

**ONE BY ONE**

Written by

The Final Girl

Based on the cliché of splitting up

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. CABIN - DAY (EVENING)**

A clean and pristine cabin, warmly lit in the dark woods.

An SUV pulls up and parks. Four friends step out:

JAKE (29), well-groomed and bearish.

LUCY (26), Jake's girlfriend, blonde with soft features.

ALEX (27), his long hair tied in a man-bun, glasses, muscles.

SADIE (25), Alex's girlfriend, with a smile to kill, and a fine ass.

JAKE  
Here we are.

ALEX  
Sweet.

LUCY  
Nice find, babe.

They walk to the entrance with their bags in tow.

Jake lifts up the welcome mat, reveals a key. He uses it to unlock the door.

Lucy looks up at a wooden sign above the entrance, which reads: **BIRDS OF A FEATHER, FLOCK TOGETHER**

**INT. CABIN - DAY (EVENING)**

The friends walk inside the welcoming cabin, lit nicely and decorated well.

JAKE  
And vacation officially begins.

ALEX  
Sadie and I call master bedroom.

JAKE  
Who got this place?

Alex winks at Jake.

Sadie grabs Alex's hand with a seductive smile.

SADIE

C'mon.

Alex smiles back and lets her lead him away to the bedrooms.

LUCY

Have fun, guys.

They giggle as Lucy turns to Jake, who also smiles seductively at her. She rolls her eyes.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Don't get any ideas.

JAKE

Let's at least get our stuff to the room.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY (EVENING)**

Jake pees in the bathroom while Lucy settles the luggage in the bedroom.

Meanwhile, Sadie and Alex MOAN in pleasure as their bed BANGS against the wall from the other side.

Jake squeezes out a FART as he pees.

LUCY

Okay, this is too much ASMR for me.

She POUNDS on the wall.

LUCY (CONT'D)

(yells)

Keep it down, freaks!

**INT. SIDE BEDROOM - DAY (EVENING)**

Still fully clothed, Sadie BANGS on the wall with her fist as she and Alex continue to release exaggerated MOANS.

They LAUGH.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)**

Jake prepares dinner in the kitchen while Alex and Sadie relax on the sofa, sprawled across each other.

Lucy walks around the living room, examines the decor, studies books on a shelf, shuffles around some board games.

She finds a guestbook that sits on a nearby side table. She opens it, flips through the pages of names and dates.

LUCY

You guys wanna sign the guestbook?

She sets the guestbook down on the coffee table. Jake walks over to the living room.

JAKE

Weird. How many people have stayed here?

LUCY

A dozen pages-worth, at least.

ALEX

(to Jake)

It's a vacation spot, bud.

JAKE

Right. It's just, there weren't any reviews for this place. I thought it was a new listing.

SADIE

Maybe they weren't as impressed as we are?

Lucy looks at the names.

LUCY

Last entry was a few days ago.

(reads)

"Isolation feeds the darkness; only together can you find the light."

ALEX

The hell does that mean?

The power in the cabin suddenly shuts off. Sadie releases a small YELP.

Jake pulls his cell phone out, turns on the flashlight.

JAKE

Shit.

SADIE

That was weird.

ALEX

A little jumpy?

Sadie looks at him, smiles bashfully.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Come here.

He pulls her into his arms.

SADIE

Hold me closer, tiny dancer.

ALEX

I'm not tiny, and you know that.

JAKE

I'm gonna find the breaker box.

(to Lucy)

Here.

He hands her a lighter.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Light some candles. I'll be right back.

He wanders off. Lucy watches him, slightly uncomfortable.

Jake, cell phone flashlight still in hand, walks to a door and opens it. Stairs lead down into a dark basement.

He makes his descent.

**INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT**

Jake reaches the bottom of the steps, shines his flashlight around. The basement is dark, dusty, and littered with junk.

He walks through the cluttered basement toward the breaker box on the wall.

He opens the box door, flips some switches.

JAKE

(yells)

Did that work?

LUCY (O.S.)

No.

JAKE

(to himself)

Dammit.

A shadow figure passes by behind Jake. He spins around to find nobody there.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Hello?

He shines his flashlight around the empty basement.

The flashlight shines onto a door in the far wall of the basement, partially blocked by boxes and other clutter.

Curious, Jake walks up to the door. He grabs the door knob, twists it open.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)**

Candles glow in the dark living room.

Alex still holds onto Sadie as they lie on the sofa. They sip on beer.

Lucy sits in an armchair.

LUCY

Jake's been down there for a while.

ALEX

You think he got lost?

Sadie snickers, playfully slaps his arm. Lucy isn't as entertained by his comment.

SADIE

What's wrong?

LUCY

Nothing...

A beat, then Lucy sighs, stands.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna see if he needs help.

She steps forward, then stops, uncomfortable.

ALEX

What, afraid of the dark?

Lucy gulps.

LUCY

Something just doesn't feel right.

SADIE  
 (to Alex)  
 Go with her, babe.

ALEX  
 Why me?

SADIE  
 Because you've got big, strong  
 muscles to beat up any monsters  
 down there.

Alex sighs. He sits up and stands.

ALEX  
 You're right. I do.  
 (to Lucy)  
 Let's go find your man.

**INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT**

Lucy and Alex slowly walk down the steps. They shine their phone flashlights around the basement.

The breaker box door hangs open. Jake is nowhere to be found.

LUCY  
 Jake?

They walk further into the dingy basement.

Alex walks up to the breaker box. Lucy snoops beyond the clutter. She sees the door in the far wall of the basement, partially cracked open.

She walks to the door, opens it all the way.

A TUNNEL stretches into an abyss of darkness.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
 Alex...

He looks from the breaker box to Lucy, then the dark tunnel before her.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Sadie lies on the sofa as she takes another swig of beer.

A quiet WHISPER catches her attention. She sits up, looks over at where the bedrooms are.

SADIE

Jake?

No response.

Sadie stands and walks toward the bedrooms. Just as she reaches the side bedroom doorway--

A shadowy figure ducks behind the bed with a HISSED WHISPER as Sadie pokes her head inside.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Alex?

She steps inside.

As she walks up to the bed, the bedroom door slowly shuts on its own.

**INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT**

Lucy and Alex look inside the tunnel, when Sadie SCREAMS from upstairs (O.S.)

ALEX

Sadie?!

He bolts for the stairs as he leaves Lucy behind.

Sadie continues to scream bloody murder as he reaches the top of the steps.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Alex runs for the side bedroom. He busts through the door--

**INT. SIDE BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Sadie's screams stop suddenly. She's nowhere inside the room.

ALEX

Sadie?!

Alex turns for the doorway, rushes out of the bedroom--

A SHADOWY HAND GRABS HIS FACE!

**INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT**

Lucy remains at the bottom of the steps.



LUCY

Guys?!

She keeps her phone flashlight on the basement door.

Jake's shadowy figure steps into the doorway.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Jake?

The dark silhouettes of Sadie and Alex step up behind Jake. Even with the flashlight shining on them, they're completely shadowed figures.

Their sinister WHISPERS fill the air.

JAKE

(sinister whisper)

Join us...

SADIE

(sinister whisper)

Join us...

ALEX

(sinister whisper)

Join us...

Lucy looks on in horror.

LUCY

This isn't fucking funny, guys!

Jake, Sadie, and Alex's shadowy figures remain at the top of the steps. Then--

Another shadow figure appears behind them. Followed by another. And ANOTHER.

They HISS whispers.

Lucy gulps, backs away.

Jake begins his slow descent down the steps. Sadie and Alex follow behind him, along with the other shadow figures.

SHADOW FIGURES

(whisper)

Join us...

Lucy CRIES OUT. She backs away deeper into the basement.

The shadow figures reach the bottom of the steps.

They follow Lucy toward the tunnel. They get closer.

CLOSER.

Lucy CRIES, turns to the tunnel.

**INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT**

Lucy trips and falls to the dirty ground.

The shadow figures shuffle toward the tunnel door. They reach outward for Lucy.

SHADOW FIGURES

(whisper)

Join us...Join us...JOIN US!

Lucy SCREAMS.

She pushes herself up and SLAMS the tunnel door shut.

The WHISPERS disappear. There's no sound from the other side of the door.

Lucy breathes heavily, anticipates something, anything.

Instead, the silence lingers.

She turns around, shines her phone's flashlight down the dark, never-ending tunnel.

As she musters up as much courage as she can, Lucy walks into the darkness of the underground tunnel.

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT (LATER)**

Lucy emerges from a small, cavernous opening from the ground. She crawls out, pulls herself along the dirt and grass.

She stumbles through the woods as she walks away from the underground tunnel.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (LATER)**

Lucy steps out of the thick trees and into the open area of the cabin.

She rushes up to the SUV, climbs into the driver seat.

**INT. SUV - NIGHT**

Lucy shuts the door and pulls the visor down. The SUV keys drop into her lap.

She starts the ignition, flips a U-turn and drives away from the cabin.

Suddenly, she stops.

Lucy looks in the rearview mirror, adjusts it.

The mirror reflects from her eyes, to the cabin.

She looks over her shoulder and back at the cabin.

It's clean and pristine, warmly lit from the inside.

But this time, the shadowy figures of Jake, Sadie, and Alex stand at the window and watch her.

She looks back in front of her, sighs.

**EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

The SUV slowly drives away from the cabin.

The shadow figures of Jake, Sadie, and Alex continue to stand at the window.

More and more shadowy figures appear behind them.

Sinister WHISPERS fill the air.

They get louder.

Louder.

LOUDER--

**CUT TO BLACK.**