let's wait
until morning. I can call a couple
of people for backup, and we'll all
go out there, okay.

Z
Okay, but first thing in the morning.

WILLOW
Okay. Little Mallory needs some rest to.

INT. HOME, BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Z is awoken by a blood-curdling scream. She sits up quick, turning on the lamp.

Willow is not in the bed.

Z
Willow?

There is no response. She gets out of bed. THUNDER BOOMS and LIGHTNING CRACKS.

INT. HOME, KITCHEN

Willow is sitting at the table, in the dark. She is humming the song the Monster was humming in the house.

Z enters and turns the lights on.

Z
That song. I heard it in the house.
(pause)
What are you doing awake?

Willow looks at Z. Her father's box is on the table in front of her. She is nervously fidgeting with the box.

WILLOW
I'm just trying to process what you told me. This has never happened before, and it's happening because of my carelessness.

Z
I don't understand.

WILLOW
Ugh, nobody has ever gotten out before.

Z eye's widen.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Willow is standing in front of the hanged body on the tree as a clear sign she is responsible for that death.

WILLOW (V.O.)

It always starts with a sacrifice.
Fresh blood needs to be spilled.
Normally a vagrant. Somebody
society won't miss. Then we
choose.

CUT TO:

EXT. PICNIC - DAY

Willow is at a community picnic with the local populace. She interacts with the Dad, Mom, and Daughter giving credence to the family arriving at the house with assistance from Willow.

WILLOW (V.O.)

You see, you weren't supposed to
get out. But you told me how you
did it, so now we can fix that.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS - DAY

Willow walks around the house. She is there to ensure everything is in place before fresh victims are ensnared.

BACK TO SCENE.

WILLOW

I had to go back you know. After
you called. Everything was going
as planned but...

(distressing laugh)

How was I supposed to know there's
a way out?

Z

Wait. You sent us there?

WILLOW

The internet can be most helpful.
You can let people know many
things.

Z

You told Courtney?

WILLOW

I did underestimate your tenacity.
Your stubbornness. I thought it
would be easy, but we all make
mistakes.

Z

Why would you do this to us?

WILLOW

Because it was my turn.

Willow continues playing with the box. The sun symbol is on
the box which catches Z's eye.

Z

The sun? You're a part of it. You
had Courtney killed. You had me
almost killed.

WILLOW

You don't understand what's at
play.

Z

Tell me what I don't understand.
You're my wife. You're going to be
a mother. You're a police officer.
You're supposed to be helping
people.

WILLOW

I didn't have a choice, Zara. I
was born into this. My childhood
wasn't puppies and fucking
rainbows. It was all a preparation
for this. To serve him.

Z

Preparation? To be a fucking
murderer?

Willow squeezes her hands in frustration.

Z quiets down.

Z (CONT'D)

Did you plan on killing me when we first met?

Willow slams her hands on the table.

WILLOW

No. I actually cared about you.

Z

Then what changed?

WILLOW

(points to self)

I was changing! What my parents taught me, about what I am, and what I should be. You were turning me towards a different path.

Z

You killed Courtney. My parents are gone. She was all I had left, besides you.

WILLOW

You should've died along with her. At least you would've been together.

Z

Jesus Christ, Willow. That's your excuse? Tell me, what would you have done with the baby? Without me around.

WILLOW

I don't know, Zara!

Z

No, you don't. You were willing to kill the person closest to you.

Willow turns away from Z.

Z (CONT'D)

We need to go to the police. Now. Turn yourself in, and then I can get Courtney.

WILLOW

What about the baby?

Z
I'll raise her, but Willow, you
need help. You're not the person I
married.

WILLOW
(to self)
You'll take the baby from me?

Z stands up from the table.

Z
I need your phone.

Willow hands over her phone.

Z turns around. She is fenagling with the phone for a few
moments before...

Willow emerges behind Z and plunges a knife into Z's back.

WILLOW
(insidiously)
There's no way I'm going anywhere.

Willow pulls the knife out.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
You're not taking the baby from me.

Z gasps and collapses on the floor.

Willow takes the phone.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
The way you left him. It sickened
me. You did hurt him, which I
thought wasn't possible. It'll
take some time for him to regain
strength, but I think he'll have
enough for this.

Willow walks to the table and grabs the box.

Z lays on the floor, breathing heavy, as blood seeps out of
the wound. She starts crawling away.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
We're going to play a little game.
Of course you can get a head start.
(in Latin; subtitled)
Rise father.

The lid on the box opens.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
We're ready father.

The lights turn off.

The Monster growls.

Z looks back, Willow isn't there. She takes off her shirt and wraps it around her body.

Z tries to stand up and falls.

Z
Come on. I'm not dying today. Get
up. Get up now!

In front of Z stands Amy.

Z (CONT'D)
Amy, how'd you get here?

Amy smiles.

AMY
I go where it goes.

Z
I can't stand up.

AMY
You're okay. I'll be back.

Amy moves to the sink, finding a flashlight in the shelving underneath. She returns to Z.

AMY (CONT'D)
I know it hurts, but you need to
stand. I can try and help.

Z struggles but ultimately stands up.

Z
Okay, okay. The back door.

AMY
Let's go.

The Monster enters the kitchen.

Z shines the flashlight into its eyes.

The Monster remains unmoved.

WILLOW (O.S.)

Your light won't help you this time. You see, when you bashed in my father's face, his eyes became less sensitive. He can still hear you though, so it's best to be quiet.

Z limps backwards as the Monster advances.

In the distance, POLICE SIRENS approach.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

What is going on?

The Monster turns around curious of the siren sounds.

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM

Willow takes out her phone and looks at the text messages, seeing a recent one to Willow's co-worker Dave reading: "Zara snd hlp plz dont respond."

WILLOW

You bitch. Okay, okay, have to go. Now.

Willow takes out the box and walks up to the Monster, her father.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I need you to go back in here. We need to leave.

The Monster disappears into the box.

Z collapses.

Willow looks at Z.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

We'll be back for you soon.

Willow leaves out the back door.

MOMENTS LATER

A KNOCK at the door.

DAVE (O.S.)

Zara, are you in there? Hello?

Z
 (yells)
 I can't move.

Z winces in pain.

DAVE (O.S.)
 The door is locked.

Amy kneels next to the Z.

AMY
 I got this.

Z
 How are you here?

AMY
 Rest.

The front door opens.

DAVE BERMAN, a police officer rushes into the kitchen.

DAVE
 Zara?

Z's eyes close.

DAVE (INTO RADIO) (CONT'D)
 We need an ambulance.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Z wakes up in the hospital bed, achy.

Dave is sitting in the chair. He is a young, Black man with a bald head. His bicep muscles are pushing on his shirt.

DAVE
 How are you feeling?

Z
 Like shit, Dave.

DAVE
 (chuckles)
 I guess you would. You had a nasty wound.

Z

Have you seen Willow?

DAVE

No, we have people trying to look for her. I tried calling, there was no answer. You think she'd hurt the baby?

Z

No. That's one thing I know she wouldn't dare do.

DAVE

And just so you're aware, we have Baxter at the station. Found him roaming the streets last night.

Z

I didn't even think about him last night. My mind was...

DAVE

You don't have to explain. He's safe.

Z tries to move, but the pain stops her.

Z

You really saved me last night.

DAVE

Of course. You think you can fill me in on what's going on? Willow did this?

Z

Dave, I need your help.

DAVE

Sure.

Dave's phone rings.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Let me step out and take this. Be right back.

Dave leaves the room as an OLDER NURSE (60) walks in. The Nurse, although elderly, moves around with a pep in her step.

NURSE

How are you feeling?

Z
Better. The pain is still there.

NURSE
With that knife injury, the pain will be there for awhile. If she wanted to kill you, she certainly didn't do the job. I'll get you some meds.

The Nurse leaves the room.

Z looks where Dave was sitting to see Amy.

Z
Amy, how are you here?

AMY
Not really sure. I was stuck in that house, but it seems when we were let out into your house, I was let go.

Z
Add it to the list of things I don't have answers for.

AMY
If it wasn't for you and your sister, I'd still be there.

Z
I told you I'd help.

Amy smiles.

Z (CONT'D)
I think you should go find your parents.

AMY
Not sure how they'd respond to seeing their dead daughter returned.

Z laughs, but she groans. She grabs her side.

Z
Ow, that was painful.

Amy walks over to the hospital bed.

Amy grabs Z's hand.

AMY

Thank you for everything.

Amy kisses Z's forehead.

Dave enters the room.

DAVE

We're you talking to someone?

Z looks to Dave before looking back to where Amy was standing. Amy is no longer there.

Z

Just myself. Can I see your phone for a few moments. I need to call someone.

Dave hands Z his phone.

Z pulls up the Lux Virtus Church phone number and dials.

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

Hello?

Z (INTO PHONE)

Hi, this is Zara. I called last night, but we got disconnected.

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

Yes, I was worried. We tried calling back but no one answered.

Z (INTO PHONE)

It was my wife.

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

The Sunrise Cult are very nasty people. Smart, ruthless, and can hide anywhere.

Z

I'm scared, and I don't know what to do. She's pregnant and I'm scared for the baby.

CHURCH OWNER (V.O.)

They won't hurt the baby. I'll do what I can to help, but I hope you're ready for this. We've been going after these people for years and years, and we can't get a hold on them.

Z (INTO PHONE)
I'm ready. For my sister and my
baby. I need to stop whatever is
going on.

Z hangs the phone up. She hands the phone back to Dave.

Z looks towards the window.

Z (CONT'D)
I'm going to need your help, Dave.
To find Willow and figure out
everything that happened to me. I
can't do it alone.

DAVE
Alright, where do we start?

INT. HOSPITAL STORE ROOM

The Nurse pulls out her cellphone and dials a number.

NURSE (INTO PHONE)
She's here and looks like she has
police help now. In a few days she
won't be here. This is your mess.
Clean it up.

The Nurse looks out the door, checking to see if anyone is
around.

NURSE (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
I thought we prepared you better
than this. This is sloppy. You
don't have a lot of time. I've got
to go. Figure it out before they
find you.

The Nurse hangs up the phone and leaves the room. She moves
her hair off her shirt collar to reveal a pin with a sun and
interlocking rays.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE IN THE WOODS, HALLWAY

Willow sits on the ground next to Courtney's headless body.

WILLOW
Good-bye mother.

FADE OUT.