

Trapped

By

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INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eyes closed, ZOE is hanging on every word. She wears a loose-fitting rainbow jacket, clearly not meant to impress (unless people are impressed by excess softness). Her hair is up in a giant bun. There's like a 50% chance she has something weird in her pocket.

ABIGAIL

The mafia wakes up.

Zoe opens her eyes. SIX FRIENDS, all 20-23, sit in a circle, some on the very sunken couch, others on wooden IKEA chairs.

The living room looks fairly modern (see: expensive), with a relaxation area set up on one side, and a dining room table on the other. The kitchen is partially visible around a small corner (according to HGTV, this is called Open Concept). Stairs to the second floor are between the kitchen and living room, and in the corner behind the dining room table, a door leads to the basement.

Above them, a wood-panelled CEILING FAN slowly rotates.

The living room is decorated in the striking, minimalist style of college-aged males - a couch facing a TV, with a few lamps and the odd nick-nack. A fishbowl hangs on the wall, with a small goldfish swimming around inside. I know, very weird.

ABIGAIL sits with perfect posture. She wears a cute top, perfectly matched with her cute leggings and adorable boots - sensibly and correctly conveying the message "I am prepared for a relaxed night with friends.

ABIGAIL

They decide to kill someone,  
leaving no ultimatum or demands.  
Just senseless violence, really.

Zoe points at KANNA. Abigail nods and Zoe lowers her head.

ABIGAIL

Getting a strange feeling in the  
pit of their stomach, the doctor  
wakes up and decides to save  
someone. This is some Twin Peaks  
shit.

TANNER leaned back on the couch, raises his head. He scoffs slightly. His nice button up and pants fit him with the tight, practiced ease of clothes who have been doing this their whole life. His hair is short on the sides, tall on top, and done up with product (of course).

He looks around, points at himself, and goes back to sleep.

ABIGAIL

The next day arrives. Everyone wakes up and walks outside to make sure their neighbors are ok. You know: normal village behavior.

Everyone raises their heads. Zoe bites her lip nervously. Tanner notices this.

ABIGAIL

But wait! Where's Kanna?! She's been murdered!

KANNA takes one hand out of its neutral arms-crossed position to assist her "What?!" face that conveys both shock and protest. She wears an intentionally grungy jacket over a cute dress. How does her hair stay all hip and wavy like that? Nobody knows. She's, at all times, moments away from showing you the new book in her satchel.

KANNA

Ok, first, to whoever murdered me, I just want to say: how dare you, ok? Second, what does this mean? Am I out of the game?

ABIGAIL

Yes, you're dead, so it follows that you can't talk, vote, etc.

KANNA

That's bullshit.

ABIGAIL

That's the game. The living now have to decide who they think it is.

KANNA

Guys, I know who killed me.

ABIGAIL

Nope! Don't say anything!

Pause.

KANNA

Think "asshole."

ABIGAIL

Kanna!

Kanna puts her hands up: "fine, fine!" The group thinks for a moment.

TANNER

Zoe's acting pretty weird.

Zoe acts dumbfounded, just slightly too big.

ZOE

Tanner! That's - I'm shocked, ok!  
Shocked! After all the design  
classes we've taken together - the  
tests we've studied for - the  
projects we worked on!

TANNER

None of that matters in this game.

ZOE

Tanner, you can trust me. You know  
me.

TANNER

The murderer was assigned randomly.

NEIL

How interesting.

NEIL pairs a Hawaiian patterned button-up and khaki shorts - a combination which is neither flattering nor comfortable: the true mark of someone who doesn't care about fashion. His hair is messily flipped to the side. He occasionally brushes it away from his eyes. He has been scribbling notes on a small pad of paper.

TANNER

What?

NEIL

Often, the guilty party is the  
quickest to deflect blame onto  
someone else.

TANNER

You think it's me?

ZOE

I do. You're like acting all cool  
and above it so we won't suspect  
you.

TANNER

No, I'm legitimately cool and above it.

Everyone boos Tanner aggressively.

NEIL

I don't know who it is, I'm just collecting evidence. Though if I were you, I'd blink a little less. It's a dead give-away. Though Zoe's vocal fluctuation is also quite...interesting.

ZOE

Neil! How could you suspect me! After our long hours together, working at the library, stacking endless rows of books for minimum wage!

KANNA

The three of us were like brothers in arms AND sisters!

ABIGAIL

People, people, let's organize! Who do we think is the mafia?

ROD

Alright, alright, listen, guys. I'm the mafia.

Everyone swings towards ROD. Even sitting down, he's a big guy - the kind of guy who used to go the gym back when he played football. That varsity muscle definition may be gone, but he kept the buzzcut and dynamite fashion style.

TANNER

Rod. Why would you tell us that?

ROD

It's a strategy. Why would someone who's in the mafia say they were in the mafia? That'd be crazy, so you guys won't kill me. BUT, it's also a little suspicious. The real mafia won't kill me so I can keep attention off of them. Either way, I survive and get to keep playing.

Pause.

ZOE  
Let's kill Rod.

Everyone agrees.

ROD  
Damn it, guys!

ABIGAIL  
This town has a guillotine in the middle of the square, because this is Europe. You take Rod there and kill him. It's straight up mob violence.

Everyone high fives each other.

ROD  
Wow, that did not work out.

ABIGAIL  
Sadly, Rod was not the mafia.

NEIL  
Obviously. Did you see the way he scratched his crotch?

ABIGAIL  
Um...no.

Neil raises his eyebrows: "I did."

ABIGAIL  
Uhhh ok. The town went back to sleep.

The town goes to sleep.

ABIGAIL  
Kanna, you don't have to put your head down, you're dead.

KANNA  
(head down)  
I'm still playing.

ABIGAIL  
No you're not.  
(to everyone else)  
If the mafia succeeds in killing again tonight, they win the game. Still without any clear reason to murder, but hell bent on doing so, the mafia wakes up.

Zoe raises her head, points to Tanner, then goes back to sleep.

ABIGAIL

The doctor wakes up and decides who to save.

Tanner, not looking up, points to himself.

ABIGAIL

The next morning arrives. Everyone wakes up.

Everyone raises their heads.

ABIGAIL

A miracle occurred last night. At three A.M., the mafia crept into Tanner's house and injected him with a syringe filled with poison. Fortunately, the doctor had foreseen this very scenario and was standing by with the antidote.

Everyone is like "meh, ok."

TANNER

You people are monsters.

ABIGAIL

The town must now decide who to kill without any semblence of due process. If you choose wrong, the mafia wins the game.

KANNA

I appear as a ghost in the town square!

ABIGAIL

No you don't.

KANNA

(ghost voice)

Yes I do! It was Tanner! Tanner killed me!

ABIGAIL

Are you crazy? The mafia just tried to kill Tanner.

ROD  
I agree, babe, definitely Tanner.

TANNER  
Why would I kill myself?

ROD  
It's a strategy! The doctor saved you and now no one suspects you're the mafia.

KANNA  
And you're a piece of shit!

They high five each other.

ZOE  
You guys are such a power couple.

TANNER  
Totally. How long have you two been together?

ROD  
Two years.

KANNA  
Three years! We weren't "official" for a while, but we were dating all through sophomore year after I broke up with my High School boyfriend.

ZOE  
How cute!

TANNER  
Co-dependant is the word you're looking for.

NEIL  
I believe Zoe is in the mafia.

This silences the group. Zoe composes her self to make a touching speech:

ZOE  
Guys, we've known each other a long time. Abigail, we volunteer together. Rod, Kanna introduced us and now we're the best friends in the world. Tanner - here we are in the same room once again.

TANNER

None of this is relevant.

ZOE

That's why it's so hard to say this, but I think our friend Neil is actually in the mafia.

NEIL

Tanner, you should know that, since this game has begun, Zoe has bitten her lip three times. That's far more than her average, and a classic subconscious self-comfort signal people will often use to calm themselves while lying.

Neil looks very pleased with himself. Tanner and Zoe are both a little weirded out.

TANNER

What kind of stuff do you write in that booklet?

Neil flips it shut.

NEIL

Don't worry about the booklet. Zoe is guilty.

ABIGAIL

Sounds like it's time to vote. Our two suspects are Zoe and Neil.

KANNA

(ghost voice)

And Tanner.

ABIGAIL

The suspects are Zoe. And. Neil.

ZOE

Well obviously Neil's the mafia.

NEIL

I am not.

Tanner, smirking, turns to Zoe, already half pointing a finger. When he looks over, however, Zoe has on a winning smile. He reconsiders.

TANNER  
I think it's Neil.

ABIGAIL  
Are you sure?

TANNER  
Yeah. He's coming up with all sorts of random nonsense to throw us off the trail.

ABIGAIL  
Very well. The townsfolk take Neil to the town square...and hang him! They look around and see...THE MAFIA EVERYWHERE. The townsfolk lose!

Zoe leaps up in joy! Everyone else shouts in dismay.

ROD  
Damn it!

KANNA  
Zoe, I can't believe you killed me!

ZOE  
I'd do it again! No one leaves my town!

TANNER  
I thought we were such close friends!

ZOE  
You're a fucking idiot if you believed that! I'd murder anybody!

NEIL  
I think we can agree the real crime here was unpreparedness. If only we'd been ready with an investigative team at the scene of the murder, this all could have been avoided.

KANNA  
Who was the doctor?

Tanner raises his hand.

KANNA

You just saved yourself everytime?!

TANNER

If the doctor dies, everyone's  
screwed!

Zoe gets a call on her cellphone. She stands up and heads towards the kitchen. Just as she's about to step out, she looks back at the group.

KANNA

If the doctor just saves himself,  
we might as well not have one!

ROD

Whatever, guys, Mafia's too hard  
with five players anyway.

KANNA

Then why did you want to play?

ROD

It's just what we do!

Everyone laughs. Zoe smiles sadly, then steps out.

Tanner, isolated on the couch, looks over at Rod and Kanna laughing together. He thinks to himself for a moment, then gets up to follow Zoe to the kitchen. The couch is so deep he has to try twice.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

When Tanner walks in, Zoe is huddled in the corner, murmuring into the phone as secretively as she can without drawing attention.

ZOE

Oh wow. Thank you!

She pauses. Tanner, politely pretending he doesn't hear every word, browses the refrigerator for a drink.

ZOE

Right, I'll let you know. Thank you  
again - bye.

Zoe ends the call. Tanner comes out the refrigerator officially beered up.

TANNER  
Who was that?

ZOE  
Nobody.

TANNER  
Alright.

Tanner turns back to the living room.

ZOE  
(hushed)  
Ok, wait wait wait. That was the  
hiring manager for this design  
firm. They offered me an  
apprenticeship.

Tanner, surprised, rushes to swallow his drink. He doesn't quite finish before gurgling:

TANNER  
Holy shit! Congratulations!

ZOE  
It's in Houston, Texas.

TANNER  
Alright, no need to rub it in,  
that's really great!

ZOE  
But it's kind of far away, right? I  
mean, most of the really high-end  
prospects are here in New York.

TANNER  
Ah, I getcha. Bad pay?

ZOE  
Fourty-k a year.

Tanner's jaw drops.

TANNER  
Starting salary?

ZOE  
Yeah it's pretty good, but I'd have  
to buy a car (which I don't have  
the money for) and there's no gas  
per-diem so heh I don't know.  
Wouldn't it be better to get a job  
in Brooklyn?

TANNER

I mean Brooklyn's fine, but for forty thousand dollars I'd go anywhere. I'd go to Syria. I'd go to Jersey.

ZOE

What about your friends and family back in White Plains?

TANNER

People visit!

ZOE

No they don't. Everyone gets all wrapped up in their new lives.

TANNER

Well, yeah. That's normal. Nothing just stays the same.

ZOE

Some of it could.

TANNER

Nah, everything changes. Might as well get excited - I can't wait for Chicago.

ZOE

Bullshit.

TANNER

Listen, I feel like we've lost sight of the forty thousand dollars. The new places, the new friends. The forty. Thousand. Dollars.

ZOE

Ugh, you're an asshole.

TANNER

Hey. If you're rich, nobody cares.

Zoe punches Tanner on the arm in a very real, painful way.

TANNER

Ok, wow! I'm sure you, and Neil, and Kanna, and all your other friends from working at the library will talk all the time.

ZOE

Aww that's good support! When you say stuff like that, you don't get punched.

TANNER

I noticed.

ZOE

I'm training you like a dog to be a good person.

They both laugh (Zoe for real). Zoe exits to the living room, Tanner following a few steps behind. As soon as she rounds the corner, he grabs his arm, writhing in silent pain. He massages it for a moment before leaving the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abigail is examining the TV stand.

ABIGAIL

I'll buy it.

ROD

Nah, I'd feel weird getting money for it - it's not even really mine.

KANNA

Wait, really? Where'd you get it.

ROD

The lady who lived here before me.

KANNA

She just gave it to you?

ROD

Well, she died and left a lot of stuff behind.

KANNA

What?!

ZOE

Oh my god, tell us more!

ROD

Yeah, she didn't have a will or any surviving family members, so the landlord just left it all here.

KANNA

Rod, is there anything else in this apartment you got from a dead woman?

ROD

Oh, sure, a few things.

KANNA

Like what?

ROD

Just this and that.

KANNA

What about your bed, Rod?

Rod remains conspicuously silent for a long period of time, like as long as it takes you to read this very long sentence.

ROD

Of course not.

KANNA

Damn it, Rod! I sleep there!

ZOE

(matching Kanna's frustration)

Yeah, come on, Rod! How did she die?!

KANNA

No, don't you dare! I don't need any more nightmares.

ROD

I didn't really ask.

ABIGAIL

Someone died in your apartment and you didn't ask about it?

ROD

Listen, the room's cheap, close to campus, and it comes with this sick TV stand! I just wanted to lock it down.

KANNA

Sure, but still buy your own bed, Rod. Jesus, that's so gross!

ZOE  
(wisely)  
Guys, guys! Does it really matter  
if someone died here?

KANNA  
Yes.

ZOE  
Not really. Just as long as it  
wasn't one of us, right? That's  
what friendship is all about.

KANNA  
That doesn't make sense.

ZOE  
Maybe friendship doesn't always  
make sense.

ROD  
Yes, Zoe, yes! Can we please just  
watch Braveheart on Netflix?

ABIGAIL  
I've never seen it.

ROD  
Abigail, are you serious?! It's an  
all time classic!

TANNER  
I've never seen it either.

ROD  
Tanner! What?! William Wallace!

ZOE  
Who?

ROD  
Zoe, come on! He's the Braveheart!  
Neil, tell me you've seen it.

NEIL  
I've seen it.

ROD  
Thank you!

NEIL  
I didn't care for it.

ROD  
NEIL! You people are insane!

KANNA  
 Babe, don't worry. You've forced me  
 to watch it many times.

ROD  
 Thanks, babe. You see that,  
 people?! That's love! Not that any  
 of you Braveheart-less creatures  
 would know!

They laugh. Outside the window, the sunset fades to  
 darkness.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The lights are turned off. Illuminated only by the TV  
 screen, the crew sits around the couch.

KANNA  
 Here's what I don't get - they just  
 do it right there on the rocks?

ZOE  
 It's romantic!

KANNA  
 It looks painful. I don't want to  
 spend my wedding night getting  
 fucked into a boulder.

As they're talking, the lock on the front door quietly  
 turns. The windows shudder. Nobody takes any notice; they've  
 got more important shit to worry about.

ROD  
 Maybe they're doing it like really  
 slow and gently.

KANNA  
 It doesn't matter how gentle you  
 are on stone. New catchphrase -  
 someone write that down.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

TANNER (O.S.)  
 Clearly, they don't do it right  
there. He probably takes her over  
 somewhere nice.

The bedroom window closes. The faintest whisp of a ghostly hand reaches out and locks it.

ABIGAIL (O.S.)  
Yeah, like a comfy thicket.

NEIL (O.S.)  
That doesn't track - they're back at the river afterward. Why would they start at the river, leave to copulate, then return to put their clothes on?

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ZOE (O.S.)  
Because they were so overcome, they had to have each other right then! They tore their clothes off right at the river!

A small internet router sits under the desk. One by one, each of its lights turn off.

KANNA (O.S.)  
Right in front of the priest?!

INT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ZOE  
If they have to! It's for love!

TANNER  
No, it's for freedom!

The group laughs. Unnoticed, the walls fade quickly in and out of focus.

ROD  
That game of mafia was bullshit.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Dawn is sneaking through the windows as quietly as possible so as not to disturb Zoe, sprawled on the recliner. The fishbowl, hanging on the wall, is now empty.

The sound of laughter in the next room stirs her. She groggily opens her eyes and sees the ceiling fan spinning above her. She sits up to see the rest of her friends in the kitchen, eating. Abigail and Neil are putting on their shoes.

Zoe gets up and walks over.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

KANNA

Good morning, sleepy head! Want some cereal?

ZOE

Oh. Sure.

KANNA

You were fast asleep so we thought we'd let you get some rest.

ZOE

Thanks.

Zoe takes the cereal and starts eating. Abigail and Neil get ready to go.

ZOE

Oh my gosh, are you guys leaving?

ABIGAIL

Yeah, I told my roommate I'd help her pack.

NEIL

I am also leaving.

ZOE

Oh. That's cool.

ABIGAIL

Don't worry, we'll probably see each other before graduation!

ZOE

Ok great! Yeah, I'll keep in touch!

KANNA

See you, guys!

Abigail and Neil walk to the door. Zoe turns to the rest of the group.

ZOE

That's so weird. I usually don't fall asleep so early.

In the background, Neil and Abigail struggle with the door. It won't open. They attempt various states of locked and unlocked trying to get out.

TANNER

We must have been more tired than we thought.

ZOE

You fell asleep too?

TANNER

We all did. Out like a light.

KANNA

Braveheart is just so long.

ZOE

We all fell asleep during the movie?

ROD

Oh shit! I still have a paper to turn in. I'll have to do that today.

Abigail and Neil return to the room.

ABIGAIL

Rod, we're having some trouble with your door.

ROD

Sometimes you have to turn the lock really hard to the right. It gets stuck.

Rod demonstrates. He's really good. Maybe Rod is actually the best at doors.

ROD

Here you go.

He yanks at the door. It doesn't budge. It's like pulling a knob attached to the wall.

ROD

What the hell.

Rod gives the door several more yanks - even more forceful.

KANNA

Will it not open?

Rod gives another big yank, carefully making sure the knob is ALL THE WAY turned (common mistake). Still, the door remains closed.

Everyone looks on, trying not to give the impression they think Rod's bad at doors. Rod is frustratedly trying to process the situation.

ROD

You know what, I bet this is my friend Bobby. This is normal, he's always pulling shit like this.

ABIGAIL

He's always locking people in houses?

TANNER

You have friends besides us?

ROD

Bet he put a bunch of liquid cement into the lock.

KANNA

Are you serious? Rod, if you lose your security deposit, Bobby's paying.

ROD

It'll be fine. The door definitely won't open for a while though.

ZOE

What if your roommates come home and can't get in?

ROD

Austin and Brett both moved out last weekend. They were juniors.

ABIGAIL

Well, is there another way out?

ROD

Yeah, don't worry.

He leads the group into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ROD

We'll just climb over the back fence.

Rod goes to open the back door, but it's just as resilient as the front.

ROD  
Wait a minute.

Rod walks to the window near the dining table and tries to open it. It won't move.

ROD  
Huh. One sec.

He gives it another yank, but still nothing. A pattern is beginning to develop for more astute observers. Frustrated, Rod violently tries to heave the window open.

KANNA  
Rod, be careful, you need that deposit!

Rod gives up. He rubs his chin.

ZOE  
Bobby?

ROD  
Probably glued the door, then came around the back and nailed the window shut from the outside.

ABIGAIL  
Rod, your friend sounds like a straight up criminal.

ROD  
Yeah he's fun.

TANNER  
Sounds like a laugh riot. I'm having the time of my life.

ZOE  
Guys, do you remember the time me, Abigail, and Neil locked ourselves in the library after closing.

ABIGAIL  
(reminicing)  
Oh my god, we were there for hours!

NEIL  
It was hell. There was no escape.

ZOE  
It was fun! This is just another story.

ROD  
Ok, I've got a plan. Neil, hand me  
the screwdriver under the sink.

KANNA  
Rod, don't take out any screws  
you're not sure you can put back.

Neil hands Rod the screwdriver. Without hesitating, Rod  
stabs it into the window pane.

SCREEEEEEECH!

The group jumps back in surprise!

KANNA  
Rod!

ROD  
Not a scratch.

KANNA  
Thank god...wait, what?

ZOE  
(a little excited)  
How is that even possible?!

ROD  
Classic Bobby.

ABIGAIL  
What?!

ROD  
Replaced the panes with some sort  
of reinforced glass. This is just  
like him.

Everyone is doubtful.

TANNER  
Alright, well, call him and tell  
him to come get us out of here.

ROD  
Right.

Rod steps away, and takes his phone out to make the call.

ABIGAIL  
Alright, just so we know - does  
anyone have something they need to  
get to today?

NEIL

I have a dinner date.

Everyone looks at him. In the background, Rod repeatedly tries to make a call.

ZOE

With who?

NEIL

I'd prefer not to say until it gets more serious.

ZOE

Neil! Tell us!

NEIL

As of this point in time, it's just a casual fling.

TANNER

So, with you, how...how do you...uh-

ROD

No reception! That's planned obsolescence for you! THANKS, APPLE. Should have gotten a fucking Droid.

Rod throws his phone onto the counter (where it can think about what it's done).

KANNA

Did you text him?

ROD

Yeah, but I'm not getting the little "delivered."

ABIGAIL

Well, we have to get out of here so let's all call a friend who might be able to help.

Everyone, not looking at each other, finds a number and puts a phone to their ear. One after the other, they lower their phones and choose a different number. Abigail and Neil notice what's happening, but let it proceed.

ABIGAIL

Kanna, why don't you text me?

KANNA

Umm I don't know - what do we have to talk about?

ABIGAIL

I mean right now.

KANNA

Oh, sure.

Kanna types a brief text and presses send.

Everyone stares at Abigail's phone. Nothing.

ABIGAIL

It must be some sort of reception issue.

ROD

Wifi's out too.

TANNER

(100% sincere)

Wait, what?!

NEIL

Maybe we're part of a psychological study.

ZOE

For what?

NEIL

Perhaps to see if we'll murder another.

ABIGAIL

Wow, we just jumped right to that. That's theory number one.

ROD

Listen, I'm only gonna say this once: no murders in my apartment. Period.

KANNA

Babe, has anything like this happened before?

ROD

No - I'm trying to call the landlord, but my phone still isn't working!

ABIGAIL

Alright, well let's split up. Check all the windows, check all the doors, see if you can find anything unusual.

Scooby Doo INCIDENTAL MUSIC as the group breaks.

INT. BEDROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Rod walks from window to window, trying to yank them open, each to no avail. Kanna moves disorderly piles from one spot to another to see what's under them.

KANNA

This place is disgusting.

ROD

It's not that bad.

KANNA.

Rod.

Kanna holds up a bag of chips that was sitting by the bed.

ROD

I like chips.

Kanna tips the chips. Used tissues fall out.

KANNA

There's trash in the trash, Rod.

ROD

That's called resourcefulness. I'll clean it before your mom visits.

KANNA

Don't worry about that, it's just gonna be my dad.

ROD

They can't even get together for your graduation?

KANNA

Trust me, it's for the best.

ROD

Is your Dad going to bring a girlfriend or anything then?

KANNA

Nope. I don't think he has one.

Rod keeps on searching, not noticing Kanna's a little troubled by this fact. She quickly shakes it off.

KANNA

Have you put down the deposit for your new apartment?

As they talk, Rod goes into the bathroom.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He continues checking each window. He probes various nooks and crannies, even tries to open what looks like a passageway to the attic. Still, none of them will budge.

ROD

Nope. It's not due until this Friday.

KANNA

Well, make sure you do, that place is really nice, and super close to Danisin.

ROD

(matter of fact)  
Didn't get that job.

KANNA

(shocked)  
Wait, what?

ROD

Nope.

KANNA

Oh, no, babe. I'm so sorry. I thought it was a sure thing.

ROD

(upbeat)  
Well, the boss told me it was but whatever.

KANNA

Dear, I know how much you cared about this. You're clearly in some sort of denial.

ROD

Nah, I'm fine. I mean, I planned a lot around that job. It was sort of my bedrock, but I'll make it work.

KANNA

Maybe you should pull out of the apartment.

ROD

Nah, White Plains is the plan, I have to stick with it. There are other jobs, but my family lives there; I'll make it work.

Kanna takes Rod's arm and smiles.

KANNA

Yeah. It's gonna be fine.

ROD

Yeah. You find anything?

Kanna reaches into the medicine cabinet and pulls out two bags of chips.

KANNA

(cute)

Honey, you are filthy.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The basement door swings open. We see Abigail and Neil on the other side, looking down into the creepy blackness. Abigail skims the wall with her hand to find a light switch. She shouts out:

ABIGAIL

Rod, is there a basement light switch?

ROD (O.S.)

No, we never go down there. And there aren't any windows, so be careful.

They stare for several seconds into the dark.

ABIGAIL

No windows means there's no way out.

NEIL  
Sounds logical.

They close the door.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Zoe scours beneath the sink with determination, looking for anything that might be helpful. Tanner runs out of the laundry room, excited.

ZOE  
What is it?!

TANNER  
A secret passage!

ZOE  
What?!

TANNER  
Wait, sorry. I meant detergent.  
Laundry detergent.

Inside the cabinet, Zoe snorts. Tanner smiles and opens a cupboard, glancing in Zoe's direction.

TANNER  
You think you'll find something in  
the cabinet?

ZOE  
If it was in plain sight, we'd have  
already found it! Think, Tanner!

Tanner smirks. He gathers himself for a moment.

TANNER  
Hey, are you doing anything Friday?  
I've never been to the short north  
- I was thinking I should explore  
it before we leave.

For Zoe, that pushes a button.

ZOE  
Gah I can't. My parents will be  
coming in, I have to take them out.

TANNER  
Oh, of course. No worries.

ZOE  
 God, I can't see anything in here.  
 (shouted)  
 Rod, do you have a flashlight?

ABIGAIL (O.S.)  
 One second, I have one in my purse!

Zoe looks out from the cabinet. Abigail's purse is sitting on the counter.

ZOE  
 No worries, I've got it.

Zoe goes to the purse and begins to riffle through.

ABIGAIL  
STOP!

Zoe withdraws her hand quickly as Abigail runs in and snatches the purse. Tanner stares. Neil pokes his head around the corner.

ZOE  
 Oh...uh, I'm so sorry, I didn't  
 mean to-

Abigail holds her purse close to her chest as she looks through.

ABIGAIL  
 (trying to relax)  
 Don't worry about it. I  
 just...don't like people going  
 through my purse.

Rod and Kanna step down the stairs. Abigail takes out a small hand-held flashlight and gives it to Zoe.

ZOE  
 Thanks.

ABIGAIL  
 No problem.

Rod looks over at Tanner inquisitively.

ROD  
 (mouthed)  
 Drugs?

Tanner shrugs: "I don't know." Rod nods at Kanna knowingly.

Abigail lets out a deep breath.

ABIGAIL

Look. Whoever's been sitting around  
needs to get their butt in gear.

Small pause.

ZOE

I think we've all been looking for  
a way out.

ABIGAIL

Mmhmm, well I saw the indentation  
on that old-ass couch in the living  
room.

Rod looks over and something catches his eye! He runs out.

ROD

(shouting)

Hey! Hey! We're in here!

Everyone follows him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TANNER

What the hell are you doing!

ROD

Trying to get that guys attention!

Some guy is walking down the street outside the window.

TANNER

Do you know him?

ROD

Does it matter?

Beat.

TANNER

(shouting)

Hey!

The others come over to join in. Kanna starts pounding on  
the window. Everyone's shouting.

ABIGAIL

Everyone wait! The next time  
someone walks by, we'll all pound a  
rhythm on the window.

KANNA  
Don't you dare break it.

ZOE  
What rhythm?

ABIGAIL  
Terminator.

ZOE  
Great.

The group waits in silence for several moments, staring out the window.

ZOE  
This is going to be a great story.

TANNER  
You have a problem.

KANNA  
There's someone!

ABIGAIL  
And a-one, two, three!

Everyone beats out the Terminator theme (Duh-dun dun, duh-Dun!) except for Zoe, who hits 4 big even beats (Dun Dun Dun Dun).

ZOE  
What are you guys doing?

TANNER  
Terminator.

ZOE  
Like the movie?

TANNER  
Yes! What are you doing?

ZOE  
(beating along with it)  
TER-MI-NA-TOR!

TANNER  
It's only been an hour - we shouldn't be losing our minds yet.

ABIGAIL  
 Zoe, it's Duh-dun dun, duh-Dun!

ZOE  
 Ohhh cool cool cool cool.

KANNA  
 Here comes someone else!

ABIGAIL  
 One, two, three!

Everyone beats it out together, a few times in a row. Once they finish, however, they look disappointed.

ABIGAIL  
 Let's try something else.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The group crowds around the window, screaming at the top of their lungs, slamming pots and pans against each-other, and shining flashlights out the window in an effort to get someone to notice them. Rod is just doing a strange dance with his shirt off, making no sound at all.

TANNER  
 What's going on?!

ABIGAIL  
 We're in a very bad situation.

TANNER  
 Clearly. I'm supposed to get dinner with friends tonight.

ABIGAIL  
 Tanner, we are stranded in an apartment and there are no exits. We have limited food and there is no way to contact anyone outside. Forget about your dinner plans. Without any way to contact our friends and family, we could very well be stuck in here for days before anyone even notices we're gone and there. Is. No. Wifi.

Silence.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The group is in chaos. Rod is slamming a baseball bat into the window (to no result), screaming before each swing. Tanner is trying to force a piece of paper under the door. Zoe zooms from room to room. Neil kneels by the door with a pair of pliers, trying to yank the hinges off. Kanna tries to get them all to stop.

TANNER

I can't slip a note under any of these doors!

ZOE

The vents are too small!

ROD

God damn it, Bobby! Why would you do this?!

NEIL

Progress update: I'm applying more than adequate force. But the hinges won't yield.

KANNA

That's because they're supposed to stay there! Guys, cool the fuck down before you start using the couch as a battering ram.

TANNER

That's a great idea.

ABIGAIL

Everyone! Around the couch!

WAR-HORNS as all but Kanna form ranks around the couch.

ABIGAIL

Lift!

ALL

Hah!

KANNA

What the hell?

ABIGAIL

Ready - heave!

WAR-CRIES as all but Kanna run towards the door, brandishing the couch as a mighty BATTERING RAM.

With a resounding SLAM, the ram crashes unto the gateway, but causes no damage. The cushions fall from the frame.

ABIGAIL

Again!

KANNA

Not again! Stop!

Once more, the group heaves! This time, the couch's arm bends, and yet the door is without blemish.

ROD

For glory!

ABIGAIL

Heave!

With a satisfying CRACK, the ram strikes the door! The arm of the couch falls off. The unexpected break causes Tanner to step on a cushion, which basically absorbs his foot like quicksand and causes him to trip. The whole group tumbles to the ground.

They lay, moaning, for several seconds. Neil staggers up and examines the door.

KANNA

Great! Good luck getting a deposit back now, Rod.

NEIL

Not even a scratch.

KANNA

What? Seriously?

Everyone looks down at the partially demolished couch.

ROD

That is really bad news.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Everyone is sitting around the table with a soothing drink. They're all sweaty, looking defeated, except for Abigail. She has rolled up her sleeves in that cute way that says "let's get shit done."

ABIGAIL

Ok, we're all thinking it. This is a curse.

Zoe gasps.

TANNER

I was not thinking that.

ABIGAIL

I know it sounds far-fetched, but what other explanation could there be?

TANNER

There are countless other explanations.

ROD

Look, we haven't gotten through to Bobby yet.

ABIGAIL

What's Bobby gonna say, Rod?

ROD

"Haha uh hey asshole! I snuck in after you all fell asleep last night and reinforced the door with steel-"

ABIGAIL

Nope. Nope. Hear yourself. Hear your words. Think realistically. This is a cursed house, plain and simple.

TANNER

Oh come on! Are you guys actually buying this?

ZOE

How do we break the curse? Should we sacrifice something?

TANNER

Let's all just calm down for a second. This could be anything - a government quarantine, some sort of psychological study, a hidden camera show gone awry.

NEIL

I have to agree with Tanner. Curses and other superstitions are simply human attempts to rationalize the unexplained. What's happening must have a real world cause and purpose; must make sense. If we

NEIL  
gather empirical data, perhaps we  
can understand whatever natural  
phenomena are at play.

ZOE  
Well, I'm on the curse train!  
Woo-woo!

TANNER  
You people are insane. Listen,  
something strange happens to 6  
college students, it's not  
automatically the supernatural.  
This isn't a movie. There aren't  
any cameras over there -

Tanner points away from camera.

TANNER  
-it's just us!

ROD  
I need another drink.

Rod leaves the table.

KANNA  
What can we expect if it's a curse?

ZOE  
Well, the virgin will be the only  
one who survives.

NEIL  
That's probably me.

ZOE  
You're a virgin?

NEIL  
I'm pretty close.

ZOE  
What's that mean?

NEIL  
I've done it, but I didn't really  
like it.

ABIGAIL  
There's probably some sort of  
tragic story associated with the  
apartment.

TANNER

(mocking)

Oh sure, I'll bet a woman's husband died just days after their wedding, and she was so overcome by grief she never left the house again!

ZOE

(terrified)

How'd she die?

TANNER

Zoe! It's not real, the curse isn't real!

NEIL

He's right - curses aren't real.

Rod walks back in.

ABIGAIL

Rod, did the landlord say anything about this apartment being cursed?

ROD

Nope. Just that the lady died in here.

Everyone's heads swing towards him.

ABIGAIL

In here?!

TANNER

Look, lots of people die in apartments. That doesn't mean this place is cursed.

ROD

If this really is a curse like in a movie, the sluttiest person will be the first to go.

NEIL

By the numbers, that would be Zoe.

ZOE

(angry)  
Hey!

TANNER

(angry)  
Hey!

Both are surprised by Tanner's outburst.

TANNER  
 (self-conscious)  
 Don't be a dick, dude.

ZOE  
 And what numbers? Do you track our  
 hook-ups?

Neil remains conspicuously silent for a long period of time,  
 like as long as it takes you to read this very long  
 sentence.

NEIL  
 No.

Everyone goes off on Neil: "What the fuck, man?!"

NEIL  
 If one were to do that, I'm sure  
 the fascinating results would  
 justify the process.

ABIGAIL  
 Alright, alright. We could stay up  
 all night wondering who's gonna  
 die, is there a creature in the  
 house-

Kanna's eyes widen.

ABIGAIL  
 -but we can't worry about that  
 right now. It doesn't seem like  
 we're in any immediate danger, and  
 Tanner might be right. Maybe this  
 isn't a curse.

Everyone mumbles that they think it's a curse.

TANNER  
 Really?

ABIGAIL  
 But as long as we're in here, food  
 will be the first thing we run out  
 of.

ROD  
 What are you talking about? There's  
 a ton of food!

ABIGAIL  
Neil?

NEIL  
Yes?

ABIGAIL  
Don't act like you don't know.

NEIL  
There's enough to feed six young  
adults for 2 weeks.

TANNER  
You can't possibly think we'll be  
in here that long! Our roommates  
will notice we're not around, our  
families will be calling about  
graduation plans. Someone is  
probably searching for us right  
now!

ABIGAIL  
I don't want to bet our lives on  
it.

TANNER  
Our lives?! For real?!

ABIGAIL  
Neil, how long will the food last  
if we begin strictly rationing it?

NEIL  
3 weeks maybe.

ABIGAIL  
Then that's what we'll do.

ROD  
Woah woah, now you know you guys  
are welcome to it, but I don't know  
how I feel about my food being  
rationed.

ABIGAIL  
That's fair. What if you were in  
charge of the system?

ROD  
Alright. Cool. From now on, no more  
seconds. And that's a hard line.

NEIL

Rod, to make any significant difference, we'll have to carefully control portions even within a single course.

ROD

What?!

TANNER

This is so unnecessary! Guys, right? Neil?

Neil chooses his words carefully.

NEIL

While I don't think this is a curse, precautions are always a wise step.

TANNER

You are losing your mind.

ZOE

Guys, let's not panic here. I mean, after all, we're just hanging out.

ABIGAIL

And, like you said, we'll probably be out of here soon anyway.

NEIL

Well, thank god. I have plans.

ZOE

Yeah, yeah, you've got your dinner date!

NEIL

It's actually a goodbye dinner.

This catches everyone's ear.

NEIL

I got a job in Seattle. I'm moving next week.

Everyone freaks out with excitement.

TANNER

Oh wow, Neil, holy shit!

ABIGAIL

You've been with us for 24 hours  
and you haven't said anything?!

NEIL

It didn't feel right. Feelings are  
a strange and unpredictable force.

ABIGAIL

No arguments. We'll just have to  
get you out of here in time for  
your dinner!

Everyone goes on congratulating Neil. Though she feigns a  
smile, Zoe is clearly distraught.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

People walk down the sidewalk in caps and gowns. The living  
room is in a considerable state of disarray. Most of the  
furniture is moved off to the side and pieces of trash are  
clustered in small, out-of-the-way piles. The arm of the  
couch has been fastened back on with duct tape (it's fine as  
long as you don't lean on it).

On counter tops and side tables, small areas have been  
claimed by members of the group. The purses are unloaded.  
Various belongings are grouped together wherever seems most  
convenient.

Abigail takes a candle out of the closet. As she moves,  
strands of her hair keep falling out of place and she's  
constantly trying to keep them where they're supposed to be.

The rest of the group is re-arranging the table and couches  
to form an open space in the center of the room. They're all  
wearing Rod-sized T-shirts and their hair is significantly  
worse for wear. As Tanner and Rod lift the couch, the arm  
falls back off, causing them both to stumble.

ROD

So what kind of ritual are we  
doing?

ABIGAIL

A curse-breaking ritual.

ROD

But we don't know anything about  
the curse.

ABIGAIL

Listen, it's been a week. We've tried being logical and it's not working. We have to do something so we're going to have a curse-breaking ritual! Unless there are any better ideas?

The team gets back to work. Kanna hesitantly walks up to Abigail.

KANNA

(very carefully)

Hey, Abigail - umm, should you be doing this?

ABIGAIL

Doing what?

KANNA

Like, leading a ritual.

ABIGAIL

Why not?

KANNA

Well, you know, you're black.

ABIGAIL

I've seen the pictures.

KANNA

And there's a lot of stereotypes that portray African American women as like voodoo -

ABIGAIL

I'm just gonna stop you right there. I'm leading this ritual because if I don't step up, you people fall into chaos. Someone has to take control.

KANNA

Oh good. Great. Just as long as you know you don't have to do this if you don't want to.

ABIGAIL

If it really makes you uncomfortable, you could take over.

KANNA

Oh haha oh no. That'd be just as bad.

ABIGAIL

Right.

Abigail takes the candle over to the circle, where everything has been moved out of the way. She gestures for the group to sit. They all do so, except for Neil, who's in the kitchen, examining a window and scribbling something in his notepad.

ABIGAIL

Neil, come over here and help us cleanse the soul of the apartment.

NEIL

I'd rather not waste my time, thank you.

ZOE

Come on, Neil, it can't hurt. You've already run like a dozen tests on the windows.

NEIL

It doesn't make sense. They can't be made of glass.

ABIGAIL

Your brain is probably fried from running weird experiments all week. Come give this a try.

NEIL

I guess it'll be good for a laugh.

Neil joins the circle.

Abigail lights a match, which she allows to flare for just a moment before lowering it gently towards a Yankee Candle.

The group looks on as Abigail raises her arms into the air.

ABIGAIL

Apartment 3A, we call upon your mercy.

Abigail looks expectantly at the rest of the group. They raise their arms similarly. Zoe is just a second late.

EVERYONE  
 (uncertain)  
 Mercy!

ABIGAIL  
 Under the light of the moon, we set  
 aside these symbols of our respect:

Sunlight is shining through the window onto the ground in  
 the center of the circle. Abigail pulls out a POT from  
 behind her and places inside:

ABIGAIL  
 An apple, to represent our decent  
 into sin.

The group proceeds in a circle, placing their own items in  
 various shapes.

KANNA  
 A lock of my hair, to represent our  
 devotion.

ROD  
 A football jersey to represent our  
 passion.

TANNER  
 Five dollars to represent our  
 mastery of abstract concepts.

ZOE  
 My grandmother's wedding ring, to  
 represent our growth past material  
 possessions.

Everyone stares at Zoe, who kneels with penance, eyes  
 closed.

Tanner looks to Neil, and then to Abigail mouthing "What?!"  
 Both look back at him like "I don't know" then return to the  
 ritual.

NEIL  
 And an apple to represent the  
 importance of planning and  
 communication.

ABIGAIL  
 Good. Now, we will gather these  
 items and burn them in the urn.

ROD  
Oh jeez, really?

ZOE  
It must be done.

ABIGAIL  
Apartment 3A! Hear our words - we  
have learned the dark lesson you  
wished to impart unto us. Now, we  
shall focus our energies.

Abigail stands and holds a piece of paper to the wall. She begins drawing a very poor representation of the front door with a sharpie.

ABIGAIL  
I drew this to absorb the essence  
of the curse within the door which  
holds us captive. It shall be the  
torch which guides us to freedom!

When she takes away the picture, the sharpie has bled through, leaving a faint outline of her picture on the wall. She continues as if nothing is amiss.

KANNA  
Oh come on...

Abigail begins lifting the Yankee Candle towards the picture.

TANNER  
Hey, I think there's someone  
outside.

Everyone turns to look. Rod goes to the window.

ROD  
It's my parents! I was supposed to  
meet them for breakfast.

The others crowd around him.

KANNA  
They're looking for us!

TANNER  
What should we do?

ABIGAIL  
Get back in the circle! Maybe we  
can get break the curse and get out  
of here.

They run back to the circle. Rod lingers at the window for the second.

ABIGAIL

Rod if this works, we could still  
make it to graduation!

Rod seems troubled by this, but wordlessly rejoins the circle.

ABIGAIL

We shall chant in your honor!

The group hesitates for a second, then Rod begins:

ROD

Hey-O! Hey-O!

Everyone joins in, slowly/quietly at first, but growing.

Abigail nods as the chanting grows and ignites her picture with the Yankee Candle.

She then stands, while everyone else remains on the floor. Looking up, she lifts the flame at arms length and, just as the chanting reaches it's climax, drops it into the urn.

The chanting stops. The flame begins to sputter on in the pot. The group looks around expectantly. Then, without breaking out of her "trance", Abigail sprays some PAM onto the flame. It FLARES.

The group covers their noses.

TANNER

There's the hair.

Rod glances out the window. His parents are trying to call on their cell phones, but not getting through.

Zoe leans forward. Everyone, including Abigail, looks at her inquisitively.

ZOE

My blood, to represent our dying  
life force.

Zoe produces a knife from behind her back and tries to cut her hand over the flame. Everyone freaks out!

TANNER

Zoe, stop!

Abigail makes a face like "Might not be a horrible idea," but keeps it to herself.

Rod gets the knife out of Zoe's hand, and Neil sits next to her keeping her under control.

TANNER

She's alright now, just very susceptible to mob mentality.

Everyone nods with understanding. Zoe looks around with an embarrassed smile. She begins to speak as if making an apology:

ROD

I'm sorry, it's just my blood to represent our dying life -

She tries to push her hand back into the flame, but the group, shouting, holds her back once more.

ABIGAIL

Rod, make sure she doesn't do anything crazy - we have to finish the ritual of fire!

Rod nods and holds Zoe's arms against her sides. Abigail returns to THEATER MODE.

ABIGAIL

And now, having been reborn, we douse the flames.

Zoe pours a glass of water into the fire. It goes out with a tiny *hisssss*.

ZOE

(to herself)  
Help us, Grandma.

ABIGAIL

We gather our ashes and scatter them on the symbol of our pasts, so we might be delivered to our next lives!

Abigail **THROWS** the contents of the pot onto the door. The ring **DINGS** against the wood before skittering out of sight.

Everyone looks to Abigail expectantly. She takes a deep breath and inches towards the door.

Gently, she reaches out and turns the knob.

CLICK.

It doesn't move. Nothing has changed. The crew's spirits collectively drop.

ZOE

Fuck.

With a quick breath, Abigail spins back around.

ABIGAIL

(slightly unhinged)

Hi team, so: none of that did anything. Makes sense, considering we know absolutely nothing about our situation. I'm really sorry about that.

KANNA

Abigail, it's alright.

ABIGAIL

No. No, not alright, not yet. But don't worry - don't worry - we'll figure this out. I'll make sure we do!

Abigail takes a breath. Everyone lets her have a moment.

ABIGAIL

(slightly more composed)

Excuse me.

Everyone's like "of course, of course." Abigail heads to the bathroom, grabbing her purse as she goes.

Rod walks to the window and watches his parents pack up and drive away. Kanna joins him, holding him by the arm.

ZOE

If anyone finds a 60-year old Halo-cut diamond ring, it's mine. Please tell me.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Abigail walks into the bathroom, still frazzled. She closes the door behind her but the group can still be heard talking outside. Hand shaking, she takes off her purse, searches inside, and clumsily drops it into the sink. With force, she takes it out and slams it down on the toilet.

You can hear the group go briefly quiet outside the door. She waits a moment until they begin talking again. Then, looking into the mirror:

ABIGAIL

(quietly)

Hey! What the hell are you doing?  
Get it together. I'll smack you! I  
swear to God I will smack you and  
then we'll see who's dropping shit.

She smacks her hand.

ABIGAIL

Don't be an asshole!

She flares her nostrils and grabs at the edges of the sink, then allows herself to relax a little.

Slightly calmed, she grabs her purse, searches through it and pulls out a PILL BOTTLE.

Abigail takes off the cap and turns the bottle upside down. A single pill falls into her hand. She glances into the empty bottle to confirm what she already knows.

Sighing, she swallows the pill without any water like a grown up.

Just before she throws the pill bottle into the trash can, she thinks better of it. Putting it back in her purse, Abigail looks into the mirror once more:

ABIGAIL

Watch yourself.

She leaves.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Rod pulls Tanner into the room and looks outside before quietly closing the door and grabbing him by the shoulders.

ROD

(hushed but desperate)

Tanner, what have we done?!

Tanner throws him off.

TANNER

Woh woh, easy buddy. We're fine.

ROD

Tanner, we ate all that food. It's been a week - soon people are going to notice!

TANNER

No one will notice, the only person who knew exactly what food you had was you. Just keep cool. It wasn't that much.

ROD

Listen, Tanner, I feel really guilty. Maybe we should tell Abigail and Zoe-

Zoe's name catches Tanner's attention.

TANNER

No! They'd hate us. Not without good reason to be honest, but there's nothing we can do now. Who could have guessed we'd be stuck in here a week? Promise me you'll keep quiet.

ROD

Jesus, we're bad people.

TANNER

No we're not.

ROD

Like legitimately evil.

TANNER

Hey! When we ate that food, we thought we'd be out of here in a day. Who could have guessed a week would pass and we'd still be in here?

ROD

That's true.

TANNER

There's a million reasons to do what we did. Trust me, I've been rationalizing for years.

ROD

Ok. Alright, cool. I'll keep it to myself.

TANNER

Good.

They stare at each other for a few seconds.

TANNER

We're not evil.

ROD

Good people never have to say that.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zoe, Tanner, and Neil are asleep in the living room. Abigail is curled up on the recliner, Neil is supine on the couch, and Tanner is spread out on the ground.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kanna and Rod sleep in Rod's bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zoe fidgets and mumbles slightly, fast asleep.

On the ground, Tanner is awake, looking at his phone. Zoe turns over in her sleep. Tanner puts the phone to his chest. When the room falls silent once more, he continues looking.

NEIL

The fish is gone, Tanner.

Tanner drops the phone in surprise.

TANNER

(whispered)

Oh my god, Neil! Are you awake?

NEIL

Huh. That's a good question.

TANNER

What are you talking about?

NEIL

Maybe this is a dream. It would explain why none of my data makes any sense.

TANNER

Neil, you're not dreaming. I know because I'm sentient.

NEIL  
(very seriously)  
Are you?

TANNER  
...I...I don't know. I think so.

NEIL  
We'll just have to assume.

TANNER  
What'd you say about a fish?

NEIL  
It's gone.

TANNER  
A fish?

Neil points to the wall, where the empty fishbowl still hangs.

TANNER  
Oh my god, you're right. What happened to it?

NEIL  
Observation: The fish is gone.  
Hypothesis: Someone must have taken the fish from the bowl. My prediction: To remove the fish, someone must have touched the bowl. If I dust the bowl for finger prints, I'll be able to identify who it was.

TANNER  
Who was it?

NEIL  
There were no prints.

TANNER  
Maybe they used gloves.

NEIL  
Even conceding that possibility, there's still no clear motive. What's more, the fish thief would have to take their action in secret, most likely while we're all asleep, mere feet away, without waking us, and the bowl nailed into the wall.

TANNER

You're sure there was a fish in there?

NEIL

Of course.

TANNER

Maybe you imagined it - I mean, from what you've described, stealing the fish sounds impossible.

NEIL

There was definitely a fish. I love fish. I always know if there's a fish.

TANNER

Fine, fine - I'm stumped then.

NEIL

There must be some rational explanation. Things don't just happen.

Neil turns back towards the couch to go to bed.

NEIL

And curses aren't real!

TANNER

You don't have to tell me - I know!

Once Neil is safely turned away for several seconds, Tanner takes his phone back out.

He's flipping through pictures of the group taking a class, hanging out at a bar, posing for a group picture. He smiles quietly to himself.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TABLE - AFTERNOON

Zoe, Abigail, and Kanna sit around the table. The game is gin rummy. Abigail deals.

KANNA

Once a week, a plane flies out from Iceland. It goes to a city called Nerlerit, where you have to get on a helicopter and it will take you the rest of the way.

ABIGAIL  
And this place is called?

KANNA  
Ittoqqortoormiit.

ZOE  
Ittoqqortoormiit?

KANNA  
Wow, you got it right away.

ZOE  
I mean, you just said it.

KANNA  
Ittoqqortoormiit, Greenland.

ABIGAIL  
It's like a secret city?

Kanna laughs.

KANNA  
No, just really small.

ABIGAIL  
Why's it so cool?

KANNA  
I don't know. I guess because it's  
so hard to get to?

ZOE  
What do people do there?

KANNA  
A lot of them hunt polar bears.

ZOE  
What? That's crazy!

KANNA  
If I went, I wouldn't kill any  
polar bears.

ZOE  
Kanna, you better not.

KANNA  
I'm not.

Zoe just points at her like "you'd better not." Kanna puts her hands up like "ok, ok."

ABIGAIL  
What about Rod?

Kanna smirks and looks over into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

An emptied trash can sits on the counter. Rod and Tanner watch as Neil, standing in a far corner of the room, closes his eyes and throws the stress ball into the "basket."

ROD  
How do you keep doing that?

INT. LIVING ROOM - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

KANNA  
If he could go anywhere in the world, Rod would hang out on his porch.

ZOE  
Ha! You two are adorable.

KANNA  
Haha I guess.

The girls focus on their cards for a second.

KANNA  
(hushed)  
Honestly, this has got to stay between us, but we've actually been talking about breaking up.

ZOE  
(taken aback)  
What? Why?

KANNA  
It's just a hard situation. Rod's moving to White Plains because that's where his family is and where he'll have a job, but I've got neither of those things there. Maybe strapping myself to White Plains isn't a good idea, but doing a long-distance thing seems stupid if don't plan on ever living in the same city...

ABIGAIL  
Right, right, that makes sense.

ZOE  
Well, I don't know - are you guys  
unhappy?

KANNA  
No, we're fine! He's always there  
for me, he's a great boyfriend!

Abigail looks at her questioningly.

KANNA  
He really is!

Abigail keeps looking.

KANNA  
We're happy, ok?

ZOE  
I mean, would you really be able to  
break it off just like that? You  
two are so close - it's so great.

ABIGAIL  
Yeah, but, this is your only life.  
I always say people need to be  
alone for a while to get to know  
themselves. What about  
Ittoqqortoormiit?

Kanna is clearly conflicted. Zoe can see it.

ZOE  
If you wanted to, I bet you could  
make it work.

Kanna looks to Abigail.

ABIGAIL  
I mean, probably. What does Rod  
want?

KANNA  
For me to come with him.

ABIGAIL  
Would you want to live in White  
Plains?

Kanna looks over to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Neil lies on the ground, facing away from the trash can. He throws the ball up into the air and it goes exactly where it's supposed to. Rod and Tanner both freak out.

ROD

You have to be cheating somehow.

NEIL

It's just angles.

TANNER

That explains nothing!

INT. LIVING ROOM - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

KANNA

I don't know.

Abigail lays her three remaining cards down on the table.

ABIGAIL

I'm out.

Zoe throws her hand into the discard pile.

Abigail leans back, satisfied with herself. Something catches her eye out the window.

ABIGAIL

Guys!

The other ladies follow her gaze. All three jump up from the table.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Neil's hand is sticking out of the closet. Hearing the shout, they shoot a quick look at each other and run out. Neil keeps the ball.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The group gathers around the window.

Outside, Rod's parents are talking with POLICE OFFICERS.

ZOE

Rod, your parents must have called  
the cops.

ROD  
They always said they would.

ZOE  
If they couldn't find you?

ROD  
For lots of reasons.

TANNER  
Oh shit, look at this!

The cops have dug a small battering ram out of the trunk of their car.

KANNA  
Oh yes yes yes! Everyone get back!

Everyone excitedly backs away from the door. As Rod's parents look on, the police officer approaches the apartment.

ZOE  
What if they can't get thorough?

TANNER  
Even if they can't, what'll they say? "Huh, this is a tough door. Looks like your kid's gone for good?"

NEIL  
Here they go.

The cop slams his ram into the wood. Inside, door shakes with the force.

ROD  
Yes, we can hear it!!

Kanna squeezes Rod's arm with joy.

The Cop rams the door once again.

Zoe looks around with a sad smile.

With another heave, the cop throws his ram against the door one more time. A small splintering sound can be heard.

The group waits eagerly for what must be the final blow!

But it doesn't come.

The group continues to wait, looking at each other confusedly. Only Neil seems undisturbed, looking at the door with a grim determination.

KANNA

Did they stop?

Rod gets up and goes to the window.

ROD

He's gone.

ABIGAIL

What?

The rest of the group joins him.

ROD

He was right there.

ZOE

Here comes the other guy.

The other cop walks down and observes the area without much interest.

TANNER

He must have seen the other guy disappear.

The other cop casually strolls through his side of the door.

The entire group jumps back in surprise and looks to the front door. There is definitely no cop inside.

KANNA

I don't understand.

One of the cops pops his head back out the door and calls for Rod's parents, who walk inside and join the officers. Nothing changes inside the house.

KANNA

What the hell is going on?!

ABIGAIL

I don't know.

TANNER

What is this?

ABIGAIL  
Listen, I don't know...I just don't know. Rod, is there...is there another place that door goes?

TANNER  
What do you mean "is there another place it goes?" That's not how doors work!

ABIGAIL  
Rod?!

Rod is pretty quiet, biting his nail and still looking out the window. He shakes his head.

TANNER  
We need to do something now. The cops are here, looking through this house, if they don't know we're here they won't come back.

Neil slips away to the kitchen.

KANNA  
What are we supposed to do?

TANNER  
Something! Maybe we should pound on the door again.

Rod looks over. WAR HORNS.

ABIGAIL  
Stop! That's stupid, we already know they can't hear us.

TANNER  
Ok fine, fucking genius, what should we do?

ABIGAIL  
We should wait - maybe they'll find something.

TANNER  
We should wait?!

ROD  
They're coming back out.

The group looks out the window. The parents, despondent, walk back towards their car with the officers in tow.

TANNER

Come on, we're missing our chance!

Giving in, the entire group runs to the door and starts slamming it with their fists.

Something THUMPS in the kitchen.

The group stops and look around.

Abigail walks over to the corner and looks into the kitchen.

ABIGAIL

Oh my god, Neil!

The rest of the group leaps from their places and runs to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Neil is crumpled on the floor. In his hand is an empty PILL BOTTLE. Kanna and Tanner GASP. Zoe is silent but her eyes go wide with terror.

Though nobody notices amidst the worry, there is a sixth woman, roughly their age, among them for just a moment, in the back of the group. She's very scared.

Abigail's eyes shoot to the bottle.

ABIGAIL

What is that?

Rod looks.

ROD

It's cough medicine. He's taken the whole thing!

Abigail relaxes almost imperceptibly. Rod and Tanner try to prop up Neil's limp body.

TANNER

How much was in there?

ROD

Like all of it.

ABIGAIL

Zoe, get some water. Kanna get a plastic bag. We're gonna have to make him throw up.

TANNER

Damn it, Neil, why did you do this?

Zoe returns with the water, and Abigail tries to pour some down Neil's throat. He begins convulsing.

KANNA

What's happening?

TANNER

I don't know, he's having some sort of reaction.

ZOE

From cough medicine?!

ABIGAIL

He needs to throw up!

ROD

Got it.

Rod punches Neil in the stomach, hard. Neil's eyes burst open as the air is forcibly knocked out of him. He sits up, gasping for breath.

The group is uncertain what's happening.

ZOE

He didn't throw up.

ROD

Got it.

Rod gets ready to punch him again, but Neil, still clutching at his stomach frustratedly pushes him away.

ABIGAIL

Neil, are you ok?

NEIL

(recovering, furious)  
What the hell was that?

ROD

What?

NEIL

Is that your response to crisis?  
Punch the dying man?! Holy shit.

ABIGAIL

Neil, you still need to throw up.

NEIL

I'm fine - I didn't take any pills.

Neil takes a moment to compose himself. The group is flabbergasted.

ZOE

Then what is all this?!

NEIL

(composing himself)

A test.

ZOE

A stupid test?! We thought you were dying!

NEIL

I'm sorry.

KANNA

Neil, you can't pretend to commit suicide. It's super offensive.

NEIL

(angry again)

Everyone shut up!

Everyone is shocked. They do just that. Neil brings himself under control. He takes several deep breaths.

NEIL

This was a last resort. I've been trying to wrap my head around what's happening.

TANNER

Yeah, you've run experiements.

NEIL

I've run over 100 experiments.

Everyone is shocked once more. Rod nods in understanding.

ROD

That's how you were so good at basketball.

NEIL

What? No, that's just a simple game for children.

Rod is embarrassed. He quiets back down.

NEIL

Repeatedly, my tests have revealed that our situation isn't just strange - it's impossible. By all known laws of physics and matter, none of this should be happening.

ZOE

So you pretend to kill yourself?

NEIL

Observation: there is no natural explanation for the phenomena which has trapped us in this house.  
Hypothesis: There must be some sort of outside force or observer trapping us inside for a purpose unknown to us. My prediction: if it seems like I'm about to die, whatever entity trapped us in here would be forced to take action and stop it - especially if parents and law enforcement are right outside.

Everyone's quiet for a second.

NEIL

But nothing happened. Nothing adds up. After a week, I still don't know how this is happening, let alone why. There's no explanation.

ABIGAIL

Ok. So what does that mean.

Neil chuckles. He takes the stress ball out of his pocket.

NEIL

I guess it's a curse.

Without looking, Neil throws ball. It flies through the air and falls into the trash can on the far side of the room.

ROD

What is your fuckin' deal -

When the group looks back, Neil has disappeared. They stand in shocked silence for a moment.

ZOE  
(calling out)  
Neil?

INT. BEDROOM - A FEW MINTUES LATER

Rod roots through his belongings. We hear calls for Neil in the background. Kanna walks by the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kanna descends the stairs. Zoe and Tanner are upending the living room.

ZOE  
(frantic)  
He has to be in here!

Abigail walks in from the kitchen.

ABIGAIL  
Not back there.

ZOE  
He must have gone to the basement.

ROD  
Damn it.

ZOE  
I'm sure it's not that bad.

ROD  
You didn't come when we investigated on Monday. It's terrifying down there.

KANNA  
He's right. The lights are all broken, and it's just really creepy.

ZOE  
Well, it's the only place left so we're gonna have to go check.

ROD  
I'd really rather not.

KANNA  
Me too.

ZOE

What's wrong with you guys?

A small THUMP can be heard coming up from the basement. Everyone turns to look at the ominous door. While they're looking away, Abigail's leg trembles slightly. She steadies it and wipes some sweat off her brow.

ROD

That's just the house settling. And, you know, if Neil's in the basement, he'll have to come up for food eventually.

ABIGAIL

That's a good point. Plus, if he's hiding, he probably doesn't want to be found. We shouldn't pressure him.

KANNA

I mean those are fine reasons, but I'm more concerned about getting eaten by a monster or some crazy shit like that.

ZOE

Guys, the most important thing is that we're together. Neil could be in some kind of danger.

ABIGAIL

He could also be fine.

ZOE

Well let's go downstairs to find out!

Everyone's quiet for a second. Tanner has been sitting off to the side, biting a nail.

TANNER

Alright, I'll go.

ZOE

Yes! Yes, Tanner! We're going to the basement!

Another silent moment.

ROD

And the two of you are gonna have a great time!

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Zoe and Tanner ease around the corner of the stairs and are confronted by a pool of black. The light from the living room door makes hardly any impression on the shadowy space. They look back to where Abigail, Rod, and Kanna support them with thoughts.

Finally, glancing at each other, they continue downward, each step feeling a little bit more perilous than the last.

As they step off the bottom stair, Zoe and Tanner both hold up their iPhone flashlights and look around.

The shine from their phones barely makes an impression. One section of space is hidden behind a dusty concrete wall.

TANNER  
(as quietly as he can be loud)  
Neil?

Nothing.

TANNER  
Damn.

Tanner, unmoving, looks to Zoe. She looks back.

ZOE  
What?

TANNER  
Well, what else can we do?

Zoe punches him in the arm.

ZOE  
We need to look.

TANNER  
Have we not looked?

ZOE  
Upstairs, I saw you open a box to see if Neil was inside.

TANNER  
Well, that's not so weird. Neil loves boxes.

As Tanner talks, the pair begin inching forward. Small creaks and groans from the house occasionally catch their eye, making them jump and point their flashlights in that direction.

TANNER

He said their symmetrical sides  
bring order to the universe or some  
crazy shit like that. His room was  
full of boxes -

ZOE

Shh.

TANNER

Right right.

ZOE

I'm gonna look around this corner -  
you check over by the boxes.

TANNER

Neil loves boxes.

ZOE

I know. Go see if he's behind them.

TANNER

Sure.

Tanner makes his way over to the boxes while Zoe steps  
uncertainly around the corner.

Containers covered in dust and an old, broken bicycle are  
the only signs people have ever ventured this far. Zoe's eye  
is caught by the strange, shadowy hole off in the  
corner. She squints. Still not able to make out exactly what  
it is, she steps nearer and her foot slips on something.

Tanner, who had been peering fearfully into a box, hears a  
small YELL and comes running! He trips right over the  
bicycle and falls to the ground next to Zoe. He drops his  
wallet, but neither notice.

Zoe helps him up.

TANNER

What's wrong?

ZOE

Look.

She points to the floor. Both look down, puzzled.

INT. KITCHEN - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Rod, Abigail, and Kanna are sitting by the counter, staring at the door to the basement. They stand when they hear footsteps climbing back upstairs.

Tanner and Zoe emerge from the darkness, Zoe holding something in her hands.

KANNA

Thank god.

ROD

We heard you scream, but decided it would be insulting to imply you couldn't handle something by trying to help you with it.

ABIGAIL

What's that?

As everyone gathers around, Zoe uncups her hands to reveal a small goldfish.

ROD

What? That's my fish!

Rod looks over to the now empty fishbowl hanging on the wall.

ROD

I hadn't even noticed it was gone.

KANNA

Have you not been feeding it?

TANNER

Neil noticed it was gone before he disappeared.

ABIGAIL

How did it get downstairs?

TANNER

He didn't know.

ZOE

It was just sitting in the middle of the floor.

ABIGAIL

And Neil?

ZOE

Nothing.

TANNER

Yeah, he wasn't down there. We looked everywhere. I checked all the boxes - nothing.

ABIGAIL

Well, he's not up here either.

ROD

Guys, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Everyone looks at Rod.

KANNA

Babe, what?

ROD

Did Neil turn into the fish?

Everyone's like "No, no, that's not it."

KANNA

Rod. Honey. No.

ROD

Don't act like that's too insane! We've been trapped in here for a week. Neil's not anywhere upstairs, he's not downstairs, and he's definitely not here. What, is he just gone? Did he just disappear without a trace?

Everyone is silent. They look at each other ruefully: "I guess so."

Zoe is devastated.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Abigail is in the kitchen, looking pretty sick. Her clothes only almost match and her hair is disorganized. As she works, she tries to touch it up, but it's a lost cause without proper product. Nevertheless, she's fighting the good fight against her body with a look of determination. She pours five bowls of cereal. Outside, it rains.

Several pieces of furniture from the living room have been moved to the kitchen area. Kanna sits on one of these chairs, reading a book. Several of the kitchen cabinets are hanging open. Inside, nothing's left but the stuff everyone has that nobody eats - tomato soup, off-brand crackers, sauce, tortilla shells, etc.

Groups of pillows, blankets, and belongings are packed into unused corners, almost like little nests. A ball is bouncing against the ground in the next room.

ABIGAIL

Lunch!

The ball stops and feet scuffle. Everyone comes to the kitchen and grabs one of the bowls.

ROD

Finally!

ABIGAIL

Try to make it last, if you can.  
It's not going to be a big dinner  
tonight.

The group gulps down their cereal. Most of them are done eating it in less than a minute. Rod eats his especially quick.

ROD

Is there any chance we could get a  
little more? Neil's not here.

ZOE

No! What if he comes back and we  
don't have any food left?

KANNA

Zoe, it's been a week. Wherever he  
is, he's not in the house, and I  
don't know why he'd come back.

ABIGAIL

It doesn't matter. Even with Neil  
gone, we have a lot less food than  
we thought we did.

Rod and Tanner look guilty.

KANNA

How long until we run out?

ABIGAIL

I don't know - another few days?  
After a week, we'll be running on  
empty.

Silence as everyone chews their food.

ROD

Then we die.

Everyone groans at him.

KANNA

Yes, Rod, yes! There's no need to  
say it.

ABIGAIL

Keep cool, people. We can still  
make it out of here, but we can't  
give up.

ZOE

I've a little given up.

ABIGAIL

What?!

ZOE

I mean, what are we gonna find that  
we haven't found yet? Maybe this is  
just our life now.

ABIGAIL

Zoe, that's incredibly shortsighted  
and potentially dangerous thinking!

ZOE

Don't judge.

ABIGAIL

Everyone, this is crunch time,  
okay? We're on our last legs, this  
is where all the shit hits the fan,  
we have to be ready. Are you with  
me?

EVERYONE

(meh)

Yeah.

ABIGAIL

Are you?!

EVERYONE  
(taken aback)  
Yeah.

ABIGAIL  
Good. Let's keep doing what we're  
doing.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Rod is showering. Kanna walks in, glancing behind her to make sure she isn't seen entering the same bathroom as her boyfriend.

KANNA  
Hey, mind some company?

ROD  
(excited)  
Oh shit, we doin' this?

Rod, naked, throws back the curtain.

KANNA  
(hushed)  
What?! No! Rod, everyone would hear  
us.

ROD  
Babe, it's been two weeks. At this  
point, maybe we should just  
broadcast it, you know? Break the  
ice.

KANNA  
No, Rod. I just want to talk.

ROD  
Talk with our bodies.

KANNA  
No (what does that even mean). Talk  
about how you're doing.

ROD  
Oh. What's up?

KANNA  
Well how are you?

ROD  
I'm doing fine!

KANNA

I know that's not true. You missed the deposit on your apartment. Is it gone?

ROD

Oh yeah. There was a waitlist behind me. Someone's probably already moved in.

KANNA

Oh. I'm so sorry, babe. But hey, you know, this might be a blessing in disguise. You're not tied to White Plains anymore - maybe you could try to find something somewhere else!

ROD

What? What's wrong with White Plains - I'm sure something will turn up.

KANNA

I'm just saying, what if we found a job somewhere else?

ROD

Babe, we could look all over the world, but we're not gonna find another city where we already have family and friends.

KANNA

But see, this is what I'm talking about. They're not my -

The floor creaks right outside the door. Kanna and Rod both go quiet, and Kanna looks outside.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tanner and Zoe are creeping by as quietly as possible after retrieving something from the bedroom.

ZOE

(whispered)

We're so sorry!

KANNA

No, it's fine, we were just...

Zoe and Tanner wait.

KANNA  
We're doing it.

Pause.

ZOE  
Nice.

Tanner and Zoe creep down the stairs. Kanna watches them then awkwardly closes the door.

ROD (O.S.)  
(muffled)  
I mean we could.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tanner and Zoe scurry in. Abigail is aimlessly staring out the window. A small rash has broken out on her cheek and her eyes are glazed over.

ZOE  
I feel bad.

TANNER  
Don't. They're the lucky ones.

The pair sit down and relax for a moment. The couch arm has been refitted with even more duct tape. Zoe notices Abigail.

ZOE  
Abigail, are you feeling alright?

Abigail doesn't notice.

ZOE  
Abigail?

Abigail looks over, surprised.

ABIGAIL  
Hmm?

ZOE  
Are you feeling alright?

Abigail snorts.

ABIGAIL  
No. I'm a prisoner.

ZOE  
Yeah, but how's your tummy? You  
look sick.

ABIGAIL  
It's fine.

ZOE  
Well, let us know if you need a tum  
or something. There's smoothie  
flavors!

Abigail's face darkens. She lets out a long sigh.

TANNER  
Cool, we all feel great now!

ZOE  
Shut up.

Tanner's stomache rumbles audibly.

ZOE  
Jeez haha. Eat this.

She passes him a GRANOLA BAR.

TANNER  
Don't worry about it, I'm fine.

ZOE  
Bullshit! Make it last though -  
that's the last one.

She pushes it into Tanner's hand, but he gives it back.

TANNER  
No, seriously - you have it. I'm  
doing fine.

Zoe thinks this is sweet.

ZOE  
If you say so.

Something catches Abigail's eye outside.

ABIGAIL  
Oh my god!

Tanner and Zoe run towards the window. Kanna and Rod walk  
in.

KANNA

What is it?

ABIGAIL

Someone's walking up to the door.

Outside, a PROFESSIONAL LADY is leading a YOUNG MAN dressed similarly to Rod towards the building.

ROD

That's my landlord!

Rod begins pounding on the window.

ROD

Chelsea! Chelsea, in here! I knew someone must be looking for us!

TANNER

Rod, she's not looking for us.

As the pair approach the door, the landlord points at the apartment, describing aspects of the facade.

ABIGAIL

Oh my god, she's renting the apartment.

The lady concludes whatever little speech she had prepared and takes out a key to lead the young man inside. She unlocks the front door and steps inside without any problems.

No one walks inside. Everyone SHOUTS in frustration.

ROD

Dude! Dude, no! We're already trapped in here! Get out while you still can!

Rod begins beating on the wall with a nearby broom.

ROD

Hey, man! Can you hear me?!

ABIGAIL

He can't hear you, Rod.

ROD

Dude, please, call Brett and Austin! Come get us! We can't get out - we've been in here for so goddamned long!

The pair walk back out the front door. The young man looks very pleased. The landlady takes some contracts out of her purse.

The rest of the crew takes their seats, but Rod continues shouting out the window.

ROD

Hey, no, don't you do that! You don't want this apartment! I haven't had a full meal in 2 weeks! Don't you sign that - don't do it!

The landlord puts her contracts on the hood of her car and the young man signs.

ROD

No! What are you doing?! The apartment is cursed - we can't have sex but it feels weird to masturbate!

Tanner and Zoe look at each other in confusion.

ROD

I can't play gin rummy anymore, dude, I can't! It's so stupid, it's a stupid stupid game, but there's no chips! There's no chips, we can't play poker, and we can't just sit here all day, please help us! I've already lost my job, dude, and soon we won't have any food! PLEASE! DUDE, PLEASE!

Silence. Rod slams his fists against the window. A frustrated moment passes. Zoe looks particularly distraught.

Suddenly, Rod YELLS, grabs the lamp by the window and chucks it.

Everyone jumps as it crashes against the wall. Most look back at Rod, who's now holding his face in his hands. Abigail, however, keeps staring up.

ROD

Ah Jesus, I'm sorry about that.

ABIGAIL

Rod-

ROD  
I know, there's just-

ABIGAIL  
Rod, look.

Everyone looks to Abigail, then follows her gaze.

Where the lamp hit the wall, a tiny dent has appeared.

ABIGAIL  
What's next door to us?

ROD  
Another apartment.

Abigail looks to Rod.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Rod SHOUTS as he swings his bat into the wall. The group watches with baited breath. After several particularly large swings, Zoe shouts:

ZOE  
Wait!

Rod stops. Everyone runs in.

ZOE  
Look!

In the wall, a tiny crack has widened.

ZOE  
That wasn't there before.

ABIGAIL  
You're sure?

ZOE  
I'm sure!

The room is getting excited.

ABIGAIL  
Ok, this could be it. We'll have to  
break through.

Tanner looks at the tiny crack.

TANNER  
It'll take a while.

KANNA  
Rod's up to the challenge.

ROD  
As long as this bat doesn't break.

ABIGAIL  
Great - let's do it!

ROD  
Alright, stand back!

Everyone steps back and Rod lays into the wall with his bat.

Abigail, incredibly relieved, takes a step back and leans up against Zoe.

ABIGAIL  
Oh, thank god.

ZOE  
I know - this could be it.

ABIGAIL  
Not just that. I've been getting really worried.

ZOE  
Ah, about your tummy.

ABIGAIL  
No. Well, sort of. I'm sick.

Tanner and Kanna fall into the conversation while Rod continues swinging at the wall.

ZOE  
Oh my gosh, what's wrong?

ABIGAIL  
I have lupus.

Tanner snorts.

Everyone swings on him like "What. The. Hell?"

TANNER  
Oh. Shit, wait, is that a real thing?

ABIGAIL

What do you mean "Is it a real thing?" It's lupus. I've had to take pills every day for 2 years.

TANNER

I'm sorry, I never knew it was a real disease! It sounds silly, like it's made up.

KANNA

All names are made-up. You're a monster.

TANNER

I'm sorry! Abigail, are you alright?

ABIGAIL

I ran out of pills a week ago, but as long as I can get out of here I'll be ok.

Zoe sits her down on the couch. Abigail sinks deep into the cushions, making her seem small and out-of-place. She doesn't like it.

ZOE

Abigail, why didn't you tell us?!

ABIGAIL

Because I'm fine.

TANNER

Clearly you're not.

ABIGAIL

There was just nothing to do about it.

ZOE

Yeah, but you could still tell us so we could help!

ABIGAIL

I just don't want to think about it, ok?! Let's just - Rod, be careful to avoid the electrical lines.

ROD

I'm not so worried about it.

ABIGAIL  
You know where they are?

ROD  
No idea. But it doesn't really  
matter - in a couple days, the  
electricity's shutting off.

This stops everyone dead in their tracks. Rod takes a few more swings. Then, noticing the lack of movement, turns around.

ABIGAIL  
Rod, what are you talking about?

ROD  
After graduation, I was moving out.  
No point paying bills for an  
apartment you don't live in.

ABIGAIL  
How in the hell did this not come  
up earlier?

ROD  
I didn't think we'd still be here a  
week after graduation!

TANNER  
It's eighty degrees outside. If the  
electricity goes, it's taking the  
A/C with it.

ABIGAIL  
Thank god we've been rationing.

Rod and Tanner exchange a glance.

ROD  
Uh, actually, listen guys...I have  
something-

Tanner pushes over a chair. Everyone turns to see what happened.

TANNER  
Shit! Sorry gang. Anyways, let's  
keep pounding!

ABIGAIL  
Wait, Rod, what were you saying?

Rod looks first at Zoe, caringly inquisitive, then Tanner, behind her, wide eyed and imploring.

ROD  
 Uh guys, I just love pounding.  
 Let's do this!

TANNER  
 Jesus haha weird Rod!

Rod shoots an angry look at Tanner.

ABIGAIL  
 Well, come on then, dig faster!

Rod leaps back into his work with even more zeal.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Activity, including the incessant THWACK of Rod's bat against the wall, can be heard in the living room as Kanna walks in. Tanner is sitting at the counter, sweaty and drinking a big glass of water.

TANNER  
 Looks like we might be out of here soon.

KANNA  
 Finally. You're going to Chicago right?

TANNER  
 Yup.

KANNA  
 Just you?

TANNER  
 Yeah, that's right. Out on my own.

Kanna is curious.

KANNA  
 Jeez. Do you ever worry?

TANNER  
 About what?

KANNA  
 Like that maybe something will happen to you, and your family is hundreds of miles away?

Tanner is a degree too casual.

TANNER

Haha not really. I'm a hundred miles away from them now.

KANNA

So if you're going into this new town, where nobody knows you, aren't you scared you'll feel like, worthless, you know? Like nothing you do matters?

TANNER

Sure. But everyone feels that way. You just have to see it coming and you can stop it from affecting you.

KANNA

Just like that?

TANNER

Just like that.

KANNA

Well, that's cool. I don't think that would work for me, but clearly you've got it all figured out.

TANNER

Haha thanks. Yeah, I'm ready for the next adventure. Chicago will be great. I'll make new friends, I'll keep in touch with my old ones, why wouldn't I be ready?

Kanna thinks it's rhetorical for a second.

KANNA

Oh! Uh no reason I guess!

TANNER

No reason, right?! I'm ready! Let's help Rod demolish this wall!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRUNTS and SHOUTS rise above the THWACK of wood against wood.

Rod has made a significant hole in the wall, about the size of a human head. The plaster of the building next door is showing through. Kanna stands nearby with the hatchet. Abigail is sitting amidst the action, looking pretty sick.

ABIGAIL  
How close are we, Rod?

ROD  
(without stopping)  
I just need a couple good swings.

TANNER  
Thank god. A few more minutes, and  
we'll be out and on our way to our  
real lives.

Rod gives a huge swing. Just by the sound, you can tell the wood is on its last legs. He hits it again and a small bit of dust flies out. It's now visibly falling apart.

ROD  
Everyone stand back!

Rod smiles at the group, then throws one last, mighty blow.

With a satisfying CRACK, the wood breaks. A small cloud of dust flies into Rod's face - he coughs and waves it away.

When the dust clears, Rod steps towards the hole.

ROD  
No way.

ABIGAIL  
Is there anyone on the other side?  
Maybe we can climb through.

Rod steps back to reveal the unthinkable: a second wall, exactly like the first, positioned just behind.

ABIGAIL  
What?!

She runs up to the hole and touches it; compares it to the wall in 1B.

ROD  
This can't be happening. It's  
impossible.

ABIGAIL  
Rod, widen the hole.

Rod grabs the hatchet from Kanna and, with renewed zeal, begins tearing at the edges of the hole. Clumps of wood come away with relative ease, revealing more and more wall on the other side of the wall.

ZOE

Wait!

ABIGAIL

What is it?

Zoe points to the corner of DRAWING on the inner wall.

ZOE

This is the picture Abigail drew during the ritual.

It's defifinetly the same picture.

KANNA

But wait - how could that be the same dent?

ROD

This can't be real.

ABIGAIL

It's the same wall. It's the same wall again.

A side-by-side look at the hole and the wall reveals the picures are truly identical, one completing the other where the wall has been torn away.

ROD

No no no no, that can't be right. There's got to be more.

Rod grabs the bat from Zoe and goes back in.

KANNA

Rod, stop! There's no point!

Rod is going ape-shit on this wall.

ROD

I'll make it through this one too!

ZOE

What if there's another one?

ROD

Three walls?! Don't be stupid.

Progress is just as slow on this wall as it was at first - even with all his strength, Rod can hardly dent it.

ROD  
 (grunting)  
 I'm done! I'm done losing my job,  
 my house, my diploma, my godamn  
fish!

ZOE  
 Rod, it's ok, they'll give us our  
 diplomas once we're out of here!

Rod, absolutely worn out, stops swinging for one second  
 nearly keels over.

ROD  
 No. No. There was a final I had to  
 turn in. It was 30% of the grade. I  
 needed it to pass.

Everyone stops. This is news.

KANNA  
 Babe, I'm sure they'll understand-

ROD  
 Will they? Will they?! Why would  
 they - Kanna, get in there with the  
 screwdriver.

KANNA  
 Rod...

Rod grabs the screw driver from her and gets as close as he  
 can to the second wall, pounding it.

KANNA  
 Rod, you're being an idiot!

ROD  
 We'll. Get. Out. We'll. Get. Out.

Rod repeatedly slams the screwdriver into the wall!

Rod's pounding causes a piece of drywall to break free and  
 fall from above.

It CRASHES onto his head.

Rod falls. Everyone screams and rushes to his aid!

KANNA  
 Babe babe babe are you ok?

ABIGAIL  
Keep your eyes open. Don't fall  
asleep. We need to check if his  
pupils dilate!

TANNER  
I'll get a flashlight!

Tanner runs to the closet.

ABIGAIL  
Zoe, there's a first-aid kit in the  
bathroom under the sink!

ZOE  
Got it!

KANNA  
Rod, say something!

ABIGAIL  
Stay with us, Rod, we need to keep  
control. Stay in control, Rod.

Rod is going in and out of consciousness.

ROD  
(dazed)  
Car crash...

KANNA  
Not right now, babe.

Tanner comes back with a flashlight. He kneels down next to  
Rod.

TANNER  
Alright Rod, we need to see if you  
have a concussion. Just look into  
this light.

ROD  
Into the light...

TANNER  
Let's just give it a good look.

Rod absentmindedly tries to pull the flashlight towards his  
eye.

ABIGAIL  
Is the pupil dilating?

TANNER  
I can't tell, he's trying to ascend  
through the flashlight.

ABIGAIL  
Here.

Abigail helps Tanner stabilize the flashlight.

Zoe walks back in, strangely quiet, holding a granola bar.  
She holds it up.

ZOE  
What is this?

Everyone stops what they're doing. Tanner's face drops.  
Abigail is confused. Rod, however, is unfazed.

ABIGAIL  
Is that a granola bar?

ZOE  
I found it under the bathroom sink.

All eyes turn to Tanner.

TANNER  
Oh, so we all assume it was me -  
Tanner the asshole! I'll bet he ate  
our food and laughed while he did  
it!

ZOE  
Was this you?

TANNER  
I mean yes, but it wasn't like  
that!

Zoe throws the granola bar at him.

ZOE  
I can't believe you! How could you  
be so selfish?!

TANNER  
Look, it wasn't just me! Rod was a  
part of it!

ROD  
(still dazed)  
A part of it...

KANNA

Listen, babe, I love you please be  
ok - just don't fall asleep  
alright?

TANNER

Sad and scary as it is, this  
situation doesn't absolve him from  
his share of the blame.

ABIGAIL

How much did you eat?

TANNER

I don't know! When you think  
rations are stupid, the last thing  
you want is to measure the food you  
steal.

Abigail is getting visibly woozy.

ZOE

Do you understand what you've done?  
I hope those snacks were fucking  
great because you were eating away  
the days before we die!

ABIGAIL

I need to sit down...

TANNER

I know! I'm sorry, ok?! When we  
took the food, we thought it was a  
dumb idea; we were gonna get  
rescued the next day. That next  
day, we ate most of it! How was I  
supposed to know the universe was  
conspiring against me?!

Abigail gets a chair in the corner and sinks her head into  
her hands.

ZOE

Not against you, you selfish  
asshole, against all of us! And  
now, we're gonna starve to death  
because your tummy was rumbly!

TANNER

Me, and Rod!

ROD  
\*Gurgles on some saliva\*

KANNA  
Stay with us, baby!

TANNER  
Don't think you're getting out of  
this!

As Abigail sits up, she effortlessly pulls out a clump of hair. Her eyes widen, and then a strange calm settles over her face. She smiles to herself and shakes her head, letting her hair fall into tangly chaos.

ABIGAIL  
(to herself)  
Nothing to do.

TANNER  
Listen, I said I was sorry, I know  
I was wrong, please get out of my  
face!

ZOE  
We need to begin rationing  
immediately if we want to make it  
through next week. As long as  
that's ok with everybody!

TANNER  
Look, what do you want me to do?

ABIGAIL  
(responding)  
I can't do anything.

ZOE  
Abigail, what should we -

Zoe goes quiet. The group look over. The chair is empty. Abigail has disappeared.

ZOE  
(calling out)  
Abigail?

TANNER  
I didn't see her leave. I should  
have seen her.

ZOE

Oh no. Oh no oh no!

Rod lays on the floor. We move closer and closer to his face.

TANNER (O.S.)

What the hell is going on here?

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The light takes on a golden hue, and the other sounds fade away, though Rod remains in the same position.

His eyes flutter open. He takes in his surroundings.

ROD

Oh wow.

The apartment is beautiful, as if lit by God himself. The golden light streaming in through the window cascades off dozens of tastefully selected decorative nick-nacks before wafting gently to the floor.

ROD

I've never seen the apartment this clean before. This must be heaven. Maybe my soul, even after it's evolved beyond a physical form, yearns for the familiarity and memories in this apartment, and so whatever higher force controls this plane of existence has fashioned its perfect likeness for me to live in for all eternity. Over time, as mortality fades farther and farther into memory, my attachment to these symbols of humanity will fade, until, eventually, all that's left is a positive life force, ready and willing to merge with the combined energies of the billions who have come before me. Is that what heaven is? Not some distorted mirror image of our former lives, but the unbiased contentment of universal truth; the comforting hum of possibility that will continue long after life as we understand it has become an ancient relic?

Just then, the front door flies open and a handsome young COUPLE enters.

ROD

Oh wait, who the fuck are these  
two?

The happy couple, all smiles, fall onto the couch. It's the same couch Rod has in his apartment, but the pattern isn't as faded, and when they sit, the cushions are firm and new. They cuddle up to each other, and begin to talk, though Rod can't hear what they say.

ROD

This must be some sort of vision.  
Maybe because I live here. I don't  
know. It's magic or something.

The girl cuddles up next to the man and closes her eyes with a small smile, perfectly content.

The room WARPS around Rod. Now, the wife stands in the kitchen, preparing food.

ROD

Jesus! How'd you get over there?  
And also, who are you?

The woman steps back from the stove and looks up at the clock with concern. Just then, footsteps approach outside the door. Relieved, the woman turns to the door and waits for it to open.

Outside, they pass by.

Rod looks at the bride. She's confused and concerned.

The room WARPS once again. It's now night. The woman sits alone on the floor by the couch.

ROD

Ok, what happened here?

Rod looks around. A newspaper is strewn across the coffee table. It's dated APRIL 28th, 1952, and features a picture of the husband next to the picture of a crashed car.

ROD

Car crash. Got it.

Rod watches as, without a word, the bride stands and walks to the door. She opens it, as if to leave, but can't seem to bring herself to step outside. Near tears, she looks back in at her apartment. On what will become the TV stand, there's a picture of her and her former husband along with an embroidered "Home Sweet Home." As she begins to sob, her

head sinks into her arms and she falls against the doorframe.

The bride doesn't move. Outside, the sun rises and sinks in the sky repeatedly. The phone rings, but goes unanswered. The bride grows paler.

ROD

Oh my god, lady, get some food!

The room warps. A layer of dust now covers everything, but otherwise the house is kept tidy. On the TV stand, everything has been cleared except for the picture of the once happy couple.

There's a knock at the door. The same woman, now just on the verge of being classified as "elderly" by the mainstream media, stumbles down the stairs. Rod is taken aback.

ROD

Holy cow! What year is it?!

Rod looks around.

ROD

I need another conveniently strewn newspaper.

The woman wanders to the door and looks through the peep-hole apprehensively. Finally, as footsteps fade into the distance, unlocks the door, grabs a small parcel from outside, and recloses the door in one quick motion.

Once the ordeal is over, she takes a deep breath.

The woman looks in the bag. It contains groceries.

ROD

Wow. Things are not ok in here.

The room WARPS. The woman, now very elderly, sits in the easy chair, one hand closed around something. Though it's day, the shades are drawn.

ROD

Have you not left the house in all this time?

The old woman looks over at her table, where there's a faded, careworn photo of her late husband lying without a frame.

ROD  
This is what happens when you lose  
everything?

Looking down, the woman opens her hand. In it, she's holding  
a bunch of pills.

ROD  
Oh my god.

She goes to put them in her mouth.

ROD  
Lady, don't!

He runs up and tries to grab her hand, but he phases right  
through her like a ghost. She puts the pills in her mouth  
and, with the help of a glass of water from the table,  
swallows them.

ROB  
Damn it, lady!

He tries to punch her in the stomach, but phases right  
through!

ROD  
I can't punch you - I'm a ghost! Or  
your a ghost! We're not matching  
up!

After taking the pills, the woman staggers to her feet and  
wanders over to the couch. Eyes fluttering, she grabs a  
pillow and cuddles it the same way she cuddled her husband,  
while once again looking to his picture on the corner table.

Rod runs to the phone and tries to call someone but can't  
(because he can't touch it).

ROD  
No no no no no. I can't let this  
happen!

He looks back. The woman's eyes sink shut. A strange energy  
swirls out of her body and seeps into the walls.

ROD  
I can't let this happen!

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The crew looks down at Rod, as he slowly regains consciousness. Tanner is holding a cup of water.

TANNER

That's right, buddy, stay awake.

Rod's eyes burst open. The rest of the group jumps in alarm.

KANNA

(emotional)

Thank god!

ROD

What...what?

TANNER

You just lost it completely for a few minutes.

ROD

(stunned)

Oh. Wow. I saw things. I had a vision.

TANNER

Don't worry, that's normal.

ZOE

Is it?

Tanner shrugs.

ROD

Oh my God. I've been so stupid...there was this lady, and she...she just stayed in the apartment. Kanna?

KANNA

I'm right here, babe.

Rod props himself up.

ROD

This lady...she had a home, but she didn't have anyone, and it was bad. She like went crazy. You're right - I've been such an idiot, worrying about stupid shit that doesn't matter. You're all that matters. You're all I need.

Kanna shakes her head "No", holding Rob's hand hard. She's clearly been through quite the ordeal.

ROD  
(disbelieving)  
Kanna, please - will you marry me?

Tanner and Zoe look on like "oh my goooood!" Kanna, still in shock, is shaking her head.

KANNA  
...yes! Ok, yes!

Rod sobs out a laugh and pulls her into a kiss. The other two cheer excitedly and, after giving them a moment, fall in for a group hug!

ZOE  
Good, okay. From now on, we watch each other every second, alright guys? This group is solid, two of us are engaged, nobody's going anywhere.

Rod looks around.

ROD  
Where's Abigail?

The joy fades quickly. The group looks at each other: "should we tell him?"

FADE TO BLACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The electricity is out. The shades are drawn. Everyone is pretty sweaty (the AC is gone), but the fan hangs motionless from the ceiling. A few candles sit out in the center of the tables, already worn down. Though mess still creeps in at the corners of the room, there isn't as much of it - almost as if there isn't enough activity to generate clutter.

The couch arm has been removed and now sits, discarded, in the corner, covered in scraps of duct tape.

ZOE  
(tired)  
What about your wedding colors?

KANNA  
Hmm. Maybe blue and gold?

ROD  
 (dazed)  
 Sure, I don't care.

KANNA  
 Rod, I don't want to make these  
 decisions all by myself!

ROD  
 Ok. Well, blue and gold is pretty,  
 but it makes me think of Michigan,  
 which I don't like. What about gold  
 and grey?

ZOE  
 Oooh, I like gold and grey a lot!

KANNA  
 I don't know - does grey come off  
 as boring?

TANNER  
 Oh my god, who cares?!

ROD  
 Dude, it's a special occasion!

TANNER  
 We have like a day of food left.

ZOE  
 And whose fault is that, asshole?

TANNER  
 Oh please! If I ate a months worth  
 of food, it wouldn't have made a  
 difference. We're no closer to  
 getting out of this apartment than  
 we were three weeks ago - only now,  
 there's no electricity, two of us  
 have inexplicably disappeared, and  
 its a fuck-gillion degrees in here!

Zoe scoffs and rolls her eyes at him, turning away.

KANNA  
 We should have it somewhere big. So  
 we can invite everybody.

ROD  
 That sounds pretty expensive.

TANNER

Listen, I'll give you all the money  
in my wallet right now if-

Tanner feels all his pockets, then looks around.

ROD

I'm listening.

TANNER

I can't find my wallet.

Tanner begins searching through the various nests and piles,  
not seeing anything.

KANNA

Where was the last place you saw  
it?

TANNER

I don't know - I haven't had much  
occasion to buy anything for a  
while.

ROD

Think back.

TANNER

Oh, thanks for the advice, Rod.

ROD

Think. Back.

Rod's strange insistence makes Tanner pause for a second. He  
takes a deep breath and thinks.

TANNER

Oh shit, I bet I dropped it in the  
basement.

ZOE

Dang. That's too bad.

TANNER

I mean, I don't really need it. But  
I should go get even just so I know  
where it is.

ZOE

Mm.

TANNER

Ok, I guess I'll just jump down there and grab it real fast. Anyone want to come with me?

Tanner looks to Zoe. She makes eye contact.

INT. BASEMENT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Tanner is alone on the staircase. Clearly frightened, he makes it to the bottom and quickly looks over the floor using his flashlight.

He mutters to himself frustratedly as he scrambles around. Finally, where he fell before, he spies his wallet in the dust and grabs it happily. He opens it to make sure everything's as it should be, but as he does, a shadowy figure catches his eye.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rod, Zoe, and Kanna, sitting in the living room, hear a SHOUT. They run down into the basement.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The rest of the group runs in.

TANNER

I found Neil.

Neil is standing, motionless in the center of the room. He's dressed in the clothes he originally came in and gives no sign he's aware of anyone else's presence.

Kanna, Rod, and Zoe jump at the sight of him.

ROD

That's horrifying.

KANNA

He's just been standing here? For how long?

TANNER

No idea.

They stare at Neil for several seconds. Neil stares blankly back.

ZOE

We should take him upstairs.

TANNER

What?!

ZOE

He's our friend! We can't just leave him down here can we?

TANNER

For all we know this might not even be Neil. This could be some sort of monster. It could have taken Abigail.

As Tanner's talking, he looks back at Neil. Rod does the same.

Both SHOUT! Abigail is now standing next to Neil, clothes changed, with the same blank stare on her face.

ROD

Jesus Christ!

INT. LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

The four remaining members of the crew plop "Abigail" and "Neil" down on the couch.

ROD

Well, at least they came without a fuss.

Everyone stands back to look at the pair, still sitting motionless.

TANNER

I hate them.

ZOE

Those are our friends!

TANNER

No, they're not. They're not even people - they're like weird zombie copies!

KANNA

Wow...they're right here.

TANNER

Jeez, sorry. It's not like they can here us. At least, it doesn't seem like they can...

ZOE

They probably haven't eaten in days. I'll get some food.

Zoe heads for the kitchen. Tanner rolls his eyes.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The group sits in the living room, killing time. Zoe reads her book. Rod and Tanner deal cards. Tanner keeps glancing over at "Abigail" and "Neil" who sit motionless on the couch. Kanna has pulled back a shade slightly is staring intently out the window.

TANNER

Yup, just another normal day.

ZOE

Tanner, if you'd stop acting awkward, it wouldn't be awkward.

TANNER

We're hanging out with zombies.

ZOE

That is so rude.

Tanner notices how long Kanna's been staring out the window.

TANNER

What're you looking at? Police again?

KANNA

My mom's here.

Everyone reacts with mild interest. They walk over to the window.

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN is looking at the apartment. She's very well put together and stands next to a very NICE CAR.

ZOE

She must have come to see everything for herself.

KANNA

Now that Dad's not around, yeah.

TANNER

That is a nice car.

KANNA

Yeah, she's like a big deal in the pharmaceutical world. She reps these companies at conferences and like goes all around to sell their products to hospitals.

ZOE

Huh. I guess someone has to do that.

KANNA

Yeah, she makes a ton of money and only has to work like 3 days a week.

ROD

Seems like she's doing great.

KANNA

Yeah. Yeah, she is.

Kanna's mom disappointedly packs up and gets back into her car. Kanna looks at her with uncertainty.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

"Abigail" and "Neil" sit on the couch in complete darkness. Neil looks down at something.

TANNER (O.S.)

(whispered)

Neil. Stop staring at me. I'm trying to sleep.

Tanner's shadow gets up and moves to another area of the room. Once he's settled, ever so slowly, Neil's head turns to look at him.

TANNER (O.S.)

(desperately)

Please stop.

Kanna frustratedly stands and goes upstairs.

TANNER

Oh Kanna, I'm sorry. He's looking at me.

ZOE

Kanna, we should be staying together.

TANNER  
Oh shit, are you guys awake too?

ROD  
(angry grumble)  
Shut up.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kanna walks into the room and closes the door behind her. She throws herself down on the bed and curls up to try and fall asleep.

A gentle BREEZE tossles her hair. It's really nice. Suddenly, she's wide awake.

Spinning around on the bed, she sees that the window is open! Shocked, she runs over and carefully pokes her head outside. The wind blows past, carrying the beautiful sound of car-horns and loud passersby. Kanna is ecstatic!

She lifts a leg to climb out, but stops herself.

KANNA  
Rod!

She runs back down to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kanna grabs Rod by the shoulders.

KANNA  
(shouting)  
Everyone get up! There's an open window - there's an open window upstairs!

The rest of the group rises in surprise

TANNER  
What?!

ROD  
(groggily)  
Where?

KANNA  
Come on!

The group stumbles to their feet and follows Kanna upstairs, leaving "Neil" and "Abigail" on the couch.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kanna, excited, runs into the bedroom, but then her face drops. Everyone else follows a few seconds later.

The window is closed.

The group stands silently for a moment.

KANNA

I swear, that window was open.

Zoe walks over and gives it a yank. It doesn't open.

ZOE

I don't think so.

KANNA

It doesn't make any sense...

ROD

Don't worry about it, babe, you probably just had a super vivid dream or something.

KANNA

No! It was open, I almost went out, but I had to get you guys!

TANNER

Bad move.

ZOE

Well, either way, it's closed now. I'm going back to bed.

TANNER

Me too.

Tanner turns to walk out the door. "Neil" is now standing inches away, staring at him. Tanner shouts and jumps back in alarm.

TANNER

Dude, what is your deal?! Can we not put them back in the basement?!

Everyone starts walking out.

ZOE

No! They're our friends, we're keeping them close by.

TANNER  
Fine! I'm putting them in the  
laundry room.

Rod sleepily gives Kanna a little squeeze and pulls her back downstairs. As she exits, she looks behind her at the window.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Tanner walks slowly down the stairs to find Kanna and Rod sitting on the couch, being pressed into one another by gravity. Tanner glances at the couple, then does a double take around the room.

TANNER  
Where's Zoe?

Rod and Kanna look at each other and then around the room.

KANNA  
We thought she was with you.

Tanner looks to the kitchen - no one is there. He begins to panic.

TANNER  
Oh shit.

Tanner bolts back up the stairs.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tanner tears through the hallway, flinging open the door to the bedroom and bathroom. Nobody is in either of them.

Distraught, he begins lurching in different directions, unsure of what to do.

TANNER  
(to himself)  
Please please-

Looking into the bedroom once more and resolving himself, Tanner runs back down the stairs...

...and collides with Zoe, who's coming up them.

ZOE  
Ow - what the hell, man!

Tanner is left speechless. He grabs Zoe by the shoulders.

TANNER  
Oh thank god.

ZOE  
I was in the laundry room - Rod and  
Kanna said you were looking for me.

TANNER  
(out of breath)  
Yeah. Yeah.

ZOE  
What's wrong with you?

TANNER  
Nothing. I'm fine.

ZOE  
Oh my god...you were worried I  
disappeared!

Tanner is very out of breath.

TANNER  
Uh...well, a little.

ZOE  
Ha! You asshole!

Zoe, smiling, punches him on the arm. Right in that same  
spot.

TANNER  
Jesus.

ZOE  
Come on. We'll play Euchre.

Zoe goes back down the stairs. Tanner follows her, rubbing  
his arm intensely.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THUD. THUD. THUD. THUD.

The sound is coming from upstairs. Zoe and Tanner lie on the  
couch and recliner, respectively, seemingly asleep.

THUD. THUD. THUD. MOAN.

Zoe's eyes are wide open, staring at the back of the couch.

Tanner's eyes are wide open, staring at the ceiling.

THUD. THUD. THUD-THUD-THUD-THUD.

At the same moment, as the tempo increases, Tanner and Zoe both get up to go somewhere else. As soon as they turn, they make terrified eye contact.

THUD-THUD-THUD-THUD ORGASM.

ROD  
(in the distance)  
Oh fuck yeah!

Slowly, Tanner and Zoe lay back down into their former positions. Eyes still wide.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rod and Kanna both slip on pajamas.

ROD  
Jesus, it's hot.

KANNA  
Maybe we should go sleep in the living room with Zoe and Tanner.

ROD  
Nah, I wouldn't want to wake them up.

KANNA  
It seems stupid to sleep when we have like no food left. Maybe we should do something.

ROD  
Eh, it'll be alright.

KANNA  
What in God's name makes you think that?

ROD  
I mean, you're here, I'm here, we'll be fine. We've got each other.

KANNA  
(touched)  
Rod...that's so...uncharacteristically sweet.

ROD

Yeah, I know, I just had that vision that showed me what really mattered.

KANNA

Yeah, you keep mentioning that vision.

ROD

I don't really wanna talk about it.

KANNA

And yet you keep bringing it up.

ROD

The vision doesn't really matter. The point is, no matter what happens, you've got me.

Kanna, smiles and snuggles up next to Rod in the bed.

ROD

And who knows? We might still get out of here. And then we'll move up to White Plains and get married. We'll both find jobs - maybe you can be an English Teacher at one of my old schools or something. It'll be great.

Kanna, whose face can't be seen by Rod, likes this a little less.

ROD

We'll save up some money, buy a house, have barbeques. And not for a while, mind you, but maybe someday we could...you know, get a dog or something.

KANNA

Rod, what if we didn't move to White Plains?

ROD

(not aware of how important the question is)  
I mean, why wouldn't we?

Kanna sits up.

KANNA

Because I don't really care about White Plains, Rod. It's just the place your family lives, but you've already got a plan for me to die there.

ROD

Woh woh woh, nobody said anything about that!

KANNA

But you would! You would, right?

ROD

Would what?

KANNA

Stay there your whole life?

Rod thinks for a second.

ROD

Yeah, I guess so. Where else would I go?

Kanna stands up.

KANNA

I don't know, somewhere new!

ROD

Yeah, sure, we could go on a vacation to that Greenland place you love-

KANNA

No, I mean living somewhere new, doing something new. We might never get the chance again!

ROD

This is something new. We're growing up together, we're getting married. We'll make new friends, we'll do real taxes - that's all new to me.

KANNA

Rod, do you not do your taxes?

ROD  
That's neither here nor there. Why  
didn't you bring this up sooner?

KANNA  
(conflicted)  
I was scared.

ROD  
(frustrated)  
Of what?

KANNA  
It's just I love you, but it seems  
like we want different things.

ROD  
So you don't want any of that  
stuff? The house, the dog, growing  
up?

KANNA  
I don't know! It all sounds great.  
It's not that I don't want it, I'm  
just not ready to lock up my life!  
I haven't done anything yet. I've  
been in a relationship since the  
beginning of high school. Now I'm  
about to graduate college and I'm  
not even sure what I should be  
doing with my life.

ROD  
Well what do you want?

Kanna pauses, scared.

ROD  
What do you want to do?

Kanna is clearly frightened, but she makes herself speak:

KANNA  
I want to break up.

Both are frightened, but Kanna is also determined. They look  
at each other for a moment. Rod is desperate.

Rod gets off the bed to go stand with Kanna. He looks away  
for just a second.

ROD

Ok, wait a second, maybe we should-

When Rod looks back, Kanna's gone. On the far side of the room, the window is open.

Before he has time to react, it slams shut.

Rod sits, stunned, for several moments. The silence is crushing.

KNOCK KNOCK.

Rod's startled by a knock at the door.

ZOE (O.S.)

Rod? We heard shouting. Is everything alright?

Rod doesn't answer.

INT. KITCHEN - STILL NIGHT

Zoe and Tanner sip some water. A single candle burns in the center of the table, dimly illuminating them. They keep glancing at the stairs.

ZOE

Do you think he's ok?

TANNER

No.

ZOE

Maybe we should go keep him company.

TANNER

I don't think so.

ZOE

We should really be together. There's only three of us left.

TANNER

Being together doesn't seem to make a difference.

ZOE

Maybe if we like tied a rope to our waists-

Footsteps descend the stairs. Tanner and Zoe go silent.

Rod comes into the kitchen. His eyes are puffy, but he's got a small smile on his face.

TANNER

Hey, buddy - you ok?

ROD

Yeah, yeah. Sorry to go quiet like that, I just had to do some thinking.

ZOE

Of course. We're so sorry.

ROD

It's ok. These things happen.

TANNER

Well, not really.

Rod laughs.

ROD

Yeah, I guess this is all pretty weird, huh?

They have a little chuckle.

ZOE

Well listen, Rod, I'm glad you're back, because we were just thinking maybe we could try to stop eachother from disappearing by tying ourselves together. That way-

ROD

No no no. There's no point to that.

ZOE

Well, ok. What do you think?

Rod lets out a long breath: "Oh jeez, what a situation"

ROD

I think we're going to spend the rest of our lives in this apartment, sweating our asses off, running out of food, until we finally starve. Either that or we get taken, just like Kanna. Changed into some sort of mindless zombie. Look at them!

Rod points to the living room. "Neil" and "Abigail" are sitting on the bed, motionless. Tanner and Zoe aren't sure how to respond.

ROD

Is she going to be like that? Who is that? Not Kanna. There's nothing left for me, no point to leaving this apartment even if I could. It's just like my vision.

Tanner and Zoe are edging out of their seats, eyes wide.

TANNER

How about a glass of water, dude?

ZOE

Yeah, let's just take some deep breaths for a second.

ROD

One second guys, I want to make sure you understand my vision.

TANNER

Umm ok.

Rod begins inching towards the pair.

ROD

We all make these plans. Hopefully they doesn't just explode in you face, because if they do, there's nothing! Nothing left for you!

TANNER

Listen, maybe we all just need some sleep.

ROD

Don't you guys get it?! All that's left is dying. We can do it slowly, or we can do it quickly.

Rod pulls the HATCHET from behind his back, where it was tucked into his belt.

ZOE

Woah, Rod! Listen, don't hurt yourself!

Rod laughs, unhinged.

ROD

Oh I'm not.

Rod swings the hatchet at Tanner! Tanner yells and dives out of the way.

The hatchet buries itself in the table.

While Rod tries to get the hatchet out of the table, Zoe and Tanner retreat to the living room, where Tanner grabs the bat and Zoe brandishes the screw-driver.

ZOE

What the hell, Rod, are you crazy?!

Rod finally yanks the hatchet out of the table.

ROD

Oh right, I'm insane because I don't want starve to death in a cursed apartment.

Rod swings the hatchet again. Zoe and Tanner jump back, and Tanner swings the bat in Rod's general direction.

TANNER

Back off, Rod!

ROD

I'm trying to help you guys!

TANNER

Help us die?!

ROD

Well...I mean, yeah.

Rod dives in with a big swing, but Tanner perrys the blow with his bat. Zoe heaves a chair from the kitchen towards him.

Rod dodges it and, in response, gives several quick swings from the axe, forcing Tanner to jump back, where he trips and falls.

Rod steps in for the killing blow, but, at the last moment, a book falls off the TV stand with a loud SMACK. This distracts Rod for a split second - just long enough for Tanner to kick at his legs.

Rod tumbles. Tanner scrambles to the kitchen.

Rod quickly regains his feet and advances on the petrified pair. As he gets nearer, Tanner throws random pieces of garbage at him. Zoe sees a knife and grabs it. As they're pressed back to the table, they push it into his way.

ROD

Oh wow, you guys are making a horrible mess.

The BASEMENT DOOR flies open!

Rod throws the table out of his way - Zoe and Tanner run into the basement. Rod chases them!

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tanner jumps down the stairs and Zoe follows. She tries to slam the door, but Rod gets his foot in the crack and starts pushing it.

ZOE

Tanner!

Tanner rushes over and pushes against the door with all his might. Even with both of them working together, Rod is slowly making his way in! He jams the hatchet into the crack and swings it towards Zoe, who has to retreat to the other side of the door.

She looks around desperately, and is suddenly inspired.

ZOE

I've got an idea.

TANNER

What?

ZOE

Trust me. Can you hold it?

TANNER

I think so.

Zoe jumps down the stairs. Almost immediately, Rod barrels through, slamming the doorknob right into Tanner's arm (that same spot). Tanner falls out of arm's reach. Rod doesn't care though, he's looking at Zoe, standing behind zombie "Kanna" with a knife at her throat.

ROD

What are you doing, Zoe?

ZOE

Rod, you've lost it. Just calm down  
- I don't want to hurt her.

Rod considers for one deranged moment.

ROD

You don't. You can't. But it  
doesn't matter - that's not her!

Rod throws the hatchet!

Zoe pushes "Kanna" out of the way and falls to the ground, dropping the knife. The hatchet flies into the shadows. Tanner, still winded, throws himself at Rod's legs. Rod trips slightly and kicks Tanner in the stomach, forcing him to curl into a ball.

He picks up the knife.

Rod looms over Zoe. She's terrified.

ROD

See you on the outside.

With a smile, Rod he steps forward to deliver the killing blow.

Just as his foot touches the floor however, it slips on Zoe's grandma's WEDDING RING, and Rod tumbles onto his back. He strikes his head against the ground and drops the knife.

ZOE

Thanks, Nana.

Zoe scrambles to her feet and manages to grab the knife before dragging Tanner back to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She slams the door and shoves a chair into the knob.

Tanner, gasping, crawls over to Zoe, huddled against the door. After several seconds, Rod throws himself against it, breathing heavily. They brace the door with their bodies, however, and it doesn't give.

ROD

Another fucking door that won't  
open! GOD DAMN IT!

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Rod smashes his fists against the door once more before sinking down into the same posture The Bride had in his vision.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Tanner and Zoe remain alert. They hear only silence for several moments.

ROD (O.S.)

Guys, I'm really sorry about all that. I don't know what came over me.

ZOE

It's ok, man.

Tanner looks at her like "What?!"

ZOE

Well, I guess it's not super cool of you, but I get it.

ROD (O.S.)

Well, listen. It's all over now, so let's just do that tie each-other together thing, ok?

TANNER

I don't think so.

ROD (O.S.)

Why not?

TANNER

Because you just tried to murder us with an axe, Rod.

ROD

Right. I get that.

Silence.

ROD

Ahh, guys.

TANNER

We're here for you, right on the other side of this locked door.

ZOE

And we're not going anywhere!

Rod keeps his face buried in his lap.

ROD

I had a plan, you know? Ha! Jesus, I'm such an idiot. I'm sorry guys, I'll try and calm down.

ZOE

Great. A good first step is probably to get some water.

No answer.

ZOE

Rod?

Silence.

TANNER

Hey, buddy, you in there?

Nothing. Tanner and Zoe look at each other with sudden fear. The stand and slowly open the door.

The stairwell is empty. Rod has disappeared.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MIDNIGHT

The candle lights are very low. Zoe sits on the couch, sweaty and exhausted from an insane day. Tanner closes the basement door, walks in, and sits on the other side of the couch.

They sit in silence for a few moments.

Then, Tanner glances over at Zoe. Both are still wearing Rod's clothes.

They begin snickering at/with each other. Before long, they're both laughing hysterically while the apartment watches in still silence.

Gradually, the laughter dies down, until they're left smiling at each other with tears in their eyes.

They stare at each other for several seconds-

-then aggressively make out.

Wrestling with their clothes and each other, they try to get off the couch, but can't because the cushions are so deep. Eventually, with a huge lurch, they manage to fall onto the floor with a THUMP.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Zoe and Tanner are passed out on the couch, most of their clothes still on. Zoe wakes up and stretches, hitting Tanner in the face. He wakes up, and they make eye contact. Both look away, embarrassed.

ZOE

Holy shit, what's wrong with us.

TANNER

So much. So many things. What is going on with the world right now?

Both laugh a little bit.

TANNER

Hey. I'd like to apologize for being such an asshole these past few weeks.

ZOE

Yeah, thank you! What's your deal?

TANNER

Honestly, you were pretty right about some stuff -

ZOE

Oh yeah, here it comes! Say that shit!

TANNER

Alright, calm down. I'm gonna miss you, ok? I wasn't ready to go. I don't know why - I'm done here, Chicago will be great, but I'm not ready. I don't want to go.

ZOE

Sometimes people just aren't ready. I-

Zoe turns around to look him in the eye, but Tanner has disappeared.

Zoe stares for a second at his empty spot on the couch. His indentation is still there. She then slowly turns back to her original position and lays her head down as if to go back to sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - NOON

Zoe drifts into the kitchen, looking empty. In the middle of the counter sits an unopened box of cereal. She regards it with mild curiosity. She then looks around.

ZOE  
(calling out)  
Hello? Did someone leave this here?  
Anyone?

No reply. Hesitantly, Zoe takes the box of cereal and opens it. After sniffing the food, she glances in the refrigerator. Inside, she finds a full carton of milk.

Unquestioning, she pours herself a bowl.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Zoe throws a ball up against the wall, surrounded by all her "friends."

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Zoe pours herself a bowl of cereal.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zoe has set up the wall ball game between herself, Tanner, Rod, and Kanna.

ZOE  
The crowd is going nuts for this  
game!

Neil and Abigail are sitting to the side watching, their arms propped up into the air.

ZOE  
And here's the serve!

Zoe hits the ball towards the other side of the room. It smacks Rod in the face, who slowly tilts over and falls, just as you might knock down a broom or a lamp.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Zoe pours herself a bowl of cereal.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Zoe and "Neil" stand in the kitchen.

ZOE

Anyways, she's always like that. I guess it's better than having a mom that doesn't care, but sometimes I just wish she would give me a second to figure things out.

Neil stares back in response.

Zoe reaches over and moves his mouth with her fingers.

ZOE

Talk talk talk talk.

She moves his teeth apart a little bit.

ZOE

I empathize, Zoe!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Zoe pours herself a bowl of cereal.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Zoe is moving her friends around like action figures. She pushes Rod forward.

ZOE

Right, so you ride into town all slow and dramatic.

She turns to Tanner, who's standing on the couch.

ZOE

The Duke is like "Ah yes, we've got him now." And you just put your arms out. "I'll come peacefully." But your eyes are so sad.

She brings up Abigail.

ZOE

This wimpy guy walks up to guide your horse and you just stare at

ZOE  
 him for like two or three minutes  
 before...WHAM! NUN-CHUCKS!

She guides Tanner to the kitchen.

TANNER  
 The Duke's like oh no, oh no! But  
 William Wallace runs in screaming  
 "I'm the Braveheart!"

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Zoe pours herself a bowl of cereal.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Zoe pulls Tanner out of the bedroom.

ZOE  
 Nope, not gonna work. Feels to  
 rapey.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

MONTAGE

Zoe pours a bowl of cereal.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zoe sits on the couch, watching videos she has stored on her phone. The battery is at 1%. Her "friends" all sit around her, not interested at all. While a video of the group plays, the phone dies, leaving the room completely dark.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Zoe sits in a circle with her zombie friends, arranged in the same order as they were on that first night, playing mafia. She looks absolutely haggard. A cushion on the couch is sunken where no one is sitting.

ZOE  
 You know, I don't even like cereal.

Zoe looks around. The "friends" sit unmoving, uncaring, lifeless.

ZOE

At first, I just didn't want to make a fuss. Then, it seemed stupid to complain. Now, it's all I have. All I have is cereal.

Zoe looks around again. Still nothing.

ZOE

I didn't want to be a bad friend, you know? I had friends in Jersey, but Pratt really feels like home. I met you guys, and you like me, and...

Zoe pauses, somewhat overcome.

ZOE

...I just wish you would talk to me again. You're right here, but I miss you. It's like it isn't you. I don't want this to happen to me!

Zoe stands.

ZOE

I'm sorry, I'm fine. I'm really fine. It's just I liked the way things were. Why shouldn't things stay that way? I mean, yeah, people might move, or get married, but we don't have to stop being friends or stop talking. We don't We don't have to lose each other.

The "friends" say nothing.

ZOE

You know what, fuck you guys. You don't want to talk to me? Fine, I'll get by. I've got a stress ball, like three books, and all the cereal I can eat! Maybe if I can just keep doing this, you'll come back huh? What do you want from me? What happened to you guys?

Zoe takes Tanner by the shoulders and looks right into his dead eyes.

ZOE

What's wrong with you?! Why won't you talk?! I hate this - I hate it

ZOE  
here. The same thing, day after  
day, it feels like all I fucking do  
is eat goddamn cereal! Please, just  
answer me, please just tell me  
what's going on!

He doesn't.

Zoe just stares for a long while, processing.

With an air of resigned sadness, she pushes Tanner back down  
into his seat. Tanner sits without any emotion whatsoever.

Zoe wanders back to her spot, looking at her feet.

ZOE  
So that's it, huh? Things can never  
be the same.

She looks up. The "zombies" are no longer zombies - her  
friends, full of life once again, are sitting in their  
spots, full of life, smiling at her.

Zoe, taken aback, looks quickly between all of them, then  
closes her eyes for just a moment.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

When she opens them again, she's sitting on the sidewalk  
outside the apartment. She grasps at her clothes (which  
match the ones she wore the first night) and spins around to  
get a good look at the window she's spent so many nights  
staring out of.

It looks like a perfectly normal window.

She walks up to the window, and gasps! Inside, all six  
"friends" (including her) are sitting in a circle in the  
living room.

Sitting among them, in the empty space on the couch, is the  
girl from Rod's vision. She's the same age she was when her  
husband died, and sits, unmoving, just like the others.

ZOE  
(to herself)  
What?

Zoe searches in each direction for some sign of what's going  
on, but is greeted with normalcy on all fronts.

ZOE  
(calling out)  
Tanner? Abigail? Hello?

Only the birds sing back in response. The street is long and empty.

She rubs her forehead in frustration. Then, she looks up and her eyes grow wide.

A giant ceiling fan, matching the one in Rod's apartment, floats in the sky.

RING RING.

Zoe's phone is so unexpected and so loud that it terrifies her for a moment. Then, laughing at herself, she takes the phone out of her pocket. Her laughter turns to fearful silence as she looks at the number.

RING RING.

Forcing herself to breathe deeply, she answers.

ZOE  
Hello? Yes, thanks for calling  
again, I'm so sorry about the  
delay.

Zoe glances back at the group of "friends" sitting in the circle, forever entombed in the apartment.

ZOE  
You know, if it's still available,  
I'd actually like to accept. Great!  
When does everything start?

Zoe walks down the street away from the apartment. The sun is shining; it's a beautiful day. Strangers sit on their stoops and play in the nearby park. A dog won't shut up. There's an ice-cream truck like three blocks away.

In the sky, the ceiling fan slowly rotates. A happy little goldfish flies by through the air.

FADE TO WHITE

THE END