

Flakka Z

by

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Title sequence over flakka news footage on tv

INT. DAVIS FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

LUCAS DAVIS, (almost 18, scrawny, straight-laced, science nerd), stuffs his backpack with pop-tarts and cookies from the kitchen cupboard, then closes it.

Mom stands there. Startled, he SHRIEKS. Mom CHUCKLES.

MOM
Never gets old.

A car HONKS. Lucas dons the backpack, picks up his duffle.

Mom holds up a folded note, dangles a key ring with two keys.

MOM
Chore list - get them done first so you can relax. Put the tools away.

LUCAS
How did three days at the lake turn into Three Men and a Rake?

Lucas reaches for the keys. Mom holds them back.

MOM
Let's see, your last weekend before college with friends, or shopping with your little sister for pink notebooks and purple pens?

LUCAS
Okay, okay. I miss Grams. It'll be weird without her there.

MOM
She adored you. Both of them did. You feel that, right?

Lucas nods. Mom gives him the note and keys. They react to disturbing footage of Flakka addicts abusing themselves.

MOM
And no drugs, not that you would.

Lucas huffs in mock surprise, who me?

MOM
Your friends know there's no Internet up there?

LUCAS
And spoil the surprise?

EXT. DAVIS FAMILY HOME - PORCH - DAY

Lucas bolts out the door and down the steps. Mom steps out. Halfway down the walk he turns, climbs the steps again.

MOM
What did you forget?

Lucas kisses her cheek. She beams.

Mom squints to see inside the Mustang revving at the curb.

MOM
Who's that next to Dylan?

Lucas cranes to see. Disappointment turns to anger.

LUCAS
Mason!

MOM
Mason, huh? Tell him I forgive him
for puking on my Persian rug.

Lucas considers halfheartedly. Mom tousles his hair.

MOM
I'll pray for you.

LUCAS
Better to pray for Mason.

They both chuckle. Lucas jogs toward the car.

Lucas drops his duffle in the trunk beside a cooler, fishing rods, a guitar. Then beelines for the front seat.

CARLOS (18), a gentle, overweight Latino, leans out the rear window, high-fives Lucas.

Lucas' smile fades as he glares at MASON (19, Lineman, held back a year), riding shotgun. Mason doesn't budge.

LUCAS
That's my seat.

MASON
Oh, that's right. You get car sick.

Mason gets out, his weight-lifter body towers over Lucas' skinny frame. Lucas hops in front next to his best friend, a charming average-sized jock named DYLAN (17) who drives.

Mason wolf-howls as Dylan peels out. A foreboding wind gusts.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Dylan pumps gas as Lucas hefts two bundles of wood into the trunk. Carlos hums in back.

Lucas glares at Mason who leans into another car to chat with a chick KAT (20), sarcastic and hip.

LUCAS
Like a moth to a flame.

DYLAN
(hangs up nozzle)
You know Mason.

They see Kat give Mason her phone. He types in his number.

CARLOS
I'm in love.

Carlos nods toward a petite, neurotic, bespectacled, Japanese American girl, FERN (20), walks the tiniest dog to Kat's car.

LUCAS
With the girl or the dog?

CARLOS
Both.

DYLAN
Yo. Mason. Let's go.

Mason returns to the car, throws Kat a wink.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DYLAN'S CAR - DAY

The boys jam to music as dark clouds form in the sky.

Mason's foot kicks Carlos' bag. Bottles clank. Lucas turns down the radio.

LUCAS
What's that?

Carlos holds up the tequila. The boys hoot, except Lucas.

LUCAS
You're not bringing that into my grandmother's house.

DYLAN
Ease up, dude.

LUCAS
And you better not have any pot.

MASON
That's right Carlos. You better not
have any pot.

Carlos and Dylan laugh at Mason's impersonation of Lucas.

LUCAS
Or you, Mason.

MASON
Who me?

CARLOS
(sincerely)
I feel you, Bro.
I'll keep this in the car.

Lucas smiles, turns back around. Mason sneaks a drink from his flask. Lucas sees a mailbox coming up fast.

LUCAS
There it is, turn left.

Dylan slams on the brakes, swerves, plows into a mailbox made out of tractor parts. The car bounces to a stop. Flat tire.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DYLAN'S CAR - DAY

Carlos, Lucas and Mason push the limping car as Dylan steers.

MASON
Why does Dylan get the easy part?
He's the one who hit the mailbox.

They round a bend in the driveway. The house comes into view.

LUCAS
We made it! Welcome to Grandma's.

They fall to the ground winded, exhausted. Dylan jumps out energetically.

DYLAN
Smell those pines!

MASON
All I can smell is Carlos.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

They assemble on the porch as Lucas unlocks the door.

Lucas leads the boys inside. Mason scoffs, sticks a wad of gum dead center on a cross by the door, then saunters in.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lots of antique figurines the boys handle and mock. Lucas grabs them back, replaces precisely. The classic painting of "Jesus at the Door Knocking" hangs over the mantle.

MASON

Blue-eyed Jesus and everything.

CARLOS

A bona fide time machine in here.

LUCAS

Yup, off the grid living. No cell service or anything.

Lucas pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket and begins to look at it. Carlos grabs the paper, gives it to Dylan.

CARLOS

You owe me ten bucks, Dylan!

LUCAS

You bet on this?

The boys shrug and laugh. The boys pass the note around.

DYLAN

Number one... No drinking or smoking in the house.

Mason reads the note and snickers.

MASON

No "cis" girls? That's what it says. I guess trans girls are okay.

Dylan and Carlos can't believe it says that. Mason shows the note as if it says that. Carlos grabs it laughing.

CARLOS

Number three. No fish scales in the disposal. Number four...

While Lucas's back is turned, they bolt outside. Lucas begins to unpack some of the groceries and puts them into the refrigerator. He can overhear the boys making fun of him.

DYLAN O.S.

I told you he was wound up tighter than a drum.

CARLOS O.S.

Have you met his parents?...they're ultra conservative.

Lucas pulls out a bluetooth speaker, connects it to his phone and begins to play music to drown out the conversation.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - EVENING

Mason, Carlos and Dylan pass the tequila as Lucas (standing) tends the campfire. Dylan offers Lucas the bottle.

LUCAS

No thanks.

DYLAN

Well it's your turn. Try not to scare yourself.

Dylan gives Lucas the flashlight.

LUCAS

Hardy-har. All right. Let's see.

Lucas puts the flashlight up to his chin; gets into it.

LUCAS

It's midnight. The fog is thick. A late model Chevrolet inches into town. A young woman gets out in front of a boarding house--

DYLAN

Horror Hotel, Nineteen sixty-one!

LUCAS

And for the extra point?

DYLAN

It was released as "City of the Dead" in England.

Lucas high-fives Dylan, hands him the flashlight. Lucas sits.

CARLOS

(to Mason)

Them two know every horror movie ever made.

(to Dylan)

Yo, you gonna do movie trivia all night or tell us a story?

Mason studies the pair jealously then pops up.

MASON

My turn. Gimme that.

Dylan hands him the flashlight.

MASON

Not that!

Mason points to the booze. Dylan gives it, he swigs hard.

MASON

One night, long ago in a forest
much like this, four guys told
ghost stories around a fire as the
moon rose high and the wind howled.

Mason walks around the boys, howling menacingly.

MASON

As they listened, the wind formed
words. A question. They strained to
hear the question. What was the
question? What was the question?

Mason leans low as the boys lean in closer to hear.

MASON

Why can't Lucas get laid?

The boys break into laughter, except Lucas.

LUCAS

Go ff...jump in the lake.

DYLAN

Hey. Guys. Come on.

Mason flips Lucas the bird and walks off. Lucas glowers.

DYLAN

What is it with you and Mason?

LUCAS

This is supposed to be OUR weekend!

DYLAN

Sorry. I thought he'd be cool.

LUCAS

That's what you said prom night.
After he peed on our limo driver
and we had to walk home. Your
cousin ruins everything!

DYLAN

Nothing's ruined! Tomorrow we'll
catch some fish, take the dinghy
across the lake, meet some girls. I
promise, Mason will behave.

LUCAS
He better!

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Music blares. Carlos lies on the couch tossing a football.
Dylan and Lucas arm-wrestle at the dining room table.

O.S. KNOCK at the front door. Dylan beats Lucas to the door.

LUCAS
Hey!

DYLAN (O.S. LOUDLY)
Come on in, LADIES.

Carlos stops throwing. Lucas catches up as Dylan ushers in
Kat and Fern. Kat at 5'6" towers over Fern at 4'11".

CARLOS
Well, hello!

KAT
Hi. I'm Kat. She's Fern.

A teacup dog, YURI, peeks out of Fern's vest.

KAT
And that's Yuri. Mason said there
was a party.

LUCAS
Great. Just great.

DYLAN
I'm Dylan, Mason's cousin. This is
Lucas. And that's Carlos. You were
at the gas station, right? Beer?

The girls nod. As Dylan disappears to the kitchen, Carlos
sweeps socks, chips, off the couch. Carlos turns the music
down, invites Fern to sit.

DYLAN (O.S.)
Hey Mason! You have visitors!

LUCAS
You live around here?

KAT
Greenbrier. Other side of the lake.

LUCAS
I know where it is.

KAT

Look. If Mason's not here-

Dylan enters with the beer. Fern pushes it away.

FERN

Kat, we should go.

Mason enters from the hallway, his arms outstretched.

MASON

Go? You just got here.

Dylan pulls Lucas aside, hard.

LUCAS

Ow.

Mason and Kat hug. She pulls an e-cigarette from her pocket. He puffs and passes it back to Kat. She puffs.

DYLAN

What's with the attitude?

LUCAS

Mason had no right to invite them!

DYLAN

Well they're here now. So, don't be rude, prude.

LUCAS

Quit calling me that.

DYLAN

I'm sorry, man. But you said yourself you needed to loosen up for college life, right? We're here to help! And just look at Carlos over there. When was the last time you saw him lift a finger except to eat? Do it for him, huh?

Lucas watches Carlos bend as low as he can for a candy wrapper stuck under the chair. Lucas laughs.

LUCAS

Okay. But I am going to kill Mason.

They fist bump and re-join the others. Dylan offers Lucas tequila. He hesitates, then sips. He chokes. Mason passes the e-cigarette to Carlos who puffs and then passes it to Dylan.

DYLAN

What is it?

MASON
Spice. Gives you a nice buzz.

Dylan hits it. Passes it back. Mason offers it to Lucas.

MASON
And it's LEGAL.

Everyone stares. Lucas is tongue-tied. He darts outside.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Lucas takes deep breaths and paces, counts under his breath.

Dylan joins Lucas. They lean on the rail, look at the night.

DYLAN
You okay?

LUCAS
Mason's going to put me in an early
grave.

DYLAN
You sound like a forty year old
man. Try not to let him get to you.
Let's just have fun, huh?

Dylan puts his arm around Lucas and he does the same. They turn to re-enter the house. Lucas sees the wad of gum Mason stuck to the cross. He peels it off and storms inside.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas wrenches the e-cigarette from Mason's hand and tries to break it, but it's made of metal so he can't. Mason laughs. Frustrated, Lucas throws it in the burning fire.

LUCAS
My house. My rules.

Mason tries but can't retrieve it from the fire.

MASON
You'll pay for that.

Mason storms outside. Lucas awkwardly exits through the kitchen to the patio door.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Mason kicks rocks, cussing. Absently, he looks inside Kat's car. He gets in. Rummages through Kat's purse.

MASON

What else you got, girl?

He finds a paper pouch. Opens it. A white powder.

INSERT: A printed label: "Bath Salts." Underneath, a crooked stamp reads "Flakka-Z" and "Not for human consumption." *
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MASON (CONT'D)

Bingo!

He roots around in the glove box, shuts it. Finds a CD in the back seat, wipes it clean on his pant leg. Pulls his driver's license and three twenties from his wallet. Shoves two in her purse, leaves one out which he rolls carefully.

Mason pours powder onto the CD case, cuts it with the license into two huge lines. Licks the license. He snorts a line. It really hurts! When it stops, he snorts the other line.

As the burning subsides, he relaxes. Minutes later, his eyes roll back in his head. His body twitches. He screams like a banshee and bashes his head into the dash repeatedly. He claws his face desperately, leaving bloody scratches.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan, Kat and Fern dance to blaring music. Carlos plays flip cup from the couch. Kat fans herself, heads for the kitchen.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO

Kat with a glass of ice water breathes the fresh air deeply.

KAT

Air!

Kat plops into the well-worn rocker, strokes the armrests. A lump of wet pine straw lands nearby. SPLAT!

She looks up at Lucas on a ladder. What the --

LUCAS

That didn't hit you did it?

KAT

You're cleaning gutters? In the dark?

LUCAS

Part of the deal I made with my mom. Well, not the dark, just the chores. Full moon helps though.

He climbs down the ladder and sits near her.

LUCAS

Hey, sorry about...before.
Mason brings out the worst in me.

KAT

Oh. Yeah, sure.

LUCAS

I mean, first he invites himself
here. Then he picks up some random
girls. Not to mention the "spice".

KAT

Random girls?

LUCAS

Oh, no, I'm not saying - I mean
you're nice and everything but you
could have turned out to be a-

KAT

Serial killer?

LUCAS

I was going to say a thief.
You weren't worried about going to
a party of some guy you just met?

KAT

He seems harmless enough.

LUCAS

Ted Bundy would have loved you.

KAT

O-KAY. Mason's cocky for sure. But,
that's often a shield to protect
their vulnerability.

LUCAS

Let me guess -- psychology major?

Kat nods.

LUCAS

Or maybe he's just a jerk. He blurts
out whatever pops into his head.

KAT

No filter, huh? You'd be surprised
how common that is.

Lucas almost gets the subtext.

KAT
What's his mother like?

LUCAS
She died when he was little.

KAT
Step?

LUCAS
His dad never re-married.

KAT
That explains a lot. Boys raised by men exclusively tend to be less sensitive to others' feelings.

LUCAS
Smart college girl.

Kat fans herself.

KAT
Hot college girl.

LUCAS
Yep.

KAT
I mean it's hot. I can't cool down.

LUCAS
Lake's open.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Lucas, Dylan, Kat and Fern laugh and splash. On the shore, Carlos hums and plays guitar with his toes in the water.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Mason approaches the campfire laughing like a crazy person. He sees the teens' clothes and towels in a pile near the fire. He cackles and picks up Lucas' hoodie, smelling it until he falls from the dizziness. He stops laughing when...

DYLAN(O.S.)
Marco.

KAT(O.S.)
Polo.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Splashing and laughing as Kat tries to escape Dylan.

DYLAN

Marco.

KAT

Polo.

Dylan pretends to be Jaws, dives under. Kat avoids him flailing below feeling for her legs. She SQUEALS when caught.

DYLAN

Haha, you're it, Kat!

FERN

I want to try. Let me be it.

Carlos stops playing.

CARLOS

You said you can't swim.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Mason hears Lucas, walks zombie-like toward the lake.

LUCAS(O.S.)

Fern's it. Everyone get closer in.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

FERN (O.S.)

Marco-oh!

Fern suddenly drops under the water with a gasp.

LUCAS

Polo. Fern? FERN?

KAT

Where is she? FERN? FERN?

DYLAN

Over here! The bottom drops off!

Rapid SPLASHING. Carlos lumbers to his feet, distressed.

CARLOS

Yo! Yo!

KAT

Someone's pulling me down -- Agh!

Kat goes under.

LUCAS

Kat! Kat!

Lucas finally dives in after her.

Dylan surfaces with a traumatized Fern. Kat and Lucas pop up next. They all gasp for air.

Carlos drops to the ground with relief, breathing heavily.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Mason lumbers toward the lake, trips on a root.

Movement in the dirt catches his attention. He crawls after it, finds a sharp stick and stabs at the dirt mound. He holds up the stick with the stabbed and bleeding mole and eats it.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Lucas stokes the fire. They are all wrapped in towels, except Carlos is fully clothed. Kat dries Fern's hair with a towel.

FERN

I feel so stupid. It was stupid for me to play. I'm stupid.

KAT

You're stupid? I got tangled in reeds and thought it was a sea monster. I'm sorry I didn't save you.

DYLAN

Don't blame yourself, Kat. Lucas was the closest to her.

LUCAS

Oh, come on! I look away for a sec and she goes under! Like a rock.

DYLAN

But did you dive in after her? No. Once a coward, always a coward.

CARLOS

Not this again.

Carlos reaches for the tequila. Kat hands it over.

KAT

You guys fight like you're married.

LUCAS

He's never forgiven me for not saving his hamster from my neighbor's dog. When we were *NINE*.

DYLAN

Not the time I was thinking of.

Lucas shoots Dylan a look that could kill.

FERN

Stop, please! It's my fault. I knew I couldn't swim. I'm sorry!

LUCAS

Hey, it's cool, Fern. He's just raggin' on me. Nobody's mad.

DYLAN

Yeah, it's just our way.

They all start putting their dry clothes on. Lucas can't find his, pokes the ashes with a stick, pulls out his hoodie.

LUCAS

What the heck? My Ol' Miss hoodie. Which one of you did this?

CARLOS

Make sense, Bro! We was all wich-u.

DYLAN

Dude, we would never do that. You know that. Maybe an animal came by-

LUCAS

Or Mason.

DYLAN

You must really think he's a monster.

LUCAS

He's been gone for hours. Who knows what he's up to.

Dylan rises. Carlos picks up his guitar. He smiles broadly at Fern. She looks pleadingly at Kat.

KAT

I'm sure he's fine. If I know guys, he'll be back when he gets hungry.

LUCAS

She's right. He came back before.

Dylan sits down. Carlos sings to Fern.

CARLOS

Bajo la luz de la luna, bajo las
estrellas que iluminan el cielo, te
entrego mi corazón, te prometo mi
amor.

KAT

Did you write that Carlos? It's
beautiful. What's it mean?

CARLOS

Nah. It ain't nothin'

KAT

Oh come on.

CARLOS

(softly, embarrassed)

Under the moonlight, under the stars
that light the sky, I give my heart
to you, I pledge my love to you.

KAT

It's lovely.

LUCAS

Your Latin lover is showing.

CARLOS

Except I'm hopeless at romance.

DYLAN

But aren't you a Spaniard?

LUCAS

Your name's Irish. Doesn't make you
a good drinker.

DYLAN

But I am actually Irish.

FERN

(really slurring)

I'm Japanese. One hundred percent.
Centuries of tradition of honor and
superior intelligence to uphold!
And I'm First Generation American.
"You were born in this great land
of opportunity. Now make us proud!"
Yeah. No pressure.

Fern grabs the bottle, salutes the air, swigs. Twice.

Kat breaks the uncomfortable silence.

KAT

Fern wants spooky campfire stories.

Fern's mouth drops open.

DYLAN

Really? We got plenty of those.

FERN

No vampires though.

KAT

Or Zombies. That's so overdone.

FERN

Or misunderstood monsters. It's too sad when they die.

LUCAS

You mean like Frankenstein?

DYLAN

Or like Sloth in "Goonies"?

LUCAS

Warner Bros, nineteen eighty-five.

The guys high five.

KAT

I hate it when they shoot first, ask questions later. Then you find out the monster was a really nice guy with a family.

FERN

And after he dies, he changes back to the good guy. Like his scars dissolve, his hair is all perfect again and his face is calm angelic. But he's dead. Because some redneck with a gun felt threatened.

KAT

Exactly.

FERN

Or when aliens land and everyone wants to put them in a clear acrylic cell and perform medical experiments on them, only they end up killing an innocent being in the process. I would never do that.

A long pause as the guys wonder what to make of Fern.

EXT. SHED - NIGHT

The door is open. Inside, Mason stalks a rat, vomits.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

CARLOS

This is a true story passed down to me by my grandpa on my mother's side.

Carlos places flashlight under chin. Kat stifles a laugh.

CARLOS

(heavy Mexican accent)

There once was a boy named Mateo who lived happily with his mother, father and grandfather in a small village in Southern Mexico. Mateo was a very spoiled boy. One day, Mateo asked his father to hunt a young, tender deer for his supper. After searching from dawn to dusk, the father saw only old bucks, and came home empty-handed. Angry, Mateo killed his father. As mother cried, grandfather punished Mateo.

Carlos signals to Dylan who heads into the woods.

CARLOS

He tied him to a tree, whipped him til he bled and squeezed lemons on his back. He filled a sack with the father's arms and legs and made Mateo carry it on his back. The grandfather banished and cursed him saying: "You will be damned, for the rest of your life!"

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Dylan starts whistling and walks further into the woods.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

CARLOS

Then he set the dogs on him, knowing they would track the smell of the sack and torment Mateo. Mateo whistled to calm his fears. But the dogs caught up to him, and tore his flesh from his bones.

Dylan stops whistling. Then Lucas sneaks away from the fire and whistles his way into the woods. Fern clings to Kat.

CARLOS

The cursed Mateo still wanders
today, whistling his tune, bringing
death to those who walk the plains.
Those who hear his whistle panic
and run away.

Lucas' whistling grows faint. Dylan sneaks up on the girls.

CARLOS

Because just as they feel the
relief of escaping death, in that
moment, they realize, too late,
that the further away the whistling
sounds, the closer Mateo is.

Dylan sticks his head in between the girls' heads, WHISTLES.
Kat and Fern SCREAM. Kat jumps up and chases Dylan.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

KAT

You little shit! You better run.

They laugh and run.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Dylan circles back doesn't see Kat running toward the house.

O.S. Mason SHRIEKS. Kat can hear Mason but cannot see him.

KAT

That's not how I sound! Haha.

Kat runs into Mason and falls backward onto the ground.

KAT

Mason?

He lunges toward Kat. His eyes are bloodshot, his face
smeared with blood. In his hand, a headless, bloody rat.

Kat SCREAMS. Mason tackles Kat by the legs. She squirms free.
He grabs her foot, bites hard through her skin and her flip
flop. She gets free, runs screaming toward the campfire.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan hear Kat's scream and run toward her.

KAT

Help! Help, he's crazy!

LUCAS

Who?

KAT
Mason. He ate a rat.

DYLAN
What? Mason! Hey Cos?

Dylan runs into the darkness. Kat continues to SHRIEK.

LUCAS
Mason's pulling your leg. You're
just spooked by the Whistling Boy.

KAT
No, this was real! He BIT my toe!

Kat raises her bleeding toe. Her flip-flop is missing a bite.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Dylan finds Mason lying stiff as a board, his eyes rolled up.

DYLAN
Mason! Mason!

Dylan shakes him. Mason sits up like Frankenstein's monster and tries to strangle Dylan. Dylan punches him in the head. It does nothing. Dylan tries to pull Mason's hands away.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Carlos and Fern run toward Kat and Lucas. O.S. Dylan SCREAMS.

FERN
Who's screaming?

LUCAS
Get back to the house.

Lucas runs toward Dylan. Kat, Fern and Carlos head to the house. Carlos falls but the girls don't notice.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Dylan lets one hand go and searches and finds a rock, smashes the monstrous Mason on the ear. His grip relaxes briefly.

Lucas arrives, pulls Mason's arm, releasing Dylan. They run toward the house. Mason follows, GRUNTING and FLAILING.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Fern and Kat yell for them to hurry. Lucas and Dylan burst in through the kitchen door. Mason reaches the door just as Kat slams it shut and locks it.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dylan and Lucas recover from coughing fits.

KAT

W-T-F.

DYLAN

Great, we're trapped with no phone service.

Kat leans on the back of a kitchen chair, her toe drips blood. Fern freaks out. Kat distracts her.

KAT

Fern honey, could you get some soapy water and paper towels?

Ferns roots around for a bowl. Dylan parts the ruffle curtain on the kitchen door, flips on the patio light. No Mason.

Suddenly, Mason's face thrusts through one of the six small window panes, shattering glass. Fern SCREAMS.

Lucas grabs a toaster, rips the cord from the wall, smashes the toaster into Mason's head. Mason RECOILS.

DYLAN

Hey!

LUCAS

You do something then. He's your cousin!

DYLAN

The table.

Lucas, Dylan and Kat move the kitchen table to the door and load it up with chairs and appliances.

Fern returns with a bowl of soapy water and paper towels, cleans Kat's foot. She winces, but helping her calms Fern.

DYLAN

Does it hurt?

KAT

Not as much as you pulling my leg.

DYLAN

Sorry, just habit. You were giving Fern a hard time, so we came to her rescue. It's what we do.

Dylan swigs from the tequila bottle, catches his reflection and fixes his hair. Lucas shuts the blinds in his face.

KAT
Smart idea. Die with dignity.

FERN
Oh god, oh god, oh god.

KAT
Oh honey, no. I'm so sorry. No one is going to die.

Fern looks like she's going to faint. Lucas grabs Dylan.

LUCAS
We need to close all the curtains on the ground floor --

O.S. BANGING on the front porch door in --

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas drags Dylan into the next room. Lucas opens the blinds.

Mason bangs his forehead against the front door. His head gash oozes more blood and flesh with every rhythmic bang.

LUCAS
If he keeps that up, he'll break that glass too. You, me and Carlos need to -- hey, where's Carlos?

DYLAN
Carlos? Shit. Did anyone see him come in?

KAT AND FERN (O.S.)
Oh Carlos.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - SIDE YARD / PORCH- NIGHT

Carlos belly crawls in the grass until he finds a spot behind a tree, shaded from the moonlight where he can safely rest.

He's out of breath and sweating from fear. He watches Mason pound his head against the porch door, whispers sotto.

CARLOS
Brother, you cannot be serious. Whatsa matter which-u?

Carlos wipes the sweat from his face with his shirt.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat and Fern stack the last chair against the window. They peer outside, looking for Carlos. Fern whimpers.

KAT
Carlos, where are you?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan and Lucas slide a hutch against the window. They flip the drapes closed, then look for something to stack.

DYLAN
The barcolounger.

They lift the heavy chair onto the hutch to block the window. They look outside. Dylan swigs again.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Mason twirls in erratic circles out front.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas tears his eyes off Mason.

LUCAS
Watch him while I go lock the
bedroom windows and look for
Carlos. Yell if he goes anywhere.

Lucas gestures toward the patio. Dylan looks out.

DYLAN
Where'd he go?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fern helps Kat hobble in with her wrapped foot.

KAT
I'm going to need antibiotics. He
bit me after eating a freaking rat.

Lucas and stumbling Dylan pass through. They all shudder.

DYLAN
(slurring)
Less find Carlos. Less-go.

LUCAS
Not so fast. We need a plan.

DYLAN
I don't need sh-shit.

LUCAS
You're drunk.

DYLAN
That's actually a good thing.

LUCAS
How you figure?

DYLAN
If he bites me, I won't feel it.

O.S. A GRINDING NOISE from the kitchen. Dylan freaks out.

DYLAN
Wha'ssat?

Dylan and Lucas creep into the kitchen.

INT. GRANDMA'S LAKE HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The NOISE startles them. Then relief. Lucas yells out.

LUCAS
Ice maker. Just the ice maker.

Dylan heads to the kitchen door.

DYLAN
You coming?

LUCAS
Don't be ridiculous.

Dylan whips around, gets up in Lucas' face.

DYLAN
Our friend is out there God knows
where and I'm going to save him,
with or without you!

KAT (O.S.)
I'll go with you, Dylan.

Kat enters, grabs some pots from the kitchen cupboard.

LUCAS
Oh great. The two most drunk people
going out in the dark to find
another drunk person while a drug-
crazed powerlifter lies in wait to
attack!

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO / BACKYARD - NIGHT

Carlos watches Mason wander away from the porch around the far side of the house.

Carlos tiptoes toward the porch door, using his hands as makeshift binoculars to keep an eye out for Mason.

He wiggles the locked handle, cups his hands to see in. No-one. He taps gently, whispers, nervously watching out.

CARLOS

Guys, anybody. It's me, Carlos. Let me in.

He taps again. This time a little louder.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A loud thud comes from outside.

FERN

What's that?

Fern sees Carlos.

FERN

It's Carlos. Let him in.

Lucas scrambles from the kitchen to help Fern un-barricade the front door. Dylan and Kat rush in to help.

LUCAS

Help. Hurry.

Kat goes to the window. Suddenly she sees something, screams.

KAT

No. Run Carlos, run.

EXT. GRANDMAN'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Carlos glances over his shoulder and races around the house.

Mason roars, clambers rapidly onto the roof.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dylan grabs Kat's hand, pulls her along.

KAT

How'd he do that?

DYLAN

C'mon Kat. Less-go.

Suddenly they all react to Mason STOMPING across the roof.

LUCAS
The bedrooms.

Lucas leads everyone to the far end of the house.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan follows Kat to the windows.

DYLAN
See anything?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas and Fern look out the window. Lucas motions to the bed.

LUCAS
Help me flip this bed up.

Fern helps him blockade the window with the mattress.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas and Fern join Dylan and Kat.

KAT
There maybe. Behind the shed.

Lucas opens the window and yells out.

LUCAS
Carlos, stay outta sight.

Suddenly Mason drops down in front of them and startles them.

KAT
Watch out, Carlos be careful.

Lucas slams the window shut. Fern clasps Kat's arm.

FERN
I want to go home. Let's go home.

LUCAS
No one's going anywhere right now.
Kat's a gimp, Dylan's drunk, and
you're - well, you and Yuri are
safe, right here. Just block the
windows. Give me a minute to think!

Dylan plops to the floor. Kat and Fern work together to pile stuff against the windows. Lucas paces.

LUCAS

Okay, let's be smart. Let's see what we can find in Grandpa's workroom to protect ourselves.

KAT

I'll keep my eyes on Mason.

DYLAN

I'll keep her company.

LUCAS

No Dylan, I need your help. If you relax you'll pass out. Come on.

The boys leave. Fern unsure, sneaks a sip of tequila.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GRANDPA'S WORKROOM - NIGHT

On the workbench in a pile: a large wrench, saw, rope, Gorilla tape, fishing netting, PVC pipe, a baseball bat.

O.S. Tapping - The boys hear the tapping.

LUCAS

He's back. Grab that helmet.

Dylan takes the football helmet from a shelf as Lucas picks up the PVC pipe and Gorilla tape, then just grabs the wrench.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Carlos keeps his eyes on the woods, looks inside, whispers.

CARLOS

Yuri. You in there? Anyone?

Carlos realizes he has said this too loudly. He freezes, slowly turning his head to the sound coming from the woods.

Mason rushes toward him. Carlos races off the patio and into the other woods. Mason crosses the patio just as--

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Yuri barks at Mason, who stops and looks inside face to face. Lucas and Dylan arrive from the workroom armed and protected.

DYLAN

What are you barking at little buddy? Hmm?

FERN

He needs to go out. He's letting you know. I'm coming baby.

Fern grabs Yuri just as Mason's hand smashed through and almost gets him. They all scream. Lucas looks outside.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Mason waddles in circles giggling and groaning in pain.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas hovers at the kitchen doorway, watching the patio.

LUCAS

Well, at least we know Carlos is safe. For the moment.

Fern looks out a front window. Kat downs a shot.

LUCAS

That's not helping.

KAT

It really is.

O.S. Mason SHRIEKS again from the patio.

LUCAS

How did he get like this?

Dylan nods to a near-empty bottle of tequila.

DYLAN

Maybe he drank the worm?

Laughter from all except Fern who grabs the unopened bottle.

FERN

(slurring)

D'you see a worm? Do you?

Dylan looks hard then shakes his head.

FERN

Mezcal has a worm, this is tequila.

DYLAN

Smart girl.

Fern puts the bottle in front of him, turns the label to him.

FERN

It's on the label.

LUCAS

What about that drug. That "spice"?

DYLAN

I caught a buzz, but not like that.

LUCAS

What other drugs might Mason have brought?

Kat jumps in, eager to change tracks from the Spice.

KAT

What about mushrooms? There's probably a bunch in the woods.

DYLAN

Mason eat a vegetable? Not unless it's deep-fried.

Everyone but Fern laughs. She opens her mouth but-

KAT

What?

DYLAN

Come on. We're all friends here.

FERN

Maybe he's a sleeper zombie?

Kat bursts out laughing.

KAT

Good one, Fern.

FERN

I knew it.

KAT

Wait, you're serious? You, Fern Watanabe, the smartest girl I know, believes in zombies?

FERN

Not movie zombies.

*

LUCAS

(to Fern)

Mason is not a zombie.

KAT

Thank you.

LUCAS

Zombies have to die first.

DYLAN

Then they get re-animated by an
outside force.

LUCAS

Like radiation or a virus.

Kat's shocked, then busts out laughing. They remain serious.

KAT

Clearly, I'm not drunk enough.

Kat grabs the unopened bottle of tequila. Lucas grabs the
bottle and puts it on a high shelf.

LUCAS

Are you three in denial of the
threat out there? Don't you heathens
believe in survival of the fittest?

Lucas stares at each of them uncomfortably.

EXT. SHED - NIGHT

Carlos cracks open the shed door, grimaces when it creaks. He
waits and listens, sticks his face out and looks left and
right. He tiptoes down the steps, holding a rake and a can of
"OFF" - his finger on the nozzle like a gun.

The last step creaks loudly. When nothing bad happens, he
jogs toward the house.

Suddenly, Mason jumps into his path from behind a tree and
tackles him. He screams, drops the rake and Off. Carlos and
Mason roll in the dirt. The rake lands with its prongs up.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

KAT (O.S.)

Mason's attacking Carlos. We have
to do something.

Lucas runs out on the Patio with his wrench.

EXT. SHED - NIGHT

Mason bites Carlos' ear, latches on. Carlos punches madly.

Carlos searches with his hand, finds the OFF - sprays it in
Mason's eyes. Mason SCREAMS and rubs at his eyes.

Carlos clambers to his feet, races toward the house.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Dylan joins Lucas with his bat. Everybody yells to distract Mason. Kat bangs her two pots.

LUCAS, KAT, DYLAN
Carlos, get up. Arrrgh. Run.

The others plead with Carlos to run faster. They act helpless. Lucas approaches with his bat but he's scared.

Dylan stands ready with a bat. As Carlos runs past Lucas and Dylan, they retreat, keeping Mason between them and the door.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan rush in, slam the door.

DYLAN
Carlos!

Lucas thrusts the door closed and locks it, drags the barricade back in place. Mason rebounds off the door frame.

Carlos kneels holding a piece of his ear in one hand. The other hand covers his bleeding ear. Kat cries out.

DYLAN
Woah. Mason did that?

Dylan examines Carlos, offers him the tequila. He alternately winces and swigs from the bottle. Kat rushes over with wet kitchen towels, Fern with paper towels.

Dylan dabs the bloody ear nub with a wet towel. Carlos shrieks in pain, brushes Dylan away.

DYLAN
Hold still. Let me see it.

Kat brings a bowl of ice, kitchen tongs, and a Ziploc bag. She holds out the Ziploc - Carlos places the piece of his ear in it. Kat drops the bag on the ice. Dylan holds a towel to Carlos' ear. Fern offers him some pain meds and water.

DYLAN
Hold it there - apply pressure.

KAT
Honey where were you all this time?

CARLOS
I tripped when we was all running in here.

Stayed in the shadows till I could make a run for the patio but he saw me. I hid as best I could but the dude has some super Spidey senses and found me.

Carlos takes the pain meds. Lucas paces, gets an idea.

LUCAS

I'm going to the gas station - there's cell coverage there. Give me the keys.

DYLAN

What about the flat?

LUCAS

I told you we should have fixed it right away. You never listen to me!

DYLAN

Stop blaming me. You could've done it.

Kat frowns, starts to say something, then stops.

CARLOS

He's ba-ack. I think he's hungry.

LUCAS

What, you didn't feed him enough?

They all look out at the patio. Mason runs around grunting. He bangs his head repeatedly, tears at his skin.

KAT

Ouch. That's harsh. I can't watch.

LUCAS

I'm still going for help. Kat, may I borrow your car, please?

KAT

I suppose, if you're careful.

DYLAN

Hold on. Let's think about this.

LUCAS

What's there to think about?

Lucas starts toward Kat. Dylan grabs his arm.

DYLAN

If the cops come, we'll all get busted for drinking and drugs.

LUCAS
If he breaks the door, my mother
will kill me!

DYLAN
Your priorities are so wrong.

KAT
Guys. Guys! He stopped.

Lucas peeks behind the blinds.

KAT
What's he doing?

LUCAS
Just standing there.

Kat hobbles over, drawn in to Mason's stare like he's a zoo animal. She moves closer to the patio door to study him.

KAT
Catatonic trance.

CARLOS
What's cata - cata -?

Fern closes her eyes tightly, recites from memory.

FERN
Catatonia is a state of neurogenic
motor immobility and behavioral
abnormality manifested by stupor.

CARLOS
Damn. Cute *and* smart.

FERN
I'm not smart. I memorize well.
There's a difference.

LUCAS
So what the heck causes catatonia?
What did Mason catch that the rest
of us didn't?

Fern joins Kat at the window. She peeks outside squeamishly.

FERN
I want to go. Let's go, Kat.

Lucas snaps his fingers.

LUCAS

Let's all go. Maybe I can get Kat's car and drive it up right to the porch and you guys all pile in. Dylan, you're fast. Do you think you can create a diversion and then you can use your base-stealing skills to dash from the kitchen to the car before he catches on?

DYLAN

So I'm Don, huh?

KAT

Don?

DYLAN

Lost in Space. John Robinson was always volunteering Don for the dangerous missions.

LUCAS

Can you do it or not?

Dylan puts his arm around Kat, pulls her close.

DYLAN

I'll do it for Judy.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas grabs the cowbell over the door, hands it to Dylan. Dylan marches to the kitchen. Fern and Carlos stand behind Lucas at the front door as Kat watches through the window.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dylan in the helmet holding the baseball bat stands ready to open the patio door. Mason paces in circles on the lawn.

DYLAN

Okay, I'm ready.

Dylan opens the patio door and rings the bell.

DYLAN

Time for dinner. Mason, you hungry?

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Lucas runs to Kat's car parked halfway down the long drive. He reaches the drivers' side and gets in quickly, not noticing the white powder and rolled up twenty.

Lucas starts it and floors it. The back door Mason left open swings shut. He looks back toward the noise as --

Mason steps into the headlights. Lucas swerves to avoid him, smashes into a tree in the middle of the yard. He hits his head on the steering wheel. The horn blasts continuously.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat SHRIEKS.

KAT
Shit! He wrecked my car.

DYLAN
What?

Dylan runs to the window then races outside. Kat, Fern and Carlos watch from the window.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Lucas is inside Kat's car, a gash on his forehead, rouses slowly. He grabs a hurt knee. Winces. Sees steam rising from the radiator. He looks out nervously for Mason.

A drop of blood drips onto his face. He notices the gash now. He tries to open the driver's side door. It's stuck.

Crosses over to the passenger side, on a tilt. Opens the door. It falls open with gravity. Notices Kat's steering wheel "Club," and picks it up. Pushes open the door and uses the Club to hold open the door.

Suddenly Mason grabs the Club, smashes Lucas in the face, busting the car window with it. Lucas falls back inside. Slides to the driver side, tries the door again. *

Mason reaches inside, flails the Club as Lucas scrambles out of reach around the back of the car to the driver's side. *

Lucas clammers out the window of broken glass, cuts himself. He limp-runs toward the house. Mason leaps onto the car. *

Dylan runs down the driveway. Lucas staggers toward him as Mason leaps off the car and chases, waving the Club. *

Dylan gives his best battle cry.

DYLAN
Arhhhhhggghhhhhh!

Mason catches up, hits Lucas on the shoulder with the Club. Dylan swings simultaneously and hits Mason's arm, releasing the Club. This time, Mason feels the pain and doubles over. *

The moment is enough for Dylan to help Lucas back up the porch and into the house. Mason gets up, stumbles, gets up again. The boys make it inside. Mason retreats to the woods.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan rush inside. Kat locks the door behind them.

Kat helps Dylan place Lucas next to Carlos on the couch.

KAT

What the hell happened?

LUCAS

Mason jumped in front of me. I swerved. I'm sorry, Kat.

Kat takes a tissue. Hands it to Lucas, gestures toward his forehead. He presses the tissue to it.

LUCAS

Ow.

Lucas lifts his leg onto the coffee table. Winces.

KAT

That looks bad. I'll get more ice.

Kat hobbles out; returns with ice wrapped in a kitchen towel.

DYLAN

Well that sucked. What now, Lucas? We're all ears. No pun intended.

Dylan looks at Carlos who is barely awake.

LUCAS

Only one way out now. One of us needs to make it down to the road and hope for a passing car.

DYLAN

And by one of us you mean me. Since both you and Kat are gimps, and Carlos, well, even on a good day...Unless you mean Fern?

KAT

Where is Fern?
(heads toward hallway)
Fern? Fern?

Carlos wakes up. From behind a chair, a soft voice.

FERN

I'm here.

Kat follows the voice. Finds Fern hiding with Yuri.

KAT

You scared the shit out of me.
Don't do that to me!

FERN

Yuri has to go to the bathroom.

KAT

(to Lucas)
Can we lay out some paper towels
for him somewhere?

FERN

He won't go anywhere but grass.
Until he can't hold it anymore.
Then he'll go...anywhere.

LUCAS

No. That CANNOT happen.

He removes the bloody tissue from his forehead. He tries to give it to Kat but she just hands him another.

DYLAN

We're missing the obvious.

KAT

What?

DYLAN

We lure him INSIDE the house. Lock
him into a bedroom. Problem solved.

LUCAS

Are you crazy? Or still drunk?

DYLAN

It's better than us being trapped.

LUCAS

You think we can corral him into a
room? And even if we did, he'd
destroy everything in it. No way.

FERN

We should have never come here.

Kat comforts Fern.

KAT

It'll be okay. Right guys?

Kat nods toward Fern without her seeing it. They all agree.

LUCAS

He's a Bad Seed.

DYLAN

What?

LUCAS

Warner Brothers, nineteen fifty-six. Mason's a bad seed. Nothing but trouble. Always was, always will be.

DYLAN

He's out of his head! Maybe it was the spice. Maybe he's allergic or something. I don't know and I don't care-

LUCAS

I care! Look what he's done! Look at Carlos. And Kat. And me. And the kitchen window. And Kat's car!

DYLAN

You wrecked Kat's car! Always running to Mommy or the cops or whoever, cuz you're too lame or too stupid to solve your own problems. Case in point - Sandy Fletcher.

LUCAS

Don't you dare-

DYLAN

If you weren't such an ass, Mason wouldn't have run off in the first place. You, the big Christian! You're all about church and soup kitchens and "doing the right thing." But you never cut Mason a break! Why is that?

LUCAS

I'm doing the best I know how.

CARLOS

Stop it! Now I ain't fast enough to run down the driveway, but I can be a Hodor or somethin'. So wha-cha need me to do?

KAT
Dylan has a plan. Tell them.

DYLAN
Forget it. Lucas always knows best.

LUCAS
Well, guess what? I wasn't the first to get in Kat's car because the back door was already open. Maybe Kat cares to share what Mason might have found in her car?

Kat grabs the tequila, heads down the hallway. Dylan follows. Lucas goes to the workroom (through the kitchen) angry.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan places the bottle on the bureau, enters the closet.

He pulls the light cord. The rack holds men's suits, shirts, ties. On the floor, Grandpa's shoes in a light layer of dust.

Kat enters the room and joins Dylan in the closet.

KAT
That went well.

DYLAN
You called it. Jealous rivals.

KAT
I'm a genius when it comes to other people's problems. Whatcha doing?

DYLAN
Getting a tie to hold that cloth around Carlos' head. But these are all so nice.

Kat is lost in thought. She pulls the suits to her nose and breathes in deeply. Coughs from the dust. Disappointment.

KAT
What made me think all Grandpas would smell the same?

Dylan picks a tie with pink hearts. Gives her a kiss.

DYLAN
What do you think about this one for our gentle giant?

Kat giggles and nods. She returns Dylan's kiss.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fern has a roll of paper towels. In wonderment and half drunk stupor she watches Carlos snore, fully upright, still holding onto the bowl and his ear. He begins to lean;

Fern reaches for the bowl, causing Yuri to jump down and wander. Fern catches the bowl before it drops. She studies the ear grimly a second, then searches under the furniture.

FERN

Yuri. You better not be going.

Fern gasps when she sees Yuri on top of the barricade. He jumps through the broken window onto the porch.

Fern scans the porch and driveway. No Mason. She pulls aside the barricade and slides open the door, steps outside.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

A shadow falls on Fern. Mason towers over her and Yuri.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas enters from the workroom/kitchen. Sees the patio door open and races to shut it.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Carlos and Mason are in the depths of a life and death struggle. Mason's mouth is covered in blood, he's growling.

LUCAS

Help. Dylan.

Lucas jumps on Mason's back and tries to tear him off Carlos. Mason slams him into a pillar and claws at Carlos.

Kat and Dylan appear with the tie. Dylan rushes to Carlos, trying to separate him from Mason. Carlos gets his feet and starts pounding on Mason. Lucas holds Mason's neck by the crook of one arm and the pillar by the other.

Mason roars and spins all three off him. They tumble and rise to form attack postures, screaming ferociously.

Mason turns and lumbers into the woods.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They stumble inside, out of breath. Lucas and Dylan barricade the door. Carlos lies on the floor sobbing.

LUCAS
What the heck, Carlos!

KAT
What's wrong, honey? Where's Fern?

*

Carlos can't talk through his sobs; points down the hallway.

KAT (O.S.)
(running down the hallway)
Fern! Fern Honey! Where are you?

DYLAN
What happened? Was it Mason?

CARLOS
The growling woke me up. I couldn't figure out where it was coming from. Then I looked out there.

Carlos points to the porch.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kat looks under bed, in closet.

KAT
Fern? Please let me know where you are. I'm worried.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CARLOS
The dog was biting Mason's ankle and wouldn't let go. He was shaking his leg and the dog was just floppin' around. Like a cartoon.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kat pulls away the shower curtain, crying softly.

KAT
Please baby. Let me see you.

As Kat is leaving she hears a faint word.

FERN (O.S.)
Marco.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CARLOS
Fern was frozen. She couldn't talk or move. Then Mason picked Yuri up.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

KAT

Polo.

Kat opens the linen closet. Fern is curled up like an embryo. She's cradling something wrapped in a towel.

KAT

Come on honey. You're safe. I'm here. Come on. Come on out.

Fern's out. Kat tries to see what she's holding. She pries her fingers loose. Opens the towel. A bloody blob of fur.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CARLOS

(sobbing)

He bit off Yuri's head.

O.S. Kat SHRIEKS and SOBS

CARLOS

It happened so fast - I couldn't s-s-s-top it.

Lucas and Dylan groan in agony. They comfort Carlos. *

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Dylan lies prone on the floor, staring vacantly into space.

Finally, his eyes focus on Lucas at the dining room table. Along with the weapons and rope collected from the workroom, and a mop and broom. He's fed a wire loop through the PVC pipe to make a snake grabber.

DYLAN

What are you doing?

LUCAS

Kitting up.

Dylan joins Lucas at the table.

Kat cleans the dried blood from Carlos' hand. Grandpa's pink tie headband holds the washcloth in place. The bowl with his ear rests on the coffee table. Next to Kat, Fern sleeps.

CARLOS

She really ain't gonna want me now. Half an ear and I let her dog die.

KAT
You can't blame yourself for that.
Besides, you could be Prince
Charming and it wouldn't matter.

CARLOS
She got a boyfriend?

KAT
She likes girls. Specifically, me.

Dylan's ears perk up.

CARLOS
Why didn't she just say so?

KAT
Oh, she's not out. Not even to
herself.

O.S. A loud CLAP. They all jump.

DYLAN
What was that?

Lucas listens, thinks for a moment.

LUCAS
The attic. The plantation shutter.
One more thing I'm supposed to fix.

KAT
Plantation shutter. Aren't those on
the inside?

LUCAS
Mmhmm.

KAT
So we'd only hear it if the window
is open, right?

Lucas jumps up in fear. Dylan sits up.

DYLAN
The attic? No way. How could he
have gotten in?

LUCAS
The gutters. I left the ladder up.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - ATTIC - NIGHT

Lucas and Kat cautiously climb the attic steps. He's holding a flashlight, she a toolbox. When they reach the top, the flashlight flickers off. He shakes it back on.

Lucas pulls the dangling light cord. Nothing. Bulb is blown.

LUCAS

Another thing on the list.

Lucas points toward the window with the flashlight.

KAT

(whispering)

You should have a hammer or something.

Lucas looks down. Kat holds a gigantic wrench. He shrugs her off but pans the room with the flashlight.

They crouch near the window under the eaves. Lucas shines the flashlight on the shutter. The top sash window is loose.

LUCAS

Nothing to worry about. This window shimmy loose sometimes.

Lucas closes the window top and bottom, locks them.

Kat opens the toolbox. Lucas reaches for a hammer and nail.

KAT

I carried it. Let me do the fun part.

She taps in the nail, then another to refasten the shutter hinge. Kat crawls, stands up when she reaches the apex.

KAT

What all is up here anyway?

Kat surveys the room, then dusts off an interesting box.

KAT

Hey, this one has your name on it.

Lucas joins her, opens the box filled with Matchbox cars and Hot Wheels. They kneel to see the contents.

LUCAS

Ha ha. Some of these cars were Grandpa's that he let me play with. But never outside. He was pretty particular about his stuff.

KAT

The apple doesn't fall far. So what else did you get from him?

Lucas unveils a black velvet painting of Jesus from the 60's.

LUCAS

Well, we have Him in common. I guess.

KAT

But you're not sure?

Lucas shrugs.

LUCAS

Lately I seem to have more questions than answers. What about you?

KAT

Agnostic. No one can know for sure. So I leave the possibility open.

Lucas scoffs.

LUCAS

That's a cop out. You either believe or you don't.

KAT

Okay. I don't. Wow. No lightning strike. Guess I'm right.

O.S. A crash from the other side of the attic.

Kat and Lucas jump. Lucas scrambles for the hammer.

LUCAS

Mason?

Lucas and Kat creep toward the sound. Kat SCREAMS. Lucas panics, swings the hammer. A thud.

Lucas shines the flashlight. It's a dressmaker's dummy, the claw part of the hammer stuck into the chest. Kat trembles.

Footsteps run toward them.

Lucas shines the flashlight toward the sound. It flickers off. He shakes it. It flickers on. It's Dylan.

Lucas collapses from fear, drops the flashlight.

The flashlight flickers off and on, illuminating the hammered dummy.

DYLAN
Are you crazy, man?

LUCAS
I thought you were Mason.

DYLAN
(horrified)
That's what I mean!

Dylan picks up the flashlight. Points it at the dummy.

KAT
It's instinct. Right? You can't
control stuff like that.

Dylan shakes his head in disgust and disbelief.

LUCAS
Why were you running this way?

DYLAN
I heard Kat screaming.

KAT
What was that noise before?

DYLAN
I heard you talking and then, well-
I knocked over a lamp.

KAT
You were eavesdropping?

DYLAN
No! I just didn't want to
interrupt.

LUCAS
You should have said something. I
almost killed you, man.

They all look at the dressmaker's dummy.

DYLAN
But killing Mason would be okay?

LUCAS
If it's him or me.

DYLAN

What's happening to you, dude? I feel like I don't even know you.

On standing, Dylan hits his head, storms off downstairs.

KAT

Dylan. Wait.

LUCAS

Let him go.

Lucas pulls the hammer from the dummy. He repairs the hole by meticulously pressing the stuffing back in. He looks for and finds the baby bump pillow pad, Velcro's it to the dummy.

LUCAS

Grams made all my mother's maternity clothes. I'd help her for hours just to be with her. I remember when I first saw my mother's actual pregnant belly. I was shocked it didn't look like this.

Kat giggles. She tears off the baby bump, slips it under her shirt and presses it to her belly.

KAT

How do I look?

Lucas gives her the A-OK sign. She replaces it on the dummy.

LUCAS

Dylan's right. I am different now.

KAT

Well, we're all different now. Having a guy I just met kill my best friend's dog did it for me.

LUCAS

He's not just talking about today.

KAT

Oh. Sandy Fletcher?

Lucas nods.

LUCAS

Besides Dylan, she was my best friend. She got pregnant a few months ago - not by me. She wanted to keep it. And she wanted my help.

KAT

How?

LUCAS

Go to the doctor's with her, figure out ways to hide it, stuff like that. After a few weeks I couldn't handle the secrecy. And the lies. I told my mother. She told Sandy's.

KAT

What happened?

LUCAS

Sandy's father made her have an abortion. A week later, she killed herself.

KAT

Holy shit. I mean that's awful.

Lucas tears up.

LUCAS

And it's my fault! I didn't protect Sandy then or any of you today.

Lucas gets up, paces.

KAT

What's happening tonight is no one's fault. We're all to blame.

Lucas' gaze falls on the velvet Jesus.

LUCAS

Grams used to tell me to see the way and be the way. I let her down today. I let everyone drink. And I drank. And I wrecked your car. Kat, I'm so sorry.

Kat pats his back, tries to comfort him. He presses his head.

LUCAS

Dylan's right. I hate Mason. I know I shouldn't but I do. He does whatever he wants and never has to suffer the consequences.

KAT

I wouldn't be too sure about that. Tomorrow he'll be sorry things went down like they did and --

O.S. Dylan YELLS. Kat and Lucas look at each other, take off.

INT. GRANDMA'S LAKE HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mason is halfway inside the bathroom, having busted through the small bathroom window. He has Dylan by the neck and armpit pulling him toward the hole. Dylan grabs Mason's hands, desperately trying to loosen his grip.

Lucas and Kat burst into the room. Lucas grabs Dylan around his waist. Mason won't let go. Dylan struggles to breathe because his shirt gripped tightly in Mason's hands.

Dylan lets go of Mason's hands and pushes against the window frame but Mason shakes him like a toy causing Dylan to lose strength. As Lucas keeps pulling Dylan--

Kat looks for something to hit Mason with. She picks up and discards a plunger, a toilet brush, a can of air freshener.

She finally sees Lucas' electric toothbrush, pulls off the brush head to expose the pointy metal shaft on top.

Kat jumps on the toilet and starts stabbing Mason's hand with it. Eventually he releases Dylan who's struggling to breathe.

The sudden release sends Lucas backward with Dylan, who hits his head on the sink. He goes unconscious.

KAT

Dylan. You okay? Dylan!

LUCAS

Grab his legs. Get him on the bed.

Lucas and Kat carry Dylan into--

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas and Kat lay Dylan on the bed. Lucas checks for breathing. He shakes him.

LUCAS

Hey - buddy. You okay? Wake up.

Dylan rouses. Coughs. Nods. Passes out. Lucas listens to him breathe.

KAT

Go. I got this.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY/BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lucas runs out the bedroom door into the hallway just as Mason climbs through the window into the bathroom.

They surprise each other. Mason is covered in blood, dirt and animal guts, the skin on his left arm shredded from rubbing against the broken glass.

LUCAS

Mason, why are you doing this?

For a moment Mason appears to recognize Lucas.

Then, the monster returns. He lunges at Lucas who runs down the hallway screaming.

LUCAS

Carlos! Help!

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Carlos springs to his feet as Lucas enters with Mason close behind. Like a linebacker, Carlos pushes Mason backward into--

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Carlos slams Mason into the dining room table, driving it into the far wall. Mason throws Carlos off.

Kat runs in. Lucas grabs the mop and broom. He throws one to Kat and they beat on Mason. Mason grabs the broom and breaks it in half. He lunges the broken piece at them, cutting Kat and Lucas.

KAT

Fern. Run! Get help.

Fern is frozen. Carlos grabs her hand and runs her out the front door. He comes back in as --

Lucas lifts a lead glass punch bowl off the buffet table, smashes Mason's head. He falls unconscious.

LUCAS

Quick before he wakes up.

CARLOS

Before he does me any more favors.

Lucas grabs arms and Carlos grabs legs, drag Mason into the--

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas drops Mason's arms, rushes inside the closet, comes out with several ties, throwing a few to Carlos. As they start to tie Mason up, he wakes up. He thrusts the boys off of him, kicking and flailing. They rush out the door and close it.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kat rushes in, helps them hold the doorknob closed as Mason bangs. Lucas rushes down the hall. The door shakes.

Lucas rushes back with a rope and ties the doorknob. He stretches the rope and ties it back to hold the door closed.

LUCAS

We need to board up this window from the outside. He wont stay inside forever. I'll get some scrap wood from the shed.

Mason bangs a minute longer, smashes something, then quiets.

LUCAS

I'm so dead.

KAT

I'll get Fern.

She runs out.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas and Carlos shake Dylan until he wakes up.

LUCAS

Hey, it's us. You okay?

Dylan holds his head. A goose egg forms on the back of his head. Dylan gingerly rubs it.

DYLAN

Mason?

LUCAS

He's in the master bedroom. You got your way after all.

Dylan cracks a laugh that hurts his head.

DYLAN

He came through the window.

LUCAS

Yeah, I was there. Just relax little buddy.

CARLOS

I'll check on the girls. You feel okay?

DYLAN

Yeah. Go. I'm good.

LUCAS

Good. Carlos, check out front, then when I find some boards, I'll need some help.

Carlos and Lucas leave.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Carlos lumbers down the gravel driveway.

Carlos looks in Dylan's car. Checks the bushes that line the driveway. Approaches Kat's car in the middle of the lawn.

Looks in the back seat. Does a double take. Carlos looks around to see if anyone is watching. Clammers into Kat's Car.

The CD with a small amount of Flakka residue and rolled up bill is perched on the edge of the seat. His palms sweat.

CARLOS

You been holding out on us, Kat? I get it. Coke ain't the kind of thing you want to bring into Grandma's house.

Carlos tears his eyes away, but they creep back to the CD.

CARLOS

Not the kind of thing at all.

He looks away again, then back. He moves the CD further back on the seat so it won't spill. He chuckles.

CARLOS

Oh Mason, have I got a surprise for you. Payback's a you know what.

He positions the bill to his nose and leans down to the seat. A much smaller quantity than Mason snorted.

Kat and Fern walk up the driveway from the street. As they pass by the cars, Kat looks inside her car, hesitates. She glances at Fern, but Fern isn't aware. KAT pulls her forward.

*
*
*

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mason clears every surface with angry sweeps of his hands.

He sees himself in the full length mirror. A grotesque image leers back - bulging eyes and blood-stained lips. He smiles.

Then, like a flash hallucination, he looks normal again, dressed in his right mind. This makes him angry. He bangs his head forcefully into the mirror, breaking the glass.

He shrieks. Spins. Pulls the mirror from the wall and crashes it to the floor, sending shards everywhere.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Lucas runs around the house with a ladder, some boards, a hammer and nails.

LUCAS
Carlos, a little help?

Lucas sets his supplies down under the master bedroom window as Kat and Fern approach. Mason smashes stuff inside.

KAT
Hurry, he's going crazy in there.

Lucas holds a board over the window. Kat runs up and grabs the hammer and nails. She expertly drives in a nail.

Fern places another board. Lucas and Kat work together on nailing each side. Lucas places the ladder up the middle and climbs to reach higher on the window.

Suddenly, Mason breaks the glass and bounces off the boards. The ladder pops away from the house and Lucas grabs a board to steady himself. They hurry to nail another board.

LUCAS
Crap. Like I need more adrenaline
in my system. Where's Carlos?

*

The last board is nailed and they breathe in relief.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They relax to regroup.

LUCAS
That wont hold him forever. Maybe
we can give him a tranquilizer.
Anyone got any sleeping pills?

KAT
Why are you looking at me?

LUCAS
Sorry. Oh yeah, Grams. She always
needed help falling asleep.

Lucas hops up as a sweaty, winded, red-faced Carlos comes in through the front door.

CARLOS
Where was she?

KAT
At the street but no cars came by.
You feeling okay?

Kat motions for him to join her and Fern on the couch. Carlos groans and holds his head.

CARLOS
My head. It wants to explode.

Kat touches his forehead. She notices some white powder around his nose and wipes it off, smelling her finger. She glances around. *
*
*

KAT
You need water. I'll get you more
pain meds for you ear.

Kat fluffs a pillow for him and exits to the kitchen.

LUCAS
While you're helping Carlos, find
some food that we can spike with
sleeping pills, for Mason.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lucas checks the bathroom medicine cabinet. Comes up empty. *
Thinks, rushes out. *

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucas puts his ear to the master bedroom doorway. He carries the broken broom handle and the bat, and his snake grabber.

Dylan joins him in the hallway. He's weak, holds his head.

DYLAN
What are you doing?

LUCAS
Grams has sleeping pills by her
bedside. I'm going to sedate him.

Lucas hands Dylan the snake grabber, starts untying the door.

DYLAN
Are you nuts? He'll escape. He's
too strong.

The door shudders from within. Dylan tries restraining Lucas.

LUCAS

Then help me catch him. This will work. I'll get Carlos too.

Lucas accidentally elbows him hard in the nose. Dylan WAILS.

Dylan pulls back his hand from his nose. It's bloody. He yanks Lucas down to the ground. They wrestle.

DYLAN

Sometimes your plans suck. Admit it. Let's think this through.

Lucas throws a punch. Dylan blocks it. Lucas tries to scramble away. Dylan grabs his feet. Lucas kicks.

DYLAN

Stop it! Think. Your plan is a catch twenty-two. You need the pills to sedate him but you need him sedated to get the pills.

Lucas kicks Dylan off, starts to crawl away.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Carlos bares his teeth at Fern. His eyes roll in their sockets.

Fern eases off the couch, tiptoes toward the front door.

Carlos GROWLS.

Fern rushes out the door.

Carlos leaps up with unnatural energy, chases after Fern.

Kat comes in from the kitchen with the glass of water.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dylan jumps further up Lucas's legs, grabs him by the waist of his jeans. O.S. Mason GROWLS. The door shudders again.

Dylan pulls him down again. They wrestle.

LUCAS

Then obviously, we have to work together.

DYLAN

What. Is. Wrong. With. You.

LUCAS

Let go!

Lucas lands a knee in Dylan's stomach. He releases his grip on Lucas. Lucas stumbles to his feet.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH/LAWN - NIGHT

Kat runs down the steps onto the lawn. She sees --

Carlos chases Fern toward the woods. Suddenly, Carlos slips and wipes out, allowing Fern to duck behind the cars.

Carlos picks himself up and continues after Fern.

Kat follows. She steps in something and reacts, shines her phone's flashlight on her shoe. She reacts in revulsion.

Her shoe is stuck in a disemboweled, decapitated rabbit, its guts splayed. Kat squelches a scream. Jumps up.

She flings guts off her shoe. Steps in something SQUISHY. Shines the flashlight. Mason's vomit. She GAGS.

O.S. RUSTLING

A shadow moves by the cars, catching her eye.

KAT

Fern, is that you?

Kat shines the flashlight. Nothing. She follows the sound to the driveway.

O.S. A faint WHIMPER.

Fern comes around the cars and quickly runs to her side.

O.S. CARLOS GROWLS.

KAT

What was that?

FERN

Carlos. He's a zombie now.

KAT

No Honey. Mason is a Zombie, not Carlos. Oh what I am saying? Mason's inside. All locked up. It's all right. Here we go.

But Fern clings to Kat. Carlos tracks them from around the cars. The girls move to keep the cars between them.

KAT

Carlos?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mason is totally sweating and red-faced. He tears off his shirt, panting. He body slams the bedroom door.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Blood oozes from Dylan's nose. He puts his head back, pinching his nostrils together.

DYLAN

You were right. He ruined everything. I'll help you fix as much as we can. Mason too.

LUCAS

You really don't get it.

DYLAN

I get he's out of his mind. He attacked *me*, remember?

Lucas contemplates but is not satisfied.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH/LAWN - NIGHT

Carlos' attention moves away from the girls, to the boarded up window. He sees his true enemy.

As he comes around the cars, the girls keep their distance, but Carlos runs to the window and tears off the lower board.

The girls run inside.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan sit against opposite walls.

LUCAS

I know what I saw in his eyes. He's intentionally trying to hurt me.

DYLAN

I'm sorry! I thought this trip would... help.

LUCAS

Help us what? Maybe now you realize throwing us together is not helping.

DYLAN

It's not always about you Lucas. I meant help him. His dad has cancer - it's terminal.

LUCAS

No way.

Dylan nods.

DYLAN

He didn't want me to tell you.

Lucas shakes his head in disbelief.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Crazed Carlos rips off two more boards with his bare hands, climbs inside.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan hear the boards breaking.

LUCAS

What the?

O.S. A SYMPHONY OF GROWLS. FURNITURE BREAKING.

Lucas jumps to his feet. Puts his ear against the door.

LUCAS

Carlos?!

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mason jumps on Carlos' back.

Carlos throws him off, but stumbles backward.

Mason body slams him.

Mason and Carlos GRUNT AND GROAN as Mason tries to bite Carlos' head. They look like two wild bears fighting.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dylan pushes Lucas aside. Listens against the door..

DYLAN

They'll kill each other.

Dylan turns back frantic. Lucas stares into space.

DYLAN
Quick! Do something!

LUCAS
I'm thinking!

O.S. LOUD BREAKING NOISES

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat and Fern barricade the door. Fern shuts down. They hear the commotion. Kat sits Fern on the couch and runs into--

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

KAT
Carlos just flipped the hell out.
He broke into the bedroom. What's
he doing in there?

DYLAN
Fighting Mason.

KAT
Carlos?

FERN (O.S.)
Zombie Carlos. Zombie Carlos.

Fern begins to cry. Kat shakes her head.

KAT
She's losing it. Let me try.

Kat talks through the door.

KAT
Carlos, honey, get out of there. *
(to the guys)
Who knew he could move that fast?

LUCAS
I have an idea!

Lucas dashes off down the hallway.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - GRANDPA'S WORKROOM - NIGHT

Lucas pulls the light cord. Grabs a couple of lengths of rope from the workbench.

FERN
Nice crossbow.

Startled, Lucas drops a clamp on his foot. Fern sniffles.

LUCAS
Ow! Where'd you come from?

He follows her eyes to the bow. Fern collects herself.

FERN
Can I see it?

LUCAS
You shoot?

FERN
Camp Arapahoe crossbow champ three
years in a row.

Lucas pulls it down.

Fern cocks it, aims, releases.

LUCAS
You feeling threatened by a
misunderstood redneck?

She smiles grimly, leaves the crossbow on the workbench.

FERN
Got any darts?

LUCAS
Around here somewhere. Be careful
Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

Lucas runs out with the rope.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mason lowers his head and charges into Carlos, knocking him down onto the broken glass and falling on top of him.

MASON CRIES OUT. Like a superhuman, he pushes Carlos off of him.

He lunges at Carlos, blood dripping from fresh cuts on his back and arms.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucas rifles through the cupboards, finds --

A CAST IRON SKILLET

He smiles victoriously and somewhat maniacally.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucas returns with the rope and skillet.

He throws Kat one of the lengths of rope.

O.S. CARLOS and MASON GROAN AND GROWL. LOUD CRASHES.

He places the skillet and second rope on the floor.

LUCAS

I'll release the door first. You guys stretch the rope across. Hopefully Mason will make a dash for the door, trip on the rope and we can clobber him and tie him up.

DYLAN

And the skillet?

LUCAS

Insurance.

KAT

Carlos, we're going to open the door, so just let Mason go. Let him leave, do you hear?

O.S. A VERY LOUD THUD. Then ABSOLUTE SILENCE.

Lucas unties the door, swings it wide open. They peek in.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mason pulls a limp Carlos out the window.

DYLAN

Oh. No. He's dragging Carlos.

Lucas and Dylan grab their weapons, the snake grabber and bat. Kat picks up the skillet like a weapon. The three enter.

Utter destruction. Lucas gapes at the open space and layer of broken glass that was once the window.

DYLAN

Dude, I'm so sorry.

Dylan expresses horror. Lucas gets resolved.

LUCAS

Lock us out.

Lucas grabs the skillet from Kat to add to his snake grabber.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

He and Dylan carefully step out of the broken window.

In the moonlight, Lucas points out the matted grass where Carlos' heavy body has been dragged.

The boys follow the trail into--

EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan see a figure leaning over another. Creeping closer, they see it's Mason eating into Carlos' forehead.

DYLAN

Mason!

Dylan races toward Mason. Lucas rushes behind.

Dylan jumps on Mason's back. Mason throws him off. Lucas snares Mason's hand with the snake grabber and holds on.

Mason turns to face the boys. Bits of Carlos' flesh hang from his mouth. Carlos lies motionless in the dirt.

Mason lunges for Lucas. Lucas keeps him at bay with the snake grabber, swings the skillet. Misses.

Dylan pulls Carlos' leg, but cannot budge him.

Mason pulls Lucas into him with the snake grabber. Lucas drops the skillet to keep his balance and use two hands.

Dylan picks up the skillet. Hits Mason. It does nothing. Mason swats it from his hand like a fly. Lunges for Dylan.

Lucas pulls Mason around a tree. Dylan backs up.

Mason grabs the snake grabber around the tree, breaks the PVC in half so Lucas just has a stub. Mason shakes his hand free.

DYLAN

Mason. Stop. MASON!

Dylan faces off. Lucas shakes Carlos, feels for a pulse.

LUCAS

Oh, God.

Turns Carlos' head toward him. A huge bite around Carlos' eye, and what looks like an eyeball and brains.

LUCAS

Oh my God. Please no.

Lucas recoils. He leaps to his feet. Pushes Mason from behind. Beats on his back. He rages, crying.

LUCAS
You killed him! You killed him!

Mason turns his attention to Lucas. Lunges for him.

Dylan tosses Lucas the bat. They circle Mason.

Dylan and Lucas charge, push Mason backward. Mason trips over Carlos, falls. Dylan cries tears for Carlos.

DYLAN
Carlos! Carlos!

Mason rises like the Terminator.

Lucas pulls Dylan away. They run toward the house.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat lets the boys in the front door, locks it behind them. They push the barricade back. Dylan is hysterical.

KAT
What happened to *him*?

Lucas helps Dylan onto a chair. Kat looks out the window.

KAT
Where's Carlos?

FERN
Carlos. Zombie.

KAT
No. Fern. Not Carlos. Mason. Mason
Zombie. Carlos good. Mason bad.

LUCAS
Don't say that.

Kat looks surprised. Lucas grabs the bottle of tequila and swigs; passes it to Dylan.

LUCAS
Here little buddy.

Lucas gently squeezes Dylan's shoulder. Dylan wipes his eyes. Dylan weakly shakes his head no to the tequila.

KAT
Now you're scaring me.

LUCAS
(nodding to Kat)
Help me?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucas exits the master bedroom with a bottle of pills.

LUCAS
Sleeping pills.

He and Kat re-tie the master bedroom door.

LUCAS
Double-check every door and window.
I'm going to make Mason a nightcap.

KAT
Lucas, where's Carlos?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucas enters, checks the patio door. Kat follows.

KAT
What happened out there?

Lucas struggles to speak. Their eyes meet. Kat's face goes ashen. She emits a blood curdling scream.

KAT
No!

Kat tries opening the door. He pulls her away.

KAT
Let me go!

Lucas strong-arms her away from the door. Locks it again.

KAT
No. No. No! Not Carlos!

Kat sobs uncontrollably now, kneeling on the floor. Lucas kneels next to her. Fern sobs under the blanket.

KAT
Where is he? I want to see him!

Dylan cries. Lucas gets emotional.

LUCAS
Please, just listen for a minute,
okay? As soon as we stop Mason--

KAT
 (yelling into Lucas' face)
 You left him out there? You can't
 just leave him out there!

Kat breaks for the door. Lucas pulls her back. Dylan rises, wipes his tears, holds Kat in a bear hug.

DYLAN
 We can't help him now, Kat. We have
 to stop Mason. It's the only way.

Lucas pours the whole bottle of sleeping pills on a plate, starts crushing them under a spoon (or he pours them out). He piles the powder on a juicy steak, rubbing it in.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The clock chimes four times. Cuddled next to Fern on the couch, Kat channel surfs in a stupor of grief and alcohol.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan lay out items on the table: rope, fishing line, an animal trap, a knife, fishing netting. The steak.

They tape the fish net to a 8' diameter PVC pipe hoop.

Kat flicks through channels until she finds an old rerun. Watches it for a few minutes.

LUCAS (O.S.)
 Sorry, only broadcast channels
 here.

KAT
 It doesn't matter.

Kat clicks through more channels and lands on a news story. The reporter is speaking into a microphone while a man writhes violently in the background.

SHAKY CELL PHONE FOOTAGE -- People running away from something.

Dylan approaches the TV. Kat changes the channel.

DYLAN
 Wait, go back.

Kat changes back to the news story.

Men and women SCREAM, RUN, VOMIT, GROWL. Some have blood on their mouths or on their clothes.

DYLAN

Turn it up.

Kat turns up the volume. Lucas enters the living room.

REPORTER

--a brand of bath salts called Flakka-Z is responsible for at least four deaths in the last two weeks here in the Lakes region.

DYLAN

Flakka-Z? Sounds like a crust punk band.

Lucas shushes Dylan.

REPORTER

Police say this new formula could be fifty times more potent than the original Flakka, which was responsible for several deaths and grotesque maimings back in 2014, including a homeless man whose face was eaten off by a teen under the influence of Flakka. He later died as did the teen from an overdose of the drug. Like its predecessor, Flakka Z - the Z stands for Zombie - can make some users behave like zombies, biting -- even eating -- the flesh of their victims.

Lucas draws closer to the television.

LUCAS

I already saw this on the news. It's the zombie drug. It makes them overheat and go out of their mind.

REPORTER

These drug users are not only a threat to others but to themselves. Two of last weeks' fatalities were teens who, high on the drug, jumped to their deaths. Another two died of overdoses. Reporting live from--

Kat mutes the television.

KAT

Oh God, poor Carlos.

LUCAS
That's got to be what Mason took.
Maybe if we can cool him down.
Guys, follow me. Grab the net.

Kat grabs the PVC hoop net device from the dining table.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucas exits the workroom with a coil of garden hose and a sprinkler. Dylan holds the plate with the tranquilizer steak.

LUCAS
If we can trap him and cool him
down, maybe we can reason with him.

Fern steps out of the workroom with the loaded crossbow.

KAT
What the hell?

DYLAN
Alright. No more nice guy.

LUCAS
Better safe than sorry.

Fern's eyes are steely, determined. Dylan steps out with his bat. Lucas runs out with his hose.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - PATIO /BACKYARD - NIGHT

*

Kat follows with the net. Fern scans the woods, muzzle high. Lucas runs to the spigot and fumbles with the hose threads.

Dylan cautiously stretches the hose and sprinkler out into the yard, drops the steak, then stands guard with his bat.

Kat places the net over the steak. Lucas joins her to prop up one side with a stick and hands her a rope to run back to the patio. He ties another rope from the net to a tree.

LUCAS
Okay, hope it works. He takes the
bait, we drop the net and turn on
the sprinkler.

DYLAN
Then we can get Carlos' body. No
man left behind.

They all retreat inside, watching each other's back.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Fern stands watch militantly. Lucas paces into the next room.

DYLAN

So, bath salts? What are they?
Where would he get bath salts?

LUCAS

I don't know. Check the medicine
cabinet.

Dylan exits down the hall. Kat keeps her head down.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Dylan rummages through the medicine cabinet, reading labels.

He searches around the bathtub. Comes up empty.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas' wheels turn. He interrogates Kat.

LUCAS

That stuff you brought. The spice.
You bring him anything else?

KAT

Don't you think I would have said
so by now? You're really something,
you know that!

Lucas spots Mason's backpack, rushes to --

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas picks up Mason's backpack from a pile in the corner. He
shoves his hand in the outside pockets. Then unzips it.

Kat enters.

KAT

You're going through his things?
Seriously?

Lucas sits. He dumps out the backpack. Sifts through the
contents.

KAT

Wow. Okay.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Fern calls out. She stands at attention with the crossbow.

FERN

No sign of Mason yet, F.Y.I.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Disapprovingly, Kat watches Lucas dig through the outer pockets one more time, pulling out things as he goes. Earbuds. Phone charger. Gum.

Lucas chucks the bag into the corner. Kat sits next to him.

KAT

No Flakka-Z? Guess you can't bust him, huh, Sheriff?

LUCAS

You think this is funny?

KAT

I think it's tragic. Carlos was a beautiful pers--

LUCAS

He wants in here so badly for a reason. That drug is here somewhere.

Lucas dumps out the black trash bag Mason used as a suitcase. Starts turning the clothes inside out.

Lucas pushes the items on the floor around. He spots a paperback in the pile. Turns it over.

LUCAS

Dune? I didn't take him for the type.

KAT

What type is that?

LUCAS

Someone who reads.

KAT

You do like to put people in boxes.

LUCAS

If that's where they belong.

KAT

And do they ever get out?

LUCAS

There's hope for everyone.

Lucas holds up the book.

LUCAS

Except Mason. Why couldn't he just quit drugs and take responsibility for his choices? We could have buried the hatchet. Poor Carlos.

*
*
*
*

KAT

Must be nice to be so perfect. God forbid anyone struggle around you.

LUCAS

That's not fair. Or true. I care about a lot of people. You don't know me.

KAT

My point exactly. No-one really knows anyone.

Lucas absently thumbs through DUNE. A card falls out. Lucas can't believe his eyes. Suddenly, he's animated and angry.

LUCAS

Oh yeah?

Lucas shows her the card.

LUCAS

You see this?

KAT

Jose Canseco?

LUCAS

His 1986 Donruss Rookie card.

Kat shrugs.

LUCAS

It's the only card I need to complete my Grandpa's collection. Very hard to find in mint condition. He knows I've been looking for it. We've talked about it a hundred times!

KAT

So?

LUCAS

He probably bought it just to irritate me. He doesn't even need it!

KAT
You don't know any of that!

Kat's remark has no effect on Lucas.

LUCAS
I'm sure he couldn't wait to rub it
in my face.

Lucas puts the card in the book and tosses it in the corner.
Sees Mason's sweatshirt on the back of a chair. Yanks it off,
turns out the pockets but finds nothing. Tosses it.

LUCAS
He's trouble. Pure and simple. What
some see in him, I will never know.

KAT
And by people you mean me?

Lucas kicks the rest of Mason's stuff.

LUCAS
He's the reason you're here, right?

Lucas looks around the room for anything belonging to Mason.

LUCAS
He must have it on him. Druggie.

KAT
(angry)
Dylan was right. You're self-
righteous and smug. Like so many so-
called Christians. I wonder what
your grandma would think about the
way you treat Mason. *

LUCAS
Don't you dare bring Grams into
this. *

Kat nods to the painting of Jesus on the wall.

KAT
Okay then. What would Jesus do?

Kat turns to leave with contempt.

Lucas clenches his fists, the anger bubbling up and out.

LUCAS
You want to know who the father of
Sandy's baby was - it was Mason!

Dylan arrives just at that moment. His mouth drops.

KAT
That explains EVERYTHING.

Lucas drops to his knees and bows his head, exhausted from the flood of feelings he is experiencing -- anger, hurt, sorrow, grief and guilt. Kat leans close to Dylan.

KAT
Any bath salts?

Dylan shakes his head. Kat mutters under her breath.

KAT
I was afraid of that.

Kat exits. Dylan looks in her direction, then back to Lucas. He opens his mouth to speak, but sensing the mood, shuts it.

Moments later, Lucas lifts his head, glances at "Jesus at the Door Knocking" over the mantle.

LUCAS
God. I need you right now...

With remorse, Lucas respectfully packs Mason's belongings back into the backpack and the pillow case. In silence, Dylan helps him.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat tiptoes to the kitchen doorway, listens.

O.S. In the workroom, the boys MURMUR. CLINKING and CLANGING.

Kat sneaks to the front door. Confirms coast is clear. Exits.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - WOODS - NIGHT

Carlos, covered in blood and puke, chunks of his cheek and shoulder missing, opens his good eye slightly and groans.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Kat creeps down the driveway, spooked by every night noise. When she gets to her busted car, she covers a SHRIEK.

She surveys the damage. Goes from shock to sadness to anger. Looks back at the house. Flips it the bird.

Kat opens the car door to the back seat. Dome light comes on. With her body holding open the door, she leans into the car.

Kat sees remnants of lines of Flakka-Z on the CD case. GASPS. Grabs her purse and finds the money Mason left.

Kat looks all over the back seat, finally on the floorboard. White powder is spilled out. Next to it, the open packet.

She picks it up, turns it over slowly, hoping against hope.

INSERT: A printed label: "Bath Salts." Underneath, a crooked stamp reads "Flakka-Z" and "Not for human consumption."

KAT
It is my shit!

Kat scrambles to hide the evidence, stuffs the packet and cash in her pocket, dusts the powder off the CD case.

Mason GRUNTS. Kat turns around. He looms over the car door.

Kat SCREAMS. She pulls the car door toward her and shoves it back hard against him. He stumbles backward. She rolls out.

Kat runs toward the house screaming. Mason jumps, catches her by the hurt toe, knocking her down. She WAILS, then kicks him hard in the head with her other foot. She crawls into the bushes along the driveway.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dylan examines the animal trap as Lucas tapes a 2x4 wood stud onto the base of the trap, and tethers it to a long rope.

LUCAS
Be careful with that.

DYLAN
You're not using this on Mason!

LUCAS
It's for small animals, so it won't cause permanent damage, but it should hurt enough to bring him down. Then we can tie him up.

DYLAN
(easing into the convo)
You never told me it was Mason's baby. Why?

LUCAS
Sandy asked me not to.

DYLAN
Wait, did Mason know?

LUCAS

Not before. But...after.

Dylan is stunned. Lucas finishes with the rope and begins cutting lengths of fishing line.

DYLAN

So his girlfriend commits suicide after aborting his baby and his father is dying of pancreatic cancer.

LUCAS

She wasn't his girlfriend. They had a fling.

DYLAN

Wow. Do you hear yourself?

Lucas stops cutting line. Realization dawns.

LUCAS

Yep, I'm a real jerk. So say we all.

Dylan feel Lucas' pain.

DYLAN

Yah, y'are. But isn't forgiveness what you're always yapping on about? So what's the plan?

*
*
*

LUCAS

I don't think Mason is interested in dead bait. So we all go out there armed and try capture him.

DYLAN

You act like it's a war.

LUCAS

A war FOR Mason, not against him. I promise. That isn't Mason out there - it's the Flakka - him killing Carlos proves that. So the best we can do is tie him up and keep him tied until daybreak. You with me?

Dylan nods.

Lucas picks up the animal trap.

LUCAS

This is the pan. This is the trap dog. Funny name I know.

The dog secures to the pan. That sets the trap.

LUCAS

The most important thing is to keep your fingers on the outside. I'll pull the claws apart, if you can stick that dog onto the pan, right here.

Lucas points to the area. Dylan nods.

Lucas pulls the claws apart. Dylan sets the trap dog.

LUCAS

Okay, hands back. Here goes.

Lucas cringes and lets go of one hand-hold on the trap. The set holds. He picks up the trap by the 2x4, like it's a mace

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Kat peers through the bushes at Mason who paces, grunts and pounces on the bushes by the house, blocking her way inside.

Kat wraps her fingers around her car keys so a key sticks out between each knuckle.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas threads another wire through another PVC pipe.

LUCAS

We'll lure Mason to the trap, then get as many ropes on him as possible. The net and ropes should hold him safely until the drug wears off.

DYLAN

What if it never wears off? What if all this - the stuff on TV - what if we are witnessing a real-life zombie apocalypse? What if Mason stays a zombie? Permanently.

LUCAS

Do you hear yourself? Zombies? No, we have to believe that the drug will wear off.

DYLAN

But if it doesn't wear off?

Lucas puts down the snake grabber and trap mace.

LUCAS
We should have done this before.

Lucas bows his head, clasps their hands. Dylan bows his head.

LUCAS
God, help us get Mason back safely.

LUCAS AND DYLAN
Amen.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - SHED - NIGHT

Kat runs toward the shed. She crouches behind it to catch her breath. It won't come. She deliberately breathes slowly and deeply.

She hears faster breathing than hers it's getting louder.

A running figure in shadow. Footsteps close. Kat ducks as Mason tackles her, so he slams into the wall. Kat SCREAMS, gouges him with her keys, runs, ducks past trees. *

Glancing behind, she sees Mason gaining on her. She runs past the upturned rake left by Carlos.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas hears Kat's SCREAM.

LUCAS
Did you hear that?

DYLAN
What?

Lucas looks into the living room.

LUCAS
Where's Kat?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They rush to the window. See the dome light in the car is lit, car door open. Dylan panics.

DYLAN
She's not safe out there!

He beelines for the front door.

LUCAS
Wait. We can't keep blindly chasing after him. Let's set the trap. Now!

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucas and Dylan carry the trap mace and snake grabber.

LUCAS

We could use your help. Are you up
for it?

Fern nods. She hoists her crossbow to her shoulder. The boys also grab their bat and skillet.

EXT. SHED / BACKYARD - NIGHT

Kat circles back to the shed. Suddenly, she steps on the upturned rake - THWAK. She goes down with a bloody nose.

Mason catches up. Exhausted, she grabs the rake and threatens to jab him. She sobs, can't see through her tears.

KAT

Please. Stop.

Mason steps toward her. She swipes. Cuts his hand. He YELLS but keeps coming. She whacks him in the side. He doubles over but tears the rake out of her hands, tossing it behind him.

Kat runs, trips over the barbed wire of a dilapidated fence. She struggles to free her feet, crying out with each twist and turn. Mason comes toward her, more dazed than angry.

Once free, she scuttles like a crab backward, her legs and feet cut and bleeding, her bad toe swollen and bruised, her bleeding arm hanging at her side.

KAT

Help!
(pleading with Mason)
I'm sorry, Mason. I didn't know.

Kat runs to the steak plate, Mason on her tail.

Behind her, Lucas, Dylan and Fern exit onto the patio. The net and sprinkler trap between them.

Mason steadily advances on Kat. She crawls under the net, retrieves the steak, shoves it in his face. He swats it away.

Lucas turns on the spigot. Kat steers around the net, backs right through the water. Mason approaches, gets his legs wet.

Kat runs toward the others, greatly relieved. They circle the wagons around her. Mason approaches, water to his bare chest.

Mason stops suddenly like he doesn't know where he is. He places his hands on his temples, squeezes his head.

MASON

Kat?

Kat stops crawling, barely able to catch her breath.

KAT

Yeah. It's me. You understand me,
Mason? What do you understand?

Mason reaches his hands out in front of him. He starts laughing then suddenly stops. Squeezes his head again.

MASON

Head. Ache. Aaagh!

Mason beats himself in the head. Kat stares at the sprinkler.

KAT

No. Stop that. You've overheated.
You have to cool down or you'll get
brain damage.

LUCAS

Mason, are you high on something?
Do you remember taking anything?

*
*
*

Mason stops. His eyes roll up. He seems in a trance.

Kat slowly inches toward the sprinkler, trying to lift it while being ready to run. She's way too close to Mason.

MASON

So hot.

Kat lifts the spray to hit Mason in the face, he collapses. Kat approaches drenching him, looks for a response.

KAT

Come back to us, Mason.

Lucas and Dylan grab the net and throw it over Mason, but the rope holds it back and the net bounces away. Fern covers with the crossbow. Mason doesn't respond. Kat turns to the others.

KAT

He seems to be more lucid.

LUCAS

Seems like you're adopting the
theory that he took some sort of
bath salts?

*
*
*
*

KAT

Don't you think the symptoms match?

*
*

DYLAN

Don't get started again. Let's just
let bygones be bygones and do what
we can for him.

Lucas nods in humility. They all approach Mason slowly.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Carlos wakes again, rises, groggily. He wipes Mason's vomit
and pieces of rat guts from his forehead with disgust. His
eye dangles grotesquely.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Lucas, Kat and Dylan stare at Mason, poised and alert.

Kat steps cautiously toward Mason.

KAT

He's out like a light. Let's just
go tie him up.

Lucas unties the rope holding back the net. Dylan loops his
snake grabber around Mason's arm. Fern props the crossbow
against the house and grabs a rope, approaches Mason's leg.

KAT

So, there's something...I have to
tell you guys.

LUCAS

Can it wait?

Lucas is too focused on Mason. Kat shrugs.

KAT

I guess.

LUCAS

Here, don't take any chances.

Lucas hands Kat the net. She nervously tosses the net on
Mason but it doesn't cover his head. She adjusts the net --

Suddenly, Mason wakes violently, bats the net away by the PVC
ring, grabs Kat's wrist. She punches him in the nose. He
pulls her down. She swings the skillet; hits him hard.

Lucas tosses the net between them, but it bounces over Kat
too. Kat stumbles back, entwining her tighter to Mason.

Mason grabs her leg, gets to his knees, drags her toward the
woods. Kat screams. Dylan pulls Mason's arm with the snake
grabber, but he trips and Mason overpowers them both.

Lucas pulls on the rope attached to the net. Mason is unstoppable. Lucas runs sideways to try reach the trap mace.

Dylan tries to get his feet under him. Kat struggles and breaks free, rolling under the net.

Mason staggers one step at a time.

Fern, in a superhero stance, aims the crossbow at Mason.

KAT

Fern. No!

Kat waves her hands frantically. Fern gets off the shot. *

The dart whizzes into the air, lands in the grass near Mason.

Mason picks up the dart, turns to Dylan, the dart poised to kill. Lucas tackles Mason, they tumble, tangled by the net.

Fern reloads the crossbow, runs to get closer to Mason and steps in the animal trap. She CRIES and WRITHES in pain, flinging the crossbow as she falls.

Dylan tries to untangle Lucas from Mason.

Kat assists Fern but has no strength to release the trap.

Mason escapes the net, slowly drags Lucas in the net toward the woods. Dylan pulls on the net but also gets dragged.

Lucas gets a pocket knife out, furiously cuts at the netting.

Kat runs ahead with the crossbow.

KAT

Mason, it's me. Kat. You don't have to do this. Just stop.

She gets in front of Mason right as Lucas cuts himself free from the net. He and Dylan get up to face Mason.

Mason roars like a grizzly bear. He charges Dylan.

Lucas runs to Kat, takes the crossbow from her, lifts it trembling and aims at Mason.

LUCAS

Mason stop! Please don't make me shoot you.

POV CROSSBOW

CROSSHAIRS over Mason. Dylan barely out of reach.

DYLAN
Shoot him!

Mason bears down on Dylan.

END POV

LUCAS
Forgive me!

Through tears, Lucas' trigger finger trembles. *

Mason TRIPS. He goes down fast. His head hits a big rock and cracks his skull. Blood pours out. Mason DIES.

Mason jolts, accidentally fires. The arrow sails over Mason to the shed, hits dead center in a heart-shaped wood plaque. *

INSERT: The plaque reads, "Love Grows Here."

START EPILOGUE

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Dylan and Lucas lay Mason on the dining room table, his head wrapped in a bloody shirt to keep the brains in. *

Kat uses a wet cloth and bowl of soapy water to wipe Carlos' blood and flesh off his face. *

LUCAS
Thank you for being so kind, Kat. *

She smiles. The dawn breaks through the patio window, casting a golden beam of light on Mason's peaceful, angelic face. *

LUCAS
Hard to be mad at him now.

DYLAN
Goodbye cuz. It shouldn't have ended this way.

LUCAS
You know what? I don't think Mason was a bad seed. I think he just had trouble making good choices, like all of us.

DYLAN
Yeah.

Lucas folds Mason's hands on top of his body.

LUCAS
Help me get Carlos?

Dylan nods. Lucas starts for the door.

DYLAN
Hey. In case I forget later.

Dylan picks up Mason's backpack and pulls out DUNE. He opens the book, pulls out the Jose Canseco baseball card.

DYLAN
He was going to give this to you this weekend... to make a new start. That's really why he wanted to come. He was the one that outbid you on eBay for it. Just so he could gift it to you. He made me promise not to ruin the surprise.

Dylan takes Lucas' hand and puts the card in it. Lucas stares at the card. Kat leaves to give them some space. *

Lucas breaks down, sobbing.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING *

Kat rinses out the wash cloth in the sink, with lots of soap. *
Unsure what to do with it, she tosses it in the trash. She *
grabs another wash cloth and fills the bowl with soapy water. *

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Kat washes her many scrapes and cuts with a new cloth. She *
winces with each dab, then applies antiseptic. *

Fern stares blankly at the trap-teeth wounds on her bare *
foot, washed but oozing. *

KAT
It's okay, I deserve it.

Kat rests her foot on the coffee table, cuddles against Fern *
who grips the broken broom handle tightly.

KAT
You don't need that any more,
Sweetie. It's all over.

Kat tries to take it, but Fern won't let her.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Lucas and Dylan slowly raise an arm around each other's shoulders, wiping tears with their shoulders. *

Kat stands at the door, pleads with Dylan and Lucas, her face tear-stained. *

KAT
I didn't give him anything - I swear. *

Lucas leaves Dylan, offers Kate a hug. *

LUCAS
If I learn anything from this, it's we all make mistakes.

KAT
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

LUCAS
Me too. For Mason, for Carlos. *

DYLAN
We're going to have a lot of explaining to do once the cops arrive. But it's a pretty good hike to the gas station to get our stories straight. *

LUCAS
Story? We tell the truth. *

DYLAN
What is the truth? We still don't know what made him freak out. *

Kat leaves in a hurry. They follow her into the -- *

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

They approach Fern, fetal on the couch, broom stick clutched. *

LUCAS
You two okay for a while if we go get Carlos? *

Kat sits next to Fern, strokes her hair, nods. *

DYLAN
Maybe we should make a stretcher. I don't want to drag him. *

LUCAS

Oh yeah. Wait, maybe we should just
cover him with a sheet. Don't want
to disturb the evidence.

*
*
*
*

DYLAN

Evidence? Oh I see, you want the
cops to pin his death on Mason.

*
*
*

LUCAS

No, I ...

*
*

Carlos enters through the front door, bloodied but alive.

CARLOS

Aaaaaahhh

Kat GASPS gleefully.

KAT

Carlos!

Lucas and Dylan look up in surprise.

LUCAS AND DYLAN

Carlos!

FERN

Zombie Carlos!

*
*

Fern jumps up, the pointy broom handle in her tight grip.
Carlos roars. Fern screams. They charge at each other.

*
*

LUCAS AND DYLAN

Noooo!

*
*

SMASH TO BLACK.

*

THE END