



## ESCAPE THE HOUSE

Written by

Maurice Vaughan

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - DAY

Big, beautiful small-town house far from everyone and surrounded by woods.

A bird sings. Wind blows the flowers and a "For Sale" sign in the yard.

A used rocking chair and a used axe sit on the porch.

A man's face appears on a wall, admires nature. The face smiles.

The front door and screen door fly open. A journal and pen float out the house.

The wall's face looks at a blank page in the journal.

**When walls, doors, and things talk, it's the humorous HOUSE speaking (the same country voice).**

WALL

(as the pen writes)

It's such a beautiful summer day.  
The flowers, the breeze, the bird  
singing... Can't sing better than  
me.

The pen stops writing. The wall's face stares at nature a while, dejected.

WALL (CONT'D)

(as the pen writes)

If only I had a family to enjoy it  
with.

A tear rolls down the wall's face. The face turns wicked. As it talks, the pen scribbles hard and the first-floor windows slowly lift up in unison:

WALL (CONT'D)

If only... I had... A family... To  
enjoy... It...

The windows open all the way.

WALL (CONT'D)

With!!!

The windows slam but don't break. The face's nostrils flare. Drool drips from its mouth like a rabid dog.

The face calms itself.

WALL (CONT'D)  
 (downhearted, pen writes)  
 Is that too much to ask?

The wall's face sighs.

INT. HOUSE - THROUGHOUT - DAY

Mid-sized house in a nice neighborhood. Photos of Julie and Andrea decorate the house. They're happy in the past photos. In the present photos, Julie frowns, texts, stands with her arms folded, and stares off-screen.

INT. HOUSE - JULIE'S ROOM - DAY

Hip music plays on a TV. Cool paintings of people sit around the room. A lotta paint supplies.

Pics of Julie, Cassidy, and Bella on a mirror. Cassidy is a curly-haired troublemaker. Bella is a girly model.

A humorous, lively girl, JULIE HOUSE (16), sits at a canvas, painting a teen. She bounces to the music. She turns up the music with a remote.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

A caring, fierce mom/leader-type, ANDREA HOUSE (38), marches to Julie's door. It sounds like a club in Julie's room.

INT. HOUSE - JULIE'S ROOM - DAY

Julie paints. Andrea knocks on her door.

ANDREA (O.S.)  
 Turn the music down.

Julie dances as she paints, ignoring her. Andrew knocks.

ANDREA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Turn it down!

Julie ignores her. Andrea bangs on the door, startling her.

ANDREA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Julie! Turn it down!

JULIE  
 Ok!

Julie mashes the remote hard, turning down the music.

INT. HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Andrea sits down at the table with a laptop, opens it to a document ("ANDREA'S PIE TREATS: BUSINESS PLAN").

INT. HOUSE - JULIE'S ROOM - DAY

Julie studies the painting, spots a mistake.

JULIE  
Gotta fix that.

Bella texts: "U comin out?"

Julie replies: "Yup!"

Julie goes back to painting. Her phone rings ("Cassidy").  
Julie paints as she talks.

CASSIDY (PHONE)  
Talk to Bella?

JULIE  
Yeah. I'm coming.

CASSIDY (PHONE)  
Cool. You missed a fire party last night.

JULIE  
Ugh.  
(slang for "jealous")  
Jelly.

CASSIDY (PHONE)  
You should be. You-know-who was there.

"You-know-who was there" makes Julie mess up on her painting.

JULIE  
Really?

CASSIDY (PHONE)  
Yup.

Julie sighs, frustrated.

CASSIDY (PHONE) (CONT'D)  
Should've snuck out.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Julie's bike stands by a wall. Andrea plates eggrolls, ready for work. Antique store nametag: "Andrea House" "Manager"

Julie bounces in. She spots the plates, rushes over.

ANDREA  
Wash your hands first.

Julie grabs her plate.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
I said wash your hands.

Julie sits down at the table. Andrea sighs, sits down.

JULIE  
Eggrolls for breakfast?

ANDREA  
Breakfast eggrolls.

Julie takes a bite. Her face lights up. Andrea smiles.

JULIE  
If I had to pick one thing to eat every day, this would definitely be it. No cap this is fire.

Andrea stares, perplexed.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
No cap means no lie. This is fire means the food is awesome.

ANDREA  
Oh. Thanks, sweetie... Did your dad call or text you?

Julie shakes her head and looks down, downhearted.

JULIE  
Have you heard from him?

ANDREA  
No.

Julie picks at her food. She peeps at Andrea, wanting to ask something.

JULIE  
Um, mom, can I get a car?

ANDREA

No.

JULIE

Please? I'm sick of riding that thing.

Julie points at her bike.

ANDREA

No. If you get a car, you'll be out there driving, not obeying the lights and signs. You might get someone --

Julie rolls her eyes.

JULIE

This again.

They eat in awkward silence. Julie picks at her food.

ANDREA

Did you sell your painting?

JULIE

No. I won't be done till tomorrow.

ANDREA

Can you help with the electric bill?

JULIE

Sure.

ANDREA

Thank you.

Julie stands up.

JULIE

I'm out.

ANDREA

No, you're grounded.

JULIE

Yesterday was my last day.

Andrea takes out her cellphone, checks the date.

ANDREA

Stay away from Cassidy.

JULIE

Ok.

ANDREA

I mean it.

JULIE

Alright. I'll just hang out with Bella.

ANDREA

I love you.

Julie blows her a kiss, grabs her bike.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Wear your helmet and pads.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Julie texts Cassidy ("On way"). She wears a bookbag. A paint can keychain hangs on it. She rides off on her bike, no helmet or pads.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Sunset. Andrea drives up in her SUV. She stretches and relaxes after a long day of work. Before she can get out, her phone rings.

ANDREA

Hello?

POLICE OFFICER (PHONE)

Hi, ma'am. This is the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Is this Andrea House?

Andrea tenses up, scared.

ANDREA

Yes. What's this about?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea storm into the house. Andrea slams the door.

ANDREA

We're moving.

JULIE  
What!? Where!?

ANDREA  
I don't know yet.

JULIE  
My friends are here! My life is  
here!

ANDREA  
We're moving so you can have a  
life. If you keep hanging around  
Cassidy, you won't have one. You'll  
end up in prison or dead.

Andrea shivers, the thought terrifying her. Julie smirks.

JULIE  
I think you're being a little  
dramatic.

ANDREA  
Dead!

Julie's smirk fades, and she glares at Andrea.

JULIE  
I'm not moving.

ANDREA  
You don't have a choice.

JULIE  
I'm not moving!

ANDREA  
Yes you are! As soon as I find a  
house, we're gone!

Julie folds her arms, shakes her head.

JULIE  
Can't wait till I graduate so I can  
get away from you.

Andrea jerks her head back, offended.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Far away.

Andrea holds back tears. Julie stomps out the room. Her  
bedroom door slams in the hall.



INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Andrea searches for houses on her laptop, glaring at the screen. She clicks on a house (the house that's alive), mashing hard. Andrea stares at the house. She touches her lip, thinking.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - DAY

The same "For Sale" sign. A jolly businessman with a country accent, JACK UNDERWOOD (45), eats ribs outside his car.

A trash bag of flyers is in his car.

The same rocking chair and axe are on the porch. An excited face is on a porch column. The first-floor windows, the screen door, and stuff on the porch dance as the face sings:

COLUMN

*You're gonna make this sale! You're  
gonna make this sale!*

JACK

(sings)

*I'm gonna make this sale! I'm gonna  
make this sale!*

Andrea drives up in her SUV. The windows, screen door, and stuff on the porch stop dancing.

Julie sits in the passenger seat, arms folded. Glaring at the house. Andrea notices she's angry, and Andrea holds up a finger to Jack. He nods.

ANDREA

Listen, I'll let your friends come  
over.

JULIE

Cassidy?

Andrea restrains her anger.

ANDREA

I'll think about it.

JULIE

Which means no.

ANDREA

It means I'll think about it.

JULIE  
Does this place even have any  
stores?

ANDREA  
Yes. And a mall.

Julie raises an eyebrow, interested. Andrea looks around at the land.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
I think you're gonna love it here.  
Eventually.

Julie stays quiet a little while.

JULIE  
Can I have a party? Like a  
housewarming party?

ANDREA  
Yeah.

Julie turns her head to Andrea fast.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
A big one.

Julie smiles, gets out the SUV.

JULIE  
(to Jack)  
Sup?

The column's face smiles.

JACK  
Afternoon, young lady.

Julie spots BBQ sauce on Jack's mouth.

JULIE  
You got some...

Jack wipes his mouth. Andrea gets out her SUV.

ANDREA  
Hi, you must be Mr. Underwood. I'm  
Andrea House. This is my daughter  
Julie.

JACK

Please call me Jack. Pleasure to meet y'all. House family, meet your new house!

Jack stretches out his arms, showing off the house. Julie and Andrea marvel at it.

JACK (CONT'D)

Big house, big yard. There's no one around for miles. You're gonna love the privacy. Let's go inside!

They head up the steps. The column's face tries to contain its excitement.

Jack opens the front door. Julie sees the axe.

JULIE

My arms are too skinny to cut wood.

JACK

Plenty other chores for a young lady.

JULIE

You didn't hear that, mom.

JACK

That axe comes with the house. Rocking chair too.

ANDREA

I love rocking chairs.

COLUMN

(talks low, sad)  
Rose loved that chair.

Julie spots a flyer on the porch, grabs it.

JULIE

(reads)  
"The House is Alive. Don't move in."

COLUMN

(talks low)  
They won't believe that.

JACK

I must've missed a flyer.

Andrea takes the flyer from Julie.

ANDREA

(reads)

"*The House is Alive. Don't move in.*" Who made this?

JACK

Oh, just Harriet Williams.

COLUMN

(talks low)

A pain in my back door.

ANDREA

(to Jack)

She believes the house is alive?

JACK

Yes, ma'am. She was Hank's maid. She saw his face on the house. So she says.

JULIE

Harriet must be --

Julie makes a swirling "crazy" sign with her finger and head.

JACK

I know. She really believes the house is alive.

Jack laughs.

JACK (CONT'D)

She even started a website, warning people about the house.

The column's face watches them. Julie looks at the flyer in Andrea's hand, spots "*House Destroyer.*"

JULIE

What's House Destroyer?

JACK

That's what some people call her.

ANDREA

Who's Hank?

JACK

Hank's my little brother. He was the first owner. Well, he and his wife were the first owners.

COLUMN  
(talks low, sad)  
Rose.

JACK  
Hank was a very rich architect. He actually built this house.

JULIE  
Mom, imagine if the house really was alive. It could do my laundry!

ANDREA  
If it was alive, you would still do your laundry.

COLUMN  
(talks low)  
Exactly.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - DAY

Jack enters with Julie and Andrea. They stand on a used carpet at the front door.

Julie and Andrea gaze at the inside, stunned.

Eyes appear on a key rack by the door.

JACK  
Five bedrooms. Six bathrooms. Check out this door.

Andrea touches the door.

ANDREA  
It's beautiful.

JACK  
It's a steel security door. Very expensive. Unlike anything else on the market. You need a bulldozer to knock this thing down.

Julie spots the new baseball bat in the corner.

JULIE  
Whose bat?

JACK  
Mine. I saw a big dog hanging around, so I bought one. I'll throw it in with the house!

JULIE  
You're scared of dogs?

JACK  
Yes, sure-ly. Aren't you?

JULIE  
No. I'm terrified of insects.

KEY RACK  
(talks low, sad)  
So was Victoria.

Julie grabs the bat.

ANDREA  
Don't swing it.

Julie swings the bat. Andrea takes it.

KEY RACK  
(talks low)  
She said don't swing it.

JACK  
Do you play softball, young lady?

JULIE  
Nope. Mom did. I played volleyball.  
Until coach kicked me off the team.

JACK  
You can play next year. Our high  
school needs players. Bad.

JULIE  
Naw, I'm ok. I'll probably get  
kicked off the team again.

Andrea puts the bat back in the corner.

ANDREA  
If we move here, the bat stays  
there for protection.

JACK  
Your mom's smart. Dangerous folks  
in the world. And big dogs.

Andrea takes a stun gun and pepper spray out her purse, pulls  
a pocket knife out her pocket. Jack backs up.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Whoa.

JULIE  
She always keeps them on her.

ANDREA  
Where are yours?

JULIE  
In my room somewhere.

ANDREA  
I said keep them on you.

JULIE  
Ok, I will.

ANDREA  
No you won't.

JULIE  
Yeah, I was cappin.

Andrea and Jack look at Julie, puzzled.

KEY RACK  
(talks low)  
Cappin?

JULIE  
(to Andrea and Jack)  
Cappin means lie.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jack shows Julie and Andrea the huge kitchen. Andrea looks around wonderstruck. A face appears on a used air fryer.

JACK  
Ma'am, from that look, I can tell  
you love cooking.

ANDREA  
Yes. My mom taught me.

JULIE  
She cooks, I eat.

ANDREA  
This is perfect for my home bakery.

JACK  
You have a home bakery!?

ANDREA  
I will. "*Andrea's Pie Treats.*"

JULIE  
Everything's gonna taste like pie.  
Brownies, cookies, cupcakes.

AIR FRYER  
(talks low, excited)  
Home bakery. Wonderful smells.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Julie plops down on the long sofa. A face appears on a big, used TV.

JULIE  
It's soooo soft.

Andrea touches the two used sofas.

ANDREA  
Is the entire house furnished?

JACK  
Yes, ma'am. Hank and his wife  
furnished it.

Jack knocks on a window.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Top-of-the-line reinforced glass  
windows.

Jack strikes the window repeatedly.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Very difficult to break. Hank was  
big on safety.

Julie notices the TV's face. It disappears.

JULIE  
Did you see that!?

ANDREA  
See what?

JULIE  
A face! On the TV!



JACK  
(nervous)  
Maybe I, um left the TV on.

JULIE  
And it just cut off by itself?

ANDREA  
It might be a sleep timer. I put  
one on my TV.

JACK  
Sleep timer! That explains it!

Julie goes to the TV, stares at it. She shrugs, leaves the TV. A face appears on a wall.

ANDREA  
Why is this big, beautiful house --  
that's fully furnished -- so cheap?

JACK  
I wanna sell it fast as I can and  
move to the big city. New York. I  
have some business deals lined up.

Andrea puts her finger on her lip, thinking.

ANDREA  
We'll take the house.

JACK  
You will!?

WALL  
(talks low)  
You will?

ANDREA  
(to Jack)  
Yes. I start at the antique store  
soon. I'll be the manager. With  
what I'll make, child support --

JULIE  
My paintings.

ANDREA  
And my savings, I can afford the  
payments.

The wall's face celebrates quietly.

JACK

Well, no need to show the rest of the house.

JULIE

I wanna see my room!

ANDREA

We can finish looking around.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - DAY

Jack walks Julie and Andrea through. Faces appear on a wall, keeping up.

ANDREA

What happened to Hank and his wife?

JACK

She died. Their daughter too.

The wall's faces frown sad.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hank moved to an island. He bought it.

JULIE

He had stacks. I'ma have stacks when I become famous.

Andrea and Jack stop walking. Julie turns to them. They look at Julie, confused.

WALL

(talks low)  
Stacks?

JULIE

(to Andrea and Jack)  
Stacks means a lot of money.

They continue walking, stop at bedroom #1. The door is missing. A new door leans against a wall in the empty room.

JACK

I knew I forgot something. I meant to put that door on.

ANDREA

I can get someone to install it.

JACK

Great.

The wall's face watches them walk down the hall.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh! Hank left a lot of stuff around the house. Whatever you find, you can keep!

JULIE

I hope we find some money.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - DAY

A moving truck and Andrea's SUV arrive. A face appears on a column.

COLUMN

(sings)

*Welcome, family. Welcome, family.*

Two male movers (30s) get out the truck. Julie jumps out the SUV before Andrea gets out.

The movers open the back of the truck. It's full of boxes and furniture.

Julie spots flyers all over the porch, runs over. The column's face watches her. She grabs a flyer.

JULIE

(reads)

*"Don't unpack! Leave!"*

Andrea unlocks the front door.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Mom, check this out.

Julie gives Andrea the flyer. Andrea skims it.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Should we listen to the flyer?

Andrea balls up the flyer, drops it. The column's face smiles.

The movers carry big boxes into the house.

Andrea grabs a small box out her SUV. Julie touches a big box in the SUV. Andrea sees "Glass" on the big box.

ANDREA  
That's too heavy. Grab a small box.

Andrea carries the small box to the house. Julie totes the big box, struggling. She drops it. Glass in it shatters.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Julie Carina House!

JULIE  
My bad.

ANDREA  
I said grab a small box!

Julie looks at the big box on the ground.

JULIE  
Maybe some of it didn't break.

Andrea shakes her head, sighs. The column's face shakes, sighs.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - THROUGHOUT - DAY

Open moving boxes everywhere.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - DAY

Andrea puts bolt cutters, an axe, and garden tools into a closet. They're all used.

She grabs a used, orange extension cord off the shelf. A name's on it.

ANDREA  
(reads)  
"Hank Underwood."

She puts the cord back. Eyes appear on it, watch her.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Andrea puts her phone on the charger. A face on the end table lamp watches her. Her phone rings.

ANDREA  
Hi, mom. We're here. Thanks again  
for the new wardrobe.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - DAY

Empty. A mover rolls in a tall, new wardrobe on a dolly. Andrea brings in "Guest Room" boxes on a new dolly.

A face on a wall watches Andrea. The mover turns to the wall. The face disappears.

Andrea touches the new door that's leaning against a wall.

ANDREA

Can you install this door?

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - JULIE'S ROOM - DAY

Julie bounces around, unpacking paint supplies. Her room is almost set up. A face on a wall watches her.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - STAIRCASE - DAY

Julie dances down the steps. Eyes on the railing watch her.

Cassidy texts: "*Call me later*"

Julie replies: "K" and an excited emoji.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - DAY

Julie explores, sees a used padlock on a basement door. Behind her, a scared face on a wall watches.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - DAY

Wrapped food, gifts, and cases of bottled waters are on counters. A note on a gift reads "*Welcome to town.*"

Andrea makes a plate from the food. Julie bounces in. A face appears on a wall.

JULIE

Did you put a lock on the basement?

The wall's face watches, scared.

ANDREA

No. It was locked when Jack showed us around.

JULIE

You sure?

ANDREA

Yes.

JULIE

I didn't see it, and nothing gets past these eyes.

ANDREA

Something did this time.

JULIE

Man, I wanna see what's down there... Use your bolt cutters!

WALL

(talks low, quiver)

No.

ANDREA

We need to finish the upstairs and downstairs. The basement can wait.

The wall's face sighs, relieved. Andrea gives her the plate.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

I'll be back later. I have to run errands. Love you.

JULIE

Love ya.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Julie draws a teen rebel in a sketchbook at the table. Julie has her phone to her ear. A face on the ceiling watches.

CASSIDY (PHONE)

It must suck out there in the boondocks.

JULIE

It's aight. It's quiet.  
(frowns)  
No mall.

CASSIDY (PHONE)

I feel so sorry for you.

CASSIDY'S MOM (PHONE)

(in background)  
I told you to wash clothes.

CASSIDY (PHONE)

So?

CASSIDY'S MOM (PHONE)

Get off the phone and wash clothes.

CASSIDY (PHONE)

No! Get outta my room!

CASSIDY'S MOM (PHONE)

Go wash clothes!

The sound of Cassidy moving around comes through the phone.

CASSIDY (PHONE)

(to Julie)

I'm going over Bella's house. I'll call you back.

JULIE

Aight, bye.

Julie hangs up, puts her phone by her elbow. She goes back to drawing. The ceiling's face watches.

Andrea enters with groceries and a wrapped box. The ceiling's face smiles.

ANDREA

Move your phone to the center.

JULIE

It's fine.

Andrea and the ceiling's face glare at Julie.

CEILING

(talks low)

Listen to your mom.

Andrea gives Julie the box, and Julie tears into it.

JULIE

Night vision goggles?

ANDREA

Your housewarming gift.

JULIE

What am I gonna do with these?

ANDREA

Wear them when you go camping. I don't want you out there in the dark, not being able to see.

Julie checks out the goggles.

JULIE

These dope.

Andrea and the ceiling stare at Julie, befuddled.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Dope is like "fire." It means awesome.

ANDREA

Ohhh.

CEILING

(talks low)  
Ohhh.

JULIE

How much they cost?

ANDREA

They weren't that much. I bought them from the pawn shop.

Andrea one-arm hugs Julie.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

And it doesn't matter how much they cost. Your safety is more important.

CEILING

(talks low)  
Aww.

Julie stands up, reading the back of the box. She knocks her phone off the table, and the phone shatters.

JULIE

My phone!

ANDREA

I told you to move it.

CEILING

(talks low)  
She told you to move it.



EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

A caring down south mom, HARRIET WILLIAMS (40), rushes up the steps. A bodycam is clipped to her shirt.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - JULIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie paints a silly painting as she eats snacks. The doorbell rings.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Plain parent's room. Andrea sits in bed with her laptop, working on her business plan.

JULIE (O.S.)  
I'll get it.

ANDREA  
Look through the peephole first.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - NIGHT

Julie opens the front door. She stands on the used carpet. A face appears on it.

JULIE  
Sup?

HARRIET  
Hi there, Julie. I'm Harriet.

The carpet's face frowns.

JULIE  
How do you know my name?

HARRIET  
Small town. Is your mom home?

JULIE  
Mom!

Andrea comes downstairs.

ANDREA  
Did you look through the peephole  
before answering?

JULIE  
No.

Andrea shakes her head. She steps in front of Julie, protecting her.

ANDREA

Who are you?

HARRIET

Harriet Williams. I live over yonder.

(stern)

You and your daughter need to move out. Now.

ANDREA

Jack told us about you, and we saw the flyers. We're not leaving.

The carpet's face smiles.

JULIE

Hey, if the house is alive, how did it become alive?

HARRIET

I don't know, but it's alive. And it's dangerous. It attacked me with a garden hose.

Julie starts to make a swirling "crazy" sign with her finger and head -- Andrea stops her hand.

JULIE

Why do people call you the House Destroyer?

HARRIET

I tried to destroy it. I did a lot of damage.

JULIE

Why didn't you finish?

ANDREA

Don't encourage people to commit crimes.

HARRIET

The sheriff said he would arrest me if I kept on. I have a kid. I can't go to prison.

ANDREA

Thank you for your concern, but this is our new home.

CARPET  
 (talks low, excited)  
 They're mine.

HARRIET  
 (to Andrea)  
 Please leave. I don't want anything  
 to happen to y'all.

ANDREA  
 Goodnight, Harriet.

Harriet's eyes plead with Andrea. Harriet turns to leave.

JULIE  
 Hey, can I paint you? I'll give you  
 a deal.

HARRIET  
 Sure. I would love that.

JULIE  
 Let me take your picture with my  
 phone. Never mind, it's broke.

Harriet takes out a boy's photo (10), shows Julie.

HARRIET  
 That's my son, Andy. Can you paint  
 him?

JULIE  
 I got you.

HARRIET  
 When can you start painting?

JULIE  
 Right now!

ANDREA  
 No. She can start tomorrow. She  
 still has things to unpack.

Julie rolls her eyes. The carpet's face frowns.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
 Stop rolling your eyes at me.

Julie rolls her eyes.

CARPET  
 Keep rolling your eyes! I'll slap  
 them out!

Everyone jumps, startled. Andrea grabs Julie, protecting her. Andrea looks around, not knowing where the voice came from.

ANDREA

Who said that!? Who's in my house!?

HARRIET

It was the house. I told you it's alive.

ANDREA

Stop joking! This is serious!

Julie spots the carpet's face.

JULIE

Mom, look at the carpet!

Andrea sees the carpet's face, screams. Harriet runs into the house. Everyone looks at the face. Andrea's mouth hangs open.

JULIE (CONT'D)

This is cray way.

Harriet looks at Julie, bewildered.

CARPET

Cray way?

JULIE

(to Harriet)

It means crazy.

Andrea rushes to the door with Julie. It slams. A face appears on it.

FRONT DOOR

Hi, I'm Hank.

ANDREA

What do you want?

FRONT DOOR

I want you and Julie as my family.

JULIE

What?

FRONT DOOR

My wife, Rose, and my daughter, Victoria, died in a car wreck. My Rose. Caring and always positive. My Victoria. So well-behaved, so caring. My girls.

The door's face cries. Tears roll down it.

FRONT DOOR (CONT'D)  
Will you two be my family?

JULIE  
I want a dad, but not a house dad.

FRONT DOOR  
If you become my family, you'll never want for anything. I hid money in here as a safety net.

ANDREA  
No. Open.

The door locks. Its mood becomes dark extremely fast.

FRONT DOOR  
No. You're not leaving. We're going to be a family.

JULIE  
No, we're not.

FRONT DOOR  
Oh, yes you are.

ANDREA  
I don't care what this house says. We're getting out of here.

JULIE  
How?

Andrea touches her lip, thinking.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea takes her axe out the garden tools closet. Julie and Harriet run into the hall, curious what she's doing.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - NIGHT

Andrea hacks the front door, only damaging the outside wood.

FRONT DOOR  
I paid a lot of money for this door.

Andrea chops the door, gives up.

ANDREA  
 (to Julie)  
 Did Jack say the back door's like  
 this one?

Julie shrugs, kicks the door repeatedly.

FRONT DOOR  
 You're getting footprints on my  
 door.

Andrea rubs her lip, thinking. She dashes to the hall. Julie  
 and Harriet follow.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

Different design than the front door. A used carpet lies at  
 the door.

Everyone runs in. Andrea tries to open the door. It's locked.  
 A face appears on it. Andrea hacks the door. Same result as  
 the front door.

BACK DOOR  
 Paid a lot for this door too.

Andrea slashes the door. The carpet jumps up, takes the axe.  
 A face appears on the carpet.

CARPET  
 Stop damaging my beautiful doors!

Andrea grabs at the carpet. It runs off with the axe. She  
 puts a finger to her lip, thinking.

ANDREA  
 Windows.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone runs to windows. The windows lock by themselves.  
 They try to open them. A face appears on Julie's window.

WINDOW  
 You'll be happy as my daughter.

JULIE  
 I'll be happy not as your daughter.

Andrea thinks, touching her lip.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - NIGHT

Andrea snatches the baseball bat out the corner.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea runs in with the bat, stops at a window.

JULIE

Jack said it's reinforced.

ANDREA

I'll check.

Andrea hits a window four times. It doesn't break. A face appears on the TV. They see it.

TV

(to Julie and Andrea)

We're going to make so many great memories as a family. I can picture it all right now --

JULIE

Where's the remote?

A used extension cord on the TV wraps around Julie's legs, pulls her to the floor.

TV

Don't interrupt me.

Andrea runs to the TV with the bat. The TV jumps off the stand, bounces away. She chases it, swinging the bat.

ANDREA

Let her go!

TV

(as it bounces)

Be careful... I watch... Family movies... On this.

Harriet tries to free Julie from the cord.

Andrea trips on the cord. She snatches her charging phone off the end table. **Seat cushions move when the short sofa talks.**

SHORT SOFA

Go ahead, call 911.

HARRIET  
 (to Andrea)  
 They won't believe you.

ANDREA  
 They will if they come out and see.

The sofa gasps, scared. Andrea dials 911.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
 Send the sheriff! Someone broke in  
 my --

The cord of the end table lamp snatches Andrea's phone.

SHORT SOFA  
 (fake woman voice)  
 I'm sorry. My daughter, Julie,  
 called you. It was a prank call.

Andrea tries to take the phone from the cord.

SHORT SOFA (CONT'D)  
 I'm Andrea House. We just moved  
 into Hank's old house... Yes, the  
 one that's "alive."

Andrea swings at the lamp with the bat. It dodges.

SHORT SOFA (CONT'D)  
 It won't happen again. And I'll  
 ground her.

The lamp's cord smashes Andrea's phone.

SHORT SOFA (CONT'D)  
 No more phone calls.

ANDREA  
 Where's your phone, Harriet?

Harriet takes a cellphone out her pocket. The sofa's hard  
 bottom slams into her right arm. She drops the phone.

The lamp's cord shatters Harriet's phone. **Seat cushions move  
 when the long sofa talks.**

LONG SOFA  
 Leave, Harriet. I only want them.

HARRIET  
 I'm not leaving y'all.



LONG SOFA

Actually, you're staying. You'll be our maid. You can look after the house so we can spend more time together.

HARRIET

No, I have a son.

LONG SOFA

Oh yeah... Do you have family?

HARRIET

Yes.

LONG SOFA

They can raise him.

HARRIET

No.

LONG SOFA

Yes. It'll be the four of us.

Andrea places a finger on her lip, thinking.

ANDREA

(to Julie and Harriet)

Follow me upstairs.

Andrea and Harriet run to the doorway. Andrea looks at Julie, who's in the same spot.

JULIE

Why upstairs?

ANDREA

Come on.

Julie doesn't move. Andrea pulls her out the room.

LONG SOFA

Andrea, Julie! I'll find you no matter where you are! I'm the house!

The pillows and cushions fall off the sofa as it faints.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

All doors are shut. Bedroom #1's door is the only new door.

Andrea pulls Julie to bedroom #1. Andrea has the bat. Harriet runs behind them, holding her injured arm.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Only the dolly, wardrobe, and the "Guest Room" boxes are in the room.

Andrea, Julie, and Harriet hurry in. Andrea locks the door. Julie looks around.

JULIE

Why are we in this room? Least in my room we got snacks and something to do.

ANDREA

It's a place for me to think, and there's not much for the house to use in here.

HARRIET

That's smart.

JULIE

This sucks. We can't be stuck in here the rest of our lives.

HARRIET

And my son needs me.

Andrea puts a finger to her lip, thinking.

ANDREA

We're escaping through the windows.

JULIE

How? We can't get them open, and they don't break.

ANDREA

They're reinforced, not unbreakable. We can break them if we have enough time.

Andrea checks Harriet's injured arm.

HARRIET

I think it's broke.

Andrea rests a finger on her lip, thinking.

ANDREA

We'll get Julie a weapon, break windows in the living room, then come back for you.

HARRIET

That sounds like a plan.

Andrea opens the door slowly, grasping the bat.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Pink walls. Desk, girls' bed, and dresser. They're all pink and used. A pink "Victoria" pillow lies on the bed.

Moving boxes marked "*Julie's Coats*," "*Attic*," etc.

Andrea and Julie caution in. Andrea leads with her bat, locks the door.

Andrea finds a used softball bat in a box. It's full of used softball stuff.

Andrea gives her the softball bat. Julie practices swinging. Andrea puts on a softball helmet, holds out another helmet.

ANDREA

Put this on.

JULIE

I don't need that.

Andrea puts the helmet on her. Julie throws it off.

ANDREA

It's for your safety. Put it on.

JULIE

No.

Andrea moves toward her with the helmet. Julie backs up. Andrea tries to put the helmet on her. Julie dodges, avoiding the helmet.

ANDREA

Julie Carina House!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The long sofa (that fainted) bumps around, waking up.

LONG SOFA  
 What's going on?... Andrea! Julie!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

A framed photo floats off the staircase. It's a photo of Hank (40), Rose (40), and Victoria (16) at a pink birthday party.

Andrea and Julie exit the room with the bats. Andrea wears her helmet. Julie doesn't.

**Hank's mouth in the photo moves when the photo talks.**

PHOTO  
 This is Rose and Victoria. We were a happy family. We can have the same thing.

ANDREA  
 No.

The photo shakes, frustrated.

PHOTO  
 What are the bats for?

JULIE  
 Um, we're bored? We're gonna play with them?

PHOTO  
 No, you two are up to something...  
 (thinks)  
 The windows! You're not leaving!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The garden tools closet swings open, and the orange extension cord rolls out.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The cord crawls off the staircase fast. Eyes are on the cord.

Andrea and Julie see the cord. Andrea pushes Julie into --

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Andrea slams the door, locks it. Andrea looks at a window, then the bed. She touches a lip, thinking.

ANDREA

We'll use sheets to climb out, then  
get the police and come back for  
Harriet.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The cord slithers fast to bedroom #2.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

The door unlocks, opens by itself. Julie notices.

JULIE

Mom!

Andrea slams the door, locks it. The door unlocks. She locks  
it. Unlock. Lock. Unlock. Lock. Unlock. Lock.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The cord yells, frustrated.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

A used pot floats out the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The pot stops at bedroom #2. A face appears on the pot.

POT

Open this door, or I'll put a hole  
in it!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Andrea strikes the window with her bat.

ANDREA

(to Julie)

Break a window.

Julie stays in the same spot, not listening to her.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The pot thrashes the door. Wood breaks.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Andrea beats the window. Julie watches the door. Andrea stops hitting the window. She places a finger to her lip, thinking.

ANDREA

If we hit this at the same time, it  
might break faster.

Andrea hits the window.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Help me.

Julie doesn't move from her spot.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The pot strikes the door, makes a medium hole in it. The pot sees Julie.

POT

We're going to have so much fun  
together. Dad and daughter.

Julie gives the pot a middle finger. It gasps, shocked.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

The pot flies in, knocks Julie against the head. She crashes to the floor, drops her bat. Andrea stops striking the window with her bat, runs over to Julie.

ANDREA

Are you ok!?

JULIE

Yeah, I'm good.

POT

(to Andrea)

You're not escaping!

Andrea beats the window with her bat. The pot flies over. She slaps the pot, and it flies back.

The cord crawls through the door hole, wraps around Andrea. Julie tries to pull it off Andrea.

JULIE  
Get off my mom!

The pot swings at Julie. She ducks. Julie abandons the cord, runs to the door.

ANDREA  
Julie!

JULIE  
I'll be back, mom!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Julie sprints. The pot chases her.

POT  
You can't get out!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Julie grabs pruning shears out the garden tools closet, faces the pot.

POT  
Put those back.

She fights the pot with the shears.

Julie grabs the pot, hooks its handle onto a tool in the closet. She runs down the hall.

The pot bumps around in the closet.

POT (CONT'D)  
Unhook me!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Andrea tries to get free of the cord.

CORD  
When you have a hard day, I'll be  
there to hug you. Just like this.

Julie runs in, cuts the cord with the shears.

They grab the bats. Andrea feels the window she was hitting. It's cracked. She strikes it.

ANDREA  
Come on, Julie!

Julie lets the bat hang to her side, not helping.

The dresser shoots drawers at Andrea. She dodges.

The desk, bed, and dresser group together, charge at Andrea. She grabs Julie, dashes out the room.

The desk, bed, and dresser block the window.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Harriet looks at her son's photo, kisses it. Someone bangs on the door.

ANDREA (O.S.)  
Unlock the door, Harriet!

Harriet unlocks the door. Julie and Andrea pile in. Andrea locks the door. Julie and Andrea catch their breath.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

A face appears on a wall, looks at bedroom #1's doorknob.

WALL  
Aargh. This door.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Andrea checks Julie's head where the pot hit her. A face appears on a wall.

ANDREA  
(to Julie)  
I told you to wear a helmet.

HARRIET  
Is she ok?

JULIE  
I'm straight.

Andrea and Harriet look at Julie, stumped.



JULIE (CONT'D)  
Straight means I'm fine.

Andrea takes off the helmet, gives it to Julie.

ANDREA  
Put it on.

Julie drops the helmet. Andrea throws up her arms, frustrated. The wall's face grinds its teeth.

HARRIET  
Did y'all break the windows?

ANDREA  
(eyes Julie)  
No.

Julie spots the wall's face.

JULIE  
Mom, the wall.

The wall's face admires Andrea and Julie.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Stop staring, creep.

WALL  
(angry)  
I'm not a creep.  
(happy)  
I'm just admiring my future family.

JULIE  
Just go away.

WALL  
I can't go away. I'm the house.

Andrea sits down. Harriet sits.

ANDREA  
Sit down and ignore it.

Julie stays standing, watches the wall's face.

JULIE  
Creep.

HARRIET  
Why don't you just do what your mom says?

ANDREA

It's because of her "friend"  
Cassidy. I should've never let you  
hang around her.

HARRIET

I'm guessing since she doesn't  
listen to you, she doesn't listen  
to anyone. Grandma. Teachers.

JULIE

Nope.

HARRIET

You're gonna get in a world of  
trouble.

JULIE

How would you know?

HARRIET

I was like you growing up. It  
wasn't cause I hung out with the  
wrong people. I was acting out  
cause my mom died. My disobedience  
got me in a lotta trouble.

Julie sits down by Harriet.

JULIE

What kinda trouble?

Everyone, including the wall's face, listens.

HARRIET

When I was eight, I was playing in  
the dirt outside. My dad told me to  
wash my hands before eating. He  
said, "*I'm done cooking. Wash your  
hands 'fore you eat, or else you'll  
get sick.*" I went straight to the  
table and ate.

JULIE

I bet you didn't get sick.

WALL

You got sick.

HARRIET

I got sick. Sick as a dog. It was  
horrible.

JULIE

Oh.

Julie spots the bodycam clipped to Harriet's shirt.

JULIE (CONT'D)

What's up with the bodycam?

Harriet takes off her bodycam, looks at it.

HARRIET

I record things for my son to see.  
He loves nature. The sky, flowers,  
trees. But he gets sick a lot. Weak  
immune system. I keep him inside  
most the time.

WALL

Poor boy.

ANDREA

(to Harriet)

That's sweet of you.

HARRIET

Thanks. I love being his mom. He's  
so brave and caring. He wants to  
travel the world. Be a journalist.  
I never have trouble with him.

ANDREA

(eyes Julie)

He sounds wonderful.

Julie rolls her eyes.

WALL

Where's my belt!?

JULIE

You're not gonna beat me.

WALL

Yes, I will!

Andrea stares at the bodycam. She puts her finger on her lip,  
thinking. She goes to Harriet. Julie follows curious. **They  
talk low.**

ANDREA

You can get proof that this house  
is alive. I don't want anyone  
buying it after we leave.

WALL  
What are you talking about?

HARRIET  
That's a great idea.

An ear comes out the wall, stretches. Julie notices.

JULIE  
Ear!

The ear returns to the wall. **Harriet and Andrea talk low.**

HARRIET  
It might see me turn on the camera.

Andrea touches her lip again, thinking.

ANDREA  
Turn it on when I get to the  
window.

Andrea heads to the window. The wall's face watches her.

Harriet clips the bodycam onto her shirt, turns it on.  
**BODYCAM:** Records wall's face.

WALL  
(to Andrea)  
The windows are locked. Plus you're  
upstairs.

ANDREA  
If we become your family, will we  
be allowed outside?

WALL  
No. You two might run away.

ANDREA  
We can't be stuck in here. We have  
dreams.

WALL  
You two can fulfil your dreams from  
here. You were going to open a home  
bakery anyway. Julie can sell her  
paintings online.

ANDREA  
She's going to college.

WALL

Online classes. After she meets a nice man and has children, they can raise them here. Harriet can be her babysitter. And don't worry about food, clothes, and other things. You can order everything online.

Andrea walks to the wall's face, leans the bat on the wall.

ANDREA

(flirts)

When you hugged me with that cord...

JULIE

Ew.

ANDREA

(to wall)

I liked it.

WALL

You did?

ANDREA

Yes. I've been so lonely since Julie's dad left. Can you hug me again?

Arms come out the wall, hug Andrea.

JULIE

Mom is hugging a wall.

**BODYCAM:** Records Andrea and the wall hugging.

WALL

This is so nice. I haven't hugged a woman since Rose.

Harriet moves closer for a better view. **BODYCAM:** Records the hug. Andrea and the wall stop hugging.

ANDREA

What should we do our first night as a family?

WALL

Let's! --

The wall's face sees Harriet.

WALL (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

HARRIET  
I'm just...

The wall's face sees Harriet's bodycam.

WALL  
Are you recording?

Harriet doesn't respond.

WALL (CONT'D)  
You are!  
(to Andrea)  
All of that was just a distraction?

Andrea grabs her bat, backs up from the wall's face. Its nostrils flare.

WALL (CONT'D)  
You deceptive woman! I really  
thought you were coming around!

JULIE  
We don't wanna be your family!  
(points to head)  
Get it through your roof!

WALL  
(furious)  
I'm getting that camera, Harriet!  
By any means!

The wall's face disappears.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

The front door swings open. The axe (from the opening scene) lifts off the porch. A face appears on the axe.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - NIGHT

The axe flies in. The front door slams, locks.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Everyone looks around, not knowing what to expect.

JULIE  
That wall was big mad.

Andrea and Harriet look at Julie clueless.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Big mad means very angry.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The axe flies through.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Julie approaches the door slowly.

ANDREA  
Get back.

Julie ignores Andrea. The axe chops the door. Everyone jumps, startled.

The axe rips into the door, making a small hole.

Harriet turns on her bodycam. **BODYCAM:** Records the axe.

Andrea puts a finger on a lip, thinking. She looks at the wardrobe. She runs to the dolly, puts it under the wardrobe.

HARRIET  
Wish I could help.

Andrea leans the heavy wardrobe back using the dolly. Julie stands near the door.

ANDREA  
Move back, Julie!

JULIE  
(refers to wardrobe)  
What's that going to do?

Andrea struggles to hold the wardrobe up. Her arms shake.

ANDREA  
Just move!

Julie doesn't move. Andrea drops the wardrobe. It crashes to the floor. Harriet glares at Julie.

The axe tears a huge door hole. **BODYCAM:** Records the axe.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
 (to Julie)  
 Help me pick this up! Right now!!!

Julie sighs, stomps over. Julie and Andrea sit up the wardrobe. Andrea puts the dolly under it.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
 (stern)  
 Help me.

Julie frowns, gets beside Andrea behind the dolly. They block the door hole with the wardrobe.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The axe strikes the wardrobe. The axe drops, fainting.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Everyone listens for the axe.

ANDREA  
 It stopped.

Harriet sighs, relieved. She turns off the bodycam. Andrea shoots daggers at Julie with her eyes.

JULIE  
 I know, I know. "*Do what I tell you.*" Whatever.

HARRIET  
 Whatever!? Whatever!? You put my life in danger, little missy! That axe would've got in here and killed me!

JULIE  
 No it wouldn't. It wants you to be its maid.

HARRIET  
 Having a maid is nothing! It wants this camera!

Harriet snatches the bodycam off her shirt, waves it.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
 If I'm gone, my son won't have a mom!



Julie lowers her head, ashamed. Harriet glares at her. Julie notices. Harriet calms down, sits on the floor.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
I put someone's life in danger  
once.

JULIE  
Who?

HARRIET  
My dad.

Julie thinks. She sits down by Harriet, listens closely.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
He took me hunting when I was ten.  
Before we left the house, he said,  
*"Don't aim till you're ready to  
shoot."* He must've told me fifty  
times on the way to the woods.

Harriet pauses, pained by the memory.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
Being rebellious, I aimed my rifle  
before we saw any deer. My dad was  
walking right in front of me.

Andrea gasps, covers her mouth afraid.

ANDREA  
No. Tell me you didn't shoot him.

HARRIET  
Yup. Shot my dad. Hurt him real  
bad...  
(teary)  
He, um... He nearly died.

JULIE  
You almost killed your dad?

Harriet nods.

HARRIET  
I could've hurt myself too. Maybe  
even killed myself.

ANDREA  
(to Julie, emotional)  
My worst fear is getting a call  
that you got into a wreck and...

Andrea can't bring herself to finish. Julie reflects on what she said. Everyone stays quiet a while.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Don't you want to get out of this house?

JULIE

Yeah.

ANDREA

It doesn't seem like it. I told you to break the windows so we can get out. What did you do? Nothing.

JULIE

I wanna get out, but I don't wanna listen to you.

Andrea jerks her head back, stunned.

HARRIET

Your daughter is a piece of work.

Andrea puts her head in her hands, sighs loudly. She looks up, then touches her lip, thinking.

ANDREA

We can't break down the doors, and the house won't give us enough time to break windows.

HARRIET

I ain't giving up. I gotta get back to my son.

ANDREA

I'm not saying that. We need to find the house's weakness. It has to have one. When we find it, we'll hurt it and escape.

JULIE

What kinda weakness? Termites?

Andrea rests a finger on her lip, thinking.

ANDREA

The basement has a padlock on it. Something down there might tell us its weakness.

HARRIET

I'm coming. There might be proof in the basement, and I can watch y'all's backs.

ANDREA

Ok, but wait here. I need to get something first.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea exits the room with her bat, wearing her helmet. She checks the hall.

She kicks the axe on the floor, making sure it's not alive.

ANDREA

It's clear.

Julie exits with her bat. Harriet locks the door.

HARRIET

(through door hole)  
Hurry back. I don't want anything coming through this hole.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea and Julie step off the staircase, ready to swing the bats. Andrea leads.

They sneak through. Julie clears her throat.

JULIE

Can I get some water?

ANDREA

No. We don't have time.

JULIE

I won't take long.

They reach the garden tools closet.

ANDREA

No. Keep watch.

As Andrea opens the closet, Julie sneaks away.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The axe (that fainted) lifts into the air, wobbling.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Julie rushes to a case of bottled waters on the counter.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea shuts the closet, holding her bolt cutters. She looks around.

ANDREA

Julie?

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The axe wobbles.

AXE

What happened?... Julie! Andrea!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Julie drinks water, holding a grocery bag with bottled waters in it. Andrea stomps in with her bat and bolt cutters.

ANDREA

I said keep watch.

JULIE

I was thirsty. I got water for everyone.

ANDREA

Something could've snuck up on me.

JULIE

But nothing did.

Andrea rubs her forehead, irritated.

ANDREA

That's beside the point. Just do what I say.

Julie rolls her eyes, opens the fridge.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
 What are you doing? We need to get  
 back to Harriet.

JULIE  
 I'm hungry.

Andrea holds up the cutters.

ANDREA  
 We got what we came for. Let's go.

Julie searches the fridge. She sees homemade chicken tenders,  
 smiles.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
 Julie, let's go before the house --

The axe flies in. Andrea gets in front of Julie, protecting  
 her. The axe sees the cutters.

AXE  
 The basement!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

A washing machine rumbles through the hall.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea hear the washing machine.

JULIE  
 What's that?

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The washing machine blocks the basement door.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The air fryer cord tries to take Andrea's bolt cutters. She  
 grasps them.

Appliances float off counters. Their cords try to snatch the  
 cutters.

AXE  
 Give me the bolt cutters.

Andrea swings her bat at the cords, trying to keep them from taking her cutters. Julie hits cords with her bat.

JULIE  
There's too many, mom!

ANDREA  
I'll hold them off! Take the bolt cutters back to the room!

JULIE  
I can't leave you!

Andrea gives Julie the cutters.

ANDREA  
Just do what I said!

Julie hesitates. The appliances fly at her. Andrea knocks them back with her bat.

Julie breaks for the doorway. The axe blocks her, draws back to chop.

AXE  
Give me the bolt cutters or else.

JULIE  
(puppy dog eyes)  
You're gonna hurt your daughter?

AXE  
No, no. I don't know what I was thinking --

Julie runs out.

AXE (CONT'D)  
Hey!

The axe chases after Julie. Andrea keeps the appliances from the doorway with her bat so they can't chase Julie.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea runs out the kitchen, sees Julie fighting the axe with the bolt cutters. Julie runs to Andrea.

ANDREA  
I said go to the room!

JULIE  
I couldn't leave you.

The appliances fly out the kitchen. Julie and Andrea bolt to the staircase.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea sprint. The axe and appliances barrel into the hall. Julie and Andrea bang on bedroom #1's door.

JULIE  
It's us, Harriet!

Harriet looks through the door hole, rushes to unlock the door. Julie and Andrea pour into the room.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Harriet takes Andrea's bat with her left hand. Harriet fights the axe and appliances, keeping them at the doorway.

Julie helps Andrea put the dolly under the wardrobe.

Harriet tries to shut the door with her left shoulder. The axe and appliances shove on it.

An appliance flies through the door hole. Julie beats it to pieces with her bat.

Andrea shuts the door, locks it.

Julie helps Andrea move the wardrobe with the dolly. They block the door hole.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The appliances beat the door/wardrobe. The axe tears into the door/wardrobe.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Julie gives Andrea the bolt cutters, hugs Andrea.

ANDREA  
I'm glad you didn't want to leave me.

Julie smiles.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
But when I say go, go.

Julie sighs. Everyone sits. Andrea takes off her helmet, looks at the wardrobe.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
We'll head to the basement after  
they go away.

Julie looks at the wardrobe and dolly, goes to the dolly.

JULIE  
Mom, the house hasn't used this. Or  
the wardrobe.

HARRIET  
Are you following, Andrea? Cause  
I'm not.

Andrea shakes her head.

JULIE  
Maybe the house can't use new  
things.

Andrea and Harriet look at each other, not buying it.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Check this out. Everything the  
house has used was used. This door  
is new. It didn't unlock by itself  
like the other door.

ANDREA  
The axe had to chop it.

HARRIET  
If the house only uses used things,  
why hasn't it used your bat?

Julie looks at her bat. Andrea looks at her cutters.

ANDREA  
Or my bolt cutters.

Everyone's clueless. Julie looks at the wardrobe.

JULIE  
Are those crazy things ever gonna  
stop?

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The appliances batter the door/wardrobe. The axe rips into  
the door/wardrobe.



INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Julie looks around, bored.

JULIE  
(to Harriet)  
You got any more stories?

HARRIET  
Sure.

Julie sits down, scoots to Harriet.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
Which story?... Oh, this one.

Harriet shakes her head, feeling stupid.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
It was field day in the tenth grade. I had a huge crush on a boy named Peyton.

Harriet smiles.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
I saved up to buy this fancy perfume. Mrs. Hill -- my teacher and the sweetest woman you'll ever meet -- smelled my perfume and said, "*Miss Williams, go to lost and found and get a new shirt. I don't want you getting stung by bees.*"

Julie squirms.

JULIE  
Bees.

HARRIET  
I got attacked by a swarm. Boy did I cry. The kids laughed, including Peyton.

JULIE  
Should've changed your shirt.

Andrea stares at Julie, surprised. Julie notices.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
What, mom?

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The appliances pound the door/wardrobe. The axe hacks the door/wardrobe. The appliances and axe drop, fainting.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Julie looks at the wardrobe.

JULIE

I don't hear anything.

Everyone stands up. Andrea has her bolt cutters. Julie holds her bat. Harriet has Andrea's bat in her left hand.

Harriet turns on her bodycam.

Andrea grabs her helmet, holds it out to Julie. Julie shakes her head. Andrea sighs, puts the helmet on her own head.

Harriet gives Andrea her bat back.

ANDREA

You can use it. I have my bolt cutters.

HARRIET

I need something easy to use with one hand.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea, Julie, and Harriet exit the room. Andrea leads. Harriet watches their rear.

They kick the axe and appliances on the floor, making sure they're not alive.

JULIE

It's like they fell asleep... I gotta go to my room.

ANDREA

Why?

JULIE

Night vision goggles. In case the lights go out or something.

ANDREA

Ok.

Julie runs to her room, comes back wearing her N.V. goggles.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Everyone heads down the stairs, looking for anything moving.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Andrea and Harriet stand guard at the doorway. Julie searches a cabinet of used pots/pans, making a lot of noise.

ANDREA

Don't make so much noise.

Julie keeps making a lot of noise. She gives Harriet a small, new pot.

JULIE

It's new. I got it for mom's birthday.

Andrea smiles.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Everyone tiptoes to the basement. Julie and Andrea move the washing machine that's blocking the door.

Andrea cuts the padlock with the bolt cutters, pushes the door open. It creaks. The stairs are pitch black.

JULIE

Nightmares.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Harriet shuts the door. Andrea leads everyone down the steps.

They stop on the stairs, look around. Night light comes through a window, but they can barely see.

JULIE

Night vision goggles!

Julie feels around on her N.V. goggles.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Where are you, power button?...  
Forget it.

They step off the stairs. Andrea turns on lights.

The basement is a family environment. Big TV. Sectional sofa under a window. Office desk. Bookshelf with architect books.

Framed photos of Hank, Rose, and Victoria fill the basement.

Julie sees a used, pink elephant mascot. Boxes of used, pink toys are around it.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Why do happy things look so creepy?

Julie looks around, spots a pink wall sign: "*Victoria's Room*"

ANDREA

Search everything.

Andrea and Harriet search the desk. Julie grabs the mascot head, shakes out dust.

JULIE

It's not that creepy.

Julie puts on the head.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Julie the pink elephant.

Julie dances.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Julie the dancing elephant.

ANDREA

Search, Julie.

Julie switches dances. She takes off the head, moseys around. She spots the journal from the opening scene on the bookshelf.

JULIE

I got something.

Andrea and Harriet rush over. Julie scans journal pages.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(reads)

"*My wife and daughter died today.*"

**FLASHBACK:** EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - DAY

A humorous family man, HANK UNDERWOOD (40), sits in the rocking chair numb.

HANK (V.O.)  
They were in a car wreck.

He stares at a luxury car in the driveway. The spot next to his car is empty.

HANK (V.O.)  
They loved traveling as much as I  
loved working.

He sobs.

HANK (V.O.)  
My sweet girls!

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - THROUGHOUT - DAY

The house is a mess.

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Hank sits alone, grieved; staring at two chairs. He hasn't bathed or shaved in weeks.

HANK (V.O.)  
People say I should move. They say  
the memories of Rose and Victoria  
will make me sadder.

Old memories of Rose and Victoria appear in the chairs.

HANK (V.O.)  
But the memories are why I stay. My  
favorite memories are from  
Victoria's Room.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Julie looks at the "Victoria's Room" sign, points at it.

JULIE  
Victoria's Room.  
(confused)  
It's just a sign.

ANDREA

Does the journal say anything about  
the house's weakness?

Julie scans pages.

JULIE

I don't see anything... This is how  
the house became alive!

**FLASHBACK:** EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - DAY

The front door is closed.

HANK (V.O.)

I can't believe this! A few days  
ago, I wished that I'd never leave  
this house -- where our memories  
are. I died of a heart attack, and  
now I'm the house!

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - DAY

The front door swings open.

HANK (V.O.)

I can open doors!

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A window opens.

HANK (V.O.)

I can open windows!

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - DAY

A used blender on the counter turns on.

HANK (V.O.)

I can even use things!

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - DAY

Jack rushes into the house.

HANK (V.O.)

I have a plan.

Jack checks his watch.

JACK

Where are you, Hank!? I can't stay long! I have some meetings!

HANK (O.S.)

Upstairs! In my office!

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - OFFICE - DAY

Office in a bedroom. Jack bursts in, looks around.

HANK (V.O.)

I'll tell my brother to sell the house. It goes to him since Rose and Victoria died.

JACK

I don't see you.

A computer turns on. Jack cautions to it, a bit scared. A face appears on it.

COMPUTER

It's me. Your brother.

Jack dashes out the room.

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - DAY

Jack flees. A used laptop flies out the office, blocks him. A face appears on the laptop.

LAPTOP

Let me explain.

**FLASHBACK:** INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Jack sits at the table. The laptop searches for a small island to buy.

HANK (V.O.)

He'll tell our family I moved to a farm or small island -- to grief alone. Outside of my nuclear family and Jack, I've always been private, so they'll understand. They barely stay in touch, so they won't visit.

The laptop searches for photos of a woman and teenage girl. It finds the perfect photo, enlarges it.

HANK (V.O.)  
I'll have a new family!

**FLASHBACK:** EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - DAY

In a pickup truck, Harriet takes her bodycam off a maid uniform. She leaves it on the dash.

Jack exits the house. A face appears on a porch column, talks (**mute**).

Harriet sees the column's face, drops her purse to a step. She stares, shocked.

HANK (V.O.)  
My maid saw my face on a porch column.

Harriet snatches her phone out her purse, takes photos of the column's face.

HANK (V.O.)  
She took pictures.

Jack and the column's face look at each other, worried.

HANK (V.O.)  
I couldn't let her show anyone. No way.

A used garden hose crawls from around the house fast.

HANK (V.O.)  
I tried to take her phone with a garden hose.

Harriet sees the hose, sprints toward her truck. The hose chases her.

Harriet cranks on her truck. The hose grabs her phone. She holds tight, beats the hose.

The other end of the hose attacks Harriet through a window. The hose takes the phone. She speeds off.

COLUMN  
Who was that!?

JACK  
Your maid. I hired her.



COLUMN

Why!?

JACK

Your house is a mess.

COLUMN

It'll be ok. No one is going to believe her.

JACK

You're right. What's she gonna say?  
The house is alive?

They laugh. The column's face sees the purse on the step.

HANK (V.O.)

I tried to pick up her purse but couldn't.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Julie reads from the journal.

JULIE

*"I guess I can only use what was at the house when I died."*

Julie looks up from the journal, excited.

JULIE (CONT'D)

It's not about what's new or used!  
It can't use stuff people bring!  
Your bolt cutters! Jack's baseball bat!  
All the other stuff!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The axe and appliances (that fainted) lift into the air, wobbling. They bump into each other.

AXE

Watch it...  
(scared)  
The basement!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea observe the "Victoria's Room" sign. Harriet stands on the steps with her pot, watching the door.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The axe and appliances sprint toward the basement, bumping into each other.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Julie looks at the wall under the "*Victoria's Room*" sign. The wall is a slightly different color than the other walls.

JULIE

This wall's colored different.

Julie slides the wall, revealing a dark, hidden staircase.

JULIE (CONT'D)

More nightmares.

Andrea flips on a staircase light, heads down.

Julie puts the journal in the back of her pants, covers it with her shirt. She follows Andrea.

The basement door flies open. The axe and appliances fly in. Harriet swings the pot with her left hand. **BODYCAM:** Records the things.

Andrea runs up from the hidden staircase.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - HIDDEN STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Julie heads down the steps.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Harriet fights the axe and appliances. Andrea throws down her bolt cutters, fights with her bat.

AXE

Come back up here, Julie!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie turns on a light. She looks around, gripping her bat.

Teenage girl's room. Huge. Lots of pink. Attached bathroom. Custom ceiling air vent over bed. The vent runs.

JULIE

That's a lotta pink.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Andrea and Harriet war with the axe and appliances.

AXE  
(to Julie)  
Get out of there!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie notices an architecture book on the desk, sees the framed birthday party photo.

She grabs a framed photo of Hank (32) and Victoria (8). He wears the pink elephant mascot. The mascot head is off.

She sees a body in the bed, covered by a blanket. She steps back, scared.

JULIE  
Is that?...

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The axe flies toward the hidden staircase. Andrea knocks it to a wall.

Andrea and Harriet block the staircase, keeping the axe and appliances from going down.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie cautions toward the bed.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BACK - NIGHT

An upstairs window opens. A used bed sheet drops out, wraps up a wasp hive on the house. Wasps go crazy.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The window opens. The sheet brings in the hive. The window stays open.

The sheet crawls by Andrea and Harriet into the hidden staircase. They don't see the sheet.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie pulls the blanket off the body, jumps back. The sheet flies in, drops the hive. Wasps fly out. She screams.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Andrea and Harriet fight the axe and appliances.

ANDREA

Julie!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - HIDDEN STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Julie sprints up with her bat.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Julie runs off the staircase.

AXE

Stay out of there!

Everyone fights the axe and appliances.

JULIE

Whose body down there!?

AXE

(plays dumb)  
What body?

JULIE

The body! Is it Victoria's body!?  
Rose's!? Did you kill them!?

AXE

What!? No! I loved them!

Julie sees the window is open. She climbs up the sectional sofa, crawls into the window. It shuts on her. She's trapped.

Andrea tries to push Julie through the window. Julie wiggles.

Harriet keeps the axe and appliances from the window.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BACK - NIGHT

A wood board detaches from the porch.

Julie gets halfway through the window. The board flies at her. Her eyes widen in horror. **BLACK SCREEN.**

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A family movie is on TV. Hank (40), Rose (40), and Victoria (16) are in the movie. It was filmed here. They dance silly.

The short sofa watches. **Seat cushions move as it laughs.**

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A used karaoke machine sits on the table.

Julie, Andrea, and Harriet are tied to chairs with used ropes. Julie's face has a big bruise. Andrea and Harriet's faces and bodies are bruised.

Julie wears her N.V. goggles. Andrea wears her helmet. Julie wakes.

JULIE

Ow, ow, ow.

Julie tries to break free.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Mom. Mom!

Andrea and Harriet wake, grimacing in pain. They try to get free.

ANDREA

Julie, are you ok?

JULIE

Feels like someone dropped a house on me.

Julie wrinkles her face in pain.

JULIE (CONT'D)

My face. What happened?

ANDREA

You were hit with a piece of wood.

JULIE

What hit you two?

HARRIET

A lot. The house made sure we didn't get outta that window.

JULIE

Mom, there's a room down there. A girls' room.

ANDREA

Victoria?

JULIE

Yeah.

Julie notices Harriet's bodycam is gone.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Where's your bodycam?

HARRIET

I reckon it's on my shirt.

JULIE

No it's not.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hank, Rose, and Victoria wave at the camera in the movie. The movie ends, and the TV cuts off.

SHORT SOFA

I miss you both.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The karaoke machine on the table bounces, startling everyone. A face appears on the karaoke machine.

ANDREA

Why are we tied up?

KARAOKE MACHINE

Haven't you been trying to escape?

HARRIET

What did you do with my bodycam?

A used, pink plush toy floats in with Harriet's bodycam, hurries along the table.

JULIE

Super creepy.

KARAOKE MACHINE

(to Harriet)

After I erase what's on it, I'll record my family's precious moments.

JULIE

What family?

KARAOKE MACHINE

You, me, and Andrea.

JULIE

Do you dream?

KARAOKE MACHINE

Yes.

JULIE

In your dreams.

The karaoke machine bounces over, slaps Julie with the mic.

ANDREA

Don't lay a hand on my daughter!

KARAOKE MACHINE

It wasn't a hand. It was a microphone.

(to Julie)

Watch how you talk to me.

Julie rolls her eyes. The karaoke machine draws back to slap.

JULIE

I'm sorry.

KARAOKE MACHINE

(to Julie and Andrea)

I don't want you two thinking I'm a monster, so I'll explain. I didn't kill Rose or Victoria.

JULIE

What about the body?

The karaoke machine doesn't respond.

ANDREA

Why is there a room down there?  
Were you keeping Victoria prisoner?

KARAOKE MACHINE

No!... She liked being down there.  
She felt safe.

JULIE

What?

KARAOKE MACHINE

(angry)

Some kids kept throwing things at  
her window. Even at night. So, we  
let her sleep in the basement.  
Those kids saw her through the  
window and broke it. She didn't  
feel safe anywhere.

(happy)

So, what was an architect dad to  
do? Build her a room underground. I  
let her name it. She loved her  
room. She lived there until...

Tears drop from the karaoke machine.

KARAOKE MACHINE (CONT'D)

She was going to be an architect.  
Like me. Now she'll never be one.

The karaoke machine cries. Everyone looks at it with  
sympathy.

KARAOKE MACHINE (CONT'D)

(to Julie and Andrea)

Just be my family. No more trying  
to escape. No more fights.

ANDREA

No.

The karaoke machine sighs, frustrated.

KARAOKE MACHINE

Julie, I don't know how your dad  
was, but I'll be a great dad.

JULIE

I don't want you as a dad.

The karaoke machine shakes, more frustrated. It bounces to  
Andrea.

KARAOKE MACHINE

You'll never be lonely, and you'll  
never have to worry about money.  
The money I hid in here is yours.



Two large duffle bags float in, sit on the table. They open.  
\$100 bills.

KARAOKE MACHINE (CONT'D)  
Five million.

JULIE  
Five billion wouldn't be enough.

ANDREA  
We don't want your money or  
anything else.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
What do I have to do for you to be  
my family!?

ANDREA  
Nothing. We won't be your family.

The karaoke machine sighs, giving up.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
I figured you would say that.

The karaoke machine bounces to Harriet. A used kitchen knife  
flies in, stops at her.

JULIE  
Don't hurt her!

KARAOKE MACHINE  
I'm a nice person. A family man. I  
really don't like being like  
this...  
(emotional)  
But I want a family. If you two  
become my family, I'll let her  
live. If you two don't become my  
family...

The knife moves closer to Harriet.

ANDREA  
Stop!

HARRIET  
Please! My son!

The knife points at Harriet's neck.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
(to Julie and Andrea)  
Be my family.

Julie and Andrea look at each other.

HARRIET  
Please, Hank!

The knife draws back.

HARRIET (CONT'D)  
Please!!!

The knife swings --

ANDREA  
Ok!

The knife stops.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
We'll be your family.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
Don't play with me.

ANDREA  
I'm not. We'll be your family. No  
more trying to escape. No more  
fights.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
Really? You're not just saying  
that?

ANDREA  
No. We're your family.

The karaoke machine looks at Julie. She fake smiles. The  
karaoke machine bounces around.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
Yes, yes, yes! Yes!!!

ANDREA  
Under one condition.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
What?

ANDREA  
Let Harriet go. She has a son.

The karaoke machine surveys Harriet.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
I guess we can do without a maid.

The rope around Harriet unties.

KARAOKE MACHINE (CONT'D)  
You can leave, Harriet.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - NIGHT

The front door opens by itself.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Harriet stands up from the table.

KARAOKE MACHINE  
If you tell anyone what happened  
here, they won't believe you. Just  
like before.

Harriet looks at Julie and Andrea, not wanting to leave them.

ANDREA  
Go.

HARRIET  
Remember the stories, Julie, and  
the consequences.

Julie ponders.

**FLASHBACK SCENES:**

BEDROOM #1

HARRIET  
Why don't you just do what your mom  
says?

BEDROOM #1

ANDREA  
It's because of her "friend"  
Cassidy.

BEDROOM #1

HARRIET  
You're gonna get in a world of  
trouble.

BEDROOM #1

HARRIET

I got sick. Sick as a dog.

BEDROOM #1

HARRIET

I got attacked by a swarm... The kids laughed, including Peyton.

BEDROOM #1

HARRIET

I could've hurt myself too. Maybe even killed myself.

BEDROOM #1

ANDREA

My worst fear is getting a call that you got into a wreck and...

End of **FLASHBACK SCENES.**

Julie stares at Harriet.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Remember the stories, Julie, and the consequences.

Julie nods at Harriet. Harriet looks at her bodycam in the plush toy's hand.

PLUSH TOY

Don't try it.

Harriet leaves, looking back at Julie and Andrea.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

Harriet exits, turns to go back inside. The front door slams. She tries to open it. Can't. She kicks it, leaves.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The karaoke machine, knife, plush toy, and money in the duffle bags dance on the table.

KARAOKE MACHINE

(sings)

*I have a family! I have a family!*

(to Andrea)

Let's have a family night! I'll get one of Victoria's board games! You cook!

ANDREA

How can I cook? I'm tied up.

The rope around Andrea unties.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Can you untie Julie? She can help me cook.

The rope around Julie unties.

KARAOKE MACHINE

I'll be back, family!

The dancing things drop on the table, not alive. The bodycam falls from the plush toy's hand.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Used board games dance in the air. A face is on one game.

BOARD GAME

(sings)

*Fun with my family. Fun with my family... Which game?*

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea checks Julie's face bruise.

JULIE

We really gotta be its family?

ANDREA

No. What did you do with the journal?

Julie takes the journal from the back of her pants. Andrea grabs it.

JULIE

What are you looking for?

ANDREA  
I'm checking for a weakness.

Andrea scans pages.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
(reads)  
*"Not only did I keep my humor after becoming the house. I kept something else. My random blackouts. Great. They usually last a few minutes. My last one was an hour."*

Andrea flips pages.

ANDREA (CONT'D)  
(reads)  
*"I knocked over my body, and the fall hurt me. I have no idea why. It didn't hurt much, but I have to be careful around my body." That body is Hank's.*

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The body lies under the blanket on the bed.

A board game floats to the hidden staircase. It brakes.

A computer turns on, opens a folder. Files are labeled with game names. The board game scrolls through the folder.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea touches her lip, thinking; holding the open journal.

Julie looks at the bodycam. Julie stares at it, thinking heavily.

HARRIET (V.O.)  
Remember the stories, Julie, and the consequences.

ANDREA  
I have a plan.

Julie doesn't hear. Andrea grabs the bodycam, pulling Julie from her thoughts. Andrea puts the bodycam into her pocket.

JULIE  
I'm done being like Cassidy, mom.

ANDREA

What?

JULIE

I'm done being like Cassidy.

Andrea stares at her, astonished.

JULIE (CONT'D)

That mess only gets me on punishment, starts arguments, gets me kicked off things...

Julie taps her head where the pot hit her.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Gets me hurt, and puts people in danger.

ANDREA

You'll do what I say?

JULIE

Yeah.

ANDREA

(flustered)

Ok, um. We're going to... We're going to attack Hank's body, then escape while the house is hurt.

Andrea puts down the journal, feels around on Julie's N.V. goggles.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

These will protect your head.

Andrea finds the goggles' power button, turns them on.

JULIE

They're on.

Andrea places her finger on a lip, thinking.

ANDREA

Let me wear those.

JULIE

But I really like wearing them.

ANDREA

Julie.

Julie takes off the goggles. Andrea gives her the helmet.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

The helmet is more protection.

Julie puts on the helmet. Andrea puts on the goggles. Andrea picks up the journal, waves it.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

This is proof. Follow me upstairs.

Andrea rushes out. Julie follows.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The computer prints a document ("*Charades List*").

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - JULIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea wears Julie's bookbag. Julie puts the journal into it.

ANDREA

Get a weapon.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Julie grabs a hammer out the garden tools closet. Andrea gets a shovel.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Andrea grabs new matches and new charcoal lighter fluid out a cabinet.

JULIE

Whoa, mom, what are those for?

ANDREA

The body. Put these in the bag and zip it.

JULIE

You don't gotta tell me to shut up.

ANDREA

Zip the bag.

Julie puts the matches and lighter fluid into the bookbag, zips it.

JULIE

Is that everything?



ANDREA

Yes.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

The board game and printed list float. The game hums.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea hide against the wall by the doorway, gripping their weapons. They hear the board game humming.

The game and list fly in.

BOARD GAME

Why aren't you two cooking?

The game sees their weapons.

BOARD GAME (CONT'D)

I knew you weren't going to be my family!

ANDREA

Come on, Julie!

Andrea runs out the room. Julie follows her.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Andrea and Julie sprint. Julie is in front. The game and list fly out the living room, follow them.

Julie and Andrea run to the basement door.

BOARD GAME

Basement!

The washing machine tries to block the door. Julie and Andrea run into the basement.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FOYER - NIGHT

The front door swings open. The axe flies in.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea bolt to the "*Victoria's Room*" sign.

Andrea slides the wall. Julie sees it shutting by itself -- she stops it with the hammer.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea run in.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The axe flies in.

AXE

Get out!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrea takes a step -- Julie stops her.

JULIE

Wait!

Julie looks around, checking for something.

ANDREA

What?

JULIE

(relieved)

No wasps.

Andrea snatches the blanket off the body.

ANDREA

Hit it.

They unleash on the body with their weapons.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - HIDDEN STAIRCASE - NIGHT

The axe drops to the steps.

AXE

Ow!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea pummel the body.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - HIDDEN STAIRCASE - NIGHT

The axe bounces around on the steps.

AXE  
My body! Ow! Ow!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea thrash the body.

ANDREA  
Stand back.

Julie steps back. Andrea draws the shovel all the way back, strikes the body.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

The house yells.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Andrea hear the house yell, look around.

JULIE  
You think that's enough?

ANDREA  
Hit it some more just in case.

They lift their weapons to hit the body. Things attack them.

The things strike their heads. The helmet protects Julie. The N.V. goggles protect Andrea.

They fight the things. Andrea thrusts her shovel like a spear.

The axe flies into the room.

AXE  
Stay away from my body!

ANDREA  
(refers to body)  
Hit it, Julie!

Julie hits the body. The axe and things drop to the floor.

## AXE/THINGS

Ow!

Andrea stands guard, watching the axe and things.

## ANDREA

Keep hitting the body.

Julie lifts her hammer to strike the body. A sheet flies out the closet, wraps up her body. She fights to get out.

Andrea sees Julie wrapped up. Andrea drops her shovel, takes out her pocket knife.

## ANDREA (CONT'D)

Stand still so I don't cut you.

Julie stands still. Andrea cuts the sheet, rips a hole with her hands. Julie gets out the sheet.

Julie sees the axe and things in the air behind Andrea.

## JULIE

Mom, behind you!

Andrea swings around. She drops the knife, picks up her shovel.

## AXE

Since you two won't be my family,  
I'll get rid of you and find  
another family.

The axe attacks Andrea. She fights it.

The things attack Julie. She swings her hammer.

Andrea thrusts her shovel at the axe. It hits her face with its bottom. Andrea drops.

Fighting the things, Julie spots Andrea on the floor.

## JULIE

Mom, are you hurt bad!?

Andrea stands up, dazed. She stumbles, falls by the bed. The axe flies to her. Julie sees it.

Julie spots Andrea's knife on the floor, grabs it.

The axe floats in front of Andrea. She stares at the blade. It swings -- Julie stabs the body. The axe and things drop.

AXE/THINGS

Ow!

Julie checks Andrea's face. Andrea is still dazed.

JULIE

Let's bounce, mom.

The axe and things lift into the air. Julie steps in front of Andrea, protecting her.

ANDREA

Be careful.

JULIE

Ok.

Julie glares at the axe and things, grasping her hammer and the knife.

The axe and things start to attack Julie -- they drop to the floor, not alive.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Blackout?

ANDREA

Maybe.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The mascot stands up, enraged. It shoves on its head.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Julie watches the axe and things on the floor. Andrea sits on the floor by the bed, dazed.

ANDREA

Hit the body.

Julie lifts the hammer to hit the body -- they hear something stomping down the hidden staircase. They stare at the steps...

The mascot bursts in, brakes at the doorway.

JULIE

Come on. I gotta fight the pink elephant.

ANDREA  
The body. Look in the bookbag.

Julie drops the hammer and knife. She unzips the bookbag on Andrea's back, takes out the matches and lighter fluid.

Julie douses the body with fluid.

MASCOT  
No!!!

The house shakes wildly.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - NIGHT

The inside lights and porch lights shut off.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Pitch black.

JULIE (O.S.)  
Mom, are you still by the bed!?

ANDREA (O.S.)  
Yes.

Andrea turns on the N.V. goggles.

**N.V. GOGGLES:**

Andrea sees Julie and the mascot. Julie holds the matches and fluid. The mascot stands at the doorway.

MASCOT  
Uh-oh.

JULIE  
Uh-oh what?

MASCOT  
I got too angry. My circuit breaker  
is on fire.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - CIRCUIT BREAKER - NIGHT

The circuit breaker is on fire.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

**N.V. GOGGLES:**

Andrea watches the mascot.

MASCOT  
At least I won't die alone this  
time.

JULIE  
We gotta go, mom.

MASCOT  
You're not going anywhere.

The mascot moves toward Julie, not knowing where she is. It gets near her.

ANDREA  
Back up, Julie!

Julie backpedals.

MASCOT  
How can you see?

Andrea doesn't answer.

MASCOT (CONT'D)  
The night vision goggles!

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - CIRCUIT BREAKER - NIGHT

The fire spreads to the wall.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

**N.V. GOGGLES:**

The mascot walks around aimlessly, grabbing air. Julie keeps backing up.

Andrea sees the hammer on the floor. It's by her. She slides the hammer. It stops a few steps from Julie.

ANDREA  
The hammer! It's near you!

Julie drops the matches and fluid, feels the floor. She grabs her hammer. The mascot gets close to her.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Swing!

Julie hits the mascot with the hammer.

MASCOT

You're a fly to an elephant.

The mascot reaches for Julie.

ANDREA

Back up!

Julie backs up from the mascot.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - CIRCUIT BREAKER - NIGHT

The fire engulfs the wall.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

**N.V. GOGGLES:**

The mascot looks around, clueless where Julie is.

MASCOT

Why did I make this room so big!?

Andrea sees the matches and fluid on the floor. They're a few steps from Julie.

ANDREA

Come to your left, then crawl ahead!

Julie steps to her left, crawls ahead. The mascot walks around aimlessly.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Grab the matches! They're right in front of you!

Julie grabs the matches, jumps up.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Run to me!

Julie runs over, crashes into Andrea.

JULIE

Sorry.



ANDREA  
It's ok. Burn the body.

Julie lights a match, drops it onto the body. The body catches fire.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - NIGHT

The doors and windows fly open. The house's howl rips through the dark, reaching the woods.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

**N.V. GOGGLES:**

The house shakes like it's about to crumble. Andrea sees Julie by her. Andrea sees the mascot on the floor, not alive.

ANDREA  
Help me up, Julie.

Julie helps Andrea up. The shaking makes it hard.

JULIE  
Let's bounce.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - VICTORIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The entire area is on fire.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

The front door, screen door, and windows slam and open nonstop.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Julie helps Andrea out the basement. They walk along a wall so the shaking doesn't knock them down.

ANDREA  
Get my purse. My keys are in it.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

Julie helps Andrea through the front door as it slams and opens nonstop. Andrea has her purse.

JULIE  
The money.

ANDREA  
It's not worth it.

JULIE  
It's five million dollars. I won't  
take long.

ANDREA  
Alright.

INT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie runs in, runs to the duffle bags on the table.

The mascot stumbles in, scaring her. It's in severe pain. It falls.

She drags the bags, struggling with their weight.

MASCOT  
I'm sorry for everything.

JULIE  
Sorry about Rose and Victoria.

MASCOT  
Thanks.

JULIE  
No cap I would've liked to meet  
them.

MASCOT  
No cap?

JULIE  
It means no lie.

EXT. HOUSE THAT'S ALIVE - FRONT - NIGHT

Julie puts the duffle bags into the SUV. Andrea holds out her keys.

ANDREA  
I can't drive like this.

Julie takes the keys, excited.

JULIE

Yes!

Julie helps her into the SUV. Julie hops into the driver seat.

ANDREA

Seatbelt.

They fasten seatbelts. Julie puts the key into the ignition.

EXT. NEW HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

**APPEARS ON SCREEN:** Two months later

Same town. Big, beautiful house. Neighbors nearby.

A big delivery box and the dolly are on the porch. Julie washes two new cars, dancing.

INT. NEW HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Andrea plates baked cookies. An article ("*The House that was Alive*") is on her phone.

EXT. NEW HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Julie stops washing the cars to text Bella: "*Ima come c u when I get my license*"

Bella replies: "*Cant wait!!!!*"

Julie rinses the cars. Cassidy texts: "*Why havent u textd n like 4eva!!!!?*"

Julie deletes Cassidy's text and number.

Harriet drives up, gets out her truck. She wears the bodycam.

JULIE

Sup, Harriet?

HARRIET

Morning, Julie. I know some more people who want paintings.

JULIE

Cool! Text me the numbers!

HARRIET

Sure thing.

JULIE  
You see Jack on the news?

HARRIET  
Yeah. He sung like a bird.

Andrea comes out the house with a container of cookies.

ANDREA  
Hey, Harriet. I made these for you  
and Andy.

Harriet tries a cookie.

HARRIET  
This taste like cherry pie!

JULIE  
They're fire.

Harriet looks at Julie, baffled.

ANDREA  
Fire means they're awesome.

HARRIET  
Oh. Your cookies are fire.

JULIE  
Don't, Harriet. Please.

ANDREA  
She's right. My cookies are fire.

Julie facepalms, embarrassed. Andrea and Harriet laugh.  
Harriet checks her watch.

HARRIET  
I better get going. I got two more  
interviews about the house.

ANDREA  
I have one tomorrow.

JULIE  
I'm sick of interviews.

HARRIET  
Bye now.

Harriet drives off. Andrea grabs the dolly to move the box.

JULIE  
I'm done washing your car...

Julie hugs a car.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
And mine.

ANDREA  
Don't forget to wash your laundry.

JULIE  
House, wash my clothes!

ANDREA  
It's not alive.

JULIE  
It might be.

ANDREA  
That's not funny.

Julie laughs, bounces inside. Andrea pushes the box inside with the dolly.

The screen door shakes. It slams repeatedly, like the house is alive. Julie shuts the door, rushes back inside.

JULIE (O.S.)  
It was just the wind.

**END**