

# BLUNT

by

Anna Elizabeth James

FADE IN:

1 EXT. COUNTRY HOME - VAST LANDSCAPE - DAY 1

Green ROLLING HILLS. WILDFLOWERS swaying in the distance.

Off a two-lane road, a quaint and private DRIVEWAY appears, revealing a charming 1950's COTTAGE nestled in an idyllic valley, as far as the eye can see -- *no other homes in sight.*

The tattered and somewhat run down ESTATE, eighty years ago was a bustling social hub for rural families, is now a sought after VACATION RENTAL HOME for city goers.

CLIMBING ROSE BUSHES, DILAPIDATED WHITE-WASHED BRICK, PAINT that is PEELING -- something out of TOWN & COUNTRY MAGAZINE.

The inheritor of the estate/turned entrepreneur, DAWN VAN BROCKLIN (40) juggles the aftermath of a recent divorce while striving to keep her son's world happy and healthy.

A lover of art, gardening and travel, Dawn has managed to pay the bills while working on her Master of Fine Arts Degree.

2 EXT. COUNTRY HOME - PEACH ORCHARD - CONTINUOUS 2

Standing on a LADDER Dawn picks PEACHES.

DAWN

Hey bud, you mind handing me those?

CHARLIE REYNOLDS (8) a robust kid with a big imagination hands his mother the PRUNING SHEERS. Like most boys, Charlie loves his video games but is distracted from media thanks to his Mother's passion for being outside. Smart kid. Old soul.

He grabs the BASKET OF PEACHES.

CHARLIE

Whoa mom. This is the most we've ever picked.

DAWN

Yeah, I think the fertilizer last fall did the trick.

The land flourishing.

*Dawn finishes pruning, carrying the SHEERS with her along with a BASKET OF PEACHES as she and Charlie head back.*

3

**EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BACK DOOR AREA - CONTINUOUS**

3

Charlie enters with excitement, leaving the door open. Dawn pauses to set down the SHEERS, leaning them against the wall.

As she does a RED ANT begins CRAWLING on her SANDLE.

She watches it for a moment then shakes it away.

Just then she finds more RED ANTS on the BRICK PATHWAY.

DAWN

Ugh.

Her eyes scan the BRICKS where she discovers --

*A MASSIVE ANT COLONY within the BRICK PATH.*

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Mom, you comin'?

DAWN

Be right there buddy!

Hearing Charlie's excitement, she relinquishes and enters.

*The RED ANTS move with furry and passion, hungry for food.*

4

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

4

Charlie sets down the BASKET OF PEACHES and begins organizing them, clearly having done this before. The two begin peeling, washing and prepping for PEACH COBBLER.

As the two laugh and BAKE, a tour around the home reveals:

The space, clean and airy. A calming breeze.

WOODEN ELEMENTS, WHITE LINENS, FRESH FLOWERS, WORN LEATHER COUCHES, COMFY BLANKETS, ENGAGING ART. A RECORD PLAYER with a vast COLLECTION sits near a BAR CART with a GUIDEBOOK. The title reading, "CHARMING CHATEAU IN THE COUNTRY".

On a BULLETIN BOARD a WORLD MAP, DOTTED WITH PINS, showcases over a HUNDRED TRAVELERS from ALL OVER THE WORLD having stayed at Dawn's unique and charming abode.

A PLETHORA OF NOTES hang nearby, expressing thanks to their host. An array of POLAROID PHOTOS displayed in the shape of a RAINBOW reveal GUESTS from many cultures, backgrounds, etc.

*This is a traveler's dream vacation destination.*

**END CREDITS.**

5            **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS**            5

Charlie and Dawn climb into her COZY BED with piping hot PEACH COBBLER. Steam rises as they eat. Dawn begins reading an ILLUSTRATED BOOK to Charlie. He belts in laughter.

Finishing the story --

DAWN

Alright time for bed.

Dawn sets their Dishes down on the NIGHTSTAND.

CHARLIE

Can't I stay with you just this week?

DAWN

Charlie, no. You need to go to your dad's.

CHARLIE

And if I don't want to?

DAWN

Tell you what -- when you come back I'll ask Miss Bower if we can go fishing down at her pond.

(his eyes light up)

The week will be over before you know it.

Dawn tickles Charlie. He belts in laughter.

CHARLIE

Promise?

DAWN

Pinky.

CHARLIE

I hate camping.

DAWN

Charlie Reynolds you do not hate camping. You love camping.

CHARLIE

He's only taking me because of her.

Charlie turns over, pulling the QUILT up over his head, refusing to leave his mother's side. She watches him then sighs, letting him be -- *only so many days of childhood left.*

She turns off the light and kisses him goodnight.

DAWN

Night buddy.

But Charlie is already asleep.

6 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - BATHROOM - NEXT MORNING**

6

Charlie, still asleep, has no idea his mother is cleaning feverishly around him -- in full prep mode for her GUESTS.

As she changes the TOILET PAPER, she realizes she is out.

DAWN

Crap.

Checking the time on her PHONE --

DAWN (CONT'D)

Charlie time to get up, we're gonna be late!

Charlie stumbles out of bed, frowning.

The Peach Cobbler Dishes resting on the Nightstand.

7 **INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - KITCHEN/DRIVEWAY - NEXT MOMENT**

7

Charlie eats BREAKFAST while Dawn rushes around readying to leave. She makes a call with her phone on SPEAKER.

PETE

Hi, this Pete. Leave a message.

DAWN

How would I ever be able to survive without you Pete? Thank you again for fixing the wheels on the barn doors last week. I have another favor to ask -- red fire ants are invading the brick pathway out back. Willing to pay extra if you can come before the end of the week. Thank you so much Pete. Love you!

CLICK.

CHARLIE  
You love Pete mom?

DAWN  
Well not like that.  
(beat)  
With no man of the house I would be  
sunk without him.

CHARLIE  
But I thought I was the man of the  
house?

Dawn ushers Charlie along, carrying a SUITCASE and BACKPACK,  
locking the FRONT DOOR.

DAWN  
(tossling his hair)  
Of course you are! You're the  
little man of the house. Pete is  
the big man.

Charlie smiles.

As they exit, a COMPUTER in the kitchen DINGS. A message in  
the right corner appears, the time reading 8:16 AM.

CHARLIE  
Why do you call them fire ants?

DAWN  
I'm not sure what kind of ants they  
are ... all I know is, when they  
bite it stings like fire.

Charlie looks out with slight trepidation.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Don't worry. We'll get them out  
before you're back.

*Hi Dawn, our apologies but we unfortunately have to cancel.  
We understand the cancelation policy and hope we can stay at  
your Charming Chateau sometime in the future!*

A LOCK BOX holds the KEY inside, hanging from the HANDLE.

Dawn locks it *securely*.



DAWN

Down to three hours for the week.

MATT

A new record, wow that's great.

Dawn smiles, walking back to her car.

MATT (CONT'D)

Listen, Dawn. I should probably let you know ... I think it's only appropriate I tell you this ahead of time ...

(Beat)

Kate and I are going to be engaged after this weekend. Well, hopefully.

DAWN

Wow, congratulations. She have any idea?

MATT

Complete surprise. I mean yeah, we've talked about it.

DAWN

I'm sure Charlie will be adverse at first but he'll come around. I'll work with him on it.

Matt looks at her inquisitively.

DAWN (CONT'D)

If she can be a good parent to Charlie, that's all that matters.

MATT

Thank you for working with him "on it". That means a lot. I'll do the same for you whenever --

DAWN

I should get going. Guests are arriving soon and I'm out of toilet paper.

MATT

How's the portfolio coming? You're nearly done right, three years in the making.

DAWN

More like four but who's counting?



MATT

Your choice.

Beat.

MATT (CONT'D)

I mean, let's be honest. It is rare for someone to take this long to get their dissertation, or whatever you want to call it -- "portfolio thingy" done right?

DAWN

You really gonna do this?

MATT

Hey, all that matters is you're crossing the finish line and can finally get a job. No more cleaning.

DAWN

I'm not a maid, Matt. I'm prepping the house for vacation rentals to make extra money. I'm an artist.

He sighs.

MATT

Look, I don't want you to be blindsided by this so I'm just going to lay it out now -- I think it's time Charlie lived with me full time.

Dawn stunned.

DAWN

(Beat)

I see. Since you're sober and you think you turned your life around, you're a family man now.

MATT

He's a boy and it's time he lives with his father.

DAWN

And he also needs his mother. After all he's been through, you think disrupting his routine is going to be good for him?

MATT

The kid needs to start being apart of normal society instead of living in fairytale land with his mommy, alright?!

DAWN

Oh, so you'd rather have him glued to media while you work endless hours.

MATT

It's for his own good.

DAWN

Own good my ass. This isn't about Charlie. As soon as I finish my portfolio, I'll be able to afford the city. You know this is the predicament I'm in -- the predicament you put me in! Charlie and I shouldn't be punished for your fuck ups.

MATT

I have no choice but to go for full custody. The judge will side with me. Your home life is not ... safe Dawn.

DAWN

You're bringing legal into this? You know I can't afford a lawyer. What the hell Matt?

MATT

Pimping your house out to make ends meet so you can waste hours experimenting in the loft, or whatever the hell you do up there, and calling it "art" -- isn't going to look good, especially with the incident that's already on record from one of your guests.

Gobsmacked.

DAWN

You're such an asshole.

MATT

Whatever you need to tell yourself, to justify this lifestyle, fine.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

In the meantime I'm gonna live in  
the real world and raise my son  
accordingly.

DAWN

Our son. Matt, our son -

She gets in and peels out while Matt makes a phone call.

MATT

Well that didn't go well. Plan B it  
is.

12           **INT. DAWN'S CAR - SIDE OF STREET - NEXT MOMENT**           12

Dawn pulls over, hitting her steering wheel.

**CUT TO:**

13           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - NIGHT**           13

FLASHES of her working late at night in her ART STUDIO enter  
her mind, laboring over her ARTWORK.

**CUT BACK TO:**

14           **INT. DAWN'S CAR - SIDE OF STREET - NEXT MOMENT**           14

She fights tears for a moment then gathers composure, knowing  
she still needs Toilet Paper.

15           **INT. GROCERY STORE - CASH REGISTER - NEXT MOMENT**           15

Staring into space, Dawn thinks. Hiding behind SUNGLASSES she  
remains despondent. She pays for the Toilet Paper and leaves.

16           **INT. GROCERY STORE - CORNER AREA - CONTINUOUS**           16

Just before exiting her phone RINGS.

DAWN

V. I just had the worst run in with  
Matt. The worst. Ever.

VICTORIA

Oh babe, drop what you're doing and come to St. Tropez with me! Like old times.

**CUT TO:**

17

**INT. AIRPORT ROAD - TOWNCAR - SAME MOMENT**

17

VICTORIA PIERSON (35) sits in the back of an UPSCALE TOWNCAR, applying LIPSTICK as she chats to Dawn on SPEAKER PHONE. LAYERS OF NECKLACES drape her neck, one of which is holding a DIAMOND, shimmering in the light.

DAWN

I wish. I can't. I'm so upset, I can't even see straight.

VICTORIA

Deep breaths babe. Deep. Breaths.

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

DAWN

He's going for full custody. I'm going to be sick. I need a lawyer. I need to finish my portfolio. I need to clean the house before guests arrive. I need to crawl into a hole and *die*.

Victoria holds out her PHONE to take a SELFIE. A smart and savvy woman, V lives the jet-setter life while making money off it. Formerly a Sorority Sister with Dawn, Victoria's mission is to build and create her own brand.

VICTORIA

Don't allow this ex-fucker to get in your head. Don't. Even. Allow. It. You dumped his ass for being a dead-beat Dad who was wasted off his ass all the time and cheated, remember?

DAWN

And apparently is the perfect catch now. Why I didn't get that version of him? Only the universe knows.

VICTORIA

Listen to me. You're brilliant, an incredible mother, you're a talented artist, I mean come on -- he's fucked! Of course he's gonna make your life hell.

Victoria opens a COMPACT, popping a GUMMY in her mouth.

DAWN

I know. You're right.

(Beat)

Oh, and Matt's apparently asking Kate to marry him this week.

VICTORIA

Wow, I honestly feel sorry for her.

(Beat)

Dawn

Me too.

VICTORIA

You know what you need? To get laid. When is the last time you logged into that kick-ass dating profile I made you?

DAWN

No time.

(Beat)

It's fine. I just want Charlie to have a good "other" mom. When are you back?

VICTORIA

A week. Going with Dimitri.

DAWN

What happened to -- Jeff?

VICTORIA

He doesn't know it yet but I'm dumping his ass.

DAWN

I thought he was hubby material?

VICTORIA

Ugh. Too boring. Can't deal. Plus he owes me money. Once he pays me back I'm out.

DAWN  
Ah, to be childless and free again.

VICTORIA  
Babe. You can. Join me!

DAWN  
I wish but I can't. Shit, my phone  
is about to die.

VICTORIA  
I'm at the airport. Wine time once  
I'm settled?

DAWN  
Yes, have a safe flight. Love you,  
bye.

But before Dawn can finish, her PHONE cuts her off and DIES.  
She exits the store, gets in her car and drives away.

18

**INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT DOOR - NEXT MOMENT**

18

Dawn exits her car carrying the Toilet Paper. As she walks to  
the front door she notices something awry.

The front door ... ajar.

The LOCK BOX *open*.

The KEY inside missing.

Annoyed, she enters.

DAWN  
I'm sorry but the home isn't ready  
for check in yet! You'll have to  
come back at --

Just then a HARD OBJECT swings towards her face and **THWACK!!**

TIME SLOWS DOWN as Dawn's eyes roll back --

The FORCE of the hit SO STRONG and POWERFUL --

She falls back onto the floor with a *THUD*.

Everything a *blur*. Her view *fades*.

Eyes fall *closed* ... DARKNESS.

**CUT TO BLACK:**

19 **BLUNT**

19

**FADE UP FROM BLACK:**20 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

20

Dawn opens her eyes to find beautiful warm light pouring into her room, the LEAVES OF THE TREES from outside the back door cascading in the CALM BREEZE.

Her eyes pan from the window to her WHITE BEDDING, then to her hand, along her arm --

Where she discovers --

**ROPE.**

TIED TIGHTLY around her WRIST.

Confused, she pulls her arm.

NO USE.

Thinking it is a bad dream, she darts up.

BUT SHE IS TIED DOWN. Not a bad dream. *Reality.*

She quickly looks over at her other arm, also TIED UP.

Then at her feet and ankles. ALL TIED.

She yanks and yanks but it's no use. TOO TIGHT.

The ROPE, wrapped around her wrists and ankles many times, is anchored to her BED POSTS sturdily, allowing no wiggle room.

A PROFESSIONAL TIE. No amateur.

She keeps BUDGING.

DAWN

Help! Somebody help me!

Yanks and pulls. But no use.

In despair --

DAWN (CONT'D)

PLEASE! Somebody!!

Catching her breath, she stares at the ceiling.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
 (to herself)  
 I'm being punished.

A tear falls as she realizes her predicament.  
 She catches her breath then turns on her survival instincts.  
 Hope lingers as she looks around the room.  
 All is silent. A FAUCET IN THE KITCHEN DRIPS.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
 Great.

She looks up at the wall behind her to find the MACRAME WALL HANGING (a decoration made out of rope) no longer there.  
 Her eyes look around to find it torn apart, lying on the floor amongst the mess.  
 Then it hits her --

**CUT TO:**

21 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAWN'S IMAGINATION** 21

A MASKED INTRUDER quickly grabs the MACRAME from off the wall as Dawn lies UNCONSCIOUS on the bed.

DRESSED IN BLACK, the Intruder quickly uses his POCKET KNIFE to tear apart the MACRAME, creating ROPE TIES.

Dawn imagines his arms covered in TATTOOS -- *THEN REWINDS her vision* and imagines a different Intruder, one with NO TATTOOS as he ties her up aggressively.

She shakes the *vision* having no idea who did this to her.

**CUT BACK TO:**

22 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - NEXT MOMENT** 22

Stunned at realizing the manner of which she was tied up --

DAWN  
 Fuuuuuuuck!!!

She quickly scans the room for more clues.  
 And finds her favorite PLANT broken on the floor.



MANY ITEMS in disarray. *A sign of a struggle.*

She closes her eyes, trying to remember ...

*The moment of her head getting HIT HARD.*

Nothing after that. BLANK.

She winces in pain, realizing she has a LARGE BUMP on her head from where she was hit.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Time. What time is it?

Her eyes scan again, looking for the CLOCK nearby -- she squints to make out what it reads.

**12:10 PM.**

DAWN (CONT'D)  
The guests, when do they arrive?

Dawn closes her eyes, remembering back to her CALENDAR.

**CUT TO:**

22A **DAWN'S "BOOKINGS" from the POPULAR VACATION WEBSITE** 22A  
ON THE SCREEN --

Monday, July 12th. Dawn confirms a BOOKING. CHECK-IN, 3PM.

CLICK over to MESSAGES from GUEST. In Japanese and translated in English it reads: *Hi Dawn! Looking forward to staying at your beautiful Chateau in the Country.*

**CUT BACK TO:**

23 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (PRESENT MOMENT)** 23

A small glint of relief.

DAWN  
You can do this.

As she lies in angst and confusion, struggling to break free, the RED ANTS outside her door MORE ACTIVE than before -- a *metaphor for what she is feeling inside.*

**CUT TO:**

24

**INT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - LAND ROVER - SAME MOMENT**

24

Matt sings along with his soon to be fiancé, KATE MARKS (28) while Charlie sits in the back, ignoring them. He pulls out his iPad and HEADPHONES to watch a video.

MATT

Hey bud I thought we said no screen time?

CHARLIE

Not until we get there you said.  
We're not there yet dad.

Kate, wanting to say something, stops herself. Matt urges her to say what she feels.

KATE

You're going to let that go?

MATT

He makes a valid point.

KATE

It's not going to kill him to look out the window at the scenery. This is one of the reasons why we're going up there babe -- for him.

MATT

Another reason why I love you.  
You're my rock, you know that? I can't remember the life I lived before meeting you.

Matt kisses her on the hand as she looks back at him, enamored. She turns up the MUSIC.

Kate is playful yet inexperienced in the hardships of life. Confident & self-assured. Too smart for her own good.

**CUT BACK TO:**

25

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - SAME MOMENT**

25

Dawn thinks back to the last time she saw Charlie -- *squeezing her tight and saying goodbye.*

She winces at the thought of not seeing him again but keeps the negative away.

DAWN

You have time.

She tries not to think of the worst.

Shaking it off, she looks back down the hall then closes her eyes, remembering where her BAG was when she entered the home, imagining it falling to the floor.

WE SEE HER BAG by the front door.

The contents spilled out, her phone DEAD.

**CUT TO:**

26 **INT. AIRPLANE - PRIVATE JET - DAY (SAME MOMENT)** 26

Victoria, sitting next to DIMITRI (35), an athlete, world traveler and French -- flirts with him as they order food and drinks. HAPPY and in LOVE.

**CUT TO:**

On the BULLETIN BOARD we move from where Victoria currently is to where she is headed -- St. Tropez FRANCE -- all the way over to LOS ANGELES where ...

27 **INT. AIRPORT - TERMINAL - DAY (SAME MOMENT)** 27

A JAPANESE FAMILY OF FOUR arrive from a long flight. As they enter the airport a SCREEN READS numerous flights CANCELED.

HUSBAND

(in Japanese)

It'll be this way for a couple days.

He looks at his wife.

WIFE

Disneyland?

The husband nods. The TWO CHILDREN react in joy, excited.

The Wife logs into the VACATION RENTAL APP to let Dawn know they won't be making it. In Japanese she writes --

*Hi Dawn, our apologies but we unfortunately have to cancel. We understand the cancelation policy and hope we can stay at your Charming Chateau sometime in the future!*

ON THE WORLD MAP WE MOVE BACK OVER TO GEORGIA.

28           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (SAME MOMENT)**           28

Dawn looks over at the CLOCK again, eyes squinting --

**1 PM.**

She breathes in then glances at her wrists and ankles, RUBBED RAW from her struggle, the skin beginning to turn RED.

She stops herself, realizing pain is imminent.

DAWN  
Please get here. Please.

29           **EXT. MANSION ESTATE - BACKYARD - DAY (SAME MOMENT)**           29

PETE ANDREWS (40) works on a project while listening to messages. He smiles at hearing Dawn's voice.

He texts back -- "*Don't worry. We will come by.*" Then gets back to work.

**CUT BACK TO:**

30           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)**           30

Dawn rests, closing her eyes for a moment.

MINUTES PASS.

Suddenly the SOUND OF THE FRONT DOOR OPENS.

DAWN  
Oh thank god! Please, I'm back here. Help!

As Dawn eagerly awaits, everything turns SILENT.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Hello? Is someone there?

Knowing something is not right ...

Her HEART beats louder.

BLACK SHOES walk towards the room.

The MASKED INTRUDER she imagined is here now, *in real life*.

He enters, raising his hand up to her mouth to quiet her.

Dawn, mortified.

INTRUDER

Shhhhh.

As he struggles to hold her down, she fights viciously, BITING him. He lashes back with a SLAP.

DAWN

Get the hell away from me!

Just then a DISTINCT CAR SOUND pulls into the driveway.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Miss Bower!! Help!!

Startled, the Intruder changes his mind and bolts.

The Car parks as Dawn's NEIGHBOR, MISS BOWER (75) a fast moving widow, sets down a PACKAGE on the FRONT STOOP.

Unable to hear --

MISS BOWER

Dawn, package for you!

The Intruder bolts, the door shutting after him.

DAWN

Hey! Wait! You can't leave me here like this!

(Beat)

Miss Bower!! Miss Bower!!

But it's no use. Miss Bower has already left.

Dawn fights and fights, then passes out.

31      **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - GARDEN - CONTINUOUS**

31

The RED ANTS, vibrant and full of energy, have now organized themselves -- marching to the back door, to Dawn's bedroom.

We follow the path they are creating, through the cracked opening, discovering it leads to ...

32      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

32

The PEACH COBBLER DISHES sitting on the NIGHTSTAND.

Dawn slowly opens her tear-stained eyes, staring into space at the Dishes, not knowing the RED ANTS are marching towards her. She looks back over at the CLOCK nearby.

**4 PM.**

No sign of her Guests or the Intruder.

DAWN

Why?

She sobs, then SCREAMS.

After letting it out she tries to hide her worry.

Hanging onto hope, her mind wanders.

She looks out the window ...

*CLOUDS MOVE SLOWLY IN THE EVENING SKY.*

**CUT TO:**

33 **INT/EXT COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - EVENING (MONTHS BEFORE) 3**

In the SECOND FLOOR OF A BARN, a LOFT exists, tucked away from sight. Along one wall rests BLANK CANVASES, DIFFERENT PAINTS, TEXTURES and FABRICS. On the other, GLASS-PANED WINDOWS with NATURAL LIGHT pouring in. *An artist's haven.*

As Dawn works on a NEW PIECE, Charlie sits behind her, creating his own ARTWORK on the floor. The SOUND OF THE BARN DOOR OPENING --

DAWN

That's your dad bud.

Dressed in OVERALLS and COVERED IN PAINT, Dawn sets down her BRUSH. Charlie frowns, not wanting to go.

Dawn turns to find Kate walking up the stairs to the LOFT.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Kate.

KATE

Hi Dawn. Matt is on a business call and asked me to come grab him. Hope that's okay?

DAWN

Of course.

KATE

Sorry we're so late. The flight was delayed which caused our next flight to be delayed ...

DAWN  
The Caribbean can be so  
unpredictable.

KATE  
Oh you've been?

DAWN  
So I've heard.  
(Beat)  
I'm always thrilled to have him for  
longer, so no problem.

Dawn notices Kate's wandering eyes.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
It's not usually this big of a  
mess. Under a deadline.

Kate spots the makeshift KITCHEN and COT with WORN BEDDING.  
COMFY and COZY linens. A FOLK BED with PLUSH bedding sits  
near a WINDOW, where Charlie sleeps on occasion.

KATE  
You sleep here then, when guests  
are in the main house?

DAWN  
Yeah, for now anyway. Won't be like  
this forever.

KATE  
That's some serious dedication.

DAWN  
Sometimes I'm up all night so being  
able to crash here helps.

KATE  
You're never worried someone will  
come up here and find you?

DAWN  
Guests have no idea I'm up here.  
And of course, when Charlie is with  
me, we stay in the house.

KATE  
I see.  
(Beat)  
Thanks again for taking him longer.  
You ready Charlie?

Carrying his things, Charlie walks towards the stairs.

DAWN  
Bye buddy. Love you.

CHARLIE  
Love you more!

From a SMALL WINDOW Dawn watches Kate help Charlie down the path. Just then Matt appears, joining them.

Dawn looks at herself in the reflection of the GLASS WINDOW, disheveled and tired, the opposite of what Kate is -- glowing from her recent tropical trip.

Resolute, she picks up her Brush and gets back to work.

**CUT BACK TO:**

34 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - EVENING (PRESENT MOMENT)**

Dawn looks out at the SUN, FULLY SETTING NOW.

She thinks back again ...

**CUT TO:**

35 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - DAY (WEEKS PRIOR)** 35

Dawn stands next to PROFESSOR MEAD (50) who is quietly staring at her LATEST WORK. A soft spoken and wise mentor, Professor Mead's goal in life is to discover great talent.

On LARGE CANVASES we observe bright and distinct patterns.

Standing further back we see a silhouette of a face within each piece. Dawn's style is progressive, fresh, and original.

PROFESSOR MEAD  
These are phenomenal Dawn.

DAWN  
They don't feel incomplete?

PROFESSOR MEAD  
Your final lesson -- *an artist's work is never done, you simply run out of time.*

She smiles.

DAWN  
I've been at it for so long, I can't tell anymore.



PROFESSOR MEAD

Look how far you've come. Your work has crystallized. Your journey, evident. You're more than ready. I'm booking a gallery space. Four weeks from now. Alright?

He looks around at her makeshift Kitchen and Cot.

PROFESSOR MEAD (CONT'D)

I came down here, while I was in your neck of the woods, to tell you it's time. Finish your final piece and lets move forward in graduating you.

Dawn nods.

Just before leaving --

PROFESSOR MEAD (CONT'D)

What I would do to have talent like this.

She smiles with satisfaction then sighs. Back to work.

**CUT BACK TO:**

36 **EXT. MOUNTAIN AREA - CAMP SITE - EVENING (PRESENT MOMENT) 36**

Charlie and Matt finish setting up a TENT while Kate starts a CAMPFIRE. The same SUNSET as the one Dawn sees.

MATT

Well done babe. Charlie, how bout' that? An old fashioned girl scout we got here.

CHARLIE

Yep. Good job Kate.  
(under his breath)  
Mom does it better.

Matt encourages Charlie to join them at the campfire.

KATE

Got some hobo dinners going!  
Charlie have you ever had a hobo dinner?

CHARLIE

Yeah, my Mom makes them all the time.

MATT

Not all the time. Come on Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yeah she does. How would you know?  
You never took us camping until she  
came along. In fact, you never did  
anything like this!

Charlie storms off to his tent as Kate puts the FOIL DINNERS  
on the fire then sits next to Matt.

MATT

It's my fault. I was a different  
man then, now paying for it.

KATE

Stop beating yourself up. That's in  
the past. You're a different person  
now. He shouldn't talk to you that  
way anyway. If you ask me, the kid  
needs a whooping -- all the more  
reason to go for full custody.

MATT

I love you.

In the tent Charlie pulls out his iPad and calls his Mom.

RING, RING. No answer. He tries the HOUSE PHONE.

Frustrated, he lies down, face in the PILLOW.

37

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - SAME MOMENT**

37

RING, RING. The LAND LINE emanates. Dawn opens her eyes.

DAWN

Charlie!

RING, RING. The ANSWERING MACHINE clicks over --

DAWN (CONT'D)

Hi, this is Dawn

CHARLIE

And Charlie!

DAWN

Leave us a message.

CHARLIE

Yeah, do it or else. Byyyyye.

Charlie hesitates to say something. Not knowing what to say --

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Mom.

Abandoning the idea, he hangs up. Silence.

He calls again ...

As it RINGS, Dawn's eyes well up with tears.

DAWN

I'm right here buddy. Right here.  
Gonna find a way to get out of  
this.

The RINGING finally stops. DARKNESS OUTSIDE.

Only light from the MOON illuminates her.

Dawn smacks her lips, thirsty.

DAWN (CONT'D)

How long?

Dawn winces, thinking.

Matt's voice echos loudly in her mind.

MATT (V.O.)

*Pimping your house out to make ends  
meet so you can waste hours  
experimenting in your shed, or  
whatever the hell you do back there*

--

His voice fades as she thinks back ...

**CUT TO:**

38 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY (TWO YEARS EARLIER)** 38

Dawn stands anxiously at the door, looking around once more to make sure everything is perfect.

The SOUND OF THE DOOR UNLOCKING --

DAWN

Hi. You must be --

GUEST

Ramona.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Ramona.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
 Welcome to the "Chateau in the  
 Country".

RAMONA  
 And you are here because ...

DAWN  
 I'm your host, Dawn?

RAMONA  
 Yeah, I know that. I've just never  
 had a host greet me in person  
 before. Very strange if I'm being  
 honest.

RAMONA BEATRIX (28) tries to remain polite but is clearly  
 annoyed. Sharp and quick witted, Ramona knows what she wants  
 in life and gets it. Unafraid of nothing and *no one*.

DAWN  
 Sorry, a little new at this.

RAMONA  
 No kidding.

Ramona walks around the space, looking at details.

RAMONA (CONT'D)  
 You have nothing to worry about. I  
 stay in vacation rentals like yours  
 all the time. This one is  
 beautiful, private, and priced  
 right. Now I do have guests  
 arriving soon, and need to freshen  
 up. Everything I need to know is on  
 the app or in ... this book right?

DAWN  
 Right.

Ramona opens the door, encouraging her to leave.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
 Well then, I'll be going. If you  
 need --

RAMONA  
 I'll be sure to message you.

Dawn tries to keep it cool as she walks to her car. She gets  
 in and drives away as SOMEONE ELSE lives in her home.

39           **EXT. MISS BOWER RESIDENCE - BACKYARD - NEXT MOMENT**           39

Dawn parks her car from out of view while Miss Bower works in the GARDEN. Dawn's only neighbor, TWO HUNDRED YARDS AWAY.

DAWN  
Garden is looking beautiful Miss  
Bower!

But Miss Bower cannot hear her.

Dawn grabs her things; GROCERY BAGS, DUFFLE and marches along. Out of breath, she covers the SCOUT with a CLOTH to cover it from view and enters the back door of the BARN ...

40           **INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - CONTINUOUS**           40

She marches upstairs to her secret LOFT already prepared for herself and sets down her things, exhausted. Rummaging through a BOX OF TRINKETS she finds an OLD PAIR OF OPERA GLASSES and looks through a the window to find --

HER DRIVEWAY.

Just then ANOTHER VEHICLE PULLS into the driveway.

TWO WOMEN, dressed in HEELS AND COCKTAIL DRESSES enter.

Ramona greets them, shows them around and gives instructions.

She then leaves, driving away in her MERCEDES.

Dawn, puzzled.

Thinking, she goes back to unpacking her GROCERIES.

Then opens her LAPTOP, logging into her ACCOUNT on the Vacation Rental Site.

-- \$129 is deposited into her account. She smiles, excited for her new venture.

-- BOOKING INQUIRIES come in one after the other.

-- "Hi Dawn, my husband and I are looking to get away for the weekend ..."  
**CONFIRMED.**

-- "Dawn, we love your place! My friends and I will be passing through ..."  
**CONFIRMED.**

-- "Hi Dawn, would love to book again ..."  
**CONFIRMED.**

-- CONFIRMATION AFTER CONFIRMATION

-- EVERY OTHER WEEK, BLOCKED OFF for Charlie.

41 **INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY (MONTHS EARLIER)** 41

Dawn folds TOWELS as an OLDER MAN (50) pulls into the driveway and gets out, grabbing his BAG, CAMERA and TRIPOD. Dawn can't help but notice his fit body.

DAWN  
(to herself)  
Shoot, he's early.

Scrambling, she greets him at the door.

OLDER MAN  
My GPS is a fat liar. I can wait in  
the car if that's better --

DAWN  
Oh no, come on in. The home is  
ready for you, just finishing up  
some laundry.  
(Beat)

The Older Man enters, setting down his things, marveling at the space as Dawn wraps up last minute touches.

DR. WALTER  
Dr. Walter. Great to you meet you.  
(beat)  
You own the place?

DAWN  
Yeah, my grandmother left me the  
home soon after I married. After we  
had our son, I decided to spruce it  
up and rent it out. I've met a lot  
of great people so far, from all  
over the world.

Dawn continues to put things away as he talks with her.

DR. WALTER  
I bet. It's lovely. You and your  
husband live in town then?

DAWN  
Divorced actually. And yeah in  
town.  
(beat)  
So it's your anniversary?

DR. WALTER  
Five years today ... my girlfriend,  
three years in November.

Pretending she didn't hear that.

DAWN  
Congratulations. Long by most  
standards. What's the secret to  
keeping the spark alive?

DR. WALTER  
Polyamory.

DAWN  
Ah.

DR. WALTER  
And role play. To keep it  
interesting, you know.

DAWN  
Right.

DR. WALTER  
My wife and girlfriend are on their  
way now as a Dominatrix and  
Lifeguard.

Dawn tries to hide her smile.

DAWN  
No they are not.

DR. WALTER  
Yeah they are. Tonight I'm a  
"drowning man without a pool pass  
who needs to be punished after  
receiving CPR".

Beat.

DAWN  
Well I guess I better get going and  
leave you two ... three, to it  
then.

Unable to reach something, Dr. Walter helps, a little close.

DR. WALTER  
Did you just smell me?

DR. WALTER (CONT'D)  
 (a little shy)  
 Probably. If you're not busy  
 tonight my wife and girlfriend  
 would love for you to join us.

DAWN  
 Thanks but I don't think that's  
 really my thing. The house manual  
 is over there. If you need anything  
 at all, just message me.

DR. WALTER  
 The invitation is always open, if  
 you change your mind. If it's a  
 costume thing, we have plenty.

DAWN  
 No, I have lots of costumes.

DR. WALTER  
 And don't worry, I don't bite. Only  
 sometimes.  
 (Beat)  
 Sorry, some folks don't get my  
 sense of humor either.

DAWN  
 You're very clever Dr. Thanks for  
 the invite but I should get going.

Dawn exits, walking to her car.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
 Holy shitballs.

She gets in and drives off sharing a small wave.

Dr. Walter waves back.

41A     **INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - VARIOUS MOMENTS - DAY (MONTHS EARLIER)**     41A

-- Booking rate moves from 80 to 100% CAPACITY.

-- DATES fill fast and faster.

-- Dawn changes SHEETS then more SHEETS.

-- Washes DISHES & more DISHES.

-- Cleans up MESS after MESS.



-- Discovers USED CONDOMS, CIGARETTES and STAINS.  
 -- Scrubs RUG after RUG. Washes TOWEL after TOWEL.  
 -- Fluffs Pillows. Sets out FRESH FLOWERS. Refills COFFEE.  
 -- Then sits down on the floor to FOLD TOWELS and LAUNDRY.  
 She pulls out EXTRA CASH tucked inside her bra and COUNTS IT.

42 **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - OUTDOOR SHOWER - DAY (MONTHS EARLIER)** 42

Dawn stands underneath STEAMING HOT WATER, surrounded by a WOODEN FENCE BARRIER to keep herself hidden from view.

The outdoor make-shift shower, situated alongside the BARN, has TREE BRANCHES hanging overhead, PEBBLED ROCKS beneath her feet.

As she scrubs the PAINT OFF HER BODY, a movement in the trees further away startles her.

She turns off the water, grabbing a TOWEL.

Then looks through a CRACK in the FENCE ...

To find a MAN (35) standing there, motionless, holding a GUN TO HIS HEAD.

*Staring into space.*

Tears stream down his cheeks --

MAN

Hello? Is someone there?

But Dawn doesn't move.

MAN (CONT'D)

I swear, if someone is there, come out now, or else.

Dawn hesitates then finally steps out.

DAWN

Hi Gabriel. It's me, Dawn. The host.

GABRIEL SHEPPARD (35) African American and extremely muscular continues to weep. A larger than life, former athlete, Gabriel is not used to sharing his soft side.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Is everything alright?

GABRIEL  
No.

DAWN  
Anything I can do?

GABRIEL  
Go away. You're not supposed to be here. Why are you here?

DAWN  
I live back here. Let me help you Gabriel.

GABRIEL  
You can't help me. No one can. My whole life is a lie.

With the Towel wrapped around her, Dawn walks slowly towards him. Reaching him, she puts her arm around for comfort.

Finally he unclenches the GUN, holding it at his side.

DAWN  
How about you come inside and I'll make you some tea?

GABRIEL  
I can't. I have to go back to my wife now.

He cries on her shoulder for a moment.

Then turns to walk back to the House.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Mark my word. If you say anything to anyone I will end you.

Dawn nods, as Gabriel walks back to the house.

Feeling confused and rattled she tries to shake it off as she heads back to her shower.

-- Three months further on the CALENDER, Dawn is FULLY BOOKED.

-- Messages from POTENTIAL GUESTS ask/beg to be put on the wait list.

**CUT BACK TO:**

43           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (PRESENT MOMENT)** 43

Dawn lies still, thinking.

Only the SOUND OF WATER DRIPPING from the kitchen sink.

**CUT TO:**

44A           **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - NIGHT (MONTHS EARLIER)** 44A

Dawn and Victoria drink WINE by GOLDEN LIGHT. A SMALL TRAY with everything to make CANNABIS BLUNTS sits nearby. They SMOKE as Dawn looks through the BINOCULARS.

Victoria grabs the Binoculars back --

VICTORIA

Let me see.

44B           **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - NIGHT (WEEKS EARLIER)** 44B

Through the LENS we see Ramona SETTING UP A ROOM, SPRINKLING ROSE PETALS on the bed.

VICTORIA

She's a pimp.

DAWN

No way.

Dawn takes another look. Then thinks.

VICTORIA

That bitch is baller. You should demand a cut though.

Dawn ZOOMS in on Ramona who is giving directions to a SEXY WOMAN then leaves in her MERCEDES, driving away.

DAWN

Oh my god. What do I do?

VICTORIA

Nothing. She's paying the full rate right?

DAWN

Yeah.

VICTORIA

And you said she's one of your cleanest guests?

DAWN  
Yeah, but this is illegal.

VICTORIA  
I've always believed sex-work  
should be legalized. Like pot.

DAWN  
Really, you think that?

VICTORIA  
Uh, yeah I do. Think about it. How  
many women could make good money by  
providing a necessary service?

DAWN  
Yeah, but it's in my home. Can I  
get arrested for it?

VICTORIA  
What do I know? I'm not a lawyer.

Victoria grabs Dawn's phone.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)  
What's your password again?  
(figuring it out)  
Nevermind.

DAWN  
(referring to what she  
sees)  
You're insane! This is insane.

Dawn looks back in her Binoculars to find an OLDER MAN  
entering her house. Meanwhile Victoria types something into  
Dawn's phone, having remembered her password.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Hell no.

Dawn keeps watching as Victoria smiles slyly, up to  
something. She sets the Phone down then grabs the Binoculars.

VICTORIA  
Oh my, this guy is horny as fuck.

Victoria keeps watching. Everything turns quiet until ...

PING.

DAWN  
(looking at her phone)  
What did you do?

VICTORIA  
 Something that needed to be done a  
 long time ago.

Dawn picks up her phone to discover an image of a HANDSOME  
 MAN with PONYTAIL smiling back at her.

DAWN  
 I told you, no dating apps!

Victoria looks over her shoulder --

VICTORIA  
 He's hot. Swipe right.

Victoria SWIPES RIGHT before Dawn can stop her.

The app responds with *"Match!"*

DAWN  
 V, I don't have time for this.

VICTORIA  
 (watching the phone)  
 Oh look he's messaging you now.  
 Come on Dawn. It's been way too  
 long. You need to get out, and  
 remember why you're *alive*.

Dawn looks into her friend's eyes with disdain then sighs,  
 knowing she is right.

Both wait for the text to come in --

*"You're profile sounds great. Would love to meet you."*

DAWN  
 I can't.

VICTORIA  
 Yes you can. And you will. Start  
 with hello, then tea.  
 (Beat)  
 Go on.

Dawn responds on text as Victoria gets up and heads to the  
 other side of the LOFT, examining Dawn's recent PIECES.

#### **CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

VICTORIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 These are really coming along!

Dawn sets down her Phone and resumes to looking back through the Binoculars to find the Man being seduced by the SEXY WOMAN, handing her CASH.

The Sexy Woman puts it away then proceeds to pleasure him.

DAWN

You mean illegal. Ugh. Matt dabbled in this shit. I can't deal honestly.

(aloud)

I'm calling the police.

VICTORIA (O.S.)

Do what you gotta do. All I'm saying is, there's a place in the economy for this. And your home happens to be a hot spot.

44C      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - NIGHT (MONTHS EARLIER)**      44C

Victoria laughs as she puts the Cannabis things away in their hiding spot. A conspicuous look comes across her face, as if she is up to something.

She places BLUNTS with a GOLD BAN in the BOX.

VICTORIA

Hey, save these extras for me okay? We'll smoke the golden ones after you finish your last piece.

DAWN

Sure thing.

As she does, V discovers a STACK OF PHOTOS resting next to the BOX OF BLUNTS. She quickly scans them, not wanting Dawn to know. PHOTOS of them traveling the world -- FLORENCE, LISBON, PARIS. Dawn, young and vibrant.

She looks back at her friend on the other of the loft and smiles solemnly.

Dawn, clearly not the same -- has endured a hard five years.

Victoria quickly puts the PHOTOS away, realizing Dawn is walking towards her.

45      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - CONTINUOUS**      45

Both women fall to the floor, laughing and drinking as they swipe left and right on various men in the dating app.

As Dawn pours more WINE she looks back outside once more at her house, clearly not comfortable with what is happening.

-- The grand total of her earnings move from \$1200/month to \$4800 per month.

-- The nightly rate moves from \$149 a night to \$329/night.

-- Dawn stares at her Phone, troubled.

46           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY**

46

Dawn sits with Pen and Notepad, calling the POLICE.

                    DAWN

Hi, I'm looking for a Detective who can help me. I have a lead on illegal activity occurring around my home. Actually, *in* my home.

Dawn jots down notes, nodding.

                    DAWN (CONT'D)

Thanks. Will do.

-- Review after review.

-- "5 Stars," "Perfection," "Highly recommend," "Best retreat," "Most restful vacation," etc.

**END HOSTING MONTAGE**

Dawn shuts her LAPTOP with satisfaction then gets back to CREATING AND PAINTING.

**CUT BACK TO:**

47           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

47

Dawn wakes up to find herself in the same nightmare.

**7 AM**

**SUPER: 20 HOURS LATER**

Her wrists MORE RED than before.

Twisting and turning she tries to wiggle free --

More ...

And More.

So much so ...

She looks at her arms and discovers they're *GONE*.

A REAL NIGHTMARE.

She darts up, *awake now*.

She looks at her hands, still in tact.

DAWN  
Noooooo. Please. Please someone!!

Just then a CAR drives by --

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Miss Bower!

48

**EXT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS**

48

But Miss Bower cannot hear. She pulls up to the front of the house and gets out, carrying a PACKAGE and other MAIL ITEMS.

She sets them down on the FRONT PORCH.

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

DAWN  
Miss Bower! Please! You have to  
hear me!!

Miss Bower looks up, thinking she hears something.

MISS BOWER  
I grabbed your mail again for you  
Dawn!

Miss Bower gets back into her Car and leaves. One PIECE OF MAIL reading, "BARD MILTON AVERY SCHOOL OF ARTS, GRADUATION INFORMATION".

Dawn tries to hold back her emotions.

And weeps.

DAWN  
Charlie ...

**CUT TO:**



49

**EXT. CAMPGROUND - MOUNTAIN HIKE - SAME MOMENT**

49

Matt, Kate and Charlie hike up a hill, Charlie leading.

MATT

Hey, not so fast Charlie. Stick with the group.

But Charlie can't move fast enough.

He gets to the top and pulls out his iPad from his Backpack.

MATT (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

Matt confiscates the Device.

CHARLIE

But dad! Something's wrong with Mom. I know it. She never misses my calls.

MATT

She's probably sleeping.

CHARLIE

But she always texts me back.

MATT

Leave her be. She's taking a break bud. Besides I need your help. Remember what we talked about? You better not mess this up for me son.

CHARLIE

I'll do whatever you need me to do.

(Beat)

As long as you let me call her after.

DEAL.

Kate finally catches up, reaching them.

KATE

What's this about? You two are awfully quiet.

MATT

Was just telling Charlie how beautiful it is up here and how we need to make a deal to come up more often.

Kate agrees.

Together they look at the view, taking it in.

**CUT BACK TO:**

50 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - MORNING (PRESENT MOMENT)**

Dawn tries to remember the moment she was hit on the head, REPLAYING IT AGAIN, looking for clues.

As she does, more details come to light:

-- TWO MEN, dressed in black, faces covered.

-- Searching for *something*.

-- OBSESSED WITH FINDING IT.

-- One of the MASKED INTRUDERS, his eyes ... *familiar*.

She shakes her head, trying to make sense of it.

Who could it be?

She flips through various Guests in her mind.

**CUT TO:**

50A **On LAPTOP SCREEN, FACE AFTER FACE**

50A

Various languages, accents, and voices FLASH BY like a digital rolodex.

Searching for any clue or leads on who would do this, what they could be searching for.

Then pauses on a *specific face* --

RAMONA.

**CUT TO:**

51 **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT YARD - NIGHT (MONTHS EARLIER)** 51

Dawn stands around the corner, hidden from view as Ramona is being handcuffed by an OFFICER on the Front Porch.

A COP CAR with FLASHING LIGHTS sits in the driveway.

RAMONA

This is ridiculous. A group of women can't have a fucking slumber party?

OFFICER

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you.

Ramona catches Dawn in her peripheral, secretly watching.

She stares her down with *penetrating eyes*.

Dawn looks away, unable to watch.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

Do you understand these rights?

RAMONA

Might as well be bots. Free enterprise, what a fucking joke.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

Ma'am, do you understand?

RAMONA

What the fuck! Yes, of course I do. Now get on with it.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN (40) a steady and reliable man, is hellbent on stopping illegal activity.

His PARTNER opens the back door of his COP CAR, escorting Ramona and the TWO SEXY WOMEN in.

51A **INT. COUNTRY HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

51A

Just then a MAN from inside the house yells --

CLIENT (O.S.)

Hey! What's happening? Is this part of the show?

The CLIENT (50) remains tied-up in the living room with his hands behind his back and a BALL in his mouth.

Just before getting into the CAR Ramona looks back at Dawn.

RAMONA

Bitch. I'll get you back for this.

Dawn stares back, unflinching.

Detective Wiseman nods at Dawn before entering the house, letting her know she did the right thing.

The other Detective stays with Ramona. Dawn listens in.

52 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

52

Detective Wiseman unties the Client, kneeling on the floor.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

Show's over buddy. I suggest you hire a lawyer.

CLIENT

Huh? But they said this was safe!

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

Well safe and illegal are two different things.

Dawn walks away, looking up at the sky and shaking her head.

DAWN

Crap.

**CUT BACK TO:**

53 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - PRESENT MOMENT**

53

Dawn tries not to not get emotional as she lies motionless.

MATT (V.O.)

*The judge will side with me. Your home life is not ... safe Dawn. Especially with the incident that's already on record.*

She looks over at a FRAMED PHOTO OF HER AND CHARLIE on his EIGHTH birthday. Charlie is blowing out candles while Dawn stands behind him -- *one of her happier moments.*

She thinks back ...

**CUT TO:**

54

**EXT. COUNTRY HOME - GARDEN - DAY (A YEAR EARLIER)**

54

The PHOTO comes to life as Charlie blows out his CANDLES.

Everyone cheers with delight as Charlie looks up at his Dad who is standing next to Kate, doting on her.

DAWN

Did you make a wish bud?

He nods.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Don't tell anyone or else it won't come true.

He nods again.

Dawn passes PIECES OF CAKE around to the HANDFUL OF PARENTS and EIGHT OF CHARLIE'S FRIENDS.

The party is something off of a Pinterest Board, as if a professional were hired; LARGE BALLOONS, a BANNER on one side -- BASEBALL BATS, GLOVES, BASES and BASEBALLS nearby.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You boys ready to play a game of baseball. I have prizes!

The BOYS raise their hands in glee.

An utter success.

Dawn notices pain in Charlie's eyes.

As the BOYS finish eating, they run over to the MAKESHIFT BASEBALL FIELD and start teaming up.

DAWN (CONT'D)

What is it Charlie?

She pulls him further aside, kneeling down.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Tell me. What's going on?

CHARLIE

Why did he have to bring her?

DAWN

Maybe he needed a friend?

Charlie looks over at Kate dressed in a SHORT SUMMER DRESS, helping clean with Matt, then sneaks him a passionate KISS.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Look at it this way. We have another helper now. Since she's helping clean up, I'll be able to come play ball with you.

CHARLIE

I guess.

DAWN

We want your dad to be happy don't we? We want him to be the best dad he can be?

CHARLIE

But why can't his partner be you?

DAWN

Oh bud. Give her a chance okay? I think she's really nice, and as long as she's nice to you -- that's all we care about. Right?

Charlie reluctantly nods.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Go join your friends and I'll be right there.

Charlie runs off to join the GROUP.

The game starts with a TRIPLE right out of the gate! Cheers.

Matt walks over to Dawn, collecting TRASH.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You don't have to do that. Go join them.

Kate eyes Matt, as if to say, "Don't leave me."

MATT

The least I can do is help clean up.

DAWN

Looks like he's having a good time.

MATT

Yeah, you killed it.

(Beat)

Hey you have quick moment?

Matt pulls her aside.

MATT (CONT'D)

What's this about renting the house to vacationers?

DAWN

Oh it's just a side thing I'm doing to help catch up on bills.

MATT

But Dawn. Don't you think that's a little ...

(beat)

Below you, below *us* I mean.

Beat.

DAWN

Well first off, the last time I checked we were no longer an "us". And secondly this is my home and my business.

(Beat)

How else do you expect me to survive Matt? It's not like I'm receiving anything from you.

MATT

A million other ways other than *this*.

DAWN

Right. You try being a single mom --

MATT

Here we go again.

DAWN

Whatever.

Dawn walks to the baseball game, rattled.

Matt sits down beside Kate.

KATE

What was that about?

MATT

Remind me when this will be over.

KATE

You've got one more hour.

MATT

Not that.

Kate sees his anguish, sharing a kiss, then holds his hand for comfort.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 (whispering)  
 Sometimes I wish it was just you,  
 me and Charlie, ya know?

Kate nods, understanding. HAPPILY IN LOVE.

The CRACK OF A BAT.

The boys scream as Dawn runs the bases.

**CUT BACK TO:**

55      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - PRESENT MOMENT**      55

ECHOING in her mind, the SOUND OF BOYS CHEERING gives Dawn renewed confidence.

She looks around, her eyes landing on the BED POST.

SPOTTING a *JAGGED EDGE* on the metal post.

She begins rubbing the ROPE back and forth.

*FRAYING THE ROPE SLOWLY.*

**CUT TO:**

56      **EXT. CAMPGROUND - TOP OF MOUNTAIN - SAME MOMENT**      56

Matt hands Charlie his Phone while Kate isn't looking.

MATT  
 Counting on you.

Charlie nods and hits RECORD. Matt bends down on one knee.

Kate turns around, surprised to find him kneeling.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 Kate, there's no one I'd rather do  
 life with. You make me the happiest  
 man. Will you marry me?

Looking at the DIAMOND RING in astonishment --

KATE  
 Oh my god Matt. Yes, yes!



Matt places the RING on her FINGER and kisses her.

They embrace tightly. Kate looks at the ring again, the DIAMOND more brilliant than anything she's ever seen.

KATE (CONT'D)  
It's beautiful. Oh babe!

MATT  
You get it bud?

Charlie nods, hitting the RECORD button off.

KATE  
Charlie, did you know about this  
the whole time?  
(Beat)  
Come here. Let's take a picture  
altogether. I love this new little  
family of mine.

Charlie joins them for a SELFIE, sporting a fake smile.

After they take more PHOTOS Charlie leans over to his Dad --

CHARLIE  
Don't forget our deal Dad.

MATT  
Once we're back down the hill, yes.  
(whispering)  
And you don't ruin this moment for  
me.

Matt and Kate kiss once more while Charlie grabs his backpack and starts heading back down. Kate notices.

KATE  
Someone's in a hurry to get out of  
here.

MATT  
Ignore him. He's in a mood.

She looks at her DIAMOND RING once more, smiling with delight as Matt grabs her hand and heads back down.

**CUT BACK TO:**

57

**EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BACKYARD - ANT'S NEST - DAY (SAME MOMENT)**

The RED ANTS, having fully organized themselves now ...

Are in a LONG LINE and on a mission to find SUGAR.  
 Marching to Dawn's back door, *they make their way in.*

58            **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**            58

Dawn keeps rubbing the ROPE on the JAGGED EDGE.

**12 PM.**

Not believing her reality is still real --

DAWN  
 Charlie.

She thinks back to when the Intruder came back for her.

His HAND OVER HER FACE, she opens her eyes, trying to make out WHO IT WAS.

FLASHES of POSSIBLE CULPRITS:

-- Dr. Walter, *"Don't worry, I don't bite. Only sometimes."*

-- Gabriel, *"Say anything to anyone and I will end you."*

-- Ramona, *"Bitch. I'll get you back for this."*

-- Matt, *"Don't you think that's a little ... below you, below us."*

-- Professor Mead, *"What I would do to have talent like this."*

Finally, a FACE we haven't met yet --

-- *"You make me want to do things to you, things I can't say aloud."*

Dawn shakes her head, pushing the thought away.

She thinks back, rubbing a LINE OF ROPE on the JAGGED EDGE.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
 No. There's no way it's him.

**CUT TO:**

59            **INT. MAIN STREET - PINK TEA ROOM - DAY**            59

Dawn enters to find the HANDSOME MAN from the dating app seated, and waiting, not realizing she has entered.

DAWN

Yousef?

Yousef turns to stand. Dawn taken back.

YOUSEF MANZUR (35) a slender and good looking with a striking jaw line and captivating smile, darker/olive skin. Attractive man-bun, effortless style, a thinker and doer. Well-educated.

YOUSEF

Dawn, so nice to meet you. You're more lovely in person than in the photos.

DAWN

Well thank you. I was going to say the same thing about you.

(Beat)

Thanks for meeting me here. This is one of my favorite spots.

YOUSEF

I can see why.

Yousef pulls out her chair. She sits, in awe of his manners.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)

So tell me, how long have you been ... on the app?

DAWN

To be honest not long. You?

YOUSEF

You're my first date.

DAWN

Really?

YOUSEF

Swear on my father's grave.

DAWN

Same. But not on my father's grave. On my mother's. Okay that didn't come out right.

(Beat)

I actually didn't swipe on you ... I mean, my friend did, for me.

Yousef reaches for her hand and grabs it, to calm her nerves.

YOUSEF

I get it. No need to explain. I'm glad you're here.

(Beat)

So you're a mom right?

DAWN

Yes. This is Charlie.

(showing a photo of  
Charlie)

You?

YOUSEF

Would love to be a parent someday. Life hasn't worked out for me that way. Was in a relationship with someone who didn't know if she wanted children or not. Finally I realized I did, so ... hence the dating app. Okay, that was awkward. Tell me about this art you make? I have a weak spot for artists.

Dawn and Yousef chat and get to know each other as PATRONS enter and exit the TEA ROOM. The energy between them electric and apparent. TIME PASSES.

59A

**EXT. MAIN STREET - PINK TEA ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

59A

Yousef and Dawn exit.

DAWN

I didn't expect this to be so fun.

YOUSEF

Me too. I'd like to see you again.

They laugh. She shakes her head no.

DAWN

I'd love that.

An awkward hug then as they turn to leave.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You know, I'm having a little gathering this weekend at my house. If you want to come, but no pressure.

Yousef smiles.

60           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY (WEEKS EARLIER)**           60

Golden light illuminates a dressed-up and dazzling Dawn as she chops FRESH PRODUCE from her garden for a SUMMER SALAD.

A HANDFUL OF FRIENDS arrive, being greeted by Victoria.

Dawn puts finishing touches on an EXTRAORDINARY SPREAD in the PATIO LIVING ROOM as they enter.

61           **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**           61

Everyone congregates around in awe.

Victoria holds up a WINE GLASS for a TOAST.

VICTORIA

To our brilliant friend on an incredible evening, with the most magnificent food. Thank you Dawn for spoiling us. Cheers!

GLASSES CLING.

FOOD disappears from off the table as HANDS grab bit by bit.

TIME PASSES ....

Having eaten, everyone sits back and drinks. Victoria passes a GOLDEN BLUNT around, along with OTHER FORMS OF CANNABIS.

DIMITRI

So Dawn, Victoria tells me you're an artist?

DAWN

Some would call it a professional student.

Laughter.

DIMITRI

At least you're honest.

VICTORIA

No, she's being modest.

DIMITRI

Sculpture? Watercolor?

DAWN

Mixed media, on canvas.

DIMITRI

Interesting. So this will become your career then, meaning this is how you'll make money? You'll be an artist.

DAWN

That's the idea, yes.

DIMITRI

My hat goes off to you. So few can pull that off right? Can't be easy.

She shakes her head no.

VICTORIA

Her work is unparalleled though. Revolutionary.

DIMITRI

Really. How so?

Victoria gives him the stink eye.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

I'm truly curious. What makes one person's art more important or profound than another? Or more valuable. I'd like to understand.

(to Dawn)

I don't think I've ever met an artist before. And may I ask, how do artists pay their bills in the interim? Surely not all of them are trust fund babies.

Laughter.

Just as Dawn is about to respond, Yousef interjects.

YOUSEF

An artist doesn't wake up one day and say "I shall be an artist." It happens to them slowly, over time. Like an uncontrollable urge -- an intense desire to express themselves in the same way many of us need oxygen to breathe. If they do not create they will surely suffocate. An artist's life is not something that is chosen, it's a life that chooses you.

VICTORIA

In short you're a douche for asking stupid questions.

DIMITRI

I genuinely want to understand!

Dawn leans over, secretly kissing Yousef on the neck.

As Victoria explains to Dimitri how Dawn survives and pays the bills, Yousef quietly leans back, kissing her.

Dawn taken back, the attraction strong.

YOUSEF

How do I earn a pass to the artist's studio?

Dawn smiles, taking his hand.

Everyone mingles and chills while Dawn and Yousef exit.

62

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - NEXT MOMENT**

62

Dawn and Yousef walk up. Yousef, struck by the space.

As he walks through, Dawn follows closely behind.

YOUSEF

Dawn, these are incredible.

She ignores him, going for another kiss.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)

Victoria is right.

(keenly interested)

How long have you been working on these?

DAWN

Years. Started them back before grad school. Figured going for my MFA was my best shot at breaking through, finding my voice, all that -- and finishing this collection.

Yousef continues walking through the different PIECES, pausing at one COVERED in CLOTH.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Not finished yet. I'd like to think it's my best work though.

Yousef steps closer then turns around to face her.

YOUSEF  
What makes it the best?

DAWN  
I suppose, because it translates  
what I'm trying to say, the most.

YOUSEF  
And what is that?

Dawn steps away.

DAWN  
That's for you, the audience, to  
decide, isn't it?

YOUSEF  
*You make me want to do things to  
you, things I can't say aloud.*

He kisses her again, with more force and passion than before.

INTENSITY FLOWS. Both wanting each other.

Kissing and petting turns into a need to lie down.

As Dawn steps backwards onto her COT --

DAWN  
Ouch.

YOUSEF  
I'm sorry, did I --

DAWN  
No, no it's not you.

She sits down to take a closer look.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Thought I stepped on something.

YOUSEF  
Here, let me see.

As Yousef examines her foot, finding nothing.

Then proceeds to *kiss it*.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)  
Better?



She nods. He continues kissing, along her leg ...  
Up her thigh, to her lips.

DAWN  
Much.

YOUSEF  
And what about this?

Yousef lifts up her SILK DRESS and begins *satisfying her*.

63

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER**

63

Victoria and Dimitri finish WASHING DISHES while the others listen to RECORDS in the living room.

Dawn and Yousef emerge, holding hands.

DIMITRI  
How was the walk?

YOUSEF  
The view, breathtaking.

Dimitri & Yousef join the others. Victoria pulls Dawn aside.

VICTORIA  
On a scale of one to ten?

DAWN  
Nine.

VICTORIA  
Stop.

Dawn blushes.

DAWN  
I really like him.

VICTORIA  
Your best score in years, maybe ever.

Dawn watches Yousef from a distance, enamored.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)  
You know him though? Like really know him?

DAWN

For sure. We talked non-stop for nearly three hours when we met up. I mean, that's not normal right?

VICTORIA

It's not and I trust your instincts. Just be careful love. You're new to this. Hard to spot the crazies.

DAWN

Of course.

Just then Dawn spots the DIAMOND NECKLACE around V's neck.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oh my, is that new?

VICTORIA

I've had it for months. I haven't showed it to you yet?

Dawn shakes her head no.

DAWN

Those endorsements are really picking up then, the influencer stuff is finally paying off?

Victoria nods.

DAWN (CONT'D)

V, that's incredible. Congrats! I'm so proud of you. You've been working so hard for this.

Dawn gives her friend a tight hug.

VICTORIA

Forget about me, I'm so happy for you!

DAWN

You were right. I needed this.

(Beat)

What can I say, I'm a girl who lives, breathes, and is satisfied by her apps.

VICTORIA

Fuck me, I'll say.

Victoria and Dawn grab their Wine Glasses and join the group.

Yousef enters the kitchen and twirls Dawn around.

**CUT TO:**

64      **EXT. CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - PRESENT MOMENT**      64

Charlie, in full mission mode, gives up trying to get ahold of his Mother on his iPad. Calling again and again.

NO ANSWER.

Finally, he decides to leave a message --

CHARLIE

Mom. Are you there? I know something isn't right.

(Beat)

Mom. I need you to call me back. Please. I love you.

CLICK.

Knowing for certain something is not right, he searches through his contacts, finding VICTORIA.

65      **INT. ST. TROPEZ - HOTEL ROOM - SAME MOMENT**      65

Resting on a SIDE TABLE, Victoria's PHONE RINGS as she BLOW DRIES her hair, not hearing Charlie's call. The PHONE rests next to VARIOUS ITEMS, including CANNABIS and BLUNTS.

But Charlie is relentless and *keeps calling*.

66      **EXT. CAMPGROUND - PARKING LOT - SAME MOMENT**      66

With trepidation in his voice Charlie leaves a message --

CHARLIE

V, my mom is not answering and I'm really worried about her. Something isn't right and my dad is too busy with his face stuck to his fiance to give a crap. Call me back, okay?

Just as Charlie hangs up, his Father approaches.

MATT

Time's up bud.

CHARLIE

But dad.

MATT  
You called her right?

He nods.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Well if she doesn't answer, she  
doesn't answer. I don't know what  
else to tell you.

CHARLIE  
You're wrong.

Kate approaches.

KATE  
What's this about?

Noticing Charlie holding his iPad, she sighs.

CHARLIE  
It's not like that. You wouldn't  
understand!

MATT  
Charlie.

CHARLIE  
But dad?! You're not listening to  
me.

MATT  
Enough. Back to the campsite.  
Device stays here.

Realizing he has no choice --

CHARLIE  
Fine.

Charlie sets the iPad down, downtrodden as he follows the  
annoying lovebirds back to the CAMPSITE.

As he walks away his eyes fall upon a KID (10) getting out of  
an UBER RIDE. A sign above reads SATURDAY ADVENTURE CAMP.

67 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - LATER (PRESENT MOMENT) 67**

Ants make their way closer to her as Dawn lies still.

**7 PM**

**SUPER: 32 HOURS**

Dawn stares at the ceiling in disbelief.

**CUT TO:**

68 **INT. ST. TROPEZ - HOTEL ROOM - NEXT MOMENT**

68

Ready to leave for dinner, Victoria picks up the phone to find Charlie's NUMEROUS TEXT MESSAGES and VOICEMAILS.

DIMITRI

What is it?

VICTORIA

It's Charlie. He thinks something is wrong with his Mom.

DIMITRI

Is everything okay?

VICTORIA

Not sure.

DIMITRI

I'll meet you down there?

Victoria nods, calling Dawn.

**CUT BACK TO:**

69 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - SAME MOMENT**

69

Dawn's LAND LINE PHONE rings.

DAWN

Yep, if anyone would like to come rescue me, now would be a good time!

Dawn's world begins to WARP and BEND visually.

70 **INT/EXT. ST. TROPEZ - HOTEL HALLWAY - SAME MOMENT**

70

As Victoria exits the room, calling Dawn, Dimitri's BODYGUARD nods for her to stop so he can frisk her.

VICTORIA

Seriously?

(into phone)

Pick up, pick up. Come on Dawn.



She laughs again. But Yousef remains firm.

DAWN  
Oh yeah, take me baby.

YOUSEF  
I will.

As he takes her, he grabs ahold of her neck.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)  
You like this?

Dawn nods as he takes her, both liking it --

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

Dawn works on FRAYING the ROPE.

DAWN  
For the love of gawd. I'll be dead  
before I finish.

YOUSEF  
Be quiet!

Just as she's about to break through one line of ROPE, Dawn  
REPLAYS THE MOMENT WITH YOUSEF.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)  
You make me want to do things to  
you --

Dawn yells out in *ecstasy* ... having her O.

And BREAKS THROUGH THE FIRST ROPE.

Yousef kisses her then gets up, walking to the bathroom as  
Dawn lies there, smiling.

FADE from her smile to where she is now ..

Same position, except her face is *stricken with fatigue*.

Entering a state of delirium, she talks to herself.

DAWN  
This is what you get for trying to  
be clever.

Losing a sense of reality ...

*Her world begins to spiral.*

Dehydration, imminent. Just then she pees herself.

DAWN (CONT'D)

At least you did one thing right --  
high thread count for the win!

She laughs at herself.

LAUGHS and LAUGHS.

But the laughter turns to FEAR and RAGE.

A TEAR streams down her face.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Stop. Crying. Do not deplete  
yourself of necessary fluids.

And eventually falls asleep.

74 **INT. CAMPGROUND - TENT - NIGHT**

74

Charlie lays in his SLEEPING BAG staring at the STARS through his tent window as quiet MURMERS and GIGGLES can be heard from Matt and Kate's tent, both thinking he is asleep.

He rolls his eyes and turns over.

KATE (O.S.)

Shhhh, we have to be quiet.

MATT (O.S.)

Alright, alright.

But Charlie can't sleep. *Thinking back.*

**CUT TO:**

75 **EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - DAY (CHARLIE'S FLASHBACK)**

75

SHOPPING BAGS in hand, Dawn kneels down, looking at him.

DAWN

If you're ever in trouble or need to get somewhere for whatever reason, use this app. It's for kids. Tap here. Click, order a ride. It'll charge to the card. A driver will come pick you up. These are safe drivers. Go ahead, you try.



He nods, ordering a ride.

DAWN (CONT'D)

See, the driver will be here in ten minutes.

CHARLIE

Really? Does this mean we get to go to New York and ride the subway now? Because I want to learn how to do that too.

DAWN

You betcha buddy.

Just then the Driver shows up. Dawn and Charlie get in.

**CUT BACK TO:**

76 **INT. CAMPGROUND - TENT - CONTINUOUS** 76

Charlie sets his ALARM and falls asleep.

Meanwhile ...

77 **INT. ST. TROPEZ - HOTEL - LOBBY - SAME MOMENT** 77

Following a WOMAN'S HIGH-HEELED RED SHOES with BOWS AFFIXED atop, we pan up to reveal Victoria dressed in JEANS as she rolls her LUGGAGE alongside her, ready to leave.

DIMITRI

We could be overreacting a little?

VICTORIA

She has no one else but me.

DIMITRI

And what if this is one big miscommunication?

VICTORIA

Yes, or no. You have to get back to work anyway.

(kissing him)

I'll see you stateside soon enough. It's not like her to ignore Charlie. Something is wrong.

Dimitri nods, watching her go.

He pulls out his PHONE and calls someone.

78

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - MORNING**

78

Dawn awakens. Her lips dry and purple.

**6 AM.**

**SUPER: 44 HOURS**

As she looks at the morning sunlight coming up over the horizon, she winces in pain.

SHOCKS OF PAIN, all over her body.

DAWN

Ouch.

Her vision blurry ...

Dehydration setting in.

Dawn tries to focus on where the pain is coming from.

Looking at her arm ...

She finds the culprit.

BLURRY at first but then finally coming into view --

*A RED ANT. BITING HER.*

DAWN (CONT'D)

No no no.

Her eyes scan the sheets.

Then realizes -- *the Peach Cobbler is the reason.*

*RED ANTS devouring the dish.*

DAWN (CONT'D)

Unbelievable.

Just then a VOICE is heard --

VOICE

Quite believable if you ask me.

Startled, Dawn looks over.

DAWN

Who's there?! Untie me.

In her STATE OF DILIRIUM --

Dawn finds a BLACK WOMAN sitting in a chair in the corner, flipping through a TRAVEL MAGAZINE.

Poised, strong and calculated, this is NAOMI SHEPPARD (35).

NAOMI

Untie you? And why would I do that?

**CUT TO:**

79

**EXT. COUNTRY HOME - GARDEN - DAY (MONTHS EARLIER)**

79

Dawn exits the back door carrying GARBAGE BAGS brim full.

DAWN

Have a great time.

GUESTS FROM INSIDE

Thanks Dawn!

As Dawn turns a corner, she runs into a WOMAN staring at her.

NAOMI

You want to tell me what's going on here?

DAWN

Pardon?

NAOMI

You live here, yes?

DAWN

I'm sorry, what's this about?

Dawn walks to her CAR to put the TRASH in her Trunk.

Naomi follows.

NAOMI

I'm looking for this man.

She holds up her Phone to reveal a PICTURE of Gabriel.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

My husband. I need to know if he's in your home. Right now.

DAWN

I'm not at liberty to say.

NAOMI

Is that so?

Dawn keeps busy, not knowing how to handle the situation.

DAWN

I don't know my guests personally.  
You are welcome to knock on the  
door and see if anyone answers? But  
I can't let you in if that's what  
you're asking.

NAOMI

You tell me if my husband is inside  
that house right fucking now or I  
will raise bloody hell on you and  
put this operation of yours out of  
business!

Gulp. Dawn plays it cool.

DAWN

I'm merely the host. I clean the  
house and leave the guests be. It's  
none of my business who stays here  
and why.

Dawn walks to the Car Door, readying to leave.

Naomi walks to the Front Door and KNOCKS SHARPLY.

NAOMI

Gabriel! Gabriel, I know you're in  
there! If you don't come out and  
face me like a man I'm gonna ...  
I'm gonna cut your balls off and  
thensome.

(Beat)

Gabriel!

Just then Naomi takes a rock and BREAKS a SIDE WINDOW!

Dawn shocked, remains calm. Heart racing.

Gabriel bursts out the Front Door.

GABRIEL

Have you lost your mind woman?!  
What the hell is wrong with you?  
Now we gotta pay for that.

NAOMI

This nice lady here told me I could  
knock on the door, and being that  
you didn't answer, I figured it was  
high time I let you know I was  
here. Now show me this bitch!

GABRIEL  
It's no one baby.

NAOMI  
Don't you dare call me baby. Who is  
it Gabriel!? You tell me right now  
or I'm gonna blow my top!

Just then she pulls out a GUN, pointing it at him.

GABRIEL  
Hang on a minute. No need to go  
crazy.

NAOMI  
Tell me now.

GABRIEL  
The truth is she ain't here.

NAOMI  
You're lying.

GABRIEL  
Come in, have a look around.

Naomi stares into him as he holds out his hand.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Hand it to me.

She reluctantly hands the Gun over then is allowed to enter.

As she looks around inside --

Gabriel eyes Dawn, not pleased.

NAOMI (O.S.)  
I'm gonna find you and when I do,  
you better hope to god I spare  
mercy on your soul!

Beat.

Naomi emerges, having not found anyone.

GABRIEL  
Told you.

Staring at him with blazing eyes --

NAOMI  
Get in the car Gabriel. Leave or  
I'm done with you.

But Gabriel remains firm.

**CUT TO:**

80 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (MONTHS BEFORE)** 80

Meanwhile Dawn enters through the back door, searching.

Finding GABRIEL'S LOVER (35) a good looking NON-BINARY MAN, hidden, shaking in fear.

The Lover is mortified but also relieved.

DAWN  
Come this way.

LOVER  
Oh Dawn, thank you!

He kisses her on the cheek and BOLTS.

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

NAOMI  
I mean it, or I'm done.

Holding the Gun, Gabriel thinks for a moment then does the unthinkable -- *puts it to his head*.

Naomi confused.

NAOMI (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

GABRIEL  
Leave or I swear, I'll do it.

Beat.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
I have nothing to say to you. If you don't leave, I guarantee you'll never see me again. If you love me, you'll go.

Gabriel cocks the Gun, threatening to do it.

Naomi thinks.

NAOMI  
Alright, calm down. I'm going.

Naomi walks backwards not wanting to upset him.



GABRIEL  
I needed you to protect us!

Gabriel holds up the Gun up, pointing it straight at her.

DAWN  
I did the best I could! I'm so  
sorry. I tried.

GABRIEL  
Well try harder!

She closes her eyes, bracing herself then ...

NOTHING. He is *gone*.

**CUT TO:**

83      **EXT. CAMPGROUND - TENT AREA - SAME MOMENT**      83

Charlie sneaks away, Kate and Matt asleep in their TENT.

84      **EXT. CAMPGROUND - MAIN ENTRANCE - NEXT MOMENT**      84

Charlie uses the RIDE SHARE APP, waiting for a ride.

CHARLIE  
Come on, come on.

He looks back to ensure no one is coming.

85      **EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - TOWNCAR - SAME MOMENT**      85

Victoria rushes out from the JET, getting into her TOWNCAR.

86      **EXT. CAMPGROUND - MAIN ENTRANCE - NEXT MOMENT**      86

The RIDESHARE DRIVER arrives. Charlie verifies the PLATE.

CHARLIE  
You April?

She nods. Charlie gets in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
Can you drive fast? I think my mom  
is in trouble.



87

**INT. CAMPGROUND - TENT AREA - DAY (LATER)**

87

Matt rummages through things, looking for any possible clue to where Charlie could be while Kate puts her shoes on.

MATT (O.S.)

Charlie! If this is some kind of prank, it's no longer funny. Where are you!?

KATE

(to herself)

If only.

Kate exits the tent, searching.

KATE (CONT'D)

Charlie!

She enters Charlie's tent then emerges holding a NOTE.

KATE (CONT'D)

Found this.

Kate hands Matt a HANDWRITTEN NOTE from Charlie.

*Don't worry Dad. I got a ride from this app. I needed to check on mom.*

*-Charlie*

MATT

A ride, where?

KATE

Let's pack everything up.

Kate hurries, gathering things.

KATE (CONT'D)

It's going to be alright, he's going to be okay.

MATT

And how the hell does a kid know how to order a ride?

**CUT BACK TO:**

88

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (PRESENT MOMENT)** 88

Dawn's world continues to warp and turn.

More RED ANTS CRAWLING ON HER NOW.

Downtrodden and feeling powerless, she notices Dr. Walter affixing a SMALL CAMERA in the corner of the room.

DR. WALTER

How could you forget about me Dawn?

DAWN

Never.

**CUT TO:**

89           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - DAY (MONTHS BEFORE)**           89

Dawn reaches into her HIDING SPOT and pulls out her BOX OF BLUNTS. A PHOTO falls to the floor of her and Victoria traveling. She sighs at her old life and shoves it way. The other BOX OF BLUNTS resting beneath it.

She grabs her things to PAINT OUTSIDE and heads down the stairs.

90           **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BACKYARD - LARGE TREE - DAY (MONTHS BEFORE)**           90

Dawn sits under a LARGE TREE with EASEL and CANVAS.

As she works on her latest piece, BIRDS CHIRP nearby.

SUNLIGHT cascades across her face, the view INVIGORATING.

Suddenly a voice is heard ... A WOMAN YELLING.

Dawn, focused on her piece, doesn't turn to look while smoking her Blunt.

The SOUND increases ...

ANOTHER WOMAN joins in the YELLING.

TWO WOMEN

Ahhhhhhhh!

The SOUND OF both of them getting closer.

Dawn finally pauses to look.

90A **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS (MONTHS BEFORE)** 90A

And finds TWO WOMEN, dressed in SILLY FOX OUTFITS, running for their lives across the vast field.

DAWN

Lovely.

Dawn chooses to ignore the fiasco and keeps working.

The TWO WOMEN do not see her or realize she is there.

TWO WOMEN

Ahhhhhhh!!!

The YELLING turns to SCREAMING. MERELY A GAME.

Finally conceding, Dawn sets down her Brush and grabs her Binoculars from out of her BASKET BAG.

Then ducks behind TREE BRANCHES hanging low to secretly watch. The TWO WOMEN, closer now, keep running IN TERROR ...

As if their lives depended on it.

Through the Binoculars, Dawn spots Dr. Walter walking towards them *dressed like a HUNTER, reminscent of Elmer Fudd.*

*His weapon -- A HIGH SPEED NURF GUN.*

Dawn can't help but giggle.

She looks back at the Women, realizing they're dressed in COSTUMES from a Halloween Store.

Then back at Walter, the HUNTER, doting his NURF GUNS.

He preps the GUNS and FIRES!

DAWN

Is it Wabbit season Dr. Walter?

DR. WALTER

Calm down my little beasts!

The Women look back, one pretending to be in fear.

The OTHER, annoyed and tired of the game, pulls out a CIGARETTE from under her furry bottom and LIGHTS IT.

DR. WALTER (CONT'D)

Hello there Dawn! It is Wabbit season, yes!

(MORE)

DR. WALTER (CONT'D)

Which is perhaps why our supplier  
was out of bunny costumes. We'll  
just have to make due with foxes!

Dawn shakes her head in disbelief, as she watches the Younger  
Woman/Girlfriend trips and falls on purpose.

SHE BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER, having a good time.

Struggling to gain her footing --

The Hunter catches her.

Grabbing her by the feet, he pulls her towards him.

Then sits on top of her, straddling her --

Pulling out a *ROPE*, he ties her up tight.

Dawn realizes the YOUNGER WOMAN/GIRLFRIEND really *likes it*.

YOUNGER WOMAN

Tighter!

DAWN

Wow.

The Older Woman/MRS. WALTER, has her face-planted to the  
grass, waiting to be tied up.

Just then she spots Dawn, *making eye contact*.

YOUNGER WOMAN

Don't hurt us. We will do whatever  
you say!

DR. WALTER

That would be cheating. You have to  
read my mind.

As he walks them back, both tied, his Wife looks back at Dawn  
one more time then spanks the girlfriend, *HARD*.

YOUNGER WOMAN

Ouch!

He bursts into laughter

DR. WALTER

God you are good!

Then kisses his wife *PASSIONATELY*, clearly the love of his  
life.

Under his protective arm, the couple walk back to the house, while the YOUNGER WOMAN/Girlfriend hops along, her hands and feet still loosely bound.

Dawn smiles, shaking her head at the scene having just played before her.

Then resumes back to work, smoking and creating.

**CUT BACK TO:**

91 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (PRESENT MOMENT) 91**

Dawn giggles with delight. Yousef nuzzles into her neck with adoration and warmth, kissing her many times over.

Looking into her eyes.

YOUSEF

You know what I love most about you?

(Beat)

Your warmth. Your brilliance. The fact you are a mother.

DAWN

Keep talking.

(Beat)

And where did I find you again?

YOUSEF

On a device.

They laugh. Just then another MAN'S VOICE is heard --

MAN'S VOICE

Excuse me? Who is this, in our bed Dawn?

YOUSEF

Dawn?

Dawn looks over to find Matt lying on the other side of her.

MATT

Spoiler alert. You'll never be able to get rid of me.

DAWN

Get out of here Matt.

MATT

(in a drunken stupor)

Wanted to remind you, the reason this is happening to you is because you put your artistic endeavors and career first. Above me and your son. You're the reason our marriage failed.

DAWN

I said get out!

But Matt doesn't leave. He gets up from the bed and walks over to grab an EMPTY WHISKEY GLASS with a SQUARE ICE CUBE inside it, resting on the FIREPLACE MANTLE.

As he paces, he slowly sips from the EMPTY glass ...

MATT

(drunken stupor)

You're the one who decided to have dreams and goals. Didn't you know you can't have it all? Shame on you Dawn.

Except instead of the GLASS disappearing with WHISKEY, *the GLASS becomes progressively filled with WHISKEY.*

As he touches his LIPS to the GLASS, it continually fills up with liquid, his persona becoming *more and more SOBER.*

SCRUFF and SUNKEN EYES turn to CLEAN SHAVEN and GLOWING.

MATT (CONT'D)

No. I'm not leaving until you understand what you did to me.

(sipping)

You made me doubt everything I knew about myself. I lost myself in you, in this ideal that I would never live up to. You set me up to fail. I need you to understand Dawn -- *I survived you.* I picked myself up from the ashes you put me in, and I survived. I managed to find me again. The real me. When I look back on our time together, and as much as it kills me, as much as I wish I could take it all back, I know I *had* to move on from you -- for my sake, for Charlie's sake and most of all -- for yours. *I had to let you go Dawn.*

Fighting back watery eyes, and fully sober with a clean demeanor, he sets down the FULL GLASS and exits.

DAWN

I know Matt. I see it clearly now.  
I'm so sorry. Please come back!

YOUSEF

Dawn, listen to me. Eyes on me.

She looks back over at Yousef.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)

You are in control of your  
happiness. Do not allow regrets to  
come in here.

Just then Matt turns back around --

He grabs the FULL WHISKEY GLASS and THROWS it into the  
FIREPLACE -- EXPLOSIVE!

MATT

Says the idealistic fool with no  
merit or skills. You know he's  
using you right? He's got you  
whooped on him so he can take your  
most prized possession.

(to Yousef)

You're a hack. An utter ha--

POW!

She opens her eyes to find Matt not there.

Nor Yousef.

Only the Intruder on top of her.

DAWN

Open your eyes you coward!

But the Intruder ignores her as he continues tying her up.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I said open your eyes dammit!

Just then he OPENS THEM.

*Crystal blue.*

Then is gone.

Dawn AWAKENS from her **bad dream.**

Sweating.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Those eyes.

Angered, she holds back tears. The agony, killing her.  
She thinks of the RAINBOW OF POLAROIDS of previous Guests.

**CUT TO:**

92

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (MONTHS EARLIER)** 92

Standing in the living room, she watches VARIOUS GROUPS of GUESTS, having made memories in her home:

- A GROUP OF BRIDESMAIDS party and drink CHAMPAGNE.
- A TECH START-UP GROUP brainstorms on a WHITE BOARD.
- A FAMILY dances and PLAYS INSTRUMENTS.
- A POPULAR SONGWRITER/ARTIST strums on his GUITAR, exploring a new sound, mixing between pop & country.
- A SUMMER GATHERING, the one Dawn hosted earlier.

**REPLAYING THE SCENE AGAIN**

FRIENDS listen to Records in the Living Room while she and Victoria talk in the kitchen. (From a different angle.)

Dawn watches more closely this time ...

*Yousef stares at his Phone, texting intently. Who is it?*

Victoria joins Dimitri in the Living Room, sitting on his lap, whispering in his ear, flirtatiously.

Dawn watches them, reading their lips.

VICTORIA  
What do you think?

DIMITRI  
Not sure. I don't trust him.

Yousef enters the kitchen, twirling Dawn around.

Dawn looks into his eyes, this time more speculatively.

Her ears RING with an ALARMING SOUND, a feeling of doubt.



His eyes turn from Hazel, to black, to CRYSTAL BLUE.

YOUSEF  
Something wrong?

**CUT BACK TO:**

93 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY (PRESENT MOMENT)** 93

Pulled from her vision --

RAMONA  
You seriously don't have a god damn  
light in here?

Ramona rummages through things, searching for a LIGHTER.

DAWN  
Ramona. If you have time to find a  
light, you have time to untie me.

RAMONA  
Not for your ass I don't. After  
what you put me through? Fuck that.  
You can rot in here and die.

Ramona lights up, SMOKING a ROSE PETAL BLUNT.

RAMONA (CONT'D)  
I'd offer you one but you're sort  
of tied up at the moment.

And laughs.

DAWN  
You're right. I should have never  
called it in. As women we need to  
stick together.

Inhaling, Ramona watches her.

SMOKE FILLS THE ROOM.

RAMONA  
I was a good paying customer too.

DAWN  
You were and I messed up. I'm sorry  
okay?

RAMONA

I thought you were helping me and I was helping you, we were helping each other, ya know?

DAWN

I was, we are. Which is why I need your help.

RAMONA

How much longer do you think you will last? Two more days? One? What a fucking tragedy. Maybe your art will be worth more now. That could be a plus.

Before Dawn can respond, Ramona is gone.

Just as Dawn ponders her comment, she turns to find Dr. Walter on the other side of the room.

DR. WALTER

Told you I don't bite.

DAWN

You. Why did you do this to me?

Dr. Walter smiles, looking up at the corner of the room.

Dawn follows his eyes to where he is looking.

Either she is imagining it or CAMERAS are pointing DOWN AT HER, watching her as if she were in her own TRUMAN SHOW.

DR. WALTER

From the moment I met you this is all I wanted. This is what you get for rejecting me Dawn.

Dr. Walter gets closer ...

Caressing her as if she were a DOLL. BREATHING HER IN.

Then THWACK!

Walter FALLS TO THE FLOOR after being HIT on the HEAD.

PROFESSOR MEAD

Touch her again and I will beat you to a pulp.

DAWN

Professor Mead! I knew you'd come!

PROFESSOR MEAD  
How long have you been here like  
this?

He unties her feet in a frenzy.

DAWN  
Not sure. Two days.

Suddenly he stops.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
What is it?

PROFESSOR MEAD  
(to himself)  
What am I doing?

DAWN  
Professor. Untie me.

He steps back.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
What's going on?

PROFESSOR MEAD  
I have to do what's best for me  
Dawn. And what's best for me may  
not be what's best for you.

DAWN  
What? Don't say things like that.  
Please.

She realizes.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
No one will believe it's your work!  
Everyone will wonder if it was  
mine!

PROFESSOR MEAD  
Not if I wait years to release. No  
one will ever know.

Just then Kate enters.

KATE  
And I can be Charlie's mother.  
Someone who isn't wrapped up in her  
work, who wants to build a family,  
who will love Matt unconditionally.

DAWN

Charlie is my family! And I loved  
Matt. I gave him everything I had.

MATT

(to Kate)

I'm so glad I found you. After she  
goes we can finally be a real  
family.

DAWN

If you truly cared about Charlie,  
you would care about his mother.  
You would care about me!

Everyone in the ROOM argues over whether or not Dawn should  
live or die as the world SPINS out of control.

**Gabriel, The Lover, Naomi, Yousef, Professor Mead.**

**Matt, Kate, Dr. Walter with his Wife and Ramona.**

A reflection of what is going on in Dawn's mind.

She looks down at the at the RED ANTS --

CRAWLING EVERYWHERE on her now.

Just then one CRAWLS near her nose, about to enter her  
NOSTRIL. She winces in fear.

THE ANT ENTERS, *disappearing*.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Ahhhhhhh!!

BUT NOT.

Only in her mind. GONE NOW.

A SOUND from the FRONT DOOR --

DAWN (CONT'D)

Everyone shut up!

Dawn quickly looks over to find ...

The KNOB TURNING.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Someone there?! Help!

PETE (O.S.)

Dawn? Are you okay?

DAWN

Oh Pete. Back here! Hurry!

Just then the SOUND OF A SCUFFLE outside...

Dawn tries to decipher what is going on.

Then a THUMP.

A BODY falls to the ground.

Voices of TWO MEN --

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)

Where the hell did he come from?

INTRUDER 2 (O.S.)

Hell if I know.

(noticing him cleaning off  
his sneakers)

And you just had to wear those  
today.

INTRUDER 1

Yeah I did. I always wear these on  
lucky days. Is he dead?

INTRUDER 2

No he's not dead. Shut up and help  
me. You're an idiot you know that?

The TWO MEN drag Pete's limp body inside.

INTRUDER 1

You're an idiot for not having shoe  
game.

INTRUDER 2

At least I don't blow money on  
things that don't have a return.  
Let's find the loot and get out of  
here alright?

INTRUDER 1

I'm telling you, I've looked  
everywhere for it. It ain't here.  
Shoe game provides a great return,  
it's called getting laid.

Dawn recognizes the voices, remembering back ...

**CUT TO:**

94           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY (3 DAYS PRIOR)**           94

TWHACK!!!

She falls to the floor ...

This time we see the TWO MEN clearly.

*The same men in her Living Room, wearing MASKS.*

**CUT BACK TO:**

95           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - HALLWAY AREA - DAY (PRESENT MOMENT)**           95

Pete remains passed out on the floor.

INTRUDER #1

Did you hear that?

Intruder 2 shrugs.

Intruder 1 walks to the Master Bedroom to find ...

DAWN.

DAWN

Help, please.

INTRUDER 1

Holy fuck! Why the hell is a woman  
tied up in here?

Meanwhile ...

96           **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS**           96

Charlie arrives, thanking the Driver.

Finding courage, he walks up to the Front Door.

97           **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**           97

Both Intruders stare at Dawn.

INTRUDER 1

Wait a second. She was here when  
...

Just then a KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

INTRUDER 2  
Now who the fuck is that?

Intruder 1 shrugs, confused.

Intruder 2 takes off his Mask to answer.

Intruder 1 keeps thinking.

*As Dawn is about to YELL OUT FOR HELP she pauses after hearing --*

98 **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY**

98

Intruder 2, hair disheveled, opens the door to find --

INTRUDER 2  
What do you want kid?

CHARLIE  
Don't mean to interrupt your stay  
sir. Just wanted to check and see  
if you've heard from the host?

99 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - SAME MOMENT**

99

Dawn BREATHES IN. Just as she's about to SCREAM for help --

ALL SOUNDS DROP OUT.

ONLY THE ***POUNDING OF HER CHEST.***

DAWN  
Charlie.

She SHUTS HER MOUTH TIGHTLY to remain utterly silent.

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

INTRUDER 2  
Other than check-in, haven't heard  
a peep.

CHARLIE  
I was supposed to get the trash a  
couple days ago. Mind if I come in  
and grab it? The place can start to  
smell real bad if I don't.

INTRUDER 2  
We got a lot of shit we gotta do so  
why don't you come back --

But Charlie pushes through the door, letting himself in.

CHARLIE

I'll be fast. Don't get paid unless  
I do. You know what I mean?

As he enters Charlie notices his MOTHER'S BAG lying on the floor, her PHONE DEAD, resting nearby.

**Continuing CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

She keeps calm, *immovable*.

A LARGE TEAR BEGINS TO FALL.

A mother's love, UNPARALLELED.

Charlie heads to the kitchen, grabbing the GARBAGE.

He looks around, assessing.

Everything in complete DISARRAY.

Walking by his Mother's Bedroom ...

Intruder 2 watches Charlie like a hawk.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I usually change out the garbage in  
there too.

INTRUDER 2

No can do kid. Sorry, private  
stuff.

Charlie eyes the shadow of Intruder 1 underneath the door.

*A hunch his Mother is in the room -- he can feel her.*

Intruder 2 walks Charlie to the Front Door.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

*She stares into space.*

100

**EXT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS**

100

The DOOR SLAMS behind Charlie. He flinches.

His *heart races*, knowing his Mother is in grave DANGER.

Charlie walks up the gravel drive to pretend he's leaving.



Once out of sight he hustles back, hiding behind the house.

INTRUDER 1  
Who was that?

INTRUDER 2  
(looking out the window)  
Some dumb kid. Waiting for him to  
scram.

INTRUDER 1  
What the hell are we gonna do with  
her?

INTRUDER 2  
Beat the shit out of her until she  
tells us where the loot is.

Intruder 1 GULPS.

Just then a CELL PHONE rings. Intruder 2 answers.

INTRUDER 2 (CONT'D)  
We're here now.

Meanwhile Intruder 1 REPLAYS what happened THREE DAYS AGO.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK from DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**

101     **INT. COUNTRY HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY (3 DAYS AGO)**                     101

Dawn, knocked out cold, lies on the floor while Intruder 1  
ransacks everything, searching for the LOOT.

Meanwhile ...

102     **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**                     102

Intruder 2 picks up Dawn, passed out, setting her on the bed.

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)  
I'm not finding shit!

INTRUDER 2  
Me neither.

Intruder 2 searches frantically, KNOCKING over a PLANT.

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)  
Let's look upstairs.

INTRUDER 2  
Gimme a minute.

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)  
Hurry up!

102A     **INT. COUNTRY HOME - CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**     102A

Intruder 1 ransacks BEDROOMS upstairs.

Intruder 2 grabs the MACRAME above the bed, rips it apart with a KNIFE, then ties Dawn up tightly.

103     **INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS**     103

The TWO MEN exit, shutting the door.

INTRUDER 1  
The boss has other places he wants us to check.

INTRUDER 2  
Fine. Let's go.

**END FLASHBACK.**

104     **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - PRESENT MOMENT**     104

Intruder 2 hangs up the Phone then walks in to find --

INTRUDER 1  
I didn't sign up for this you bastard!

INTRUDER 2  
Calm the fuck down alright.

INTRUDER 1  
Oh my god, what did you do?!

Intruder 2 walks towards him ... knowing he's been caught.

INTRUDER 2  
Nothing. You're a little bitch, you know that?

Then lunges forward as if to SCARE HIM but then --

BANG!

Intruder 2 FIRES --

Hitting his partner in the FOOT!

INTRUDER 1  
Ahhhh!! My foot!! My shoe!!

Stunned, Intruder 2 looks over at Dawn.

They both watch as he huddles in AGONY, holding his foot.

INTRUDER 1 (CONT'D)  
What the hell did you do that for?!

DAWN  
Untie me, and I'll show you where  
the loot is.

Untying her with a SWISS ARMY KNIFE, they both look over as  
his partner PASSES OUT.

Once released, she stumbles out of bed --

105     **INT. COUNTRY HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

105

To the faucet.

GULP, GULP, GULP.

Dawn drinks WATER, her **THIRST** finally quenched.

Intruder 2 watches on, firmly pointing the Gun at her.

INTRUDER 2  
Don't you dare play me.

DAWN  
This way. I'll show you.

She looks at him specuatively, through the DARK MASK, knowing  
him from somewhere but unable to place it.

He follows her out the back door --

106     **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS**

106

Having no idea where the "LOOT" is, Dawn eyes the PRUNING  
SHEERS resting against the house, along the BRICK PATH --  
exactly where she left them.

Dawn can feel Charlie nearby ...

Intruder 2 walks behind her with suspicion.

INTRUDER 2

Where the hell are we going?!

DAWN

Over here.

Dawn keeps walking, spotting Charlie up in the TREE.

Just then she grabs the SHEERS and --

With all her might SHE SWINGS --

SMACKING him right in the face!!

Stumbling back, he finds his balance lunges at her but is interrupted by Charlie --

CHARLIE

Don't you dare!

Jumping out of the tree, KNOCKING HIM OUT COLD.

DAWN

Charlie!

Dawn runs over, holding Charlie.

They look back at the Intruder, his face still covered and KNOCKED OUT COLD.

From inside the house --

INTRUDER 1

Somebody! Help?!

Dawn and Charlie hug, relieved it's over.

CHARLIE

I knew something wasn't right.

DAWN

Oh bud, come here. I love you.

107

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - GREAT LIVING ROOM - LATER**

107

Night falls as POLICE and PARAMEDICS arrive.

Dawn and Charlie, wrapped in blankets, look up to find Victoria arriving.

VICTORIA

Are you two okay?! I got here as soon as I could.

She hugs them both tightly.

Detective Wiseman kneels down, looking at Dawn.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

I know it's a lot for you to process right now but do you have any idea who may have done this to you?

DAWN

A few ideas, yes.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

We will get to the bottom of this.

Just then Dawn notices Intruder 2 being WHEELED out on a STRETCHER. Detective Newheart notices her staring over.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN (CONT'D)

(to his guys)

Wait.

Detective Wiseman pulls his MASK down, revealing his face.

Dawn stares into his eyes --

*CRYSTAL BLUE.*

DETECTIVE WISEMAN (CONT'D)

Know him?

Dawn shakes her head no.

Just then Matt and Kate arrive, frazzled.

MATT

Are you alright?!

KATE

I can't believe this happened?!

DAWN

Charlie. He's my hero.

Matt and Kate look at her in shock.

CHARLIE

Maybe I'm the man of the house after all, huh mom?

Dawn hugs him tightly, kissing him on the head.

Matt holds him too.

An OFFICER whispers something to Detective Wisemen.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

Sorry to interrupt. Dawn, since your home is an active crime scene right now we'll need to relocate you --

KATE

She can stay with us.

Matt looks at Kate, surprised. Charlie as well.

MATT

Yes. She'll be in good hands with us.

Dawn looks at Victoria for approval. Victoria not pleased.

**CUT TO:**

108

**INT. MATT AND KATE'S TOWNHOME - BATHROOM - LATER**

108

Dawn runs a HOT BATH, undresses, and gets in.

As she sinks into the water, she thinks.

FLASHES of the TORTURE she endured enter her mind, like a terrible dream.

She shakes the feeling.

Then REPLAYS THE POSSIBLE SUSPECTS.

-- Ramona, *her piercing eyes.*

-- Dr. Walter, *smelling of her scent.*

-- Gabriel, *his verbal threat.*

-- Professor Mead, *his envious remark.*

-- Matt, *his lamenting for a clean slate.*

-- *And one suspect Dawn nearly forgot ...*

Just then a KNOCK at the door --

KATE (O.S.)

Don't mean to intrude but I forgot to set out fresh towels.

Dawn hesitates.

DAWN

Come in.

Kate enters, closing the door after her.

Dawn, hiding her nervousness, looks for a nearby weapon. A SMALL TABLE sits next to her with a CANDLE BURNING BRIGHT.

KATE

Here you go.

(Beat)

Dawn, I need to come clean about something.

Dawn, taken back, watches Kate kneel down beside her, noticing something at her side ...

*HIDING SOMETHING.*

KATE (CONT'D)

Ever since I met you I wanted to prove to Matt that I could be the partner he didn't know he needed, the one he never had.

She quickly eyes the PUDDLE OF HOT WAX from the CANDLE.

KATE (CONT'D)

Never did I think I would have to deal with someone like you. Someone I would be genuinely jealous of. Jealous of the fact you had this passion, this freedom, to be whoever you wanted, to live by your own rules. I never had that. Or allowed myself to have that.

Dawn nods, eyeing the RAZOR.

KATE (CONT'D)

Which is why I decided --

Dawn readies herself to retaliate.

KATE (CONT'D)

To make you this.

Kate holds up a less than perfect HIP BELT.

KATE (CONT'D)

A custom brush holder. To hold your brushes.

DAWN

Oh I see!

Kate leans over, hugging Dawn in the bath, getting wet.

KATE

I need to apologize for being an absolute pain. Will you ever forgive me?

DAWN

No apology necessary. And thank you for this. I know you'll be a great "other mom" to Charlie too Kate. I'm happy Matt found you.

KATE

Really? That means so much to hear you say that!

(BEAT)

Who knows, maybe we can be like sisters.

DAWN

Who knows.

KATE

Thank god you survived. That would have sucked if you had died.

Kate gets up to leave, smiling as she exits.

**SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER**

108A

**INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - EVENING/OR NIGHT**

108A

Dawn, dressed in HEELS and STYLISH COAT, stands looking out at her EMPTIED STUDIO, her pieces no longer there.

She sighs, thinking. A NEW CHAPTER.

From outside --

VICTORIA

You ready babe?! Come on, we don't want to be late!

DAWN

Yeah, coming!

Dawn quickly grabs a GOLDEN BLUNT from their secret stash and slips it in her POCKET, exiting downstairs.



109

**INT/EXT. GALLERY - MAIN AREA - NIGHT**

109

PATRONS flock to enter a MODERN ECLECTIC BUILDING.

A sign reads, "OPENING NIGHT :: ARTIST, DAWN VAN BROCKLIN".

Inside PATRONS mingle and DRINK.

PROFESSOR MEAD

I want to thank everyone for being here tonight. I've known Dawn for nearly five years and during this time I've witnessed her blossom into an incredible talent with a unique voice.

As Professor Mead speaks, we float through the space, showcasing nearly a DOZEN of Dawn's PIECES.

-- BOLD

-- DARING

-- ORIGINAL

PROFESSOR MEAD (CONT'D)

Thank you Dawn for choosing me as your mentor and choosing this program. We look forward to seeing more impressive work from you over the coming years -- and if you all were smart, you'd purchase one of her pieces tonight.

(laughter)

Dawn Van Brocklin everyone!

APPLAUSE.

Dawn emerges, glowing.

Matt, Kate, Charlie, Victoria and Yousef watch on, smiling with pride.

DAWN

Thank you Professor Mead for guiding me along when at times I'm sure you wondered.

(Laughter)

My dear friends and family, thank you for being here and supporting me over the years. I have one more piece I want to present, the final one to add to this collection --

Covered in CLOTH on the WALL BEHIND HER --

DAWN (CONT'D)  
I didn't know what to call it,  
until recently.

The CLOTH is pulled away to reveal a BRIGHT & COLORFUL PIECE.  
APPLAUSE.

The title reads, "THIRST".

As Professor Mead congratulates her, he notices a familiar  
face walking towards them.

PROFESSOR MEAD  
Dawn this is Gus, one of the buyers  
here tonight.

GUS JACOBS (40's) a smart and savvy buyer with laser focus.

GUS  
Exquisite work Dawn. I'd like to  
make an offer on THIRST -- we'd  
like to mass produce it on a larger  
scale. I hope you will consider.

DAWN  
Of course, absolutely. Thank you.

GUS  
Great. I'll be in touch with you  
this week to work out a deal.  
Again, congratulations.

Professor Mead smiles proudly as he walks Gus out.

Dawn, baffled, turns to find --

VICTORIA  
Babe, you killed it!

DAWN  
I can't tell if people are  
genuinely intrigued or merely being  
nice.

VICTORIA  
They're more than intrigued.  
They're buying.

DAWN  
Can't wait to get out of here and  
party with you.

VICTORIA

Me too. I gotta run back to the house real quick and grab something I forgot. Meet you over there?

DAWN

Yeah, sure.

VICTORIA

Love you. So proud!

Dawn watches Victoria leave as Matt and Kate approach. Yousef stands next to Dawn.

MATT

Gotta admit it, you have a job -- and your job is doing *this*.

DAWN

Thank you Matt. Thank you both for being here.

Just then Dawn notices Kate's RING FINGER SPARKLING.

HER LARGE DIAMOND apparent under the light.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Wait, is that --

KATE

Matt did a great job didn't he? I honestly can't stop looking at it.

MATT

Thanks to Victoria really.

Dawn looks at him inquisitively.

MATT (CONT'D)

You know, that side hustle she's got going on.

Matt holds out his PHONE, showing an INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT filled with IMAGES OF DIAMONDS. NUMEROUS IMAGES reveal NO FACES or IDENTITIES, only Victoria's hands and body selling DIAMONDS.

DAWN

You're kidding.

MATT

I just wrote the check and she delivered. One hundred percent authenticated too.

Dawn looks at the door Victoria exited, remembering back ...

**CUT TO:**

**MOMENTS BEFORE ...**

**VICTORIA**

I gotta run back to the house real quick and grab something I forgot.

**CUT BACK TO:**

110 **INT. GALLERY - MAIN AREA - NIGHT**

110

Patrons approach Dawn, wanting to talk to her.

**KATE**

We're so proud. Charlie is one lucky kid to have you as a mom.

A Young Artist approaches, eager to meet Dawn.

**YOUNG ARTIST**

I just wanted to say how much I admire you and your work, and that you're a huge inspiration to me.

As Kate and Matt mingle with others, voices become INAUDIBLE.

Her mind RACING.

*Thinking.*

She looks over at the THIRST piece.

Clues RACE THROUGH HER MIND LIKE A MOVIE IN FAST FORWARD.

Then back at the door where Victoria exited.

110A **EXT. GALLERY - NEAR EXIT - NEXT MOMENT**

110A

Dawn gets into her car, quietly driving away as she spots Victoria still waiting on the curb for her UBER to arrive.

As she watches her, she makes a call --

**DAWN**

Can you meet me at my house? I think I found something.

**CUT TO:**

111 INT/EXT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

111

The room sits quietly in the dark.

Victoria uses a KEY to unlock the Door and enters.

She turns on the light, startled to find ...

**Dawn sitting there, alone in the corner.**

VICTORIA

Dawn, you scared me. What are you doing here?

DAWN

Better question is, what are you doing here?

VICTORIA

Looking for my earrings I left here a long time ago. I keep forgetting about them. So random, I know.

DAWN

You drove thirty minutes, out of your way, on my opening night, to find some random earrings? What happened to not feeling well and going straight to bed?

Victoria spots a GUN resting near her.

VICTORIA

Dawn, I didn't mean for any of this to happen. I never meant for you to get mixed up in all this.

DAWN

Mixed up in what exactly?

Victoria hesitates, realizing she might be in a TRAP.

**CUT TO:**

112 INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

112

Victoria changes gears.

VICTORIA

Nothing. Like I said --

DAWN

Took me minute. But it all clicked  
in place once I figured out what I  
had stepped on.

Victoria fumbles her way to the Couch sitting down.

GULP.

VICTORIA

Stepped on? Let's not jump to any  
conclusions here Dawn.

DAWN

No conclusions. Just the facts.

**CUT TO:**

113      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**      113

Dawn and Yousef walk in, looking around.

DAWN (V.O.)

Remember when I took Yousef to the  
studio for the first time?

Dawn steps back, her foot stepping on something.

DAWN (V.O.)

Thought I stepped on a rock or a  
piece of glass. Hurt like a bitch.

**CUT BACK TO:**

114      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**      114

Victoria listens nervously.

DAWN

Couldn't find the damn thing until  
tonight.

**CUT TO:**

115      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - EARLIER THAT NIGHT**      115

Dawn gets down on her hands and knees with a FLASHLIGHT,  
running her hand along the floor, finding nothing.

She reaches further back, under the COT, FINDING IT.

DAWN (V.O.)  
T'was a rock alright.

*She rubs the BLACK SOOT off and discovers a SINGLE DIAMOND, SPARKLING in the LIGHT.*

**CUT BACK TO:**

116 **INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM**

116

Victoria shifts in her seat.

VICTORIA  
And what does this have to do with me? I came here to find my earrings. I told you.

DAWN  
Then there was that time we came back from Cape Town. You remember?

**CUT TO:**

117 **INT. AIRPORT TARMAC - PRIVATE JET - FLASHBACK**

117

Victoria and Dawn prepare to exit the plane, BAGS in hand.

VICTORIA  
Hey babe, do you mind holding this for me? Not in the mood to be hassled today.

DAWN  
Sure.

Victoria hands Dawn a LEATHER CASE, similar in design to a COSMETICS CASE. Dawn quickly slips it in her TRAVEL BAG.

TWO CUSTOM'S AGENTS approach, not noticing.

AGENT 1 inspects Victoria's TRAVEL BAGS closely while AGENT 2 checks Dawn's, less concerned.

Just then AGENT 2 finds the COSMETICS BAG and motions Dawn to open it. She does, revealing MAKE-UP BRUSHES inside --

A moment.

He finds nothing then walks away.

Dawn quickly UNZIPS the HIDDEN COMPARTMENT, finding THREE GOLDEN BLUNTS tucked inside. She tucks them back in and zips it closed, placing it back in her TRAVEL BAG.

She looks over to discover Victoria, having passed the test but now gone. Her eyes search for her.

DAWN (V.O.)  
 We used to travel all the time together. I thought it was because you loved being with me and the friendship we shared.

Dawn walks over to the TOWNCAR where a DRIVER opens the TRUNK to load her LUGGAGE. As he loads them Dawn looks over at the HANGAR. From a distance she sees a MAN with VICTORIA.

DAWN (V.O.)  
 I realize now it was merely to use me, as your mule.

Victoria deflects, ignoring her theory.

VICTORIA (V.O.)  
 Don't be ridiculous.

Dawn finishes loading her things, wondering what Victoria is doing. Victoria enters a RESTROOM as the MAN walks away, to his SPORTS CAR. Just as he's about to get in, and before he places his SUNGLASSES ON -- he makes EYE CONTACT with Dawn.

***The MAN with CRYSTAL EYES.***

Then gets in his car and speeds away.

Victoria exits the bathroom, walking towards Dawn.

VICTORIA  
 Gawd, I had to pee so bad!

Dawn hands her the LEATHER CASE.

Victoria puts it in her Bag.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)  
 Thanks for doing that. My penance for traveling too much I guess. They're onto me. Champagne time?

Dawn nods, as they climb into the TOWNCAR.

**CUT BACK TO:**



118      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT**      118

Victoria scared shitless.

DAWN

I see it all clearly now.

**CUT TO:**

119      **INT. AIRPORT HANGAR - RESTROOM AREA - NEXT MOMENT**      119

Victoria meets the man with CRYSTAL EYES (aka Intruder 2) near the restroom.

VICTORIA

Really unnecessary, and is starting to get old.

MAN

Boss's orders.

Looking at her with dismay, she opens her TRAVEL BAG.

He looks through it. Nothing.

Eyeing her LARGER LUGGAGE --

VICTORIA

Really?

He nods.

Victoria opens her LUGGAGE. He inspects.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

My friend is waiting, and this is rude.

Done searching through everything, he walks away while Victoria closes everything up and enters the Restroom.

**CUT BACK TO:**

120      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**      120

Dawn leans forward.

DAWN

You were able to keep track. Until it got away from you.

**CUT TO:**

121 INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - FLASHBACK

121

Dawn watches through Binoculars at Ramona while Victoria secretly pulls out her BOX OF GOLDEN BLUNTS, PLACING TWO GOLDEN BLUNTS inside, at the bottom.

As Dawn turns around, Victoria quickly shuts the BOX, placing it back in the HIDING SPOT.

DAWN (V.O.)  
I'll give it you. Not a bad plan.

CUT TO:

122 INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - ANOTHER DAY

122

Dawn preps to paint then reaches into the HIDING SPOT, pulling out her BOX OF BLUNTS.

DAWN (V.O.)  
Until I did something  
uncharacteristic, something I never  
do.

Sitting before an UNFINISHED CANVAS, she opens the BOX OF BLUNTS then decides to grab a GOLDEN BLUNT from the OTHER BOX.

Rather than grabbing a BLUNT from off the top, she fishes for one at the BOTTOM.

DAWN (V.O.)  
I felt the need to dig deeper.

And pulls one out, smelling it.

Then LIGHTS UP.

As she SMOKES, Dawn finds her flow ...

*Creating her best work yet.*

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

DAWN  
Turns out, it would be the best one  
I'd ever smoke.

Dawn sets the Blunt down, dancing and creating to MUSIC.

The GOLDEN BLUNT, resting on a TRAY, burns brightly as ...

*A DIAMOND falls to the floor from inside.*

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Because it led me to the truth.

(In the SAME SPOT Dawn would STEP ON IT LATER with Yousef.)

DAWN (CONT'D)  
If only I hadn't decided to bring  
one of the golden ones to smoke  
with you tonight ...

**CUT TO:**

**INT. GALLERY - MAIN AREA - EARLIER THAT NIGHT**

Professor Mead picks up the GOLDEN BLUNT, handing it to Dawn.

DAWN  
Maybe we wouldn't be sitting here.  
But, alas, this is just too good  
not to unravel.

Dawn discovers a DIAMOND out of the BLUNT, in her hand.

123

**INT. ST. TROPEZ - HOTEL ROOM - DAY**

123

Victoria ROLLS a BLUNT, *carefully hiding 3-4 DIAMONDS inside.*

Just then Dimitri enters, startling her.

DAWN (V.O.)  
It didn't make sense that you no  
longer wanted to be with Jeff. You  
loved him. So why Dimitri?

She finishes ROLLING THE GOLDEN BLUNT then puts it inside the  
LEATHER CASE next to TWO OTHER GOLDEN BLUNTS.

Never knowing, Dimitri walks over to kiss her, and drops a  
SMALL BLACK POUCH on the table.

DIMITRI  
Hi baby. You miss me?

VICTORIA  
Of course.

Victoria finishes cleaning up, eyeing the POUCH, DIAMONDS  
spilling out.

DIMITRI  
We did good this round.

She joins him, embracing him from behind.

VICTORIA  
Oh yeah? How good?

Then offers him a SMOKE from a GOLDEN BLUNT.

He turns her around, kissing her The LEATHER CASE and POUCH resting on the Table. After a long kiss --

VICTORIA (CONT'D)  
I should finish getting ready.

As she walks to the bathroom to blowdry her hair, her PHONE RINGS.

CHARLIE.

DAWN (V.O.)  
And just when I thought I would surely die, they came back. Those idiots actually came back.

**CUT TO:**

124      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - BEDROOM - FLASHBACK**      124

Dawn lies motionless on the bed, tied up.

Intruder 2 answers the Phone.

On the other side, Dimitri answers --

**CUT TO:**

125      **INT. ST. TROPEZ - HOTEL LOBBY - FLASHBACK**      125

Dimitri waits for Victoria to come down.

**CUTTING BACK AND FORTH**

DIMITRI  
(in French)  
You wanna tell me what the fuck is going on?

INTRUDER 2  
We're here now.

DIMITRI

(in French)

Whatever the hell you do, leave the woman alone! Hurry up, I need you back here. We have a situation with the armory container.

Dimitri hangs up as Victoria comes down the stairs to say goodbye, wearing her RED HIGH HEELED SHOES and JEANS.

**CUT BACK TO:**

126      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - PRESENT MOMENT**      126

Dawn stands up, slowly pacing.

DAWN

You used my home as a stash away for diamonds you've been ciphering off Dimitri ever since you met him.

VICTORIA

I would never do anything to intentionally hurt you or Charlie. I never intended for any of this to happen. I had to do it. My industry is competitive. I had no other way Dawn.

DAWN

But you let it happen in my home, *where my child lives*. You led me to suspect everyone else when it was you who jeopardized his safety, his *life*. How could you be so reckless, so ... careless. I almost died for this! I thought you were someone I could count on, for life. You not only betrayed me, you put my son's life in danger!

VICTORIA

Dawn, you have to listen to me, I'm so sorry! I had a plan ...

DAWN

No. No more lies.

128      **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - COUNTRY ROAD - SAME MOMENT**      128

Tucked out of sight, Detective Wiseman and TEAM listen in.

He nods for them to enter.

**CUT BACK TO:**

129      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - PATIO LIVING ROOM - PRESENT MOMENT**      129

The POLICE enter, startling Victoria.

VICTORIA

What is this? Get your hands off me!

(apprehending her)

I was going to cut you in! Dawn, please!

DAWN

Someday you'll thank me for doing this. But not today.

Dawn watches on, neither pleased nor upset, ONLY JUSTIFIED and RESOLUTE in her actions.

Wiseman enters.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

Great work.

DAWN

Is it enough?

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

More than enough. This, coupled with the evidence and testimony, she'll have no choice but to take a plea deal and cooperate with us.

DAWN

What's going to happen to her?

Dawn watches as Victoria is led out, yelling.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN

As long as she does what she's asked, in catching him, she'll be okay.

As Victoria is handcuffed, Dawn takes a walk.

The Partner hands Wiseman the BOX OF GOLDEN BLUNTS.

Wiseman opens the Box to find a DOZEN inside.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN (CONT'D)  
This all of them?

His Partner nods.

Wiseman peels open one to discover *DIAMONDS INSIDE*.

DETECTIVE WISEMAN (CONT'D)  
I'll be.

Meanwhile as Dawn walks, she smiles, thinking back to ...

**CUT TO:**

130      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - ART STUDIO - PREVIOUSLY THAT NIGHT**      130

Earlier that night, after opening the BOX OF GOLDEN BLUNTS and pulling out the ones from the bottom to discover --

DIAMONDS inside.

She takes out EIGHT BLUNTS and opens them, dropping their contents into a PAINT TRAY.

Standing overhead, she watches as the DIAMONDS and WEED fall.

Stirring the mixture altogether, *the diamonds disappear*.

She closes the BOX OF GOLDEN BLUNTS, taking them with her to give to the AUTHORITIES, exiting.

130A      **EXT. COUNTRY HOME - BARN - PREVIOUSLY THAT NIGHT**      130A

Dawn hands the BOX OF GOLDEN BLUNTS to Detective Wiseman.

DETECTIVE  
We did a background check on all your people, and your girl is with a really bad guy. As painful as this is going to be Dawn, you're doing the right thing.

**SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER**

131A      **INT. BOUTIQUE STORE - SHOWROOM - DAY**      131A

A CUSTOMER purchases "THIRST" from off the wall as a STORE CLERK congratulates her on her wise purchase.

131B      **INT. HAIR SALON - WASH AREA - DAY**      131B

Women chat while getting their hair washed. "THIRST" featured behind them, LIT up on the wall.

131C      **INT. MANSION HOME -- CLIENT - DAY**      131C

A DESIGNER presents "THIRST" to a CLIENT for a featured ART PIECE in their home.

131D      **INT. FRANCE -- DIMITRI'S HOME - DAY**      131D

Dimitri sits at the end of a LONG TABLE eating breakfast. FRENCH POLICE enter, arresting him.

DIMITRI  
(in French)  
Hey! What the hell do you think  
you're doing?! You can't come into  
my home like this!

132      **INT. COUNTRY HOME - DAWN'S BEDROOM - DAY**      132

Light breaks through revealing Dawn and Yousef sleeping under WHITE SHEETS. She awakens, startled.

YOUSEF  
Same nightmare? With the ants?

She nods.

YOUSEF (CONT'D)  
Oh babe, come here.

Just as Yousef holds her, Charlie runs in.

CHARLIE  
Get up, get up! Time to make  
pancakes!

Dawn begins to get up but Yousef stops her --

YOUSEF  
I got this. You rest.

Yousef kisses Dawn on the cheek, tending to Charlie.

As Dawn slowly gets up

WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL --



The ORIGINAL COPY of "THIRST" hanging nearby.

*SPECKLES OF DIAMONDS GLISTEN in the LIGHT.*

A small ant, nearly invisible to the eye, crawls along the  
FRAME.

THE END