

RETREAT AT THE CABIN

Written by

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I/E. MOVING VAN - NIGHT

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A cargo van is driving on a rainy night. It's a rainy night, and the roads are bad. The passengers are a Caucasian man and a woman in their late forties. On her lap are six coyote pups.

VAN GIRL

I hope your dumb ass won't get ripped off this time. That damn fucker knew those huskies were purebred.

VAN GUY

I didn't hear you complaining when you spent my cash.

VAN GIRL

Four hundred dollars? I have been with men who could spend four times that in a day on me. What do you take me for?

VAN GUY

Just shut the fuck up! I'm not in the mood.

VAN GIRL

So how much are we getting? You wouldn't get lowballed every time if you weren't such a loser and listened. I say eight thousand. Need I remind you that the rent is due next week?

VAN GUY

You got balls, man. When have you ever pitched in even a quarter?

VAN GIRL

That's not my problem.

VAN GUY

Exactly, just shut the hell up.

VAN GIRL

How long are you going to do this? My cousin's husband just opened a diner. I can ask him for you.

(MORE)

VAN GIRL (CONT'D)

I'm sick of smelling like I sleep
in a fucking barn, alright? We need
to sell that trailer park of a
house and go back to Memphis.

The girl returns to playing with the cubs. She looks up and lets out a scream.

VAN GIRL

Watch out!

There is a deer in front of them. The van swerves and flips over a couple of times. It lands upside down.

The couple is killed. With the shattered windows, the pups make it out. They go through the window.

The little pups run towards the forest.

EXT. DEEP IN FOREST-THE NEXT DAY

A middle aged man is walking in the woods. He just came back from a hunt, carrying with him squirrels.

As he passes, he hears a howl. He turns back. He sees the pups. He puts his things down, walking slowly towards them.

He pulls out some berries, places them on the ground and lures them. They bite. The pups start devouring the berries.

The man stands there admiring them.

INT. CABIN- NIGHT

The man lives alone in a small cabin, he makes some tea.

He has taken the pups with him; they are roaming around him.

The man keeps throwing pieces of meat to the pups.

Once the tea is done, he sits down and reads a book while sipping his tea.

One jumps on his lap.

INT. CABIN- DAY

The man returns from a grocery trip. The pups, now around ten years old, come to greet him. They have been fully domesticated.

He puts his groceries down, takes out a bag of meat.

One of the coyotes brings a big bowl. It puts it down, the man places the meats in the bowl.

He lets the pack go at it while he makes himself a meal.

INT. CABIN- NIGHT

That evening, the man is reading the newspaper on his bed. He starts dozing off, he drops the newspaper.

INT. CABIN- MORNING

A few days have passed, the coyotes have ransacked the cabin. The man has died in his sleep.

INT. CABIN- DAY

The coyotes are trying to wake their owner up. They have become thin. One is grabbing his leg. He is unresponsive. They all gather around him, watching him.

INT. CABIN- NIGHT

One of the coyotes is searching for a meal in the other room. He flips over a potato sack filled with shoes. There is a gap. He squeezes through, and the others follow.

INT. EUGENE AND ALICE HOME- DAY

ALICE DAVIS, an African-American middle-aged woman, brings in some bags of groceries in the kitchen. She puts them on the counter and starts putting everything away. Footsteps are coming from the basement. It is her husband, EUGENE DAVIS. He is a tall, gray-haired, stern-looking, and intimidating middle-aged man. She is surprised to see him.

ALICE

I thought you were at the golf course.

EUGENE

It got cancelled last minute; Troy couldn't make it.

ALICE

Do you have everything packed or do you need me to do it for you?

EUGENE

I have been packing for myself for fifty-plus years and got it. What I don't seem to get is the purpose of this whole thing.

(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Are you just trying to ensure you waste my money one last time?

ALICE

Half of my money is in this too, this was my idea remember?

EUGENE

And again, I ask, what's the point? It's obvious you can't wait to sign on the dotted lines.

ALICE

It's too late to cancel. Everything is paid for. I'm sure your sister and her big mouth will be broadcasting the fall of our marriage the minute we bail out.

EUGENE

Is she lying?

ALICE

I mean we've tried everything else, might as well.

EUGENE

Please, you're not doing this for us. You want to save face, make yourself feel better, and actually believe that you did all you could, and you give a shit about this relationship. I'm not an idiot Alice.

ALICE

Well, nobody is forcing your arm, dear. You're not doing me any favors by going. I can happily go alone.

EUGENE

Why do you always want to...

(scoffs)

You know what? Forget it.

Eugene walks away.

ALICE

Can you at least help me with this?

Eugene comes back. He starts putting things in the fridge.

INT. LOCAL NIGHTCLUB-NIGHT

The club is lively and noisy. AARON RUSSELL, a young blonde-haired man, high society type and well-built. He is having a drink at the bar. Two girls, who are a bit drunk, come to order something.

GIRL

Excuse me! Can I get a bloody Mary please?

GIRL #2

Heavy on the bloody, please!

GIRL

Oh My God! I am so gonna let Jackson get in this thong tonight!

GIRL #2

Doesn't he have herpes?

GIRL

Herpes, Merpees, Schmurpees... who cares girl?

The girls are giggling. The guy turns around, he recognizes one of them.

AARON

Jasmine?

JASMINE

Aaron! What!? Hi! What are you doing here?

She gives him a hug.

AARON

Long day at the office.

JASMINE

Dee finally let you out of the house huh?

AARON

Since when did I need her permission?

JASMINE

That's not what she's saying... This is my friend Xavia.

AARON

Hello there Xavia!

XAVIA
You look like every tech guy in
Silicon Valley.

AARON
Yeah... well thank you!
(to Jasmine)
You look good.

JASMINE
Thanks, and so do you... you're
here alone? Where are your
douchebag friends?

AARON
Ouch! They're actually in Spain, a
bachelor party thing. I wouldn't
mind some company.

JASMINE
What about my friend?

AARON
She can join.

She looks around, her friend is already flirting with
another guy.

AARON
Well problem solved, come on.

INT. LOCAL NIGHTCLUB/ VIP SECTION- CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Jasmine are sitting at their own table, enjoying
each other's company.

JASMINE
Did you hear about the retreat this
weekend?

AARON
Yeah, Dee is making me go...

JASMINE
I'm coming too.

AARON
I thought it was for couples only.

JASMINE
Well, I'm third wheeling, got a
problem with that?

AARON

Not at all; the more, the better.
Anything that keeps me from being
alone with her father.

JASMINE

You know, at some point, you'll
have to sit down and get to know
each other.

AARON

I'll hold it off as long as I can.

JASMINE

He's a nice guy, you don't know
him.

AARON

No, I heard he chewed out the last
guy she was with.

JASMINE

Well, he tried to put his hands on
her.

AARON

Nah, your uncle is stuck-up.

The waiter passes by.

AARON

Hey! Excuse me! Let me get another
shot.

WAITER

Coming right up!

JASMINE

Damn, slow down dude!

AARON

Slow down! I was just rinsing my
throat.

She chuckles.

AARON

So, do you have any other
engagements after this?

JASMINE

No, nothing I can't postpone till
Monday.

AARON
That's what I like to hear. Well
Cheers! To whatever tonight holds!

They look each other in the eyes as they clink glasses.

AARON
So how is that football player of
yours doing?

JASMINE
We broke up. About a month ago.

AARON
That's unfortunate. What happened?

JASMINE
I missed this life; he wanted me at
home with an apron, making pies.

AARON
And you wanted having walk of
shames every Sunday morning?

Jasmine chuckles, a bit embarrassed.

JASMINE
Not exactly. I just didn't want to
be tied up just yet. That old life
was calling to me. The streets
needed me.

AARON
I agree with that; some people are
not meant to be tamed. We live on
our terms, and we're fucking proud
of it. Whoever doesn't get it can
suck it. So what's your next move?

INT. JASMINE APARTMENT-LATER

The pair arrive at her apartment, already making out...
Things fall to the ground as they take each other's clothes
off.

INT. DEE CONDO- THE NEXT DAY

DEE DAVIS (30s), girl-next-door look but well put together
and friendly young woman. She is the daughter of Alice and
Eugene. She is woken up by the sound of the door slamming.

DEE
Where have you been? Are you just
getting in?

AARON

Yeah, I stayed at my place. I had a lot of documents to go through.

DEE

You could have just worked here.

AARON

You know how I feel about shacking up.

DEE

I think that could be easily solved.

Aaron is more focused on his phone. He texts Jasmine.

" Last night was great." adding flirty emojis in the end.

DEE

Babe... Are you listening?

AARON

What? Ummm... yeah. I just have a lot going on.

DEE

Right... anyways, did you finish packing? Mom and Dad will be here early, and you know my dad hates waiting.

AARON

That's not the only thing...

DEE

Oh, come on, he doesn't hate you. It just takes him time to warm up to people and you haven't even tried to get to know him. You always have some sort of excuse.

AARON

You know I'm only going because of you, right? There are so many other things I could do with my time.

DEE

I guess spending time with me isn't one of them? Come on, babe! This will be good for us, a chance to relax, reconnect, and get back to us.

She kisses him as she goes to take a shower. Jasmine responds to the text.

" Can we not mention that? I don't want Dee to find out"

INT. EUGENE AND ALICE HOME/ LIVING ROOM- AFTERNOON

Alice is watching old home videos of the family with a glass of wine.

ON TV

Eugene playing with baby Dee and her twin brother Jaden as Alice watches. The couple is goofy and romantic as their little ones play.

LIVING ROOM

She gets a little emotional, not realizing that Eugene is in a corner staring at her.

INT. DEE CONDO-THE NEXT DAY

Dee is busy taking the luggage out to the driveway, a car arrives. It's her twin Jaden and his girlfriend Lisa.

DEE

Hey guys!

JADEN

What's up big head?

They greet each other.

LISA

Hi! I had to wake him up at six otherwise you already know.

DEE

Well thank you.

JADEN

Where's Aaron?

DEE

Inside, probably went back to sleep.

LISA

Thank you for inviting us! We needed this. I've been stressed at work.

DEE
Oh, we could all use this mini
vacay!

A van pops up. It's Eugene and Alice.

DEE
Wow! Perfect timing! Hey Dad!

EUGENE
Hi Baby! We gotta go! We won't even
get out of the car. Come on!

They start putting the luggage in the back of the van. Dee
shouts.

DEE
Aaron! Let's go.

Eugene honks. He comes out. Clearly not that psyched for the
trip.

JADEN
What's up man? Not a morning person
either I see.

AARON
Hey! Mr. and Mrs. Davis. Nice to
meet you.

EUGENE
So, you're the new guy huh?

DEE
Dad, we've been together for two
years.

EUGENE
How would I know? I never met the
man. He has other important
priorities than meeting his
girlfriend's father.

ALICE
Will you stop it? Hello Aaron,
finally! Come on, you can take a
nap on the way.

EUGENE
No, I think him, and I will have a
talk.

AARON
Wonderful.

INSIDE VAN

Everyone gets in the van.

JADEN
Hey Dad, does this have bluetooth?

EUGENE
Nope.

JADEN
Kill me now. Babe did you pack it?

Lisa looks through her bag.

LISA
Yeah, right here!

JADEN
Cool!

Aaron tries to make his way to the back, Dee stops him.

DEE
Honey where are you going? Sit
right here.

Eugene and Aaron make eye contact through the rear-view
mirror.

INT. MOVING CAR- LATER

Everyone is quiet, staring at their phones. There is music
on the radio, Eugene turns it down. He stares at Aaron.

EUGENE
So... what do you do in life, Mr.
Aaron? What I want to know is, you
have been with Dee for a few years
now, right? And you never bothered
to introduce yourself to her folks.
I don't know how to feel about
that.

Dee nudges him as he is distracted.

DEE
Babe! Dad's talking to you...

AARON
I was just waiting for the right
time Mr. Davis.

EUGENE

I see, and what do you do in life?

AARON

I own a few cannabis dispensaries.

EUGENE

Really? And that's what you want to do in life? Get people high?

AARON

Like I always say, we're here for a good time, not a long time, Sir. Supply and demand, Just fulfilling people's needs like other brands. That's how the world works.

EUGENE

Your parents must be proud.

AARON

Actually, they're the main investors in my business. So yeah.

EUGENE

Mhmmm. So, what's the deal with you and my daughter? What is this thing you have?

AARON

We're cool. Just enjoying each other's company.

EUGENE

Enjoying each other's company?

DEE

Ummm, that, and I think we're also building something. Who knows, maybe we'll have some good news by the end of the year. Right honey?

AARON

Ummm, I mean, there's no rush. We have the rest of our lives to be bonded together forever.

DEE

Is that how you see it?

AARON

Well, you know how I feel about marriage and things of that sort. Unnecessary if you ask me.

EUGENE

Does your partner feel the same?

DEE

Not really. I still believe in
fairytale and happily ever after.

EUGENE

It sounds like he wants to waste
your time and string you along;
clearly, you have different
agendas.

AARON

I don't see anything wrong with
having fun while we figure things
out.

EUGENE

That sounds promising.

JADEN

I think he took a liking to you.

The silence continues.

INT. SECOND MOVING CAR- SAME TIME

Another couple, WAYNE and BETH AVERY, friends of Eugene and Alice, are in the middle of a heated argument. They are not alone; RITA DAVIS, Eugene's sister, is there. She is the bougie and over-the-top aunt. Jasmine is also riding with them. She has her headphones on full blast, taking a nap.

BETH

But I don't understand, how hard is
it to pack your bags the night
BEFORE the trip. How many times did
I remind you last night, but no! I
will never do what she wants me to
do... that way, I feel more of a
man.

WAYNE

Listen, you don't have to tell me
to pack my suitcase; I know damn
WELL I need to. Do you know what
your problem is? Anything that's
out of your control, you freak out!
It's a freaking suitcase, MY GOD! I
don't need you shouting at me for
all the neighbors to hear, alright?

BETH

Maybe if I didn't care for you like you're damn five years old, I wouldn't have to lose my voice trying to get your attention! GROW UP!

WAYNE

No, YOU CALM DOWN! Do something! I don't need you breathing all on me and at my neck every second of my life! Just because your daddy left doesn't mean you take it out on me.

BETH

I'm sorry what? I know you didn't just bring up my Dad into this!

WAYNE

I have to Beth! Wake up and smell the daddy issues, baby! I don't want to be the sacrificial lamb for your father's mistakes. LET IT GO!

They both start going off at the same time.

BETH

YOU DON'T GET TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT! I am your wife! How dare you talk to me like that in front of company?

WAYNE

No, I am sick of your bullshit! I can't take it any more! How much damn saliva can one person have!? Don't you get tired!

RITA

Hey hey! Hey! Both of you shut up! That's enough! I mean, my Goodness! I'm getting a damn migraine from you, I swear! Now, either zip it up until we get there, or you let me out, and I'll find my way! All that yapping... I have had it! If you want to kill each other, do it in your room once we arrive, okay? I should have gone with Eugene; I can't stand his wife, but it's better than getting my insides blown to pieces from your bickering!

JASMINE

Seriously guys, just bring it down a notch.

RITA

And where is your man? Or woman, I can't keep up with you anymore. Isn't this a couple's thing?

JASMINE

I'm guessing yours is invisible.

RITA

Girl, you know better than to use that smart mouth with me! I'm here to see how to get my next king, I'm tired of kissing these damn frogs. Your turn!

JASMINE

Well, if you must know, I had planned to come with somebody but we broke up last week. I already paid my share and have every right to be here.

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE- EVENING

The group arrives at the site where the retreat will be held. It's a very peaceful area, surrounded by lush green trees. There are already people checking in and arriving. They start taking out their bags.

LISA

Damn, even the air is different.

Aaron goes to a corner and starts vaping.

JADEN

It's great right! I'm gonna get us checked in.

DEE

I'll come with you.

ALICE

So how many rooms do we get?

EUGENE

The couples each get one room, and there's Jasmine and Rita. So that makes it six rooms.

LISA
Weren't we all supposed to get here
at the same time?

ALICE
You gotta add one hour with Rita.
She probably needs it to pack an
extra bag of her nasty-ass attitude
and stank face.

LISA
Aren't you the best sister in laws?

A couple approaches them.

MAN
Hello, hello! Allow me to introduce
ourselves. I am Patrick, and this
is my wife, Isabel. We want to
welcome you to the retreat! We will
be your coaches during this week.

ISABEL
Hello, I hope your drive was okay.

ALICE
It was bearable. Thank you for
doing this; most of us out there
needed it.

PATRICK
That's good! Glad we could help. We
are waiting for more couples to
arrive, so why don't you settle in
your rooms, freshen up and relax?
Tonight, we will have a welcome
dinner and details of the schedule
for your entire stay.

EUGENE
Sounds good.

ISABEL
If you have any questions, find one
of us. Alright, we'll see you
tonight.

ALICE
Great!

Dee and Jaden arrive.

JADEN
Will do, thank you.

DEE

Come on, everyone, let's go check out the rooms and maybe have a quick nap. Babe, we got the rooms! Come help with the bags.

Aaron is basically forcing his feet forward.

JADEN

We'll see you guys tonight. I need a shower; I've been sweating balls all day.

RITA

Boy, act like you got some manners.

JADEN

Sorry.

The group separates, each going to their own room.

INT. ALICE & EUGENE ROOM- LATER

Alice is unpacking, putting her clothes in a small closet. Dee knocks, she goes to open.

DEE

Hey ma!

ALICE

Hi baby. Are you finished settling in?

DEE

Yeah, I couldn't sleep so I came to check on you.

ALICE

Come in!

Dee closes the door after her.

DEE

Where's Dad?

ALICE

He went out for a smoke.

DEE

Ugh, I thought he was trying to quit.

ALICE

So did I.

DEE

Well, I guess that's the only thing he and Aaron have in common. How awkward was that convo in the van?

ALICE

I almost jumped out the window.

They both chuckle.

DEE

What's going on with you? The entire trip, you guys didn't say one word to each other.

ALICE

I don't think this is the right time.

DEE

It's just us, what is it? I thought you were working on fixing things. It looks like it's worse.

ALICE

You have no idea. Even being in the same room gives me anxiety because of the silence. It just kills me inside... every second of it. That's why I wanted to do this retreat, maybe take off a few days of awkward breakfasts and dinners. I know he's your father, but man, if I could do things differently.

DEE

Don't say that, Mom.

ALICE

Please take my advice, don't get married. It's wild. I woke up one day and felt like my husband was just a roommate. I had kids and a lifetime contract with them—no love, no chemistry, like we were doing our time. I used to pity those silent couples, eating their food, not talking or making eye contact. We're getting a divorce.

DEE

Mom, no!

(MORE)

DEE (CONT'D)

You two are grown and have your own lives; there's nothing left to stay for. There is no point in torturing ourselves and pretending in front of everyone. So... there's that.

Dee sits by her mother's side, comforting her.

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE- NIGHT

Rita and the gang arrive. Rita is not too impressed.

RITA

Why couldn't we go to Paris or Greece... or somewhere tropical? This is one of those places where white teens get murdered while having sex in a tent.

WAYNE

Can you ever take a breath without complaining? Just stay away from me this weekend.

BETH

I suggest you do the same, Wayne; a day or two from you would be wonderful in my eyes.

WAYNE

Don't have to tell me twice.

BETH

What is that supposed to mean.

JASMINE

Hey guys, will you stop?

Dee and Jaden arrive to greet them.

DEE

Finally! What happened?

WAYNE

Someone was still packing their entire house. That's what happened.

RITA

Oh hush! These are only the essentials.

DEE

Hey girl! Where have you been hiding.

Jasmine is uncomfortable with the hug.

JASMINE

Just busy with work.

JADEN

Good to see you Aunt Rita! You look.... you look. Yeah.

RITA

Fabulous darling, that is the word you're stumbling on.

DEE

Everyone else is already here. We're having dinner in an hour. Come on, I'll show you to your rooms.

JASMINE

I hope you guys don't mind me freeloading. I had nothing to do this weekend, so I thought...

JADEN

Oh no it's fine!

Aaron walks out of his room, making eye contact with Jasmine.

DEE

Hey babe look who's here!

AARON

Hello guys! It's always late, as usual. Why are black people always late for events?

RITA

Everyone has flaws; you don't see us take offense to your unseasoned, bland food, do you?

AARON

(sarcastic chuckle)

I see.

RITA

Will you just stand there, or will you help us with the luggage? Are there mosquitos here?

INT. RETREAT CAMPSITE/ HALL- NIGHT

Everyone is gathered together; it's dinner time.

PATRICK

Everyone may I have your attention please? Thank you.

ISABEL

We would like to welcome you to this year's REJUVENATE Retreat. We are glad you are all here. This weekend, we have exciting things planned, from couples' games to workshops, group activities, and more. There is a flyer on your tables with the schedule for all the events; take one. It will be a packed weekend, and we'll learn, communicate, discuss, and HAVE FUN!

PATRICK

Now, all of you are here for different reasons but with one goal... there is something you want to change or improve in your relationship. That is why we are here, to help you achieve that purpose. I ask that you go into this with an open mind and heart. Now, I will be working with each couple present privately, so there is a signup sheet on your table; this is optional, but I highly recommend it. So, with that being said, let's enjoy dinner and get a good night's rest. Tomorrow, we begin! Bon Appetit, everyone!

Eugene and his family are all seated on one big round table.

ALICE

So Rita, I haven't seen you in months. How is everything going?

RITA

Wonderful, as always. I thought I would be a wreck after the divorce, but as they say, I am living my best life. I'm traveling, trying new things, and actually doing the things I wanted to do before I met that bastard. I don't know why people complain; divorce isn't that bad.

EUGENE

That is because you have no children. You can do as you please. Well, you also took two-thirds of that man's money.

RITA

Well unlike you, I know when to pull the plug.

ALICE

We all know you're the expert in that area.

RITA

I'd rather live in my truth than play a beautiful lie for the world. Need I say more?

EUGENE

Rita.

RITA

I'm just saying...

WAYNE

Alright now, save some for the therapy sessions. We just got here.

The younger adults are enjoying the banter. Beth's husband, Wayne, is chewing with his mouth open... a piece of food drops on Beth's plate.

BETH

Wayne! Can't you keep your damn mouth closed? Jesus!

WAYNE

That never bothered you when you met me; you thought it was cute, remember?

BETH

Well, it does now, I guess people change.

WAYNE

Yeah, I guess so.

BETH

You're just doing it to piss me off. Anywho... Jaden, what's new with you guys?

JADEN

I can't complain, Aunt Beth; I just put in an offer on a house, so things are looking up. I might invite you to my housewarming party in a couple of months.

WAYNE

Nice! Getting your own house before thirty, that's something.

JADEN

Thank you!

Rita is watching Eugene, who is starting to doze off.

RITA

Eugene! Eugene? Wake up?
(chuckles)
What's the deal?

EUGENE

It's been a long day.

RITA

Why have been avoiding my calls lately, what's up with that?

EUGENE

Listen, I'm not answering no phone calls at four in the morning.

RITA

That's because I have something important to tell you; ever thought about that? I might as well do it now since everyone is here. I might be moving to Paris at the end of the year.

EUGENE

Paris? For what?

RITA

I've always wanted to go to Paris, you know that. That's where I belong; I'm sick of this country, its politics, and its people. My cheap-ass ex-husband always said there was no money since he was spending all our fortune on whores. So that's it! I am leaving for Paris.

JASMINE

I think that's great Aunt Rita!

RITA

Thank you, baby!

EUGENE

Is this another one of your impulsive decisions you regret right after?

RITA

No! I have thought about this for years. I put my passions and goals away for a piece of shit who didn't deserve it. I stuck with him when he didn't have two nickels to rub together, watched him build his business, and what did I get? Cold and lonely nights, waiting by the door for him to come home. It's my time now, Eugene. And you're not going to make me feel bad for it.

DEE

We are happy for you, Aunt Rita. You deserve it. We all deserve to do what's best for ourselves. I propose a toast: may this be a weekend of self-discovery, new beginnings, and bright and hopeful adventures ahead! Cheers!

They all toast their glasses.

EXT. LOCAL HIKING TRAIL- THE NEXT DAY

The couples are starting the day off with a hike on a trail near the campsite. Everyone is together, walking in a big group. Eugene and most of his group. Aaron and Jasmine are walking side by side behind the others.

AARON

So, are we gonna be awkward around each other the entire weekend?

JASMINE

I just think some distance would be better.

AARON

It was just one night; nobody got hurt, and she doesn't have to know. What's the problem?

JASMINE

I think I should tell her. I'm not good with secrets.

AARON

Are you crazy? Why would you want to hurt her feelings?

JASMINE

And what we did won't hurt her?

AARON

If she doesn't know, we can just leave it in the past.

JASMINE

I feel weird being here, around her. I'm very uncomfortable, maybe I shouldn't have come. I was hoping you guys wouldn't come.

AARON

Look, it's fine! Plus, I'm glad you're here; you're the only one in her family I can stand.

A few steps ahead, Jaden and his girlfriend are walking hand in hand... showing off some PDA. Alice and Dee are watching them.

DEE

Ughh can they stop? I hate new love.

ALICE

Oh, let them, it's cute. Let them enjoy it while it lasts. I didn't know Jasmine and Aaron were friends.

DEE
Neither did I. I don't know...
something's off. I felt like she
was backing away when I hugged her
yesterday.

Dee turns around, and Aaron and Jasmine are laughing.

INT. RETREAT CAMPSITE/ BEDROOM- AFTERNOON

The younger couples and Jasmine are having drinks in one of
their bedrooms.

LISA
So yeah, after that they took a
liking to him.

DEE
Yeah, I remember him calling me
sobbing.

LISA
Aww babe! And now they love him
more than me I think.

AARON
In-laws, that's why I stay clear.
The instant expectation to be
perfect is something I can't deal
with. And why put yourself through
the drama and gossip about your
relationship?

DEE
My parents don't gossip. You
wouldn't know that anyway with the
way you always dodge my dad's calls
and his invites to play golf with
him.

AARON
Pretty much, yeah.

DEE
And how do you think that makes me
feel?

AARON
I can't control how you feel, babe,
just speaking my mind. And you need
to stop telling your father to
persuade me to marry you. It's not
a good look.

DEE

I never told him to say anything to you; I don't have to go through him to talk to you.

AARON

Well, I've made it pretty clear to them and hopefully to you that I'm in no hurry to get hitched.

JASMINE

Dee, you shouldn't be pressuring him. That is never a good way to go about it.

JADEN

She's not pressuring him. But why are you together for five years if you don't have the same ultimate goal? That's just wasting time.

LISA

I agree. It's not his priority, and Dee wants to start a family.

DEE

When we first met, he told me he wanted to start a family soon. I did, too. I don't know what happened; he never tells me anything.

LISA

It's time to have a serious talk about what both of you want.

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE-SAME TIME

Some couples are having a small party, having drinks and dancing to loud music. Jaden, Lisa, Jasmine, and Dee are participating.

INT. RETREAT CAMPSITE/ GRASS- THE NEXT DAY

All the couples are seated on the ground, ready for the day's activity. Each couple is seated facing each other.

PATRICK

Good morning, everyone. Lovely day, isn't it? So! Today, we will start with a simple exercise, something we do every day but don't pay much importance to. That is eye contact.

(MORE)

PATRICK (CONT'D)

You can tell much about a relationship and your partner just by staring into their eyes. Emotions that have been hidden speak loudly with just a glaze. This exercise can also build intimacy and trust. So you'll stare at your partner for three minutes straight, not looking away. Okay, are we ready? Your time starts now.

All the couples have started the activity; all concentrated on the task at hand. To some, the exercise is easy... a few are struggling to try to keep a straight face. Aaron is just goofing around, making funny faces... Dee is annoyed.

DEE

Are you gonna stop playing around?

AARON

Come on! You don't actually think this will help us do you?

DEE

I do! How will you know if you don't do the damn exercise and be serious!

AARON

Okay fine!

He recomposes himself and stares at her. Eugene and Alice are uncomfortable. Neither can last make eye contact with the other; there is an occasional look away. Patrick notices.

A few feet away, Wayne and Beth have more of a mean mugging look going on.

BETH

I remember telling you to shave before we came, right? Do you always have to look like a hobo?

WAYNE

Yet when I shave it, you say I look like a nutsack. Make up your mind, woman!

RITA

Hey shhhhh!

Rita and Jasmine are just meditating as the others do the activity. Jaden and Lisa are in their own little world, enjoying every bit of the exercise.

The timer goes off.

PATRICK

Alright, time's up! Let's start sharing our thoughts and results; this is totally optional. Does anyone want to go first?

Someone raised their hand.

VOLUNTEER

I don't know about the others, but that was quite intense. For instance, I noticed that his eye color is different from what I always thought.

PATRICK

See? It's those little details that you catch during this activity. What else?

Another person raises their hand.

VOLUNTEER

I love my husband, I really do, but I definitely felt uncomfortable. And I don't know why, we have been married for forty years...

Dee catches Aaron staring at Jasmine.

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE/ DINING HALL- AFTERNOON

Eugene and his son are getting something to eat in the hall; the others are doing their own thing. They put some food on their plate.

JADEN

Hey Dad, there is something I wanted to talk to you about.

EUGENE

Sure, what's up?

JADEN

I'm going to propose to Lisa.

EUGENE

Well, that's wonderful, son! I think four years is enough time to pop the question.

JADEN

Yeah, I want to spend the rest of my life with her. I don't know why, but I felt I should do it this weekend.

EUGENE

Do you have the ring and everything ready?

JADEN

Well, I wanted to ask mom if I could have the one you gave her.

EUGENE

Oh! I'm sure that won't be a problem. She won't mind it coming off her finger.

JADEN

Huh?

EUGENE

Nothing.

JADEN

(nervous chuckle)

I'm nervous pops. I know she's gonna say yes but I...

EUGENE

It happens, it's a big step. You're never ready for it. But if you know she's the one without hesitation, go for it. You have my blessing. Lisa is a good girl. We are happy to welcome her into the family.

JADEN

Thank you Pops.

They hug it out.

INT. RETREAT CAMPSITE/ COUNSELING ROOM- LATER

Eugene and Alice are seated for their one-on-one therapy session with Patrick.

PATRICK

So, the big question is, why are you here? I want to start with you, Eugene. Now I don't want either of you interrupting the other, if you want to respond you have to wait till, the other is done talking.

EUGENE

I don't think we should be here. I feel like this is a waste of time. Clearly, she gave up on us a long time ago; she wants to save face and pretend like she's still fighting for us. I feel Alice cares more about what people think about our marriage and our flaws. She never listens to my opinions and ideas; she will not compromise. Nothing goes my way, including not wanting to come here, but she'll make me feel bad about it. She has been mad at me for half our marriage, and I don't even know what I did. How can you make that kind of marriage work? She never wants to talk to me; we can barely be in the same room alone, so I think she brought more people along. I don't know where her head is; our communication is almost nonexistent.

PATRICK

Okay, that's good. A lot to unpack here. Alice, would you like to respond?

ALICE

So now all of a sudden you open up huh?

EUGENE

We're here aren't we? We paid for this damn session.

PATRICK

Okay let's come back on track.

ALICE

When we married, I asked Eugene to promise me one thing: we would never feel comfortable.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

That's why I was afraid of marriage; things change drastically, and you get more comfortable than you should. You stop trying to impress your spouse, he thought. Now that I called her and she's pregnant, she's not going anywhere. The flowers stop coming, and the anniversaries go unnoticed. We never went on dates or did anything together without the kids. We completely forgot our life, just the two of us, before we had other responsibilities. I felt unappreciated and forgotten. I stopped trying myself, who wants to put in work when the other person couldn't give a damn. I thought, let's just raise our kids and get on with life.

PATRICK

Eugene, how do you feel about that?

EUGENE

Some things I said were maybe halfway true; I never took her for granted. Perhaps I got too caught up in trying to give our family the best that I forgot to make time for us. But that happens in marriages; kids are no joke. I worked two jobs when we were starting a family; I wanted to give her what she was used to. That didn't mean I stopped loving you or took you for granted. How was I supposed to know how you felt? You never said a damn thing. So you punish me by distancing yourself and hoping I figure it out alone?

ALICE

Why do I always have to be the one to bring this up? These are things you're supposed to know and see. How long have we been together that you don't see when something is wrong? You didn't care to see it, or you stopped loving me.

EUGENE

See, why are you always putting words in my mouth...

ALICE

I am not! I am just saying that...

PATRICK

Okay, okay! Let's take a moment. Let's just breathe for a sec. The first problem we need to talk about is communication. I hear a lot of miscommunication and assumptions coming from you both. Many people believe that if you're with someone for such a long time, you know every little detail, what they think, and leave many things unsaid because they're supposed to know everything about you and your relationship. Our partner is not our twin; we are just two individuals in a relationship. We both have our own needs that need to be met and if we don't talk to our partners... how will they know what we want from them?

Listen, relationships can never succeed on autopilot; you must work on it daily. People think marriage is the final destination and everything will be breezy from now on; we're committed to each other and bound forever... what else is there? So they kind of let go of the wheel and lay back. Inside a family, multiple relationships must all work together for a family to function well and thrive; you can't let one overshadow or compensate for the other. It sounds like once you started a family, the roles of being mom and dad took over your responsibility towards each other as a couple. That happens a lot, but you know something? Husband and wife titles are just as important as Mom and Dad. We can't focus on one and leave the other.

Eugene and his wife sit there, taking everything in.

LATER

Wayne and Beth are now in the counseling room.

PATRICK
Who wants to go first?

BETH
I do.

WAYNE
Why can't I go first?

BETH
Because I have all my thoughts
together already.

WAYNE
And I don't?

BETH
You're always rambling, Wayne? It
takes you a minute to get your
words together.

WAYNE
No! That's not even true. You never
want me to share my opinions.
Always trying to Kim Jong Un me,
I'm sick of you, you know that?

BETH
Oh really! I remember you being all
over me like shea butter last
night. Please, Wayne, please! See,
you just gave me a migraine.

They turn to Patrick who has been staring quietly at them.

WAYNE
I'm sorry, what was the question?

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE- THE NEXT DAY

All the couples are waiting, there are two buses ready to
go.

PATRICK
Everyone listen up! We will be
leaving in ten minutes, so please
check your name on the list before
you get on the bus to ensure we
have everyone. And please remember
that there will be no phones
permitted! We won't need them.

RITA
I still don't understand the
reason. I need content for my
Instagram, damn it!

EUGENE
Insta what?

RITA
Instagram, yeah I know your old ass
wouldn't know anything about it.

DEE
You're on Instagram?

RITA
Twenty thousand and counting!

PATRICK
Okay! I want everyone in a line and
check your name off the list before
you enter. We have water and
refreshments waiting at our
destination, so don't worry about
packing them. We will return later
tonight—Le'ts rock and roll.

Everyone forms a line next to the bus. Patrick goes around
as the couples put their phones in a bag while waiting in
line.

RITA
This is not right. I need my phone.

PATRICK
No, you don't... it's a
distraction. One afternoon without
it, you can survive that, can't
you? I'm sure in your time you
didn't need it.

DEE
Mmhhmmm.... trouble!

RITA
Excuse me? How old do you think I
am?

PATRICK
Now that's not what I meant Rita.
You look great.

RITA
 You don't have to tell me that, I
 already know.

PATRICK
 All I'm saying is they won't be
 needed. Hmm?

INSIDE BUS

After everyone is seated on the bus, they drive off. It's a hot summer afternoon; some are fanning themselves. They open the windows.

EXT. NEARBY WOODS - LATER

Everyone gets off, everything is prepared for them. It's a picnic, there are tables with drinks and snacks.

JADEN
 Mhmmmm.... I know it must be a
 brother on that grill.

They turn around to see it is a black man on the grill. They all laugh at the same time.

BETH
 You already know!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Some hours later, there is some music as the couples dance together. Others are enjoying some barbecue while having candid discussions. Jaden and Lisa are posing together for a portrait.

There are games, from cards to volleyball... everyone is enjoying themselves.

A man and his friends are talking, leaning against the van, having a drink. He is not pleased with the taste.

BEER MAN
 This shit is horrible, who the hell
 is giving out hot beer?

BEER WOMAN
 There's some in the cooler, come
 on.

On another corner, Dee is sitting with Aaron as they enjoy a few drinks and grub.

DEE

I feel like I haven't spent time with you at all. Why don't we schedule a one-on-one with Patrick? It wouldn't be a bad idea.

AARON

Maybe later, we still have a few days, right? Let's enjoy ourselves first.

DEE

Can I ask you something?

AARON

Shoot.

DEE

Would you wait for me to be ready if you were me? Sometimes, I ask myself that, and I shouldn't even doubt that answer, but I do. So I need to know, would you?

AARON

(sighs)

I knew you were going there. First of all, I wouldn't be in your position, to begin with; marriage isn't an obligation for me... it's a choice.

DEE

So summed up, that's a no.

AARON

I didn't say that.

DEE

Well, then what? Stop talking in circles, and be honest with me for once! How long can a person wait? I want to get married, have kids, and build a home. I'm ready for all that, and you told me you did, too. I am not pressuring you; I just need to know where your head is. We were on the same page regarding where this was heading; I don't understand.

AARON

Things change, babe; I have too much right now.

(MORE)

AARON (CONT'D)

I'm trying to get somewhere in my career; is that too much to ask? I am not saying no; I'm just saying give me time. We have the rest of our lives to be husband and wife.

DEE

I don't have an opportunity to wait that long like you; I'm thirty-five, Aaron. My mother tried for many years to have me; I don't want that.

AARON

There are plenty of other methods to have kids nowadays, be open.

DEE

I want to carry my own children.

AARON

You will, honey, how about this? By the end of the year, let's have this conversation again. Is that alright with you?

He kisses her to try and appease her.

AARON

Come on, let's go dance.

He grabs her hand as they join the others.

EXT. NEARBY WOODS- NIGHT

As it started getting dark, the couples began cleaning up. There are people with garbage bags putting trash away. Musical equipment is set in the back of the buses.

A visibly drunk man, barely walking straight... goes to take a leak. In his hand is a big steak. As his eyes are closed, he is singing a tune.

He hears grunts. He slowly opens his eyes and lets out a half scream before he is taken out. You can listen to the sounds of chewing and meat being ripped apart.

A woman comes looking for him. She is holding a dog.

WIFE

Ben!? Ben! It's time to go! Come on!

She walks closer, hearing weird noises.

WIFE

Honey! The buses are leaving soon!
Quit playing and let's go!

She arrives at the gruesome sight of her husband lying there. His insides are out, covered in blood. She shouts with all her might, rushing to his side. He is not dead yet.

WIFE

Oh my God! Ben!!!

She tries to put the intestines back in her stomach, horrified. She grabs his hand. Ben sheds a tear, and he dies. The wife hears the cracking of leaves from the back. The pack of coyotes from the cabin surrounds her. They are starving, eyeing the dog. She gets up and starts backing away slowly; she tries to hide her pet. She stops for a second, then takes off running without looking back.

BARBECUE AREA

She arrives at the site where everyone is, screaming.

RITA

What the hell?

WIFE

Help me ! Help me!

JADEN

Someone just did a line.

The rest of the group laughs. Behind her, the coyotes are chasing her. She trips. One coyote grabs the dog by its neck; she tries to snatch it back. The coyote bites its neck, decapitating it.

ALICE

Oh my God!

The pack breaks away, each going in a different direction, going towards others. There are screams of horror from each direction.

- One man tries to feed it meat, his hand is bit off.
- A woman trips over another man, whose body was dismembered. Two coyotes start chewing on her leg.
- A man is getting dragged by two coyotes, he hits his head on a stone. He dies.

- Jaden, Lisa, Aaron and Jasmine, run to a van a few feet away.

Someone trips the grill, the coals drop. A woman running looking back, steps on them.

Patrick, hiding behind some coolers, sees them getting in the van. He hides behind a tree; he searches his pockets and finds the keys.

PATRICK

Everyone get on the bus now!

Those who heard him run towards the van, some feet away.

A woman running behind him gets run over by people hurrying to make it into the second van. Someone walks over her face; her eyeball gets squished. A few people don't make it, their clothes being torn off and pieces of their flesh dropping on the ground.

Patrick and a few others make it in the van.

PATRICK

Get in! Hurry!

The few remainders make it in, with the coyotes seconds late... the door is closed. With so much nervousness and panic, Patrick can barely start the car.

MAN IN VAN

What the hell are you waiting on!
Let's go!

The coyotes keep trying to break the door; one walks away. It steps on a cigarette that is still lit. The cigarette is in the same area where the half bottle of beer had been spilled. It takes fire as the van starts. The van takes fire as well. As the wind blows harder, the more the van gets engulfed, Patrick can't see a thing.

WOMAN IN VAN

Come on! Let us out!

Patrick continues driving, although he can't see a thing, he crashes into a tree. The van explodes.

Eugene, Alice, Beth and Wayne are all hiding behind bushes.

BETH

What do we do?

EUGENE

We gotta find safe place to hide.

Someone's head is cut off a few feet from them, and the coyote is playing with his head. Alice gasps loudly. She makes eye contact with the animal. They shush her.

EUGENE

Everyone needs to run as fast as they can!

It starts running toward them, and they all take off. Rita is struggling to keep up the pace; she looks back... the coyote's face has turned red from all the blood.

RITA

Lord Jesus, give me the strength!

VAN

Back in the other van, Jaden is looking for the keys.

JADEN

Where are these godamn keys!

JASMINE

Someone needs to start this car now!

DEEP IN THE WOODS

The other group is still on the run, deep in the woods. They have lost the coyote. Eugene can see the same cabin where the older man lived.

EUGENE

I see something!

Beth is out of breath, she stops.

WAYNE

Beth! Guys stop!

He runs to her, the others come back. He takes out an inhaler from her pockets.

WAYNE

She's asthmatic, she can't keep running.

EUGENE

We can't stop Wayne. Okay, Beth, listen to me. We have to keep going; you saw what those things can do. We have to find somewhere to stash ourselves and figure out how to find the kids.

(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)

I just need you to push just a little longer. We're almost there. Please.

Beth nods her head. She takes a few deep breaths.

BETH

Let's get the hell outta here!

She takes off. They follow her.

One of the coyotes sees them trying to break the door, it gets angry and heads their way.

OUTSIDE CABIN

Wayne tries to open the door, but it's locked. He tries to break it a few times, but no chance. Eugene helps him. It breaks, and they enter. They are hit in the face with the smell of the corpse but ignore it.

The coyote grabs Rita's leg before she can make it in.

RITA

Shit! Help me! Get off me you son of a bitch!

They all try to pull her. Rita is hanging on by the door. She tries to wiggle her leg out of its mouth, but it fails.

INT. CABIN- MOMENTS LATER

Eugene finds a rock and throws it at them, hitting one of them in the eye. It lets go of her leg. Rita makes it inside. They shut the door, all leaning against it. Everyone tries catching their breath and calming down. Alice looks around.

WAYNE

What the hell is that stench?!

BETH

Something died in here!

ALICE

I need to get my kids. Eugene! my kids! They can't stay in that van.

EUGENE

They're my kids too!

Eugene scans the room. He sees the window in the back. He grabs a crate and stands on it to look outside. He notices the second van.

SECOND VAN

The rest of the pack is by the van door, they are stuck.

AARON
Now what genius?

LISA
If you have any idea tell us! Or
shut the fuck up! Asshole!

JADEN
Come on, nobody make a noise.

Jaden quietly opens the trunk. He goes through. He is followed by Jasmine, then Dee, Lisa, and Aaron.

INSIDE CABIN

Eugene is still watching them. Alice is on the crate as well to keep an eye on their kids.

ALICE
Dear God!

EUGENE
Aer you crazy? Shut up!

She is tapping on the glass, to get their attention.

ALICE
Eugene! Do something!

Eugene breaks the window.

EUGENE
Give me a hand!

They pick him up, he goes through.

SECOND VAN

Back at the van, the group is still put, planning their next move. Jasmine hears the noises.

JASMINE
I hear people! Wait! Come on

AARON

How the hell are we getting out of here? We're wasting time just standing here, dude!

DEE

And what about the others.

AARON

They'll be fine!

JADEN

Hey, dude, you need to shut up! We will find them, and THEN we can figure out how to get out of here.

They start heading towards the direction of the cabin.

CABIN WINDOW

Eugene sees them, and he whistles. Dee sees him. She signals the others. They manage to get by the window unseen, but Aaron sneezes.

CABIN DOOR

One of the coyotes hears him. It lets out a howl.

SECOND VAN

The rest of the pack hears the sound, they howl back. They head in the same direction.

CABIN WINDOW

Dee jumping into her father's arms... sobbing. Lisa is bleeding on her arm, blood dripping on the ground.

EUGENE

Thank God you're okay! Come on, get in.

The guys help the ladies get in first.

WOODS

One of the hyenas smells the blood, it starts following it.

Jasmine is about to be tossed inside.

AARON

I'm next!

JADEN

No, she is and then Dad! What the hell is wrong with you man!

EUGENE

Hey shhhh!

Jasmine successfully makes it in.

Eugene is picked up; he makes it in. Aaron makes sure he is in line next. They pick him up; the coyotes are a few feet away now. They run even faster; Jaden is helping Aaron.

JADEN

Come on! Hurry up man!

The coyote jumps on him. The others try to grab Aaron, who is struggling to hold on, as Jaden tries to fight them off.

ALICE

Aaron, Help him! Please help my son!

Aaron doesn't care, kicking his feet to push the ones trying to grab him. He throws himself inside.

Jaden throws sand at them. One tears a piece of his jeans off, biting into his leg. He screams.

INSIDE CABIN

Everyone inside pull out their hand to grab them.

DEE

Guys, give me a lift!

Eugene and Wayne pick her up, she is dangling in the window. Lisa also tries to help.

DEE

Jaden grab my hand! Hurry!

LISA

Baby! Come on!

Jaden jumps to catch her hand but misses. He grabs some rocks, throwing it at them and hitting a few to save time.

JADEN

Come on you bastards! Come get some!

EUGENE

Come on son!

Jaden leaps again, and Dee catches his hands. Everyone pulls them in. The coyotes won't let go either, chewing on his leg. The one that was hit in the eye has joined the pack. Jaden stomps on them on its heads. They do one final pull. He gets in. The one on his leg almost falls in as well.

INSIDE CABIN

Alice comes with a brick, drops it on its head.

ALICE

Stay the fuck away from my son! You piece of shit.

WAYNE

Find something to block this window.

They use anything big they can find, from old furniture, cabinets, and an unhinged door. The window is blocked. Everyone takes a breather.

LISA

Baby stay with me! Alice, Alice he's still bleeding!

She checks the wound; you can see the flesh.

ALICE

Oh no!

RITA

We need to take care of that!

LISA

What the hell can we find in this dump?

RITA

We have to look, or he'll have an infection or bleed out. Anything we can use to wash the wound and cover it up! Get on it!

They scatter around, ripping things apart.

RITA

Stay with me honey, okay? We're gonna take care of this.

Alice is sobbing in a corner, trying to hide it. Aaron walks past her. She grabs his shirt. As he turns around, she slaps him.

ALICE

You jackass! You were going to leave my son for dead? Really? After he saved your ass? You couldn't go down there and help him?

BETH

Guys! This is not the time! We got a damn pack of man-eaters out there! How the hell do we get out of here?

ALICE

Did you not see what he did?

BETH

I did Alice, but I'm saying...

ALICE

I don't want to hear it.
(to Aaron)
You stay away from me or I'll kill you myself!

Jasmine and Dee find a cabinet, they search through it. They find some napkins and duct tape.

DEE

This will have to do!

JASMINE

We still need something to clean the wound.

WAYNE

I found some water!

He brings a bottle of water to Rita, Dee gives her the paper towel and tape.

DEE

That's all we could find.

RITA

Well it will have to do.

Everyone is staring around, glancing at the wound. As Rita cleans around the wound, the skin starts peeling off. Jaden screams.

BETH

Oh my God!

Aaron pukes.

AARON

That is the most disgusting thing I ever seen.

Eugene walks to him, grabs him by the collar.

EUGENE

Hey! My son almost died saving your selfish ass! You better watch your damn mouth! I could throw your ass out there and not feel a thing. Now, go in a corner somewhere, shut the hell up, and be invisible.

DEE

Guys stop it!

She looks outside through the small window, the coyotes are still roaming around.

DEE

We need to figure how to get the hell out of here.

WAYNE

How? Listen, I saw somebody torn in two by these... things. I'm not taking my chances; I say we stay put until help arrives.

JASMINE

What help? We're in the middle of nowhere!

EUGENE

If we stay, we're just postponing our deaths. How long do you think we can last in this dump?

BETH

I would rather die in here than out there. That's for damn sure!

DEE

We're not ready to be on the same page, so I say we find whatever we can use until we make a plan: food, water, blankets, anything. And maybe pray they don't break the door.

Everyone gets up and takes a corner to start their search.

Jasmine opens the door to a small room, she jumps and scream. It is the skeleton of the old man who lived there.

EUGENE

What happened?

Everyone comes running to see. The stench hits them all. Aaron, Lisa and Dee start throwing up.

RITA

Jesus! Cover it! Cover it please!

JASMINE

Can we just keep this room closed please, that's too creepy for me.

Eugen and Wayne put a blanket on the body.

DEE

Why would they still be here? Nobody even thought of burying him or something.

ALICE

Probably didn't have any family.

DEE

So nobody could even file a report or tell the police? I don't know...

AARON

Do you not see where they lived? Dude didn't want to be bothered. I don't blame him.

RITA

That is such a white thing to do.

AARON

Do you ever see not mention race in everything? Now, if it was me who was saying these things.

RITA

Oh please, with your sensitive ass,
we've been through much worse shit
than getting our feelings hurt.
Move out of my way, boy...

EXT. BARBECUE AREA-SAME TIME

Two of the coyotes are roaming around the corpses. The area is covered in red; body parts are everywhere. People's organs and insides are spilled out. One of the victims is not dead yet. He moves his fingers. He groans in pain; the coyote turns around. They make eye contact; the man tries to crawl away slowly. Without looking in front of him, he bumps into the other hyena... his leg is a bit off.

INT. CABIN- NIGHT

Alice keeps Jaden company; they have laid him on the small bed they found. She is using her lap as his pillow. She is falling asleep slowly, awakened by Jaden getting up.

ALICE

How are you feeling baby?

JADEN

Like I've been chewed on.

He tries to move his leg, which has been covered by a piece of clothing.

JADEN

I thought I would wake up and this would have all been a dream, but it's not.

ALICE

It's a nightmare. And it's all my fault... I had to insist for everyone to come here.

Eugene is listening to the conversation, he chimes in.

EUGENE

Alice, did I not tell you a thousand times that it wasn't the right time?

Jaden is listening to the conversation, he chimes in.

JADEN

Dad! Are you serious?

ALICE

Leave him alone... he always needs someone to blame, or he can't breathe.

EUGENE

You just always have to get everything your way.

ALICE

Oh yes, Eugene! Of course, it's all on me! Do you feel better now?

JADEN

What's going on between you two? Why are you so

Alice and Eugene give each other a look.

ALICE

I might as well. Your father and I are getting a divorce. It's not working. I'm sorry.

JADEN

You guys can't work on this? You're just giving up like that?

ALICE

I stuck it out long enough. You guys are grown now; you have your own lives... I think it's better if we both lived our own lives.

EUGENE

Don't speak for me.

There is silence.

RITA

Welcome to the club, brother, don't worry. It only gets better from here.

DEE

Aunt Rita!

There are growls, startling them. Everyone wakes up.

AARON

We have to get out of here; I'm out tomorrow. I don't care who's coming with me.

EUGENE

He's right. They'll probably be gone by the morning. Let's just wait it out.

LATER

The group put any edible food on a small table—a small bag of chips, nonperishable foods, and half-eaten candy. Everyone is nibbling on something. Aaron is looking out the window in the front, staring at the pack having their meals with the leftover barbecue. Dee approaches him.

DEE

You okay?

AARON

No, I can't get this smell outa my head.

DEE

Did you leave Jaden out there? I'm trying not to believe it. Why didn't you try to help my brother? Are you that selfish?

AARON

Oh, grow up! It's not being selfish; it's survival. You must be delusional if you think I will lay my life for someone else. They wouldn't think twice to use my ass as a scapegoat.

DEE

This is my family, Aaron.

AARON

Exactly, YOURS.

Dee walks away from him.

DEE

We need to create a watch schedule. I'll take the first shift; we can rotate every two hours. Until we figure out what the plan is.

WAYNE

Good idea. I'll go second.

RITA

Okay. There are only two blankets, so we'll just share.

EUGENE

No, just let the girls sleep.

AARON

That's not fair, I'm as tired as they are.

RITA

Am I hearing this right? What is wrong with you?

AARON

What?

RITA

(whispers to Dee)

What the hell do you see in this bum? No man on this earth is that good to put up with this BS. Jackass.

She kicks his leg as she passes him.

INT. CABIN- LATER

Dee is keeping watch as the rest falls asleep. Jasmine is also awake, still looking through stuff. She picks up a box full of books. The area the package was picked from has a hole in the wall. Jasmine doesn't see it; she starts scanning through the books.

She brings one to Dee, who is barely awake.

JASMINE

Hey! Need some company?

DEE

Sure! Why are you still up?

JASMINE

I can't even close my eyes for a minute. I can't do it. Here, I thought you might like a little reading maybe.

DEE

Yeah, why not?

She gives Dee the book.

JASMINE

Remember when we used to play bride and groom? And you would always insist on being the bride?

DEE

Yeah, and I'm still insisting on being one.

JASMINE

You need to let go of things you can't control, Dee. I mean, you can't make a guy propose. You deserve better than that. I mean, are you even sure he's the one?

DEE

Why?

JASMINE

I just... I don't know. Maybe there's something we're all not seeing.

DEE

When you have been with somebody who belittled you every day and knocked your tooth out if the food was too cold... everything after is paradise. You believe that you only deserve what you get. You reward people for the bare minimum. I used to cry when Aaron sent me a Happy Birthday text, not even spelled out. It simply said HBD. He's not perfect, and I don't need excellent. But he was there when I had to gather myself and rebuild the mess that was my life. The fairytales, the perfect partner... that's just for dreamers.

Dee continues reading.

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE- THE NEXT DAY

A couple arrives at the retreat in an SUV, music blasting. There is complete silence. It's vacant. They get out of the car.

HUSBAND #2

I know retreats are all about tranquility, but isn't this overdoing it?

WIFE #2

You just had to stop by your parents huh?

HUSBAND #2

Hey! I don't care if the world ends; I'm getting a slice of my Mama's sweet potato pie.

The wife checks out the area as her husband takes out the bags.

WIFE #2

Where is everyone?

HUSBAND #2

They're probably talking to trees or kissing the ground or something like that. I'm just going to say it, this isn't some black folk's shit. I think it was your white side that wanted to do this.

WIFE #2

Hey! I'm black all the way alright?

HUSBAND #2

No baby, I've tried your cooking. You're a few spoonfuls of seasonings away from being a total black woman... Just a few.

WIFE #2

Dude! Shut up! Let me call Patrick.

HUSBAND #2

Totally!

The phone rings, no answer. The husband is looking at a poster on the wall containing the schedule of events for the week.

HUSBAND #2

Babe I found something!

INT. CABIN- SAME TIME

The group is awakened by Wayne, he taps Beth on the shoulder.

WAYNE

(quietly)

wake up! Baby Wake up!

As everyone gathers themselves, Eugene looks outside.

OUTSIDE CABIN

The hyenas have fallen asleep.

BACK IN CABIN

Wayne joins Eugene by the window.

WAYNE
What's the plan

EUGENE
No time for that, we gotta leave now!

WAYNE
Well how are we gonna get to the vans?

AARON
Do you know how long it's gonna take to find the keys?

EUGENE
Who said anything about the keys?

Eugene starts removing the blocking items by the back window.

EUGENE
I need a hand.

Dee, Aaron, Wayne, Rita, and Jasmine go to help him. A porcelain plate in the cabinet falls to the ground, making a noise. Eugene signals to be quiet. Alice is keeping watch.

EXT. NEARBY FOREST- SAME TIME

The couple is driving the same direction leading to the barbecue area. Their windows are open.

WIFE #2
What the hell? Do you smell that?

HUSBAND #2
Hot damn! That is some funky stuff!

The wife rolls up the window.

WIFE #2
We're lost huh?

HUSBAND #2
No, we're not.

WIFE #2

Don't barbecues last one day? Did they have a sleepover or something?

The husband sees a van some miles away.

HUSBAND #2

Got'em!

The husband takes a whiff, he gets nauseous.

HUSBAND #2

What were they cooking? A racoon's ass? Geez!

The wife notices someone on the ground.

WIFE #2

Wait wait! Babe stop! Stop!

HUSBAND #2

What?

WIFE #2

Look!

She points at the person on the ground.

HUSBAND #2

Oh My God! We're outta here!

He starts backing away. She puts her hand on him to stop him.

WIFE #2

We need to see what's going on! We can't just leave; we have to call the cops!

HUSBAND #2

Are you crazy? Did you forget we're black? Hello! Somebody got laid out here, and you want us to stay here! I knew I shouldn't have given you the edibles. We're out.

She gets out.

HUSBAND #2

What are you doing, man? Babe! Let's go! I'm not coming after you; I'll just make a U-turn, I swear to God!

She is now out of her husband's sight. She walks to the body, staring at the gruesome scene. There are more bodies a few feet ahead, worse. She starts panicking. She screams!

HUSBAND #2

Baby!

He gets out of the car to check on his wife. He takes up running, halting after the first sight of the body.

HUSBAND #2

What in the....

He throws up. After cleaning himself, he walks to his wife... covering his nose. She is shaking where she stands.

HUSBAND #2

Baby, baby! Listen to me... we need to leave! Are you hearing me? Whatever did this to them, how do we know it's still not here?

WIFE #2

I'm calling the cops.

HUSBAND #2

What? NO! COME ON! What are they gonna do! They're gone babe!

He pulls her arm, she walks behind him. She stops as she sees a woman with just a torso. She screams.

I/E. CABIN- SAME TIME

CABIN DOOR

The pack hears the scream. They start getting up, walking towards the sound. They start running.

INSIDE CABIN

Alice has also heard the scream. She notices the pack walking to the barbecue area.

ALICE

Guys! Someone's here!

AARON

Well then let's go!

RITA

What?

EUGENE

He's right, it's now or never.

CABIN DOOR

One of the coyotes sees the couple talking, it starts trotting their way. The rest follows.

EXT. BARBECUE AREA- SAME TIME

The husband is trying to calm down his wife, who is traumatized.

HUSBAND #2

Come on baby! Come on!

WIFE #2

We need to get the police. Where's this stupid phone!?

She starts dialing, it rings.

POLICE DISPATCHER(V.O.)

911 what's your emergency?

WIFE #2

Oh my God! Hello! We need help!
There are a bunch of bodies on
the... youblood everywhere...
you have to send in the service!
People have been slaughtered, and
there...

POLICE DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Ma'm I need you to calm down! Tell
me what is happening!

HUSBAND #2

Listen! We came to a retreat, and
it seems like some kind of animal
attacked the attendees!

POLICE DISPATCHER

Okay! Are there any survivors? Can
you check?

HUSBAND #2

No, we can't! We're getting outta
here. I don't think we're safe.

POLICE DISPATCHER

Sir we need to know more
information...

He hangs up. The wife nudges him. Some feet away from them is the pack, staring at them. The husband drops the phone. He grabs his wife's hand.

I/E. CABIN- SAME TIME

The group starts going through the window, Aaron has already made it out.

AARON

Come on! We don't have time!

Dee is the second to make it out.

EXT. BARBECUE AREA-SAME TIME

The couple is backing away slowly, planning their next move.

HUSBAND #2

Honey, I want you to hold my hand as tightly as possible. And you need to run as fast as those legs will let you. Alright? One, two, three!! Come on!!!

They take off, making way through the bodies... stomping on some.

HUSBAND #2

Come on baby!

The coyotes are right on their tail, a few feet away from the car. The husband grabs her hand, pulling her. As they make it to the car, the door is jammed.

HUSBAND #2

Baby come on!

WIFE #2

It won't open!

INSIDE CAR

The husband has already made it in, he opens from the inside.

At the same time, as she's making her way inside and before she closes the door...one leaps at her. It bites her neck; she falls to the ground. The husband tries to get it off her, and the rest of the pack jump in, too, and pounce at him.

INT. CABIN- SAME TIME

They can hear the screams as they continue to go through the window.

AARON
Hurry up! Come on!

RITA
Whoever it is, they're practically getting shredded to pieces!

JASMINE
I don't want to do this.

AARON
Are you crazy? Come on!

Rita is pushed too hard, landing on her head... her wig comes off.

RITA
You don't have to be rough about it!

She checks to see if she's injured, realizing her wig is gone. She snatches it fast and puts it back on.

EXT. BARBECUE AREA-SAME TIME

As the wife screams in agony, being ripped into half. Her husband is kicking, trying to put on a fight at least. His legs are being chewed on as he tries to grab his wife's hand... as his hand is reaching, his arm is chopped off. The wife's head is now decapitated staring at him.

INT. CABIN- SAME TIME

Jaden is next in line, Eugene and Wayne grab his legs to push him up.

DEE
I can't reach him, push some more!

LISA
You guys be careful with his leg!

JASMINE
Can y'all stop taking your sweet ass time and let's go! Damn!

EXT. BARBECUE AREA-SAME TIME

One coyote hears the noise from the cabin; it sees Jaden falling. It starts trotting their way, the others joining him.

EXT. CABIN AREA- MOMENTS LATER

They give him one final push. Suddenly they hear a scream coming from Rita. Pointing at the incoming pack.

JADEN

Get back in!! Now!

RITA

Shit!! Let me go first, let me go!!!

AARON

Fuck that!

Rita and Aaron fight, getting back in first; Rita pushes him back down. The coyotes are approaching; Jaden grabs a rock and starts throwing at them, limping to reach others as Aaron is being pulled in.

ALICE

Jaden!

LISA

Baby! Come on!

They are reaching out for his hand. Jaden is throwing anything he can get his hands on. He even throws sand at them, temporarily blinding them. He grabs their hands, his legs dangling in the air; the coyote tries to grab his legs again, jumping to snatch his pants. One almost gets to him, but he kicks it back down.

INSIDE CABIN

They pull him in. They all lay on the floor, looking defeated.

Wayne takes a peak to see if they have gone, the same time the one left leaps almost reaching his face.

WAYNE

Jesus!

RITA

Now what!? Huh, geniuses? What is your next plan, guys? I'm staying put.

(MORE)

RITA (CONT'D)

I should have known better, Damn you, Alice! If I get out here, keep me out of your damn vacations and retreats, alright? Always wanting to do the most.

EUGENE

I will need you to shut up.

RITA

Who the hell do you think you're talking to, huh Eugene?!

EUGENE

I said shut the hell up! If you want to stay here and rot away with that corpse, be my guest! I'm still leaving this dump.

Everyone is sitting, doing nothing. Dee walks in on Aaron and Jasmine talking in the other room. She overhears her.

JASMINE

I can't keep looking her in the eyes. God, I'm so pathetic! You're not even my type? I'm not drinking ever again.

AARON

From the way you were screaming, what does type matter? I don't know about you, but I've had some what-ifs moments about us.

Dee abruptly opens the door on them.

AARON

Hey baby!

DEE

What's going on?

AARON

What? What are you talking about?

DEE

I'm not fucking stupid?! Somebody better say something right fucking now!?

Jasmine is gathering her words. The others come into the room after hearing the ruckus.

DEE

Did you...did you?

Jasmine nods. Dee almost collapses.

JASMINE

Dee, I am so sorry... I was so drunk that night. We met at the club; I had just broken up with Chelsea...

Dee jumps at her neck, strangling her.

ALICE

Dee! Oh My God! Stop it!

They try to separate them, but Dee won't let go.

JADEN

Dee! Let go! Now! Let go!

Jasmine starts suffocating. She finally lets go.

DEE

Are you fucking kidding me!! Really?! So all that bullshit sister-to-sister talk was for what?! Huh? If you were that thirsty for a man, I got one word for you! ESCORT! God, you disgust me! Both of you! Oh, I'm sexually liberated; no, you're not! You're just a hoe! Get it right! And get the fuck out of my face!

Dee walks past Aaron, she turns around. She spits on his face.

She goes to sit in a corner.

INT. CABIN- EVENING

No one is talking. Dee can't take her eyes off Jasmine and Aaron. Beth and Alice are scrambling through things, searching for something. Alice finds some old candy bars; she brings them to the group... dropping the candy bar on the ground.

ALICE

This is all that's left.

WAYNE

So pretty much we are just waiting for our deaths. Wonderful.

BETH

And what guarantees we will even make it out of this cabin before we turn to ground beef like the rest?

EUGENE

No one is coming for us. We do what we need to do; tomorrow night, we're leaving this place one way or another.

RITA

Well, in that case, I have something I would like to say. Let me start with you two.

She points to Wayne and Beth.

RITA

What the hell are you still doing together? No, really... Look what you're doing to each other. You can't even stand one another. How long are you going to keep living in this misery? We're all tired of it! I'm surprised your veins haven't popped from all that yelling. FIND YOUR HAPPINESS, even if it's not with each other.

She walks to Jasmine.

JASMINE

Jasmine, you don't have to stay at a job where you have to call me each week, letting me know you're ready to quit, and you never do. There are millions of jobs out there, baby! I've seen your paintings... breathtaking! What are you waiting for? Killing yourself over a job you don't even like. Doesn't make sense.

Next, It's Dee.

RITA

Dee, you are such an inspiration to me.

(MORE)

RITA (CONT'D)

I have never seen such an ambitious and hardworking woman in this family since Nana passed away. God rest her soul; she would be proud. If you could see yourself in everyone else's eyes, baby, you're timeless. You deserve the moon, the stars, and everything in between. Phenomenal woman? That's you.

Dee is touched, cracking a smile while getting teary eyed.

As Rita passes Aaron, she sucks her teeth.

She gets to Jaden and Lisa.

RITA

Now you two... I used to think all this lovey Dovey clingy thing you have going on was all for show. But you made me a believer again that true love still exists. I love watching you together; I get all tingly inside like a fifteen-year-old. You're both blessed; not everyone gets that lucky. I wish you both all the happiness in the world.

She gives them both a hug. Then she walks to Alice.

She stares at her for a moment.

RITA

You know, Alice, I was thinking a little earlier and realized there has never been a moment where you and I just sat and talked. Isn't that wild? I never felt comfortable enough to converse with my sister-in-law for thirty-plus years.

ALICE

I never stopped you from getting to know me.

RITA

I know. From the moment my brother brought you home. I didn't like you; I knew what would happen, and I hated you for it.

ALICE

What are you talking about?

RITA

You took everything from me, Alice.
And all these years I spent
despising you, cursing you every
time I saw you.

EUGENE

Rita

RITA

No, I'm not holding my tongue
anymore. The moment when I needed
my brother more than anything, you
took him. Do you know what it's
like waking up to a cold house and
the only thing you could hear are
your thoughts? Not even a month
after Mom and Dad were gone,
Eugene, you both just left me there
and never even bothered to check on
me! I was sleeping in Mom's clothes
and talking to people that weren't
there! And it bothers me that you
didn't care to stay back until I
could move on so quickly as you
did!

EUGENE

You think that was easy for me!?

RITA

Damn right! Because unlike you, I
HAD NOBODY! As soon as she came
along! Oh, forget the family! I'm
out!

ALICE

Rita, I never meant to tear you
away from your brother. We fell in
love.

RITA

You could have been more
compassionate. After you both left,
you know what I did? I chose the
most disgusting human beings I met
to avoid loneliness. So that I
could say, I HAVE SOMEBODY! And you
know what else? If I saw any signs
that they were about to quit on me
and leave, I LEFT THEM FIRST!

(MORE)

RITA (CONT'D)

Now look at me! Almost fifty years old and alone. I don't know what loving somebody truly, with all your heart, feels like. Isn't that pathetic?

Rita starts sobbing. Eugene comes to sit next to her.

He grabs her hands. He lets her sob in his arms. Alice joins them. The others follow her.

INT. CABIN- LATER

While a few are taking a nap, Jaden and Lisa are awake, and having a discussion.

Jaden grabs Lisa's hand and looks into her eyes.

JADEN

As a kid, I used to think about this moment and how I would plan everything out and just all out. I guess you make plans, and God laughs at them.

LISA

Yeah...

JADEN

You are one of the best things that happened to me; you are. Our years together were the best moments of my life, and I love you more and more every day. I can't imagine my life without you, regardless of whether we make it out of here.

LISA

Babe...

JADEN

No, listen. I still want to do this. Lisa Christelle Andrews, will you...

LISA

(cuts him off)

Yes... Yes I will.

They share a kiss.

Rita walks over to them. She's teary eyed. She hugs them both.

RITA
I'm happy for you two. I wish you
all the happiness in the world.

Alice was not asleep; she watched the proposal. She gets up
as well, takes off her ring, and gives it to Jaden, putting
it in the palm of his hand. She kisses both their foreheads.

JADEN
May I?

LISA
Yes!

Jaden grabs her hand, place the ring on her finger. He
kisses her hand after.

JADEN
And it fits too...

They snuggle up.

INT. CABIN- LATER

Beth is taking the shift to watch, writing some kind of
letter. Wayne taps her on the shoulder, she is startled.

WAYNE
I can't sleep.

BETH
Did you come here to annoy me then?

WAYNE
Always.

BETH
(chuckles)
Good thing I want to be bothered.

He sits close to her, laying her up against him.

WAYNE
I had a dream last week, kind of
weird.

BETH
What was it about?

WAYNE
I had a dream of my life would have
been if I hadn't met you.

BETH

Oh that's nice...

WAYNE

It was great; I could do whatever the hell I wanted. Leave my socks wherever and not get scolded for it. I could smoke all the weed I wanted without hiding it. It was perfect—just the kind of life I imagined. But when I went to bed at night, it was cold. I had the longest and widest bed ever and couldn't see the other side. I could put as many blankets as I wanted, but I still felt chilly.

BETH

Well, isn't that what you wanted? You always complain about the bed being too small. Wayne, if you're trying to piss me off...

WAYNE

Listen... I would rather fight with you than live without you. I love our crazy fights, the bickering, the back and forth. I love all of it; I need it. Because I know the love is there at the end of the day. I know deep down, no one will love me like you do... and you know no one will love you like I do. We have our language of love; it doesn't have to make sense to others. I don't say it often, but I think you want to hear it just as much as I do occasionally—you mean the world, the moon, the stars, and everything in between, babe. So we're both crazy? As long as the love is there... we're good.

BETH

I'm sorry, Wayne. No, I am. Who cares if you leave dirty socks on the floor? It takes two seconds to pick them up. What does it matter now?

Beth starts tearing up.

BETH

I feel so stupid. You are a wonderful husband and father, honey, and I'm sorry for being such a nasty person to you. God, I'm awful!

WAYNE

Come here.

They embrace.

INT. CABIN- NIGHT

Now everyone is deeply asleep, including Beth, who is supposed to be keeping watch. Wayne has another dream.

EXT. DARK FOREST- NIGHT

Wayne is alone in a dark forest, hearing laughing sounds from kids. He can't see anyone, though; he walks around. The closer he gets, the darker it gets. He sees something coming towards him. The laughing stops as he steps closer to the subject.

WAYNE

Who is it? Hello?

INT. CABIN-NIGHT

Wayne's legs are squished.

WAYNE

Damn man, can't y'all see where you're walking?

A coyote pounces at him as he lifts his head to see who it is. His scream wakes up everyone; it attacks him... blood squirting out. It won't let go.

ALICE

Oh my God!

JADEN

Holy shit!

BETH

Wayne!!!

The women are screaming at the top of their lungs, and Beth tries to fight it off... throwing whatever she can get at it. The coyote won't let go; Wayne's shirt is now red. Eugene looks around and finds a piece of clothing... he wraps it around its neck.

He is now on the ground, using his full strength to try and choke it out.

Jaden grabs an empty bottle and bangs it on the wall. He limps towards his father and starts stabbing the animal. The animal is also putting up a fight, wiggling to try and get out of the choke hold. Dee comes over and tries to grab its legs. Jaden continues stabbing multiple times.

Beth, who is by the side of her husband, watching him bleed to death.

BETH

Baby, baby, wake up! Please don't do this to me! Come on, get up. I said get up, Wayne!

She tries to make him sit; he doesn't have strength. Wayne is unrecognizable, his face was also brutally attacked.

Rita and Alice are in a corner, closely grabbing one another as they watch the chaos. Jaden aggressively stabs for the last time. Aaron, Jasmine, and Lisa are also helping keep it down. The animal stops moving. They all fall back. No one utters a word, only sounds from Beth, Alice, and Rita, who are still emotionally wrecked.

LATER

Eugene and Dee have found the spot where the coyote came through. They are covering it up. Beth is still at her husband's side... lying next to him. His body is covered with a blanket.

JADEN

We are leaving tonight; there is no arguing about it. It's final. Now I need everyone to get up, find any weapon or tools to make one and bring it here.

AARON

We don't stand a chance out there.

JADEN

If you want to stay here and wait it out, it's cool with me. But I will not sit here and wait for my death. I am taking it if there is even a slight chance to get my family out of here. Now go.

INT. CABIN- EVENING

The group starts gathering items for the fight.

- Eugene finds insecticide.
- Lisa finds some clothes in a small closet, she shreds them.
- Jaden finds unused fireworks at the bottom of a potato sack
- Rita looks around on the floor, she grabs stones that were stacked up in a corner.
- Dee takes a rope and makes loops
- Eugene, Aaron and Jaden break down wood into sharp sticks.
- Aaron finds a few old knives, covered in rust in a drawer.
- Jasmine finds rotten meat in a broken small fridge rotting. She covers her nose and picks them up. She puts them in a bag and tightly wraps it.

Everything found is gathered in a pile on the floor.

- Beth says her last goodbyes to Wayne. She helps Rita who is shredding the clothes.
- Alice, Jasmine and Eugene put the stones in the clothes, then tightening them.
- Jaden and Aaron sharpen the knives.
- Alice and Jasmine put all the tools that are ready on belts made from the clothes.
- Jaden is telling them the escape plan.
- Everyone starts gearing up, each grabbing a weapon and keep it with them.

Dee leads a prayer before they leave the cabin. Once they're done, everyone is sitting, getting themselves ready.

Alice is shaking, Eugene puts his hand on hers to calm her.

INT. CABIN- NIGHT

There is light rain... Jaden peaks outside. The pack is roaming around. It settles under a tree a few feet away, close to the cabin.

EUGENE

They say rain is a good omen—quite a timing. I need whatever hate there is in this room not to exist. Please put all your business aside; we have more significant problems. Look out for each other, work together. That's the only way we'll leave this place. Am I understood?

Dee nods her head. Jaden goes to the back window; they help him climb up. Alice is keeping watch.

EXT. CABIN WINDOW- CONTINUOUS

Jaden jumps out, he is handed the fireworks. He starts setting them up.

INT. CABIN- MOMENTS LATER

Aaron and Eugene start moving the furniture that was holding the door, moving it out of the way.

EXT. CABIN AREA/ BACK- MOMENTS LATER

Jaden sets the fireworks off, stepping away not to get hit.

EXT. CABIN DOOR/FRONT - MOMENTS LATER

The coyotes hear the noises, they start getting up, trying to find out where the noise is coming from.

INT. CABIN- SAME TIME

Alice signals Eugene, who is now by the back window. He also signals Jaden.

EXT. CABIN WINDOW- SAME TIME

Jaden stands still, using the corner of his eye to see them coming from the other side. He backs away as they come closer to investigate the fireworks. One gets too close, hit in the face, and the others back away.

EXT. CABIN DOOR- SAME TIME

Jaden gets to the front door. He knocks softly on the door, they open.

JADEN

You gotta run. It won't hold them off for long, let's go!

LISA
I want to stay.

JADEN
No, you're not.

LISA
Babe, I can't leave...

JADEN
We will be fine, okay? I promise.
There's nothing left for us here,
honey. Come on, let's get out of
here.

They sneak in a kiss before heading towards the van. The others watch as Lisa, Alice and Rita sneak out first.

EXT. CABIN WINDOW-SAME TIME

The fireworks run out. The coyotes are roaming around.

EXT. CABIN AREA- MOMENTS LATER

Lisa keeps turning back to see what's happening back at the cabin. She starts shaking.

ALICE
Lisa! Lisa! Oh my God!

RITA
We can't stop.

ALICE
You want me to leave her here?

Lisa is now on the ground, shaking uncontrollably. They try getting her up.

RITA
Let's get her up!

ALICE
No! You cannot move her! We have to
wait it out. She has epilepsy; you
have to let it pass.

RITA
But we do not have time Alice!
Let's just get her in the van.

They watch as Lisa is shaking uncontrollably on the ground.

INT. CABIN- SAME TIME

Jaden notices something is wrong. Everyone is around him, watching.

AARON
What are they waiting for?

JADEN
She's having a seizure... I gotta go get her.

AARON
Hey, hey! You can't... you'll just lure them back.

JADEN
That's my girl dude!

AARON
I get it! listen, it will pass. We gotta stick to the plan.

INT. CABIN WINDOW/ BACK- SAME TIME

Dee, Jasmine and Aaron notice the pack going around the cabin.

DEE
Shit! They're coming! Plan B!

Eugene opens the door. Everyone comes out, ready, and holding their weapons.

EXT. CABIN AREA/ BACK- MOMENTS LATER

The pack starts to go back to the other side. One of them notices Rita, it starts walking over to them.

EXT. CABIN AREA- SAME TIME

Rita and Alice are trying to help Lisa, Rita turns back to see they have been compromised.

RITA
Oh no! ALICE!

Alice looks back; she is horrified. They immediately grab Lisa, put their arms around her, and start speeding.

Lisa is still unconscious. The coyotes are walking towards them.

EXT. CABIN DOOR/ FRONT-SAME TIME

With everyone outside, it's time to face the pack.

JADEN

Hey! Come on! We're right here!!
Come on! We're ready for your
asses!

Jaden and Eugene are luring them to the door with the meat. The pack stops. They are clueless about what direction to take. One leads to the cabin door, and the others follow. Eugene signals the ladies to go.

EUGENE

RUN!

EXT. CABIN AREA-SAME TIME

Rita keeps looking back to see if they are still being followed. They are clear. Alice looks ahead; she can see the van.

ALICE

Lisa! We're almost there, come on
honey.

Lisa is starting to wake up.

INT. INSIDE VAN- CONTINUOUS

They get in the van. They put Lisa down, shut the door. Most of the windows are busted.

RITA

Now what?

ALICE

Do you know how to start a car?

EXT. CABIN DOOR-SAME TIME

The coyotes are a few feet away. The group is staying as distant as they can and closer to the door just in case.

Each of them tries to hit one with the stones packed in pouches. Jaden and Dee hit a few, but not knocking them out. Eugene grabs another stone from the potato sack... they are running low.

EUGENE

We're almost out.

JADEN

You know what to do. Everyone stays close, watch each other's backs.

They each grab the sharpened sticks. There are bags with all the tools they made, each wrapping theirs around their waist with the DIY belts from the shredded clothes. They also grab the pouches with stones.

As they take more steps, pointing the sticks right at them, the coyotes stand still. The leader of the pack starts getting close to them...

DEE

They're not backing away...

Dee pulls out a piece of meat, luring the animal closer. jasmine can't contain herself.

DEE

That's right, come get some!

She pretends to throw it; it starts running towards them. Eugene grabs the rope he wrapped around his chest and swings it in the air.

As the coyote jumps for the meat, Eugene calculates his throw...he swings the rope in the air. It ends up at its neck. It resists and tries to get out. Eugene is struggling to pull it. The rest of the pack is furious.

JADEN

Hold on Dad!

Jaden grabs the rope; they both pull it towards them... but not too close. Everyone holds their pointed sticks. Beth, who was in the back, walks close and tries to stab it. The coyote tries to bite but fails. Beth uses her pouch of stones, swinging across the animal's face. She knocks it out.

Once it's lying on the ground, she pulls the knife and stabs it continuously. They let her at it. She only gets up after her face is bloody and its face is smashed in. She retrieves the knife and spits at the dead carcass.

The rest of the pack is now more agitated.

EXT. CABIN AREA/ VAN -SAME TIME

Rita and Alice are throwing the bodies out of the van. Lisa is fully awake now.

LISA
Alice, Alice...

Alice hears her, she comes back inside.

ALICE
Oh, honey! Lisa? How are you
feeling? You need to lie down,
sweetie. I couldn't find your
medicine.

LISA
I think it's back at the camp. I
must have forgotten it. We can't
stay here, we have to go back.

ALICE
Sweetie, you need to lay down.

RITA
We need to get these keys.

ALICE
They have to be around here.

RITA
We've looked everywhere Alice.

ALICE
No we haven't.

Alice gets out.

RITA
Alice! Where the hell are you
going? Lisa, I need you to stay
here, alright? We need to get this
car started.

OUTSIDE VAN

Rita follows Alice. They start looking around the area.

I/E. INSIDE VAN- MOMENTS LATER

Lisa gets up from the chair, and exits the van.

OUTSIDE VAN

She walks past Alice and Rita, without them noticing her.

EXT. CABIN AREA-SAME TIME

The group is taking tiny steps while pushing away the pack. Aaron is sweating uncontrollably, hiding behind the others. Suddenly, the pack starts circling them.

DEE

What are they doing?

JADEN

They want to put us all in a tight space, easier for them.

AARON

That's encouraging, how do we counter that?

JADEN

We let them.

DEE

Come again?

JADEN

Spread out, make sure each direction is guarded.

The predators are closing in, the group forms a large circle.

The first one pounces at Eugene; it tries to bite his face, but Eugene has his hands on its neck. It tries biting his arm but only tears the layers he wrapped around his arms for protection, just like the rest of the group. It pushes him to the ground, Eugene still trying to get it in a chokehold. He gets in a few punches.

The rest of the pack also jumps in.

Dee uses insecticide to blind it temporarily, then starts using the stone bag to chase it away.

She gets in a few punches, but the coyote clings to the bag with its teeth on the last one and doesn't let go. It pulls her towards it... she falls to the ground.

Without wasting a minute, it leaps at her again. Dee tries dodging its attacks, but it bites her on her shoulder, tearing off some flesh. She screams in agony.

JADEN

Dee!

Jaden comes to her rescue, trying to get it off her.

EUGENE

Dee!

Eugene, still battling his opponent, tries to stop the one Jaden was fighting from attacking him while he looks after Dee. Jasmine lights a torch to push them away and give them space.

As he looks at the damage, the wound is deep. Eugene takes off his shirt and ties it around the bleeding.

JADEN

It's not that bad.

. He wraps the wound tight, helps her get up.

JADEN

Let me get you to the van.

DEE

No. We're finishing this. No matter what.

I/E. CABIN ARE/VAN-MOMENTS LATER

Rit and Alice give up their search.

INSIDE VAN

They get back into the van.

ALICE

Wait. Where's Lisa?

RITA

Wasn't she just...

She looks in all the seats all the way to the back.

Alice rushes out again.

EXT. CABIN AREA/ VAN- MOMENTS LATER

They start running, looking around the area first.

RITA

Lisa! Lisa!

EXT. CABIN AREA/ WOODS - SAME TIME

Lisa is walking slowly; with a headache and a blurred vision she is tripping on things.

She sits down for a bit, taking a few deep breaths. She hears the sound of leaves cracking; something is coming towards her.

She can hardly make of it with the dark engulfing most of the area.

As she gets a closer look, she makes out the figure. She is paralyzed. One of the coyotes has left the pack. It's staring directly at her. She starts taking back steps as it approaches her.

She takes off running, the hyena still at her. One of her shoes comes off; she is tempted to grab it but keeps running. She comes to a dead-end. It's a cliff. She stops. She realizes her chances are slim to none. Lisa turns around to face the inevitable.

EXT. CABIN AREA/ WOODS- MOMENTS LATER

Rita and Alice are searching the area, calling out for Lisa.

Rita stops, she grabs something off the ground, turning around to show Alice. It's Lisa's shoe.

They change direction to head to the cabin.

EXT. CABIN AREA- CONTINUOUS

There are three coyotes left. Jaden hears his name being called out. He looks ahead to see his mother and aunt waving at him and making signs to come.

JASMINE

What the hell is going on?!

EUGENE

I'm gonna go check.

JADEN

No, I'll go. Let me get that.

Jaden grabs the torch. He leaves the group, keeping the coyotes away with the torch.

The group is now circling the animals into a tight space. Jaden successfully makes it out. He reaches his mom and aunt.

JADEN

What happened? Where's Lisa!

ALICE

We don't know, she sneaked out when
we were trying to find the keys...

Jaden sees the shoe in his mother's hand. He takes off.

EXT. CABIN AREA/ WOODS- MOMENTS LATER

After a few minutes of looking around, he hears groaning. He walks over to the sight of Lisa on the ground... being eaten alive by the animal. She is almost dangling by the cliff. He walks over to her, not caring about the animal beside him.

He grabs her hand, staring into her eyes. He does not realize the coyote is pulling on his shirt. Lisa takes her last breath. He kisses her forehead and closes her eyes.

He turns around, elbow elbow-kicks the hyena. He jumps on it as they wrestle on the ground; Jaden has it in a chokehold. With tears running down his cheeks, he gouges the only good eye left out. Blood splatters on his face; he grabs a big rock nearby and drops it to its face. Jaden violently kicks the carcass off the cliff.

He grabs his fiancé's body, taking her back to the cabin.

EXT. CABIN AREA- SAME TIME

There are two coyotes left now. The group is using all the weapons at hand. Rita and Alice grab the sticks and the rope. Eugene tries to stab one, but it grabs hold of the stick... pulling him to the ground.

DEE

Dad!

RITA

Pull him back!

Eugene is using his arms to protect his face. Alice comes from behind; she twists the rope around its neck and starts choking it out. She doesn't let go.

Once it's weak and on the floor, she puts her foot on its neck, grabs the torch (still lit), and shoves it in its mouth.

ALICE

Are you hurt? Let me see...

Alice checks for wounds. He's not bleeding. Eugene doesn't know how to react.

The other one leaps at Jasmine, and Aaron, who was next to her... dodges. The coyote is on top of her; she punches it a few times. It scratches Jasmine with its claws, then drags her around.

RITA

This ends now. Grab it!

Beth, Rita, and Aaron grab its arms, everyone stretching it out. Rita grabs a lighter from her pocket and sets it on fire. They let go. Everyone watches as it dies in anguish.

Jaden comes out of the woods, still carrying the body. Dee sees him, she runs to him.

ALICE

Oh God no!

The rest follow her. Jaden lets out a cry of anger as the group tries to console him.

MOMENTS LATER

Sitting around bodies near the cabin, everyone's faces are blank. No one is uttering a word.

While Aaron walks around trying to find anything useful... he hears a phone ring.

He quickly scans around, then notices a light beaming next to one of the bodies, the couple that arrived late. He grabs it and calls for help.

EXT. CABIN AREA- NIGHT

Multiple police cars have arrived, ambulances and firetrucks as well. The group walks towards them.

EXT. BARBECUE AREA- MOMENTS LATER

The authorities are putting the bodies in bags to collect evidence. Police officers are questioning each member of the group individually.

INT. AMBULANCE- SAME TIME

-Eugene, Dee and Jaden are getting treated for their wounds.

- Lisa's and Wayne's bodies are put in the ambulance.

INT. MOVING VAN- LATER

The group is on their way back to the campsite. Everyone is quiet during the ride.

(MORE)

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE- NIGHT

The group arrives back at the campsite. Aaron waits for Dee to get off.

AARON
Can I talk to you?

They move to the side.

AARON
I didn't mean to hurt you. It was one night; anybody could slip up. Nobody's perfect. Do you think we can get another shot?

DEE
When I was watching Uncle Wayne and Lisa leaving in a body bag... I made a promise to myself. I will never give scums like you any space in my life. In a sense, I blame myself that it took all of this to open my eyes, but better late than never. From now on, I'm being selfish with my time, heart, and peace. I'll never let jackasses like you fuck me over ever again.

Dee leaves.

INT. RETREAT CAMPSITE/ BEDROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Rita is throwing everything in her suitcase, not folding. She has a breakdown and throws everything she has tucked on the floor.

EXT. RETREAT CAMPSITE-SUNRISE

The sun is coming up. Police and reporters are at the campsite. Everyone is coming to the van with their suitcases. Beth is sitting by a tree, waiting to depart. Dee goes to comfort her; she bursts into tears... falling into her arms.

Eugene walks over to Alice, places a blanket over her.

EXT. CEMETARY- AFTERNOON

A week later

There are two grave holes dug. Lisa and Wayne are getting a farewell. It's raining heavily. The pastor just finished giving a speech.

PASTOR

And help us live a meaningful life, being grateful for your grace and love you bestow upon us. Heavenly Father, we ask you to please accept these souls into your kingdom and comfort those dearest to them during this time. May they rest in eternal peace. Amen

ATTENDEES

Amen.

People start walking to pay their respects.

INT. EUGENE AND ALICE HOME- LATER

Everyone is gathered at the wake. People are getting food. Dee is right by her brother's side. Alice comes over to Eugene, who is serving some refreshments.

EUGENE

Do you have a minute?

ALICE

Sure.

INT. EUGENE AND ALICE HOME/ GUEST ROOM- CONTINUOUS

They go to a separate room. He locks the door.

ALICE

What is it?

EUGENE

You know I'm not good with words. Maybe that's another reason why we always argued. Anyway, I'm getting off track. I'm still in love with you, Alice. I never stopped. Maybe we lost that spark we had when we met, but it doesn't change how I feel about you. To me, you are still the most beautiful woman I have ever seen, and I love you today as much as I did thirty-something years ago. I guess I stopped telling you how I felt because I thought you already knew. I became comfortable.

(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)

And I'm deeply sorry for that. When we had kids, a mortgage and bills started piling up... I became a father and forgot my duties as a husband. I'm not making excuses, but I got caught up in the shuffle, you know?

ALICE

At some point, I blamed the kids for our stale relationship. I feel like an idiot and the worst mother in the world for thinking like that, but it's true. I resented them for a while. A successful relationship is not a destination you get to; it's a journey. It is a journey that two people endure and never stop working on. That's why I was afraid to get married in the first place; I saw what it does to couples. I saw what it did to my parents; they barely spoke, and when they did... they almost blew the roof off. Sometimes, I didn't want to go home. I never wanted that for us.

EUGENE

I know. I never wanted a divorce, Alice, but I thought you wanted one, so I went ahead. If that made you happy, it was okay with me.

ALICE

I didn't.

EUGENE

Can we... start over? Whatever time we have left, let it be just us. We can make up for the lost time. Now, I'm not promising everything will be perfect and wonderful like a fairytale. But I will do my part and even extra. I will not miss a chance to tell you how I feel about you. We always say life is too short and live every day to the fullest... all those cliches. It takes not knowing if you will live to see the next day for it to kick in.

(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Back in the cabin, I kept repeating old memories of you and me in a much happier place and thinking about what I wouldn't do to create new ones. If only... I want to make new beautiful memories with you, Alice. Will you have me again as your husband?

Alice is teary eyed. She nods. They share a warm embrace.

I/E. DEE CONDO- THE NEXT DAY

Jazmine is visiting Dee the next day. They are having a cup of coffee.

JASMINE

Dee, I know I would be asking too much for forgiveness. That's why I'm not. I came here to tell you that I am tremendously sorry for deceiving you like that knowingly. I am also sorry for not coming to you as your cousin to admit what I did earlier.

DEE

I have decided to stop dwelling on shit that will only make me miserable. Of course, I'm pissed and livid because you, as someone I went and cried to so many times, how could you? Where was the loyalty to me being your family? Your sister? I don't hate you. You're my family, and that will never change, but it doesn't mean I owe you a relationship. So, with that said, you should go live your life and do what makes you happy, and I will do the same. I wish you well. Let's leave it at that.

.

Dee goes to open the door for her. Jasmine grabs her purse and is escorted out.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET- AFTERNOON

Beth is on her way to work; she walks to her car. She gets in. She is a bit anxious. She looks in her purse and grabs her wallet. She takes the photo of Wayne and sticks it on her rearview mirror.

She gets emotional for a bit, then wipes her tears away. She drives off.

INT. JADEN APARTMENT- SAME TIME

Jaden is in his bedroom, it's dark. He is watching videos of him and Lisa. He smiles.

INT. RITA HOUSE/ BATHROOM- DAY

Rita is getting ready, overly dressed again. She stares at herself in the mirror. She takes off a few accessories from her outfit. It's simpler but still herself. She appreciates the new look.

BEDROOM

Rita is leaving for Paris. The cab driver puts her bags in the trunk. She looks at her parents' home, then gets in the cab.

EXT. LOCAL PARK- AFTERNOON

Eugene and Alice are riding their bikes at a park, it's a gorgeous afternoon... people are having picnics.

Alice is staring at her husband's legs. She decides to have a race.

ALICE

Hey honey?

EUGENE

What?

ALICE

I think you've been skipping leg day for decades; I want to help.

EUGENE

Oh you want to talk miss toothpick legs?

ALICE

Well let me show you what these little twigs can do...

She starts pedaling faster, passing him as he tries to catch up.

EUGENE

Wait a minute! You didn't give me a head start!

ALICE
Catch up old man!

THE END.