

THE FINAL GIRLS

by

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OVER BLACK:

Final Girl: (noun) She alone looks death in the face, but she alone also finds the strength to slay the killer. She screams, staggers, falls, rises, and screams again.

She is abject terror personified.

-Carol Clover, *Men, Women & Chainsaws*

EXT. STRIP MALL, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - DAY

On a bench outside the Mucho Queso taco joint, **MAXINE 'MAX' CARTWRIGHT** (14) sits waiting patiently, staring at the freak DOWNPOUR pelting the landscape. Suitcase by her side. She's pretty, well-coiffed, a potential prom queen in the making.

Title Card: **THREE YEARS AGO**

In the parking lot beyond, a '94 Toyota Camry with a dented passenger door SWINGS into a space-- her MOTHER is here. MAX perks up and stands immediately, but her mother isn't getting out-- she's too busy PRIMING, checking her hair and makeup. After several beats, the PASSENGER window ROLLS DOWN: and we see **AMANDA CARTWRIGHT** (43), the epitome of aging Los Angeles blonde beach beauty, SMILING & WAVING apologetically to Max.

Max smiles indulgently and RAISES her own hand in a mild wave.

EXT. CASTING OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Amanda walking briskly towards the entrance, Max a few paces behind. Then, as they reach the entrance:

AMANDA

OK, I should be out in about a half-hour. An hour if they work with me.

MAX

Well-- Mom, can't I come in?

AMANDA

Max, honey, no. If you come in with me, it ages me ten years. Know what I mean?

(proffers \$5)

Here. Get a soda and wait for me in the car, OK?

Amanda gives Max a KISS and disappears inside the office. Max stands there, a THICK LIPSTICK print remaining on her cheek.

INT. AMANDA'S CAR - FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER

Max noisily sucks the last of her Diet Coke out of her cup. She sighs, LOOKS IN the messy, cluttered backseat: a bunch of clothes, hairbrushes, etc. At Max's on the floor of the passenger side: a Kinko's box of RESUMES & HEADSHOTS. She opens the box and grabs one, looks at it: Amanda's headshot is airbrushed within an inch of its life. She reads the RESUME on the reverse: credits like *Hart to Hart*, *Co-Ed Massacre*, *Star Beast*, *Lambada Jungle*, *Law & Order*, and, most prominently, at the top, *Camp Bloodbath*.

Max drops the resume and exits the car, walks back through the strip mall corridor towards the--

CASTING OFFICE

--where through the window, she SPOTS Amanda still sitting in the waiting area, worriedly RECITING HER LINES from her sides under her breath. After Max watches her for a few moments, Amanda is CALLED IN for her audition. Her worry DISAPPEARS as she instantly SMILES GENIALLY, FALSELY, walking into the room.

Max starts to walk back to the car, and she's only about ten yards from the casting office when AMANDA emerges from its doors. We watch her walk, defeated, towards us. It's heartbreaking. Then, when she gets to Max, she gives a SMILE as falsely confident as the one she gave to the Casting Director:

AMANDA
(shrugs)
...It went good.

INT. AMANDA'S CAR - LATER

Still raining. The car is in the middle of a long drive-thru line at Jack In The Box. Silence. Max is acutely aware of her mother's quiet dismay. They PULL up to the window, get their milkshakes, and drive off down Ventura. After several moments:

MAX
I'm gonna be in AP Calculus next year. And me and Vicki made the cheerleading squad, so I have to get a uniform and everything.

AMANDA
That's fantastic, honey, but... I don't have the cash for that right now.

MAX
Oh, you don't have to-- it's OK...

Max, shuts up, looks out her window, sips her milkshake. Pulling up to a stoplight, Amanda looks at Max, and, sensing her melancholy:

AMANDA
(brightly)
OK, enough with the moping! Know
what I mean? We're gonna have fun!
Who cares about those assholes
anyway?
(turning up the radio)
We're gonna party. Right?

The RADIO is playing **Nena's 99 Luftballons**. Amanda starts dancing in her seat, smiling at Max, who smiles shyly. Amanda grabs Max's arms and moves them around. Max laughs. They drive on, DANCING in their seats, singing along to the song. Max gets carried away, **and SPILLS her milkshake all over the KINKO'S BOX of HEADSHOTS.**

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Oh, GOD!

Amanda, still driving, REACHES in the backseat for something to clean the mess. The RAIN outside is getting heavier. The car's going faster than it should be. Amanda UNDOES her seatbelt.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
(reaching back for a
rag)
Oh, honey, those cost a fortune...!

MAX
(wiping them off)
I'm sorry! It was an accident!

AMANDA
(reaching down to wipe
the box off)
OK, it's OK, no big deal, no big
deal--

MAX
(looking ahead)
MOM!

Amanda LOOKS UP, SLAMS on the brakes as she gets to a RED LIGHT--

--the car HYDROPLANES, jackknifing into the intersection--

--directly into an ONCOMING CAR, creating a HEAD-ON collision into Amanda's side!

SLAM TO BLACK.

We HEAR The National's Blood Buzz Ohio.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BATHROOM - PRESENT DAY (MORNING)

SLOW MOTION: We DOLLY down a seemingly ENDLESS row of sinks against a long mirror, lingering on VARIOUS TYPES of GIRLS (14-17) looking at themselves in the mirror, doing makeup, gossiping, laughing, talking on the phone...

Title Card: ***THE FINAL GIRLS***

...until we ARRIVE at the bathroom's far WALL, where, leaning by a window, **MAX CARTWRIGHT** (now 17, dressed in flannel, dark pants, iPod, combat boots, newsboy cap, still gorgeous but looking more like Joan Jett's illegitimate daughter) is smoking a cigarette by the window. She FLICKS it out the window-- and notices TWO PREPPY GIRLS at the mirror giving her the side-eye.

Max ADJUSTS her Ray-Bans over her eyes, discreetly giving the girls the FINGER as she pushes the frames up over her nose. She WALKS AWAY.

TEACHER (V.O.)
So. Persephone. Who wants to tell
me about her? ...Max? How about
you?

INT. CLASSICS CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

Max, still wearing sunglasses, her iPod still on, listening to the National song. She doesn't notice the TEACHER looming over her. The **TEACHER** (40s, exhausted, infinitely patient) gently pulls the iPod buds out of Max's ears, and Max LOOKS up at her.

TEACHER
Max. Persephone. Go.

Max LOOKS up at the words on the board-- **Persephone, Hermes, Underworld**-- and is clearly unprepared.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
This should be easy, Max. We all
wrote a paper on it for today.
Correct, everybody?

The CLASS mutter their assent. Max hedges, thinking of what to say-- she LOOKS RIGHT, and catches sight of **CHRIS BRIGGS** (17, athletic, handsome, clean-cut, but with mischievous eyes) looking at her expectantly, encouragingly. After a moment, Max looks at the Teacher, shrugs, mildly embarrassed. The TEACHER sighs.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
OK. Anyone else? ...Yes, Lauren.

Behind Max, a pert, perky blonde, **LAUREN GILLESPIE** (17) has raised her hand.

LAUREN
She liked pomegranates?

THE BELL RINGS.

TIME CUT

The CLASS is leaving, but the TEACHER waves Max over to her desk. Max shuffles over, not wanting to hear it. In the corner, Chris LISTENS to their conversation.

TEACHER
I don't see an essay from you on my desk, Max.

MAX
I... was sick. Sorry.

TEACHER
You already have eight absences. Five tardies. Any more and you flunk. Plus, I heard you're failing Calculus. Are you *trying* not to graduate?

(off Max's scowl)
Look. I wouldn't be saying this if I didn't think you were one of the smartest kids in here. Which is why Chris Briggs is going to tutor you--

MAX
I don't *need* any help--

TEACHER
--he's going to tutor you and I expect an essay on Persephone on my desk from you next week. Or else. OK? No arguments.

Max SIGHS and starts to walk out-- and CHRIS hurries over to Max, smiling.

MAX
Hey. Sorry she saddled you with this. Sucks. I just don't *care*, you know?

CHRIS
I don't mind.
(breaking away)
And she didn't assign me. I volunteered.

MAX
(suspiciously)
You're weird.

CHRIS
(laughs)
OK. I guess I'm weird. See you
after school.

Max WATCHES him go, perplexed.

GERTIE (V.O.)
Chris Briggs volunteered?!

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Max is sitting with her close friend **GERTIE MICHAELS** (17, muffin-top, bad skin, braces, glasses, saxophone case-- Gertie makes Max look like Megan Fox). Gertie is big-hearted, shy and has a slight lisp. They sit in the SAD SIBERIA section of the caf.

GERTIE
Was he like "I volunteered," or was
it more--
(*"I wanna do you" voice*)
"I volunteered"?

MAX
Please. He's dating Vicki Summers.

GERTIE
Nuh-uhh...! Chris dumped Vicki this
past weekend at the *Galleria*. God,
he totally wants you. Nobody ever
goes after *me* like that.

MAX
Uh huh. Right. Sure. I'm, like,
fully dilated.

GERTIE
(noticing something)
Oh my God. Vicki and Lauren are
staring at us. Don't-look-don't-
look-don't-look...!

ANGLE ON

LAUREN sitting at a cool kids' table with **VICKI SUMMERS** (17, gorgeous, warm/acerbic-- even her blood is Type A). She looks distraught, to say the least. She BORES HOLES into Max's BACK with her eyes.

VICKI
Why Max? I don't get it. She's like
a walking suicide hotline.
(MORE)

VICKI (CONT'D)

(beat)

Is it because I'm fat? I'm stuck at a size 2. I mean it's not like I don't *try*.

LAUREN

(texting, absently)

Time for rebound sex. What about Scott Jennings? I hear he's totally *huge*. Felicia Woodruff had her first time with him and she said she hadn't cried that hard since 9/11.

Vicki's EYES well up. She's genuinely HURTING about this.

VICKI

I'm too fragile for sex right now.

(beat)

But I'm getting a serious revenge boner for Max.

Lauren, looking up, SMILES.

BACK TO MAX & GERTIE

Gertie can barely keep it together. Max is jumping out of her skin since she's not able to turn and look.

GERTIE

Vicki. Is. *Crying*. Genius.

(beat)

If I looked like Vicki? I would like, be, the biggest slut.

MAX

If you looked like her I would force-feed you chocolate till your period came back.

GERTIE

Uh oh. Your number one fan at 12 o'clock...

DUNCAN WEITZ (18, horror nerd extraordinaire with lingering acne scars) wanders over, drinking a giant can of Monster, twitching with anticipation. He SITS next to Gertie, and SLIDES a BIJOU THEATRE flyer over to MAX: on it is a POSTER for *Camp Bloodbath*, featuring her mother SCREAMING, running away from HATCHET-FACE a hulking lunatic in overalls wielding a machete. Max is immediately uncomfortable.

MAX

Duncan. Please. No. I can't.

DUNCAN

But I already told like four horror blogs that Amanda Cartwright's daughter is gonna be there tonight along with the rest of the cast! I even got you a present as a thank you!

MAX

Duncan. It's just too soon for me.

DUNCAN

But all these guys I know are so excited to meet you! I promised them I'd convince you to come!

MAX

(standing)

Great. Guys old enough to be my father asking if I can scream as good as my Mom. Every girl's dream.

(readies to leave)

Forget it. Gertie, I'll call you later.

As MAX walks away, Duncan pulls out the big guns.

DUNCAN

I'll do your Calculus homework for a whole semester!!

Max STOPS in her tracks, and TURNS AROUND.

ANGLE ON VICKI & LAUREN

Whose curiosities have been piqued. What are these nerds yammering about?

BACK TO MAX

MAX

No.

DUNCAN

Two semesters!

GERTIE

You *do* need help there, Max. Your GPA's in rehab.

MAX

(long beat)

Fine. Two semesters. And I'll be there. But I won't watch the movie. OK?

DUNCAN
 YES! Yes! Awesome!
 (as Max walks away)
 And-- we'll hang after the movie!
 Like, just the two of us or
 something! OK, uh, cool! Talk
 later!

He **FACES** Gertie, who regards him pitifully.

GERTIE
 Give it up, Duncan. Never gonna
 happen. Besides, I don't think
 she's ever even seen the movie.

Duncan, hearing this, is deflated. Gertie smiles sweetly.

GERTIE (CONT'D)
 But, uh, *I'll* hang with you. After.
 If you want...

DUNCAN
 (getting up, leaving)
 No, that's OK. Whatever.

Gertie, alone, sighs, and takes a bite of a brownie.

INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gertie flossing in the bathroom-- and in the middle of it, she STOPS, staring at herself-- her size, her acne, her ungainliness-- in the mirror in silence. Several beats of this until suddenly, offscreen, we HEAR the door open and shut. When GERTIE turns to face it--

--VICKI & LAUREN are standing there. Smiling. Uh oh.

VICKI
 So what's the story?

GERTIE
 Uh-- food gets caught in my braces
 after meals so I--

VICKI
 Not *that*. The movie tonight. Max.
 (beat)
 And *don't* lie.

Off Gertie's nervous, darting eyes, we HEAR A DEAFENING CLAP OF THUNDER AND CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. CARTWRIGHT HOME, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - LATER

The modest, unimposing Colonial home sits on a nondescript street. CLOUDS are coming in fast overhead.

We PUSH in to see MAX sitting at the front WINDOW, looking up at the sky. It STARTS to rain... and she WALKS out of frame.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - PRESENT

Papered with Joan Jett posters, Franz Kafka print, and an *Edward Scissorhands* poster. A messy bed. Handwritten quotes from Dorothy Parker and Nietzsche on the walls. Max puts on a Lou Reed record and her phone BEEPS. She checks the text: it's from her Dad.

Staying extra night in Detroit. Sorry kiddo. Love you.

She tosses the phone on the bed, and GRABS a PRESCRIPTION PILL bottle on her nightstand, tries to POUR a capsule out in her hand-- but whoops, it's EMPTY. She frowns, then TOSSES the LOT in the trash.

INT. CARTWRIGHT LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Max GOES to a drawer near the TV, OPENS IT: **Inside are a bunch of old VHS tapes. Max FISHERS ONE OUT.**

MAX (V.O.)
OK, wait... OK, OK, go! I'm ready!

MOMENTS LATER

Max, on the couch next to her bulldog FRANKIE, WATCHING an old HOME MOVIE on the TV. We SWITCH ANGLES to WATCH IT too:

On the screen, a 10-year-old MAX is next to AMANDA (who's 39) in a rainy backyard. They hold umbrellas and lipsynch to "Singing in the Rain." The song ends, and Amanda KISSES Max on the cheek, then TURNS TO THE CAMERA...

...and BLOWS A KISS right at us.

PRESENT TIME

On the couch, Max "CATCHES" the kiss, smiling wistfully. Then, she LOOKS at the CLOCK: it's 4:52pm.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UPS of old DRAWINGS depicting the abduction of Persephone, Hades, and Hermes' descent into the Underworld.

CHRIS (V.O.)
Persephone was the daughter of Zeus. The King of the Underworld, Hades was obsessed with her, so he took her below the earth into Hell to keep her forever.

INT. CARTWRIGHT LIVING ROOM - LATER

Max and Chris sitting on the floor, BOOKS spread out, rain still falling outside.

CHRIS

Her boyfriend Hermes was pissed, though, so he dropped everything and travelled to the Underworld to get her out. But he couldn't, so he struck a deal with Hades: she'd stay in the Underworld during Fall and Winter, and she'd get to leave during Spring and Summer.

MAX

So they just wishboned her? Was Hermes crazy or just stupid?

CHRIS

I think neither. I think he was just... brave.

The contradiction hangs in the air for a few moments.

MAX

Well... OK. I, uh, I better start getting ready-- I have this, uh, movie thing to do.

(off Chris' look)

One of my Mom's movies. They want me to stand up there and talk about how much she loved shooting it. They made an offer I couldn't refuse.

CHRIS

Oh, cool. Which movie?

INT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

An overhead BULB is clicked on, shedding LIGHT on a *Camp Bloodbath* poster. Max shuffles over to a BOX and thumbs through old LOBBY CARDS from the movie, shows them to Chris. He FOCUSES on one that shows AMANDA sitting on a hay bale, SCREAMING.

CHRIS

Camp Bloodbath! No way! I didn't know the Bijou was running it tonight!

MAX

She played this bimbo who screws like half the counselors, and then Hatchet-Face-- the bad guy-- cuts her up and locks her in a barn and sets it on fire. Good times.

CHRIS

Wow, that's awesome! I saw your Mom in *Star Beast* like five times when I was a kid. Love that movie.

MAX

Yeah, she had a run of scary movies. Pretty good ones. She always played the hot chick who dies.

(beat)

Secretly, though... She always wanted to play the girl who kicks the bad guy's ass. You know?

CHRIS

I must be the only person who hasn't seen it.

MAX

You should. It's totally the *Sophie's Choice* of dead teenager movies.

Chris LOOKS at a picture of Amanda that Max is holding.

CHRIS

She's really beautiful.

MAX

Right?

CHRIS

You look just like her.

MAX

That's what my Dad says. So.

Tense beat. Max stares at her Mom's PICTURE... then moves to put it back in the box.

MAX (CONT'D)

(waves the photo)

Here's all that's left of her.

CHRIS

You OK?

MAX

What? No. I'm a broken doll.
Scarred for life.

(beat)

Yes. I'm fine. Look-- I'm not,
like... a moron, you know? In
school?

CHRIS

I've known you since fourth grade,
Max. I *know* how smart you are.

(off her shy smile)

So... can I come with you? To the
movie?

MAX

Seriously?

CHRIS

(smiles)

You said I should see it, right?

MAX

(oh, shit)

Uh... yeah. Right. Cool.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

INT. FRONT FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

MAX & CHRIS enter and OPEN the door-- and **Vicki and Lauren**
(dressed and made-up to the trampy nines) are standing there!

VICKI & LAUREN

Hiiiiiiiiii...!

CHRIS

What are you *doing* here?

MAX

Vicki, Lauren. And it's not even
Halloween.

VICKI

Yeah Max, maybe this year you could
go as a girl.

(beat)

I just have something to say to
Chris. Lauren will mediate. Her
father's a couples' counselor.

LAUREN

My father's a couples' counselor.

VICKI

Chris, I just want to say I'm cool
with whatever you want. I just hope
we can be friends is all.

LAUREN

Alright, Vicki. Chris, how does
that make you feel?

CHRIS

Uh... Good. Awesome.

Max's BROW FURROWS. Vicki's attitude can't be for real.

VICKI

Oh, I feel so much better!
(walks into house)
What's there to drink around here?

MAX

(mutters)
There's Drano under the sink.

VICKI (O.S.)

I heard that, Max...

INT. CARTWRIGHT LIVING ROOM - LATER

The liquor cabinet's been raided. Lauren TEXTING on the
couch. Max not drinking anymore. Vicki & Lauren do a shot.
Chris smiling discreetly, embarrassed, at Max. Music
blasting.

LAUREN

(holds up iPhone)
Vicki. Read this text for me...?

VICKI

Jesus, Lauren. Get it together.
(to others)
Lauren's dyslexic. In American
History last week she told the
class that Bobby Kennedy was shot
by Duran Duran.

LAUREN

(reddening)
I can read. The letters just get
mixed up sometimes...!

VICKI

MotherFATHER this stuff is strong.
Rape juice, not from concentrate.

CHRIS

Vicki, I think you've had enough.

VICKI
(does another shot)
Probably. So what are you guys
doing tonight?

CHRIS
Studying.

VICKI
Mmm. Totally. I can tell. Well, can
I hang with you guys? Max, we could
ride our bikes to the DQ like we
used to when we were 12.
(to Chris)
Max totally had a crush on me. She
used to beg to ride on my
handlebars.

MAX
Oh, Vicki. That's not true. You
were at least 15 before your
moustache grew in.

Lauren GUFFAWS, but is silenced by Vicki's glare.

MAX (CONT'D)
Anyway, we're going to the Bijou.

LAUREN
(acting badly)
No. WAY! For *Camp Bloodbath*? Us
TOO! Vicki, did you hear that?

VICKI
(deadpan)
Like OMG what a coincidence,
exclamation mark.

MAX
(evil eye)
Wow. You should for sure like totes
come with.

CHRIS
Vicki, you don't even *like* horror
movies.

VICKI
Nuh-uh. I love horror movies. I've
never seen the original but I've
seen parts 3 and 4 on cable.
(to Max)
See, this is what you should know
about Chris. I never felt I was
being *heard*. Get it?

LAUREN
Chris, how does that make you fee--

VICKI
Shut up, Lauren.
(to Max and Chris)
We better go! My car!

She STANDS and WALKS OUT. Lauren follows. Chris gives an apologetic look to Max. Max smiles grimly.

SLAM CUT TO:

EXT. CARTWRIGHT HOME - MOMENTS LATER

--As the DOORS on Vicki's ESCALADE SLAM SHUT and it PEELS AWAY from the curb.

INT. ESCALADE - CONTINUOUS

Vicki drives. Chris is shotgun. Lauren and Max in the backseat. Max double-checks her seatbelt, already uncomfortable. Vicki is already driving FASTER than the speed limit.

LAUREN
This guy last year saw me at the mall and asked me to be in a horror movie. But I said no 'cause I hadn't acted since I was like 10, when I got called back twice for that Disney movie about the cat who becomes President.

MAX
Wow, that's-- wow. Uh...
(re: speed)
...Vicki, could you--

VICKI
Something wrong, Max?

Vicki GUNS the car faster. Max is starting to look queasy. Out the window, the SCENERY is starting to WHIP BY.

CHRIS
Vicki--

VICKI
You comfortable back there, Max?

Max GRIPS her arm rests as VICKI goes FASTER--

MAX
Please stop.

--and FASTER--

MAX (CONT'D)

STOP!

--just as Vicki PULLS INTO a parking space with brute force. They're just down the road from the Bijou. Max is TREMBLING. Chris LOOKS at her, concerned--

VICKI

("concerned")

What's wrong, Max?

("realizing")

Oh no. Was I going too fast?

Vicki TURNS around to glare at Max, who STARES at her for a beat, giving her a look that screams, *Who ARE you?* After a moment, Max bolts out of the car and start WALKING DOWN THE STREET. Vicki's bravado suddenly fades.

VICKI (CONT'D)

God, I'm just *kidding* around--

CHRIS

Max--! Vicki, what the hell is going on?

VICKI

Everyone knows she's damaged. I'm doing you a *favor*, Chris.

Chris gives her a furious look, then DARTS out of the car. Silence. Vicki, stung, suddenly gets a wave of GUILT as she LOOKS AT MAX walking away in her rearview mirror.

LAUREN

God. She acts like you brought her to Guantanamo to get like, *motorboated* or something.

VICKI

Shut up, Lauren.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Chris HUSTLES down the street after a livid Max.

CHRIS

Max! Wait up! Please?

Max STOPS. After a second, she SITS on the curb. Chris joins her.

MAX

I'm sorry. I just-- nevermind.

(beat)

I don't even like taking the bus to school. Vicki knows this.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
She obviously thought I'd freak or--
whatever. I'm fine.

Chris, after a moment, SCOOTs closer to Max. They STARE in silence at the ROWDY CROWD heading into the Bijou.

CHRIS
You wanna go home?
(off Max's shrug)
We can do whatever, just... forget
about Vicki. Don't let her win.

MAX
It's so weird that we're hanging
out again. You know?

Chris laughs a little. Max does too. Max's gaze travels to Vicki's Escalade. Vicki STEPS OUT of it, looking at them, curious. Max's blood BOILS.

CHRIS
Come on. I'll walk you home.

MAX
No.

CHRIS
You... wanna be alone?

MAX
No, I wanna hang with you.
(beat)
Take me to the movies.

Chris SMILES... and they WALK INTO THE:

INT. BIJOU THEATRE LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

As MAX and CHRIS walk inside, a guy dressed as HATCHET-FACE, the movie's villain, jumps out in front of her, YELLING-- then LAUGHS and runs away. Max is terrified but forces herself to laugh when she sees Chris laughing. He PUTS HIS ARM around her-- and BEHIND THEM, we can see that VICKI & LAUREN have come inside too, watching them.

The Bijou's assistant manager, **DUNCAN** (whom we saw at the beginning of the movie), fielding patrons, nearly does a spit-take when he sees Max, and he RUSHES OVER:

DUNCAN
FINALLY! It's just starting--
(yells to crowd)
YOU GUYS! Amanda Cartwright's
daughter is here!!

A round of hearty claps, "wooo" sounds. A few of the *Camp Bloodbath* FAITHFUL start to CROWD Max. Chris PUTS his arm around her, and Duncan SHOOS them away.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
 You'll have to wait for the Q&A,
 people, give her space...!
 (beat, to Max)
 Listen. Here's a gift certificate
 to the Pancake Hut. I'll text you
 when the movie's over so you can
 come back, OK? But before you go...
 well, maybe I shouldn't give it to
 you...

MAX
 What? What is it?

Duncan smiles, relenting, and produces a musty BURLAP SACK. Max, puzzled, OPENS it-- and her face FALLS in surprise as she reveals what's inside: **a MACHETE. It GLINTS under the lights-- it's an impressive weapon.**

MAX (CONT'D)
 Duncan. Is this...?

DUNCAN
 The *real* machete from *Camp Bloodbath*? Yes. It is. This is the one they used in your Mom's movie. *This* is Hatchet-Face's machete-- the Final Girl uses it to kill him in *Camp Bloodbath*. I met this guy at Horror-Con who knew a guy who was this weirdo Satanist who collected scare-flick weapons and used them in ceremonies and whatever-- but he got arrested and his ex-girlfriend *sold* it to me...!

MAX
 This... is an incredibly...
 thoughtful gift. And weird. But...
 wow. Thank you.

CHRIS
 Dude, this must have cost you a fortune!

DUNCAN
 (eyes on Max)
 Well, it was worth it. I figured you should have it. Just... keep it in the bag when you're at Pancake Hut. Don't wanna freak people out.

Max smiles at Duncan, touched. Duncan smiles, empathetic.

CHRIS

Oh, so we're not gonna watch the movie...?

MAX

(covering)

Well, I've seen it like a *bunch* of times, so I was all, whatever, but, if you're disappointed, or...

SUDDENLY: GERTIE, dressed in an ill-fitting USHER UNIFORM, rushes over, beaming at the sight of Max with Chris.

GERTIE

What a sweet couple you both make. I recommend the Belgian chocolate pancakes. God, that makes me sound like such a fat cow, right?

CHRIS

(to Max)

I get it. That's cool. Let's get pancakes then.

MAX'S POV: The lobby goes quieter, and we hear Max's BREATHING. She looks at Duncan...

DUNCAN

(whispers)

If you're too scared, it's OK.

...and Max's POV PANS over to see VICKI glaring at her from across the lobby... then OVER TO Chris, who's LOOKING at her with an indulgent smile... then over to LAUREN, who's eating REESE'S PIECES, bored, between two HATCHET-FACE wannabes... **then OVER to a PICTURE of her MOTHER from the movie in a lobby case. She's LAUGHING, looking gorgeous.**

BACK TO PRESENT

Max breaks her stare from the picture, exhales, and looks at Chris:

MAX

No. I wanna watch the movie.

(to Duncan)

For Chris. He's a *Camp Bloodbath* virgin, so...

Duncan HIDES his dismay. Max clearly likes this guy.

DUNCAN

(good-natured)

No shit. Well, you're gonna love it! Just follow Gertie...!

Max GIVES Duncan a sweet peck on the cheek for the gift and goes off with Chris. Duncan tries not to crumble.

MAIN THEATRE

Camp Bloodbath has ALREADY STARTED, and they SIT in the front row. **Max WEDGES the wrapped MACHETE between their seats.**

GERTIE
I'll be back later...!

Gertie RUNS back up the aisle. CHRIS TAKES MAX'S HAND. Max just faces forward, trying to keep a poker face. Butterflies.

BEHIND THEM: Vicki and Lauren are two rows back, watching them. Off the hand-holding, they look at each other like, *what the fuck?*

ON THE SCREEN: a **FRIGHTENED BOY** (12) is being CORNERED by **BULLIES** (all 12) outside a summer camp CABIN.

We POP INTO THE SCREEN:

EXT. CAMP CABIN - NIGHT

The FRIGHTENED BOY is taunted by boys who CARRY small TORCHES-- and there's no way for the BOY to get away from them. He's got a lazy eye, and a limp.

Next to the bullies, a **YOUNG GIRL** (12) cries, distraught.

BULLIES
Come on, retard.../ Why you so scared, huh...?

YOUNG GIRL
Leave Joey alone, you guys! Stop!

Then: one of the BULLIES SHOVES the TORCH too close-- and it BURNS the BOY'S FACE! He SCREAMS, and FALLS to the ground-- and the YOUNG GIRL SCREAMS--

--and one of the BULLIES goes to the BOY, instantly sorry-- but the ailing BOY is REACHING FOR A MACHETE leaning against the cabin wall, picking it up...

..and then he STANDS, and brings it down on the BULLY'S SKULL WITH IT! Blood flies all over him and the cabin wall!

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Two ORDERLIES DRAG the strait-jacketed DISFIGURED BOY down a filthy hallway, TOSSING HIM into a ROOM. We CLOSE IN on the little window in the DOOR... nothing for a moment-- then SUDDENLY the BOY'S SCARRED, BLOODSHOT EYE POPS INTO VIEW, and we **CUT TO BLACK!**

Title Card: FIVE YEARS LATER**EXT. MENTAL HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

We're in the HOSPITAL HALLWAY. A NURSE with HUGE BOOBS is preparing a SYRINGE. A DOCTOR who SMOKES LOOKS through a CELL WINDOW at a SLEEPING PATIENT: a hulking GIANT of a man with an obscured face. Inside, the CELL is DECORATED with summer camp paraphernalia: all the pennants and pictures are marked "Camp Bluebird"-- and DEFACED with demented scribbles.

NURSE

What is it, Doctor?

DOCTOR

Nothing, Nurse Harris. I'm just concerned for Joey. It's five years to the day that he was brutally beaten and scarred by those terrible children at that summer camp-- and still he shows no signs of improvement. He will never be sane again, Nurse Harris.

NURSE

Yes, Doctor.

They ENTER THE ROOM--

INSIDE THE ROOM

--and the NURSE goes to the sleeping **SCARRED MAN** (17, but waaaaay big for his age) and preps the syringe--

THEN: THE SCARRED MAN'S EYES OPEN and he SITS UP SUDDENLY!

IN THE THEATRE (REAL LIFE)

The whole AUDIENCE SCREAMS, thrilled--

BACK ON THE SCREEN

--as the SCARRED MAN RIPS OPEN the screaming NURSE'S UNIFORM, and, grabbing her hand, FORCES HER TO STAB HERSELF OVER AND OVER IN THE THROAT WITH HER SYRINGE!

The SCARRED MAN WALKS TOWARDS the DOCTOR--

DOCTOR

Please... no! NO!

--and he STRANGLES HIM with his stethoscope, CAUSING HIS EYES TO POP OUT OF HIS HEAD!

The SCARRED MAN STANDS, takes a PILLOWCASE from the bed. He RIPS an EYEHOLE in it and PUTS IT ON, STARING IN THE MIRROR as a THUNDERCLAP SOUNDS OUTSIDE the hospital window... he has become HATCHET-FACE!

IN THE THEATRE (REAL LIFE)

The AUDIENCE goes ballistic. We CLOSE IN on Max, who's LAUGHING at the violence, Chris too. PUSHING BACK, we see Vicki sulking, Lauren TEXTING (as usual)... then PUSHING FURTHER BACK...

...is a **STONER KID** with a LIT JOINT in his hand. He's nodding off... and the JOINT FALLS OUT OF HIS HAND, ROLLING--

UNDER THE SEATS

--DOWN, down, down until it HITS a PILE OF DROPPED NAPKINS SOAKED in popcorn oil. They START to SMOKE.

BACK ON THE SCREEN

EXT. FOREST ROAD - MORNING

A beat-up VW hippie van cruises down a road, then SLOWS DOWN next to a **CRAZY OLD FART** (late 60s) who's riding his bicycle down the path. The passenger WINDOW OPENS...

...and it REVEALS AMANDA CARTWRIGHT, in the part of TINA, aged 22 (but playing 17), looking gorgeous. Stunning. Feathered hair, headband, reverse-cleavage t-shirt. The character is, essentially, a total bimbo.

BACK IN THE THEATRE

We CLOSE IN on MAX, who STARES UP at her gorgeous mother's image in WONDER. Chris GLANCES at Max, HOLDS HER HAND TIGHTER. GERTIE & DUNCAN sneak into SEATS next to them.

BACK ON THE SCREEN

TINA
Hey, I'm Tina! Do you know the way
to Camp Bluebird?

CRAZY OLD FART
It's cursed! You're all DOOMED if
you go there!

TINA
God, bag your face, you weirdo!

BACK IN THE THEATRE (UNDER THE SEATS)

The NAPKINS are on FIRE. The FLAMES are LAPPING HIGHER, catching onto sagging upholstery from old SEATS...

...and we RISE UP, CRUISING UP the AISLE to see a **BUNCH OF DRUNK KIDS** barge into the theatre, sneaking a FULL ECONO-SIZED BOTTLE of EVERCLEAR ALCOHOL...

BACK ON THE SCREEN

TINA (Max's Mom) is chewing gum, her knees up, painting her TOENAILS on the Van's dashboard. Behind her, PAULA (the good girl) is shaking her head.

PAULA
Tina, do you ever think about
anything but the boys at camp?

TINA
Sure! I think about all the boys in
L.A. I'm gonna meet when I move
there!

BACK IN THE THEATRE

The DRUNK KIDS try to step over people to get seats-- but then one of them DROPS THE BOTTLE OF EVERCLEAR--

BACK ON THE SCREEN

TINA laughs, TOSSES HER HAIR--

BACK IN THE THEATRE

Max LAUGHS, enjoying herself, TEARS in her eyes at the sight of her mother's beauty--

BACK IN THE THEATRE (UNDER THE SEATS)

--the SPILLED EVERCLEAR IS STREAMING ALL THE WAY DOWN TOWARDS THE FLAMES--

BACK ON THE SCREEN

TINA (CONT'D)
(smiles)
I bet this'll be a summer I'll
never forget...!

BACK IN THE THEATRE (UNDER THE SEATS)

--and the EVERCLEAR MAKES CONTACT WITH THE FLAMES-- IGNITING--
and a CARPET OF FIRE FLIES ALL THE WAY UP the THEATRE, UNDER
THE SEATS!

IMMEDIATE PANDEMONIUM as PATRONS SCREAM and stand, freaking out, the FIRE quickly SPREADING! They START TRAMPLING each other as we WHOOSH DOWN THE AISLE as MAX, CHRIS, DUNCAN and GERTIE STAND UP, terrified!

DUNCAN
Oh, *shit...*! Where are the
sprinklers!?

The FOUR OF THEM look quickly up the AISLE-- it's so crowded
there's no way they'll get out the way they went in! The
EMERGENCY EXIT doors next to the screen are CRAMMED too, and
the FIRE is even CLOSER to those doors anyway!

GERTIE
What do we do?!

And Max LOOKS at the screen, realizing something--

MAX
Duncan! Is there an exit behind the
screen?!

DUNCAN
I-- I don't-- uh, YES! For
maintenance! Go! GO!

Chris JUMPS OVER the seats and gets up on the little dais,
HELPING MAX, GERTIE and DUNCAN CLIMB UP-- and they PUSH
AGAINST the SCREEN, TRYING TO TEAR INTO IT--

--and Max LOOKS BACK at the commotion to see VICKI & LAUREN
looking totally helpless and terrified!

MAX
Vicki! Lauren! HERE!!!

Max REACHES for them, helps them CLIMB UP-- and MAX RETURNS
TO THE SCREEN, PUSHING AGAINST IT--

SLOW MOTION

Silence. Only the sound of Max's BREATHING as she LOOKS into
the projected IMAGE of her MOTHER'S FACE, her EYES--

--and then MAX LOOKS BACK at her SEAT-- and SEES the WRAPPED
MACHETE there, its blade TWINKLING at her in the LIGHT--

--and Max JUMPS DOWN, GRABBING THE MACHETE-- then RUNNING
BACK TOWARDS THE DAIS, JUMPING UP-- RAISING THE MACHETE,
which GLINTS WITH A BLUE-WHITE SHEEN from the still-running
projector's light--

--and MAX RAISES IT, about to SLAM IT INTO THE SCREEN, when
we--

HARD CUT TO WHITE.

THEN:

EXTREME CLOSE UP

On Max's WEARY EYES OPENING-- and in her eyes, we SEE, REFLECTED, flames, the shadows of panicked cinema patrons flailing about. We HEAR their SCREAMS echoing, sounding FAR AWAY-- and then, in her eyes, we can see that these IMAGES ARE DISAPPEARING, as though they're fading out of view.

MEDIUM SHOT

--of MAX, who SITS BOLT UPRIGHT, LOOKING around-- and she STANDS UP QUICKLY, trembling. There's nothing but CLEAR BLUE SKY above, TREES around her. It appears she's on a

DIRT ROAD

She WINCES in pain, COUGHING like crazy from the SMOKE she inhaled. **The MACHETE is nowhere to be seen.** Max LOOKS ALL AROUND HER-- the woods are a SATURATED, RICH COLOR that was absent from the world before-- and then, she TURNS to find CHRIS RIGHT THERE!

CHRIS

Max...!

MAX

Oh GOD! Oh-- what-- where the hell are we?

CHRIS

(freaked out)

I dunno... did the theatre burn down?

MAX

Where'd everybody go?

(looks down)

Where's the, the, machete...? I-- I had it when I-- where'd it go?

But then Max and Chris hear a RUSTLING in the trees. They WHIRL AROUND to find LAUREN standing there, holding her iPhone, whimpering.

LAUREN

I'm cold. And... there's no service...!

DIFFERENT TREES RUSTLE again, STARTLING EVERYONE into looking at them-- and a hacking, SOILED VICKI stumbles out of them, spitting a leaf out of her mouth.

VICKI

(in shock)

I... can't find the car.

DUNCAN
 (also emerging from
 trees)
 Am I alive? I'm alive. Am I alive?

GERTIE walks over to them, dirty, but somehow OK.

GERTIE
 We're dead, aren't we. Because
 everything's pretty. Just like that
 horrible Robin Williams movie.

MAX
 OK. Everyone chill. This-- this is
 a road. We can just wait for
 someone to, I dunno--

CHRIS
 Max. Why does it feel like someone
 else is here too?

Max LOOKS around-- Chris is right. Then, she LOOKS in the
 distance-- and sees a GLINTING of light reflecting on A
 BICYCLE coming down the road towards them!

MAX
 Someone's coming...!

She MOVES CLOSER to what's coming... and we see that it's the
 CRAZY OLD FART from Camp Bloodbath. He LOOKS AT MAX,
 CONFUSED... and he RIDES the bike **right into a TREE**, hitting
 it with a BANG, and falling down, tumbling off the side of
 the road into a RAVINE.

The ARRIVING GANG stare in disbelief, then VICKI walks
 towards the edge of the road... and then, suddenly, the CRAZY
 OLD FART POPS UP! Vicki squeals in surprise--

CRAZY OLD FART
 It's cursed! You're all DOOMED if
 you go there!

VICKI
 Go where? Where are we?

CRAZY OLD FART
 You're all DOOMED!

LAUREN
 (panicking)
 Why does he keep SAYING that?!

And then COF gets back on the bike, looking confused, and
 rides back the way he came. Gertie looks NAUSEOUS.

We HEAR the opening strains of **Dire Straits' Money For
 Nothing** as MAX turns around to SPY an oncoming

VW VAN

And Max RECOGNIZES the Van... and her BROW FURROWS as we SWITCH TO

SLOW MOTION

...as we CLOSE IN on Max's face as the grim, unthinkable reality sets in... as the VW hippie van BRAKES next to the GANG... and the PASSENGER WINDOW slowly lowers... as Max's eyes WIDEN in disbelief at what she SEES... as the whole GANG'S EYES widen too...

...and TINA from Camp Bloodbath-- Amanda Cartwright, Max's Mom-- pokes her head out the window, gorgeous, smiling.

TINA
Hey, I'm Tina! Do you know the way
to Camp Bluebird?

MAX
...Mom...?

DUNCAN
Oh my God.

VICKI
(whispering)
We're dreaming. This is a dream.

Max can't move... but then, she SHAKES her head and HURRIES away. The REST of the GANG FOLLOWS. As they WALK AWAY:

MAX
Oh my God. I didn't take my meds
today. I'm having a psychotic
episode.

VICKI
What, we're all having your
psychotic episode?

Behind them, the VW VAN speeds away, out of sight. The GANG watches it go.

CHRIS
So... there's that. Let's just...
wait for another car. Right?

The GANG nods nervously. Then, Gertie VOMITS.

TIME CUT

Title Card: **NINETY MINUTES LATER**

The GANG is sweaty, exhausted, walking lamely along the side of the same road.

VICKI

How the fuck have we not even
passed a gas station or something?!
This is the *Valley*! There should be
overpriced chain cafes every twenty
feet!

MAX

Wait--!

And in the distance, the VW VAN is coming again. The GANG
freezes in disbelief as it STOPS, and Tina's HEAD pokes out
again as though for the first time:

TINA

Hey, I'm Tina! Do you know the way
to Camp Bluebird?

CHRIS

(long beat)

Uh. Yeah. Straight ahead.

TINA

Rock 'n roll! Thanks!

And the VW VAN speeds away again. Max CLOSES her eyes, then
OPENS THEM again, as if to WILL HERSELF to wake up from this
bizarre dream.

MAX

Oh, fuck...! Are we all dead?

LAUREN

We're not dead. We're INSANE...!

We PAN OVER TO Duncan, who LOOKS at his watch, setting the
TIMER on it to count down from 90 minutes again.

DUNCAN

No, we're not... And I don't think
we're in the Valley anymore.

TIME CUT

Title Card: ***ANOTHER NINETY MINUTES LATER***

The GANG is sitting by the side of the road, exhausted.

VICKI

(to Duncan)

You. Nerd. What the hell are we
waiting for?

DUNCAN

(looking at watch)

Right... now.

Duncan's WATCH BEEPS repeatedly-- and he LOOKS down the road, into the distance... and the VW Van is coming along again. It PULLS UP, and Tina POPS her head out:

TINA
Hey, I'm Tina! Do you know the way
to Camp Bluebird?

LAUREN
(falling apart)
Oh my GAWD....!

DUNCAN
(to Tina)
Yeah. We do. We're counselors too.
And we can show you if you give us
a ride.

TINA
Sure! Hop in!

Chris grabs Duncan as the VAN DOOR slides open:

CHRIS
Dude-- what are you doing?

DUNCAN
Do we have a choice?

Chris RELENTS, and VICKI walks past him into the van, along with Lauren and Gertie.

VICKI
Fuck it. I'm dehydrated. Come on,
Chris.

Chris gets in. Max is the sole person still standing on the road. Tina POKES her head out again, SMILES at MAX.

TINA
Well? You coming?

And we CLOSE IN on Max, who's incapable of processing...

INT. VW VAN - MOMENTS LATER

The GANG is piled in the back of the van. **KURT** (looks 25, one earring, a smarmy, preppy James Spader-lookalike) is driving, TINA in the front seat, and **PAULA** (looks 25, innocent, brainy, conservative clothes) is with the rest of the "real kids." Max can't take her EYES off of Tina. Neither can Duncan. Vicki and Lauren GAPE at Paula, who gets self-conscious. Gertie just looks SICK, rocking back and forth in the wayback.

VICKI

Can you guys give us a ride back to the Bijou?

LAUREN

Maybe we call a cab when we get there?

PAULA

There are no cabs at Camp Bluebird! We're lucky even to have running water!

Paula LAUGHS breezily. Vicki STARES at her like she's got two heads.

TINA

I can't believe you guys are counselors too! We've never HAD this many before!

MAX

(to Chris, freaking)
...That's my Mom.

PAULA

(curious)
Where are you guys' suitcases? You guys' clothes are all... funny.

VICKI

(muttering)
Says the girl in acid-washed mom jeans.

DUNCAN

(to Paula)
We, uh, packed light.

TINA whirls around in her seat to address them:

TINA

I packed light too. All I brought for the summer is a toothbrush and a diaphragm!

DUNCAN

(thrilled)
'Cause you're gonna be so naked, right?

TINA

(to Duncan, amazed)
How did you know?

Max SPIES KURT'S EYES in the rearview mirror checking out her cleavage-- and MAX COVERS UP, grossed out.

KURT

I just want to get tan before
school starts up again.

PAULA

Well, Kurt, I hope I have time to
fill out my college applications
before all the kids arrive!

Max leans over to get a better look at Tina... Who then
WHIRLS AROUND AGAIN, staring at her vacantly-- but friendly.

MAX

(white as a sheet)
....What's up?

TINA

You have any gum?

Max shakes her head. Tina frowns, then REALIZES SOMETHING,
laughing out loud--

TINA (CONT'D)

OH MY GOD! I'm ALREADY CHEWING
SOME! See?

She pokes the gum out at Max with her tongue. Max is
speechless, and almost FAINTS-- but Chris catches her.

Tina WATCHES, perplexed, then SHRUGS it off as the van
approaches the wooden ARCHES of **CAMP BLUEBIRD**. Bucolic,
gorgeous, scenic. Everything about this world feels like an
80s SLASHER MOVIE-- warm colors, soft lighting. It's
distinctly DIFFERENT than the real world.

TINA (CONT'D)

(relieved)
This is gonna be a summer I'll
never forget...!

EXT. CAMP QUAD - MOMENTS LATER

The van pulls over in the center of camp, next to the giant
LODGE where the counselors all sleep. Down the path are
campers' cabin, and further beyond are the LAKE DOCK, a BARN,
and a modest CHAPEL.

The gang of "real kids" pile out and STARE in disbelief at
their lush surroundings-- everything, everyone, looks
perfect. **BLAKE** (17 but looks older, skinny, sweet-faced and
awkward New Wave guy) comes out of the cabin holding a couple
buckets of RED PAINT, but TRIPS, spilling it on the ground.
LEROY (African-American, 17 but looks 25), in 80s
breakdancing chic, helps him up. Near the van, **MIMI** (17 but
looks older), a hippie chick, carries an EMPTY BASKET.

DUNCAN watches them, amazed-- and MUTTERS their dialogue to himself AS THEY SPEAK IT.

KURT
(to Blake)
Nice play, Shakespeare.

DUNCAN
(quietly)
Nice play, Shakespeare.

LEROY
(to Blake)
We gonna have to get you laid this
summer, my man.

LEROY (CONT'D)
Only ticket outta dork-town
for you.

DUNCAN
Only ticket outta dork-town
for you.

DUNCAN
(to himself)
I'm home...!

BLAKE
(to GANG)
Hey. I'm Blake. You guys counselors
too?

Yes!

DUNCAN

No.

VICKI

BLAKE sees Gertie, and he's instantly smitten. MAX immediately walks away from the scene, stands next to a WOODEN SIGN that says "KNOW YOUR CAMP BLUEBIRD COUNSELORS!" On it are the pictures, and NAMES, of each of the FICTIONALS.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
(to Gertie)
Hi... I'm Blake.

GERTIE
I'm... Gertie?
(beat)
And these are...

TINA
They're counselors! Time to paaaaar-
ty!
(touches Chris' crotch)
Right?

CHRIS
Ooooooh-kay....! Uh. Guys?
(to the "fictionals")
We'll be right back. We're gonna...
go over... there...

He POINTS to the WOODS. Kurt, Tina, Blake and Leroy stare in confusion. PAULA looks at the "real kids" with suspicion.

PAULA

But we just got out of the van.

KURT

Yeah. We're supposed to, uh...

He LOOKS at the other FICTIONALS for help.

LEROY

...paint?

KURT

Right! Paint the old barn!

TINA

(mimes painting)

It's easy! Like this!

DUNCAN STEPS forward towards Tina, tentatively.

DUNCAN

We'll be back to paint the barn
like, really soon. So get
started... and we'll... *join* you?

Long beat. Then, the FICTIONALS all smile with RELIEF.

FICTIONALS

Oh, good... ...Bitchin'!... I *like*
that idea... 'Cause we *have* to
paint the barn...

They SHUFFLE off. Blake gives Gertie a SWEET WAVE before
joining them. Max and the GANG rush off into the WOODS.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Max, Duncan, Gertie, Vicki, Lauren and Chris all stare at
each other. No one knows what to say.

CHRIS

Max, are you OK? Your mom touched
my junk...!

MAX

That's my *Mom*...!

DUNCAN

No. It's not. We're in, like, an
alternate reality. We're *in* the
movie. Somehow it happened. We
must've gone through the screen...
when Max cut it...?

CHRIS

That's stupid. Right? That's
totally crazy.

DUNCAN
I'm telling you! I know *Camp
Bloodbath* inside out!

MAX
Guys, I think Duncan's right--

VICKI
No. Everyone shut up.
(to Duncan)
You. Are on drugs. No way. No way.

MIMI (O.S.)
Hey guys.

The GANG whirls around, STARTLED. Mimi WINKS at them.

MIMI (CONT'D)
Wanna help me pick strawberries?

DUNCAN
(beat, to Mimi)
Yeah, sure. We'll follow you.

Mimi WALKS OFF. DUNCAN turns to the GANG.

VICKI
(to Duncan)
What are you *doing*?

DUNCAN
I'll *prove* to you that we're in the
movie. Come with me.

He WALKS OFF deeper into the woods after Mimi. Gertie follows, then Chris and Lauren. Max doesn't... but, not wanting to be alone, hurries to CATCH UP. Vicki, annoyed, is last to go.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

The GANG is several PACES BEHIND MIMI, who walks along unaware. Duncan STOPS the GANG after a few moments, and points to a HIDING PLACE. Mimi just keeps going.

MOMENTS LATER

Duncan and the gang are crouched, hidden in a little CAVE, waiting, watching. Mimi is JUST NOW noticing that they've disappeared.

MIMI
Hey. Where'd you guys go? ...Jerks.

CHRIS
Why exactly are we hiding from her?

DUNCAN
Because if we're really in *Camp
Bloodbath...* then something's gonna
happen. Soon.

VICKI
(re: Mimi)
Who the hell is this bimbo, anyway?

DUNCAN
Mimi. Secondary character. Dumb
hippie chick counselor. She's the
first to go. She pads the running
time with gore before we start
losing the main counselors.

MAX
The first to...? No. No way...

ANGLE ON

Mimi, who FREEZES when she HEARS a noise-- and when she TURNS
AROUND, is startled by a HUNKY MALE HIKER who smiles at her.

MIMI
Oh... hey there. I'm Mimi. You
scared me.

HUNKY HIKER
Sorry. You know the way into town?

MIMI
(tongues a strawberry)
Sure. You just follow this path.

HUNKY HIKER
All the way?

MIMI
Yeah. *All* the way...

Mimi and the Hunky Hiker start to tongue each other. He feels
her up, unbuttoning her blouse.

BACK TO OUR GANG

Who can't believe what they're seeing/hearing.

LAUREN
I think we're in a porno.

GERTIE
She has *really* big nipples...

MAX
Guys. Quiet...!

AND MAX is startled by the sound of a THUD above them. She LOOKS UP... and we can see the filthy, tree-trunk LEGS OF HATCHET-FACE, who's WATCHING MIMI and the HIKER going at it.

The COLOR drains from Max's face. Then, the LEGS WALK OFF, out of sight.

MAX (CONT'D)
Oh shit. Oh shit...! We have to do something!

DUNCAN
No! There's nothing you can do!

MAX
We can't just *sit* here when they're in danger!

And Max STANDS UP-- getting Mimi and the Hiker's ATTENTION. They look confused. And just as Max is about to OPEN HER MOUTH-- **HATCHET-FACE APPEARS BEHIND Mimi, who SCREAMS! His MACHETE, in his belt loop, GLINTS in the light--**

BACK ON MAX

--who RECOGNIZES, in horror, that MACHETE as the very one she USED on the movie screen earlier--

BACK TO MIMI, HIKER, HATCHET-FACE

--and **HATCHET-FACE GRIPS MIMI** on either side, and **RIPS HER IN HALF LIKE A PHONE BOOK!** Blood sprays as her **TWO HALVES** flop to the ground, twitching like **FISH**, her lips **BABBLING gibberish!**

The **HUNKY HIKER** whips out a **KNIFE** to attack **Hatchet-Face--** but **Hatchet-Face** easily **RIPS** his **ARM RIGHT OFF**, and **BEATS HIM** to **DEATH WITH IT!** After a good thrashing, **Hatchet-Face PICKS UP** the **HIKER'S BODY--** and **FLINGS** it into the air, and it **SAILS** towards our gang--

--where it **HITS** a **TREE**, then **LANDS** with a sickly **SPLAT** right in front of them: a broken, bloody rag doll. The **GANG STARE** in utter **SHOCK**, then **SCREAM!**

And **HATCHET-FACE TURNS** around, **SPOTTING THEM**. His head **TILTS** in confusion. **Who the hell are these kids?**

The **GANG RUNS--** except for **Duncan**, who stays put, and **KNEELS** by one of the **CORPSES**, and **DIPS HIS HAND** in the **BLOOD**. He **STANDS** up, looks at his hand-- and **WE SEE** that the **BLOOD is BRIGHT, BRIGHT RED-- obviously FAKE**. **Duncan SMILES**, amazed, and starts **CLAPPING**. The **GANG** slows, looks back at him.

MAX (CONT'D)
Duncan...!

DUNCAN

(excited)

That was awesome! Not as good as the later kills. But a good start. Nice work, man!

(to GANG)

Guys, come back. It's all good. Max, take it easy. Unlike some guys...

(nods towards Chris)

...I'm not scared.

(holds up his hand)

See? It's fake blood!

The GANG slowly come back, LOOKING at his "blood"-stained hand. Hatchet-Face, still confused, doesn't move. Duncan TASTES the fake blood on his hand.

VICKI

Ewww!

DUNCAN

Mmm. Yup. Totally fake. It's sweet, it's, uh, syrup!

(re: Hatchet-Face)

He's harmless. Just a piece of celluloid. This isn't real.

CHRIS

Dude, how do we know?

DUNCAN

'Cause I've seen the movie a million times. He kills all the counselors, and then the Final Girl, Paula-- that nerdy chick from the van?-- she chops his head off with his own machete 'cause it's the only weapon that works on him!

VICKI

Paula?! Are you kidding me? She looks like a librarian!

DUNCAN

No, she gets pushed to a breaking point, and she becomes this, like, warrior! She chops his head off and THEN she gets to leave camp! The end. That's how the movie's written, so that's how it works! Look, we're obviously not part of the plan, right? I mean, look at him. He doesn't know what to do if it's not scripted.

(off their looks)

Guys. Fuck 3D.

(MORE)

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

This is the most immersive movie experience we're ever gonna have. We just have to stick with Paula and we'll be fine!

(to Hatchet-Face)

Hi! I'm Duncan. I love your work.

Duncan LOOKS at the GANG, signaling them with his eyes.

GANG

(weakly)

Hello... / How's it going? / That's a lovely pillowcase you're wearing...

Hatchet-Face doesn't respond. He breathes heavily.

MAX

Duncan-- he has the machete you gave me...!

DUNCAN

Yeah, it *belongs* to him! Of course he has it!

VICKI

(to Hatchet-Face)

Sir, can you show us how to get back to reality...?

MAX

Vicki, don't. Something's not right. Trust me.

VICKI

Yeah, I took your lead earlier, and look where it got us.

MAX

Oh, I'm sorry. You're right. I should've let you burn alive. God, I'm an idiot for thinking you could be anything but a raging bitch.

LAUREN

Ladies! Plug it up! I have an idea.

(to Hatchet-Face)

Hola, señor. Me llamo Lauren.

Lauuuu-rennn.

Hatchet-Face doesn't respond. Lauren BITES her lip, then steps CLOSER. **Meanwhile, off to the side, GERTIE has stepped away to kneel at the side of the dead HIKER, examining him.**

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Soy... uh... lost-o. Mi amigos son muy... afraid-ay. Donde esta el banyo?

MAX
 Lauren, what the hell are you doing?

LAUREN
 Well, this *is* California...! I just asked where the exit is.

VICKI
 "Bano" means "toilet," dipshit. You're asking where to take a dump.

LAUREN
 (thinks for a second)
 ...I know. He's a *boy*. Duh.

Lauren HIKES UP her skirt, shows more cleavage. She JIGGLES closer to Hatchet-Face. She's only 15 feet away now.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
 Oooh. It's *cold* out here. Can you--

EXTREME CLOSE UP

On Hatchet-Face's EYE-- as it WIDENS at the sight of EXPOSED CLEAVAGE--

--and he **STEPS FORWARD, his MACHETE RAISED!** Lauren SQUEALS and hurries back to the gang. Hatchet-Face remains STILL.

BACK TO GERTIE (at the DEAD HIKER'S side)

GERTIE
 (touching the Hiker's blood)
 My God, it really *is* fake...! Even their dead bodies look fake!

She's right. Mimi's body parts are already stiff, unlike what real human remains would look like.

BACK TO DUNCAN & THE GANG

DUNCAN
 Guys. Chill. It's *all* pretend. And Hatchet-Face is in a loop like the rest of them. That's why the van kept coming around every 90 minutes. 'Cause *that's* how long the movie is. He's not gonna do anything he's not supposed to. Watch.

Duncan walks RIGHT OVER to Hatchet-Face, WAVES his hand in front of his face. No movement.

MAX
Duncan, please! He'll kill you!

DUNCAN
If he was gonna do that, we'd all
be dead already.
(to Hatchet-Face)
Right, gorgeous? Man! This is a
dream come true!
(turns to Gang)
Lauren, can I borrow your iPhone?

Lauren TOSSES him the phone. And when Duncan has his back turned to our killer... trying to figure out how to get it to "camera" mode... HATCHET-FACE RAISES his MACHETE...

MAX
Duncan...! DUNCAN!

DUNCAN TURNS back to Hatchet-Face--

DUNCAN
Say cheese, you beautiful
bastard...

He SNAPS the picture... and HATCHET-FACE makes THREE LIGHTNING-QUICK SWIPES at DUNCAN with his MACHETE! The GANG IS SPRAYED WITH A LIGHTNING-QUICK JET of blood on their FACES & CLOTHES-- but this BLOOD is much darker-- and obviously REAL.

Duncan freezes in shock-- but doesn't fall, or appear injured. He TURNS back to the GANG, and TOSSES LAUREN her iPhone. The Gang RELAX, start to CHUCKLE, totally disoriented.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
(shaky)
See? Told you. We're totally
safe...

But Duncan's expression dims... and then, the TOP half of his head SLIDES OFF. Then his SHOULDERS and ARMS. Then his PELVIS. He's BEEN CUT INTO PIECES, and FALLS in a BLOODY PILE onto the ground!

Our GANG blink for a SPLIT SECOND... then, in unison, SCREAM IN HORROR!

The GANG BOLTS like MAD in the opposite direction, barrelling through the woods-- everyone except GERTIE... who stands there, FROZEN with FEAR AND FASCINATION as HATCHET-FACE gets closer and closer...

...and Max, looking back, SEES that Gertie isn't with them-- and RUNS BACK to get her, CHRIS following her-- as HATCHET-FACE LIFTS his MACHETE to strike GERTIE-- MAX AND CHRIS GRABBING GERTIE'S ARM and YANKING HER AWAY JUST as Hatchet-Face arrives--

MAX, CHRIS and GERTIE BOLT away from him. But this time, Hatchet-Face doesn't follow. He STANDS THERE, watching them all RUN AWAY.

EXT. CAMP QUAD - MOMENTS LATER

The GANG peel around the corner-- Vicki is first-- and she sees a CABIN with an OPEN DOOR. She RUNS for it and everyone follows--

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

--and Max is the last one in, and she LOCKS the door behind her. They all gather at the far end of the cabin, TERRIFIED, staring at the door, waiting for it to burst open-- but it doesn't.

GERTIE
We're gonna die. We're gonna die
we're gonna die we're gonna die
we're gonna--

LAUREN
(looking at her cell)
I can't call the police-- I can't--

She SPOTS a PHONE on a desk nearby, and grabs the receiver-- but then, seeing it's ROTARY, she looks up, at a loss.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
How does this thing WORK?!

Max looks out the window INTO THE WOODS...

OUTSIDE

HATCHET-FACE'S POV: Watching Max through the window from between the trees... Waiting.

BACK TO MAX (INSIDE)

MAX
Oh my God...! He's out there!

VICKI
Fuck it. Let's get the hell out of
here! COME ON!

Thunderous, hysterical VIOLINS start to play on the soundtrack as we TRACK with VICKI, RUNNING for the door-- SWINGING IT OPEN-- and LAUREN, MAX, GERTIE & CHRIS follow suit, and they GO INTO THE

CAMP QUAD (OUTSIDE)

Where they RUN towards the entrance of camp, through the ARCHES, the MUSIC still playing HYSTERICALLY in the background. After a second, THEY SLOW DOWN to a STOP... and the MUSIC DOES TOO. They look around, puzzled.

Then, THEY START to RUN AGAIN-- **and the MUSIC PICKS RIGHT UP AGAIN as well.** As they RUN, MAX LOOKS UP, giving a *what the fuck?* sort of look--

--and then, the forest ROAD STARTS TO TURN A CORNER...

...RIGHT BACK TO THE CAMP BLUEBIRD ARCHES. There's no way out! THE GANG FREEZES, apoplectic.

MAX
Oh, *shit...!*

CUT TO BLACK.

MAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I can't believe this is happening--
it's like the movie doesn't want us
to leave--!

INT. CABIN - LATER

The GANG, completely traumatized, hiding in the cabin, the door of which they've BARRICADED with every piece of FURNITURE they could find. They've COVERED the windows, and are CROUCHED together by the fireplace. Gertie is in deep shock. Max is holding herself in a chair. Chris is CALM, deep in thought. Lauren is BLUBBERING with tears. Vicki is pissed.

LAUREN
Maybe-- maybe Duncan's not dead!
Maybe it's just a movie, right?
Like, fake?

GERTIE
(raises her left hand)
Does this look fake to you?

CLOSE IN on Gertie's BLOOD-COVERED LEFT FINGERS: **indeed, Duncan's blood is startlingly real. Then, Gertie SHOWS her right hand-- and the fictionals' blood is obviously fake. The difference is clear. This is no joke.**

GERTIE (CONT'D)
I tasted his blood. It flew in my
mouth. It tasted like... pennies.

Silence among the group as the unthinkable sinks in. Chris takes Max's hand.

CHRIS
Hey. Just breathe. I know this is weird for you. But I'm here.

MAX
(a weak smile)
Thanks. Thanks.

CHRIS
OK. Guys. Let's, uh-- let's look at what we're working with here.
(beat)
There's a lunatic with a machete killing people. And we're obviously in danger, so--

LAUREN
I'm staying here. I'm not moving!

MAX
I hate to say it, but I don't think we can hide here forever.

LAUREN
Why not?!

GERTIE
Because Hatchet-Face knows we're here now. The cat's out of the bag.

LAUREN
(sobbing)
Is this a *pep talk*?

CHRIS
Look, I don't wanna end up dead here, OK? Do you? We actually have to come up with a real plan here!

VICKI
So, what? We go *after* that psycho? That's crazy!

LAUREN
Yeah! How do we get HOME?!

CHRIS
Well-- Duncan was right. We went *through* the screen when Max cut it with the machete, and--
(beat)
Maybe this is *nuts*, but it's like we need to get to the end of the movie to get out? Maybe. Right?
(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Like, get his machete and chop his head off with it and then we'll get to leave? 'Cause that's how it's *supposed* to happen?

(beat)

Why is everyone looking at me like that?

VICKI

Because that's insane!

MAX

Vicki, maybe Chris is right...! I mean, nobody gets to leave until that guy's dead!

VICKI

OK. Suppose, for a second, Chris is right. How the hell do we GET the machete, by asking politely? That guy's gonna slice us to bits with it! We don't even know where he's gonna pop up next! ...Unless-- Max. You've seen this movie a hundred times, you said. What's gonna happen next?

MAX

I... well, it was so *long* ago...

VICKI

Well *SOMEBODY* has to have seen this movie recently! Right?! Lauren?

LAUREN

I saw a few scenes on YouTube once.

CHRIS

My Mom still has parental controls on our cable box.

GERTIE

Just the ending. Like, I dunno, a couple years ago.

A collective PALL falls over the group. Up the creek, no paddle. Vicki glances at Max, aghast.

VICKI

I can't believe we're gonna risk our lives running around trying to get a magic machete.

MAX

Wait-- maybe we don't have to. Duncan said that Paula's the Final Girl, right?

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
She's the one who has to kill
 Hatchet-Face. Maybe all we have to
 do is, like, back her up, help her
 do her job-- and then maybe the
 road'll open up again so we can
 leave!

A collective lightbulb seems to light up for everyone. Maybe this could work.

CHRIS
 I'm with Max. In the meantime, I
 say we go tell the others what
 happened, and then we can *all* be on
 the lookout, and helping Paula do
 what she needs to do. Right?

MAX NODS. Vicki and Lauren start coming around.

VICKI
 So... we just go tell them that
 they're in a movie and there's a
 psycho killer running around? And
 that we have to protect each other?

MAX
 Yeah, but let's leave out the whole
 "you live in a movie" part. We
 really don't wanna spin them out.

VICKI
 (nodding)
 Right. OK. I mean, they'll believe
 us, right? I mean, they *had* to have
 heard all the screaming... Right?

EVERYONE ELSE
 Yeah. / Totally. / Of course.

We HEAR **Cyndi Lauper's *Girls Just Want To Have Fun*** as we SLAM
 CUT TO:

EXT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

The FICTIONALS (Tina, Kurt, Paula, Leroy and Blake) are
 PAINTING the barn, happy as clams, dancing around as the SONG
 blasts from Leroy's BOOMBOX.

Kurt does BICEP CURLS with a free-weight as he PAINTS. Leroy
 BUSTS OUT some moves to the music. PAULA reads "The Complete
 Emily Dickinson" as she paints. TINA pours a BOTTLE OF WATER
 all over herself to cool off. BLAKE stares at her wet t-
 shirt.

TINA
 Ooooh... feels so good!

We WHIRL AROUND to find our GANG (the REAL KIDS) standing there, STARING at this idiocy in disbelief. After a moment, Blake NOTICES them, and SMILES at Gertie, who returns the gesture weakly. Max focuses on Tina, naturally.

MAX

Mom! I mean-- shit. HEY GUYS!
Everybody! We need to talk.

The FICTIONALS shrug, confused-- they can't hear her over the music.

VICKI

JESUS! Listen up, you pinheads!

She TURNS the boombox off. Max CLEARS her throat and steps forward nervously, still in shock.

MAX

I dunno how to say this, but... we
were in the woods just now and our
friend was... do you remember
Duncan? And your friend Mimi? OK.
Well, this guy in a mask came up
and--

VICKI

(borderline hysterical)

He CHOPPED them into CHUNKS. We SAW
IT HAPPEN. He is going to COME FOR
ALL OF US and do the same thing if
we don't stick together!

The FICTIONALS blink, incredulous... then start to LAUGH.

FICTIONALS

Oh, sure... / What a whopper... /
Nothing *bad* ever happens at Camp
Bluebird!

They GO BACK to painting. Lauren CRIES anew. After a moment, Max steps forward, deciding to re-strategize.

MAX

Hey. We found a lagoon in the
woods. Who wants to go skinny-
dipping?

The FICTIONALS stop, turn to her. Now they're listening. They SMILE, suddenly interested.

VICKI

(to Max)

What the hell are you doing?

MAX
Well, it got their attention,
didn't it?

As the GANG TURNS AROUND to start LEADING the Fictionals into the woods, they FREEZE, SEEING SOMETHING-- and the color DRAINS from their FACES...

GANG'S POV: There, on the "KNOW YOUR CAMP BLUEBIRD COUNSELORS!" board, DUNCAN'S PICTURE has been added to the others.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

The REAL KIDS are leading the FICTIONALS (in small groups) along a path to where the BODIES will be. VICKI & LAUREN flank PAULA... GERTIE walks alongside BLAKE... CHRIS walks between LEROY and KURT... and MAX brings up the rear, walking with TINA.

The REAL KIDS all look freaked out, convinced HATCHET-FACE is going pop out at any moment.

VICKI, LAUREN & PAULA

LAUREN
What you reading, Paula--? Oh,
Emily Dickinson. That's boring.

PAULA
I'm inspired by early feminist lit.

VICKI
Ooooh. *That's* why you get to
survive at the end. God, this
movie's so transparent.

PAULA
...What?

VICKI & LAUREN
Never mind.

They WALK FASTER. Paula, looking puzzled, hurries to catch up to them and we HANG BACK to settle on

GERTIE & BLAKE

Who keep stealing SHY LOOKS at each other as they walk.

BLAKE
We're gonna have a party in the
Lodge tonight. Wanna come?

GERTIE

Oh, uh... I might... be busy. But
don't worry. There'll be girls
there. You'll do fine. You're cute.

BLAKE

Will they look like you? The girls?

GERTIE

I seriously doubt it.

BLAKE

Too bad.

Gertie can't help it-- fictional or not, he's a sweetheart,
and she blushes, TOUCHED.

They KEEP WALKING AHEAD and we HANG BACK to FOCUS ON

CHRIS, LEROY & KURT

KURT

Hey guys-- who's that hot piece of
snatch behind us?

CHRIS

Tina? Is that her name? I mean, *you*
drove in with her...

KURT

No, dude. The fresh one.

CHRIS looks back-- and realizes that Kurt means MAX.

CHRIS

Max? She's... not available.

LEROY

Kurt, you take her, I'll take Tina.
If we're callin' dibs, you best
make like Hollywood and *warn a*
brother! Hah!

Kurt and Leroy HIGH-FIVE. Leroy looks back and WINKS at
Tina... and we DRIFT AWAY from them to settle on

MAX & TINA

Tina SEES Leroy's WINK and LICKS HER LIPS at him. Max is
horrified at her mother's slutty behavior.

MAX

Stop that! He only wants one thing!

TINA

Good. He can *have* it!

MAX
Listen... I know I called you Mom
before? But that was-- a joke. You
know?

TINA
("getting it")
Oh! OK!

She ROARS with bimbo-esque laughter. Max listens in
amazement, discreetly WIPES AWAY a tear.

MAX
...God, you sound just like her.

TINA
Like who?

MAX
...My--

VICKI (O.S.)
FUCK!

Max SNAPS to attention and RUNS UP AHEAD to a--

FOREST CLEARING

To find that NONE OF THE BODIES (or body parts) are where
they should be. The HIKER, MIMI, DUNCAN-- they're all GONE.

The REAL KIDS stare, shocked.

MAX
But... they were all right here!
Oh, shit...

VICKI
(horrificed)
He took the bodies!

CHRIS
Maybe we're in the wrong spot.

GERTIE
No, this is it! Vicki's right, he
did take them!

CHRIS
(to FICTIONALS)
Guys, we swear-- there were bodies
here. This giant guy named Hatchet-
Face came up and killed them all!

FICTIONALS
Yeah, sure... / THIS isn't a
lagoon!... / You guys are jerks.

MAX
 You *have* to believe us! We wouldn't
 make this up!
 (points to a tree)
 LOOK! There's blood from your
 friend Mimi on this tree! See?

KURT
 Pfft. Looks like paint from the
 barn to me. You guys suck at
 practical jokes.

VICKI
 This is no joke! Is everyone here
 RETARDED?!

MAX
 What about your friend Mimi? Huh?
 Haven't seen her, have you?

TINA
 She's probably getting *laid*.
 Speaking of which...

Tina TURNS to leave, and the rest of the FICTIONALS follow
 suit... but Blake GIVES Gertie a sympathetic look before
 JOINING them. PAULA, however, looks concerned.

PAULA
 (to Chris)
 What'd you say his name was?

CHRIS
 Hatchet-Face.

PAULA
 ...That's not funny.

And she JOINS the rest of the FICTIONALS as they walk away
 towards camp. We CLOSE IN on MAX as she TAKES NOTE of Paula's
reaction... then, she SEES LEROY APPROACHING TINA--

LEROY
 Hey Tina. Do you wanna meet me in
 the barn?

TINA
 You *bet* I do...!

Max's color drains away. Oh no! She RUSHES over to TINA.

MAX
 No! You can't have sex in this mov--
 at camp. Because-- because I hear
 sex is painful.

LAUREN
Especially with a black guy.

TINA
(winking)
Not if you do it right...!

MAX
Oh, God. Mom. I mean-- Tina. Look.
I have-- a feeling. That... if you
go have sex with Leroy?
(whispers)
You could... get hurt. Really hurt.

TINA
(takes Max's hand)
Listen. I'm not gonna get hurt. I'm
not in love with Leroy or anything.
It's just sex.
(beat)
Know what I mean?

Tina WINKS, starts to WALK AWAY AGAIN-- but MAX GRABS her
arm, hard.

TINA (CONT'D)
Ow!

MAX
Holy SHIT. It *is* you. "Know what I
mean"-- You *always* used to say
that!

TINA
You're hurting me! Let me go!

MAX
(lighter, letting go)
It's just that... you should always
make boys wait for *everything*.
They'll respect you more.

Tina STARES into Max's eyes, confused-- and Max, UNABLE to
stop herself, HUGS TINA hard. Tina's cheeriness fades into
confusion, as though Max's words now resonate. TINA pulls
herself away. She regards Max and the GANG with bewilderment.

TINA
I'll... see you guys later.

With one last look at Max, TINA hurries away towards camp.

MAX
Wait!
(to GANG)
Guys, we have to *do* something...! I
have to go to the barn to stop her!

CHRIS

Max, no. If that's where Hatchet-Face is supposed to kill your mom and Leroy, then he's gonna be there!

MAX

Well, I have to try...!

VICKI

That. Is. Not. Your. Mother. OK?
Not real. Remember? Real blood
versus fake blood?

(beat)

Now can we please FOCUS on saving
OUR OWN lives now?!

SUDDENLY: a CRACKED BRANCH sounds from deeper in the woods.
The GANG look around, on alert.

HATCHET-FACE'S POV: Watching them from several yards away.
Not moving. They can't see him.

BACK TO GANG

They're spooked. Max shakes her head.

MAX

Guys, let's get out of here!

Max and the REST of the GANG RUN... and we TRACK with them as they RACE through the woods back to CAMP-- and Max RUNS SMACK into KURT & BLAKE, who are CHOPPING FIREWOOD! The REST of the GANG are close behind.

KURT

Whoa. Hey... what's the hurry? I
got wood here for ya.

The arriving GANG'S eyes widen. Huh?

KURT (CONT'D)

For the party tonight. Fireplace.
Keep you warm. Dig?

MAX

Uh, awesome. Yes. "Dig." Party.

BLAKE

(to Gertie)

There's gonna be dancing, you know.
We're all dying to cut loose.

Mortified silence from the "real" kids. Then, Max starts to "laugh." The other REAL KIDS JOIN IN. Kurt and Blake do too. It goes on for a few beats too long.

Then, Max quickly walks away, uncomfortable. The rest of the GANG follow suit.

HATCHET-FACE'S POV: Several yards away. Watching Kurt & Blake. His MACHETE is seen drifting across the frame. It won't be long now.

EXT. QUAD - MOMENTS LATER

The GANG come out of the woods-- and Max breathlessly addresses them:

MAX
I'm going to the barn to stop my Mom!

Max RUNS off. Chris, fearing for her:

CHRIS
Wait-- I'm coming with you!
(to others, peeling off)
Everybody go hide in the girls' cabin. Play it cool until we're back. I'm gonna go after Max.

VICKI
(grabbing him)
No. Chris. Come with us. I need you right now.

Chris, torn for a moment, GLANCES at the barn, then back to Vicki.

CHRIS
Vicki-- no! I can't leave Max alone!

And Chris DARTS OFF after Max. Vicki, truly scared, HURRIES off with Lauren and Gertie.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

It's cavernous, hay everywhere. We PAN the SPACE as "scary music" plays... we SEE three 10-gallon CANS OF GASOLINE... Then, in a corner, a GIANT THRESHER THING parked by the barn doors, under the HAY LOFT-- its GLEAMING SPIKES point heavenward, WAITING for someone to fall on them.

RUSTLING at the door-- and LEROY walks in (**holding a JOINT and a BOTTLE OF JACK DANIELS**), and goes to sit on a bale, drinks. After a moment, TINA enters, goes up to Leroy.

Moments after, MAX & CHRIS' HEADS poke up in an open window. They're scared out of their minds. Max WAVES discreetly to get Tina's attention, but to no avail.

OUTSIDE THE BARN

Max, to Chris:

MAX
If I can just get her attention--
(looking around)
Keep an eye out for... you know.

Chris NODS, his eyes TRAINED on the trees around them.

INSIDE THE BARN

LEROY LEANS IN and KISSES TINA on the lips.

LEROY
What's the matter, baby? You're shaking.

TINA
Are we doing anything wrong?
Like... bad? That new girl said--

LEROY
Pssst. No way. Lemme get that grass ready. Get you nice and relaxed.

Leroy readies the joint. Tina STARTS to STRIP. CREEPY MUSIC starts to play, and Max, in the window, NOTICES, and STARTS TO PANIC SILENTLY. Max SEES a door SHUT, and HEARS RUSTLING among the hay bales. Max WAVES like CRAZY to Tina, snapping her fingers. Tina finally NOTICES her, SHOCKED at the sight of her.

Max PANTOMIMES "no sex," "you will die," and "run away." Tina, of course, has no idea what she's saying.

LEROY comes back and sees that Tina's not naked yet. The CREEPY MUSIC INTENSIFIES and MAX LOOKS AROUND, convinced HATCHET-FACE is gonna come out any second...

LEROY (CONT'D)
Why aren't you naked yet? I'm not takin' you to dinner.

TINA
(eyes on Max)
Maybe we should... wait? You know?

Max, elated, NODS WILDLY, thrilled!

LEROY
I didn't invite you here to wait.
Shut up and take your clothes off.

TINA
You're a pig!
(goes to door, turns)
(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)
 You better leave camp, 'cause I'm
 gonna tell *all* the girls what a
 skeeze you are!

And SHE RUNS OUT of the barn.

OUTSIDE THE BARN

Tina darts out, running towards camp! Max STANDS UP, alarmed--

MAX
 She's getting away! Come on!

MAX & CHRIS run off to get Tina.

BACK IN THE BARN

Leroy kicks a hay bale, angry. He looks at the joint in his hand... ..and then, he REACHES into his pocket, **and lifts out a ZIPPO LIGHTER**. He LIGHTS the JOINT, PUFFS-- and a SHADOW LOOMS BEHIND HIM-- he TURNS--

--but it's JUST the SHADE brought on by a WINDOW catching the sunlight. Leroy TURNS BACK to face FORWARD--

--AND HATCHET-FACE SUDDENLY RISES UP BEFORE HIM like a WAVE, RAISING THE MACHETE--

--LEROY DROPS THE ZIPPO onto the ground--

--and HATCHET-FACE SLASHES AT LEROY as we SLAM CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS' CABIN - SIMULTANEOUS

Vicki's pacing, worried, looking out the window for Chris. Gertie, off to the side, is sitting nervously under a HUGE MOUNTED DEER HEAD on the wall.

There's a big POSTER OF GEORGE MICHAEL over PAULA'S BED, where Lauren sits, munching on her Bijou theatre REESE'S PIECES and leafs through an old *People Magazine* from 1984, while stroking a plush E.T. DOLL. Staring at ALL OF THEM is PAULA, who's looking ALARMED.

LAUREN
 (eyes on magazine)
 Who's Erik Estrada? It says he was
 in a show called "CHiPs." Why would
 anyone watch a whole show about
 chips?
 (looking at her iPhone)
 I still can't get a signal.
 Coverage totally sucks.

Lauren TOSSES the iPhone away onto the ground, and it SKIDS along the floor.

GERTIE

Cell phones haven't been invented yet. Duh.

VICKI

Where the hell is Max? If we don't start hunting down Hatchet-Face soon, we're gonna be dogmeat...

PAULA

How do you guys know about Hatchet-Face?

The GIRLS stare at Paula-- does she BELIEVE THEM?

VICKI

Yes. Yes. Him. We weren't joking before. You believe us, right?

We START CLOSING IN on Paula as she recounts her tale. Eerie music sounds.

PAULA

I knew him. When I was a little girl. I used to come to this camp. His name was Joey... but everyone called him Hatchet-Face because he was... ugly. And he was mute. And he had a twisted left hand. And he wet the bed.

VICKI

OK, moving on...

LAUREN

Vicki, shut up. ...Go on, Paula.

DURING PAULA'S ensuing story, the IMAGE occasionally DISSOLVES to blurry SCENES of the NIGHT she describes.

PAULA

The boys always picked on him. And he hated us because no one would talk to him. And one night, I saw some boys chasing Hatchet-Face through the camp...

(eyes welling up)

...and they hurt him. They *burned* his face...! I *tried* to get them to stop... but they wouldn't *listen*...! Oh, GOD...!

BACK TO PRESENT

Paula CRIES. The GIRLS look at each other, then at PAULA.

VICKI

Paula. Hatchet-Face is *back*. He
already killed Mimi--

PAULA

Not *MIMI*--!

VICKI

--and he's gonna kill us all if you
don't stop him.

PAULA

What? I can't do that! I'm just a
girl! Stop trying to SCARE ME!

LAUREN

We're just trying to warn you!
Look, it's no biggie: he's gonna
kill all your friends and then
you're gonna have to chop his head
off!

PAULA

(stands)

SHUT UP! I don't like jokes!

GERTIE

But don't worry! We're here to
help! We're gonna be your backup!

LAUREN

Exactly! So you don't get
decapitated!

PAULA

(covers her ears)

No no no... no...!

VICKI

This is *not* a joke, Paula! He's
HUGE and pissed off and he likes to
slice people up and then *steal*
their bodies, probably to *fuck* them
in some shanty in the forest--

PAULA

OH MY GOD OH MY GOD OH--

GERTIE

Guys, we're freaking her out--!

VICKI

We're just telling you the truth--

PAULA

Shut up shut up shut up--

VICKI
--'cause you're the one person who
can *stop* him--

PAULA
SHUT UP!!!

And PAULA TURNS TO RUN out of the cabin-- but VICKI & LAUREN
block her EXIT--

PAULA (CONT'D)
LEMME OUTTA HERE!!!

LAUREN
Paula, you *can't* go, you have to
LISTEN--

--so Paula TURNS and tries to get out another way-- but
Gertie's already there, SMILING indulgently--

GERTIE
Paula, just calm down--

PAULA
Don't TELL ME what to DO!!!

--and SHE TURNS TO RUN AGAIN... but within three steps her
FOOT LANDS on on Lauren's discarded iPhone...

SLOW MOTION

...which SLIPS OUT FROM under her, sending PAULA FALLING
OVER... Vicki, Lauren and Gertie watching in mute HORROR as
Paula's BODY FALLS, FALLS, FALLS...

...where she LANDS on her BUTT against the nearby wall under
the mounted DEER HEAD, WHACKING her HEAD on the wall!

REAL TIME

PAULA (CONT'D)
Ow.

Vicki, Lauren and Gertie quickly SIGH with relief.

VICKI
Please believe us, Paula. We need
your help. *Bad.*

PAULA
(sighs)
...OK. I'll help. I'll do whatever
you want.

The REAL KIDS SMILE at each other, thrilled.

THEN: the DEER HEAD above Paula CREAKS slightly--

--Paula LOOKS UP-- and the DEER HEAD FALLS, its ANTLER POINTS PLANTING DIRECTLY INTO PAULA'S EYES!!! She TWITCHES as BLOOD runs out of her mouth and ears... and then she FALLS OVER in a heap, the DEER HEAD still firmly planted in her skull.

Vicki, Lauren and Gertie stand there, mouths agape, mortified. No one speaks for several moments.

GERTIE

That... wasn't supposed to happen.

LAUREN

Oh my God. Oh my GOD...

VICKI

Does... anyone know CPR...?

GERTIE

CPR?! Do you *really* think that CPR is going to help NOW?!

Paula's body STOPS TWITCHING. She's OFFICIALLY DEAD. SUDDENLY: the entire FRAME of the movie starts to TREMBLE for several MOMENTS. The GIRLS cling to each other until it starts to subside. It's like the movie has been BLINDSIDED by this unexpected development.

LAUREN

(sliding down the wall)

It's only a movie... only a movie... only a movie...

GERTIE

No, it's not.

(beat)

Not anymore.

EXT. LAKE DOCK - MOMENTS LATER

The FRAME TREMBLING is subsiding here too. On shore, Max & Chris arrive and LOOK UP, alarmed--

CHRIS

What the hell was *that*?

The TREMBLING is over. Max shrugs, at a loss. They SEE TINA sitting alone on the dock. Max squeezes Chris' hand.

MAX

Lemme talk to her. Go check on the others. I'll be there soon.

Chris NODS, then RUNS OFF. Max walks over to Tina, sits next to her. The SUN is slowly starting to set. The colors are breathtaking.

TINA
 You were right. Something bad
 happened. Leroy was-- he was so
mean. Pfft. Boys.

Max TAKES her hand, holds it.

MAX
 Not all boys are bad. But... I'm
 really glad you listened.

TINA
 Me too. Whoever told you to make
 boys wait was right.

MAX
 ...My Mom did.

TINA
 Well, she sounds pretty smart.
 (beat)
 Everything about this day... feels
 different. You're here, and your
 friends, and... I feel different.
 But good. ...Is that weird?

MAX
 No. I'm glad.

TINA
 Yeah, I'm not even thinking about
 boys right now. I feel like I'm
always boy crazy. But now...
 (beat)
 Such a relief! Gosh.

Max STUDIES Tina. Tina's acting more grounded, less trampy...
 moving past her moment of death has shaken her out of her
 routine and pre-determined character traits.

MAX
 Look. Stick with me. It's dangerous
 out here. And... just trust me. Do
 what I say. OK?

Tina smiles, NODS. Then:

TINA
 (re: Max's locket)
 What's that?

MAX
 Just... a locket. You know,
 picture.

TINA
 Of who?

MAX

You don't know her. Just...
 somebody I really miss. And... you
 remind me of her. A lot.

TINA

I do? Well, just pretend I'm her.

MAX

...OK.

(beat)

I wish it could be like this
 forever.

TINA

Then close your eyes and make a
 wish, and maybe it'll happen. I
 mean, maybe my life changed today.
 Why not yours, right?

Tina SHUTS her eyes tight, sighs. Max watches her,
 bewildered, moved.

EXT. GIRLS' CABIN - LATER

Max and Tina are walking up when Chris comes outside.

CHRIS

OK, before you go inside, you
 should know that something, uh,
 unplanned--

(seeing Tina)

--uh... happened.

MAX

What do you mean? What exactly
 happened while I was gone?

CHRIS

Just... go look. I'll hang out here
 with-- Tina.

Max's brow furrows as she goes towards the cabin DOOR,
 opening it--

TINA

(to Max)

Wait for me! I wanna change outta
 this tube top--!

Tina DARTS over to Max--

CHRIS

No! Wait!

INSIDE THE CABIN

But MAX & TINA have just walked into the cabin to find Lauren and Vicki standing there, PAULA'S BLOODY vacant-eyed BODY in their ARMS, trying to move her over to a CLOSET!

MAX & TINA stare at the sight, their EYES WIDENING-- **and then TINA SHRIEKS BLOODY MURDER!!! Lauren & Vicki, SEEING THIS, ALSO SHRIEK IN FEAR, DROPPING PAULA'S BODY with a THUD onto the ground!**

TIME CUT

A little later. LAUREN is seated on a bed in a far corner, holding the hand of a blanket-wrapped TINA, who's staring at the floor in shock, HUGGING the E.T. doll. PAULA'S BODY is in another corner, COVERED by a Road Runner blanket, the DEER HEAD still POKING OUT from under it.

At the other end of the cabin, MAX, CHRIS, VICKI & GERTIE are whispering tensely:

MAX

What do you mean, she "fell"?

VICKI

She fell, OK? We were in the middle of telling her we were gonna help her kill Hatchet-Face and she wiggled out!

CHRIS

This is... not good. This is *really* not good.

GERTIE

What are we supposed to do? Who's gonna kill him now? Paula was supposed to like, go through this *change* at the end and turn into a badass!

VICKI

I'm sick of this shit. This is all partially my fault. I'll do it. Or I'll try...

GERTIE

That's big of you, but... I don't think you can be the Final Girl.

MAX

Oh, shit. Right. The Final Girl is always like Paula. Virginal. A little apart from the group. Smart.

VICKI

Are you saying I'm none of those things?

(MORE)

VICKI (CONT'D)
 (off Max's look)
 Fine. But that counts Lauren out
 too. She gave it up in
 Kindergarten.
 (beat)
 What about your Mom?

The FOURSOME crane their HEADS to look at TINA, who's
 refusing Reese's pieces that Lauren is attempting to feed
 her. The FOURSOME look at each other.

GERTIE
 I don't think Tina's it. No
 offense, Max.

MAX
 None taken. She doesn't exactly fit
 the mold.

CHRIS
 (to Max & Gertie)
 I think... it's gonna have to be
 one of you guys.

Max & Gertie look at each other, blanching.

MAX
 What?! Well... maybe... Gertie and
 I will do it together. Maybe?

GERTIE
 (reddening)
 I... I'm not... a virgin.

VICKI
 (rolls eyes)
 Don't *lie*, Gertie.

GERTIE
 I'm *not* lying. Last year... I had
 sex.

VICKI
 OK. With who?

GERTIE
 Mr. Peterson. The band teacher.

VICKI
 Ewww! God, Gertie!

GERTIE
 He was helping me with my saxophone
 part in this Sousa march. I stayed
 late. I... liked his cologne.
 (beat, to Max)
 (MORE)

GERTIE (CONT'D)
He never even kissed me. I never
told anybody.

Max's FACE FALLS completely. Fuck. All EYES are on Max now.
Gertie feels guilty. Chris is immediately worried for Max.
Vicki's just distraught.

VICKI
So MAX is gonna do it? We're
fucked!

CHRIS
Vicki, shut up.

VICKI
No! I'm pep squad, field hockey--
I'm built for this shit! If I had
backup, I could kill Hatchet-Face!
(beat)
Maybe.

TINA (O.S.)
Who are you guys?

Max and the others LOOK at Tina, who's now STANDING a few
feet away from them, listening.

LAUREN
(covered in Paula's
blood)
We're... camp counselors.

TINA
(to Max)
Who are you, *really*?
(beat)
And who's Hatchet-Face?

INT. CAMP MESS HALL - A LITTLE LATER

A large, cheerful space whose walls are decorated with
crafts, kids' drawings. Tina SITS on one of the picnic-style
tables, Max next to her, as Vicki, Gertie & Lauren help Chris
drag over a rolling BLACKBOARD from a corner-- on it are
counselor tasks like *paint the barn, clean the cabins, repair
the canoes*, etc. He ERASES them all and starts to DRAW a
BLUEPRINT of the camp's buildings.

CHRIS
Listen, guys. If Max is gonna deal
Hatchet-Face the death blow, we
need to figure out the best way to
concentrate all our bodies into one
area where he'll be outnumbered and
therefore overpowered.

Chris CIRCLES the LODGE BUILDING--

CHRIS (CONT'D)
 Since there's a party tonight in
 the lodge, THAT'S our best shot at
 getting him in our sights...

We ZOOM INTO THE BLACKBOARD as we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LODGE PARTY - NIGHT

The ENTIRE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE is in SLOW MOTION:

KURT is on the couch, flanked by TINA & LAUREN, who are
 caressing him sexily, TAKING DRINKS from beer bottles as KURT
 PUFFS on a joint, happy as a clam.

LAUREN (V.O.)
 But how do we get Hatchet-Face to
 come to us when we want him?

VICKI (V.O.)
 Easy. If everyone in that lodge is
 horny, smoking pot, and making
 out...

CHRIS (V.O.)
 ...then Hatchet-Face'll be in the
 vicinity.

GERTIE (V.O.)
 How do we know exactly when he'll
 show up?

The IMAGE FLIES UPWARDS to a

SECOND STORY BEDROOM

Where GERTIE & BLAKE are dancing sweetly to pop music playing
 on a radio. GERTIE has her EYES FIRMLY TRAINED on the windows
 OVERLOOKING the REAR OF THE LODGE--

CHRIS (V.O.)
 That's where you come in, Gertie.
 You're the lookout. When you see
 Hatchet-Face materialize...

--and GERTIE LOOKS at the opposite WINDOWS overlooking the
 quad, and **SEES HATCHET-FACE STANDING THERE, staring at the
 lodge!**

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...you run downstairs to alert
 everyone...

GERTIE bolts out of the room, and we CUT BACK TO:

LOWER LODGE LEVEL

To find GERTIE arriving on the landing, **KNOCKING THREE TIMES ON THE BANNISTER--** and TINA & LAUREN, seeing the alert, **DRAG KURT OFF THE COUCH--**

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...and Tina and Lauren will tell
Kurt they want to lick whipped
cream off his body or something.

LAUREN (V.O.)
I can't eat dairy.

VICKI (V.O.)
Focus, Lauren.

We FOLLOW THE TRIO as they move into the

KITCHEN

Where they LEAD KURT towards the sink, getting "sexy" with him--

CHRIS (V.O.)
You guys lead Kurt into the
kitchen, where Vicki and I are
hiding...

--and then we TURN AROUND to find that VICKI & CHRIS are
hiding, with LARGE HAMMERS in their hands! Vicki is CROUCHED
LOW by the kitchen door, and CHRIS is perched on TOP of the
refrigerator!

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...getting ready to whack Hatchet-
Face when he shows up.

SUDDENLY: Hatchet-Face APPEARS in the doorway, MACHETE
BRANDISHED! KURT, TINA & LAUREN SCREAM-- but as soon as
Hatchet-Face sets foot in the kitchen--

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
When he does, Vicki and I whack him
in two places... and then pin him
to the ground.

--Chris **SLAMS the SKILLET DIRECTLY IN HIS FACE, while Vicki**
SLAMS her SKILLET into the BACKS OF HIS KNEES!!! Hatchet-Face
FALLS ONTO HIS BACK, totally stunned! Chris JUMPS down from
the top of the fridge, and then PUSHES the FRIDGE on top of
Hatchet-Face, PINNING HIM!

MAX (V.O.)
...and that's where I come in,
right?

We PAN to see MAX come out of the kitchen PANTRY, where she
was hiding.

She WALKS towards the vulnerable Hatchet-Face deliberately, determined-- and KNEELS to pick up the machete that he's DROPPED...

CHRIS (V.O.)
Yes. Max has been hiding this whole time. She's the Final Girl, so we have to keep her safe. Once he's pinned, Max comes out, takes his machete...

MAX RAISES the MACHETE triumphantly--

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...and kills him for good.

MAX THRUSTS it down, and a TORRENT OF BLOOD FLIES OUT of HATCHET-FACE, COVERING THE SCREEN, and as it TRICKLES away, we're back to:

INT. CAMP MESS HALL - PRESENT

As Chris TURNS BACK to face the others, all of them nervous but girding themselves-- maybe this plan could work.

CHRIS
Just remember that it's all about that machete. That's what Duncan said will kill him, so that's what we need to get.
(beat)
Max? You cool with all this?

All eyes on Max. She NODS quickly, trying to stay calm. She LOOKS at Tina:

MAX
How about you? You got it?

Tina NODS absently. Max observes Tina, worried-- Tina wears a GLAZED look, overwhelmed by everything she has to process.

TINA
So... this is all a movie, right?

The REAL KIDS all nod.

TINA (CONT'D)
And... this isn't... real?

MAX
...No. It's not.

TINA
(quietly)
It's real to me.
(beat)
(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)
 Poor Paula. She was so nice. She
 was saving herself for George
 Michael.

LAUREN
 (mutters)
 Just as well, then.

Vicki gives Lauren a "shut up" look. Max LOOKS at her friends, then SQUEEZES Tina's hand. Suddenly, TEARS flow down Tina's face as she comprehends her fate. Tina LOOKS at the floor.

TINA
 I can't believe I've been living
 here forever.

MAX
 Yeah.

PAULA
 And I never get to move to L.A.

MAX
 No. ...I'm sorry.

TINA
 So I never get to leave.

Max, overwhelmed by Tina's heartbreak, is speechless. The REAL KIDS, equally moved, look at each other-- and then Lauren pipes up:

LAUREN
 Well-- maybe not! Because after we
 kill Hatchet-Face-- and we leave
 the movie-- you could come back
 with us! To the real world!

TINA
 Really...?

MAX
 (concerned)
 Uh...

LAUREN
 You could go back home with Max!
 (beat)
 Right, guys?

REAL KIDS
 (circumspect)
 Uh-- totally!/ Yeah!/ OK...!

TINA
 (stands, to Max)
 Where do you live?

MAX
 L.A. Well, Encino. It's L.A.-
 adjacent...?

Max, Chris and Vicki LOOK concerned. Is this a promise they can keep?

TINA
 (beat, to Max)
 OK. OK. Yeah. I want to.

Max can't bring herself to tell Tina that this is probably not going to be possible. Chris CLEARS his throat. Max, hearing this, gets back down to business:

MAX
 We should probably get, like,
 knives and stuff. Just to be
 prepared.

TINA
 There's lots of that stuff in the
 barn. Just look in the far cabinet.
 (stands)
 I'm gonna go see the others so they
 don't start wondering where I am.

Max STANDS too. Tina LOOKS at all the Real Kids.

TINA (CONT'D)
 You guys are the best. Thank you.
 (beat, to Max)
 Put on a sweater. It always gets
 cold at night.

MAX
 OK.

TINA
 (starts to leave, then:)
 There's food in those fridges back
 there. Eat something before the
 party. All of you. You can't do all
 this on an empty stomach.

REAL KIDS
 OK./ We will./ Promise.

TINA
 (beside herself)
 I'm gonna write down our plan in my
 Trapper Keeper!

And she HURRIES OUT. Max turns back to the others, flabbergasted.

EXT. LAKE DOCK - LATER

The SUN has almost completely set. Max and Chris sitting together, looking at the waves, eating sandwiches. Calm before the storm.

MAX

...Chris? What if I can't do it?

CHRIS

Look. Before a game, Coach always tells us to act like we've already won. He says, "Be the winner. Be the winner."

MAX

Does that work?

(off Chris' shrug)

I lied before, you know. I've never seen this movie. I was always afraid to. Hard to watch someone you love get chopped up when you feel like you're the reason they actually died in real life.

Chris SCOOTs closer to Max. She puts her head on his shoulder.

CHRIS

Max? Remember when I asked you out Freshman year?

(beat)

Why'd you... ignore me?

MAX

It... um, wasn't personal. Vicki was totally in love with you. She told me if I went out with you I'd be like, a traitor to her.

CHRIS

Oh.

MAX

(looking at him)

Why are you bringing this up? I mean... we could *die* tonight. For real.

CHRIS

(looking back)

Yeah. I know.

And Max suddenly understands the depth of Chris' feelings for her. She's about to speak when--

VICKI (O.S.)
Wow, Chris. You moved on pretty quick.

Max and Chris scoot away from each other and TURN to see Vicki, Gertie and Lauren arriving. They SIT next to them. The moment's ruined.

VICKI (CONT'D)
You could at least wait until I get my head cut off at the party. *Rude.*

MAX
(dryly)
Why wait until then?

LAUREN
GOD, Vicki. *Enough* about Chris. We get it, your vagina's a cold and lonely place. Just get a cat and shut up already.

VICKI
(shocked)
Well-- excuse me for-- *Jesus.*

Vicki CLAMS UP, and sulks quietly. We PAN below the DOCK... **and REVEAL that underneath, Hatchet-Face is surfacing from the water silently... and LISTENING.**

LAUREN (O.S.)
Max? Are you mad at me for telling your Mom she could come home with us?

BACK TO MAX

MAX
Not mad, exactly. I mean... Tina doesn't even *know* she's my Mom. She's just, like, this goldfish.
(beat)
Guys? Do you think that if we get through this... I *could* bring my Mom back home? I mean, supposing...

BACK TO HATCHET-FACE: who LOOKS UP towards Max's VOICE, and TILTS his head, **INTRIGUED.**

BACK TO REAL KIDS

VICKI

Max. We have a plan to carry out.
Please don't go mental on us. I
don't think I could take it.

MAX

I know. But she even *sounds* like my
Mom! She even says the same random
crap she used to say when she was
alive, like, "you know what I
mean." That *laugh*. Her high voice.
It used to drive me crazy, but
now... God.

**BACK TO HATCHET-FACE: who GOES BACK underwater, out of sight.
Biding his time.**

BACK TO REAL KIDS

LAUREN

Max. I know you're probably scared,
but just think of this like... *The*
Wizard of Oz. Except the witch
doesn't want your shoes.

A weak CHUCKLE from the gang.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

...She wants your head on a stick.

CHRIS

(standing)

Ladies. Listen up. We have a plan.
We'll get through this. It's time
to get our weapons. Lock and load.
Plus... let's try to have fun out
there. I mean, it *is* a party.

GERTIE

...Maybe our last.

They LOOK at each other gravely. Chris PUTS his HAND in the
center, and one by one, they all do. They're a solid team.
**Suddenly: A CLAP OF THUNDER overhead startles them. They LOOK
UP: a light rain starts to drop.**

We HEAR Bon Jovi's *You Give Love A Bad Name* as we START:

MONTAGE

-Of the REAL KIDS in the BARN, finding a plethora of SHARP or
BLUNT TOOLS-- knives, hammers, awls-- and their HANDS GRAB
EVERYTHING THEY CAN GET;

-Of the REAL KIDS in the GIRLS' CABIN-- each of them
practicing USING their WEAPONS, and TAPING them to their LEGS
or ARMS for quick and easy access;

-Of LAUREN pouring CHRIS into REALLY tight jeans, an Izod shirt, loafers and BLOW DRYING his hair;

-Of the REAL GIRLS variously being dressed in 1980s-fabulous ensembles of evening-wear Jordache, Esprit and Benneton;

-Of MAX, the last one to get made-over, applying blush, stockings, bangles and earrings-- and we REVEAL HER to look like a TEEN GODDESS straight out of a John Hughes movie--

-OUTSIDE: Of our NEWLY 80s-out REAL KIDS (MAX IN FRONT) walking in SLOW MOTION like badasses towards the LODGE...

...where TINA is on the PORCH, locking EYES with MAX. When Max REACHES her, they CLASP HANDS, and WALK INSIDE...

END MONTAGE

INT. PARTY LODGE - NIGHT

ANOTHER HUGE CLAP of THUNDER SOUNDS as RAIN comes down outside. **We HEAR Cheap Trick's *I Want You To Want Me* playing.** Laughter and high spirits. Blake sets out bowls of snacks for everyone. GERTIE smiles at him, then looks at the OTHERS, pulling BLAKE UPSTAIRS. Once they're out of our sight, we PAN TO...

...MAX & CHRIS, who SCAN the room one last time and DUCK into the KITCHEN, and we PAN TO...

...VICKI, who's gently PUSHING LAUREN to go over to where TINA & KURT are sitting on the couch. Lauren is HOLDING the plush E.T. doll.

VICKI

Lauren. Why do you have that doll?

LAUREN

It's keeping me calm.

VICKI

You're supposed to be turning Kurt on. You look like you've been molested. Just go...!

Lauren SHUFFLES over to the couch, and VICKI goes into the

KITCHEN

Where CHRIS, hammer in hand, is already climbing on top of the fridge. VICKI retrieves her own hammer from her purse, and CROUCHES by the door where's she's supposed to be.

We PAN OVER to the...

PANTRY

...and DISSOLVE inside to find Max there, alone, pacing. She PRACTICES reaching for the knife tucked in her sleeve a couple of times. After a moment, she stops, closing her eyes.

MAX

Please God. Make me brave.

When she OPENS her eyes again, she STARTS-- **because Vicki slipped in a moment ago.**

MAX (CONT'D)

Jesus! Vicki. God...

VICKI

OK, listen up, because I'm only gonna say this once.

(beat)

I just wanna say that if we live through this, you can have him. Chris. I know I've been a royal cooze on and off, mostly on, but my life is flashing before my eyes and I don't want to die without having told you that. But the worst part isn't even that I always knew Chris liked you better. It was that after your Mom died, you just shut down and cut me out of your life completely. And her dying wasn't even your *fault*.

MAX

Don't go there, Vicki.

VICKI

Well, friends tell each other the truth, so if you don't like it, then you can go on thinking I'm evil, OK? So get over it. Because our lives depend on it.

(beat)

Max, I missed you. I missed you so much that I started hating you.

(beat, off Max)

No no no. Don't interrupt me. Just-- I may be an Alpha bitch? But I *always* looked up to you. In Junior High? You *pushed* me to do Pep Squad with you. You *pushed* me to go out for the spring musical with you. You were *always* the brave one until...

(beat)

You can do this. Me... I'm just the loudmouth.

(beat)

So... yeah.

She WALKS OUT. Max, alone, digesting her words.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Gertie and Blake are together, the radio playing a pop song. Gertie is perched by the window, keeping her eye out for Hatchet-Face-- but there's no sign of him.

BLAKE

Gertie?

(beat)

Have you ever kissed anyone?

Gertie LOOKS at him. He's vulnerable, adorable in this moment.

GERTIE

...What?

BLAKE

I've never kissed someone. I didn't want to kiss just anybody.

(beat)

But... you seem... special. Ever since I saw you this morning, I--

(beat)

Would you be my first kiss?

GERTIE

I-- I'm supposed to leave soon.

So...

BLAKE

What?

(beat)

Don't go. Please?

Gertie, touched and shocked all at once, doesn't move--

--and over her shoulder, THROUGH THE WINDOW OVERLOOKING THE QUAD, Hatchet-Face appears, crossing our line of vision for a split second. Then, he's GONE again.

INT. LODGE MAIN ROOM (DOWNSTAIRS) - SIMULTANEOUS

Lauren and Tina flank Kurt on the couch nervously, but playing their parts.

LAUREN

Wow, Kurt. Your tan is, like, so... farmer-y. Right, Tina?

TINA

Yeah. I'm so... horny now.

KURT
 (taking a slug of beer)
 Tina, I thought I told you to take
 off that damn sweater. Get over
 there and show me what you got.

Tina LOOKS at Lauren apprehensively-- and Lauren nods to her weakly. Tina STANDS up and GOES by a window... and sloooooowly removes her sweater, revealing a light tank-top underneath.

KURT (CONT'D)
 Niiiiiice.

Lauren LOOKS around the room-- the windows-- nothing there. She returns to "sexy" mode.

KURT (CONT'D)
 So tell me what you like about me.

LAUREN
 Your... hair. It's like... a
 helmet. And helmets... remind me of
 motorcycles... Which remind me of
 danger.
 (beat)
 And danger is sexy...!

Kurt NODS, turned on. He LEANS in and starts to KISS Lauren, who makes "mmm, oooh" NOISES even though she's totally grossed out. Her EYES LOOK PAST KURT, and we FOLLOW HER GAZE OVER TOWARDS THE

KITCHEN DOOR

Where Vicki is PEEKING OUT, looking. She retreats, the door SHUTTING--

KITCHEN

--and LOOKS UP at Chris.

VICKI
 There's no sign of him yet...!

CHRIS
 Fuck. This had better work...

PANTRY - SIMULTANEOUS

Max PACES, fidgets, waiting. We DISSOLVE several times as the minutes pass. What the hell is taking so long? After several moments, she PEEKS out of the pantry and addresses Vicki.

KITCHEN

MAX
 What's happening?

VICKI
I dunno. I should go check on
Gertie--

But when Vicki shifts, her ANKLE gets CUT on a RUSTY NAIL
sticking out of the wall near her hiding place!

VICKI (CONT'D)
Ow--!

CHRIS
I'll go--

MAX
No. Stay put, both of you--

VICKI
(holding her ankle)
Max, wait--!

But MAX has already stepped quietly into the

MAIN LODGE ROOM

And is TIP-TOEING behind the couch, out of Kurt's sight-- but
Lauren and Tina see Max. Max gives them a "shush" sign, and
they return to their assignment, eyes on Kurt:

LAUREN
(dancing "sexily")
I wanna... *ride* your penny
loafers...!

TINA
Oooh, penny loafers.

Max darts UP the stairs QUIETLY.

UPSTAIRS

Max LOOKS down the long hall-- and we FOLLOW her feet as she
quietly, breathlessly makes her way to the far DOOR, opening
it--

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

--to find GERTIE & BLAKE about to MAKE OUT!

MAX
(shocked)
Gertie!!

Gertie stops, caught red-handed. Blake just looks confused.
Max RUSHES to the windows to LOOK OUT-- but there's still
nothing there.

MAX (CONT'D)

You have *one* job, to be the
lookout, Gertie--

GERTIE

I've been looking, I swear--
there's no sign of him! I dunno
where he is!

BLAKE

Lookout for what?

GERTIE

(sweetly)

Nothing. Nothing, it's OK.

(to Max)

Go back downstairs, you're supposed
to be hiding--

MAX

Just do your job. You wanna get
home, don't you?

GERTIE

(beat)

...What if I don't?

MAX

What?

GERTIE

Max, Duncan's picture on the board,
it's, it's a *sign*, I think it means
that if you *die* here you get to
stay here forever--

MAX

GET to stay here?! Are you fucking
nuts? Stop it! You don't *know* that!

GERTIE

Well, maybe! And what would I be
going back to, anyway?! My
afterschool Weight Watchers
program?

(her rage mounting)

To bitches like Vicki and Lauren
making my life miserable? To
"Gertie is a fat pig" groups on
Facebook? To being a fucking whale?
Is that it, Max? Is that what I
should be RUSHING back to? To being
totally fucking alone?!

Gertie's crying now. The depth of her pain is severe.

MAX
 (beat, devastated)
 You can't trade your life for *this*.
 You can't be serious...!

GERTIE
 (re: Blake)
 He *likes* me, Max. He's crazy about
 me. And *look* at me. Do you really
 think that's gonna happen back
 home? Nobody's ever gonna love me
 there.

Max STEPS back slowly, aghast at Gertie's shift.

MAX
 Don't. Do anything stupid. Keep
 your eyes on the window. We *need*
 you.
 (beat)
 And Gertie? *I* love you.

Gertie is sobered for a moment by Max's assertion-- and GOES
 to the window. Max WALKS OUT, shutting the door behind her--

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY (LONG SHOT)

--and STANDS there for a moment, disturbed. After a moment,
 she walks slowly, quietly back TOWARDS US...

...and once she's REACHED the stairway landing...

...HATCHET-FACE APPEARS AT THE REAR END OF THE HALL, walking
 silently, casually across, from one room to another. He's
 gone as quickly as he appeared.

MAIN LODGE ROOM

Max DESCENDS the stairs as Lauren & Tina (who are now
 massaging a shirtless Kurt) LOOK UP at MAX expectantly. Max
 SHAKES her head.

--we FOLLOW her feet going down, down, down--

--and on the LAST STEP, we hear a CREAK--

--and Kurt, on the couch, WHIRLS AROUND-- and SMILES
 LASCIVIOUSLY, drunkenly, at Max.

KURT
 Heeeeey. I've been wondering where
 you are.

Off Max, caught, we CUT TO:

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Gertie, at her post, Blake holding her hand. Suddenly: a WHAPPING SOUND coming from outside the room. Gertie SITS UP, startled.

GERTIE

Wait here.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Gertie steps out and LOOKS into the hall-- nothing there. The WHAPPING SOUND happens again-- and Gertie LOOKS towards its source: it's COMING FROM the ROOM that we SAW HATCHET-FACE WALK INTO MOMENTS AGO. Gertie PUSHES that room's door OPEN, peers inside. She WALKS INTO THE--

OTHER BEDROOM

--which is messy. Bed, clothes, desk, etc. It's dark.

GERTIE (CONT'D)

(a whisper)

Hello...?

MAIN LODGE ROOM (DOWNSTAIRS)

Kurt STANDS, drags Max by the hand over to where Lauren & Tina are. Max LOOKS at the kitchen door, where Vicki is WATCHING THIS, nervous.

KURT

(to Max)

Damn. You look good.

(realizing)

You and Tina could be, like, sisters or something.

MAX

Oh. Yeah, well. Huh.

KURT

(to Max)

Show me your rack. Loosen up. The Russians could invade any minute.

(beat)

Hey, Tina-- kiss her.

Lauren blanches. Max and Tina's EYES WIDEN. They LOOK at each other, then back to Kurt.

MAX & TINA

Oh, no.../ You don't wanna see that...

OTHER BEDROOM UPSTAIRS (SIMULTANEOUS)

Gertie SEES the SOURCE of the WHAPPING NOISE: it's an OPEN WINDOW, the SHUTTERS OUTSIDE IT WHACKING the house in the rainy WIND. Gertie RUSHES over to it, LOOKS through it--

--and POKES HER HEAD OUTSIDE to LOOK DOWN, putting her hands on the sill-- **and then NOTICES the MUD on the sill. The ROSE TRELLIS leading down to the ground. TRACKS in the mud below.**

She LOOKS at her hands: covered in mud. She TREMBLES-- Hatchet-Face must be near...

MAIN LODGE ROOM (DOWNSTAIRS)

Kurt, drunk, is waiting for Tina and Max to kiss. He WALKS over to the front door, STANDS with his back to it. Then:

MAX
I gotta go.

KURT
You're not going anywhere.

And he BLOCKS her access to the kitchen--

OTHER BEDROOM UPSTAIRS

As GERTIE STARTS backing up from the window in fear--

KITCHEN

As VICKI watches through a crack in the door as KURT moves towards MAX-- Vicki's GRIP on her hammer white-knuckling--

MAIN LODGE ROOM

--and KURT THROWS Max down on the couch, tries to undo her top! Max SCREAMS as Lauren and Tina RUSH OVER to pull Kurt off of her--

ANGLE ON MAX

Who, amidst the CHAOS, SEES GERTIE RUN DOWN THE STAIRWELL-- **as she KNOCKS THREE TIMES ON THE BANNISTER**, then goes WIDE-EYED at the MESS DOWNSTAIRS--

ANGLE ON KITCHEN DOOR

As Vicki & Chris RUN INTO the room to HELP Lauren & Tina PULL KURT off of Max. Chris SLUGS KURT HARD, sending him to the ground, and then--

SUDDENLY: the FRONT DOOR BEHIND KURT BLOWS OPEN, SCARING the hell out of EVERYONE-- but it's NOT Hatchet-Face. It's JACKIE & JENNY (24), two twin townie tramps who stand there, dressed really trashily. They're not the best actresses. They stand there, in the open doorway.

Everyone FREEZES.

LAUREN
What the fuck is this?!

JACKIE & JENNY
Hey.

JACKIE
I'm Jackie.

JENNY
And I'm Jenny.

JACKIE & JENNY
And we're here to paaaaarty.

Everyone but Kurt is slack-jawed. Vicki drops her hammer.

MAX
(to Gertie)
Who the hell are these two?!

KURT
(standing, going to
Jackie)
They're townies from across the
lake that I invited to the party.
How's it going, ladies?

CHRIS
Did NOBODY know about these two?!

JACKIE
We're hungry.

JENNY
Yeah. Got anything to eat?

A CREAK coming from the front porch. Everyone CRANES their
head to LOOK for a moment--

**--AND THEN: HATCHET-FACE'S FISTS EXPLODE OUT OF JACKIE &
JENNY'S CHESTS-- and in his fists are BOTH THEIR HEARTS!!!
The TWINS shriek at the sight of their exposed, still-beating
HEARTS-- EVERYONE SCREAMS along with them-- and then the
FISTS FLY UPWARDS TO CRAM the HEARTS RIGHT INTO THE TWINS'
OPEN MOUTHS!!!**

Hatchet-Face LOOMS into view, TOSSING the TWINS' LIFELESS
BODIES ASIDE-- and he LIFTS HIS MACHETE OUT of his BELT LOOP--

--as EVERYONE BUT KURT BACKS AGAINST THE FAR WALL, PANICKED!
Hatchet-Face STROLLS UP to Kurt and SWINGS his MACHETE from
below, **BRINGING IT RIGHT UP into KURT'S CROTCH!** Blood SPRAYS
ONTO THE CEILING as KURT'S BODY DROPS and Hatchet-Face then
TURNS towards Tina--

--and STEPS CLOSER TO HER, READY TO STRIKE--

MAX

NO!

ANGLE ON MAX

--who PICKS UP Vicki's dropped HAMMER, and RUSHES OVER TO BLOCK HATCHET-FACE from Tina--

--and Max SWINGS THE HAMMER with ALL HER MIGHT right into Hatchet-Face's TEMPLE! He STAGGERS back, surprised, DROPPING his MACHETE--

--and MAX GRABS IT, HOLDS IT UP TO HIM! SHE'S GOT THE MACHETE!!

MAX (CONT'D)

Stay away from her!

HATCHET-FACE'S POV: As he LOOKS at Max, then at Tina-- then BACK AT MAX.

ANGLE ON HATCHET-FACE

Who TILTS his head curiously, as if to say: *Interesting.*

Max RAISES the machete-- but she's CLEARLY terrified, and not ready to fight. Hatchet-Face takes a step towards her, RAISING HIS FIST-- and MAX FREEZES in FEAR--

CHRIS

Max! RUN!

And Max DARTS out of the way just in time as Hatchet-Face SLAMS HIS KNUCKLES into the WALL, causing a terrified Gertie to RUN UPSTAIRS--

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

--where Blake is coming out of the BEDROOM.

BLAKE

What's with all the screaming?

GERTIE

Nothing! They're partying! Go back!
Go back!

And she pushes him back inside, and SLAMS the door SHUT behind them.

MAIN LODGE ROOM (DOWNSTAIRS)

As HATCHET-FACE STRAINS to get his FIST OUT OF THE WALL, Max and the others (Tina, Chris, Vicki and Lauren) RUN LIKE HELL into the--

KITCHEN

--where Chris IMMEDIATELY starts PUSHING the REFRIGERATOR OVER to BLOCK THE DOORWAY--

CHRIS

HELP ME!!!

--and the OTHERS JOIN HIM and PUSH--

MAIN LODGE ROOM

--as Hatchet-Face, hand now FREE, MAKES HIS WAY towards the Kitchen DOOR-- **and, spotting a HUGE BUTCHER KNIFE on a tray of sandwiches, GRABS IT--**

KITCHEN

--just as the Gang manages to KNOCK THE FRIDGE OVER to block the DOOR! On the other side, Hatchet-Face TRIES to OPEN IT-- but can't because it's BLOCKED--

MAX

The window! GO!

--and EVERYONE runs to the SMALL WINDOW over the SINK, SMASHING IT, scrambling up to get out--

--as the BUTCHER KNIFE BLADE starts to SLAM into the DOOR BEHIND THEM-- he's STARTING TO get THROUGH--

MAIN LODGE ROOM

--but in mid-slash, HATCHET-FACE freezes when he HEARS shifting around upstairs. He LOOKS UP. Hmmm.

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Gertie takes Blake's hands and looks into his eyes. Blake's BACK is to the door.

GERTIE

Do you want me to stay?

BLAKE

Gertie, what are you--

GERTIE

Just tell me. Do you want me to stay here? With you?

BEHIND BLAKE: the door SILENTLY OPENS as Hatchet-Face looms there, in the hall, LOOKING right at them.

KITCHEN

Vicki and Lauren have just squeezed through the window-- and Tina's next-- but Max realizes something--

MAX
Gertie-- where's Gertie--?!

CHRIS
Max! Go! Get outside!

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Hatchet-Face is walking slowly, silently, towards Blake and Gertie-- but only Gertie knows he's coming.

BLAKE
Yeah. Yeah.
(smiles)
Stay with me.

Gertie SMILES, tears streaming down her face-- and she KISSES BLAKE-- then PULLS away.

GERTIE
I'll see you soon.

BLAKE
...What?

And HATCHET-FACE, now behind Blake, picks him up by his hair, LIFTING HIM into the air, his Converse dangling above the floor. Gertie FALLS back on the ground-- and the FLASH of Hatchet-Face's BUTCHER KNIFE as it swings out in an arc, SLASHING BLAKE'S THROAT as he dangles over Gertie--

--sends his BLOOD SPRAYING out in a JET--

--SPLASHING GERTIE across the face. She STANDS quickly, shell-shocked. Hatchet-Face holds Blake as he TWITCHES, his limbs convulsing as he DIES... and Gertie takes in the spectacle wide-eyed, overwhelmed.

Hatchet-Face flings Blake's body OUT THE WINDOW--

OUTSIDE THE LODGE

--and it SMASHES through the glass, launches into the air before landing on the muddy ground below--

KITCHEN

Max is about to go out the window when she HEARS the glass smashing upstairs! Max moves to go upstairs--

MAX
(to Chris)
GERTIE! We have to--

CHRIS
 (holding her back)
 There's no time! GO!

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Gertie BACKS AWAY slowly towards the opposite wall-- then STOPS, speaks to Hatchet-Face:

GERTIE
 I'm ready.

Hatchet-Face takes a SWIPE at her with his butcher knife-- and instinctively, Gertie feints to the side, getting CUT on the arm. She STARES at the wound-- the BLOOD seeping out, wincing in pain-- and she LOOKS UP again...

...and we SEE that suddenly she's having second thoughts.

GERTIE (CONT'D)
 Ow. Ow. I-- uh-- oh no. No.

SUDDENLY: Hatchet-Face SWINGS the knife with brutal force in an arc, and it JUST misses her abdomen.

GERTIE (CONT'D)
 No-- please, I--

She LEANS against a wall, trapped like a rat-- and her FEET graze a PAIR OF WATER SKIS lying on the floor, and she QUICKLY PICKS ONE UP-- Hatchet-Face SWINGS again, but she DODGES IT, and SMACKS HIM in the neck with the SKI!

He's STUNNED for a moment, moving to the side-- and GERTIE seizes the moment to DART PAST HIM, SPRINTING out the door--

SLOW MOTION BEGINS

KITCHEN

MAX SCREAMING as Chris pushes her through the window to the outside--

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

--Gertie running to the STAIRWELL--

OUTSIDE THE LODGE (REAR)

--as Max, then Chris TUMBLE out, joining Tina, Lauren and Vicki-- and they RUN TOWARDS the front of the Lodge--

MAIN LODGE ROOM

--as Gertie REACHES the lower level-- but Hatchet-Face has already BLOCKED the front door with the COUCH-- so Gertie moves to a window--

GERTIE'S POV: the LIGHT from the LODGE is all that's shining light on MAX, VICKI, LAUREN, TINA and CHRIS as they DART across the quad-- but when Max STOPS, and stands in the light to LOOK at Gertie, they ALL do as well.

MAX'S POV: Gertie stands at the window as Hatchet-Face approaches her from behind. Gertie PUTS her hand on the glass...

And just as Hatchet-Face has reached Gertie, knife raised-- HE STOPS--

--and we CLOSE IN on Hatchet-Face when he SEES MAX and the others outside. He MOVES OFF from Gertie, HEADING to the front door, READYING TO GO AFTER THEM--

--and Gertie, realizing that her mistake could cost her friends their lives, ACTS FAST!

GERTIE (CONT'D)
(to Hatchet-Face)
HEY! OVER HERE!

She PICKS UP a few BEER BOTTLES and WHIPS THEM at HATCHET-FACE, and one of them BREAKS ON HIS HEAD! He WHIRLS BACK to Gertie, FURIOUS--

GERTIE (CONT'D)
YEAH! Come and get me, you ugly piece of SHIT--!

And HE RETURNS TO GERTIE, BUTCHER KNIFE AT THE READY--

ANGLE ON MAX (OUTSIDE)

We FOCUS ON MAX & the GANG as the white glow from the window SUDDENLY TURNS DEEP CRIMSON from Gertie's BLOOD, bathing THEM in RED LIGHT. Max SCREAMS-- and the GANG RUNS, CHRIS dragging Max away into the rainy blackness.

MAX'S POV: We ONLY HEAR the sound of MAX'S BREATHING as she runs, pulled by Chris, who holds her hand as they BARREL through the dark behind Vicki, Lauren and Tina--

--and slowly but surely, the SOUNDS of reality, the PRESENT, come back to the fore as the GROUP RUNS for the--

CHAPEL

--which can be SEEN in the distance. LIGHTNING in the sky sets the world aglow for a few instances-- and Max, still holding the prized machete, LOOKS BACK--

--and SEES HATCHET-FACE already on their tail, WALKING TOWARDS THEM!!!

Max and Chris RUN FASTER just as Tina SLIPS in the MUD,
FALLING ON HER ELBOW--

TINA

Owww!

And while Vicki & Lauren keep running, Max and Chris stop and
HELP TINA UP, LOOKING BACK-- and HATCHET-FACE is getting
closer still...

MAX

(panicking)

Get up... MOM, get UP...!

CHRIS

(to Max & Tina)

Go on! MOVE!

(beat)

NOW!!!

Max & Tina, terrified for Chris, keep RUNNING-- but Chris
STAYS PUT, pulling out his AWL that he got from the barn
earlier.

CHAPEL (EXTERIOR)

As VICKI gets to the Chapel DOOR FIRST, she TRIES IT-- but
it's STUCK!

VICKI

Are you fucking KIDDING me right
now?!

Lauren gets to the door, tries to HELP VICKI with the latch--

LAUREN

Push! PUSH!!!

A few yards back, Max LIFTS and holds Tina up, HURRYING the
last five YARDS to the Chapel as quickly as POSSIBLE-- and
she LOOKS BACK-- and Hatchet-Face is getting CLOSER and
CLOSER to CHRIS...

--and CHRIS PARRIES with HATCHET-FACE for a minute, DODGING
his KNIFE SWINGS, then, seeing an opportunity, JUMPS ON HIM
piggy-back, WRESTLING HIM-- and it's enough to PISS HATCHET-
FACE OFF. He TOSSES CHRIS OFF HIS BACK, ONTO THE GROUND.

CHRIS

(to Hatchet-Face, moving
away from the girls)

Hey! Here.... OVER HERE!

And MAX & TINA are scampering away as HATCHET-FACE catches up
to CHRIS, and SLITS HIM across the chest-- CHRIS CRIES OUT IN
PAIN--

AT THE CHAPEL DOOR

Max, Tina & Lauren TRY TO LIFT THE STUCK LATCH with all their might--

ALL THREE
Fuck! / Oh God Oh God / Come ON!

Max TURNS around to see Hatchet-Face walking away from the badly injured CHRIS, who's writhing on the ground...

MAX
NO!

--and HATCHET-FACE is GETTING CLOSER STILL-- and Max TURNS BACK to the door and PRESSES THE LATCH--

MAX (CONT'D)
COME ON, GODDAMMIT!!!

--AND THE DOOR OPENS! They RUSH INSIDE just as Hatchet-Face is REACHING THEM--

INSIDE THE CHAPEL

--and MAX SLAMS and LATCHES the DOOR JUST as the BUTCHER KNIFE BLADE COMES THROUGH THE WOOD, half-an-inch from MAX'S FACE!

Max STUMBLES back, falling on her ass on the ground, SCOOTING AWAY-- but nothing else happens.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. CAMP QUAD - LATER

The RAIN has stopped, and a light FOG has fallen over the area.

ANGLE ON

The "KNOW YOUR CAMP BLUEBIRD COUNSELORS!" Board: GERTIE'S picture has been added to it, next to DUNCAN'S.

EXT. LAKE DOCK

The WAVES lap the sides of the dock.

EXT. CHAPEL

Occasional LIGHTING lights up the sky, making its stained glass WINDOWS glow.

INT. CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

Vicki and Lauren are next to each other in a pew, shivering, terrified. They've been here a while. They STARE into space, exhausted, in shock. After several beats:

VICKI
Chris is dead. Isn't he?

Lauren SHRUGS, lost in thought.

VICKI (CONT'D)
(beat)
We're gonna die out here. Aren't we?

Lauren doesn't move. We PAN AWAY from them to find Max sitting by the altar, STARING at the machete in her hands. It GLINTS in the sporadic FLASHES of LIGHTNING coming through the windows.

TINA (O.S.)
Max?

Max LOOKS up-- Tina is shivering. Max TAKES OFF her denim jacket, and GIVES IT to Tina, who SITS next to her.

TINA (CONT'D)
Why do you keep calling me "Mom"?

MAX
(beat)
You know how this is a movie.
Right?

TINA
Yeah.

MAX
Well... my Mom... *played* you in the movie.

TINA
...No way.

MAX
Yeah.

TINA
Where is she? At your house?

MAX
She's dead.

Tina LOOKS away, processing-- and the pieces fall into place for her. She LOOKS back at Max.

TINA
 Is that why you want me to come
 home with you?
 (beat)
 To be your Mom?

MAX
 I don't know.
 (beat)
 Do you want to?

TINA
 ...I don't know.
 (beat)
 Is that really such a good idea?

THEN: A SUDDEN GUST of WIND OUTSIDE SENDS A BRANCH CRASHING through the STAINED GLASS window over the altar BEHIND THEM!

Max and Tina JUMP UP and LOOK-- and then MAX, during a FLASH OF LIGHTNING, SEES HATCHET-FACE'S SHADOW pass by one of the nearby WINDOWS! MAX HOLDS UP THE MACHETE:

MAX
 He's here... he's *here*....!

Vicki and Lauren JOIN Max and Tina, and they STAND BACK-TO-BACK, looking EVERYWHERE for a SIGN of where he's going to POP OUT!

SUDDENLY: a SCRATCHING at the Chapel DOUBLE DOORS. They ALL LOOK-- and SEE the LATCH on the door CLICKING, trying to be OPENED.

MAX (CONT'D)
 (to Tina)
 Mom-- get back against that wall.
 Stay there. Don't move.
 (beat)
 Vicki? Lauren? We're gonna open
 that door.

Vicki and Lauren NOD and the TRIO move slowly towards the now-rattling DOOR. Once they REACH IT, MAX STANDS before it, MACHETE RAISED LIKE A BASEBALL BAT--

MAX (CONT'D)
 On the count of three.
 (beat)
 One.

We CLOSE IN ON VICKI, her HANDS on one handle--

MAX (CONT'D)
 Two.

We CLOSE IN ON LAUREN, her hands on the other--

MAX (CONT'D)

THREE!

And they FLING the doors OPEN to REVEAL A BADLY INJURED CHRIS on the ground! Max STOPS HERSELF from striking-- and she lets out a relieved LAUGH as ALL THREE GIRLS drag him inside, HUGGING HIM, crying with joy. They SHUT the doors again.

CHRIS

I'm OK. I'm OK.

GIRLS

Oh thank God/ You're alive!/ I was so scared...

CHRIS

He's-- he's somewhere. Around.

MAX TURNS back to LOOK at Tina, who's still by the wall--

MAX

Look! It's Chris!

ANGLE ON TINA

Who SMILES, pleased-- WHEN SUDDENLY HATCHET-FACE'S HANDS BURST THROUGH THE WOOD WALLS BEHIND HER, WRAPPING THEMSELVES AROUND HER TORSO!!!

BACK TO REAL KIDS

Who STAND, stunned--

MAX (CONT'D)

MOOOOOM!!!

BACK TO TINA

--as Tina is YANKED OUT through the huge HOLE Hatchet-Face has created--

TINA

MAAAAAAAX!!!

BACK TO MAX & THE GANG

--who RUSH over to the HOLE in the wall--

MAX'S POV: As Hatchet-Face, carrying a struggling TINA in his arms, walks SLOWLY AWAY, into the FOG-- Tina LOOKING BACK at Max, REACHING FOR HER--

BACK TO MAX

--and we CLOSE IN ON MAX, who SLOWLY CRUMBLES to her knees, in ruins, her HEAD falling... staying there for several moments...

...and THEN: the ENTIRE FRAME OF THE MOVIE starts to TREMBLE AGAIN. Shake. But this time, HARDER THAN EVER BEFORE... and it CONTINUES TO SHAKE as MAX SLOWLY LOOKS UP...

...her EYES WIDE... TREMBLING with RAGE... and she STANDS...

...as the WIND HITS HER, making her HAIR BLOW BACK, her EYES never leaving the disappearing Hatchet-Face...

...and we HEAR the SOUND of MAX'S RAPIDLY INCREASING HEARTBEAT as THUNDER & LIGHTNING sound...

...and Max LOOKS down at the MACHETE she's holding...

...then BACK UP into the night-- and her EYES NARROW in determination as the SOUNDS OF HER HEART, THE THUNDER, the WIND and SHAKING FRAME BUILD TO A DEAFENING CRESCENDO--

VICKI (O.S.)

Max--!

And the SOUNDS and SHAKING STOP-- but Max doesn't turn around. Lauren, Vicki and Chris are a few feet behind her.

LAUREN

Get away from there!

VICKI

Yeah, what are you *thinking*?!

MAX

(beat)

I'm thinking...

And we CLOSE IN FAST ON MAX as she TURNS around to LOOK at her friends, a WILD, untamed LOOK in her eyes.

MAX (CONT'D)

...that he just fucked with the wrong virgin.

Vicki, Lauren & Chris' EYES go WIDE--

--and we HEAR the killer opening drums of The Bangles' *Hazy Shade of Winter* as we CUT TO SHOTS OF:

-Max THROWING on Lauren's black LEATHER JACKET;

-Max TEARING a piece of FABRIC from her SKIRT, and using it to TIE her HAIR BACK;

-Max USING a cloth to WIPE THE MACHETE CLEAN as LIGHTNING CRASHES;

-Max GOING to CHRIS and GRABBING HIM by his collar, and **KISSING HIM, leaving him breathless;**

-Max KICKING OPEN the DOORS of the CHAPEL, and TWIRLING the machete like a badass in her hand. She WALKS OUT into the fog, her friends staying behind, WATCHING HER go, amazed-- and we briefly CLOSE in on VICKI, who SMILES: that's the kickass Max she knows and loves.

EXT. CAMP QUAD - CONTINUOUS

And the MUSIC CONTINUES as Max WALKS with determination into the empty area--

--spotting, in the DISTANCE, LIGHT COMING FROM THE BARN a few YARDS AWAY--

--and MAX, cracking her neck, STRIDES TOWARDS IT with supreme confidence and focus, fury in her eyes--

*

--and *Hazy Shade of Winter's* DRUMS come CRASHING TO A CLOSE as MAX ROUNDS a bend and stops...

EXT. BARN

...for there, in front of the barn DOOR, stands Hatchet-Face, WAITING for her. It's a *High Noon* moment-- two warriors standing at opposite ends of the road. THUNDER ROLLS as they SIZE EACH OTHER UP.

MAX
You know what's funny? I always
thought you'd be taller.

She TAKES a STEP CLOSER--

--and Hatchet-Face TAKES a STEP BACK, closer to the barn door.

MAX (CONT'D)
Come on, baby. Don't be scared.
(twirls machete)
I'll be gentle.
(beat)
Your first time always hurts.

--and Max takes another STEP CLOSER--

--and HATCHET-FACE disappears into the BARN! Max doesn't move for a moment-- **and then, WE HEAR, from inside, TINA'S HORRIFIED SCREAMING!!!**

MAX (CONT'D)
MOM!

And MAX RUNS to the barn, going

INSIDE

To find that it's LIT from ABOVE with flickering, SWINGING LIGHTS-- hay everywhere, that spiky thresher thing in the corner below the LOFT-- and MAX LOOKS ALL AROUND-- no sign of Hatchet-Face--

--and MAX HUGS the wall as she MOVES inside laterally, slowly, **her FOOT hitting a GASOLINE CANISTER**. Max STEPS around it-- and then SPIES SOMETHING GLINTING in the hay a few feet away--

--it's LEROY'S ZIPPO LIGHTER. Max POCKETS IT QUICKLY and STANDS again-- LOOKING ALL AROUND-- where the hell did Hatchet-Face go?! Max rounds a corner--

--and NEAR one of the HORSE STALLS is TINA, crumpled in a heap-- but apparently UNHARMED! Max RUNS to her, takes her face in her hands--

MAX (CONT'D)
Mom-- you OK? Look at me-- I'm
getting you out of here--

TINA
(terrified)
You have to go. You have to run.

MAX
No. You're not dying again. Not
like this.

AND SUDDENLY: the BARN DOOR SLAMS SHUT-- and the OVERHEAD LIGHTS GO OUT!!! The whole space is PLUNGED into darkness.

Tina YELPS in surprise-- and MAX covers her mouth, puts her lips to her ear:

MAX (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Don't... make... a sound.

We CAN BARELY SEE Max in this darkness as she STANDS up again, puts her back to the wall-- and sloooowly STARTS to slide along-- **the occasional CLAP OF LIGHTNING AND THUNDER shedding LIGHT into the space--**

--giving us a GLIMPSES OF HATCHET-FACE moving QUICKLY, SILENTLY, through the BARN, watching Max!!!

Max is practically HYPERVENTILATING as she slides along the perimeter of the barn... and then, she TRIPS--

--only to LAND next to GERTIE'S BODY, hidden behind a hay bale!!! Max COVERS her mouth and stands up again next to an OPEN horse stall--

--only to HAVE LEROY'S BODY, upside-down, SWING DOWN, grazing her shoulder!!!

Max STUMBLES away from it and TURNS AROUND only to come face-to-face with KURT & PAULA'S bodies, STRUNG UP on the wall!!!

Another CRASH of LIGHTNING shows that Hatchet-Face is CLOSER now, but is enjoying the show. Max STANDS up again, HUGGING the wall... moving towards the

GAS CANISTER

And once she REACHES IT, she CROUCHES to pick it up, unscrewing the cap...

...and, SEEING in another FLASH OF LIGHTNING that Hatchet-Face is standing in the middle of the BARN, an AXE in his hand-- Max STARTS TO WALK QUICKLY along back the way she came...

...TRICKLING the GAS in a stream behind her. The BASES of TWO of the barn's WALLS are now coated in gasoline. Max STEPS a few STEPS away from them, closer to the BARN'S center.

She STOPS, and pulls out the lighter. Tina, near her, goes WIDE-EYED.

TINA
(nervous, standing)
Max... what are you doing...?

MAX
I'm setting the mood. Cover your head.

MAX FLIPS open the ZIPPO--

MAX (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Hey fuckface. I don't like it with the lights out.
(lights the zippo)
I wanna see what I'm doing to you.

And SHE TOSSES the ZIPPO OVER her SHOULDER--

--and the WALLS BEHIND HER ERUPT IN FLAMES, a carpet of FIRE WHIPPING AROUND HALF the space, suddenly CONSUMING THE TWO WALLS, the SPACE SUDDENLY LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE! Max's cockiness suddenly FADES when she LOOKS to where Hatchet-Face was just moments ago--

--and he's not there--

--because he's NOW RIGHT BEHIND MAX, in a horse stall! HE MOVED THERE IN THE DARK, RIGHT BEFORE she lit the fire!!!

He RAISES his axe as Max TURNS to see him--

TINA

Look out!!!

And Tina JUMPS UP and PUSHES MAX OUT OF THE WAY-- **but the axe blade PLUNGES ITSELF into Tina's LEFT SHOULDER!!!**

MAX

NO!

Tina SCREAMS in pain as he RIPS the blade out of her, and TURNS to look at Max, who's on the ground, machete still in hand.

The FIRE is spreading fast (even to the roof beams) as Max SCURRIES BACK on her ass, Hatchet-Face SLAMMING the axe once, twice, again and again into the ground, trying to GET Max but good.

Max SCRAMBLES to her feet and DODGES his AXE again, and she SWINGS the machete at him-- **and it CONNECTS, into his CHEST-- and the wound is a doozy--** he STUMBLES back, suddenly afraid-- and Max uses the opportunity to CHARGE towards him as he backs away--

--Max SWINGING the machete over and over-- until he FALLS back onto the floor, against a wall. The FIRE is catching up to them. Hatchet-Face is visibly afraid.

Max BRINGS the machete front and center-- ready to strike--

--but HATCHET-FACE, quick as lightning, SLASHES at Max, connecting the BLADE with her hand, KNOCKING THE MACHETE out of her grasp! The MACHETE FALLS onto the floor...

Max SCREAMS as she BACKS UP, looks at her hand-- he CUT her pinkie off!!! She LOOKS UP at him, suddenly fearful--

--and he STANDS UP before her, HOLDING HIS MACHETE. He GOT IT BACK. Oh, SHIT!

Max hesitates for a second before BOLTING to the other end of the barn-- and, seeing a LADDER, climbs up to the

LOFT

Where she nearly FALLS OFF the edge-- and the scary UPTURNED SPIKES from the THRESHER below are waiting. She backs away, LOOKING for something, anything to help her cause-- and SEES a HAY-BALE PULLY tied to the wall. Nearly everywhere, the FIRE is really spreading fiercely by now.

--THEN: Hatchet-Face EMERGES from below, CLIMBING UP--

--and when HE LOOKS AROUND... Max is GONE.

Hatchet-Face WALKS to the edge of the LOFT, LOOKS DOWN--

--and sees nothing but hay and the spikes of the thresher.

THEN, BEHIND HIM:

MAX (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Hey.

And HATCHET-FACE whirls around to FIND MAX brandishing the HUGE PULLY in her hands-- and she WHIPS IT towards him! It SMACKS HIM in the face, KNOCKING HIM BACKWARDS--

--and he FALLS DOWN-- out of SIGHT--

--but there's NO SOUND.

Several beats of silence.

MAX limps along the LOFT towards the edge, and LOOKS DOWN--

--and HATCHET-FACE POPS UP, swinging from the edge of the LOFT, GRABBING MAX'S LEG--

--and Max SCREAMS as she FALLS, grabbing the edge of the LOFT just in time, HATCHET-FACE still holding her leg, DANGLING OVER THOSE SPIKES--

--MAX, summoning all of her STRENGTH, SCREAMS AS SHE TRIES TO DRAG HERSELF more onto the loft--

--Hatchet-Face is CRAWLING UP her body to get to safety--

--Max closes her eyes--

--Hatchet-Face's HEAD is now right behind hers--

--and WITH A RAGE AND FURY WE NEVER KNEW SHE HAD:

MAX (CONT'D)

JUST! FUCKING! DIE!!!

--AND MAX REVERSE HEAD-BUTTS HIM with all of her might, the SHOCK making him LOSE his grip on the loft--

--and he FALLS ONTO THE SPIKED THRESHER THING with a horrible shiiink, the SPIKES IMPALING HIM in half-a-dozen places!

MAX, thank God, is still hanging onto the loft, just barely. She LIFTS herself up to safety, and LIES there for a second, breathing.

TIME CUT (BARN LOWER FLOOR, MOMENTS LATER)

Max, covered in blood and dirt, looking like she's survived a thousand near-death experiences, standing by Hatchet-Face's still body, stuck through with the spikes. FLAMES are now everywhere.

MAX (CONT'D)

Wake up.

Hatchet-Face AWAKENS with a start, looks at her fearfully, trembling.

MAX (CONT'D)

(raises the machete)

Looking for this?

Hatchet-Face can't move. He **SQUIRMS**, and Max gives a dry, **exhausted, half-crazy chuckle** as she **PLUNGES** the **MACHETE** into his chest!!! Hatchet-Face's **HEAD SNAPS BACK IN AGONY!**

MAX RIPS the machete back out of him, and he GIVES WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A DISGUSTING DEATH RATTLE. Max is about to STRIKE HIM AGAIN when she HEARS a LOUD CRACK from above-- and LOOKS UP--

--to SEE that a FLAMING ROOF BEAM is FALLING DOWN, headed right for her! Max JUMPS out of the way just as the BEAM LANDS RIGHT ON TOP OF THE IMPALED HATCHET-FACE, who doesn't even move.

Max HURRIES to Tina, who STARES PLACIDLY at the weakening ROOF BEAMS. She's LOST a lot of blood. Max starts to HELP HER UP...

MAX (CONT'D)

He's dead. We have to go--

(to Tina)

Get up. Get up! We have to go home and get you to a hospital...!

TINA

No. No, no-- Max. You have to go.

MAX

What?! No! You-- you have to come with me, we're gonna go home--

TINA

I am home, honey. This is where I belong.

MAX

No! No way! Come on, Mom!

Max PULLS on Tina, but Tina PULLS Max down to the ground. **Again, overhead, the ROOF of the barn is CREAKING LOUDER, now totally AFLAME--**

TINA

Max. Listen to me.

(beat)

I'm not your Mom. I'm just me.

MAX

(crying)

You are. Your name is Amanda Cartwright. You live in Encino, and, and your favorite movie is *Singing In the Rain*, and we used to do numbers from the movie in our backyard, and-- and you wanted to be a movie star more than anything in the whole world. *Please* believe me.

(opens her locket, shows her)

It's you. See? See?

(looking at the roof)

We have to *hurry*...!

Max GRIPS Tina by the arms. Tina takes Max's face in her hands.

TINA

Max. I'm dying. If you go now, you'll get away. Listen to me. You have to go home. You have to *live*.

Max listens in SHOCK as a FIERY BEAM FALLS from the roof, right between them and where Hatchet-Face lies!

MAX

But-- you can't *stay* here...!

TINA

You have to let me go, Max.

(beat, sweetly)

...Let me go.

And after a moment, Max's GRIP on Tina LOOSENS. She stares at her in devastated wonder.

MAX

I don't wanna lose you again.

TINA

I'm not lost, sweetheart.

(beat, smiles)

I'm always right here.

After a few moments, a FAR CORNER of the BARN ERUPTS in FLAMES as OIL CANS explode! Tina addresses Max exactly the way a mother would.

TINA (CONT'D)

Go. Now.

(beat)

Run.

EXT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

SLOW MOTION:

Max RUSHES out of the barn down the wooded path-- and once at a safe distance, she stops and LOOKS BACK--

MAX'S POV: to SEE, through the OPEN DOORWAY, Tina LOOKING at Max proudly, FLAMES all around her. Tina BLOWS A KISS to Max, the same way Amanda did in the home video earlier.

BACK TO MAX

Who "CATCHES" it, astonished, TEARS STREAMING down her face--

BACK TO TINA

Who LOOKS UP at the BURNING ROOF-- and CLOSES HER EYES--

BACK TO MAX (OUTSIDE)

--just as the ENTIRE ROOF COLLAPSES DOWN in a blazing INFERNO. Max is KNOCKED OFF her feet by the blast of HEAT-- and she STARES at the WRECKAGE for several moments, hearing nothing but the crickets, the crack of the flames, the sound of her own breathing.

CUT TO BLACK. END SLOW MOTION.

EXT. CAMP QUAD - MOMENTS LATER

Max, the machete still in hand, WALKS SLOWLY into the quad to SEE FIGURES STRUGGLING into view in the distance-- to FIND that it's a banged-up VICKI and LAUREN holding up a severely INJURED CHRIS into the QUAD!

Max gives a CROAK to get their attention-- and they TURN to SEE her! All three make their way over to Max--

LAUREN

Max! You're alive! Thank God!
(beat, suddenly afraid)
Did you kill him?

Max NODS, her eyes far away. Chris KISSES MAX the second he's near her, HUGS her. Vicki LOOKS past Max, concerned.

VICKI

Jesus, what happened to your *hand*?
(beat)
Wait-- where's your Mom?

Max CRIES. The others suddenly understand, and they HOLD HER.

MAX

It's OK. It's OK. It's alright.

LAUREN

So... what do we do now?

SUDDENLY: BEHIND THEM, through the Camp Arches, **the ROAD SUDDENLY OPENS UP-- SHAFTS OF DAYLIGHT SHINING THROUGH THE TREES. The movie is over. Time to go.** Max & Co. gaze at it with a mixture of relief and exhaustion.

MAX

We go home.

TIME CUT - OUTSIDE CAMP

Chris, Vicki and Lauren HURRYING DOWN THE ROAD in front of Max, who's right behind them, HOLDING THE MACHETE-- and their ELATION at seeing the road leading OUT OF CAMP is palpable.

VICKI

Do you guys think we'll get home this way?

MAX

I dunno. Just keep going. Now that he's dead, we can get the hell out of here.

CHRIS

FYI? I vote we never tell anyone about anything that's happened here tonight.

MAX

Fine with me.

LAUREN

Why? We have to tell *someone* about Gertie and Duncan...

VICKI

Go for it, Lauren. I'll be sure to visit you when they lock you in a loony bin.

THEY WALK OUT OF FRAME.

TIME CUT

WE SEE SEVERAL DISSOLVES of them WALKING THROUGH THE WOODS-- it's CLEAR that they've been on foot for a while now. They're getting more and more anxious.

VICKI (CONT'D)

(stopping)

OK. Shit. Guys. What the hell?! The guy's dead, so why can't we get out of here?!

MAX

Oh God. Maybe this isn't gonna work. Maybe we can't leave.

LAUREN

No! No, there's gotta be a way!

CHRIS

Yeah, let's just keep going!

MAX

I did everything right! I stabbed him in the chest and he made this horrible gurgly noise and then he went still!

LAUREN

...Oh. That's funny.

MAX

What's funny...?

LAUREN

Well, I'm pretty sure that Duncan? Before? Said that the only way Hatchet-Face could *really* die was by getting his--

SUDDENLY: a BRANCH CRACKS LOUDLY offscreen. The GANG'S EYES WIDEN and they FREEZE.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

--head cut off.

Silence. Beat. Beat. Beat.

THEN: DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF MAX, HATCHET-FACE (now riddled with holes, burned to a crisp, glassy eyes enraged, LOOMS QUICKLY UP, grabbing MAX by the throat! He LIFTS her OFF THE GROUND as VICKI & LAUREN SHRIEK IN TERROR!

CLOSE UP

On MAX'S EYES as she chokes-- meeting HATCHET-FACE'S STARE--

ANGLE ON CHRIS

Who PIERCES THROUGH MAX'S PAIN BY SCREAMING:

CHRIS

MAX! DO IT! NOW!

BACK TO MAX

Who RAISES the MACHETE in her right hand like a baseball bat--

MAX
 (to Hatchet-Face)
 Have fun in your sequel, *bitch*...!

And she SLAMS THE BLADE INTO HIS NECK, KNOCKING HIS HEAD BACK LIKE it's a Pez dispenser!!! Max FALLS to the ground-- and then...

...from the WOUND in Hatchet-Face's NECK, a WHITENESS STARTS TO EMERGE-- a BLINDING WHITENESS THAT SEEPS OUT of him QUICKLY, its intensity BURNING UP EVERYTHING AROUND OUR GANG-- the trees, the road, the sky disappearing like burning celluloid-- and the Gang stare in AWE as the whiteness SOON CONSUMES THEM AS WELL.

FADE TO WHITE & SILENCE.

For several moments. **THEN:** the STEADY sound of a beep... beep... beep BLEEDING into earshot.

HARD CUT TO:

EXTREME CLOSE UP

Max's EYES SLOWLY OPEN--

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

--and we REVEAL that she's in a BED. She TRIES TO SIT UP, but WINCES at the sudden pain she feels. She looks like she's just been through hell. A NURSE enters after a moment, and CHANGES an IV bag.

NURSE
 Well, look at you. Awake at last.
 Stay put, honey.

MAX
 What-- where's-- everybody...?

NURSE
 There was a fire, sweetheart. And you... are a very lucky girl. Now sleep tight. Your father's on a plane right now. He'll be here in a few hours.

Max's EYES start to glaze over. She's gonna pass out.

MAX
 I-- I killed him--

But the NURSE has exited. Max falls asleep.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MUCH LATER

Max stands in front of a ROOM DOOR-- and, LOOKING IN the window, SEES that a recuperating VICKI & LAUREN are sleeping inside.

CHRIS (O.S.)

Max--?

MAX

Oh my God. Chris--

CHRIS

(hugging Max)

Hey. Sorry. I was looking for you.

Max KISSES him softly. After she pulls back, CHRIS lifts up a section of NEWSPAPER, hands it to her. Max LOOKS: The article headline reads **ENCINO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STILL MISSING FROM THEATRE WRECKAGE**. There are TWO pictures: one of GERTIE, and one of DUNCAN.

MAX

(eyes welling up)

Oh, God.

She can't find the words. Chris HOLDS her hand.

CHRIS

I had the weirdest dream.

MAX

(alarmed)

Yeah...?

CHRIS

(looking at Max's hand)

Hey. Your bandages. You're bleeding.

Max LIFTS UP her bandaged hand... and starts to UNRAVEL THE GAUZE around it... revealing that her PINKIE is MISSING. It really happened. Chris and Max stare at each silently, stupefied. After several moments:

MAX

(white as a sheet)

...I guess I know how to write that paper now.

NURSE (O.S.)

Young lady! Young man!

Max & Chris TURN AROUND-- at the other end of the hall, the NIGHT NURSE is standing there, annoyed.

NURSE (CONT'D)
I thought I told you both to stay
in bed--!

SUDDENLY: HATCHET-FACE appears behind her! He **SLASHES HER THROAT** with a **SCALPEL**-- **BLOOD GEYSERING ALL OVER THE WHITE WALLS**-- and then, he **LIFTS HER TWITCHING BODY OFF THE GROUND, SLAMMING HER HEAD INTO THE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS ABOVE!** Max & Chris **STEP BACK, HORRIFIED**-- **SPARKS FLY** from the **NURSE'S EYES AND MOUTH** and then **ALL the overhead lights go OUT, PLUNGING the floor into darkness.**

THEN: the **SLOW STROBES** of the **EMERGENCY SYSTEM** go on. Hatchet-Face **LOWERS** the Nurse's **BODY** and **STARTS to WALK SLOWLY** towards **MAX & CHRIS**, dragging the Nurse's **BODY**, **LEAVING A STREAK OF BLOOD** on the ground as he goes-- and as he **APPROACHES**, he **TILTS** his head, **LOOKING** at Max & Chris as if to say: *Thought we were finished, didn't you?*

And **WE CLOSE IN** on Max as she **SCREAMS, SLAMMING TO BLACK,** immediately **HEARING Cyndi Lauper's Girls Just Want To Have Fun.**

Title Card: ***THE FINAL GIRLS***