

FOLLOW HER



Written by

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This story is told through the presentation of a completed and edited documentary.

All visuals are the product of either footage obtained or created by the documentarians.

The type of footage will be denoted in **BOLD** ahead of each slug line.

B-ROLL

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Los Angeles freeway
- Suburban Cali neighborhoods
- Ali's apartment complex
- Flowers swaying

A melancholy mood of reflection.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

ALI DALY, mid 20s, big-eyed and full of manufactured enthusiasm, emphatically speaks to the camera in a series of uploaded videos.

We cut through several, taken on different days, all with the audio muted.

DANIELLE (V.O.)

Ali Daly grew up in a small town in Indiana. An only daughter, her family faced hardship when her father died of complications related to a rare sleeping disorder. Faced with little prospects, Ali persevered, graduating from her local arts college before moving to Los Angeles in 2017. Her dream: to become a successful actress.

Glimpses of Ali's childhood flicker by. Old home videos. A clip from a school play. Static pictures, perhaps one with her mother and late father.

Odd, disturbing-looking footage SPLICES into the montage -- just for split seconds -- shots watching Ali in the dark, from a distance, up close. Stalker-y, discomfoting images.

DANIELLE (V.O.)

One year later, Ali Daly would be missing, and presumed dead.

CUT TO:

TITLE: "FOLLOW HER"

TALKING HEAD FOOTAGE

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

We meet **RAYMOND CLARKE** (40s), identified by chyron as "Social Media Expert." Animated yet dry.

RAYMOND CLARKE

A decade ago, the concept of the "Internet influencer" didn't exist. It wasn't part of the cultural lexicon, much less a legitimate career path. Now, you have children who grow up *wanting* to be influencers. And who can blame them? It doesn't look like a particularly challenging job. And, if successful, the payout is enormous: the most prominent video influencers make millions a month off advertising revenue. They can get thousands or more for endorsements.

We next meet **JULIA HAYES**, identified by chyron as a "Journalist-Culture Writer." Put-together, sharp, confident.

JULIA HAYES

One thing I've tried to do in my work is really emphasize how hard of a job being a "video influencer" is. They make it look easy, but there's a huge amount of work behind even the most basic channel. There's hours of writing, shooting, editing, uploading... not to mention trying to deal with the ever-changing algorithms of the host websites. Beyond all that, though, putting yourself out there opens yourself up to a scary amount of public scrutiny.

RAYMOND CLARKE

Being in the public eye, as an "influencer," is like being a celebrity with absolutely none of the perks. People know who you are, and often know quite a lot about you... and that can lead to some dangerous possibilities. Ones that came to bear in the case of Ali Daly.

JULIA HAYES

No one knew what to make of it when it happened. It would be awful if any major influencer had just vanished, but of course the circumstances leading up to Ali's disappearance... I think it really shook the Internet community. The event certainly took on a life of its own.

RAYMOND CLARKE

In many ways Ali Daly was the first true, high profile Generation Z disappearance. We were in uncharted territory.

JULIA HAYES

Usually when someone disappears, the news will draw on testimony from friends and family, any local headlines, to help paint a picture of the person. Ali was different -- she had an entire channel of videos, videos she claimed were a representation of herself. We're talking hours of footage.

UPLOADED VIDEO

BEGIN MONTAGE:

A FLASH of Ali Daly in various locations. Boppy music plays. It's energizing, exciting, fun. Her life looks *awesome*.

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali sits in front of her laptop, glammed up. Soft lighting.

ALI

Hey everyone, welcome to my channel! This is the Ali Daly Daily, where you get a daily peek into my adventures in Los Angeles!

The video CUTS ahead -- already sharply edited.

ALI (CONT'D)

A quick Q&A about me. I moved to LA to be an actor.

Cut ahead.

ALI (CONT'D)

Yes, I do have a boyfriend. He's a total sweetheart -- we met on-set for a show I'm not allowed to talk about just yet!...

Another cut ahead.

ALI (CONT'D)

I don't miss home much. The Midwest has its charms, but the people... I like how progressive people are out here.

Another cut ahead...

ALI (CONT'D)

People ask me why I want to do that, why I want to act and you know... I think it's amazing to help tell stories that reach so many people. But more than that, I love the thought of bringing something authentic and real to characters that are imagined. There's something special about bringing an imagined person to life.

The footage of Ali continues, but her voice is MUTED.

RAYMOND CLARKE (V.O.)

Not only did she upload a hundred videos sharing every detail of her life, she ended up documenting the circumstances that -- more likely than not -- led to her -- well, whatever happened to her.

JULIA HAYES (V.O.)

It all happened in plain sight. Everyone watched her suffer. And no one cared -- until it was too late.

We hold on a smiling FREEZE FRAME of Ali before we --

CUT TO BLACK

DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

CHRIS STRICKLAND (late 20s/early 30s, bordering on schlubby & kind of coasting through life) and **DANIELLE GUYTON** (late 20s/early 30s, driven as hell and pissed she hasn't made it) together address the camera in a single room.

Chyrons indicate their names and identify them as "Documentarians."

DANIELLE

My name is Danielle Guyton --

CHRIS

And I'm Chris Strickland.

DANIELLE

And together, with the rest of the world, we have been enraptured by the horror and mystery of this landmark event. Ali Daly was a true victim, and we are determined to tell her story and deliver justice.

CHRIS

We are exercising our privilege to perform an exhaustive investigation into every facet of her case. We're using publicly available footage, as well as previously undisclosed evidence, to piece together the definitive answer to the haunting question: what happened to Ali Daly?

DANIELLE

Be warned that what you're about to see may be disturbing. But it's imperative that we tell Ali's story.

B-ROLL**EXT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Establishing. A modest affair.

UPLOADED VIDEO

Ali addressing the camera in her apartment.

ALI

Hey guys, welcome back to the Ali Daly Daily! If you're new to the channel, please LIKE and SUBSCRIBE, and feel free to chat with me in the comments... for today's video, I wanted to give you a tour of my apartment!

Ali "lifts" the camera, keeping it in a selfie mode, and tours around the pretty humble space.

ALI (CONT'D)

I know it doesn't look like much, and I guess it isn't, but that's the price of hustling in Los Angeles -- I try not to spend too much time here, as I like to be out and about, going to auditions, meeting friends, checking out new places. You might be wondering -- what's all *this* stuff, Ali...

She refers to an item or two that's clearly more guy-centric.

ALI (CONT'D)

...but in case anyone's new, I do live with my boyfriend, Drew, who's also an actor. But right now, I've got the place to myself! This view over here is cute --

Ali shows a view outside the window --

ALI (CONT'D)

And I love the neighborhood. Koreatown usually gets a bad rap, but it feels pretty safe, there's a lot of restaurants and bars around...

We cut to a new **UPLOADED VIDEO** --

ALI (CONT'D)

Hey guys, I wanted to talk a little today about my sleeping disorder! It's something I got from my dad, and I've lived with it all my life. I think it's important to destigmatize living with illnesses like this, which often aren't really understood.

(MORE)

ALI (CONT'D)

I deal with what most people refer to as sleepwalking, but I also experience something called "night terrors."

And another --

Ali's now with her MOTHER, **ELIZABETH DALY** (50s, kind, old-fashioned).

ALI (CONT'D)

I want you all to meet my mom! She's visiting from Indiana, right before she goes and does her Eat.Pray.Love episode in *Italy* -- but first we're going to go see all the L.A. sights --

Elizabeth smiles awkwardly, not quite sure what to do with herself in the face of Ali's fervent, animated spiel --

We cut to **ANOTHER UPLOADED VIDEO --**

Ali's now with her FRIEND, **JAMIE GILLMAN** (mid 20s, still some counterculture left in her).

ALI (CONT'D)

I want you all to meet my best friend, Jamie!

Jamie looks profoundly uncomfortable.

And ANOTHER UPLOADED VIDEO --

ALI (CONT'D)

I know you all have been asking -- this is my boyfriend, Drew!

She PULLS Drew on camera and gives him a showy hug and smooch. He does his best to be a good sport, smiling and waving.

Over the following, we see intercuts of the preceding videos, muted, as Julia and Raymond weigh in via voiceover and cuts to their talking heads.

RAYMOND CLARKE

Successful video influencers tend to generate a following in one of two ways. In one, they provide a service of some kind -- they do movie or product reviews, for example. That typically requires a skill or expertise.

(MORE)

RAYMOND CLARKE (CONT'D)

In the other approach, influencers try to share their lives with their viewers -- it's giving total access, an unprecedented level of intimacy. But for that to work, an influencer has to be compelling as a person -- they're selling themselves, because they have no expertise to commodify. They're the product.

JULIA HAYES

Not to sound callous, but most of Ali's videos... before everything happened... feel very amateur and same-y. They're videos everyone's seen before, and Ali isn't bringing anything new to the table.

RAYMOND CLARKE

And there's a bigger issue in play here. Authenticity online is a sort of paradox -- influencers are selling themselves, and therefore they have to tailor themselves to their audience.

JULIA HAYES

What you're seeing on-screen, online, isn't what you're getting off-screen, in real life. It's calculated.

RAYMOND CLARKE

Ali was very obviously playing a persona. She was an actress, and this was just another role... the problem was the acting wasn't very good.

TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

We meet Elizabeth now in the documentary-setting. A chyron identifies her as "Ali's Mother."

ELIZABETH

I didn't really understand the whole videos online thing -- I still don't. It feels really revealing and kind of gross to me... Ali...

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

assured me that this was how a lot of actors were breaking in now. Even then I thought that was an excuse for not being successful. I think she wanted to be an actor -- to come out to LA -- to prove something to me, to prove that she could. I did tell her I thought it was pure narcissism. It was a stupid idea, I stand by that. But I guess that doesn't matter now.

The camera keeps rolling. Elizabeth stares into space.

An abrupt CUT AHEAD --

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

But when I did the video with her, I felt like the woman next to me wasn't Ali. She was someone else. I didn't like that.

(long pause)

I wish I'd said something, then.

Cut to ANOTHER TALKING HEAD INTERVIEW

We now meet Jamie in the interview setting, though she's dressed very differently: she's in more of a punk rock outfit, a far cry from the preppy outfit seen in her preceding video.

The chyron reads "Ali's Best Friend."

JAMIE

Yeah, it was really frustrating. It made me really mad, actually, and we hung out a lot less once the whole influencer wannabe thing started.

DANIELLE (O.S.)

Could you expand on that?

We intercut between the interview and the footage of Jamie and Ali's video.

JAMIE

Well, this is such a little thing, but I really love wearing my band tee shirts. I'm a ripped jeans sort of person. Ali asks me to do this video with her, and I show up at her place... and she asks me to change.

(MORE)

JAMIE (CONT'D)

She has a whole preppy outfit ready to go for me. It's like... am I not enough? I have to play dress up for your followers?

Playback on the video again, at a moment where Jamie looks extremely uncomfortable.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

The channel wasn't even doing well. She had to really beg me to do the video -- I don't like being on-camera. And I kept being like, dude, why are you doing this? Do you really think you narrating everything you do is gonna make you a successful actor?

CUT TO BLACK

DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

We're back on Chris and Danielle, seated together and addressing the viewer.

CHRIS

By now, everyone with any morbid curiosity has looked at the videos we've shown so far -- and the ones we'll show shortly.

DANIELLE

We questioned how to proceed. How can we make a documentary about Ali Daly when all of the footage is online and available?

CHRIS

The solution came when we were able to secure never-before-seen material that shows the *real* Ali -- the material she *didn't* upload.

CUT TO NEW DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE

DREW DUNNE enters through a doorway, flinches at the camera pointed toward him, already rolling. But he quickly recovers, flashing a winning smile.

DANIELLE

Drew, so glad you could make it.

CHRIS

Welcome.

DREW

No, yeah, of course. Happy to --
happy to do this.

They all shake hands.

CUT TO

Drew in a talking head interview.

DANIELLE

You went through a lot.

Drew nods, not finding immediate words. Danielle waits for them anyway.

DREW

It was very traumatic. I -- you
can't even imagine something like
that before it happens. It's awful.
And I miss her. Every day.

DANIELLE

Before everything began, you and
Ali had been dating for...

DREW

Nine months? Give or take.

DANIELLE

Right. So you met not long after
moving to LA.

DREW

Right.

DANIELLE

On set.

DREW

We were doing background on some
network thing, yeah.

DANIELLE

But it didn't take long for you to
find some success, as an actor.

DREW

You can never really plan dating,
right?

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

When we both started out we were on the bottom floor paying our dues. I got lucky at a cabaret, someone liked my singing voice, I get an audition for this musical, boom, I'm on tour. It's the dream.

DANIELLE

But you stayed with Ali.

DREW

Yes.

DANIELLE

Most men your age -- forgive me, but, going on tour like that. You'd only been dating...

DREW

Six months.

DANIELLE

But you stayed with her.

DREW

Of course.

Danielle waits for more.

DREW (CONT'D)

I know I've been the subject of a lot of scrutiny after everything... but I loved Ali. LA is a trash fire for dating, but when I met her... I just knew.

OVER THE FOLLOWING, we see RECOVERED CLIPS of Ali and Drew having fun together -- being cute. A picture perfect couple.

DREW (CONT'D)

You don't meet a lot of genuine people in LA. And it's true what they say sometimes, that you sell your soul trying to make it. But not Ali. I could tell she was the real deal, she was talented, and she was ready to make it happen, no matter what it took. And you can't not admire that kind of drive. She inspired me to be better -- she always said we'd make it together. And I believed her.

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

I knew I'd go on tour, and by the time I got back, she'd be getting booked left and right. She supported me. I supported her. Good and bad times.

The archival footage ends -- we return to Drew, who stews.

DREW (CONT'D)

I just wish she was still here.

Danielle pauses, letting Drew collect himself.

DANIELLE

Can you explain what you've provided to us?

DREW

You mean --

DANIELLE

What viewers are about to see.

DREW

Oh. Yes. Well -- for some time, Ali had been recording our video chats. I think the idea was she was going to take all the "cute" moments and make sort of a supercut celebrating the end of our long distance thing. It was all on her phone, her computer... the police found it... and uh, eventually I got it, through my lawyers.

DANIELLE

And you're choosing to share it with us.

Drew nods.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Could you maybe explain why you've chosen to open up to us?

DREW

I think you know the answer to that.

DANIELLE

I think our viewers would like answers.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Obviously the court of public opinion has come up with a lot of ideas about your involvement with everything.

Drew glances at the camera for a flash, then to Danielle.

A long pause.

DREW

I think it's important that my role in everything that happened is clarified. I'm confident that when this gets out into the world, no one will have any doubts about my innocence.

We sit on Drew a minute. He's collected... but there's still something maybe a little off about him.

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL

[All video calls are intercut between both sides of the conversation as necessary.]

ALI

Heyyy!

DREW

Hey you. How are ya?

ALI

I'm goood. How was the show?

DREW

It was really good, actually. Near sold out. Some local press, think we're gonna get a good review. I just about nailed my solo. And hey, I don't want to get too excited, but there's some potential big news

--

ALI

Where are you again tonight?

DREW

Uh, Columbus.

ALI

Ohio?

DREW

Yeah.

ALI
That's not too far from me!

DREW
You're in California!

ALI
No, I mean my hometown.

DREW
Oh.

ALI
I'm glad it went well, though.

DREW
Have you been drinking?

ALI
Just one or two. I miss youuu.

DREW
I miss you too. But I'll see you
next week, the only a few more
cities.

ALI
Yeah. You see my new video?

DREW
I haven't had a chance yet.

ALI
Oh.

DREW
I'm sure it's great, though.

ALI
It doesn't matter.

Drew doesn't respond at first.

DREW
What?

ALI
I'm barely getting a thousand
views. Half my subscribers are my
mom's friends.

DREW
I mean, I'm no expert, but doesn't
this sort of thing take time?

ALI
It's been months.

DREW
Okay, but it's just like acting.
There's no code to crack, no get
rich quick plan, it's different for
everyone.

ALI
Okay.

DREW
Have you gotten any auditions?

ALI
I've got something this week.

DREW
That's good.

ALI
Yeah.

DREW
Maybe you should focus on that.

But Ali's on her computer, half paying attention.

DREW (CONT'D)
How have you been sleeping?

ALI
I *lost* subscribers today!

DREW
I'm sorry.

ALI
Awesome.

DREW
You'll -- turn it around.

ALI
Maybe I should just quit.

DREW
I mean again, I think it might be
good to focus on auditions --

ALI
No, I mean all of it. Acting.

DREW
Hey.

ALI
What.

DREW
I know you're upset right now, but
you can't think like that. Maybe
the video influencer thing doesn't
work out --

ALI
None of it's working out.

DREW
Don't let yourself spiral.

She doesn't say anything -- something on her computer screen
has her attention.

DREW (CONT'D)
Ali?

ALI
Sorry -- I -- someone left a
comment on my video...

DREW
Okay...?

ALI
No, I mean -- it's anonymous. It's
like a burner account.

DREW
Uh, aren't most accounts anonymous?

ALI
Yes, but -- hang on. I'm going to
send you the link -- it's to
another video --

WE CUT TO THE VIDEO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

THROUGH THE LENS OF A VOYEUR'S CAMERA, Ali relaxes at a park,
reading a book.

At one point, she takes a selfie.

We cut ahead a few times, with the camera person getting CLOSER. At one it walks RIGHT BY Ali, without her realizing she's being watched.

LATER, the camera follows her into an adjacent PARKING LOT -- she gets into her car and LEAVES.

The camera lingers.

BACK TO THE RECOVERED VIDEO CALL

DREW
What the hell is this?

ALI
I don't know.

DREW
Some random dude linked this?

ALI
It's the only video on the channel.
No other info on it.

DREW
You don't remember seeing this
person?

She shakes her head.

DREW (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

ALI
I'm a little freaked out. That's
just -- that's so WEIRD, someone
was WATCHING me --

DREW
Okay, well, report it --

ALI
I already did.

DREW
Good.

There's an awkward silence. Ali's sobered, shaken.

ALI
Sorry, you said you had big news?

DREW
It's honestly not a big thing. It
can wait.

ALI
I really miss you.

DREW
I know. I miss you too.

Drew sees someone off-screen.

DREW (CONT'D)
Hey -- I'm sorry, I think the cast
wants to go out for a bit.

ALI
It's fine.

DREW
I can try and call later --

ALI
No, it's okay. Be safe. I love you.

DREW
I love you, too.

We stay on Ali's somber mood.

The call FREEZE FRAMES.

DANIELLE
Ali was about to learn the
unfortunate reality of content
moderation on video hosting
services: for the most part, you're
on your own.

RECOVERED TEXTS

Ali texts Drew.

ALI
(in text form)
Got a boilerplate for the reported
video. Says the video doesn't
violate their "community
standards."

DREW
(in text form)
Seriously!? WTF?

ALI
(in text form)
I'm pissed.

UPLOADED VIDEO

Ali addresses the camera, but there's something different vs. her other videos. Ali isn't putting on any airs. It's raw.

ALI (CONT'D)
Hey everyone. So this website apparently thinks it's fine for anonymous creeps to post peeping tom, stalker videos of women, so I guess I'm gonna have to deal with this myself. To the mystery troll who made that video and decided I should have to see it: you're a piece of misogynistic garbage, and I bet you've never gotten laid. It's incel losers like you that are the worst part of society, making women feel unsafe no matter where they are. And screw this website and the people who did *nothing* when I reported this shit -- you are *part of the problem*, you are *enablers*. We have enough shit to worry about. Well guess what, I'm tired of it. I guess I can only speak for me, but I'm sure women all over the internet are tired of it. Just... being a woman is hard enough, okay? If we're going to claim that this random dude -- and I'm sure it's a dude -- stalking me and putting it online isn't "violating some community standards," what kind of community are we really talking about here? What "community" are we protecting? Sorry... I'm... I'm just mad. How is this even remotely fine? I'll probably regret posting this, I know this isn't my usual thing, I'm just... I needed to vent. You can see the video I'm talking about in the description, and please, take a second to report him. We can't let guys like this win.
(long pause)
Sorry. Just... thanks for having your Ali Daly Daily.

The video ENDS.

TALKING HEADS

RAYMOND CLARKE

No one has ever been able to master the art of going viral.

JULIA HAYES

It can be the most innocuous, ordinary thing. Often it barely makes sense why something takes off.

RAYMOND CLARKE

In this case, Ali's video happened to be seen by the right people, at the right time, who shared it with more people at the right time. You really can't explain it beyond that. It struck a chord.

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL

Ali calls Drew. She's jubilant. Drew's caught off-guard.

DREW

Hey -- what's the --

ALI

Did you see?!

DREW

See what? I'm just getting out of the matinee --

ALI

The video has *three million views* --

DREW

What? Holy shit --

ALI

I know -- I already have over ten thousand subscribers, and more keep coming in --

DREW

This is your "screw this guy" video?

ALI

Yes! I don't know what it is, but it's -- people are really responding to it!

DREW

Wow, that's -- that's great.

ALI

Sorry, I'm just so excited. Someone recognized me at Starbucks!

DREW

You're kidding.

ALI

NO! They figured out who I was and we talked about it!

DREW

That's wild.

ALI

Yeah!!

DREW

Hey, how'd your audition go?

ALI

What?

DREW

The one you told me about the other day?

ALI

Oh. It was fine. I don't think I got it.

DREW

I'm sorry.

ALI

It's whatever -- seriously, I'm losing my mind over this! The site had to put out a statement, said they're going to "review" reports against the stalkery video!

DREW

That's good.

ALI

I gotta keep up the momentum.
Sorry, just wanted to check-in real
fast. Gonna shoot a new video now.

DREW

Okay --

ALI

I love you. Good luck tonight!

DREW

Love you too.

The call ENDS.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali's back in her too-composed, fabricated mode.

ALI

Hey everyone -- and hello to all my
new followers -- today I wanted to
try something a little different.
People sometimes ask me how exactly
I pull off my eye look, so I wanted
to do a bit of a makeup tutorial...

We cut AHEAD through the video -- a snippet here or there of
Ali doing a vanilla beauty vlog.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

RAYMOND CLARKE

The Internet is fickle! Lightning
doesn't strike twice. I don't know
what Ali was expecting, going back
to vlogging 101. People liked her
for her momentary war cry. That
resonated with people, not what
mascara she was wearing.

JULIA HAYES

She learned fast that her new
popularity was a flash in the
pan... But then, of course, came
the second video.

UPLOADED VIDEO

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

A new STALKING video.

Ali's in a very curated, fashion-forward outfit. She holds an expensive-looking coffee. Wears sunglasses.

The stalker lurks a few paces behind, following her around a downtown block. Up some steps.

Ali rounds a corner and disappears. The stalker lingers.

UPLOADED VIDEO**INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Ali reacts to the preceding new footage.

ALI

So it seems I have another creepy freak following me, this time downtown. The link's below in the description, but I have to ask: what the hell is wrong with you? Why are men like this? Yeah, this website finally took down the last guy's video, but that was only after all of you guys helped by reporting him. I shouldn't have to go viral to get stalking videos removed. And they didn't even ban him! I doubt they'll ban this guy, either. Isn't it terrifying to think this dude was maybe ten feet from me, filming me, and I didn't even realize? Am I just going to have a bunch of copycats following me now? What the hell is wrong with men? Oh and by the way, to the guys in the comments of my other reaction, *of course it's a dude*. Women don't act like this. We know what it's like to be afraid wherever we are. Get some perspective. For the rest of you, understand how much I appreciate your support and help. I'll keep you all updated - I'm gonna try and get these accounts kicked off the site. I'd appreciate if you could report the video linked below, and anymore that pop up like it, and then feel free to like and subscribe.

(MORE)

ALI (CONT'D)

Let's keep the Internet safe,
right? Stay vigilant, friends, and
thank you for having your Ali Daly
Daily.

The video ENDS.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

DREW

Looking back, this is where
everything... went off the rails.
(long pause)
I messed up. I wouldn't do it
again.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY

A "PATH OF THE RIGHT" graphic, featuring an eagle and the
American Flag, flashes across the screen.

Meet **NICHOLAS REYNOLDS**, 30s, a toxic shark of a man -- not
polished enough to be Ben Shapiro but more put together than
Alex Jones.

He holds court at a desk in a sort of talk show-like set.

NICHOLAS

Welcome back to Path of the Right --
we've got the Right Stuff for the
Right People. So it's come to my
attention there's this girl, I
hesitate to even name drop her but
I guess I will, Ali Daly -- she
runs the "Ali Daly Daily" -- sorry,
I'm struggling to say that without
breaking -- the "Ali Daly Daily"
channel. She's been making the
rounds in liberal circles for the
latest weak sauce straw man, I
guess someone took a video of her
without her realizing, put it on
this site, and sent her a link to
it.

(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Which, you know, isn't *actually* a crime -- she was in public, they didn't follow her to anywhere that wasn't -- but I guess she's all "freaked out" because she's been taught to be a victim all her life, even though nothing bad has actually happened to her, so she performed her little triggered "offended and sad" dance, and, wouldn't you know it, there are a lot of sad and triggered and infantilized women who like what she's selling. That'd be pathetic enough, considering again, no one committed any crimes here, but she has the gall to assume the anonymous uploader's gender. I know! Hypocrisy is alive and well among America's Left. Ali Daly assumes this anonymous uploader is a man, because she's been conditioned to believe all bad things are the fault of men. And now she's at it again, hawking her misandry over a new video that simply shows her... walking around a public street. But Ali Daly isn't your ordinary misguided feminist, truth seekers. I'm going to give it to you straight. I did a little digging and couldn't figure out who was responsible for the original account and the original video. But I did learn who made the latest. That account, also anonymous, was linked to an easily searchable email -- an email belonging to Drew Dunne. Who's Drew Dunne, you may ask? *Ali Daly's boyfriend*. That second stalker video she won't stop bitching about? It's a hoax. I'm sure Ali demanded her whipped cuck of a boyfriend give her a reason to be mad about something else. And if she's willing to lie about this, what else is she willing to lie about? Is it any wonder why we worry when we see unsubstantiated rape accusations, when women accuse law-abiding men of gross crimes? It's women like Ali Daly, ladies and gentlemen.

(MORE)

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Truth seekers, I would never advocate violence, not like Ali Daly probably would, but I encourage you to head over to her channel -- the link's below, in the description -- and speak your mind. Maybe -- just maybe -- she'll listen. I'm Nicholas Reynolds. With your help, America will know the Path of the Right.

The video ENDS.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

ALI

Hi guys, bit of an emergency video here. I guess there's this guy -- I'm not going to name him -- but he's this conservative, Republican outrage vlogger, and he's been saying that the second stalker video of me is a hoax. I want to be clear, I would *never* lie about something like that, and it's really messed up he would even suggest it. I don't know what sort of evidence he thinks --

ABRUPT CUT TO A NEW UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali and Drew are now sitting together. Ali isn't wearing makeup. Drew looks profoundly uncomfortable.

They address the camera.

ALI

Hey guys. I just felt it was best for the news to come from me, and come from me straight. I know there's been a lot of rumors about the second stalking video, and who authored it. I want to be totally honest: my boyfriend, Drew, did take the video. It was scripted. It was wrong. It was a betrayal to everyone who rallied behind me after the first video went up. And it was a betrayal to myself.

(MORE)

ALI (CONT'D)

I know I'm better than this, and you all deserve better from me.

Drew doesn't say anything. He just sits there, awkwardly, like a prop.

ALI (CONT'D)

I do want to emphasize that the first stalking video was wholly legitimate, and I still don't know who made it. I can't quite explain why I felt compelled to make another. And I want to point out that the amount of hateful and disturbing texts, e-mails, and calls I've been receiving is unacceptable, and frankly proving my original point. With that said, I hope we can all move past this, and you all can accept my apology. Thanks for having your Ali Daly Daily.

Ali smiles. It's pained.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

RAYMOND CLARKE

So, let's be clear. Any momentum or positively-oriented fame Ali had up until this point -- gone. In an instant. Never getting it back.

JULIA HAYES

One thing I've really learned in writing about Internet culture for years is how the Internet never really forgets. We forget about history, about politicians, human atrocities... but we don't forget about who's been cancelled.

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ali on a call with Drew.

DREW

This isn't really something I'm comfortable with.

ALI

It's never all real. Everyone dramatizes stuff.

DREW

You'd be acting like it's real.

ALI

Nothing on the Internet is one hundred percent true -- the point is to call attention to a real problem.

DREW

No, you want views.

ALI

That's not fair.

DREW

You asking me to do this isn't fair.

ALI

I want you to help me help women. The views are just a bonus.

DREW

It's stupidly unethical. And can you imagine if you were caught?!

ALI

Who's going to figure that out?

DREW

I'm sorry, but no.

ALI

Can't you just help me?

DREW

Ali.

ALI

No one gave a shit about my last video. I haven't gotten any new auditions. I'm just... *sitting here*. Nothing's happening. I feel really stuck.

DREW

Ali...

ALI

And you're off in... Ohio, or Chicago, some Midwest city somewhere getting paid to actually act, and I'm trying to just make people attention to a vlogging channel.

DREW

You got three -- four -- million people who watched and listened to you.

ALI

And what did that do? Not a single booking.

A long silence. They avoid eye contact through the camera lenses.

DREW

I don't want this to ruin my weekend home.

ALI

Well I don't know what to tell you. I'm excited to see you, I love you, but my life isn't going so great. I'm asking your help with this one thing. No one will ever know.

Drew thinks long and hard.

Ali stares at through the camera lens -- "at" him.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

DREW

I knew it wasn't right, somewhere in my head. But I wanted my girlfriend to be happy, and it was really hard to see her like that -- looking so hopeless and desperate. That spark and drive she had -- and I guess I let myself believe her whole thing about it being about shining a light on a real problem. If I'd known where it was all going to go from here, I would've told her to delete her channel. Right then and there.

UPLOADED VIDEO**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT**

A new STALKING video.

Ali walks home from a bar. The stalker trails her, just enough steps behind to remain undetected.

She crosses through her neighborhood.

It's dark -- if the stalker wanted, he could strike.

It gets closer. Ali hears it -- it hides in a driveway, behind some foliage.

Ali doesn't see it. Keeps going.

The stalker resumes its slow chase.

Ali turns into her building.

The stalker lingers outside it as she enters her apartment.

Then... it moves closer. Gets to her window.

Peers inside.

Watches her as she goes about her business.

The video ENDS.

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL**INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Ali calls Drew. We wait for him to pick up.

She's clearly in distress. Drew answers.

DREW

Hey -- hey, what's wrong?

ALI

There's so many --

DREW

What?

ALI

The channel -- the stalker videos --
he's back. There's so many.

DREW

I don't understand --

ALI

Look at the link I sent you! He's been following me! I don't know how long, but he's following me and there's so many! He was outside my house... he knows where I live...

Off Drew's confusion --

SCREEN CAPTURE

We see the MYSTERY STALKER CHANNEL --

Its channel name is an indecipherable jumble of GLYPHS, apparently meaning nothing.

But under the videos tab...

There are seemingly HUNDREDS of videos, all with titles defying explanation (written in the same sort of strange glyphs), all of ALI...

BEGIN MONTAGE

We see a harrowing, disturbing montage of all of the new videos in rapid sequence...

They follow Ali in practically every aspect of her life.

On the streets. In parks. On the beach. Through windows.

Every seemingly private moment laid bare.

It's not all shaky digital iPhone photography, either -- it's a combination of a number of mediums.

Black & white. VHS. Lo-Fi. 16mm filters. A menagerie of film stocks and filters -- an artful invasion of privacy.

We periodically cut between the disturbing stalker footage and Ali's panicked expression, plucked from her call to Drew.

Finally, as the montage wraps up, we rapidly cut back and forth between the beginning of...

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali addresses the camera.

Her posture is different -- her poise and composure, gone.

This isn't an act: she's legitimately frightened, and it shows.

ALI

I know this is going to sound ridiculous, coming from me, and I'll admit you guys have no reason to believe me, I probably wouldn't believe me, but I promise you, I am freaking out -- the guy that uploaded the original video is back... and he's uploaded hundreds of videos watching me. He followed me to my house, without me realizing. He knows where I live. I'm freaking out, and all of these Republican idiots won't stop spamming my social media, saying they want to kill me or rape me or both, I don't know what's going on but I don't know how to make it stop. I didn't do this. I don't know who did this. But I'm asking: if you're one of the people who won't leave me alone, or the person making these videos, please, please stop. I'm not looking for attention. I just want my life to go back to normal.

We cut to a **SERIES OF UPLOADED VIDEO REACTIONS** --

RESPONDER 1

Who the hell does this bitch think she is?

RESPONDER 2

Is she actually expecting us to believe this?

RESPONDER 3

I'll say she has balls. I would've purged myself off the Internet by now.

RESPONDER 4

It takes a special type of stupid to double down at this point.

RESPONDER 5

It's like a train wreck. I can't look away.

RESPONDER 6

I almost admire her. Making that many fake videos took effort.

RESPONDER 7

You think by now she'd go get a real job.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY

Nicholas is practically giggling at his desk, eager to dig in.

NICHOLAS

I can't believe I'm saying this, or, maybe I can, but Ali Daly is even stupider than I thought. After being exposed as a liar and a cheat by yours truly, she's now doubling down on her victim complex. I guess this sad little girl doesn't get enough for her cuck boyfriend or her lack of a career, so she has to spend her days inventing new lies and attacks on nonexistent bad men. Well, I've got news for Ali Daly. It's a free marketplace of ideas, even on the Internet, and I suppose she can keep peddling her lies and bullshit. But we truth seekers will be there to remind her what's what. I've linked her channel and contact info below this video -- as always, you know what to do. Remind Ali Daly that we're too smart for her Leftist baiting. I'm Nicholas Reynolds, and with your help, America will know the Path of the Right.

The video ENDS.

CUT TO A BLACK SCREEN:

We hear a recording of a PHONE CALL. SUBTITLES accompany the voiceover.

The phone RINGS once or twice.

ALI (O.S.)

Hello?

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Is this Ali Daly?

ALI
Yes, who's this?

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Are you proud of being a lying
whore?

ALI (O.S.)
Stop calling.

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Everyone knows where you live now.
You're just daring to get raped. I
hope you know that.

CLICK. Ali hangs up. The call ENDS.

VIDEO RECORDING

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali starts RECORDING.

She uses the front-facing camera accidentally at first,
quickly switching to the traditional camera.

There's a COMMOTION near her door --

KNOCKING --

ANOTHER UNKNOWN MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Hey Ali! Don't worry, I'm not gonna
hurt you. I'm just gonna upload
this. Maybe you could do a video
for me, too, huh?

More KNOCKING --

ALI
I'm calling the police.

ANOTHER UNKNOWN MALE VOICE
They're not gonna do shit. They're
on our side. You know that.

Ali's paralyzed. Doesn't know what to do.

The recording ENDS.

VIDEO RECORDING

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

SOMEONE ELSE is recording this video.

Ali's a few feet ahead -- not realizing she's being filmed.

For a second, this looks like another one of the mystery stalking videos... But --

FILMING GUY (O.S.)
Hey Ali! This feel familiar?

Ali turns around, sees the camera.

Turns back around. Starts walking faster, away.

The cameraman pursues. Faster than she's walking.

Ali picks up the pace.

FILMING GUY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Oh come on, the camera loves you.
You're cuter in person.

ALI
Get away from me!

FILMING GUY
I just want my Ali Daly Daily!

Ali breaks into a run, breaking off the main sidewalk, running into an alley to nowhere.

The cameraman stops his chase, lingering at the fork. He watches her go, the camera still rolling.

FILMING GUY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You know you like it!

Ali keeps running.

The video ENDS.

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL**INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Ali is mid-conversation with Drew.

They've just been staring at each other for sometime, thinking about what to say.

DREW

I know it's going to feel like you're giving in to them, but I think you need to leave your place.

ALI

I can't.

DREW

Why not?

ALI

Where am I going to go?

DREW

Jamie's?

ALI

Jamie doesn't want me there. She's seeing all this. She doesn't want it.

Drew ponders.

DREW

At the bare minimum, you've got to delete the channel.

ALI

No.

DREW

Are you serious?

ALI

What is that gonna accomplish? The little money I *do* make comes from those videos. These people already have my e-mail, my phone number, my address. Taking down the channel isn't going to accomplish anything.

Silence.

DREW

I'm sorry I'm not there right now. Only --

ALI

"Only a few more cities."

DREW

Ali.

ALI
Come home.

DREW
I can't.

ALI
I need you.

Ali notices there's DAYLIGHT in Drew's frame.

ALI (CONT'D)
Where even are you? Isn't it
like... after midnight where you
are?

Drew pauses. Hesitates.

ALI (CONT'D)
What?

DREW
This was -- look, the timing isn't
great.

ALI
What do you mean?

DREW
I told you before all this happened
there was maybe some big news. I'm
in London.

ALI
Why?

DREW
Screen test.

ALI
For... what?

DREW
Some producer saw me perform on the
tour. They're putting together a
big studio movie musical. They've
got some big names for the
supporting roles, the character
actor stuff, but they want unknowns
for the leads.

Ali stews on this.

Oh. ALI

Yeah. DREW

More stewing.

Congrats. ALI

Thanks. DREW

That's -- that's really amazing.
I'm thrilled for you. ALI

It's not at all a sure thing. There
are a few other guys. DREW

Yeah, but still, you're in the
room. ALI

Yeah. DREW

Is it tonight -- or, your today? ALI

Yeah, it's in a few hours. DREW

Ali nods.

Well, I won't keep you. ALI

Ali. DREW

Yeah. ALI

You're going to get through this. I
love you. I will be home as soon as
I can. DREW

Yeah. I know. ALI

DREW
Please -- for your sake -- consider
taking a break from the Internet,
at least. Shut off your phone,
maybe.

ALI
Okay.

DREW
Okay?

ALI
Okay.

DREW
I love you.

ALI
I love you, too.

Drew hangs up. Ali lingers, stiff.

The call ENDS.

OVER A BLACK SCREEN:

DANIELLE (V.O.)
To her credit, Ali did appear to
take a break. Her channel showed no
new activity from her for several
days. While it's difficult to know
for sure, it appears she did not
use her cell phone, either.

Still over black. SUBTITLES appear to correspond with the
following exchange:

OPERATOR (O.S.)
Nine-one-one, what's your
emergency?

ALI
Hi -- I -- I think there's someone
in my apartment. I just woke up,
and I thought I saw --

OPERATOR
Okay, ma'am, please try and remain
calm. Are you in a safe place?

ALI

I'm in my bedroom. I thought I --
if they were in here, they just
left when I woke up. I heard a
noise... something like
footsteps...

OPERATOR

And what is your address?

ALI

I'm on Fallston... It's in
Koreatown
... Five-six-one-four, unit
three...

OPERATOR

Okay, we're dispatching an officer
now. He'll be there in a few
minutes.

ALI

I swear I just heard something -- !

OPERATOR

Try to stay calm. Stay on the line
with me.

OPERATOR (CONT'D)

Is there any way you can exit the
apartment?

ALI

I don't know where -- I think it
can hear me.

OPERATOR

Try to stay on the line with me --

But Ali SEVERS the connection, ending the call from her side.

OPERATOR (CONT'D)

Hello? Ma'am?

The operator ends the call.

RECOVERED PHONE VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ali starts the footage, glancing at the camera.

She's in her bedroom.

She grabs a nearby heavy-looking BOOK -- any sort of self-defense object.

She moves slowly toward the door -- already open a CRACK.

Taps it. It opens slightly.

She juts the camera out through the ajar space --

It's dark. But there doesn't appear to be anything there.

She slowly opens the rest of the door.

Trying to control her breathing, but failing.

Steps out.

Moves down the hall.

Her breathing unbearably loud.

A slight NOISE -- she stops.

Keeps moving.

Breathing.

Ali scans the house. The camera passes the front door...
Checks around corners.

Moves toward the front door -- the exit...

But realizes it's now OPEN. The door ajar.

It wasn't a minute ago.

Ali starts PANTING --

Makes a run for the door.

Gets out. Doesn't see anything. Hears sirens approaching...

The video ENDS.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali looks haggard. Hasn't gotten enough sleep in days.

ALI
I just really need whoever is doing
this to stop.

(MORE)

ALI (CONT'D)

Texting and calling me say you want me raped and murdered is one thing. Hell, knocking on my door, sure. But breaking into my house... this can't keep going, guys. Please. Whoever's doing this. Please, please stop.

The video ENDS.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY

Nicholas digs in.

NICHOLAS

I can't believe this is real. Ali Daly, noted fraud and hypocrite feminist harpy, is now claiming someone broke into her home. And -- get this -- she called our boys in blue, only for them to... not find any evidence of any break-in! No one was there! And to add insult to injury, I had a look at the official police report... the officer suspects she was experiencing a "nightmare." You really can't make this up. I wish I could say your efforts were forcing her to give up this charade, truth seekers, but it would appear Ali Daly is determined to convince people she is a victim of some nonexistent male hatred. As always, I encourage you to let her know what you think of her actions. I'm Nicholas Reynolds, and with your help, America will know the Path of the Right.

The video ENDS.

OVER BLACK,

We hear a cacophony of phone calls and voicemails of threatening messages --

At least a dozen men, all overlapping, all calling Ali a "whore," a "liar," saying she should be "skullfucked," "curb stomped," "cut into pieces," "stoned," "mutilated..."

It all runs together into a sick blend of anger and hate...
Reaching its apex in volume as we CUT TO

UPLOADED VIDEO

EXT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A new stalking video...

It follows Ali home, as before. She goes inside.

The stalker waits a few moments. Time passes.

Then, it approaches the door. Pulls out a KEY.

Silently unlocks the door, and enters --

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The stalker moves quickly, floating deftly about the house undetected until it finds Ali, still unaware, in her bedroom.

The camera peeks in, watching her.

Ali heads to the bathroom. Starts to take a shower.

The camera enters the bedroom... hiding in her closet, through an open slat.

Ali emerges from the shower in a towel.

Moves toward the closet.

The camera retreats deeper and to the side...

Ali OPENS the closet, the stalker perpendicular to her, JUST OUT OF SIGHT --

She pulls an article of clothing off the rack. Doesn't see the intruder. Half-closes the door.

The stalker and its camera slides back into place, watching her as she readies for bed.

Soon, she climbs in under the covers. Turns off the lights.

Shuts her eyes.

Time passes. The camera waits, watching.

Soon, it emerges from the closet. Edges up to her bed, standing over her. Leering.

Then... it crawls into bed with her, beside her. Her back facing the camera.

Ali TURNS IN HER SLEEP, rotating so her face is INCHES from the camera. Her eyes still shut.

She smiles slightly -- perhaps imagining Drew beside her.

The camera watches.

The smile fades.

Ali's eyes SHOOT OPEN. Bloodshot. Wide.

She tries to breathe, but can't, exactly. She's paralyzed -- experiencing a NIGHT TERROR.

She sees whatever's holding the camera but can't react to it. *Maybe not even processing it as real.*

Ali manages to wrest herself away from the camera, to the side, rotating to lay on her back.

Her eyes still wide open, her mouth agape with terror.

The stalker climbs on top of her. Looks straight down at her.

Ali starts to regain control of her JAW. It QUIVERS --

She's breaking out of the night terror --

The stalker realizes. It peels away from her, climbing off the bed, heads for the door --

Moves out into the hall, leaving it open a crack as it goes --

We hear Ali BREATHE out in a panic back in the bedroom.

The stalker halts in the hall. Turns back toward the bedroom.

Waiting to see what she'll do.

We hear Ali wrestle for her phone. Dial a number... then:

ALI (O.S.)

Hi -- I -- I think there's someone
in my apartment. I just woke up,
and I thought I saw --

It's the 9-1-1 call from the previous night.

ALI (CONT'D)

I'm in my bedroom. I thought I --
if they were in here, they just
left when I woke up. I heard a
noise... something like
footsteps... I'm on Fallston...
It's in Koreatown... Five-six-one-
four, unit three...

The stalker takes a step or two toward the door. JUST OUTSIDE
Ali's field of vision on the other side...

The stalker makes a NOISE. Barely perceptible.

A breath of its own.

ALI (CONT'D)

I swear I just heard something -- !
I don't know where -- I think it
can hear me.

Ali hangs up. The stalker starts to retreat...

Anticipating Ali's moves, it darts around a corner...
waiting.

Sure enough, Ali comes, camera in-hand -- making the moves as
we saw the previous night.

The stalker watches, moving as it needs to.

Just as Ali begins to focus on a corner of the room... the
stalker makes its move --

It dashes to the front door and OPENS IT, leaving it ajar --

Ali turns and sees, panicking --

The stalker remains hidden in the corner -- Ali could turn
and see it --

But instead she runs out the door.

The stalker moves toward the open doorway.

Stands in it.

Pokes its camera out. Ali is gone.

The stalker turns around, heads for a back window. Exits.

EXT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

We CUT FORWARD to the stalker now elsewhere... watching a frightened Ali wait for the police.

The video ENDS.

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL**INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Ali is mid-conversation with an exasperated Drew.

ALI

I thought it was part of the night terror. I know you can't understand this, but you see things, it feels so real -- I couldn't move --

DREW

I don't know how else to say this. You have to get out of there, and get off the Internet.

ALI

I wasn't online.

DREW

Ali.

ALI

Jamie's getting doxxed and threats now. So is my mom.

DREW

Can you stay with her?

ALI

With what money?

DREW

Your mom can't afford a flight?!

ALI

My mom is in Italy!

DREW

You don't have a key to her place!?

ALI

Drew, I'm not going back to Indiana.

DREW
 You could drive somewhere.
 Anywhere.

ALI
 These people find me wherever I go.
 At least here, I've got walls and a
 roof. If you want me out there,
 where I'm even MORE vulnerable...

DREW
 Did you get a new lock?

ALI
 Yeah. The doors are all locked. I
 bolted the windows. I'm not taking
 any chances.

Drew ponders.

DREW
 I just --

ALI
 What.

DREW
 I want you to be safe.

ALI
 Well I'm not safe. No matter what I
 do, on or off the Internet, I am
 clearly not safe. It doesn't matter
 if I ignore them or call them out
 or whatever, okay?

Drew pauses again, contemplating if he should say what he's
 about to say...

ALI (CONT'D)
 What?

DREW
 I just -- they're looking at
 casting me.

ALI
 Okay? Congratulations.

DREW
 (carefully)
 I'm under a microscope right now.
 They're making sure there aren't
 any "Me Too" situations, any...

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)
 red flags about me that could bite
 them in the ass.

He looks at Ali.

ALI
 And I'm the problem?

DREW
 Your hoax video --

ALI
 That *you* shot.

DREW
 Already came up. They're willing to
 look past it. But they... need this
 contained.

ALI
 Great.

Ali stares into space. Drew pleadingly looks to her --
 Gets no comfort.

ALI (CONT'D)
 Yeah, no, that's fine.

We linger on her icy, building resentment...

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali's back at it, addressing the audience.

ALI
 I wanted to a break from the horror
 story that is my life and get back
 to what's really important: looking
 good for men who expect you to live
 your life for their benefit.

Ali gets out a makeup kit and starts applying.

ALI (CONT'D)
 It's a hard line to walk, you know?
 You want to look *good* for the guys
 who will support you until it's
 inconvenient for them, but you
 don't want to look *so good* that
 they assume we're only here to be
 pretty.

In the hallway behind Ali, a CLOAKED FIGURE wearing a black veil -- we'll call him a **FOLLOWER** -- silently appears around the corner.

As Ali continues to speak to the camera, it draws nearer.

ALI (CONT'D)

Now the stuff I'm using today isn't too expensive. Don't want him to believe he's too important. And, if we're being honest, he won't know the difference between some department store brand and the shit you get from CVS.

The Follower is *close*. Steps away. Ali could turn and see.

She doesn't.

But the Follower *retreats*, rounding the corner --

ALI (CONT'D)

You're just going to want to start applying --

JUST AS THE FOLLOWER ROUNDS THE CORNER, Ali turns, literally missing him by a second.

It's like she heard something.

She watches for a moment, then swivels back to the camera --

ALI (CONT'D)

Anyway. You'll want to start --

KNOCKING.

Around the corner, where the Follower went. The front door.

Ali glances backward, then back at the camera, then rises.

Moves cautiously down the hall --

MORE KNOCKING.

She rounds the corner, out of the camera's frame --

Doesn't react to whatever she sees --

The KNOCKING now PERSISTS, becoming CONSTANT.

It doesn't STOP --

Ali moves quickly BACK into the bedroom, collecting her camera. She lifts it, takes it along with her --

The KNOCKING continues --

As she rounds the corner to face the front door,

The knocking STOPS.

Dead silence.

Ali pauses in her stride, a little freaked out.

ALI (CONT'D)

Hello?

No response.

ALI (CONT'D)

I'm filming this.

Ali moves toward the door. Very carefully.

She tries to see if anyone's out there... but the other side appears vacant.

She OPENS THE DOOR --

And no one stands there.

She glances down, however, and sees --

A CAMERA, sitting on a small tripod.

Looking up at her.

We SWITCH PERSPECTIVES to the footage from the camera on the ground, looking up at her.

Ali approaches the thing like it could be an explosive.

Sets her own camera aside.

Looks directly into the lens... pondering who could be watching her, and why...

Her phone DINGS. She pulls it out -- reads the TEXT...

And holds the phone, with message, up to the camera.

The text -- from an unknown number -- reads:

We see you.

Ali stews for a moment.

ALI (CONT'D)
What do you want!?

Of course, no one responds. It's quiet.

DING.

Another text.

She reads it -- then holds it up to the camera, shaking her head in confusion.

The same thing you do.

The video cuts out.

BEGIN MONTAGE

A series of uploaded video reactions.

RESPONDER 1
This has to be another fake, right?

RESPONDER 2
Like there's no way this bitch isn't just doing this for the attention at this point.

RESPONDER 3
I'm not gonna lie, I'm kind of along for the ride at this point? Like it's crazy, but it's fun to watch.

RESPONDER 4
She has lost it. I think she really buys this is happening, though. Like I'm a little scared for her.

RESPONDER 5
I keep thinking, does somebody need to call someone? Like, where is her boyfriend?

RESPONDER 6
Look I know she's getting death threats and all those idiots are doxxing her or whatever, and that's not okay, but like, she's not exactly making it easy on herself.

RESPONDER 7

I really hope this is all being done for fun, at this point. I know people do that, pretending their house is haunted and shit. But if she's not... if she thinks this is real... I hope she gets whatever help she needs, cuz I don't see how this ends well.

INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY

Nicholas just LAUGHS at his desk, beside himself with the "lunacy" of Ali's predicament.

NICHOLAS

She can't... expect us... to buy this, at this point, right? Right!?

END MONTAGE

DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

Chris and Danielle sit together, addressing the camera.

CHRIS

It's around this time we became aware of the Ali Daly saga.

DANIELLE

We learned of her ironically not through her viral videos, but through Nicholas Reynolds's "Path of the Right" channel.

CHRIS

Already we were shocked at how far the Ali Daly situation had progressed... and like many others, as you've seen, we were on the edge of our seat, waiting to see what came next.

UPLOADED VIDEO

EXT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Establishing.

Another stalking video. The stalker watches a long while.

CUT AHEAD to it standing directly outside her door.

A BLACK-GLOVED HAND reaches out and tries the knob. Locked.

It holds its hands out against the center of the door, placing it flat -- almost as if pushing...

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Somehow -- the stalker is now inside.

It roams through the darkened house at a methodical, almost reverential pace, examining her belongings.

If one pays attention, they'll notice there are OTHER Followers -- clad in the cloak & veil -- standing, still, in the corners of the home.

The camera pays them no mind, for now.

Soon, the camera veers into Ali's BEDROOM --

Where HALF A DOZEN FOLLOWERS stand around Ali's bed in a disturbing tribunal.

They face Ali, slumbering.

The camera watches them for a minute. No one moves.

The camera pans --

And another FOLLOWER is immediately in the foreground, its entering the frame STARTLING on its own.

It holds its gloved hands in prayer.

DEPICTED FOLLOWER
(a low, hiss of a whisper)
**Requiem æternam dona eis Domine.
Domine Iesu Christe, Rex gloriæ,
libera animas...Lux æterna luceat
eis, Domine...**
(a long pause)
Legionem autem.

The camera WHIPS back toward the bed --

But Ali's no longer in it.

She's now STANDING in the CORNER, her back to us.

The Followers stand at a deferential distance, in a new semicircle, still facing her.

The Followers take a step toward her.

Then another.

She turns her head profile -- then toward the camera, looking directly into it.

She smiles a wicked, horrible grin.

As The Followers reach her --

The video ENDS.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

We CUT BETWEEN each of Ali's colleagues --

Elizabeth -- Jamie -- Drew --

All wear solemn, disturbed expressions -- they've just been shown the preceding video.

We hold on each for an uncomfortably long time. Danielle & Chris are waiting for any verbal reactions.

They aren't getting any.

Finally:

DANIELLE

Do you have any --

ELIZABETH

I never wanted to watch that again.

JAMIE

I assumed it was a fake. It had to be. How could you not? You look at that, and tell me that's real?

DANIELLE

But you were still scared for her.

JAMIE

Even if it was fake -- someone who, who dreams that up -- something's wrong with them. Clearly, something was wrong with her.

DANIELLE

At this point, did you ever reach out? Try and help?

JAMIE

The incel Nazis were after me because I was her friend. My phone was basically bricked, I couldn't use it. They called my boss, saying I had raped people and exposed myself in public. I almost got fired. What would you have done?

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY

NICHOLAS

Ali Daly has upped her production value as she enters the pornography business -- I guess she expects us to indulge in the sort of godless hedonism the liberal Left has been pushing on us for years. We can all agree this is just some stunt for us to buy into her perverted gangbang, right? Well, we're not buying what you're selling, Ali Daly. Take your whorish trash somewhere else.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

DREW

I found about the video the same time she did. I watched the video -- she called me --

CHRIS

Did you believe the video was fake?

DREW

I mean, what do you mean by fake?

CHRIS

Do you think she made it, consciously. Uploaded it herself.

Drew hesitates. Wants to say no, but...

RECOVERED VIDEO CALL

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ali calls Drew. She's bleary-eyed. Mopped up some tears moments before.

ALI
You watched it?

DREW
Yeah, Ali --

ALI
I don't remember any of that. I promise you, I swear -- it's not fake, I didn't fake it, but I don't remember any of that and I don't know --

DREW
Okay.

ALI
You believe me, right?

DREW
Yes. Of course.

ALI
I don't know what to do.

DREW
Who were all these people in the video -- ?

ALI
I don't know!

Drew abruptly pales. Ali clocks it --

ALI (CONT'D)
What?

DREW
Are you at home?

ALI
Yes. Why?

Drew's thinking fast, still mortified.

ALI (CONT'D)
Drew, why?

DREW
You need to hide.

ALI
What?! Drew, you're scaring me.

DREW
Hide.

ALI
Why!?

DREW
The channel -- the one posting all
of these videos -- it's live.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED WITH:

RECORDED LIVESTREAM

EXT. ALI'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

The Follower points the camera at Ali's apartment. Perfectly still. Watching.

ON ALI & DREW:

ALI
It's outside -- right now?

Ali starts to move toward the window --

DREW
Stay away from the window! You need
to *hide*!

ALI
Should I call the cops --

DREW
You hide. I'll call them.

ALI
Okay -- okay -- just please stay on
with me, please --

ON THE LIVESTREAM:

The Follower stays put... Watching...

Then...

It moves forward, toward the apartment.

ON ALI & DREW:

Drew's on the phone.

DREW
 (into phone)
 Okay, thank you.
 (to Ali)
 They're on the way. They'll be
 there soon.

Ali's watching the livestream on her phone.

ALI
 He's coming.

DREW
 Ali, please, HIDE.

But Ali's frozen. Petrified, eyes glued to her phone...

ON THE LIVESTREAM:

The Follower approaches Ali's door.

Opens it. Enters --

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

And moves through the darkened house, toward Ali's bedroom.

It rounds the corner. The only light in the apartment emits from Ali's room -- the door OPEN.

It stands outside it, a short distance away.

ON ALI & DREW:

DREW
 (whispering now)
 Ali.

Ali turns her head toward the open bedroom door.

Stands -- approaches it.

The laptop camera continues to record, sitting on her desk. Drew's helpless, only able to watch.

There's a MAW OF DARKNESS -- an ABYSS -- concealing the Follower.

Ali stares into it.

The abyss stares back.

The Follower moves forward --

Ali COMES TO -- panics -- SLAMS the door shut --

Runs back to her laptop, grabs it, and HIDES around the blind corner of her bed -- the door still visible behind her.

Ali tries to control her breathing.

Drew just watches, trying not to make any noise.

The door CREAKS open. The black abyss still concealing anything beyond...

Ali braces...

The Follower steps into view -- in a thick black cloak, face covered by a funeral-like veil --

It steps closer... And closer...

Then stops.

Looks around. Waits.

Ali covers her mouth. Holds her breath.

The Follower starts to move back toward the door...

DING!

Ali's phone goes off.

The Follower stops, turns. Starts walking toward her --

SIRENS ring out --

The Follower pauses again, hearing them.

The sirens get LOUDER -- closing in fast --

The Follower RETREATS into the darkness.

Its livestream ENDS as its screen becomes black.

Ali remains on the floor of her room, mid-meltdown. Drew looks on, spent.

CUT TO BLACK...

TITLE CARDS:

The Los Angeles Police Department declined to be interviewed for this documentary.

A representative cited a previous statement, released following Ali's disappearance, noting "Ali Daly was a known propagator of video hoaxes. Law enforcement had been summoned to her residence several times, with no evidence suggesting the break-ins that had been alleged."

UPLOADED VIDEO

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ali sits in a park-like setting, alone.

A HARASSER records a video, approaches her --

HARASSER

Hey, it's Ali Daly! Get into any freaky gangbangs with ghosts this week? Maybe I can get a part, huh?

The harasser gets UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE with his camera, right up into her face --

HARASSER (CONT'D)

Hey! I'm talking to you.

But it just rolls off Ali at this point. She barely registers his presence, just staring straight ahead. Vacant.

Mind somewhere far away... If not lost.

HARASSER (CONT'D)

Oh, so it's like that, huh? You've got time to bullshit people but no time to talk to me? You just love whoring yourself out, don't you, you fake bitch?

Still nothing. Ali doesn't even flinch.

HARASSER (CONT'D)

Fine. I hope they rape you next time.

The harasser moves away. The video ENDS, and we cut to BLACK.

RECOVERED PHONE CALL, OVER BLACK

ELIZABETH (V.O.)

Hello?

ALI

Mom?

ELIZABETH

Ali... what's going on? I keep getting these weird calls -- I'm sorry I haven't gotten back to you, there isn't really service at the villa --

ALI

Mom, please.

ELIZABETH

What?

ALI

The videos. I don't know what's going on anymore. Everyone hates me. I think someone's trying to kill me.

ELIZABETH

Have you gone to the police?

ALI

Of course. They won't help me.

ELIZABETH

Why not?

ALI

They don't understand.

ELIZABETH

I'm not sure I do, either. Don't you think this is all a bit dramatic?

ALI

Mom...

ELIZABETH

You wanted attention, right? That's what this has always been about. You wanted to go to LA and be a movie star so people would look at you. Now everyone's watching and you hate it. I think you really just like to hear yourself talk and don't want anyone to talk back.

ALI

Mom...

ELIZABETH

You're a scrappy kid. You'll handle it, you'll land with your feet up. Just get off the Internet.

ALI

They're finding me in real life now. They're coming to my apartment.

ELIZABETH

You gave them your address? You just gave it out?

ALI

They found it...

ELIZABETH

God.

ALI

They say they're going to rape me.

ELIZABETH

Then tell the police.

ALI

I DID!

ELIZABETH

Well what do you want me to do?

ALI

I don't know.

A long, uncomfortable silence.

ELIZABETH

I haven't agreed with all of your choices, but I do want you to be safe.

ALI

Mom...

ELIZABETH

Honey, I need to go. Please, just, go on a retreat or something. Or if you're miserable, or don't feel safe, just come home.

ALI

Mom...

ELIZABETH

I love you.

The call CLICKS off.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

We settle on Elizabeth for a long while.

Her look severe. Regret brewing, barely visible.

She makes eye contact with the camera. Looks away.

We cut back to Drew.

DREW

Ali sort of shut down after that. She'd only want to talk to me, and even then, she was barely communicating. It got... codependent. I was still finishing up my tour, and all the social media stuff was hurting my chances for the movie... I did my best. I think I was her only real pillar of support... but... I told her I needed space. She didn't take it very well.

RECORDED LIVESTREAM

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ali isn't made up for a usual video. This feels legitimately spontaneous -- for better or worse.

ALI

Hi guys. Don't usually really livestream, but, I don't know, I don't feel very safe leaving my house... or really safe at all, I guess. I guess I just want to feel like I can talk to someone. And you're out there listening, aren't you?

It's a one-way window, of course, but Ali gazes at the camera with hints of desperation.

ALI (CONT'D)

I think my boyfriend's about to dump me. He's gonna make it big. I always knew he would, he's talented. But I guess my drama, all of this, has gotten to be too much for him, so... I guess that's that, huh?

She starts to pace, then moves out of her bedroom, headed toward the family room --

ALI (CONT'D)

I don't really know what'll happen when --

IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE SHOT, a **NEAR-NAKED MAN** stands, wearing only disgusting underwear.

Ali sees him in the camera's playback. Freezes.

ALI (CONT'D)

Who are you?

INTRUDING MAN

You will know the Path of the Right, bitch.

The man makes a RUN AT ALI --

Ali SCREAMS --

Drops the camera --

It lands on a coffee table, at an angle, giving us fragmented VIEW of the action --

The man tries to BARREL into Ali, but she DODGES --

He flips around, makes another pass, briefly grabbing hold --

She THROWS him off, slips past, out of frame --

The man gives chase, leaving frame --

But soon backs back into frame, suddenly spooked --

Ali emerges ahead of him, holding a butcher knife, defensively --

ALI

Get out.

The man sizes Ali up -- jerks forward, as if he's gonna try and strike her anyway --

But Ali JABS the knife forward, nearly hitting him --

The man realizes she'll kill him.

The man runs. We hear the door open and SLAM.

Ali waits, makes sure he's really gone.

Drops the knife. Adrenaline waning, the weight of what's happened coming to bear.

She moves off frame to lock the door --

Then returns to the camera.

ALI (CONT'D)

Did -- did anyone watching call the police?

Of course, no one responds.

Ali ends the livestream.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

JULIA HAYES

One thing you learn covering this sort of stuff -- sooner or later, conspiracy theorizing, no matter how insane or far-fetched, leads to real-world consequences. I don't think Nicholas believed anything he was saying, or at least, not the most extreme stuff. But the unhinged, under-educated people I was radicalizing? Sooner or later, someone's going to do something, and it's usually something violent. And it only takes one.

RAYMOND CLARKE

What's awful about these sorts of situations is there's very little accountability. We had this man quite literally call out Nicholas's show -- "The Path of the Right" -- and yet Nicholas faced practically no consequences, legally or otherwise.

(MORE)

RAYMOND CLARKE (CONT'D)

And platforms usually hesitate to punish people with Nicholas's level of influence -- he had three million subscribers. That's a lot of clicks, a lot of money.

AUDIO RECORDING (OVER BLACK)

ALI

Please. You can't let him keep doing this --

POLICE OFFICER

Ma'am, I'm sorry, but we can't link your attacker to Nicholas Reynolds.

ALI

He was screaming about his show!

POLICE OFFICER

But there's no evidence Nicholas ordered this man to attack you. I'm sorry.

END RECORDING

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - DAY

ALI

Nicholas Reynolds is dangerous. He's sending people to attack me. I know it. He knows what he's doing. This website has let him, and people like him, get away with this shit for way too long. If they won't do anything, I will. I'm coming for you, Nicholas. Expect to hear from me.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

RAYMOND CLARKE

Now Ali's video was actually removed for violating the website's "community standards," almost immediately. Mostly because hundreds -- if not thousands -- of Path of the Right faithfuls reported her, en masse.

UPLOADED VIDEO**INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY**

NICHOLAS

Ali Daly has gone too far this time. If you aren't already aware, *allegedly*, an individual -- one I must stress, I have never met or spoken to -- entered Ali Daly's home and name dropped this very show before attempting to attack her. Now, there's no way of knowing if this individual was a hired actor, seeing as the police haven't been able to catch the man who appeared on camera. But given Ali's previous behavior, it's quite likely this is all an elaborate work of fiction -- a smear campaign meant to shame me and all of you truth seekers out there, seeking to link us and those of the Right Path to some sort of disturbed psychopath who would be willing to resort to violence. Bullshit, I say. Then, Ali Daly has the balls to post a video claiming she's going to "come for me." As if a young girl like her could ever stop a second amendment-loving, God-fearing man like me, like any of you. But violent threats are no laughing matter, and Ali, if you're watching this, be certain you'll be hearing from my lawyers in short order. We'll take Ali Daly to the courts and end her once and for all. In the meantime, truth seekers, it seems to me Ali Daly ought to be reminded that there are consequences for spreading lies and defamation and slander -- accusations of that sort shouldn't go unanswered. I'm of course not advocating for any violence, but make yourselves heard and seen. You will not be silenced by women like her. Right?

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

DREW

At this point, I took a weekend off the show -- which was no easy task. And I flew home to see Ali, who was, naturally, a wreck. And... I'm not proud of this... but I broke up with her. It was too much. I loved her, and I still do care about her, immensely, but... This couldn't go on.

DANIELLE

And how did she take it?

DREW

She -- she didn't really talk. She just kind of sat there and stared at me. It was... unnerving, I wanted her to say something. But it felt like she knew it was coming. I think she knew this couldn't continue, not the way it was.

DANIELLE

Do you regret that choice?

DREW

I wish I could say yes, with what happened next. But... it wasn't my responsibility to keep her afloat. It just wasn't.

DANIELLE

And a week later, the video went up.

DREW

I think a week, yeah.

DANIELLE

Is it true Nicholas Reynolds compelled you to break up with Ali?

DREW

I'm sorry?

Drew looks off-screen. This isn't on-script.

DANIELLE

We have it on -- good authority that Nicholas reached out to you.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Said he would mount an outrage campaign against you to the studio if you stayed with her or supported her. This was right after that Deadline article went up, saying you were in final talks for the role...

DREW

I'm sorry, I don't --

DANIELLE

It's been a popular rumor. I just have to ask. Did that conversation take place?

Drew stares at Danielle. Then at the camera. His expression opaque... Followed by a winning grin.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. ALI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ali in her bedroom, speaking to the camera.

The lights are off around her -- only the glow of the laptop screen in front of her and the hallway light behind her illuminates the space.

Much of the room is in DARKNESS.

ALI

Well, it happened. My boyfriend came by tonight and dumped me. He's gonna be a movie star, and I'm baggage he can't take with him.

(pause)

I was right.

(pause)

But it doesn't matter now. I know they're close.

BEHIND HER, in the hallway, a FOLLOWER emerges, standing.

ALI (CONT'D)

I think they might be in the house. I just don't know where.

Ali senses the Follower in the hall.

Starts to turn her head, to look, when --

A gnarled HAND springs from the darkness --

It grasps her shoulder --

Ali turns to see it --

The LIGHTS flick on --

A *LEGION* of **FOLLOWERS** stand in the room with her --

The one nearest the laptop SLAMS the screen shut, ENDING THE VIDEO.

CUT TO BLACK...

TITLE CARD:

The preceding video depicts the last known whereabouts of Ali Daly. In the days following its uploading, she was declared missing.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

We cut between each of the interview participants again.

DREW

That was the last time anyone heard from her. Obviously, as soon as we all saw that -- it was uploaded to her channel -- we called the police, had them do a welfare check. But she was gone -- without a trace.

JULIA HAYES

Police didn't find any signs of forced entry, or any sign of a struggle. Her phone, her laptop -- all potential avenues of locating her -- were left at the apartment, not taken with her.

RAYMOND CLARKE

What was more worrying, though, was the timing of that upload. In the video, Ali says her boyfriend broke up with her "that night" -- but the video was uploaded a week after that event. The metadata from the video file itself revealed it was indeed shot the night Drew broke up with her... meaning that video had been scheduled. By the time that video went up...

(MORE)

RAYMOND CLARKE (CONT'D)

(pause)

It had been over a week before anyone realized she was missing.

We see B-roll of DREW over the following --

JULIA HAYES

Drew became the initial suspect. He was the ex-boyfriend. He had access to the apartment. He was the last person to see her, alive... and with his career on the line, he had motive.

DREW

It became very clear to me, as soon as they brought me in, that they were going to try to pin this on me.

The screen BLURS -- we see CAPTIONS accompany a distorted audio interview --

ANONYMOUS COP

The department was very embarrassed that the Ali Daly situation had escalated like this. We had something like four reports from her, her begging us for help, all of this stuff out in the world... for her to go missing? And for us to have done nothing? There was a lot of pressure to bring someone in, fast, before we lost control of the narrative.

DREW

They got a warrant, they searched my house, they searched my devices... and found nothing. I lawyered up. But it didn't take a lawyer for me to point out the obvious -- that they needed to be looking at Nicholas Reynolds and his audience of right-wing crazies.

RAYMOND CLARKE

I've been called to give expert testimony in a number of court cases involving the Internet and social media, and one thing that always strikes me, is how much law enforcement, juries, and judges... most of whom are pushing 50, 60...

(MORE)

RAYMOND CLARKE (CONT'D)
 just don't understand the Internet.
 It probably didn't even occur to
 the LAPD to check out Nicholas
 Reynolds, even though they had a
 police report where Ali accuses him
 of inciting violence. They went
 straight to "the ex-lover did it."

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE/B-ROLL

INT. PATH OF THE RIGHT STUDIO SPACE - DAY

Previously seen footage of Nicholas yammering BLURS as title cards appear to accompany Danielle's VOICEOVER.

DANIELLE (V.O.)
 But something stranger still was
 occurring. Investigators realized
 that Path of the Right, Nicholas
 Reynolds's channel, had not posted
 for nearly two weeks -- the
 previously daily videos ceasing
 around the time Ali is theorized to
 have disappeared.

(pause)

By the time they had obtained a
 warrant and searched his home, they
 found Nicholas had hung himself.

RECOVERED VIDEO FILE

INT. NICHOLAS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A sloppy, nonprofessional selfie-like video -- uncomfortably close to Nicholas's face, the camera's LIGHT illuminating him in ugly grays.

A chyron appears over the video:

Footage recovered from Nicholas Reynolds's phone

NICHOLAS
 I don't know what's going on... I
 think Ali Daly might actually be a
 psychopath... I see these people in
 black, like the ones in her videos,
 all over... They're watching me,
 whenever I get close, they're
 gone... If anything happens to
 me...

A SOUND rings out -- Nicholas pivots toward it --

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Hello?...

(pause)

I don't want to die.

The video ENDS.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

DREW

At this point, the police don't know what to think. I'm cleared of suspicion, for now.

BEGIN MONTAGE

A series of reaction videos speculating on the case --

RESPONDER 1

It was obviously Drew, right? It's always the boyfriend.

RESPONDER 2

Nicholas killed her, got a guilty conscience -- some Telltale Heart shit -- killed himself. We've seen it before.

RESPONDER 3

It was probably some of Nicholas's guys gone rogue. Guy knew he went too far, realized there was no way out, killed himself.

RESPONDER 4

I can't believe no one's thinking Ali did this? Girl has been lying since the beginning, we don't know where he is, she "disappears" same time Nicholas "hangs himself." Come on, guys. Open your eyes. This is some classic crazy white girl shit.

The fifth responder bit includes several people gathered around the laptop camera, all wearing RED, BLUE, or WHITE SKI MASKS. They hold lighters aloft, lift.

SKI MASK RESPONDERS

We light one up for you, Nicholas Reynolds. You led us to the Path of the Right.

(MORE)

SKI MASK RESPONDERS (CONT'D)

We are the Right People, for the
Right Stuff. Ali Daly will pay.

END MONTAGE**TALKING HEADS****INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY**

We meet **RICK KASS** (doesn't mind a bit of on-camera time.)

The chyron identifies him as "DREW'S LAWYER."

RICK KASS

The state had no way to pursue the case at this point, against my client, or anyone else. Nicholas Reynolds was dead, and it wasn't clear if he died before or after Ali disappeared. Meanwhile, no one can ask Ali anything, so many assumed she was responsible.

DANIELLE

How, then, did you proceed?

RICK KASS

I argued my client was innocent. But it was clear to me that we had already seen the most obvious culprit on camera -- the man who broke into and attacked Ali Daly, who we now know to be **Keith Beltran**.

CUT TO BLACK...**TITLE CARDS:**

Police eventually identified Keith Beltran, a man convicted of no other crimes, as the individual who broke into Ali's apartment.

He became the principle suspect in the case. The following is the interview detectives conducted upon his arrest.

RECOVERED VIDEO RECORDING**INT. POLICE DETENTION ROOM - NIGHT**

The camera exclusively records Keith.

What's striking about him now is he looks like any ordinary guy. Your neighbor, coworker, cousin.

DETECTIVE (O.S.)
Keith, what did you do to Ali Daly?

KEITH
You already know that. It was recorded.

DETECTIVE (O.S.)
Did you kill her?

KEITH
No.

DETECTIVE (O.S.)
Did you --

KEITH
I went to her house, I got inside, and I tried to attack her. I wanted her dead. People like her -- she's the reason people like me are the way we are. Nicholas had it right. Now she's gotten him.

DETECTIVE (O.S.)
You wanted her dead. But you didn't kill her?

KEITH
I wanted to kill her. I would've loved to kill her, so maybe other girls would think twice, talking like she did. But I didn't get the chance.

DETECTIVE (O.S.)
You broke into her house, fairly easily. Why not go back?

KEITH
Well, I knew you guys would be watching and waiting. But I felt an awful energy around her. I didn't ever want to see her again.

The recording ENDS.

OVER BLACK...

TITLE CARDS:

Keith died by suicide the night after he gave this testimony.

He repeatedly slammed his head into the concrete wall along his cell until his skull was smashed beyond repair.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

Chris and Danielle together address the camera.

CHRIS

At this point, the police pinned the crime on Keith. He had capacity to carry out the crime. Most people accepted this story. The presumption was that Ali Daly was likely dead.

DANIELLE

That was the end of the story... Until a new video was uploaded to the anonymous channel. The channel that started everything.

UPLOADED VIDEO

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - NIGHT

A black void of darkness.

The only thing visible is Ali's face, her eyes closed.

They quickly open. She sees the camera...

Two GNARLED HANDS reach out from the darkness behind her and SINK THEIR FINGERS into her mouth --

Pulling her jaw wide, exposing her teeth and gums --

Ali's eyes widen and tear up --

The video ENDS.

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - NIGHT

DREW

I saw that video, and, uh... I don't know what to think. It was like seeing a ghost. Most of us had come to terms with the fact she was dead. I had settled on it being the Keith guy for a while, but... now...

JAMIE

I haven't written off Drew. I don't think it's him, but... maybe I just don't want to think he'd do something like that. It feels like it's the obvious answer. I saw what the Nicholas crazies could do, and I was a bystander. Who knows what they did to Ali? But, I guess she got what she wanted. Everyone knows who she is now.

ELIZABETH

Please don't show that to me. I don't want to see it.

DANIELLE (O.S.)

(to Julia)

Do you think Ali Daly is still alive?

JULIA HAYES

It feels a little inappropriate to speculate on that, don't you think?

RAYMOND CLARKE

It's been... three years since she disappeared.

(long pause)

I think she is most likely dead. And if she isn't, I think she wishes she was.

We settle on Elizabeth, who starts to break down.

ELIZABETH

Can you -- turn that off, for a minute?

DANIELLE (O.S.)

Of course.

Elizabeth stands and gathers herself. We see Danielle come into frame to comfort her.

But the camera keeps rolling, capturing her raw grief.

ELIZABETH

She never should have left. She should've just stayed home.

We CUT TO BLACK...

SITTING in the darkness for a long moment. Then:

RECOVERED FOOTAGE**INT. CHRIS & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

This isn't the usual, polished talking head footage of Chris and Danielle addressing the camera.

This is unadulterated -- a camera plopped on a tripod and rolling as they sit and talk in their meager apartment's workspace.

They're editing the documentary.

CHRIS

I think it's compelling enough.
It's an emotional ending.

DANIELLE

It's not. We can't just end it
there -- there's no resolution.

CHRIS

People like a mystery.

DANIELLE

No, they like half a mystery. They
like not knowing *for sure* -- but
they want to know who *probably* did
it, even if it can't quite be
proven. They get to feel smarter
than everyone else, smarter than
the police or the courts, and it
becomes the accepted truth.

CHRIS

But we don't know who did it.

DANIELLE

No shit. But we have to look at
what's here and decide what makes
sense.

Chris looks toward the camera.

CHRIS

Should we really having this
recording?

DANIELLE

No one's ever going to see *this*
conversation.

(MORE)

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

But in these kinds of docs, people want to see our investigation as it's happening -- they want to see how the sauce gets made. So when we make a breakthrough, we already have it, and it's rough around the edges. We'll cut the rest out.

CHRIS

Do you really think this'll work?

DANIELLE

You cut this together right, with a good ending, and we'll be able to get someone to stream it for sure. We'll get a ton of press, some interviews -- we'll get agents, then deals to do more. Maybe we'll do a sequel doc. But this is our way in. We won't have to live here anymore.

She gives Chris a kiss. He's conflicted... but goes with it.

CHRIS

Okay. So... what's our angle?

TALKING HEADS

INT. PRODUCTION SPACE - DAY

Drew sits back down, in a new outfit. A different interview.

DANIELLE

We appreciate you coming back. Realizing we just need a few pickups.

DREW

Happy to help... it's coming together?

DANIELLE

Definitely.

DREW

And you'll -- you'll send a cut by my lawyer, like we talked about?

DANIELLE

Of course.

DREW

Great.

DANIELLE
So, we wanted to talk to you about
your high school years.

DREW
Really.

DANIELLE
Just some background stuff. We want
to paint a full picture.

Drew shifts, uncomfortably.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
We found that, in addition to your
obvious involvement in the theater
& film clubs... you had a bit of a
presence online in something called
the Eagle's Battalion. Does that
sound familiar?

Drew clearly doesn't like where this is going.

DREW
I can't say I remember that.

DANIELLE
Well, it was an online forum. We
did manage to find what appears to
be your account -- "ActorDrew513."

Danielle hands Drew some PRINTOUTS of screen shots.

DREW
Uh, I don't think this was me.

Danielle produces another printout, hands it to him.

DANIELLE
You did say in this post here you
lived in the Bay Area, going to
this high school...

DREW
What are you trying to do here?

DANIELLE
The Eagle's Battalion was a white
supremacist organization. You were
aware of this?

DREW
I wasn't part of this.

DANIELLE
Would you say that under oath?

DREW
I don't have to.

DANIELLE
We found the IP address for
"ActorDrew513" matches that of your
childhood home -- the home where
your mother still lives.

Drew pauses, stewing, the evidence mounting. He wasn't prepared for this.

DREW
Can we -- can we turn -- ?

Danielle shakes her head. The camera continues recording.

Drew realizes how damning the footage looks.

DREW (CONT'D)
I didn't know what kind of a site --

Danielle pulls out more printouts --

DANIELLE
Do I need to read you some of the
posts "ActorDrew513" made?

DREW
I was fourteen. Have you never done
some stupid shit on the Internet at
fourteen?

(pause)

It was years ago. I'm not racist,
I'm not a white supremacist. All I
was saying is it's hard to want to
go into acting when you're a
straight, white guy, right now,
with the political climate being
what it is. And I know exactly what
you're trying to do here, but I
never talked to Nicholas Reynolds,
and I had *nothing* to do with what
happened to Ali.

He stands, storms out. SLAMS the door.

Danielle looks to the camera, smiling.

RECOVERED FOOTAGE

INT. CHRIS & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Camera still casually recording on the tripod. Chris and Danielle review an edit at Chris's workstation.

DANIELLE
We nailed him. He delete everything
off that site?

CHRIS
Yep, he wiped it.

DANIELLE
(taunting/singsong)
Good thing we have it cached.

CHRIS
We got a nice letter from his
lawyer.

DANIELLE
What, saying we can't use anything
he said?

CHRIS
More or less.

DANIELLE
Tough shit, he signed a release.

CHRIS
Can we handle a legal fight?

DANIELLE
It's open and shut. We'll be fine.

KNOCKING at the door.

Chris and Danielle look at each other, rise, move toward it.

CHRIS
Bet you we're getting served
already.

DANIELLE
He's digging his own grave. I bet
he's actually guilty. Get the
camera.

Chris grabs the camera, FOLLOWING Danielle to the door...

They open it...

But no one's there.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Hello?...

No response. But they hear FOOTSTEPS --

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Chris!

The camera steps out of the apartment and looks where Danielle is gesturing --

AT THE END OF THE HALL, someone who *looks like Ali from behind* races away, JUST missing a clear view as she slips around the corner.

Danielle and Chris make eye contact.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Ali!?

They give chase --

Dodging around corners --

Catching one or two additional glimpses, with the Ali-surrogate just one step ahead each time --

Until they get outside. "Ali" is gone.

The camera settles back on Danielle, catching her breath...

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Do you think it was her?!

CHRIS
Uh... I'm worried if it was.

RECOVERED FOOTAGE

INT. CHRIS & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Back inside, the camera on the tripod.

Chris and Danielle square off.

DANIELLE
I'm just saying, we couldn't have asked for a better twist.

CHRIS
If she knows about us -- if she's *alive* -- that means she's probably guilty, and probably messed up. We didn't sign up for this.

DANIELLE

We're not in any real danger. We're outside this... and if she tries anything, we'll be ready. Do you still have those surveillance cameras?

SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE

INT. CHRIS & DANIELLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

We flick through several SECURITY CAMERAS placed discreetly throughout rooms of the house.

A bathroom --

A bedroom --

The kitchen --

The hallway --

And the family room, which we've seen several times before.

Chris fiddles with the camera --

Danielle walks into the room, eyebrows raised --

DANIELLE

What are you doing?

CHRIS

I only have five.

DANIELLE

So? There are four rooms.

CHRIS

There's a blind spot. Noticed it going through our footage.

DANIELLE

So you're...

The camera starts to MOVE. Back and forth -- steadily. The camera is mounted on a rotating FAN.

It covers both sides of the family room -- the DOOR on one end, the EDITING BAY on the other.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Hah.

CHRIS
That'll do it.

DANIELLE
You'll keep an eye on this while
I'm gone?

CHRIS
Yeah.

DANIELLE
Try to have the cut for when I get
back. Deadline's coming up.

CHRIS
I'll get it done.

DANIELLE
Love you.

She gives him a quick kiss. Moves to the door -- leaves.
Chris gets up -- double checks it's locked.
Returns to the editing bay. Puts on headphones. Gets to work.

LATER

We flick through the cameras again.
Bathroom... bedroom... hallway... kitchen...
Rotating family room...
It oscillates to the door... still closed...
And Chris... headphones on, working...
The camera oscillates back... and forth... No action...
Flicking between the camera feeds again, we see...
FOLLOWERS. Emerging from impossible places.
In the bedroom -- from a closet.
In the kitchen -- from around a blind corner.
In the hallway -- from a spare room.
In the bathroom -- from the shower.
They converge in the hallway, moving slowly -- silently --
toward the family room.

They all pause in unison. LOOK UP at the hallway camera, straight into it.

At the FAMILY ROOM camera, the view oscillates toward the front door.

We hear RUSTLING -- the sound of a LOCK PICK --

It oscillates back toward Chris -- still at work, none the wiser, not hearing --

Back to the door -- which OPENS with a click. We don't see the intruder --

Oscillates back to Chris -- still not aware, but the FOLLOWERS approaching from the neighboring hall --

Oscillates back --

AS THE CAMERA moves, we see ANOTHER FOLLOWER, also in black, moving toward Chris, HOLDING something WHITE --

The camera lands on the door.

Oscillates back --

The Follower stands *directly behind* Chris, holding a CLOTH --

Oscillates back to the door. We start to hear a STRUGGLE --

Oscillates back --

The Follower holds the CLOTH -- soaked in CHLOROFORM -- over Chris's mouth. The struggle's over.

Chris slumps into the Follower's arms, who lets him gently slide to the floor.

The other Followers from the hallway have vanished.

Oscillates back to the door -- nothing.

Oscillates back again -- the Follower now sits at the editing bay, feverishly clicking.

It finishes whatever it's doing. It grabs a few HARD DRIVES --

The camera oscillates back -- nothing.

Oscillates again -- the Follower dashing past toward the front door --

Chris still lay past out near the computer --

Oscillates back --

The Follower crouches *RIGHT NEAR THE LENS* --

It hits a button, stopping the motion.

It examines the camera -- then pulls off its veil --

Revealing DREW.

DREW

Shit.

Drew looks up all around him, realizing there's cameras all over the house.

He contemplates what to do for a moment.

Then lifts the camera, inadvertently turning it slightly toward the editing bay --

Revealing the ACTUAL FOLLOWERS charging toward him --

The oscillating motion restarts --

They GRASP him from behind --

The camera oscillates away -- then returns --

Everyone -- including the unconscious Chris -- is gone. The apartment seems to be empty.

LATER STILL

The front door opens. Danielle returns.

She sees Chris isn't at the editing bay.

DANIELLE

Chris?

No answer.

She steps cautiously forward but nearly trips on her CAMERA, sitting on the ground, pointed up at her. Already recording.

She picks it up. Takes it with her...

She moves into the HALLWAY -- nothing. But all of the lights are out.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

This isn't funny.

She continues forward, turning into the BEDROOM --

And sees Chris and Drew sitting in front of an open LAPTOP, the light from the screen exclusively illuminating the room.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Chris, Jesus -- Drew?

She rushes forward, touches Chris --

But neither man moves. They're catatonic, dead eyes glued to the screen --

Danielle maneuvers around them and sees they're watching the Ali Daly Daily channel. Ali smiling and talking.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Chris -- seriously, guys, this
isn't cool.

She turns and sees

Ali sitting in a seat, her back to the camera, facing the corner of the room.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Ali?

She remains, the camera trained on her.

Suddenly -- Ali STANDS, slowly.

Danielle's breathing intensifies.

Ali turns her head. Already smiling.

Danielle turns to bail -- Chris and Drew now sit with their heads turned back, their faces pale, their mouths agape --

But FOLLOWERS lurk in every corner of the room, blocking her exit --

Danielle flips back around --

Ali is there --

The camera SHORTS OUT as Danielle SCREAMS --

MOMENTS LATER

The camera flickers back to life, seemingly on the bedroom floor, the laptop nearby and providing faint light.

Darkness engulfs the rest.

We sit here a minute...

But Ali crawls up to the camera out of the dark.

Already smiling. Eyes crazed.

ALI
Are you watching?

The camera SHUTS OFF, and we **SMASH TO BLACK.**

TITLE CARDS:

The documentary you just viewed was uploaded by the anonymous channel one week after Chris Strickland, Danielle Guyton, and Drew Dunne were reported missing.

Their bodies have not been found.

The documentary was quickly pulled for violating the website's community standards and terms of service.

Bootlegs, including the one you are viewing, have circulated the Internet ever since.

Officially, Nicholas Reynolds died by suicide. Ali Daly was murdered by Keith Beltran. Both cases remain closed.

As of June 2019, Ali's channel has amassed over one million subscribers. The anonymous channel, still host to hundreds of stalking videos, remains accessible. It has not posted any new content since the documentary upload.

It has over two million subscribers.

[The End]