

Yellowjackets

Episode 109

CAST LIST

(GREEN 09/08/21)

SHAUNA SADECKI MELANIE LYNSKEY
 NATALIE SCATORCCIO JULIETTE LEWIS
 MISTY QUIGLEY CHRISTINA RICCI
 TAISSA TURNER TAWNY CYPRESS
 TEEN JACKIE TAYLOR ELLA PURNELL
 TEEN SHAUNA SHIPMAN SOPHIE NÉLISSE
 TEEN TAISSA TURNER JASMIN SAVOY BROWN
 TEEN NATALIE SCATORCCIO SOPHIE THATCHER
 TEEN MISTY QUIGLEY SAMANTHA HANRATTY
 BEN SCOTT STEVEN KRUEGER
 JEFF SADECKI WARREN KOLE

TEEN LOTTIE MATTHEWS COURTNEY EATON
 TEEN VAN PALMER LIV HEWSON
 TEEN TRAVIS MARTINEZ KEVIN ALVES
 JAVI MARTINEZ (MINOR) LUCIANO LEROUX
 TEEN AKILAH KEEYA KING
 TEEN MARI ALEXA BARAJAS PLANTE
 ADAM MARTIN PETER GADIOT
 JESSICA ROBERTS REKHA SHARMA

CAMPAIGN MANAGER MICHELLE CHOI LEE

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SET LIST
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INTERIORS

HUNTING CABIN

Main
Attic
Back Bedroom
Pantry

MISTY'S HOUSE

Bunker
Front Door

SADECKI HOUSE

Sauna & Jeff's Bedroom
Sauna's Closet
Kitchen
Foyer/Living

ADAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Hallway
Adam's Apartment

TAISSA'S TOWNCAR

EXTERIORS

WILDERNESS

Hunting Cabin
Porch
Near Cabin
Firepit Area
Wash Area
Clearing
Woods
Giant Tree Stump
Stream

NATALIE'S MOTEL

POLLING PLACE

MISTY'S HOUSE

1

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

We're moments after Shauna bangs on Adam's door at the end of 108, demanding to know *who the fuck he is*. But this time, the CAMERA is down the hall from Shauna, moving slowly toward her from behind, creeping along like an UNNERVING POV. As if someone, or something, is *there*. Their voices are MUFFLED at first, growing clearer as we track toward Shauna's back, a confused Adam just visible over her shoulder.

SHAUNA

Answer me.

ADAM

I don't know what you're asking--

SHAUNA

You have two seconds to tell me the truth.

Adam looks at her... This doesn't feel like the Shauna he knows. Something's off, but he's not quite sure what.

ADAM

You wanna know who I am? It's a three-hour drive, you'll have heard everything you could possibly want to--

*

SHAUNA

Shut the fuck up.

*

Shauna pushes her way inside --

2

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

2

Shauna's vibrating with fear and anger as she enters, her thoughts tumbling as she tries to put together the pieces. Adam watches, growing more concerned.

SHAUNA

I know about the blackmail, Adam-- or whatever your name is.

*

ADAM

Blackmail? What are you--
(realizing)

Oh. You wanna role-play? Yeah, okay. *That's right. You're gonna pay, you bad, bad girl--*

SHAUNA

This isn't a game!
Just give me my fucking journals
back. *

ADAM

Your journals? What--? *

Disgusted with his lame protests, Shauna begins opening drawers and cabinets, searching for her journals. Adam watches her, growing worried. *

ADAM (CONT'D)

Stop. What're you doing?? *

SHAUNA

(ignoring him)

I can't believe I fell for it. That I fell for you. I let you into my life--into my house. And the second you had a chance you broke into my safe and took what you really wanted...

ADAM

Broke into your safe? How would I-- *

SHAUNA

The code is the flight number! Any fanboy freak could figure that out!
(resuming her search)
How did you know about them? Did someone put you up to it? *

ADAM

Shauna, please, just talk to me... *

Shauna shakes her head, continuing her frantic search. *

SHAUNA

I was so stupid. And desperate. And you--

But she stops. Because in one of the drawers she finds -- the MAGAZINE featuring the Yellowjackets crash (the same issue we saw in 101). Underneath it -- an unauthorized tabloid-y BOOK about the plane crash and *what really happened out there*. Shauna picks them up, looks at him.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

What're these?

Adam, caught, nervously tries to explain -- *

ADAM

Okay, yes, I googled you, okay? I saw you were in that plane crash and I was curious--

SHAUNA

Bullshit.

ADAM

It's not! You clearly went through something really fucked up and I wanted to understand. Please, Shauna...

Adam takes a step toward her. Shauna reacts, spotting a KNIFE nearby. She grabs it and holds it in front of herself. Adam recoils in fear --

ADAM (CONT'D)

Whoa, hey--

The knife feels steady, comforting -- even as her breath comes quick, her thoughts spinning out of control...

Adam takes her in, suddenly realizing that the dark, uninhibited behavior that once drew him to her might have its roots in something truly dangerous -- maybe even unhinged -- deep inside her. Doing his best to sound soothing --

ADAM (CONT'D)

Shauna, we are someplace very fucked up right now and it's freaking me out. I don't know anything about any blackmail, I didn't even know you existed before our accident. I swear, I would never do anything to hurt you...

Shauna grips the knife, on edge, fearful. Adam sees the dangerous place this could head and leans in desperately.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Look, nothing has happened yet. We can fix this. Just... please, put down the knife. Let's talk this out--

It's possible that this soothing speech would've worked. But we'll never know, because Adam makes the fateful decision to cut himself off mid-sentence and go for Shauna's knife -- clearly hoping to take her by surprise and disarm her.

ON ADAM as he lunges, closing the distance between them. When we see Shauna again -- REVEAL: TEEN SHAUNA holding the knife, trembling, alert...

If Adam's sudden move did catch her by surprise, it isn't enough -- Teen Shauna evades his reach. Then, her instincts kicking in, she thrusts the knife toward him -- SQUISH -- and twists it up with a butcher's flinty efficiency. Shock registers on Adam's face...

Then we're back on Adult Shauna, looking down at the knife sticking out of Adam's chest, then pulling it out as he drops to the floor, gasping, his WHITE T-SHIRT quickly becoming soaked in blood. *

Shauna stands, frozen, horrified, watching as the life blood pumps out of him, pooling on the floor. After a few seconds the blood slows... his eyes go dim and a final exhale escapes his lips. On Shauna, rooted to the spot, shaking, and unsure what to do next, we SMASH TO --

MAIN TITLES

3

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY (1996)

3

A gilded MOSAIC of AUTMUN LEAVES is abruptly GOUGED OPEN by a TROWEL, exposing several pale, fat, CICADA LARVAE nestled in the cold, wet ground.

Reveal SHAUNA--at four months pregnant, just beginning to show--and AKILAH, peering down at them with a shudder. The pair wordlessly start harvesting the grubs into a sack.

4

INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN - DAY (1996)

4

Shauna fries up the larvae in a skillet at the fire. The rest of the group sits listlessly around the fireplace as Shauna portions out the now-browned CICADA LARVAE.

SHAUNA
(re: their glum faces)
Hakuna fucking Matata.

They begin to eat. This isn't about enjoyment--it's about pure will to live. Which they possess in varying degrees.

ON JACKIE, quietly setting her bowl aside without touching it. Shauna clocks this.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)
Jax. You have to eat.

JACKIE
Why? What does it even matter, at this point?

Shauna looks around at the rest of the group. Weeks after the failed expedition and Laura Lee's terrible crash, the mood is downright funereal: LOTTIE eats her grubs in a weird, abstracted reverie. VAN's alive--but she's hunched morosely away from the group with BANDAGES covering her now-healed facial trauma. BEN SCOTT doesn't even react self-consciously as MISTY vigilantly attends to his dinner-eating.

MARI, never one for silence--

MARI

Okay. I can't take this anymore...

She sets her bowl aside and goes into the cabin... then returns with a LARGE MASON JAR full of dark, chunky liquid. CLUNK! She sets it on the table, looking proud.

BEN SCOTT

I'm afraid to ask, but... what is that?

As she opens the jar and sniffs the contents, grimacing --

MARI

It was some berries I was trying to save. But... I think they might have turned into booze? I don't know about the rest of you, but I could use a drink.

A ripple of interest & curiosity sweeps the group. Then...

TAISSA

(looking to Ben)

Do we think it's safe?

BEN SCOTT

Do we care?

NATALIE

It could be wine, right? Like... cave man wine?

TRAVIS

I'm game to find out...

Mari starts to pass over the jar, then--

AKILAH

Shouldn't we save it?

MARI

I have a few more--

JACKIE
Wait. If we have booze, maybe we should have a party.

TAISSA
Cause we've got so much to celebrate?

JACKIE
Do we need a reason? We'll probably be dead in a few weeks.

She's saying what's on everyone's mind. Warming to it:

MISTY
There's a full moon tomorrow night.

AKILAH
And it's almost Homecoming.

LOTTIE
We packed dresses, right? For the awards dinner?

JACKIE
There you go. We have alcohol, we have dresses. We can decorate, and have a... Moon Homecoming.

TAISSA
More like a *doom* Homecoming.

LOTTIE
(as if to herself)
A Doomcoming.

Jackie looks like she might object, but--

NATALIE
Now *that's* a party theme.

Jackie reaches out to Mari for the mason jar.

JACKIE
Alright. Doomcoming, then. We'll drink rotten berries and celebrate our impending death.

Off our group, finally excited about something...

5

INT. SADECKI HOUSE - SHAUNA'S BEDROOM - CLOSET - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

A freshly cleaned and changed Shauna takes a steadying breath as she kneels in front of the safe. She opens her purse and takes out Adam's KEYS, PHONE, MONEY CLIP, and the now-cleaned KNIFE. She punches in the safe code and places the items inside. As she does so... her hand brushes a NOTEBOOK. She freezes. WTF. *

INSIDE THE SAFE: all of her journals are there once again. Shauna stares at them, a wave of panic rising inside her. Then: JEFF enters the bedroom, two ties in his hand (one red), cheerfully distracted.

JEFF

I should wear a tie to the reunion, right?

(re: striped red tie)

The king's kinda feeling the power option...

Shauna's realizing in a terrible, nauseating rush that she failed to consider the *other* person who had access to her journals. Looking over at Jeff, who's contemplating ties--

SHAUNA

Honey... Do you have any idea where this *glitter* came from?

She sees Jeff stiffen, then look over. Lamely--

JEFF

Glitter? What do you--

But then he sees the open safe. His brain races for a way out, but he knows, not with Shauna. He swallows, caught--

JEFF (CONT'D)

Shit. Look, I can explain...

Shauna reacts, this new and horrible possibility instantly becoming real. *Jeff* was blackmailing them? And if so... who the fuck did she just kill? Reeling now--

SHAUNA

Oh, Jeff. *What did you do?*

He hesitates. But then rushing out of him come shame, panic--

JEFF

Oh god, Shauna. I'm so sorry. You were never supposed to be involved.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)
It just, it all got completely out
of control...

She just stares at him. Sinking. He hurries to explain:

JEFF (CONT'D)
The store was in trouble. Goddamn
FurnitureFam.com is killing us.
They've got practically no overhead-
- and they mass produce their own
inventory so--

SHAUNA
So you *blackmailed* us?

JEFF
I had to. I figured Taissa, maybe
Natalie had the cash, and I was
gonna lose the store if I didn't.
(then, admitting)
I took a loan from these guys...
And they're like... bad. Like real
bad, scary guys.

SHAUNA
Like loan sharks?
(he looks down)
Like fucking mobsters, Jeff? Are
they gonna kill us?

JEFF
No no no! I paid them back! It's
all good now. No one's gonna die.

Looking sick, Shauna goes and sits on the edge of the bed.
Jeff goes to her, trying to comfort her --

JEFF (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry, it's over, I promise
it's over. We can just move on,
forget any of this happened.

Shauna swallows, knowing that Jeff's living in a dream world.
She shakes her head.

SHAUNA
No, Jeff, we can't.
(then)
I just killed someone because of
you.

Off Jeff, what the holy fuck --

6

EXT. HUNTING CABIN - WILDERNESS - DAY (1996)

6

Akilah ties dried flowers to a DEER SKULL CENTERPIECE. Lottie hunches over a little FIGURE she's making from wood & twine (as seen hanging from the trees in 101). Beside her, Taissa layers LEAVES and FEATHERS on a flat strip of BARK. She stops, needing to cut a leaf, turning to Lottie --

*

TAISSA

Pass me the knife?

Lottie, intensely focused on her FIGURE, doesn't even look up as she passes the knife over. Misty walks by holding a HANDMADE BOUTONNIERE and approaches Ben Scott, who's working on his crutch, handing him the gift.

*

*

BEN SCOTT

Oh... what--

MISTY

Um. I know it's not a Sadie Hawkins, but--

(blushing)

Will you go with me to the dance?

On Ben, extremely hesitant. Misty bites her lip and looks down at her feet. Quickly:

MISTY (CONT'D)

It's okay. I get it. It's just, nobody ever asked me to one, and... I thought maybe this would be my one chance to-- I'm sorry. It was dumb...

(tearing up)

I know I'm not pretty.

It's not an act. She starts to turn away. Leaving Ben between a familiar rock and hard place. He mouths "Fuck" and then makes a decision.

BEN SCOTT

Misty... stop. I'd be happy to go to the dance with you.

*

*

MISTY

(earnest; through her tears)

Really?

She's practically vibrating with excitement.

BEN SCOTT

But I need us to be clear. Our boundaries are still our boundaries. Anything else just wouldn't be right. Okay?

Misty nods, not loving this addendum. But--

MISTY

I totally understand.

She scampers away. Off Ben, what the hell did he just agree to...?

7

EXT. WILDERNESS - NEAR CABIN - DAY (1996)

7

Shauna & Jackie walk, collecting materials for their FLOWER CROWNS.

JACKIE

Do you ever think about what we'd be doing right now if we hadn't crashed? Like it's probably rush week at Rutgers. We'd be going to so many parties...

Shauna looks uneasy. It's been awhile since she even *thought* about the Brown acceptance she was keeping secret. Is Jackie... *testing* her somehow?

SHAUNA

I guess I don't really think about it.

JACKIE

Seriously?

(off Shauna's shrug)

It's *all* I can think about. What if this is it, Shauna? Everything we never did, we'll never get to do. The mistakes we made? They're, like, permanent.

SHAUNA

What mistakes did you make? Everyone loved you.

This rings hollow to Jackie. Watching Shauna carefully:

JACKIE

I was naive. I realize that now.

Shauna looks nervous, where's Jackie going with this?

JACKIE (CONT'D)
And I've decided... I'm not going
to die a virgin.

SHAUNA
What?
(then, getting it)
With who? *

Jackie grins as she looks over to Travis chopping wood near
the cabin. Shauna absorbs this.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)
Jackie, no. What about Nat?

JACKIE
He and Natalie broke up weeks ago.
They're barely speaking.

Shauna tastes the hypocrisy in her mouth even as she warns--

SHAUNA
Yeah, but--

JACKIE
Why, do you like him or something?
Because god knows I would never
want us competing for the same guy.

Shauna's stunned. Is Jackie calling her out? But before she
can say anything else--

JACKIE (CONT'D)
We're coming up on the end of the
world, Shipman. It's time to pull
out all the stops.

Jackie goes. Off Shauna, worried.

8

INT. SADECKI HOUSE - SHAUNA'S BEDROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY) 8

Back with Shauna and Jeff, as Jeff absorbs what he's just
learned.

JEFF
Killed? What do you mean killed?
Like *murdered* someone?

SHAUNA
I don't think it was murder,
exactly, but... yeah, I stabbed him
and now he's dead.

She looks close to tears. Jeff is reeling.

JEFF

Shauna. Oh my god. Oh my GOD. Who did you kill??

SHAUNA

The guy I thought was blackmailing us!

JEFF

What? How? Who was he?

SHAUNA

This guy... Adam. He's who I got in the car accident with.

JEFF

Why would you think he was the one blackmailing you?

SHAUNA

I don't know, the more I got to know him--

JEFF

Wait, you stayed in touch with the guy you rear-ended? That's weird.

SHAUNA

Well, I ran into him at the Jolly Hitcher, and we had a drink--

JEFF

(trying to keep up)

What were you doing at a hotel?

SHAUNA

I was following you! Look, can we just--I know you're having an affair too, Jeff. I saw you there with Bianca.

JEFF

With... Bianca?? No no no, I'm terrified of her! She's part of the bad loan thing!

(then, realizing)

Hold on, you said I was having an affair "too." Does that mean...

On Shauna, hating to admit --

SHAUNA

Yes?

JEFF

Oh my god, Shauna! You were
sleeping with the guy you killed? *

Jeff paces as it all sinks in... *

JEFF (CONT'D)

Jesus. I can't believe this...

Shauna is profoundly surprised by his surprise.

SHAUNA

I can't believe you thought I was
going to book club this whole time.

JEFF

Wait. *There's no book club?*

Jeff tries to wrap his head around all of it. Off Shauna, and
the awful mess they've both made...

9

INT. HUNTING CABIN - BACK BEDROOM - DAY (1996)

9

On a decadent SWEEP OF FROSTED EYESHADOW as Jackie finishes
doing Misty's makeup.

MISTY

(hesitating, then)

Can I ask you a question? About...
boys?

JACKIE

Uh. Sure...

Misty opens her eyes, leans forward.

MISTY

I mean it's actually about Coach
Scott. See, he and I have this
really deep connection, but-- he's
holding back. I think he's just
afraid-- of society, and its rules.

JACKIE

(keeping a straight face)

And you want to take the
relationship to the next level.

MISTY
(nods; serious)
How can I get him to let go?

Jackie carefully dabs on LIPGLOSS as she says:

JACKIE
My mom always told me that when a girl sets her mind to it, there's nothing she can't get from a man.

Misty considers that wisdom, trying it on for size.

MISTY
My mother always said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

Jackie leans back, admiring her work.

JACKIE
Yeah, well, my mom's also on like, ten different kinds of downers, so I wouldn't necessarily take her advice...
(then)
You deserve somebody who really wants to be with you, Misty.

She turns the Caboodles case around so that Misty can see herself.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Look. You're... beautiful.

Misty squints... then puts her glasses on. Grins. Jackie's right.

MISTY
Wow... Thank you.

Off Misty, full of anticipation for the night ahead...

10

INT. MISTY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT BUNKER - DAY (PRESENT DAY) 10

We find an animated JESSICA ROBERTS, her restraints loosened, now waist-chained to a chair at the table. She's regaling MISTY with the conclusion to an exciting story:

JESSICA
I mean, a little free advice, don't use the in-vehicle navigation for
(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)
your trans-European drug run. That
guy was just asking to get caught.

MISTY
No kidding! What a dummy!

Misty's phone ALARMS in her pocket. She checks it.

JESSICA
Time for Caligula's breakfast?

MISTY
Sure is. Gosh, I didn't realize how
late it was getting. Your stories
are just so-- *fascinating*.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
Honestly, it's just nice to be able
to share them with someone who
really appreciates them.
(off Misty, flattered)
You must have stories that are just
as exciting.

Misty's smile fades a little.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Come on. You survived a plane
crash... then spent a year and a
half in the wilderness with a bunch
of teenage girls. I'm not even sure
which sounds scarier.

MISTY
It wasn't so bad. I mean, we were
all friends.

A beat. Jessica just studies Misty, curious.

MISTY (CONT'D)
What? We were!

JESSICA
You don't have to tow that party
line with me. Were you as good
friends then as you are now,
blackmailing each other? *Spying* on
each other?

Misty straightens.

MISTY

Sometimes the ends justify the means.

JESSICA

I'm sure you were only looking out for them, it's just... you've been such a good friend to these women. And it doesn't seem like they've been that to you.

It hurts Misty a little to hear someone saying this out loud.

MISTY

I know it might look that way. But you couldn't possibly understand. What we went through out there, it...

(convincing herself, too)

There are certain bonds that just can't be broken.

JESSICA

Maybe between the rest of them.

(off Misty's look)

Misty, they've been in touch with each other over the last 25 years. Did any of them reach out to you? Ask how you were doing?

This news hits Misty. She solemnly shakes her head.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

If I were you, I'd be feeling pretty abandoned...

Off Misty, her odd, romantic loyalty finally faltering...

11

INT. SADECKI HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

11

ON SHAUNA as she looks in a cupboard, pulling out a dusty, old, practically empty bottle of TEQUILA. She shoots the last of it, then opens the fridge. A couple Coors Lights in plastic rings. Shauna yanks one free. Pssschhh. Shauna opens the beer and begins to chug, anything to numb her nerves. Jeff enters, holding a small piece of paper. She notices him eye the can of beer in her hand.

SHAUNA

We were out of Xanax.

He hands her the paper --

*

JEFF

This is Larry's number over at East Credit. He manages all the store's financials, can help you sell off some inventory if you need cash. Or all of it, if that's what you want.

SHAUNA

What? Why?

JEFF

Come on, Shauna. We used to watch Dateline--we both know we're not getting away with this. I'm gonna call the cops, tell them I found out about my wife's lover and went to confront him. I'll say it was an accident.

*
*

Shauna looks at him, alarmed.

SHAUNA

You can't do that.

JEFF

Listen, you and me, we've got a lot of stuff to sort through. But I'm not gonna let you go down because of the stupid shit I did.

SHAUNA

No. Listen to me.

(gentle, but serious)

You wanting to take the fall for me is very sweet but... If you go down, there's a good chance the cops will discover what else you've been up to. And if it gets out that the Yellowjackets were being blackmailed because of what we did out there? Jeff, there are things worse than prison. Our lives, Callie's life... would be over.

Jeff absorbs this.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

There must be other options.

(groping for them)

No one else knows about the blackmail, right?

JEFF

Right.

(then, sheepish)

Well... Except Randy.

SHAUNA

Randy Walsh? Are you serious?

JEFF

He's my best friend. Who else would I turn to for help?

SHAUNA

I don't know, *me*? You could've told me the store was in trouble.

JEFF

Are you kidding? You have an entire safe full of secrets you never told me about.

SHAUNA

That's different.

JEFF

Is it?

A beat of quiet tension, Shauna knowing he's right. She fights back emotion, feeling so at a loss.

SHAUNA

When did we become these people who lie and cheat and do really awful things and just stay together because, why? It's easier?

JEFF

Shauna. We've always been these people. Secrets were always part of... us.

This rings tragic & true. On Shauna, nodding, re-focusing.

SHAUNA

Natalie's convinced Travis Martinez's death has something to do with the blackmail. But... It doesn't, right?

JEFF

Of course it doesn't! Jesus.

SHAUNA

The point is, she won't stop until she finds out who started this. If she finds out it was you... Fuck, Jeff, what do we do?

Jeff thinks. Hard. And then...

JEFF

Well... you thought the dead guy was blackmailing you. Maybe they could believe that, too?

SHAUNA

But you must have sent that postcard to them weeks before I even met him.

JEFF

Yeah, but they don't have to know that.

Off an impressed Shauna, scheming, we return to the WILDERNESS for a MONTAGE of party preparations--

12 **OMITTED** 12

13 **EXT. HUNTING CABIN - WILDERNESS - DAY (1996)** 13

A now glammed-up Misty sneakily cracks opens her TRAPPER KEEPER-TURNED-MEDICAL KIT, which she has filled over the past few months with various improvised items. Ripped out NOTEBOOK PAGES hold packets of DRIED PLANTS alongside the torn, water-stained pages of a dilapidated 70s-era FIELD GUIDE. The plants' medicinal properties are marked in ballpoint pen: "For vomiting," "Bug bites," "Pain," "Sleep," and finally... "Shrooms!" with a trippy doodle (The last of these are the same mushrooms Akilah tentatively ID'ed back in episode 104.) As she reaches for the "Shrooms!" packet--

*
*
*

14 **INT. HUNTING CABIN - BACK BEDROOM - DAY (1996)** 14

Jackie carefully applies lipstick in the Caboodle's mirror, the finishing touch to her perfectly done make-up. She takes a deep breath, trying to master the butterflies she's feeling over her party night plan...

15 INT. HUNTING CABIN - ATTIC - DAY (1996) 15

Lottie unzips a dusty SUITCASE then searches through it...
for: A LONG, FLORAL DRESS. As she holds it up, we see "*Laura Lee*"
written into the neckline in Sharpie. As Lottie smiles and
clutches the dress to her chest reverently, go to -- *

16 EXT. WILDERNESS - WOODS - DAY (1996) 16

Taissa finds Van sitting by herself, not getting ready. Van
doesn't even turn around at the sound of her approach.

VAN

I'm not going to the stupid dance.
I look like Hannibal Lecter wearing
that guy's face.

TAISSA

Stop that. You're going.
(then)
I know you're self-conscious. And
you deserve to *feel* as beautiful as
you are. So I made us these.

Van finally turns around... and sees Taissa holding two
BEAUTIFULLY ADORNED MASKS (that both cover the left half of
the face) made out of bark, feathers & leaves. Off Van,
softening, taking the mask, CUT TO--

17 INT. HUNTING CABIN - ATTIC - DAY (1996) 17

Shauna in her awards dress trying her best to zip it up.
Thanks to her tiny baby bump, the dress is a little too
tight. Shauna wrestles with the zipper, glaring down at the
little mound destroying her life. She goes to the stairs,
calling out --

SHAUNA

Hey, can someone come help me zip
my dress?

18 INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN - DAY (1996) 18

Misty's just entered with her pack of mushrooms and a KETTLE
while Mari's at the table prepping dinner (smashing bugs,
slicing leaves).

MARI

(holds up her gooey hands)
Misty, can you go help her?

Misty sets down the kettle, hiding the mushrooms with it, happy to help.

MISTY

Sure!

As Misty heads up to the attic, CUT TO--

19 **OMITTED**

19

20 **EXT. HUNTING CABIN - WASH AREA - DAY (1996)**

20

With her fingertips, Natalie liberally applies a homemade eye-shadow of ash and oil, then studies herself in the mirror. All goth and beauty and sadness. She notices Javi untie some fabric holding up a LANTERN, and we realize: it's a men's TIE. Javi tries to smooth out the wrinkles, then loops it around his neck, unsure how to tie it. Natalie watches as Travis approaches him --

TRAVIS

Wait, that's not how you do it.

Off Natalie, watching Travis be kind to his brother, wishing things were different between them...

21 **INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN - DAY (1996)**

21

Misty re-enters and goes to where she set down the mushrooms, but... they're gone. She looks around in a panic, turning to Mari, who's stirring the cauldron over the fire.

MISTY

Did you see some mushrooms in--

MARI

Uh, yeah. You were holding out on us! They're in the stew.

Briefly panicked, Misty weighs her options. She glances outside and sees Ben Scott tying one of his pant legs into a knot. She makes a decision:

MISTY

Right. I... I was saving them for a special occasion.

Off Misty, curious to see what the evening will bring, we END MONTAGE and GO TO--

22 OMITTED

22

23 EXT. NATALIE'S MOTEL - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

23

Natalie punches buttons on the VENDING MACHINE as a DING comes through on her phone. She quickly checks her text from Suzie: *Still working on Travis's account. Chill.* Not the news she wanted. The swirly helix rotates inside the machine, then sticks. The CANDY BAR hovers just on the edge. Natalie hits the glass.

NATALIE

Come on.

The candy doesn't budge. Natalie hits it again, harder. Nothing. She sees a FIRE EXTINGUISHER mounted nearby, grabs it, then winds up and SMASHES it into the glass, the glass SHATTERING. Natalie sets the extinguisher aside and calmly reaches through the hole for one single package of candy. Off Natalie, clearly becoming a little more unhinged...

24 INT. TOWNCAR/EXT. POLLING PLACE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

24

TAISSA peers out the window at VOTERS waiting on line, her face exhausted, stricken. Her CAMPAIGN MANAGER offers:

*

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Three out of five of those people are voting for you, you know. This zip code is Team Turner.

TAISSA

...What am I even doing here?

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Smiling for the cameras as you participate in the democratic process?

TAISSA

My wife moved out. She took our son with her. I took a fifteen-year marriage and set it on fire, and for what? Zoning reform?

A beat, then --

*

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Campaigns are hell on even the best marriages. Simone'll come around.

TAISSA

You don't know that.

(then)

You don't know anything about me.

Her campaign manager recoils a little... then:

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

You're saying you sacrificed to get to this point? Well so did everyone on this campaign. And it's not over yet. So get out there and finish what you started. You can't decide it wasn't worth it until you know what it is you've got.

Taissa takes this in, then puts on her "political" face, bottling up her frustration before she steps out of the car. As cameras FLASH....

25

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLEARING - LATE AFTERNOON (1996)

25

A TORCH whooshes into flame as Lottie, wearing Laura Lee's dress, lights the last of several torches arranged around the perimeter of a little clearing. A dramatic LIGHTNING-STRUCK TREE STUMP forms a natural centerpiece... further adorned with a DECORATED DEER SKULL borrowed from the cabin, dried flowers and leaves hanging from its points. A BONFIRE burns. Lottie's CREEPY DECORATIONS hang from the trees, which also have CANDLES nestled between their branches all around them. It's beautiful, if eerie.

Javi's fully dress-attired in his blazer and re-commissioned NECKTIE. On Lottie's cue, Javi starts banging on a sheet of PLANE SIDING that they've hung as a makeshift GONG.

LOTTIE

(calling out)

Let Doomcoming begin!

In a dream-like tableau, the rest of the GROUP emerges into the circle of firelight, the girls' SEMI-FORMAL GOWNS accented with elements of the wilderness, flower crowns, etc. Misty smiles proudly as she enters with Ben Scott by her side.

A HUSH falls as one by one, the girls turn to see Van and Taissa holding hands, *romantically*. Mari's jaw drops.

MARI

Wait, are they...?

Shauna, next to her, smiles in amusement as--

AKILAH

Duh.

Taissa pulls Van in for a PASSIONATE KISS. Shauna offers a WHOOP of admiration. The others follow, cheerfully WHISTLING and CATCALLING. *

Van and Taissa both break into smiles -- giggling with relief. The rest of the girls APPLAUD. TIME CUT TO -- *

26 OMITTED

26

26A EXT. WILDERNESS - CLEARING - A BIT LATER

26A

ANGLE ON a cauldron of STEW and JARS OF WINE, our "concessions" area. PULL BACK TO REVEAL everyone eating the stew from bowls, some refilling their wine from the mason jars. Shauna ladles a bowl. FIND Misty watching the others eating, her eyes landing on Ben Scott taking a bite. Misty smiles nervously, taking her own bowl. She hesitates, then scoops a bite into her mouth.

As Shauna brings Jackie the bowl of stew --

SHAUNA

Please eat. For me?

Jackie rolls her eyes and takes the bowl, then when Shauna isn't looking -- she discreetly pours it out into a bush.

Travis and Natalie have landed next to each other. They stand awkwardly, eating their stew, neither sure how to act.

TRAVIS

You look nice.

A wave of emotion crosses her face as she searches for a reply, but then--

JACKIE

Travis! Get over here!

Travis turns to see Jackie holding up a cup of wine. With a shrug, he goes over to join her. Off Natalie, disappointed...

27

WITH COACH SCOTT, TAISSA & VAN

27

Coach holds a cup of wine up to Tai and Van, who stand close to each other, eating and smiling.

BEN SCOTT

In my official capacity as your coach, I cannot condone underage drinking. That said--cheers. I admire what you two did tonight.

*
*

They grin and "cheers" back, gulping wine, until --

*

LOTTIE (O.C.)

Stop!

They turn -- as do all the others -- to see Lottie, clutching her wine.

*

VAN

What's wrong?

LOTTIE

Nothing, I... We should have a moment of silence for Laura Lee.

The group relaxes at this normal and appropriate request. Taissa raises her glass--

TAISSA

Good idea. To Laura Lee.

Van follows -- then everyone.

*

VAN/EVERYONE

To Laura Lee!/Hear hear!/We love you Laura Lee!/Etc.

It's sweet. A few girls tear up, including Lottie. It's also a mood-killer. After an awkward beat--

NATALIE

So... now what?

JACKIE

We need a DJ to pump up the volume.

TRAVIS

I didn't know it, but I've been training for this for a long time.

(fake techno sounds)

nt-ss, nt-ss, nt-ss, nt-ss--

Jackie makes as if to dance to Travis's sounds. Natalie makes a face. Shauna clocks all of it.

MISTY

What we need is a slow dance!

Lottie gets an idea--starts to sing...

LOTTIE

Ba-da-da, ba-da-da-da-da-da, ba-da-da

Van grins, catching on, singing--

VAN

There used to be a graying tower
alone on the sea...

TAISSA

You became the light on the dark
side of me...

It's Seal's "Kiss from A Rose." They all start singing the lyrics, swaying, some slow dancing, others shoulder-to-shoulder, belting out the lyrics with untamed exuberance, all of them well beyond giving a shit...

28

FIND BEN SCOTT

28

The singing continues as Misty approaches, nervous--

MISTY

Would you like to dance?

BEN SCOTT

I think my dancing days are over.
You go ahead. Looks like Javi needs
a partner...

Misty frowns, then moves back into the group, where we now find:

29

JACKIE & TRAVIS

29

Jackie manages to catch Travis's eye and smiles. Cocks her head, offering her hand: *wanna dance?* He shrugs a yes. She steps in, draping her arms around his neck. Seeing this, Natalie heads straight to Ben.

NATALIE

Wanna get out of here?
(he hesitates)
I have real booze.

BEN SCOTT

God yes.

The two of them slip off into the the woods...

30

WITH JACKIE & TRAVIS AGAIN

30

Travis is visibly self-conscious as he sways with Jackie.

TRAVIS

So... is this what a high school dance is like?

JACKIE

It's weirdly not that far off. You've never been to one?

TRAVIS

They never seemed like they'd be fun.

In the b.g., the rest of the girls sing out "My power/my pleasure/my pain! Babyyyyy..."

JACKIE

This making you rethink that stance?

TRAVIS

Not exactly.

JACKIE

C'mon. Isn't this every guy's dream? Stranded with a bunch of babes?

*

TRAVIS

You ever feel like your humility holds you back?

JACKIE

I said babesssss.

Travis nods, so you did. Jackie takes a deep breath, then--

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You wanna go for a walk?

Travis is caught off-guard by the invitation.

TRAVIS

Uh. Sure...

Jackie shoots a defiant glance back at Shauna, the sole person watching as they leave the firelit circle and head out into the woods. But then Javi appears behind them--

JAVI

Where're you guys going? Can I come?

Jackie looks at Travis: *Make this go away.*

TRAVIS

No, you better stay here, man. You'll have all the ladies to yourself.

Javi looks over at Jackie and then back to his brother, does the ancient math.

JAVI

Oh. Okay.

Javi looks down, hurt. Travis feels a little shitty, but... As he and Jackie turn and plunge deeper into the woods...

31 INT. SADECKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/FOYER - DAY (PRESENT DAY) 31 *

Shauna's lost in thought as she looks at a couple of her JOURNALS in front of her. Jeff enters with the DUFFEL from the drop and a BURNER PHONE. *

JEFF

(re: phone)

The texts to Natalie and Taissa are still on here, so that should sell it.

As he puts the phone and journals in the bag--

SHAUNA

How much of them did you read?
(off his look)
My journals.

Jeff shifts, uncomfortable.

JEFF

Some of them.
(then, admitting)
All of them.

SHAUNA

When?

JEFF

I don't know, years ago.

SHAUNA

But if you already knew everything... why'd you take them out of the safe again *now*?

JEFF

I thought I might need insurance. In case they decided not to pay up. I wanted to use some other details, you know... to scare them. But then I got the money, so...

Shauna takes this in. The horrific consequences of all of this weighing on her. On both of them. As well as--

SHAUNA

You really read them *years* ago?

Jeff nods, shrugs. Shauna looks at him, the magnitude of how much he actually knows finally landing on her. Jeff, whom she always believed was in the dark about her past, knows the whole, ugly, terrible, scandalous truth.

JEFF

What happened out there, after the crash... it was pretty messed up.

SHAUNA

Yeah. I know.

JEFF

You could've talked to me about it, you know. For a long time I thought someday you might, but...

ON Shauna, feeling vulnerable and exposed. She admits --

SHAUNA

It's not exactly an easy topic to bring up. "Hey sweetie, could you pass the rolls? Also, I'm a monster."

JEFF

I don't think you're a monster. You didn't really have a choice. What happened out there was... I mean you guys were young, you were traumatized...

He's basically telling her he knows everything, accepts everything. It's the forgiveness she's needed for 25 years... and it's hard for her to wrap her head around.

SHAUNA

All this time, you knew *everything*?
And even now, after what just
happened... And I... and you... *

Realizing what she's trying to apologize for, ask for--

JEFF

Shauna. Of course I still love you.

She's moved. Astonished. Grateful. And then--she gets up and
grabs the blackmail bag to leave. Then she stops, turning
back to Jeff. She stands there for a second, on the verge of
saying something that never quite comes out...

JEFF (CONT'D)

You okay?

Her heart is overflowing with a new appreciation for her
husband. But in this moment, all she can manage is:

SHAUNA

I'll be home soon.

Jeff nods. For the first time, they're keeping a secret
together. As Shauna heads out the door...

32

EXT. POLLING PLACE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

32

Taissa stands about 100 feet from the polling entrance.
Nearby, her Campaign Manager chats with a prospective VOTER,
showing them statistics in a PAMPHLET. Taissa isn't
listening, her mind heavy and elsewhere, as --

CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Taissa?...*Taissa*.

Taissa snaps to, her Campaign Manager and the Voter both
staring at her.

CAMPAIGN MANAGER (CONT'D)

Mr. Cruz here just cast his vote
for you. He's very excited about
your affordable housing proposal... *

Taissa's phone RINGS. As she sees who it is -- Shauna -- *

CAMPAIGN MANAGER (CONT'D) *

Care to speak to it further? *

Taissa stares at her phone. Her Campaign Manager gives her a
look -- *get in the fucking game*. A beat, then: *

TAISSA

No. I don't really give a shit.

As the Campaign Manager's and Voter's jaws hit the floor,
Taissa moves off to answer her phone.

TAISSA (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Shauna?

SHAUNA (O.S.)

(through phone)

I found him, Tai. I have him, our
guy.

TAISSA

Wait, what do you mean you have
him? Where are you?

Off Taissa, at attention --

33

EXT. NATALIE'S MOTEL - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

33

Natalie's eating her vending machine candy when her phone
RINGS. She hurries to answer it, thinking it's Suzie.

NATALIE

Finally...

34

EXT. POLLING PLACE - INTERCUT - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

34

Taissa's tucked away from voters, speaking low.

TAISSA

You busy?

NATALIE

Very. I'm restructuring my IRA.

TAISSA

Shauna needs us to meet her.

(then)

She founds him, Nat.

Natalie straightens, eyes suddenly focused, frightening...

34A

EXT. WILDERNESS - GIANT TREE STUMP - LATE AFTERNOON (1996) 34A

Ben manages to sit. Natalie retrieves a partial bottle of
whiskey from under a bush, hands it to him. Off his look--

NATALIE

I found it under the porch a few weeks ago.

He takes a sip. It's not bad.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

This is gonna sound weird but... I haven't really wanted it.

BEN SCOTT

In that case--

He takes a second sip.

NATALIE

How much longer are you gonna keep up this "secret boyfriend" act?

BEN SCOTT

You clearly don't grasp the bind I'm in. But speaking of "boyfriends," what's going on with you and Travis?

NATALIE

It's pretty obvious he wanted me to be a completely different kind of girl. One Jackie Taylor's plenty.

Ben's about to respond but then he stops. Then he blinks, starts feeling his face with his hands.

BEN SCOTT

Fuck. I think Misty poisoned me again.

Natalie waves her hand in front of her face experimentally. We understand she's seeing trails. She chuckles--

NATALIE

I think she poisoned all of us. But at least I don't think you can die from shrooms.

BEN SCOTT

Wait, *shrooms* shrooms?

Natalie nods, still entranced with her hand.

NATALIE

Buckle in.

PRE-LAP a deranged GIGGLE --

35

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLEARING - LATE AFTERNOON (1996)

35

The girls stand around clutching cups of wine as Van points at Taissa, giggling hysterically.

TAISSA

What?

Van tries to compose herself. Can't. Taissa laughs nervously.

TAISSA (CONT'D)

Oh my god, what??

VAN

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, it's just.
You look like a tree? But like--a
really *hot* tree?

(off Tai)

You guys, doesn't Tai look like a
tree right now?

The girls examine Taissa.

AKILAH

She kind of does.

MARI

Or do the trees look like Taissa?

Minds are blown. Akilah takes a big slug of wine from the JAR, spilling it down her chin and onto her dress. She passes the jar. Javi looks around--

JAVI

I feel weird.

On Misty, realizing what's happening, still saying nothing. Fascinated, excited... Suddenly, Lottie pipes up:

LOTTIE

Shhh! Do you feel that?

And because they're all starting to feel the mushrooms, instead of dismissing Lottie, they all strain to feel...

VAN

I think I do. It's like--

AKILAH

Energy--

VAN

Coming up from the ground...

They all stand perfectly still, paying close attention to the sensations in their bodies... Until Shauna CRIES OUT! Everyone looks at her, alarmed. Her hands are on her stomach.

TAISSA

What's wrong?

SHAUNA

It's -- *moving*.

They watch Shauna, worried. Taissa looks around.

TAISSA

You guys... something's happening.

LOTTIE

(afraid, but excited)

No... something's *coming*.

They all turn to Lottie now. Is she talking about... Shauna's baby? But instead she turns slowly, and walks to the stump. She drops to her knees--then places her hands on it, as if feeling its energy. A ripple of fear goes through the girls. What's happening?

Suddenly Lottie sits up and looks at the other girls.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

We won't be hungry much longer.

Off Lottie's strange prediction --

36 OMITTED

36

37 INT. HUNTING CABIN - ATTIC - DUSK (1996)

37

Jackie emerges up the stairs, Travis just behind her. He takes it in. The heavy stillness.

TRAVIS

Kinda creepy up here.

JACKIE

(with a laugh)

I was going to say romantic.

Travis looks at her, hesitates--is she making a pass at him?

TRAVIS

So... what did you want to show me?

She kisses him. He hesitates again, but kisses her back. As it starts getting hotter, Travis breaks off the kiss, alarmed.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Wait. What're you doing?

JACKIE

What do you think?

(then)

You don't want to?

TRAVIS

Want to...?

JACKIE

Make a pillow fort. What else?

Travis is surprised--and intrigued--but also hesitant...

TRAVIS

But...

JACKIE

But what?

TRAVIS

What about Natalie?

JACKIE

What about her?

TRAVIS

I think I'm... in love with her.

Jackie just looks at him, inscrutable. Then she starts LAUGHING, bitterly.

JACKIE

Oh my god, you are so sweet. You are so sweet and naive and fucking *dumb*.

TRAVIS

Uh...

JACKIE

Yeah, Travis, *dumb*. Look, it's okay, I used to be dumb, too. I actually thought it mattered who your first was. I thought a lot of things mattered. I barely slept the night before we left because I cared that much about winning a

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)
 fucking soccer game.
 (then)
 Shauna was fucking Jeff. My best
 friend was having sex with my
 boyfriend behind my back.

Travis winces.

TRAVIS
 I'm sorry.

JACKIE
 Don't be. It's funny, I used to
 pretend I didn't know if I loved
 Jeff. But the truth is I didn't
 even like him that much... At first
 I was so mad at Shauna, but now I
 see she's right. Friendship doesn't
 matter. Love doesn't matter.
 They're just things we use to
 pretend we aren't going to end up
 like dead cabin guy -- rotted out
 husks in some bullshit attic. But
 of course that's how it ends.
 That's all we are the whole time,
 shells with nothing inside.

Travis is transfixed by this fiercer, more honest, more
 nihilistic Jackie. He stares at her a little too long, almost
 in wonder. Jackie, ending the silence:

JACKIE (CONT'D)
 I'm not asking again. The choice is
 yours.

Travis thinks a beat, then he kisses her. In response, Jackie
 starts unbuttoning his shirt -- and then they're kissing in
 earnest, tugging off clothes, stumbling toward stuffed burlap
 sacks. It's rushed, like they're both trying to outrun their
 better judgment. Off this pair, barreling toward a point of
 no return... *

38

EXT. WILDERNESS - WOODS - NIGHT (1996)

38

Misty gropes through the darkness, calling out--

MISTY
 Ben? Ben...?

As she plunges heedlessly through branches...

39

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLEARING - NIGHT (1996)

39

On FINGERS raking through grass, dirt, leaves as Shauna explores the earth around her in a drug-induced reverie... the edges of her vision a STYLIZED rippling and flaring, the world throbbing around her.

MARI (O.C.)
(distant sounding)
Where *is* everyone?

We stay WITH SHAUNA as she looks dazedly around at the other girls, clearly as high as she is, splayed on the ground, staring into nowhere, their skin and clothes stained with wine and dirt. Lottie continues to commune with the lighting-stump, probing it intently with her fingertips.

The girls' conversation feels faraway and distorted as:

TAISSA
Nat and Coach are friends?

AKILAH
Misty won't like that.

MARI
But she's gone. And what about Jackie? ...Or Travis?

Shauna feels a little surge of panic, but says nothing. But then she hears Javi telling them:

JAVI
They left.

TAISSA
Together? That's-- so Jackie.

VAN
It's so Jackie...

It's all so drifting and faraway. Until Shauna suddenly finds herself defending Jackie's action (and her own):

SHAUNA
She's not doing anything... wrong.

Did she really just say that? Her voice felt too loud.

JAVI
But what are they doing?

A silence falls over them. Until Shauna hears Lottie saying:

LOTTIE
We should find them.

Lottie stands, looking purposeful, and all at once the other girls are following her lead, unsteady but palpably excited, Shauna, still on the ground, feels confused, worried--

SHAUNA
Wait... why?

LOTTIE
He doesn't belong to her.

Lottie starts off into the trees. The other girls follow, leaving only Shauna and Javi.

Shauna gets to her feet... the world runs from serene blue to a restless, red-tinged violet. The movement at its edges also becomes more agitated, like it's trying to transmit a warning. Filled with dread, Shauna hurries after the others.

Now Javi sits up, realizing he's all alone, the woods around him silent and frightening. He looks around, scared: *where did everyone go?*

40

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

40

Shauna stares down at Adam's lifeless body, the blood now a dried brown on his shirt. Then she peels her eyes away, getting to work... She sets the DUFFEL BAG from the drop on a nearby desk, then -- she spots something on his nightstand:

Her HAIR TIE. Shauna hurriedly slips the tie onto her wrist, then notices a SKETCHPAD peeking out under some books under his nightstand. She slides out the sketchpad, REVEALING:

A PENCIL-DRAWN SKETCH of Shauna's face. Her eyes are bright, a hint of something wild and mischievous behind them. She's smiling softly, looking radiant and beautiful and sexy. Just as Adam saw her. Off Shauna, her heart breaking, so full of shame and doubt and guilt...

41

INT. HUNTING CABIN - ATTIC - NIGHT (1996)

41

Travis & Jackie are fully in the act now. She MOANS with pleasure, almost surprising herself. Then she opens her eyes.

JACKIE
(tentative)
A little slower, okay?

Unbeknownst to Jackie, Travis's trip is now well underway... And so unlike during his encounters with Natalie, he's able to be entirely in the moment now, responding to her without a trace of nervousness or defensiveness. She moves her hips beneath him. Closing her eyes --

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Like that.

As they proceed, we go off Jackie, unselfconscious at long last as she gives herself over to her pleasure...

42

EXT. WILDERNESS - WOODS - NIGHT (1996)

42

Shauna trails several feet behind the other girls as they head toward the cabin. Just the steps of leaves and twigs cracking underfoot as they move through the darkness, until:

They hear a scary ANIMAL CRY. Is it a wolf? A bird?

The girls all freeze. Shauna closes the gap between herself and the group, the drugs and her fear making the world tilt and spin. Taissa leans in, engaged.

TAISSA

Listen.

Their eyes dart in every direction, drugged, fearful, their eyes--their minds--straining almost as one to see out into the darkness. Suddenly --

VAN

Oooowwwwwwwwoooooo!

Van's own fearless ANIMAL CRY makes the cries from the woods FALTER, then resume. Now the other girls call out, following Van's example... and after a moment, Shauna joins in, too. The woodland calls go SILENT. The girls look at each other, feeling a collective, exhilarating, drugged sense of power as they resume walking toward the cabin...

43

OMITTED

43

44

OMITTED

44

45

INT. HUNTING CABIN - ATTIC - NIGHT (1996)

45

CLOSE ON Jackie, her breath now heavy, a SMALL MOAN escaping her lips as she climaxes --

46

EXT. WILDERNESS - WOODS - NIGHT (1996)

46

The group of girls nears the cabin as another distant CRY floats toward them through the night. The girls quicken their pace. On Shauna, part of the pack now, but still harboring a nagging concern for her friend...

47

INT. HUNTING CABIN - ATTIC - NIGHT (1996)

47

Jackie and Travis lie awkwardly, virginities dispatched.

JACKIE

So, that was sex.

Travis just stares at her. It's disconcerting.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Um. Travis--? I didn't mean-- I mean, it was nice.

TRAVIS

We disappeared, though. Didn't we?

He's fully tripping balls now. She is not.

JACKIE

What?

TRAVIS

(muted profundity)

But then where are we? Am I even here?

JACKIE

Travis--

They're interrupted by human HOWLING and YIPPING outside the cabin.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Jesus, what the--

(hearing footsteps on porch)

Get dressed.

Travis & Jackie hastily pull on clothes and head to the stairs as --

47A

INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN - NIGHT (1996)

47A

Shauna, Lottie, Akilah, Mari, Van, Taissa, and the others burst through the front door as Jackie and Travis come downstairs --

MARI

What were you guys doing up there?

JACKIE

That's none of your business!

Shauna's standing back, mute, staring. Jackie whirls on her.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

What did you tell them!?

SHAUNA

(defensive)

Nothing.

TAISSA

(to Travis)

Why would you do this to Natalie?

TRAVIS

I-- we didn't--

Lottie grabs the back of Jackie's dress, now stained with Jackie's virgin blood, and holds it out, showing everyone. *

LOTTIE

They did. *

The girls start giggling. Embarrassed, Jackie tries to grab her dress away but Lottie won't let her. *

JACKIE

Lottie, stop!

(then)

Travis, do something!

Travis just looks around at them all. Jackie's finally able to break away, as-- *

TRAVIS

None of us are here, are we?

Jackie looks at Travis, upset, baffled--

JACKIE

What the hell is wrong with you?

Lottie turns toward Travis, studying him. Then takes a step closer, looks him up and down--as if she's about to say something. But instead, she takes his hand...

Travis looks down at their linked hands, confused. Then, suddenly, Lottie leans in and kisses him!

JACKIE (CONT'D)

What the fuck?!

But Travis (high, after all) goes from puzzled to willing, kissing Lottie back. Shauna stares, eyes wide as saucers... Jackie looks to her, indignant, imperious, entitled--

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Are you just going to stand there--

Then, almost to her own surprise, Shauna also kisses Travis!

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Shauna! Stop it!!

Chastened, Shauna pulls back for a moment... but then Mari steps in and she also kisses Travis. Almost like he's dreaming, Travis responds enthusiastically. Shauna and the other girls close in around him as Van, Taissa and Akilah now turn toward an incensed Jackie, helping Lottie to herd her away from the group... *

LOTTIE

You took something that wasn't yours.

JACKIE

Oh, the fucking spirits give a shit that Natalie called dibs on Travis?

LOTTIE

This has nothing to do with her.

Flanked by the others, Lottie backs Jackie into the pantry--

JACKIE

Hey--what--you fucking *psycho*--

LOTTIE

Don't you understand? *You don't matter anymore.*

With that, Lottie closes the door on her!

47B

INT. HUNTING CABIN - PANTRY - NIGHT (1996)

47B

With Jackie, now genuinely terrified as she listens to Lottie blocking her inside. Panicked, she pounds on the door!

JACKIE

Help! Stop it! Somebody!! Help...

He screams FADE, the pounding becoming an urgent KNOCKING as:

48

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

48

Shauna opens the door to Taissa and Natalie.

SHAUNA

Get inside. Quick.

Shauna ushers them inside as Taissa looks around confused.

TAISSA

Is this his apartment?

NATALIE

Where the hell is he?

As Taissa and Natalie move further into the apartment, they see: dead, stabbed Adam on the floor. They freeze, staring.

TAISSA

Oh my god.

(then)

You *killed* him??

Taissa's horrified, but shocked as they are, it's clear this isn't their first dead body rodeo.

NATALIE

Who is he?

SHAUNA

I met him a few months ago. We got in a car accident, and then...we started sleeping together.

TAISSA

Wait, this is your *boyfriend*?

Shauna nods. The dismay and shame in her face are real.

NATALIE

So some new man enters your life right around the time we're getting
(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)
blackmailed and you don't think to
mention it?

SHAUNA
I'm telling you now.

NATALIE
When he's dead and we can't talk to
him? What the fuck, Shauna?

TAISSA
Jesus Christ, are you even sure he
did it?

SHAUNA
He went to get us coffee this
morning. While he was gone I found
this in his closet. He came back
and saw me with it, and when he
realized I knew what he did, he--
he attacked me, and I had to-- I
had no choice--

Shauna chokes up, sinking to the floor. The story is most
fiction, but her horror is very real. Taissa goes to Shauna,
placing a comforting hand on her shoulder. Natalie goes to
the DUFFEL BAG from the drop. Seeing it's empty --

NATALIE
Where's the money?

SHAUNA
I don't know, maybe he booked a
cruise. It wasn't here.
(picks up burner phone)
But his burner still has the texts
to you guys on it.

Taissa shakes her head.

TAISSA
How could he know anything about
the symbol?

SHAUNA
Well... he also had these.

Shauna takes her journals from the bag. Off their puzzlement:

SHAUNA (CONT'D)
My journals. I keep them in a safe.
He must have broken into it and
taken them pretty soon after we
started seeing each other.

As that lands on Taissa and Natalie --

TAISSA

You let this creep into your house?

SHAUNA

Could you try being a little less judgmental? I'm feeling stupid enough as it is.

Natalie crouches, studying Adam's vacant eyes.

NATALIE

You really think this is the guy who killed Travis?

Shauna can't quite bring herself to lie confidently about this. She shrugs--

SHAUNA

I don't know.

Natalie shakes her head. Something in her gut isn't buying this. Desperate, she starts looking through his things.

SHAUNA/TAISSA

What are you doing?/Don't touch anything!

Natalie spins on Shauna, distraught:

NATALIE

Why'd you have to fucking kill him? Now we'll never know anything for sure.

SHAUNA

You were gonna shoot him at the fucking warehouse!

TAISSA

Which, recall, we told her not to do--

SHAUNA

He was lying to me. He was going to hurt me. I mean, Jesus... I thought he loved me. I trusted him, and...

Shauna swallows back her emotions, her true feelings bubbling up through the lie she's using to protect her family.

NATALIE

(raw)

And I wanted answers. And now...
Fuck, Shauna.

SHAUNA

I'm sorry. But at least now the
whole world isn't gonna find out
what happened to us out there. *

At this, the women share a look. Off their faces, remembering
the madness we're only *beginning* to understand--

49

INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN - NIGHT (1996)

49

LIPS. TONGUES. FILTHY, WINE-STAINED FLESH. We're with Travis
in a chair, experiencing the girls' uninhibited desire in
TIGHT, IMPRESSIONISTIC FLASHES. The STYLIZED edges of the
frame are back; the world is washed in blood red, ochre,
rust. It's erotic, tantalizing... across the room, Travis
sees Van and Taissa kissing each other.

We faintly feel Jackie's pounding on the door; a sort of
distant DRUM BEAT, as:

The makeout gets more animalistic, *nightmarish*. The girls
SNIFF and BITE him; their eyes turn BLACK. In the flickering *
light the FEATHERS, LEAVES and FUR adorning them make them *
seem even more like wild creatures. As they claw and bite, *
Travis hallucinates a piece of his skin peeling off... *

ON TRAVIS, high, turning fearful: what's happening? Is it
real? Tai and Van join hands and slip away.

Meanwhile, as if provoked by his resistance, the girls' touch
turns aggressive. They tear his shirt--reach for his pants--

TRAVIS

Whoa, wait--

They laugh, frightening him. He tries a firmer tone:

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Stop.

They aren't listening. Travis tries to get to his feet. They
pull and claw at him. The struggle turns urgent--desperate--
until:

He breaks free. Terrified, he runs out the front door.

Lottie gets to her feet. Pointing after him, commanding:

LOTTIE

The stag. We have to catch it!

The girls scramble to their feet and run out the door, into the night. ON SHAUNA, rushing to the window to glimpse: a STAG, sprinting into the forest. The girls giving chase. She looks down to find: the HUNTING KNIFE sitting on the sill. Picking it up, she runs after the others.

50

EXT. WILDERNESS - WOODS - CONTINUOUS (1996)

50

A LOW POV of the girls' legs FLASHING by, darting and zig-zagging, almost as if they hunt with one mind, like a pack. As they move off, find: Javi, also high and hallucinating, crouched under a bush, fearful, watching them chase after Travis.

Then: more FOOTFALLS. Javi curls up tight, trying not to breathe. The steps slow, then stop. He hears PANTING... Peering into the darkness, he recognizes--

JAVI

Shauna--?

She whips her head to look at him, revealing a mouth apparently SMEARED WITH BLOOD (it's lipstick). Her zipper has split open and her dress is hanging half off her. The KNIFE clutched in her hand. Her face seems unfamiliar and distorted. Javi stares at her in terror.

SHAUNA

(a harsh, terrifying rasp)

Run.

He wastes no time in following her instruction, barreling into the wooded darkness. She watches him go, wild-eyed. In the distance, we hear the girls resume their ANIMAL CRIES...

51

EXT. WILDERNESS - BESIDE THE STREAM - NIGHT (1996)

51

IN SILHOUETTE, A NAKED GIRL pins her anguished prey to the ground... only: no. It's Taissa and Van, making love. Taissa looks down at Van lying below her, her mask still on.

Tender but curious, Taissa's hand drifts to the TIE that secures the mask in place. Alarmed, Van stops her.

TAISSA

Please. I need to see you.

Van relents. Taissa lifts off the mask, finally revealing Van's startling, severely scarred face. Taissa takes her in.

From her expression we see how in awe Taissa is of her, feeling high and loving everything she sees.

TAISSA (CONT'D)
You're fucking beautiful.

Van sees she means it. Off these two, deeply connected--

52

EXT. WILDERNESS - GIANT TREE STUMP - NIGHT (1996)

52

MOONLIGHT shines on Natalie's TEAR-STAINED CHEEKS. She and Ben lie on their backs side-by-side, high, emotional:

NATALIE
We're about to starve to death in the wilderness and I'm sitting here crying about a boy. It's so stupid.

BEN SCOTT
It's not stupid, it's true. It's...
(realizing)
Holy shit. It's *everything*. Love is everything, Natalie. It's the reason we're here. How could I not have realized that, when...

His eyes grow wet with this epiphany... then, urgently:

BEN SCOTT (CONT'D)
You have to go find him. You have to find Travis and tell him how you feel. It can save us all!

Nat gets unsteadily to her feet, determined to find Travis. As she leaves, STAY with Ben, contemplating love. But then:

MISTY (O.C.)
I heard everything. And you're right.

Dismayed, Ben turns toward Misty even as she falls into his arms. She tries to kiss him. He turns his head away.

BEN SCOTT
Misty please-- I don't--

She redoubles her efforts. Lips, tongue straining toward him.

MISTY
Don't fight it. There's nothing to be ashamed of; love is the reason we're here.

Desperate, he shoves her off him.

BEN SCOTT

Stop!

(off her astonishment)

I don't love you. I love Paul!

MISTY

...What? Who's Paul?

BEN SCOTT

My *boyfriend*. Misty, I'm gay!

I'm...

(calling out--tearful,
ecstatic)

I'm gay! Did you hear that, Mom,
Dad? Did you hear that, God!? I'm
gay! That's right! I'm gay and I
love it! I love sucking cock! I
love myself...!

Etc. As Ben Scott continues shouting his truth to the heavens, we go off Misty, stunned and confused...

53

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

53

Shauna looks down at Adam on the floor, the blood now dried around the red divot in his shirt. We see Natalie's mind is swirling. Nearby, Taissa paces.

SHAUNA

So now what?

TAISSA

We obviously can't leave him here.

SHAUNA

Well we can't exactly Weekend at Bernie's him out the door either.

TAISSA

Getting rid of the body isn't our only problem. Your DNA is everywhere. Your texts are all in his cloud. The cops won't have to dig deep to find you.

SHAUNA

Yeah, no shit. You're a lawyer. What should we do?

TAISSA
I specialized in land use, not
murder clean-up.

Taissa turns to Natalie, who's been brooding in the corner.

TAISSA (CONT'D)
You've been quiet. Got any ideas?

Natalie looks at her.

NATALIE
Yeah. One.

Off that ominous response, and Shauna and Taissa wondering
what she's got up her sleeve, we HEAR POUNDING --

54 EXT. HUNTING CABIN - NIGHT (1996) 54

As she passes the cabin, Natalie's ears perk up to the sound
of distant POUNDING inside the structure as she jogs past it.
Concerned & curious, she turns toward it --

55 EXT. WILDERNESS - WOODS - NIGHT (1996) 55

Travis runs desperately from his pursuers, who call out into
the night like wild creatures. Breath ragged, he throws a
look over his shoulder. Through his fear and the darkness
they look strange and menacing, fast, hungry, closing in...

Filled with fear, he TRIPS, falling out of frame, as the
girls finally reach him--

56 EXT. WILDERNESS - CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER (1996) 56

Lottie, her dress torn and wine-stained and hanging off her,
picks up the decorated DEER SKULL CENTERPIECE and places it
on her head when... SLAM! The girls pin Travis up to the
LIGHTNING-STRUCK STUMP. Travis squirms trying to get out of
their grasp. Lottie steps forward, commanding:

LOTTIE
Stop fighting.

Travis looks at her, frightened, defiant... but then, as if
against his own will, he suddenly relaxes. Silhouetted by the
fire, through Travis's eyes Lottie seems to become a radiant,
chimeric GODDESS. He stares at her in fear and awe.

TRAVIS
Lottie?

Lottie silently picks a PINECONE up off the ground and dips it in the blueberry wine. The girls help force open Travis's mouth--she pushes it in, gagging him. *

LOTTIE

Shhhh.

(turning to Shauna)

You know what to do.

Shauna steps forward, tightens her grip on the HUNTING KNIFE.

She looks up again, at Travis's frightened face. It seems to flicker back and forth--human, STAG, human again... She looks around at the other girls, staring, starving. Then back at Travis. Or is he Travis?

The girls hold him to the stump but he still doesn't struggle -- just watches with wide, frightened eyes as Shauna lifts his chin, exposing his throat. She brings the knife ever closer. Her eyes dark and dilated, she moves slowly, wonderingly...

As the KNIFE'S TIP puckers Travis's skin, Shauna hesitates...

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

It's OK. It wants us to.

In Shauna's POV, Travis continues to flicker between human and animal. Then, as she pierces the skin... Travis jerks back, resulting in a small, tentative cut.

Blood quickly flows out of it, down the back of Travis's neck and we're CLOSE ON BLOOD AS IT DRIPS ONTO THE EARTH. A collective GASP.

Once more, Shauna tightens her grip on the knife, as if preparing to cut his throat properly. But then:

NATALIE (O.C.)

What the FUCK!!

Startled, Shauna drops the knife -- snapping out of her trance -- and backs away... As Natalie rushes to Travis--

SHAUNA turns and sees Jackie, who also just arrived and is staring at her in horror and disgust.

SHAUNA

Jackie, I--

JACKIE

Natalie! The knife!

Natalie spins to see Lottie about to get the knife. Natalie dives, grabbing it before Lottie can take it. Natalie points it at her defensively. Lottie steps back, smiling eerily.

Scared of Natalie, the other girls fade into the darkness as Travis pulls the PINECONE from his mouth. He rubs his neck. Stares at his blood-covered hand. *

NATALIE

Are you OK? What--

TRAVIS

I'm fine.

Feeling strange--fearful, embarrassed--he storms off.

NATALIE

Travis--!

She's about to go after him. But she's brought back by Lottie, grasping her arm, warning:

LOTTIE

It's in all of us, you know. Even him. Even you.

Natalie SHOVES Lottie, who falls backwards onto the ground, laughing.

NATALIE

That's enough of your weird fucking bullshit, Lottie. Haven't you done enough?

Natalie shakes her head and heads back to the cabin, wanting to get as far as she can from whatever the fuck just happened. At the edge of the clearing, FIND Misty: quietly taking it all in, *fascinated*...

57

INT. MISTY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT BUNKER - DAY (PRESENT DAY) 57

ON JESSICA, hands covering her eyes...

MISTY (O.C.)

Okay, you can look now!

Jessica lowers her hands to see: Misty, resplendent with a full face of make-up, a slick of bright, fire engine red lipstick, statement earrings (yet still in her coveralls). *

*
*
*

MISTY (CONT'D)

What do you think? My whole life
I've thought I was a spring but I
realized maybe I'm a winter.

*
*
*

Jessica takes a moment to gather her thoughts.

JESSICA

You look amazing.

(Misty beams)

But... there'll be cameras there.
So it's not too soon to start
crafting your image. Do you have a
lipstick color that's a little
more... innocent librarian?

*
*
*

Misty takes this in. Finally, after an inscrutable beat:

MISTY

You're right. That's really smart.

(then)

Gosh, I'm so glad I kidnapped you
before this reunion.

(and then)

How soon do you think I can meet
with the ghostwriter?

JESSICA

I'll make some calls. We need to
hire you a PR team. I know the
folks who worked on that sex slave
pyramid scheme. Compared to that,
this should be a piece of cake.

MISTY

You really think so?

JESSICA

I'm sure.

(and now, real talk)

I mean. So you guys ate each other.
That *is* what happened, right?

Misty just looks at her, blinking mildly.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

My point is, nobody will blame you.
They'll feel sorry for you! Like
they did with those guys who
crashed in the Andes. You were just
trying to survive. And you know who
they'll sympathize with the most?
The first person to break the
twenty-five year silence.

Misty tries on the role--

MISTY
"I just couldn't live with myself
for a minute longer."

JESSICA
You needed to unburden your soul. *

MISTY
"Nobody should have to go through a
thing like that... we were just
kids. Innocents. And of course--
none of us could get help after we
came home. We couldn't betray the
team. But it's time we faced the
truth, no matter how much it hurts.
So that we can all begin to heal."

JESSICA
Oh, you are going to be good.

This might be more positive feedback than Misty has gotten in
her entire life. She beams, genuinely excited.

Into this: DING-DONG... (but it's a phone sound effect).

Misty pulls out her phone again. Seeing what's on it -- she
frowns.

MISTY
Would you excuse me a moment? I'll
be right back.

58

INT./EXT. MISTY'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER (PRESENT DAY) 58

Misty opens the door. Natalie's on the front stoop. She takes
in Misty's make-up and earrings, surprised. *

NATALIE
Whoa. You look... hot. *

Misty keeps a stone cold expression. *

MISTY
You can save the flattery, I have
nothing to say to you. *

NATALIE
Then why'd you open the door?

MISTY
Well--I just had to say that.

Misty starts to close the door, but--

NATALIE
I'm sorry!

This stops the door from closing. Misty peers out.

MISTY
Are you making fun of me?

NATALIE
No.

MISTY
But-- you never say you're sorry.

NATALIE
I know.

MISTY
So then why are you apologizing?

NATALIE
Because... I need you.

Misty's eyes widen.

MISTY
Like, you need a ride from me, or you need me to get a hacker to do something, or--

NATALIE
No. Well--kind of.
(then)

I mean, I do need your help. But I don't want you to think that's the only reason I'm here.

MISTY
Okay...

NATALIE
I've been an asshole. And you've been a friend to me. More so than anyone in, shit, in a long fucking time. And yeah, you're screwed up in the head, but so am I. I thought I was better than you. But I'm not. You're good at things.

It's literally everything Misty has ever wanted to hear. But even though she's internally fist-pumping, she only gives Natalie a small smile, nodding coolly.

MISTY

That's kind of you to say.

(then)

What did you need my help with?

On Natalie, steeling herself --

NATALIE

Well, Citizen Detective. We need to
get rid of a body.

Off Misty, unable to help the large grin that spreads across
her face, finally welcomed into the fold, we --

END EPISODE