

SCREAM

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TEASER

OVER BLACKNESS --

We drift over the undulating black water of a lake at night as a haunting version of "Bicycle Built For Two" plays.

WHISPERY VOICE

*Dai-sy, Dai-sy... give me your
answer do. I go crazy all for the
love of you...*

As the music fades out, the waves disappear. The screen is PURE BLACK. Then moving LIGHTS appear. Pixels. We are too close to make out an image in the glowing mosaic. But, then we PULL BACK, BACK, BACK until we can make out...

TWO GIRLS MAKING OUT. It's a handheld video shot from outside the window of a car looking in. They are passionate if a bit clumsy, unfamiliar with each other but enjoying the moment.

A PULLBACK reveals the video is playing on a smartphone screen.

A QUICK SERIES OF VARIOUS PHONE, TABLET AND COMPUTER SCREENS: As an Alice In Wonderland-style-bottle icon labeled "WATCH ME" pops up. A link. Teen fingers do just that. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK. And the sexy video starts playing again and again...

CUT TO:

INT. JENSEN HOUSE - AUDREY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

AUDREY JENSEN (16, more interesting-looking than pretty) is editing film footage on her computer. Her room is decorated steam-punk cool. French film posters. A collage-in-progress made up of Polaroids, clippings, etc... *

On screen, an IM appears from "ARKGUY98": "**Have you seen this?**" and the "WATCH ME" link appears beneath. Audrey CLICKS.

The video plays. At first, Audrey doesn't understand what she's watching, then... she pauses the video. The frozen frame reveals clearly that **she is one of the girls.**

Audrey's horrified. She turns to see a MAN with a pastor's collar standing in the doorway. He's seen the video. *Crap.* *

AUDREY

Dad? I'm sorry... *

He walks away. Off Audrey, mortified --

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PATTERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

A car pulls up outside a gorgeous modern house. The driver, TYLER O'NEILL (18, James Dean type), is mid-conversation with smoking-hot mean girl NINA PATTERSON (17), who's sipping from a bottle of something, tipsy --

NINA

...it's not cyberbullying, it's the time-honored enforcement of the teen food chain. The weak are outed. Then eaten.

TYLER

(grins)
You're a mean drunk.

NINA

Oh please. You agreed that video was just too good to trash.

Tyler leans in, nuzzling Nina. His hands roam over her body.

TYLER

Officer, she made me do it. She makes me do a lot of things...

Nina ignores him, clicking through a few social media sites on her smartphone.

NINA

Twitter's all over it. Facebook too.

TYLER

(as he kisses her)
Why don't you make me a drink while we break the internet? I know your parents are still out of town...

Nina responds for a moment then shrugs him off of her.

NINA

Yeahhhh... no.

TYLER

Come on... you always say that.

NINA

Ty, I've been there and I'm most definitely done with that.

Ouch. A dismissal. Nina opens the door and heads to her house. Tyler appears to take the rejection in stride but one last glance at his face shows that he's smoldering with rejection.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Nina enters and greets her tiny white-furred yappy dog, SAGE, with more enthusiasm than most humans ever get from her.

NINA
Sage, sweetie, yes, mama's back
from the trenches.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Nina glances at her bed but she's still too wired to sleep. She slinks out of her jeans. As she pulls off her shirt, we notice... *

THE RED LIGHT of her computer's WEB CAM IS ON.

CAMERA'S POV: Nina slides out of her underwear and bra. Though we only catch S&P-friendly glimpses, it is a sight worth hacking for.

Nina pulls on a sexy bikini and shrugs into a robe.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATE NIGHT

As she heads downstairs, Sage yapping at her feet, Nina hears a DING from her phone. Pulls it from her pocket.

She's received a Snapchat image from Tyler. She just catches a GLIMPSE of...

CLOSE ON PHONE: NINA IN LACY UNDIES, SLIDING HER JEANS OFF.
From moments before.

Nina frowns. *WTF?* Then the image is gone.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT

Nina mixes a vodka-tonic. Her phone DINGS again. It's another Snapchat image -- NINA PULLING ON HER BIKINI.

NINA
(to herself)
Oh, Ty, you are skating on
restraining order lake.

She takes a sip of her drink and DING!, a text arrives from Tyler: "*Am I on thin ice?*"

Nina stops cold. *Did he hear her?* She looks around the house.

NINA (CONT'D)
(calls out)
Tyler? If you are in my house...

Pissed-off, Nina checks the alarm panel by the back door. All the lights are red. No doors open. No breaches.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - VARIOUS ROOMS - NIGHT

A HANDHELD SHOT shows Nina checking a few rooms: quiet living room with one timer-lit lamp on... den with shelves of daddy's law books... mud room with coats on hooks and golf clubs.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT

Nina re-enters the kitchen. Not scared. Almost amused.

NINA
(calls out)
Sage is a trained attack Maltese.
She will gut you on command, Ty.

She hears another DING from her phone. Gets another Snapchat image: *it shows her checking the security panel*. That's when Nina notices the glowing RED LIGHT on the webcam of the desktop computer at the kitchen's office nook.

She grins as she figures out the game. She thinks...

A text arrives from Tyler: *"Shouldn't you be carrying a butcher knife and showing more cleavage by now?"*

Nina walks to the webcam, smiles suggestively and bends low to give the camera the benefit of her cleavage.

NINA (CONT'D)
That's as close as you're getting
tonight, hacker boy.

And Nina SNAPS the web cam off.

EXT. PATTERSON - BACK PATIO - LATE NIGHT

Nina emerges onto the patio and a MOTION-DETECTOR LIGHT clicks on. Nina nudges Sage back inside with her foot. *

She shuts the door and walks toward the pool/spa area, the motion light clicking off behind her.

Nina presses buttons on the spa controls. The automatic cover slides off. Steam rises into the night as the tub quietly bubbles to life. Nina untangles some EARBUDS on her MP3 player, about to get in when --

The motion light by the house CLICKS ON again. Nina stops, looks back to the house, but sees no one in the light.

NINA
Tyler..?

A beat. Silence.

The light clicks off, casting that area back into darkness. Nina looks a little disappointed. She grabs her phone. Types.

CLOSE ON WHAT SHE TYPED ON SCREEN: "*Was that you?*"

A moment later, a reply DING: "*Maybe. Is this a booty text?*"

Nina grins. Types: "*I may have underestimated you.*"

Nina arches her neck as she lets her robe drop. Wowza.

DING. "*You're beautiful.*"

Nina types: "*Then get over here and do something about it.*"

Nina lowers herself into the water and lets out a satisfied SIGH. Sets her phone down on the patio. Waits.

Inside, her dog begins BARKING. The motion light again CLICKS ON by the house, Nina looks up just as... *

Something THUMPS onto the patio and ROLLS, ROLLS, ROLLS toward her until it falls into the hot tub.

Nina only caught a glimpse, but it was... *it couldn't be...*

As she feels in the water and pulls the object out, REVEAL:

IT'S TYLER'S SEVERED HEAD.

Nina SCREAMS.

The motion detector light is SMASHED by someone unseen and shards of glass rain onto the patio...

Nearly hyperventilating with panic, Nina scrambles out, banging her knee sharply on the lip of the hot tub.

Sage is still inside, BARKING FURIOUSLY.

Nina's eyes scan the darkness as she fumbles for her phone, desperately trying to tap 9-1-1 with wet fingers. No luck.

Finally, she holds the main button down on her smart phone, initiating voice-activated commands.

NINA (CONT'D)
(frantic, whispering)
Call 911.

The Siri-style APP responds obediently.

SMART PHONE
Calling Pottery Barn.

Nina curses under her breath. Drops the phone. She runs to the sliding door leading back into the house. Tries to open it, but it's locked. It's dark. She's terrified.

Sage stares at her through the glass, BARKING a warning.

Nina looks up and just catches a glimpse -- reflected in the glass door -- of a *FIGURE with a wicked-sharp CURVED BLADE.*

Her body jerks violently. And then he's gone.

A FLASH CUT TO BEHIND NINA: Shows that she's been slashed horizontally across the back. A split second later, blood SHEETS down from the red line. Nina SCREAMS in agony...

She spins to face her attacker but he's gone. Nina runs as fast as she can to the back gate, slipping on the wet cement and her own blood. Almost going down. *

She fumbles at the back gate's handle but it's locked. Then she hears her phone RING. Nina turns and zeroes in on the lit screen on the cement patio twenty yards away...

Looking around, trying to sense where *he* is, she BOLTS for the phone. Picks it up. Her finger is finally dry enough for her to slide the "answer" bar and raise it to her ear.

VOICE ON PHONE *
I told you to get a knife. *

We hear the gravelly voice in stereo because he's *RIGHT THERE.* He plunges his knife into her. Nina GASPS. *

And the soundtrack goes SILENT as the screen goes BLACK. The darkness is ominous. Humming with a low BASS NOTE OF DREAD. *
Then a soft BUMPING noise fades up, almost like a heartbeat... *

ON EACH BEAT, AN IMAGE APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS: *

- Nina's discarded earbuds, still playing a tinny tune. *
- Sage pawing at the glass door and whining. *
- The smartphone's home screen... a gorgeous smiling Nina. *
- And finally we discover the source of the bumping sound... TYLER'S HEAD spins in an eddy created by the jets, bumping rhythmically against the side of the hot tub. *

Out of the darkness, Nina stumbles across the cement weakly, desperate to escape. Nina finds herself teetering at the edge of the pool. A soft FOOTSTEP behind her. She turns just as a perimeter motion detector light CLICKS ON: *

NINA'S POV: The killer is perfectly silhouetted by the glaring light behind him. A pitch black angel of death. *

NINA *
Please, don't-- *

The curved blade SLASHES across her throat with samurai speed. *
BLOOD SPLATS on the cement as Nina's body falls into the pool. *

Her arms, legs and hair splay out angelically as blood spreads *
from her like a rosy halo... *

CLOSE ON THE WATER'S SURFACE as the bloody waves begin to die *
down... eventually revealing a chilling reflection: *

The KILLER stares, his elongated visage -- reminiscent of *
Edward Munch's THE SCREAM -- at first seeming to be a trick of *
the watery reflection. *

But then we realize it's his face. *A mask made of flesh.* *

CUT TO: *

OVER BLACKNESS: A title card. *

"SCREAM" *

END OF TEASER *

ACT ONE

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - EMMA'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

EMMA DUVAL, 16, is fresh from the shower as she pulls on clothes. With no makeup, she's beautiful in a delicate, easy-to-break way. But she doesn't break easy.

Her phone BUZZES. She answers.

EMMA (INTO PHONE)

Hello?

CREEPY VOICE

I'm at your front door.

Is our killer at work again already?

Emma looks out her window and sees her tall, athletic boyfriend, WILL BELMONT (16), on the front stoop.

EMMA (INTO PHONE)

Just keep it down. If you wake my mom, she'll kill us both.

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Early-morning cram session. Emma and Will are hunched over textbooks. But, he's distracted... keeps trying to kiss her.

WILL

Damn your hair smells good. What is that? Passionfruit?

*

EMMA

Mango. And this delightful wood pulp smelling-thing is your *calculus book*.

WILL

Why do I have to pass calculus to play basketball so I can get a scholarship to take more calculus?

(beat)

Maybe I *should* just go into business with my dad.

EMMA

Heating and cooling is an honorable profession.

WILL

But...

EMMA

Will, you deserve a choice in life. Basketball gives you one.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)
(pretending to realize)
Wait... what am I saying? I could
have my boyfriend back this season?
Forget basketball.

Happy again, Will pulls her onto his lap.

WILL
Too late. Pep talk administered.
(stares into her eyes)
Boyfriend stunned by his good
fortune.

Will kisses Emma. She kisses him back. *These two are in love.*

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Will has left. Now ready for school, Emma sips coffee and opens her laptop, bringing up her FACEBOOK page. One post marked "*Not Safe For School!*" has an attached video link. Emma clicks it, but receives a message that the video is no longer available. *

But the string of callous, cyber-bullying COMMENTS are still there ("*Audrey's a les-beeyotch!*", "*Tongue: It's what's for breakfast.*", "*That's why I couldn't hit that!*").

Emma looks upset for reasons we'll soon understand.

WOMAN'S VOICE
Is that the video where the lab
beagles see grass for the first
time?

Emma's so caught up she didn't hear her mom, MAGGIE, 41, enter. Dressed in jeans and a sweater, Maggie's beautiful and whip-smart but a little bleary as she squints at the screen.

EMMA
Huh? No.
(dismissive)
Just somebody over-sharing.

Maggie nods, pours herself coffee and opens the newspaper.

MAGGIE
Was that Will I heard?

EMMA
Yeah. We crammed for a half hour
before his morning run.

MAGGIE
You guys have way too much energy
to be real teenagers.

Emma sits across from her mom in "koffee klatch" mode.

EMMA

So... how's Clark?

MAGGIE

That's Sheriff Hudson to you. Kids today... no respect.

EMMA

Mom, he drove to Milbrook to buy you your favorite croissant.

MAGGIE

He was already going there to file--
(puts paper down)
What are you getting at?

EMMA

Newsflash! He likes you and he's really cute. For an old guy...

MAGGIE

Emma... we work together.

End of story. Maggie snaps her paper, raises it again. Emma weighs her next comment, not sure if she should venture but...

EMMA

Just as long as this isn't about dad. Cause that would be some seriously misplaced loyalty.

Behind the paper, we see Maggie react, but she keeps it hidden.

MAGGIE

It's not.
(brisk)
Get your stuff. Let's go.

Emma realizes she may have gone too far but doesn't want to make matters worse. She shrugs into her jacket.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Lakewood High School is a classic early 20th century, brick-built fortress. Well-maintained. Lots of trees. Idyllic-ish.

Other kids smile and greet Emma as she walks up. She's popular. But then her eyes are drawn to a car pulling up. *

Audrey steps out of the car amidst scattered LAUGHTER. It's clear *everyone has seen the video*. Her grim-faced dad, Pastor HOWARD JENSEN (40's), drives away... *

Audrey tries to ignore the crowd. Emma is sympathetic but doesn't say anything as Audrey walks past her.

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH - LOCKER HALLWAY - MORNING

As she walks to her locker, Audrey uses a Polaroid camera to shoot anyone who stares at her too long. *The best defense...*

Suddenly, NOAH FOSTER (16) is there. He's the off-kilter-cute dork who's smart and creative enough to be an internet billionaire someday. Teen John Cusack meets Steve Jobs.

NOAH

Looks like you picked the wrong week to try girls.

Noah's joking to try to ease the tension but he sees Audrey's barely holding it together.

AUDREY

I don't think I'm gonna make it through this day.

NOAH

Come on. You love "Taco Tuesday."

AUDREY

Can I just fold myself up and hide in your pocket?

NOAH

It'd just be you and a couple fuzzy Fisherman's Friends.
(realizing)
Wow... that sounded dirty.

Audrey smiles. Noah's relieved, drapes an arm around her.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Screw them.
(to a passing looky-loo)
Screw you!

As Audrey and Noah pass, we stay on a GROUP of kids gathered a little further down at another bank of lockers.

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH - BROOKE'S LOCKER - DAY

BROOKE MADDOX (16) is the high-gloss queen bee who thinks she's nice. The world's just reading her wrong.

BROOKE

(re: Audrey)
I can't believe she showed up.

Reveal the group includes Emma and Will.

WILL

She's got balls.

EMMA

I thought we all agreed to trash
that video.

"All" includes Will's well-muscled joker of a wing man, JAKE
FITZGERALD (16) and RILEY MARRA (16), a gorgeous "ditz" who may
be deeper than she first appears.

JAKE

I did... after I sent it to P.J.
Girl-on-girl's his demographic.

RILEY

Sorry. Zoey saw it on my phone...

*

EMMA

Do you even understand the term
"viral?"

BROOKE

Emma, sweetie, this is not worth a
hissy fit.

EMMA

I don't see Nina anywhere... I bet
she did the wide release.

BROOKE

Of course it was Nina. She's a
spoiled sociopath with no impulse
control. She's probably ditching to
avoid your good-girl wrath.

(re: Audrey)

Your little friend will survive.

EMMA

We're not really friends anymore.
It just... didn't *need* to happen.

RILEY

What's the big deal? Give it 24
hours. Somebody will text and drive
their Prius into a tree and we'll
have a new headline.

EMMA

You didn't see the look on her
dad's face.

JAKE

You kidding? Pastor's gonna get
sermons for weeks off this.

BROOKE

Yeah. And maybe Audrey will Taylor
Swift her pain into angry creative
energy for one of her little *films*.

Brooke reads an incoming text and grins. She gives a little wave goodbye and takes off down the hall. Jake and Riley head in the opposite direction. Will lingers with Emma.

EMMA

(softly, sarcastic)

Wow, sounds like it's the best thing to ever happen to Audrey.

Will pulls Emma into a shadowy corner by the lockers.

WILL

Hey, you're right. This didn't need to happen but we can't take it back now. Audrey's tough. She'll be ok.

Before Emma can respond, the LOUDSPEAKER squeals:

*

PRINCIPAL SHOWALTER (ON PA)

Good morning. This is Principal Showalter. I'd like all students to report to the gym for a first period assembly.

*

Everyone looks up at this, curious. What's going on?

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - MORNING

The student body is gathered. The principal, DIANE SHOWALTER (40's with hip highlights and trendy boots), prides herself on being approachable but is currently in "stern lecture" mode.

PRINCIPAL SHOWALTER

In 2013, People Magazine voted Lakewood High one of the finest high schools in America. But, I fear someone in our student body has tarnished that reputation with a selfish and cruel act.

A state-approved power point presentation plays on the big screen behind her. In large letters, the word "BULLYING" appears. In smaller letters are categories: "CYBER-BULLYING CLASSROOM, EXTRACURRICULAR"

PRINCIPAL SHOWALTER (CONT'D)

It's come to my attention that a certain video was circulated anonymously last night...

CLOSE ON: Audrey sitting with Noah amidst the artsy crowd. Her face falls as she realizes that this assembly *is about her*.

AUDREY

Could this day get any worse?

Noah looks around as everyone's gaze zeroes in on Audrey.

NOAH

Well you've definitely given up the perks of being a wallflower.

(beat)

Tell me what I can do to help.

*
*

AUDREY

Can you shut the video down?

*

NOAH

It's already gone. Probably flagged for content. I tried tracing the e-mail from the link but it's just a dummy account.

(beat)

You think the other girl posted it?

*
*
*
*
*
*

AUDREY

Rachel's no exhibitionist.

*
*

NOAH

Is she-- Are you guys *together*?

*
*

Noah and Audrey have been friends forever but her interest in girls is news to him.

*
*

AUDREY

No. It was just a... thing.

*
*

Audrey can't handle the weight of everyone's stares. She grabs her backpack and leaves. Noah watches her go, concerned.

*
*

PRINCIPAL SHOWALTER

...when the perpetrator is caught, there will be serious consequences. I will not tolerate this kind of bullying in my school.

ANGLE ON WILL, JAKE, EMMA AND RILEY (NOTE: Brooke's absent): Will and Jake exchange guilty looks at the principal's threat. But, Emma is distracted, watching Audrey leave.

*
*

EXT. LAKEWOOD HIGH - DAY

*

Audrey SLAMS out the doors. It's eerily quiet outside. Then she notices a white Range Rover in the corner of the parking lot; *it's rocking slightly*. Audrey sees a couple fucking on the reclined front seat. Teenage girl on top of late-20's guy. Audrey takes a moment to appreciate the irony--

*

THROUGH THE CAR WINDOW: The girl pauses -- mid-fuck -- and meets Audrey's gaze. *It's Brooke*. Audrey looks embarrassed -- caught peeking -- but Brooke just gives a curious smile then gets back to the business at hand.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH - LANGUAGE ARTS CLASS - DAY

The teacher's back is to the camera as he writes on the chalkboard -- "**The Castle Of Otranto. The Monk. The Woman In White.**" -- and speaks to his class, which includes Brooke, Emma, Riley, Will, Jake and Noah.

MR. BRANSON

Cavemen made fires. Those fires
cast shadows. Those shadows created
fear. Man has been obsessed with
scaring each other ever since.

CLOSE ON A SMOKING-HOT GUY in the back row as he stares out the window. Intense eyes. Smoldering Taylor Kitsch appeal. This is KIERAN WILCOX (16). *

BROOKE (O.C.)

His name's Kieran Wilcox. He just
moved here from Atlanta.

Reveal Brooke whispering to Emma and Riley, clearly intrigued by the hot newcomer. Will and Jake sit nearby.

JAKE

(to Brooke)
Thought you weren't interested in
high school guys.

BROOKE

No. That was just you.

Jake laughs it off in front of the others, but Brooke's cut STINGS. He doesn't like it.

EMMA

(to Brooke)
We missed you at the assembly.

BROOKE

It's cool. I was helping a teacher.

MR. BRANSON (O.S.)

Brooke.

Brooke looks up at the teacher, and his face is REVEALED for the first time. *He's the guy Brooke was fucking in the parking lot, SETH, 27.* Or, as he's known to students, MR. BRANSON.

MR. BRANSON (CONT'D)

Which genre originated with the
"Castle Of Otranto?" *

BROOKE

(shrugs)
The castle genre?

Mr. Branson has an easy Paul Rudd charm but Brooke gets under his skin. He stares her down, but she just stares back.

KIERAN
The gothic genre.

Kieran's voice breaks the tension. *

MR. BRANSON
That's right.

Mr. Branson notices everyone's attention is drifting. He leans against his desk, slipping into "cool teacher" mode.

MR. BRANSON (CONT'D)
Guys, I get it. You don't want to read 500 dusty pages about monks and curses. But no one's forcing you to watch "The Walking Dead."

JAKE
(hopeful)
Is "Walking Dead" on the midterm?

EMMA
Zombies aren't literature.

KIERAN
Why not?

Emma turns to look at Kieran. His gorgeous eyes aren't laughing at her but Emma can't hold his gaze. He's strangely disarming. *

KIERAN (CONT'D)
Horace Walpole or George Romero.
It's all the same bones.

Mr. Branson LAUGHS. He loves where this is going.

MR. BRANSON
Or the same rotting flesh. He's right. The gothic genre is all over tv right now. "American Horror Story", "Hannibal", "Bates Motel."

JAKE
What about "Texas Chainsaw" or "Halloween?" Where's that tv series?

NOAH
You can't do a slasher movie as a tv series.

Noah's tone is confident. Definitive. Everyone turns to him. Mr. Branson motions for Noah to continue...

NOAH (CONT'D)

Think about it. Girl and her friends arrive at the dance, the camp, the deserted town, *whatever*. Killer-with-a-gimmick takes them out one-by-one. Ninety minutes later, the sun comes up as the girl sits in the back of the ambulance watching her friends bodies being wheeled past. Roll credits.

CUT TO:

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

A key CLICKS in the lock and the front door opens. Nina's affluent 40-something parents, GREG and TRACY PATTERSON enter.

NOAH (V.O.)

Slasher movies burn bright and fast.

Sage YAPS a greeting. Greg props a roller suitcase near the door and glances through mail as Tracy heads for the kitchen.

INT. PATTERSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tracy flips lights on, checks her basil plant in the window.

NOAH (V.O.)

TV needs to stretch things out.

Sage continues to YAP frantically at Tracy's feet as Greg enters. Tracy adds a little water to her plant then glances out the window. Notices that the cover is off the hot tub.

Tracy frowns as she opens the sliding door and they go outside. Sage follows, his YAPPING increasing in volume.

EXT. PATTERSON HOUSE - BACK PATIO - DAY

Greg and Tracy follow a trail. *Broken glass... Nina's robe...* *

NOAH (V.O.)

By the time the first body's found... *

The trail ends at the pool where they see... THEIR DAUGHTER'S BODY FLOATING IN the BLOOD-RED WATER.

NOAH (V.O.)

...all hell breaks loose.

Tracy's piercing SCREAM breaks the suburban silence.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. PATTERSON HOUSE - BACK PATIO - DAY

COPS and FORENSIC TECHS work the scene. Maggie -- the town's medical examiner -- looks over Nina's body, now lying poolside.

SHERIFF CLARK HUDSON (40's), as stoic and handsome as Tom Skerritt in his prime, bends down to where Maggie is working.

SHERIFF HUDSON

What do we got, Maggie?

MAGGIE

She died of blood loss from multiple stab wounds. Body temp and rigor indicate it was between 10 pm and 2 am Monday night. *

SHERIFF HUDSON

Neighbor said he saw her ex-boyfriend's car out front around 11. Guy named Tyler O'Neill. He's got a juvie record.

MAGGIE

(still a bit stunned)
My daughter knows both of them...

Near the hot tub, a CSI TECH puts Nina's robe in a plastic bag. *

ANGLE ON THE HOT TUB: The water is still bubbling. The cover is now half-closed. The Tech notices a round OBJECT wedged in the shadows under the cover's edge. Hard to tell what it is...

ANGLE ON SHERIFF AND MAGGIE:

SHERIFF HUDSON

We found two half-empty vodka-tonics on the kitchen counter.

MAGGIE

Have you talked to Tyler?

SHERIFF HUDSON

We can't find him. His foster parents haven't seen him since Monday morning.

Maggie reacts -- *well hell*. Doesn't look good for Tyler...

SHERIFF HUDSON (CONT'D)

We'll piece it together. Her cell phone's missing so I'm gonna get a court order to access her calls and text messages from the server.

(MORE)

SCREAM - Blotevogel 19.

SHERIFF HUDSON (CONT'D)

(beat)

GPS on Tyler's phone was disabled. *

MAGGIE

Doesn't mean anything. They all
yank that card.

ANGLE ON THE HOT TUB: The curious TECH leans across the hot tub, reaching under the cover for the mystery object that the mischievous jets seem to be keeping just out of his reach.

SHERIFF HUDSON

I got an APB out. We'll find him.

Just as the TECH's fingers brush the object, the jets CUT OFF abruptly. He almost overbalances as he grabs the object--

And we REVEAL it's a VOLLEYBALL.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

There is a hushed air of disbelief among the teachers but the students chatter like magpies. Nina's death is big news.

PRINCIPAL SHOWALTER (ON PA)

Nina's death is a great shock.
Once you've seen the grief
counselor, you are free to return
home. Classes will resume tomorrow.

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - OUTER OFFICE - DAY

A SECRETARY is at her desk, pencil SCRATCHING on paper. A door opens and Principal Showalter leads a crying GIRL out of the office past Emma, Noah, Kieran and Jake, who's on his phone. *

JAKE *

This wi-fi sucks. No one's got any
details. *

NOAH *

Why exactly do we have to be here?

Emma's unsettled, but not devastated. No one really liked Nina.

EMMA

That's the mandatory part of
mandatory grief counselling.

KIERAN

I never even met the girl.

NOAH

Lucky you. *

EMMA

It just doesn't seem real.

Jake sits up excitedly, eyes glued to his phone. He's got news.

JAKE

One of Nina's neighbors peeked over
the fence. He tweeted that she had
her throat sliced ear to ear.

(suggestive)

Maybe Brandon James is back...

*

*

Emma reacts -- disturbed by the idea. Noah sees Emma's reaction
and gives Jake a "shut up" look. Even the secretary looks up.
Kieran is the only one who doesn't get the reference.

KIERAN

Who's Brandon James?

EMMA

It doesn't matter. He's dead.

Emma's outburst is a little louder than she meant it to be. The
inner office door opens SUDDENLY, letting Principal Showalter
witness the awkward post-outburst silence.

*

PRINCIPAL SHOWALTER

Emma. You wanna come on in?

Emma goes through the door into the inner office.

KIERAN

What the hell was that about?

NOAH

Brandon James killed a bunch of
students twenty-five years ago. Cut
some others up...

Noah pulls up a haunting photo on his smartphone.

*

CLOSE ON THE SCREEN: A BLURRED IMAGE of a TEEN BOY'S FACE, his
features stretched grotesquely tall in totem-pole dimensions.

*

*

NOAH (CONT'D)

Emma's dad was one of the victims.
He almost died.

KIERAN

You're making this up.

NOAH

Guillermo Del Toro couldn't make
this up.

*

(re: photo)

*

He had "Proteus Syndrome" like the
Elephant Man.

*

(MORE)

NOAH (CONT'D)

People say he was born a monster
but I think he was bullied and
beaten into one.

*
*
*

KIERAN

How do you know all this?

NOAH

Some guys like sports. I like
serial killers. And Brandon James
is my Dallas Cowboys.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK (1990)

A 90's-era sitcom blares on an old console tv in this basement full of junk. Reveal from behind, A TEEN BOY WITH TOUSLED LONG HAIR sits on a well-worn couch staring at the tv.

*

NOAH (V.O.)

They kept him in the basement. Mom
home-schooled him. Dad tried to
beat the devil out of him.

*
*
*

(NOTE: We never see Brandon's face in these flashbacks, which should have a Tim Burton feel. Colors are too bright. Images distorted. A twisted peek into a circus-freak life.)

NOAH (V.O.)

His older brother, Troy, was the
only one who cared about him. He
made him this hat with a mask so he
could walk the streets... sneak
into movies... be a real boy.

As the CAP is pulled on, drape dropping to cover a face we never quite get a good look at...

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Jake has been called into the inner office. It's just Noah telling Kieran the rest of the story.

KIERAN

What made him start killing people?

NOAH

Rumor is he fell in love.

A GUTTURAL VOICE hums "Bicycle Built For Two" over...

INT. JAMES HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY - FLASHBACK (1990)

CLOSE ON: A Polaroid shot of a beautiful 15-year-old GIRL. The angle indicates she wasn't aware her picture was being taken.

NOAH (V.O.)

Nobody knows who she was but his brother said that Brandon was obsessed. Wrote her anonymous love letters, made her little carvings.

CLOSE ON HIS HANDS: Brandon's using a small curved knife to carve a heart out of a chunk of wood. *
*

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - FLASHBACK (1990)

Halloween decorations adorn the lockers. Music BLARES from the dance going on in the school gym at the end of the hallway.

NOAH (V.O.)

Finally, he asked her to meet him at the Halloween Dance.

In an MOS sequence, THE GIRL -- dressed funky-cool ala Madonna -- approaches BRANDON dressed as a hobo, complete with cap and mask. There is shyness. Laughter. A connection. *Then it's time.*

From behind, we see Brandon lift his mask and the GIRL SCREAMS.

NOAH (V.O.)

She... freaked out. *

QUICK CUTS SHOW: A bunch of JOCKS discover Brandon running after the girl. From their POV, it looks like he's trying to hurt her. The JOCKS grab Brandon. When they can't pull his "mask" off, Brandon lashes out. A JOCK punches Brandon. Then another. Again. Brandon falls to the ground and they kick him.

NOAH (V.O.)

These jocks beat the crap out of him. He barely limped home. Police think it was the last straw, that something in him snapped...

(beat)

Then the killing began.

Over blackness, we hear the distant ECHO of SCREAMS and a knife blade WHISTLING through the air and THUNKING into flesh.

EXT. WREN LAKE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (1990)

Quiet except for the crickets CHIRRUPING. (Unlike the other flashbacks, this scene is realistic, like a memory.)

NOAH (V.O.)

The manhunt ended the next night at Wren Lake. He asked the girl to meet him one more time. *

CREEPY POV: The GIRL stands alone at the end of a dock. A FIGURE approaches her, curved blade GLEAMING in his hand. *

BRANDON

I never meant for this to happen.

Brandon's voice is a low guttural whisper. Chilling. She turns. His face hidden by the draped hat, Brandon is covered in blood. His gait is uneven. Things have gone terribly terribly wrong...

THE GIRL

You should... turn yourself in.
Don't hurt anyone else...

The girl's scared but there's compassion in her voice too.

Brandon moves closer. The girl freezes up. He realizes she's staring at the curved blade in his hand. He drops it.

BRANDON

I'm not a monster, Daisy.

So her name is *Daisy*. Brandon puts the CARVED HEART he made into her hand as he leans in, WHISPERS in her ear.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

I just wanted to feel something
real.

A split-second later, an EXIT WOUND BLOOMS in Brandon's chest, *the gunshot propelling him off the dock into the water...*

SPLASH! A moment later, the CRACK of the sniper rifle's report sounds. The GIRL SCREAMS.

Tears streak her cheeks as POLICEMEN come out of the woods, running up to her. Strobing flashlight BEAMS search the water.

AS WE GO IN CLOSE ON DAISY'S HAUNTED EYES...

MATCH CUT TO:

... THOSE SAME EYES ALL GROWN UP

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Reveal that those eyes are *Maggie's*.

She takes a wooden keepsake box from a high shelf and opens it. Maggie pulls out the wooden heart necklace. Her name -- "*Daisy*" (*a nickname for Margaret*) -- carved into the back.

She's remembering that night because *she was there*.

Maggie Duval is the girl Brandon James loved.

And she's still haunted...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

School's back in session. Almost but not quite business as usual. Will's at his locker when Jake approaches, nervous. *

JAKE

Hey. So I'm thinking of cleaning up my desktop. Taking out some trash. *

Disturbed, Will looks around but no one's close enough to hear. *

WILL

You were supposed to do that a long time ago. *

JAKE

Well, I didn't. So sue me. *

WILL

This isn't about getting suspended. *Nina's dead*. You want to wear an orange jumpsuit the rest of your life? Fine. *

Now we see that Jake is more than nervous; he's scared.

JAKE

I screwed up and I need your help. Must be a day with an "a" in it...

Will gives a ghost of a smile. Jake returns it.

WILL

(reassuring)
We'll fix this.

Will SLAMS his locker and they walk off together.

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - MORNING

Sheriff Hudson and Maggie are finishing the autopsy briefing.

MAGGIE

She had a blood alcohol level of .042. Tipsy but not motor impaired. *

SHERIFF HUDSON

Add that to one missing boyfriend and no sign of forced entry. Points to a crime of passion. *

Maggie reacts almost imperceptibly. Sheriff notices. *

SHERIFF HUDSON (CONT'D)

You don't agree? *

MAGGIE
Crime of passion... your stab
wounds are usually clustered...

Maggie points out the slash across Nina's back...

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
This wound is shallow. Almost like
a fencer drawing first blood.

SHERIFF HUDSON
Like he was *toying* with her?

MAGGIE
It just reminded me of...

SHERIFF HUDSON
Brandon James?
(off her surprise)
I'm not a local but I know the
case. Think there's a connection?

Suddenly, Maggie feels ridiculous. Shakes her head.

MAGGIE
No. I think you're right. They
probably had drinks... Tyler wanted
sex... Nina didn't...

SHERIFF HUDSON
It is the simplest explanation.

But, it's clear the sheriff still has doubts. Maggie feels the
same way but she wants to believe -- she *needs* to believe --
that it was a simple teenage spat gone horribly wrong.

MAGGIE
This town needs to hear from you.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A TV SCREEN: Where Sheriff Hudson speaks.

SHERIFF HUDSON (ON TV)
At this point, we are still seeking
Ms. Patterson's ex-boyfriend, Tyler
O'Neill for questioning. If anyone
has any information, please call
the hotline number on the screen.

And then the screen cuts to a talk show already in progress...

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

After-school study time. The LIBRARIAN uses a remote to turn
off the tv and the students who had been watching the sheriff's
report return to their tables.

ANGLE ON: Brooke, Riley, Emma, Will and Jake are gathered at a table with books and notebooks, pretending to study.

RILEY
So Tyler did it? For reals?

JAKE
You think you know a guy...

WILL
Nobody really knew him. He only lived with the McKenzie's for a year.

Brooke looks up from her Ipad, where she's filling out an online order form for a liquor delivery.

BROOKE
Is one keg gonna be enough?

EMMA
You really think a party's a good idea tonight?

BROOKE
It's a *prayer vigil*. With beer. *

Jake's zoning a bit; seems like he might be high on something.

JAKE
So Em... your mom's tight with the sheriff, right? Do you know if they found Nina's phone? *

Jake's tone is casual but he exchanges a look with Will, who shakes his head slightly. *Don't go there.*

EMMA
My mom just handles the autopsy. *

BROOKE
I'm sure Nina trashed the video after she sent it out. She was psycho not stupid. *

RILEY
I can't believe Nina's just a body now. *

JAKE
Kinda always was just a body. But, top shelf all the way.

EMMA
Hey, show some respect.

JAKE

I have extreme respect. So did the rest of the basketball team. Most of the football team. Several lacrosse players...

BROOKE

And I'm sure the sheriff is going to question every one of them.

(beat)

Where were you Monday night, Jake?

Jake can't hide a brief flicker of panic but he covers quickly.

JAKE

Yeah... funny. If the suspect list is everyone Nina nailed, least I'll be in good company...

Too high to be discreet, Jake gives Will a conspirator's grin. Brooke notices but Emma misses the exchange. She is staring at... AUDREY, who's exiting the library.

EMMA

I'll be right back.

Emma follows Audrey outside.

EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Emma runs to catch up with Audrey before she can reach the car where Pastor Jensen is waiting. *

EMMA

Hey. Audrey. *

Audrey's surprised. She stops and turns but doesn't greet Emma. *

EMMA (CONT'D)

Do you wanna come to a party tonight?

AUDREY

Whose party?

EMMA

It's at Brooke's house. Out by the lake. It's no big deal.

AUDREY

I'm kinda grounded. There was this video...

(awkward silence)

It's okay. You saw it. Everyone saw it. I know...

EMMA

Well anyway... it starts around
nine. You can bring a friend.
(heads back inside)
I gotta go.

AUDREY

Yeah. Me too.
(awkward; re: her dad)
Lord Voldemort's waiting...

Audrey can't believe she said that. *Dork.* As Emma goes back
inside the school, Audrey gets into the car with her dad. *

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Branson is grading papers when Brooke knocks on the door.

BROOKE

You wanted to see me, Mr. Branson?

MR. BRANSON

Brooke, hi, I know this week must
be rough. How you holding up? *

BROOKE *

I'm devastated, of course. *

MR. BRANSON

Right. Well, with the investigation
and all, I feel we should...
discontinue our "study sessions." *

He's talking about the sex, of course.

BROOKE

Okay.

Mr. Branson's a little thrown by her cheerful acceptance.
Brooke starts to leave then turns back at the last moment.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

But... what exactly should I do
when you call me on Saturday night
after a few Dewars and Coke and ask
me if I'm wearing underwear.

Mr. Branson closes the open door and turns to Brooke.

MR. BRANSON

Brooke, this cannot end well.

BROOKE

The answer is I'm not wearing any. *

Brooke is ferociously sexy as she eases her skirt up and places
his hand on her thigh. Mr. Branson can't resist. He kisses her. *

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emma is sprawled on the couch studying when she hears a soft KNOCK on the front door. She gets up and reaches out to open the door. Pauses. Checks the peephole. Doesn't see anyone.

EXT. DUVAL HOUSE - NIGHT

Emma opens the door. No one's there. A creepy moment as Emma scans the street. *Is someone watching?*

EMMA

Hello?

And then she sees, at her feet... a SMALL BOX wrapped in brown paper and tied with a string. It's addressed to "Daisy."

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emma brings the package inside, where Maggie's now waiting. *

MAGGIE *

What's that? *

EMMA

Do we know anyone named Daisy?

Maggie tries to hide her shock. She takes the box and heads for the kitchen. Emma starts to follow, curious.

MAGGIE

Finish your homework if you want to go to Brooke's later. *

Emma reluctantly goes back to the couch. *

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Maggie stares at the box sitting on the counter. Finally, she takes a knife and cuts the string. Pulls the brown paper off. *

Inside, the flap has a few splatters of BLOOD on it. Maggie holds her breath as she pulls the flaps open and finds...

A PLASTIC BAG with a REAL HEART inside.

She drops the knife with a CLATTER and barely stifles a scream.

EMMA (O.S.)

You okay in there?

MAGGIE

I'm fine.

Off Maggie's face, anything but fine...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

*

EXT. WREN LAKE - BROOKE'S LAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

A party is on at a large modern compound situated on prime lake front real estate. Glass-walled house. Private beach. Pool, spa, firepit. Dozens of TEENS lounge around, drinking, smoking, nuzzling, texting selfies.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

With window-walls overlooking the lake, this gorgeous home is stylish but stark. Photos of Brooke's achievements -- ballet, horseback riding, world travel -- adorn the shelves.

SHOUTS and LAUGHTER are heard as Jake does shots with jocks and cheerleaders at the dining room table. Brooke and Emma sit together on the couch as Will leans over the back of the couch between them, too amped up to sit down.

EMMA

I promised my mom your dad would be here.

*

*

BROOKE

Sorry but Quinn has a lady friend in town. I have a party. He gets laid. It's the circle of life.

*

*

WILL

Parental sex... TMI...

BROOKE

(to antsy Will)
Sit down. You're like a purse dog.

WILL

There's a scout from Duke coming to the game tomorrow night.

*

EMMA

And he will be blown away...
tomorrow. So tonight... *relax*.

WILL

Make me.

*

*

Emma kisses Will. He pulls her up. Half-dances her around. It's less dance; more an excuse to hold her.

*

BROOKE

(to Will and Emma)
Both of you. Stop. I'd say get a room but I don't want to clean up--

*

Brooke stops abruptly. Emma follows her gaze to see:

ANGLE ON THE FRONT DOOR: Audrey walks in with Noah.

There's a pause in conversation, but then Brooke walks over and greets them easily, bubbly and seemingly-genuine.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Hey Audrey, hi... how's it going?

AUDREY
Good. Thanks. You know Noah...

Whether she does or not, Brooke gives Noah a sparkly smile.

BROOKE
There's drinks outside. Suits in
the cabana if you want to swim. *

JAKE
(to Audrey)
But suits are completely optional.

Half-drunk, Jake stares at Audrey suggestively. Other people are staring. A few are clueless. Audrey lifts her chin.

AUDREY
(for the clueless)
I'm the one who kissed a girl. Star
of the viral video, "Hey, look,
she's kissing a girl."

A few people LAUGH, appreciating Audrey's moxie. Audrey grabs a bottle of tequila from the bar and heads outside. Noah lingers.

NOAH
We'll be... outside.

Noah follows Audrey out. Jake approaches Will and Emma.

JAKE
(re: Audrey)
She's got tequila and something to
prove. I predict a live girl-on-
girl show before ten.

EMMA
Will you just leave her alone?

JAKE
I didn't drag her here.

BROOKE (O.S.)
She's here because Emma's trying to
make nice.

Reveal Brooke has joined them...

EMMA

You said I could invite anyone I wanted.

Emma faces off with Brooke, who just shrugs -- "of course."

Just then, Kieran arrives, looks around curiously, instantly at ease because he just doesn't give a fuck. Kieran's eyes are drawn to Emma. Will notices. He doesn't like it.

WILL

(to Emma)

Did you invite him too?

BROOKE

(as she spots Kieran)

No. This one's all me. *

Brooke moves to greet Kieran.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - POOL - NIGHT

Audrey has taken off her shoes and sits with her feet in the pool. She uses a tiny video camera to shoot the party.

The bottle of tequila sits untouched by her side.

EMMA (O.C.)

You want some limes and salt with that?

Audrey looks up and sees Emma slipping out of her sandals. She takes a seat beside her, slides her feet into the water.

AUDREY

I hate tequila.

EMMA

I know but it felt right for your Bette Davis walk-away.

Audrey LAUGHS before she can stop herself. Emma does too.

AUDREY

Right?!

EMMA

(re: video camera)

Getting anything good?

AUDREY

Free footage of "affluenza" at work? I'll never get production value like this again.

Audrey turns the camera on Emma, who shies away, LAUGHING.

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

Noah digs through a cooler of drinks. He looks up. Riley is there; this is his popular girl crush.

NOAH
(re: cooler)
What can I get ya?

RILEY
Just a diet whatever. *

He hands her a drink. She hesitates before leaving. Turns back.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Was your picture in the paper last week?

NOAH
Oh, yeah, my mom did that. I'm on the short list for an internship with Elon Musk.

RILEY
I love perfume.
(off Noah's look)
I'm kidding. Space X, right? You really think he's going to Mars?

Noah blinks. His dream girl speaks his language.

EXT. POOL - NIGHT

Back on Emma and Audrey...

EMMA
So who's the girl? How'd you meet her?

AUDREY
It was on this film geek website. Rachel made these webisodes about a zombie apocalypse using legos. Wicked funny... *

(beat)
She's cool but she hates the way she looks. *

EMMA
Sounds like us in 8th grade.

AUDREY
Yeah. Then you got pretty.
(defensive)
I don't mean that like... *I like you.* I'm not a lesbian.

EMMA

You're bi-curious. I get it. If I was alone in a car with Scarlett Johansson...

AUDREY

(laughs)
I miss you, Em.

Audrey instantly regrets her admission; looks around for Noah.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I should find Noah.

Emma glances inside, where Noah sits with Riley near the fireplace, laughing with the popular kids of Lakewood High.

EMMA

Looks like he's having a good time.
You should try it.

Off Audrey, not sure if she'll ever fit in...

CUT TO:

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Maggie has called the sheriff over. Off-duty, he's dressed casually. Looks over the box and the heart inside.

MAGGIE

It's not human. Might be a dog's...
(suddenly)
You want a glass of wine? I want a glass of wine.

A QUICK SERIES OF SHOTS: Two wine glasses are set on the counter. A bottle of red in uncorked. Poured.

Maggie finishes telling her story as they sip...

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

The police said they wouldn't hurt him, but the sniper was on edge--

SHERIFF HUDSON

(still processing)
So you're the mystery girl Brandon James was in love with...

MAGGIE

I was a minor so my dad kept my name out of the police reports.
(beat)
But, I always wonder... if I hadn't screamed when I saw his face, maybe none of it would have happened.

It's clear Maggie has been bearing a burden of guilt with absolutely no one to talk to about it.

SHERIFF HUDSON
Maggie, you're not responsible.

MAGGIE
What about my special delivery? *

SHERIFF HUDSON
Someone's just trying to scare you.

Sheriff's not trying to be dismissive but Maggie reacts.

MAGGIE
That someone was at my door! My daughter was right there--

Maggie stops herself. Sheriff hates to ask this, but...

SHERIFF HUDSON
Is there any chance your husband did it?

MAGGIE
No. Kevin left five years ago. Emma thinks he abandoned us, but he just couldn't play house anymore. We had some good years and he adored Emma, but... he never really recovered.

SHERIFF HUDSON
I'm sorry. *

MAGGIE
So... what if this *is* from whoever really killed Nina? *

SHERIFF HUDSON
Then I follow up under the radar. Keep up the search for Tyler but expand it to anyone obsessed with Brandon James. Other survivors... *

MAGGIE
(a little haunted)
I hope this *is* a copycat...

SHERIFF HUDSON
What do you mean?

MAGGIE
They never found Brandon's body.

Oh shit.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Noah, Riley and the cool crowd are lit by the glow of the fireplace, giving this a "round the campfire" feel.

RILEY

I'm just saying it's cray-cray that we were talking about slasher movies in Language Arts... and then Nina got slashed.

NOAH

Technically, she was already dead when we started that conversation so there's no direct correlation.

Jake puts his arm around Riley.

JAKE

Dude, she's scared. Let's not negate that.

RILEY

(shrugging him off)
I'm not scared.

Kieran speaks up from the couch.

KIERAN

Maybe we should be scared. Drunk teenagers at a party by the lake where your homegrown killer died?
(beat)
It's a natural slasher setting.

*
*
*
*
*

Chills run up a few spines. This time, when Jake puts his arm around Riley, she doesn't shrug him off.

*

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - POOL - NIGHT

Emma and Audrey have joined a vivacious crowd that includes Brooke and Will. Audrey is making an effort to fit in but her gaze keeps wandering to the gorgeous view of the lake.

AUDREY

It's really beautiful out here.

Her honest comment falls on the teen chatter like a big dumb rock. Kids look at her like... *duh*... but Brooke smiles.

BROOKE

It doesn't suck.

*

EMMA

It's weird. I keep waiting for Nina to show up.

BROOKE

Yeah. Drunk, manic and amped up to eleven.

WILL

And always dragging us down the rabbit hole with her... maybe we're better off.

EMMA

Are you saying you're glad she's dead?

WILL

I'm saying maybe our lives will be a little saner now.

BROOKE

(to Will)

Yours will certainly be less *complicated*.

Brooke's comment isn't specific but her tone is provocative. Will's face darkens angrily. Combined with Jake's earlier comments, Emma puts two and two together.

Emma walks away, angry. Will glares at Brooke but goes after Emma. Audrey feels bad for Emma but Brooke just sports a disingenuous "did I say something?" look.

EXT. BEACH PATH - NIGHT

Will catches up to Emma on the path down to the beach.

WILL

Em, come on. Where you going?

EMMA

You slept with Nina, didn't you?

There is a long hesitation but Will doesn't lie to her.

WILL

We were on a break. You wanted some time to think.

EMMA

We were on a break for less than a month.

WILL

It didn't mean anything.

Emma looks at Will like she's never seen him before.

EMMA

I'll get a ride home.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - POOL AREA - NIGHT

It's later. Brooke is talking to Will.

BROOKE
Emma will get over it.
(bright side)
It's not like you're gonna hook up
with Nina again.

WILL
You are cold.

BROOKE
It's the truth.

WILL
I just... I don't wanna lose her.

Will's raw emotion is surprising. Brooke may even be a little
jealous of what Will and Emma have... But then--

*

WILL (CONT'D)
Hey, is your dad home?

Brooke follows Will's gaze to see a light on in the distant
detached multi-car garage.

*

*

BROOKE
No... and if someone scratches his
Tesla, he'll have a coronary.

Brooke stalks off to deal with it. Will watches her go, his
easy smile disappearing in an instant. He's pissed that Brooke
betrayed him to Emma.

EXT. GARAGE - NIGHT

As Brooke approaches the garage, the light inside goes off. But
she's stunned to hear an engine running inside.

BROOKE
(to herself)
You've gotta be kidding me.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Exhaust clouds the darkness. Brooke enters and looks around.

BROOKE
Hello?

She hits the light but it doesn't work. She tries opening the
big garage doors. Nothing happens.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Whoever's in here, you need to get
out now.

The door of the car that's running -- a Porsche -- *slowly opens*. Creepy. But, Brooke has a head of steam as she heads over to take care of this shit...

INT. LAKE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back with Noah and the popular kids by the fire... *

NOAH
Party like this, you're actually
pretty safe from your typical Jason
or Michael Meyers-type.

RILEY
But there's a lake... vodka...
hormones... *

Noah downs a shot. Kinda loves being the center of attention. *

NOAH
But, we're together. Slasher dude
isn't the Terminator shooting his
way through thirty cops in a police
precinct.
(milks the moment)
He's a wolf.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Brooke walks through the dark, exhaust-shrouded garage until she arrives at the Porsche. It's empty.

NOAH (V.O.)
Waiting for one of us to wander off
alone.

She reaches in and turns the car off. In the quiet as the motor TICKS, Brooke finally realizes *maybe she should be afraid*.

BROOKE
Hello?

A FIGURE moves between two cars. It's just a glimpse out of the corner of her eye. Brooke isn't even sure she saw it...

Brooke SLAMS the car door and walks quickly back toward the garage's side door. Bangs her shin on a bumper in her haste.

Then -- through a window -- an arriving car's headlights STRAFE the room with beams of light, illuminating her for just a moment -- *and the figure holding a curved blade eclipsed in her shadow* -- right behind her.

As the darkness returns, Brooke senses she's not alone. She runs, knocking over a bike, tripping on boxes. Finally, she reaches the side door (still open) and runs out --

RIGHT INTO WILL'S ARMS.

EXT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Brooke nearly screams. Will notices the exhaust in the garage.

WILL
What are you doing? *

BROOKE
Someone was in there.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Will looks around but doesn't see anyone. Picks up the bike she knocked over. Brooke's starting to feel a bit foolish.

WILL
Why didn't you open the garage doors?

BROOKE
I tried.

But, as Will reaches past her and presses the button, the power WHIRS and the big garage doors slowly go up one after another, letting the exhaust creep out like eery groundfog... *

Will gives Brooke a look. Her fear is replaced with "I hate feeling like a dumb girl" anger.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

As Will and Brooke head back to the party, reveal MR. BRANSON sitting in the dark in his car watching them. *How long has he been there?*

EXT. LAKE - SHORE - NIGHT

Kieran sits alone on the shore sipping a beer when Emma arrives, angry and worked-up. She doesn't even see him as she stares out at the water, trying to calm down.

KIERAN
Heads up.

Emma turns and Kieran gently tosses her a fresh beer.

EMMA
(she catches it)
I don't want--

Fuck it. Emma twists the top off and takes a long, fortifying drink. She sits on the sand next to Kieran.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I am so... stupid. I keep thinking
people are pretty much like me.
Honest. You know... trustworthy.

*

*

KIERAN

You're in high school... you know
that, right?

Emma cracks a smile through her anger. Looks at him. Curious.

EMMA

What are you doing here?

KIERAN

Avoiding Brooke.

EMMA

No, I mean here in Lakewood?

Kieran is reluctant to open up, but Emma's a good listener.

KIERAN

My mom and stepdad died in a car
accident three weeks ago. Living
with my real dad seems marginally
better than a state home.

EMMA

Oh... I'm so sorry...

*

KIERAN

We've all got our problems.

EMMA

Yeah. My perfect boyfriend slept
with the deceased.

KIERAN

Necrophilia... that *is* a problem.

*

EMMA

(smiles)
When she was alive...

Kieran likes Emma's smile. Emma looks at him.

KIERAN

So what's the perfect girlfriend's
response?

Emma's tipsy. Tired of being the good girl. Impulsively, she
KISSES Kieran. Kieran hesitates then kisses her back.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noah is seriously drunk now. Riley leans against him.

NOAH
Survival's simple at a party like
this. Just don't wander off alone.

*

Noah stifles a vomit-burp and then passes out. Jake exchanges a sly look with two of the other JOCK DUDES.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. THE LAKE - NIGHT

The black ripples of the water SLAP lightly at the side of an old weather-beaten swimming raft in the middle of the lake.

We find a flesh-colored lump on the raft. *A dead body?*

It stirs. Sits up. It's NOAH, dressed only in his undies.

A WIDE SHOT REVEALS: He is far from shore. Dude's been punked.

Still drunk, Noah stands, rubbing his hands over bare limbs in an attempt to warm up. He looks to the distant shore, where the party's still happening but winding down. It's getting late.

NOAH
(yelling)
Heyyyyyy!!!!

When Noah realizes they can't hear him, he contemplates his options. Not many.

*

So he JUMPS INTO THE LAKE. The water's freezing. As he awkwardly swims towards shore, Noah talks to himself to take his mind off the cold...

NOAH (CONT'D)
What's Michael Phelps got that I
don't got? Freakishly long torso...
two dozen Olympic medals... a six
foot bong...

ANGLE ON NOAH: A *whisper* sounds above the waves. Noah stops. Looks around. Someone here? *Some-thing?*

Then Noah is YANKED under the water.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON THE SMOOTH SURFACE OF THE LAKE.

Suddenly, Noah's head breaks the surface. He's panicking. The harder he tries to swim, the faster he goes under. Noah screams. Flails. Whatever he's fighting, he's losing.

And then a FIGURE splashes up next to him. It's *EMMA*.

EMMA

Noah, calm down. I got you.

Emma helps Noah swim back to shore.

EXT. LAKE - SHORE - NIGHT

Most of the party-goers wait at the shoreline as Kieran helps Emma drag nearly-unconscious Noah up the small private beach. *

Emma grabs a blanket from the sand and drapes it around Noah as he spits and coughs his way back...

JAKE

Kiss him! Breath of life! *

EMMA

Jake, shut up. He could've died.

Will watches Kieran put a towel around Emma. He doesn't like this seemingly intimate gesture. Brooke watches, amused.

WILL

You want me to call 911?

Emma ignores Will as Noah sits up, still confused.

NOAH

What was that... who grabbed me... *

Emma reaches down and untangles a length of FISHING LINE twisted around Noah's ankle. Shows it to him.

EMMA

You were caught on fishing line.

Noah frowns. *It didn't feel like fishing line.* Realizing the prank isn't funny anymore, Jake looks around for moral support from the other popular teens.

JAKE

He was the first one to pass out.

Everyone's looking at someone who's just come up behind Jake. It's AUDREY. She's fed up with all of it. Goes to Noah.

JAKE (CONT'D)
It's Wren Lake tradition...

Audrey helps Noah up and leads him back to the lake house.

EXT. DUVAL HOUSE - NIGHT

Kieran pulls up at Emma's house. She's shivering so he puts his jacket around her. She starts to get out then hesitates.

EMMA
So I'll see you at school?

KIERAN
Seems likely.

Kieran gives her a wry smile. Suddenly, the porch light BLINKS ON. They both see Maggie opening the front door, ushering Sheriff Hudson out (but they don't see Kieran and Emma).

KIERAN (CONT'D)
Why is my dad at your house?

EMMA
Sheriff Hudson is your dad?

Kieran looks from Maggie to Emma. Puts two and two together. He grins. Emma can't believe it...

EMMA (CONT'D)
Because this wasn't awkward enough.

Emma can't get out of that car fast enough.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

It's a new day. Sheriff Hudson walks down the hall, eyeing the students curiously.

Jake turns a corner, spots the sheriff and WHIPS back around to avoid crossing paths with him. Hurries the other way.

The sheriff nods to Emma as he passes and she returns the nod, but her smile disappears when she sees Will watching her. Her expression goes cold and she heads the other way. Will's still in the doghouse.

Finally, the Sheriff approaches Noah and Audrey at her locker.

SHERIFF HUDSON
Hi. You're Noah Foster, right?

NOAH
Uh... yeah. Can I help you?

SHERIFF HUDSON
I hear you have a particular
interest in Brandon James.

*
*
*

NOAH
I have a lot of interests.

*
*

AUDREY
What's this about?

*
*

Sheriff looks at Audrey then focuses on Noah.

*

SHERIFF HUDSON
Just want to ask you a few
questions. You mind dropping by the
principal's office after school?

*
*
*
*

NOAH
Will do.

*
*

As the Sheriff walks away, Audrey and Noah are perplexed.

*

INT. DUVAL HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

*

Emma and Maggie push food around their plates, both lost in
their thoughts. Emma's phone DINGS with a text from Will. She
ignores it. It DINGS again. Emma silences it.

MAGGIE
You and Will have a fight?

EMMA
It's just been a long week.

MAGGIE
I got some new bath bombs. You
should go relax in the tub.

EMMA
I'm supposed to go to the game
later.

MAGGIE
Then go. You don't have to talk to
him. Just be there in the stands.

Maggie gets up and starts to clear the table.

EMMA
I know you think Will can do no
wrong--

MAGGIE
Of course he can do wrong.

*

Maggie stands at the sink, looking out the window as she runs
dishwater, her mind still on the past.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Screw-ups look worse on him because
he is so inherently decent.

EMMA
Are we still talking about Will?

Maggie turns to face Emma.

MAGGIE
I don't want you to hate your dad. *

EMMA
I don't. I miss him. Then I hate
myself for missing him. But we're
okay... just the two of us, right?

The events of the last few days have Maggie extremely worried,
but the smile she gives Emma is warm and reassuring.

MAGGIE
We're great. Just us chickens.

Emma smiles. She desperately needed her mom's reassurance.

EMMA
I think I will have that bath.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON THE TWIN TAPS OF A BATHTUB as a hand turns them on.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Steam rises. That same hand turns the overhead light down low.
A GIRL in a robe (we don't see her face but assume it's Emma)
presses play on her I-pod and the latest Civil Wars-esque
Southern harmonies fill the room.

CLOSE ON: Her smartphone on the sink VIBRATES once. Twice. We
see text word bubbles appear but only get glimpses:

"I know this is hard." "Please call me." "Don't shut me out."

She looks at the phone but doesn't respond. Lights a candle.
Pauses when she hears a soft BA-BUMP from the next room.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

In the adjoining bedroom, the girl goes to her french door.
It's open, banging gently in the evening breeze. Hmmm. She
pulls it closed and locks it.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The girl hangs her robe on a hook. From behind (over her
shoulder), we see her ease into the tub.

As she leans back on the pillow, her phone VIBRATES again. She picks it up, turns on the ringer.

DING!: "*U OK?*" She ignores it. *

DING!: "*If U R trapped under a large credenza, can U please tap 'Y' with your nose?*" *

Our girl LAUGHS and texts back: "*I had fun but we shouldn't do that again.*"

DING!: "*I think maybe we should. Can I come over?*"

The girl ponders; clearly tempted then types: "*U R really cool but it was a mistake.*" *

DING!: "*Can I come over?*"

The GIRL seems a little confused. She types. "*No. Sorry.*"

DING!: "*Too late. I'm already here.*"

A DOOR is heard CLOSING in another room. Eyes wide, the GIRL sits up, SPLASHING water. And we're surprised to see -- not Emma -- but A *TEEN GIRL WE DON'T RECOGNIZE*. She's not pretty; stuck in an awkward transitional phase.

THE GIRL

Mom?

There's no answer. Footsteps SOUND somewhere in the hallway.

The girl gets out of the tub, slips on the tile in her haste to lock the door leading to the hallway. Looks around for her robe. *It's not on the hook where she left it...*

Our GIRL hears her phone DING. Reaches for it, but KNOCKS it into the tub. By the time she fishes it out... the screen is BLACK. The girl GRABS a towel hanging over the shower rod--

REVEALING THAT: *SOMEONE IS THERE. IN THE SHADOWS.*

Shocked, the GIRL barely has a chance to raise a hand...

BEFORE A WICKED CURVED BLADE FLASHES... BLOOD SPLATTERS ON THE WHITE TILE... A GRASPING HAND PULLS THE SHOWER CURTAIN DOWN.

AND OUR GIRL FALLS BACK INTO THE WATER, BANGING HER HEAD VIOLENTLY ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE TUB AS WE ZOOM IN ON THE LOOMING DISTORTED KILLER'S FACE REFLECTED IN HER EYES...

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX**INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT**

A basketball game is in progress. Will and Jake are a well-oiled offensive team, but as always, Will is the star.

As the halftime buzzer SOUNDS, Noah joins Audrey in the bleachers.

AUDREY

So what did the Sheriff want?

NOAH

Well... I'm guessing he's not convinced Tyler killed Nina.
(shrugging it off)
He's gonna question everybody. I'm sure he figured why not start with the genius IQ outcast with a serial killer fetish. Duh...

AUDREY

He can't think you killed Nina.

NOAH

Why not? I hated the way she treated you.

Audrey's surprised by the quiet anger in Noah's voice. Before she can pursue it, Riley drops into the seat next to Noah.

RILEY

Hey! You never told me how it ends.

Noah is shocked that Riley has joined him and talks to him as if it's the most natural thing in the world.

NOAH

How... *what*... ends?

RILEY

Our town's horror story. Did Tyler really kill Nina or is Brandon James back?

Audrey's phone RINGS. She gets up and leaves Noah to Riley with an encouraging grin as she steps away to answer.

NOAH

(not missing a beat)
Well, you gotta remember that the whodunnit may not be as important in our story.

RILEY

So it's more a... why-dunnit?

NOAH

No. I'm saying you need to forget
it's a horror story... that someone
might die at every turn...

As Noah speaks, he directs Riley's attention to the court.

ANGLE ON WILL: He wipes sweat off and sips Gatorade as he
approaches Emma, who's sitting courtside with Brooke.

NOAH (CONT'D)

You have to care if the smart
pretty girl forgives the dumb jock.

Emma's reception is chilly but she speaks to Will MOS.

ANGLE ON NOAH AND RILEY: Noah points to the state championship
banners on the wall.

NOAH (CONT'D)

You have to care if the team wins
the big game.

Noah leans in so Riley does the same. Close enough to kiss.

NOAH (CONT'D)

You have to care if the brilliant
misunderstood guy gets up the nerve
to ask the popular girl out.

Riley -- realizing she is said popular girl -- smiles a maybe.

RILEY

Sounds like Friday Night Lights.

NOAH

Exactly. You root for them... you
love them... so when they are
brutally murdered... it hurts.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The CHEERS and WHISTLE CALLS of the basketball game are heard
O.S. as people come and go through this quiet hallway. Audrey
finishes her phone call with a stunned expression.

EMMA (O.S.)

Hi.

Audrey looks up, upset by whatever news she just got in that
phone call, as Emma approaches.

AUDREY

Hey...

In the dimly-lit hall, Emma doesn't notice Audrey is upset.

EMMA

I couldn't sleep last night.

AUDREY

Don't worry. Noah's fine.

EMMA

I'm talking about us.

AUDREY

What do you want from me, Em?
There's no "us" anymore. Brooke may
have let me into her party but I
don't think we're all going out for
mani-pedis anytime soon...

EMMA

I'm not Brooke.

AUDREY

Give it time.

Audrey realizes that was pretty harsh. She regrets it, but the truth of it sucker-punches Emma and motivates a confession.

EMMA

You're right.

(a confession)

I was there at the parking lot. The
video...

AUDREY

You filmed me?

Audrey is hurt; never imagined this betrayal from Emma.

EMMA

Not me. We were all just messing
around. Nina saw you guys parked. I
didn't even realize it was you
until--

AUDREY

So who sent it to everyone?

EMMA

Nina. I wanted her to trash it.

AUDREY

So this "let's be friends again"
thing is because you felt guilty?
(humorless laugh)
You *bitch*.

EMMA

I'll go to the principal and tell her I did it. I don't care what they do to me, I just want to make this right somehow.

Audrey holds up her phone.

AUDREY

Well you may want to rethink your confession... because that video's got a body count.

EMMA

What?

AUDREY

Rachel? The girl in the car?
(beat)
She killed herself.

*

Off Emma's shock...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The bathroom where we saw the girl murdered is now a crime scene (or at least a "suicide" scene).

*

ANGLE ON THE WIDE STARING EYES OF THE GIRL (RACHEL). Her head is leaning back on the pillow. Her bath water has turned bright red from the ragged slashes on her wrists.

Sheriff stands in the doorway as Maggie examines the body.

*

Shower curtain is back up. Towel is neatly folded on the toilet seat. No sign of the violence we witnessed...

Maggie notices something written on the wall *in blood*...

*

She moves the shower curtain aside, careful not to disturb the still-tacky blood, revealing...

*

THE WRITING READS: "*I JUST WANTED TO FEEL SOMETHING REAL.*"

Maggie's eyes widen. *These were Brandon's last words to her...*

*

CUT TO:

OVER BLACKNESS:

NOAH'S VOICE

You really want to know how it ends?

INT. JENSEN HOUSE - AUDREY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Audrey adds new PHOTOS to the collage on her wall: an eerie POLAROID of the moonlit lake, a VIDEO-STILL of Emma LAUGHING and pushing the camera away by the pool and finally...

NOAH'S VOICE
Everyone has secrets.

...a clipping of that haunting blurry image of BRANDON JAMES.

INT. FITZGERALD HOUSE - JAKE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Grim-faced Jake opens a folder on his computer. Presses "SELECT ALL" and moves a large group of video files to his trash can. His finger hovers over the mouse. But, he can't resist.

Jake DOUBLE-CLICKS on a file and we see... a video clip of Nina undressing in her bedroom. It's clearly the same POV as the Snapchat images from the opening. *Taken from her own web-cam.*

NOAH'S VOICE
Everyone tells lies.

Jake's eyes feast on Nina for a moment. Then he moves all the files to the trash and dumps them.

INT. NOAH'S CAR - NIGHT

A creepy HEARTBEAT fades up as we reveal that Noah is alone in his car. Parked on a quiet street. Talking (presumably to Riley) on his cell phone.

NOAH (ON PHONE)
And everyone is fair game.

We are getting all the cues that Noah's gonna be the next to die. The music... the eerie solitude of the location... his own nerdy confidence that he knows exactly how this all works.

NOAH (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Until there's no one left.

The heartbeat STOPS. Noah looks up at the rearview mirror -- *seemingly at us* -- and pushes his hair out of his eyes...

LEAVING A BLOODY SMEAR ACROSS HIS FOREHEAD.

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT