

RAINING BLOOD

written by

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OVER BLACK

CONSTANT HEAVY RAIN.

BREATHING: Hurried. Desperate.

EXT. DENSE WOODS - HEAVY RAIN - NIGHT

The feet of three panicked campers trample the drenched woods.

VALERIE, 20, petite and tenacious, leads with wide-eye focus as **STEVE, 21**, high-school football champ, supports his limping best friend, **JACKSON, 20**, who's bleeding from his head.

JACKSON

What the hell was that?--

STEVE

Stay with me man--

CRACK! Twigs break nearby.

VALERIE

Wait!...

She stops to peer through low-hanging branches. Steve's wide eyes keep lookout. Jackson pants for air when he settles into--

SNAP-CLANK!

A RUSTY BEAR TRAP!

Jackson's ankle snaps in two --

HIS SCREAMS PIERCE THROUGH THE POURING RAIN!

Out of the marshy shadows stomps a hooded, HULKING FIGURE. The gleam of a GNARLY AXE swooshes around his head and--

CHOPS into Jackson's gut!

The BURLY KILLER hurls Jackson to the ground, STOMPS on his wound, then RIPS the axe out of Jackson's body.

BLOOD SPLATTERS across Valerie's and Steve's SCREAMING faces.

The Killer steadies that bloody axe in his large, beefy hands as the LIGHTNING FLASHES reveal his face--

A SMILING-FACE MASK WITH REALISTIC SKIN AND BLACKED-OUT EYES.

TITLE: RAINING BLOOD

STEVE VALERIE
 JACKSON!!-- Stop!!!

Steve lunges at the Killer as Valerie fights to hold him back.
 The Killer starts towards the two when Jackson grabs his leg.

JACKSON
 Get her out of here!

The Killer turns back to Jackson. He winds up that heavy axe...

JACKSON
 RUUNNNN!!

SLAM! CRACK! The Killer chops. Over and over until Jackson's
 screams dissipate. Blood splashes up into the pouring rain.

STEVE VALERIE
 Motherfucker! WE HAVE TO GO!

Valerie forces Steve away and they BOLT through the woods.

The Killer yanks his axe out of Jackson's mangled corpse and
 BELTS OUT A BATTLE CRY into the stormy night.

EXT. DEEPER IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Steve and Valerie tear through the rain as if their lives
 depend on it. Thunder CRACKS. Lightning FLASHES--

The 1980's RED PICKUP TRUCK is just ahead, parked on the side
 of a dirt road. Valerie picks up the pace.

VALERIE
 Almost there!

Steve looks back through the trees.

In the LIGHTNING FLASHES, The Killer stalks them with his
 bloody axe in chopping grip.

STEVE
 Fuck!

Steve kicks into gear, jerking Valerie's hand behind him...

INT./EXT. TRUCK - DENSE WOODS - RAIN - NIGHT

Steve opens the cab door.

STEVE
 Get in!

Valerie dives in and slides over to the passenger seat as the heavy rain patters on the metal roof.

Steve reaches behind the seat and pulls out a SHOTGUN CASE.

VALERIE

What are you doing?!

He unzips the case and struggles two rounds into the gun.

VALERIE

JesusChristSteve get in the
fucking truck.

He throws the keys at Valerie and slams the door.

STEVE

Go on! Get out of here!

He cocks the gun and turns to stand his ground when -- A FLASH OF LIGHTNING REVEALS THE KILLER RUNS UP WITH AXE RAISED!

VALERIE

STEEEEEEVE!!!

CRACK!

The axe SLICES into Steve's rib cage.

BANG!!

The gun fires as Steve is SLAMMED against the truck's door.

WHIP-CRACK again into Steve. The truck rocks with brute force. Steve SPEWS BLOOD across the window. He drops the shotgun.

VALERIE

NOOO!! MOTHER... FUCKER...

The Killer tosses Steve aside, eyeing Valerie in the window.

Steve sputters, claws at the ground, desperate to get away. The Killer DRIVES the axe into him. He just. Keeps. Chopping.

Finally, Steve is dead. The Killer catches his breath when--

CREAK-- Killer whips around. Truck door hangs open. Empty Cab.

SHICK-SHICK.

VALERIE (O.S.)

Hey, asshole!

Killer turns around -- BANG! They both go down: The Killer with a forceful THUD, and Valerie from the blast.

She gasps for air, coughing through the pain. Struggling to her feet, she forces herself toward the downed killer, dragging the gun behind her. With a burst of strength, she lifts it, aiming at that creepy mask—and pulls the trigger!

CLICK... CLICK-CLICK-CLICK-- It's out of bullets.

VALERIE

SHIT!

She grabs the barrel, whips the gun over her head, and with a VALKYRIE WAR CRY, BEATS THE KILLERS FACE WITH THE GUN'S HILT.

SLAM! OVER and OVER until that mask is covered in blood.

Valerie stumbles back to her feet.

She gulps in fresh air.

The shotgun slips out of her grasp.

Rain cascades down her face as her trembling hands brush back her hair. After a solemn exhale, her gaze shifts--

There, just feet away lies... that GNARLY AXE.

Her chest rises and falls, slower now, as she drags the axe to the Killer's body. She stands over him, the weight of revenge etched into every rain-soaked inch of her face.

She muscles the axe into her arms, ready to strike, when--

KILLER

(spitting up blood)

You were supposed to be mine!

Valerie's breath catches. She fumbles the heavy axe, stumbling back. That voice—familiar, twisted. It can't be...

The Killer removes his mask: A man in his mid-20s. His face is covered in blood, but, she clearly recognizes him.

VALERIE

Jimmy... Not you...

The Killer coughs up blood. His broken fingers reach out for Valerie's feet, but he can't muster the strength to grab them.

KILLER

I always loved you...

Unraveled, Valerie bursts into tears.

VALERIE

No--I trusted you!!!

His grubby hands rake in wet leaves. He's slow to move, but barely grazes Valerie's red-splattered boots.

Valerie's tears flow as her grip tightens around that axe.

KILLER

Trust me now...

Valerie shifts her footing. She braces that axe on her chest and forces it into the air, ready to end this fucker.

VALERIE

Fuck... YOU!!!

The Killer's eyes shoot open. His hands brace for impact.

That axe is too heavy. Valerie loses her balance and stumbles-- The Killer lifts his large boot and KICKS VALERIE!-- She falls back. Her head CRACKS against a large rock.

Both bodies lay silent a few feet from each other.

The constant spattering of rain fills the air.

After a moment, The Killer weazes and tries to move. He turns himself over and drags his body across the wet ground.

Valerie lays motionless as The Killer tactfully approaches.

Blood flows from her head, pooling around that rock, but behind her, The Killer crawls into view and rolls onto his back.

His wheezing worsens. He reaches out for Valerie's face and rolls her onto her back. He gently grabs and holds her hand.

They both lay under the falling rain like a fucked-up Norman Rockwell painting.

Valerie's eyes pop open. Wide-staring, they scan the woods landing on The Killer. He watches the blood flow out of her.

VALERIE

I... don't wanna die...

The Killer lowers that creepy mask back over his face.

Valerie cries in pain -- She can't move her body. Choking on blood and falling rain, she SCREAMS herself hoarse.

VALERIE

HEEEELLPP!! Somebody...

The Killer's hand stretches out until it reaches and grabs--

THAT GNARLY AXE.

Valerie writhes in pain. She summons all of her will to scream:

VALERIE
HEEEELLLLPPP MEEEEEEEE!!!

The Killer lifts the axe, raising it high as the rain cascades off the blade. It arcs downward—Straight for Valerie's wide, screaming face...

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN YARD - AFTERNOON

A simple axe blade chops into a piece of wood on a stump.

SUPER: **THIRTY YEARS LATER**

It's a peaceful, sunny day in the idyllic woods. **JAMES RIVERS, mid 50s**, haggard and worn into his reclusive life, stands up as the setting sun through the trees grazes his watery eyes.

There's a large scar brandished down his leathery face.

He's quiet and slow, reaching down to pick up another wedge of wood. He places it on the large stump.

His blistered, meaty hand grabs his simple axe.

He approaches the stump... takes a moment to raise that axe...

There's a distant echo of HEAVY RAIN falling in his head -- His eyes water -- His face constricts -- His hands twitch --

VALERIE (O.S.)
NOOO!!

A tear falls from James' eye as his shaky grip tightens on the axe handle, slowly forcing it over his head...

His breathing stutters. He has to muster the strength...

VALERIE (O.S.)
I trusted you!!!

James confronts that pain -- Releasing a guttural SCREAM from deep within his soul, he heaves the axe over his head...

Just as the axe connects with the wood block --

EXT. TRUCK - DENSE WOODS - NIGHT

The gnarly wood axe cuts Valerie's SCREAMING face in half!

INTERCUT

James, with enraged tears, raises the axe again and chops --

The Killer stands over Valerie's body, chopping into it with passionate ferocity.....as James chops wood.

HEAVE -- CHOP!

Blood splatters the pickup truck.....James screams in pain.

HEAVE -- CHOP!

The Killer stumbles back and SCREAMS INTO THE POURING RAIN.
.....James SCREAMS till his hoarse voice gives out.

EXT. CABIN YARD - LATE AFTERNOON

Tears paint James' face. He stumbles, reeling from the sight of the chopped wood blocks spattering that old stump. He throws his axe to the ground. He struggles to take in a deep breath.

Pulling a red cloth from his back pocket, James dries his eyes.

This was not his first flashback.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

James, stoic and lost in his dark memories, unloads wood blocks from a wheelbarrow onto his front porch.

BARK-BARK!!

He jumps into a defensive stance as...

A healthy and friendly MEDIUM-SIZED DOG runs out of the trees, bouncing through the yard, and jumps right up on James.

JAMES

Whoa-whoa-- Hold up...

The dog's tail wags. He rolls around. Excited to be alive. James kneels and pets the dog, searching for a name tag.

JAMES

Hey-hey-hey, alright... come here.
Who'd you run away from, huh?--

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mac!! MacReady, come here, boy!

James' face goes cold as he stands, focusing on the woods, where a couple of DAY HIKERS walk out of the trees.

SEAN, 32, bearded with glasses, a hiker "know-it-all" with an REI membership in his pocket. And, **SARAH, 30**, Southern Charm, bright smile, overly happy to be outside in the sun.

SEAN

MacReady-- There you are, buddy!

MACREADY barks as James locks his eyes on these strangers.

SARAH

(Sleight Southern Bell)

Aww, you just made the new best friend you didn't know you wanted. Come here, Mac! Don't worry, he won't hurt ya, he loves everyone.

James' hands quiver as he slowly stands back up.

SEAN

He got away from us back there.

(Catches his breath)

Whew... glad we came across somebody, we seemed to have gotten turned around somewhere near the--

JAMES

Stop! Don't take one more step!

SEAN

Hey, we come in peace, man, just tryin to get some directions--

JAMES

There are bear traps all around you. Spring loaded. Ready to snap-- Stop. Where. You. Are.

Sean and Sarah stop and look around their feet...

Sure enough, they can see rusty bear traps tucked away under branches, covered in dirt, tied down with old, thick chains.

SEAN

Watch your feet, Sarah.

SARAH

Holy shit... Come here, Mackie!

MacReady joyfully runs back through the yard, and jumps up on Sarah's legs, showering her with kisses.

JAMES

Dog's lucky he got through in one piece. Damn-near take his leg clean off... It'd be a shame.

SEAN

Look, we lost sight of the trail. Could you help us get to the road?

There's a rumble of distant thunder. James notices the clouds. He clenches his fists, as if to fear the change in humidity.

JAMES

It gets nasty around here after dark, 'specially in the rain...

SARAH

Sean, maybe we should just go.

SEAN

(To James)

Can't be too far off, right? Could we use your phone and call the Park Ranger to come get us?

James can see the oncoming storm.

JAMES

Ranger don't come out this way.

A loud THUNDER CRACK jolts both day hikers back.

James steps off his porch, focusing on the changing sky.

He bends down and grips his axe handle so tight that we can hear his thick, callus skin squeak from friction.

Rain droplets fall around Sean and Sarah, startling MacReady.

One strikes James' face. With a sudden grimace, he stands and backs onto his porch. His gaze falling back to the hikers.

JAMES

Go on! Get off my property!

Sean and Sarah back up, slow and steady.

SEAN

Alright, come on, babe...

(To James)

Got it. On our way. Thanks!

SARAH
Come'on, Mac. Let's go.

MacReady barks and runs ahead, back into the woods. Sarah glances back over her shoulder as they walk away...

James holds his stare on the two of them, locking eyes with Sarah, with a pain in his eyes that reads "I'm sorry..."

Stepping back inside, he SLAMS his cabin door.

SEAN
Sarah, we better hurry...

She eyes that cabin one more second, then catches up with Sean.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

James watches through a small window by his door as the hikers disappear back into the woods. He slows his breathing.

His grip on that axe handle still quivers.

EXT. DENSE WOODS - RAIN - NIGHT

Heavy rain batters through the overhead trees. Sean and Sarah hide under their jackets, but it's no use. They are drenched.

MacReady hovers around Sarah's legs, wet fur, miserable.

Sean can't see through his fogged glasses. He clicks his key fob into the air, searching for the flashing head lights.

They have to shout over the loud downpour.

SARAH
Are we getting any closer?

SEAN
I hope so! We gotta be!

As they trudge through the mushy terrain, off in the distance, his car horn chirps with a glimmer of flashing lights.

SEAN
Ah-Ha! We're almost there!

MacReady perks up and takes off running ahead--

SARAH
MacReady get back here!

He disappears in the brush--

SNAP! YELP YELP YELP!!!

SEAN

MAC!

They run through the brush to find MacReady caught in a modern, shiny BEAR TRAP! Brand new.

SEAN

Holy shit! Sarah, get over here!

MacReady yelps and tries to get free from that trap.

SARAH

Oh no-no-no... My baby!

SEAN

Calm him down!

Sarah kneels down by the dog, while Sean inspects the trap.

SARAH

Can you get him out of it?

SEAN

Hold him still!

MacReady yelps in pain as Sean leans onto the trap, finally disengaging it and letting the dog free.

SARAH

Oh my god, it's ok, baby...

(To Sean)

Can we please go home, now?

SEAN

Yup, come on. Watch where you step, there might be more...

Sean stands up and just as he turns around--

A MASKED KILLER IN A DARK HOODIE STEPS OUT FROM BEHIND A TREE AND DRIVES A MODERN TWO-SIDED AXE DEEP INTO SEAN'S STOMACH!

Sean HOWLS in pain!

The Killer looks at Sarah, revealing his CREEPY SMILE-FACE MASK! Similar to the one we've seen, except modern and cleaner.

Sarah hurls a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM.

SEAN

(Coughing blood)

Get out of here!

Sarah panics, picks up MacReady, and takes off running!

The Killer chases her down, swift and nimble. He grabs Sarah's hair and slams her to the ground!

Sarah drops MacReady, who barks and yelps.

The Killer KICKS THE DOG! YELP!!!

MacReady lands on his side and can't stand back up.

The Killer turns back to Sarah, who's straining to crawl away. He whips up that axe and stalks her with precision.

SEAN

Sarah! Look out!

Sarah turns back-- the Killer stands over her, watches her, cocks his head to the side (as all masked psychos do).

He raises his axe in the air... Sarah tries to back away... Sean holds his bloody stomach. He reaches out for--

SEAN

SARAH!!!

Through his fogged glasses, he watches the Killer CHOP HIS AXE INTO HER SCREAMING BODY! OVER AND OVER! BLOOD SPLATTERS.

Sarah's screams are painful, until they fade out to silence.

SEAN

You fucking monster!

The Killer stands, cracks his back, and sets his eyes on Sean.

SEAN

NO!! GET AWAY FROM ME!!!

In swift motion, the Killer, again, chops into Sean's body... over and over... violent... as if he has something to prove.

The Killer stands and relishes in what he's done, when--

A RANGER TRUCK WITH FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS parks by Sean's car.

The Killer ducks down and watches the Ranger...

The Ranger looks around with a flashlight. He slaps a sticker onto the car window, then, gets back in his truck.

The Killer watches the Ranger drive away. He hides his axe behind a tree, then, takes off running back through the woods.

The constant rain falls around... It's an eerily quiet atmosphere as MacReady grunts back to his feet.

He limps past both Sarah's and Sean's bloody body parts...

DISSOLVE TO:

From a distance, we watch MacReady limp through the woods...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CABIN YARD - RAIN - NIGHT

MacReady limps up to the familiar gates of James' cabin.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

A window shows the rainy night. A long, heavy cabinet just under the window. A dying fire crackles in the fireplace.

A whiskey tumbler, half full with melted ice, rests on the arm of a worn-in chair. Just beyond, we see the dark kitchen.

With heavy footsteps, James emerges from around the corner rubbing his forehead. He raises the whiskey to his lips, when--

He notices the dying fire. With a tired sigh, he walks to the front door.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - RAIN - NIGHT

The door opens to reveal James, looking towards the wood pile, when he finds a bloodied MacReady at his feet.

JAMES
s'Alright I gotcha...

He cuddles MacReady in his arms and stands.

He peers into the curtain of rainfall one last time. Then backs into his cabin and kicks the door closed.

INT. CABIN BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

James' hand turns the tub faucet. Water pours onto MacReady's flinching body as James calms him and inspects his wounds.

He notices the mangled leg. MacReady cries from the pain.

INT. CABIN KITCHEN - LATER

James sits with MacReady on the table. He uses his red cloth to wrap a stint around the wounded leg... MacReady flinches...

JAMES
Hold still... It's ok...

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

James gently places MacReady on a rug in front of the fireplace, followed by a bowl of water.

JAMES
Just rest here... we'll figure everything out tomorrow.

James is calm as he pets MacReady's head, then walks away.

INT. CABIN BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

James fights to sleep in his bed. It's never easy.

Through the open doorway, MacReady limps into the room. He struggles to get up onto the bed. James sits up.

JAMES
All right, come on.

He helps the dog into bed. MacReady paces around in a circle, then lays right next to James. With a deep, heavy sigh, James closes his haggard, yet, softened eyes and falls asleep.

EXT. FOREST HIGHWAY - THE NEXT MORNING

A birds-eye-view moving down a desolate highway in the woods. A POP SONG plays in the distance. TWO WOMEN playfully sing along.

A modern SUV drives into frame. The song and voices get louder.

INT. ROBBIE'S CAR - FOREST HIGHWAY - DAY

In the passenger seat, **ALISHA, 25**, red hair, heart sunglasses, care-free, dances to the song. She looks back to her best friend, **KERI, 25**, hiding her sad eyes with a song and dance.

ROBBIE, 27, quiet and focused on the road, drives with a content smile, mouthing the words while winking at Alisha.

Alisha leans over and kisses Robbie. The happy couple.

Robbie turns the music down to focus on the street signs.

ALISHA	KERI
Um, excuse me, but the song is not over...	Hey, what the hell, man? That's the best part!

ROBBIE
Yeah-yeah. What exit am I taking?

Alisha checks her phone.

ALISHA	KERI
Ugh, rude...	Freaking buzzkill ova'here...

Keri sits back and gazes out the window. This might be her first honest smile in months.

ALISHA
Uh, Chet's Peak. Did we pass it?

ROBBIE
Shit. Yup... few roads back...

He slows the car and makes a U-Turn on the highway.

ALISHA	KERI
Booo!! State troopers on their way-- WoowooWoowoo...	Hey, learn to drive, old man! WoowooWoowoo...

ROBBIE
You guys are killing me...

Alisha lowers her glasses, winks, and licks her lips.

ALISHA
Careful what you wish for, baby...

Keri's cell phone rings.

KERI
Hang on, Cassie's calling.

With an *UGH*, Alisha turns off the radio.

ROBBIE
Better hurry, we're gonna lose
signal any minute out here.

Keri answers her video call with **CASSIE, 20**, blonde pixie cut but a bit overwhelmed at the moment.

KERI
What's up, sis?

CASSIE (Video)
 Hey, Charlie's coughing and hiding
 under the tables, 'you think he's
 choking or something? Shit...

KERI
 Like he's hacking something up?
 Snorting, things like that?

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 Yeah... did I fuck up already?

KERI
 No, he's fine. He does that. Just
 let him fight through it on his
 own, happens all the time.

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 Ok, you sure? Alright, whew,
 fuckin' scared me, man.

KERI
 You can take him to mom's if--

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 Nope! I can handle it! I'm
 responsible as fuck! Where you at?
 Is it spooky? Let me see!

Keri turns her camera around out the window.

KERI
 Just a bunch'a trees...

Alisha and Robbie make spooky sounds. Keri puts them on camera.

ALISHA
 Miss ya, Cass!

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 Miss you, too, guuurrrly! Have a
 freaking blast out there!

Keri turns the camera back around.

KERI
 Thanks for watching my little guy.

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 My pleasure, bitch. You feeling
 better, yet? Getting away from all
 that drama and shit?

KERI
 I'm getting there, yeah...

A little dog barks on Cassie's end of the video call.

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 Charlie! Ugh, there's a squirrel
 at the gate. At least he's not
 hacking up a lung-- CHARLIE!
 Alright, have fun! Take pictures!

KERI
 Love you, Cassie.

CASSIE (VIDEO)
 (I love you, too)
 Oh, fuck you! Bye-eeee!

Keri relaxes back in her seat. She opens a messaging app on her phone. There's a fight with MATT, except for the latest text:

"Hey, can we chat before you get away this weekend?"

ALISHA
 Uh-uh! You did your check in call
 with yer pup, now put that thing
 away and live with the rest of us!

Keri grins and puts her phone in her backpack.

KERI
 I remember! We're "Off the grid!"

ALISHA
 OFF THE GRID!!

ROBBIE
 Off the grid!

Alisha cranks the music back up as her and Keri continue singing at the top of their lungs.

Robbie just smiles, turning the car down a long dirt road.

EXT. CABIN YARD - DAY

An old and dirty tarp is pulled off of a red, 1980's pickup truck. In fact, it's the same truck from earlier, just aged.

In the kicked-up dust, James creaks open the passenger door, walks back and picks up MacReady from his porch.

JAMES
 Come on. Let's go for a ride.

He carries the dog and places him inside the truck cab.

James grips the steering wheel... Been a long time coming. He cranks up the sputtering engine. The truck shakes a rough idle.

MacReady shifts in the passenger seat.

JAMES
Not a fan, myself, little guy.

INT. TRUCK - DIRT ROAD - DAY

James drives as MacReady breathes in the fresh air.

Along the side of the road he passes a man with a large survival backpack, **BACKPACKER, 30s**, long hair, scruffy beard.

James keeps an eye on his rearview mirror: The man joyfully marches down the road heading the same direction as James.

James turns down into a small, one-road town in the woods.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

James coasts down the road. Eyes glued straight ahead.

Townspeople notice him. And they don't like it. That truck, his presence... He's public enemy number one. They rush children to their cars, close shop windows, and murmur with hasty retreat.

INT. DINER - CONTINUOUS

At the counter the **SHERIFF**, seemingly fit for his mid 60s, reads a newspaper as the older **WAITRESS** refills his coffee cup.

Her wrinkled hand shakes... the cup almost overfills...

SHERIFF
Hey, whoa, I think that's enough.
(Snaps his fingers)
You alright?

She stops pouring the coffee just in time.

WAITRESS
I'm sorry... It's just...

Sheriff follows her gaze out the window: That red truck pulls up and parks against the curb outside the diner's doors.

SHERIFF
Well... 'Bound to happen.

EXT. DINER - DAY

The Sheriff limps with a bum knee. He surveys the surroundings.

The truck's engine sputters a rough idle. James sits with a stoic stare out the windshield, hands on the steering wheel.

Sheriff breathes a heavy sigh as he approaches James' window. He stares intimidation straight through his aviators.

JAMES

Sheriff.

SHERIFF

So... What are ya doin in town?

JAMES

Couple'a hikers found my cabin last night before rainfall--

SHERIFF

What'd you do?

JAMES

Not anything like that... This is their dog... I'll tell ya, I watched'em leave... but, this little guy showed up at my door in the middle of the night. Pretty beat up, too. Don't suppose anyone's lookin for him?

SHERIFF

Not that I heard of.

JAMES

Well... that's what happened. Seemed like nice enough people.

SHERIFF

You're not supposed to be here.

James carefully shifts his eyes to meet the Sheriff's.

JAMES

Don't wanna be here. But, since you opened up the trails--

SHERIFF

You mean since people started comin'round again? After what you did to those kids--?

SHERIFF

(Catches his anger)

I don't know about these hikers, maybe they ditched the dog. I hate it myself, but it happens. Seems we've got more pressing matters at hand, don't we? So, as far as I'm concerned, that's your dog. Now, how about you just turn this truck around and take him on home.

James looks around. Townspeople hide away from his sight.

JAMES

I'm gonna need supplies.

SHERIFF

You'll get your shipment. Twice a month as always, I'll see to it--

JAMES

For the dog.

Sheriff thinks for a second, then nods.

SHERIFF

OK, then. I'll escort you, myself.

INT. ROBBIE'S CAR - TOWN - DAY

Robbie, Alisha, and Keri scope out this one-road town. It's desolate and cold. Like an old horror movie.

ROBBIE

Submitted for the approval of the Midnight Society...

ALISHA

This place is shkeezy as fuck...
It's perfect.

Keri can sense the sadness of this town as they pull into a parking spot at the General Store. She scans the area.

Across the tiny lot: That 1980's red pickup truck. James step out from the driver seat, a mountain of a man.

He cranks open his window with long rusty creaks.

James locks eyes with the curious Keri. She watches as the Sheriff parks right next to the red truck.

SHERIFF

C'mon, let's make this quick.

He leads James into the store, as if he is in jail. Just before walking inside, James glances back at Keri... She exhales.

EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

The three campers get out of the SUV. Robbie and Alisha playfully bicker at each other as they head for the store.

<p>ROBBIE</p> <p>Do we have enough water?</p> <p>How, I only have like one bottle?</p> <p>I dunno, enough to survive?</p>	<p>ALISHA</p> <p>We have plenty of water...</p> <p>How much water do you want to lug around out there?</p> <p>Fine, then you be can be our little camel.</p>
---	--

Keri sees MacReady in the truck's front seat, panting heavily.

Alisha notices Keri heading towards the red truck.

ALISHA
Hey. Keri. What'cha doin'?

KERI
I just wanna check on this dog...

ALISHA
Of course you do...

ROBBIE
What'd'ya want to drink?

KERI
Just some bottled water, thanks.

ALISHA
Alright, Camel, let's go.

ROBBIE
I'm not a fuckin' camel...

Alisha and Robbie head inside as Keri approaches the heavily panting MacReady at the passenger side window of the red truck.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Alisha and Robbie approach the counter, where the geriatric **CLERK** keeps her vigilant attention on James and the Sheriff.

ALISHA

Hey, where can we grab some water bottles and food?... Hello?

Alisha aggressively rings the bell on the counter.

CLERK

(perks up)

What? What do you want?

ALISHA

What the hell do you think I want you mean old lady--

ROBBIE

Come on, Leesh--

ALISHA

Can you help us or not?

CLERK

(waves to an aisle)

Down there.

Clerk goes back to watching James in the dog food aisle.

ALISHA

The hospitality here is palpable.

She stomps off. Robbie hangs back with the Clerk.

ROBBIE

Do you know these tour guides? We're supposed to meet one--

CLERK

Don't know none of 'em. Couldn't pay nobody who lives 'round here to go into those woods.

EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

The BACKPACKER hikes up from the dirt road and removes his earbuds as he nears Keri at the red truck.

BACKPACKER

Your dog looks tired, like he got a good, long walk this morning.

KERI

He's dehydrated... Pretty advanced, too. I can't reach him to check his gums.

KERI

He absolutely needs some water and
a hospital.

BACKPACKER

(Digs into his backpack)
Here, see if you can feed this
through the crack...

He pulls a long straw attachment fed through the straps of his
backpack and reconnects it to his large water bottle.

Keri steps back as the Backpacker sucks some water through the
straw then feeds it through the window crack. Water drips into
the cab's interior, and MacReady cautiously laps it up.

Keri is impressed with this stranger's quick thinking.

BACKPACKER

Always have to be prepared out
here. You never know what's
waiting around the corner.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Alisha and Robbie impatiently wait behind James and the Sheriff
as the Clerk tallies up all the dog food and supplies.

SHERIFF

I'm sorry, again, for the, uh,
inconvenience, but, thanks for
pushing us through with haste.

CLERK

I don't want him in my store,
Sheriff. I'm tempted to call it a
loss and just let ya leave.

SHERIFF

No, we'll make she he pays
everything he owes... won't we...

The Sheriff pats James on the shoulder. But, James' gaze lands
on Alisha trying on sunglasses. Robbie nudges her attention.

ROBBIE

Jesus...

ALISHA

(Catches his cold stare)
Ugh... See anything you like?

James scowls at her. Clicks his mouth.

CLERK
Sixty-Five dollars, Sheriff.

Sheriff snaps for James' attention.

SHERIFF
Alright. Pay the nice woman.
(To Alisha and Robbie)
You're planning on seeing some of
the trails out here, I hope.

James pays with cash and grabs the grocery bags.

JAMES
Let's go.

SHERIFF
Thanks, again, Nance. You folks
have fun out there. Be safe.
Appreciate ya coming on through.

Alisha lowers her sunglasses, and with her sass, flicks her middle finger behind James' back as the Sheriff leads him out.

EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

As James exits, he glares at Keri and Backpacker at the truck. He drops the bags, clenches his fists, stomps towards them.

JAMES
(Enraged)
Get away from that dog!

Backpacker raises his hands, But Keri stands her ground.

BUTTON SNAP!

SHERIFF
Ah-ah!

Sheriff pops latch on his belt and hovers his hand on his gun. James stops in his tracks. He holds his eyes on these kids.

SHERIFF
How about we calm down, now, huh?

Alisha and Robbie walk out just in time to see the standoff.

JAMES
Get them away from my truck,
Sheriff.

SHERIFF

I'll handle it, you just stay put.
 (Beat)
 Why don't you folks just back on
 away from the nice man's truck...

Backpacker moves over to the General Store's porch. But, Keri, defiant in her stance, peers *through* James... unafraid.

SHERIFF

Go ahead and get yer groceries.

James holds his stare, then, clicks his mouth. He unclenches his fists, turns, grabs his bags, and walks them to the truck.

He places the bags in the truck bed and pulls out a water bottle and a small cup.

KERI

Your dog is severely dehydrated.
 He needs medical attention.

JAMES

(No shit.)
 Yeah... thanks...

He climbs into the cab and offers the cup to MacReady, who slowly laps up the water. James scowls back at the Sheriff.

Sheriff re-clips his gun and limps over to the truck window.

SHERIFF

Enough excitement for today. How
 'bout we get you out of my town.
 (Walking to his car)
 You folks enjoy the trails. It's a
 beautiful day. Get to where you're
 goin before nightfall, alright?
 Rain is something else out there.

James starts up the sputtering truck. He glares at the campers as he backs up and then drives off down the road.

Sheriff's car trails behind James, waving the campers goodbye.

ALISHA

Hey Keri, who's your friend?

The Backpacker perks up, realizes he never introduced himself.

BACKPACKER

Oh, I'm Ty. Which one's Alisha?

Backpacker is now **TY**.

Alisha waves with a finger roll and a cheeky smirk.

Robbie extends his hand.

ROBBIE

Robbie.

He pulls out a piece of paper as he shakes Robbie's hand.

TY

Alright, cool. So we got Robbie,
Alisha, and... Keri, right?

KERI

Yeah, thanks for helping out back
there. Sorry it got heated...

TY

Naw, it's totally cool, you saw an
animal in need and jumped to help.
Just gotta be careful on the
trails, make sure we chat before
you help a baby bear.

Keri grins and nods. There's a brief awkward silence.

ALISHA

OK, great. Can we go?

Ty counts their heads on his list. He's a bit confused as they
all climb into the SUV and close the doors.

INT. ROBBIE'S CAR - MOMENT'S LATER

As they pull out of the parking lot--

TY

We're missing someone, yeah?
Where's, uh, Matt?

Alisha cringes and slowly turns back in her seat...

KERI

(betrayed)
What the fuck?!

ALISHA

Surprise?

EXT. TRAIL PARKING - DAY

Another car sits in the lot against the tree-trunk posts as Robbie's SUV pulls up. A set of legs jump from post to post.

This is **MATT, 27**, dark hoodie, lanky frame with black fingernails, anime t-shirt, and beanie covering most of his floppy hair. He flashes the friendliest, goofy smile.

INT. ROBBIE'S CAR - DAY

ROBBIE

Look at this guy...

ALISHA

(rambling)

It was totally last minute, Kare. He freaking begged me and I-- I mean, he's my own brother and I can't even resist him. But, I put my foot down on him riding with us! I'm sorry, do you hate me?

Keri sits, annoyed. Yeah, she does kinda hate Alisha for this.

KERI

(It's fucked up)

It's fine...

ALISHA

(Smiles)

Oh, good! We'll have fun!

They pull up right next to Matt.

EXT. TRAIL PARKING - DAY

Robbie pops out and lunges into a big bro-hug with Matt.

Alisha follows right behind, but, Keri and Ty hang back, pulling hiking gear out of the car.

MATT

Hey, buddy!

ROBBIE

The legend lives!

MATT

What up, sis?!

ALISHA
 (A warm hug)
 What up, bro! I don't know how you
 drove alone, I'd be bored as fuck.

MATT
 I'm never alone up here.
 (points at his head)

Ty slides into his backpack approaches Matt, hand outstretched.

TY
 Hey Matt, I'm Ty. I'll be leading
 you through the woods.

Matt is focused on Keri behind him, locking up the SUV .

MATT
 Hey, alright, Ty. Excuse me.
 (Side steps Ty)
 Hey, Keri...

Keri muscles into her backpack, avoiding eye contact.

KERI
 Hi.

She stomps past Matt as if he wasn't even there.

ROBBIE
 (Leans into Alisha)
 Awk-ward...

Alisha elbows his ribcage... oof!

TY
 (Stands at the posts)
 Ok, campers! A few ground rules
 before heading out. Numero Uno:
 Stick by me. My job is to keep you
 all safe this weekend, and I
 haven't gotten a bad review, yet.
 Rule Number Dos: Stay on the
 trails. Don't wander off,
 especially once it starts raining.
 And it WILL rain. Rule Number
 Trace: Have fun! You guys wanna
 see nature? Get some pics for your
 Instas? Take a look around. If
 you're unsure about anything, see
 Rule Numero Uno! Alright? Good?
 Cool? Let's roll!

Ty starts hiking the trail. Robbie and Alisha slowly follow.

ROBBIE

Where'd you find this guy?

ALISHA

Reviews said he had a lot of energy. You got a problem with that, babe? See Rule Numero Uno.

Matt tries to hang back with Keri.

MATT

Hey, you wanna chat real quick?

KERI

(Avoids him)

Nope.

Leaving Matt standing alone, Keri brushes past both Alisha and Robbie and catches up to Ty.

ALISHA

(Looks back at Matt)

Hey! Come on... keep up.

With a smile almost as sweet as a puppy, Matt pulls on his backpack and catches up to Alisha and Robbie.

MATT

This guy my replacement?

ALISHA

Not yet...

INT. PARK RANGER TRUCK - WOODS - DAY

The **PARK RANGER, 40's**, happily plays his steering wheel like a drum while listening to the same pop song we heard earlier.

He pulls up on the Day Hikers' car from last night, still parked in the same spot on the side of the road.

He lowers the volume.

RANGER

Huh...

(Into Walkie)

Hey, Janet? Did you ever hear back about that car I found last night?

JANET (WALKIE)

No, nothing came through about it.

RANGER

Copy. I'll take a look.

EXT. DENSE WOODS - DAY

The Ranger gets out of his truck and inspects the car. His sticker is still in tact. Nobody's been through here.

RANGER
 (Into Walkie)
 Hey, Janet, we might want to notify the Sheriff. Looks like we have some people lost in the woods. This car hasn't moved since last night, and it rained pretty heavy out here...

JANET (WALKIE)
 Heard that. Let me see if I can get a hold of his office.

Ranger pulls out a pair of binoculars and looks into the woods: It's quiet. Just trees for miles... wait--

There's a backpack in a nearby clearing...

RANGER
 Hello?! Anyone out there?!

He walks into the brush and makes his way down to the clearing. A putrid smell attacks his nostrils.

RANGER
 Ugh, what is that...

As he gets closer into the heavily-wooded area--

THERE'S BLOOD SPLATTER ALL OVER THE BUSHES.

RANGER
 What the fuck...
 (peers around)
 Hello?! If you can hear me, please respond.

He walks through some heavy bushes--

A SEVERED FOOT -- A BROKEN LEG -- A BLOODIED HAND WITH TWISTED FINGERS HOLDING ONTO THAT BACKPACK -- FLIES AND ANTS ON THE SEVERED HEAD OF SARAH.

RANGER
 Shit! Shit-shit-shit!
 (Fumbles walkie)
 J-Janet... Janet, come back!

There's a shuffle in the twigs nearby. Ranger stops where he stands... A painful, tender COUGH escapes through the brush...

Ranger perks up and trudges over to the sound a yard or two away, where he finds... SEAN HACKED TO PIECES, BARELY ALIVE.

RANGER

Hey! Hang in there, buddy--
fuck...

(Pulls out his canteen)

Here, drink some water.

Sean can't move. He's dying... should be dead.

SEAN

The... face...

RANGER

(Into Walkie)

Janet, we got a hiker, 10-33.

(To Sean)

I gotcha, buddy. You're gonna be
alright, I'm here.

Ranger goes to grab Sean's hand, but -- It was HACKED OFF.

RANGER

Fuck! Hang in there, alright?

Sean coughs the last bit of blood as the Ranger leans down.

SEAN

His face... that... smile...

Sean dies. Ranger's eyes grow with terrified realization.

RANGER

(Into walkie)

J-Jan-- Janet... fuck...

JANET (Walkie)

Hey, I'm here. Dispatch says
Sheriff's out on an important
detail--

RANGER

(Into walkie)

Get him the fuck down here! He's
fuckin' back. He's killing again--
Jimmy Rivers is back!

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - DAY

On Radio:

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 Sheriff?... Sheriff, we got a
 10-33, come back... Sheriff?!...
 He's not answering, Sheriff?...
 10-33 10-35, Come back, Sheriff...

Out Windshield:

The Red Truck is backing into the cabin's front yard.

EXT. CABIN YARD - DAY

Sheriff kneels in front of the gate, inspecting the bear traps. He doesn't have his walkie on him, oblivious to the calls.

James steps out of the truck and glances at the Sheriff. With a heavy sigh, he SLAMS his truck door closed.

Sheriff pops up, hovering outside the gate.

SHERIFF
 Get a lot of bears around here?

James carries the grocery bags to his porch.

JAMES
 Nope.

SHERIFF
 Ah... so, this is a preventative
 measure...

James ignores the question, not one for small talk. He creaks open the truck door and picks up MacReady.

SHERIFF
 Hey, we should catch up a bit. Go
 ahead and put yer dog down and
 come on over.

Hesitant, James puts MacReady on the porch and walks over.

SHERIFF
 Look, I don't much know a better
 way to put it than to just come on
 out with it, so, I want you to
 understand my austerity. You and
 I... we know what you did.

SHERIFF

Those people back there, they know what you did. Now, as I understand it, yer daddy's lawyers did a fine job way back when, so, legally, we can't do nothin' about it. And, that's just where we stand. But, my job is to hold order in that peaceful town. And, I can't very well do that if you wander in whenever you get the feelin'. I know I was clear when I asked you to stay away. We allow you to have this land, this privacy, this--

JAMES

Prison.

SHERIFF

Well, if that's how you wanna call it, then sure. Either way, it protects all of us. Now, I'm not gonna ask anymore, I'm gonna tell ya: stay outta town. You get your supply shipments twice-a month, and if you're needing something extra, you just write a little note and place it here on this strong gate of yers. I know I can't threaten ya with anything, so I won't. But, should you roll through disturbin' my peace... Like you did today... Well, maybe I won't be there to stop the folks from pursuing a little frontier justice... if you, catch my subtleties. What do you say, can we agree to that much?

James breathes in the air. He glances around the calm woods...

JAMES

Sure.

SHERIFF

Well, that's just great. Music to my ears. And, I know I can trust you, right?

James spits on the ground... then nods his head yes.

SHERIFF

That's good enough for me.

SHERIFF
 (Walks back to his car)
 I hope everything works out with
 your dog in there.

He opens his car door and turns back once more.

SHERIFF
 (Have a good day)
 Mr. Rivers.

JAMES
 Sheriff.

James turns back to his cabin, on his way to pick up MacReady.

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Sheriff settles in his seat with a hearty sigh when--

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 Sheriff? I repeat, 10-33. We're
 gonna need you to respond, Pete.

SHERIFF
 (Grabs walkie)
 This is yer Sheriff, come back.
 What's the situation, over?

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 Forest Ranger called in a 10-33,
 couple'a hikers, chopped up, just
 like Jimmy Rivers, sir. He's been
 calling for some assistance, ASAP.

Sheriff watches James strain to bend over and pick up MacReady
 off his porch. Barely nimble enough to make it up his steps...

SHERIFF
 Yeah, Roger that. I'm gonna look
 into it. Over and out.

EXT. CABIN YARD - CONTINUOUS

Sheriff steps out of his car--

SHERIFF
 Hey, James. Got a question for ya.

James stops before entering his cabin, with the dog limp in his
 arms, and turns back to acknowledge the Sheriff.

SHERIFF

Only gonna ask ya once... Did you head out at all last night, even just for a jog around the way?

JAMES

(Without hesitation)

Nope.

Sheriff studies him for a second and ponders to himself.

SHERIFF

(I believe you)

Alright. Thanks.

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

He sits down and backs the car out of the yard.

SHERIFF

(Into Walkie)

Yeah, why don't you go ahead and give me those coordinates. I'm heading over there, now.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - CONTINUOUS

James watches the Sheriff drive off through the woods when MacReady shifts in his arms.

JAMES

Ok, I gotcha now.

He looks back once more... Why the question? Why the rush?

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The group of campers stomp through the woods on a long trail.

Ty leads the way, with Keri close behind, focused on the vast woods, avoiding her ex, Matt, walking with the group.

Glancing back, Ty notices a tear resting on Keri's eye. He digs into his large backpack and pulls out a ziplock bag of tissues.

TY

(Hands her a tissue)

Here, you don't want to attract dust, it'll hurt more when you try to scratch it away.

KERI
 (Takes the tissue)
 Always prepared, huh?

TY
 Gotta be. There's a whole world
 out there, part of the fun is
 being ready to tackle it.

Keri smiles as she wipes her eyes.

Matt notices their interaction. He's about to run to catch up
 when Alisha grabs his arm.

ALISHA
 Give her some time. Trust me when
 I say, you don't want to come off
 too strong. She'll come around.

MATT
 You don't think this'll be a
 problem?

ALISHA
 Nah... Who, Ty? What's he got that
 you don't have... besides the
 burly exterior of a man who's
 lived a life outside of video
 games and getting high all day...
 what can he offer?

Alisha smiles her obvious sass at her big brother.

ROBBIE
 Stick to the plan, my man. We're
 on your side.

Matt settles his stride and watches Keri talk with Ty.

KERI
 Did you grow up around here?

TY
 No, been here once, though. About
 twenty years ago... But I know
 woods. They're all the same.

Matt can't take it. He runs to catch up right when--

KERI
 Were you in the army?

TY
 Eh... Air Force, but, not really.
 Got injured early on--

MATT

Oh, man, you were in the Air Force? That's cool. Must have been one hell of a time you had in there. Hey, you mind if I steal Keri for a sec?

Keri just glares at Matt. Ty smiles.

KERI

(To Ty)

Sorry...

TY

No need. Just try to keep up.

MATT

Yeah, no worries... man...

Keri hangs back with Matt.

KERI

I don't have anything to say to--

MATT

Yeah, but I have something to say, so, just hear me out alright?

Keri stops walking and folds her arms. Alisha and Robbie catch up and pass them on the trail.

ALISHA

Don't you two go disappearing on us or anything.

They catch up to Ty so Matt and Keri can walk together.

KERI

Well, like usual, you got what you want. What up, Matt...?

MATT

I'm sorry. Ok? I was a complete jerk, and, I realized how much I truly fucked up this time.

KERI

Fucking understatement, but, ya...

MATT

I deserve that. I deserve the cold shoulder, I deserve to be ignored, all of it. And I even decided to get some help with it this time.

KERI
 (yeah right)
 Really?

MATT
 I did. I learned that if I just
 put my energy into something else,
 something physical, then maybe I
 can curb my anger a bit. So, I
 took some classes on meditation.

KERI
 That's horse shit--

MATT
 Naw, it's true! I actually sat
 with my legs crossed and all. I
 was the only one in there draped
 in black, but, fuck-it, right?

Keri hates that she chuckled at that anecdote.

MATT
 Nothing's been the same since our
 step-dad died. It brought up all
 these memories of all the fights
 we ever had... all the times he
 put his hands on Leesh...
 (Gets lost in his story)
 Huh, I laughed at his funeral.
 Asshole got what he deserved.

KERI
 Jesus, Matt--

MATT
 (Snaps back to reality)
 My point is I let that shit take
 over and didn't know how to
 process my anger. I'm sorry I took
 it out on you, and Charlie. But,
 you know what, I meant it when I
 said I loved you. From the very
 first time, till the very last
 time. You gave me something to
 care for, and in return, I
 protected you. I was good to you--

KERI
 No. That is not how this works!

Keri stops Matt in his tracks. The other three turn back at the
 sound of her assertiveness.

KERI (CONT'D)

You don't get to just show up and tell me you're "sorry" for being an abusive asshole. I'm here to get away... from you! From the stress you put me through on a daily fucking basis.. I needed a break, so, of course Good-old Buddy Matt just waltzes in here as if you the world owes him. And you expect me to just roll over and accept it? You need to find a better therapist, because that's fucking delusional--

She turns around into a BIG FUCKING SPIDER'S WEB.

MATT

Hey, watch out!

He grabs her arm just as Ty runs down the trail to pluck the large yellow spider off of Keri's face.

TY

Alright, just a banana spider, it won't hurt ya...

He pulls a gnarly bowie knife out of his backpack.

KERI

Oh-my-god get it off, get it the fuck off!!

TY

Sh-sh-sh, calm down, I got him...

With the flat side on Keri's face, the banana spider walks onto the blade. Keri calms her breathing... Matt watches in awe.

TY

These guys aren't dangerous. They may bite, but they don't have any poison.

MATT

Aren't you gonna kill it?

TY

Nah, no need. Remember, we're wandering around in his home...
(Places knife on ground)
Go on, little fella. We're just passing through.

Robbie and Alisha watch the ordeal.

ALISHA
Isn't that cute...

ROBBIE
Sexy as fuck. I'm about ready to
leave you for that guy, babe.

Alisha elbows Robbie in the ribcage... He laughs in pain.

ALISHA
(Big smile)
You wouldn't dare...

TY
(Checking over Keri)
You good to go?

KERI
Yeah, I'm good. Thanks.

MATT
Yeah, thanks, Ty. Real glad we
hired you... Ty. Really glad...

TY
(catching the sarcasm)
Yeah, it's all good, bro. We're
good here, just remember the
rules. Stick by me and stay on the
trails. Come on, we're not too far
from an amazing view.

Ty hikes up ahead, and Keri follows close behind.

Matt hangs back, squeezing his angry face... then he rubs his
hands through his hair and sighs away a deep breath.

MATT
That was a big fuckin spider...
(beat, calls out)
Hey, Ty! Can we take a pee break?
I gotta piss something fierce,
man.

TY
You sure? We're not far away
from--

ROBBIE
Yeah man, I downed that water,
too. Quick pit stop wouldn't hurt.

TY

(Looks through the woods)
 Alright. I think we're ok for a pee break, here. Um, ladies, if you want to head over this way, I can find ya a little clearing... promise I'll be respectful, just don't want you sitting around any poisonous plants...

ALISHA

(Big smiles)
 I'm alright with that. What do you say, Kare-bear?

Keri nods.

TY

Alright, gentleman, invoke the buddy system, will ya. Don't venture out too deep, let's meet back here in, say, 15?

ROBBIE

Yup.

MATT

Copy that, good sir.

They run off into the woods as Ty keeps a close watch.

Back on main road, Matt steps away for a pee break as the Sheriff arrives and talks to Campers. Meanwhile, the Park Ranger is murdered by an axe to the face and dragged off. His truck starts up and drives into the woods.

EXT. DENSE WOODS - HIKER'S BODIES - DAY

The Ranger's truck lights FLASH YELLOW as he closes the door and walks away with a large spool of yellow caution tape.

He's nervous, looking around as he returns to the clearing.

RANGER

This is fucking gross... Why didn't they just lock him up when they had the chance...

He avoids eye contact with the dead bodies when he slips on one of the body parts.

RANGER
 (Catching himself)
 Oh, fuck me...
 (Blood on his hands)
 Come on...

He looks for somewhere to wipe his hands.

There's blood on everything, it's pointless. With a frown, he wipes his blood-covered hands on his pants.

RANGER
 Sheee-it... That's gonna smell on
 the way home...

A few twigs SNAP nearby... Ranger turns around...

RANGER
 Hello?

Somebody is watching him through the bushes... Ranger can't see anyone, so he shakes it off.

Ranger unravels some of the caution tape and wraps it around a tree trunk... he mutters to himself in disgust.

RANGER
 I shouldn't be out here doing this
 shit. This wasn't in the job
 description... I'm here for the
 forest safety and animal
 protection... not to clean up
 after some psychopath--

TWIGS SNAP!... Ranger spins around, heart beating faster.

A couple of large squirrels run out from behind some bushes.

RANGER
 (relief)
 Oh, damn... whew... That took some
 years off my life...

As the Ranger pulls slack on the yellow tape, we TRUCK ACROSS a large tree trunk, where we can see a bloodied, double-bladed axe leaning against the tree, out of the Rangers view.

RANGER
 (Into Walkie)
 Hey Janet, who do we have in a
 form of replacements this week?
 I'm gonna have to take some time-
 off after all this crap...

Following the Ranger, we TRUCK BACK ACROSS that tree trunk with the axe...

JANET (WALKIE)
Ranger Draven is on the books,
looks like there's some
availability there.

RANGER
Ugh, that guy's a dick and a
half...
(Into Walkie)
Yeah, maybe reach out and see if
he's down to take over a little
sooner. I'm gonna need the rescue.

Just as we're about to TRUCK PAST the tree trunk...

... a GLOVED HAND reaches into frame, grips that axe, and pulls it back out of the frame.

MORE TWIGS SNAP... startles the Ranger, and he's over it...

RANGER
(To himself)
I am about to roast up some damn
squirrels if they don't stop
running around out here--

He turns back... IN SHOCK AS... THE AXE BLADE SWINGS RIGHT INTO HIS FACE... BLOOD SPLATTERS THE CAMERA... RANGER GOES DOWN...

With the blade sticking in his face, Ranger twitches on the ground. He coughs up blood.

Without seeing the killer, Ranger's body is pulled by his feet and dragged off into the woods.

We can still see the FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS reflect off the trees as we focus on the quiet, dense woods.

After a moment... The Ranger's truck starts up and drives off the road, right through the crime scene.

Still, we stay on the quiet, motionless trees... but we hear--

RANGER (O.S.)
(Cough)
Wait... wait... stop...
(SWING/CRACK OF THE AXE)
NOOO!!!
(SWING/CRACK OF THE AXE)
STOP--PLEASE!!
(SWING/CRACK OF THE AXE)
AHHHH...

The truck's tail gate drops open and we hear the heavy body tossed inside the truck bed. The tail gate closes.

After a beat... SOMEONE'S LEGS rush through and use their shoes to swipe away the truck tire trails.

Once satisfied, they gently slip their shoes off, and kick them both into different directions of the crime scene.

Then, they carefully walk back out of frame... we no longer see the flashing lights, but we can hear the truck drive away.

Old Man builds a bonding relationship with the wounded dog.

INT. CABIN KITCHEN - DAY

James wears reading glasses as he threads a needle.

MacReady lays motionless on his table. James pets him...

JAMES

I'm sorry, guy... this might hurt.

He feeds the needle through MacReady's leg wound. A small amount of blood trickles out as the dog tenses up.

James regulates his breathing... focusing on the wound... He zeros in on the trickle of blood... he batts his eyes...

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK ON LAKE - FLASHBACK - DAY

A young man in overalls sits on the dock, looking out over the lake, flapping fish in hand as he removes the long hook...

A young woman in jean shorts leads us to the edge of the dock. She sits next to the young man... It's Valerie.

VALERIE

Hey, Jimmy. What'cha doing?

JIMMY

Fishing...

VALERIE

(Being cute)

Fishing... caught anything yet?

Young Jimmy tosses the fish back, catching her cute smile.

JIMMY

Not yet...

BACK TO:

INT. CABIN KITCHEN - DAY

James' eyes water up behind his reading glasses.

He feeds the needle back into MacReady's skin. The dog whimpers and twitches...

James breaths heavier... The tear falls from his eye...

CUT TO:

EXT. DENSE WOODS - HEAVY RAIN - NIGHT

Valerie's head bleeds on a large rock. She cries in pain.

VALERIE

HEEEELLPP!! Somebody... Help ME!

With a grunt, the Killer swings the axe across his body... In a large arc it falls... right on Valerie's SCREAMING face--

BACK TO:

INT. CABIN KITCHEN - DAY

James flings off his reading glasses and jolts up.

He rubs his fingers through his eyes and wipes the tears.

After catching his breath, he notices MacReady twitching in pain, so doped up he that can't run away.

James staggers back to the dog and places his hand on MacReady's fur. He strokes the fur... Calming both of them.

JAMES

Shhhh... We're almost done...

He takes a deep, long breath, and returns to closing the wound.

Sheriff sees Hikers' bodies, but can't find the Ranger. He radios for the Deputy to stand watch at the Old Man's cabin.

EXT. DENSE WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

The Sheriff's car parks next to Sean's car on the road. He pops out, looking around for the Ranger...

He notices the broken branches and bushes, where the Ranger's truck had driven off into the clearing.

SHERIFF
 (Into Walkie)
 Ranger's nowhere to be seen out
 here. I'm goin down to inspect
 further. Over.

He stashes the walkie into his belt and... CLIP... pulls out
 his gun. He takes tentative steps into the clearing...

SHERIFF
 Hey Ranger... You out here?

There's no answer. But, he notices the blood splatter...

Determined, Sheriff steps through the bushes to find...

THE SEVERED BODY PARTS... BACKPACK... UNRAVELED CAUTION TAPE...

Sheriff collects his composure and searches the area.

SHERIFF
 (Into Walkie)
 Dispatch, we're gonna need some
 clean up down here. It's a crime
 scene, alright. Ranger appears to
 be missing as well...

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 Is it Jimmy Rivers, Sheriff? Is he
 back?

SHERIFF
 (Into Walkie)
 Let's not get ahead of ourselves.
 You keep that name to a whisper,
 you hear me?

He notices there's no tire tracks in the crime scene. He looks
 back at the road, where the truck clearly drove down through.

SHERIFF
 (Into Walkie)
 Hey, we got a group of hikers out
 here today, I believe the tour
 guide is named Ty something... can
 you look that up for me?
 (Waits for response)
 He's covering up his tracks...
 That's a new one...

He follows the trajectory of where the truck drove from, spins
 around, and looks into the deeper woods.

Sure enough, the truck tire tracks pick back up along the way.

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 Tyler Russel. SERE-trained, ex-
 Air-Force. Scheduled with a group
 of five this weekend.

SHERIFF
 Yeah...
 (Into Walkie)
 Try and get ahold of them, if you
 can. It ain't safe out here...
 (to himself)
 Something ain't adding up right...

As he heads back to his car...

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 And what about Jimmy Rivers, sir?

Sheriff thinks for a second. This can't be him...

SHERIFF
 (Into Walkie)
 Why don't you go ahead and have
 Deputy Blake ride out to the old
 Rivers cabin. You tell him to just
 keep watch. Do NOT engage.

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 10-4, Sheriff.

Campers hike through woods. Keri and Alisha walk and talk about
 Matt, relationships, and expectations before arriving at a
 campsite. They find a spot to set up tents and build a fire.

EXT. TRAIL - LATER

Keri sits on the trail, by herself. Alisha pops out from the
 trees and saunters over to her.

ALISHA
 Can I sit?

KERI
 (Whatever)
 Sure...

Alisha sits and breathes in the crisp, fresh air.

ALISHA
 It really is beautiful out here...

KERI

Why didn't you tell me about Matt tagging along, Leesh?

ALISHA

'Cuz you would've canceled and disappeared on me. I mean, this is my weekend, too, and, fuckin' sue me, I wanted you to be here...

Keri won't look her in the eyes. It sucks she has to defend her feelings against her best friend...

ALISHA (CONT'D)

He's a friggin' bonehead, but, he's not a bad guy. Plus, he was good to you, so...

KERI

(Sipping her water)

Yup, everyone loves Matt... but, I wasn't happy. It should be enough.

Keri stands and dusts herself off before walking away.

ALISHA

Don't run away, Kare-bear, you always run away... Come on...

Ty pops out from the trees. He seems anxious.

TY

Alright, where are the guys?

Keri shrugs, haphazardly...

TY

We're losing light...

A pair of care-free giggles emerges from the trees. Through a large puff of smoke, Matt and Robbie appear, high as fuck.

TY

Gentlemen. We said 15 minutes.

MATT

(eyes blazed)

Oh, yeah, sorry about that, Ty. Pit stop took a little longer...

ROBBIE

Bit, bit-bit, longer...

Matt and Robbie giggle like Beavis and Butthead.

Alisha stomps back and punches Matt, hard, in the arm...

MATT

Owww...

ALISHA

We don't have time to kill, fuck-faces...

Alisha stomps away.

ROBBIE

Awe, what'd I do...?

TY

Follow us, stick to the trails.

Ty catches back up to the front of the group. Matt's goofy smile remains as he nudges Robbie.

MATT

I think we made Dad mad...

Ty, Keri and Alisha lead the way, Matt and Robbie lag behind.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CLIFF VIEW - AFTERNOON

The Campers pass an ideal mountain view.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WATERFALL - LATE AFTERNOON

The Campers pass a flowing waterfall.

DISSOLVE TO:

Keri sets up her own tent, while Matt sets up a spot to sleep under the stars. He's the only one without a tent. Matt tries to get Keri alone to talk with her. She is not interested and we learn about why she broke up with him. He watches her help the Tour Guide, gets jealous, and wanders off into the woods alone.

EXT. CAMP SITE - DUSK

They all arrive at a campsite clearing deep in the woods. They drop their backpacks around a rock-made fire pit.

ROBBIE

Fuck... that's a hike...

ALISHA

You got another water, Camel?

Robbie grabs a bottle from his bag and tosses it to Alisha.

Keri stretches her back. Matt drops his bag, rushes to Keri.

MATT

Here, let me help you with that.

He grabs her backpack and places it on the ground. She lets him. She just watches him act nervous.

MATT

Just, wanted to help...

TY

OK! That was brisk, but gorgeous.
We'll camp here for the night. I suggest you go ahead and start setting up your tents. Because once nightfall hits, you're not going to want to do anything...

Matt awkwardly stands around, watching the others:

Robbie and Alisha pull out their tent gear and lay it out on the ground, assembling their tent for two.

Ty heads away and hangs twine on trees for his basic tent.

Keri moves to another area and pulls out her tent gear.

Matt moseys over to Keri...

MATT

Hey, can I help you with that?

KERI

No. I think I got it.

Keri has a modern self-pop tent that sets up in one pull.

ALISHA

No fair!

KERI

(To Matt)

Maybe you should set your tent up over there...

MATT

Yeah... um... I don't have one.

Keri eyes him like a simple child.

KERI

Matt?! We're on a camping trip.
Where's your tent?!

MATT

I dunno, just didn't pick one up.

He stands for a second, maybe hoping that she would offer him to stay with her... but, she doesn't. Keri just shakes her head and continues hammering spikes in the ground for her tent.

TY

(Breaks the tension)

Here... It's not a lot, and you're gonna want to bundle up, but, I'm always prepared, just incase...

Ty hands Matt some twine and a tarp. Then points him to a couple of trees to set up his tent.

MATT

Thanks...

Matt walks away... Keri watches him leave...

DISSOLVE TO:

The Campers sit around a camp fire and tell the story of the Creepy Smile Masked Killer who got away thirty years ago, and how he is still roaming these woods.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

A roaring fire in the fire pit.

The campers sit around the fire, roasting hotdogs, marshmallows, smoking weed, drink beer... loosening up.

ALISHA

I just want to say, I know this is was hella rocky, but, I'm glad you're all here. We've been trying to plan this trip for a while...

MATT

Thanks for making it happen, sis.

They all toast to Alisha.

ALISHA

Well, make sure you get some rest tonight. Tomorrow's full of fun surprises. But, this here, right now... this is the perfect moment.

ROBBIE

Here-here...

KERI

(To Ty)

What do you know about this area?

TY

(looks around)

Oh, hmm. Not too much. I know some things happened not too far from here, years ago, but... well, we don't have to go into that...

ROBBIE

What? Go ahead!

TY

Nah...

MATT

What happened?

ALISHA

Come on, Ty, we're a bunch of horror nerds. We could use a spooky story before bed...

Keri give him look as if to say "You heard her. Might as well."

THUNDER RUMBLES overhead...

TY

Not too far from here, maybe a mile or two, there was an incident. Happened thirty years ago. A group of campers set out on a hike before heading off to college. They found a clearing, not unlike this one, here, and settled in for a night. Anyway, everything was flowing smooth until it started raining. Now, the rain around here, it's heavy. Tremendous and beautiful, but, also disorienting. And, that's when he decided to attack.

(Takes a sip of beer)

ALISHA

Oooo... who's he?

TY

(Distant)

Jimmy Rivers. A weird kid from what I heard, liked to make trinkets, like taxidermy, things like that. Well, turns out that night, all the laughing and high school pranking caught up with him, because, he followed these campers. And, with a gnarly wood axe he... hacked everyone up.

FLASH OF LIGHTNING followed by THUNDER CRACK.

Keri jumps back. Alisha buries her huge smile in Robbies arms.

KERI

Did anyone make it out alive?

TY

Not that I know of... Turns out Jimmy Rivers got away. Some say he never left these very woods. But, who knows what really happened.

A distant THUNDER CLAP followed by a quick LIGHTNING FLASH.

MATT

That's not what I heard. It wasn't that random. Sure, being picked on probably instigated it, but, the real crime... was passion...

TY

You know this story, huh?

ROBBIE

Matt's our true-crime aficionado.

MATT

Yeah, saw it on Netflix. Oh, and he didn't just like taxidermy, he liked to make masks. He made one that really made his friends cry... a flesh-colored face with a smile that would haunt your dreams... blacked out the eyes, so, you're just looking into nothingness. Everyone hated it.

KERI

So why'd he do it?

MATT

Oh, one of these campers was Valerie Barbeau. The love of Jimmy's life. The only girl who showed an interest in him as a human being. But, she was in love with this guy Steve. So, that night, in the rain, he took his axe and went from tent to tent, slaughtering each of the campers, until he found Valerie snuggled up with Steve. They escaped, but, Jimmy Rivers knew these woods too well, they couldn't hide from him. He finally murders Steve, but then Valerie SHOTS him with a shotgun!

The LIGHTNING and THUNDER creeps up on the campers...

ROBBIE

She got away?

MATT

No, that's the fucked up thing. From what I heard, Jimmy Rivers was still alive. She even beat him to a pulp with that gun, but, he wouldn't die. He called out her name. He professed his love to Valerie. He truly loved Valerie. But, if he couldn't have her...

ALISHA

No one could...

MATT

That's how it went down, right?

Ty nods while he sips his beer.

MATT

Valerie couldn't take the pain of knowing that Jimmy was the Smiling Face Killer, so, as a form of mercy... he chopped her body up into little bits, just like the others. Now, the part about him getting away, that's true. Someone forgot to sign the right form, and his daddy's lawyers pounced. Jimmy Rivers got away, alright... Legally. He accomplished his goal... a crime of passion... of love. And, got away with it...

ROBBIE
 (Smiling with Matt)
 Baller.

Alisha elbows Robbie's rib cage...

ALISHA
 You dorks...

KERI
 (In awe)
 That's fucked up...

MATT
 (Wide-eyed goofy smile)
 Yeah...

RAIN trickles down.

The Deputy Sheriff arrives at the Old Man's cabin. They shout back and forth, asking/answering questions about Old Man's whereabouts. Deputy stands watch, excited to finally catch the Old Man in the act and stop him for good.

INT. DEPUTY SUV - RAIN - NIGHT

Rain pours on the windshield as the Deputy, 40's, brash and sure of himself, approaches the cabin.

DEPUTY BLAKE
 (Into Walkie)
 Dispatch, I'm arriving at the cabin, now. Pretty quiet out here so far. Proceeding with caution.

DISPATCH (O.S.)
 Don't engage, Blake. Sheriff was adamant about that.

DEPUTY BLAKE
 Yeah-yeah...

He flips on his red and blue lights...

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

James sleeps in his chair, MacReady's head resting in his lap.

THUNDER CLAP wakes them both with a jolt. James notices the red and blue lights outside...

INT. DEPUTY SUV - RAIN - NIGHT

Through the rain, the cabin door opens and James steps out.

DEPUTY BLAKE
Well well well...

EXT. CABIN - RAIN - NIGHT

Deputy steps out of the SUV, his flashlight beamed at James.

DEPUTY BLAKE
Whoa-whoa, where you off to?

A LIGHTNING FLASH reveals James' cold eyes burn straight through the rain. Deputy shifts back, fiddles with his gun.

DEPUTY BLAKE
Now, you just hold it.

James reaches out and lets the rain hit his hand. Then, turns and walks back inside, slamming his door closed.

Deputy catches his breath... as if he side-stepped death.

Keri sits in her tent as it starts raining. She pokes out her head, but doesn't see Matt at his spot. Alisha and Robby talk in their tent as someone approaches with an axe in silhouette.

INT./EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Rain pours down on the tents. There's a light on in Alisha's tent, her and Robbie moving about. Ty's tent is dark.

Matt sits under his make-shift tarp tent, shivering in his hoodie, trying to dry the rain from his face.

MATT
Man, this sucks...

He eyes: Keri's tent, a flashlight holding steady within.

In Keri's Tent: She reads a book by flashlight. CRACK OF THUNDER... Keri jumps... drops the light... catches her breath.

She peeks her head out of her tent and looks around the camp ground. She lands on Matt shivering in the dark. She scoffs.

KERI
(Closing her tent)
What did you expect, dude.
Should've brought a tent...

Her sigh reads "Yeah, but I can't just leave him out there..."

KERI (CONT'D)
... wasn't even supposed to be
here...

In Alisha's tent: Her and Robbie get comfortable. They giggle and flirt with each other. Alisha flashes him her bedroom eyes.

ALISHA
Are you ready to do this?

ROBBIE
Of course I'm ready. I'm always
ready...

Alisha giggles as she turns off their lantern light. They don't see a TALL SHADOW ON THE TENT EMERGING BEHIND THEM.

ROBBIE
Do I have to wear... the thing?

ALISHA
Uh-Yeah! That's the whole point!

The Shadow gets closer... larger...

ROBBIE
But it fucking chafes...

A LIGHTNING FLASH reveals the SHADOW HOLDING A LARGE AXE.

ALISHA
How else are we gonna do this?

ROBBIE
Ugh...

They are oblivious as THE SHADOW RAISES THE AXE OVERHEAD.

At Keri's Tent: she pokes her head out, calls into the rain.

KERI
Matt?... Hey, Matt!

Opening the tent flap, she shines her flashlight in his area.

KERI
Come on! Get out of the rain!

Matt is not under his tarp.

She slides into her jacket and steps out of her tent. Alisha's tent violently shakes behind her. Keri notices it...

KERI

Jesus, how do you have the energy?

Keri dashes over to Matt's tent area.

KERI

Matt! Where are you?!

As she looks around for him--

Alisha runs out of her tent, covered in blood, screaming that Robby is being murdered. The Masked Killer brutally tears up the tent as he slams the axe into Robby's face over and over. Matt runs up out of the woods and helps Keri, Alisha, and the Tour Guide get out of camp. He stays behind to confront the Masked Killer. Keri, Alisha, and Tour Guide see the Deputy in front of Old Man's cabin. As they approach, the Tour Guide gets caught in one of the old, rusty bear traps.

BARRELING OUT OF HER TENT, ALISHA SCREAMS AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS, ONLY WEARING A RAIN JACKET AND BOOTS, COVERED IN BLOOD.

ALISHA

OH-MY-GOD IT'S HIM!!!

Keri spins around as Alisha slips across the camp ground.

KERI

What happened?!

ALISHA

He's killing Robbie!!!

Matt runs out of the bushes.

MATT

What the fuck is going on?!

Ty runs up from his tent, ready with his bowie knife in hand.

KERI

(To Matt)

Where the fuck were you?!

MATT

I was taking a leak, what's going--

ALISHA

(Hides behind Ty)

IT'S HIIIIIMMM!!!!

They all look over as THE SMILING-FACE KILLER IN THE HOODIE WITH A DOUBLE-BLADED AXE RIPS THROUGH ALISHA'S TENT!

THE CAMPERS ALL SCREAM!!!

The Killer steps towards them when Robbie's hand grabs his foot. The Killer turns back and proceeds to CHOP HIM TO BITS.

ALISHA
ROBBIE!!!

TY
(Taking charge)
Everybody, run! Get out of here!

KERI
Leesh, let's go!

ALISHA
(A mess)
ROBBIEE!!!

KERI
COME ON!

Keri pulls Alisha into the woods. Matt hangs back with Ty.

TY
Matt! Get them out of here!

MATT
No way!

TY
It's not up for debate, GO!

MATT
No! You go! You're the one who
knows these fucking woods, they'll
die out there with me!

The Killer stops chopping and stomps towards the two guys.

With some distance, Keri looks back and watches Matt push Ty.

MATT
Go on, man!

Matt locks eyes with Keri for a brief moment, then grabs a log and jumps around, distracting the Killer.

MATT
Come get me you son of a bitch!

KERI
MATT!!!

Ty runs up, slides his knife into a holster, and grabs her arm.

TY
Run!

KERI
You can't leave him!--

TY
Let's go!

The Killer runs up to Matt... axe over his head... SLAMS it down... Matt catches it with that log... strains to defend.

TY
Keri! NOW!

Ty pulls Keri and the three of them run into the woods.
After a moment, they hear Matt SCREAM DEADLY MURDER.

KERI
MAAAATTTT!!!

DEEPER IN THE WOODS

Alisha leads at full speed with Keri and Ty close behind. Up ahead they see... The Deputy's police lights flashing.

TY
Towards that cop car! Over there!

The Deputy hears the screams, turns on his lights, and rushes to help the Tour Guide out of the bear trap.

INT./EXT. DEPUTY SUV - RAIN - NIGHT

Deputy eats some chips, listening to the same pop song we heard earlier, keeps an eye on the cabin, the fireplace burns inside.

He hears the screams and turns down the radio. Out his door mirror he sees Alisha running up to the car.

ALISHA
Hey! Hey! Help us!

DEPUTY BLAKE
What the fuck?!

He steps out of the car and points his flashlight at the remaining campers, all three running towards him.

Alisha reaches the deputy, hangs onto him.

ALISHA
 (Out of breath)
 You gotta help us...

As Keri and Ty approach---

SNAP! Ty SCREAMS at the top of his lungs. Falls to the ground.

KERI
 (Looking back)
 TY!

Keri runs back to him as Deputy grabs his walkie.

DEPUTY BLAKE
 (Into Walkie)
 Hey, we got a situation out here,
 gonna need some backup right away.

Keri kneels down to Ty as he screams in pain... his ankle is mangled in a RUSTY BEAR TRAP, torn to shreds.

KERI
 Holy shit!

TY
 ARGH!!! Get it off. Get it off!

The Deputy and Alisha run over, he hands her the flashlight.

DEPUTY BLAKE
 Move out of the way, watch out!
 Fuck, that's in there deep...
 (To Ty)
 I need you to stay calm!

TY
 FUCCKKKK!!!

DEPUTY BLAKE
 (To Keri)
 Hold him still!

Keri puts her weight on Ty's shoulders, pins him to the ground.

Alisha just shakes, shining the light out into the woods.

DEPUTY BLAKE
 Keep that light down here!
 (To Ty)
 Hey, buddy, this is going to hurt.

Deputy leans onto the bear trap release. Ty SCREAMS! The trap opens... his ankle is hamburger meat.

DEPUTY BLAKE

Help me get him over there!

Keri and the Deputy help Ty over to his SUV. Alisha runs ahead with the light and jumps inside the car, herself.

Before the Deputy calls for backup, the Masked Killer kills him with an axe. Keri helps the Tour Guide limp away, but Alisha yells to leave him.

DEPUTY BLAKE

Get him out of the rain! I have a first aid kit in the back!

Keri limps with Ty to the opened door as the Deputy opens the back hatch and searches for his First Air Kit.

KERI

Alisha, help me!

ALISHA

(In tears)
I don't want to--

KERI

LEESH GET OUT HERE!

Alisha pops out and gets herself under Ty's other arm.

The Deputy closes the back hatch and comes around to help...

DEPUTY BLAKE

(Into his walkie)
Sheriff, sheriff, come back, got a couple of campers out here who--

CRACK! Deputy cries out in pain! The three look back as he falls to the ground, axe in his back, THE KILLER standing over.

Alisha SCREAMS. Keri's eyes widen. She looks to-- THE CABIN.

KERI

Alisha! Move!

The girls dig in deep to get Ty up to that cabin as the Killer struggles to pull his axe out the Deputy's dead body.

KILLER

Fuck!!

Act II: The Warrior

They bang on the cabin door as the Masked Killer chops up the Deputy.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - RAIN - NIGHT

Ty screams in pain as they get him onto the porch.

KERI
(To Alisha)
Hold him up!

Keri bangs on the door. There's no answer. She puts her weight into her shoulder and rams into the door.

DEPUTY SUV

The Killer is clearly frustrated as he CHOPS INTO THE DEPUTY.

Nobody answers, Alisha tells them to forget it and run into the woods. Keri breaks in and tells Alisha to help her get the Tour Guide inside.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - RAIN - NIGHT

Through the rain, the Killer finishes his slaughter and, in the lightning flashes, stomps towards the cabin.

ALISHA
Keri!! Forget the fucking cabin,
let's make a run for it come on!!

Keri is focused. Lunge! After! Lunge! The door swings open.

KERI
Come on, let's get him inside!

ALISHA
Fuck!!

The girls help limp Ty inside the cabin then SLAM the door...

The cabin is quiet and empty, except there's a fire in the fireplace. Keri helps Tour Guide to the fire. Alisha looks out the window. She sees the Masked Killer stalking the cabin. Keri runs off to find supplies, but runs into the Old Man. He demands to know why they are in his cabin. Tells them to get out. Keri begs to stay due to the Masked Killer with an axe chasing them.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The door won't close... The latch is broken.

Outside: The Killer stalks towards them.

KERI
Help me with this!

Alisha drops Ty on the floor then helps Keri slide a long cabinet in front of the door, blocking it from opening.

The Killer SLAMS into the solid door. He can't get in.

KILLER
Shit!!

Keri peers out a small window and watches the killer run back through the yard to regroup.

She turns around to catch her breath when she actually notices the fire in the fireplace. Her instincts kick in.

KERI
Let's get him over there.

TY
Fuck, this hurts, man...

Ty's ankle is really torn up something fierce.

KERI
What do we do-what do we do...
Keep an eye on him a sec.

Alisha's glued to the window: The Killer stalks back and forth.

KERI
Alisha!

ALISHA
WHAT?! I got it, watch him. Fuck!

KERI
(To Ty)
You're gonna be alright, ok. Just hold up here.

Keri runs off to the kitchen when--

BAM!

She runs smack into James Rivers. Standing tall, he knocks her over as if she ran into a tree.

He's almost as imposing as those killers outside...

JAMES

What are you doing in my house?!

KERI

I'm sorry, I know it looks bad,
but we had to. Let me explain--

JAMES

(Notices the door)
What'd you do to my door?
(Heads to the door)
You can't be here. Go on, get out!

KERI

Wait-wait! You don't understand--

ALISHA

There's a fucking murdering
psychopath out there, you old
piece of shit!

Keri holds her hand to Alisha as if to say "I got this..."

KERI

Please, our friends were murdered
in front of us, this one's hurt,
we just need to hold up until--

JAMES

Where's that Deputy?!

ALISHA

He killed the fucking Deputy!

Old Man looks out the window and sees the Masked Killer stalking them. He gets flashbacks of killing his friends thirty years ago. The Masked Killer disappears from view as the Old Man tells the campers that he can't protect them and they need to leave. He opens the door to force the campers out when the Masked Killer swoops in with axe.

Fear paints James' face.

He pushes past Keri and marches over to the window.

A LIGHTNING FLASH reveals the Killer in the yard, marching back and forth with that bloody axe in hand... stalking them...

James catches his breath... His hands twitch...

FLASH CUT:

EXT. DENSE WOODS - RAIN - NIGHT

Jimmy Rivers slashes his friends with that gnarly axe 30 years ago. Then, he hunts down Steve and Valerie.

BACK TO:

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

James is covered in sweat... His fist clenched...

LIGHTNING FLASH... The Killer is gone.

JAMES

You all need to get out of here.
I-I can't protect you...

He moves over to the cabinet blocking the door.

KERI

Our friend can't move, Please!--

He effortlessly moves the cabinet out of the way.

JAMES

No! GET OUT!

KERI

WAIT! Don't open that door. We'll leave as soon as we can get our friend moving again, we just need somewhere safe out of the rain in the mean time.

James grabs the door handle and thinks for a moment.

JAMES

You're not safe in here.

He pulls the door open--

SWOOSH!

The Killer SWINGS the axe into the doorway, narrowly missing James' head!

The Old Man fights off this attack. Alisha runs to the kitchen and grabs a large Knife, while Keri helps the Old Man get the door closed. The axe is wedged into the door, then pulled back leaving a hole where the Old Man comes face to face with the Creepy Smile mask he used to wear thirty years ago.

James braces to close the door as the Killer fights to get in. By instinct, Keri runs over to help push against the door.

KERI
Alisha! Help us!

Alisha doesn't know what to do. She runs off into...

INT. CABIN KITCHEN

In between the LIGHTNING FLASHES, she scours the counters until she finds... A LARGE BUTCHER KNIFE.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

James puts his shoulder into the door as the Killer continues to pound on it. He motions for Keri to push the cabinet back.

Keri braces against the cabinet and pushes it to hold the door closed, once more. She catches her breath, when--

CHOP!

They jump as there's a series of CHOPS against the door.

James pulls Keri back--

CHOP!

The axe wedges through the door! The Killer pulls the blade back out, leaving a hole in the door. James looks through it.

He's face-to-face with a replica of his old Smiling-Face Mask.

The Killer chuckles... laughs... then runs off into the dark.

KERI
Is that Jimmy Rivers?

James ignores the question and motions that she stay back.

JAMES
Go check on yer friend...

Keri runs over to Ty, who's going into shock.

Alisha screams, saying they need to leave the Tour Guide and this Old Man and run for safety out the back door. Keri argues to stay together and call for help with the Sheriff. The Old Man says nobody is coming to help them, and they should take care of their Tour Guide friend.

Alisha runs in with that large butcher knife in hand.

ALISHA

We need to get the fuck out of here, Keri! Forget the limp and this old man, WE need to LEAVE!

KERI

I'm not leaving him like this!

ALISHA

We're sitting fucking ducks in here. You and me need to leave!

KERI

And do what? That fucking psycho is out there waiting for us! THAT's exactly what he wants!

ALISHA

NO!!!

James snatches the butcher knife out of Alisha's hand and looks her up and down... studies her... grimaces...

JAMES

Yer not going anywhere.

He walks the knife back into the kitchen.

KERI

We gotta call the Sheriff, can we use your phone?

James reemerges from the dark kitchen.

JAMES

Nobody's coming to help you.

That leaves them all quiet as the somber rain pours outside.

James looks at Ty's ankle.

JAMES

Yeesh...

(To Alisha)

You, put pressure on it, here.

JAMES
 (To Keri)
 There's supplies in the kitchen,
 on the table. Go get 'em.

Keri runs into the kitchen as James breaks off a piece of straight fire wood and puts it against Ty's ankle.

Everything goes quiet. The Deputy's truck lights flood the front of the house as the Masked Killer stands in silhouette, ready to attack. The Old Man assures the campers that this Masked Killer doesn't know who he's fucking with.

INT. CABIN KITCHEN

Keri rushes the table, with all the medical supplies James used earlier on MacReady. She sifts around for gauss when...

TINY CLAWED FOOTSTEPS creep in behind her... She turns to see MacReady, walking around.

KERI
 Hey there, buddy...

She kneels down as he limps to her on a bandaged leg, burying his head on her hands. Keri smiles.

KERI
 How are you feeling, huh? You look
 a lot better since I saw you...

MacReady limps over to his water bowl and laps it up.

Keri looks back into the living room as James helps tie a stint around Ty's leg with a red cloth. She knows she can trust him.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

As Keri walks in with bandages--

KERI
 Your dog looks much better.

James looks up at her. He knows he can trust her.

BRIGHT LIGHTS FLOOD INTO THE CABIN WINDOW.

James stands alert and walks over to the window...

OUTSIDE: The Masked Killer stands in front of the Deputy SUV as a silhouette in the Search Light, NOT holding the axe...

JAMES
(Putting pieces together)
Something ain't right...

Keri rushes over to Ty and wraps up his stint.

KERI
What are we gonna do?

James just looks into that light. He bends down and grips a fire poker into his shaky fist, and stands ready.

JAMES
You don't know who yer fuckin'
with...

Tour Guide screams as an axe is slammed through the front window. The Old Man and Keri try to fight this Masked Killer when the Old Man is knocked unconscious. Then, the dog runs up and dives through the window to attack the Masked Killer outside. They can clearly see there are TWO Masked Killers outside trying to get in.

CRASH!!!

The axe breaks the window at the hands of the Masked Killer!

James fights him off with the fire poker.

Keri, Ty, and Alisha swipe the broken glass off of them and move deeper away from the window.

James tries grabbing the axe to rip it out of the Killer's hands, but, the Killer overpowers.

He pokes the flat edge of the axe at James' head.

CRACK!

The axe connects, and James goes down.

Alisha and Ty scream.

Keri looks around for something to block the window. The TABLE!

The Killer inspects the open window frame... as if he's contemplating his move... that creepy mask is terrifying...

KERI
Alisha, help me, come on!

They run over and grab the kitchen table...

The Killer's gloved hands grip the broken window edges...

GRRRR! BARK! BARK! MacReady snarls his teeth...

KERI
Stay back! Hey, whoa!

As the Killer gets his boot on the threshold--

MacReady ATTACKS!... Dives at the killer... Pushing him out the window... biting his arm... pulling him to the ground...

Keri and Alisha run the table to the window. Keri hesitates.

KERI
Hey-HEY get back here!

ALISHA
This thing is fuckin' heavy, Kare!

They close up the window with the table. There's a hole where light shines through. Keri peers into the hole:

The Killer fights to get MacReady off him, but, the dog's jaws are deep into his arm. Then, the OTHER Killer comes to help...

KERI
There's two of them...

TY
What do you mean there's two of them? What the fuck does that mean?!

Tour Guide tries to get the Old Man to wake while Keri and Alisha barricade the door. The dog fights with the Masked Killer outside, then goes quiet after a loud hit and whimper. All goes quiet, again, and the campers brace for protection.

On the floor: Ty tries to reach James. He kicks at him.

TY
Hey, get up, man! Come on!

Keri and Alisha fasten the table against the window, hearing the sounds of the dog viciously attack the killer.

Keri tries to ignore it...

ALISHA
You're gonna let that dog fight those psychos? You of all people?--

KERI

What the fuck do you want from me,
Alisha? Everyone's trying to help
us and you just want to run away.

(Beat)

We can't run from this...

Keri turns away from Alisha... Fucking drop it, bitch.

ALISHA

(You fucking kidding me?)

FUCK!

Outside they hear a loud GRUNT from a killer followed by a
quick YELP from MacReady... then, just constant rain.

ALISHA

I hope your happy...

Keri ignores her shitty friend and leans down to slap James a
few times, trying to wake him up.

The Masked Killers hear the Sheriff call over the radio. One
slams an axe into the radio, then grabs the shotgun out of the
cab and heads to the back of the cabin. The other grabs a roll
of green rope stomps back to the front door.

INT./EXT. DEPUTY SUV - RAIN - NIGHT

The shorter of the two killers stomps over to the SUV and raids
it for supplies. The Walkie Radio kicks on...

SHERIFF (O.S.)

Deputy Blake, come back... Deputy!
Answer me, son. What's the story
down there, huh?

The Killer grabs the walkie and THROWS it into the woods.

Back in the SUV, he finds a spool of green rope. Behind the
seat, he finds the grand prize... A SHOT GUN.

EXT. CABIN YARD - RAIN - NIGHT

With his hands full, he trenches through the yard and tosses
the rope to the taller Killer, who carries the axe.

Then, he cocks the gun. This is now SHOTGUN KILLER.

AXE KILLER stomps over to MacReady, who just lays motionless.
He lets out some rope in his hands...

The Sheriff is at the campsite where he finds Robby's body in the torn-apart tent. Except, upon closer inspection, he discovers the body is wearing the Park Ranger's uniform under his tattered clothes. It's not Robby, but the Park Ranger.

EXT. DENSE WOODS - RAIN - NIGHT

Sheriff stands with walkie in hand as a couple other deputies clean up all the dead body parts from the day hikers.

SHERIFF
 (Into Walkie)
 Blake, you son-of-a-bitch, come
 back! Answer me!

He uses his flashlight to look into the woods... Those tire tracks... where do they lead?

Sheriff pushes past the deputies and jumps in one of the trucks, NOT his police cruiser.

SHERIFF
 Brian, you're with me. I want you
 the rest of you to hurry this up
 and head out to the old Rivers
 cabin, you hear me?

Sheriff with Deputy Bryan drives the truck through the crime scene, all the bright lights on, and follows those tracks...

There's a banging at the front door, as if something is swinging into it. Alisha opens the door to reveal the dog tied up by the rope, still alive, but crying. The Masked Killer stands in the light, waiting for them to come outside to rescue him. The Old Man wakes up, cuts the dog free, and gives him to Keri. The Old Man motions that the Killers come get them, then slams the door. The Killers make their way towards the cabin. The Old Man carries the dog back through the cabin. Keri and Alisha help Tour Guide follow, Alisha still with a large kitchen knife.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Keri SPLASHES a glass of water on James' face. He wakes up coughing, tense, remembering where he's at.

JAMES
 Everyone alright?...
 (Looks around the room)
 MacReady! Where's the dog? Mac!

KERI
 He--

ALISHA
He jumped out the fucking window,
alright? He attacked one of them.

James looks to Keri... She nods...

TY
(Loopy)
That dog kept us safe, man.
Fuckin' hero in my book.

JAMES
One of them?...

Alisha holds up two fingers and mouths "There's two, so..."

JAMES
(Fighting to his feet)
I need to get that dog--

BOOM...

Something hits the front door pretty hard.

BOOM... BOOM... BOOM...

It settles into a rhythm...

James looks out the hole in the door: Something hangs on his porch, swinging back and forth... tangled in green rope...

In a panic, James flings the cabinet out of the way and opens the door to find...

INT./EXT. CABIN PORCH - RAIN - NIGHT

MacReady... tied up in the green rope... swinging back and forth on the front porch. He whimpers (still alive, kids).

KERI
Wait, it's a trap!

JAMES
Yeah, no shit.

He pulls the dog in through the door frame and fights to untie him. He struggles with it.

Just outside, AXE KILLER waits with axe ready to strike.

Keri looks through the crack in the table, out the window:

SHOTGUN KILLER cocks the gun and marches towards the door.

She pops back and thinks for a moment, then runs over to Ty and grabs his bowie knife out of its holster.

KERI

Let me try.

She sees at the rope as James supports the limp dog.

Alisha looks through the crack in the table on the window.

ALISHA

Better fucking hurry...

Keri focuses on cutting the rope when, SNAP! The dog falls into James' arms. He slams the door closed with his foot.

JAMES

You take'im.

Keri drops the knife as he flops MacReady into her arms.

JAMES

Go on, run'em back there!

Keri moves back towards the cabin hallway.

Alisha stares at that knife on the floor.

James turns back to the door and swings it open. He steps out on the porch and catches AXE KILLER in his peripheral.

Axe swings down... James Dodges it... he kicks the Killer.

JAMES

(Looks back)

All of you, GO!

KERI

Alisha! Help Ty!

Keri runs down the hallway with MacReady in her arms.

Alisha runs up, avoids the aggressive fighting between James and the Killer, snatches that knife before running back to Ty.

ALISHA

Ok, get up, come on!

James walks out on the porch and sees the SHOTGUN KILLER running up. He grabs a wood wedge and tosses at that killer.

Shotgun Killer gets knocked back, shoots the gun into the air.

Alisha helps Ty lumber down the hallway.

James grabs Axe Killer's head, stands him up, and stares into the black eye fabric in the mask.

JAMES
Come get me...

He throws the killer off his porch and slams the door closed.

EXT. CABIN - RAIN - NIGHT

As Axe Killer slowly stands up, breathing heavy...

SHOTGUN KILLER
Fuck!! Fuck, man!!

Axe Killer just watches the door.

AXE KILLER
Alright... We can wait...

Old Man reveals his cellar, fully equipped like a bomb shelter. He and Keri tend to the dog as Alisha looks around. Old Man asks Keri if she can trust Alisha, because he doesn't. Keri can trust her with her life, since they were middle-school friends.

EXT. CAMP SITE - RAIN - NIGHT

Sheriff and Deputy Bryan see a track parked in the woods...

DEPUTY BRYAN
What is that?

They shine their lights on... The Ranger's Truck.

They park and get out of their truck. Sheriff uses his flashlight to check the campsite... it's a mess.

SHERIFF
Bryan, check that tent, there.
I'll look around.

Deputy Bryan inspects Alisha's tent...

Sheriff walks around the camp. Keri's tent is in tact. Flashlight is on nearby. Ty's tent is untouched.

SHERIFF
Looks like they got outta here
alive... Ran off, maybe...

DEPUTY BRYAN
I got a body here, Sheriff!

Sheriff stomps back over to Alisha's tent.

SHERIFF

Is it one of them kids?

DEPUTY BRYAN

Looks that way. Ripped up hoodie,
maybe a cartoon t-shirt, I don't
know it's all a bloody mess, sir.

Sheriff bends and pokes around the body with his flashlight.

There's a glint in the light...

SHERIFF

How many kids wear official
uniforms under their clothes?

From under the clothes, he pulls a blood-stained Ranger Badge.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

A door opens in the ceiling. Alisha helps Ty down the stairs,
with Keri carrying MacReady behind them.

James locks the cellar door and heads down the stairs.

JAMES

Get'im over there, on that table.

Keri follows James over to a table. He turns on some work
lights as she places the dog on the table.

Alisha props Ty in the middle of the room and looks around.

ALISHA

Can they get us down here?

James looks back at her... studies her...

JAMES

Only one way in... they can try.

Alisha looks around the cellar: hunting gear, gardening tools,
pallets of water, a couple old lockers... like a bomb shelter.

James digs into a rusty tool box and pulls out some shears.

JAMES

Hold him down.

Keri holds MacReady as James cuts the rope in different places.

JAMES
You trust these two?

KERI
I do. He kept us alive when...
those two killed, um... our--

ALISHA
(Across the room)
Our boyfriends...

KERI
(Sighs)
Yeah...

JAMES
What about her?

She focuses on MacReady. Of course she can trust Alisha.

KERI
We've been best friend since the
sixth grade.

Alisha hears Keri and smirks.

JAMES
(I don't trust her...)
Hmm.

MacReady twitches.

KERI
Shh-shh, almost there.

James cuts the last few bits of the rope, which frees MacReady.
He happily licks Keri's face.

JAMES
He likes you.

KERI
Most dogs do.

James checks over MacReady, his bandages, his eyes, etc.

Alisha calls out "You should have left when we could." Then she slices the Tour Guide's throat, revealing that she's also one of the Killers. She runs out of the cellar and blocks the door so they can't escape. The two killers break into the cabin. Shotgun reveals himself to being Robby, Alisha's Boyfriend. Axe Killer reveals to being Matt. Now, Alisha is Knife killer as they all stalk Keri and the Old Man.

They hear the soft, muffled sound of a man grunting.

Keri turns back to see Alisha holding Ty's mouth closed with his Bowie Knife in her other hand.

James just watches Alisha... he doesn't seem to care.

KERI

What are you doing...

Alisha holds the blade close to Ty's throat...

ALISHA

(Cute)

Changing the plan...

Alisha smiles a sinister grin then...

ALISHA

You should have left when we had the chance!

... ALISHA SLICES TY'S THROAT!

Blood pours from his wound. Alisha pushes him to the ground and she runs up the staircase.

Keri's in shock... She bends down to Ty....

Alisha does a cute chuckle, then pops out of the cellar.

KERI

(Tears)

Why???!

Ty's blood pools all over her hands as he dies.

INT. CABIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alisha drops a dresser on the cellar trap door and runs off.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Keri runs up the stairs and pushes on the door. It won't open.

KERI
FUCK! What the FUCK!!

She notices James watching the ceiling.

INT. CABIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alisha skips down the hallway towards the front door.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

James follows Alisha's footsteps across the ceiling, as if he's tracking her. His energy is calm and collected...

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Alisha struggles with the heavy cabinet blocking the front door. She fights to move it out of the way.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Keri is in a state of shock...

JAMES
Why do you suppose yer friend just
did that?

Keri almost wants to vomit... What is happening???

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Alisha finally moves the cabinet and swings the door open.

EXT. CABIN - RAIN - NIGHT

She runs outside into the yard. She spins around in the rain with her mouth open wide, collecting rain drops on her tongue.

The two Killers approach... weapons raised... Alisha smiles.

ALISHA
(Pouty)
Ty's dead...

She playfully slits her own throat with her finger.

Axe Killer is visibly upset. He raises his mask... it's Matt!

MATT

What the fuck, Leesh?! We needing him! He was our Steve! That was the plan this whole fucking time!

ALISHA

Pffsh. The old guy is better. They bonded over the dog, it's poetic.

She wraps her arms around the Gun Killer and raises his mask. It's Robbie! Alisha plants a huge kiss right on his lips.

MATT

No-no-no-no-no! We can't go changing things now!

ROBBIE

Who is this old guy, anyway?

ALISHA

I dunno, some recluse hillbilly. We totally saw him at the store this morning, remember?

ROBBIE

The creep checking you out?

ALISHA

Uh huh!

Robbie and Alisha squeal as he spins her around in his arms.

MATT

That guy's fucking strong, Leesh... It's not gonna work.

ALISHA

Alright if you're not willing to improvise, then we ain't gettin' nowhere. They are trapped inside a fucking fruit cellar, for god's sake. The three of us go down there, lead them out at gun point, and you can do your little Romeo and Juliet in the rain.

ROBBIE

It's not a bad idea, man.

ALISHA

It's a fucking great idea.

They giggle and make out.

MATT

Fuck... We were gonna kill them in the same spot, the same way!

ALISHA

Yeah, well, we didn't account for this old guy, ok? Doesn't matter. Word's gonna spread either way.

(To Robbie)

The legend lives, yeah?

Robbie smiles and picks Alisha up.

ROBBIE

Jimmy Rivers lives!!

ALISHA

JIMMY RIVERS LIVES!!!!

They both look at Matt. He shakes his head and...

MATT

(Goofy smile)

Yeah... Jimmy Rivers lives.

(lowers his mask)

Let's finish this.

They descend on the cabin.

Act III: The Martyr

Old Man opens a locked closet and finds his original axe and his original mask. Keri asks Old Man if he killed those people thirty years ago. "Yup." Keri asks if he's going to kill these new killers. "Yup." He asks Keri to stay put and take care of the dog, because he doesn't want her to see the monster he will become. The 3 Killers stalk through the cabin. Alisha leads the way, but is snagged out of the group. The other 2 Killers hear her screams down the hallway. Then, a door slides open and Alisha's dead body is tossed into the hall. The Old Man stands in the light, wearing that mask, cracking his neck, ready to fight. The 2 Killers look at each other then realize this Old Man is the Smiling Mask Killer they idolized.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

James fiddles with an old, rusty lock on one of the lockers.

Keri bangs on the cellar door. She's beyond frustrated.

KERI

Fuck! We're fucking trapped in here and who the fuck knows when they're coming down to kill us, next!

She notices James hesitates at the locker before opening it.

JAMES

I lied... to your friend. That ain't the only way out.

(Looks back)

You can take the dog with ya.

KERI

No, I want to help... I'm tired of running.

JAMES

(Back to locker)

No need. They're already dead...

With a hefty sigh, he opens that locker. There's a black trash bag inside. He clenches his fist around it... Squeezes it...

JAMES (CONT'D)

They just don't know it.

He rips the bag open revealing... that SMILING-FACE MASK.

Keri recognizes the mask: older, worn out, vintage.

KERI

It's you, isn't it?

JAMES

Yup.

He hesitates with the mask. Then rests it on his head without lowering it down...

KERI

You never left...

It still fits on his head.

JAMES

Nope.

He turns back to that locker and sighs...

KERI

Are you gonna kill them?

JAMES

(beat)

Yup.

He reaches in and yanks out... THAT GNARLY WOOD AXE.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The Killers and Alisha step into the cabin.

Both guys have their masks pulled back down. Matt has the double-bladed axe in hand. Robbie has the shotgun.

Alisha holds that bowie knife... she doesn't need a mask. Her smile is creepy enough, right now.

ROBBIE

(Under the mask)

It's fucking dark in here. Can you see anything?

MATT

(Under the mask)

I can see fine. Quit complaining.

ROBBIE

(Under the mask)

This thing fucking chafes...

Matt looks over at him as if to say "Really, dude?"

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

James points to a corner of the cellar.

JAMES

That'll take you outside. Take the dog, get somewhere safe.

He's about to ascend the staircase when--

KERI

Why didn't they kill you?

James stands, stoic, he can't even look Keri in the eyes...

JAMES

(Solum)

They should have.

James takes a deep breath, and with force, moves up the stairs.

Keri shutters, watching him move. She flinches when she hears a BOOM... BOOM... and a final heavy BOOM!

INT. CABIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

The force of James' strength forces the dresser to bounce over just enough so he can open the cellar door.

He steps out of the hole and moves quietly to the wall near the hallway. He waits... He lowers the mask over his face.

INT. CABIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alisha leads the two Killers down the hallway. She sings the same song she sang earlier with Keri, but it's sinister.

ALISHA
(To Killers)
I'll go open the door for ya...

She skips down the hallway and rounds the corner when--

ALISHA (O.S.)
(GASP)
Oh... Wait!--

She's silenced. There's a BANG, a few times, shaking the walls down the hallway. Then, all goes quiet.

MATT
Leeeesh?... You ok?

HEAVY FOOTSTEP... ANOTHER...

The Killers watch a pair of heavy boots step around the corner.

They follow up the legs... past the torso... gritty hands carrying THAT gnarly axe... and finally to the face...

They see that vintage Smiling-Face Mask.

MATT
Holy shit...

Matt lifts his replica mask, revealing his goofy, ear-to-ear grin and joyous eyes. He stares in awe...

MATT
It's fucking him. It's fucking you...

Robbie, also raises his mask... he's in pure shock.

ROBBIE
(In awe)
The legend lives...

Matt scoffs... he laughs... he can't believe it.

MATT

Jimmy Rivers never left...

They both gush over James, as if they just met their idol.

James lifts his gnarly axe up and rests it on his shoulder.

MATT

And he's got the fucking axe

ROBBIE

I was gonna say, yeah, he's got the fucking axe!

MATT

Dude... we're, like, big fans.

(To Robbie)

Holy shit, man... Had we known...

ROBBIE

Yeah, we wouldn't have attacked your house or anything.

MATT

Wow... fuck! I didn't think... It's a fucking honor, man.

As the two fanboy over him, James leans back around the corner, reaches for something off screen, and pulls it back into frame.

It's Alisha's body... bloodied, disfigured face... dead.

ROBBIE

(Horrorified)

B-babe?

Matt and Robbie don't know how to comprehend this information... they take a step back...

James tosses the body to the floor at their feet.

They both look down at the body. Robbie dives down to her...

MATT

Is she alive?

ROBBIE

She's not fuckin' breathing, man!

James cracks his own neck, then drops his heavy, gnarly axe in his hands and grips it in a ready position.

Matt can't catch his breath. His idol just murdered his sister. He lowers his mask and grips his axe.

MATT

Robbie! Put your mask back on.

Robbie, in tears, stands and fights to pull his mask down, then cocks his shotgun.

ROBBIE

(Under mask)

You mother fucker!

He SHOOTS THE SHOT GUN... But James ducks out of the hallway.

Hiding around the corner, James grunts. His arm was grazed.

Robbie creeps down the hallway, ready to fire again, when--

James pops back out around the corner... slams his axe down... Robbie blocks it with his gun... James KICKS Robbie to the floor... Matt SCREAMS and attacks with his axe overhead...

James blocks... their masks come face to face.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Dust falls above. MacReady barks at the commotion upstairs.

Keri moves some boxes away from a small ladder under another exit. She pushes on the doors, but they won't open. She pushes hard, over and over. But, these f'n doors will not open.

Heavily breathing, she looks around the cellar for anything that could help-- A Machete! She slices inbetween these doors.

EXT. CABIN - RAIN

The Machete slices through bags of sod on the cellar door.

INT./EXT. CELLAR - NIGHT

From the crack, sod falls on Keri's face. She rushes up and pushes the doors open. Rain pours down on her. She basks in it.

She grips that machete and looks back at...

KERI

MacReady! Let's go, boy!

The 2 Killers stand their ground and attack the Old Man in the hallway. He puts up an amazing fight with both of them. Meanwhile, Keri escapes the cellar through an outside door. She appears at the front door just as the Old Man brutally connects with Robby. His blood lust returns and he leans into tearing Robby apart.

INT. CABIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Robbie points the gun, but can't fire until...

ROBBIE

Get out of the way, man! Move!

Matt struggles with James determined to overpower him. James watches Robbie with the gun. Hey bellows a loud grunt and...

... shoves Matt right into Robbie, knocking them both to the ground... Robbie drops the gun... It slides down the hallway.

MATT

Forget the fucking gun!

Matt climbs to his feet... Raises his axe overhead... Screams... attacks at full force...

James blocks and knocks him back down. He stands over the two boys, breathing heavy, dominating the moment.

ROBBIE

He's fuckin with us, isn't he?

Matt sees Alisha's bowie knife and grabs it.

MATT

He can't beat us both.
(Hands him the knife)
Come on, go for his ribs!

They both battle cry and charge James. James stands his ground.

OK, this next bit of action is all in ONE TAKE, trucking down as we watch the three fight in the hallway through the open bedroom doors, kinda like that amazing scene in OLD BOY.

Matt slams his axe down... James knocks it back with his gnarly axe... Robbie goes for his ribs with the bowie knife... James swipes him away...

Then, James advances on them...

He SLASHES with his axe... Matt dodges and the gnarly axe wedges into the wooden floor... James grabs Robbie's head... SLAM! We see the WALL SHAKE... Robbie falls to the ground...

Matt runs his shoulder into James... the two back up a few steps... James STRIKES his forearm into Matt's back... Matt screams and James shoves him back...

Robbie reaches for the gun... James grabs his foot and DRAGS him back... Matt SLASHES down with his axe... James dodges, but, Matt's axe SLICES a piece of James' arm...

James YELLS... He grabs his bloody arm... Stares them down...

Matt and Robbie regroup and breathe... They can hurt him...

EXT. CELLAR DOOR - RAIN

Keri lifts MacReady out of the cellar, into the yard.

KERI
OK, stay right there.

MacReady barks towards the front yard as Keri tosses that machete out of the cellar. Then she pops out of the hole.

She grabs the machete...

KERI
Let's go, buddy, come on!

MacReady won't move. He just barks.

She looks to the woods. Should she run? She looks to the front yard. Lightning flashes. She grips that machete.

She's tired of running.

Matt knocks the Old Man out and beats into him, leaving a bloody mess. Then, Matt runs outside and tackles Keri. She fights to get free, but Matt overpowers her. He screams about how she should have trusted him, so this would not happen. Just as he's about to kill her...

INT. CABIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

James goes for his axe when both Matt and Robbie rush him.

Matt swings the axe... James blocks it with his both his arms.

Robbie DRIVES THAT BOWIE KNIFE INTO JAMES' RIBS.

JAMES
AHHHH!!!

With pure adrenaline... he SHOVES Matt back... grabs Robbie's head... picks him up... and SLAMS HIM DOWN ONTO THE BLADE SIDE OF HIS AXE STUCK IN THE FLOOR BOARDS.

Blood pours from Robbie's head, all over that axe.

MATT
ROBBIEEEE!!!!

James stumbles and pulls the bowie knife from his ribs when--
Matt SCREAMS, SWINGS HIS AXE, CONNECTS RIGHT UNDER JAMES' RIBS.
Matt holds it there, twisting his blade. James SCREAMS!

MATT
Take that fucker!

James falls to one knee.

Matt removes his axe... blood pours out onto the ground... Matt can't himself up, he kicks James in the bloody wound.

James falls flat to the ground, bleeding all over the floor.

KERI
NOOOO!!!

Matt spins around and sees Keri standing in the rain with a Machete. He sprints towards her.

EXT. CABIN YARD - RAIN - NIGHT

Just a reminder, dear reader, Keri has not discovered that Matt is the killer, just yet. She just sees this Masked Killer running her down. So, her instinct? FUCKING RUN!

Keri turns to run, but Matt is too fast. He tackles her to the ground... she drops the machete... Keri screams!

Matt tumbles with Keri, and slams her face down in the mud.

She lifts herself up enough to catch a breath and...

KERI
STOP!!!

Matt slams her head back into the mud.

MATT
Fucking die, bitch!

Keri's flailing hands reach out and grab that machete... She pulls it close and muscles herself up again to breathe.

With a guttural war cry, she SCREAMS... spins her body weight around... and swipes at the killer...

MATT

WHOA!

Matt dodges the machete, and Keri manages to get to her feet.

She grips that machete tight, focusing her domineering eyes on this killer, ready for him to strike.

Matt leans down and catches his breath...

MATT

Whew... I didn't know you had this kind of fight in ya...

Keri recognizes that voice...

Matt removes his hoodie and lets the rain wash through he hair... Then, he removes that mask.

Keri's eyes widen...

KERI

He killed you...

MATT

(Laughs)
Yeah... about that...

He bends down and picks up the axe. Keri stands at the ready.

KERI

What is wrong with you?! You fucking psychopath?!

Matt cracks his neck. He gives her a look as if to say "I mean, come on, look at me." As he slides his mask back on his face--

He CHARGES HER WITH A WAR CRY... Keri BLOCKS with her machete, but it's not enough...

it FLINGS out of her hands...

She falls to the ground...

Axe SLASHES DOWN...

Keri SREAMS and DODGES...

She grabs the machete and SLASHES at Matt...

He blocks with his axe handle-- jumps up-- grabs her throat.

Keri can't breathe.

MATT

What's WRONG with me?! Look at me!

He pulls the machete out of her hand and tosses it far away into the yard, unreachable. Then, he caresses her scared face.

MATT

You were the one who kept me calm.
You-- LISTEN! I needed you to make
me feel normal. To be normal. To
feel love. To love. But, you left.

KERI

(Struggling to breathe)
You don't need me you need a
fucking therapist.

She kicks at him, but can't break free from his grip.

INT. CABIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

James coughs up blood. He lifts himself up, and sees the blood pooling out of his ribs.

He struggles to move, but, he squints and tightens his shirt around his torso, trying to stop the bleeding.

Out the front door, he sees Matt hold Keri by the throat. She flails like a maniac to escape.

James slams his fist on the ground, and supports himself up with his good arm. He stands, a little woozy, but fights through it. He bends down and rips that axe out of the floor.

EXT. CABIN YARD - RAIN - NIGHT

Keri's strength is about to fade when--

MacReady runs up, jumps, and BITES INTO MATT'S MASK!

He drops Keri... She coughs and scoots backward...

MacReady is locked onto Matt's face. He screams in pain, tossing about to get this dog off of him... it's no use.

Keri backs herself up onto the porch. Then, with a justified smile...

KERI

BITE HIS FUCKING FACE OFF!

Matt finally gets his hands in MacReady's mouth and BREAKS the grip off of him and TOSSES the dog.

His mask is hanging on by a thread on his bloody face.

MacReady runs to attack again when--

MATT KICKS HIM WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH!

YELP!

MacReady's body skips across the yard and lands at Keri's feet. Her eyes dart back up to Matt as he stands with that axe.

Keri hears a BOOM... BOOM... Maybe it's her heart pounding.

LIGHTNING FLASHES and Matt stomps towards Keri when he suddenly stops in his tracks.

MATT

No way!

BOOM... BOOM... Keri feels the vibrations on the porch. She looks up, shocked to see... James walking with that axe.

James glances down at Keri, and through his wounded mask--

JAMES

Take care of the dog.

Then, he stomps off the porch into the yard.

Keri sees the trail of blood he leaves behind.

She dives down to grab MacReady and pulls him up onto the porch with her, protecting them both from the rain.

Matt stands, ready with his axe in hand.

MATT

(Hyping himself up)
Come on, old man! Come on!

James picks up his pace and readies his axe.

They collide in the rain... Matt SHOVES James back and SWINGS his axe... James ducks out of the way and trips Matt's feet...

Matt slams to the ground.

He looks up to the image of Jimmy Rivers standing over, gnarly axe falling towards his head...

Matt rolls out of the way, jumps to a crouch, swings his axe--

RIGHT INTO THE BACK OF JAMES' LEG!

JAMES
AAARGGGHHH!!!

James goes down to one knee.

KERI
NOOO!!!

Matt points the axe back at Keri.

MATT
Shut up! You're fuckin' next!

He widens up his axe again... swings right into James' back!

JAMES
ARRGGHH!!!!

MATT
You're nothin, Old Man! Just old
news! I'm the legend now!

He swings the axe again... CONNECTS! But, James won't go down!

James holds himself up, leaning on his axe.

MATT
Fucking die already!

He KICKS James... James strains... he coughs more blood...

Keri looks around for something, anything to use--

LIGHTNING FLASH... just inside the cabin... the SHOT GUN.

Back to Matt and James:

James tries to stand... Matt winds his foot back... Kicks James
right in his open wound...

JAMES
AHHHH!!!!

Matt kicks again... then again... until James keels over...

Matt raises his axe and SLAMS it into James' back!

JAMES
(Coughs up more blood)
ARGH...

Matt catches his breath for a minute.

MATT

Yeah, we're gonna have to do this right here, aren't we.

He SLAMS the axe into James' back, again...

JAMES

AAARGH....

MATT

This is where you attacked us helpless campers...

He bends down and forces James over onto his back.

LIGHTNING FLASHES reveal a bloody and bruised James.

MATT

(Gathering his breath)
And I stopped you...
(Over his shoulder)
Not before you killed my girlfriend, though, huh Kare?

James fights to breath... His bloody hands clasps the mud and grass... reaches out for that axe... barely out of reach...

Matt's adrenaline builds... His eyes burn bright in the LIGHTNING FLASHES... He grips his axe tighter in his hands...

Like some kind of crazed madman, he raises the axe over his head... ready to strike... to embody his hero's legend, when--

BANG!

Matt flinches... Shock paints his face... He turns around...

Keri stands in the rain, struggling to cock that shotgun.

MATT

Keri?

She can't quite get it. She fights with it.

KERI

Come on, fucker...

Matt walks towards her...

MATT

We don't have to die, Kare.

As he gets closer, she takes small steps backwards, still struggling with that fucking shotgun.

MATT

Nobody had to die! We could have worked through this. WE could have survived!

He gets closer to her, and she kneels down, trying to use her body weight on cocking down that gun...

MATT

We still can. Drop the gun, baby.

COCK-COCK the new bullet slides into the chamber.

Keri stands! She points the shot gun at Matt.

He stops with his arms raised, removes his mask.

MATT

Keri?! I-I I've always loved you...

KERI

(Grimaces)
Oh, FUCK YOU!

She fires! BANG!

Matt is hit! He flies off his feet and lands HARD on his back!

Keri stumbles backward... she watches as...

Matt coughs up blood on the ground...

MATT

KERI!!! KERRRIII!!!

James' hands twitch... He GRABS his axe... He finds all his strength and SWINGS THE AXE IN A LARGE ARC ACROSS HIS BODY...

The blade comes down towards Matt's face--

MATT

NOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

BLADE SLICES THROUGH MATT'S FACE!

Keri winces...

Matt's head falls apart in two bloody pieces on either side of that blade. He's dead.

Keri stumbles backward... what a fucking night.

MacReady perks up... he whimpers... He stands to his feet...

KERI
Mac, come here, boy...

The dog limps into the muddy yard... past Matt's dead body... and approaches James... MacReady licks James' face...

JAMES
(Broken speech)
Hey... buddy...

James coughs up blood.

Keri stands up, surprised that James is alive.

In the distance, through the woods, she can see RED AND BLUE LIGHTS approaching through the trees.

She runs over to James and kneels down. She removes his mask.

KERI
Hey, hey! You're gonna be alright,
stay with me!

James coughs up more blood... he's fading... loosing too much blood out of his different wounds.

He reaches up to Keri. She grips his hard, blistered hand.

His eyes water...

JAMES
(Let me die)
No.

His grip loosens in her hand and falls limp...

MacReady curls up and nestles against James' dead body.

Keri stands and looks for the approaching police lights... they're getting closer.

She dives down to the body...

OUTSIDE THE GATE:

Two vehicles arrive: The truck and another SUV.

Sheriff pops out of the truck, and the other deputies follow.

SHERIFF
Get over there and check on Blake,
you, get the ambulance down here,
come on, Bryan, you're with me.

They hop over the fence and shine their flashlights as they head towards the bodies.

Keri stands with MacReady in her arms.

SHERIFF

Ma'am, are you alright? What the hell happened?

Keri is blinded by the flashlights.

SHERIFF

Go sit in the SUV and get yourself warm, alright?

DEPUTY BRYAN

Did Jimmy Rivers attack you guys?

KERI

No... My, ex... he went crazy.
(Looks back at James)
The old man saved me...

SHERIFF

(To Deputy)
Get her out of here, let's go.

Deputy Bryan scoops her along.

DEPUTY BRYAN

Come with me, ma'am...

Sheriff shines his light at the two bodies... no masks are in sight. He removes his hat and wipes his hand through his hair.

SHERIFF

(Sigh)
Godspeed, Mr. Rivers...
(To Deputies)
Go check the house, there's more bodies up there. Let's clean this up, come on.

He turns back as Keri reaches the SUV. Deputy Bryan points off into the woods, and Keri walks MacReady into the tress.

Sheriff rushes on his limp to the SUV.

SHERIFF

Bryan! What the hell did I say?

DEPUTY BRYAN

She said the dog needed to take a piss, Sheriff...

Sheriff sighs, and slowly limps that direction.

IN THE WOODS:

Keri fastens Matt's mask to a rock and throws it as hard as she can into the woods just as the Sheriff limps up behind her.

SHERIFF

You know we're gonna find that...
How about you give me that one.

Without turning around, staring stoically into the woods...

KERI

Come on, Mac.

She turns and slams the Vintage mask onto the Sheriff's chest. Without looking him in the eye...

KERI

Let the legend die, Sheriff.

Her toughened eyes look up to meet his. Then she walks off.

Sheriff stands for a second... He reaches in his picket...

SHERIFF

Yeah...

CLICK-CLICK... WOOSH... He sets the mask on fire.

Keri climbs into the SUV. MacReady jumps in behind her.

KERI

Let's go home, buddy.

She pulls the door, slamming its closed.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sound of CONSTANT HEAVY RAIN.

The End.

