

# FERAL

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A damp, rustic cellar. Old stone walls. Overhead wooden beams support the main floor above.

Condensation from water pipes turn the cellar into an echo chamber as droplets fall -

Into shallow pools on the rough concrete floor below.

A single light bulb illuminates the room, leaving most of it pitch black - and what little we can see is encased in shadows.

A WOMAN'S HAND

Strapped to a rusty metal cot. Her forearm an unnaturally pale color. She's not moving, maybe dead.

HER DIRTY FEET shredded and bloody, as if she's been running across broken glass. They're bound to either side of the cot with rope. Is she a hostage?

A MAN quietly observes her from the shadows. We can't see his face.

HIS HAND cradling a small black REVOLVER.

In the corner of the room - the body of a YOUNG GIRL sprawled on the floor. Enveloped in shadow. Her cheek caked with dirt. Surrounded by a shiny reflective pool of blood.

The Woman on the cot suddenly STIRS, and the man looks up. Then stands. Pulls the hanging light bulb close to see her face.

She slowly turns toward us. Maybe mid-forties, but she looks HIDEOUS. Her eyes are WHITE. Her skin pale, covered in THIN BLACK VEINS that spider across her cheeks and forehead. Her lips jet black. She looks like she's possessed by a demon, no longer human.

She sees the man and SNARLS. Her lips curl back to reveal BLOODY TEETH AND FROTHING WHITE FOAM. She shrieks. Spittle flies. The piercing sound fills the small room.

He lets go of the bulb, and it begins to SWING BACK AND FORTH LIKE A PENDULUM, throwing wild shadows and creating a creepy, STROBE EFFECT in the room.

The Woman suddenly explodes in a violent rage, trying to break free of her restraints. Spit flies from her mouth as she GNASHES her teeth.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

THE METAL LEGS of the rickety old cot that holds her captive begin to rattle against the concrete floor.

A strap RIPS loose. Her free hand claws at him.

The Man takes a step towards her, gun hanging by his side.

The Woman arches her back, bucking to get free. The cot SLAMMING on the floor now, crashing against concrete in a loud metallic cacophony.

The strap holding her other hand begins to tear loose. She's going to break free in seconds!

The Man places the gun barrel on her temple. His finger pulls back the hammer.

She bites at him like a RABID DOG.

He pulls the trigger. BOOM! The muzzle flash lights up the dark space like lightning.

CUT TO BLACK.

2 TITLE OVER BLACK: FERAL.

2

FADE IN:

3 EXT. NATIONAL PARK - DAY

3

FLOATING OVER a thick forest from just above the canopy, stretching as far as the eye can see. A vast expanse of old growth bottomland hardwood forest.

4 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

4

Six college graduate students unloading heavy backpacks from two battered cars. They are:

ALICE (24) slender, gorgeous, long hair. The strong silent type.

JULES (25), petite, slender and sassy.

JESSE(24), handsome, athletic, perfect hair. Voted most likely to succeed.

GINA (23), bright, sexy and self-confident. Too well-dressed for hiking.

BRIENNE (24), a Georgia peach. Sweet as pie.

(CONTINUED)

MATT (25), short, preppy. The studious type.

Gina stares at the woods, a frown on her face. Jesse joins her.

GINA

I hate camping.

JESSE

Come on. Three days in the Great Outdoors. What's not to love?

GINA

Bugs. Spiders. Snakes.

Jules walks by.

JULES

Bears.

GINA

(Alarmed)

Bears?

JESSE

Baby, she's just kidding.

Jules joins Alice.

ALICE

Troublemaker.

JULES

Trouble's my middle name.

JESSE

(To Gina)

We've been holed up for months. A little fresh air, exercise, scenery...

He gives her a peck on the lips. She brightens, eager to please Jesse but still not happy to be here.

Matt studying a trail map, a compass and his watch.

MATT

If we leave now, we should get to the lake before sundown.

BRIENNE

You remember how to get there?

(CONTINUED)

MATT

(Shakes head)

No, I was just a kid. Hey, where's my compass?

Matt looks at all the gear strewn about him. Starts frantically patting down his pockets.

BRIENNE

You're holding it.

Jesse throws on his backpack.

JESSE

Okay, let's move out, people!

Jules nudges Alice.

JULES

Give that dude a backpack and he thinks he's Daniel Fucking Boone.

The group converges at the path leading into the woods and follows Jesse in.

Sunlight filtering through the tree limbs. Beating down on our six intrepid hikers. Gina is dragging.

GINA

My feet are killing me.

JESSE

It's your shoes.

GINA

They were two hundred bucks!

Jules looks at Alice and smirks.

JESSE

I told you to break them in.

GINA

How much longer?

Matt consults his trail map.

MATT

Three, maybe four hours.

GINA

Shit.

She plops down on a rock and starts unlacing her shoes. The group stops.

Gina's bare foot. Blistered and bleeding.

JESSE

Okay, let's take a break.

Matt fishes in his backpack and produces some band-aids.

MATT

Here.

GINA

Thanks.

Jesse looks over at Alice, who is sitting on a fallen tree trunk with Brienne and Jules. Alice catches his ICY STARE and looks away. Something clearly between them. She turns to Jules, who is rubbing her legs.

ALICE

How you holding up, city girl?

JULES

Shit, this ain't nothing, country girl. I've hoofed it from Harlem to the Battery in three feet of snow.

ALICE

I'm glad you came.

JULES

Yeah, me too.

Alice notices Brienne smiling at them.

ALICE

What?

BRIENNE

Nothing. You two are so cute.

Alice throws her a "don't embarrass me" look.

Gina slips her shoe on and stands up. Puts on a brave face.

GINA

Okay, good as new.

JESSE

Let's go. Daylight's burning.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2) 6.  
5  
They collect their gear and start moving again.  
A RATTLESNAKE coiled on a log, basking in the sun.

6 EXT. WOODS - DAY 6  
The hikers are tiny specks in the vast forest.

GINA  
Are we lost?

They stop. Matt consults his compass

MATT  
No.

JESSE  
Are we going the right direction?

MATT  
Yeah.

JESSE  
Are you sure?

Matt flips the map upside down and studies it.

MATT  
I think so.  
(Points)  
That way.

The group starts off in that direction.

JULES  
Christ. The blind leading the  
blind.

7 EXT. WOODS - DAY 7  
The sun streaming through the trees. A crow on a limb  
watches the hikers climb a hill.

8 EXT. CLEARING - DAY 8  
Jesse surveys the area. Looks up. The sun is beginning to  
sink. The group looks exhausted.

JESSE  
Why don't we pitch camp here?  
We'll find the lake in the  
morning.

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED:

7.

8

Gina flops on the ground.

GINA

Great idea.

Everyone nods in agreement.

MONTAGE

- Gina watching Jesse erect theirs.
- Matt fumbling with tent parts.
- Alice expertly pitching her tent. Jules tries to help.
- Matt stands back from his tent proudly. It collapses.

9

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

9

A full moon overhead in a cloudless sky. Shafts of moonlight filter down through the tree canopy. The woods are dark, eerie.

10

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

10

Three glowing orange tents in the clearing. Our six hikers sitting around a campfire, drinking beer. It's a cold, crisp night, and everyone is dressed warmly. Gina is wearing a fur coat. Alice has her arms wrapped around her knees. She's not a group person.

Jesse prods the burning wood with a stick, sending embers floating upwards. He sits back and hoists his beer.

JESSE

Here's to adventure!

BRIENNE

Here's to no more classes!

They all toast and clink bottles.

GINA

Yeah. No more Gross Chem with Calvin.

Everyone groans.

MATT

Or Bio with Lambert.

Louder groans.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

God, Lambert was the worst.

ALICE

Bree and I really bonded in that class.

BRIENNE

Thank God. I would have never passed without you.

JESSE

Neuro kicked my ass.

Even louder groans.

MATT

I liked Neuro.

JESSE

You would, Hartman.

MATT

Fuck you, Marshall.

Jesse laughs. Jules makes an effort to fit in.

JULES

So, you're all going to be doctors, huh?

JESSE

Cardiology, like my Dad.

GINA

Pediatrics.

BRIENNE

Family medicine.

MATT

Urology.

Jules screws up her face in disgust.

JULES

Urology?

JESSE

He's going to be a Penis Doctor.

MATT

Shut up, dude.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

He likes the D.

MATT

Fuck you.

Jules and Jesse crack up.

MATT (CONT'D)

Yeah, laugh all you want. Starting salary, four hundred a year.

JULES

(Turns to Alice)

Will you make that much?

ALICE

Sorry. No money in epidemiology.

JULES

Damn, I may have to find me a penis doctor.

Jules and Alice giggle.

GINA

Where did you two meet, anyway?

Jesse looks up, interested in her response.

JULES

The Rabbit Hole.

GINA

God, Alice. What were you doing in that dump?

JULES

She was looking for cheap sex.

ALICE

And I found it.

Mild laughter. Jesse frowns.

JULES

We've been together ever since.

MATT

Why Epidemiology, Alice? I mean, I had you pegged as a surgeon.

Alice's face suddenly lights up as she reflects, clearly passionate about her calling.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

It's fascinating. To me, anyway.  
You know, make the initial  
discoveries. Be the first one  
there. Like Avian Flu. Mad Cow  
disease. Ebola. It's like being a  
detective. A disease detective.

BRIENNE

You'll be great.

A proud Jules hooks her arm around Alice's.

JULES

No worries, I'll support us.

ALICE

You're a history major.

JULES

You're right. We're fucked.

Big laughter, suddenly broken by a DISTANT HOWL. They  
freeze in horror.

GINA

What was that?

JESSE

A dog?

GINA

That's a big dog.

ALICE

Probably a coyote.

GINA

A coyote? Are you serious?

MATT

There's lots of wildlife out here.  
Wolves, deer, foxes, wild hogs.

Jesse sees Gina's frightened face.

JESSE

Don't worry. They're just dumb  
animals. They're more afraid of us  
than we are of them.

GINA

Good.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

You know, we're animals, too. Man is just more intelligent. I mean, that's what Darwin said. You know, higher evolution.

JESSE

We're superior to animals.

JULES

Some men are still pigs.

ALICE

(Curious)

We don't have our own class?

MATT

No, we're just the smartest ones in the class.

Gina pulls her big fur coat around herself.

GINA

I don't care, as long as they stay far away from me.

JULES

They might want their fur back.

GINA

(Irked)

Ha ha. I'm going to bed. Good night.

She gets up to a chorus of uncomfortable "Good nights" and makes a beeline for her tent. Jesse snaps at Alice.

JESSE

Your girlfriend has a big mouth.

He chases after Gina. Alice glares at Jules.

JULES

(Genuinely sorry)

Sorry.

Three tents glowing in the dark woods from the lantern inside each.

JESSE (O.S.)

You happy now?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

GINA (O.S.)

What?

12 INT. JESSE &amp; GINA'S TENT - NIGHT

12

Gina is putting band-aids on her feet. Tension in the air - the feeling a relationship has ended but neither wants to be the first to admit it.

JESSE

You were determined to ruin this weekend for me no matter what.

GINA

That's not true! I came, didn't I?

JESSE

Christ, it's always about you. I don't know why I put up with your shit sometimes.

GINA

Maybe you'd rather be with Alice.

JESSE

(Vitriolic)  
No, she's a lesbian.

Gina rolls over, turning her back to him. He looks at her for a moment, realizing he may have gone too far, but is too proud to apologize. He rolls away from her, and they lay there with their backs to each other.

GINA'S FACE. A tear rolls across her cheek.

MATT (O.S.)

What do you think of her?

13 INT. MATT &amp; BRIENNE'S TENT - NIGHT

13

Matt is watching Brienne dab her face with a cleansing pad.

BRIENNE

Jules? I like her.

MATT

She's a little... abrasive.

BRIENNE

She's from New York.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

She doesn't seem like Alice's type.

BRIENNE

She makes Alice happy, that's all that matters.

MATT

I still think it's weird. One minute Alice is straight, the next minute she's gay.

BRIENNE

Alice is one hundred percent gay.

MATT

How do you know?

BRIENNE

She's my best friend. I know.

MATT

Come on, she slept with Jesse.

BRIENNE

Jesse was there, they were friends, she was experimenting. She thought she might be bi. Now she knows she isn't.

MATT

Yeah, well, I think he still likes her.

BRIENNE

Jesse always wants what he can't have.

Matt contemplates.

MATT

You're not going to suddenly decide you're gay, are you?

BRIENNE

Don't be ridiculous. You've known me since high school.

MATT

Just checking.

Matt reaches into his backpack, pulls out a small box and hands it to her. He tries to conceal his excitement.

(CONTINUED)

BRIENNE

What's this for?

MATT

Open it.

She does. Inside is a small, plain ENGAGEMENT RING.

BRIENNE

(Surprised)

Matt?

MATT

I know, we were going to wait until we graduate, but... I couldn't wait.

Brienne doesn't respond, still processing. Matt is suddenly nervous.

MATT (CONT'D)

I know it's not very big...

BRIENNE

No, it's perfect. I'm sorry, I really wasn't expecting this. It's perfect!

She slips it on her finger, and gives Matt a kiss.

MATT

You're perfect.

BRIENNE

I love you, Matthew Tyler Hartman.

They kiss again, more passionately. They start to fumble with each others clothes, but Matt suddenly breaks the kiss and rolls out of the sleeping bag.

MATT

I'll be right back.

BRIENNE

Where are you going?

MATT

Nature calls.

BRIENNE

Hurry.

He disappears through the tent flaps.

14 INT. ALICE &amp; JULES'S TENT - NIGHT

14

Alice and Jules sharing a sleeping bag, staring at the roof of the tent.

JULES

So, were you and Brienne...

ALICE

Bree? No, she's just a friend.  
Why?

JULES

Just wondering how many of the  
campers you've slept with.

ALICE

(Agitated)  
Pot calling the kettle black?

JULES

Yeah okay, fair enough. You're  
awful touchy tonight.

ALICE

No, I'm not.

JULES

What's wrong?

ALICE

I'm thinking. Is that illegal?

JULES

Is this about your Dad again?

ALICE

Yeah, so what?

JULES

You're an adult. It's your life,  
you can do what you want. Just  
tell him.

ALICE

You don't get it.

JULES

If he really loves you, he'll  
understand.

ALICE

It's not that simple. I grew up in  
the Bible Belt. It's a little  
different from the Big Apple.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

Ignorance is no excuse.

ALICE

(Snaps)

He's not ignorant, he just...  
doesn't understand... he'll freak  
out.

JULES

That's his problem.

ALICE

(Emotional)

No, it's mine. My Dad... he's...  
everything to me. Since Mom died,  
I'm all he's got.

(Pause)

I'm all he's got.

Jules sees how upset Alice is, and suddenly softens. She  
grabs Alice's wrist and holds it firmly.

JULES

Okay. I get it. I'm here for you,  
whatever you need.

ALICE

Yeah?

JULES

Yeah, baby.

They kiss.

The thick woods are bathed in a patchwork of silver and  
black.

Tree limbs claw at the full moon like tiny black fingers.  
Haunting and beautiful.

Matt standing behind a tree, taking a leak. Tents in the  
distance, maybe fifty yards away.

The sound of pee hitting the tree trunk. An expression of  
pleasure on his face.

MATT

Aaaahhhh.

CRACK! A twig snaps. Matt looks over his shoulder.  
Nothing. He turns back to the task in hand.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

Another CRACK. Louder and closer this time.

MATT (CONT'D)

Brienne? Is that you? Hang on, I'm almost done.

The sound of FOOTSTEPS crunching on leaves. Slowly lumbering towards him.

Matt finishes, shakes, then zips up.

MATT (CONT'D)

Sorry, babe. Had to piss like a racehorse.

A low rumbling growl. Guttural. Not human. Very close.

Matt freezes, suddenly very afraid. He slowly turns around as a SHADOW ENGULFS HIS FACE to see -

A DARK FIGURE behind him. Silhouetted against the moon.

In a split-second, Matt's expression changes from frightened to sheer terror. His mouth forming an enormous "O".

THE FIGURE springs on him.

16 INT. MATT & BRIENNE'S TENT - SAME TIME

16

THE DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING sparkling in the lantern light. Brienne admires it on her finger. Then stares at the tent flap.

BRIENNE

Matt?

17 EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME

17

MATT'S FACE smashed against the roots of the tree. Struggling to get free. Limbs flailing. But the thing on top of him is savage, powerful. Ripping him to pieces, like an rabid dog.

BLOOD coats Matt's face - his eye wide open in horror - RAMMED even further into the ground - the sudden CRUNCH of splintering bone.

18 INT. MATT & BRIENNE'S TENT - SAME TIME

18

Brienne concerned now. She exits the tent. Looks into the dark.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 18.  
18

BRIENNE  
Honey?

19 EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME 19

FOLLOW BRIENNE as she walks through the woods. Arms hugged in front of her.

BRIENNE  
Matt?

She tiptoes through the trees. Stops and listens carefully. The faint sounds of a struggle. Rustling leaves. Growls and groans. Alarmed, she starts towards it.

BRIENNE (CONT'D)  
(Aggravated)  
Matt? Is that you? I'm not in the mood for games, okay?

She pushes through some branches to see --

A BLACK SHAPE hunched over, ferociously clawing at the ground. Snarling and growling.

BRIENNE (CONT'D)  
Matt?

The Shape suddenly freezes. Slowly turns towards her. Then rises up. Not quite human. Animal-like. It's still in the shadows, so we can't see it clearly.

It steps forward, revealing a sliver of moonlight, illuminating a gruesome scene behind it.

Brienne SCREAMS.

The Shape LURCHES towards her. So fast it's almost a blur. She turns to run, but it steam rolls her to the ground. Teeth snapping. Ripping sounds. Screams.

20 EXT. CLEARING - SAME TIME 20

Jesse stumbles out of his tent, pulling on his pants. He's joined by Alice, who's carrying an ELECTRIC LANTERN.

JESSE  
Did you..?

ALICE  
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

They listen carefully. Another scream.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Over there.

They both take off, running in the direction of the sound. Lantern swinging wildly.

Jesse and Alice arrive to see -

Brienne lying on the ground. Her arm bent back in an unnatural way.

ALICE

Bree?

Alice stoops down to inspect her. She turns Brienne's head into the light of the lantern. HALF HER FACE IS CLAWED OPEN.

JESSE

(Recoils)

FUCK!

Alice feels for a pulse.

ALICE

She's alive.

JESSE

What happened to her?

Alice inspects the injuries - she's in full doctor mode.

ALICE

Um, she's got serious facial lacerations. Concussion? Dislocated shoulder? Christ, who knows what else. She's lost a lot of blood. We need to get her to a hospital.

JESSE

A hospital? We're in the middle of fucking nowhere!

ALICE

There have to be park rangers or something around here.

Gina and Jules arrive, carrying another lantern. Gina covers her mouth in horror.

(CONTINUED)

GINA

Oh my God! What happened?

ALICE

I dunno. Looks like a wild animal  
or something.

Jules at the tree where Matt's body lies.

JULES

Oh God, I think this is Matt. Or  
what's left of him.

Gina joins her, covering her mouth in horror.

GINA

Shit!

Her lantern illuminates the dismembered, bloody carcass  
that was once Matt. His jaw hanging from his face. A huge  
hole in his torso. Bloody entrails and organs strewn  
about everywhere. Chunks of flesh ripped from every limb.

JULES

Fuck! Fuck fuck fuck fuck.

Jules retches.

GINA

What could have done this?

JESSE

I... don't know.

Alice is razor-focused on helping Brienne.

ALICE

Hey, give me a hand. Let's get her  
back to camp.

Alice and Jules have Brienne by the legs. Jesse is  
holding her by the head and shoulders. They carry her  
into Matt's tent.

Alice crouched over Brienne. Blood smeared across her  
shirt, arms and face. She barks an order at Jesse.

ALICE

Matt had medical supplies in his backpack.

JESSE

What are you going to do, put fucking band-aids on her?

ALICE

(Snaps)

We have to do something. You want to let her die?

JESSE

No...

ALICE

So quit whining and get me the fucking supplies!

JESSE

(Mutters)

Okay.

Jules and Gina nervously pacing, visibly shaken.

GINA

What if... whatever did this is still here? What if it comes back?

JULES

Fuck.

They both look around. Then head to their respective tents, pulling the flaps closed and zipping them shut.

The three tents glowing in the dark forest.

Alice applying bandages to Brienne's face. She lifts the lantern to inspect her work.

ALICE

Hang in there, girly-girl.

Jules on her hands and knees watching.

JULES

Hey. You okay?

25 CONTINUED:

ALICE

Look, I'm probably going to be up all night. Why don't you sleep in Matt and Brienne's tent? Okay?

JULES

Yeah. Okay.

She leaves, feelings hurt.

26 INT. JESSE & REGINA'S TENT - NIGHT

26

Jesse and Gina lying awake, staring silently at the roof of the tent.

GINA

Jesse, I'm scared.

JESSE

It'll be okay.

GINA

Promise?

JESSE

I promise.

GINA

Hold me.

Jesse hesitates, then slides next to her and puts his arm around her. Gina mistakes his compassion for affection.

GINA (CONT'D)

I love you.

Jesse doesn't respond. Gina realizes her mistake and fights back tears.

27 INT. MATT & BRIENNE'S TENT - SAME TIME

27

Jules pokes through Matt and Brienne's things. Fluffs her pillow, flops back. Switches off her lantern, plunging the tent into darkness.

28 EXT. CLEARING - DAY

28

A small wisp of smoke rising from the blackened campfire. Birds chirping. The empty forest.

29 INT. MATT & BRIENNE'S TENT - DAY 29

Alice awakes. Rubs her eyes and sits up. She checks Brienne's pulse. Still alive. She notices --

THIN BLACK VEINS creeping up one of Brienne's arms.

Alice inspects them closely, clearly baffled.

Voices outside.

30 EXT. CLEARING - SAME TIME 30

Alice steps out of the tent to see the others speaking with BILL TALBOT, a stocky man in hunting attire. A rifle over his shoulder - an impressive MARLIN 1895 LEVER ACTION.

JESSE

Alice, this is Bill Talbot.

Talbot shakes hands with Alice.

TALBOT

I was just telling your friends, I have a cabin not too far from here. Medical supplies. Food.

GINA

How is she?

ALICE

Stable, but she's got some kind of weird infection.

JESSE

Infection?

ALICE

Yeah. I've never seen anything like it before. We should get her to the cabin fast.

GINA

How are we going to do that?

Alice surveys the camp site. She looks at Matt's tent.

ALICE

Make a travoise.

JESSE

A what?

31 EXT. WOODS - DAY

31

Talbot and Jesse are dragging a makeshift travoise cannibalized from Matt's tent - the fabric mounted on two long poles, lashed in the shape of an elongated triangle.

ALICE  
(To Talbot)  
Do you have a phone?

TALBOT  
No service.

ALICE  
Is there anyone else out here?

TALBOT  
Not a soul.

ALICE  
What about a ranger station?

TALBOT  
We're a good fifty miles from the nearest human being.

ALICE  
You seem to know these woods. What do you think did this?

Talbot hesitates before answering.

TALBOT  
A bear maybe.

She nods at the gun.

ALICE  
Nice gun. What are you hunting?

TALBOT  
Rabbit.

Alice seems unsatisfied with this answer, but remains silent.

32 EXT. CABIN - DAY

32

A small, rustic cabin. Fairly ramshackle, though not overly rustic. A single story structure. Jules and Gina are sitting on the porch. Alice, Jesse and Talbot step out the front door.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

How is she?

ALICE

(Weary)  
Still out.

JULES

What do we do?

ALICE

Someone needs to hike back and get help.

The group is silent for a moment. Jesse steps forward.

JESSE

I'll go. I'm the best hiker.

GINA

I'll come with you.

JESSE

No, you'll only slow me down. But I should probably take someone with me.

He looks at Alice, who shakes her head.

ALICE

I'm staying with Bree.

Jules raises her hand, eager to help.

JULES

I'll go.

Jesse debates, obviously not thrilled.

JESSE

Okay. What's the quickest way out?

Talbot points to a path.

TALBOT

That path. It's about twenty miles to a service road that takes you straight to the parking lot.

JESSE

Okay. If we can manage four miles an hour, we should get there before sundown.

(CONTINUED)

Gina gives Jesse a kiss. Jules gives Alice a hug. As they part, Alice notices Talbot watching them closely.

HURRY BACK. GINA

Yeah. JESSE

Be careful. ALICE

No sweat. JULES

Stay on the path. TALBOT

Jesse and Jules wave and leave. Alice turns to Talbot.

Can you take me back to our  
campsite? ALICE

(Hesitant)  
Sure. Why? TALBOT

I want to look at our friend's  
body. See if it will shed any  
light on this infection. ALICE

If you want. TALBOT

Jules silently following Jesse along a path. She makes a misstep and stumbles. Jesse glare back at her.

Try and keep up, okay? JESSE

Gina, seated in a chair, bored. She's staring at Brienne, who is covered in bandages. Brienne's suddenly eyes flutter, and she slowly wakes up.

Brienne? GINA

34 CONTINUED:

34

BRIENNE  
 (Very weak)  
 What... where am I?

35 EXT. WOODS - DAY

35

Talbot and Alice are standing in front of the tree where Matt was attacked. There's only one problem - his body is gone. Vanished. The only evidence he was here is the bloodstained tree.

TALBOT  
 Are you sure this is it?

ALICE  
 Positive.

TALBOT  
 Where's the body?

ALICE  
 I don't know. Maybe wild animals got to it.

TALBOT  
 There's no sign the body was dragged away.

ALICE  
 Well, he didn't just get up and walk away, did he?

Talbot frowns. His expression suggests otherwise.

36 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

36

Back to Gina and Brienne. A stunned look on Brienne's face. Tears rolling down her cheeks. Overwhelmed with grief. Gina does her best to comfort her, stroking her forehead. Gina fingers the engagement ring.

GINA  
 It's beautiful.

BRIENNE  
 (Stuporous)  
 We... were going to be married.

GINA  
 Honey, I'm so sorry.

BRIENNE  
 I don't want to live anymore.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

28.  
36

GINA  
Don't say that.

BRIENNE  
I don't.

Brienne looks out the window. Chokes back her tears.  
Gina contemplates her own situation. She knows the feeling.

37 EXT. WOODS - DAY

37

Late afternoon. Jules trying to keep up with Jesse.

JULES  
Think we're close?

Jesse ignores her. Jules flips him off behind his back.

38 EXT. CABIN - DAY

38

Alice and Talbot arrive at the cabin. Gina greets them.

ALICE  
How is she?

39 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

39

Brienne is looking out the window. She looks up when Alice enters.

BRIENNE  
Did you see him? Is he...?

Alice shakes her head.

ALICE  
No. His body was gone.

BRIENNE  
Gone?

ALICE  
Yeah. I'm sorry.

BRIENNE  
Maybe he's alive!

ALICE  
No.

(CONTINUED)

Brienne begins to sob again. Alice tries to change the subject.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Let's take a look at you.

She peels back the sheets to see -

Both of Brienne's arms covered in the mysterious black veins now. Alice tries to conceal her concern.

ALICE (CONT'D)

How do you feel?

Brienne doesn't respond, still blubbering. Alice grabs her face and turns it towards hers.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Bree, honey. Listen to me. I can't help if you won't talk to me.

Brienne thinks for a moment.

BRIENNE

It hurts.

ALICE

What hurts?

BRIENNE

My blood. It feels like my blood is on fire.

Jules trailing Jesse. He suddenly stops in his tracks, and Jules almost slams into him. \*

She sees what he's staring at - A DEAD RABBIT dangling six feet off the ground - a rope lashed from one furry little leg to the tree limb above. \*

Jesse steps forward to take a closer look. \*

JESSE \*

That's weird. \*

JULES \*

That's disgusting. \*

JESSE \*

Never seen a dead animal before? \*

JULES  
Only on your girlfriend.

JESSE  
(Irritated)  
Very funny.

Jules looks back at the rabbit.

JULES  
Why would someone do that?

JESSE  
Why are you asking me?

JULES  
Well, you're Mister Outdoors.

JESSE  
Do I look like someone who would  
hang a dead fucking rabbit from a  
tree?

JULES  
You don't like me very much, do  
you?

JESSE  
Honestly? No. Is that okay?

JULES  
Why?

Jesse contemplates.

JESSE  
For one thing, I just don't like  
you.

JULES  
I can live with that. What else?

He stops and turns around to her.

JESSE  
You know, Alice and I dated.

JULES  
I heard. Sounded more like a booty  
call to me.

He winces.

JESSE  
Well, I thought we had something.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

It was just sex.

JESSE

Yeah, whatever. She just dumped me, out of the fucking blue.

JULES

Uh, she's gay, dude.

JESSE

(Angry)

Yeah, right. Gay. Could have fooled me. She didn't sound that way when she was screaming my name.

\*  
\*  
\*

JULES

You are such an asshole.

\*

Jesse explodes.

\*

JESSE

Me? There's nothing wrong with me! Your dyke girlfriend is fucked in the head!

\*

Jules SNAPS - charging at Jesse and slamming into him like a freight train, shoving him with both hands.

JULES

FUCK YOU!

He staggers backwards towards the tree - directly under the DEAD RABBIT - his foot stepping into a pile of leaves.

\*  
\*

CLANG! A silver blur at his feet. HEAVY STEEL TEETH snap shut on his ankle - cutting through flesh and bone. It's a GRIZZLY BEAR TRAP.

Jesse buckles to the ground, screaming in agony.

JESSE

AAAAGGGGGHHH!

He grabs the steel jaws with his fingers. Tries to pry them open - but they won't budge. Blood sprays from the wound, coating his leg.

Jules is frozen in horror and bewilderment.

JULES

Oh my God.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE  
AAAAGGGGGHHH!

41 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - DAY

41

The living room is also the kitchen and dining room. It's modestly decorated with old, rustic furniture. There's a hall down the middle leading to three bedrooms.

Gina and Talbot seated on a couch and chair. Both look up when Alice enters.

GINA  
How is she?

ALICE  
She's asleep right now.

GINA  
Is she going to make it?

ALICE  
I don't know. This infection has me baffled.

GINA  
Skin rash? Allergic reaction?  
Sepsis?

ALICE  
I dunno.

GINA  
You look exhausted.

ALICE  
I'm okay.

Alice wanders around the room.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
How is it you have power out here  
in the middle of nowhere?

TALBOT  
This used to be a ranger station.  
It was abandoned years ago when  
the government cut the budget and  
sold off the land. I picked it up  
for a song. We came here every  
summer.

She picks up a photograph from the mantle.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

PHOTO - Talbot with his arm around a woman.

ALICE

We? Is this your wife?

TALBOT

Was. She died a few years back.

ALICE

Sorry.

TALBOT

(Wistful)

That's okay. I have a lot of good memories of this place.

ALICE

Yeah. It's a regular Disney World.

Alice puts the photo back, a suspicious look on her face.

42 EXT. WOODS - BIG TREE - DAY

42

Back to Jesse and Jules. Jesse is breathing fast, trying to push back the pain. His face white. Tears streaming down his cheeks.

JESSE

Together, on three. Ready? One, two three, now!

They strain together, but it's no use. The springs on the trap are too strong.

JESSE (CONT'D)

STOP! STOP! STOP!

Jules gives up. Jesse is in agony.

JULES

SHIT!

JESSE

GAWD IT FUCKING HURTS!

JULES

Can you walk?

JESSE

Look at me! I can't fucking walk!

Jesse tries to stand up, but the pain is too great, and he collapses to the ground. She helps him to his feet. He leans on her, shuffling forward.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

He suddenly stops in his tracks, unable to move another inch. The trap is attached to a heavy chain - which is connected to a nearby tree. Encircling the trunk and padlocked.

Jesse collapses to the ground again.

JESSE (CONT'D)

You... have to... go back. Get...  
Alice.

Jules nods dumbly.

JULES

Okay. I'll be back, I promise.  
(Without thinking)  
Don't go anywhere.

Jules starts down the path.

43 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - NIGHT

43

BLACK VEINS have begun to creep across Brienne's face.

Alice standing over her. She lifts up the blanket to see -

Brienne's body is now covered in strands of the same thin, raised black vessels.

Alice frowns. She turns to leave when Brienne speaks.

BRIENNE

Alice?

ALICE

Yes?

BRIENNE

I didn't mean what I said earlier.  
I don't want to die. Am I going to die?

ALICE

No, honey. You're not going to die.

Alice runs her hand through Brienne's hair to comfort her. Suddenly a clump of hair pulls loose. Alice frowns.

BRIENNE

What's wrong?

Alice brushes it away.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

ALICE  
Nothing. Nothing.

44 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 44

Alice enters the living room. Gina and Talbot are seated.

GINA  
How is she?

ALICE  
It's spreading more rapidly now.

TALBOT  
(Mutters)  
She's dying.

ALICE  
What?

TALBOT  
Nothing.

Alice stares at him suspiciously. He's clearly hiding something. She looks out the window.

ALICE  
Sun's setting.

GINA  
You think they made it back to the cars?

ALICE  
Should have by now.

GINA  
Good. I want to go home.

Talbot seems deep in thought.

TALBOT  
If you'll excuse me, I'm going to retire. There's blankets over there. Take whatever you need.

GINA  
Thanks for the hospitality.

TALBOT  
No problem. Good night.

Alice watches him leave, distrustful expression on her face. Gina sees it.

(CONTINUED)

GINA

What's wrong?

ALICE

I don't trust him. He lied to us.

GINA

When?

ALICE

Earlier, I asked him what he was hunting.

GINA

Yeah, rabbits. So?

ALICE

So, he's carrying a Marlin 1895.

Gina looks at her like she's grown a second head.

ALICE (CONT'D)

It's forty-five caliber. For hunting bear. Shoot a rabbit with that, there would be nothing left but fur. He's hiding something.

GINA

What?

ALICE

I don't know.

GINA

How do you know so much about hunting?

Alice ignores the question.

ALICE

We should check on Bree every couple hours. Let's sleep in shifts.

GINA

I'm wide awake. Why don't you get some shut eye?

ALICE

Yeah?

GINA

You need it.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

Thanks. Wake me up in a few.

Gina curls up on the couch.

GINA

I wish I was strong like you.

ALICE

I'm not strong.

GINA

Yes, you are. You're the strongest  
of all of us.

Alice shuts her eyes. Thinks of her parents.

ALICE

I'm not strong.

Jules walking along the path. It's very dark, so she's  
using her cell phone as a flashlight.

JULES

"Don't go anywhere." Jeeze.

Suddenly the cell phone light goes out, and she taps the  
screen.

SCREEN reads: LOW BATTERY.

JULES (CONT'D)

Fuck.

She pans the phone around to light her way and starts  
forward. Suddenly, there is a loud CRACK, perhaps a  
branch snapping.

She freezes in place.

Another CRUNCH. Someone or something is moving towards  
her.

HER FACE. Petrified.

She waves the phone around trying to see what is making  
the noise, not realizing she is signalling her position.

The footsteps are getting louder. CLOSER.

She looks at the light - suddenly realizing the phone is  
acting like a homing beacon, and shuts it off.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

The footsteps even closer now. Maybe fifty feet away.

Jules frantically looks for somewhere to hide. Sees a large fallen tree. She drops to the ground and slides underneath it just as -

CRACK! A branch pops. The footsteps suddenly stop. IT'S HERE.

Jules hugs the underside of the tree, trying to make herself invisible.

She slowly peers out from under the tree to see -

TWO FEET. They advance, even closer to her hiding place.

CRACK! A branch pops under the weight of the intruder.

Jules flinches. Completely terrified now. Unable to move. Holding her breath as if her life depended on it - and it does.

A low guttural sound. The sound of an animal.

Jules trembling with fear.

46 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

46

Alice asleep on the couch. She slowly wakes up. Gina is fast asleep on the chair across from her. Alice looks at her watch.

ALICE

Shit.

She rolls off the couch and starts towards the bedroom.

There is a creak in the hallway. She quickly ducks behind the wall. Peers around the corner to see -

A shadowed FIGURE creeps into Brienne's bedroom.

Alice frowns.

47 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - NIGHT

47

Alice slams the door open, holding Talbot's rifle.

Brienne on the bed. Talbot standing over her, holding a LARGE SYRINGE. He has the needle by her neck when -

The door crashes against the wall, startling Talbot and waking up Brienne.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

HEY!

Talbot fumbles for words. Brienne's illness has made her lethargic and druggy.

BRIENNE

Alice?

ALICE

What are you doing?

TALBOT

Uh, I was just checking on her.

ALICE

What's that?

Talbot looks at the syringe in his hand, as if he hadn't noticed it before now.

TALBOT

Oh, this? Antibiotics. I thought it might help.

ALICE

Bullshit. What's in the syringe?

BRIENNE

(Confused)

What's going on?

TALBOT

Listen to me, I have to do this. You don't know what you're dealing with.

ALICE

What are we dealing with?

TALBOT

You wouldn't believe me.

ALICE

Try me.

He shakes his head, and re-positions the syringe over Brienne's neck.

TALBOT

She's going to die soon. And you don't want to be around when she does.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

Why?

TALBOT

Trust me. You don't want to know.

ALICE

I don't trust you. Back away from her.

BRIENNE

(Alarmed)

What? What's going to happen?

ALICE

Nothing's going to happen.

TALBOT

I don't have a choice, believe me.

Alice throws the rifle to her shoulder, chambers a shell, and points the barrel at him. Her expression is resolute - she means business.

ALICE

Back the fuck off. I mean it!

Alice puts her finger on the trigger.

BRIENNE

Alice?

He thrusts the needle in anyway. But before he can depress the plunger -

BOOM! A muzzle flash lights up the room.

A bullet SLAMS into Talbot's shoulder. He flies backward, slamming into the wall, before tumbling to the floor.

Alice strides across the room, raises the rifle, and -

CRACK! Smacks him in the temple with the butt end, knocking him unconscious.

She quickly steps over him and yanks the syringe from Brienne's neck, tossing it on the floor.

Gina races into the room. She surveys the room.

GINA

What the fuck? What the fuck?

48 EXT. WOODS - BIG TREE - NIGHT 48

The distant sound of the RIFLE SHOT echoing through the forest. Jesse begins to shout.

JESSE  
HELP! HELP ME! I'M OVER HERE!

He strains against the chain holding him hostage. The links CLINK against each other.

49 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT 49

Jules underneath the tree. She's heard the shot too, and so has THE THING next to her - it suddenly races off, kicking up leaves and brush.

Jules waits for a minute - then slowly peeks out from her hiding place.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW - the empty forest.

She slowly crawls out from under the tree. Stands up.

Looks around her. The woods are completely still.

She starts down the path.

50 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 50

Lights glow inside the windows of the tiny cabin nestled in the trees of the dark woods.

51 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 51

Talbot lying on the floor. Still unconscious. Alice applies a bandage to the gunshot wound, which is painful but not life-threatening.

GINA  
Jesus, Alice. I can't believe you  
fucking shot him!

ALICE  
He'll live. Hand me that gauze.

Alice rips a strip free with her teeth.

GINA  
What do you think he was doing?

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

Dunno. But I'm going to find out when he wakes up.

GINA

God, this is so fucked up!

Suddenly, there is a LOUD THUMP from outside of the cabin, startling both of them. They both freeze and look at each other.

GINA (CONT'D)

What was THAT?

Alice opens the door and peers outside.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW - The dark woods.

ALICE

I'm going outside.

GINA

Don't leave me here alone!

Alice hands the rifle to Gina, who holds it gingerly.

ALICE

Keep an eye on him.

GINA

I don't know what to do with this!

Alice demonstrates, pointing out features.

ALICE

Business end. Trigger.

GINA

What do I do if he wakes up?

ALICE

Shoot him in the leg.

Alice leaves, shutting the door behind her.

Jesse sitting on the ground leaning against the tree. Groaning in pain. He inspects his pants leg, soaked in blood.

He tries to rip the material free from around the wound, but the pain is too great. He gives up and collapses against the tree. He screams in frustration.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE

AAAAGGGGH!

As if in response, we hear the sound of footsteps on underbrush. Crackling twigs and snapping branches.

JESSE (CONT'D)

HEY! HEY! HERE! I'M OVER HERE!

The low rustle suddenly becomes a loud noise - like a freight train tearing through a thicket.

A FIGURE appears, but once again, it's not visible to us. But Jesse can see it... and he suddenly wishes he wasn't chained to a tree.

HIS FACE. Sheer terror and confusion.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Matt? Oh, God.

A CLAWED HAND slices through the air, removing half of Jesse's throat. Blood gurgles from the wound, streaming down his neck.

A red stain spreads across his chest. His eyes glass over as he gasps for air.

THE THING grabs his head. We can't see its face, but we get a glimpse of its hands. Vaguely human, but a gray-black flesh color with razor-sharp claws.

WHITE VISCOUS SALIVA drips from its mouth onto Jesse's face.

It suddenly tears into his head, which shakes violently back and forth as the flesh is ripped from his skull - so fast we're not sure what we're seeing.

53 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

53

Jules trotting along the path. A distant shriek. She pauses, considering going back - then hurries on.

54 EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

54

Alice is walking around the cabin. Everything is still, quiet.

HER POINT OF VIEW - The woods. A sudden, fleeting movement in the shadows.

Alice squints harder.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

HER POINT OF VIEW - A figure crouched in the dark.  
Looking back at her. Eyes glowing.

ALICE

Hello?

No response. Alice starts toward it to investigate.

TALBOT (O.S.)

Listen to me.

55 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

55

Talbot is awake. Gina pointing the gun at him. So nervous the barrel is shaking. He tries to reason with her in a calm voice.

TALBOT

Your friend is infected. The virus  
inside her is taking over her  
body. It won't be long. She'll die  
and become something else.  
Something terrible.

GINA

What are you talking about?

TALBOT

If you don't kill her, your life  
is in danger. All of you will be  
in great danger!

GINA

SHUT UP!

Talbot suddenly bounds from the couch and runs for the door.

BOOM! Gina fires the gun, but the shot is wild. A large jar explodes.

56 EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

56

Alice hears the gunshot and glances back at the cabin.  
She looks back at the woods, but THE FIGURE IS GONE.

She sprints back to the cabin. Gets to the porch when -

57 EXT. CABIN - PORCH - SAME TIME

57

Talbot bursts out the front door, BOWLING HER OVER.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

Gina appears with the gun. Alice scrambles to her feet, snatching the gun from her. She throws the rifle to her shoulder - takes careful aim --

HER POINT-OF-VIEW - Talbot running.

GINA

SHOOT HIM!

Alice has him in her sights, but suddenly lowers the rifle. She can't bring herself to shoot an unarmed man in the back.

GINA (CONT'D)

Why didn't you shoot him?

ALICE

I don't think he'll be back anytime soon.

58 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

58

Alice locks the front door behind them. Puts the gun down and begins to poke around the cabin.

GINA

He said Brienne was dangerous.

ALICE

He's crazy.

GINA

What are you doing?

ALICE

Looking.

GINA

For what?

ALICE

Dunno.

She walks across the room to the other side. Suddenly she stops on a throw rug.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Wait. Did you hear that?

GINA

Hear what?

Alice stomps her foot. The sound echoes, hollow.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

I didn't notice this before.  
There's something under here.

She stoops down and pulls back the rug to see a large trap door underneath.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Hello.

Gina joins her.

GINA

Where's that go?

ALICE

Only one way to find out.

She strains to lift the heavy door up. The lid swings open and falls back on the floor with a THUD. There is a set of wooden stairs descending into a black hole.

Alice inspects the underside of the trap door.

The door is covered in DEEP GOUGES, as if someone was trying to claw their way out.

GINA

What the fuck?

Alice grabs a lantern, turns it on, and lowers it into the dark.

GINA (CONT'D)

What do you see?

ALICE

It's a cellar or something. I'm going to take a look.

She starts to descend into the darkness.

GINA

No way I'm going down there.

ALICE

Suit yourself.

She disappears. Gina looks around the empty cabin and shivers. Then quickly follows Alice down.

GINA

Wait up!

59 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT 59

Jules is walking brusquely along the path.

The distant howl of a wild animal. She quickens her pace, frequently looking behind her.

60 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME 60

Back to Alice and Gina. Alice swings the lantern around, which doesn't reveal much. Long shadows, fast glimpses of things and a lot of black.

GINA

It's really dark down here.

ALICE

Wait. I think I saw a switch.

Suddenly an overhead fluorescent light flickers on. Alice is standing next to a wall switch. The light casts a greenish pallor over the small room

Gina's horrified face.

GINA

Jesus Christ.

Against one wall is a handmade SAINT ANDREW'S CROSS, a large wooden frame constructed of two heavy wood planks, typically used to restrain a person. Heavy chains and manacles on each side, presumably for hands and feet.

Nearby is a long table, filled with surgical instruments, chemicals and medicine.

GINA (CONT'D)

What is this?

ALICE

Dunno.

GINA

What do you think?

ALICE

I think Talbot is not what he seems.

Gina tugs on the manacles.

GINA

Jesus. You think he's like, a serial killer?

(CONTINUED)

Alice picks up a medicine vial and inspects it. Then another.

ALICE

Ketamine. Telazol. Thiopental.

GINA

Tranquilizers?

ALICE

Horse tranquilizers. We used these on our mares. There's enough here to knock out a dozen.

GINA

Something tells me this guy is not playing My Little Pony.

Alice contemplates.

ALICE

I think he was keeping someone prisoner. By the looks of things, for a long time.

GINA

What the fuck? What kind of sick shit is this fucker into?

Suddenly, they are interrupted by a pounding upstairs. BAM BAM BAM BAM! They both freeze. The hammering continues.

GINA (CONT'D)

Talbot?

ALICE

Where's the gun?

She suddenly realizes she left the gun upstairs.

ALICE (CONT'D)

SHIT!

She bounds up the stairs.

Alice climbs out of the trap door portal. The pounding is EVEN LOUDER. She snatches up the gun and points it at the door. The hammering continues.

ALICE

WHO IS IT? ANSWER ME!

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

BAM! BAM! BAM! Her finger tightens on the trigger. About to pull when we hear a familiar muffled voice.

JULES (O.S.)  
Goddamn it, open up!

ALICE  
Jules?

JULES (O.S.)  
(Frantic)  
Come on, bitch! Open the fucking door!

Alice lowers the gun and opens the door. Jules rushes in and collapses on the couch, out of breath.

ALICE  
Jesus Christ! I almost shot you!

JULES  
Thanks for not.

ALICE  
What are you doing here? Where's Jesse?

JULES  
It's bad! So fucking bad!

ALICE  
What happened?

Gina peeks out of the trap door entrance.

GINA  
Where's Jesse?

Jules looks at her.

JULES  
What's down there?

62 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

62

The moon hangs like a bright silver saucer over the cabin.

63 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

63

Alice, Jules and Gina huddled together.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

It must have been Talbot you saw  
in the woods.

JULES

No. It wasn't human.

GINA

What do you mean, it wasn't human?

JULES

It was like an animal. I was so  
freaked out!

GINA

What kind of animal?

JULES

I don't know. What are we going to  
do?

ALICE

Okay, look. We wait until morning  
to go back.

GINA

Wait until morning? Jesse could  
die out there!

ALICE

It won't help anyone if the rescue  
party gets lost in the woods. Or  
runs into that thing you saw.

Gina considers this and nods.

GINA

Okay.

ALICE

Jules can take me there. You stay  
here with Brienne.

GINA

What if Talbot comes back?

ALICE

You keep the gun.

The girls look at each other.

JULES

God, this is really fucked up,  
isn't it?

64 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 64

Jules and Gina are fast asleep on the floor, covered in a blanket. Jules's arm draped over Gina's body.

Alice lying on the couch. Still awake. Vigilant, staring out the window.

65 EXT. WOODS - DAY 65

The sun is breaking over the forest.

66 EXT. CABIN - DAY 66

Alice and Jules are holding the travoise. Gina on the front porch holding the rifle.

ALICE

We should be back before dark.  
Anybody other than us comes to the  
door, shoot them. Got it?

GINA

Yeah. Then what?

ALICE

We'll spend the night. I'll hike  
back to the cars in the morning.  
Drive for help. And we can finally  
all get the Hell out of this  
place.

Gina nods her head.

GINA

Copy that.

67 EXT. WOODS - DAY 67

Alice and Jules dragging the travoise behind them.

JULES

You really think the two of us can  
pull him? He's pretty heavy.

ALICE

I guess we're going to find out.

68 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

68

BRIENNE'S FACE covered in thin black veins. She's missing a lot of her hair now.

Gina watching over her. She's tired and frightened. The room is too quiet, so she begins to chatter.

GINA

We shouldn't even be here, you know? This is crazy. Like a bad dream.

Brienne nods. She's short of breath, and speaking is an effort now.

GINA (CONT'D)

I don't know why I let him talk me into this in the first place. I mean, I love him, but he doesn't feel the same way about me. I can tell.

(Reflects)

Maybe we were never together in the first place. God. I do this to myself all the time. I must be crazy. Crazy.

BRIENNE

You're... not... crazy.

Gina wipes away her tears.

GINA

I'm sorry. God, I should be comforting you.

BRIENNE

It's okay.

Gina reaches for Brienne's hand and squeezes it.

GINA

We really never got to know each other that well, did we?

Brienne shakes her head slowly.

GINA (CONT'D)

We're going to get out of this together, and when we do, we're going to be best friends. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

Brienne nods. Suddenly she frowns -- rolls her tongue inside her mouth -- then inserts two fingers and fishes something out, holding it up in front of her face -- a BLOODY TOOTH.

Gina releases her hand and sits back, horrified.

69 EXT. WOODS - BIG TREE - DAY

69

Jules and Alice standing in front of Jesse.

JULES

GOD!

His clothing soaked in blood. A gaping wound across his throat. Bite marks across his body. But the blood is clotted in every wound.

ALICE

Looks like animals got to him.

Jules chokes back tears, wracked by guilt.

JULES

This is all my fault!

ALICE

No, it's not.

JULES

I pushed him!

ALICE

It was an accident.

Alice stoops next to Jesse. Opens an eyelid with her fingers. HIS EYEBALL has a strange milky look. He appears to be COMATOSE.

JULES

He's dead because of me.

Alice checks his pulse.

ALICE

He's not dead.

JULES

(Suddenly hopeful)  
What?

ALICE

He's not breathing, but he has a faint pulse.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

What... what's that mean?

ALICE

It's like he's comatose.  
Hibernation or something.

JULES

(Confused)  
Hibernation? Like a bear?

ALICE

We should get him back to the  
cabin stat.

JULES

Okay. How are we going to get him  
loose? That thing is too freaking  
strong.

ALICE

That's what these are for.

She holds up some C-clamps tucked away in the travoise.

JULES

Where did you get those?

ALICE

Swiped them from the cabin.

Alice inspects the springs on either side of the trap.  
There are initials hand scratched into the metal: W.T.

JULES

W.T. What's that stand for?

Alice thinks for a second.

ALICE

Bill Talbot. William Talbot?

JULES

You think this is Talbot's? Why  
would he put this out here?

ALICE

To catch something. Something big.

Alice begins to screw the clamp onto a spring.

JULES

Where did you learn to do that?

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (2)

ALICE  
I set traps with Dad. None this  
big, though.

JULES  
You scare me sometimes.

Alice looks up at the sun.

ALICE  
We should hurry.

70 EXT. WOODS - DAY

70

Jules and Alice dragging Jesse in the travoise.

MONTAGE

- Wide shot of the three, tiny specks in an enormous  
forest.

- Slowly dragging Jesse up a hill.

- Perspiration on their faces as they trudge along.

- The sun overhead beating down on them.

71 EXT. WOODS - DAY

71

A weary Alice and Jules sitting against some trees,  
sharing a water bottle. Alice pours some water on her  
face.

JULES  
You'd make a good doctor.

ALICE  
Why's that?

JULES  
I don't know. You're just wired to  
save things. I bet you rescued  
kittens when you were a toddler.

Alice reflects.

ALICE  
Yeah, that's funny, considering I  
grew up in a family of hunters.

JULES  
Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

(Reflects)

Yeah. When I was little, my Dad hung the moon. I guess because he was a hunter, I wanted to be one too. Being an Army Ranger, he was funny about his guns. He never let me hold one. One day, after hours of begging him, he finally gave in. He showed me how to hold the weapon - how to aim it - and that day I shot a rabbit.

JULES

Gross.

ALICE

I was so excited. I was finally a hunter, like my Dad. Except... the rabbit was still alive. Dad, he made me watch it die.

Alice vividly remembers the experience, and almost chokes up.

JULES

That's terrible!

72 EXT. FIELD - DAY - FLASHBACK

72

YOUNG ALICE (11). Her face, looking down at the ground. Filled with emotion.

ALICE (V.O.)

I'll never forget the look on its face.

73 EXT. WOODS - DAY

73

Back to Jules and Alice, present day.

ALICE

You know, it's one thing to shoot something from a distance, it's another to look into its face and watch it die.

(Pause)

Dad said, "Every life is precious. Never take one unless you have to, and even then, they deserve your respect."

(Pauses)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

ALICE (CONT'D)

After that, I lost interest in hunting. Took up soccer instead.

JULES

And girls.

ALICE

(Smiles)  
Yeah. And girls.

She reflects once more.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You know, when we get home, I think I'm going to go see my parents. I owe them the truth.

Jules nods. Alice's face. Content with her decision.

74 EXT. CABIN - DAY

74

Alice and Jules arrive at the cabin, and Jules collapses on the ground in exhaustion.

ALICE

Gina! We're here!

There is no response.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Gina?

Gina appears. She recoils at the sight of Jesse.

GINA

Oh my God!

75 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

75

Jesse in bed. Gina, Jules and Alice standing around him.

ALICE

His whole body's in some kind of deep sleep, like a coma. Heart rate's barely there. He's not responsive to light. He could be brain dead for all I know.

GINA

You're the expert on viruses. What are we dealing with?

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

(Winces)

Well, I'm not an expert, but this virus, it appears to be transmitted by the scratch or bite of an infected animal.

JULES

You mean, like rabies?

ALICE

Exactly like rabies. But rabies has an incubation period of a couple weeks. This virus is fast. We're talking hours.

JULES

Isn't rabies curable?

ALICE

Yeah, but untreated, it has a ninety-nine percent mortality rate. We have to get them to a hospital, that's all there is to it.

JULES

We can't leave now. It's going to be dark soon.

ALICE

We leave first thing in the morning.

They nod in agreement. Alice and Jules start to leave the room, but Gina remains.

GINA

I'm going to stay with Jesse.

76

EXT. WOODS - DAY

76

The sun is beginning to set over the woods, casting long shadows across the forest floor.

77

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

77

Alice sitting in the chair, facing the door. Jules joins her.

ALICE

(Aggravated)

It's so damn frustrating.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

ALICE (CONT'D)

Sitting here doing nothing. I feel so helpless.

JULES

You did all we could. Look, why don't you get some sleep. I'll take over.

ALICE

I'm okay.

JULES

You have to start trusting other people. Besides, you got a long hike in the morning.

Alice contemplates.

ALICE

Okay.

She hands the gun to Jules and curls up on the couch. The last sliver of sun disappears, pitching the room into darkness.

78 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

78

A full moon, like a bright silver dollar hanging in the black sky.

79 INT. CABIN - TALBOT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

79

Gina and Jesse in bed. Both motionless. Moonlight from the window bathes them in silver gray.

GINA'S FACE

Fast asleep.

JESSE'S FACE

Completely still.

HIS HAND

A finger suddenly twitches.

80 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

80

Alice sprawled on the couch.

Jules slumped back in the chair.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

The rifle lying on the floor by her feet.

A pair of boots creep along the wooden floor.

A MAN'S HAND

quietly picks up the rifle.

Alice's eyes flutter. She wakes up to see -

The barrel of the gun in her face. Talbot holding it. He puts his finger on the trigger.

81 INT. CABIN - TALBOT'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME 81

Gina rolls over onto her side, her back to Jesse.

His body beyond her, out-of-focus. It moves, almost imperceptibly.

82 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 82

Back to Alice and Talbot. Alice slowly sits up.

TALBOT

You should have listened to me.

ALICE

What do you want from us?

TALBOT

You can't leave now. The outside world can't know what's here.

ALICE

What are you going to do? Kill us all?

TALBOT

I have to protect my family.

ALICE

I thought your wife was dead.

TALBOT

I'm talking about my son.

ALICE

Your son?

83 INT. CABIN - TALBOT'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

83

Gina rolls over, half awake. She puts her arm out to embrace Jesse - but he's not there. She opens one eye to see an empty place beside her on the bed.

GINA  
(Half awake)  
Jesse?

There are several small objects lying on the bed where Jesse was. She reaches out and picks one up, holding it up to the moonlight.

It's a BLOODY TOOTH.

She picks up another - all of Jesse's teeth are scattered on the sheet, surrounded by clumps of hair.

Alarmed, Gina sits up.

The sound of labored breathing. It's coming from the corner of the room, which is completely black. SOMETHING is standing in the shadows, but we can't see who it is.

Gina sits up, running her hand through her hair.

GINA (CONT'D)  
(Nervous)  
Jesse? Are you there?

The figure suddenly lurches forward into the moonlight, revealing THE THING that was once Jesse. It's Jesse's face, but different. Distorted into a mask of horror. Animalistic. Savage. The Jesse-Thing sizes up Gina the way a predator looks at its prey - then suddenly LUNGES at her.

She SCREAMS.

84 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

84

Talbot looks up, distracted by the scream.

Alice reacts, leaping off the couch and grabbing the barrel of the gun. She pushes it up into the air.

The rifle discharges.

BOOM! A bullet punches through the ceiling.

The two wrestle for control of the gun.

85 INT. CABIN - TALBOT'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME 85

The Jesse-Thing savagely bites into Gina's shoulder. Sharp teeth tear out a chunk of flesh. She screams, flailing wildly.

She wriggles free, rolling off the bed. Scrambles to her feet and takes refuge in a corner. The creature cuts off her exit. Blood drips from its lower lip and jaw. Gina sobs uncontrollably.

GINA

Oh God please no!

Her pleas for help don't even register. The Thing is like a rabid dog. It has only one thing in mind - to feed.

She snatches up a lamp from the night stand and heaves it at him, but he bats it away. It crashes to the floor.

86 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 86

Alice elbows Talbot in the shoulder, hitting his wound. He yelps in pain, releasing his grasp on the rifle.

She rips it free, flips it around and points it at him. He collapses to the floor.

TALBOT

You're too late.

Another shriek.

ALICE

Fuck.

Alice sprints to the back.

TALBOT

God help us all.

87 INT. CABIN - TALBOT'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME 87

Alice bursts in to see --

The Jesse-Thing hunched over Gina. BLOOD DRIPPING from its mouth. It whirls around and SNARLS at Alice.

Alice doesn't hesitate a second, firing the rifle.

BOOM! A muzzle flash springs from the barrel.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

The bullet strikes the creature in the chest, knocking it off the bed.

Gina is STILL ALIVE - and scrambles off the bed, dashing out of the room.

Alice throws the lever, chambering another shell - and fires again. And again. BOOM! BOOM!

The thing screams in pain, crashing into the wall.

Alice takes aim again and -

Pulls the trigger. CLICK. The rifle is EMPTY.

The Thing leaps for the window, CRASHING through the glass.

Alice runs to the window and leans out.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW

Empty woods. It's gone.

88 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

88

FINGERS loading shells into the rifle.

Alice chambers a round and turns to Talbot, who is lying on the floor. Jules and Gina behind her.

ALICE'S FACE. Determined. Unwavering.

ALICE

What happened to Jesse?

TALBOT

You're not going to believe me.

ALICE

Talk, or I'll put a fucking bullet in your skull right now!

TALBOT

Okay, okay.

ALICE

Now.

TALBOT

It's like rabies, but worse. Much worse. It's transmitted from the bite of an infected animal. I call it the "Feral Virus".

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

Gina rubs her shoulder. Alice looks at her.

ALICE  
Feral Virus? Never heard of it.  
How do you know so much about it?

TALBOT  
I've been studying it for the last  
six years.

ALICE  
Are you in research?

TALBOT  
Me? No, it's personal.

ALICE  
Personal? Why?

TALBOT  
The thing that attacked your  
group? That's my son, Ben.

ALICE  
Bullshit.

TALBOT  
He's got the Feral Virus, just  
like your friends.

89 INT. CELLAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK - FIVE YEARS AGO 89

A FERAL, similar to the Jesse-Thing, strapped into manacles. Struggling to get free. Talbot preparing a hypodermic.

TALBOT (V.O.)  
I kept him in the cellar. Chained  
up and sedated, so he couldn't  
harm anyone. So I could study him,  
try to find a cure.

90 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 90

Back to Talbot and Alice.

TALBOT  
But he escaped.

ALICE  
What is he?

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

TALBOT

To answer that, you have to understand the virus. There are three phases. The first phase is incubation.

91 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - NIGHT

91

Black veins covering Brienne's body.

TALBOT (V.O.)

The virus spreads through the victim, attacking the central nervous system, eventually killing the host.

92 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

92

Back to Talbot and Alice.

TALBOT

After the host dies, either from the initial attack or from the virus, it goes into Phase Two. The dead body is reanimated.

ALICE

Reanimated? You mean like a zombie?

He nods.

ALICE (CONT'D)

That's just folklore. It's not real.

JULES

Superstitions and folklore are often based on historical and scientific facts.

(Shrugs)

Just sayin'.

ALICE

That's insane. You expect me to believe this shit?

TALBOT

You've seen it for yourself.

93 EXT. WOODS - DAY - FLASHBACK 93

Jesse asleep in a coma state.

TALBOT (V.O.)

The virus is dormant during the day, so the host goes into a coma state. They look dead.

94 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 94

Back to Talbot and Alice.

TALBOT

Maybe it's the sun, I don't know. But at night, the virus wakes up. Phase Three.

95 INT. CABIN - TALBOT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 95

Jesse transforming.

TALBOT (V.O.)

The body changes. Porphyria. Hypertrichosis. Amelogenesis. Like a werewolf. It becomes what you saw. A Feral. A wild animal. A predator.

ALICE

A werewolf.

TALBOT (V.O.)

It becomes what you saw. A Feral. A wild animal. A predator.

96 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 96

Back to Talbot and Alice.

ALICE

Werewolves, zombies. This is fucking insane.

TALBOT

I said you'd wouldn't believe me.

ALICE

They're human. Can't you reason with them?

(CONTINUED)

TALBOT

(Reflects)

I think when the body dies, the brain does, too. Only basic instincts, like feeding, seem to remain. It's like trying to reason with a shark.

Alice nods at the back bedroom.

ALICE

What about my friend?

TALBOT

She survived her attack, but she doesn't have much longer. She's going to die and become a Feral.

JULES

God.

Alice lowers the rifle.

TALBOT

You should know. It'll be back. They all will.

ALICE

Why's that?

TALBOT

Because this is where the food is.

JULES

(Confused)

Food?

ALICE

He means us.

97 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

97

An owl perched on a branch, quietly observing the cabin with its bright yellow eyes. A mist creeps along the woodland floor.

98 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

98

Alice is treating Gina's wounds. Jules standing guard over Talbot.

ALICE

How did your son get it?

(CONTINUED)

TALBOT

About eight years ago, we came here for the annual summer vacation. The whole family. My wife, son, his wife, my granddaughter.

(Pause)

Ben... was attacked by an animal. I don't know what it was. He bled out before I could even move him. That night, he killed his wife and daughter. Tore his own mother to pieces.

(Pause)

Then they changed.

99 INT. CELLAR - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

99

Back to the very first scene in the movie. The Woman strapped to the cot. We now see the Man standing over her is TALBOT. Exhausted, distraught. A man with no options left.

TALBOT (V.O.)

I... I had no choice.

He raises the gun, places it on her head and pulls the trigger. BOOM!

100 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

100

Back to Jules, Gina, Alice and Talbot.

TALBOT

I'm not going to lose my son. He's all I got left.

ALICE

Someone can help him.

TALBOT

You don't understand. He can't ever leave the woods. None of you can. If this virus ever reached the outside world, it would be ...

ALICE

An epidemic.

TALBOT

It would burn through the country like wildfire.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

Pandemic.

Silence, as all this sinks in.

TALBOT

Your friends have it now. The infection will spread and they'll die. You have to kill them before they change, too.

Gina freaks out.

GINA

I don't want to die!

ALICE

Okay, we're not killing anyone.

Alice stands up, takes the gun from Jules and points it at Talbot.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

TALBOT

What are you going to do?

ALICE

Put you where you can't cause any trouble, until I figure this out.

Talbot standing in the cellar. The three girls looking down into the hole at him.

TALBOT

You can't leave me down here.

ALICE

Watch me.

TALBOT

They'll return. You're all going to die, and I'll be trapped down here.

ALICE

I don't plan on dying anytime soon.

Alice drops the trapdoor with a THUD. She slides a wire through the latch to lock it.

102 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

102

Jules, Gina and Alice huddled together in a serious conversation.

ALICE

Okay. We have to assume there's three of those things out there.

GINA

Three?

ALICE

Jesse, Matt, and Talbot's son.

JULES

You think Matt's one too?

ALICE

Yeah. His body disappeared.

JULES

Jesus.

GINA

What do we do? If they come back?

Alice bites her lip.

ALICE

We prepare.

FAST MONTAGE

- Alice and Jules groan as they slide a battered credenza in front of the door.

- Gina nailing plywood across the broken window in the bedroom.

- Alice finds a box of shells on a shelf.

- Jules inspecting a pair of kitchen knives, debating which is more deadly.

The three girls seated in dead silence, looking very grim.

JULES

I feel like we should be doing something.

ALICE

(Weary)  
Why don't you check on Brienne?

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED:

Jules sees how tired Alice is.

JULES

Sure.

Alice squeezes her hand.

ALICE

Thanks.

JULES

But just for the record. This is now officially the worst Spring Break ever.

103 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

103

Brienne is breathing rapidly. Secretions built up in her throat and airway causing wet respirations. A death rattle.

A final gasp - slowly exhaling air, then she dies. Her body slumps to one side. Facial muscles relax. She is motionless.

HER FACE begins to change color.

Jules standing over her.

JULES

Uh, guys. You better come see this. Like now.

Alice and Gina rush in.

GINA

Shit. What do we do?

ALICE

Let's tie her to the bed.

JULES

Are you sure that's going to hold her?

Gina starts to side with Jules.

GINA

Jesse was like really fucking strong.

JULES

Maybe we should...

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

What?

JULES

Put her out of her misery.

ALICE

You mean kill her?

JULES

Yeah.

ALICE

That's murder.

JULES

She's not human anymore!

ALICE

She's our friend.

JULES

Yeah, our friend is going to rip us apart!

ALICE

Look, we're doctors. We're supposed to be saving lives, not taking them!

JULES

I'm talking about saving OUR lives.

ALICE

No. We're not killing her, and that's final.

JULES

Okay. Do you have a better idea?

Brienne's face is beginning to change.

GINA

We better do something quick.

Alice thinks quickly.

ALICE

Grab her feet.

JULES

What?

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: (2)

ALICE  
Grab her feet!

104 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 104

Brienne's body lying next to the trap door. She's beginning to CONVULSE. Her body is beginning to transform into the next stage.

Alice throws open the trap door, and points the rifle into the cellar. Talbot looks up at her.

ALICE  
We need help.

Talbot laughs out loud.

TALBOT  
You want me to help you? You're crazy. I'm not getting involved in your problems.

ALICE  
(Points to Brienne)  
Well, she's about to become your problem, too.

Talbot climbs up the stairs and takes one look at Brienne.

TALBOT  
You have two minutes, three tops.

ALICE  
Let's get her into the cellar.

TALBOT  
You should just shoot her in the head now.

Alice points the rifle at him.

ALICE  
Now.

Talbot sees the determination in Alice's face, and decides not to fight her. He grabs Brienne under the arms. Jules and Gina grab her legs. They start to carry her down the stairs.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
Hurry!

105 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME

105

They stand Brienne up in front of the wooden cross. Talbot fixes the manacles on one wrist. Jules slaps on the ankle restraints.

Talbot changes positions to fix the other manacle when - Brienne roars, almost fully transformed.

She lashes out, slashing Gina's arm and knocking her to the ground.

Gina tumbles across the concrete.

Brienne-Feral strikes at anything near it, narrowly missing Talbot.

TALBOT

HOLD HER!

Gina climbs to her feet and grabs the creature's loose arm. Jules joins her, grabbing its forearm. The two girls struggle to hold the powerful creature still.

JULES

DO IT!

TALBOT

HOLD HER STILL!

Jules and Gina desperately cling to her arm as Talbot snaps on the other manacle.

JULES

HURRY!

The Brienne-Feral gnashes at the girls - its teeth flashing inches from Jules's face.

GINA

I can't hold on much longer!

TALBOT

One more second!

He snaps the manacle shut.

The Brienne-Feral rages against the restraints like a wild animal. For a moment, it looks like she may shake the wooden cross to pieces.

Jules and Gina step back and watch with horror.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE  
Can you sedate her?

TALBOT  
Why?

ALICE  
So she doesn't injure herself.

TALBOT  
What's the point? There's nothing  
you can do for her now.

Alice points the rifle at him.

ALICE  
This isn't a debate. Just do it.

Talbot goes to the medicine table. He picks a syringe and  
jams it into a vial.

TALBOT  
You're making a big mistake.

ALICE  
Yeah, well, we'll see. What have  
you got there?

TALBOT  
Ten milligrams of Acepromazine.

ALICE  
Isn't that a lot?

TALBOT  
(sarcastic)  
You're the doctor.

He waits for her approval.

TALBOT (CONT'D)  
Yes?

ALICE  
Do it.

Talbot jabs the syringe into the Brienne-Feral. The drug  
works quickly, and within seconds, the creature is  
slumped over, unconscious.

TALBOT  
I don't know how long that will  
hold her.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

If she wakes up, we'll dose her again.

Alice turns to Jules.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You okay?

JULES

Yeah.

Alice turns to Gina. She's pale and bathed in sweat. The fresh wound on her arm is bleeding profusely.

ALICE

Let me see that.

GINA

I don't feel very good.

TALBOT

She's dying. The virus is in her blood stream.

Gina suddenly sits down on the floor, leaning against the wall.

ALICE

Can you make it upstairs?

Gina shakes her head.

GINA

I don't think so. I feel... so weak.

ALICE

(To Jules)

Can you grab the medical supplies upstairs? I need some gauze.

JULES

Yeah. Sure.

Jules climbs the stairs.

Alice stares at Talbot, debating what to do with him.

Jules stuffing medical supplies into Matt's backpack.

106 CONTINUED:

106

POINT-OF-VIEW from outside the cabin, looking through a window at her. Someone or something is watching her.

Jules goes to the shelves and rummages through them.

107 INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

107

Alice strokes Gina's brow.

ALICE

You're going to be okay.

GINA

I don't want to be one of those things!

TALBOT

The best thing you can do is put her out of her misery.

Alice loses her patience.

ALICE

(To Talbot)

Give it a rest, will you?

TALBOT

Don't you understand what's at stake here? When we're all Ferals, how long do you think it will take for one of us to make it to the outside world?

ALICE

We'll just have to make sure that doesn't happen.

108 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

108

POINT-OF-VIEW from outside the cabin - Jules grabs a roll of gauze.

ALICE (O.S.)

HURRY UP!

JULES

Okay, okay. I'm going as fast as I can!

She throws one last thing in the backpack, and starts down the stairs.

109 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME

109

Jules has the rifle trained on Talbot. Alice finishes wrapping Gina's arm.

GINA

Thanks.

ALICE

No sweat.

GINA

Alice?

ALICE

Yeah?

GINA

I don't want to die.

ALICE

You're not going to die.

GINA

He said...

ALICE

I know what he said. I'm not going to let that happen.

GINA

Alice.

ALICE

What?

GINA

You're a really good person. I mean it.

Alice stands up. Jules gestures to Talbot.

JULES

What about him?

110 INT. CELLAR - LATER

110

TALBOT seated in a battered metal chair. Alice has the rifle pointed at his chest. Jules is trussing his arms and legs to the chair back. She does one final tug. Talbot winces.

JULES

That does it.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

ALICE  
Will it hold?

JULES  
I guess.

ALICE  
I thought you were a Girl Scout.

JULES  
No, I said I slept with a Girl Scout.

Suddenly, there is a HUGE CRASH upstairs. They all look up at the ceiling, horrified expressions on the girls. Talbot smirks.

TALBOT  
They're here.

Alice reacts, dashing up the stairs.

JULES  
Fuck! Could this get any worse?

TALBOT  
You haven't seen worse yet, but it's coming.

111 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 111

Alice bursts into the living room.

The sound is coming from the front door - something is trying to rip through it like a BUZZ SAW.

Alice lifts the trapdoor and lets it drop.

112 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME 112

The trap door slams shut with a LOUD THUNK.

Jules and Gina are trapped in the cellar with Talbot. They eye each other warily.

TALBOT'S HANDS

Straining to wriggle loose from his bonds.

113 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 113

Alice cautiously approaches the door.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

BOOM! The unseen intruder suddenly SMASHES the door with a powerful blow, startling Alice. She flinches, but takes a another step closer.

CRACK! Another blow tears a small hole in the door.

Sharp claws rip the hole open even wider, SPLINTERING WOOD - until we can see the attacker's glowing eyes outside.

The Feral rips another chunk out - in seconds, it will gain entry.

Alice steps forward and thrusts the barrel of the rifle through the hole - jamming the end into the Feral's forehead and pulls the trigger.

BOOM! The bullet BLASTS out the back of the creature's head. It pinwheels backwards, falling off the porch to the ground.

Alice peers out the hole in the door. The body has dropped out of sight, but she can't see it. IS IT DEAD?

114 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME

114

Jules is standing at the foot of the steps, staring at the underside of the trap door.

JULES

Alice? Are you okay?

Talbot is staring at her quietly. He looks over at Gina.

Gina is slowly losing consciousness. The loss of blood and exhaustion finally taking its toll.

Talbot smiles.

HIS HANDS slowly working their way out of the rope that binds them.

115 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

115

Alice slowly turns the knob of the front door.

Carefully nudges it open with the barrel of the gun - and peeks through the crack.

The porch is empty. No sign of the body.

She cocks the gun and steps through the doorway.

116 EXT. CABIN - PORCH - SAME TIME 116

Alice cautiously creeps onto the front porch. Gun ready to fire.

Walks to the edge of the porch.

Carefully peers over to see -

The Matt-Feral sprawled on the ground. His head a split melon.

Alice exhales a sigh of relief.

117 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME 117

Jules pacing back and forth.

TALBOT

Hey.

JULES

What?

TALBOT

You might want to do something about your friend.

Jules looks at Gina, who is lying on the floor.

GINA'S FACE losing color. Starting to turn.

JULES

Shit! What should do I do?

TALBOT

I'd help, but I'm tied to a chair.

JULES

Tell me what to do!

TALBOT

You could try sedating her, but it might be too late.

Jules rushes to the medicine table.

118 EXT. CABIN - PORCH - SAME TIME 118

Alice is prodding the dead body with the barrel of her gun when suddenly --

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

118

A LOUD CRASH from INSIDE the cabin. The sound of glass breaking.

She whirls around and dashes back inside -

119 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

119

Slamming the door shut behind her and bolting it.

She turns and looks down the hall to see -

The bedroom doors shut. Eerily quiet.

She slowly begins to creep down the hall.

120 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME

120

Jules at the medicine table.

JULES

(Frantic)

Okay. What do I do?

TALBOT

Find the vial marked "Thiopental".

She rustles through the bottles on the table.

JULES

Got it!

TALBOT

Pick up a syringe. Pop the cap and insert the needle into the rubber center of the bottle.

Jules is completely focused on the task at hand, oblivious to anything else.

TALBOT'S WRISTS. The ropes slip free, falling quietly to the floor.

JULES

Okay! Then what?

TALBOT

Flip the bottle upside down. Pull the plunger back.

JULES

Then what?

Talbot doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

JULES (CONT'D)

What do I do next?

She whirls around to ask him again - ONLY TALBOT IS STANDING RIGHT BEHIND HER.

She jumps in fright - Talbot grabs her wrists and grips them tightly. Pulls the syringe from her hands.

TALBOT

Allow me.

Before she can react, he JAMS the needle into her neck. Her eyes bulge in horror as he depresses the plunger. He holds her up for a moment while the drug surges through her system. Her eyes flutter, and she slumps to the ground.

Talbot looks up at the trap door with a baleful expression.

121 INT. CABIN - HALL - SAME TIME 121

Alice gets to the first bedroom door. Puts her ear against it. Dead silence.

She slowly reaches for the knob. Turns it.

Nudges the door open with the barrel of the gun. Steps inside.

122 INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME 122

The room is perfectly still. She moves cautiously, swinging the gun barrel back and forth as she carefully surveys the interior.

The window intact. Everything looks normal.

She momentarily drops her guard, lowering the gun. It's been a long night, she's exhausted, and she just wants this nightmare to be over.

ALICE

Come on, girl. Get a grip.

SHE DOESN'T SEE OR HEAR THE SHADOWED, OUT-OF-FOCUS FIGURE STANDING IN THE HALL BEHIND HER.

She rubs her temples. The pressure feels good, and she mentally drifts away for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

122

But we can see the THE FIGURE over her shoulder --  
silently creeping towards her, as if STALKING A PREY.

Her back to the creature. THE THING almost upon her.

Its MUDDY SHOE takes a step, making a SLIGHT CREAK  
against the wood.

ALICE'S EYES SNAP OPEN. Suddenly aware of the presence  
behind her and paralyzed with fear.

She ever-so-slowly circles the trigger of the gun with  
her finger --

Slowly lifting the barrel in super slow-motion as she  
turns around to see --

THE JESSE-FERAL behind her. It opens its mouth and  
shudders, showing jagged teeth like a shark -- saliva  
dripping from the bottom row like a rabid dog. A true  
alpha predator, no fear.

Alice lifts the barrel and fires.

BOOM! The muzzle flash lights up the room.

The bullet strikes Jesse-Feral in the torso -- the impact  
knocks it backwards, and it scrambles out the door into  
the hall, HOWLING IN RAGE.

The sound of thumping feet followed by the loud crash of  
breaking glass.

123 INT. CABIN - HALL - SAME TIME

123

Alice enters the hall. Empty.

She looks at the floor.

A TRAIL OF SPATTERED BLOOD leads into the next bedroom.

Alice reaches into her pocket and produces -

ONE BULLET. She slips it into the magazine of the rifle,  
and cocks the lever.

Steps back, puts the rifle to her shoulder, and nudges  
the door open with her foot. It slowly swings open.

124 INT. CABIN - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

124

Alice enters very slowly.

(CONTINUED)

The room is quiet. The only sound a few tree branches brushing against the side of the house. Swaying softly in the window, silhouetted in the moonlight. The window is broken, the drapes hang in tatters. No sign of the creature. Is it gone?

Alice carefully advances, looking side to side.

Nothing. Where could it be?

She gets to the side of the bed. Could it be?

She slowly crouches to one knee. Terrified to look -- but she has to know. Lays the gun against the floor and leans down to look underneath.

Her face appears from underneath the bed.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW -- A FIGURE crouched on the other side of the bed. IT'S THE FERAL.

Suddenly, everything explodes. She scrambles to her feet as --

THE JESSE-FERAL POPS UP FROM THE OTHER SIDE. It climbs across the bed towards her.

Alice has time for one shot, and one shot only. She jams the barrel into it's chest, stopping its motion -- and pulls the trigger.

BOOM! The impact spins the creature around like a top, and it falls backward off the bed, crashing to the floor.

Alice doesn't move -- listening carefully. A wheezing sound, then a gurgling one -- sounds of death.

She cautiously walks around the bed to see --

The Feral lying on the floor. It shudders, then exhales, dead.

She stares at the body for a moment before leaving the room.

125 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

125

Alice opens the trap door and begins to climb down.

126 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME

126

Halfway down the steps, she immediately senses something is wrong. It's too still. Where is everyone?

(CONTINUED)

ALICE

Jules?

No response. She takes one step at a time, descending slowly. She's three feet from the cellar floor when she sees -

The empty chair once occupied by Talbot.

HER FACE. Her expression says, "Oh shit."

A PAIR OF HANDS reach through the wood steps from the back of the stairs, grab her ankles, and yank them backwards.

Alice pitches forward, CRASHING down the remaining flight of stairs to the concrete floor. She lands head first, SMACKING her face against the concrete.

The rifle flies loose from her hands and skitters across the room.

She's lying on her side, stunned. Her vision going in and out.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW - A pair of feet walking towards her. She strains to focus, and sees it's Talbot. He's holding the rifle. He lifts it up and --

TALBOT

You should have never come here.

Smashes the butt end into Alice's face, knocking her unconscious.

Talbot climbs the stairs.

Talbot closes the trap door to the cellar. He goes to the shelves, and lays the rifle down.

He rummages through a metal can and produces a PADLOCK.

He crouches down and fastens it on the trapdoor latch. When he stands he suddenly freezes - sensing something else is in the room with him. He slowly turns around to see -

A FERAL we haven't seen before. Standing behind him. Its teeth bared, drool dripping from the lower lip. Eyes burning.

127 CONTINUED:

127

TALBOT

Ben?

It snarls and moves forward. He takes a step back and holds up his hands.

TALBOT (CONT'D)

It's me, Dad! Listen, I have some food for you in the cellar. Lots of food! Ben? Ben?

The Ben-Feral takes another step forward.

128 INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

128

Alice's eyes flutter. She slowly wakes up. Groggy. Her head pounding like a drum. She has a bad gash on her forehead. Blood running down all across her face.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW - everything fuzzy, out-of-focus. The room slowly come into focus. She sees -

A FERAL HUNCHED OVER JULES. Looks like it's getting ready to feed. Drool hanging from the lips like a rabid dog.

Alice frantically scans the room for anything that she can use as a weapon.

Her eyes stop on an object leaning against the wall - a large wooden HATCHET.

She rolls to her hands and knees and begins to crawl towards it. She realizes she's hurt - the movement painful - but tries to not make any noise.

129 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

129

Talbot's hand touches the rifle. His fingers slowly curl around the barrel.

The Feral cocks its head to one side, as if it's curious.

TALBOT

Listen to me, son. There has to be some part of you still in there that remembers. Think. I'm your father. I love you.

Talbot slowly lifts the gun towards him when -

The Feral lunges forward, smashing Talbot against the shelves.

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

Talbot's head smashes against the wall - the rifle clatters to the floor.

The Feral rips and tears at Talbot's throat.

A splash of blood spatters the wall behind him.

130 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME

130

Alice lifts the hatchet and turns to the Feral.

ALICE

HEY!

The Feral reacts, whirling around. It slowly stands erect. She realizes it's Gina, or what was once Gina.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Gina, it's me. Look, I don't know if you can understand me.

The Gina-Feral starts towards her, slowly stalking her. Measured and confident. Biding its time.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(Pleading)

Please. Please don't make me do this.

The Gina-Feral snarls, as if in response. Alice realizes there is no Gina left to reason with -- and she must do what she has to do.

She gets in a ready stance, the hatchet across her chest. She starts to bounce on her toes, ready to attack.

The Feral opens its mouth and snarls. Nostrils flared. Eyes burning.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Come on, then.

The Feral lunges forward.

Alice swings the hatchet with all her might, stepping to one side.

The Gina-Feral runs by her - but the axe blade strikes it in the upper shoulder, cutting through bone and muscle.

The Feral SHRIEKS, retreating for a second. BLOOD SPURTS from the wound, painting the floor.

Alice stumbles backward, waving the axe in front of her.

(CONTINUED)

The Gina-Feral lunges, but Alice keeps it at bay with the axe. A deadly game of cat-and-mouse - one scratch and it's game over.

It HISSES at Alice, and charges forward again, like a locomotive.

Alice steps to the side as she swings the axe, narrowly missing the Feral and striking a wood post instead.

The Gina-Feral HURTLES past her -- SLAMMING into a tall wooden shelf leaning against the wall. Shelves filled with old paint cans and mountains of junk.

Alice tries to wrench the axe blade free -- but it's STUCK FAST, buried deep in the old wood.

Alice frantically tries to pull it loose. She glances over her shoulder to see --

The Gina-Feral scramble to all fours, resting on its haunches, as if ready to pounce. Alice is completely vulnerable now without a weapon.

She strains with all her might, but the axe is firmly embedded in the wood.

The Gina-Feral's muscles ripple as it readies itself to charge --

When suddenly the wooden shelf topples forward, landing with a CRASH on top of the Feral -- burying it under hundreds of pounds of junk and a CLOUD OF DUST.

The room is silent for a moment as the dust slowly dissipates and settles -- the only sound Alice's labored breathing. She squints to see --

The pile of debris is perfectly still.

Alice sighs.

Too soon -- A CLAWED HAND explodes through the wreckage.

Alice renews her attention on the axe -- jams a foot on the column for leverage, grabs the handle and puts her back into it - rocking the axe handle back and forth.

The Feral slowly pulls itself free of the debris.

Alice's determined face, bathed in sweat.

The Gina-Feral clammers to it's feet.

Alice groans and gives the handle one final mighty pull.

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED: (2)

CREAK! The axe pulls free.

BUT THE FERAL IS ALREADY CHARGING TOWARDS HER.

Alice spins around in one graceful movement.

Swings the blade over her head, gripping the hatchet with both hands. Teeth gritted.

The Gina-Feral is two feet away.

She swings the axe down hard, striking the Feral IN THE SKULL.

The blow DRIVES the creature to the ground, shrieking in pain.

Alice STOMPS her foot on its head, and pulls the blade loose.

She brings it down again, the blade biting into the creature's neck. She swings once more, separating the head from the body.

Alice steps back, her body completely drained.

A pool of blood slowly creeps out from under the creature.

Alice drops the hatchet with a clatter, and rushes over to Jules, dropping to her knees. She shakes her, then smacks her face.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Wake up! Wake up!

It's no use. Jules is out cold.

131 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

131

Wide shot of the forest. The tiny cabin in the distance, a warm yellow glow emanating from the windows.

132 INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

132

Alice sitting on the floor next to Jules. She is looking at the ceiling, listening to the sound of footsteps up above in the cabin. They sound heavy - definitely not human.

Jules stirs, and slowly wakes up. Still heavily drugged and torpid. Alice motions to be silent with her finger.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

What... happened?

ALICE

You were drugged.

Jules looks around the room and sees the Gina-Feral lying on the floor.

JULES

Fuck. Did Talbot do that?

ALICE

(Hesitant)

No. I did.

JULES

You did?

ALICE

I didn't have a choice.

JULES

Damn, country girl.

ALICE

Yeah.

JULES

Where's Talbot?

ALICE

I don't know. Something is up there, but I don't think it's him.

JULES

How do you know?

ALICE

I can hear it moving around. I think it's another Feral.

JULES

So we're trapped down here?

ALICE

Until the morning, anyway.

JULES

Great.

They are interrupted by the sound of footsteps again. Alice lowers her voice to a whisper.

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED: (2)

ALICE

This is probably the safest place  
to be anyway. It doesn't know  
we're here.

JULES

Good. Let's keep it that way.

Suddenly, there is a LOUD SCREAM from across the room.

THE BRIENNE-FERAL is awake - and incredibly pissed off.

It rages against the chains that hold it, shaking the  
wooden cross violently. The rattles are incredibly loud.

Alice's face goes white.

133 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 133

THE FERAL'S FEET suddenly stop on top of the trap door.  
The loud noise clearly coming from the cellar.

134 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME 134

Alice leaps to her feet.

JULES

What are you doing?

ALICE

We got to shut her up now!

She rustles through the vials, grabs a syringe and  
prepares the injection.

Suddenly there is a BOOM from above them. The trap door  
rattles and creaks from the blow.

The noise startles Alice, and she accidentally drops the  
vial. It shatters on the concrete floor.

She grabs another bottle and starts over.

Another BOOM! This time one of the wooden jambs splinters  
from the force. A few more and the door will break loose!

Alice clears the air from the syringe, and quickly JAMS  
THE NEEDLE into the Brienne-Feral's neck. It HOWLS in  
pain.

The noise only seems to provoke the creature above them  
even more. It starts digging at the trap door with its  
nails, trying to rip the wood apart.

(CONTINUED)

The trap door's wooden frame START TO SPLINTER.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Shit. We don't have long.

JULES

What are we going to do?

She picks up the hatchet and extends a hand to Jules.

ALICE

Can you walk?

JULES

I'll run a Goddamn marathon if I have to.

ALICE

You may have to.

The creature above them suddenly starts pounding on the trap door. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Alice grabs Jules's face and holds it to hers.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Listen to me carefully. That thing's going to be coming through any minute. When it does, I want you to get up those stairs as fast as you can, understand?

JULES

How am I going to get past it?

ALICE

I'll keep it busy.

JULES

Alice?

ALICE

Don't worry about me. Just worry about getting up those stairs and out of the cabin. And once you're out, start running as fast you can and don't stop. Hear me?

Jules nods her head.

The pounding above is getting louder and louder. It's going to break through any second.

Jules reaches for Alice's hand.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

I'm scared.

Alice squeezes it.

ALICE

I know. So am I.

JULES

I don't know what I'd do without you.

ALICE

Just run like Hell, okay?

Jules looks at Alice.

JULES

I love you.

ALICE

Likewise.

BOOM! The wooden framing collapses, and the entire trap door CRASHES through the ceiling - including the Feral that was standing on top of it.

The creature and wood framing CAREEN DOWN THE STAIRS, filling the cellar with a CLOUD OF DUST AND DEBRIS.

The Feral is momentarily disoriented, lying on the ground, partially buried in wreckage.

Alice shoves Jules.

ALICE (CONT'D)

NOW!

Jules sprints for the stairs, and Alice sprints towards The Feral.

Jules runs right past the Feral and starts to climb the stairs. She's still feeling the effects of the drugs, and has difficulty, taking one riser at a time.

Not fast enough - the Feral sees Jules escaping and starts towards her.

Suddenly from out of nowhere, Alice cuts it off. She swings the hatchet, driving the blade deep into its side.

The Feral SCREAMS in pain, rolling away from her.

Jules reaches the top of the stairs and disappears through the opening.

135 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 135

Jules sprints through the living room and runs out the front door.

136 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME 136

The Ben-Feral hisses at Alice.

The two warily circle each other, each looking for an opportunity to attack.

She holds it bay with the hatchet, taking wild swings.

137 EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME 137

Jules running along the path. She stops and doubles over to catch her breath. Her gasps loud - so loud she doesn't hear the footsteps coming towards her.

138 INT. CELLAR - SAME TIME 138

The Feral lunges at Alice, and she strikes it in the shoulder, missing its head. Not a lethal blow, but enough to make it recoil and turn away.

Alice seizes the opportunity, and lunges forward.

She drives the hatchet into the small of its back. The blade embeds deep into the creature's flesh and bone.

The Feral falls forward to the floor - pulling the hatchet out of Alice's hands.

Alice is suddenly weaponless. She whirls around and makes for the stairs, stepping over the wooden debris at the bottom of them.

The Feral rolls over, clawing at the hatchet, trying to get it free.

Alice is halfway up the stairs now. She slips and falls, sprawled across the stairs. She looks back behind her to see -

The Feral rolls over once more, and the hatchet pulls out of its wound. It looks up at her, trembling with rage.

Alice climbs to her feet and hauls ass up the stairs.

139 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

139

Alice's head peaks through the opening. As she is about to pull herself up, she sees -

TALBOT'S RIFLE lying on the floor, ten feet away.

She looks up.

THE BOX OF BULLETS on the table.

A LOUD NOISE from behind her. The Feral is climbing the stairs like a locomotive, hell-bent on catching her.

Alice scampers across the floor. She grabs at the box of bullets, knocking it off the table.

The box hits the floor and shells spill out, rolling every which way across the floor.

The Feral is climbing the stairs, close to the trapdoor.

Alice dives for the rifle.

Rolls over and grabs a single bullet off the floor.

The Feral bursts through the opening.

She fumbles with the shell - jams it in the magazine.

The Feral thunders towards her.

Alice swings the gun barrel towards the creature.

It leaps.

She pulls the trigger.

CRACK! The bullet strikes the Feral in the heart.

It rolls to the floor, dead.

Alice collapses. It's over. She's won. A contented smile creeps across her face. But her victory is short-lived.

A PIERCING SCREAM from outside the cabin.

JULES

HELP!

Alice grabs a handful of shells, scrambles to her feet and flies out the front door.

140 EXT. GROVE - SAME TIME

140

Jules standing in the middle of the path. Frozen in place, too petrified to move.

Coming towards her is another FERAL - it's TALBOT himself, and he looks HORRIFIC - his face and body still shredded from his attack. Skin flaps peeled from his face. His lower jawbone exposed. When he breathes, the air whistles through the gaping hole in his mouth.

Jules turns and runs. Darting through trees, branches whipping all around her. The lumbering creature not far behind her.

141 ALICE

141

Sprinting through the woods, rifle in one hand.

THE SUN

Is beginning to rise. Sunlight slowly begins to bathe the forest in a warm yellow orange hue. We can see everything more clearly now.

JULES

Her face, bathed in sweat and twisted in pain.

The muscles in her legs as she runs through leaves, jumps branches and leaps over ravines. She takes a quick look behind her.

THE FERAL

Is only ten yards away.

Jules trips and falls, tumbling through leaves. She's exhausted and can't go any further. She gives up, sinking to her knees. Waiting for the creature to end it quickly.

The Feral arrives, towering over her. It grabs her shoulders, preparing to rip out her throat, throwing her to the ground.

Alice sprints into the clearing.

HER POINT-OF-VIEW - thirty yards away. The Talbot-Feral hunched over Jules.

CHA-CHACK! Alice racks the lever, chambers a bullet. She has one shot, no time for another. Takes careful aim --

(CONTINUED)

THE FERAL'S MOUTH. It opens, revealing razor-sharp teeth. Inches from the skin on her neck. The jaws part and -

CRACK! A gunshot. The Feral's head EXPLODES as a bullet BLASTS through it. It topples forwards, falling next to Jules with a THUD.

ALICE holding the rifle to her shoulder. It's finally over.

Jules leans back against a tree trunk. Alice rushes to her side, dropping to her knees.

ALICE

Are you okay?

Jules frowns and slowly lifts her arm. Her sweater in tatters, revealing a DEEP WOUND on her torso. It's bad - really bad. The sight hits Alice like a ton of bricks.

ALICE (CONT'D)

OH GOD.

JULES

(Apologetic)

Sorry.

ALICE

Look. I'll get help...

JULES

No.

ALICE

There has to be someone who...

JULES

You can't fix this. No one can.

ALICE

But...

JULES

I'm infected, and I'm gonna die in this Goddamn woods.

Alice collapse next to her, completely overwhelmed.

ALICE

No, no, no.

Jules contemplates.

(CONTINUED)

JULES

Look. I'm not turning into one of those things. No fucking way in Hell. You have to end it.

Alice realizes what she wants.

ALICE

You can't ask me to do that!

JULES

Do you care about me?

ALICE

You know I do.

JULES

Then do it.

Despite her strong feelings for Jules, Alice cannot bring herself to even consider this. It goes against every fiber of her being.

ALICE

I... I can't. I'm sorry.

Jules debates.

JULES

Give me the gun then. I'll do it.

ALICE

There has to be another way...

JULES

What are you going to do? Drug me and chain me up in a cellar? Or be a lab rat at some hospital? No way. I'm going out with some dignity. If you love me, even just a little, you'll do this. For me.

Jules squeezes her hand, and Alice breaks. She begins to cry. Her body wracked with anguish, after all this struggle, it has to end like this.

JULES (CONT'D)

It's okay.

They sit there together in silence, holding hands.

WIDE SHOT - The two girls all alone in the woods. Alice on her knees sobbing.

142 EXT. FOREST - DAY - LATER 142

Late afternoon. The sun is beginning to set.

143 EXT. GROVE - SUNSET 143

Alice and Jules sitting next to each other. Jules is clutching her stomach. She lifts her hand. She's lost a lot of blood, and is very weak. Black veins have already begun to creep up her neck. Jules looks up at the setting sun.

JULES

You should go.

ALICE

I don't want to.

JULES

I know.

They kiss one last time. A sweet kiss.

Alice hesitatingly hands her the rifle and stands up. She is about to change her mind when Jules interrupts her.

JULES (CONT'D)

It's okay. I got this, country girl.

Alice turns and begins to walk away. Tears fill her eyes.

Jules watches as Alice slowly disappears into the woods.

She slowly props herself up, the rifle between her legs. Places the barrel under her chin. Her finger reaches for the trigger.

144 EXT. WOODS - SUNSET 144

Alice still crying as she walks through the trees. She wipes her eyes with her sleeve.

145 EXT. GROVE - SUNSET 145

Jules tightens her finger on the trigger. She fights back tears - then suddenly begins to laugh at the absurdity of her situation. Her laugh becomes a gagging sound, and she spits up a mouthful of blood - she's dying.

(CONTINUED)

101.  
145 CONTINUED: 145

She convulses, her body wracked by spasms. Her finger jerks and pulls the trigger - but the barrel is no longer under her chin.

BOOM! The bullet goes wide, missing her face and striking the tree trunk behind her.

146 EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME 146

The rifle shot reverberates through the forest.

Alice jumps at the sound. Stops in her tracks, standing frozen in silence. The woods around her are completely still, the only sound the faint rustle of the wind.

147 EXT. GROVE - SAME TIME 147

The rifle slips from her fingers as Jules falls backwards. She hits the ground and exhales one last time.

148 EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME 148

She begins to walk again, this time with determination and purpose.

149 EXT. PARKING LOT - DUSK 149

Alice arrives at the cars. She leans against one and looks up at the sky.

THE SETTING SUN

It's a beautiful sunset, bathing her face in a bright orange glow. Alice sighs, opens the car door and climbs in. Slams the door and guns the ignition.

150 INT. CAR - DUSK 150

ALICE'S FACE as she drives. Serene.

The sun begins to dip below the horizon.

151 EXT. WOODS - DUSK 151

The last rays of sun streaming through the forest.

A deer wanders into frame. Raises its head, as if it senses something.

152 EXT. GROVE - DUSK

152

TALBOT'S RIFLE lying in the leaves.

Jules lying next to it. Completely motionless. The black veins gone now.

HER EYES SNAP OPEN - they are jet black. She shrieks, and her howl echoes through the forest.

CUT TO BLACK.