

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS- NIGHT

A young, African American Male runs through the forest at night, shouting. He sees a cabin at the end of the woods and yells for help. As he reaches the front of the cabin he reaches for the door and is awoken from the dream with a jump.

EXT. BLAIR HOUSE- DAY

A large, dark colored Durango sits outside of a small, suburban home in Texas on a sunny day. Children can be seen playing in the streets and a teen age girl looks outside of the upstairs bedroom window.

INT. INSIDE JAKE CAR- DAY

Jake is on the phone with Blair and Dominique.

JAKE, a Caucasian, college-aged, blonde hair, athletically built male around 6'1 with an arrogant attitude and sarcastic personality.

JAKE
(shouting)

Hey Blair, hurry up!

Blair and Dominique open the upstairs window and lean farther out the window.

INT. BLAIR ROOM- DAY

BLAIR, a Caucasian, pale, petite, long-haired brunette female with a bright smile and compassionate attitude, in a relationship with Jake.

BLAIR
(shouting down to Jake)
We're coming, Babe! Just give us a second.

DOMINIQUE, a petite, curvy African American with long dark hair and a loud and sarcastic personality.

DOMINIQUE

(giggling)

Blair, I'm seriously so excited about this trip.

BLAIR

(excitedly)

Me too, Dominique! It's going to be so fun and the cabin we are staying in is huge. Jake said it has been in his family for years.

DOMINIQUE

(sighing)

You're so lucky to have him as your boyfriend, B.

BLAIR

(scoffs)

Trust me, girl. He has his problems. But I'm going to try to focus on just having fun on this trip!

DOMINIQUE

I think that's the best thing to do. Just try to keep everything light and fun. I know Jake likes fun more than anything else.

BLAIR

What do you mean, you know?

DOMINIQUE

This is what I'm talking about, Blair. You get so paranoid. Obviously I don't mean anything. Can we please just have a fun trip? I just want to have fun with my bestie.

BLAIR

Ugh, okay Dominique. I'm ready to have fun. You better hope no one tries me though.

DOMINIQUE

It's going to be awesome! I'm all packed up, are you ready?

BLAIR

Good! Yes, let's go before Jake has a heart attack.

DOMINIQUE

Not a good start to that positive attitude, B.

INT. Back at Jake's car- Day

Blair and Dominique open each side of the rear doors and get into the Durango.

JAKE

(sounding annoyed)

It's about time you ladies come on. Are you ready to hit the road?

BLAIR

I'm sorry Babe. We needed to make sure we weren't forgetting anything. You want this trip to be perfect, right?

JAKE

((rolls eyes))

Yeah okay, whatever Blair. Just hurry up and put the stuff in the car so we can go pick up Bryan and Connor.

BLAIR

Okay, honey. We are putting our stuff in now! Let's not fight this trip, okay? I just want us to have fun.

JAKE

Okay, Blair. Let's have fun while you get in the car.

BLAIR

Don't forget to tell Connor I get shotgun on the way back.

JAKE

You can have the passenger seat when you pick better music than Taylor Swift and you give better directions than a blind, directionally-challenged person.

BLAIR

Not a good start to that positive attitude, Jake. Wouldn't you say, Dominique?

DOMINIQUE

Please don't drag me into this, you guys. I just want us to all be friends.

JAKE

I want us to put our seat belts on so I can go pick up my friends.

BLAIR

Okay, Jake. We are ready. Let's go.

EXT. CONNOR DORM ROOM- DAY

A small, messy dorm room with clothes and a suitcase on the bed. A boy stands at the bed folding clothes and placing them in the suitcase.

CONNOR, a tall, athletically built, African American male with short dark hair, a compassionate attitude and a friendly and outgoing personality.

CONNOR

Hey, Mom!

LISA, a petite, brunette African American woman with glasses and a kind smile.

LISA

(over phone)

Hi honey, are you excited about your trip?

CONNOR

Yes ma'am! I'm really hype about this vacation. I really need it after the semester I have had.

LISA

I agree, and I hope you enjoy it! This is the first time you aren't coming home for your break, you know?

CONNOR

Yeah mom, I know. I really do wish I could have come home.

LISA

You do?! That's perfect. I can call your dad and we can have you on a flight tomorrow morning!

CONNOR

(laughing)
Mom..

LISA

Oh its no problem at all, Connor.
Your

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

dad can cover the cost of the tickets.

I know he wouldn't mind!

CONNOR

Mom! Slow down with the flights, you

know it's too late. I'm already going

to the cabin with my friends. I will

miss you though.

LISA

Yes of course. I know it's too late honey, but a mom can dream can't she?

CONNOR

((laughs))

Yeah, mom. You can dream as long as you know it isn't happening.

LISA

Well I am really going to miss you, honey. You know you can call me or your father if you need anything at all and don't forget...

CONNOR

((cutting Lisa off))

Mom, seriously I'm going to be fine. I am an adult, you know?

LISA

Yes, of course I know you'll be fine. It's my job to worry though. So just let me do my job! You have everything you need, right Connor?

CONNOR

Yes ma'am.

LISA

Okay, I know you will have fun and be safe, and don't forget to call your father when you arrive at the cabin. You know you are his only son and...

CONNOR

((cutting Lisa off again))

Mom, I love you and I know you're worried but it's going to be fun and everything is going to be fine. You have nothing to worry about.

LISA

Yes, of course I know you'll be fine.
It's my job to worry though. So just let me do my job! You have everything you need, right Connor?

CONNOR

Yes ma'am.

LISA

And who all did you say would be on the trip, again?

CONNOR

(sighs)

I already told you mom. It's going to be me, Jake, Bryan, Blair, and Dominique.

LISA

Okay, I know you will have fun and be safe, and don't forget to call your father when you arrive at the cabin.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

You know you are his only son and
how
important family is to him Connor!

Horn honks outside.

CONNOR

Okay, mom! Got it! My friends are
here
now so I have to go. Love you, mom.

Connor leans out the window.

CONNOR

(shouting down)

Coming, guys! Just let me get the
rest
of my things!

JAKE

(shouting)

Okay, man! Just hurry because we
want
to make it there before sundown!
The
roads get harder to drive on at
night.

CONNOR

(shouting)

Let me just grab Bryan and we'll be
down.

EXT. Jake's Car- Inside- Day

BLAIR

Why were you so nice to him when he
needed a second?

JAKE

Maybe because he doesn't always
need a second. Or maybe because he
wasn't texting me all morning

(MORE)

Jake (CONT'D)

pressuring me to come pick him up early.

BLAIR

Okay, I get your point but you still don't have to be so rude to me.

JAKE

Okay, Blair. I will treat you like the fragile child you are from now on.

BLAIR

Okay, thanks. That is exactly what I want.

DOMINIQUE

Chill, guys. You are seriously going to ruin this trip for everyone if you keep fighting like this. I just want a chill vacation with my friends.

JAKE

That's what I want, too. Blair, do you think that sounds possible sweetie?

BLAIR

Yeah, sounds like I will really make an effort for this to work out, like I always do.

JAKE

Whatever, Blair. Your attitude is so over.

EXT. BRYAN DORM ROOM

Messy, small room with sports posters on the wall and exercise equipment displayed out on the floor.

CONNOR

Are you ready, man? Jake and the girls are here! Jake is going on about being afraid of the dark or something.

BRYAN, a tall and strong college aged Caucasian, tan, male with brown hair, a chiseled face, and kind eyes.

BRYAN

(chuckling)

Sure thing, bro! Thanks again for inviting me on this trip.

CONNOR

Of course, man! It's going to be an awesome time. Let's get going!

BRYAN

Can I just talk to you really quick before we head down?

CONNOR

Sure, man. What's up?

BRYAN

You are really cool and I know we get along really well but I never felt like Jake has liked me. Are you sure he is cool with me coming on this trip too? It is his cabin, after all.

CONNOR

Are you kidding? Of course he doesn't care Bryan! You're about to have the time of your life. I already know this is going to be a summer I never forget.

BRYAN

Me too, Connor. I feel like everything is about to change.

CONNOR

Well let's get going so we can get to these changes.

EXT. DAVE LAW OFFICE- DAY

A large office with big windows overlooking a city with a desk in the center, papers neatly stacked on the desk.

DAVE, a tall, athletically built, African American with glasses in an expensive looking suit with a large, quiet demeanor and dark eyes.

DAVE

(speaking into speaker)

I need to call my brother about our plans for the weekend. Please reschedule my meetings for the rest of the day.

SECRETARY

(over speaker)

Of course, Mr. Jefferson. Do you need anything else for your trip?

DAVE

(into speaker)

That will be all. Thank you.

Dave picks up his cell phone and puts the phone to his ear.

DAVE

(sighs, smiles)

Hey, little brother! How are you?

DANTE, a tall, fit, African American in his early 40's with piercing eyes.

DANTE

(over phone)

You know I am well, brother. I am really looking forward to our trip. We are still on, right?

DAVE

Yes, definitely! I just had my assistant cancel my afternoon meeting, and I am going to tell Lisa I have business out of town when I go home at lunch.

DANTE

Okay, that's great. I am going to talk to my family as well. I'm so glad we were able to make time for this tradition.

DAVE

Me too, Dante. I know dad would want us to keep the tradition alive.

DANTE

It will be a trip to remember! I will see you later, Dave. Don't forget all the hunting equipment.

DAVE

It's already at the cabin, little brother. I will see you soon.

EXT. JEFFERSON FAMILY HOME- DAY

A large living room with a fireplace and a family photo featuring Lisa, Dave, and Connor above the mantle. A couch and recliner are centered to the fireplace. Lisa sits on the couch while Dave sits on the recliner.

LISA

Are you sure you have to go, honey?
With Connor being gone, I could
really
use you here and you know how much
I miss you when you're away.

DAVE

I'm sorry, my love. You know I
would
stay if I could, but I have to go.
I
will be in Tennessee though, so at
least I will be near Connor if he
needs anything.

LISA

If you're trying to butter me up,
it's
working. Okay Dave, but you have to
make this up to me when you get
home.
I'm talking diamonds, baby; not
chocolates.

DAVE

You got it, baby! I have to pack up
and get going now. We have to make
it
there by sundown and it's a long
drive.

LISA

Of course you do, honey. Let's get
you
all packed up! I can go get you
some
snacks for the road.

DAVE

That's perfect. You're perfect.
What
would I do without you?

LISA

(laughing)

Let's hope you never have to find
out, Mr. Jefferson. Don't forget
Connor will be calling you when he
gets to the cabin.

DAVE

I won't forget. I have to make sure
he is okay. You know I have to
protect my only son.

LISA

Yes, honey. I know how important
family is.

DAVE

I know you do, darling. That is
exactly why I can always depend on
you. Do you think you have enough
time to whip up some of those
chocolate chip cookies for the
road? You know how much I love
those.

LISA

Yes, I know you love my cookies. I
will make you some while you
shower. Then we can pack you up and
get you on the road.

DAVE

I really don't know what I would do
without you, Lisa.

6 EXT. DANTE HOUSE-EVENING

A large, brick house with a circular driveway with a Dodge Caravan in front of the door. A woman and two children stand outside the door and wave.

INT. Dave's Dodge Caravan.

Dante puts his luggage in the trunk and gets into the passenger side.

DANTE

(out window)

I love you guys! Yes, I'll call
when I
get there. Bye!

DAVE

They are all situated?

DANTE

Of course. Let's get going. Do we
need
to make any stops for snacks or gas
before we hit the road?

DAVE

All snacks and beverages have been
provided by the lovely Lisa
Jefferson.

DANTE

(smirks)

I bet they have. You really found
your match in her, Dave.

DAVE

Believe me, I know. You know I
don't
deserve her.

DANTE

Enough with your feelings, Dave.
This
is a man's trip.

DAVE

That's true, let's get going.

DANTE

Oh wait! I forgot something.

DAVE

What did you forget, Dante?

DANTE

Just to tell you that even though
you may be older, I am way cooler
than you'll ever be.

DAVE

(shaking his head)

I can't believe you made me press
my brake just to tell me that.

DANTE

You love it.

EXT. JAKE CAR- EVENING

Jake and Blair sit in the front while Connor and Dominique
sit in the middle and Bryan sits in the back.

JAKE

It's about time! Okay, is everyone
finally ready?

CONNOR

Wait! I forgot something!

JAKE

(exasperated)

Are you serious, Connor? I knew it
would be you. You are always-

CONNOR

(interrupting Jake)
Relax, Jake. I'm joking. Lighten
up,
bro, This is a vacation!

BLAIR

Yeah, babe! This is supposed to be
fun. Just relax. This is just like
I was telling you earlier. We just
need to be chill.

JAKE

Of course you're on his side.
Whatever, I don't even care. We
need
to stop for gas and food then we
are
out of here. Leave your weird
attitudes at the state line.

DOMINIQUE

There is a gas station 2 miles
ahead.
We can stop there. Jake, tell us
more
about this cabin!

BRYAN

Yeah, what's it like Jake? Is it
awesome?

JAKE

(excitedly)
Oh, it's awesome! Hot tubs, a gym,
fridge fully stocked with booze,
fire
pit, a wraparound porch, a huge
library with an outlook, a huge
lake...

BRYAN

You had me at gym, man! This is going to be awesome. I can't get behind on my workouts while I'm there.

DOMINIQUE

We will make sure you stay on top of everything you need to be on top of.

JAKE

My favorite part is the hot tub. I know you will love that part, Dominique.

DOMINIQUE

Wow! This is going to be amazing. I hope this is the best summer of my life.

JAKE

If I have anything to say about it, then it will.

BLAIR

Wow...Okay then. There is the gas station, ahead on the right. I'm going to the snacks. You with me, Connor?

CONNOR

I'm right behind you, B.

BLAIR

Good because I am so out of here. The attitude in this car is so over.

EXT. INSIDE GAS STATION- EVENING

Isles of candy and chips are messily placed on shelves with narrow rows. A teenager distractedly stands at the front on his cell phone.

BLAIR

Be honest with me, Connor. Do you think Jake and I stand a chance?

CONNOR

I don't know, Blair. As long as he makes you happy I guess. I love you both, but you have a rocky relationship.

BLAIR

I know. I just want this summer to be awesome. Jake is so excited about staying in his family cabin and I am too.

CONNOR

Me too! I know it's going to be like a mansion. I can't wait to see it. Oh, here comes Dominique.

DOMINIQUE

Hey guys! What snacks are you picking up for the road?

BLAIR

I don't know...I'm going to look over there.

DOMINIQUE
What's her problem?

CONNOR
You need to lay off Jake,
Dominique. I
know you are both flirty but Blair
is
sensitive to that. Don't you want
this
to be a drama free trip?

DOMINIQUE
(laughs evilly)
Sure I do, Connor. But what's fun
without a little bit of drama?

CONNOR
A relaxing time for me. If you get
any
promiscuous thoughts, project them
onto Bryan.

DOMINIQUE
Hey, Bryan!

CONNOR
You waste no time, let's get back
to
the car.

DOMINIQUE
Let's go, Connor! It is time to
begin
the summer of a lifetime! Don't you
just feel like everything is about
to
change?

CONNOR

I feel like Jake's head is going to explode if we don't hurry up. He's been sitting in the car alone for 5 minutes.

DOMINIQUE

Wait, Connor. You see that man over there? He has been watching us the whole time.

CONNOR

I'm sure you are just being paranoid. Come on. Let's just go.

As Connor and Dominique walk to the front of the store, a man wearing a black hoodie and bandana blocks the entrance and holds up a gun.

ROBBER

This is a stick up. Everyone get on the ground and put your head on the ground.

DOMINIQUE

(screaming)

Connor! What do we do! Oh God!

CONNOR

Just get on the ground Dominique. Do what he says.

ROBBER

Yeah, do what he says or else someone is going to find your body inside a closet later.

Dominique and Connor lay on the ground as the robber takes all the money from the register and runs out the door.

CONNOR

You can get up now, Dominique. It's safe again.

DOMINIQUE

Oh my goodness! I was so scared.
Sir, are you okay?

CASHIER

Yeah. I'm okay. I already called
the police. You guys can just take
what you need and go.

DOMINIQUE

Are you sure?

CONNOR

He is sure. Thanks man. Dom, let's
get out of here.

DOMINIQUE

Wow Connor. You saved my life.

CONNOR

No I didn't, Dominique. Let's just
go.

Connor and Dominique walk out of the store with their arms
around one another.

EXT. DAVE CAR

Dave drives while Dante sits in the passenger seat holding
a GPS device.

DANTE

We still have four hours left. I
don't
remember the trip being this long
before.

DAVE

I do because you always complain
around this time. We have been
taking
the same trip every year for 25
years. You would think you would be
accustomed to it by now.

DANTE

You'd think, wouldn't you? And yet here I am, four hours left of the trip. Complaining.

DAVE

(laughing)

You're so cynical, brother. Remember the first time you ever came on the trip?

DANTE

How could I forget? The whole way back I just talked about how I couldn't wait for next year.

DAVE

Yeah, you really took to the trip well. Embraced all elements.

DANTE

You know me, Dave. I'm all about family traditions.

DAVE

Yes, I know. I hope it will be as important to Connor.

DANTE

I believe that it will be. He values the concept of family.

DAVE

That's true. I hope he enjoys his trip. I see a stop ahead, let's refuel there.

DANTE

Good idea! You already know I need some more snacks.

DAVE

And I need more gas so this is the perfect stop to make. After this stop, we are a straight shot to the cabin.

DANTE

That sounds perfect! I can't wait to get this weekend started. It will be a time to remember.

DAVE

Family traditions are always a time to remember.

DANTE

Okay, I'm going to get snacks now. My stomach is too empty for you to be getting this emotional.

DAVE

Okay, hurry up so we can get there before dark.

EXT. JAKE CAR- SUNDOWN

Inside the car, the woods are heavy and the light is starting to dim.

DOMINIQUE

How much farther? We have to be getting close, right?

BLAIR

Yeah, are we close Jake? It's starting to look really creepy out here. I don't want to be driving too far into the night, especially after what happened today.

DOMINIQUE

Thanks for reminding me. Guys, he said I was going to be found in a closet. That was so sick. It really freaked me out.

BLAIR

I can't believe that happened to you guys! I am so happy that everyone is safe. That was so scary.

JAKE

Good thing big, brave Connor was there to protect you, right?

DOMINIQUE

Actually, it was. Without him I'm sure I would have been dead.

CONNOR

I didn't do anything at all. They literally got away with the money. All I did was make you lay on the ground.

DOMINIQUE

Yeah, and I could have had my head blown off if you hadn't done that! Trust me, Connor. You are a hero.

JAKE

Yeah, Connor. You are the hero we have all been waiting for. Please put on your cape, fly into the night, and save us!

CONNOR

Okay, that's enough. It's a scary situation that I made the best out of. That's it really. Nothing else to discuss.

BLAIR

I agree. I don't want to talk about this anymore! What a scary moment for you two. Thank God you have each other. So honey, are we almost there?

JAKE

Right around this corner and we are here. It's hidden far back here, don't you think? We are actually only 3 miles from the main road.

CONNOR

I've never been this far back into the woods. Let the adventure await us!

JAKE

You're so cheesy. We are here!

INT. Pryor Family Cabin

A large three story cabin made of dark wood with a wraparound porch and a small driveway surrounded by woods except for a body of water in the distance.

The group exits the car.

BLAIR

Wow, Jake! You didn't even do this place justice!

JAKE

Yeah, it is pretty awesome.

DOMINIQUE

Awesome?! I have never seen anything like this, Jake. It's beautiful!

BLAIR

Come check out the inside with me,
Connor. We can come back out for
our bags!

CONNOR

I will meet you in there, B! I have
to call my dad and let him know we
made it safely. You know how he
gets.

BLAIR

For sure! Tell Mr. J I said hey,
and don't take too long!

CONNOR

Okay, Blair I will. You can leave
your bags and I will carry them in
to you.

JAKE

Wow, how chivalrous of you. Let's
go Dominique.

Connor picks up the phone and puts it to his ear.

CONNOR

(phone ringing on other end)
Hey Dad!

DAVE

(on phone)
Son! How are you doing? Is there a
problem with your trip?

CONNOR

Not at all, dad! We just got here,
actually.

DAVE

I bet the cabin is impressive! I know how the Pryor's love their lavish lifestyle.

CONNOR

Oh, Dad! You have no idea how nice this is. The closest neighbor is three miles away. It has a huge wraparound porch and a balcony off the study. Not even to mention the gym, pool, and massive living room. It's beautiful, honestly.

DAVE

Wow, that sounds very impressive son! I know you're going to really enjoy yourself.

CONNOR

Yeah, all that and I haven't even been inside yet! If you can even believe it.

DAVE

Listen, son. I want you to be careful on this trip. Stay aware of your surroundings and don't leave your safety in anyone's hands, okay?

CONNOR

Okay, Dad. You and mom are so worried about me. I'm going to be fine!

DAVE

Oh I know you are, son. I just worry about you! I am going to be doing business near you for the weekend, so if you need anything call me.

CONNOR

You're in Tennessee, dad?

DAVE

Yeah, I'm here for business! I just got here myself not long ago. I have some of your mom's famous chocolate chip cookies to eat for dinner.

CONNOR

That sounds delicious! I guess I should go inside and see what we are having for dinner.

DAVE

Okay, son. Make sure you call me if you need me. No hesitation, Okay?

CONNOR

Sounds great! I'm glad to know you're in the area if I need you. Love you, Dad!

DAVE

Love you too, son!

EXT. INSIDE JEFFERSON FAMILY CABIN- NIGHT

A large, two-story cabin with a small building off to the side stands alone in the woods.

INT. Bedroom inside Jefferson cabin. Bedroom is small with old comforter and Deer head hanging on the wall.

Dave unpacks hunting equipment in the bedroom.

INT. Living Room inside Jefferson cabin. Living Room is large with hunting equipment scattered around and various animal heads hanging on the wall. In the corner there are many markings carved into the wooden panels.

Dante stands by fireplace and looks at markings on the wall.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

A young Dante Jefferson stands in the same spot in the living room wearing clothing soaked with blood. The living room looks brighter, and less equipment is laying around. An older man looking similar to Dante stands next to him as he makes the first marking on the wall.

MR. JEFFERSON

Congrats, Son! You are carrying on the tradition well. Someday you and your brother will be passing this on to your children.

DANTE

I really understand the importance of family now, Dad. We are all we truly have.

MR. JEFFERSON

(places hand on Dante's shoulder)

I'm happy you understand, Son.

DANTE

What are we without family?

MR. JEFFERSON

We are nothing, son. If you always remember that, you will never be lonely I promise you that.

BACK TO PRESENT.

Dante strokes the marks on the wall with his right hand as he looks at the wall.

Dave enters Living Room.

DAVE

I wish he could still join us out here. I know you miss him every day, I do too, brother.

DANTE

Yeah, I do miss him but I know hes proud of us, and that's enough to keep me going. I have his business, you have his personality.

DAVE

That's true. He definitely still lives on in both of us.

DANTE

(holds up glass)

I'll drink to that, brother! Was that my nephew on the phone?

DAVE

Yes, he was calling to let me know he arrived with his friends to their cabin.

DANTE

I'm glad they got there safely. We have to look out for him always.

DAVE

Yes, another thing we have learned from our father. It's dark now though, and if we are going to do a practice hunt tomorrow then we need to be getting to bed soon.

DANTE

Say no more! Goodnight, brother. Rest well for tomorrow.

EXT. INSIDE PRYOR FAMILY CABIN LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

The group is scattered around the large living room with playing cards and wine coolers and beer scattered throughout the room.

JAKE

Blair, it's your turn! Truth or Dare?

BLAIR

No! Have someone else go first. Dominique, Truth or Dare.

DOMINIQUE

Dare, always. Hit me with your worst dare, B.

CONNOR

I have one, Dominique. I dare you to lick Bryan's big toe.

BRYAN

Oh, come on. Why did you have to bring my toe into this?

CONNOR

It's so big. It honestly brought itself into the conversation.

BRYAN

Wow. Okay, Dominique. Let's have it.

Dominique walks over to Bryan and licks his big toe. Everyone screams and cheers.

CONNOR

Okay, Blair. Now it's definitely your turn. Truth or Dare?

BLAIR

Well I definitely don't want to lick Bryan's foot so, truth.

DOMINIQUE

I have one, B.

BLAIR

Okay, go for it.

DOMINIQUE

Is it true that you and Connor have always-

Doorbell interrupts conversation.

JAKE

Ah, saved by the bell on that one Blair! I wonder who that could be.

CONNOR

I'll go with you, man. Let's check it out. It's probably just a lost hunter or campers or something.

DOMINIQUE

Oh my God! This is seriously freaking me out. Blair, what do you think it could be?

JAKE

Relax, Dominique! No one is even here.

BLAIR

What? Are you sure? I know I heard the doorbell. What if they are hiding or something.

CONNOR

(laughing)

We are sure, Blair. There's no one outside. No one hiding anywhere.

JAKE

I'm sure the doorbell is just shorting out or something. Let's just relax.

BLAIR

Okay, but I'm going to be nervous the rest of the night.

BRYAN

Let's go relieve our tension, guys. I think you have a truth or dare question to answer, right Blair?

BLAIR

Don't remind me of that, Bryan! I think I'd rather just go to bed and start fresh tomorrow. What do you guys think about that?

DOMINIQUE

Honestly, B, that sounds kind of perfect. I think I'm going to catch the hot tub first. Anyone want to join?

JAKE

I could go for a dip before bed. I'll join you.

BLAIR

Of course you will. Good night Jake. Don't come in my room later.

JAKE

Blair, wait.

DOMINIQUE

Just forget her for the night, Jake. Let's take a dip.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- PORCH HOT TUB- NIGHT

Dominique and Jake sit on opposite sides of a large hot tub with bottles sitting on the side.

JAKE

So be honest with me, Dominique. Do you think Blair and I are a good couple?

DOMINIQUE

Well, honestly Jake, I think I could see you more with someone else.

JAKE

Like who?

DOMINIQUE

Well, if you really want to know-

JAKE

Never mind, don't tell me. I'm going to bed Dominique.

DOMINIQUE

Uh, okay. I'm confused.

JAKE

Me too. It has a lot to do with you in that two-piece too. I can't trust myself around you, Dom.

DOMINIQUE

You don't have to. Just let yourself go with me. You can be yourself. I get you, Jake. Way more than some people will ever understand you. Do you believe that?

Connor walks onto porch.

CONNOR

Hey, guys. What are you up to?

DOMINIQUE

Oh...nothing Connor. Jake and I were just having a conversation.

JAKE

Yeah but I'm going to bed now. I don't want to sleep my whole vacation. I'm trying to get some exploring in tomorrow.

CONNOR

That sounds great man. You better get to bed then. I'm headed there soon myself. I just wanted to get a quick dip in first. Dominique, are you going to be in for awhile?

JAKE

I think she was just going to-

DOMINIQUE

(interrupting Jake)

I'm going to be up awhile if you are, Con.

JAKE

Well I'm going to bed. Goodnight.

Jake walks inside the door and up the stairs.

CONNOR

Why do I feel like I just interrupted something?

DOMINIQUE

(scooting closer to Connor)

I don't know but you didn't. I hope no one interrupts us. You seem tense, Connor. Let me help you relax.

CONNOR

I am kind of tense. I can't shake this feeling I have had ever since the doorbell rang earlier.

DOMINIQUE

What kind of feeling?

CONNOR

I don't know really. I just have a feeling that something is going to go really wrong.

DOMINIQUE

I think I know what you mean. I have been feeling that way ever since the robbery.

CONNOR

Yeah, that was really scary. This trip has just been crazy and not at all what I expected really. It's

(MORE)

Connor (CONT'D)

just, I don't really know how to describe it but I know something is about to happen.

DOMINIQUE

Like what do you think is about to happen, Connor?

CONNOR

I don't really know. I'm probably just being paranoid. I just can't shake that feeling. Do you know what I mean?

DOMINIQUE

Well let me just help you relax, okay?

CONNOR

Okay. I don't want anything to complicate our friendship though.

DOMINIQUE

It's not serious, Con. Let's just have a good time.

CONNOR

Can we just talk for a minute?

DOMINIQUE

Sure, Connor. What's on your mind right now? Are you worried about what Blair is going to think?

CONNOR

That's part of it. I really love our friendship also, I just don't want anything to change after this trip.

DOMINIQUE

Nothing has to change, Connor. But if you don't let me kiss you I am not going to be in a good mood tomorrow. I can guarantee that.

CONNOR

If you're sure that nothing will change, then I'm in.

DOMINIQUE

Wow, that's just what every girl wants to hear.

CONNOR

What do you want from me, Dom?

DOMINIQUE

Not a thing. You're my hero, remember? You really saved my life today.

CONNOR

Stop saying that, Dominique. I didn't save you. Stop thanking me.

DOMINIQUE

Let me show you something instead.

Dominique leans in to kiss Connor.

EXT. INSIDE KITCHEN OF PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- MORNING

Blair and Dominique are cooking breakfast as the sun shines in the window. The boys enter the room.

BLAIR

Good morning, boys!

JAKE

Good morning, sunshine.

DOMINIQUE

What's the plan for today, guys? I want to make the most of the day!

JAKE

There is a lake just on the other side of the treeline and some floats in the storage building. Any interest there?

DOMINIQUE

I'm already there in my mind.
Connor, Blair, Bryan?

CONNOR

If there is a pool noodle, it's
mine.

BLAIR

Wine coolers and oversized pool
floats in the lake sounds like my
definition of paradise.

CONNOR

What about you, Bryan?

BRYAN

Actually if you guys don't mind, I
think I'm going to stay here and
check out the gym. I'm not much of
a lake man myself.

JAKE

I respect that, man! You don't mind
if we go?

BRYAN

Nah, man! No worries there. You
guys go have fun.

JAKE

Are you sure though, man? They have
a huge diving board made out of an
old plank and shade to hang out and
sometimes they even have jetski's
left over there.

BRYAN

Wow that really does sound awesome
but I can't get lazy on my workout
just because it's vacation. The
team is counting on me you know.
What would they think if I lost the
season because I went to go hang
out on a jetski?

JAKE

I think you better not tell them it was me. Good idea, man. You better stay for sure.

DOMINIQUE

Bryan when we get back you and I should check out the hammock.

CONNOR

I wanted to check it out later, too. Maybe I can join.

DOMINIQUE

(laughing)

I think there will only be room for two people, Con.

BRYAN

That sounds good, Dominique. I'll see you later, girl.

CONNOR

Dominique, could I talk to you for a second?

DOMINIQUE

Sure, Con. Let's go outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- DAY

DOMINIQUE

What's up Con?

CONNER

I just need to talk to you. You know, about last night. I just have a question.

DOMINIQUE

Sure, anything. What's your question?

CONNOR

Well, I saw you flirting with Bryan in the kitchen and I'm just trying to figure out where exactly we stand. Would you mess around with Bryan after we did last night?

DOMINIQUE

Connor, you said you didn't want to complicate things but that is exactly what you are doing. You need to let this go. If you are worried about if I would do that or not. I want you to ask yourself this: Would you hook up with Blair if you had the opportunity even after we hooked up last night?

CONNOR

That's different Blair. We have a different relationship than that.

BLAIR

The answer is the same, though.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- FOYER- DAY

A knock on the front door prompts Bryan to go to the front door where two masked men are standing.

BRYAN

What kind of prank is this? What's going on?

Masked men fight Bryan and tie him up in the foyer.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY LAKE- MORNING

Blair and Dominique float in the lake on large inflatables while Connor and Jake fight with pool noodles. They are laughing and shouting at each other as they splash the girls with the pool noodles.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- AFTERNOON

The four friends walk up the gravel road back towards the cabin carrying pool equipment.

BLAIR

That was exactly the kind of relaxation I needed, guys! It finally feels like summer can get started.

CONNOR

(laughing)

Well that's good considering it has already started.

JAKE

Don't tease her, Connor. She's about 12 wine coolers in.

BLAIR

Say what you want about me, I could give you all a run for your money in poker.

JAKE

That sounds like a challenge! When we get back inside, you're on!

DOMINIQUE

I don't know how to play poker. Someone will have to teach me.

JAKE

I can teach you, sweetie.

BLAIR

Connor, sweetie, come inside with me. I need to change.

CONNOR

Why do you need me for that?

JAKE

That's what I was wondering, too.
Why does Connor need to come help
you change?

BLAIR

Nevermind. I'm not even going to
change now. You knew what I meant.

CONNOR

Relax, B. We are just teasing you.

JAKE

You know she has no sense of humor,
Con. She's what they call a lost
cause.

BLAIR

Gee, that's real nice honey.

JAKE

Anytime, sweetie.

The group of friends walk into the cabin and go into the
kitchen.

DOMINIQUE

A long day at the lake always makes
me hungry. Do you guys want me to
make some snacks?

JAKE

Yes, please! I'm going to go let
Bryan know we are about to eat if
he wants to join.

BLAIR

That's a good idea. Dominique, what
are you going to make? I will help
you.

Blair and Dominique begin rummaging around in the cabinets
and pulling out bowls.

DOMINIQUE

You know, B, I never wanted to cause any problems between you and Jake. I'm even trying to distract myself with Bryan or Connor.

BLAIR

You're my best friend and I don't want to think about this right now. I just want us to enjoy this trip and deal with everything else after. I definitely didn't know you were into Connor though.

DOMINIQUE

Okay, you're my best friend too. That's all that matters right now. So, I think I'm going to make omelets. Do you want to handle the sandwiches?

BLAIR

You got it, bestie! Where did the boys go?

(shouting)

Connor?! Where'd you go?

Jake and Connor walk back into the kitchen

JAKE

Did you guys see Bryan come through this direction?

BLAIR

No, we haven't seen him since before we left. I thought you went to find him.

JAKE

Yeah, obviously we didn't find him.

DOMINIQUE

Maybe he went to explore or something like that. There's no reason for us to get worried. Dinner is almost ready, let's just sit down and eat.

BLAIR

I agree we all need some food. It can fuel our searches if he isn't back by then.

JAKE

I'm just going to go check outside first. This is really freaking me out.

BLAIR

Okay, let's all go look and then we will come back in and eat.

CONNOR

I'm going to look outside. I am really freaking out, too.

EXT. DEEP WOODS- SUNDOWN

Dante and Dave walk through the woods carrying large duffle bags.

DANTE

I think that was a great practice run. I definitely feel ready for tonight, don't you?

DAVE

Oh yeah. I feel like I slipped right back into the swing of things.

DANTE

It was definitely successful. Tonight will be even better.

DAVE

What are we going to do with our catch from practice? Do you have anything in mind?

DANTE

You sound like you have an idea. Let's hear one of those award winning ideas I'm always hearing about from mom.

DAVE

(laughing)

You're always teasing, Dante. I was just thinking maybe we could let my son take care of it whenever he is able to join us.

DANTE

I can't think of anything more appropriate. I'm definitely on board with that.

DAVE

I guess that's another award-winning idea from me then, brother.

DANTE

Cue the confetti- oh wait, this is the forest.

DAVE

Don't be bitter, brother.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- SUNDOWN

The four sit around the kitchen table.

BLAIR

Okay, we need to go look for Bryan. I'm starting to get worried now.

CONNOR

Jake and I are going to go look for him outside. Let's go Jake.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN-LIVINGROOM- NIGHT

The group sits on various pieces of furniture with worried expressions on their faces.

BLAIR

I feel like we should call the police, guys. What if-

JAKE

What if what, Blair? What if he got kidnapped? What if someone drove out into the middle of the woods and took him without a trace?

BLAIR

No, I guess not. It just doesn't make sense. Our friend is missing, we can't just sit here like nothing is wrong.

CONNOR

The reality is, it's getting dark outside and if we called the police now, they wouldn't be coming until morning anyways. Chances are some hot girl knocked on the door and he went with her or he got lost in the woods and he will wander back before morning. Either way, it won't do us any good to worry until then.

BLAIR

That's fair. I'm going to be worried all night, and I'm going to punch him when I see him but, I can relax for the night.

DOMINIQUE

I am so freaked out, I don't know what to even do with myself.

CONNOR

It's all just a lot to take in. I'm going to go call my mom and let her know I'll be home tomorrow.

BLAIR

Before you go, can I talk to you really quickly, Con?

CONNOR

Sure. Come over here and we can talk.

JAKE

C'mon Dominique. Help me fix some more of those delicious snacks from earlier.

DOMINIQUE

Okay, honey. Let momma show you how to cook up these snacks.

Jake and Dominique walk out of the room.

CONNOR

So, what did you need to talk about Blair?

BLAIR

I am really freaking out, Connor. I don't know what to do. I feel like I can't just sit around while our friend is missing.

CONNOR

I understand. What can we do though?

BLAIR

Let's keep looking for him.

CONNOR

We can't do that Blair. It's too dark and we can't risk anyone else going missing. The reality is that Bryan is most likely fine. He probably met some new friends or something and he will be back tomorrow.

BLAIR

I have just had this awful feeling. I still have it right now.

CONNOR

You don't have to be afraid, Blair.
This trip is life changing in a
positive way. I can feel that.

BLAIR

If you say so, Connor. I really do
trust you.

CONNOR

As you should, Princess Blair.

EXT. UNKNOWN ROOM

A small, dark room with no windows and a chair in the center with a male tied up. Two masked men walk in and close the door. A dull lamp in the corner lights the room as they beat the male tied up. The male looks up and into the camera as he is revealed to be Bryan.

BRYAN

(screaming)

Help Me! Help Me!

EXT. BEDROOM INSIDE PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- NIGHT

Connor sits on the bed on the phone with his mom.

CONNOR

Hey, mom. How's everything going
there?

LISA

Oh, everything is fine, Connor. Is
something wrong?

CONNOR

I don't know, probably not I just-I
just wanted you to know I'm coming
home early. I'll be home tomorrow
for a week before I have to head
back to school.

LISA

Oh Connor! That's wonderful news!
Your father is going to be so happy
too. You've called him, right?

CONNOR

Yeah, I called him as soon as we
got here. I didn't realize he was
in the area until I told him I was
here.

LISA

You know that made your worrisome
momma feel better. Please be sure
to call him if you need anything.
Oh, I'm so excited you're going to
be coming home. I'll make your
favorite meal tomorrow night and-

CONNOR

(interrupting)

I'll be glad to be home too, mom. I
have been thinking a lot this trip
about family and how important it
is to me. I'm not going to take you
guys for granted anymore. I gotta
go though, okay?

LISA

Okay, honey. Call me when you get
on the road tomorrow. I love you.

CONNOR

I love you, too. I'll see you
tomorrow.

INT. Pryor Family Cabin- Living Room

JAKE

Blair, stop hogging the bottle.
What are you, an alcoholic?

BLAIR

Jake, can you please be nice to me
for five minutes? Jake, our friend
is missing.

JAKE

Haven't you ever heard of humor to break the tension, Blair? I make jokes to cope with my sadness or some shit like that.

BLAIR

This is exactly what I'm talking about, Jake. Dominique do you get what I'm saying?

DOMINIQUE

I mean I get it, but I do think Jake is funny and it does make me feel better.

BLAIR

Well excuse me for not wanting to laugh while our friend is lost out in the woods.

DOMINIQUE

Blair, you don't even know that's where Bryan is. He could be partying in a cabin 3 miles away. He could have met someone and took off, or maybe his friends came to get him.

JAKE

The point is that we don't know. So we might as well enjoy ourselves while we are here. Is that okay, Baby?

BLAIR

It's just hard for me to enjoy anything thinking about how creepy this whole thing is.

DOMINIQUE

I think you are seriously paranoid, B. Are those wine coolers still in your system?

BLAIR

I really don't think this is a time to be joking, Dominique. Like I said, our friend is missing.

CONNOR

We are all freaked out. Considering there is nothing we can do about it right now though, I think we should just relax and-

A knock on the backdoor breaks the conversation

BLAIR

Who could that be? This is seriously freaking me out.

DOMINIQUE

(sniffling)

I'm going to cry. What are we supposed to do?

JAKE

Yeah, bro. Someone is at the door. Let's go check it out.

CONNOR

Damn, okay. Let's go bro.

INT. Pryor Family Cabin- Foyer

Jake and Connor stand at the door and prepare to open it as Connor puts his hand on the door and turns the knob slowly as he opens it up.

CONNOR

(shouting, sticking head out door)

Hello! Is anyone out there?

JAKE

Yell all you want, Con. I'm going back in the living room. If someone is out there, they can stay there.

CONNOR

Jake, what if it's Bryan?

JAKE

Then he needs to stop ringing the doorbell and running away if he wants to come inside. Like I said, I'm going back to the living room.

CONNOR

Okay, okay, man. Wait for me.

JAKE

You better hurry up or you are going to get left behind. I am not playing about this. I'm over this doorbell freaking me out for no reason.

CONNOR

There could really be someone at the door though, Jake. You aren't considering that very real possibility.

JAKE

Let me ask you this, Connor. If someone is ringing the doorbell like you say, where are they now? Just seconds after we heard the sound?

CONNOR

I can't answer that for you, Jake. This is all I know.

INT. Pryor Family Cabin- Living Room

Connor and Jake walk back into the living room where Blair and Dominique are huddled together in the recliner.

BLAIR

So, who was it?

JAKE

It was the abominable snowman, B.
Who do you think it was?

CONNOR

Cool it, Jake. Everyone is on edge
right now. This shit is tense.
You're not scared?

BLAIR

You have to have emotions to be
scared, Connor. Jake doesn't have
any so he can't be scared.

JAKE

No, I'm not scared because I can
see that this is ridiculous. That's
why I'm not scared. Blair, why are
you such a winy baby?

CONNOR

(shouting)

I mean it! Cool it, man!

DOMINIQUE

(standing up)

Well as much as I'd love to
continue witnessing this pissing
contest, I'm going to go upstairs
and take a shower. I'm trying to
wash this whole day away.

JAKE

I'm next in the shower! I need to
wash this stank away too.

DOMINIQUE

Yeah, that's one word for it.

JAKE

Well I don't care what it's called.
Just make sure I'm up next.

BLAIR

Have you guys thought about what happened if Bryan didn't leave here on his own.

CONNOR

Yeah, and what if there really are people knocking on the door and running away? I honestly don't even care. I'm out of here first thing tomorrow.

BLAIR

Me too, Con. Can I come stay with you for the week?

JAKE

Enough of this. Blair, can I please talk to you privately?

BLAIR

Uh, sure. Jake, let's go upstairs to talk.

CONNOR

Okay, cool guys. I will just head on to bed I guess.

BLAIR

No Connor. Wait down here for me, I will be back soon.

INT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- Upstairs Bedroom- Night

JAKE

Do I need to be worried about you and Connor, B? Just be real with me.

BLAIR

Do I need to worry about you and Dominique? I think we both have things we need to talk about.

JAKE

I guess we do. Nothing has ever happened between Dominique and I, by the way. What about you and Connor?

BLAIR

Nothing. You have nothing to be worried about. Connor is my friend. He comforts me when we get in arguments and he always makes me smile, but you don't need to be worried.

JAKE

It kind of sounds like I do. He always makes you smile?

BLAIR

Oh my goodness. So does our English teacher, that doesn't mean I want to do her! What is your problem, Jake?

JAKE

I just don't like other guys to make you smile. I don't think that's so bad.

BLAIR

So what about you and Dominique? Do you make her smile?

JAKE

Blair, if you really think I want to be with Dominique more than I want to be with you then you are even crazier than I thought.

BLAIR

That still didn't really answer my question, Jake. Should I be worried?

JAKE

No, Blair. You have nothing to worry about.

BLAIR

If that's true then please show me. Please give me the opportunity to believe you.

JAKE

Okay, honey. That's exactly what I will do. Now we better get downstairs so Connor can comfort you and make you smile. That's what he does best right?

BLAIR

Yeah, that's exactly right Jake. He does.

JAKE

You're always so uptight baby, let's go downstairs.

Jake and Blair walk downstairs and Blair sits next to Connor.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM- NIGHT

Inside a small, steamy bathroom with a steamed glass shower. A thumping noise comes from outside of the shower.

DOMINIQUE

Hello? Jake, is that you?

DOMINIQUE

(screaming)

Oh my God! Help me!

INT. Pryor Family Living Room

A loud screaming comes from upstairs and a crashing sound follows.

JAKE
(yelling)
Dominique!

BLAIR
Go check on her, Jake. Please! What
is happening?

CONNOR
I think our worst nightmares are
coming true. Jake, let's go check
it out.

EXT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- UPSTAIRS HALLWAY- NIGHT

JAKE AND CONNOR STAND AT THE BATHROOM DOOR. JAKE REACHES
OUT HIS HAND TO OPEN THE DOOR.

CONNOR
(WHISPERING)
Wait, Let me stand behind the door
ready to attack.

JAKE
(nods, opens door)
What is going on? Hello?

CONNOR
What is it, man?

JAKE
It's a monster. 7 feet tall, hair
all over his body, fangs.

CONNOR
Jake, what? What's going on?

JAKE
Come out from behind the door,
scared-y cat. No one is even here.

CONNOR

How could that be though? Do you think Dominique was just messing with us or something?

JAKE

I don't think she would do that after everything we've been through the past couple days.

CONNOR

That's true. Let's go look for her. Do you think we should split up?

JAKE

Are you sure you can handle that, scared-y cat?

CONNOR

Jake, I just want to find Dominique. So can we please just look for her now?

JAKE

Yeah, I'll take upstairs you go downstairs and tell Blair. Then you guys can check out downstairs.

CONNOR

Alright, man. Just be safe okay? Scream if you need help.

JAKE

Okay, Connor. Don't try to be a hero.

CONNOR

Let's focus on finding Dominique right now and you can save your smart comments for later. How does that sound, Jake?

JAKE

Okay, man. No hard feelings here
just be safe. I know this is
intense.

INT. PRYOR FAMILY LIVING ROOM

Connor comes down the stairs to see Blair crying on the
couch.

BLAIR

(jumping up and running
towards Connor)
What's going on Connor? Is
Dominique okay? What is happening?

CONNOR

(placing his hand
comfortingly on Blair's right
shoulder)
Listen, Blair. We don't know where
Dominique is and I don't know
what's going on but we have to find
her. We just have to stay calm and
find her, okay?

BLAIR

Okay, let's find her. I'll check
the kitchen.

CONNOR

Okay, I will check outside.

BLAIR

Be careful, Connor. I'm really
scared. If we don't make it out of
this, I just want you to know-

CONNOR

(interrupting Blair)
We are going to make it out of
this. Hold that thought until

(MORE)

CONNOR (CONT'D)

tomorrow, okay? I'm going to check outside now.

BLAIR

Okay, Connor. I will save it. You are so stubborn though. You are really just something else.

CONNOR

I know, Blair. I'm going outside now.

INT. Pryor Family Foyer

Connor opens the door and sticks his head outside. He sees a tall hooded figure running away.

CONNOR

(yelling)

Hey! Get back here! Hey! Hey!

INT. Pryor Family Living Room

Connor and Blair run in opposite doors.

CONNOR

Blair! Are you okay?

BLAIR

Did you find Dominique?

CONNOR

(putting head in hands)

No, I don't know. Maybe. I saw someone running away. I have a bad feeling it wasn't her though.

BLAIR

Who did you see? Connor, what is going on?

CONNOR

I don't know. We just need to calm down and think reasonably. If we really think it through I'm sure everything can be-

A loud scream interrupts their conversation.

INT. PRYOR FAMILY HALLWAY BEDROOM

Jake looks around bedroom.

JAKE

Dominique! Are you in here? This isn't funny if you're playing a prank.

Jake opens the closet door to find Dominique crumpled in the closet floor.

JAKE

(screaming)

Oh my God! Oh my God!

INT. PRYOR FAMILY LIVING ROOM

BLAIR

Connor! Was that Jake or Dominique?

CONNOR

I'm going to go check it out. I love you Blair. I love you.

BLAIR

I love you Connor. Be safe.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Jake and Connor run into each other walking around the corner.

CONNOR

Jake, what is going on? You scared us downstairs!

Jake stares back at Connor but doesn't respond.

CONNOR

Jake! What's up, man? What is going on? Where is Dominique?

JAKE

(voice and hands shaking)
Can we go downstairs?

CONNOR

Sure, man. Let's go to the living room and we can talk about it there.

INT. PRYOR FAMILY LIVING ROOM

Jake and Connor walk down the stairs and Blair stands up to meet them.

BLAIR

What happened? What was that scream? Where is Dominique?

CONNOR

Slow down, Blair. Let's just get Jake a seat then he can talk to us.

Connor walks Jake over to the recliner and helps him sit down. As the camera pans back, Jake is ghostly white and shaking all over.

CONNOR

Okay, Jake. Can you tell us what's going on now? We are all freaking out just a little bit.

BLAIR

Yeah, no pressure babe. We are just scared.

JAKE

(voice shaking)
D-D-Dominique.

BLAIR

What about her, Jake? Did you find her? Is she okay?

JAKE

She's dead. She's dead.

BLAIR

No she isn't. You're wrong. Are you playing a joke on us?

CONNOR

He isn't joking. Why would he joke about that? Jake! Jake, you aren't joking are you?

JAKE

She's in the upstairs closet in the spare bedroom. I want to go home. I have to go home.

BLAIR

What do you mean she's in the closet? Jake? What is she doing in the closet?

JAKE

Blair get off my back! What do you want me to say to you? She is dead, Blair!

BLAIR

I can't believe it. I just can't believe you right now. Connor, what should we do?

CONNOR

We need to make a plan. I think we should leave.

JAKE

That's the best idea I have heard all night. I'm trying to leave. I'm trying to live!

CONNOR

Okay, I agree. Let's go home. I want to get out of here. Then we will figure out what's going on.

BLAIR

(crying)

We can't leave her here! We can't
leave Dominique!

JAKE

Blair, what are you talking about?
Are you-

CONNOR

(cutting Jake off)

Blair, Dominique is gone now. We
have to get out of here. We can
panic when we get out of here.
Let's all go pack, then we will
leave and call our parents when we
get back to the main road.

BLAIR

Okay, Connor. When you finish
packing come to my room. Is that
okay?

CONNOR

Okay. Let's all meet in Blair's
room when we finish and we can walk
down together. Everyone, be quick
and make sure you get everything
you need.

JAKE

Yeah, make sure you get what you
need because we aren't coming back.

BLAIR

Okay, I love you guys. I'll see you
in my room.

INT. UPSTAIRS IN JAKE'S ROOM

Jake tosses clothes over his head into his suitcase without
looking back. Two masked men enter the room from the window
and slowly walk towards Jake. One masked man reaches around
Jake and clamps his mouth shut with his hand while the
other stabs him in the stomach repeatedly and lay his

bloody body on the floor and slip out the door.

INT. CONNOR'S ROOM

Connor zips up his suitcase and walks across the hall to Blair's room where she is trying to zip her duffle bag.

BLAIR

Hey, Con. Are you ready?

CONNOR

Yeah. I told you I wanted to get out of here as soon as possible. Are you ready?

BLAIR

Almost, as soon as I get my duffle closed.

CONNOR

Sit down on it and I'll zip it up. We have to get out of here.

BLAIR

You keep saying that. Where is Jake? We have to wait for him.

CONNOR

I don't know where he is. I came straight in here.

BLAIR

Should we go check on him? He seemed really scared when we were downstairs. He shouldn't be alone, right? When we're together?

CONNOR

We could leave him in there a little while longer. Give him a few more minutes. You know what a diva he is about his things.

BLAIR

I know he is but, I just don't think it would have taken him this long and with everything going on I'm just worried. Dominique is dead, Con. Have you stopped to think about that?

CONNOR

I am only thinking about getting us out of here alive. I have no idea what's going on, Blair. I'm honestly in survival mode right now.

BLAIR

I understand. You're totally right, Connor. Let's make it out of here alive and then we can worry about everything else.

CONNOR

I agree. Let's make it out of here. That is priority number one.

BLAIR

For me, too. I just want to sleep soundly tonight and be safe.

CONNOR

Me too, Blair. All I want is my own bed.

BLAIR

Do you think there are really murderers out to get us right now, Connor? How did Dominique get to the closet? Does that mean Bryan is dead, too? Oh, God! Bryan!

CONNOR

Calm down, Blair. It doesn't mean anything except that we need to get out of here which is exactly what we are about to do.

BLAIR

Okay, can we please get ready to go now?

CONNOR

We can go check on Jake, now. Let me carry your bag for you.

BLAIR

Always a gentleman. Thanks, Connor.

CONNOR

No problem, B.

BLAIR

Wait! What if the killer is in the hallway? What will we do?

CONNOR

Drop your luggage and make a run for it. Don't worry about me, I will find my own way out.

BLAIR

Okay, Connor. I'll go first.

CONNOR

No, Blair! Let me go first. Are you ready?

BLAIR

As ready as I'll ever be.

Connor and Blair walk out into the hallway quietly and slowly. They don't see anyone as they make their way down the hall to Jake's room.

Blair and Connor open Jake's bedroom door to see him lying on the floor.

BLAIR

(whispers)

Oh. Oh my God. Is he-

CONNOR

I'm going to check.

Connor walks over to Jake and kneels, checking his pulse.

CONNOR

He's gone, Blair. We have to go.
Let's see if the keys are
downstairs. Run!

INT. PRYOR FAMILY LIVING ROOM

Connor and Blair run over to the table.

BLAIR

(crying)

They aren't here. We are going to
die, Connor. I don't want to die,
Connor. Please.

CONNOR

We aren't going to die. But we are
going to hide. Go upstairs to the
study!

INT. PRYOR FAMILY STUDY

Blair and Connor run in the room and Connor locks the door.

CONNOR

Go hide under the desk. I'm going
to call my dad.

BLAIR

Are you sure that's a good idea,
Connor? What if they hear us?

CONNOR

It will be okay, Blair. He's close
by, maybe he will be able to help
us somehow.

BLAIR

Okay, tell him to please help us.

CONNOR

I will, B. Just stay under the table and stay quiet. I won't be long but I have to explain to him everything that happened.

BLAIR

Okay, be careful and try not to be too loud.

CONNOR

(putting phone to his ear as it rings)

Please pick up. Please pick up.

DAVE

(voice on the phone)

Hey, son! It's late. What's going on? Is everything okay?

CONNOR

Dad! Thank God you answered the phone! I'm in trouble, Dad. I'm in a lot of trouble. Everything is wrong and I don't know what to do. You have to help me, please!

DAVE

Slow down, son. Calm down and tell me what happened. Just talk slow and tell me everything.

CONNOR

(taking a deep breath)

Okay, dad. It's hard to stay calm when there is so much going on. First Bryan went missing.

DAVE

Bryan is missing? Did you call the police?

CONNOR

No, dad. No one has called the police yet. Can I please finish? I really need your help dad.

DAVE

Of course, Son. Go ahead.

CONNOR

Okay, thanks dad. So, like I said, first Bryan went missing. We thought maybe he met someone or decided to leave or something. Then we kept hearing knocks and doorbells and no Dominique and Jake are dead and I don't know what to do. Can you please help me dad?

DAVE

Of course, son! Are you with Blair? Are the two of you safe? I will come get you.

CONNOR

We are upstairs in a study hiding. Please come get us dad!

DAVE

I'm getting in the car now, son. I will be there soon!

CONNOR

Thank you, dad. Please hurry! I'm really scared.

DAVE

Listen, son. I'm already in the car on my way to you. I'm going to be there soon and everything is going to be okay. You are going to be okay. No matter what.

CONNOR

Okay. I'm trying to stay brave but it's hard dad. My friends are dead.

DAVE

But you are alive. Count your blessings, son. Your uncle and I are on the way. Sit tight in the study for us, okay? Promise you won't move?

CONNOR

Okay, dad. I promise we are going to stay right here. Promise we will be okay.

DAVE

I promise you are going to be okay. I love you, son.

CONNOR

I love you, too dad. I am really scared.

DAVE

Be brave, Connor. You are strong. You are a Jefferson so you never be afraid of anything.

CONNOR

Okay, dad. Just get me out of this alive and I'll be the strongest, most brave Jefferson you have ever seen in your life.

DAVE

That is a promise I am definitely going to hold you to, son. Just hold on, I will be there.

CONNOR

Okay, I love you.

DAVE

I love you too, son.

CONNOR

(hanging up phone)

He said he's on his way, Blair. We are going to be okay!

BLAIR

Nothing is ever going to be okay again, Connor. Even if we live. Even if I live to be one hundred years old. Nothing will ever be okay again.

CONNOR

Let's just make it out of here alive, then we can worry about the next hundred years. Is that okay with you, B?

BLAIR

Okay, Connor. I love you. I mean that. I know this is bad timing, and my boyfriend was just murdered by a mad man on the loose that may or may not be Bryan but, I love you.

CONNOR

Wow, Blair. That's a lot. I really don't know what to say to you.

BLAIR

I'm sorry. I don't know why-

CONNOR

(interrupting Blair)

I mean it's just crazy you think it could be Bryan. I had no idea.

BLAIR

Are you seriously joking at a time like this?

CONNOR

I'm making light of a tough situation. We just lost our friends, Blair. I know it's serious but I just want to get out of this alive.

BLAIR

Me too, Connor. I don't want to have any regrets at the end of this either. I want you to know that I love you and I truly mean that with every thing in me.

CONNOR

You know I love you, Blair. I always have. Come give me a kiss just in case Bryan comes out of the shadows at any moment and stabs us to death.

BLAIR

Connor, I know these are terrible circumstances but I'm so happy you feel the same way as me.

CONNOR

Are you kidding me, Blair? I have dreamed about this for months, years even.

BLAIR

Me too, Con. I don't want to wait one more second though! I love you.

CONNOR

I love you too, B.

Blair comes out from underneath desk and embraces Connor in a hug and a long, slow kiss. As they kiss, a shadowy figure moves on the balcony and slides open the door.

CONNOR

(yelling)

Who are you? What do you want?
Blair, get behind me!

BLAIR

Connor, what's happening?

A second masked man kicks the door in and begins walking towards Blair and Connor in the center of the room.

CONNOR

Take whatever you want, man. We don't want any trouble. Just leave us alone and you can have whatever you want.

BLAIR

Connor, let's run!

Connor and Blair begin to run out the door past the second masked man. Blair is pulled back and stabbed repeatedly by the second masked man.

CONNOR

(crying)

Oh no! What have you done? Are you going to kill me, too? Oh God help me.

MASKED MAN

God isn't going to help you now, son.

Connor is hit over the head with a large metal bookend and crumples to the ground.

EXT. DARK ROOM- TIME OF DAY UNKNOWN

A small, wooden-paneled room with a chair in the middle with Connor tied up. A door is located in front of Connor. He begins to wake.

CONNOR
(groggily)
Hello? Where am I? Hello? Hello?

A hooded man with a white mask on walks inside the room and closes the door behind him. As he takes off the mask, he is revealed to be Dave.

CONNOR
(confused)
What's going on? Dad? I don't understand.

DAVE
It's okay, son. You are safe. You always were. You have nothing to worry about.

CONNOR
(voice raising)
Dad! What do you mean? All my friends are dead. Blair is dead. How did you get here? Why am I tied up? I'm just-

DAVE
I don't want you to exhaust yourself with all these questions, Connor. This will all make sense in time. You are tied up because I didn't know how you would react to the news I had to give you.

CONNOR
Well give it to me. I'm ready.

DAVE
No, son. First we will eat dinner. Then I will explain everything. Let me untie you so you can wash up.

INT. BATHROOM INSIDE CABIN

Connor stands in front of a small mirror splashing water on his face.

CONNOR

(whispering into the mirror)

You must be dreaming, Con. Wake up.
Wake up.

A knock on the door startles Connor.

DAVE

Are you ready for dinner, son?

CONNOR

Yeah, I'll be right out.

INT. Inside Jefferson Family Cabin Dining Room

Connor, Dave, and Dante sit around the table with soup in front of them.

DANTE

It's good to see you nephew. I am so happy that your father has decided to allow you to join us in this family tradition.

CONNOR

I hope you don't think I'm tripping out right now, I'm just really confused Uncle D.

DANTE

I understand. Just eat your food and we will discuss everything after. You must be famished.

DAVE

Finish all your food, son. You need to gain strength for the rest of the day.

CONNOR

Okay, I am starving.

The three men continue to eat their soup together in silence.

INT. JEFFERSON FAMILY CABIN- LIVING ROOM- DAY

Dante and Dave sit on the couch as Connor sits in a kitchen chair directly in front of them.

DAVE

Son, you know how important family is, right?

CONNOR

I know, dad. I know how much it means to you.

DAVE

Not just to me, Connor. I'm asking you. How important is family to you?

CONNOR

Of course it's important. What are you trying to say?

DANTE

Your father just wants to know. Is family everything to you?

CONNOR

Yeah, of course.

DAVE

That's good to hear, son.

DANTE

Well in this family, we have a family tradition that you don't know about yet. Would you like to hear about it?

CONNOR

It's hard because I'm so confused. Where are my friends? Do you know what happened to them?

DAVE

Let us tell you what we have to say. If you still have questions after, I will answer them. Okay, son?

CONNOR

Yes sir.

DANTE

Our father first brought me to this cabin when I was a few years younger than you, Connor. I had a whole life ahead of me. Goals, women, life was brand new. Then I learned how important family is, and how important it is for us to grow together. That changed everything for me, Connor.

DAVE

I was young my first trip here, too. Just like you Connor, I was scared. But you don't need to be afraid. This is your rite of passage. Being a man in this family means always being willing to put your family first. Do you understand that?

CONNOR

I think so.

DAVE

Well hopefully you will. So my first time here was a lot like yours. Confusion, anger, sadness, but above all, loyalty to my family.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

The Jefferson Family Cabin Living room transforms into an older but cleaner looking room with two older men and a young boy sitting on the couch.

YOUNG DAVE

I'm confused, dad. What's going on?
Where are all my friends?

MR. JEFFERSON

Your friends are gone, son. Family is what is important. Family above everything else. Do you understand?

YOUNG DAVE

No! What is this? What is wrong with you?

MR. JEFFERSON

When your great-grandfather built this cabin, he intended it to be sacred ground for the Jefferson Family men to bond and grow together. The first year he tried to bring your great-uncle John, he snuck out in the middle of the night to meet up with his friends. As you can imagine, that didn't go over too well with your great-grandfather. The next night, he followed him and slaid all his friends so that he could understand that family is all you truly have in life.

YOUNG DAVE

So you murdered all my friends to show me that family is most important? I already knew that dad!

MR. JEFFERSON

Not at all. I removed the distractions from your life that were distracting you from your family. If you want to be a man who can provide for your family, this is what is necessary for you to

(MORE)

Mr. jefferson (CONT'D)
understand. You will have other
friends throughout your life, but
you will never hold them above your
family. From now on, you will
always understand the importance of
family.

YOUNG DAVE
Is it okay to be sad? I just don't
understand why I had to do this.

MR. JEFFERSON
Someday I know you will understand.

END FLASHBACK

DAVE
Do you understand, son?

DANTE
Family is all we have. Friends come
and go, but family, our dynasty,
that is forever.

CONNOR
I understand why you did it but, it
feels like you are just murderers
now.

DAVE
I remember feeling the same way,
Connor. But what you have to
understand is that this will help
you more than you know. Cleansing
your life of the people who
distracted you from your family and
your true destiny, that is how you
can truly grow as a person.

DANTE
Do you understand now, Connor?

CONNOR

So I have to kill people now? I want to be a man, and I want to be a part of the family. I may not understand everything but you two are my heroes and I know that there are things I don't understand.

DAVE

Well you are definitely taking all of this in a lot better than I have. We have one more thing we need to tell you. Are you prepared for that?

CONNOR

I can't imagine anything could possible be any crazier than this. I'm ready.

DANTE

Well, let me explain this one Dave. It's kind of my fault.

DAVE

Go ahead, brother.

DANTE

Okay. So as I told you before, Connor. My first time doing this I was only a few years younger than you. I didn't know what to think about all of this and I did not handle it well.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PRYOR FAMILY CABIN- KITCHEN

Young Dave, Dante, and Mr. Jefferson sit around the kitchen table.

DANTE

(yelling)

I don't get this. What the hell! So you murdered all my friends so I would like you all more?

DAVE

You don't understand, Dan-

DANTE

Oh, no! I think I understand perfectly. You all murdered my friends. You are murderers.

DAVE

Dad, can I talk to Dante alone for a minute?

Mr. Jefferson nods and leaves the room.

DANTE

I don't want to talk to you, murderer.

DAVE

Try to understand this. I know it's hard and I went through the same thing, but this really is important for our family.

DANTE

Why can't we go on vacations like normal family?

DAVE

Because this is what our family needs. We are powerful and we can continue to rise in power if we stick together. Dante, I know it's hard to see right now but someday we will bring our children to join us and you will be able to explain to them how close you are to your dear old brother and father because of this.

DANTE

I will never participate in this. How could I?

DAVE

When I have a son, I will do it differently so that he can understand just as I know you will in time.

END FLASHBACK.

DAVE

And that's how we ended up right here.

CONNOR

(to Dante)

So, how did you become okay with all this?

DANTE

Just like you will. After you leave here, your life will change. You have experienced things this weekend that no one outside of the men in this family will understand. That will bring you closer. Next year, when we return and you feel the closeness and pride from these marks on the wall knowing that you can now join them, you will understand.

CONNOR

Okay, I trust you both. So, what's the rest?

DANTE

Well after I had such a difficult time adjusting to our family traditions and my understanding of it, your father and I vowed to make a change.

CONNOR

So what is it? Just spit it out already.

DANTE

We want you to understand how important this is and be able to feel confident in your decisions and your place in the family. Do you want that, Connor?

CONNOR

I want to be a man in this family, so yes.

DAVE

That's great to hear, son. Okay, well we have a way for you to do that right now. Are you interested?

CONNOR

Yes. I will do it.

DANTE

That's great. It's important for you to get experience and this is a new family tradition we are starting beginning with you. Inside the shed, we have a surprise.

DAVE

Let's go, son.

CONNOR

Wait. Before we go, can we talk more about this? I love you guys, of course I am loyal to you. But, well, you can see how I am hesitant about this, right? I really loved Blair.

DAVE

I know you did, son. That's okay. She wasn't the one for you and that's why this had to happen. You loved Blair, but she was with Jake, a total jerk to you. That would have never worked.

DANTE

You have to think about it. When you find the woman you are supposed to be with. Like your father found your mother, you don't have to worry about those complications. It will just work.

CONNOR

I guess I understand that. It's just hard to see right now.

DAVE

I think it is about to get easier, son. Why don't you give your mother a call and let her know you are with us and you're safe.

CONNOR

Okay. dad.

Connor puts the phone to his ear to call his mother.

LISA

(worriedly)

Connor is that you? Are you okay?

CONNOR

Hey, mom. Yeah, it's me. I'm okay. I'm with dad and Uncle Dante now.

LISA

(confused)

How did you get with them? Why is your Uncle Dante there? I'm so confused.

CONNOR

There was an emergency and they had to come pick me up. I don't want you to worry so I will give you the details later but I wanted to call and let you know that I am safe and with dad.

LISA

Okay, honey. I'm glad your safe.
What did you say about Dante? Why
is he there?

CONNOR

Uh, I think he had business in the
area too and when I was in trouble
he came. I'm not totally sure. You
have to get the details from dad
about that.

LISA

Okay, honey. I'm happy you are
safe. I just want you home so I can
see you and know. I'm confused but
I can't wait to hear about
everything.

CONNOR

I'm glad I'm okay too, mom. I love
you. I will call you when we leave
here.

LISA

Okay. I love you and tell your
father I love him too. You are my
whole world. I don't know what I
would do if anything happened to
either one of you.

CONNOR

I know, mom. After all, family is
everything. I love you.

EXT. JEFFERSON FAMILY CABIN-OUTSIDE SHED- DAY

The three men stand outside of the shed.

CONNOR

So, does mom know about this?

DAVE

No. Only the men in our family
know. This is a sacred tradition.
You understand that, right?

CONNOR

Yeah, don't tell people my family is full of murderers. I got that, dad.

DANTE

Watch your attitude, nephew. Okay, are you ready to go inside?

CONNOR

As ready as I will ever be after this.

DAVE

This is a test for you, son. A growing experience and your first task as a man. Are you really ready for this?

CONNOR

You're saying this like I have a choice.

DANTE

You always have a choice.

CONNOR

Yes, I'm sure.

Dave opens the shed door to reveal a small, dark room with Bryan tied up with his mouth taped shut and a blindfold.

DAVE

Surprise.

CONNOR

Dad, no. What is this?

DAVE

This is your destiny, Connor. Prove yourself to this family. Who are you loyal to, son?

CONNOR

I'm loyal to you, dad. This is just too much though. I can't do this.

DANTE

You have to, Connor.

Dave hands Connor a large, sharp looking butcher knife.

DAVE

I will give you a minute alone to talk to your friend, Connor. When I come back we will begin the process though, okay?

CONNOR

Okay, dad. Just give me a minute.

Dave and Dante exit through the shed door. Connor walks over to Bryan and removes his blindfold and tape over mouth.

BRYAN

What the hell is this? Connor?
What's going on?

CONNOR

Listen, man. I never knew this was going to happen. I can honestly tell you that. There were bigger things at work here than us. I was worried about you though. I thought you were dead.

BRYAN

Yeah, I did too. Why are you still standing there? Untie me. What are you even doing here?

CONNOR

That's the thing, man. I can't untie you.

BRYAN

What are you talking about, man?
Why can't you?

CONNOR

It's a crazy thing. I can't really
talk about it with you. Well,
you're not going to be here so I
guess I can.

BRYAN

Connor. Conman, what do you mean
I'm not going to be here?

CONNOR

I have to kill you, Bryan.

BRYAN

(crying hysterically)
Connor! You know me man! Come on.
You don't have to do this. Help me.

CONNOR

Bryan, I do know you. You're right.
The thing is, you don't know me.
The truth is, I didn't even know
myself until today. I know this
seems crazy, it's crazy to me too
but, my family needs me to do this.
So, you have to die. Sorry, Bryan.
It's time to go now.

EXT. OUTSIDE JOHNSON FAMILY STORAGE BUILDING- DAY

Dave and Dante stand outside in the bright sun as they hear
crying coming from inside the building.

DAVE

What do you think is going on in
there, Dante? What if Connor has a
change of heart and lets him go?

DANTE

I saw it in his eyes, Dave. He gets
it. He is one of us. You did a good
job on him you know.

DAVE

I always told him how important family is but I never knew if he understood me.

DANTE

Well now you know he does. If he doesn't come out soon though I want to go inside. I don't want him to upset Connor.

DAVE

Hold on. I think I hear him coming out now.

Connor opens up the building door and walks outside to join his father and uncle wearing a nervous expression.

DAVE

(hesitantly)

How did it go, son?

CONNOR

Honestly, dad, I don't really know. I don't think he understands why I need to do this and that bothers me. I do understand though. I get why I need to do this. No one should stand in the way of me and my family. Anyone who becomes a distraction or a priority needs to be dealt with.

DANTE

Then it sounds like it's time to deal with them. Nephew, do you have a weapon of choice?

CONNOR

Uh, I don't really know. I've never used a weapon.

DAVE

What do you think you want to use? Be creative. We have a lot of options.

CONNOR

Uh, okay. I don't really know. A gun, I guess.

DANTE

(chuckling)

Oh Con, you have a lot to learn yet about this family tradition. Let's go get you acquainted to some real weapons.

EXT. JEFFERSON FAMILY CABIN-INSIDE SHED- DAY

The building is lit with a dim light in the corner. Connor stands in the front of the room directly in front of Bryan who is still tied up in the chair. Connor is holding a large machete and grinning. Dave and Dante stand behind Bryan holding smaller knives in each hand.

CONNOR

I feel like I should make a speech or something.

DAVE

You should, son. Tell us whatever you feel in this moment.

CONNOR

Bryan, I know you don't understand exactly what is going on right now or why this has to happen but you should be happy. Today you are helping a boy become a man and help him become one with his family. Bryan, do you want to say something?

BRYAN

You don't need to do this, Con. Please help me. Please!

CONNOR

I am honestly sorry that you will never understand how important your sacrifice is for my growth.

DAVE

Thank you for helping my son become
a man, Bryan.

BRYAN

This is so messed up.

CONNOR

Please stop talking now, Bryan.
This is a time for my family now.
Not for anyone else to speak. Dad,
can you get the duct tape?

DAVE

Sure, son. Let me grab that for
you.

Connor takes the duct tape from Dave and begins taping it
on Bryan's mouth. As he pulls away to tear another piece,
Bryan bites Connor.

CONNOR

I wish you hadn't done that, Bryan!
You are making my job harder.

Connor punches Bryan in the face and continues duct taping
his mouth shut.

Dave and Dante move closer to Bryan and motion for Connor
to come forward as well. As Connor moves towards Bryan, he
raises his machete and the screen goes black as blood-
curdling screams fill the room.

EXT. INSIDE DAVE'S CAR-NIGHT

Dave is driving his car through the woods as Dante sits in
the passenger seat and Connor sits relaxed in the back
seat.

DAVE

So Connor, how are you feeling now?
Talk to us.

CONNOR

Geez, Dad. I didn't realize when I found out my dad was a killer I was going to have to talk about my feelings so much. I thought that would make you tougher, not a big baby.

DANTE

(chuckling)

Wow, Dave. We gotta get this boy some food. He is obviously hungry after his first kill.

DAVE

Well that does make sense. It was a big day for the boy. That's why I'm just trying to figure out how he is feeling about it but he won't communicate with his old father.

DANTE

Connor, tell your daddy what you're thinking about so he can stop crying.

CONNOR

Honestly I'm just thinking about what I'm going to say to mom and everyone at school when we get back. Like I went on a camping trip with my friends and everyone was murdered except for me.

DAVE

Well you don't even have to worry about that because we already covered those tracks. Do you think we would just leave you out to make up your own stories? This whole thing is about family you know? Emphasis on the family!

CONNOR

(smiling)

So, what's the story pops? I want to start practicing.

DANTE

Oh, Can I tell it please? It was my idea after all.

DAVE

Go ahead, little brother. Emphasis on the little!

DANTE

I hope that isn't your new saying because I don't like it. It isn't very sophisticated of you.

CONNOR

So is someone going to tell me MY cover story or are we going to leave me in the dark?

DAVE

Yeah, Dante. Just tell him the story.

DANTE

Okay, okay. We better get to the restaurant fast. You all are getting hungrier and meaner by the second!

CONNOR

Story time!

DANTE

It all started yesterday. We told your mom that you called your dad to come pick you up and that you were with him. Later this afternoon, we are going to take Bryan back over to the cabin and put his body with the others. Then, we are just going to wait until their bodies are found and the case will never be closed.

CONNOR

That sounds like a good story but I'm worried people will still be suspicious of me since I supposedly left right before it all happened.

DAVE

Well that's where my expertise comes in. We have two motel rooms rented a couple hours from here and I had two of my interns check in under our names and carry all our luggage in earlier yesterday. So we have alibis. It's all good, Connor. You need to trust us.

CONNOR

I trust you guys. I just want to have my story totally straight for mom tomorrow. And I'm sure I will have to talk to the police, too. Whenever the bodies are found, that is.

DANTE

You don't have to worry about any of that. We will practice on your story tonight and you will be prepared for tomorrow. Your mom is the ultimate practice run for the police.

DAVE

The restaurant is just ahead now. Let's stop talking about such gruesome things before dinner. I would like to have a nice meal with my two favorite people.

CONNOR

Wow, dad. You really are so sentimental today.

DANTE

You really are, Dave. Your age is showing and that is for sure.

DAVE

It isn't every day you get to experience something like this with your son. Connor, I have been so worried that you wouldn't understand or agree with what we do, but you get it so perfectly. I'm just so proud of you, son. You truly understand what it means to be a man in the Jefferson family.

CONNOR

Well, dad. This wasn't really what I wanted to do in this diner parking lot but, thank you. I really do get it and I can't wait until I can help my son someday too. I wish grandpa could be here with us, but I know he would be proud.

DANTE

Of course he would, Connor. This was his dream. You are really making his dream come true right now.

DAVE

Okay, now who is the sappy one? Not even me anymore!

CONNOR

C'mon! Let's go inside.

EXT. INSIDE DINER- NIGHT

Dante sits on one side of a dimly lit booth as Connor and Dave sit on the other side. The diner is otherwise empty and they are quietly talking.

DAVE

Tomorrow we will head back early. Your mother is very worried about you, Connor. You have been through a hard weekend you know?

CONNOR

Oh, yeah. I know. I'm looking forward to a weekend of just spending time with the family.

DAVE

You don't know how happy I am to hear that, son.

CONNOR

I am happy it has been such a surprising, but educational trip for me. The only part I don't like is having to lie to mom. I just wish she could be included.

DAVE

I know. You just have to understand this is a Jefferson family male tradition that only we can know. Your mom would be so worried and she would always be trying to save them. You know how she is.

DANTE

I can only picture Lisa killing someone with love or too many homemade cookies. Speaking of, do we have any more of those for the road tomorrow?

DAVE

I think you already ate them all, Dante. Connor, do you understand why your mother can't know?

CONNOR

I understand, dad. I still wish she could, but I understand.

EXT. JEFFERSON FAMILY HOME- MORNING

The sun shines brightly into a bedroom as Connor stretches his arms out and yawns. There is a knock at the door and Lisa Jefferson enters holding a tray with food.

LISA

Hey sweetie! I just wanted to see how you are doing. I know you only have a couple more days until you have to go back to school.

CONNOR

I might take a couple more days before I go if that would be okay. I have just suffered a tragedy, after all.

LISA

I know that you have, son. You know, when your father was around your age, he lost a group of friends just like you did. It made him feel so much closer to his family. Your father was never the same after that from what I hear.

CONNOR

That's exactly how I feel, too. I am definitely changed forever. I went in the woods a boy and came out a man.

LISA

Connor, that sounds a little dark. I'm so happy you decided to leave on your own before that happened. I don't know what I would have done, or what I would ever do if--

CONNOR

(interrupting Lisa)

We don't even have to go there, mom. I left in plenty of time and I am safe. What happened was insane and awful and I will never get over it really but I was spared for a reason. I just want to count my blessings and move on.

LISA

You are so grown up, Connor! It seems like just last week you were riding around on your tricycle yelling about how you wanted to be just like your daddy. Well now you sound just like him.

CONNOR

I still want to be just like him. I feel like I lost sight of what I really want this year. You will definitely be seeing a lot more of me this semester.

LISA

Ah! That is music to a mother's ears! Now you need to get dressed and come down stairs soon. A lot of your family is going to come over today. Everyone is very worried about you. Especially your Uncle Dante.

CONNOR

What is Uncle Dante worried about?

LISA

I'm not sure. You know how he is. He was just going on and on about how he was so proud of how brave you are and he hoped you didn't blame yourself for anything that happened.

CONNOR

Wow, he sounds very, well,
emotional.

LISA

(laughing)

You are even more like your father
than you know because that is
exactly what he said.

CONNOR

Great minds think alike, I guess.
Now get out of here mom, I have to
get dressed for my family.

Lisa walks out the room and shuts the door behind her. Connor stands up out of his bed and walks over to his closet. He looks in the mirror on his closet door and reaches towards it. He pulls the door open and runs his finger along a small knotch in the closet door and smiles.

INT. Jefferson Family Kitchen- Day

Lisa is standing at the stove tending to macaroni and cheese cooking and talking on the phone as Connor walks in and sits at the table.

LISA

(on the phone)

Oh, I will call you back honey.
Connor just came downstairs!

CONNOR

You don't have to hand up because
of me mom. It's fine.

LISA

Your father said he wants to see
you in his study. Can you go see
him and then fix your hair? When
you come back, guests will be here.

CONNOR

You know I would do anything for
you, mom.

INT. Dave Jefferson's Study- Day

Dave is sitting at his desk behind a large desktop computer. Connor walks in and sits in one of two seats in front of the desk. As he walks in, Dave looks up and smiles.

DAVE

Son, I'm glad to see you're up.

CONNOR

Yeah, I'm awake! What's up, dad?
You're making me nervous.

DAVE

I have already told you that you have no reason to be nervous. Everything is fine, Connor. Wrapped up in a nice little package with a bow on top. Are you still nervous?

CONNOR

No, I just want to know why you needed to talk to me.

DAVE

I just wanted to tell you that I am so happy we are able to share the same values and we can grow as a family because of it. Next year will be even stronger with the three of us.

CONNOR

Thanks, dad. This is a family tradition I plan to continue for a long time.

A door bell rings off camera.

DAVE

It sounds like your family is here now, Connor. You better go down to them.

Connor walks down the stairs and into to the living room where family is gathered around and they begin cheering when he walks in the room. Dante stands up and the rest of the family joins.

FADE OUT: As everyone gathers around Connor to hug him, the screen fades into black.