

IN THIS HOUSE
by
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FADE IN

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A Victorian style older home, two story, run down, in serious need of a paint job and lawn work. Surrounding it are pristine, upper-middle class homes.

An eighties model station wagon sits in the driveway, and a ROBIN is perched in a scraggly tree.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Living and dining area bleed into one large room with elegant but aging furniture - a console TV, a Persian rug on the floor, and a long dining table.

A family photo hangs on the wall, high above the TV, and next to it, a tarnished bronze framed mirror.

ROBERT, (16), baggy jeans and skull T-shirt, with bangs that cover his eyes, sits on the sofa with a jar of peanut butter and a spoon. In his free hand, a horror magazine.

KARI, (14), petite, hair in a pony tail, unrolls the cord of a vacuum cleaner. She pauses and peers at the magazine.

KARI

You reading that crap again?

He gives her a stone cold glare and scratches his nostril, purposely using his middle finger.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Jenny, (17), piercing eyes and long dark hair, uses a blow dryer in front of the mirror, a towel wrapped around her.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The robin from outside flies in through an open window. It bounces off the walls, swoops down and nearly hits Kari in the face.

She squeals and swats at it, drops the handle of the vacuum cleaner.

Robert leaps from the couch, a bewildered expression on his face.

The bird swoops wildly. It flies at Robert a couple of times. He ducks, covers his head.

ROBERT

Shit!

One more dive for Kari, and she hits its wing, knocks it to the floor. It flops around a bit and then takes off again, slamming into the walls and furniture.

ROBERT

Stop. You're gonna kill it!

Robert grabs a sofa pillow, swings it gently at the bird to urge it toward the front door.

He opens it, and as soon as the robin flies out, a somewhat rattled Kari sprints to the window and slams it closed.

Robert laughs.

ROBERT

You shoulda seen the look on your face.

Kari looks at him like he's nuts for a second, then she starts to laugh as well.

Back on the sofa, Robert picks up his magazine. Immediately, his eyes are drawn to a certain passage:

"If a robin flies inside through a window, death will follow it".

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jenny turns off the hair dryer, unaware of what's happened downstairs. She reaches for clothes, from a hook on the back of the bathroom door - scars and bruises on her back.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Lots of dark varnished cabinets, in sharp contrast to light floral curtains and a stark white bistro style table. A single hanging bulb dangles from the ceiling.

Jenny, now dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, places a bowl of cereal and a glass of juice on a breakfast tray.

From there she can inside the living room - Kari, as she VACUUMS the rug, and Robert, busy reading his magazine.

She exits through an open archway, tray in hand.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

Sunlight flows through sheer curtains. In one corner, a dresser is strewn with liquor and pill bottles.

At an ornate vanity table is the kids' mother, EVELYN, (52), in a satin nightgown, with salt and pepper hair.

She stares solemnly at her reflection, touches the deep lines and puffy bags around her eyes, pulls at the sagging skin along her jaw.

She opens a tube of dark red lipstick, pauses and stares at her reflection. In wild, uncontrolled strokes, she paints the lipstick all around her mouth.

A tear falls and she begins to sob.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

The vacuum cleaner HUMS in the background.

Jenny leans in close to her mother's door and listens.

INT. EVELYN'S ROOM - DAY

There's a light KNOCK.

Evelyn grabs a handful of tissues, frantically tries to wipe away the lipstick, but only smears it more.

EVELYN

What is it?

JENNY (O.S.)

Breakfast.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Jenny waits for an answer. When there is none, she slowly opens the door and creeps into --

EVELYN'S ROOM

Evelyn's head is down, hair covering her face.

JENNY

Mom... are you okay?

EVELYN

Yeah. Just leave it and go.

Evelyn looks up at her, a sad, pitiful look, lipstick smeared over her face.

Perplexed, Jenny places the breakfast tray on a bench at the foot of the bed, then kneels down.

JENNY

Here... let me.

She grabs a bottle of lotion, squeezes some onto a tissue and successfully removes most of the lipstick.

Evelyn stares straight ahead, into the mirror, then her eyes move to Jenny's lovely face, unlined, unblemished - perfect.

EVELYN

I was beautiful like you...

Jenny glances at the mirror, still wiping the lipstick from Evelyn's face. Evelyn grabs her hand, pushes it down and holds it tight.

EVELYN

...it just slips away.

Jenny swallows hard. Her voice trembles.

JENNY

You're tired, Mom. You need to rest.

In the mirror's reflection, Evelyn spots a bottle of bourbon on the bedside table.

EVELYN
What I need...

She shoves Jenny's hand away roughly.

EVELYN
...is a drink.

Jenny's shoulders slump. She goes for the bottle and glass sitting next to it.

On the way back to Evelyn, her foot snags the corner of the bedspread. She falls, drops the glass and bottle of bourbon.

Evelyn's head whips around - liquor, broken glass, all over the floor. Her eyes flash with anger.

Jenny scrambles to pick up the glass.

In a flash, Evelyn looms over her. She grabs Jenny's chin hard and forces her face upward.

Jenny winces, tries to wiggle away, but Evelyn squeezes harder.

EVELYN
You... you have it all, don't you?

Evelyn picks up a large shard of glass with her free hand. With a crazed look in her eye, she squeezes it tight inside her palm.

EVELYN
But this... this is all I have left.

Jenny tries to pry her chin away, but Evelyn only digs her long fingernails deeper. Blood drips down Evelyn's hand with the shard inside.

JENNY
Please, Mom! You're hurting me!

Evelyn releases Jenny's chin.

She falls back on her butt, scoots away a few feet. Red fingerprints. Two rivulets of blood trickle down her cheek.

Jenny fights back tears, takes a deep trembling breath.

On the bedside table; a picture of her FATHER. Kind eyes stare back at her. He's posed in front of an office building with a sign - "Davis and Associates, Architects".

Evelyn drops the shard of glass, stares at the bloody cut on her palm, confused, as if it were somehow Jenny's fault.

Jenny is terrified and shaking.

EVELYN

Don't look at me like that! Don't
you look at me like that!

Evelyn grabs the bowl of cereal from the breakfast tray, screams at the top of her lungs.

EVELYN

Get out! Get out!

She throws the bowl at Jenny. The bowl shatters, milk and cereal on the wall just behind her.

Jenny scrambles to her feet, runs for the door. Evelyn picks up the breakfast tray, hurls it.

Jenny screams, ducks out just before the tray crashes against the door.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Jenny runs down the hallway, hits the --

STAIRS

Tears roll down her cheeks as she rushes to the --

LIVING ROOM

ROBERT

(mouthful)

Hey... Hey, Jen!

Kari turns off the vacuum cleaner and sprints to the front door.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jenny glances back at the house.

ACROSS THE STREET

MRS. JAMESON, (76), with solid gray hair, stares from her yard, a pair of hedge clippers in her hands.

FARTHER DOWN THE STREET

Past several houses, Jenny runs, out of breath and sweaty. Hair flaps wildly against her face, soaking up the blood and tears. She ambles to a tree and leans against it.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - SAME

JIMMY (18), a bad boy type with a goatee and too many earrings, spots Jenny.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Horrified, Jenny ducks behind the tree, wipes the tears from her face, then runs off between two houses.

INT. CAR (STILL) - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy strains his neck to see. Beside him is his brother, GLEN, (16), clean cut, a pretty boy.

GLEN

What is it?

JIMMY

Nothing. I thought I saw Jen.

GLEN

Why don't you give it up? She doesn't want to see you, remember?

Jimmy sighs, takes another quick look around. His face falls and he pulls away.

INT. HOUSE BATHROOM - DAY

Kari sits on the edge of the tub, with a tube of ointment and a box of Band-aids.

On the toilet, Evelyn sits with her hand in Kari's lap, her head on the sink's counter top.

Kari dabs at the bloody cut with a piece of toilet paper.

Evelyn flinches. The glass of bourbon in her hand sloshes back and forth.

Kari smears a bit of ointment on, applies the Bandaid.

KARI

There. All done.

She stands and goes for the door.

EVELYN

It's so hard sometimes... I didn't mean to...

Kari's glances at Evelyn, with her bloodshot eyes, drink pressed against her lips, then down at the doorknob.

EVELYN

You know that, don't you?

Kari nods, reaches for the doorknob.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jenny walks along "main street" - older buildings, closed down businesses, litter floats about on the sidewalks.

She turns a corner, crosses over a set of railroad tracks.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Robert takes a big swig from a vodka bottle, then turns on the faucet to refill what he drank.

FROM THE LIVING ROOM

Kari dusts the coffee table. She glances up, toward the archway and sees what he's doing.

KARI

How mad do you think she's gonna be
when she figures it out?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Robert places the bottle in a cabinet under the sink. Other bottles clank around inside and nearly fall out. He shoves them back and quickly closes the cabinet door.

ROBERT

She won't.

KARI

Yeah, she will.

ROBERT

Why? You gonna tell her?

Just then --

UPSTAIRS

Evelyn steps out of her bedroom door. She wobbles, holds onto the railing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kari looks up at Evelyn, hears the railing CRACK.

Droplets from Evelyn's glass fall on the carpet below. She stumbles back, pauses at her bedroom door, then mumbles over her shoulder.

EVELYN

When Jen gets back, tell her I want
to talk to her.

MONTAGE

A Grandfather clock in the living room ticks away the hours.

Evelyn sits on her bed, smoking cigarettes and drinking glass after glass of booze.

Along their street, the sun sets lower in a hazy sky.

Sullen and weary, Jenny sits on a park bench.

Kari opens Evelyn's door a crack. She's passed out on the bed.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Enclosed by a high wooden fence, dead grass and dry shrubs. A storage shed sits off to one side.

Robert tosses a tennis ball at the back wall of the house.

INT. LIVING/DINING AREA - NIGHT

Jenny steps in the front door, closes it quietly. She scans the areas she can see from there - the kitchen, dining area, upstairs hallway.

At the dining table, Kari sets out plates and eating utensils.

JENNY

She say anything?

KARI

She wants to talk to you.

Jenny takes some knives and forks from Kari, helps her set the table.

JENNY

So she can tell me again, how sorry she is, how she didn't mean it.

They're silent for several moments, nothing but the clicking of plates and utensils being placed.

KARI

Did you see him? I mean, I don't
care I just...

Jenny shoots Kari a look of warning. She plays with the
knives and forks, spacing them perfectly beside the plates.

JENNY

Not since school let out.

Kari steps closer, moves Jenny's hair off of her shoulder, so
she can look her in the face. She lightly touches the
scratches on Jenny's face.

Jenny pulls her face away, stares down at the floor.

The back door clicks closed (O.S.).

Robert approaches the girls, tips his head sideways at Jenny.

ROBERT

You lucky. She's been in her room
all day.

Jenny scoffs.

JENNY

Let me guess; passed out again.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Darkness. Jenny steps inside, flips on the light. Cans of
fruits and vegetables, boxes of dried goods, and bags of
sugar and flour line shelves along the walls.

INT. DINING AREA - NIGHT

Jenny, Robert and Kari sit at the table, full plates in front
of them. The meat is more than a little burned.

An empty plate sits at one end of the table. They all pick at
their food. Robert drops his fork, pushes the plate away.

ROBERT

(to Jenny)

How are we supposed to eat this?

JENNY

You don't like it, you cook dinner tomorrow.

Kari slides her chair out, starts toward the stairs.

Jenny stabs the macaroni, shoves a forkful into her mouth. The scratches on her cheek start to bleed as she chews. She wipes them with a napkin. Sullen, she stares at the spot.

ROBERT

You okay?

JENNY

Peachy.

Disgusted, Jenny slides her chair out fast. It falls over and the back of it hits the floor. She stomps to the --

KITCHEN

To a phone hung on the wall, dials the digits.

JENNY

Jimmy?

(pause)

Yeah, listen, can you come get me, about ten?

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

Typical teen boy's room - swimsuit model posters on some walls and rock bands on others. Clothes on the floor, dust everywhere.

Jimmy's stretched out on the bed, phone to his ear.

JIMMY

But I thought you said...

JENNY (ON PHONE)

Simple question - are you coming or not?

Jimmy reaches over to his bedside table, grabs a hacky-sac ball, tosses it into the air a few times.

JIMMY

Well, yeah. I gotta pick up my brother though, so we're stuck with him.

JENNY (ON PHONE)

(sighs)

Whatever.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jenny starts to hang up the phone.

JIMMY (ON PHONE)

Wait. Jen?

She puts the phone back to her ear. From the --

DINING AREA

Robert listens in on the conversation.

JENNY

Yeah, I know.

(pause)

Since when do you care what my mom says? Just come to the window, okay?

Jenny hangs up the phone, steps back into the dining area in time to see Kari fill up the empty plate and place it on a food tray. She starts up the stairs.

Robert shoots Jenny a look of concern.

JENNY

What?

ROBERT

I didn't say a word.

Kari takes a bite of macaroni, shoots Robert a quick glance, then bounds up the stairs.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Posters of monsters, aliens, and old horror movies on the walls, clothes on the floor.

Robert lifts his mattress, pulls out a porno magazine. He lies down on the bed, flips to the centerfold, then slowly slips his hand inside his pants.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight casts a soft glow in the room. Twin beds sit against opposite walls with pretty, ruffled bedspreads. Two matching tables sit beside the beds.

The girls are both tucked in. A clock on Jenny's bedside table reads 9:57

Evelyn cracks the door to their room, stares at them for several seconds. She takes a swig of a drink.

Their backs are to her, eyes wide open. The door clicks closed, and in a split second, there's a tiny TICK - TICK on the window.

Jenny glances at the door, then at the window. She quickly rises from the bed, sandals on and already clothed in sexy hip hugger shorts and a halter top.

She opens the window and looks down to see Jimmy.

JENNY

(whisper)

Give me a second.

Jimmy nods.

Jenny goes to Kari's bed, shakes her roughly. She turns over, stares at Jenny like she's nuts.

KARI

What? I'm awake.

JENNY

You sure you don't wanna come?

KARI

I already told you; no.

JENNY

Why not? We'll get outta here -
have some fun for a change.

Kari turns away.

KARI

I think you're crazy. You're gonna
get caught.

JENNY

So? What's she gonna do that he
hasn't already?

Jenny stares at her back for a second, then a slight smile
parts her lips.

JENNY

Glen's with him.

She gooses Kari in the ribs with one finger.

JENNY

Come on. You've liked him since the
fifth grade. Still do. Don't ya?

(poke)

Huh?

(poke)

Don't ya?

Kari swats at her hands. Jenny stands back, hands on her
hips.

JENNY

Last chance.

Kari bites at her bottom lip, then tosses the covers off.

JENNY

(grins)

Hurry up.

She goes to the window and starts down the top of a trellis.

EXT. HOUSE - TRELLIS - CONTINUOUS

Jenny is near the bottom when the small boards start to crack
beneath her weight. She glances up as Kari starts down.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He reaches for his clock, atop an overturned milk crate, then peers out the curtain to see Kari and Jenny heading for Jimmy's car.

The car doors close and Robert lies back on the bed, an arm behind his head. He rubs his eyes hard, looks worried.

There's a CRASH of glass and Robert bolts upright in bed. He peels the covers off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert steps into the living room, flips on a lamp. The large bronze mirror lies on the floor, shattered.

He kneels down next to it, stares at it for a moment, then begins to pick up the shards.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Jenny sits by Jimmy in the front seat, kisses his neck. In the back seat, Glen watches them.

Kari stares out the window. She sees a cemetery, leans up, her hand on the headrest of Jimmy's seat.

KARI

Stop.

JIMMY

For what?

KARI

Pull over, right here.

JIMMY

Why? There's nothing out here.

Kari hits the back of the head rest.

KARI

I said, stop the car.

He looks out of his window, brings the car to a slow stop.

Kari hops out, leaving the door open, and approaches the gate to the --

CEMETARY

She struggles to place one foot firmly after the other, on the gate, slips, then starts over again.

INT. CAR (STILL) - NIGHT

GLEN
(calls out)
Hey!
(to Jenny)
What the hell is she doing?

JENNY
Going to see Dad.

Jenny gets out, follows Kari. Jimmy and Glen glance at each other.

JIMMY
Shit.

INT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

Hundreds of grave markers and headstones, a mausoleum here and there. In the distance, there's a security light.

Kari walks through with the others close behind her. She suddenly stops dead still, stares down at a cross shaped headstone marked, "Martin Davis".

Kari kneels down to brush away dirt and grass. She smiles, but tears begin to form in her eyes.

Jenny wraps an arm around her shoulder. Jimmy and Glen meander over to a --

NEARBY TREE

Jimmy pulls out a cigarette pack, strikes his lighter so he can tell the smokes from a joint he has tucked in there.

He lights the joint, takes a big drag and then passes it to Glen.

Wind rustles the leaves. An owl SCREECHES in the distance.

Jimmy glances around nervously.

JIMMY
(holding in smoke)
Man, this sucks.

He passes the joint to Glen.

GLEN
Bwok, bwok. Fuckin' chicken.

Jimmy scoffs, cracks a sideways grin.

JIMMY
Yeah, whatever. I could think of
better places to be.

Glen passes the joint back, glances over at Jenny and Kari, still kneeling by the grave.

GLEN
I don't get you and her. I mean, I
know you like her...

JIMMY
Yeah.

GLEN
But it's a fucked up situation.

Jimmy stares at Kari and Jenny for a second.

GLEN
What happened to her face?

Jimmy shrugs.

JIMMY
She doesn't tell me anything. Try
to ask her, she gets pissed.

GLEN
I heard their old lady's a drunk.

Jimmy takes a long drag off the joint, slowly nods.

JIMMY

Probably hates her life, takes it
out on them. Who fuckin' knows?

Glen notices Jenny and Kari heading toward them. He elbows
Jimmy.

Tears rim Kari's eyes. She grabs the joint from Glen just as
he's about to take a drag, inhales and coughs violently. She
takes one more toke, before handing it off to Jimmy.

JIMMY

Whoa. Take it easy... virgin.

He and Glen both chuckle. Jimmy holds the joint out to Jenny.
She shoots him a look of indignation, but takes the joint and
drags on it anyway.

Kari looks insulted, stomps away mumbling.

KARI

Dickhead.

Jenny socks Jimmy in the arm, and shoves the joint at him.
She trots to catch up with Kari.

JIMMY

(calling out)

What? Oh come on. I was just
screwing with her. Jen?

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Robert's on the bed, asleep. A lamp on the bedside table
buzzes, flickers.

Also on the table is his beloved horror magazine. An odd
breeze flows through the room, flipping the pages to the same
article he'd read before. The words seem to scream from the
page:

"If a mirror falls and breaks by itself, someone in the house
will soon be dead".

INT. EVELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Evelyn lies on the bed passed out, a cigarette smoldering in
the ashtray, and her late husband's picture on her chest.

INT. CAR (STILL) - NIGHT

Parked at the curb, a few houses down, Jimmy and Jenny make out in the front seat. For a few moments Glen and Kari glance at them, then at each other.

Glen timidly reaches out, touches Kari's face. They both lean forward to kiss, awkward at first. Soon, it's voracious smacking and heavy breathing.

Jenny glances back to see one of Glen's hands under Kari's shirt, and the other between her legs.

Kari pushes his hand away, but it finds its way right back, time and again.

Jenny reaches over the seat and whacks Glen in the side of the head.

GLEN
Hey! What the fuck!

JENNY
Knock it off!

GLEN
Jesus! What's your problem?

Jenny sees a huge hickey on Kari's neck.

JENNY
Oh my God.

She reaches for Kari's chin, but Kari pushes her hand away.

KARI
What?

Jenny moves the rear view mirror for Kari to see.

JENNY
Your neck.

Kari looks at her neck in the mirror.

KARI
Shit.

JENNY
Take your hair down.

Kari removes the band and adjusts her hair to cover the mark.
Jenny nods.

JENNY
Good. Yeah, that's good.

EXT. HOUSE - TRELIS - NIGHT

Jenny's a few feet up, while Kari waits on the ground. The
the tiny lattice boards crack, one after another. She tries
again, but they snap beneath her feet like twigs.

A light comes on inside Evelyn's bedroom and her shadow
passes by the window.

KARI
(whisper)
Oh God... she's awake.

Jenny glances at the window, looks around nervously, biting
her lip.

KARI
What are we gonna do?

A look of revelation comes over Jenny's face.

JENNY
Come on.

She turns, runs toward the front of the house, with Kari
close behind.

EXT. ROBERT'S WINDOW - NIGHT

Jenny knocks lightly on the window. She waits. No answer. She
knocks harder.

JENNY
(whisper)
Rob? Rob?

A curtain opens. Robert groggily stares out at them.

KARI
(whisper)
Open the window.

He rubs his eyes, stares at them.

JENNY
(loud whisper)
Open the damn window.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Evelyn opens the door, turns the light on to see the beds are empty and the window is open. She grits her teeth together, slams the door.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A door slams (O.S.).

Robert's face is suddenly cloaked in fear. He flings the window open.

ROBERT
Shit. She's coming.

The girls climb in the window as fast as possible.

Robert's doorknob turns. They run for the closet. Robert lies down, covers himself and pretends to be asleep.

Evelyn flips the light on. Robert stirs, rubs his eyes.

ROBERT
Mom? What is it?

IN THE CLOSET

Kari and Jenny cower like trapped criminals. Even their breathing is too loud for safety.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Evelyn looks around for a few seconds.

EVELYN

Nothing. Go back to sleep.

She closes the door.

IN THE CLOSET

Jenny and Kari breathe a sigh of relief, then start to softly giggle. Jenny opens the door to the --

BEDROOM

Jenny leans down, kisses Robert on the cheek.

JENNY

Thanks.

Kari leans down too, but Robert pulls the blanket over his head, mumbles from beneath it.

ROBERT

Yeah, yeah. Now get outta my room.

The girls tiptoe to his door, open it very quietly, and start across the darkened --

LIVING ROOM

Behind Jenny, Kari bangs her knee on the coffee table. Various objects rattle around on top of it.

KARI

Ow...

JENNY

Shhhh. Quiet.

They creep slowly up the staircase.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

When they reach the landing, a light at the end of the hallway comes on.

Evelyn stands, arms crossed over the chest of her satin nightgown.

She spots the giant hickey on Kari's neck, approaches slowly, stalking them like a cat.

The girls back away a few steps, sheer terror on their faces.

JENNY

Mom... we were just...

EVELYN

Oh, I know what you were doing. You went out with that trash again.

Evelyn cracks a sarcastic, sideways grin.

EVELYN

They used to do our lawn... with their useless drug addict father.

JENNY

We weren't with anybody. It was just us.

Evelyn rolls her eyes, scoffs.

EVELYN

You sneak in here, in the middle of the night, and then you lie to me?

Petrified, Kari shakes her head.

Jenny steps closer. Kari notices Evelyn's eyes on her neck, so she pulls her hair over to cover it.

KARI

We just wanted to get out of here for a little while...

Evelyn's close enough now to reach out and grab Kari's hair. She pulls it hard, away from the hickey.

Kari squeals, starts to cry.

JENNY

I swear, we didn't do anything wrong!

EVELYN

Oh? Then what is this? Answer me! What is this?!

KARI

Mom, please!

EVELYN

I will not have you behaving like
whores! Not in this house!

Kari tries to pull away, but Evelyn only yanks the hair
harder.

Jenny steps in, grabs Evelyn's hand.

JENNY

No! Mom, don't! It's my fault!

Evelyn swings her other hand at Jenny, hits her square on the
mouth.

Kari screams, still trying to pry away from Evelyn's grasp.

Jenny falls to the floor, lip cut and bloody. She glares at
Evelyn with hatred.

EVELYN

Whores! Both of you! Nothing but
little sluts!

Evelyn raises her hand to hit Kari. They struggle, bodies
pressed against the railing.

It creaks and cracks beneath their weight.

JENNY

No! Let her go!

Jenny steps in, grabs Evelyn's hand again. They all struggle.
Evelyn continues to scream like a mad woman.

Robert runs across the living room. When he passes below
them, he notices the railing. It wobbles back and forth,
barely hanging on.

ROBERT

Stop! Get back! Kari!

He bounds up the stairs, grabs Evelyn from behind. Jenny gets
knocked to the floor.

Evelyn releases Kari, turns on Robert. She flings her arm at
him, but he blocks it.

Kari runs to Jenny and they both watch, horrified and crying.

The harder Evelyn struggles, the harder Robert resists. His fingers dig into the flesh on her wrists.

She screeches with frustration.

ROBERT

Stop! Stop! Just leave them alone!

Evelyn frees one hand, smacks Robert in the eye. He hits her back hard, in the face.

She staggers against the wall, stares at him in shock, then lunges like a wildcat.

He moves out of the way and Evelyn runs into the railing at full speed. It breaks.

Robert frantically tries to grab her gown, but the satin material slips through his fingers.

She screams, falls to the floor below, taking part of the railing with her.

There's a loud THUD, a GURGLING sound, then silence.

In the background, the girl's sob over the TICKING of the Grandfather clock and Robert's labored breath.

Kari buries her face against Jenny's chest.

Robert slowly steps toward the railing. He looks down. Shock and dismay cover his face.

On the floor below is Evelyn, face up on the Persian rug, eyes wide open with a puddle of blood around her.

A spoke from the railing juts through her chest.

Kari screams.

A flash of lightening and the crash of thunder booms outside, lighting up the house.

All is eerily quiet and still. Robert's eyes scan back and forth, to all the windows and the front door. He suddenly looks horrified.

ROBERT
(mumbles)
No... no.

He flees down the stairs, to the --

LIVING/DINING AREA

Frantically, he opens locks on the windows and front door.
From the --

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

At the railing, the girls watch him, confused.

JENNY
What are you doing?!

No answer. He just ignores them.

JENNY/KARI
Robert!

ROBERT
We have to open them all!

Kari cries louder. Jenny hugs her close, watches Robert with a look of dismay.

KITCHEN

He quickly opens the lock on the back door and the one window, above the sink.

He looks around, then rushes back up the stairs.

BATHROOM

He unlocks the window. Then, down the --

HALLWAY

Toward Evelyn's room. The whole time Jenny stares at him like he's nuts.

INT. BASEMENT - SAME

A window sits at the back wall, covered in dust, its rusty latch turned to the locked position.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Grandfather clock ticks away into the night.

The kids sit on the sofa, pace the floor.

Robert's eye is black and the side of his face, swollen.

Jenny smokes one of Evelyn's long, elegant cigarettes, hands shaking with each puff.

KARI

We have to call the police.

ROBERT

And tell them what, Kari?

KARI

The truth... she was drunk. It was an accident.

Jenny gestures to her lip, and Robert's swollen eye.

JENNY

Look at us. You think they'll believe us?

KARI

They have to.
(to Robert)
She fell.

Jenny glances at Evelyn's body, then starts to pace again, puffs the cigarette faster.

JENNY

Just shut up for a minute. I just... I need time to think.

Several moments of tense silence follow, with Robert and Kari staring at the body, then each other. They watch as Jenny paces the floor.

HOURS LATER

The sun begins to rise in the distance.

Dark, heavy clouds gather over the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Robert and Kari sleep, curled up in awkward positions on the sofa.

Jenny still paces, smokes a cigarette and stares at the body.

ROBERT

We hide it.

Startled by his voice, Jenny's head whips around. She stops pacing.

JENNY

What?

Kari slowly opens her eyes. They immediately settle on Evelyn's corpse. She eavesdrops on Jenny and Robert, who haven't noticed yet that she's awake.

ROBERT

The body - we have to hide it.

JENNY

Oh God... I don't know. What if someone finds out? They'll think we killed her.

ROBERT

That's what they're gonna think anyway. And while you've been wearing a hole in the carpet, did you consider what's gonna happen to us?

JENNY

What do you mean?

ROBERT

We're minors, Jen. We don't have any family. Where would we go?

JENNY

Foster home. At least... until I'm eighteen. Then maybe I could...

ROBERT

Maybe you could what?

He scoffs, runs a hand through his hair.

ROBERT

I'm telling you it's the only way. We have to hide her... keep it a secret.

KARI

Oh my God... this is not happening.

Robert hardly acknowledges Kari, just glances at her, then turns his attention back to Jenny.

ROBERT

Think about it. She hardly ever goes out...

Jenny glances at a very confused Kari, then nods enthusiastically.

JENNY

Nobody has to know.

Kari suddenly has the look of a frightened little girl.

KARI

You're both nuts... nuts. I don't want anything to do with this.

ROBERT

Well that's too bad. This is just as much your fault as ours.

Scared and confused, Kari just stares at her mother's body.

Jenny takes a long drag off the cigarette, then drops it onto the rug near Evelyn's body.

KARI

Wait... we can't just... we can't
do this to her.

Jenny ignores her, snuffs out the cigarette with her foot,
then starts rolling the body up in the rug.

Robert comes to her side to help. One roll of the carpet,
then another.

INT. BASEMENT - DAWN

Jenny, Kari and Robert carry the body (in the rug) inside,
and lay it on the floor.

Thunder booms outside (O.S.).

JENNY

We'll start digging soon as the
rain stops.

Tears stream down Kari's face then she breaks down, sobbing,
close to screams. Robert takes her by the shoulders, looks
her in the eyes.

ROBERT

It's just a body... a shell. Mom is
gone.

Kari pulls away from Robert, slides down to the floor in a
heap.

Jenny kneels down next to her, strokes her hair.

JENNY

It's okay, Kari. I promise. It's
gonna be okay.

She lifts Kari's chin to stare into her eyes, wipes her tears
away.

Kari snuffles a couple more times. She grudgingly rises and
leaves the basement.

The blood stain grows larger, seeping heavily into the rug.

EXT. HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Beneath a tree, Kari, Robert and Jenny dig with shovels.

When the grave is deep enough, they drag the rug with Evelyn's body over and toss it in.

Dark clouds hover overhead as they shovel dirt over the grave. There's a small flash of lightning, followed at first by sprinkling rain.

Suddenly, rain begins to pour down in sheets. They drop the shovels and run for the back door.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jenny stands at the stove, stirs soup in a pot. On the small table is a cutting board and knife, with remnants of chopped vegetables.

More rain and thunder through the kitchen window. Wind howls through the cracks of the back door.

Jenny reaches into a spice cabinet, grabs a bottle of seasoning.

The light in the dining area flickers. She pauses for a second, glances up at the light, then begins to hum as she stirs the seasoning into the pot.

The slight sound of breathing, and the hair blows to the side, right next to Jenny's ear.

She gasps, drops the spice bottle into the pot, splashes the hot soup onto her arm.

JENNY

Shit.

Her eyes scan the room nervously as she reaches for a dish towel, then a knife from the cutting board.

DINING AREA

Suddenly cold, Jenny shivers and her breath turns to fog.

The lights flicker, then suddenly stop. Jenny's eyes well up with tears. She heaves, deep trembling breaths.

A hand reaches out, grabs her shoulder. She screams and spins around, a knife held above her head, ready to strike.

Kari screams, lurches back and looks at Jenny like she's crazy.

KARI

What is wrong with you?!

JENNY

Christ! You scared the shit out of me!

Jenny slams her hand down on the table, knife still grasped inside her fist. She leans in for support, her arms shaking.

JENNY

My nerves are shot, okay! Just don't sneak up on me like that.

KARI

Sorry.

Robert steps out of his bedroom, CD player in hand, crosses the living room.

Kari shivers, rubs her arms.

KARI

It's freezing in here.

Robert stares at Jenny, at the look of fear on her face.

BEDROOM

She slams the door and leans against it, eyes squeezed together tight.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The kids sit on the sofa, watching TV.

A horn BEEPS.

Jenny and Kari race to the window to see Jimmy's car in the driveway - Jimmy and Glen inside.

They sprint--

OUTSIDE

And hop in the car.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A radio on the counter blasts hard rock music. Jenny steps in from the living room, a basket of clean laundry in her arms.

She bangs her head to the music, dances over to the table with the basket.

She sings, dances around as she folds the laundry.

When her back is turned, Kari steps into the doorway.

Jenny turns to grab another piece of laundry, spots Kari staring at her with disgust.

JENNY

What?

Kari just shakes her head.

KARI

How do you do it?

JENNY

Do what?

KARI

Act like nothing's wrong.

Jenny averts her eyes, busies herself with the laundry.

JENNY

Don't be stupid.

KARI

I'd swear you were almost... happy.

Jenny sighs, drops a pair of pants back into the basket.

JENNY

How should I act? How do you want me to act, Kari?

KARI

Like you care, even a little bit.

Jenny stares at her stoically, then abruptly turns away and starts mouthing song lyrics with the radio.

Kari grabs her by the arm and spins her back around.

KARI

Look at you! You haven't even cried, not one tear for Mom!

Kari screams right in Jenny's face.

KARI

So tell me! How do you do it, Jen?!

Jenny yanks her arm away.

JENNY

You really want to know?! I try not to think about her at all! It's nothing but bad memories for me, Kari.

KARI

And you're glad she's dead! Why don't you just fucking say it!

Jenny throws the laundry basket at the wall, yells at the top of her lungs.

JENNY

Okay! I'm glad! I'm glad I never have to look at her again - that she'll never hit me again!

Tears fall down Jenny's cheeks and she stomps out of the room.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kari sits in a full tub, legs pulled up to her chest. She scrubs at her body roughly with a soapy rag, tears streaming down her face.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door creaks as Jenny creeps out. She glances at Kari, now sound asleep in her bed.

INT. JIMMY'S CAR (STILL) - SECLUDED AREA - NIGHT

Jenny sits with her head against Jimmy's chest. A soft tune plays on the radio. She lifts her head, kisses Jimmy.

JIMMY

I love you.

Jenny smiles, kisses him harder. The kisses quickly grow more passionate. They wiggle over the bucket seat, and into the back.

INT. ROBERT'S ROOM - SAME

On the bed, Robert has a bottle of liquor in one hand and a horror magazine in the other.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - SAME

Kari tosses and turns in her sleep. Sweat beads on her face and neck.

INT. JIMMY'S CAR (STILL) - SECLUDED AREA - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy and Jenny sit in the back seat. He's shirtless and her shirt hangs open over her bra.

She pushes away from him, sighs deeply.

JIMMY

What's wrong?

Jenny stares out the window.

JENNY

Nothing. I'm fine... great.

He reaches out, touches her hair.

JIMMY

Come on, Jen. I know you.

JENNY

Do you... really? Maybe you just think you do.

JIMMY

Well, whatever it is, I can't help if you don't talk to me.

JENNY

I know. But nobody can.

Jenny stares out the window, a sad, far away look in her eyes.

Jimmy sighs, reaches for his clothes.

INT. GIRLS' ROOM - SAME

The door slowly opens. Kari swallows hard in her sleep, sweat now dripping down her face. Her brows furrow as she dreams.

INT. CAR (STILL) DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jenny reaches for the door handle.

JIMMY

I'm here you know... if you need me.

Jenny shakes her head.

JENNY

Just drop it, okay? Please.

Hands wrapped around the steering wheel, staring at his knuckles, Jimmy looks wounded.

JENNY

Look, it's nothing for you to worry about, okay? There's just... I have to handle it myself.

Jimmy glances down at Jenny's stomach.

JIMMY
Oh shit... are you...

JENNY
What? No... God, I'm on the pill.

Jimmy lets out a sigh of relief.

JENNY
See? You don't know me.

JIMMY
Well, maybe if you'd...

JENNY
What would you do, if I was?

Jimmy stares at his knuckles again, twists his hands around the steering wheel.

JIMMY
I don't know.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kari is now curled into a ball, sweating beneath her blanket. Fog from her warm breath floats into the air. She shivers, pulls the blanket up to her chin.

Her eyes suddenly spring open. She sits upright, stares straight ahead, expressionless, almost robotic.

She turns for the door. In slow determined steps, eyes always dead ahead, she makes her way down the upstairs hallway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Jenny enters, notices Robert's door is ajar a few inches. A tiny slip of light permeates the room.

Slowly, quietly, she navigates through. In a moment she spots Kari upstairs, wavering back and forth, her toes at the edge of the broken railing.

JENNY
Kari?

Kari stares straight ahead. She wavers back and forth, as if she might fall.

JENNY

Kari, what are you doing?

Robert enters as Jenny rushes up the stairs.

Kari's feet inch further toward the edge. She teeters. Robert moves below her.

ROBERT

(to Jenny)

She's sleep walking.

Robert claps his hands together hard.

ROBERT

Wake up, Kari!

Kari wobbles forward. Jenny reaches out and grabs her nightgown, pulls her back just in time.

Kari snaps out of it. She glances around, confused.

JENNY

It's okay. I got you.

Kari shakes her head slowly, looks scared.

KARI

What am I doing?

JENNY

Sleep walking.

KARI

No, it was... I couldn't stop. I could see... myself, but I couldn't stop.

JENNY

It's okay. It's gonna be all right.
Let's get you back to bed.

Jenny holds her close, leads her back to the bedroom.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jenny stands atop a chair, reaches around inside a top shelf.

Plastic storage containers fall out and hit the floor. Jenny tiptoes, reaches further.

The chair starts to rock forward. Balancing like a surfer, she withdraws a rusty fruitcake tin.

At the kitchen table, she opens it, starts counting the money - lots of change and mostly small bills.

Robert enters.

ROBERT
Whoa. Cha-ching.

He grabs a handful of the money.

ROBERT
Where did you get this?

JENNY
Mom's savings... what's left of it.

Jenny sighs, runs a hand through her hair.

ROBERT
How much is here?

JENNY
About four hundred, plus the change.

He sits down at the table, across from Jenny.

ROBERT
Bills... food... it's not gonna last long.

JENNY
Yeah.

Robert reaches into the cabinet beneath the sink, grabs a bottle. He takes a swig and wipes his mouth with the back of his hand.

Jenny stares down at the money, chews on the inside of her cheek.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert lies on the sofa, barely awake. Nothing but static on the TV.

The room is dark, silent aside from the static.

A loud CRASH, glass breaks (O.S.).

Robert bolts upright, stares through the darkness. A slight shadow moves through the kitchen.

He slowly rises on wobbly knees, and starts in that direction.

More glass CRASHES against the floor (O.S.).

He stops, squints through the darkness, his chest heaving. Suddenly the noise stops. The kitchen light flickers on.

Cautiously, he approaches.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Smashed liquor bottles lie in pieces all over the floor. The cabinet below the sink is wide open as well.

Robert kneels down, a confused expression on his face, just stares at the glass and liquid.

He picks up the glass. Confused, he just shakes his head.

The front door SLAMS (O.S.).

Robert turns to see Jenny enter.

ROBERT
Where you been?

JENNY
Out.

She notices all the glass on the floor.

JENNY
What the hell happened in here?

Robert shrugs his shoulders.

ROBERT
Cabinet's too full I guess.

Jenny shoots him an odd look.

ROBERT
You were out with him again?

JENNY
With Jimmy... yeah. Is that okay
with you?

Robert stares with a critical eye.

ROBERT
No.

Jenny smirks at him.

ROBERT
I just... I don't trust him, or
that prep brother of his.

JENNY
Come on, Rob. You don't even know
them.

ROBERT
(to Jenny)
Yeah well, I know enough. I don't
get you two. What do you talk about
anyway? I mean, assuming there's
any talking going on.

Jenny scoffs, stomps out of the room.

At the --

STAIRS

Robert follows Jenny a few paces.

JENNY

Look, I had enough of her calling me a whore. I don't need it from you.

ROBERT

I'm sorry, okay? But I think you should just stay away from him. You get too close... maybe you let somethin' slip.

Jenny stops, turns to face Robert.

JENNY

I'm not stupid, okay? And you're not Mom. So stop trying to run my life.

Robert grabs her by the arm.

ROBERT

He already knows, doesn't he?

JENNY

No! Now let go of me!

Jenny wrenches away and stomps up the stairs while Robert stares after her.

INT. SUPERMARKET - SERVICE DESK - DAY

Jenny stands at the counter, busy filling out an employment application, a full grocery cart parked next to her.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

A light rain falls as Jenny loads the grocery bags into the back of the station wagon.

A few rows away their neighbor Mrs. Jameson rolls by, stares at her.

MONTAGE

The girls put away groceries.

In the basement, Jenny scrubs the bloody spot with a sponge and bucket of soapy water. No matter how much she scrubs the stain remains.

Robert lies on his bed, stares at the ceiling, headphones blaring.

Glen rakes leaves in a nicely manicured lawn and Jimmy mows with a push mower.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Kari reaches for a bag of rice from the shelf. Her eyes wander to the blood stain on the floor, a look of sadness covers her face.

There's a THUMP, seems like it's from beneath the floor.

Kari jumps. She stares at the blood stain, shivering. Her breath turns to a fog inside the suddenly cold room.

She presses her back against the basement door - shaky, rapid breathing, eyes wide with horror.

A fresh pool of blood begins to form atop the dried stain.

Another THUMP.

Kari covers her ears, squeezes her eyes tight. When she opens them, the blood is gone, and the thumping has ceased, as if it was all in her head.

She sighs deeply, rubs her eyes hard and thumps her head against the door.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kari and Jenny both toss and turn, trying to fall asleep.

Lightening flashes outside their window, and even the shadows on the walls look sinister.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

The TV plays an old western movie.

Robert lies on the floor atop an open sleeping bag. He hiccups, eyelids heavy. In his hand is a half empty bottle of liquor.

He rises, staggers toward the kitchen, with only the dim light from the TV to guide him.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Robert reaches around to flick on the light, but it comes on before his hand hits the switch.

Confused, he stares at the light bulb, then at the switch, glances around the room.

At the sink, he turns on the water to fill the bottle. In a few seconds, he realizes what he's doing.

He laughs at himself, puts the lid on the bottle then shoves it in the cabinet below the sink.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Robert sleeps soundly on the sofa.

Jenny is just descending the stairs when there's a knock at the door.

Kari steps out of the kitchen, takes a sip of water from the glass in her hand. She and Jenny glance at each other.

At the door, Jenny peers through the peep hole. It's Mrs. Jameson, a casserole dish in her hands.

Behind her, the rain has stopped and the sun shines down bright against the pavement.

Jenny steps back from the door.

JENNY

(whispers to Kari)

Shit. It's Mrs. Jameson.

KARI

(whisper)

Don't answer it. Maybe she'll leave.

More knocking, then the doorbell rings incessantly.

Robert wakes, sits up.

ROBERT

What the hell? Make it stop.

He plops back down, throws the pillow over his head.

The bell rings again. Jenny reaches for the knob.

KARI

No... what are doing?

Jenny opens the door a crack, pastes a big fake grin on her face.

JENNY

Mrs. Jameson... good morning.

After knocking and ringing for so long, Mrs. Jameson is startled.

MRS. JAMESON

Hi, honey. How are you?

JENNY

Okay.

MRS. JAMESON

I haven't dropped by in a while...
I just thought... well,
(big, perky smile)
I brought my famous chicken noodle
casserole.

JENNY

Oh, thanks.

Jenny releases the door and it swings open wider. She takes the casserole.

JENNY

Mom's not well. She's been... in
bed all week. I'll tell her you
came by though.

Mrs. Jameson studies Jenny's face. She smiles, but there's a curious look, like she's not buying it.

MRS. JAMESON

Well, I'm sure she wouldn't mind if
I go on up and check on her.

Jenny tries to close the door, but by this time Mrs. Jameson is half in and half outside.

JENNY

(through clenched teeth)
No. It could be contagious. But
really... she'll be fine. Now
please...

Jenny shoves the old woman out the door, yells through it.

JENNY

Just go home!

Kari stands by wringing her hands. Robert and Jenny share a concerned look.

OUTSIDE

Mrs. Jameson stares at the door, shocked and out of breath. She smooths her silver hair. A look of determination comes over her that says, "something is not right in there". She stomps off down the driveway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny peers through the peep hole, watches Mrs. Jameson leave. She turns to Kari and Robert, blows out a ragged breath.

Robert lies back down, closes his eyes tight.

ROBERT

Fuck.

JENNY

It's okay. She's gone.

Kari sits down next to Robert, rests her face in her hands.

Jenny picks up Robert's sleeping bag, starts rolling it up. The look on her face says she's hiding something.

ROBERT
It's not just me, is it?

JENNY
What?

ROBERT
You know what.

Jenny and Kari glance at each other.

JENNY
It's just guilt, Rob - playing
tricks on us.

ROBERT
Yeah... right.

Kari takes a deep, trembling breath.

ROBERT
Somethin's going on ever since...

He glances at the floor, sighs.

ROBERT
Maybe we shoulda buried her right.

Jenny lets out a sarcastic giggle.

JENNY
But we didn't and now she's
haunting us, right? You read too
many of those stupid magazines.

Kari rubs her arms like she's caught a chill.

KARI
I don't know, but I can still feel
her... everywhere.

Jenny just shakes her head, stares at them both like they've
lost it.

JENNY
Okay. So what do you want to do? We
can't change what happened. We
can't tell anyone. So where does
that leave us?

EXT. PARK - EARLY EVENING

Jenny and Jimmy sit at a picnic table speaking M.O.S.

With frantic hand gestures, she explains what happened, while Jimmy just sits there, a shocked expression on his face.

He suddenly stands from the table. Shaking his head, he paces in front of her.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenny'S DREAM

Footsteps in the upstairs hallway (O.S.).

Jenny opens her eyes, stares at the door. All seems normal so she closes her eyes and pulls the covers tighter over her chest.

A shadow looms over Jenny. She opens her eyes and Evelyn's corpse flies at her from above, so fast it's just a blur.

She screeches and claws at Jenny, lacerating the flesh on her arms and face.

Jenny screams, tries to fight her off.

END DREAM

She screams sits upright in bed.

EXT. ACROSS THE STREET - MRS. JAMESON'S HOUSE - SAME

A light flips on at her bedroom window, upstairs.

INT. MRS. JAMESON'S BEDROOM

Jenny's scream, faint and distant (O.S.).

Mrs. Jameson presses a speed dial button on the phone, marked "POLICE", then presses the phone to her ear.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny's eyes frantically search the darkened room, but no one's there.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny makes her way down the staircase. She reaches the coffee table, grabs a pack of cigarettes and lighter from it.

She paces, puffs on the cigarette, while she chews on a fingernail.

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jenny pulls the curtains open and rips the covers off of him. He shields his eyes from the glaring light.

ROBERT
What the fuck?

JENNY
Get up... now.

EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING

Beneath a sparse tree, Kari, Robert and Jenny stab at the grave with shovels.

The sun beats down on their sweaty, sunburned bodies.

Robert's nose suddenly starts to bleed. Horrified, he steps back, wipes the blood away with his shirt tail, and drops the shovel.

ROBERT
Shit.

Jenny pauses, out of breath.

JENNY
Just go back inside... put some ice on it.

It continues to trickle, no matter how much he wipes. He glances at the hole, then at the girls.

KARI
Go. We'll finish.

Robert only gets a few paces toward the house when Jimmy steps through the gate.

They all hear it click, then see Jimmy slide the lock closed.

Kari drops the shovel, a shocked expression on her face. She quickly steps in front of the grave.

KARI
What are you doing here?
(to Jenny)
He can't be here.

He glances at Jenny, picks up Kari's shovel.

Robert stomps back toward the girls and Jimmy. He looks at Jenny, disgusted, blood still dripping down his face.

ROBERT
Shit! God dammit! I told you to
keep your mouth shut!

He strides toward her, but Jimmy steps in his way.

ROBERT
How fucking hard is that?!

JIMMY
Relax. I'm not gonna say a word.

ROBERT
Yeah? Well you better not, unless
you want a spot next to her.

Jimmy glares at Robert, then starts shoveling.

A strong wind blows, and dark clouds quickly move in.

The three of them dig. Kari wrings her hands, keeps looking nervously at the gate.

Bit by bit, the hole grows deeper and the clouds heavier. Finally a bit of the rug pokes through the dirt.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

A ceiling fan rattles as it turns, seemingly in slow motion. A few windows are open, a light breeze flowing through them.

They all sit around, completely quiet, staring into space with emotionless, dirt streaked faces.

Jimmy sits on a chair, with Jenny on the floor in front of him. He slowly strokes her hair, while she puffs on a cigarette - ashes two inches long, barely hanging on.

Lightening strikes outside, a drizzling rain begins.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

Kari gasps, quickly sits up, and then goes to peer through the peep hole.

Glen stands there, his head oddly shaped and cartoon-like through the tiny hole.

KARI
(frantic whisper)
It's Glen.

Jenny doesn't turn to look at her, leisurely lets out a big puff of smoke.

Jimmy goes to open the door, but Kari grabs his forearm.

KARI
(whisper)
What are you doing?

JIMMY
My car's in the fucking driveway.
What do you want me to do?

Kari and Robert share a quick glance. Kari steps back, hides behind the door as Jimmy opens it.

GLEN
Hey.

He sees Robert, now with a large bandage on his forehead wound, and Jimmy, both of them dirty and exhausted. His brow furrows.

JIMMY
Hey, what's up?

GLEN
Tree fell at the Wilson place. Pops
needs us to help out.

Jimmy glances at Jenny, but sees only the back of her head.

JIMMY
Shit. All right.

He steps away from the door, but leaves it open. Glen glances
around inside.

Behind the door, Kari wipes her filthy hands on the legs of
her shorts.

Jimmy kneels down by Jenny.

JIMMY
I gotta go. See ya later?

Jenny nods.

He kisses her on the cheek and stands. He turns to leave, but
she grabs his hand.

JENNY
Hey... thanks.

Jimmy gives her a weak smile.

GLEN
Where's your old lady?

JENNY
Dead.

Glen smirks, steps further inside.

GLEN
Kari around?

Jimmy tilts his head toward the door.

Kari steps out from behind it - dirt streaked face and filthy
shorts, a look of shame on her face.

Glen just stares at her, then at the others, all filthy and sweaty.

GLEN

All right... what the fuck's going on?

EXT. BACK YARD - SAME

Evelyn's body sits rolled up in the rug. Wind blows, pushes the rug away from her maggot infested face.

Above the trees, the sun sinks lower in the sky.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brows furrowed, Glen just stares at the others in shock.

GLEN

You killed her, accident or not... and now you're just gonna bury her... go on like nothing ever happened?

KARI

She was drunk. She went crazy. What are we supposed to do?

GLEN

I don't know, Kari, but damn.

KARI

I'm not going to any fucking foster home.

Kari tries to move closer to him, but he backs away like she's toxic.

GLEN

Jesus Christ.

He shakes, pale as a ghost, looks like he'll either faint or vomit. He nearly falls over, but grabs the back of a chair to steady himself.

The others stare at him in silence for several moments.

JIMMY
You all right?

GLEN
No. Shit... what do you think?

Glen swallows hard, shoulders slump in defeat.

JIMMY
Look, just go home, Glen. We don't
need you.

But Kari shoots him a pleading look.

GLEN
Shit...

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

They rush to the car and pop the trunk release.

INT. MRS. JAMESON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She peeks through the window, watches them. She can just barely make out the large heavy rug.

Jimmy and Glen carry it, shove it in the trunk. Robert tosses two shovels inside.

She picks up the phone, presses the POLICE speed dial button again.

INT. CAR - STILL - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy and Robert sit in the front seat, the others in the back.

He fumbles for the keys from his pocket, drops them on the floor. He scoops them up, but with hands shaking, he can't get it in the ignition.

Jimmy turns the engine over, but it sputters and coughs.

JIMMY
Dammit! God dammit!

He tries again. The starter whines.

JIMMY
Start you piece of shit!

The car cranks at last.

ACROSS THE STREET

Mrs. Jameson watches from her window, as Jimmy peels away in a cloud of dust and gravel.

MRS. JAMESON
(phone to her ear)
Yes. I just saw them.
(a pause)
Now you listen to me; I am not just
some crazy old woman...

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

The hole is dug. The kids are all out of breath.

Glen shines a flashlight inside the hole. The casket of Martin Davis (the kids' father) is exposed, veiled in a thin layer of dirt.

A car drives by the gated entrance, very slowly. They all watch as it disappears beyond the end of the fence.

A few moments of tense silence, then Jimmy throws his shovel on the ground and reaches for the rug.

JIMMY
Let's get this over with and get
the fuck outta here.

The sound of another car approaching, from the opposite direction.

They quickly pick up the rug. It's centered over the hole when suddenly they're all blinded by a bright spotlight.

ROBERT
Shit!

It's not just a car, but one with roof mounted lights - a police car.

JIMMY

Run!

They drop the body inside and take off running.

A few yards later, Glen stumbles over a grave marker and drops the flashlight.

Jenny runs headlong into a tall gravestone. She screams out in pain. Jimmy helps her up, wraps her arm around his shoulder.

She limps, keeps looking back over her shoulder.

They're out of breath and frantic, running over unfamiliar ground, in near total darkness.

Kari sobs, drops to her knees.

JENNY

Kari! Get up! Get up!

Glen stops, grabs her arm and yanks on her.

GLEN

Come on! We have to go!

KARI

No! I can't!
(sobbing)
I can't!

GLEN

Yes you can! Now get up!

He drags her to her feet, starts pulling her along, but she's just dead weight.

Another spotlight comes on in front of them, and they can see the rear fence of the cemetery.

They all stop running. Eyes dart around, searching for an escape route.

Two POLICE uniforms come into view, their faces blocked out by the light from their flashlights.

POLICEMAN #1

Stop right there.

The kids spread out, try to step away from them, but the shadowy outlines of more POLICEMEN come into view, all around them.

POLICEMAN #2

Nowhere to run. Just take it easy.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Tile floors, cinder block walls, everything white and dark gray, and maybe a little too sterile.

Jimmy and Jenny sit handcuffed in the hallway, on separate benches. Standing between them is a uniformed POLICE OFFICER.

Through large windows, they can see Glen, Robert, and Kari, each in an interrogation room.

TWO DETECTIVES, (40's), both in dark suits question Robert and Glen, while Kari sits alone, staring down at the table.

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

A crowd of POLICEMEN wander around the gravesite, now marked off with crime scene tape.

Two stand atop Martin's casket, and lift the rug with Evelyn's body out of the hole.

Another policeman carries a body bag over, lies it on the ground and a couple unroll the rug.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

A police car with flashing lights on sits near a tow truck.

It pulls away with Jimmy's car.

MONTAGE

Daytime - The house is still and silent.

Across the street, Mrs. Jameson stares out her window, just shakes her head.

In the backyard, several crows lay dead in and around the hole that Evelyn was first buried in.

In the living room, the family portrait is on the floor, face up, the glass shattered.

A clock ticks away on the white cinder block wall of the police station. It reads five 'til midnight.

IN ONE INTERROGATION ROOM --

KARI

It was an accident.

IN ANOTHER --

JENNY

Family? No. There's no one.

IN ANOTHER --

ROBERT

I tried to catch her but she just... slipped through my hands.

INT. POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Both detectives step out of the interrogation rooms at the same time. One tips his chin at the other, and they walk to the end of the hallway.

DETECTIVE #1

Stories all match up... it was an accident. The little one says they were afraid they'd be sent to foster homes.

DETECTIVE #2

Yeah. I almost feel sorry for 'em. I have to wonder though - what if she didn't just fall.

Detective #1 nods, deep in thought. He glances over his shoulder at the kids.

POLICEMAN #2
No way to prove it. It's their word
against... a dead body.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Vacant, yard overgrown, windows all boarded up.

A mini-van sits in the driveway. The front seats are occupied by a very domestic looking, middle aged COUPLE - the "accountant" Dad and the "soccer" Mom.

Kari, now with jet black hair, dark goth makeup, and Jenny stand --

OUTSIDE THE CAR

KARI
I miss this house sometimes, even
after... everything. And Rob, he
won't stop running away. I miss him
most of all, I think.

JENNY
Yeah... me too. But they'll find
him. They always do.

Kari nods, but looks like she doesn't really believe it.

EXT. BENEATH AN OVERPASS - DAY

The ground is littered with trash, lots of beer cans.

Robert lies atop an old, filthy tarp, on his stomach, head turned to the side. His clothes are grungy and torn.

His eyes stare straight ahead, He isn't moving or breathing - clearly dead. A cockroach crawls across the tarp and up his nose.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Kari and Jenny; still in the driveway.

KARI

Are you sure you're ready to do this? I mean, you don't have to... today. We can come back later.

JENNY

No. I just wanna get it over with. No more looking back.

KARI

Yeah. I can't...

Kari stares at the house.

KARI

I just can't go back in there.

Jenny takes her hand, squeezes it. She smiles and turns toward the house.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - DAY

Jenny pulls clothes out of the dresser, folds and tosses them into a suitcase on the bed.

INT. MINI-VAN (STILL) - DAY

In the backseat, Kari stares out of the window. She presses her hand against the glass and a single tear rolls down her cheek.

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny looks around at all the cobwebs. Dust covers everything. She pauses, stares for a moment at a small white jewelry box.

When she opens it, music plays and a tiny ballet dancer twirls around. A smile crosses her lips.

INT. DINING ROOM - FIVE YEARS EARLIER - DAY

A video camera zooms in on Jenny, (12). She sits at the table, a big smile on her face, birthday cake in front of her and balloons all around.

The musical jewelry box sits next to the cake.

The video camera pans to KARI, (9) and then ROBERT, (11), both smiling. Robert sticks a finger in the icing, and Evelyn taps his hand, giggles.

EVELYN

Uh uh... Not yet.

The video pans to Evelyn's face. Her hair is solid black, her skin softer, less wrinkled, and her expression much happier.

A man's hand reaches into the frame and lights the candles.

MARTIN (O.S.)

Okay... make a wish birthday girl.

Jenny squeezes her eyes together, then blows out the candles. Cheers and clapping all around.

They all start to sing Happy Birthday.

INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM - PRESENT DAY

Tears start to form in Jenny's eyes, but she fights them back. She snuffles, closes the jewelry box and tosses it onto the bed.

At the --

CLOSET

She steps inside, pulls the string of an overhead light. She eyes the clothes, and takes a few items from their hangers.

A small breeze, like breath against her hair.

Jenny gasps, spins around, clothes hugged tight against her chest.

Her eyes scan the room. It's still, totally quiet. She turns back to the clothes. A floor board CREAKS.

Jenny stops suddenly, the shirt in her hand half off the hanger. She swallows hard, slowly turns around.

The closet door slams with Jenny inside. She screams.

FADE OUT