

Norlandis

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

ASHLEY, a tired and dirt-covered teenage girl, is stuck at the bottom of an old crumbling well, in the middle of the forest.

A pair of ravens sitting on a nearby branch, SCREECH out, keeping their eyes locked on Ashley.

ASHLEY
Help me! Anybody!

Her warm breath lingers about in the cold air, as the ravens above her disappear into the burnt orange sky.

Ashley slumps down to the ground with her back against the wall.

She sobs into her shaking hands, as her long hair dangles down in front of her face.

ASHLEY
(muttering to herself)
Why did I say dare, why did I say
dare?

Ashley stands up enraged. She tries to grab onto a few slippery rocks above her head.

ASHLEY
Come on!

She turns around, noticing a couple of protruding rocks. She clutches onto them. As she pulls herself up, the rocks come loose. Ashley quickly covers her head with her arms as the rocks strike and scrape her arms.

She stands back up and screams out in anger. She kicks the wall in frustration.

The two ravens return, swooping down to the top of the well. Ashley snaps back around.

ASHLEY
Go away you stupid birds!

Suddenly, a faint light appears from a small opening on the the opposite wall of the well, where she had just kicked.

Ashley drops down to her knees and sticks her head inside the dimly lit hole.

ASHLEY
(timidly)
Hello.

Waiting and anxiously listening. Only silence.

Ashley squeezes herself through the small opening, disappearing inside.

The stones to the well magically seal the hole shut behind her.

EXT. FOREST - TUNNEL - NIGHT

The light fades and everything becomes pitch black.

ASHLEY
What just happened?

Ashley kicks her feet against the solid wall behind her.

Faint sounds of children's laughter startle her.

ASHLEY
Hello. Who's there?

Suddenly, a bright light illuminates the long tunnel.

Ashley nervously crawls through the tunnel as the laughter gets louder and louder.

ASHLEY
Hello!

Ashley crawls as fast as she can toward the laughter, which becomes ear-piercing. Then suddenly, there is only silence.

Ashley freezes. She waits for the laughter to continue.

Ashley crawls another foot forward and the ground collapses beneath her.

She falls through a never-ending abyss.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - DAY

An old weathered farmhouse sits on top of a hill at the end of a windy gravel road. A dense forest looms behind it.

SUPERIMPOSE: Three years later

Tall grass and overgrowth surround the abandoned farmhouse. A for sale sign is staked in the ground by the end of the driveway.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Faded newspaper clippings of several different missing children and teenagers cover an entire bedroom wall.

INSERT: Newspaper clipping of Ashley's disappearance.

On the opposite wall is a long bookcase with books pouring out of it. Various Kpop posters hang above the shelves.

SAMANTHA, a quirky thirteen-year-old girl with long hair and glasses, lays on her bed reading a fantasy novel. She turns the page and then closes the book. She places it on her nightstand and SIGHS.

Samantha grabs her phone from behind her pillow and quickly thumbs through it. She SIGHS again and tucks the phone back underneath her pillow.

She turns to her side, looking up at the K-pop posters on her wall in a trance.

A loud rumbling noise comes from outside.

Samantha jumps to her feet in an instant and rushes over to her window.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Dust and dirt fill the air making it difficult to see through.

A large moving truck rolls into the driveway of the abandoned house next door. A minivan pulls in right beside it.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha eagerly watches.

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - DAY

A minivan comes to a stop. Instantly, ABBY, a five-year-old girl jumps out of the side door, followed by a dog. The dog barks with excitement and runs over to the moving truck.

Abby throws a tennis ball a few feet.

ABBY
Go get it Bash!

The dog chases after the ball.

HANNAH's MOM, a tall slender woman in her 40s, stretches her back as she looks up the old farmhouse.

HANNAH'S MOM
Needs a little work, but I love it!

HANNAH's DAD, a stalky man with glasses in his 50s, walks over from the moving truck and wraps his arms around Hannah's Mom.

HANNAH'S DAD
I knew you would like it.

Two other girls get out of the backseat of the van. HANNAH, a confident and outgoing thirteen-year-old girl, and her sister MOLLY, a bratty eleven-year-old girl.

Molly angrily kicks rocks in the driveway as she walks toward her parents.

MOLLY
Is this it? It looks so old.

HANNAH'S DAD
You're going to love it Molly.

MOLLY
Doubt it.

HANNAH
I think it looks really cool.

HANNAH'S DAD
See Molly. Everyone else likes it.

MOLLY
Whatever.

Molly turns around and notices Samantha watching them from her bedroom window.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Samantha hides quickly behind a curtain. She crouches down low and then rushes out of her room.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - STAIRS - DAY

Samantha runs down the stairs in excitement, nearly tripping on the last step.

SAMANTHA'S MOM (O.S.)
Samantha! No running in the house.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Samantha walks quickly into the kitchen, almost bumping into SAMANTHA'S MOM, a caring and friendly woman in her 40s.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
Samantha, slow down.

Samantha's Mom hands Samantha a blueberry pie from the kitchen island.

SAMANTHA
I'm not hungry.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
It's not for you silly. Can you bring it to our new neighbors?

SAMANTHA
Yeah, sure.

Samantha takes the pie and heads toward the door. She clumsily bumps her shoulder into the doorframe, almost dropping the pie.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
Be careful sweetie!

SAMANTHA
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Samantha leaves the house. The screen door SLAMS shut behind her.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Samantha walks across the grass as the hot sun beats down on her.

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

As Samantha walks up to her neighbor's driveway, she has to stop to catch her breath.

Samantha moves past the for sale sign with her mother's face plastered on it. She walks toward to the moving truck. None of her neighbors are visible.

The gravel driveway CRUNCHES beneath her feet as she walks between the minivan and the moving truck.

Samantha stops to look up at the old farmhouse. She glances up at the woods. Her hands begin to shake from fear.

Suddenly, Molly comes from around the hood of the truck.

Samantha is startled and drops the pie all over the ground.

SAMANTHA

Shoot!

MOLLY

(rudely)

Was that for us?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I'm sorry.

MOLLY

Great! We haven't eaten all day.

SAMANTHA

I'm really sorry.

MOLLY

Whatever.

Molly walks away in annoyance, playing with her phone.

Samantha turns around to head back home when Hannah appears from behind her. Samantha is spooked and gasps for air.

HANNAH

Did I scare you?

SAMANTHA
Maybe a little.

They both laugh.

HANNAH
I'm Hannah. I guess I'm your new
neighbor.

SAMANTHA
Hi, I'm Samantha.

Samantha gives an awkward wave as she notices Hannah's nose
ring sparkling in the sunlight.

SAMANTHA
Where are you...

Samantha is cut off by Hannah's parents rushing from down the
house toward them.

HANNAH'S DAD
(frantically)
Have either of you seen Abby?

SAMANTHA
Who?

HANNAH'S DAD
Our daughter Abby.

HANNAH
No.

SAMANTHA
Me neither.

HANNAH'S MOM
We haven't seen her since we got here.

Panic ensues.

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Hannah's parents search behind the bushes and all around the
yard.

HANNAH'S DAD
Abby!

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Samantha and Hannah check the van, which is loaded with stuff.

SAMANTHA

Maybe she's in the truck.

HANNAH

Good idea.

They run over to the front of the truck and check inside the empty cab littered with coffee cup, soda bottles and snacks.

The two girls run quickly to the back of the truck.

Hannah pulls the latch to the door and it rolls quickly up. The truck is loaded with boxes and furniture.

HANNAH

Any guesses where she could be?

The dog begins to bark.

Samantha freezes.

SAMANTHA'S POV

The dog barks on the edge of the woods up the hill.

BACK TO SCENE

SAMANTHA

She has to be in there.

Samantha points up the hill at the woods.

HANNAH

How do you know?

Samantha ignores Hannah and approaches the front yard.

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - HILL TO FORBIDDEN WOODS - DAY

Samantha stumbles up the hill toward the dog.

Hannah's parents rush over to the girls.

HANNAH'S DAD

Any luck?

HANNAH

No.

SAMANTHA

She's in the woods.

Samantha points at the dog, who is barking and pacing around by the edge of the woods.

They all walk up toward the edge of the forest.

EXT. EDGE OF FORBIDDEN WOODS - DAY

Samantha, Hannah and her parents crowd behind the dog. The dog stops barking and begins to whimper.

Samantha looks down at the ground as she pets the dog for comfort. She can't bring herself to look into the woods.

HANNAH'S DAD

Abby!

HANNAH'S MOM

Abby! Where are you!

HANNAH'S DAD

Why don't you kids go check inside the house again?

Hannah bolts down the hill.

HANNAH

Abby!

Samantha moves back a few steps.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Hannah's parents walk a couple of steps into the forest.

HANNAH'S DAD

Abby!

HANNAH'S MOM

Sweetheart! Where are you?

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha has trouble breathing and begins to hyperventilate.

SAMANTHA
Don't go in there.

Samantha's vision blurs as she only can hear her HEARTBEAT.

SAMANTHA'S POV

With distorted vision, Hannah's parents disappear into the forest.

BACK TO SCENE

SAMANTHA
(mutters under her breath)
Please don't go in there.

Samantha collapses on the ground.

EXT. FORBIDDEN WOODS - NIGHT

Tall oak trees CREAK in the wind.

Samantha leans her back against one of the trees and takes a couple of deep breaths, while closing her eyes.

A rustling noise startles her.

VOICE (V.O.)
(eerie whisper)
Samantha, Samantha.

Samantha snaps her head to the side.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - VALLEY - NIGHT

Five teenagers in emerald green cloaks stand around a campfire. Surrounding the girls behind them, are several tall stones standing upright.

The night sky is illuminated by three large moons.

TYRA, an eighteen year-old with striking black hair, steps forward from the circle.

TYRA
Samantha, come to us.

Tyra motions with her hand and the fire blows out instantly.

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - HILL TO FORBIDDEN WOODS - SUNSET

Samantha lays on the ground disoriented. Her face is ashen white.

Samantha's Mom is by her side, holding her hand.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
Samantha, are you okay?

SAMANTHA
I think so.

Samantha's Mom hands her a bottle of water and helps her sit up. Samantha chugs the entire bottle.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
You will be alright.

Samantha suddenly realizes her mom is surrounded by all of her new neighbors. They stare at her speechless.

Molly points at Samantha and laughs.

Abby appears from behind Hannah's Dad and walks innocently over to Samantha. She hands her a popsicle.

ABBY
This will make you feel better.

SAMANTHA
Thank you.

Samantha stares at Abby in bewilderment.

SAMANTHA
I thought she was...in the woods.

Abby runs off toward her house with the dog barking playfully along the way.

HANNAH'S MOM
She was inside.

Samantha SIGHS deeply. Her mom reaches down to help Samantha up.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
Come on. Up you go.

Hannah's Dad helps Samantha get to her feet.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Well, that's enough excitement for today. Let me know if you all need anything.

HANNAH'S MOM

Thank you!

HANNAH'S DAD

Thanks again for everything you did to get us this house.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Of course. That's my job.

Samantha's Mom walks a few steps down the hill and then turns around.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Samantha, you want to come with me?

SAMANTHA

No, I'll just hang out here for a bit.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Okay. Be home by dark.

SAMANTHA

Got it.

Samantha's Mom walks away toward her house as she waves to everyone.

HANNAH'S MOM

Are you hungry? We were going to order some pizzas.

SAMANTHA

Sure.

Hannah's parents walk away toward the house holding hands.

Samantha looks up at the woods and then quickly away. Molly walks by and purposely bumps her shoulder into Samantha.

Samantha moans.

MOLLY
Watch out freak.

Molly storms away toward the driveway.

HANNAH
Molly, stop being such a jerk!

Molly ignores her and kicks a small rock.

Hannah walks over to Samantha shaking her head.

HANNAH
Sorry again about her.

SAMANTHA
What's your sister's deal?

HANNAH
She's angry that we moved here. She pretty much hates the world right now.

SAMANTHA
I see. And what about you?

HANNAH
I'm used to it. We've moved around a lot.

SAMANTHA
That stinks.

HANNAH
I know.

Hannah leads the way toward her house. Samantha glances back over her shoulder at the woods.

INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Samantha and Hannah walk into the foyer.

HANNAH
Pretty cool, huh?

Hannah leads the way across the creaking hardwood floors, undernreath an antique chandelier.

SAMANTHA
Yeah. I've never actually been inside before.

HANNAH

Really, wow! Let's find my room.

INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - STAIRCASE - DAY

Hannah climbs up the stairs. Samantha trails behind.

Along the staircase are old black and white pictures covered in cobwebs.

Samantha stops to study the first picture closely.

INSERT: Black and white picture of five little girls sitting on the steps of Hannah's house. Four of the girls have blonde hair and the oldest girl has striking black hair.

Hannah turns around noticing Samantha lost in thought.

HANNAH

What's wrong?

SAMANTHA

I've seen this picture before.

HANNAH

Who are they?

SAMANTHA

I can't remember their names. They're all sisters, who... never mind.

HANNAH

Okay.

As Hannah and Samantha continue up the staircase the pictures become newer and in color.

Samantha's eyes light up.

SAMANTHA

I know them! They used to be my neighbors. Until...

HANNAH

Until what?

SAMANTHA

Forget it.

HANNAH

Is there something you're not telling

me?

SAMANTHA

No...What's with the pictures?

HANNAH

No clue. The other family must have left them here.

SAMANTHA

Weird.

Samantha examines the last photo closely.

INSERT: Ashley and her family sit together at the beach.

Samantha fights back tears forming in her eyes.

HANNAH

You okay?

SAMANTHA

Yeah... This was my neighbor Ashley.

HANNAH

Were you friends?

SAMANTHA

Kind of. I don't why her parents left it here though.

HANNAH

Who knows? Maybe they were in a rush when they moved out.

SAMANTHA

(mumbling)

Yeah, maybe.

As Samantha and Hannah reach the top step, the lights flicker on and off.

Samantha and Hannah both look at each other. Suddenly, there is a loud tapping noise coming from the wall.

The lights flicker on and off again. They both remain frozen as the tapping noise gets louder. The lights flicker a third time.

Laughter erupts from the bottom of the stairs.

HANNAH

Molly, you're such a brat!

Molly laughs as she runs out of sight.

HANNAH

I can't stand her.

SAMANTHA

(sarcastically)

She seems nice.

INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Samantha and Hannah laugh as they walk down a long hallway toward a room at the end of the hall.

HANNAH

I think this one is mine.

Hannah tries to turn the old brass doorknob, but it won't budge. She tries again and gives the door a push, but it still won't open.

HANNAH

It's stuck.

SAMANTHA

Let me try.

Samantha tries pushing on the door. The bottom part of the door moves a little but it is still firmly shut.

SAMANTHA

It's probably warped from all this heat.

HANNAH

Let's both try.

Hannah turns the doorknob as both girls push with all their might. The weathered and warped door finally jars open.

INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - HANNAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Samantha and Hannah almost fall to the ground as they plunge into the room.

They laugh hysterically.

Hannah stumbles over and tries to turn on the light switch,

but no lights turn on.

HANNAH
Light Bulb must be dead.

SAMANTHA
Probably.

Only a little light comes through a single window in the empty room that directly faces the woods.

Hannah looks at Samantha quizzically, noticing her staring off into the woods.

HANNAH
Soooo...Is there anything fun to do around here?

Samantha returns her attention to Hannah.

SAMANTHA
Not really.

HANNAH
There's got to be something.

SAMANTHA
I mean, there's a really nice lake. It's pretty much where everyone goes during the summer. Not much else to do.

HANNAH
Cool.

SAMANTHA
At night, older kids hang out there.

HANNAH
We should go then.

SAMANTHA
I don't know about that.

HANNAH
Come on. Please, please, please.

SAMANTHA
Okay.

Hannah squeals with delight as Samantha walks over to the

window, staring up at the woods.

HANNAH
What's wrong?

SAMANTHA
Nothing.

Samantha forces a smile.

HANNAH
Why do you keep looking at the woods?
Do you see something?

SAMANTHA
It's kind of a long story.

HANNAH
Okay. Tell me.

SAMANTHA
You wouldn't believe me.

HANNAH
Sure I will.

SAMANTHA
You sure?

HANNAH
Promise.

SAMANTHA
Okay. So, the forest behind your house
is actually called the forbidden
woods.

HANNAH
Why?

Samantha stares blankly at the woods as Hannah anxiously
listens.

SAMANTHA
The woods are cursed.

HANNAH
Yeah, okay. Heard that one before.

SAMANTHA
I know it sounds crazy, but they

really are.

A faint voice comes from downstairs. Hannah walks over to the door and opens it up.

HANNAH

What!

HANNAH'S MOM (O.S.)

Pizza's here!

HANNAH

Okay. We'll be down in a minute.

Samantha walks over and shuts the door. She looks Hannah dead in the face.

SAMANTHA

I'm being serious Hannah. Really bad things have happened in there.

HANNAH

(jokingly)

Yeah, like what? Let me guess, there's a monster in there. Or maybe there's a werewolf. Better yet, a spooky ghost.

SAMANTHA

Nothing like that at all.

HANNAH

Okay, then what?

Samantha stares intensely into Hannah's eyes.

SAMANTHA

Once kids go into the woods, they never come out again.

HANNAH

Okay...

SAMANTHA

Not a single kid who has ever gone into the woods, has come back out alive.

HANNAH

No freaking way!

SAMANTHA

It's the truth. I don't know why, but somehow, they all disappear. At night if you listen closely, you can hear the sound of children's voices coming from the woods.

Hannah bursts into laughter.

HANNAH

Yeah, okay. Nice try.

SAMANTHA

I'm not joking. The last four neighbors who have lived here, all had kids disappear into the woods. And no one ever found them or their bodies again.

HANNAH

Seriously?

SAMANTHA

Yes! I'm not joking. It's been happening for over two hundred years since the town was founded.

HANNAH

Then why haven't the police done anything about it?

SAMANTHA

They have. Cops watch the edge of the woods all the time. The town almost built a wall around the woods. Everyone even voted on it.

HANNAH

And let me guess, it didn't pass?

SAMANTHA

I guess not.

HANNAH

Right.

SAMANTHA

My last neighbor Ashley vanished in the woods a few years ago. She's the picture I was telling you about. I think she actually had your room,

before she...

Suddenly, Hannah's Dad angrily storms into the room.

HANNAH'S DAD

What kind of nonsense are you telling my daughter!

SAMANTHA

I ugh...

HANNAH'S DAD

I want you to leave right now!

SAMANTHA

Why?

HANNAH'S DAD

I think it would be best if you left Hannah alone. In fact, don't ever talk to her again.

HANNAH

Dad! Stop it!

SAMANTHA

Fine. No one ever listens to me anyway.

HANNAH'S DAD

Just get out of our house now!

Samantha leaves the room without saying another word.

Hannah's Dad slams the door shut behind her.

INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Samantha walks down the dark hallway in tears as Hannah and her dad scream back and forth at each other.

Molly stands in the middle of the hallway holding a candlestick, which only illuminates her face. She stares at Samantha as she walks towards her.

MOLLY

You're really crazy.

Samantha ignores her as she brushes past.

MOLLY

Bye freak!

Samantha clenches her fists. She stops and turns around to look at Molly. Samantha restrains herself, shaking her head, and then continues down the hallway.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha tosses and turns in her bed trying to get comfortable.

A box fan HUMS. Moonlight filters in through the window.

Samantha SIGHS and then reaches for a book from her nightstand. She stares at the page blankly for a few moments before slamming it down on her bed in frustration.

She looks around at the posters in her room and then focuses her attention on the wall covered with missing children pictures.

INSERT: Picture of Ashley and Samantha at the beach.

A dog starts to BARK.

Samantha looks at her window and yawns. Her eyelids begin to droop slowly.

HANNAH (O.S.)

(whispering)

Samantha.

Samantha jolts awake. Her eyes dart around the room. After a couple of seconds, she falls asleep.

HANNAH (O.S.)

Samantha.

Samantha wakes up and gets out of bed. She cautiously walks over to her window and pokes her head out between the curtains.

SAMANTHA'S POV

It is dark outside and everything is quiet.

Suddenly, a bright light comes from directly below her window, shining upward. The light bounces right into her eyes.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha groans.

HANNAH (O.S.)

Samantha.

Samantha pokes her back out the window as she tries to adjust her eyes.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Hannah sits on her bike with a flashlight pointed up at her.

SAMANTHA

Hey. What's up?

HANNAH (O.S.)

Get dressed.

SAMANTHA

Why? Where are we going?

HANNAH (O.S.)

Just get down here.

SAMANTHA

Okay. One minute.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha leaves the room as quietly as possible.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Samantha slowly closes her bedroom door. The door CREAKS the entire way until it is closed. Samantha nervously looks around and stands still for a moment.

Her dad SNORES loudly in the room next to hers. Samantha covers her mouth to keep herself from laughing.

Samantha creeps down the hallway on her tippy-toes. The door to her brother's room is wide open.

SAMANTHA'S POV

MARCUS, an athletic and well-built teenage boy, paces around his bedroom talking on the phone.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha leans her back against the wall, hoping he didn't see her.

MARCUS (O.S.)
Fine, then don't ever call me again!
We're through!

Marcus slams the door shut.

Samantha waits for a moment to see if he would come out.

She makes a dash for the stairs as quietly as possible.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

Samantha stands at the top of the stairs. She takes a deep breath and slowly plants her foot on the first step. It CREAKS very loudly.

Samantha quickly takes her foot off of the stair.

Her eyes dart around deciding what to do, before settling on the railing.

Samantha positions herself on the railing and slowly slides down it.

As she gets to the bottom of the railing, she looks up at Marcus staring at her in shock.

She looks up at him completely embarrassed.

Marcus jokingly shakes his head and motions with his head for her to go.

MARCUS
(whispering)
Go.

Samantha gets off of the railing and walks toward the kitchen.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - SIDE YARD - NIGHT

Samantha walks down the back steps of the house, trying to find Hannah.

Crickets CHIRP and BUZZ. Samantha looks up at the bright stars and moon.

Hannah quietly sneaks over and shakes Samantha from behind.

Hannah quickly puts her hand over Samantha's mouth, silencing her scream.

HANNAH

Quiet. You're going to get us both caught.

SAMANTHA

(whispering)
Sorry.

HANNAH

Do you have a bike?

Samantha nods her head. She points at her bike laying on the ground next to her garage.

HANNAH

Follow me.

Samantha nods in agreement. She looks around to make sure no one saw them.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Samantha walks slowly toward her bike and hops on.

Hannah and Samantha ride down the driveway. Samantha looks back over her shoulder at her house.

EXT. WINDY GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT

Hannah leads the way out of the neighborhood followed by Samantha. They ride their bikes down the long windy gravel road to the end.

They stop at the end of the road.

HANNAH

So, which way?

SAMANTHA

I don't know. Where are we going?

HANNAH

The lake you were talking about earlier.

SAMANTHA

The lake?

HANNAH

Yeah! Why not?

SAMANTHA

It might be kind of dangerous riding in the dark. But, I guess we'll be okay.

HANNAH

Cool. I'll follow you.

Samantha looks both ways.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Samantha turns onto the road, followed closely behind by Hannah. A flashlight dangles from Hannah's bike by a tiny piece of string.

There are no houses around, no street lights on, or any passing cars. Dense trees line both sides of the street.

The girls peddle their bikes down the middle of the road.

Hannah yells in excitement.

Samantha laughs.

Suddenly, a large deer charges out of the woods and nearly collides with Samantha. She swerves just in time, almost hitting Hannah.

Both girls stop immediately as the deer stands in the middle of the road gazing at them. It continues across the road and disappears into the woods. Samantha and Hannah burst out into laughter.

HANNAH

That was insane!

SAMANTHA

I know, right?

Samantha and Hannah continue laughing as they get back on their bikes and pedal further down the road. Samantha nervously checks from side to side.

EXT. LAKESHORE DRIVE - NIGHT

Samantha and Hannah turn onto a rocky and bumpy street.

SAMANTHA
It's right down there.

HANNAH
Awesome!

The girls ride underneath an orange street light that barely illuminates the dark road. It BUZZES loudly.

Music blasts from further down the road.

SAMANTHA
You sure?

HANNAH
Yeah. Do you want to go back?

SAMANTHA
No. I'm fine.

Samantha exhales deeply and slows her speed down.

Hannah rides ahead.

EXT. LAKE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Samantha and Hannah slowly roll into the parking lot, that has a few parked cars.

SAMANTHA'S POV

A large campfire roars from the beach. Music blasts from the speakers. Several teenagers are partying and dancing around the campfire.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha and Hannah stand side-by-side, straddling their bikes.

Hannah grins from ear to ear.

Samantha glances around while fidgeting with her hair.

SAMANTHA
(nervously)
We should go.

HANNAH
Oh come on, don't worry about them.
We'll do our own thing.

SAMANTHA

I guess.

Samantha exhales deeply.

HANNAH

Do you know anyone over there?

SAMANTHA

Not really.

HANNAH

I got an idea. Follow me.

SAMANTHA

What are we doing?

Hannah ignores her and ditches her bike on the edge of the dirt parking lot. Samantha does the same as she follows Hannah along the edge of the parking lot toward the beach.

SAMANTHA

Where are we going?

Hannah ignores her and motions with her eyes for Samantha to keep following her.

The girls step onto the beach.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Hannah leads Samantha away from the partying teenagers toward a large boulder, hanging over the edge of the lake.

The girls climb over the rocks leading to the boulder.

EXT. BEACH - LARGE BOULDER - NIGHT

HANNAH

Help me up.

Samantha grabs Hannah's feet and tries to push as hard as she can.

Hannah grabs onto a pointed part of the boulder and pulls herself easily up. Hannah reaches back down and helps Samantha to the top.

The girls overlook the entire beach and lake.

Some of the teenagers from the beach watch Samantha and

Hannah.

HANNAH

Did you bring your swimsuit?

SAMANTHA

No.

HANNAH

Me either.

Hannah smiles devilishly at Samantha. She kicks off her shoes onto the beach and immediately jumps off of the boulder with her clothes on.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Hannah plunges into the lake.

All of the teenagers from the beach cheer with excitement.

Hannah rises back to the surface.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha teeters on the edge of the boulder.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Hannah wipes the water from her face, pushing her hair back.

HANNAH

Come on Samantha. Your turn!

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

Okay.

EXT. BEACH - LARGE BOULDER - NIGHT

Samantha nervously kicks her shoes off.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Hannah swims out several feet.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha takes a couple of deep breaths.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Hannah swims back toward Samantha.

HANNAH
Come on Samantha. The water feels
great.

TEENAGE GIRL (O.S.)
Jump!

TEENAGE GUYS (O.S.)
(chanting)
Do it! Do it!

HANNAH
Jump already!

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
I can't.

HANNAH
Yes, you can. Just close your eyes and
jump. Trust me.

EXT. BEACH - LARGE BOULDER - NIGHT

Samantha closes her eyes and jumps out, while grabbing onto
her knees.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Samantha plunges into the water.

As she rises above the surface, everyone from the beach
cheers.

SAMANTHA
That was so cool.

Hannah splashes her with water.

HANNAH
I know, right?

Samantha splashes Hannah back with water.

SAMANTHA
I'll race you to the dock.

HANNAH

You're on.

Samantha and Hannah swim away from the beach out toward a dock.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Sunshine fills Samantha's room as her curtains blow back and forth.

Samantha is sound asleep.

The ROAR of a lawnmower wakes her up. She looks at her alarm clock.

INSERT: 12:30 PM

Samantha gets out of her bed and slumbers toward the window.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Hannah's Dad is mowing their lawn.

BACK TO SCENE

A faint KNOCK comes from Samantha's bedroom door.

Samantha walks skeptically over to the door leans her back against it.

Another loud KNOCK startles her.

Samantha timidly turns around and opens the door.

Hannah pokes her head through the tiny slit in the door. Samantha relaxes her grip on the doorknob and swings it all the way open.

SAMANTHA

Oh, hey.

HANNAH

So, we have a problem.

SAMANTHA

What do you mean? What problem?

As soon as Samantha could spit out the words, Molly steps

from out behind Hannah with a nasty little smirk.

SAMANTHA

Hi Molly.

Molly crosses her arms and continues to smirk at Samantha.

HANNAH

She knows.

SAMANTHA

She knows what?

MOLLY

I know you both snuck out last night and didn't come home until ONE this morning. You went to the lake with older kids who were smoking and drinking.

HANNAH

But we didn't do any of that.

MOLLY

So, what! Mom and dad will kill you for hanging out with this weirdo, sneaking out, staying out past curfew, going to a lake at night, and going to a party with alcohol.

SAMANTHA

How do you know all this?

MOLLY

Hannah told me.

HANNAH

I had to. I had no other choice. She caught me sneaking in because SOMEONE was up past their bedtime.

MOLLY

Who cares? Unless you want me to tell your parents, you're going to do anything I want.

SAMANTHA

You're blackmailing us!

MOLLY

I don't know what that means. All I

know is, I have about twenty boxes in my room that need to be unpacked and I'm not going to do it. You are. Otheriwse, I tell.

SAMANTHA

Yup, that's blackmail.

HANNAH

Don't be a little brat.

Molly sticks her tongue out at Hannah mockingly.

Samantha and Hannah look at each other knowing they had no way out.

MOLLY

Let's go!

Samantha and Hannah reluctantly follow Molly.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Samantha, Hannah and Molly walk onto the grass. The hot summer sun instantly hits them.

MOLLY

Go grab the rest of my boxes out of the truck.

HANNAH

We're not going to be your slaves all day.

Molly bursts into an evil laugh.

MOLLY

All day? How about the rest of the year!

HANNAH

Yeah, I don't think so. Only today, and that's it.

MOLLY

Yeah right. I'll just go tell them right now then.

Molly starts to walk away.

HANNAH

Fine. What else can we do then?

Molly snaps back around.

MOLLY

I want to go to the lake tonight.

HANNAH

No way! You're way too young.

MOLLY

Who cares? It's not a school night and I'll be with you.

HANNAH

Fine. After tonight, we're not doing anything else for you. Got it?

MOLLY

Fine.

SAMANTHA

I really don't think you should Molly.

MOLLY

It's none of your business weirdo!

HANNAH

Molly! Stop!

Molly runs off toward the house. Hannah and Samantha both watch her until she is inside.

SAMANTHA

Hannah, I don't think this is a good idea.

HANNAH

I don't know what else to do.

SAMANTHA

What if something happens to her?

HANNAH

If we wait until it's really late, she'll probably be too tired to go or everyone at the lake will be gone by then.

SAMANTHA

I guess.

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Samantha and Hannah each grab a box from the moving truck.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOLLY'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha and Hannah each carry a box into Molly's bedroom and place them by the wall, which is lined with boxes.

Molly lays on her bed playing with her phone.

HANNAH

That's the last one.

MOLLY

Good. Now you can get me a drink.

HANNAH

You are so annoying!

Hannah leaves the room huffing and puffing.

Molly laughs.

MOLLY

You can go too.

Molly motions with her hand for Samantha to leave.

Samantha rolls her eyes and leaves the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha walks inside her room and over to her bed. She falls down on her bed with her arms out to the side. She lets out a loud YAWN.

She grabs her book laying on her bed. As she starts to read the first page, her eyelids begin to close.

The page slowly blurs.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Five teenage girls wearing emerald green cloaks surround a teenage girl in a circle.

The girls recite a chant underneath their breath.

Suddenly, the girl in the middle turns over onto her back without anyone touching her.

Ashley is lying unconscious in the middle of their circle clutching a porcelain baby doll.

COVEN
(in unison)
Follow her Samantha.

A huge gust of wind comes through the trees and Ashley disappears.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Samantha suddenly awakes. Her room is pitch black. She looks over at her clock.

INSERT: 11:35 PM

Samantha jumps out of bed and leaves her room quietly.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - SIDE YARD - NIGHT

As Samantha walks outside, the faint sound of children crying comes from the forbidden woods.

She checks her pants looking for her phone.

SAMANTHA
Shoot.

Samantha walks over to her bike and takes off down the grass toward her driveway.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Samantha peddles down the road checking frantically around for any signs of movement.

The trees passing by are a blur.

Samantha stops to catch her breath for a brief moment.

As soon as Samantha gets back on her bike, a pick-up truck blares its HORN at her as it swerves to the left, almost hitting Samantha.

The truck comes to a screeching halt. A rough-looking, TRUCK MAN in his forties rolls down his window.

TRUCK MAN

What is wrong with you! You want to get yourself killed.

Samantha immediately hops on her bike and pedals as fast as she can down the road toward the lake.

TRUCK MAN

Come back here! I'm talking to you.

Samantha looks quickly over her shoulder as she races down the street.

The truck is still stopped in the middle of the road.

EXT. LAKESHORE DRIVE - NIGHT

Samantha turns onto the road, almost peeling out. She stops under the old neon street light to catch her breath.

She looks behind her quickly and then continues down the road.

EXT. LAKE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Samantha pulls into the empty parking lot.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A small fire smolders.

Samantha walks her bike over to the campfire and puts it down close to it. She grabs a handful of small twigs and branches and throws them onto the fire.

The fire roars back to life.

Samantha sits down on a large log a few feet from the campfire.

As Samantha stares off into the campfire, she doesn't realize the pick-up truck pulling into the parking lot.

The rocks CRUNCH beneath the truck's tire.

Samantha snaps back. She immediately lays down on the ground using the campfire log as a shield.

She glances over her shoulder and notices a metal trash can nearby.

Samantha crawls as quickly and quietly as she can until she is safely hidden behind the trash can. She pokes her head cautiously around the side of it.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Truck Man does a slow circle around the parking lot in his truck and then comes to a stop. He suddenly blasts heavy metal music from his speakers and peels out of the parking lot. A cloud of dust hovers about.

The truck races down the road and out of sight.

Suddenly, Samantha feels a tap on her shoulder. She screams as she snaps her head around.

Hannah and Molly hover over her in dripping wet bathing suits.

HANNAH

What was that all about?

Samantha stands up.

SAMANTHA

That crazy man almost hit me and then followed me here.

HANNAH

Are you okay?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, just glad he's gone.

HANNAH

Do you want to go home or call the police?

MOLLY

No way! Then our parents will find out we snuck out.

HANNAH

Who cares!

SAMANTHA

I already told you, I'm fine.

HANNAH

Okay. Sorry, we didn't wait for you.
You never responded to my texts.

SAMANTHA

I know. I fell asleep.

MOLLY

(snickering)

Well, we had fun without you.

HANNAH

Molly, be quiet for once!

Molly makes an annoyed face at Hannah as they all walk over to the campfire in awkward silence.

The three girls sit down on separate logs around the fire.

Hannah stares at Molly encouraging her to apologize.

Samantha pretends not to notice Hannah whispering through her teeth at her sister. Molly shakes her head in defiance as Hannah eyes Molly sternly.

MOLLY

Okay, gosh...I'm sorry for what I said.

SAMANTHA

It's cool.

Samantha looks out at the quiet lake and then up at the stars and moon shining brightly above.

HANNAH

Can you tell us more about the forbidden woods?

Samantha remains fixated on the stars trying to ignore the question.

MOLLY

Samantha!

Samantha returns her attention to Molly and Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Huh?

MOLLY

(rudely)

What do you know about the forbidden woods?

Samantha SIGHS.

SAMANTHA

What do you want to know?

HANNAH

Anything.

SAMANTHA

You'll just think I'm crazy.

MOLLY

I already do.

Hannah elbows Molly.

HANNAH

We won't.

Samantha takes a deep breath. She picks up a small twig by her foot and throws it into the fire. A few embers drift off into the air.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT (LATER)

The fire smolders.

Hannah and Molly linger on Samantha's every word.

SAMANTHA

I wish I knew why and how everyone keeps vanishing.

HANNAH

How many kids do you think have disappeared?

SAMANTHA

I'm not sure exactly. Probably over five hundred. Maybe even a thousand. It's been happening since the 1700s.

MOLLY
(laughing)
You are seriously crazy.

Molly stands up.

HANNAH
Molly!

MOLLY
There is no way any of this is true.

SAMANTHA
It is!

MOLLY
I'll prove it.

HANNAH
How you going to do that?

MOLLY
Tomorrow morning.

HANNAH
What are you talking about?

MOLLY
I'll go into the woods, and then, I'll
come back out. Show you the woods
aren't haunted and that she is a LIAR.

SAMANTHA
I'm not a liar!

MOLLY
We'll see, won't we?

SAMANTHA
I know you think I'm this crazy
weirdo, but you have to believe me.

Molly bursts out into laughter.

MOLLY
Yeah, you ARE. Weirdo, weirdo, weirdo.

Molly continues laughing as she walks over to her bike and
hops on.

SAMANTHA

Just listen to me! You'll never come back. Horrible things will happen to you!

HANNAH

Don't worry about her. Nothing is going to happen.

SAMANTHA

What? Now you too?

HANNAH

Honestly, it sounds more like a ghost story than anything.

SAMANTHA

I'm not making anything up.

HANNAH

Tell you what. If Molly goes in and comes back out, then we know your story is true. If she doesn't, then I get a bigger room.

Hannah chuckles as she hops onto her bike.

SAMANTHA

It's not a joke Hannah. I'm dead serious. How else do I have to prove it to you?

HANNAH

I just told you. Let her go in.

SAMANTHA

Fine! Go then!

Molly and Hannah take off on their bikes.

Samantha walks over to her bike and then pushes it back to the ground in frustration. She screams at the top of her lungs.

MOLLY (O.S.)

Weirdo, weirdo, weirdo.

SAMANTHA

Stop calling me that!

Samantha grabs a rock from the ground and throws it into the

fire.

Fire embers shoot up into the night sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Tyra sits around the fire with her four blonde sisters, who all have emerald green cloaks covering their heads.

Tyra reaches into her cloak and pulls out a small black coin purse. She reaches inside and pulls out a tiny handful of metallic dust. She throws it into the fire, which roars to life letting off blue and green colors.

TORHILD, one of the blonde sisters in her late teens, leans forward.

TORHILD

What do you see?

TYRA

They are coming.

Everyone smiles.

Tyra waves her hand. The fire instantly blows out.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Samantha wakes in her bed breathing heavily. She throws off her sheets and walks over to the window.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Dark clouds fill the sky. The trees in the forbidden woods, sway in the wind.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha glances at her wall of missing kids and then rushes over to her door.

As she opens it, Marcus appears in the doorway.

Samantha is startled.

SAMANTHA

Oh, hey Marcus.

MARCUS

I just wanted to apologize for being a really crappy brother lately.

SAMANTHA

It's okay.

MARCUS

Me and Sarah are completely done.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry. I know you really liked her.

MARCUS

Yeah, well...it's over.

SAMANTHA

Forget her.

MARCUS

I know right. Who need her?

Samantha chuckles.

SAMANTHA

Exactly.

Samantha tries to awkwardly squeeze past Marcus.

MARCUS

Where you going?

SAMANTHA

I got to check on something.

Samantha hurries out of the room.

INT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Samantha rushes down the hallway.

MARCUS (O.S.)

When you get back, we're gonna have to practice how to slide down the railing the right way.

Samantha laughs.

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Samantha looks frantically around scanning her yard and Hannah's.

The Sky RUMBLES. Rain begins to fall.

Hannah's dog barks from the hill leading to the forbidden woods.

SAMANTHA'S POV

Molly and Hannah stand at the edge of the woods with their dog on a leash.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE - HILL TO FORBIDDEN WOODS - DAY

Samantha runs up the hill toward Hannah and Molly.

Molly laughs at Samantha.

MOLLY

Wow! You're so slow!

Samantha slips on the grass and falls to the ground.

Molly bursts into laughter as Samantha gets to her feet.

EXT. EDGE OF FORBIDDEN WOODS - DAY

Samantha reaches Hannah and Molly. She huffs and puffs as rain drenches them.

MOLLY

You really should get more exercise.

SAMANTHA

I don't care.

Samantha breathes heavily.

SAMANTHA

I'm begging you, Molly. Don't go in there. As much as I don't like you, I don't want you to vabish.

MOLLY

I got Bash with me. If anything happens, he'll attack them.

Hannah rolls her eyes.

HANNAH
(sarcastically)
Yeah, he's a real attack dog.

MOLLY
He is!

HANNAH
Yeah, okay. Why don't we do this tomorrow? It's pouring out.

MOLLY
It's only a little rain. What am I going to melt?

SAMANTHA
(muttering under her breath)
Probably.

Samantha quickly moves in front of Molly, blocking the path to the woods.

SAMANTHA
You're not going anywhere!

Molly pushes Samantha to the side, knocking her to the ground.

MOLLY
Yeah, thought so.

Without hesitation, Molly and the dog enter the forbidden woods.

Samantha gets quickly to her feet.

SAMANTHA
Come back!

SAMANTHA'S POV

Molly playfully walks down the path and disappears out of sight.

BACK TO SCENE

Samantha takes a few steps toward the path and then restrains herself from charging into the woods.

SAMANTHA
Please come back!

HANNAH
She'll be fine. If she sees anything,
she'll get spooked and run.

SAMANTHA
You still don't understand.

Samantha walks away from the edge of the path along the edge of the woods.

SAMANTHA
I don't see her.

Samantha SIGHS loudly and sits down on the ground. Samantha keeps her back to the woods and shakes her head frustratingly.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF FORBIDDEN WOODS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Samantha stands by the edge of the woods. Tears are streaming down her face. She holds a gas can in one hand and a lighter in the other.

Marcus races up the hill toward Samantha.

MARCUS
Don't do it!

SAMANTHA
Leave me alone.

MARCUS
The cops will arrest you.

Marcus makes it to Samantha and slowly reaches for the gas can.

SAMANTHA
I'm so sick of these stupid woods.

MARCUS
I know, I know.

Marcus casually takes the gas can from Samantha.

SAMANTHA

I just want to burn the whole thing
down.

MARCUS

Me too.

Marcus puts his arm around Samantha.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. EDGE OF FORBIDDEN WOODS - DAY

Hannah strains her neck looking for Molly.

HANNAH

Where is she?

SAMANTHA

Gone.

HANNAH

I really wish you wouldn't say it like
that.

Hannah walks quickly along the edge of the woods looking
through the dense trees.

Hannah returns to the edge of the path.

HANNAH

I'm going in.

SAMANTHA

Just give her a minute.

HANNAH

Wait! I think I see something.

Two black ravens fly down the path toward the girls. Hannah
ducks as they soar over her head and up to a nearby tree.

HANNAH

What was that?

SAMANTHA

Ravens, I think.

Samantha stands up.

HANNAH
She's coming back.

SAMANTHA
Where? I don't see her.

Hannah points toward a cluster of trees where the path bends.

HANNAH
See! Right there!

Hannah strains her eyes as her face becomes ghostly white.

Hannah's dog emerges from the woods, clutching a small doll in his teeth. It's leash dangles on the ground.

Samantha grabs the doll from the dog's tight grasp. She turns over the doll and notices it has a strange resemblance to Molly. Samantha hides the doll's face from Hannah.

HANNAH
Where is she Bash?

The dog runs off toward Hannah's house.

HANNAH
We have to go find her.

Samantha looks down at the doll. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

SAMANTHA
Fine. Let's go!

HANNAH
You sure?

SAMANTHA
Yeah.

The girls walk shoulder to shoulder into the forbidden woods.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Very little light comes through the tall trees.

Samantha and Hannah timidly make their way down a windy narrow path as Samantha tightly clutches the doll in between her arms.

HANNAH
Molly, where are you!

SAMANTHA
Molly!

The girls scan the woods.

HANNAH
Wait! Do you hear that?

Hannah puts her arm out to stop Samantha from moving.

Samantha freezes in her tracks to the faint sound of children's laughter.

HANNAH
That must be Molly.

Hannah bolts down the path out of sight.

SAMANTHA
(under her breath)
It's not her.

Samantha braces herself against a tree and tries to control her breathing.

An eerie WHISPER comes from behind. Samantha snap her neck to the side.

VOICE (V.O.)
Samantha, Samantha.

Samantha covers her ears and closes her eyes tightly.

VOICE (V.O.)
Samantha, Samantha.

The voice repeatedly calls out her name.

SAMANTHA
Stop it!

Suddenly, Hannah re-emerges from behind a large pine tree at the sharp bend in the path. She runs over to Samantha and pulls on her arm.

HANNAH
Who are you talking to?

SAMANTHA

No one.

HANNAH

Let's go then!

SAMANTHA

I can't!

HANNAH

Yes, you can.

Hannah pulls on Samantha's arm.

SAMANTHA

We have to go back before it's too late.

Samantha pulls in the opposite direction, trying to break Hannah's grasp.

HANNAH

It's already too late. Molly is gone. Are you going to help me or not?

SAMANTHA

I don't think I can.

HANNAH

I thought you were my friend?

SAMANTHA

I am.

Samantha drops the doll to the ground. It rolls beneath Hannah's feet.

Hannah bends down and picks it up. Her face becomes ashen as she brushes the dirt away from the dolls face.

HANNAH

Is this Molly?

SAMANTHA

It sure looks like her.

Tears stream down Hannah's face.

HANNAH

We have to find her. We just have to. I don't care how much of a brat she

is.

SAMANTHA

We will. I promise.

Suddenly, the doll blinks her eyes as a single tear trickles down from the doll's face.

Hannah and Samantha look at each other in horror.

The doll turns its head and looks into Hannah's eyes.

DOLL (V.O.)

Help me, Hannah.

Hannah screams at the top of her lungs and takes off down the path carrying the doll in her hand. Samantha jogs closely behind.

Children's laughter and crying echo in the distance.

The girls jog through the woods as the children's laughter and crying get louder.

EXT. FOREST - HILL - DAY

The girls reach the edge of a hill.

Hannah slips on some loose rocks and starts to lean forward.

Samantha tries to reach out and pull Hannah back, but Hannah's body jerks awkwardly forward. She pulls Samantha in the opposite direction.

They both tumble down the hill.

Halfway down Hannah collides with Samantha, causing Samantha to fly up into the air. Samantha slams back down on her elbow making her grimace in pain.

EXT. FOREST - BOTTOM OF HILL - DAY

They roll to the bottom of the hill onto their stomachs. Samantha moans, while Hannah whimpers, clutching her wrist.

SAMANTHA

You okay?

HANNAH

Better than ever.

The girls force a laugh.

Hannah rolls onto her back while holding her wrist. She stares up at the dolls dangling above her head.

HANNAH

Oh my gosh!

Hannah reaches over encouraging Samantha to roll over. Samantha braces herself with her good arm and gets to her feet.

EXT. FOREST - GROVE OF DOLLS - DAY

Samantha and Hannah turn around to face hundreds of dolls hanging from the tree branches.

Hannah grabs the doll that looks like Molly and holds it up to the other creepy dolls staring back at both of them. The dolls blink their eyes as if they were watching their every move.

HANNAH

This is insane. Who would do this?

Samantha shrugs her shoulders.

All of a sudden, every doll bursts into tears and begins to whine.

Samantha leads the way through the cluster of dolls as Hannah follows closely behind. The dolls brush against the girls' heads as they pass.

SAMANTHA

Stop crying!

The dolls whimper.

DOLLS (V.O.)

Samantha.

Samantha ignores the hundreds of dolls calling her name out. She turns around and scans the sea of dolls.

SAMANTHA

Hannah! Where did you go?

DOLLS (V.O.)

(chanting)

Samantha, Samantha.

SAMANTHA
(muttering)
Please stop.

DOLLS (V.O.)
(whining)
Samantha.

Samantha covers her ears as she runs through the never-ending cluster of dolls.

SAMANTHA
Please stop, please stop, please stop.

The dolls whisper her name tauntingly.

SAMANTHA
Hannah!

Samantha stops underneath a large birch tree that has a single doll hanging from a branch. She leans up against the tree scanning the sea of dolls before her.

A thick black circle goes around the entire birch tree as though the ground had been burnt. Samantha gazes up at the lone doll dangling from the branch.

Suddenly, Hannah screams in the distance.

Samantha scans the woods.

HANNAH (O.S.)
Samantha!

Samantha hurries in the direction of the scream. She pushes through the hundreds of dolls hitting her in the face.

HANNAH (O.S.)
Samantha! I need you.

SAMANTHA
I'm coming!

HANNAH (O.S.)
Please hurry.

SAMANTHA
Where are you?

HANNAH (O.S.)
Over here.

The dolls begin laughing at Samanta as she swats at the passing dolls.

SAMANTHA

Stop laughing at me!

HANNAH

Help me!

DOLLS (V.O.)

Weirdo, weirdo, weirdo.

SAMANTHA

Leave me alone!

Samantha stops for a moment to get her bearings. Dolls hang in every direction.

The taunting is extremely loud.

Samantha covers her ears and crouches down low beneath the dolls. She sees a wide-open space without any dolls. She crawls as fast she can underneath the dolls toward the opening.

DOLLS (V.O.)

(laughing)

You'll never find her.

Samantha reaches the open space. At the edge of the opening is an old deteriorating well with crumbling bricks covered with leaves.

Two ravens are perched on top of the well. They each cock their heads to the side with their glossy brown eyes fixated on Samantha.

As Samantha crawls toward the well, the ravens take off into the sky.

Samantha notices the doll resembling Molly. Her body trembles as she picks it up.

SAMANTHA

Hannah!

The dolls laugh devilishly. Samantha leans over the old well, bracing herself from falling in.

SAMANTHA

Hannah!

Samantha rolls over to look at the doll. Dark red teardrops fall from the doll. She gently rests the doll aside.

As she gets to her feet, the laughter stops. The dolls stare at her watching her with suspense.

Samantha reluctantly turns around. The dolls completely disappear in a slow blur until there isn't a single one left.

Samantha rubs her eyes. As her foggy eyes regain focus, rays of light shine down upon an imposing birch tree.

At the base of the tree is RAYNA, an eleven-year-old girl in a white dress. She plays with a unique-looking porcelain doll and pays no attention to Samantha who is slowly creeping towards her.

Rayna rises to her feet and jogs behind the tree.

SAMANTHA

Wait!

Rayna walks toward a small white house that is fifty feet behind the tree.

Samantha does a double-take with a confused expression.

SAMANTHA

Where did that come from?

Rayna turns around and motions for Samantha to follow her.

Samantha moves towards the house in a trance as if she were under a spell.

EXT. HOUSE IN WOODS - DAY

Samantha follows Rayna up the dilapidated steps of the house and through the weathered door.

Blinding white light hits her in the face as she moves through the doorway.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BIRCH GROVE - DAY

The bright light fades away.

Samantha stands in the most wonderful grove of white birch trees that stretches as far as she can see. Birds CHIRP and

fly about the clear blue sky.

Samantha is stunned.

RAYNA
(softly)
Samantha.

Samantha surveys the endless rows of trees. She spots Rayna hiding behind a birch tree, blending in with her white dress.

Rayna motions with her hand for Samantha to come to her.

Samantha weaves in and out of the trees toward the girl. As Samantha gets closer, an enormous stone wall towering above comes into view.

Rayna signals for Samantha to be quieter and to crouch down as she is doing.

Rayna scans the grove of trees and gestures for Samantha to follow her.

As they zigzag around the trees toward the wall, the sky begins to darken beyond the grove and stone wall.

SAMANTHA
Where are we?

RAYNA
(whispering)
Quiet.

The stone wall completely encircles the entire birch grove.

Rayna leans her back against the stone wall and pulls Samantha close to her.

RAYNA
(whispering)
Climb up there and see if they are below.

SAMANTHA
(quietly)
Who are they?

Rayna avoids eye contact with Samantha and looks concerned. She leans over again and whispers in Samantha's ear.

RAYNA

Please, do it.

SAMANTHA

Okay.

Samantha looks up at the wall that is about twenty feet high. She grabs onto a couple of rocks that she can barely grasp. She slowly pulls herself upward.

She climbs about halfway up the wall and pauses. Her arms and hands shake.

SAMANTHA

I can't hold on much longer.

As Samantha tries to grab a protruding rock, she loses her footing and falls to the ground. She groans in pain as Rayna helps her to the feet.

SAMANTHA

Sorry.

RAYNA

(whispering)

It's okay. I have another way.

Rayna quickly leads Samantha along the wall a few hundred feet away. Samantha tries to keep up.

Rayna finally stops next to a cluster of birch trees that are growing over the wall in every direction. Next to the trees is an old rope ladder.

Rayna motions to the ladder.

RAYNA

(quietly)

Be careful. It's a bit old.

Samantha braces herself on the rickety ladder and climbs as carefully as she can.

RAYNA

(whispering)

Stop.

Rayna surveys the wall and trees for any signs of movement. She walks over to the wall and places her ear up against it.

Samantha dangles on the ladder waiting.

Rayna motions for Samantha to continue upwards.

As Samantha reaches the top of the wall, the wooden step beneath her foot snaps in half. She swiftly grabs onto the wall as the ladder dangles between her body and the stone wall.

Samantha tries to brace her back against the birch tree that is touching the wall, as she pulls herself up.

SAMANTHA'S POV

The stone wall goes down more than a hundred feet on the other side of the wall. On the ground, a pack of wolves sniff and search the area.

Several girls in emerald green cloaks pace along the wall.

Beyond the wall, trees stretch all across the mountainous horizon.

BACK TO SCENE

SAMANTHA

It's just some girls in green cloaks
and a pack of wolves.

RAYNA

How many girls?

Samantha starts to count the girls.

Suddenly, an enormous brown bird larger than an eagle with a chest as white as snow swoops down from the sky and lands on the wall beside Samantha. Its incredibly long talons grasps Samantha's right hand, making her grimace in pain.

The bird's black eyes stare deeply into Samantha's eyes. The bird's talon tightens its grasp on Samantha's hand puncturing her skin, making blood trickle from it.

The bird lets out a terrible screeching noise inches from Samantha's face. The bird places its other large talon on her left hand drawing even more blood from that hand.

A flash of light comes from behind Samantha and hits the bird in the chest, enraging the bird.

RAYNA

Jump!

The enormous bird screeches intensely.

Samantha wiggles her hands away from the bird.

The large bird screeches again.

Within seconds more birds swarm down and land down on the wall beside the bird.

RAYNA

Now!

Immediately, Samantha jumps down from the ground falling to her knees. The large birds screech so loud that it sends vibrations down the wall.

RAYNA

Run!

Rayna sprints along the edge of the wall, followed closely by Samantha.

More and more large birds fly down from the sky ready to pounce on them.

SAMANTHA

What are those things?

RAYNA

Hábróks.

SAMANTHA

Hábróks? Never heard of them.

RAYNA

Most people haven't.

They both frantically run along the wall as more hábróks swarm down from the sky. They perch themselves on top of the wall until they have completely surrounded the girls. They screech incessantly at the girls.

Rayna stops by a part of the wall overgrown with green vines. She slowly creeps toward it and motions with her hand.

RAYNA

Offavatibus.

The vines curl up exposing a tunnel.

Rayna turns toward Samantha.

RAYNA
Welcome to Norlandis.

Samantha is in shock as she stumbles toward the tunnel in a trance and ducks underneath the vines and inside the tunnel.

The vines instantly grow back, covering the tunnel until it is completely covered.

INT. CASTLE - DAY

Tyra sits imposingly in the dark on a wooden throne at the back of an enormously long room. She is surrounded by a pack of wolves laying on the ground.

Several stone pillars and tall arched windows line the length of the room on both sides. An emerald green carpet runs down the center of the room between the pillars.

Light smoke drifts throughout the room.

The door at the opposite end of the room slowly opens.

Torhild slowly walks inside, with her head bowed down.

Tyra snaps her fingers as Torhild approaches the throne. The candles on the chandelier and the ones hanging from the pillars instantly light up the castle room.

TORHILD
She's here.

TYRA
I know she is.

TORHILD
Right.

TYRA
Prepare everyone.

TORHILD
Of course.

Torhild walks away.

Tyra smiles devilishly.

FADE OUT.