
C R A W L

by

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*There have been over 300 documented alligator attacks
in Southern Florida.*

Twenty-seven of them have been fatal...

SMASH IN ON:

The panicked face of a YOUNG WOMAN. Covered in mud and blood.

She's crawling on her stomach through a dark, constricted space.

Frightened eyes scanning the claustrophobic surroundings. Her senses on alert.

The muffled sounds of a STORM outside. HOWLING WINDS and POUNDING RAIN...

Then a faint SCRAPING noise. Moving closer...

The young woman retreats back into the shadows.

Taking shelter behind a wooden support. Holding her breath...

A low MENACING BELLOW...

As SOMETHING HUGE wipes the frame right in front of us. Shockingly close. Blocking out our view.

Leaving nothing but DARKNESS.

An unsettling SILENCE.

OVER BLACK, a single-word TITLE:

C R A W L

A long, quiet beat. Broken by the sound of a VIBRATING PHONE...

FADE IN:

INT. COLLEGE APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Someone GROANS. A LUMP shifts under a huge comforter. A slender hand reaches out, searching the nightstand.

A CHARM BRACELET dangles from the wrist.

The same young woman, HALEY (19) pokes her head out from under the covers. Hung over. Bleary-eyed.

She finds her phone. Checks the display -- *BETH*.

Takes a breath. Answers with a wrecked voice.

HALEY

H-hello?

INT. LONG ISLAND HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Haley's older sister *BETH* (26) is on the other end of the line. She's at the sink doing dishes. Wearing workout clothes. Looks like her day began a while ago.

BETH

Jesus, are you just waking up?

INTERCUT AS NECESSARY

Haley swallows. Squints into the sunlight. Looking around. She's a natural beauty. Even after a long night of drinking.

HALEY

What time is it?

BETH

It's almost noon.

Haley's head is throbbing. She climbs out of bed.

BETH (CONT'D)

Late night?

HALEY

Yeah. I might have overdone it a little.

A glimpse of her lean athletic build as she pulls on a tank top. Slips into a pair of shorts.

HALEY (CONT'D)

What's up?

BETH

I need you to go check on Dad. Got a call from Katie.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

She's been trying to reach him
since last night. Apparently he's
not answering his phone.

Haley shuffles into her KITCHENETTE.

Opens a cabinet. Pours herself a bowl of cereal. Eating
it dry. Breakfast of Champions.

HALEY

So she called you? To call me?

BETH

Katie said she doesn't have your
number.

Haley sighs.

HALEY

She has it.

BETH

I think she gets the feeling you
don't like her.

HALEY

Come on, Beth. I'm not gonna be
BFF's with my dad's new girlfriend.

(beat)

Where is she anyway? Why can't she
do it?

BETH

In Texas visiting family. She said
Dad was supposed to be on a job
yesterday. Prepping some properties
before this big storm.

Haley glances out the window. Into the bright daylight.

HALEY

I thought that was gonna miss us?

INT. LONG ISLAND HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Beth moves to a kitchen table. Her TWO-YEAR OLD sits in
a high chair, noisily playing with his food.

BETH

That's not what they're saying on the news. It's supposed to hit you guys this afternoon.

A MUTED TELEVISION in the corner. Tuned to a national weather forecast.

A METEOROLOGIST in front of a satellite image. Ominous clouds churning off the southern tip of Florida.

Beth's FIVE-YEAR-OLD begins tugging at her pant leg, trying to get his mother's attention.

BETH (CONT'D)

(aside to her kids)

Shh. Mommy's on the phone with your Aunt Haley.

Haley can hear the CHILDREN playing and talking in the background of the call.

HALEY

Sounds like you've got your hands full.

BETH

Ah, yes. Domestic bliss. I'm heading off to hot yoga in a minute for some much-needed "me time."

HALEY

Yeah. Well there's nothing I love more than spending my Saturday driving an hour out of my way to check on dear ol' dad.

BETH

You should go easy on him. He's been through a lot. We all have. He deserves to be happy.

HALEY

I think he's having a mid-life crisis. Have you seen his new earring? He looks like a pirate. And not a sexy, Johnny-Depp-type pirate.

(MORE)

HALEY (CONT'D)

More like an old, trying-too-hard
pirate. I guess Katie likes it.

Beth laughs.

BETH

So you'll check on him?

HALEY

Okay, I'm going.

BETH

Thanks, sis. You're the best.
Love you.

HALEY

Uh huh. I'll call you when I get
there. Bye.

Haley hangs up. Scans through some pics on her phone.

Finds a recent SELFIE with her DAD. His arm lovingly
wrapped around his daughter's shoulder.

He's in his 40's. Tanned from working outdoors.
Ruggedly handsome, although Haley would never admit it.

She annotates his earring and sketches an eyepatch over
his left eye.

Attaches the photo. Adding a caption: **Arrr!**

Sends it to Beth.

Haley finishes her cereal.

A moment later, her phone DINGS. A reply from her
sister: **Oh, boy.**

Haley smiles. Pulls on a varsity sweatshirt. Then grabs
her keys and dons a pair of sunglasses.

EXT. FLORIDA HIGHWAY - DAY

A Subaru Outback cruises down a divided highway cutting
through swampland. Heading South.

INT. OUTBACK - DAY

Haley drives. Windows down. Wind in her hair.

The car radio's playing *Lana Del Rey's YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL*. She sings along, tapping the steering wheel.

EXT. FLORIDA HIGHWAY - DAY

The vehicle blasts under an overpass sign for: *FORT MYERS*.

EXT. FAMILY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Haley's Outback arrives at its destination. Pulling into the driveway of a modest suburban home.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

KEYS in the lock. The front door opens. Haley steps inside.

HALEY

Anybody home?

She's greeted by a big GOLDEN RETRIEVER.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Hey, Roscoe. Where's Dad, huh?
Where is he?

The dog is jumping all over her. Like he hasn't seen her in ages. Haley grabs him. Brings him in for a big hug.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Oh, I know. I've missed you too.

He pulls away. Running to the back door. Seems really desperate. Barking.

She lets him out. Wanders into the living room.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad!

Continues through the house. Searching the different rooms. No sign of him. She heads upstairs.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Haley TAPS on the bedroom door. Pokes her head in.

With no one around, she decides to do a little snooping. Rifles through a nearby dresser.

Haley finds a box of PHOTOGRAPHS in the bottom drawer. Thumbs through them.

Images of Haley and Beth with their mother MAGGIE at different ages. They're an active trio. Hiking. Camping. Running marathons.

She settles on an older SNAPSHOT of her mother from when she was in college.

Haley gets a little misty-eyed. Blinks away the tears.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Haley pulls open the fridge and grabs a Gatorade. Her phone pressed against her ear. Waiting as it rings. Beth answers.

HALEY

Well I'm at the house, but Dad's not here.

Haley notices some ODDLY PATTERNED CURTAINS that seem to clash with the surrounding decor.

HALEY (CONT'D)

And it looks like Katie's been redecorating.

BETH (ON PHONE)

Oh, no. Let me guess. Hippie chic?

HALEY

(laughs)
Something like that. How was yoga?

BETH (ON PHONE)

A-mazing.

Haley raids a nearby cupboard. Grabbing an energy bar for the road. Stuffs it in her pocket.

HALEY

So what was this about Dad being at
some job site?

BETH (ON PHONE)

Yeah. Katie said the bank hired
him to work on some repossessed
properties. I'll text you the
address.

Haley's attention drifts to that CHARM BRACELET on her
left wrist. It holds a special significance. A long
silent beat.

BETH (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

You okay?

HALEY

(eyes welling)

Just been looking at some pictures
of Mom.

Wipes away the tears.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Sometimes something'll happen at
school, and I'll pick up the phone
to call her.

(then)

It's not fair.

BETH (ON PHONE)

Oh, honey. I know. Can't believe
it's been two years.

(then)

But I'm glad Dad's getting back out
there.

HALEY

Katie's fine. It's just... she
tries too hard.

BETH (ON PHONE)

Haley, no one's going to replace
Mom.

HALEY

I know. Don't get me wrong. I'm
happy for him.

(MORE)

HALEY (CONT'D)
 (looks toward the window)
 If only she had better taste in
 curtains.

A shared laugh. A solemn beat.

HALEY (CONT'D)
 I wish you were down here.

BETH (ON PHONE)
 So do I.

EXT. SOUTHERN FLORIDA - GULF COAST - AFTERNOON

Haley's Outback is back on the road. Crossing over a
 series of swampy canals.

DARK STORM CLOUDS roll in on the horizon.

INT. SUBARU OUTBACK - AFTERNOON

Haley is at the wheel. Downing the Gatorade as she
 drives. Nursing her hangover.

She checks the address on her phone.

Then looks up at the visor. That SNAPSHOT of her mom is
 now clipped there. Watching over her.

EXT. UNFINISHED SUBDIVISION - AFTERNOON

Haley's Outback passes a weathered sign: *CORAL LAKE
 DEVELOPMENT.*

INT. SUBARU OUTBACK - AFTERNOON

As Haley searches the empty subdivision, her phone RINGS.
 She answers it.

BETH (ON PHONE)
 Anything?

HALEY
 Not yet. I just got here. This
 place is creepy. Where is
 everybody?

She cruises the quiet streets. Passing houses in various stages of construction.

BETH (ON PHONE)

Dad said the developer cut a bunch of corners. Can't sell any of the houses till they're up to code.

HALEY

Well I better find him fast. That Gatorade went right through me. I have to pee so bad.

BETH (ON PHONE)

You know, sis, you don't need to share everything.

Haley passes a cul-de-sac. Brakes. Backing up.

A HEAVY-DUTY PICKUP TRUCK with a ladder rack is parked on the street in front of a large house. It's the only vehicle in sight.

HALEY

Hold on. I see his truck.

(then)

If he's in one of these houses kicked back watching the game, I am not gonna be happy.

BETH (ON PHONE)

Okay. Just call me when you find him.

HALEY

I will. Right after I pee.

The sisters share a laugh. Haley disconnects.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - AFTERNOON

Haley pulls up behind the pickup truck. *KELLER CONSTRUCTION* is stenciled on the side.

She kills the engine. Climbs out. And looks around.

A half dozen finished MODEL HOMES line the street. The yards are overgrown. Suburbia gone to seed.

A gust of wind carries an empty trash can across the road. It rolls onto the curb.

Haley sets the alarm on her car.

It CHIRPS. Headlights blink.

The wind is picking up. A few drops of rain.

She quickly cuts across the lawn.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Haley climbs up onto the front steps. A digital lockbox hangs from the doorknob.

She KNOCKS.

No answer. Pushes it open.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - AFTERNOON

Haley steps inside. Closing the door. A cavernous entryway. The interior is dim and gloomy.

HALEY
(calling out)
Hello?

Listens. The house is completely quiet. Just the sound of the WIND blowing outside.

She reaches for a light switch. Flips it. Nothing.

Her FOOTSTEPS echo on the tile floor.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Dad? You in here?

Haley's doing a little "pee dance." Can't hold it any longer. Searches for the nearest bathroom.

She finds a windowless half bath just off the entryway. Flicks the light switch. Nothing happens.

No choice. Has to leave the door ajar.

INT. ENTRYWAY BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Haley sits on the toilet in the darkness.

She hears a odd muffled SCRAPING sound. Looks out the open door.

HALEY

Hello...?

Another SCRAAAAPE. It's faint. Far off.

She quickly finishes.

INT. ENTRYWAY - AFTERNOON

The FLUSH of a toilet.

Haley steps out. Buttoning her shorts. Listens.

The sound has stopped. Must just be the wind.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - VARIOUS - AFTERNOON

Haley wanders through the rooms. Calling for her dad.

The house has a sprawling floor plan.

She spots hairline cracks in the walls, hinting at some structural damage.

The interior has been stripped. Cables hanging from a mount where a television once was.

HALEY

Well at least they took the TV.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

She steps down into a sunken living room. The carpet has been ripped up. A water-damaged floor. Exposed planks.

She looks up at the ceiling. A huge dark water stain.

HALEY

What a mess.

Haley steps up into an equally damaged DINING ROOM.

The floor is soaked and warping.

Tools lie in the corner where the wood is rotting. Among them a SLEDGEHAMMER and CROWBAR.

Swears she can hear VOICES. Far off. The WIND picks up outside. RATTLING the windows.

A WHISTLING sound. Haley follows it to the sliding glass door. It's open just a crack.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Haley steps out onto the patio.

A large in-ground swimming pool. Three-quarters full with murky water. Some empty beer cans floating on the surface.

Beyond the pool is a LARGE MAN-MADE LAKE. Palm trees are swaying in the wind.

Out on the gulf, the sky has turned menacingly dark. A couple of flashes of lightning.

The yard is overgrown. Swampy looking. Moss hanging from the foliage.

HALEY

Dad...? Marco...? Polo...?
Anybody...?

The rain picks up. A sudden downpour.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Haley ducks back inside. Slides the door closed and locks it.

Hears the rain PELTING the house.

She removes her phone. Dials her dad's number. Waits as it connects.

The silence is broken by a faint musical RINGTONE.

A muffled song. If you were born in the 70's, you might recognize it.

A cheesy pop song from the early 80's called *ESCAPE*.

"If you like piña coladas and getting caught in the rain..."

She rolls her eyes. Shakes her head.

HALEY

(mutters to herself)

Dad, you have got to update that
ringtone.

Haley lowers the phone. Follows the sound through the house. Into a massive --

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Haley finds her dad's TOOLBOX sitting on the floor.

Reaches in and pulls out his RINGING phone.

She's getting warmer.

The SONG stops as the call goes to voicemail.

On her own phone, Haley can hear her dad's RECORDED MESSAGE.

DAD (ON PHONE)

*Hey, this is Dave. You've reached
Keller Construction. Leave a
message at the beep.*

BEEP!

She hangs up.

Checks the display on his phone. Sees a bunch of missed calls.

Looks around the kitchen.

There's a set of HOUSE BLUEPRINTS spread out on the counter.

The cabinet doors beneath the sink are open. A disconnected drain pipe.

Haley can hear far-off MUSIC.

Inspects beneath the sink.

CLASSIC ROCK is filtering up from under the house.

Her dad must be down there working.

HALEY
(to herself)
Dad, you are not making this easy.

She looks around. Now, how to get down there.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - VARIOUS - AFTERNOON

Haley moves back through the rear of the house. Checking the different rooms for an access hatch.

INT. UTILITY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Haley passes through an empty laundry room.

In a darkened corner, a gas water heater KICKS on. Scaring the hell out of her.

She collects herself. Continues her search.

INT. GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Haley enters a large two-car garage at the back of the house.

The garage door has been propped up a few feet. Letting in the elements.

Looks like it's been that way for a while. The floor is covered in mud and debris.

Haley activates the light on her phone. Panning the cavernous garage.

Spots an open storage closet.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - AFTERNOON

The interior is unfinished. Exposed drywall.

There's a hole in the floor.

The cover, a loose piece of plywood, sits off to the side.

Haley looks down into the hatch opening.

It leads into the CRAWL SPACE running beneath the house.

She can hear that muffled RADIO.

It's definitely coming from down there.

Haley aims her phone's light into the darkness.

Illuminating the vast crawl space. Dark and dank.

The beam of light barely penetrates the gloom. She calls out.

HALEY

Dad? Are you down there?

Haley waits. No answer.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - AFTERNOON

Haley awkwardly lowers herself into the hole and squeezes under.

There's just enough clearance for her to squat-crawl without getting dirty.

She points the phone's light in front of her.

A better look at the underbelly of the house.

Takes a deep breath. Heading toward the MUSIC.

HALEY

(mutters to herself)

Can't believe I'm doing this.

Haley makes her way through a maze of wooden support posts that carry the load of the house overhead.

After twenty feet, the clearance drops some.
She hesitates. Calls again.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad?!

Haley crouches down. Now crawling forward on her hands
and knees.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Wish I'd worn some jeans.

She worms her way through the tight space. Scanning with
her light.

The MUSIC is getting louder. She's moving in the right
direction.

The beam picks out cobwebs. Growing mold. There's a lot
of water damage down here.

Heavy-duty pipes run along the ceiling of the space.
Covered in condensation. Dripping.

HALEY (CONT'D)

(sarcastic, mimicking
Beth's voice)

*Hey, sis, do me a favor. Go check
on Dad. It'll be fun...*

The shadows cast by the plumbing and support posts shift
as she moves. The effect is slightly disorienting. And
very unsettling.

The darkness could be hiding anything.

A FLASH of lightning outside filters in through a SERIES
OF VENTS along the edge of the foundation.

Giving us a brief glimpse of the surroundings.

It's a mess down here. Exposed dirt and rock. Hanging
insulation. Shredded vapor barrier.

The muffled RUMBLE of thunder.

As Haley inches along, her sweatshirt snags on something.

The tip of a RUSTY NAIL digs into her skin.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Ow!

She flinches. Pulls free.

Inspects her shoulder. Sees that she's bleeding a little.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Shit. Hope my tetanus shot is up to date.

Haley continues through the cramped environment.

The beam of the phone's light plays off --

A couple of large, cobwebbed TRAP CAGES.

Placed down here a while ago to capture unwanted animal intruders. Possibly raccoons.

And then forgotten.

The RADIO echoes from the darkness.

Haley rounds a support post. Squeezing past some DUCTWORK.

She reacts to a strange SCRAPING sound.

Just like she heard before up in the bathroom. Only now, it's a lot closer.

Coming from somewhere in the shadows behind her.

She stops to listen. Looks back over her shoulder. Points her phone's light toward the sound.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad...?

Her eyes scan the space.

Nothing there. Just a maze of supports and twisting pipes.

The SCRAPING has stopped.

Haley is starting to feel slightly uneasy.

She continues her search.

Behind her, a LARGE DARK SHAPE slips past!

Blocking out the daylight from the open access hatch.

For just a moment. Then it's gone.

Haley pushes deeper. Oblivious.

Her phone's light sweeps the darkness. Dust particles hang in the air.

She catches a whiff of something putrid. The smell of rot.

Haley clears another support and finally finds the source of the music --

A PORTABLE AM/FM RADIO lying on its side in the damp dirt. Near the water shutoff.

No sign of Dad.

Then she sees a BLOODY HANDPRINT on a nearby support.

A dark BLOOD TRAIL in the dirt. Stretching into the shadows.

Haley GASPS, realizing something is terribly wrong.

HALEY (CONT'D)

DAD!

Haley is moving faster now. Following the dark streak on the ground. More frantic.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad, it's Haley. Where are you?

Passing a dropped PIPE WRENCH. A shredded TOOL BELT.

Another BLOODY HANDPRINT on a support.

She encounters a NETWORK OF TWISTING PIPES. Gets flat on her stomach and squeezes under.

There's a little more clearance on this side of the plumbing. She sits up.

In the distance, she can make out the DARK OUTLINE of a body lying in the dirt.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Oh God, no...

She quickly crawls forward.

Her phone casts a light on her DAD. Face down. Motionless.

Haley turns him over. His shirt is drenched in blood.

She shakes him. Trying to revive him. Tears streaking her cheeks.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad! Wake up.

He COUGHS and GROANS. Still alive. Haley's overwhelmed with relief.

Her dad's eyes open halfway.

DAD

...Maggie?

HALEY

No. It's Haley.

He's listless. Fading in and out. Eyes struggling to focus.

HALEY (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'm here. What happened?

She uses the phone's light to get a better look.

His left arm is mangled. Covered in puncture marks. Bleeding badly.

She inspects the injury.

HALEY (CONT'D)

What the hell did this?

His other hand is still clutching his flashlight. It's turned off.

Haley gently takes it from him.

Frantically checks her phone. No SIGNAL.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Shit.

Her dad's mind is slowly clearing. Looks up at his daughter.

DAD

Haley...?

HALEY

(with a sense of urgency)

We've got to get you out of here.

A sudden look of panic fills his eyes. Struggling to get the words out.

DAD

No... you shouldn't be down here...

She ignores him, pulling off her sweatshirt.

Sets the phone down so she can work faster.

Ripping the fabric into strips.

She needs to stop the bleeding. Wraps up his arm. Tying it off. Creating a makeshift tourniquet.

Her dad COUGHS.

DAD (CONT'D)

(weak)

Go... you need to go...

She looks at him.

HALEY

Not without you.

Haley glances back in the direction she came.

The light of the OPEN ACCESS HATCH is a long way off. Barely visible through all the looming pipes and supports.

As she begins to move her dad, he winces. CRIES OUT in pain.

Haley sees that his right leg is twisted at an odd angle.

She probes the surface of his jeans just below the knee.

Another anguished CRY. His leg must be broken.

She looks around but can't find anything to splint it.

Haley checks her phone again for a signal. Still nothing. Shoves it in her pocket.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad, this is gonna hurt, but we
need to move you.

She reaches under his arms and begins pulling him with all her strength.

Her dad grits his teeth. GROANS as Haley drags him back.

HALEY (CONT'D)

I know. I'm so sorry.

The pain is too much. He passes out.

Haley tries to keep it together and not panic.

She's never seen her dad hurt before. He's always been the strong one.

She continues. Inching him along. It's painfully slow. Difficult to get enough leverage in this tight space.

Haley reaches that low network of pipes. Now what? Somehow needs to get him under.

She checks the makeshift bandage on her dad's arm. It's helped slow the bleeding.

Makes sure the knots are still tight.

As she works, she senses something moving out in the darkness.

Hears that familiar SCRRRAAPING...

It's getting closer...

A low BELLOW.

Her heart catching in her throat.

Haley turns in the direction of the sound. Fishes the phone from her pocket.

Switching on the light. Scanning the shadows.

WHAM! The JAWS OF AN ALLIGATOR EXPLODE from the darkness.

SNAPPING closed just inches from Haley.

She SCREAMS. Scrambling back.

SLAMS her head into a low-hanging beam. Dropping the phone.

Haley's dazed. Ears RINGING. Struggling to focus.

The HUGE REPTILE pulls back into the shadows.

A stunned beat. Haley's still in shock. Then --

The creature SMASHES into the pipes again.

A nightmarish glimpse of its hideous teeth as it bites down. Another near miss.

Haley gets her bearings. Grabs her dad.

Desperately pulling him back in the other direction.

Away from the attacking REPTILE.

The animal THRASHES wildly. Trying to wedge itself through a gap in the pipes.

But as hard as it tries, the huge creature can't get any closer.

It GROWLS in frustration.

Spins away. Giving us a glimpse of its MASSIVE FORM.

Haley turns back. Makes a grab for her phone. Reaching it just as --

The reptile's long tail SWEEPS beneath the pipes.

Knocking the phone away.

Haley hears it CLATTER out into the darkness.

As the REPTILE retreats back into the shadows. SCRAPING across the ground as it moves off.

She turns her attention to her dad. He's semi-conscious.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad, stay with me.

She finds his flashlight. Clicks it on.

Checks the shadows surrounding them. Worried that thing will find another way in.

There's a low-hanging section of the subfloor running perpendicular to the pipes. Must be the sunken living room.

A RUSTLE of movement on the other side.

She sees the reptile's long body SLITHER past.

That low-hanging section is forming a protective barrier.

Her dad starts COUGHING. Lips parched.

Haley looks around. Finds a leftover piece of her sweatshirt.

Holds it under a dripping pipe.

Letting the fabric become saturated.

She moves it to her dad's lips. Wrings out the water. He gulps it down.

Haley does it again. Nursing her dad back.

He's slowly coming out of it. Swallows. Looks at his daughter. She gently strokes his face.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Her dad nods weakly.

HALEY (CONT'D)

How did that thing get down here?

He's slightly hoarse. Still trying to find his voice.

DAD

(haltingly)

I don't know... Must've come in
through the garage.

Haley helps her dad sit up. She nervously checks the shadows.

DAD (CONT'D)

We should be alright back here.
The clearance is too low. It can't
get through.

Another COUGH from her dad. He's still clearly in a lot of pain.

DAD (CONT'D)

How'd you know I was here?

HALEY

Katie got worried when you didn't
answer your phone.

DAD

(brightens a little)

She called you?

HALEY

Yeah. Something like that.

Haley remembers the energy bar. Fishes it from her pocket. Peels back the wrapper.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Here. Eat this.

He takes a bite.

DAD

(chewing)

I came down to inspect the damage.
See if I could shore up the kitchen
floor. That's when it got me.

Haley takes a closer look at her dad's wounded leg. His jeans encrusted in blood. Denim shredded.

DAD (CONT'D)

My leg got twisted up in one of those pipes.

She rips open his pant leg. Gasps. Seeing the exposed bone pushing through the skin.

HALEY

Dad, this is bad. We have to get you to a hospital.

Haley looks toward the open hatch. Knows the reptile is somewhere nearby.

HALEY (CONT'D)

I need to find my phone. So we can call for help.

DAD

Haley, no... you can't go out there. It's too dangerous.

HALEY

I can make it.

DAD

Please don't...

HALEY

What do we do then? Just wait here?

Her dad reaches out toward his daughter.

She takes his rough, calloused hand. Gives him a reassuring look.

HALEY (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

He's too weak to stop her.

Tears in her eyes.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Stay here. Okay?

He forces a smile.

DAD

Where am I gonna go?

There's her old dad. Brings a smile to her face. Haley starts back toward those crisscrossing pipes.

He watches her go, uneasy.

She approaches the area quietly. Staring into the inky black.

Sees the faint glow of her phone out in the shadows. Maybe fifteen feet away.

Haley switches on her dad's flashlight. Checks the surrounding space. Searching for the reptile.

Where the hell did that thing go?

Catches a glimpse of it. Lurking beneath the OPEN ACCESS HATCH. Seems far enough away.

She clicks off the flashlight and tucks it into the waistband of her shorts.

HALEY

(quietly to herself)

You can do this.

Swallows her fear. Carefully squeezes beneath the pipes. Moving out.

Haley creeps toward her phone. Following the dim light.

Never stops scanning the darkness. Breathing hard. Her heart in her throat.

She's halfway there.

Can still see the reptile's DARK OUTLINE guarding that OPEN HATCH.

Keeps going.

Finds her phone. It's slipped beneath a slightly raised DRAIN PIPE. Just out of reach.

She pushes her hand under.

Through gritted teeth.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Come... on...

Haley flattens herself. Reaching deeper. Stretching...

Touching it.

All the while keeping an eye on the alligator in the distance.

She gets hold.

Pulling the phone toward her.

Yanks it out.

Haley switches off the phone's light. Looks back toward the hatch. The animal hasn't moved.

The display is covered in mud.

She quickly tries to wipe it off.

There's a signal. It's weak. But it's there.

Holds the phone up toward the subfloor. Getting an extra bar of reception.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Yes.

Haley dials 9-1-1.

Anxiously waits as it rings...

HALEY (CONT'D)

(softly)

C'mon. C'mon. Pick up!

Haley looks back toward the garage access hatch.

The reptile is gone!

HALEY (CONT'D)

Shit.

Her eyes nervously study the shadows. She's trying not to panic.

An OPERATOR finally answers. A broken connection.

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)
Hello... 11... your emergency.

HALEY
(keeping her voice low)
Help. You need to help us.

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)
I'm sorry, what is your emergency?

HALEY
We're trapped. Under a house.
There's an alligator --

A RUSTLE of movement catches Haley's attention. She reacts as --

The REPTILE creeps into view on the other side of that DRAIN PIPE. Just a few feet away.

Haley SCREAMS! Frantically crab crawls backwards as --

The animal CLIMBS over the pipe.

She flips onto her stomach. Scrambling on hands and knees through the dark space. Trying to get back to her dad.

The reptile follows. Closing in fast. Lunges --

Jaws CLAMPING down on her left leg! Teeth tearing into flesh.

Haley CRIES out in pain! Tries to kick free.

The animal THRASHES. Dragging her back. Huge mouth locked onto her lower leg.

It yanks Haley further into the shadows.

Swinging her around like a rag doll.

SLAMS her into a support post. Knocking the wind out of her.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Ugh!

The impact sends the phone flying.

Haley's dazed. Bleeding from a gash in her forehead.

Her fingernails clawing at the ground. Arms flailing, grasping for a handhold.

The reptile pulls. Twisting its head. Hauling her back through the darkness.

It's ferocious. Brutal.

Haley has to act fast. Catches one of the vertical supports.

She hangs on for dear life. Arms wrapped around the post. Fighting each horrible pull.

A tug of war.

Haley SCREAMS in pain.

Her hands start slipping off the support post.

The reptile thrashing wildly. Trying to break her grip.

Haley kicks it with her free leg.

Jamming the heel of her sneaker into its snout. Again and again. Trying to get loose.

HALEY (CONT'D)

LET... GO!

Finds the animal's eye. Makes contact with a gouging kick.

The animal flinches. Losing its grip.

Just enough for Haley to pull free.

She crawls like hell. Adrenaline pumping.

Clawing her way to safety.

The beast recovers. Takes off after her.

Haley scrambles her way through the supports. Trying to shake it.

The lower half of her left leg punctured and bleeding.

She looks back. Wishes she hadn't.

The REPTILE is ten feet away and closing...

It's almost on her.

Haley spots one of those old cobwebbed TRAP CAGES.

Instinctively grabs the three-foot metal cage. Dragging it into the reptile's path.

Positioning it between her and the attacking animal.

The reptile CRASHES into the side of the cage. With so much force that it dents the wire frame.

Shoving Haley back a few feet. The impact vibrating up her arms.

Kicking up a cloud of dust. Haley coughs. Clinging to the metal cage.

She can hear her dad shouting her name in the distance.

DAD (O.S.)

HALEY!

No time to respond.

The reptile rears back. HITS it again. Driving the cage and Haley back another couple of feet.

But Haley hangs on.

Using all her strength to keep the cage between her and the raging animal.

The reptile SNARLS in frustration. Lashing against the metal.

Jaws clamping onto the wire mesh.

It backs up with the edge of the cage in its mouth. Dragging Haley with it.

The cage snags on a support post.

The reptile lets go. Trying to move around it.

But Haley keeps the cage between them.

It retreats a few feet. Gets a running start.

Haley quickly spins the cage around. So the opening is pointed toward the charging animal.

The alligator SMASHES into the front of the cage.

Its snout punching through the trap's gate.

Its narrow head now wedged inside.

The reptile is wearing the cage like a wire muzzle.

This only seems to make it madder.

The animal THRASHES around wildly. Swinging its huge head side-to-side.

Knocking the cage into the surrounding supports. Trying to work it off.

Giving Haley a chance to scramble away.

The wire cage RATTLES as the reptile tears at it from inside. Gnashing its teeth.

As Haley flees, she becomes entangled in a mass of electrical wires hanging down from the ceiling of the crawl space.

The reptile finally manages to get free. Flinging the cage aside.

The barrier between them gone.

Fuck! She's exposed.

Haley tugs at the twisting wires. Ripping them free from the staples holding them in place overhead.

A low menacing BELLOW.

The reptile's advancing.

Slows down...

Sees that she's stuck.

Like a fly trapped in a spider web.

HALEY

No!

Haley desperately worms her way through. Using every ounce of her strength. Gets loose. Crawling out the other side.

The reptile follows. Tangling itself up in the same mess of hanging wires.

Slowing the animal's progress.

Haley can hear it STRUGGLING behind her.

She kicks with her good leg. Pushing herself forward. Ignoring the pain.

The reptile rips free from the wires. SCRAPING along the ground. Crawling after her.

It lunges. Jaws SNAPPING down. Just missing her.

The reptile makes another snatch at Haley. Overshoots. CRASHING into a support.

Haley flattens herself, squeezing under a gap near the foundation.

The reptile tries to follow.

But the clearance is too low. It can't open its mouth enough to grab her.

Haley rolls out of the way. Taking shelter behind a couple of four inch pipes running horizontal to the ground.

A small pocket of space here. The pipes on one side of her. The foundation wall on the other.

Haley catches her breath. Collapsing back against the concrete. Exhausted. In intense pain.

Sees that MONSTROUS BEAST pacing along on the other side of the pipes.

Its tail SCRRRAAPING the ground.

The REPTILE turns.

Its eye is right there!

Looking in at her through the pipes.

Another low menacing BELLOW.

It suddenly spins away.

Haley's attention remains fixed on the reptile as it slinks back into the darkness.

The SCRRRRAAAAPING sound fades off.

Haley tries to get her breathing under control. Her whole body trembling. Happy to be alive.

Her dad anxiously calls from the shadows. His VOICE far off.

DAD (O.S.)
Haley, what's happening!?

HALEY
(yelling back, breathless)
Dad. I'm okay. Stay there.

She removes the flashlight from her waistband. Switches it on.

Scanning it over her leg. Inspecting the damage.

It's riddled with puncture marks.

Blood running down her calf.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Shit.

She applies pressure to the injury.

Searches for something to stop the bleeding.

Sets the flashlight down.

Rips off pieces of VAPOR BARRIER.

Haley grits her teeth. Wrapping the meshed material around her wounded leg.

CRYING OUT as she ties it off.

It's like doing surgery in a closet.

Haley inspects her makeshift tourniquet. The bleeding has stopped. For now.

She takes a moment to gather her strength. The pain visible on her face.

Picks up the flashlight. Examines the narrow space. Listens...

Just the sound of that far-off RADIO and the STORM outside.

WIND and RAIN lashing the house.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad...?

She sees a chalky water line halfway up the foundation wall. Indicating that at one point this crawl space was flooded.

And a reminder that it could happen again.

DAD (O.S.)

Yeah. I'm here.

Up ahead. In the darkness. A sliver of DAYLIGHT.

HALEY

Hold on. I think I found something.

Haley crawls toward it. Dragging her damaged leg. Creeping along the foundation.

Finds one of those VENTS set into the concrete. Narrow slats allowing for air flow. But not much else.

The opening is tight, but if she can get the cover off, maybe she can squeeze through.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dad, there's a vent. I'm gonna see
if I can get out.

Haley kicks at the vent cover with her good leg. Again
and again.

HALEY (CONT'D)

C'mon... c'mon...

Gives it a final frustrated kick. The cover's not
budging. It's bolted into the concrete foundation from
outside.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Dammit!

She looks out through the vent's narrow slats.

HALEY'S POV

An air conditioning unit is partially obscuring her view
of the street and a neighboring house.

BACK TO SCENE

Haley looks around.

Clicks on the flashlight again. Panning the crawl space.
Always checking to make sure she's safe.

DAD (O.S.)

Haley, where are you?

HALEY

I don't know. I can see an air
conditioning unit. And some of the
street.

DAD (O.S.)

That's good. It sounds like you're
near the front of the house.
There's another access hatch in the
entryway closet.

A silent beat. Haley studies the floorboards overhead.

HALEY
 Okay. So how do I get there?

HER DAD --

Lying there in the darkness. Feeling helpless. Tethered to this spot.

DAD
 You need to crawl along the foundation. Until you reach the wet wall.

HALEY (O.S.)
 Wet wall?

DAD
 Yeah. Where all the pipes go up into the house. Follow it. That runs along the entryway.

Her dad hears rainwater filling the pipes. Rushing into nearby storm drains.

Seems distracted by all the water DRIPPING down through the subfloor.

Feels it collecting around him. This section of the crawl space is starting to flood.

HALEY (O.S.)
 Dad, I don't know where the alligator went. Can you see it?

Her dad hears MOVEMENT in the distance. Squints into the gloom.

Sees a FAINT OUTLINE of the reptile slinking beneath the garage.

DAD
 It's over near the open hatch.

Realizes he needs to get a better view of what's going on.

In the shadows, on the other side of those low twisting pipes, he can see his shredded TOOL BELT.

HALEY --

Studies the darkness one more time just to make sure.
Clicks off the flashlight.

HALEY

Okay.
(under her breath)
Here goes.

Haley begins moving along the foundation wall. Feeling her way through the darkness.

Using her good leg to push her along.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The storm is really lashing at the house. Downspouts have backed up. Water pooling on the lawn.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Inside the house, the roof is leaking badly. Water trickles down onto the subfloor and into the crawl space below.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - AFTERNOON

Her dad hears the water coming in as he slowly pulls himself across the wet ground.

Focused on reaching that network of pipes.

The portable RADIO continues playing out in the darkness.

The CLASSIC ROCK is interrupted by a series of emergency service BLEETS. Then a MONOTONE VOICE.

RECORDED VOICE (ON RADIO)

The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood warning for parts of Southern Florida including all of Lee, Monroe, and Collier Counties. Residents are asked to shelter in place and avoid low lying areas.

(MORE)

RECORDED VOICE (ON RADIO) (CONT'D)
*Excessive runoff from heavy
rainfall is expected to cause major
flooding.*

DAD
(muttering to himself)
Yeah. No shit.

He continues working himself through the cramped space.
Toward his TOOL BELT.

HALEY --

Sneaks along the front of the house.

Keeps the flashlight off. Doesn't want to give away her
position.

She studies the pipes. They all seem to be converging at
the same point overhead. That must be the wet wall.

Haley moves away from the foundation. Rolling onto her
back. Looking up at the subfloor.

Tries to orientate herself. Searching for that second
access hatch.

She suddenly spots it. Cut into the floorboards
overhead.

There's a DARK CLUSTER hanging near the front edge of the
hatch.

Haley brushes it away. Unknowingly waking --

A large nest of HARVESTMEN SPIDERS that have made this
damp crawl space their home.

Hundreds of LONG-LEGGED SPIDERS drop from overhead.

Falling into Haley's hair. Onto her face.

She's FREAKING OUT. Writhing wildly. Trying to shake
them off.

Fighting the urge to scream. Has to keep her mouth
closed.

They crawl all over her...

Scattering off into the shadows.

Haley desperately swipes away the stragglers.

Collects herself. A shudder of disgust.

HALEY

(mutters to herself)

I fucking hate spiders.

She nervously glances back over her shoulder. Checking for the reptile.

Then hits up against the hatch.

Dust and dirt filters down from above with each impact.

But the cover won't budge.

Haley grits her teeth. Quietly shoulders it up. Pushing with all her might.

INT. ENTRYWAY CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Boxes of unused ceramic tiles are piled on top of the hatch. They shift slightly as Haley pushes up from below.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Haley repositions herself to get more leverage.

Straining. Pushing with everything she's got. Inching the cover up.

The hatch door rises a few inches.

Then catches. Something's preventing it from opening any further.

Haley, struggling to keep it up, works her fingers through the gap.

CLOSE ON HALEY'S FINGERS

Feeling along the edge. Finding a metal hasp. A SQUARE PADLOCK holding it in place.

ON HALEY

Pulling her hand back. A defeated breath.

She lets the hatch drop. Slumps back against a wooden support.

Their chance of escape slipping away.

A long, quiet beat. Thinking of her dad. Shakes it off.

HALEY

Come on, Haley. Keep it together.

(then, calling out)

Dad...?!

HER DAD --

Is preoccupied. Lying on his side. Stretching his good arm under the intersecting pipes.

Trying to reach his TOOL BELT on the other side. Every move for him is painful.

DAD

(through clenched teeth)

Yeah, honey. I'm here.

HALEY (O.S.)

Dad? I can't get it open. It's locked. What should I do?

He tries to hide his disappointment.

DAD

That's okay. Come on back. We'll figure something out.

HALEY --

A beat. She's thinking.

A FLASH of lightning spills in through the foundation vents. Giving Haley an idea.

HALEY

I'm gonna try prying off another vent cover. Maybe one of them is loose.

HER DAD --

Looks toward the open access hatch for that reptile.

DAD

No. Haley... don't. They're bolted on.

His voice is drowned out by the RUMBLE of thunder.

HALEY --

Isn't giving up. She cautiously makes her way through the darkness toward the edge of the house.

Searching for the nearest vent.

She stops. Listens. Hears a faint BUZZING. Off to her left.

Her PHONE. It's VIBRATING somewhere in the shadows.

Haley shifts directions. Moving quietly. Trying to follow the sound.

HER DAD --

Successfully snags the tool belt. Pulls it close.

We now see what he was after. He retrieves a HEADLAMP from one of the pockets.

A long, low SCRRRRAAPE... The reptile is on the move again.

Her dad quickly clicks on the headlamp. Turns the beam toward the sound.

Catching a glimpse of the REPTILE as it slips past.
Moving toward his daughter.

DAD
(with sudden urgency)
Haley!

HALEY --

Finds herself in an area sectioned off by large pieces of
ROTTING INSULATION.

They hang down from the ceiling like Spanish moss.
Obscuring her view.

She's busy searching the ground around her. Puddles
everywhere.

HALEY
Dad, hold on. I can hear my phone.

DAD (O.S.)
Haley, it's coming your way!

With this news, Haley picks up the pace. Feeling in the
darkness...

Finally finds her phone lying face down in the mud.

Hears the REPTILE coming. SPLASHING and SCRAPING.
Getting closer...

Haley stuffs the phone in her pocket and crawls.

A large piece of hanging insulation shifts as --

The reptile pushes beneath it. Stops. Twisting its huge
head.

Studying the darkness.

Haley is gone.

ON HALEY --

Crawling for her life. The hanging insulation giving
her cover.

She slips on the muddy surface. SLAMMING her damaged leg into a support. *Ugh!* Hurts like hell.

Haley recovers. Keeps going. Taking shelter behind another large post.

Hears the RUSTLE of movement.

More hanging insulation shifts nearby.

She holds her breath as --

The REPTILE stalks past. On the prowl. It lingers a moment. Then keeps going.

The SCRRRRRAAPING sound moves off.

It's lost her in the darkness.

Haley tries to remain silent.

A long, quiet beat. Then --

The phone into her pocket suddenly BUZZES with a message.

The REPTILE whips around. Honing in on the sound. And on Haley.

Shit! She takes off.

Scrambling furiously. Survival instinct kicking in.

Ignoring her wounded leg. Heart pounding out of her chest.

Making her way toward a LONG, RECTANGULAR METAL DUCT running along the top of the crawl space.

Less than a foot of clearance beneath it.

Haley crawls desperately. Moving through standing water.

Sensing the REPTILE closing in right behind her.

She dives for the duct.

It's a tight fit.

Manages to squeeze most of her body under --

But her RIGHT SNEAKER snags on a metal edge.

Haley quickly works to unhook it.

Can't get it loose.

Yanks off her shoe. Pulling her bare foot under.

Emerging on the other side --

Into a narrow passageway between the duct and the house's foundation.

Haley falls back against the concrete. Catches her breath. Shaking.

She checks her pocket for the phone.

It's not there!

Must have slipped out during her mad dash.

Haley looks back under. Sees the phone lying just on the other side of the duct.

As she reaches for it --

A huge claw comes CRASHING down! CRUSHING the phone into the mud. Shattering the display.

HALEY

(lost)

No...

Haley pulls back. Devastated. Hugging her knees to her chest. Her last chance to call for help now gone.

She can hear the reptile furiously CLAWING on the other side of the duct. Ripping at the vapor barrier.

It lunges into the gap.

Trying to burrow its way under.

Not enough room.

The alligator backs out.

Giving Haley a chance to catch her breath. Now what?

An anxious beat --

The REPTILE SLAMS its weight into the metal surface from the other side.

The loud THUMP shakes the duct. Causing Haley to jump.

Another HIT. The sound is deafening.

And another.

The bolts mounting the duct to the joists overhead SNAP. One after another.

A section of the ductwork breaks free.

SPLASHING down into the muddy water.

The REPTILE continues POUNDING against the surface. The whole structure now sliding.

The space on Haley's side is slowly collapsing.

DAD (O.S.)
Haley, are you okay?

A panicked Haley braces herself. Pushing back against the duct with her good leg. Trying to hold it in place.

HALEY
(under her breath, through
gritted teeth)
A little busy... right now...

Feeling each impact from the powerful animal.

The POUNDING stops.

A tense beat.

Her worried dad continues calling.

HALEY (CONT'D)
(yelling back)
Dad, I'm alright! Hold on.

The silence is suddenly broken by that dreaded wet SCRRRRAAPING on the other side.

The REPTILE is on the move again. SCRATCHING against the duct as it crawls. *Where's it going?*

Haley clicks on the flashlight. Looks down the length of the passageway.

Sees that, after twenty feet, the duct ends. Turning up into the house.

Just then the BEAST rounds the corner. Eyes reflecting red in the beam of her flashlight.

Blocking that end of the passageway.

Oh, shit! Haley turns and frantically heads in the opposite direction.

Hears SCRATCHING and SPLASHING behind her as the reptile slowly pushes itself between the duct and the foundation wall.

It's tail BANGING against the metal as it moves.

Up ahead, the duct bends to the right.

Haley scrambles around the corner --

Reaching a DEAD END.

The opening is sealed off with plywood.

She's cornered. Looks back.

Sees the alligator closing in.

But Haley's not ready to give up.

Kicks wildly at the flimsy plywood. Manages to knock one side loose.

Haley squeezes out.

Wedging the plywood back into place just as --

The REPTILE thrusts its snout sideways through the gap.

Getting it caught between the bending duct and the edge of the plywood.

Haley pushes with all her weight against the plywood.

The animal is trapped. Pulling back. Trying to escape.
Its broad snout just inches from Haley.

SNARLING and HISSING. Struggling to get free.

Haley can't hold it much longer.

Sees a NARROW OPENING in the foundation. Several yards
away.

She lets up on the plywood just as --

The animal gives a hard backward yank. Slipping back
behind the duct.

Haley dives for that narrow opening.

Rolling onto her side. Presses herself through the tight
entrance --

Into a concrete CUBBYHOLE. A recessed portion of the
crawl space. The size of a walk-in closet.

Haley backs up. The ground is very muddy and wet back
here.

She finds a piece of rebar lying on the muck. Grabs it
for protection. Gripping it tight.

Clicks off the flashlight.

THE REPTILE --

CRASHES through the plywood. Pulling itself free from
the passageway.

Prowling the space. Hunting for Haley.

HALEY --

Can hear the animal SNIFFING close by. Raspy BREATHING.

Then a long, low guttural GROWL.

The reptile looms outside the narrow entrance. Staring
in. Knows she's there. Just out of reach.

Haley's fed up. Thrusts the end of the rebar out the opening. JAMMING it into the reptile's snout.

The creature retreats slightly.

HALEY

Go away! Get out of here!

Haley winces in pain.

Inspects her damaged leg. She's bleeding through the tourniquet. Redresses it.

CRIES OUT as she tightens the knots.

HER DAD --

Uses the headlamp to look around. Anxiously waiting for word from his daughter.

Its weak beam of light cuts through the darkness.

Revealing all the water dripping off the pipes. Leaking down through the subfloor.

It's a swampy mess. Much worse than he thought.

Sees more rainwater spilling in through those side vents. Collecting into large pools of standing water.

Realizes he needs to do something.

Spots a RUBBER HOSE snaking along the ground beneath the SUNKEN LIVING ROOM.

Some sort of discharge line.

Pulls himself forward with his good arm. Moving in small increments.

Reaches his shoulder under that low-hanging section of subfloor. Straining.

Getting close enough to grab the hose.

And reel it in.

The end is attached to a portable SUMP PUMP. Left down here from previous flooding.

This could buy them some time.

He pushes it into the rising water.

Flips the switch from AUTOMATIC to MANUAL. It doesn't start.

Frustrated, he flips the switch back and forth. Still nothing.

Lifts the pump's housing from the water. Opens a compartment at the back. The battery pack is empty.

Her dad looks back toward that radio CHATTERING in the darkness.

Pulls himself toward it.

The slurry of muck and water is making it easier for him to move.

HALEY --

Hears the reptile creeping back toward the narrow opening.

She clicks on the flashlight. Points it directly at the beast. Shining the blinding beam into its eyes.

The alligator GROWLS irritated. Backing away.

Sensitive to the bright light.

HALEY

That's right. Get your slimy ass
out of here!

The reptile keeps backing up. Moving into the shadows. Out of the beam's reach.

Haley detects a RUSTLE of movement behind her. Looks over her shoulder.

A RABBIT hops into view. Just a few feet away.

A Cottontail. Nose wiggling wildly. It's made this corner of the crawl space its home.

Haley freezes. Not wanting to scare it.

The rabbit pauses. Motionless. Its black eyes staring back at her.

HALEY (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Don't worry. I'm not gonna hurt you.

The frightened animal suddenly darts off.

Scurrying for the entrance.

HALEY (CONT'D)

No...

Haley makes a desperate grab for it.

HALEY (CONT'D)

...don't...

But she's too late. It slips through her hands. Fleeing out the narrow opening.

Into the open crawl space.

The reptile STRIKES. Lunging from the shadows.

It's fast and vicious. Huge jaws SNAPPING down on the unsuspecting rabbit. Teeth chomping and grinding.

It's over in seconds.

The alligator turns toward Haley. Eyes reflecting a deep red in the low light. Finishes chewing. A bloody grin.

It's taunting her.

Haley YELLS in frustration.

HALEY (CONT'D)

FUCK YOU!

The reptile lumbers off.

She backs up. Her rage turning to despair. Lies there a moment. Tears welling.

A pile of fallen insulation near the rear of the cubbyhole shifts slightly.

Haley cautiously pushes it aside. Revealing --

Two YOUNG BUNNIES. A few weeks old. Furred. Crawling over one another. Eyes open. Helpless.

And now orphaned.

They're wet, cold, and shaking.

Water is spilling in from somewhere along the concrete wall.

Haley follows it back to its source.

Finds a SIX-INCH CUT-OUT in the foundation.

An opening just big enough to reach her arm out. The meshed screen on the other side has been chewed through.

Haley looks back at the bunnies.

HALEY (CONT'D)

So that's how your mommy got in here.

She considers her options.

Can't push them out there. They'll drown. And she can't leave them here.

Haley quickly packs the hole with insulation. Trying to stop the water from coming in. Slows it to a trickle.

Then she scoops up the young bunnies. Wraps them in her tank top. Holding them close to her chest.

Moves toward that opening.

She CLICKS on the flashlight. Looks out into the empty crawl space.

The alligator appears to have moved off.

Haley turns off the flashlight. And, armed with that piece of rebar, carefully creeps out.

She's cradling the bunnies. Trying to move quietly.
Eyes searching for the reptile.

HER DAD --

Is now lying near those twisting pipes.

Using his shredded tool belt in an attempt to snag --

The PORTABLE RADIO. It's floating in the rising water on
the other side of the plumbing.

Just a few feet away.

He tosses the belt. Trying to hook it. But misses.

DAD

Come on...

Tries again. Closer --

But another miss.

A final attempt. This time the buckle manages to catch
onto the antenna.

He carefully pulls the radio toward him.

Removes the batteries.

And begins the slow crawl back to the sump pump.

Using the floor joists to pull himself along.

Occasionally stopping when the pain is too much. This
simple task is exhausting.

He reaches the pump, lifts the housing from the water,
and inserts the batteries.

Her dad sets the base back down. Submerging it. Flips
the switch.

A hesitant beat...

The pump CHOKES to life. He can hear water GURGLING out
through the discharge line.

Shines his headlamp along the hose snaking toward the foundation. Hopefully draining out away from the house.

The beam of light flutters slightly. Close to dying. Her dad shakes it back to life.

HALEY --

Notices that the MUSIC from the radio has stopped. An eerie silence.

Can't call to her dad. Too worried she'll give away her location to that reptile.

She hugs the side of the foundation. Dragging her injured leg. With one arm holding the squirming bunnies.

Awkwardly inches her way through the darkness back toward that locked entryway hatch.

This time she easily finds it.

Shoulders the cover up the few inches the padlock will allow. Using the rebar to prop it open.

Haley gently pushes the ORPHANED BUNNIES through the gap.

One of them turns. Trying to make its way back through. Looking for its mother.

She tenderly nudges it out. A sad smile.

HALEY

No, honey. Stay there. You'll be safe.

Haley carefully removes the rebar. Letting the hatch cover gently drop back into place.

Exhales. A small victory.

HALEY (CONT'D (CONT'D)

(mutters to herself)

Now, how the hell are we getting out of here?

From her position, she spots the REPTILE through the maze of supports.

It's lurking beneath the garage hatch. Lying in a few inches of muddy water.

Haley can hear more water DRIPPING all around her.

HALEY (CONT'D)
(calls into the darkness)
Dad, this crawl space is flooding.
What are we gonna do?

DAD (O.S.)
I don't know. But I got the sump
pump working. It should buy us a
little time.

HALEY
Okay. I'm coming back. Keep an
eye on that thing for me.

DAD (O.S.)
I will. Be careful.

She starts crawling toward his VOICE.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - LATE AFTERNOON

A SECURITY VEHICLE slowly cruises down the flooded street on patrol.

It circles back.

And parks facing her dad's pickup truck.

INT. SECURITY VEHICLE - LATE AFTERNOON

BOBBY (23), a good-looking kid. Mustache unable to hide his boyish face.

The chatter of the car radio keeps him company.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
...due to heavy rain and gale-force
winds, authorities have asked that
all non-emergency vehicles stay off
the roads...

He turns the volume down. Sits, looking out his windshield at the TRUCK and HALEY'S OUTBACK. Wipers THUMPING.

Bobby checks a clipboard on the passenger seat. Writing down some notes.

Pulls up the hood on his rain jacket, opens the door, and steps out into the pouring rain.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley hears the distinct THUMP of a car door.

Looks toward the front of the house. Unsure if she actually heard it.

She changes directions. Quickly works her way through the cramped space. Swatting away cobwebs.

Drops the rebar so she can crawl faster.

Reaching a VENT set into the front of the foundation.

She leans close. Peering out through the narrow slats.

HALEY'S POV

A partially obscured view of the front yard. She can see her dad's pickup truck. Lit by the headlights of the security vehicle.

Bobby's outside walking through the heavy rain toward the truck.

BACK TO SCENE

Haley can't believe it.

HALEY
(yells)
HEY! DOWN HERE!

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby uses his flashlight to look into the pickup's gloomy interior. Then turns toward Haley's Outback.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley glances over her shoulder. Shouting to her dad.

HALEY

Dad, there's someone outside!

She shifts her attention back to the vent. Continues SCREAMING.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Help! HELP!

HITTING her fist against the metal cover. Trying to get Bobby's attention.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - LATE AFTERNOON

But the POUNDING RAIN drowns out her cries.

Bobby scans the handful of empty houses.

Debates whether it's worth calling in a couple of abandoned vehicles.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley has her face up against the vent. Water's trickling in through the louvers.

HALEY

PLEASE! YOU NEED TO HELP US!

On the other side of the crawl space, her dad has joined in. Yelling at the top of his lungs.

DAD (O.S.)

HELP!

HALEY

DOWN HERE. HEY! HELP US! WE'RE TRAPPED!

It doesn't seem to be working. Haley takes a different tact. Grabbing the flashlight.

Shines it at the vent.

Panning the beam over the slats. Clicking it on and off.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - LATE AFTERNOON

At the base of the foundation. The other side of that VENT. A flicker of light. Barely visible through the rain.

Bobby doesn't see it. He's already headed back toward his vehicle.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley realizes that he's leaving.

HALEY
HEY! WAIT! DON'T GO!

Desperate to get his attention. Hope draining away.

Then she sees her Outback.

Haley reaches into her pocket.

Pulls out her car keys. Fumbling for the button.

Pointing the keychain toward the vent.

EXT. SECURITY VEHICLE - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby is climbing behind the wheel when --

The Outback's alarm KICKS ON.

He reacts. Turning toward the car.

Its alarm WAILING. Headlights flashing.

Bobby cautiously steps from his vehicle. His hand on his belt. *Is somebody messing with him?*

He shifts his attention to the nearby house. Decides he better check it out.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley watches as Bobby crosses the lawn toward the front door.

HALEY
Come on... yes.

Haley BLEEPs off the car alarm to hear better.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Dad, he's coming in!

Muffled FOOTSTEPS. The CREAK of floorboards.

A muted "hello?"

Haley heads toward the sounds. Trying to get closer. POUNDING up on the floorboards.

HALEY (CONT'D)
HELP! DOWN HERE!

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby stands in the entryway. Panning his flashlight over the darkened interior. Listens...

Just the sound of the HEAVY RAIN.

BOBBY
Anybody home?

A FLASH of lightning illuminates the inside of the house.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley keeps moving. SLAMMING her fist into the floorboards overhead. Trying to get Bobby's attention. Her knuckles getting scraped up and bloody.

Haley screams. Voice growing hoarse and raspy.

HALEY
HELP! WE'RE TRAPPED DOWN HERE!

DAD (O.S.)
Haley, I don't think he can hear
you. Try banging on the pipes.

Haley retrieves the piece of rebar. And HITS the plumbing near the wet wall.

HER DAD --

Shines his weakening headlamp toward the garage hatch.

The ALLIGATOR seems agitated by all the noise.

It gets up, slicing through the water. Moving toward that loud resonating SOUND.

The beam of light flickers. And goes out.

Her dad nervously scans the inky black space. He's lost sight of the reptile.

DAD
(yelling toward his
daughter)
Haley, watch out! It's on the
move!

HALEY --

Doesn't hear him. She's too busy HAMMERING the pipes. Trying to make as much NOISE as possible.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - VARIOUS - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby hears a faint CLANGING sound. Follows it.

Realizes the sound is echoing up from beneath the floor.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley stops to listen as Bobby's FOOTSTEPS move further into the house.

HALEY

Dad, I think he's looking for the hatch.

Hears her dad's frantic VOICE.

DAD (O.S.)

Haley, did you hear me? I don't know where that thing went!

HALEY

Oh my God.

She's suddenly on alert. Switches on the flashlight. Eyes scanning the shadows. Trying to locate the reptile.

INT. GARAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby steps down into the garage. Sees the propped up garage door. The STORM still raging outside.

He approaches that empty storage closet.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley anxiously pans the flashlight back and forth. Checking all around her. Listening for any sign of the alligator.

HALEY

I can't see it!

DAD (O.S.)

I heard it go by just a minute ago.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby's flashlight picks out the open access hatch.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

The beam from his flashlight filters down into the crawl space.

Bobby pokes his head down through the opening.

He sweeps the flooding space with his light. Too dark to see much.

BOBBY
Is somebody down here?

HALEY --

Sees Bobby in the lighted hatch. Needs to stop him.

HALEY
No!

Frantically tries to signal him. Screaming. Waving her flashlight.

HALEY (CONT'D)
DON'T COME DOWN HERE!

BOBBY --

Sees the far-off beam swinging back and forth.

Can't hear much for the deafening rain HITTING the garage door.

He leans in further.

BOBBY
What the hell are you doing back there? It's gonna flood.

HER DAD --

Hears Haley's frantic pleas. He tries to warn Bobby. Yelling from the darkness.

DAD
STAY BACK! GO GET HELP!

BOBBY --

Turns his attention toward her dad's VOICE. Looking into the shadows.

BOBBY

What?

DAD (O.S.)

There's an alligator down here!

We're trapped!

It takes him a moment to process this. The water below Bobby SLOSHES slightly.

BOBBY

(calling back)

Shit. Okay. Hold on!

He pulls himself up and out of the hatch.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby's perched on the edge of the opening. Adrenaline pumping. Reaches for his radio to call for help.

Hand shaking a little as he unclips it from his belt.

WHAM! The alligator LUNGES up from the access hatch. Lightning fast.

CLAMPING onto Bobby's arm. Using its own weight to drag him down into the crawl space.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Bobby lands with a SPLASH.

The reptile is on him in seconds. RIPPING into him. Bobby's SCREAMING. Trying to fight it off.

HALEY --

Watching in shock as the REPTILE flings him around.

HALEY

No. NOOO!

Then a horrible sound. The CRACK of bones. His neck SNAPS. Bobby falls silent.

The alligator yanks the lifeless guard back into the darkness.

Just the RUSTLE of movement. The water settles.

Haley closes her eyes. A sense of total hopelessness. Can't get her breath. Suffocating. Now more afraid than ever.

She opens her eyes. Realizes she needs to get back to her dad while that thing is distracted.

Begins a desperate crawl. Clutching the rebar in one hand. The switched-off flashlight in the other.

We're with her the whole way.

Following Haley as she SPLASHES through the rising water.

Trying to find her way back.

In her panic, gets turned around.

Realizes she's lost.

Clicks on the flashlight.

Its beam scans the crawl space.

Picks out that battered TRAP CAGE. Knows that she's close.

HALEY (CONT'D)
(harsh whisper)
Dad?

The beam falters.

She shakes it. Breathing hard.

It comes back on.

Revealing a brief glimpse of the empty crawl space.

It goes dark again. Haley, panicked, gives it another shake.

A flash of the REPTILE snaking its way toward her.

Then blackness.

Haley SCREAMS.

Not knowing which way to go.

CRIES OUT for her dad. Certain she's about to die.

HALEY (CONT'D)
DADDY!?

A HAND suddenly clamps onto her arm. Pulling her back into the shadows.

Dragging her under that network of pipes.

The water SURGES as the reptile SWEEPS past. Twisting away. Slinking back into the dark.

Haley's safe. Just out of reach. Sees her dad.

DAD
(tears in his eyes)
Thought I lost you.

She grabs him around the neck. SOBBING uncontrollably. Overcome by everything she's seen and been through.

He holds her tight. Trying to comfort her. Checks to make sure she's okay.

Haley's scraped up and bruised. Covered in mud.

Then he sees her bloody leg.

DAD (CONT'D)
My god. Why didn't you tell me?

HALEY
I'm fine. It's not as bad as it looks.

Her dad winces as he shifts positions.

HALEY (CONT'D)
How are you?

DAD
Think I've found my second wind.

This gets a smile out of her. Haley wipes away her tears. Looks back at the garage hatch.

HALEY

That poor security guard.

(beat)

I tried to warn him.

DAD

Honey, there's nothing more you could've done.

Haley takes a deep breath. Worn out. Defeated.

HALEY

We're never getting out of here, are we?

DAD

Haley, I need you to be strong. We're not quitting.

He brushes the hair from his daughter's face.

DAD (CONT'D)

Remember when your mom was sick. Through all the treatments. She never gave up. We need to fight. Just like she did. Do you hear me?

Haley is quiet for a beat, then --

HALEY

Yeah.

Her dad looks around at the rising water.

DAD

We're in a real low spot here. We need to get you to that hatch before this whole place is flooded.

HALEY

We'll go together.

Shakes his head. No.

DAD

I'll just slow you down. You have
to leave me.

As much as she fights the idea, she knows he's right.

A long solemn beat. Her dad has an idea.

He takes the flashlight from his daughter's grip.
Switching it off to save the battery.

He then reaches up. Grabbing a long loop of electrical
wire hanging from a nearby joist.

Staples SNAP free as he pulls it loose.

Wrapping the wire around the base of the flashlight.

DAD (CONT'D)

It didn't like you banging on those
pipes. Maybe we can use that to
draw it away from the hatch.

Her dad points toward the low-hanging section created by
the sunken living room.

DAD (CONT'D)

Think you can make it under there?

If Haley crawls on her belly, she can fit. But the water
level is high enough that she'll be mostly submerged.

HALEY

I've been in tighter spaces than
that today.

Her dad smiles.

DAD

Good. While I distract it, you go
out that way. Sneak around. And
make your way back to the hatch.

He reaches for the piece of rebar.

DAD (CONT'D)

Help me get to those pipes.

Together they work their way toward the cluster of plumbing.

With his good arm, he shoulders up one of the heavy pipes. The metal flexes. Straining.

Haley helps her dad hold the pipe in place while he JAMS the rebar under. Propping it up. Creating an opening large enough to lure the animal in.

He takes the tethered flashlight from his daughter.

Sees that charm bracelet on her wrist. A rush of memories.

DAD (CONT'D)

I gave that to your mom in college.
She was just about your age.

HALEY

I know.

He hugs her tight.

DAD

You're so much like her.

A final embrace.

DAD (CONT'D)

You ready?

She nods.

Haley wades toward that low-hanging section of subfloor. And submerges herself. Squeezing beneath the sunken living room.

Her dad clicks on the flashlight. Tosses it through the open section of pipes. Out into the crawl space.

It SPLASHES down into the rising water. Floating several yards away.

In his weakened state, her dad grabs a piece of BRICK. And starts HITTING it against the pipes. Again and again.

Creating a loud REVERBERATING noise.

The CLANGING gets the attention of the REPTILE.

Her dad stops to listen.

Hears far away SCRAPING and SPLASHING in the darkness as the agitated animal crawls toward the sound.

It's working. He continues BANGING.

The reptile comes into view, honing in on the beam of the flashlight.

HALEY --

In tight quarters. Half swimming, half crawling on her stomach beneath the sunken living room.

She pulls herself through the murky water. Trying to keep her head above the surface.

But the water's getting too high. Haley has to go under.

HER DAD --

Grips the length of electrical wire. Slowly reeling in the flashlight.

Watches as the huge creature approaches through the flooded space. Its red eyes reflected as it stalks toward the light.

HALEY --

Scrambles out on the other side of that low-hanging section.

Into an unexplored portion of the crawl space.

Sucks in a huge breath of air.

She's on her hands and knees now. Cautiously moving out and around.

Hearing the reptile as it makes a beeline for that flashlight and her dad.

Haley feels her way forward in the dark. Splashing through the muck.

Can't yet see the open access hatch.

HER DAD --

Has his attention fixed on the reptile.

It suddenly lunges for the flashlight. JAMMING half its body through the opening.

Her dad is ready. And waiting.

KICKS the rebar free with his good leg. Releasing the heavy pipe overhead.

It CLAMPS down on the reptile's back. PINNING it into the water and muck.

The creature THRASHES wildly. SPLASHING around. Trapped.

DAD
(yells)
Haley, GO!

The reptile's FRONT CLAWS instinctively rake the ground.

As the beast tries to pull itself forward. Toward her dad. Its jaws SNAPPING.

He grabs the rebar. Dragging himself back out of the way.

HALEY --

Can now see the garage hatch up ahead through the gloom. Sloshes toward it.

Moving through a pile of rotting vegetation. Twigs and leaves sticking up out of the water.

The surface beneath her hand gives way with a CRUNCH.

She lifts her hand to her face. It's covered in goo. And then she sees --

A CRUSHED EGG.

And more EGGS. Still intact. A dozen or so.

It's a goddamn nest! This must be what that reptile was guarding.

Then a low BELLOWING GROWL...

As a SHAPE rises up from the shadows directly in front of her. Creeping forward.

HALEY

Oh... shit...

She's face-to-face with a SECOND ALLIGATOR!

Not as big as the first. But still scary as hell.

This is a FEMALE. And it's very territorial.

The animal HISSES.

Haley slowly backs away.

The female's eyes burning into her. As it hovers over the remaining eggs. Protective.

It HISSES again. SNAPPING at her.

Haley spins around and starts crawling as fast as she can.

Blindly SPLASHING through the darkness. Not sure where she's going.

HER DAD --

The MALE REPTILE continues trying to pull itself into the space. It's trapped. Tangled up in that maze of pipes.

Claws SLASHING at the mud. Struggling to get traction.

Her dad SWINGS at it with the rebar. HITTING its tough skin.

HALEY --

Weaves around supports. Under hanging insulation.

Trying to put as much distance between her and that female reptile.

She looks back.

Appears to have shaken it.

WHAM! The FEMALE ALLIGATOR suddenly charges in from the side.

Its JAWS latching onto the thigh of her already injured leg.

It's a vicious collision.

Like Haley's been t-boned. The FEMALE pushes her through the darkness sideways.

Haley's shoulder SLAMS into a support. She SCREAMS in pain.

The female reptile flings her side to side. Jaws still clamped onto her upper leg. It's close quarters. Brutal.

Haley's punching back. Going for the eyes. Desperately trying to fight it off.

Manages to kick free. Dazed. Blood flowing down her face.

She grasps for something to hold on to as she tries to crawl away.

Takes hold of a copper pipe overhead. Quickly let's go. It's scalding hot. *Shit!*

Realizes she's beneath the HOT WATER HEATER.

The female alligator lunges from the darkness. Bites down onto her ankle.

Haley uses a loose piece of insulation to grab onto the hot copper pipe.

Pulling with both hands. Using the full weight of her body. Fighting through the pain.

As the female reptile tries to drag her away.

The copper's bending at the joint.

It SNAPS open!

Haley twists out of the way aiming the full force of the scalding hot water at the FEMALE REPTILE.

It SHRIEKS. Letting go of Haley. Retreating.

Haley splashes to safety as the tank overhead empties.

Adding forty gallons of hot water to the already flooded space.

The haunting SHRIEKS of the burned creature continue from the shadows.

HER DAD --

The MALE REPTILE. Still pinned beneath that heavy pipe. Hears the CRIES of its mate. Goes berserk. Shifting directions.

Thrashing. Flipping mud everywhere. Now pushing itself back. Using the slick surface to its advantage.

Haley's dad realizes the animal is trying to back out.

DAD

No...

Moves forward with the rebar. Grasping onto the slippery pipe. Pressing down. Attempting to hold it in place.

But the male reptile pulls free. SPLASHING away.

Her dad looks over at the open hatch. His daughter should have gotten there by now.

DAD (CONT'D)

Shit! Haley, where are you? I couldn't hold it. It got loose!

HALEY --

Drenched. Banged up. Checks the damage to her already mangled leg.

It's really chewed up now. Punctured skin. Teeth marks. Blood seeping out.

She vomits. Wipes her mouth with the back of her hand.

Yelling back to her dad.

HALEY

Dad. There's two of them! I didn't make it.

She's trembling. Shaking from the loss of blood.

HALEY (CONT'D)

(lies)

But I'm okay.

Sees that the open hatch is not that far away. She can make it.

HALEY (CONT'D)

(quietly, to herself)

Gotta move, Haley.

Starts to crawl.

A SPLASH. Somewhere off to her right.

She puts her head down. Keeps going.

She's reached that area where the clearance is higher. Now able to crawl faster.

Almost there...

The MALE REPTILE suddenly slides into view directly in front of her.

Blocking her path.

It GROWLS. Charging.

Haley quickly shifts directions.

Splashing back through the murky water.

Her hand falls on something solid in the mud.

Comes up --

Clutching her dad's large PIPE WRENCH. The one she passed over on her way in.

That MALE REPTILE is powering toward her.

Haley swings the heavy wrench. With everything she's got.

It makes contact.

WHACK! Knocks the beast's head sideways. SLAMMING its skull into a support.

HALEY (CONT'D)

How do you like that, motherfucker!?

The male reptile shakes it off.

Haley splashes through the rising water.

Takes shelter behind a large drain pipe.

Nervously looks around. Knows the female is still lurking somewhere out there too.

The MALE REPTILE charges from the shadows.

Jaws open wide --

And CLAMPS onto the pipe.

Tugging near a joint. Breaking the seal.

More water spilling out. Flooding the space.

As Haley retreats, her mom's CHARM BRACELET snags on a support. And SNAPS.

The male alligator moves around the broken pipe.

Haley sees the bracelet fall into the rushing water.

Grabs it.

The creature SNAPS at her. Another glimpse of its massive jaws. Exposed teeth. Just missing Haley.

She clambers back. Stuffing the bracelet into her pocket. Defiant.

HALEY (CONT'D)

You're not getting that, Asshole!

Haley swings the pipe wrench again. WHUMP! Stunning the animal. Buying herself some time.

She scrambles away. Trying to orientate herself. She's turned around.

In a different portion of the crawl space.

Spots a couple of METAL SUPPORT JACKS. Stabilizing some rotting posts. Propping up the sagging floor overhead.

Realizes she's under the kitchen.

Haley kicks at one of the jacks.

Hears the male reptile SCRAPING and SPLASHING in her direction.

She HAMMERS at the jack with the pipe wrench. It shifts slightly in the mud.

Hits it again.

Lightning STRIKES really close. Instantly lighting the space.

A brief glimpse of the advancing MALE REPTILE.

Thunder BOOMS! Shaking the house on its foundation.

Haley, more frantic now. Pounding at that jack with everything she's got.

It finally slips out from under the joist.

The boards above her STRAINING. A loud CRACK. The weight of the rotting floor pushing down.

The male alligator slices through the muddy water. Almost on her.

The water damaged posts SNAP like toothpicks. The joists overhead collapse. SPLASHING down.

Along with a section of the subfloor. The entire KITCHEN ISLAND crashes down into the space.

Haley tries to shield herself from all the falling debris.

A HUGE SPLASH of mud and water.

A beat as it settles.

Leaving Haley trapped on one side of the cave-in. Not knowing if the male reptile is buried beneath it.

HER DAD --

Reacts to the sound of the COLLAPSE.

DAD
(calling to his daughter)
Haley, what was that? Are you
okay?

HALEY --

Is COUGHING. Sees the pile of rubble and debris in front of her.

HALEY
(yelling back)
I'm good.
(then)
Just a slight change of plans.

She tries to move.

Her damaged leg is pinned under a fallen beam.

The male reptile GROWLS on the other side. Trying to dig out from under the rubble.

Haley attempts to free herself. Using the pipe wrench. Shoving it into the mud next to her trapped leg.

Trying to pry up the fallen beam. It won't budge. Too heavy.

She starts digging instead. Clawing at the mud around her leg.

Pressing against the beam with her good leg.

Slowly starts pulling herself out from under.

Takes a deep breath. A final push.

SCREAMS as she yanks her mangled leg free.

Backs away from the fallen debris. Splashing through the dark water.

She's tired. Drained. Can't quit now. Needs to find another way out.

Haley detects a foul stench. Covers her mouth.

She's stumbled into a stash of DEAD ANIMALS. Rotting carcasses. Chewed up.

Haley gags. Backing in the other direction.

Touches a HAND and ARM --

The remains of that SECURITY GUARD.

His MANGLED CORPSE jammed into the tight space. Dead eyes staring up.

Haley stifles a scream. Collecting herself.

HALEY (CONT'D)
(her voice shaking)
Dad, I found the security guard!

A beat. Her dad processing this. Then --

DAD (O.S.)
See if you can find his radio.

She gropes in the muddy water. Frantically feeling for Bobby's belt.

Wet hands fumbling. No radio.

But she finds a HOLSTER. Unsnaps it.

Feels the handle of a gun there. Pulls the weapon free.

It's slick with mud.

Haley tries to wipe it clean.

The sound of SHIFTING WATER.

Her wet hands struggling with the gun. Flips off the safety.

As the FEMALE REPTILE charges from the darkness.

Haley raises the gun. Squeezes the trigger.

A flash of GUNFIRE lights up the cramped space.

The female spins away.

Did she hit it?

Haley holds the gun in her trembling hand. Searching the darkness.

Her ears are still RINGING.

No sign of either alligator.

The water is rising around her. Now up to her elbows. She needs to move.

Another FLASH of lightning reveals a nearby vent. This time at the back of the house.

HALEY
(calls into the darkness)
Dad, hang on!

HER DAD --

Exhausted and weak. Floundering. Up to his neck in the rising water.

He drags himself through the flooding space. Needs to get to higher ground.

HALEY --

SPLASHES back along the rear edge of the foundation.
Half swimming, half crawling.

Reaching that vent.

Rainwater pours in through the slats.

She aims the gun toward the vent.

FIRES into the metal cover. Near the edges. Where the bolts hold it in place.

Each GUNSHOT is deafening.

Haley twists her body around. Kicks madly at the loosened vent cover with her good leg.

Knocking it out completely.

With the cover off, more rainwater surges in.

Haley takes one final look behind her and squeezes through.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley gets an arm out the open vent. Then her shoulder.

She claws at the mud.

It's tight.

Haley's stuck. Squirming wildly.

Half in, half out.

Knows her lower half is completely exposed.

She inches herself forward.

Finally pulls free.

Tank top plastered in mud. Winces in pain as she gets to her feet.

Sees the swimming pool. The rear sliding glass door.

Turns back, yelling into the open vent.

HALEY

Dad, I'm out!

The JAWS OF THE FEMALE REPTILE SMASH OUT through the opening! SNAPPING at her.

Haley staggers back.

She limps toward the sliding glass door. Favoring her good leg.

Moving around the edge of the pool.

The FEMALE REPTILE continues squeezing its way through the narrow vent.

The wind is intense. Rain SLAMMING down on Haley.

A METAL LOUNGE CHAIR blows across the deck. Splashing down into the pool.

Haley's damaged leg buckles as she loses her footing on the slick surface.

And tumbles over the side. Into the deep end.

SPLASHING down into eight feet of murky water.

She goes UNDER.

The gun slipping from her grip. Sinking to the bottom.

Haley bursts to the SURFACE. Coughing.

Swims toward the edge. Tries to pull herself up out of the water. Her arms too weak and tired.

A FLASH of lightning reveals --

The female reptile. Now completely free of the vent.

Crawling rapidly toward the pool. SPLASHING down into the shallow end.

It swims toward Haley. Sinking beneath the surface.

Haley tries to reach the ladder. Her wet hands keep slipping. Can't get a grip.

The RAIN is pounding down.

Haley spins around. Scanning the pool. *Where the hell did that thing go?*

INT. CRAWL SPACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Her dad lifts his head up into the space between the joists as the water level continues to rise.

Keeping his chin above the surface. Coughing. Choking.

POUNDING at the boards overhead with the rebar.

DAD
Haley! Hurry!

EXT. DEEP END OF SWIMMING POOL - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley's got her own problems.

The FEMALE REPTILE surfaces.

Just a few yards away. Slicing through the water toward her.

Jaws SNAPPING.

Haley grabs the floating lounge chair. Pushes it between her and the female alligator.

Then dives under.

UNDERWATER

Murky. Her hair swirling. Frantically searching the bottom of the pool for that gun.

Lightning FLASHES. Its glow penetrates the water.

A glimpse of the female's DARK OUTLINE gliding past just overhead.

Plunging down toward Haley.

Haley kicks wildly. Trying to swim out of its path.

The animal's HUGE TAIL sweeps past. KNOCKING into her.

ABOVE WATER

Haley SURFACES. Coughing up water.

Teeth chattering. Searching for the female alligator.

The water RIPPLING...

She catches something out of the corner of her eye.

Whips around --

It's just the LOUNGE CHAIR.

Lightning SLASHES the sky --

Then the female reptile EXPLODES from the water right behind her.

Snagging Haley's right arm. Pulling her under.

UNDERWATER

A silent scream as Haley is dragged to the bottom. Trailing a cloud of bubbles.

The animal holds her under. Trying to drown her.

Haley desperately fights to get free. Lungs about to burst.

Her left arm flailing. Hand searching --

Finds the gun! Sweeping it up.

Pressing the barrel against the female reptile's head.

Pulls the trigger. Point blank.

The gun kicks. A MUFFLED BANG. Air bubbles surging from the barrel.

As a bullet rips into the animal's leathery skin.

Blood clouding the water.

The female reptile goes slack. Releasing its grip.

Haley pushes the dead animal off her. And kicks for the surface.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - BACK PATIO - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley crawls up over the lip of the pool. Pulling herself out. Drenched clothes clinging to her body.

She looks like she's been through hell. And she's still not finished.

Haley limps toward the sliding glass door. Hair soaked and matted. Arm bleeding.

Yanks at the handle. It's locked. *Fuck!*

She searches the deck.

Grabs an overturned metal chair.

SMASHING it into the tempered glass.

It DENTS. But doesn't break.

Haley swings the chair again.

This time the glass SHATTERS.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Haley staggers in.

The last bit of gray daylight outside filters in.

She finds the CROWBAR lying in the corner of the dining room. Next to the sledgehammer and other tools.

Snatches it up.

HALEY
(calling out)
Dad? Where are you?

Listens...

Hears a faint TAPPING coming from below.

A relieved smile. She follows it.

Haley jams the crowbar between some boards. Prying them up.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Dad, I'm coming!

Ripping up more of the subfloor next to the sunken living room. Zeroing in on the sound.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Hang on!

Haley continues ripping a hole in the floor. Exposing more of the framework beneath.

A glimpse of her dad. His face pressed up between the joists.

She pries up a few more boards. Reaches down to help him out.

Her dad uses the rebar to push himself up. Trying to get his one good leg beneath him.

Haley jump down into the flooded crawl space to get more leverage.

Helps lift him out.

Her dad rolls onto his back. Exhausted. Coughing up water.

Relief. Haley exhales. Still knee-deep in the flooded crawl space.

A moment of calm. They're safe. Finally.

Then the loosened floorboards nearby SHIFT.

Haley spins around as --

The MALE REPTILE crashes up over the exposed pipes.

Tearing its way through the broken subfloor.

Scraped up. Looking pissed.

Lets out a loud BELLOWING ROAR.

Haley tries to climb from the murky water. But her
tourniquet SNAGS on one of the supports.

The creature lunges toward her.

About to strike --

Her dad staggers up, still clutching that piece of rebar.

And HURLS himself toward the beast.

Stabbing the steel rod down into the male reptile's head.
Like a harpoon.

His weight and momentum pushing the rebar through the
animal's leathery skin. A wet THUNK.

The reptile lets out a bone-chilling SCREAM.

The tip of the rebar gets stuck in the rotting
floorboards beneath the animal.

It THRASHES wildly for a moment.

Twisting and turning. Lashing with its tail. Pinned to
the floor.

Finally gives up the fight.

Goes still.

Haley frees her leg and climbs out. Just inches from the
dead animal's jaws.

She collapses down next to her dad.

He hugs her close.

DAD

It's okay, honey. It's over.

A quiet beat, then --

DAD (CONT'D)

Now we just need to get ourselves
to the hospital.

It hurts to laugh. But somehow they find the strength to do it anyway.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD OF FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

A beautiful sunny day. Time has passed. Haley's recovered some but is still on crutches.

She's tending to the something in front of her. Can't see what.

Her dad limps toward her. Leg in a cast. His arm in a sling.

Right now they're the walking wounded. But soon the scars will heal.

DAD

How are they doing?

We can now see what has Haley's attention.

A BACKYARD PEN. Made of wood and chicken wire.

She's pushing bits of carrot and lettuce through the wire with her fingers.

The TWO MOTHERLESS BUNNIES she saved are inside. Nibbling away.

They've grown in size since we last saw them.

Haley's quiet. Blinking back tears. Her dad sees that she's been crying.

HALEY

This would've been one hell of a story to tell Mom.

He puts his good arm around his daughter.

DAD

I miss her too, honey.

HALEY
You know what the last thing she
said to me was?

A silent beat.

HALEY (CONT'D)
Take care of your father.

A sad smile. He squeezes her shoulder.

DAD
You've done a pretty good job so
far. Come on. Let's get back.

Father and daughter hobble off together.

There's a family cookout on the back deck of the house.

Haley's sister Beth is there. With her HUSBAND. And her
two precocious CHILDREN. Along with her dad's girlfriend
KATIE.

As they make their way back to the festivities --

HALEY
Did I ever tell you that I like
your earring.

DAD
Yeah, well, I almost got a hook to
go along with it.

Waving his arm in its sling.

DAD (CONT'D)
Arrr!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END