

TOTEM

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Divide/Conquer  
Gunpowder & Sky  
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**DARKNESS**

We hear trickling water. Birds chirping.

Then... a sickening THUD. Flesh and bone striking something hard. A SPLASH.

A WOMAN SCREAMS. In pain, dazed and incoherent. Water violently overwhelming her breaths...

**EXT. WATERING HOLE - MORNING**

A small waterfall feeds a secluded swimming hole among the Redwoods. Peaceful. Serene.

We move over the rocks near the water's edge until... we come across a thatch of matted, bloody hair.

A LIFELESS BODY rests in shallow water near the shore.

BLOOD trickles over a WOMAN'S HAND -- a pale strip of skin where her wedding band once rested.

CUT TO BLACK:

**TITLE CARD -- TOTEM**

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY, CA - DAY**

We snap out of the darkness into a new day.

A beautiful mountain town in the hills above Santa Cruz.

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY**

ECU - A brand new running shoe. Youthful FEMALE HANDS enter frame and SNAP the laces tight.

CU - A STARTER GUN FIRES.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - CONTINUOUS**

SIX ATHLETIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS in the middle of a sprint.

KELLIE CALDWELL (17) -- confident, smart and centered beyond her years -- quickly pulls ahead of four of the girls.

Almost at the front... she trails the WINNER by a hair.

SWISH. The winner breaks through the ribbon. Kellie in close succession. APPLAUSE from the stands.

Kellie briefly winces at her loss -- then smiles and waves to the crowd.

CUT TO:

**MOMENTS LATER**

Time for a picture.

Kellie holds a SECOND PLACE MEDAL aloft and wraps an arm around JAMES CALDWELL (early 40's) -- her handsome, proud father.

Posed at their feet is little sister ABBY (8) -- almost too shy to smile.

A moment with the happy family... SNAP!

TODD (17) -- athletic and kind -- is kept to the sidelines. Forever stuck in the friend zone.

Kellie approaches him and he attempts to hug her. She inadvertently RECOILS but saves the moment with a smile.

KELLIE  
(nervous laugh)  
Come on, I'm all sweaty.

She glances at her family to make sure they didn't see.

**INT./EXT. JAMES' CAR - NIGHT**

Kellie and Abby eat celebratory ice cream as James navigates the winding road.

James pulls to a stop at a deserted RED LIGHT.

JAMES  
You killed it out there.

KELLIE  
I guess. It'd be nice to win at some point...

JAMES  
You got a trophy, didn't you?

KELLIE  
So did two other girls.

JAMES

Well, I'm allowed to be proud of you.

ABBY

Are you proud of me too?

JAMES

Of course I am.

ABBY

For what?

JAMES

For bucking the trend.

ABBY

What does that mean?

JAMES

It means that I'm proud of how unique you are. You're going to grow up to be something special.

KELLIE

(lightly teasing)  
Our special snowflake.

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - NIGHT**

They pull into the driveway of a nice, semi-secluded house in the hills.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James and the girls are in bed -- Abby in the middle -- the comforter pulled up around them.

He grabs the Apple remote.

JAMES

What'll it be?

KELLIE

It's your turn.

JAMES

You're the big winner. You decide.

KELLIE

You never choose. You should get some say around here at some point.

JAMES  
(re: Abby)  
Frozen?

KELLIE  
If that's how you want to spend  
your turn. You'll both be asleep so  
quick it won't matter.

JAMES  
That, my young lady, is BS.

CUT TO:

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James and Abby are fast asleep. The TV illuminates the room.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Kellie rinses dishes -- part of her routine -- and places them in the drying rack.

Her eyes linger on the soapy water... bubbles swirl across the surface...

We PUSH IN on her face... lost in thought...

We see the sink get perilously full then OVERFLOW. Water starts to pool at her feet.

She snaps out of it, shuts the sink off and grabs a rag.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

She covers James with the blanket, picks Abby up and carries her out of the room.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! The motion sensors go off as Kellie carries Abby through the room.

KELLIE  
(quietly)  
Yeah, yeah.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie tucks Abby in.

It's SHIVERING COLD. She tries to shut the window over the bed -- but it's stuck.

She PUSHES harder... it comes loose. *Almost* slamming shut before Kellie catches it again...

Kellie glances down at Abby. Thankfully still asleep.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie carefully hangs her newest prize on the large TROPHY SHELF that hangs over her bed.

Winning trophies, medals and ribbons from throughout the years are arranged chronologically from left to right.

All of them are SECOND or THIRD PLACE. Except for the very first one -- *World's Best Daughter*.

She gets in bed and pulls up the covers. Satisfied.

As soon as she shuts her eyes -- WHISPERS from another room.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie enters to find Abby standing in a corner of the room -- whispering at the wall.

KELLIE

What are you doing?

ABBY

Talking...

KELLIE

Aren't you a little old for imaginary friends?

She walks over to Abby, places her hands on her shoulders, and steers her back to bed.

ABBY

But I'm not tired anymore.

Abby lays in bed, letting Kellie pull the covers over her.

KELLIE

What do you mean? You're not scared, are you?

ABBY

No.

KELLIE

So why can't you go back to sleep?

ABBY

Because.

KELLIE

Well, count some sheep or something, alright? It'll make my job easier.

Kellie playfully pinches her cheek and gets up to leave.

As she reaches the door she glances back at Abby... somewhat unsettled by all of this.

**INT. KITCHEN - MORNING**

Eggs in a pan. Bacon sizzling. Toast POPS out of a toaster.

Kellie cooks breakfast for three. Been doing it for years.

Abby shuffles in wearing COWGIRL BOOTS over her tights.

KELLIE

Nope, inappropriate.

ABBY

Why?

KELLIE

Just one of those society things, sis. Go change.

James -- wearing a bathrobe -- passes by Abby as he heads to the fridge.

JAMES

(to Kellie)

Need any help?

KELLIE

You don't have time to help. Get dressed.

James looks down at his bathrobe and nods -- 'you're right'. He gives her a quick kiss on the forehead.

JAMES

What would I do without you?

James turns and heads back to his room -- leaving Kellie to beam with pride over her successful morning routine.

**INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT MORNING**

Kellie and Abby eat breakfast. Playful. Not a care in the world.

James, now dressed, sits between them. Nervous about something -- he takes a deep breath.

KELLIE

What is it?

JAMES

Nothing... I just... I think it's time we talk about --

KELLIE

Oh no.

ABBY

What is it?

KELLIE

Not what. Who. *Her*.  
(to James)  
When?

JAMES

Next week.

ABBY

I like her.

KELLIE

Look, I just want you to be happy.

JAMES

Me too.

KELLIE

But can I just say one thing?  
And it's about what's right for you, so you can't get mad.



JAMES

I reserve the right to get mad, but go ahead.

KELLIE

I'd rather see you with someone... else.

JAMES

And now I *am* a little mad.

KELLIE

Why?

JAMES

Because you don't get a vote now. You get a vote at the beginning, between our third and fourth date. Not a year and a half later.

KELLIE

I'm sorry I just...

JAMES

I've played more than fair. I haven't had her over for sleepovers --

KELLIE

TMI.

JAMES

-- that you know of.

KELLIE

Way TMI.

JAMES

And now I want her in my life. Our lives, actually. You could use some help around here. You can just be seventeen. *Real* seventeen, not superhero seventeen.

Kellie leans back in her chair, annoyed. This is a battle she cannot win.

KELLIE

I like superhero seventeen.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BEER THIRTY - NIGHT**

The patio of a laid back gastropub. James sits across from ROBIN (29) -- warm, sunny and ever so slightly "off."

JAMES  
Are you kidding? The girls love you.

ROBIN  
Really? I just get this feeling...

JAMES  
Look, it's a shake-up. But I know it'll be a good one.

ROBIN  
I don't want them to associate me with disruption.

JAMES  
Sometimes disruption is good. I need disruption.

ROBIN  
I know. But I remember that age. Seventeen? She'll have an opinion.

JAMES  
Are you having second thoughts? Because the moving deposit's --

ROBIN  
No! No. I wanna make it work either way. I'm just thinking out loud. I think I could be a good friend to them, you know?  
(beat)  
And a good partner to you.

JAMES  
Wow.

He smiles and takes her hand.

JAMES (cont'd)  
What a toxic presence you'll be.

**INT. UHAUL - DAY**

TIGHT on Robin. She stands in front of a mirror -- steeling herself for something.

A CRAMPED SPACE containing lots of new-age CERAMIC SCULPTURES and the EQUIPMENT to make them. It looks like we're in her apartment...

She braces herself in front of the mirror and takes a calm, reassuring breath.

ROBIN  
You can do this.

She takes a few steps towards the exit...

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

... and steps outside. Revealing the UHAUL in the driveway.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Kellie and Abby sit on the floor -- taking in the progress. The family CAT sits between them.

The SCULPTURES stick out like a sore thumb in their new environment.

Robin kneels down to Kellie and Abby's eyeline.

ROBIN  
I just want to thank you girls for letting me into your home and your hearts. You know I love your dad and I'm looking forward to being your --

ABBY  
Mom?

KELLIE  
Sister?

ROBIN  
I could be a bit of both. A Momster.

KELLIE  
Now *that* has a ring to it.

ROBIN  
You're right. We'll just vibe it out.

Abby notices James removing a single PICTURE from the wall. He places it in a box and heads to his room. She follows.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY**

James removes a couple of photos from his dresser and adds them to the box.

Behind him -- an ELECTRICIAN installs a custom CHANDELIER above the bed. Ceramic and glass. Sculpted by Robin.

ABBY  
What are you doing?

JAMES  
It's a new start, right?

ABBY  
She doesn't know you were married?

JAMES  
Of course she does. It's about making her feel at home. And it's a new start for me too.

Abby pries one of the pictures away from him.

Their family as it was five years ago -- James, Kellie (then 12), Abby (then 3) and LEXY (early 30's).

Lexy was luminous. Big eyes that could find a lie anywhere.

ABBY  
I don't remember her.

JAMES  
Well, there won't be a test. You were three.

James kneels down next to her and looks at the picture.

JAMES (cont'd)  
She loved you very much.  
(thinks)  
We can put this in your room if you want. Would you like that?

Abby smiles and nods. Robin enters -- surprised by the chandelier.

ROBIN  
Wow. It's up already?

JAMES  
Yep.

ROBIN  
Are you sure it... fits?

JAMES  
(lying)  
Yep.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Kellie roams among the boxes and knick-knacks infecting her house. There's definitely some annoyance simmering up.

**INT. CALDWELL HOUSE - FOYER - DAY**

Robin is unpacking DOZENS OF BOOKS and placing them on the shelves. New age stuff. Some YA fiction. Some poetry and eastern religion selections sprinkled in.

Kellie reaches for one called '**The Replacement Mother: How Not To Be a Wicked Stepmom.**'

KELLIE  
Good stuff. You make it all the way through this one?

Robin -- simultaneously gentle and firm -- removes the book from Kellie's hands. She knows when she's being made fun of.

ROBIN  
Can't blame me for trying.

KELLIE  
(backpedaling)  
Well you know Abby's kind of weird. If you need any help, you can just ask me. There's no book for her.

Robin smiles.

ROBIN  
Thanks. That would be great.

**EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT**

James -- draped in a bloody apron -- opens up the grill and inspects a delicious looking tri-tip.

A bottle of LIGHTER FLUID at his side.

**INT. DINING ROOM - LATER**

Robin plates the food as Abby sits in her chair giggling and talking to... no one.

ABBY  
(girlish and formal)  
You'll have to wait. It's dinner  
time.

Kellie throws a look at Robin -- '*see what I mean?*'

ROBIN  
When did this start?

KELLIE  
Just the other day.  
(to Abby)  
Abs. What's the deal?

ROBIN  
I guess imaginary friends can be  
healthy.

KELLIE  
Not as healthy as real ones.

ROBIN  
Meh, let her explore.

KELLIE  
I'm sorry did you just say "meh?"  
Like, phonetically?

ROBIN  
Is that not how you do it?

KELLIE  
No, momster. Internet only. You  
sure you're only twenty-nine?

ROBIN  
Just different interests I guess.

Robin's smile fades a bit -- Kellie decides to ease up a little.

KELLIE  
Good for you. I'd love to unplug.  
(beat)  
Plus it's probably just the  
generation gap.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

BLOOD oozes out as James carves the tri-tip.

**INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

The "new" Caldwell family settles in for dinner. Kellie and Abby prepare to dig into their steak.

Robin swoops in and sprinkles a bunch of SEEDS on their meat right before their forks make contact.

KELLIE

Sesame seeds?

ROBIN

Hemp seeds.

KELLIE

So what, am I going to be stoned all night?

ROBIN

Of course not.

KELLIE

I run track. They test, you know.

ROBIN

It won't show up.

(reconsiders)

And if it did it's not like weed ever made anyone faster.

JAMES

It's okay, Kellie.

ROBIN

Its got Omega 3's. Your dad loves it.

JAMES

Load me up.

Robin sprinkles seeds on his steak as he glares at Kellie -- *'give her a break.'*

KELLIE

Actually it just adds a little extra crunch. I like it.

ROBIN

Your brain likes it too.

James sets his fork down and raises a glass of wine.

JAMES

I'd just like to take this  
opportunity to welcome Robin into  
our home...

(looks into Robin's eyes)  
... and into our family.

Everyone CLINKS their glasses. Kellie and Robin exchange nervous looks as they move their glasses in for a toast...

SMASH. Robin's glass shatters in her hand. Everyone at the table startles.

JAMES (cont'd)

Jesus!

ROBIN

Ouch.

Blood drips from Robin's hand.

KELLIE

Are you okay?

Robin gets up, heads to the sink and washes off the wound.

ROBIN

Yeah, can you just grab me a paper  
towel?

Kellie grabs a roll of paper towels and heads over to Robin.

BLOOD trickles down Robin's finger into the water in the sink. *Oddly similar to the image in the opening scene.*

KELLIE

Yikes.

Robin rinses the wound. It's tiny. Kellie presses the paper towel into Robin's palm.

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie flosses and brushes her teeth. All of her movements controlled and efficient. Almost comically precise.

A NOISE from inside her room. She turns her head...



**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie steps from her bathroom into the bedroom.

WHOOSH. The window opens. She JUMPS back and lets out a gasp.

Todd pokes his head through.

KELLIE  
Jesus Christ, you scared me.  
(catches her breath)  
You can't be here right now.

TODD  
Why not?

KELLIE  
My Dad's here.

Todd finishes climbing through the window.

TODD  
He's never here on Tuesdays.

KELLIE  
Well, now she's here and that's changed.

On Todd -- '*Bummer.*'

TODD  
That sucks.

KELLIE  
Didn't you see the cars?

Todd moves towards her... aiming for seductive, only achieving awkward. She allows a laugh.

He leans in for a kiss but she pulls away.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
We've talked about this.

TODD  
Come on, we've been dancing around it forever. You know we're more than friends.

KELLIE  
How's that?

TODD  
I can tell by the way you look at me.

He leans in again.

TODD (cont'd)  
They won't hear anything. They're probably going at it right now.

KELLIE  
And you think we should do it in sync with them? Ew.

She gently pushes him away.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
I don't want to think of him that way.

TODD  
You mean with another woman?

KELLIE  
*What?!*

TODD  
Instead of your mom.

KELLIE  
No. No one wants to think about their dad doing *anything*.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James and Robin are in fact not going at it. His advances have been thwarted by some worrying on Robin's part.

A breeze blows in through the open window.

ROBIN  
The seeds were stupid. I should have asked before putting them on.

JAMES  
It's not a big deal. She liked them.

ROBIN  
Yeah, but it's my first night here and I'm messing with her food. Not good.

She shakes her head, lost in the past.

ROBIN (cont'd)  
I was never cool in school.  
Whenever I tried they just hated me  
more.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Abby's half asleep. The window by her bed is once again open -- allowing a gentle breeze into the room.

She shivers a bit. Pulls the blanket tighter. Her feet are still exposed. BRRR.

Abby's sheet LIFTS up. At first we think it's the billowing wind... until it's PULLED down to cover her feet.

A quiet beat.

The open window SLAMS shut and the sheets pull TIGHT around Abby -- literally imprisoning her on the bed.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Todd and Kellie hear Abby SCREAM! She heads for the door. Todd follows.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

James and Robin exchange looks and jump out of bed.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie and Todd run into Abby's room. Abby's curled up in a ball on the bed.

KELLIE  
What happened?

James enters the room -- worried.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Robin second guesses if she should go into Abby's room or not -- *'I don't want to overstep my bounds.'*

She sees something MOVING out of the corner of her eye.

She turns her head. *'What's that?'*

She looks over to Kellie's room... the door is open... a single trophy falls from Kellie's shelf to the ground.

She takes a step towards it... but Abby's crying grows louder.

She takes a deep breath and heads into Abby's bedroom.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Robin enters and takes her place by James' side.

Todd lurks in the background -- almost hoping James won't notice him.

ABBY  
Someone slammed the window!

JAMES  
Sweetie, no one slammed it.

James lifts the window. It's loose. Slides down too easily.

JAMES (cont'd)  
It fell.

Kellie takes a step towards Abby but Robin beats her to it -- she watches as the new addition comforts her sister.

JAMES (cont'd)  
I'll fix it later. It's too cold to be open anyway.

Robin pulls the sheet back onto Abby's bed.

James turns and locks eyes with Todd.

JAMES (cont'd)  
And what's *he* doing here?

KELLIE  
Getting me grounded?

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kellie ushers Todd out front. They shiver in the night air.

TODD  
I don't know what I was thinking. I just wanted to help.

KELLIE  
Your heart was in the right place.  
Just not your head.

TODD  
You really going to be grounded?

KELLIE  
Please. He's wrapped around my  
finger.

TODD  
Pretty soon he'll be wrapped around  
your stepmom's.

He pats her on the shoulder and heads to his car.

KELLIE  
(calling out)  
She's not my stepmom!

TODD  
Not yet.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie enters... Abby is nowhere to be seen.

WHISPERS from the closet. Kellie opens the door to find Abby  
inside.

Abby looks up at her.

ABBY  
I'm not scared anymore.

KELLIE  
Good. Yeah, it was just a loud  
noise.

She takes hold of Abby's hand and gently pulls her up and  
out of the closet.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
You've really gotta cut that out.

She guides Abby back into bed.

ABBY  
I'm not tired.

KELLIE  
I've heard that before.  
(MORE)

KELLIE (cont'd)  
(sighs)  
I can lay here for a bit if you  
want.

Kellie crawls into bed with Abby. She notices the family photo on her bedside table.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
Dad give you that?

A beat while Abby considers her next thought.

ABBY  
Why doesn't daddy talk about how  
she died?

KELLIE  
Well, it's not fun to talk about.  
And mommy wasn't... it wasn't a  
good time for daddy and mommy.  
(switches gears)  
All you need to know is that she  
was amazing and she loved you.  
(beat)  
Lay on your front and I'll show you  
how she used to put me to sleep.

Abby lays on her stomach. Kellie places two fingers at the small of her back and gently walks them up her spine.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
(singing)  
The itzy-bitsy spider went up the  
water spout...

She quickly trails her fingers away from Abby's neck.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
(singing)  
Down came the rain and washed the  
spider out. Out came the sun and  
dried up all the rain.

She walks her fingers back up.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
And the itzy-bitsy spider climbed  
up the spout again.

ABBY  
Again.

KELLIE

If you're anything like I was  
this'll take a while.

(sings)

The ittsy-bitsy spider went up the  
water spout...

We pan over from the bed to Abby's door... slightly open. An EYE watches them from outside.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Robin -- in her nightgown -- watches from the darkness of the hallway.

Maybe jealous... maybe just wanting to know how to take care of Abby...

After a beat she turns and heads back to her bedroom.

**INT. MASTER BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Robin soaks in the tub -- a candle lit on the edge of the -- basin -- trying to unwind.

A KNOCK on the door. She startles.

JAMES (O.C.)

Everything okay in there?

ROBIN

Yep! Just trying to unwind.

(to herself)

And hoping this gets easier.

TAP.

A water drop falls from the shower head above and lands on her forehead.

TAP.

Robin glances up at the shower head -- annoyed. Another water drop forms then... TAP.

The candle FLICKERS as though wind blows over it. Robin looks around... all the windows are closed.

TAP. TAP. Robin looks over to THE SINK -- which is now dripping. 'Weird.'

She gets out of the tub, puts on her bathrobe and heads to the sink. She twists the faucet OFF.

TAP. A DROP of water strikes her forehead. She looks up...

... and sees a THIN LINE OF WATER stretching across the ceiling from the shower -- stopping right over her head.

TAP.

She grabs a towel and blots the water from the ceiling.

She looks to the candle... which flickers again before going out completely.

### **INT. KITCHEN - MORNING**

Egg whites and spinach in a pan. Turkey bacon in the microwave. Spelt toast POPS out of the toaster.

A healthier, more hippy-ish version of the breakfast we saw earlier.

Kellie practically skips in only to stop in her tracks as she discovers Robin has taken over her duties.

ROBIN

Breakfast?

KELLIE

You know, you don't have to do this. I normally get it. Part of my routine.

ROBIN

Oh no, you've got school. You probably have to cram for tests or whatever. It'll be my routine.

KELLIE

I really think Abby's used to --

Abby -- happily munching away -- looks up from her plate.

ABBY

This is good!

Kellie sighs, grabs a plate and takes her seat.

DING! A laptop on the table chimes. Robin runs over to it and clasps her hands excitedly.



ONSCREEN -- Robin's Etsy page. Her sculptures actually sell like crazy.

ROBIN  
Sold another one!

ABBY  
Of those things?

Kellie stifles a laugh.

KELLIE  
(whispers to Abby)  
Be nice.

Robin grabs a plate of food and joins them at the table.

ROBIN  
(to Abby)  
You get back to sleep okay after your little adventure?

ABBY  
Yeah. The window didn't fall like dad said, though.

ROBIN  
Oh no?

ABBY  
I was cold so she shut it.

ROBIN  
Who shut it?

KELLIE  
I don't think --

ABBY  
I think it was Mom.

The air is sucked out of the room.

KELLIE  
Abby, it wasn't Mom okay? Mom's not here anymore.

ROBIN  
Oh, I'm sure she's here in some way.

Robin reaches out with both arms, grabs Kellie and Abby by the hands, and closes her eyes.

ROBIN (cont'd)  
 (like she's acknowledging  
 a presence)  
 Lexy, it's an honor to be in your  
 home with your two beautiful girls.

Kellie pulls her hands away.

KELLIE  
 Are you trying to talk to a ghost?  
 Because ghosts are scary. Even if  
 they're Mom.  
 (to Abby)  
 Which it's not.

ROBIN  
 Of course not. I was thinking more  
 along the lines of a therapeutic --

KELLIE  
 Not talking to walls is  
 therapeutic.

ROBIN  
 (to Abby)  
 What makes you think it's her? Why  
 now?

ABBY  
 She's *always* been here. I just  
 wasn't looking for her.

KELLIE  
 See? Now it's in her head.

James enters the kitchen -- already dressed and looking  
 sharp in his suit.

JAMES  
 (to Robin)  
 Will you look at this? I'm running  
 on time for once.

ON KELLIE -- James gives Robin a quick kiss on the forehead,  
 obscuring Kellie's face from the frame as he does so.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

Kellie's SKIPPING ROPE. Always training. James KNOCKS on the  
 side of her open door.

JAMES  
 Hey kiddo.

KELLIE

Hey pops.

JAMES

Listen, I need you to do me a solid.

KELLIE

What's that?

JAMES

How would you feel about integrating Robin a little more?

KELLIE

She's been here 24 hours and I'm two for two on meals.

JAMES

I just want her to feel welcome, you know?

He gestures to one of Robin's sculptures in the hallway -- still wrapped in plastic from the move.

JAMES (cont'd)

And you could stand to do a little decorating.

Her face drops.

KELLIE

Did she ask you to do this?

JAMES

No. And it'll play a lot better if it's your idea.

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - DAY**

A GARAGE SALE.

Kellie, Abby and James man a table in the front yard. Boxes and knick-knacks litter the table. An old VCR, a sculpture of Robin's, a pair of old Rollerblades.

No customers so far...

ABBY

Why are we selling our stuff?

JAMES

Well, it's not just our stuff. It's her stuff too. We're both getting rid of what we don't need so everything fits together.

KELLIE

(rolls her eyes)  
Yeah, her stuff meshes.

A car pulls up.

KELLIE (cont'd)

I didn't know Grandpa was coming.

JAMES

I don't want to get rid of anything he'd want.

The car door opens and BERNARD (65) -- a swaggering, portly curmudgeon -- steps outside.

BERNARD

Hey there... fam.

JAMES

Hi, Bernard.

KELLIE

Hi, Bernard.

ABBY

Hi, Grandpa!

Bernard bends down and gives Abby a hug.

BERNARD

How's my favorite grandkid?  
(winks up at Kellie)  
Just kidding, it's a tie.

Robin emerges carrying a big box -- she heads over to the table and sets it down.

ROBIN

Hi! I'm Robin!

James stands up -- flustered.

BERNARD

Hey there, I'm Bernard.

JAMES

I can't believe you guys haven't met. Robin, Bernard's my father in law.

Robin does the math in her head -- 'oh.'

BERNARD

It's okay, darlin'. Life goes on.  
Nice to meet you.

Bernard goes off to play with Abby while Robin starts unpacking the box.

She pulls out a few DVD's and some books. Then -- she slowly pulls out an OLD NECKLACE -- somehow both ornate and tasteful.

Robin looks at it curiously. Kellie's eyes widen with anger.

KELLIE

What are you doing? We can't sell that!

ROBIN

Oh, I'm sorry. It didn't seem like your style.

Kellie takes the necklace from her.

KELLIE

This was my Mom's.

ROBIN

Oh, Kellie. You know I would never --

BERNARD

Everyone simmer down.

Bernard wheezes a bit... pulls out an INHALER and takes a puff as he heads over to take a look.

BERNARD (cont'd)

I don't remember that one.

ROBIN

Turquoise is a healing stone.  
(beat)  
It also keeps people from overreacting.

BERNARD

Why don't you put it on?

KELLIE

Oh no, I don't think --

BERNARD

Come on. If you want it you should wear it.

Kellie carefully drapes the necklace over her head... it rests perfectly around her neck.

ROBIN

It looks beautiful on you, Kellie.

Robin hands the box she took the necklace from over to Kellie.

ROBIN (cont'd)

You should really be the one to go through this.

Bernard pats Robin on the back and steers her towards the table full of knick-knacks.

BERNARD

Now let's take a look at the rest of this garbage.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Kellie shuts the door behind her.

She quickly pulls off the necklace.... places it in her dresser drawer... and closes it.

**INT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY**

A lethargic SCIENCE TEACHER lectures. Kellie sits in front of all the other STUDENTS.

SCIENCE TEACHER

And what does the law of conservation of energy state?

An OVEREAGER STUDENT shoots her hand up. The Science Teacher nods in her direction.

OVEREAGER STUDENT

That energy can neither be created or destroyed.

Kellie just stares ahead. Lost in thought.

SCIENCE TEACHER

Very good. What can energy do under this law?

Overeager Student shoots her hand up again.

KELLIE  
(blurts out)  
Change form.

SCIENCE TEACHER  
That's correct.  
(beat)  
Although we still raise our hands  
around here.

BZZZ. She reaches into her bag and grabs her cell phone.

ON PHONE -- 3 MISSED CALLS and VOICEMAILS from 'Abby  
School.'

Kellie raises her hand.

KELLIE  
I'm sorry, can I be excused?

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY**

Kellie pulls into the elementary school parking lot. She  
jumps out of her car and RUSHES inside.

ADMINISTRATOR (O.S. FILTER)  
Hi Kellie, we're having a bit of a  
problem with Abby. We were actually  
wondering if you could come get  
her?

**INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FRONT OFFICE - DAY**

Kellie approaches a SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR at her desk.

KELLIE  
Hi, you guys called. I'm here to  
get Abby.

ADMINISTRATOR  
She's not here.

KELLIE  
What do you mean?

ADMINISTRATOR  
Her mom picked her up.

KELLIE  
 Okay, her mom is dead. You know  
 that, right?

ADMINISTRATOR  
 (whoops)  
 I'm so sorry. Not her mom. That  
 pretty young lady. Your father  
 added her to the list. She was  
 upsetting the other kids...

KELLIE  
 (annoyed)  
 Why?

ADMINISTRATOR  
 She told them she... could talk to  
 the dead. The kids got in her face.  
 Made fun of her.

**INT. KELLIE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie gets into her car -- whips out her phone and dials  
 'Dad.'

It goes to voicemail.

JAMES (O.S. FILTER)  
 You've reached James. I'm over  
 forty, so feel free to leave a  
 message.

KELLIE  
 (into phone)  
 You gave Robin Mom privileges?  
 Isn't that a little fast?  
 (beat)  
 At least *someone's* still doing your  
 job for you.

She angrily hangs up.

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie pulls into the driveway.

**INT. CALDWELL HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY**

Robin and Abby walk down the hall towards her room.



ROBIN  
You know the kids at my school  
picked on me too.

ABBY  
They did?

ROBIN  
Big time. I was a little bit  
different like you are.

ABBY  
How?

Robin takes a long inhale, smiles and kneels down to her.

ROBIN  
Us weird ones, we've got to stick  
together.  
(beat)  
Come on, I've got a surprise for  
you.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Abby bounds into her room with Robin following. On her bed  
is a WOODEN BOX. She slowly opens it...

INSIDE -- PICTURES of Lexy and Abby together. A LOCK OF  
HAIR.

ROBIN  
I found this stuff during the  
garage sale. I figure if Kellie  
gets the necklace... I wanted to  
save something for you.

ABBY  
(holding the box)  
You made this for me?

ROBIN  
I think it's important for you to  
feel a connection with her. And to  
know that I'm here *for* you, not to  
take her place.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie quietly sneaks up on Abby's room... peeks through the  
open door.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Abby looks to the closet tentatively... almost as though she's seeking permission from someone we can't see.

She nods to whatever she's looking at and then proceeds to give Robin a hug.

ROBIN

Awww. I'm fitting in already?

Kellie enters -- her eyes lock on the box.

KELLIE

Is that my mom's stuff?

ROBIN

I thought --

KELLIE

Can you ask before doing things like this please? She's already fixated.

ROBIN

Your dad and I discussed it.

Kellie sighs... she'll let this one go. She sits on the bed next to Abby.

KELLIE

She can have it. It's just weird to see this stuff again. I miss her.

ROBIN

Of course you do.

Kellie pulls the photo out of the box and gazes at it.

KELLIE

She was great.  
(ill-timed glance at Robin)  
One of a kind.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT**

James and Robin are post-coital in bed.

JAMES

What you did for Abby today was really sweet.

ROBIN

I just don't want her to think I'm  
trying to replace this perfect mom.  
(almost in tears)  
I already feel like I'm trying to  
replace a perfect wife.

JAMES

Who says you're not perfect?

ROBIN

Part of you has to wish she was  
still here.

JAMES

Of course. I loved her very much.  
But she's not here. You are. And  
you're not second fiddle. She was  
my first choice then, but you're my  
first choice now.  
(beat)  
Besides, it's not like things were  
perfect at the end.

ROBIN

How?

James takes a deep breath.

ROBIN (cont'd)

If you don't want to talk about  
it --

JAMES

No, it's okay. She was just  
distant, you know? Like something  
was sucking the joy out of her.  
(beat)  
I mean, she wasn't wearing her ring  
when she died.

ROBIN

I'm sorry, James.

JAMES

It's not all her fault, you know? I  
could have done a better job. I was  
checked out, not involved enough  
with the kids...  
(beat)  
So now I just wonder. About  
everything.

He rolls on his side to face her.

JAMES (cont'd)  
 Promise me something, okay?

ROBIN  
 Of course.

JAMES  
 Keep me in the loop. Don't let me  
 wonder.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie stares at the moon outside her window. Something catches her attention...

A HORRIFYING vision in the corner. Moonlight bears down on it like an evil, black tree growing out of the floor.

She flicks on the lights... it's just that sculpture of Robin's.

KELLIE  
 Great.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Abby lays on her stomach, singing softly to herself.

ABBY  
 (singing)  
 The itsy-bitsy spider went up the  
 water spout...

In the background -- her bedroom door slowly CLOSES.

ABBY (cont'd)  
 (singing)  
 Down came the rain and washed the  
 spider out... out came the sun and  
 dried up all the rain...

A breeze from nowhere waffles the sheets.

ABBY (cont'd)  
 (singing)  
 ...and the itsy-bitsy spider  
 climbed up the spout again.

Inching closer to sleep, she starts the song again.

ABBY (cont'd)  
 (singing)  
 The itsy-bitsy spider climbed up  
 the water spout...

INVISIBLE FINGERS walk up her back as she sings along,  
 pressing into her pajamas.

ABBY (cont'd)  
 Kellie I didn't know--

She turns over. No one's there. She bolts upright in bed and  
 looks around.

ABBY (cont'd)  
 Kellie?

No one's there. A completely empty room. Abby glances at the  
 box of Lexy's on her nightstand.

ABBY (cont'd)  
 Mommy?

Her eyes lock on something offscreen.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

We slowly pull away from Abby's door and into the hallway.  
 As we depart... we hear her TALKING.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

ANGLE -- Robin's sculpture. Still downright horrifying in  
 the moonlight.

Kellie grabs a blanket and tosses it over the sculpture.

Then -- a KNOCKING sound. She scans the room, trying to  
 place it...

...her dresser drawer shakes. Or did she imagine it?

She heads to her dresser and opens the drawer.

The necklace.

She pulls it out and holds it. Fingers the interlocking  
 rivets... concerned...

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! The entry/exit alert from the motion  
 detector system.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie investigates -- absentmindedly gripping the necklace.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Something stirs at the dark end of the room. She approaches slowly... leans down to look...

THE CAT JUMPS OUT.

She jumps back -- dropping the necklace.

At that exact moment a stack of magazines TOPPLES off a nearby table. They fall in the same direction as the necklace.

Kellie glances back and forth from the necklace on to the pile of magazines on the floor.

She picks up the necklace -- the curtains across the room SWAY UP AND DOWN -- echoing the motion of the necklace as she lifts it...

She backs away... frightened...

Then... the cat scurries across the room.

WHAM! She bumps into James -- scaring the shit out of both of them.

JAMES

I was hoping that was you sneaking in or something.

KELLIE

I'm grounded, remember?

JAMES

(give me a break)  
You're never really grounded.

James and Kellie check the front door. Locked. He hits a button. The alarm stops.

JAMES (cont'd)

Motion detector. Abby's in her room, right?

Kellie nods.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! It goes off again. *'What the fuck?'*

Then... the cat SCURRIES into the room. James sighs and flicks the alarm off.

KELLIE

(wary)

He never sets this off.

JAMES

Yeah, but you've been feeding him too much.

(beat)

You're not starting to believe this ghost stuff, are you?

KELLIE

I...

(covering)

... of course not.

JAMES

Exactly. Team cat.

James yawns and pats Kellie on the shoulder.

JAMES (cont'd)

Going back to bed, kiddo. You should too.

KELLIE

In a second.

She scoops the cat up and heads into the kitchen.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie -- the cat still cradled in one arm -- walks slowly. She holds out the necklace and sways it front of her. Nothing.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! The hallway detector BEHIND her.

A chill comes over her -- she looks at the cat cradled against her.

KELLIE

Why couldn't it be you?

She lets the cat fall to the floor and follows as it scurries out of the room.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

The cat runs up to Kellie's door -- PURRING and rubbing against it. *A friendly reception for whatever's inside...*

Kellie slowly approaches her room and reaches for the door.

She PULLS her hand away -- it's dripping. The handle is WET.

She opens her door slowly...

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie scans her room... empty. Still.

She glances to the sculpture ... the blanket she threw over it billows. *'Is something under there?'*

Her eyes move to the trophy shelf. One small trophy on the end is turned askance. *'Weird.'*

She slowly stalks toward the display, eyes peeled for anything unusual, and fixes it.

Her closet door is open. *'Fuck.'* She heads over to close it.

PLOP. She spins around to see a trophy on the carpet.

She turns back to the closet -- the door SLAMS shut.

PLOP. Kellie spins around again. Another trophy on the floor.

Kellie doesn't know what to make of it.

They start falling... one by one... PLOP. PLOP. PLOP.

Kellie moves to the shelf... then peers down at her hand -- the necklace TIGHTENS around her palm. Painfully... like a noose.

BAM! The SHELF TOPPLES over -- sending the trophies and their sharp metal edges down almost all over her.

She STUMBLES BACK and FALLS.

The necklace slips free, bounces off the floor, slipping under the black recesses of her dresser.

She catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror -- SOMETHING is behind her.

Undefined, dark... almost wraith-like.



Terrified, she peers into the mirror...

ABBY (O.C.)  
I told you. It's Mom.

Kellie SCREAMS and spins around. Abby stands in the doorway.

KELLIE  
No. Mom wouldn't do this. Mom  
wouldn't make us feel like this!

ABBY  
She did Itsy-Bitsy.

KELLIE  
(whispers, scared)  
It was watching us...

ABBY  
Sometimes she whispers things...

KELLIE  
What does she say? Has she said  
anything about us?

Abby thinks...

ABBY  
She asked about the necklace.

KELLIE  
Abby, I know I made a big deal  
about that necklace, but I was just  
mad at Robin. I was being a jerk.  
Mom hated that thing. I don't know  
who gave it to her and I never saw  
her wear it.  
(beat)  
I need you not to talk to this  
thing.

ABBY  
Why? I like her.

Kellie grabs Abby by the shoulders.

KELLIE  
Abby, I'm your sister. I love you.  
I would never lie to you. You've  
got to trust me. Do you trust me?

ABBY  
...yes.

KELLIE  
 Whatever this is... stay away from  
 it.

James and Robin arrive to investigate the racket.

JAMES  
 (taking in the mess)  
 What the hell happened?

Kellie bends down and grabs the WORLDS BEST DAUGHTER trophy  
 off the floor.

KELLIE  
 Robin, can you take Abby back to  
 her room please?

ROBIN  
 (re: the mess)  
 But let me help you-

KELLIE  
 Please, Robin. Abby, remember what  
 I said.

Robin steers Abby into the hall. James pulls Kellie aside.

JAMES  
 Kellie, are you trying to...  
 sabotage this?

KELLIE  
 Sabotage what?

JAMES  
 You know... me and Robin.

KELLIE  
 (re: the destroyed room)  
 You think *I* did this? This thing is  
real.  
 (thinks)  
 Maybe whatever was "bothering" Mom  
 is now bothering Abby too.

JAMES  
 What do you mean?

KELLIE  
 We both know Mom was acting weird  
 at the end.

JAMES

That's not what happened. She was depressed.

James gently takes the WORLD'S BEST DAUGHTER trophy from her and places it back on the shelf.

KELLIE

You don't believe me do you?

James surveys the toppled shelf and the trophies strewn throughout the room -- not knowing what to think.

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie examines herself in the mirror... there are RED WELTS on her hand where the necklace tightened around it.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie bends down on her hands and knees to peer into the darkness under the dresser.

She reaches in... feels around... grappling in the darkness... and finally pulls out the necklace.

She studies it... mesmerized. She pulls the blanket off the sculpture, wraps herself up in it and climbs into bed.

She gazes up at the necklace for a moment before hiding it under her pillow.

**INT. DINING ROOM - MORNING**

The family eats -- but everything feels stilted. A nervous energy in the air. The only person not tense is Abby... happily munching away at her breakfast.

ABBY

Maybe it's good that Mom's back.

Kellie glares at James -- 'see?'

KELLIE

Abby, we talked about this.

JAMES

(to Abby)

For right now let's just focus on what we can see.

ABBY

But I *do* see her.

KELLIE

You're seeing what it wants you to see.

ROBIN

Kellie, you're feeling a lot of upheaval right now and this is the anxiety manifesting itself.

JAMES

Maybe there *is* something here, Robin. I honestly don't know.

ROBIN

I just think everyone's on edge and reading into the wrong things.

KELLIE

What about my room?

ROBIN

Maybe the shelf couldn't handle the weight.

(smiles)

A testament to your hard work.

KELLIE

Do those Dr. Spock books tell you to ignore *all* danger to your family?

JAMES

Enough. Whatever's going on, we're still a family. Let's act like it, okay?

Kellie grabs her backpack.

KELLIE

(annoyed)

Totally.

James looks at his watch.

JAMES

Shoot, we've gotta go too.

James scoops Abby out of her seat and heads out of the kitchen.

Robin is left alone.

She sighs -- '*what a mess*' -- and takes another bite of food and washes it down with some water.

... GULP. Something's caught in her throat -- threatening her gag reflex.

She pulls the glass away and notices a SINGLE STRAND OF HAIR hanging from her mouth.

Unable to swallow -- she opens her mouth and PULLS the strand out... finally excavating a CLUMP OF MATTED HAIR.

Terrified and disgusted -- she closes her eyes and quickly stands up.

... when she opens her eyes she's holding just the single strand again.

She looks around... creeped out... '*am I going crazy?*'

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY**

Kellie sits behind the wheel of her car. Todd sits next to her.

She's just told him everything.

TODD

You really think this thing wants to hurt you?

She nods.

TODD (cont'd)

Oh, come on.

(off Kellie's look)

I didn't mean it like that. If it's something you're really feeling...

KELLIE

I don't need sensitive Todd. I need practical Todd.

Todd raises his hand.

TODD

Here.

KELLIE

So you don't believe me either?

TODD  
I thought you wanted practical  
Todd.

KELLIE  
Actually, I want patient Todd.

TODD  
Maybe you need a change of scenery.  
At least next year we'll be a  
thousand miles away.

KELLIE  
Actually... I was thinking of  
staying here.

TODD  
What do you mean? We're going to  
Boulder.

KELLIE  
Not if I go to college in the city.

TODD  
Why would you stay?

KELLIE  
My family needs me, okay?

TODD  
They'll be fine. They've got Robin  
now.

Kellie shoots him a look.

TODD (cont'd)  
Got it. Patient Todd.

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY**

Track practice.

Kellie is at the starting line. Up against two students from  
last time and TWO NEW RUNNERS from the same school.

TIGHT ON KELLIE -- *her focus is eerily razor sharp. More  
determined than ever.*

**CU** - The starter gun fires.

Kellie starts ahead and stays there -- *'Yes! She's finally  
gonna win!'*

She gives a quick glance to the STANDS -- and sees A FIGURE standing at the top of the bench. ARMS OUTSTRETCHED. COVERED BY A RIPPED BODY BAG. DRIPPING WET.

Kellie STUMBLES and CRASHES down into the track. Everyone crosses the finish line without her.

She looks back up at the stands -- they're empty.

**INT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY**

Kellie's in class. Tired. Distracted. BLOOD seeps through the bandage on her leg.

SCIENCE TEACHER

And so what does Newton's first law tell us?

No one raises their hand. The teacher looks to Kellie... she's off in another world.

SCIENCE TEACHER (cont'd)

Ms. Caldwell?

KELLIE

(snaps out of it)  
Yeah?

SCIENCE TEACHER

Newton's first law.

KELLIE

I... I'm sorry.

He pats her on the shoulder as he walks down the aisle.

SCIENCE TEACHER

An object that is at rest will stay at rest until an external force acts upon it. And --

Kellie absentmindedly mouths along with the next part...

SCIENCE TEACHER (cont'd)

An object in motion will not stop until an external force acts upon it.

She glances at her textbook -- a DIAGRAM displaying these principles. An object at rest. An object in motion. An external force. An object stopping.

**EXT. BACKYARD - DAY**

Robin is on her knees PLANTING SEEDS in the dirt near the deck, a glass of wine at her side.

BERNARD (O.C.)  
Got a second?

Robin startles. Bernard enters the yard from the side.

ROBIN  
Hey, Bernard. What's up?

BERNARD  
I wanted to clear the air about something since it seems like we're going to be seeing more of each other.

ROBIN  
Uh... Sure.

BERNARD  
You've probably guessed that I've steered clear of meeting you these past few years.

Robin wipes her hands on her jeans.

ROBIN  
Yeah, I thought that might be the case.

BERNARD  
Well, I came to apologize. It's just... at the time I didn't know what to think of it.  
(beat)  
Considering you knew her.

ROBIN  
(flustered)  
James and I got together three years after the funeral, Bernard. It's a circle of friends. Things happen.

Bernard nods -- looks off in the distance.

BERNARD  
I came to explain, not accuse. I'm fine with it now. Like I said, life goes on. I was just being a Dad.



ROBIN

Well, I was as surprised as anyone he asked me out. She's not an easy act to follow.

BERNARD

Have you told the girls?

ROBIN

James and I don't think it's a good idea right now. It's such an uphill battle already.

BERNARD

Kellie?

Robin bends back down and starts digging with her trowel -- like she's angry.

ROBIN

Yep.

Bernard pulls out his inhaler... takes a puff.

BERNARD

She's a handful, alright. Likes to be in charge, doesn't she? You gotta fight or roll over with her.

Robin pauses on her response as she drops a handful of seeds into the soil.

Then...

ROBIN

Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere.

BERNARD

(chuckles)

Good luck with that. And call me if you need anything. Lord knows James never does.

ROBIN

Anytime.

Bernard makes his way back around the side of the yard.

Robin pulls out the hose to water the seeds -- notices a LEAK where the tube screws into the water spout.

She grabs the spout handle to adjust it -- SPSHHH! It SPRAYS her with water.

She steps back -- *'great.'*

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - DAY**

Kellie's car pulls into the driveway as Bernard's pulls out. Her eyes trail after him -- *'what's he doing here?'*

**INT. CALDWELL HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Kellie arrives home and catches a glimpse of Robin through the back windows.

Her eyes linger on Robin -- DRENCHED with water... MATTED hair...

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Kellie closes the door behind her, opens the drawer and pulls out the necklace.

She studies it, nervous -- *'what the fuck am I thinking?'*

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - NIGHT**

Kellie's room is the only one with the lights on. Then... they go out.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Kellie scouts around. Peering in everyone's bedroom -- they're all asleep.

She opens a closet and pulls down a SHOEBOX.

CU ON SHOEBOX -- Christmas ornaments and tchotchkes.

**INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Kellie places a tiny SILVER BELL on her doorknob.

She moves down the hall towards the master bedroom and places a silver bell on that doorknob as well.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie stands on a chair and pulls one of the MOTION DETECTOR SENSORS down. Battery powered. No wires.

She repeats this process in the remaining three corners of the room collecting four sensors total.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Kellie places a chair in the center of the room then plants the sensors around it in a circle. A clear enclosed area of protection and visibility.

She activates the sensors -- BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! -- and sits in the chair.

A text arrives on her phone from Todd -- *'Good luck tonight. I believe you.'* Then -- *'Sure you don't want company? Maybe the ghost can watch us "leave the friend zone."'*

She sighs, tucks the phone in her pocket without answering, then pulls out the necklace and cradles it in her hand.

Watches. Waits.

KELLIE  
Come on, come on.

FADE TO:

**INT. KITCHEN - LATER**

PLUNK. The necklace hits the floor. Kellie wakes from an accidental nap.

Her eyes dart around...

All the cabinets are wide open. *'Weird.'*

She closes them... unnerved... and thinks for a beat.

**EXT. PATIO - NIGHT**

Kellie quietly exits to the patio and closes the door. She shivers from the cool night air.

She pulls out her phone. A text from Todd. *'Still up?'* She DIALS and he picks up immediately.

TODD (O.S. FILTER)  
So. Did it show up again?

KELLIE  
Nothing that'll convince them  
they're in danger.

TODD (O.S. FILTER)  
What made it appear last time?

This sparks a thought. Kellie quickly ends the call.

KELLIE  
Let me call you back.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Kellie pulls some cat treats out of one of the open cabinets...

KELLIE  
Here, kitty kitty.

The cat SCURRIES in -- BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! -- and jumps into her lap.

The cat warily accepts the treat then turns to leave. Kellie GRABS hold of it. It squirms in her lap, trying to get free.

The struggle grows. Kellie holds.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! *Something just entered the kitchen!*

The cat leaps out of her lap with a HISS.

Kellie JUMPS TO HER FEET.

The cat PURRS at something in the corner of the room.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
(whispers)  
Leave us alone!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! It just moved to the other side. Kellie spins in its direction. Still nothing there.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Kellie spins again behind her. The thing is moving back and forth. She's scared.

Defiant, Kellie lifts the necklace. Hesitant, a little scared of it.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
(whispers)  
Here goes nothing.

Kellie lights a cigarette lighter and moves the FLAME to a section of the necklace.

SUDDENLY there is an ungodly SHRIEK -- a wraith-like black specter appears in front of her.

Kellie gapes at the sight.

She WINCES in pain -- *her hand is burning too* -- as if the necklace is resisting with its own unnatural heat.

She turns to face the living room -- DROPPING the lighter and necklace.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

WHAM. Something invisible hits the floor. In pain.

We see FINGER MARKS -- five on each hand -- appear in the carpet. They streak down into long lines... like this thing is trying to crawl away in agony.

Kellie grabs the necklace and -- with two hands -- pulls with all her might. The chain SNAPS in two.

The specter suddenly is sent HURLING forward -- freed by the breaking of the chain... but still in agony.

Kellie DUCKS as it passes overhead and hugs the ground.

The invisible force SLAMS into the BOOKSHELF causing it to wobble and fall forward -- in a split second shot we see the cat standing inescapably in its path.

The cat -- hair puffed -- stares at Kellie just before the shelf crashes down upon it.

**EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING**

Kellie digs a tiny GRAVE -- right where Robin planted her seeds earlier. Tiny sprouted SEEDLINGS speck the dirt.

A PAW pokes out of the trash bag next to her.

James stands behind Kellie -- oblivious that she's digging up Robin's stuff.

JAMES

How do we explain this to Abby?

KELLIE

He ran away? We sent him to a farm where he can play?

JAMES

I don't like it. What were you doing up so late? I don't even understand how this happened.

KELLIE

I told you how it happened!

JAMES

(sighs)

Your mother loved that cat.

Kellie stops digging, stands, faces him.

KELLIE

Dad. Whatever Abby's talking to is real. It's here. It did this. And it is not Mom. It's pretending to be her.

(beat)

It wants something from Abby. I don't know... to peel her away from us.

James gently pries the trowel out of her hand, sticks it in the ground, wraps an arm around her and starts walking.

JAMES

We need to talk.

Kellie looks up at him -- 'uh oh.'

JAMES (cont'd)

Look, I'm open to the idea that there's something here. Whether it's your mom or --

KELLIE

Does part of you wish it was her?

JAMES

I'd have a few questions I guess.

KELLIE

People lose rings all the time. Todd's dad lost his three times. It doesn't mean she was --

JAMES

How'd you know about that?

KELLIE

I heard you talking about the police report.

JAMES

The point is, it's not your job to fix this. We'll figure it out together. In a way that doesn't send Robin running for the hills. She's only been here a few days, you know?

KELLIE

Funny. Same timeline as this whole thing.

JAMES

You don't know her like I do, okay?  
(beat)  
You've always been protective of your sister and me. After your mom died, you took on more than any twelve year old should.

KELLIE

It's fine.

JAMES

No, it's not. It wasn't fine. And now I'm grabbing the wheel.

She stops walking.

KELLIE

What do you mean?

JAMES

You're wired to protect us. That's my fault. I should have been stronger. But now it's okay to just be you. Alright?

KELLIE

So I'm being demoted.

JAMES

(laughs)  
No. You're free. We don't need to be protected.

KELLIE

Well what are you going to do?  
About this?

James smiles halfheartedly and shakes his head as they turn around and head back.

JAMES  
I don't know. We'll figure  
something out.

Kellie looks down as they walk along -- 'no you won't.'

**INT. GARAGE - NIGHT**

Robin digs through boxes marked 'Lexy' in the garage. With purpose. Almost frantic.

Finally -- she finds what she's looking for. A WEDDING RING.

James enters in his bathrobe...

JAMES  
What are you up to, sweetie?

She swiftly turns and PLUNGES a KITCHEN KNIFE into his chest.

CUT TO:

**INT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY**

Kellie wakes from her dream SCREAMING. Everyone stares.

SCIENCE TEACHER  
Everything alright, Ms. Caldwell?

She gathers her things and bolts for the door.

KELLIE  
(sheepish)  
I'm really sorry.

**EXT. SCOTTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY**

Todd comes running after Kellie as she marches to her car.

TODD  
Hey! You alright?

KELLIE  
I've gotta go.

TODD  
I heard you freaked out in class.

KELLIE  
It's nothing.



TODD

In sociology they were talking about totems. Some cultures think physical objects can tie spirits to the real world.

She slows down.

KELLIE

Yeah? And?

TODD

The necklace. You said it had some kind of effect on it, right? Like it was hurt?

She stops and turns around.

TODD (cont'd)

I mean it sounds exactly like what they were talking about.

KELLIE

Did they say anything about destroying the spirit?

TODD

No. This isn't Hogwarts, Kellie.

She turns and heads back to her car.

TODD (cont'd)

Don't you think you might be going down a bit of a rabbit hole with the ghosts and the voodoo stuff --

KELLIE

It's not voodoo.

TODD

You know what I mean.

KELLIE

My family needs to know what this thing really is. They don't know what it's capable of.

She shuts the door, hits the ignition and takes off.

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - DAY**

Kellie soaks in the tub. An open bag of EPSOM SALT rests on the rim.

She pours some into the bath with her.

CUT TO:

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - LATER**

Kellie steps out of the tub and wraps herself in a towel.

She bends down and pulls the PLUG from the tub's drain -- but nothing happens. No bubbles... the water just sits there.

Kellie gets on her knees and REACHES into the water... two of her fingers enter THE DRAIN.

We PUSH IN on Kellie's face... cross-cutting with a PUSH IN on her fingers in the drain... *something awful is about to happen...*

... but nothing does. Kellie pulls her hand out of the water.

The tub remains full. The water sloshing from side to side.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - DUSK**

Kellie sits at her desk -- using PLIERS to mash the metal of the necklace chain back together.

We PUSH IN on the screen of her laptop -- she's been googling Totems.

ONSCREEN -- *an image of someone holding an object with some kind of force radiating from it -- causing a spirit to writhe in pain.*

Done with the repair she heads to her bed and lays down -- gazing up at the necklace in her hands. Pondering her next move.

Her eyes grow heavy, she tucks the necklace under her pillow and settles in for a nap.

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - NIGHT**

Dusk gives way to night.

**INT. MASTER BATHROOM - NIGHT**

We hear the shower running. Steam fills the air.

We hear the squeak of the knobs as the shower is turned off. James emerges and wraps himself in a towel.

Without noticing... he walks right past the bathroom mirror as an unnatural condensation APPEARS.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

James crawls into bed with Robin, who is already asleep.

As his eyes flutter shut... *we hear a soft, raspy sound in the air. Something unnatural.*

The sound grows louder as we TILT UP to an AIR VENT above.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

ANGLE -- the AIR VENT in Kellie's room. *Emitting the same creepy sound. It's getting louder...*

Kellie stirs awake. She reaches under her pillow for the necklace... but can't find it.

Panicked -- she sits up in bed and lifts up the pillow. The necklace is gone.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James and Robin are fast asleep.

ANGLE -- the AIR VENT. *The raspy sound grows stronger.*

At the other end of the room -- behind Robin's SCULPTURES -- the CURTAINS start BLOWING. The vent going full throttle.

One of the sculptures starts to RATTLE and SWAY with the force of the air.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Kellie rushes over to Abby's room.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie SHAKES Abby awake.

ABBY  
What? What is it?

KELLIE  
My necklace. Have you seen it?

ANGLE -- the AIR VENT in Abby's room. *The sound grows louder still...*

Abby takes in Kellie's intense glare -- starts to cry.

ABBY  
She wanted it.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

ANGLE -- the AIR VENT. *The raspy sound now fills the room.*

Robin stirs awake and is immediately terrified. The CHANDELIER sways dangerously overhead.

She SHAKES James.

ROBIN  
Wake up! Wake up!

He bolts up in bed. *'What the fuck is going on?'*

JAMES  
Jesus Christ.

CLOSE -- the bookshelf across the room. The BOOKS start to RATTLE.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

The sound is now DEAFENING. Wind blows through their hair...

KELLIE  
(almost yelling)  
Where is it?

We hear Robin SCREAM.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Papers swirl through the air. SCULPTURES shatter.

Robin's eyes dart to the chandelier above her and James. Swaying dangerously back and forth.

The WALLPAPER bubbles and moves -- suddenly something UNDEFINED emerges -- taking the shape of the wallpaper design. It is then reabsorbed in a FLASH.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie shakes Abby by the shoulders.

KELLIE  
Where's the necklace?

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

The chandelier pries loose from its moorings.

ROBIN  
Look out!

SNAP! The chandelier FALLS. James and Robin jump out of the way as it CRASHES down to the bed.

CERAMIC and GLASS SHATTER into a THOUSAND JAGGED FRAGMENTS.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Abby scurries over to a SHELF FULL OF DOLLS and pulls the necklace off the neck of an OLDER DOLL hidden in the middle. She hands it to Kellie.

Kellie PULLS on either side of the necklace. SNAPPING it into two pieces.

We hear a SHRIEK.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

The WIND STOPS.

JAMES  
What hell is going on?

Terrified -- Robin runs to the bathroom.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Abby looks past Kellie...

A RATTLING inside her closet -- something in there is trying to get out.

Abby -- sniffing and wiping tears from her cheeks -- gets out of bed.

ABBY

Mommy?

Abby's eyes widen in FEAR. Kellie turns and steps towards her.

KELLIE

What is it?

Abby SCREAMS as she's PULLED across the floor by her ankles into the closet.

KELLIE (cont'd)

No!

Kellie grabs Abby's wrist but falls back and SLAMS into her bedside table.

She gets up and grabs Abby's wrist again -- but whatever is pulling on Abby is too strong.

James bursts into the room -- sees the terrifying spectacle -- grabs Abby's other wrist and PULLS her out of the closet.

He scoops her up and carries her out of the room.

Kellie looks down at the broken necklace. Slack around her arm.

It's gone. For now.

**INT. MASTER BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Robin turns on the sink and splashes water on her face.

She glances back in the mirror...

...she looks DEAD. PALE with PURPLE BRUISING, WET MATTED HAIR. Swollen. Like she's been face down in the water for two days.

The door SHAKES. Robin SCREAMS.

KELLIE (O.S.)

It's me!

She looks in the mirror again -- back to normal. *'What the hell?'*

ROBIN

I'll be right out.

KELLIE (O.S.)  
You okay?

ROBIN  
No.

KELLIE (O.S.)  
Are you hurt?

ROBIN  
I just need a second.

**INT. HALLWAY - LATER**

Kellie, James and Abby sit together in a spot with a good vantage point.

James pulls out his cell.

JAMES  
We need to get you guys out of here.

Kellie grabs his hand.

KELLIE  
You need to ask why this is happening now. What's new here?

BEHIND THEM -- Robin appears. In shock. Cheeks stained with tears.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
I'm gonna pack a bag.  
(to Abby)  
You're coming with me. I'm not letting you out of my sight.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie opens the door and guides Abby -- scared and in shock -- inside.

They don't see the SILHOUETTED FIGURE sitting on the bed until... Kellie flicks on the LIGHTS.

She JUMPS BACK and gasps for breath... it's just Todd.

KELLIE  
Jesus, Todd. Not a good time.  
(MORE)

KELLIE (cont'd)  
 (re: terrified Abby)  
 You need to learn how to read the  
 room a little bit, man.

TODD  
 I found something out...

He pulls out his iPhone.

KELLIE  
 Oh come on I know how to use  
 Google, Todd.

TODD  
 No no no. I took pictures at the  
 library. Look, a Totem is something  
 that meant a lot to a person while  
 they were alive...

ON TODD'S PHONE -- We SWIPE through photos he took of an OLD  
 BOOK -- *illustrations of different TOTEMS. All shapes and  
 sizes. Some of them jewelry, some of them not.*

TODD (cont'd)  
 ... and now they're bound to it in  
 death.

ON TODD'S PHONE -- *illustrations of bones being CRUSHED  
 alongside jewelry. A Funeral pyre with onlookers placing  
 Totems upon the flames etc...*

TODD (cont'd)  
 It has to be touching a piece of  
 the person but... I think maybe we  
 can get rid of this thing.

Kellie covers Abby's ears.

KELLIE  
 Not in front of Abby. It's been a  
 rough night.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

James opens the door and Bernard steps inside -- looks  
 everyone over.

Kellie, Robin and Todd are huddled in the living room.  
 Silent. Everyone is scared... except for Todd.



JAMES

Thanks for coming. I just need you to take the girls while I clean up and I'll meet you at your place.

BERNARD

While you clean up?

TODD

I'm Todd, FYI.

BERNARD

That's nice.

(to James)

What the hell is going on here?

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Bernard surveys the damage from the middle of the room while everyone else watches near the doorway.

BERNARD

Hold on a hot minute now. You guys think a *ghost* is doing this?

JAMES

Something like that.

Bernard shrugs -- '*okaaaaayyyy.*'

ROBIN

Maybe this is my fault. I mean I encouraged her to *talk* to it...

KELLIE

For once I agree with you.

JAMES

Kellie, enough!

KELLIE

No. Not enough! You saw that thing try to take Abby, right? It's threatening *my* family. I'm not going to just sit back!

BERNARD

(to Kellie)

So what's it doing? Is there any pattern to it?

KELLIE  
 (stares at Robin)  
 It followed her here. Maybe it  
 wants to warn us.

ROBIN  
 (grits her teeth)  
 Abby thinks it's Lexy.

Bernard turns around to face James. Determined. No BS.

KELLIE  
 Not anymore, now she's scared of  
 it.

BERNARD  
 And you saw it too?

JAMES  
 I saw something, I think. I don't  
 know what it was.

BERNARD  
 And you don't leave immediately?  
 You have me come get the girls  
 while you do... what?  
 (looks James right in the  
 eye)  
 If you thought it wasn't her you  
 would have just driven them over  
 yourself.  
 (beat)  
 If my little girl is here, I want  
 to know.

Bernard sits on the bed. Quickly and urgently -- as if  
 staving off a fall.

Robin rushes to him.

ROBIN  
 Are you okay?

BERNARD  
 You guys can leave if you want. But  
 if there's any chance in hell it's  
 my daughter I'm staying.

Kellie looks around. Todd, Robin, James, Bernard... that's  
 it.

KELLIE  
 Wait. Where's Abby?

Everyone looks around...

JAMES

Shit.

James peers into the hallway -- she's nowhere to be seen. He heads out of the room.

JAMES (cont'd)

Abby!

Kellie turns to Robin.

KELLIE

See what you've done?

James steps back into the doorway.

ROBIN

I know you think it's my fault --

KELLIE

It's not just me. Do you really think he'll want anything to do with you after this?

JAMES

Kellie, stop!

Kellie steps towards Robin.

KELLIE

I mean you *knew* my Mom but you *really* liked my Dad.  
 (off Robin's look)  
 You think I didn't know that? You don't think after this we're all starting to wonder what you did to take my Mom's place?

Bernard glances between Robin and Kellie.

KELLIE (cont'd)

I don't know why I had my bags ready. The only one who should be packing... is you.

JAMES

Jesus Christ, stop! Let's just find her!

KELLIE

(eyes still on Robin)  
 Fine by me.

Kellie heads into the hallway. James and Todd follow.

Bernard stands up to join the search. Robin -- pulling herself together -- sits him back down on the bed.

ROBIN

You should sit down. You don't look so good.

Bernard -- takes a puff from his inhaler -- nods and eyes Robin suspiciously.

BERNARD

Go check on the girl. I'll be fine.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Kellie heads into the hallway.

Everyone follows... except for Bernard who lingers behind in the Master Bedroom.

KELLIE

Abby!  
(to everyone)  
Check under all the beds.

Kellie pulls Todd aside.

KELLIE (cont'd)

(whispers)  
We need to get rid of this thing.

TODD

We still need a piece of the person.

KELLIE

Like a part of their body?

TODD

Yeah, that and the Totem have to be destroyed *together* or it's no good.

KELLIE

We don't have that. Is there a shortcut?

JAMES (O.S.)

(calls out)  
Abby!

KELLIE

Check her room. I'll be right back.

Todd dutifully heads into Abby's room.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Todd opens the closet... nothing. He checks under the bed... nothing.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

James searches the room. Looks behind the curtains. Nothing.

JAMES

(to Robin)

Find her?

Robin looks around... pulls cushions from the couch. Anything she can do.

ROBIN

Not yet.

She heads into the kitchen and out of sight. Kellie enters and BUMPS into James. He's starting to panic.

JAMES

Where the hell is she?

(to Kellie)

I should have listened to you.

ROBIN (O.S.)

It's gonna be okay, James.

JAMES

(yelling)

Robin goddammit just help me find her!

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Robin's searching the pantry when she hears this. She stands up -- tears welling in her eyes.

She retreats through the back of the kitchen into the hallway.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie leans in close to James.

KELLIE

Dad, if this thing took her, we're not going to find her. Not like this.

On James -- he can't accept it.

JAMES

She was terrified, maybe she's hiding outside.

KELLIE

Maybe. Let's hope so.

James nods and heads out the front door as Kellie presses on.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Bernard bends down and checks under the bed... nothing.

He stands up -- suddenly gets dizzy. Short of breath, he sits on the bed and pulls out his inhaler.

Kellie enters -- *'he doesn't look so good.'*

KELLIE

You doing okay?

Bernard nods.

BERNARD

Just a lot to take in. You seem awful sure this isn't her.

(beat)

Maybe you'd be jealous if it was.

KELLIE

Trust me. I was never jealous of her.

Kellie looks down at her wrist -- the necklace TIGHTENS around it. Whatever this is... it's coming back.

She peers out the door and down the empty hallway -- *'where the hell is Robin?'*

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Robin sits on Kellie's bed and buries her head in her hands -- fighting back tears. On the verge of letting it all out.

She straightens herself out a bit... looks around... she's alone.

THEN...

She suddenly sees her shadow on the wall -- growing in size -- illuminated by the light from a presence behind her.

She turns around -- a vapor begins to take shape under the trophy shelf.

Then... a single trophy falls from the shelf. PLUNK. It lands on the carpet.

*World's Best Daughter.* The LID POPS half off.

The vapor disappears.

Robin looks up to the shelf, then to the trophy on the floor -- *'what the fuck?'*

Robin bends down and picks it up. She reaches inside...

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie slowly makes her way to her room... the door open at the end of the hall.

Her eyes dart around... keeping a lookout...

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie enters to find Robin sitting on the floor. In the palm of her hand -- *Lexy's wedding ring.*

INSERT -- an engraving inside the ring. *'Lexy and James ~ August 9th 1998'*

Kellie closes the door and slowly approaches her. Robin gets up and backs away.

ROBIN

Why would you have this? Why would  
you keep this from your Dad  
unless --

KELLIE  
Just, relax. Okay?

ROBIN  
She's been trying to tell us this whole time.

KELLIE  
Look, you don't know what it was like. She and Dad weren't happy. He needed someone stronger.

ROBIN  
What? Like you?

KELLIE  
Exactly like me.

Robin backs into the bathroom... Kellie follows.

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS**

ANGLE -- the bathtub. Still full of water from earlier.

Kellie sees that Robin is looking past her... back into the bedroom...

ROBIN  
Stay away from me.

KELLIE  
Don't worry about Dad. He's in the right hands.

A GLOW fills the room... Kellie turns around...

A BRIGHT presence in the air...

A SHRIEK fills the room as the bright presence TURNS BLACK.

WIND fills the room.

Backing up... Robin trips and FALLS backwards into the tub. SPLASH. She HITS her head on the faucet on the way down.

Unconscious... Robin's head bobs limply. BLOOD colors the water.

Kellie steps forward -- places a single finger on Robin's forehead -- and PUSHES her underwater.

We watch the BUBBLES stream out of Robin's nose... until they stop.



Kellie removes her finger... Robin floats. Absolutely still.  
 Kellie looks around. Lexy is gone. The wind has stopped.  
 She gets up and exits the bathroom. Robin's profile surfaces  
 in the bathwater. Not breathing.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie picks up the 'World's Best Daughter' trophy and  
 places it back on the shelf.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Todd's growing impatient -- *'I can't just sit here.'*

Todd reaches for the door -- but Kellie opens it first. She  
 enters the room... faking a panic.

KELLIE

Don't go out there. It killed  
 Robin.

TODD

Oh my God.

Kellie nods -- feigning sadness.

TODD (cont'd)

We have to get out of here.

Todd reaches for the window. Kellie rushes over to him and  
 places her hands on top of his -- stopping him.

KELLIE

Wait! Robin was trying to leave  
 too... when it got her. Let's just  
 figure this out.

She paces the room... thinking. Then... she looks to the box  
 of Lexy's stuff on the bedside table.

KELLIE (cont'd)

What was that you were saying? Part  
 of the body?

She sits on the bed, opens the box and pulls out the LOCK OF  
 LEXY'S HAIR.

KELLIE (cont'd)

A piece of the person?

She looks down at the box.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
All I have to do is drop the  
necklace in and...

TODD  
... destroy it. At the same time.

She puts the hair back in the box -- closes it -- and looks up to Todd.

KELLIE  
I need her in front of me. I need  
to see this work.

TODD  
Don't you mean 'it?' How do you  
know it's a woman?

Kellie sighs and looks up at him.

KELLIE  
Because it's my mother.

TODD  
So that's *her* necklace.

Kellie stares at the necklace -- quietly reliving the memory.

KELLIE  
I gave it to her the day before she  
died. She was so happy when she got  
it... she thought it meant we'd  
stop fighting...

She places the box firmly in Todd's hands

KELLIE (cont'd)  
Hold on to this. Don't let it out  
of your sight.

TODD  
Where are you going?

KELLIE  
We need something that'll make her  
show herself.

Kellie heads into the hall and shuts the door behind her. Todd sits back on the bed, the box in one hand and his phone in the other.

ON TODD'S PHONE -- *an illustration of a necklace and a pile of teeth burning together in a fire.*

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Bernard -- still on the bed and short of breath -- HEARS something. A faint RATTLING.

BAP. BAP. BAP.

He looks to the floor. A PANEL shifts slightly.

He stands up... bends down and finds a LATCH. He pulls the panel up -- it's a CRAWL SPACE.

He sees Abby in the darkness below.

ABBY

Shhh!

BERNARD

What are you doing in there?

Bernard takes a pull from his inhaler.

ABBY

Kellie told me to hide.

BERNARD

What? Come on out.

Kellie enters the room.

KELLIE

Pull the panel shut, Abby. It's not safe yet.

Abby's hand emerges from the hole and pulls the panel shut.

BERNARD

What the hell do you think you're doing?

Wheezing heavily... he lifts the inhaler towards his mouth  
Kellie gently reaches out and PRIES it from his hands.

KELLIE

Let me help you with that.

BERNARD

(gasping)  
I always knew there was something wrong with you.

KELLIE  
 (fake panic)  
 Abby stay down there! The ghost is  
 hurting Bernard!

Bernard reaches out to grab his inhaler.

She takes a step back and presses the button, letting all  
 the vapor out... *HISSSSS*.

Bernard gasps for air... but it's not coming.

Bernard flops onto his belly and starts *CRAWLING* into the  
 hallway.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Kellie leisurely trails after Bernard as he crawls away.

BERNARD  
 Last thing she said to me... she  
 thought you liked your father a  
 little too much.

His breaths turn short and hiccup-y. He finally gives up and  
 rolls back over.

BERNARD (cont'd)  
 You always were a Daddy's girl.

KELLIE  
 I'm really sorry. This whole thing  
 got screwed up. But you have to  
 understand... I'm just trying to  
 keep everyone together.

Bernard looks up at her... his eyes wounded and betrayed as  
 he *STOPS BREATHING*.

She bends over and respectfully closes his eyes with her  
 fingers.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie heads back into the bedroom and pulls the crawl space  
 panel open.

ABBY  
 Did I do a good job?

KELLIE  
(smiles)  
You did great.

She PULLS Abby out of the space and into the room.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
I just needed to make sure you were  
safe from the ghost.

ABBY  
I didn't make a noise even when Dad  
called.

KELLIE  
Don't beat yourself up.

She gets parental and serious.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
Remember, all Dad needs to know is  
that you're scared of this thing.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie picks Abby up and steps over Bernard as they head  
into the hall.

KELLIE  
Don't look down, okay? You don't  
need to see this.

Abby closes her eyes.

**INT. ABBY'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Kellie enters as Todd paces nervously -- dutifully holding  
the box.

KELLIE  
Look, I found Abby but my Dad will  
be back any second. I need you to  
keep him distracted while I get rid  
of this thing.

She takes the box from him.

TODD  
How?

KELLIE

I don't know. Just keep him outside.

TODD

No.

KELLIE

What do you mean "no?"

TODD

We need to tell him it's her. If this thing killed Robin he needs to know who it is.

KELLIE

Why are you doing this?

TODD

Because it's the right thing to do. You don't have anything to hide.

Todd reaches for the door. Kellie BLOCKS him.

TODD (cont'd)

You think I'll always just do what you say, don't you?

On Kellie -- sad but determined.

KELLIE

That's what you're here for.

Kellie PULLS Todd in for a kiss.

KELLIE (cont'd)

(whispers)

So people don't ask questions about me.

Todd accepts the kiss .. *he's been waiting for so long for this moment...* but a second after their lips connect his eyes widen. BULGING.

He pulls away in pain. We pull around to reveal the THREE-PRONGED GARDEN TROWEL embedded in his back.

KELLIE (cont'd)

I really like you Todd. But we could never be together. I belong to someone else.

She pulls the trowel out of Todd's back... and advances towards him.

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Robin floats in the bath -- her face breaking the water. Not moving.

TAP. A drop of water falls from the shower head and lands on her forehead.

TAP. Another one.

We hear a small underwater POP... the tub finally starts to drain.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

The front door opens and James steps inside. Kellie exits Abby's room and RUSHES into his arms.

KELLIE  
Thank God you're back!

James looks down and sees Abby.

Kellie pulls away from him as he kneels down and puts his arms on Abby's shoulders.

JAMES  
Where the hell were you?

KELLIE  
We need to get out of here right now.

James looks past Kellie into the hallway and sees Bernard on the floor.

JAMES  
Oh my God, Bernard!

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

James tentatively approaches Bernard's body -- still several meters away.

Kellie jumps in front of James -- blocking his progress. Right in front of Abby's open door.

KELLIE  
This thing got everyone. If we stay any longer we --

JAMES  
Where... where's Robin?

KELLIE  
Dad, let's go.

JAMES  
(shouting)  
Robin!

He opens his mouth to call out again but stops once he turns... and sees Todd's BODY in Abby's room.

**INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James enters and kneels beside Todd. He looks up at Kellie.

JAMES  
You're telling me this thing... did  
*this?*

ABBY  
That's why Kellie told me to hide  
in the crawl space.

KELLIE  
*Abby!*

Confused, James looks from Abby to Kellie.

JAMES  
Wait... you told her to hide?

KELLIE  
I didn't want it to know where she  
was.

JAMES  
Why not just get her out of the  
house like I asked?

James sees Abby in the doorway gazing at Todd's corpse.

JAMES (cont'd)  
(to Abby)  
Don't come in here.

James rises to his feet -- stares Kellie square in the eye.

JAMES (cont'd)  
Where is she?



On Kellie -- she can't come up with an answer. She sees James' face fall as he takes a step away from her.

KELLIE  
 Why are you looking at me like  
 that?

James -- speechless -- pushes past her on his way to the door.

Kellie GRABS his arm but James PULLS AWAY.

Desperate -- Kellie grabs a SNOW GLOBE from Abby's dresser SMASHES James in the head with it. GLASS and WATER fly through the air.

James hits the ground -- out cold.

FADE TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER**

James wakes up in a haze. Everything's blurry. He STRUGGLES to stand up.

REVEAL -- James is tied to a chair.

The box is on the floor. Kellie DOUSES it with LIGHTER FLUID.

KELLIE  
 (muttering to herself)  
 Come on, Mom. You've been showing  
 up every five fucking minutes.  
 Where are you when we really need  
 you?

Abby sits in the corner -- scared but dutifully holding a CHARCOAL LIGHTER.

JAMES  
 (groggy)  
 Why would you...  
 (sees the lighter fluid)  
 What are you doing?

KELLIE  
 Oh, you're awake.  
 (re: the box)  
 I'm making us safe again.  
 (off his look)  
 Don't worry, I'll be careful.

JAMES  
It's her, isn't it?

Kellie sighs and nods reluctantly -- 'yes.'

JAMES (cont'd)  
She knew we'd be in danger when  
Robin moved in. From you.

KELLIE  
That's ridiculous. I wouldn't hurt  
you. I protected you. I've been  
protecting you for years. I got rid  
of the drama. I got rid of the  
yelling. Think about how much  
happier we all were once she...  
left.

JAMES  
You killed her.

KELLIE  
I pushed her. Gravity did the rest.

She catches James looking at the necklace wrapped around her  
forearm. The bruises. The blood.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
I'm sorry, I didn't want you to  
know it was her.

James breaks down in tears.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
Don't be sad! This is totally  
fixable! We'll go back to the way  
it was. Just us. You, me and Abby.  
No Mom, no Robin...  
(genuine)  
Weren't the past five years great?

JAMES  
(calls out)  
Robin! Robin!

**INT. KELLIE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS**

The last of the water has drained from the tub. Robin lays  
soaking on the bare porcelain.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie grabs the lighter from Abby.

KELLIE

(to James)

What is it you don't understand! We don't need her.

JAMES

(calls out again)

Robin!

KELLIE

She can't hear you.

Kellie's ready to torch the box. Her eyes scan the room for any sign of Lexy as she CLICKS the lighter.

JAMES

Why don't we stop and figure this out together?

KELLIE

Where have I heard that before?

JAMES

Please. Let me fix this.

KELLIE

No. You're not good at that. Without me, Mom would have destroyed this family years ago.

Kellie grabs Abby's hand and pulls her close.

KELLIE (cont'd)

(to Abby)

I need you to cry out for her. Cry out for Mom.

ABBY

But what if she's listening to you now? She knows what you're doing.

Kellie closes her eyes and sighs -- 'goddammit.'

KELLIE

You're right.

Kellie pulls the necklace off her arm and WRAPS IT AROUND ABBY'S NECK.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
 Let's see if she cares about you as  
 much as I do.

Kellie sees James' eyes widen as he looks past her.  
*Something's behind her.*

Kellie releases Abby and turns to see... Robin. Soaking wet.  
 Bloodshot eyes. Pissed off.

ROBIN  
 It's over, Kellie.

Kellie DIVES for the box. Robin quickly approaches and  
 SNATCHES it out of her hands.

Kellie jumps to her feet.

KELLIE  
 No! Don't!

Robin lets the box fall to the floor and STOMPS on it. The  
 BOX SHATTERS.

ROBIN  
 I'm so sick of you. Talking about  
 how you protect them.

Kellie crawls on her knees -- grabbing the lock of hair and  
 trying to get as many pieces of the box as she can.

ROBIN (cont'd)  
 You don't give a shit about  
 protecting them. You want to  
 possess them.

Kellie gets back on her feet and takes a step towards Abby.

KELLIE  
 (fuming)  
 That is not true.

ROBIN  
 Abby, come here.

Abby takes a step away from Kellie towards Robin.

KELLIE  
 (hurt)  
 Abby... seriously?

Abby pauses and looks at Kellie.

JAMES  
Abby, listen to Robin.

Kellie -- utterly lost -- looks to James.

JAMES (cont'd)  
We're going to get you some help,  
Kellie.

Confused -- she takes a step towards him.

JAMES (cont'd)  
You're not well.

Kellie takes another step.

KELLIE  
(realizing)  
We're not going to be together  
anymore?  
(smiles)  
You don't mean that.

JAMES  
(a burst of emotion)  
You destroyed *everything!*

Kellie LEAPS onto James -- still tied to the chair -- and wraps her arms TIGHT around him.

Manic. Flailing. The first time we've seen her totally out of control.

KELLIE  
No, I've *done* everything! I *made*  
this family! You can't take it away  
from me!

The room starts to shake ever so slightly. Kellie hangs on to him for dear life.

She pulls him TIGHTER. He can't breathe. Her arms slip and -- almost subconsciously -- wrap around his neck.

ROBIN  
Kellie, stop!

The necklace once again DIGS into Kellie's wrist. The room SHAKES violently now.

Robin GRABS HOLD of Kellie's arm.

Kellie refuses to let go. James struggles but she's smothering him. The chair LEANS back on its rear legs.

WIND fills the room. DEBRIS FLIES through the air.

The chair TOPPLES over -- sending Kellie flying to the floor. The shelf next to them COLLAPSES. FRAMED PICTURES of the family fall onto Kellie. GLASS SHATTERS all over her.

A loud CRACKING BOOM.

LEXY APPEARS in specter form and hovers menacingly above the family.

James' eyes widen in terror.

That awful supernatural SHRIEK pierces the air.

Another BOOMING SOUND... LEXY floats in front of them. Vaporous, ethereal and unmistakably her.

She's surrounded by a HAZE OF ENERGY.

James' eyes fill with tears, relief and closure. Robin comforts Abby as the little girl looks up in wonder.

Kellie averts her eyes in anger and shame -- she can't even look at her.

Lexy turns to vapor and MOVES THROUGH JAMES -- a radiant stream -- disappearing as she does so.

Kellie turns to see Robin clutching Abby. Protecting her.

Kellie grabs a SHARD OF GLASS from one of the shattered frames and runs after Robin -- forcing her into the hallway.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Robin SLAMS the door and backs up against the wall.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie KICKS at the door.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Abby unties James from the chair.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Kellie KICKS the door open and slowly enters the room -- her eyes searching in the dark.

ROBIN  
Kellie... your hand.

Kellie looks down at the blood dripping from her hand.

Kellie RACES towards her -- the shard of glass raised high.

Robin BACKS UP and SLAMS into the trophy shelf. TROPHIES TOPPLE to the ground.

JAMES (O.C.)  
Just stop!

Kellie spins around -- surprised to see James in the doorway.

KELLIE  
Dad?

She looks him in the eye... almost pleading.

KELLIE (cont'd)  
You replaced me.

Kellie once again LUNGES at Robin and TRIPS over the 'World's Best Daughter' trophy and FALLS face first towards the razor sharp sculpture in the corner.

Robin reaches out to stop her.

ROBIN  
No no no!

CLOSE on Robin's face. A sickening SHHHK as Kellie's SCREAMS fill the air.

James rushes over to help Kellie -- but we know by the look on his face it's too late.

He crumples to his knees, sobbing.

TIGHT ON Kellie's face. Wide-eyed shock and terror.

THE CAMERA SPINS AROUND to the MIRROR opposite her. We realize she's staring at her own reflection -- she watches as the color drains from her own face.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CALDWELL HOUSE - MORNING**

POLICES CARS and AMBULANCES clutter the driveway.

EMTs attend to Robin, James and Abby. All wrapped in blankets.

**INT. KELLIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

Kellie is covered by a WHITE SHEET. Blood seeping through the center.

Impaled on the sculpture she hated so much.

The sheet covers her almost entirely but stops at her eyes. They are lifeless and wide with fear.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SAN FRANCISCO APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT**

An affluent ocean front building.

TITLE - One Year Later

**INT. NEW APARTMENT - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James and Robin sleep in their new bed. A PHOTO their wedding day on the nightstand.

WHISPERS offscreen -- Robin stirs.

**INT. NEW APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Robin makes her way down the hall. Tired. In her nightgown. She stops outside a closed door.

The whispering is LOUDER.

**INT. NEW APARTMENT - ABBY'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Robin opens the door -- startling Abby.

ROBIN

You know the rules. Real friends only.

ABBY

I wasn't talking to anyone.

Lexy's necklace dangles at her clavicle.



ROBIN  
Come on.

ABBY  
I'm serious. You're too paranoid.

ROBIN  
No such thing.

**INT. NEW APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Robin closes the door and heads back down the hall.

**INT. NEW APARTMENT - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT**

James wakes up and spoons Robin as she gets back into bed.

JAMES  
Everything alright?

Robin smiles.

ROBIN  
We've gotta keep an eye on that  
one.

**INT. NEW APARTMENT - ABBY'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Abby lays on her stomach, drifting off to sleep.

ABBY  
Can you do it one more time?

Beat. She smiles.

ABBY (cont'd)  
Thanks!  
(sings)  
The itsy-bitsy spider went up the  
water spout...

INVISIBLE FINGERS walk up her back as she sings along,  
pressing into her pajamas.

We pan over to Lexy's wedding ring on the bedside table.

CUT TO BLACK:

**THE END.**