

UNTITLED FRANCO/SWANBERG PROJECT

Written by

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INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA

MONTAGE:

Several different types of people, of all ages and backgrounds, cycle through the same beautiful Airbnb.

Most of them participate in mundane activities-- Cooking, watching TV, playing board games, hot tubbing, etc.

A young couple has sex on the kitchen counter.

A wholesome family makes sandwiches in the exact spot where we just saw the young couple fucking.

In the middle of the montage, there is a quick flash of a MAN pulling down a very realistic HUMAN MASK over his face. It's creepy as hell (NOTE: we do not see his actual face).

Back to everyone else doing mundane things, as if the creepy mask moment never happened.

The montage ends on an exterior shot of the beautiful home.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH END ARCHITECTURE OFFICE - DAY

CU of a computer

We see pictures of the same Airbnb from the opening montage.

We reveal MEENA and CHARLIE (both mid 30s), a cute looking professional couple, clicking through the listing on Airbnb. He is seated at his desk and she leans on him, looking over his shoulder.

MEENA

It's beautiful.

CHARLIE

I know, it's like the quintessential Big Sur house-- nestled right into the cliffside.

MEENA

And look at that fucking coastline. Ah! I want it now!

They notice the rental price.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Whoa.

CHARLIE
Essentially a month's salary for 2
nights...

They take a beat, contemplating.

MEENA
Fuck it. We earned it.

She scrolls through the available dates on the site.

MEENA (CONT'D)
It's available this weekend.

They look at each other and smile the excited smile of plans coming together.

They are startled by a knock on the door.

JOSH (O.S.)
Yo!

Meena and Charlie's body language immediately changes, like they've been caught.

MEENA
(overly eager)
Hi!

JOSH
Hi, am I interrupting?

MEENA
Not at all!

Meena walks to JOSH (early 30s) and they kiss. This is the actual couple. Josh is Charlie's little brother.

CHARLIE
What's up, bro?

JOSH
(to Meena)
I was dropping someone off in the neighborhood and figured I'd pop in, see if you wanted a ride home.

MEENA
Um... yeah.

She checks with Charlie, makes eye contact.

MEENA (CONT'D)
We're about finished. Thanks.

CHARLIE

Does she need to request you on the App or can you go rogue?

Josh is sick of jokes about his "temporary" job driving Uber, but lets this one slide.

JOSH

I think we'll get away with it this time.

(then)

What are you guys looking at?

CHARLIE

Vacation rentals. We thought it might be fun if the four of us took a trip to celebrate the Sullivan contract.

MEENA

It's going to be a shit ton of work, so we figured some quality chill time before we dive in might be nice.

Josh looks neutral on the idea.

JOSH

Cool...

MEENA

Let me get my stuff.

Meena leaves and Josh and Charlie are left alone.

JOSH

You call mom for her birthday?

CHARLIE

Fuck! It was yesterday, wasn't it?

JOSH

Sorry, I meant to text you.

CHARLIE

Ugh, I'll call her on my way home. Thanks for reminding me.

JOSH

How's Michelle?

CHARLIE

Good. Busy-- same as usual.

JOSH
Only a few more months until she's
Michelle PhD. Crazy.

CHARLIE
Thank God. Neither of us can
survive another semester. You still
taking classes?

JOSH
Uh huh.

CHARLIE
Cool.

There's love there, but they can be a little formal with each
other. Brothers on different wavelengths.

Meena returns with her belongings.

MEENA
Ok, let's hit it.

JOSH
(over the top)
Alright. Love you, bro bro.

CHARLIE
Love you more!

Josh heads out the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow.

MEENA
Goodnight.

INT. JOSH'S CAR - DAY - LATER

It's an old Hatchback.

He has Uber and Lyft stickers on his windshield-- a worker
bee in the share economy.

JOSH
I can't really afford a vacation
right now. I need every weekend
hour I can get.

MEENA
Charlie and I would pay for
everything.

(MORE)

MEENA (CONT'D)

The Sullivan deal is huge-- we can afford to do something nice.

JOSH

Yeah... it's just like... you and I haven't even been on a vacation together. I always imagined taking you somewhere as a special treat-- not tagging along with you and my brother as your plus one.

MEENA

It's not like that.

JOSH

You sure?

MEENA

Yes. I'm sure.

JOSH

Ok.

MEENA

What??

JOSH

No, it's just, the two of you kind of have the tendency to box me out anytime we all get together.

MEENA

Oh, cmon.

JOSH

You do. I always end up getting stuck talking to Michelle, who we both know isn't the biggest fan of me. And you guys are off in your own world, talking about fancy architecture stuff or whatever.

Meena is about to argue, but she stops herself.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What? You know it's true.

MEENA

Ok, I'm not arguing.

JOSH

Ok.

MEENA
Oh, don't be mad.

JOSH
I'm not.

They drive in silence.

MEENA
Babe, I love you. And I want to go
on this vacation so I can spend
time with you.

Josh doesn't concede quite yet.

MEENA (CONT'D)
And I know you get in your head
about wanting to provide for me.
And as much as I do understand
that, and I really do, you might
have to start changing your
perspective a little and accept the
fact that you're with a bad ass
architect who gets to take YOU on
vacation as a special treat.

Josh tries not to smile but can't help it.

JOSH
You're confirming all of my
greatest fears. I'm just your
sweet, loving...

MEENA
Adorable...

JOSH
Don't say adorable-- makes me feel
like a kid.

She pats him.

MEENA
Awww... You just focus on making me
smile and doing your push-ups.

They both laugh. The tension fully gone.

JOSH
By the way, I picked up your dry-
cleaning.

INT. CHARLIE AND MICHELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie and MICHELLE (mid 30s) live in a nicely decorated house that feels lived-in and stable. They have been married for 4 years, together for 7. No kids, as they're both still prioritizing work. They both kind of want a family in a non-pressing way. Maybe in 2 or 3 years.

They lie in bed.

MICHELLE

I can't believe I'm actually looking forward to a weekend with your brother. I had pretty much given up on him, but it really feels like Meena woke him up.

CHARLIE

I don't know.

MICHELLE

He actually seems motivated-- He's working, he's back in school...

CHARLIE

I don't know if 2 night classes is "back in school."

MICHELLE

-- she's definitely a positive influence. I'm a big fan of that relationship.

CHARLIE

Well, don't get too attached. He'll fuck it up somehow.

She looks at him, like, "what's up with you?"

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Tell me how that relationship has any legs-- you have a brilliant, thoughtful, sophisticated, well traveled, HILARIOUS architect from Iran--

MICHELLE

You forgot beautiful.

CHARLIE

Beautiful. And then my brother-- a barely employed Uber driver who got kicked out of college and served jail time for nearly beating a guy to death outside of his frat house.

Michelle softens, not wanting to initiate a fight.

MICHELLE

All I'm saying is I've never seen him like this... He really loves her. It's sweet.

CHARLIE

Of course he loves her. He hit the fucking jackpot.

Michelle doesn't push back.

INT. CHARLIE AND MICHELLE'S SUV - MORNING - A FEW DAYS LATER

It's a nice SUV.

Charlie drives. Michelle is in the passenger seat.

Meena and Josh are in the backseat. She is preparing to pop a zit on his back.

MEENA

Ahh...

JOSH

Just do it! Don't think about it.

She starts to squeeze.

MEENA

Ahhh-- does it hurt??

JOSH

No! Get it all out!

MEENA

Ewwwww.

She shows Josh the puss on the end of her finger nail. She tries to discreetly wipe it on the car seat.

Charlie looks in the rearview, catching Meena in the act.

CHARLIE

You didn't just do that--

Meena and Josh bust up laughing.

Michelle can't help but smile at the cute couple.

Charlie shakes his head, not amused.

LATER

They're still in the car.

Michelle looks at Meena's phone, analyzing her Airbnb profile.

MICHELLE

This seems totally normal and great.

Meena reaches forward and takes her phone back from Michelle.

MEENA

Right?? Nothing that should set off any red flags.

JOSH

Except...

CHARLIE

Not everyone is a racist piece of shit!

(then, to Meena)

How many places have you booked through them?

MEENA

One.

CHARLIE

Ok! The plot thickens.

JOSH

But she got a 5-star review.

MICHELLE

(to Charlie)

How many places have we booked?

CHARLIE

Three.

Meena and Josh laugh from the back seat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What? It's still more than one!

JOSH

Oh cmon! Same house, same dates--
her request gets denied and yours
gets accepted an hour later?

CHARLIE

I'm not saying it's not possible.
Discrimination obviously exists and
the name Meena Mahmoud is about as
Muslim as it gets. I'm just saying,
why immediately jump to that as the
only possible explanation?

MEENA

OK. You're right. Give this white
guy we've never met the benefit of
the doubt.

CHARLIE

Give everyone the benefit of the
doubt is what I'm saying.

JOSH

Groovy man, peace and love.

CHARLIE

(laughs)
Fuck you.

We pull out to a high angle shot as the car turns off the
main road onto a dirt and gravel, heavily wooded road.

We still hear them talking.

MICHELLE

Are we hoping Meena is right, or
Charlie is right?

MEENA

We're hoping Charlie is right, but
we know Meena is right.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - DAY

The car emerges from the woods into a clearing with a
cliffside/oceanfront home. All four of them "ooh" and "ahh"
at how beautiful it is.

There's a pickup truck parked in front of the house. Charlie
approaches the truck and sees that no one is in it.

CHARLIE
He's gotta be here somewhere.
(then, calling out)
HELLO??

Silence.

Charlie shrugs and heads towards the house. The others follow.

Charlie checks the front door to see if it's locked-- It is.

The others look through the windows, scoping out the interior of the house.

MICHELLE
Whoa.

JOSH
Yeah... This'll do.

MEENA
(to Charlie)
Do you have the guy's number?

CHARLIE
Yeah, lemme see...

Charlie scrolls through his phone, then dials.

It's ringing-- and the ringing noise is RIGHT BEHIND THEM. They all jump and turn towards the noise.

A slightly overweight man, TAYLOR (50s), is standing there. He has a handyman vibe, but a little more cleaned up.

TAYLOR
Quite the jumpy bunch.

CHARLIE
Hey-- sorry, I was trying to call you--

TAYLOR
(interrupting)
I was expecting you guys an hour ago. Everything OK?

There's a slight edge to Taylor, like he's sick of dealing with snooty LA people renting the place.

CHARLIE

Sorry, we got a little bit of a late start and then stopped for groceries on the way.

(offering his hand)

I'm Charlie. You're Taylor?

TAYLOR

That's me.

They shake.

CHARLIE

This your house?

TAYLOR

My brother's, but I take care of it. He's up in the Bay Area doing his tech stuff. Barely uses it.

CHARLIE

It's gorgeous.

TAYLOR

Y'all are from LA?

CHARLIE

Yeah, this is my wife Michelle. My brother, Josh. And my partner Meena-- work partner. Also Josh's girlfriend-- or he's her boyfriend...

Charlie looks sheepish after over-complicating this introduction.

TAYLOR

(to Meena)

How'd you get all mixed up with this family?

MEENA

(on guard)

Umm, what do you mean?

Taylor puts his hands up defensively.

TAYLOR

Didn't mean anything. Cmon, lemme show you the place.

He heads to the house. Charlie and Michelle follow.

Meena and Josh go to the car to get their stuff.

MEENA

Wow. This piece of shit somehow exceeded my expectations.

JOSH

Yeah...

MEENA

I can't believe we're giving this guy our money... I'm gonna say something to him.

JOSH

Meena...

MEENA

What?

She gives him a hard stare.

JOSH

Nothing. It's just-- we already drove 5 hours and paid for the place. Let's just enjoy ourselves and be with each other. He'll be out of our way soon.

She breaks her stare and continues to grab things from the car.

INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - UPSTAIRS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Taylor shows Charlie and Michelle the bedrooms, which are both upstairs.

TAYLOR

Walls are pretty thin. Might get a little weird with your brother just down the hall, know what I'm sayin'?

He winks at them. It's gross.

INT. - KITCHEN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Meena and Josh enter with groceries as the others all come downstairs into the kitchen.

TAYLOR

Let me show you out back, then I'll get out of your hair.

All four of them follow Taylor to the back.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - DAY - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The house is on the very edge of the cliff. The view is stunning.

There is a large deck with a grill and a hot tub.

TAYLOR

Propane tank is full. Hot tub is working-- instructions are there on the side... It's nice getting in after dark. The stars are insane out here.

MICHELLE

Damn. I should have brought the telescope. I thought about it, but totally forgot.

TAYLOR

Why would you own a telescope in the city? You can't see shit there. Unless you're one of those Peeping Toms?

He laughs at his own "joke."

It lands flat with the others. They're not sure how to respond.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Anyway, I have one you can borrow. If you promise to treat it right, I'll bring it by later.

MICHELLE

Uh, that's alright. We don't want to put you out.

TAYLOR

Not a problem-- should have been here anyway. That was my fault.

(then)

OK, I'll let y'all get to it. My number is on the sheet in the kitchen if you need anything. Otherwise follow the check-out procedures when you go and have a nice weekend.

CHARLIE
Appreciate it.

Taylor heads back inside and they follow him in.

Just as he's about to leave--

MEENA
Hey, dude. Are you the one who does
the bookings for this place?

Josh sighs, knowing where this is going.

TAYLOR
Yeah, I book the place.

MEENA
I tried to rent this house for this
exact period of time and my request
was denied. Can you tell me why
that is?

TAYLOR
Lots of people try and rent this
place-- I don't remember your
request.

It's getting a little tense.

JOSH
Babe...

MEENA
It's just a little strange because
my request was denied, then
Charlie, a white man, puts in an
identical request an hour later and
his gets accepted.

CHARLIE
OK, we really don't have to get
into this--

MEENA
Do you remember now? Meena Mahmoud.
Does that ring any bells?

Taylor stares her down.

TAYLOR
If you don't like the house or have
any other problems, the
cancellation policy is listed
clearly on the website.

(MORE)

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Outside of that, I don't have
anything else to discuss with you.

CHARLIE
OK, thank you, we understand.

MEENA
Yes, we understand completely. I'm
reading you loud and clear.

Taylor turns and exits the house.

MEENA (CONT'D)
Asshole.

Josh goes to her and places his hand on her back, trying to
comfort her.

Meena immediately walks away from him, not wanting to be
consoled.

MICHELLE
Charlie, can you help me put the
groceries away?

Charlie and Michelle walk over to the kitchen area. They hear
the sound of Taylor's pickup truck start outside. Charlie
looks out the window and sees Taylor peel out of the yard,
down the long wooded driveway.

Meena stews in the corner of the living room.

Josh and Charlie try to break the tension.

JOSH
Beautiful home, huh bro?

CHARLIE
You see that hot tub, bro bro?

JOSH
Oh, you know know it. Crack a
brewski or two-ski and gaze at the
stars

CHARLIE
Sip a lil pinot greej and pop in a
bromantic comedy.

JOSH
Broseph Gordon-Levitt all day all
night.

This little "pretend nothing is wrong" bit is actually working on Meena, who starts to cool down.

CHARLIE

Smoke a J and take a lonnng walk
along the brocean.

JOSH

Get that sand in between your toes,
bros.

CHARLIE

The perfect brome away from brome.

MEENA

OK, ENOUGH!

Everyone laughs-- the tension breaks.

MICHELLE

A walk actually does sound nice.

CHARLIE

I wasn't kidding about that. After
we put our stuff away you guys want
to check out the property?

MICHELLE

Abs-bro-lutely.

JOSH

Ohhhhh shit! Michelle from way down
town!

They all laugh as they get busy settling in.

EXT. WOODS - SUNSET

We establish the geography of the house. The area is very
secluded-- no other houses in sight.

They walk along the cliff's edge as the sun sets.

Meena and Charlie walk ahead of the other two.

CHARLIE

It's kind of tragic that this place
is empty half the year.

MEENA

If I made enough money to own a
house like that I'd never leave.

CHARLIE

Hey, if we keep making moves like we have been...

MEENA

I mean, ya, we're doing well but you need 'fuck you' money to buy that kind of spot.

(beat)

It is nice to pretend for a weekend though.

Josh watches them from behind with a slight look of jealousy.

MICHELLE

You ok?

Josh snaps out of it.

JOSH

Ya, sorry.

MICHELLE

They can be kind of intense, right?

JOSH

I'm pretty sure they forgot we're even here.

MICHELLE

Welcome to my life over the past few years. You and Meena are what-- 6 months in?

Josh nods.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, it gets less weird.

JOSH

That's comforting.

MICHELLE

They just have this creative connection, ya know? And as much as I've tried to relate, I just don't quite speak that language.

JOSH

Ya, I guess...

It seems like he's about to open up to her, but he stops himself.

MICHELLE

What?

JOSH

It's nothing. Nevermind.

MICHELLE

Ok.

They walk in silence.

JOSH

... I'm like, constantly terrified she's gonna leave me.

MICHELLE

Why would you say that?

JOSH

I donno... It's like, she's so fucking smart and talented and I just wanna be better for her. Like, I want to be able to challenge and inspire her, but it almost feels like she doesn't need that from me. Like she's already fulfilled in that way-- Does that make sense?

MICHELLE

Absolutely.

JOSH

But then I just end up feeling kind of inadequate.

(then)

Why are you smiling?

MICHELLE

Sorry, I think this is the first real conversation we've ever had. It's nice. Sorry, sorry-- keep going.

JOSH

Oh, no, I think that was it.

MICHELLE

Trust me, I hear everything you're saying. And I think what she needs from you is not for you to occupy the same space as her work partner-- that's all he is to her...

(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

I think you just need to be loving and supportive. That goes a lot further than you think.

Josh nods, absorbing this.

JOSH

So, you're saying that you're completely cool with her occupying such a significant space in your husband's life?

MICHELLE

I mean, no, fuck her.

They laugh.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

But ya, as much as I want to be everything to him, I know my limitations-- and I don't want my own insecurities to hold him back in any way.

This lands with Josh.

Just then, Meena runs up and burrows herself in Josh's coat.

MEENA

I'm freezing. You guys ready to turn back?

Josh wraps his arms around Meena and gives Michelle a little smile.

INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

They enter the house and find an expensive looking TELESCOPE in the middle of the living room with a note attached to it.

CHARLIE

Well well, what do we have here...

Michelle reads the note.

MICHELLE

"Sorry about earlier. Hope you have a relaxing vacation. Enjoy the night sky. -- Taylor"

JOSH

Someone wants his 5-star rating.

MICHELLE

Look, I know we don't like the guy,
but I am glad to have this for the
weekend.

MEENA

I'm sorry, are we just accepting
that he's gonna come and go as he
pleases?

CHARLIE

I mean... He did say he was gonna
drop this off tonight.

MEENA

He couldn't have just left it on
the front porch?... You don't find
this creepy at all?

No one says anything, not wanting to initiate a fight with
Meena.

MEENA (CONT'D)

O-kay, I guess I'm the crazy one.

Meena looks at the others who don't meet her gaze. She
realizes she is single handedly bringing down the mood.

She takes a deep breath and changes course--

MEENA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm done talking about
it... Let's have a good time.

MICHELLE

... Who wants a drink?

INT. - DINING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

The mood has lifted.

Meena, Charlie, and Michelle all drink wine.

Josh drinks Tequila, straight up.

We catch them mid dinner.

Michelle is showing them a picture on her phone of a
beautiful waterfall.

MEENA

This looks incredible. So, what-- we'll head out first thing in the morning?

MICHELLE

Ya, it'll take at least a couple hours to get to the waterfall. Charlie's been making fun of me for buying a hydration pack just for this hike.

CHARLIE

You're a nerd. And I love you. And I love that you plan ahead.

MICHELLE

I get excited. I can't help it.

Charlie gives Michelle a small kiss.

MEENA

So what about tonight? I don't know what kind of vibes we were going for, but Michelle, don't you have a little surprise us?

Charlie and Josh perk up. What's this?

MICHELLE

Oh, right!

She gets up and grabs a little baggie of MOLLY from her coat. She tosses it in the middle of the table.

CHARLIE

Is this-- I literally don't think we've done this since the night we met. Where'd you even get this?

MICHELLE

Meena, he's told you the story of how we met, right?

MEENA

Of course. I've been hearing for years that if you get a little ecstasy in him, the man turns into a dancing queeeeen.

MICHELLE

We have pictures from that night that look like we are full-on fucking on the dance floor.

(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 Couldn't keep our hands off each other.

CHARLIE
 I wish I could refute anything that you're saying right now.

MEENA
 So... shall we do some drugs?

MICHELLE
 I really really don't want to be a downer-- but I may bow out early tonight. It was a long shitty week at work and I'm sadly fading kinda fast.

MEENA
 We're not gonna do it without you.

MICHELLE
 No, no, please! I promise, it's ok. I just know that if I keep going, there's no chance I'm alive for this hike tomorrow.
 (then, to Charlie)
 Would you be super bummed if I crashed after dinner?

CHARLIE
 Not at all. You look exhausted.

MICHELLE
 Fuck you too.

They smile and give each other a quick peck.

MEENA
 Gentlemen. Shall we?

CHARLIE
 Yes, please.

Meena, Josh and Charlie all lick their fingers and dip them into the bag of Molly. They cheers their fingers, then put them in their mouths and make faces at the bitter taste. They wash it down with their drinks.

Josh licks his finger again and reaches for the bag.

MEENA
 Babe, slow down, we got a long night ahead of us...

Josh removes his hand from the bag.

JOSH
Point taken.

MICHELLE
Just leave enough for me to get
sufficiently fucked up tomorrow
night.

SMASH CUT:

INT. - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Mid dance party.

Charlie is more unhinged than we've seen him. He's in his own world.

Josh and Meena are connected, teasing each other with their dance moves.

Josh takes pulls directly from the bottle of Tequila.

EXT. - DECK - NIGHT - LATER

Meena, Josh, and Charlie, high on Molly, take turns looking through the lens of the telescope. The sounds of nature are loud and present.

Josh is lying on his back, nursing a beer, looking pretty wasted.

CHARLIE
--and if it would have come just a
minute later, it would have hit
somewhere in the ocean and
dinosaurs would still be ruling the
earth.

MEENA
Whoa.

JOSH
... do you think cave people ever
drew asteroid stuff?

CHARLIE
Are you asking because you think
cave people and dinosaurs lived
together?

JOSH

No, asshole. I know there was like, time after the dinosaurs before people came.

CHARLIE

How long between dinosaurs going extinct and homo-sapiens?

JOSH

I'm not taking your quiz.

MEENA

Dinosaurs are still around, as far as I'm concerned. You ever watch 'Planet Earth?' Those deep sea creatures are gnarrrrly.

CHARLIE

Cmon bro, take a guess--

JOSH

Fuck off--

CHARLIE

65 million years.

JOSH

Good for you. You win.

Josh takes the last swig of his beer. Sets the empty bottle down.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I'm getting another-- anyone want anything?

He stands up slowly, wobbling a bit. He finds his balance.

MEENA

You ok, babe?

JOSH

Mm hmm.

He looks at Charlie, pointing at him.

CHARLIE

I'm good.

He points at Meena.

MEENA

I'm fine, thank you baby.

He goes inside.

Charlie is at the telescope. Meena is standing next to him.

CHARLIE
You wanna take a look?

MEENA
Yeah.

They trade positions.

After a beat, Meena maneuvers the telescope, pointing it down the coast line.

CHARLIE
What are you doing?

MEENA
I'm being one of those classic LA Peeping Toms people are always talking about.

Charlie chuckles.

CHARLIE
You see anything?

MEENA
There's one house with its lights on. Way down there-- you see it?

CHARLIE
Oh ya... What do you see? Are people, ya know, "doing it?"

MEENA
Oh shit!

She quickly ducks, trying to hide herself.

CHARLIE
What? What happened??

MEENA
Somebody was watching-- looking right back at us...

Charlie makes a funny ghost noise and rolls his eyes.

MEENA (CONT'D)
I'm dead serious. Look!

Charlie looks through the telescope, aiming it back at the house down the coastline.

He squints hard, trying to determine what Meena was talking about. Then he sees it.

CHARLIE

Oh my God-- is that-- is that
fucking Taylor!?

Now Meena laughs.

MEENA

Ok, the bit is over now.

Charlie ignores her and continues to look, very concerned.

CHARLIE

Grab your phone. Call 9-1-1.

MEENA

Charlie, stop. It's not funny
anymore.

CHARLIE

No, no no... he's like... Jesus,
what the fuck is he--

Abruptly, Charlie spins around and grabs Meena, screaming in her face.

She jumps, terrified.

They both laugh.

MEENA

FUCK. YOU.

CHARLIE

Never attempt to outplay tha'
playa.

She pushes him, having fun.

Their laughter subsides.

She looks up.

MEENA

This really is beautiful.

CHARLIE

I know.

MEENA

I'm glad we did this.

CHARLIE

Same. I think this is going to be a really fun year.

MEENA

I know. Like, it doesn't even feel real. Do we really get to do this?

CHARLIE

We do.

They lock eyes. It's a real moment-- the vibes are legitimately strong with these two. Meena blinks first.

MEENA

I'm gonna check on Josh.

She gets up, leaving Charlie standing there.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Meena calls for Josh-- no reply.

She finds him face down on the couch.

MEENA

Babe, you ok?

She goes over to him and rubs his back. He lifts his head.

JOSH

Hey.

MEENA

Hey, come back out. Don't be in here alone.

He lays his head back on the couch.

JOSH

So sleepy.

MEENA

No. Cmon, this is *our* vacation, remember? We never get a chance to hang out like this.

JOSH

I know, I'm coming.

He closes his eyes.

MEENA

I told you to slow down. Why did you have to drink so much?

He mumbles something, then closes his eyes. He's out.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Whatever.

Meena stands up, annoyed. She looks at Josh and shakes her head.

EXT. - DECK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The FOG is starting to roll in.

Charlie is pulling the lid off of the hot tub when Meena returns.

CHARLIE

Everything good?

MEENA

Ugh. He's like-- out.

Charlie kind of laughs to himself.

CHARLIE

I don't know about you, but I'm getting in this hot tub.

MEENA

I don't know. I'm like, annoyed now. Let me just...

She takes a really deep breath, looks up at the sky and centers herself.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Yes. I do want to get in the hot tub.

Charlie hits the light and the jets and the tub starts bubbling.

CHARLIE

Getting my suit. Meet you back here.

He crosses past Meena, who rolls her head in a circle, loosening up and stretching her neck.

INT. - CHARLIE & MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Michelle is asleep.

Charlie quietly unzips his suitcase and takes out his bathing suit.

He then slinks out of the room and gently closes the door behind him, so as not to wake Michelle.

We hold on a wide shot of Michelle sleeping soundly.

Cut to an angle of Michelle sleeping, as seen through the air conditioning VENT directly over her bed. We hold on this for a while. Is someone watching her?

Cut back to the wide shot of her sleeping. After a few beats, some DUST falls from the vent above her. It lands on her face, which causes her to stir slightly, but it doesn't wake her.

EXT. - DECK - NIGHT - LATER

The fog is now THICK.

Meena, wrapped in a towel and holding two glasses of water, comes out of the house and approaches the hot tub.

MEENA

How is it?

CHARLIE

So good.

She takes the towel off and Charlie watches her get in.

MEENA

Oh. My. God.

CHARLIE

Right?

MEENA

And with the fog rolling in... This is a religious experience.

CHARLIE

It's perfect.

The tension leaves Meena and she relaxes into the vibe, taking a deep breath.

MEENA

Fuck.

CHARLIE

I know. I have jets on my back.

MEENA

I want jets.

CHARLIE

Trade me.

They swap positions.

MEENA

This is unreal. I've never been on drugs in a hot tub.

CHARLIE

Can I tell you something?

MEENA

You're getting a hot tub for the office?

CHARLIE

I think you're brilliant.

Meena opens her eyes to look at Charlie and check his tone. Is this sarcasm or the set up for a joke? He seems sincere.

MEENA

Thank you.

CHARLIE

I know we're on Molly or whatever, but you make me so much better at what I do. I've learned so much from you-- I think you're funny and kind and just fucking great. I'm so happy to know you and work with you.

MEENA

Stop, you're making me self-conscious.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry.

MEENA

No, I feel the same way about you. If we're going to get all lovey...

(MORE)

MEENA (CONT'D)

I feel that we have a real partnership-- I didn't really think that was possible. I always feel like people let me down, but you just keep not letting me down-- it's weird.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

I know it's bad luck to toast with water, but... cheers.

Meena grabs hers from the edge of the hot tub.

MEENA

Cheers.

They lock eyes and clink glasses.

They are now fully enveloped by the fog-- they can only see what's directly in front of them. It feels like they are in their own world.

CHARLIE

I want the jets back.

They switch positions again and Meena puts her feet on the opposite side, next to Charlie. Without thinking about it he puts his hand on her foot and rubs the bottom of it with his thumb.

MEENA

That feels good.

CHARLIE

This cool?

MEENA

Yes, please.

He continues to massage her foot. She closes her eyes and lays her head back. He looks at her. She opens her eyes, feeling his gaze, and makes eye contact-- she smiles and doesn't look away.

MEENA (CONT'D)

This is so nice.

Charlie moves next to her and she moves her head to meet his mouth. They kiss. It's slow and nice. She adjusts her position and the kissing gets a little heavier. Just as it's about to really ramp up, they break apart.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry.

MEENA

No. Don't be sorry. I mean, I'm sorry too...

CHARLIE

I've wanted that for so long.

MEENA

I have too... but...

CHARLIE

I know... maybe best to keep that...

MEENA

Probably.

She holds her hand out and Charlie puts his hand on hers, palm to palm, fingertips touching. They stay like this for a second. Then she ruffles Charlie's hair in a playful way.

They kiss again. She climbs onto him and it gets heavier than before. Again they pull away.

MEENA (CONT'D)

OK, maybe bedtime.

CHARLIE

Good idea.

Meena climbs out of the hot tub. Charlie watches her.

MEENA

Goodnight, sweet Charlie.

CHARLIE

Goodnight.

She wraps herself in a towel and disappears into the house.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Meena turns on the shower and climbs in. As she's washing, the door opens and Charlie enters. He closes and locks it behind him. He opens the shower curtain and Meena is there to meet him. He climbs in and they kiss. They make out and have sex - it's sloppy and passionate and drunken and quick.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOUSE - MORNING

The sun is up. It's a gorgeous day.

INT. - CHARLIE & MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Charlie wakes up alone in bed. We see him start to process the night before-- put the pieces together-- feel the implications.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS - MORNING - LATER

In the kitchen, Josh and Michelle finish cleaning the dishes from the previous night. They both look showered and ready for the day.

Meena sits at the dining room table in PJs, eating eggs and drinking coffee.

Charlie comes downstairs. He looks like shit.

MICHELLE
The Dancing Queen lives.

CHARLIE
Barely.

Michelle brings Charlie a cup of coffee.

MICHELLE
Did you have fun?

CHARLIE
Mm hm.

She gives him a kiss.

MICHELLE
We gotta leave soon-- I don't want to get stuck out there in the dark on the hike back.

Charlie looks to Meena.

CHARLIE
You going?

MEENA
I'm sitting here trying to decide.

Josh overhears this from the kitchen.

JOSH
Oh, cmon, finish eating and let's
go.

MEENA
I'm just so wiped. I don't know if
I would enjoy it.

JOSH
(pointed)
OK.

MEENA
What?

JOSH
Nothing. It's just... I don't
remember much from last night, but
I do kind of recall someone giving
me shit for missing out on fun
vacation times. Something about how
we never get to hang out this
way...

MEENA
Busted... Call it even?

Josh goes to Meena and they have a quiet aside.

JOSH
I don't have to go. I can stay here
with you.

MEENA
You can't ditch Michelle, look how
excited she is.

Michelle is happily humming to herself as she packs some food
into a little day bag.

JOSH
Her and Charlie can have their own
day together.

Meena looks at Charlie across the table. He's slumped forward
with his forehead on the table.

MEENA
No chance he's leaving this house
today.

JOSH

(sighs)

I'm kind of stuck with this one,
aren't I?

MEENA

I'm sorry. I know this is exactly
what we talked about the other
day... I'll make it up to you, I
promise. We'll have a fun night
together when you get back.

JOSH

(sighs)

Ok. I love you.

MEENA

I love you too.

Michelle walks over to the group.

MICHELLE

Charlie, Meena-- let's go, time to
change.

JOSH

I think Meena's gonna sit this one
out.

MICHELLE

No, really?

MEENA

I'm hurting pretty bad.

MICHELLE

Alright, your loss.
(then, to Charlie)
Boo, lets go.

Charlie makes a face.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

No, don't give me that-- get up.

CHARLIE

... I'm sorry...

Michelle shakes her head, annoyed.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'll be ready for fun later. I
promise.

MICHELLE
Fine. You're cooking tonight and
I'm getting fucked up.

CHARLIE
Yeah. Ok.

Michelle gathers her stuff.

MICHELLE
Josh, you ready?

JOSH
Yep.

Josh kisses Meena goodbye.

Michelle is already halfway out the door.

CHARLIE
Have a good time.

MEENA
We'll get the house picked up while
you're gone.

Josh and Michelle leave.

Silence.

CHARLIE
You ok?

MEENA
Not really. How you doing?

CHARLIE
I mean... part of me feels like
that was kind of inevitable, and
part of me feels like a terrible
human being with no self control.

MEENA
Yeah...

Meena closes her eyes and shakes her head.

CHARLIE
What are you thinking?

MEENA
We're smarter than this...
(then)
That can never happen again.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

MEENA

I mean it.

CHARLIE

Hey, I'm with you.

MEENA

... I really do love your brother.

CHARLIE

I know.

Charlie shakes his head and considers life with this big secret.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Should we clean up?

She nods, then stands and brings her dishes to the sink.

EXT. BIG SUR - HIKING TRAIL - AFTERNOON

Josh and Michelle hike in silence on a beautiful wooded trail. Looks like they've been at it for a while, sweating and slightly out of breath.

In the absence of dialogue, the sounds of their breathing and their shoes on the path are especially loud and present.

MICHELLE

Remind me-- where did you guys meet again?

JOSH

Charlie's birthday.

MICHELLE

Right, right-- I knew that... I don't know if I ever got the whole story though.

JOSH

There's not much of a story to be honest. We only talked for like a minute at the party-- and in my mind, you know, I never thought I had a chance with someone like her-- so I wasn't like, flirting or throwing out any vibes or anything.

MICHELLE

It was probably a nice change of pace for her. I'm sure she gets plenty of that other kind of attention.

JOSH

Ya I guess. Anyway, she ended up getting my number from Charlie and texted me the, uh, punchline of this joke that she butchered the night we met.

MICHELLE

That's really cute.

JOSH

Yeah.

Josh smiles, thinking back on the memory.

MICHELLE

What was the punchline?

JOSH

Oh, don't make me say it.

They both laugh.

JOSH (CONT'D)

But you and Charlie have like the best "how did you meet" story.

MICHELLE

It's a pretty good one.

(then)

Although, I know at least one person who thinks otherwise.

JOSH

What-- who?

MICHELLE

Wait... you know that when Charlie and I met, he and Charlotte were still together, right?

JOSH

Really??... So the ecstasy night--

MICHELLE

He still had a girlfriend.

JOSH

Whoa.

MICHELLE

Ya, it wasn't ideal... I randomly think of her sometimes. She was actually a nice person-- she didn't deserve that.

JOSH

Well, I wouldn't say Charlotte was totally innocent either.

MICHELLE

What do you mean?

JOSH

I'm pretty sure she had a little of that same thing going on with his previous girlfriend.

MICHELLE

What-- like, he was with someone when he met her?

JOSH

I think so. I don't remember all the details, but he was with this girl Zoe and then the Charlotte thing happened really fast. Like a little too fast, you know.

MICHELLE

I... didn't know that.

Her mood sours.

Michelle stops on the trail, processing this. Josh stops too.

(We cut to a new angle on a long lens that feels voyeuristic and slightly obscured by trees and brush-- though the sounds of their voices are still very present and clear)

JOSH

Oh man, I didn't mean to-- I just meant you shouldn't feel bad about Charlotte--

MICHELLE

No, no, it's fine.

JOSH

I don't even know what I'm saying. That was like 10 years ago.

MICHELLE

Josh, it's OK. Let's just keep going.

She leads the way up the trail.

A SHADOWY FIGURE steps into the foreground of the long lens shot-- we only see him from behind. He reaches into a black leather bag and turns a knob, causing the audio of Josh and Michelle's conversation to fade. He's been recording them from afar with a long range microphone.

Josh and Michelle are still talking, but we don't hear their conversation like we did before. We only hear the birds and nature sounds.

The Shadowy Figure walks off.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - DECK - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Meena tidies up the deck. She clears the water glasses and pulls the cover back onto the hot tub.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Meena enters and finds Charlie sitting straight up on the couch, having accidentally passed out.

She walks past him into the kitchen and places the glasses in the sink. The noise wakes Charlie.

CHARLIE

(groggy)

Oh wow...

MEENA

We did pretty good. I'll finish up-- you can go back to sleep.

Charlie lies down on the couch and gets comfortable.

INT. - MEENA & JOSH'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON - LATER

Meena exhales loudly and falls into bed. She lays her head back on the pillow and we stay with her for a moment. Her eyes are wide open, processing everything.

EXT. BIG SUR - HIKING TRAIL - LATE AFTERNOON

Josh and Michelle reach the summit and look out at the breathtaking landscape. The waterfall really is stunning.

It should be a serene moment, but their energy is off.

Josh sheepishly glances at Michelle out of the corner of his eye. She has a thousand yard stare-- she's in her head about what Josh told her earlier.

He feels bad.

INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - MEENA & JOSH'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Meena wakes up, disoriented. She looks at the clock-- 3:45pm

MEENA

Shit.

INT. - UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Meena showers. She finishes and turns the water off. As she's standing there processing everything, zoned out and unfocused, she watches the last remaining water dripping from the shower head. Then she notices something that seems off.

She leans in to inspect the shower head.

MEENA

CHARLIE!

MOMENTS LATER

Charlie points his phone flashlight directly at the shower head. The light reflects off of a tiny glass object in the middle of the shower head.

MEENA

Tell me that's not a camera.

CHARLIE

(squinting)

How did you even see this?

He unscrews the shower head and takes a close look at the glass object-- it's definitely a camera.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

No fucking way.

He tries to rip it out of the shower head, but he can't. It's embedded in there.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
That mother fucker.

MEENA
I'm calling the cops.

Charlie stands there thinking about something. He suddenly rushes out of the bathroom.

MEENA (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Charlie enters the bathroom where he and Meena had sex. He goes over to the shower head, where her bikini is hanging to dry from the night before. He looks closely-- another camera!

CHARLIE
FUCK!

Meena enters behind him.

MEENA
What?

Charlie points at the shower head.

MEENA (CONT'D)
No...

Beat.

CHARLIE
Did you already call the cops?

MEENA
No, I will right now.

She takes out her phone.

CHARLIE
Wait--wait!... We can't call them.

MEENA
What-- Why not?

CHARLIE

It's all on camera. If we report this, we risk Michelle and Josh finding out everything.

Meena absorbs this.

MEENA

So, what-- we just do nothing? And let this fucking racist pervert get away with it?

CHARLIE

I don't know, I don't know. Let me think...

Silence.

MEENA

Ew-- I'm just thinking of him jacking off to it...

She leaves the bathroom, disgusted. Charlie follows her out.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie sits on the couch with his head in his hands.

Michelle paces.

Long beat.

CHARLIE

(dejected)

I think we pretend like it didn't happen.

MEENA

Ummm, WHAT?

CHARLIE

What are our other options?

MEENA

I donno, threaten him to give us the footage!

CHARLIE

I'm pretty sure threatening him is the best way to *ensure* that he tells Michelle and Josh everything.

MEENA

... I'm gonna fucking kill him...

She paces again.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Ok... OK, clearly we can't stay the night. So we just need to think of a reason to tell Josh and Michelle why we're leaving early-- "Taylor came by and said some racist shit" or something like that.

CHARLIE

You know how protective Josh is of you-- he wouldn't leave without confronting him.

MEENA

Ya, but-- I think we could find a way--

CHARLIE

It's too risky. Once we start telling more lies, it just gets messy.

The moment is interrupted by the sound of Josh and Michelle pulling up in their car.

MEENA

Oh, cmon!

CHARLIE

(trying to calm her)
It's gonna be OK.

MEENA

So-- we literally do nothing? Is that what you're saying?

CHARLIE

We get through the night. Leave first thing in the morning... It never happened.

She nods, begrudgingly.

EXT. - FRONT YARD - LATE AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Josh and Michelle park and get out of the car. They grab their stuff from the back seat.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Josh and Michelle enter to find Meena and Charlie "reading" on opposite ends of the room.

MEENA

Hey! We thought we might have lost you out there.

Meena goes over to Josh and gives him kiss.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Ooo, someone got tan and sexy. You have fun?

Josh nods, but doesn't say anything.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Everything ok?

Charlie greets Michelle across the room.

CHARLIE

I missed you, Boo.

He goes in for a kiss but she gives him cheek. She moves past him and makes her way upstairs. Charlie looks to Josh for answers, and Josh gives him a little shrug.

Charlie, concerned, follows Michelle upstairs.

MEENA

What's going on?

JOSH

Lemme get out of these clothes and jump in the shower and then I'll regale you with the heartwarming tale that was our hike.

MEENA

(weary)

Oh, you're gonna shower right now?

She's thinking about that camera in the shower.

JOSH

Smell me.

MEENA

No, I know, I just... get turned on by your musk.

JOSH
Oh, really?

He picks her up and throws her over his shoulder and proceeds to carry her upstairs.

INT. - MICHELLE AND CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michelle changes out of her hiking clothes into her bathing suit.

Charlie enters and closes the door behind him.

CHARLIE
Boo, what's going on?

MICHELLE
What do you mean?

CHARLIE
I don't know... are you ok?

MICHELLE
Were you and Zoe broken up before you started dating Charlotte?

Charlie is taken aback.

CHARLIE
Uh, what? Where is this coming from?

Michelle already asked her question. She continues to change.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Hello?

He senses he isn't getting out of this.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I don't remember exactly how it played out. But, yes, It may have been a situation where we hung out the first time *while* I was breaking up with Zoe or something.

MICHELLE
So when you met Charlotte, you were definitely still with Zoe?

Charlie laughs, despite himself.

CHARLIE

I think so, yeah. I mean, I'm legitimately so confused right now. What is happening?

MICHELLE

I was just thinking about us and the circumstances in which we got together and I just thought it was funny to hear that you have a pattern of doing this.

CHARLIE

Ok, so this is a conversation you had with Josh I assume? What *exactly* did my fuckhead brother say?

MICHELLE

Don't do that.

CHARLIE

No, I'm curious. It tickles me to know that Josh has been so diligent about keeping tabs on my dating history.

MICHELLE

I just wonder why you would have lied to me about it at the time.

CHARLIE

I don't think I *lied* to you about it. I honestly can't remember the details. Whatever I said at the time was probably true.

MICHELLE

Totally.

Michelle finishes changing and Charlie stands there feeling weird.

CHARLIE

Are you seriously upset about something that may or may not have happened when I was in grad school? Years before I even met you.

MICHELLE

I'm not upset. I was just curious.

INT. - MEENA AND JOSH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Meena and Josh lay in bed. Josh is freshly showered and only wearing a towel. We catch them mid conversation.

MEENA

--I mean, I get what she's saying...

JOSH

Ya, but you shoulda seen her-- she just shut down. Barely said a word after that... I donno, maybe their marriage isn't as perfect as they want everyone to think. Who knows what's really going on there.

Meena takes that in.

JOSH (CONT'D)

You know she's intimidated by you?

MEENA

Shut up.

JOSH

Cmon, I'm sure you feel it.

MEENA

I donno...

JOSH

I mean, how could she not be.

He looks at her with loving eyes, then gets on top of her and starts kissing her. She kisses back, but not with equal fervor. Her head is clearly elsewhere.

He starts to sensually kiss down her chest. Then down her stomach.

Her eyes dart all over the room, paranoid that there might be other hidden cameras.

Josh continues downward and slides off her comfy pants. He looks up at her and smiles seductively. She musters a fake smile back at him, but she's starting to freak out.

She looks at the air conditioning vent above the bed. It somehow looks ominous. Is it possible she just saw a small shift in the light?

Josh kisses her inner thighs, then moves to take off her underwear.

She can't tolerate the idea of Taylor watching this. She jolts upright.

MEENA
Sorry, I just...

JOSH
What's wrong?

MEENA
I just-- I don't know. I feel kinda weird doing this in this guys house.

JOSH
Ok...

Josh sits up and changes his body language to a more defensive posture.

MEENA
I'm sorry.

JOSH
No, I was just excited to have some time with you.

MEENA
Me too... I just know I'm not gonna get there. I'm too much in my head.

Josh looks down, feeling rejected.

She feels bad and moves to him. She grabs his face gently and gives him a nice firm kiss.

MEENA (CONT'D)
I love you.

JOSH
I love you too.

She can see he's now in his own head, feeling insecure.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON - LATER

Meena and Josh watch TV in silence.

Charlie and Michelle comes down the stairs.

Charlie plops down on the couch next to Josh, and gives him a sharp elbow to his ribs.

Josh cringes and then mouths, "Sorry."

More silence.

Michelle takes in the vibe.

MICHELLE

Ok, no. We're not doing this. I'm
not letting the trip end this way.

She turns off the TV.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

We're gonna do drugs. And we're
gonna have fun.

It's clear that no one else wants to go down that road
tonight.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Meena?

Meena makes an apologetic face.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Oh, cmon.

MEENA

I'm sorry... But you should totally
do whatever. Don't let me stop you.

JOSH

Ya, I might sit this one out too...

MICHELLE

No. Get up.

She physically starts pulling them off the couch.

CHARLIE

Babe, maybe we just have a more
mellow night. Play a board game or
something.

Michelle laughs, incredulous.

MICHELLE

You know what--

She storms off into the dining area, searching for something.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Go ahead and waste your last night.
I thought we were here to have a
good time and that's exactly what
I'm going to do.

She continues searching.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Where's the Molly!? And do not tell
me you finished it or I will
fucking--

CHARLIE
Kitchen drawer. Next to the stove.
There's plenty left.

She goes to the kitchen and retrieves the drugs.

Charlie goes to her and they have a quick aside.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
You sure you want to do this?

MICHELLE
This was the plan. I went to bed
early last night so I could do this
tonight. So yes, I'm sure.

CHARLIE
Ok.

MICHELLE
OK.

She dips her finger in the bag and then consumes a healthy
portion of the drug.

Charlie watches, concerned, but knowing he can't intervene.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - DECK - SUNSET

Music plays from Michelle's phone.

Michelle, still in her bathing suit, struggles to turn on the
hot tub.

She hits a couple buttons, but an "error code" keeps flashing
on the control panel.

MICHELLE
(yelling inside)
Can someone help me turn this on??

She waits for a response. Nothing.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 (to the hot tub)
 I just wanna be in you already.

She hits a few more buttons and the error code flashes again.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Meena, Josh, and Charlie are in cozy clothing, lying on the floor, lazily putting together a massive puzzle.

They eat quesadillas.

Michelle enters from the back deck and goes to the kitchen to make herself a drink.

CHARLIE
 (to Michelle)
 Abandoned the hot tub idea?

MICHELLE
 It's not working, but I called Taylor.

Meena and Charlie perk up.

CHARLIE
 What? Why?

MICHELLE
 Um, cause the hot tub isn't working. And I want it to start working so I can get in it.

MEENA
 So, wait, he's coming right now?

MICHELLE
 Yeah.

Charlie and Meena exchange a look.

CHARLIE
 (to Michelle)
 I wish you would have told me before you did that.

MICHELLE
 He's just gonna come and go-- what's the big deal?

CHARLIE

Nothing. I just... know Meena
doesn't like the guy.

MEENA

It's fine. I'm fine.

MICHELLE

Now, does anyone want a drink? Or
do you not want to overdo the fun
you're already having? What is that-
- 2,000 pieces? I believe in you
guys!

She takes a big swig from her drink.

EXT. - FRONT YARD - SUNSET - LATER

Taylor's pick-up truck comes swerving around the bend and
screeches to a stop near the front of the house.

He carries a tool box and sways slightly on his walk up to
the house, clearly drunk.

INT. - ENTRYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Michelle, still in her bathing suit, ushers Taylor into the
house.

MICHELLE

-- I guess they just forgot to turn
it off at the end of the night.

He mumbles something.

She leads him down the hall and he never takes his eyes off
her ass.

They enter the living room and Taylor sees that the others
are quiet and avoiding eye contact.

TAYLOR

Evening.

JOSH

Hey.

Beat.

TAYLOR

Y'all enjoying your stay?

JOSH

Mm hm.

Awkward silence.

TAYLOR

Ok, then.

Taylor continues out back, with Michelle in tow.

Once they are out of ear shot--

MEENA

This fucking guy. He *reeks* of
booze... Driving hammered on those
windy roads. Unbelievable.

CHARLIE

She probably shouldn't be out there
alone with him.

Charlie stands and exits out the back.

Josh senses Meena's unease.

JOSH

You want to go in our room till
he's gone?

Meena thinks.

MEENA

I don't want to give him that
satisfaction.

EXT. - DECK - SUNSET - LATER

Taylor has removed a panel from the side of the hot tub and
is fussing with a control board.

He's bent over and a significant amount of his butt crack is
showing.

Michelle nudges Charlie, stifling her laughter. Charlie can't
help but crack a tiny smile.

She crouches down and moves her head close to Taylor's butt
and mimes licking it. Charlie tries to make her stop, but she
persists.

Suddenly, the hot tub ROARS to life, spooking Michelle who
jumps back and pretends like she wasn't doing anything.

TAYLOR
 Program just switched itself into
 cleaning mode. Should be good now.

MICHELLE
 Oh my god, you're a life saver.

Taylor packs up his tool box.

TAYLOR
 Enjoy your final night.

He gives them a smile. Is it creepy?

Taylor walks back into the house.

Charlie moves to follow him inside, but Michelle grabs him.

MICHELLE
 Stay with me till it warms up.

She nestles into his body, wrapping his jacket around herself.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Taylor walks past Meena and Josh.

TAYLOR
 All set if you wanna join 'em out
 there.

JOSH
 Ok thanks.

Meena stays focused on the puzzle, trying not to engage.

TAYLOR
 (to Meena)
 Looks like someone went a little
 too hard last night, huh? Not up
 for round 2?

Meena bites her tongue, trying her best not to kill this guy.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
 Well, unless there's anything else,
 it's been a pleasure--

MEENA
 Actually... Could I show you one
 last thing real quick?

TAYLOR
Lead the way.

She stands.

Josh stands to follow, but she assures him she's fine. He sits back down.

Meena leads Taylor down the hall.

EXT. - DECK - CONTINUOUS

Michelle is now swaying in Charlie's arms next to the tub, trying to get him to dance with her. The drugs have started to take effect.

The bubbles and jets are loud.

MICHELLE
I'm sorry about earlier.

CHARLIE
That's ok.

MICHELLE
It's just... I like to believe I'm the cool wife who never gets jealous and is OK with you having close female friends-- and I am... Most of the time.
(beat)
But deep down I've always been kinda scared that you're gonna leave me before I even know there's a problem. Like, I'll be the last one to know... So when I heard that stuff about Charlotte today...

Charlie doesn't know what to say, so he hugs her closer.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
But, trust me-- I know that's my own insecurities... I don't want to fight anymore.

She leans into him and they continue to sway. He kisses her on the head, filled with guilt.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Meena and Taylor enter the bathroom. He sets down his toolbox.

TAYLOR

Lemme guess-- It's the toilet, ya?
You just gotta hold the flusher
down for longer than you would
think.

He demonstrates.

Meena smiles. Her eyes remain intense.

MEENA

That's cute.

(long beat)

I just want you to know that if you
ever do anything with the footage,
we go right to the cops.

TAYLOR

Excuse me?

MEENA

Cut the shit. We know, OK?

TAYLOR

... I'm-- not sure what's happening
right now...

MEENA

Jesus, you're gonna make me
actually do this--

She points her camera flashlight at the shower head. The
light reflects off the tiny camera.

TAYLOR

The hell is that?

MEENA

Dude. We fucking got you. All I'm
saying is-- Don't fuck with us. Or
you're going to jail.

Taylor eyes her, shaking his head.

TAYLOR

I don't know what kind of scam
you're running but you can go right
ahead and call the police cause I
don't got nothing to do with that
shit!

Meena looks over her shoulder, paranoid that Josh might
overhear.

MEENA

Are you hearing anything I'm saying? I'm giving you an out. So just leave. Now.

TAYLOR

You know what, I'll call the police for you--

Taylor pulls out his phone.

MEENA

That's not what-- stop!

She tries to wrestle the phone away from him.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Don't be fucking stupid!

INT. - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Josh overhears the fight.

He gets up and quickly makes his way towards the bathroom.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Meena and Taylor are still fighting over the phone. It's messy.

TAYLOR

I knew not to trust you Haji fuckers-- always trying to get away with some shit!

As Taylor yanks the phone away from Meena, he accidentally elbows her in the face. She falls to the floor.

Josh enters just in time to witness the slur and the elbow, which sets him off. He charges at Taylor and tackles him into the tub. Taylor falls backwards and hits his head hard against the far edge of the tub.

Josh climbs on top of him and goes APE SHIT, throwing punch after punch. He looks possessed.

Meena gets up and tries to pull him off--

MEENA

JOSH!! STOP-- STOP!!!

EXT. - DECK - CONTINUOUS

Charlie and Michelle now hear the commotion over the sound of the hot tub. They run inside.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Meena is still trying to contain Josh, but he lands a few more hard blows to Taylor's already unconscious body. It's very excessive.

Charlie and Michelle enter.

CHARLIE
WHOA-- HEY!!

Charlie manages to pull Josh away. He holds on to him tightly, trying to calm him. Josh huffs and puffs, adrenaline coursing through him.

JOSH
Get off me!

Josh breaks free of Charlie's grasp and storms out of the bathroom.

Charlie looks to Meena, wide-eyed, wondering what the fuck just happened.

Meena looks to Michelle and then back to Charlie.

Charlie realizes she can't explain the situation in front of Michelle.

After a few beats of tense silence, Charlie exits the bathroom to look for Josh. Meena slowly follows, passing Michelle in the doorway, who is in utter shock and experiencing the worst drug trip ever.

Once everyone is gone, Michelle slowly approaches Taylor. His nose is broken and bleeding.

She checks to see if he's still breathing-- he is.

EXT. - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Josh sits on the porch steps, reeling, trying to process what just happened.

Michelle and Charlie stand nearby, giving Josh his space, but watching him with concern. They speak in urgent whispers.

MEENA

--and then it just escalated. I'm
sorry, I--

CHARLIE

Fuck, fuck... We're so fucked. What
are we gonna say--

Just then, Michelle comes out of the house. She's spinning.

MICHELLE

What just happened??

Meena and Charlie give each other a look.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Hello??

Long beat.

MEENA

He was filming us.

MICHELLE

What?

Josh turns, listening incredulously.

MEENA

I- I was taking a shower earlier
and I saw something that looked
weird, like a camera, but I didn't
know for sure. I just felt
paralyzed and scared, and while I
was dealing with that, you guys got
back to the place and I didn't have
time to process what I saw, and--
and I was just gonna let it go,
hoping it wasn't real... but then
when Taylor came by, I had this
visceral reaction to seeing him and
I couldn't hold back-- so I
confronted him, and...

She's breaks down. Real emotion.

MEENA (CONT'D)

It definitely was a camera... And
then Josh heard us fighting, and...

(beat)

I fucked up... I'm sorry, I should
have said something.

She sobs and Josh goes to comfort her.

We pull back to reveal this same scene from the POV of a high angle SECURITY CAMERA.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - SIDE YARD - CONTINUOUS

We see a MAN wearing an extremely realistic HUMAN MASK, black clothing and black surgical gloves, watching the security footage on his phone.

The audience may recognize him as the same creepy figure from the opening montage.

The man uses a set of keys to discretely enter the house from a side door.

He quickly makes his way down a hallway.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Masked Man enters the bathroom and approaches Taylor's unconscious body. He quickly and confidently places his gloved hands over Taylor's nose and mouth and begins suffocating him. Taylor wakes up slightly and weakly flails his body, trying to free himself.

In the midst of this, the Masked Man glances at the security footage on his phone to make sure that the others are still on the front porch-- They are.

Taylor eventually stops fighting. He's dead.

The Masked Man leaves the bathroom and quickly exits the house the same way he came.

EXT. - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

MICHELLE

We have to call the police. We need to get an ambulance here. He's in really bad shape.

Beat.

CHARLIE

How are we gonna explain what happened? They'll arrest Josh.

MICHELLE

I'm not asking for permission-- it's the only thing to do.

(then)

(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Josh, but you beat him to a pulp. There's no way around it...

JOSH

I didn't do anything wrong. He was attacking her when I came in.

CHARLIE

(softly)

I know, but... It's all on camera. I don't think a self-defense argument is going to hold up once they see the footage.

Josh thinks hard about his potential consequences.

JOSH

A racist piece of shit filming us in his Airbnb is gonna sue me for assault? Let a jury decide whether or not I was justified. Go ahead, call.

Michelle walks back inside to get her phone.

Meena and Charlie share a look, worried about their affair being discovered.

CHARLIE

(sighs)

I'll check on Taylor.

He enters the house.

Josh rests his head in Meena's lap like a child, extremely vulnerable.

JOSH

I was just trying to protect you...

She strokes his hair, feeling very guilty, knowing her actions led to all of this.

INT. - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Michelle walks to the counter to get her phone. She digs through her purse and finds it, unlocks it, and starts to dial 9-1-1.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Michelle, STOP! Wait!

Just before she finishes dialing, Charlie runs into the room and grabs the phone from her.

MICHELLE
What!? What's going on??

Long beat.

CHARLIE
He's not breathing.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

All four of them are in the bathroom, crowded around Taylor's body.

Meena places her finger under Taylor's nose, then feels for a pulse.

She shakes her head.

JOSH
FUCK!

Josh exits, leaving the others standing there looking at the dead body in the bathtub. This changes everything.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The others join Josh in the living room, where he paces back and forth, silently freaking out.

The vibe is very somber.

JOSH
He was breathing a second ago. I didn't even-- how does he die from that?

MEENA
He must have suffocated, or, I don't know...
(then)
What do we do?

MICHELLE
Are you kidding?

CHARLIE
Mich, we can't call the cops. It's different now.

MICHELLE
Yeah, he's fucking dead!

CHARLIE
Exactly. Think about it-- the second we call them, we're sending Josh back to jail. They're not gonna go easy on him...

Michelle starts to really freak out.

MICHELLE
Josh killed a man! Are you grasping this? This is actually happening!

CHARLIE
I know, I know... but there's nothing we can do about that now. He's gone.
(then)
There's a version of this where he's dead and Josh spends the rest of his life in jail. And there's a version where he's dead and Josh doesn't go to jail at all.

MEENA
(matter of fact)
And there's a version where he's dead and we all go to jail for covering up a crime.

MICHELLE
Yes! EXACTLY!

Long beat.

MEENA
That's why we can't get caught.

MICHELLE
No-- no, what!?

Josh looks to Meena-- "Is she serious about this?"

JOSH
What would we do with the body?

Charlie thinks.

CHARLIE
... He's got a shit ton of alcohol in his system...
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
who's to say he didn't drunkenly
stumble off the cliff.

MICHELLE
No, no, no. That's not-- no!

Charlie persists.

CHARLIE
He had a few too many, came to
clean the place up after we left,
and slipped.

Meena and Josh nod along.

JOSH
That's not bad...
(then)
The call logs. Michelle called him
from her phone. They'll track that.

CHARLIE
I mean... Maybe she called to ask
about hiking trails, or I donno--
there's a million reasons why she
could have called. Her call logs
don't prove we ever actually saw
him.

MEENA
What about the footage? It's all on
tape.

Charlie thinks.

CHARLIE
The cameras are wireless... So it's
gotta be broadcasting to a receiver
somewhere in the house. Those
things don't have much range.

JOSH
How do you know they're wireless?

CHARLIE
... You're right, I don't. I just
made an assumption-- we'll check it
out...

MEENA
Let's say they are wireless...

CHARLIE

Then we find the footage and
destroy it.

Michelle is crying now.

MICHELLE

No...

CHARLIE

Babe, it'll work. It's clean.

MICHELLE

I'm not saying we can't get away
with it, I'm saying I don't want to
get away with it!

CHARLIE

The Molly, baby. It's fucking with
your emotions. I know this is all
really heavy, but we'll take care
of everything-- you don't have to
be involved at all.

MICHELLE

You're not listening to me! I'm not
gonna live the rest of my life
knowing we killed some guy and
didn't do anything about it!

She turns to the Meena and Josh, trying to get them to
sympathize with her and acknowledge how crazy this all is.

They look down. They have nothing to say.

Michelle knows this is a fight she can't win.

She storms off upstairs into the bedroom and SLAMS the door
shut behind her.

Charlie looks at the others pointedly.

CHARLIE

We're doing this?

They nod, taking in the gravity of what they are about to do.

INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - NIGHT - LATER

They clean up the evidence.

-Meena, Josh, and Charlie lift Taylor out of the tub and
accidentally drop him, banging his head on the floor.

-Josh cleans the blood out of the tub.

-They pack their belongings.

-They scour the house for the footage. No luck.

-Meena, with a dish towel wrapped around her hand so as not to leave fingerprints, carries Taylor's toolbox out to his truck. After she leaves it in the truck, the camera holds on it for a little too long, focusing specifically on a unique VINTAGE HAMMER.

INT. - CHARLIE & MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Michelle is curled up on top of the bed sheets. The effects of the drugs are wearing off and she's thinking more clearly.

Charlie comes into the room to check on her. He sees that her eyes are red from crying.

CHARLIE

I just came to let you know that we'll be outside. I won't say any more. You don't have to know any of the details. You had nothing to do with this.

MICHELLE

I'm already guilty.

Charlie waits to hear if she will say more.

CHARLIE

No you aren't-- you didn't do anything.

MICHELLE

I didn't call the police-- that makes me as guilty as the rest of you. If we get caught, I'm an accomplice to murder, just like you and Meena.

Charlie takes this in.

CHARLIE

We can say you weren't even here.

MICHELLE

Just do it. Go do what you need to do so we can get out of here.

CHARLIE

This will all be over soon. I promise.

MICHELLE

This will never be over.

CHARLIE

It will.

MICHELLE

We will never be the same.

CHARLIE

We will. Trust me.

Michelle doesn't look at Charlie or respond. He leaves.

EXT. - BACKYARD - NIGHT - LATER

Meena, Josh, and Charlie carry Taylor's body towards the cliff's edge.

They reach the edge and peer over. It's a steep incline, 75 feet down to the ocean below.

CHARLIE

Ok, ready?

Meena and Josh nod.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

On three-- One... two... three.

They swing the body over the edge.

The body immediately gets caught on a large rock 15 feet down the cliff.

They all stare down at the body in silence.

A comical amount of time passes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Fuck... Fuuuuuck.

Charlie paces back and forth, trying to think, then trips on a large rock. He looks back at it, formulating an idea.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Guys, help me with this.

Meena and Josh go over to the rock and they all start to roll it towards the edge of the cliff.

INT. - CHARLIE & MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Michelle packs her suitcase, emotionally spent.

Suddenly, she hears the faint sound of a SHOWER running somewhere in the house.

She pauses and tries to determine where the noise is coming from.

EXT. - BACKYARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The fog starts to roll in from the ocean.

They have the large rock positioned on the edge of the cliff, lined up with Taylor's body below. They look at each other, then push.

The rock misses wide, hurtling into the ocean.

CHARLIE

Fuck.

Charlie turns around and searches for another large rock.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for? Help me find another one.

Charlie and Josh find another sizeable rock nearby. They lift it and carry it to the edge where Meena waits for them.

MEENA

Start it over here-- a little further to the right this time. The slope kind of angles that way.

They put the rock on the ground next to Meena.

MEENA (CONT'D)

I don't think we should push as hard. I think it's better if we just let it slide over the edge.

They position the rock, look at each other, and gently nudge it until gravity takes it over the edge.

The rock hurtles down and clips Taylor's head, taking off a chunk of his skull, but it doesn't dislodge him at all. It's a pretty gruesome sight. They cringe in disgust.

Charlie, feeling defeated, walks away from the cliff's edge. Meena paces around nervously.

Josh stands at the edge and stares down at the body, his mind reeling. He knows what he has to do.

He lowers himself over the edge and reaches his foot down, feeling for anything solid that would support his weight.

He finds a foot hold, and lowers himself onto it.

Charlie sees what Josh is doing and quickly runs towards him.

CHARLIE

What the fuck are you doing? Gimme your hand.

Josh continues to slowly climb down the jagged cliff.

MEENA

Josh, it's not worth it!

JOSH

I killed him. This is on me... I'm not letting you guys go to jail cause I fucked up. Just let me finish this.

They don't argue.

Long beat.

MEENA

Please be careful. Go slow.

Josh looks down-- the water crashes hard against the rocks below. He breathes deeply, then takes another step down.

The fog is starting to get thick.

INT. - UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Michelle walks down the hallway towards the--

UPSTAIRS BATHROOM

She enters and discovers that the shower is not running. That's weird.

She exits, and slowly descends the stairs, heading for the only other bathroom in the house.

DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

She opens the door, revealing that this shower is also not running.

Suddenly, the shower noise gets MUCH LOUDER, as if someone turned up the volume. The noise is definitely coming from upstairs.

She looks up.

MICHELLE
(to herself)
Fuckin' Molly.

She exits the bathroom and heads back upstairs.

EXT. - BACKYARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Josh is a few feet from the body.

Meena and Charlie watch anxiously-- they can barely see Josh through the fog, which envelops them now.

Josh takes another step down and his foothold BREAKS LOOSE, causing him to skid down the cliff side. He disappears into the fog.

MEENA
No!

Meena and Charlie hear a thud.

MEENA (CONT'D)
Are you alright!?

CHARLIE
J, are you OK??

They look down and can only see the grey of the fog.

MEENA
...JOSH!?

Long beat.

JOSH (O.S.)
(groans)
I'm ok.

Meena breathes a sigh of relief.

CHARLIE
 Jesus fucking Christ.
 (then, to Josh)
 How close are you? Can you reach
 him?

ANGLE ON JOSH

He is literally on top of Taylor's lifeless body-- which is what stopped him from falling further.

JOSH
 (yelling up)
 Yeah. I can reach him.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
 Ok, just do it and get back up here
 already!

Josh carefully maneuvers himself to get in a better position to kick Taylor the rest of the way down.

He grabs on to a sturdy tree branch jutting out from the cliffside and looks down at Taylor's corpse.

JOSH
 See you in hell.

He kicks him off the ledge, and we hear his body pinball down the cliff, punctuated by a splash in the water below.

Josh exhales, then looks up-- he can't see anything through the fog.

INT. - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Michelle reaches the top of the stairs and is about to head back towards the upstairs bathroom, but realizes the noise is coming from the other end of the hall-- Meena and Josh's bedroom.

She looks confused, knowing that there isn't a shower in that room.

She tentatively walks towards the bedroom.

She slowly opens the door and discovers that the shower noise is coming from the WALL-MOUNTED TV.

ON THE TV

Is video of Meena taking a shower (from the POV of the shower head).

Michelle freezes, wondering what this is and who put it on the TV. She suddenly feels danger.

She looks for the remote to turn it off, but she can't find it anywhere. Then something on the TV catches her eye.

(NOTE: We don't cut away from her for the rest of the scene)

She watches intently. Her breathing quickens.

After several beats, we hear the audio of Meena and Charlie having sex.

Michelle's legs give way and she collapses on to the bed. Her entire world crumbles in front of her eyes.

The sex sounds intensify as tears stream down Michelle's ashen face.

EXT. - BACKYARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Meena and Charlie look down over the edge of the cliff.

MEENA

Still can't see you.

JOSH

I think I'm pretty much there.

They finally see Josh emerging through the fog. He's nearly to the top.

Meena and Charlie get down on their hands and knees, reaching their arms out for Josh to grab on to.

They take his hands in theirs and pull him to safety.

Meena gives him a huge hug.

CHARLIE

Let's find that footage and get the fuck out of here.

The three of them walk back towards the house through the thick fog.

After a few beats, a FOURTH PERSON emerges behind them-- It's the Masked Man. The others do not feel his presence. We hold on them all walking together, wondering when the Masked Man is going to strike.

Just then, Charlie notices CAR HEADLIGHTS turn on at the front of the house. He takes off running toward the lights.

Meena and Josh look slightly confused, but jog after him.

The Masked Man retreats and disappears back into fog.

FRONT YARD

Michelle, in the driver's seat of their car, starts to pull away.

Charlie sprints at full speed, and starts banging on the side of the car--

CHARLIE

Stop! What are you doing-- STOP THE CAR!

Abruptly, she slams on the breaks.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(out of breath)

What the hell? Where are you going??

Michelle, bubbling with raw emotion, tries to find her words.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(he softens)

I know, I know... But the worst part is over now. Just one last tiny thing--

MICHELLE

I saw you.

CHARLIE

You saw...-- What are you talking about?

MICHELLE

You and Meena.

Charlie takes this in-- Oh, fuck.

He looks back towards the house. Meena and Josh are running towards them, still out of earshot.

CHARLIE

Ok, listen, I fucked up. It was a huge mistake. It didn't mean anything--

MICHELLE

I can't even fucking look at you
right now--

CHARLIE

Michelle, please, just --

MICHELLE

Everything-- it was all a fucking
lie!

CHARLIE

Please-- Can you turn off the
engine-- Just let me explain--

She finally stops and looks at him pointedly, allowing him to
speak.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Ok... First off... where'd you find
the footage?

Michelle looks at him with pure hate in her eyes.

MICHELLE

(disgusted)

Who are you?

She speeds off, almost running over his foot.

He runs after her.

CHARLIE

Wait!!!

She pulls away as Meena and Josh finally reach Charlie. They
all watch as Michelle drives down the long narrow road until
she's completely out of sight.

JOSH

What just happened-- Where's she
going??

CHARLIE

(beat)

She hit her limit. Couldn't take
any more.

Josh goes wide-eyed.

JOSH

What does that mean? Is she going
to the cops-- should we be worried?

CHARLIE

No, she would never do that to us.
She just needed to go...

He doesn't sound too convincing.

MEENA

Well, shit-- is she coming back??
How are we getting out of here?
This is not OK Charlie-- stop being
so fucking calm!

CHARLIE

Everything's fine! Let's just stick
to the plan-- We find the footage
and then we'll figure out how to
get out of here!

Meena throws up her hands in frustration before making her way back towards the house.

Josh gives Charlie a hard stare.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

It's ok. We're good.

They both make their way towards the house, which is now surrounded by fog.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Michelle drives quickly down the dark narrow road through the woods, away from the house. She is very emotional.

She curves around a bend and sees something in the road, but can't stop in time to avoid it, and we hear a POP.

The car starts to shake. She slams on the breaks, trying to regain control.

The car skids off the road and slams into a tree.

Michelle is unharmed, but in shock.

She takes a moment to get her bearings, and then suddenly loses her shit.

MICHELLE

FUUUUUCK!!!! FUCKING FUCK! FUCK
YOU! FUCK YOU! FUCK YOUUUU!!!

She catches her breath, then gets out of the car.

She notices her two front tires are flat.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Fucking perfect.

She looks back down the road, trying to determine what she ran over.

She squints her eyes and sees something splayed out across the entirety of the road.

She walks up to it-- A STRIP OF SPIKES. It spooks her.

A rustling of leaves is heard in the darkness. Michelle quickly turns towards the noise.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
... hello?

She stands perfectly still, waiting for another sound.

She hears the sound of footsteps. Maybe an animal?

She runs back to the car and slams the door shut and locks it.

INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Meena, Josh, and Charlie all search different areas of the house.

MEENA
What am I'm even looking for??

Charlie yells from another room in the house.

CHARLIE
A computer, a hard drive, a router-- anything!

His phone buzzes.

A TEXT from Michelle: "Car ran off the road. Please help!"

ANOTHER TEXT from Michelle: "I'm freaking out! Hurry!"

Charlie yells to Meena and Josh.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Michelle needs help! She's down the road. I'll be right back!

He runs out the front door.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

He runs down the road, holding his cell phone out to light the way. He can barely see even a few feet in front of him.

CHARLIE
Michelle!?!... MICHELLE!?

He continues down the road, shining his light from side to side.

He jogs around the bend where Michelle's car hit the spikes-- but the spikes are now GONE.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Where are you!?

The fog has made its way all the way out here. The entire area has become a giant cloud.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(to himself)
I can't see shit...

He slows his pace, making sure he doesn't miss anything.

He finally spots the car and takes off running towards it. As he gets closer, he sees that the driver's door is open, and the window is SHATTERED.

He arrives at the car and looks in-- its empty.

He looks at the shards of glass on the driver's seat. He's now officially scared.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
... fuck.

He calls her cell.

All of a sudden, he hears the faintest ring tone in the distance. He tries to determine which direction it's coming from.

And then he sees a TINY LIGHT through the fog-- it looks like a cell phone light.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
MICHELLE!!

The tiny light in the distance stops moving.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
BABE! IT'S ME!

He takes off running towards the light. And then the light starts moving towards him at a rapid pace.

He's getting closer.

50 feet.

40 feet.

30 feet.

20 feet.

10 feet.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You scared the shit out me, Boo.

At the last second, Charlie sees the Masked Man emerging through the fog holding the cell phone light out in front of him.

Before Charlie can react, the Masked Man swings a HAMMER violently into his face, causing him to crumple to the ground. (Is that Taylor's vintage hammer?)

The Masked Man stands over him and swings the hammer a few more times until Charlie stops moving completely.

INT. - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Josh stands on a chair, searching through a closet. He doesn't find anything.

He closes the closet door and contemplates his next move.

He looks around, then spots a door that he hasn't investigated yet.

He yells up to Meena--

JOSH

Babe! You didn't check the basement yet, right?

SMASH CUT:

INT. - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Josh opens the door leading down to the basement. He flicks on the light switch, which barely illuminates the dank space.

He slowly descends the creaky stairs.

There's a few old boxes and stacks of junk.

Josh rummages through everything.

After turning the basement upside down, Josh sighs and turns back towards the stairs.

He ascends the stairs, heading back up to the main floor. The door to the basement is open-- is someone hiding behind it, ready to jump out?

Just as he's about to get to the top of the stairs, his PHONE BUZZES.

He sees that it's a TEXT from Charlie-- it's a VOICE NOTE.

Josh plays it. It's a recording of a conversation Meena and Charlie had earlier that morning:

MEENA (V.O.)
We're smarter than this...
(then)
That can never happen again.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Yeah.

MEENA (V.O.)
I mean it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Hey, I'm with you.

MEENA (V.O.)
... I really do love your brother.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
I know.

Josh is very confused.

INT. - MEENA & JOSH'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The mattress is flipped off the bed.

All the dresser drawers have been removed.

The place is ransacked.

Meena is rummaging through the walk-in closet when Josh enters.

JOSH
Hey babe, can I show you something?

MEENA (O.S.)
(hopeful)
Did you find it??

JOSH
No. It's, uh, it's not that.

She emerges from the closet.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Uh, I just got this weird text from
Charlie.

MEENA
What'd he say?

Josh plays the voice note.

While Meena listens, her face drops.

JOSH
What is this?

MEENA
I- I don't know.

JOSH
I mean, that is you and Charlie,
right?

MEENA
Um, ya, I think so-- I mean, yes,
that's us, but--

JOSH
What can never happen again?

MEENA
What?

JOSH
In the recording-- you say, "That
can never happen again."

MEENA
I honestly... don't remember
exactly what the context of that
was...

Josh can tell she's lying.

JOSH

Babe. What's going on?

Just then, Josh's phone buzzes again-- another text from Charlie. It's an image.

Josh clicks on it, revealing a still image of Meena naked in the shower (from the POV of the hidden camera in the shower head).

JOSH (CONT'D)

... Why does Charlie have this picture of you? And why the fuck is he sending it to me?

Her eyes start to water.

MEENA

I don't know...

BUZZ. Another picture text from Charlie.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Don't look at that!--

Meena tries to grab the phone from him, but he quickly turns away from her and shields her with his body.

Josh looks at the picture-- it's Charlie stepping into the shower with Meena.

MEENA (CONT'D)

(crying)

I'm sorry...

Josh goes deathly quiet.

BUZZ. Another picture text from Charlie-- an image of Meena and Charlie having sex in the shower.

Josh's entire body is shaking.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Josh...

Suddenly, they hear the front door SLAM SHUT.

Josh snaps out of whatever emotional daze he was in, and his rage takes over.

He storms out of the bedroom.

INT. - UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Josh quickly makes his way down the hallway to the stairwell.

JOSH
(yelling downstairs)
I'M GONNA FUCKING KILL YOU,
CHARLIE, I SWEAR TO GOD!

INT. - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SECURITY FOOTAGE: Josh charges down the stairs. He tears through the living room looking for Charlie.

JOSH
ARE YOU FUCKING SERIOUS?? YOU'RE
GONNA SEND ME THAT SHIT AND THEN
FUCKING HIDE!?

INT. - UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

SECURITY FOOTAGE: Meena tentatively exits her bedroom. She stands in the doorway, very emotional, listening to Josh stomp around the house.

INT. - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

SECURITY FOOTAGE: Josh searches the pantry. No Charlie.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

SECURITY FOOTAGE: Josh makes his way down the hallway, heading towards the downstairs bathroom.

INT. - DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Masked Man calmly waits behind the closed door, looking at his phone.

ON THE PHONE

Is a giant grid. In each box we see live footage of different rooms throughout the house, being captured by DOZENS OF HIDDEN CAMERAS. There are literally cameras in every room.

On his phone, The Masked Man watches as Josh aggressively opens the closet door in the hallway, and then head straight for the bathroom where he is waiting for him.

INT. - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Josh reaches the bathroom door and rips it open. Before he knows what's happening, he takes a savage HAMMER BLOW to the head.

He stumbles backwards and falls to the floor. There's a dent in his head. He's still conscious, but he's completely disoriented. He tries to stand and run, but his motor skills aren't working properly and he falls immediately. He starts crawling down the hallway towards the--

LIVING ROOM

Meena now sits at the top of the stairs, her face buried in her knees, eyes closed.

She hears Josh groan at the bottom of the stairs and looks up to see that he's in really bad shape. His body is now twitching slightly.

MEENA

No--

She stands and quickly makes her way down the stairs to help him.

When she's halfway down the stairs, the Masked Man casually walks into frame, standing over Josh.

Meena comes to a halt, frozen with fear.

The Masked Man rotates the hammer around in his hand and without hesitation swings the CLAW of the hammer into the back of Josh's head, killing him instantly.

Meena turns and sprints back up the stairs.

The Masked Man runs after her.

She makes her way into the--

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

She slams the door behind her and locks it. Almost immediately, there's a BANG against the door. The Masked Man is throwing himself against it, trying to break in.

Meena quickly backs away from the door and surveys the room. She runs to the window, opens it, and looks down. She can only see a few feet down, and then it's all fog. It's impossible to tell how far the ground is below.

BANG! The Masked Man successfully breaks open the door. He runs towards Meena, hammer in hand.

She maneuvers her body outside the window, and drops into the fog, just as the Masked Man was about to reach her.

EXT. - BACKYARD - DECK - CONTINUOUS

Meena falls and lands hard on the deck below. She screams in pain and grabs her foot-- it's likely broken.

She scrambles to her feet and looks around in every direction-- she can't see anything through the fog. It's disorienting.

Fuck it-- she chooses a direction and hobbles away from the house and into the--

WOODS

She looks over her shoulder, scared that the Masked Man might be close on her tail.

She can only see a few feet in front of her, and her arms are outstretched to prevent herself from running into anything. She occasionally bumps into a tree, but keeps moving.

Just then, she hears something in the distance. She stops moving, trying to determine which direction the noise is coming from.

It sounds like footsteps. They're moving fast. The sound of the steps are getting louder/closer.

Meena changes course and hobbles off in a different direction, as fast as her broken foot will allow.

The footsteps are even louder now.

She moves recklessly through the fog, her heart is beating out of her chest.

CRACK! She runs head first into a tree and falls to the ground. She's bleeding, but she's OK.

She scrambles behind the tree, crouches down and tries to make herself as small as possible. She does her best to control her breathing and remain quiet.

She hears the footsteps run in one direction and then stop. They run in a different direction and then stop. The Masked Man is having difficulty finding her in the fog.

Silence.

The only sound for a long time is Meena's breathing.

A TWIG SNAPS close by.

She gets to her feet and starts running for her life.

The camera follows her from behind. She keeps disappearing and reappearing through the fog.

The camera loses her, but we can still hear her hobbling-- it sounds like a GALLOP.

The camera moves through the thick fog, trying to keep up with her, but all we see is grey.

Gallop, gallop, gallop, gallop, gallop, gallop--

Abruptly, the sound of the galloping stops.

Total silence.

After several beats, we hear the Masked Man's footsteps getting closer. He jogs past camera in the direction that Meena was running and then slows to a halt.

He looks down. We realize he's looking over the cliff's edge.

Meena is gone, having fallen to her death.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFFSIDE HOUSE - WOODS - NIGHT - LATER

The Masked Man drags the STRIP OF SPIKES through the woods towards the house.

He drags them past MICHELLE'S DEAD BODY. Part of her face is bashed in-- its gnarly.

The Masked Man tosses the spikes in the back of Taylor's truck.

EXT. - BACKYARD - LATER

The Masked Man walks to the edge of the cliff, hammer in his gloved hand.

He kneels down and gently tosses the murder weapon 15 feet down the cliffside, where it slides and then gets stuck on some rocks.

It's clear that he's doing his best to frame Taylor for the murders.

INT. CLIFFSIDE HOME - NIGHT - LATER

The Masked Man goes around the house dismantling and collecting all of the cameras.

They're everywhere: In a plant/a blue-ray player/a lamp, etc.

He unscrews both shower heads and aggressively jams a tool into the backside of the cameras, until they pop out the front of the shower head.

Throughout this sequence, as he moves from room to room, he casually walks past Josh's dead body, which still lies at the bottom of the stairs.

LATER

The Masked Man, now unmasked, stands in the living room, assessing his work. Another job well done.

He walks out the front door and closes it behind him.

(NOTE: WE NEVER SEE HIS FACE-- ONLY THE BACK OF HIS HEAD)

CUT TO:

BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. ISOLATED DESERT HOME - DAY - MONTHS LATER

A sweet MOTHERLY WOMAN gives a tour of her beautiful home to the Masked Man, who is unmasked and dressed sensibly.

His hands never leave his pockets, careful to not leave behind any fingerprints.

(AGAIN: WE WILL ONLY EVER SEE THE BACK OF HIS HEAD)

LATER

The Motherly Woman hands her keys to The Man and leaves.

The Man immediately gets to work:

-Puts on gloves.

- Walks through each room, getting a read on the place, determining where he can hide cameras.
- Walks around the perimeter of the house, assessing the area.
- Uses a key cutting machine to make a copy of the house key.
- Installs cameras throughout the house-- inside and out.
- In the bathroom, he slides the infamous mask over his face. He stares at himself in the mirror for a long time. His eyes are fucking haunting. He never blinks.

EXT. ISOLATED DESERT HOME - THE NEXT MORNING

The Man returns the keys to the Motherly Woman and says something that makes her laugh.

The Motherly Woman warmly waves goodbye as The Man walks away down a long road, until he disappears from sight.

THE END

OVER CREDITS

MONTAGE:

Several different types of people rotate through the Motherly Woman's desert Airbnb.

It's very similar to the opening montage of the film, except this time it's all seen from the POV of the hidden cameras throughout the house.

We know The Masked Man is watching somewhere, patiently selecting his next prey.