

THE CALLER

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FADE IN:

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

The moonlight beams behind a lone house in the middle of nowhere, surrounded only by fields. The lights of a distant town lay deep in the background.

The house has a garage attached to it. The door is open and a car can be seen.

INT. SARA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Sitting on the sofa is SARA CONROY. A pretty faced 21 year old brunette with shoulder length hair and striking eyes. A CORDLESS PHONE rests quietly on a coffee table in the foreground and a TV is playing in the background.

Sara is flipping through a magazine. She turns the pages until she sees something she likes, then turns it to a sideways angle to get a better look.

SARA  
(to self)  
Nice.

She flips the pages again and the PHONE RINGS. She answers it.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

Nothing but background noise sounds from the other end.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

We hear a CLICK followed by a DIAL TONE as the caller hangs up. Sara looks back to her magazine then puts it down in favor of the TV remote.

She flicks through the channels, eyes in a dead gaze as she watches uninterested by the usual line up of brain dead choices on offer. We hear them in the back ground as she skips through them. Monster trucks. Cookery. Porn. Game shows.

The phone RINGS again. She picks it up.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We hear LIGHT BREATHING from the other end.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Hello, anybody there?  
(beat)  
Hello? Talk or I'm hanging up.

CLICK. The caller beats her to it.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Jackass.

Sara puts the phone down.

EXT. FRONT YARD

A swing rocks gently in the breeze.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara is making a sandwich. She puts it on a plate and wipes the table down. She quickly rinses the LARGE KITCHEN KNIFE under the water, dries it and places it in the draw, in a way that almost seems like she's hiding it. She grabs her plate and makes her way back towards the living room HUMMING to herself.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sara is sitting back in front of the TV. She bites into her now half-eaten sandwich and continues to flick through TV channels in hopes of finding something.

The PHONES RINGS and Sara groans with her mouth full. She MUTES the TV, chews quicker then SWALLOWS to talk. She picks up the phone.

SARA  
Hello?  
(beat)  
For God's sake, hello?

Sara takes another bite of her sandwich and chews while she waits for a reply. No reply comes. Just slightly HEAVIER BREATHING than before.

SARA (CONT'D)  
(mouth full)  
Get a life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara hangs up, STANDS and heads back into...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara puts her plate in the sink and runs the water over it a second then turns to the fridge, looks at it a beat then opens it. She scans the options.

SARA  
No ice cream.

She closes the door and writes 'ICE CREAM' on to a shopping list that is pinned to the fridge door then walks away.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara sits back down on the couch and un-mutes the TV. As soon as the sound kicks back in, the PHONE RINGS again.

SARA  
Jesus.  
(picks up the phone)  
Hello?

Nothing.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Look, I know someone is there  
because I can hear you breathing.  
(beat)  
Do you want something or are you  
just really that low on things to  
do?

No reply.

SARA (CONT'D)  
They invented porn channels for  
jerk off's, so buy yourself a TV  
and some KY and quit calling me.

Sara hangs up.

SARA (CONT'D)  
(to self)  
Ass hole.

Sara puts the phone under a pillow and turns up the volume.

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - LATER

The swing has stopped moving.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sara sits watching TV. The MUSIC of closing credits sounds and the narrator speaks.

TV VOICE (O.C.)  
On the next episode of Van Halen  
and Sing--

Sara clicks off the sound and looks at the clock. 10PM.

She chews her bottom lip in contemplation and the PHONE RINGS again. She answers reluctantly.

SARA  
What?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Er, hello?

Sara pauses a beat and sits up, surprised to hear a voice for a change. The CALLER speaks with a soft but firm sexy male voice.

SARA  
Sorry, hello, err, sorry, who is  
this?

CALLER (V.O.)  
An old friend.

SARA  
Friend?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Yeah.

SARA  
And you are?

CALLER (V.O.)  
What do you mean?

SARA  
What's your name?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Um, yeah. You know, what do people call you?

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh. Right, I take it you don't recognize me then.

SARA

Not ringing a bell, sorry.

CALLER (V.O.)

Shame.

SARA

Are you sure you dialed the right number?

CALLER (V.O.)

I dialed correctly.

SARA

Are you sure?

CALLER (V.O.)

I'm positive.

SARA

And you don't wanna give me your name?

CALLER (V.O.)

Nah, it's more interesting if you guess.

SARA

(to self)

Of course it is.

Sara STANDS and we FOLLOW HER into the KITCHEN as she waits for the CALLER to speak.

CALLER (V.O.)

Are you there?

SARA

Yeah, for the moment.

CALLER (V.O.)

Upset?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

No, just a little confused why you'd call without introducing yourself.

Sara stands at the sink and turns on the water.

CALLER (V.O.)

We've met.

SARA

Well, you don't sound familiar so I'm guessing we haven't.

CALLER (V.O.)

You sure of that?

Sara washes her dirty plate.

SARA

Okay, let me guess, you're the guy from the library who wanted my number but didn't get it, so you got it off the computer?

CALLER (V.O.)

Um, no.

SARA

Then you do have the wrong number because you sound nothing like anyone I know.

CALLER (V.O.)

Do you just not wanna talk to anyone?

SARA

I'm still here aren't I? You called me, if you wanna talk then you have to have something to say first, but you don't even seem to have a name.

CALLER (V.O.)

So you wanna know my name?

SARA

Jesus Christ.

CALLER (V.O.)

Not quite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara places the now clean plate on the side to dry. We FOLLOW HER back into the LIVING ROOM.

SARA

Look, I'm not looking for a relationship if that's what you're getting at, okay?

CALLER (V.O.)

Now that's not being very honest.

SARA

Are you serious?

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh yes.

Sara leans over the arm of the couch and picks up a HAIRBRUSH. She grooms with it a beat.

CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What's that noise?

SARA

None of your business.

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh, come on.

SARA

Brushing my hair. Tired.

CALLER (V.O.)

I'm boring you?

SARA

A little of both.

CALLER (V.O.)

But we're just starting to heat up.

Sara rolls her eyes.

SARA

I thought I felt a chill.

CALLER (V.O.)

Funny.

(beat)

I bet you have pretty hair.

SARA

I like to think so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)  
I bet it's long and shiny like a  
porn star.

SARA  
Creepy.

CALLER  
You're welcome.

Sara finishes brushing and places the brush aside.

CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
So, can I join you, Sara?

Sara freezes.

SARA  
What?

CALLER (V.O.)  
I said, can I join you.

SARA  
You said 'Sara'. How do you know  
my name?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Like I said, we've met.

SARA  
Oh God, is this one of those stupid  
voice changers, 'cos I'm not in the  
mood for pranks, not today.

CALLER (V.O.)  
This isn't a prank... exactly.

SARA  
Meaning?

CALLER (V.O.)  
You never answered my question.

SARA  
What question?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Can I join you?

SARA  
Listen up, joke's over Romeo, so go  
bother someone else. See ya.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara goes to hang up the phone when she hears...

CALLER (V.O.)

Bitch.

Sara quickly puts the phone back to her ear.

SARA

What did you say?

A moment of breathing from the caller then he speaks.

CALLER (V.O.)

Oh, nothing.

SARA

Nothing? Oh sure, hey you know what? I may not recognise your voice, but I recognize your breathing. You're the ass-hole that's been calling and not speaking. Do you really have nothing better to do?

CALLER (V.O.)

Why would I call if I had nothing to say?

SARA

I don't know, but that's exactly what you seem to be doing right now.

CALLER (V.O.)

I have plenty to say, that's why I called.

SARA

If you had anything to say then you'd say it, instead of just breathing down the phone with your dick in your hand.

CALLER (V.O.)

So, you think I'm masturbating and you're still on the line? Interesting.

SARA

Well, I'm not answering the phone again so save yourself the hassle. Night, creep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)  
Charming.

Sara hangs up.

EXT. FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

A FIGURE approaches the house from a distance.

INT. FOYER

Sara double checks the lock on the front door. Locked.

INT. BEDROOM

In the darkness, a SWITCH is flicked on and the room illuminates. Sara makes her way to a closet and scans through the clothing.

EXT. SARA'S BEDROOM WINDOW

We see Sara dressing in to her PJ's.

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Sara buttons up her pajama top and makes her way cautiously over to the window. She takes a quick glance outside then pulls the drapes closed.

INT. BEDROOM

Sara climbs into bed. She covers herself with the bed sheet, turns off the light and closes her eyes.

INT. FOYER

A SILHOUETTE appears on the glass of the front door and the door knob TURNS left to right as the person tries to open it.

INT. BEDROOM

Sara's eyes snap OPEN as she hears the sound from downstairs. She grabs something from under the bed and STANDS.

INT. FOYER

Sara slowly descends the staircase with a baseball bat pulled back behind her head, ready to swing.

She approaches the door and looks out through the glass to see the other side, but no one is there. She makes her way into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara creeps through the shadowy room with caution, her baseball bat still at the ready. She opens a draw, pulls out the LARGE KNIFE she hid away before and puts the bat on the side. She triple checks all the locks. Safe.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara makes her way through the dark room, the only light reflecting on her knife coming from outside. Empty.

INT. FOYER

Sara pauses and takes another look at the front door. Nothing. She heads back into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara puts the knife back in the draw and picks up her bat and a FIGURE appears behind her. She turns to leave and straight into...

VOICE (O.C.)

Boo!

Sara SWINGS without looking hitting someone.

VOICE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Ah, shit!

SARA

JJ?

JJ

Yeah.

Sara flicks on the light to reveal: JJ RUSSO, her freshly bruised best friend, holding her head and arm. Sara drops the bat and sees to her friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ is a pretty girl who knows it and dresses to show off her body. She's also 21, has long blonde hair.

JJ (CONT'D)

What the fuck was that for?

SARA

I'm sorry, I thought you were someone else.

JJ

Who?

SARA

I don't know, a burglar or something.

JJ

Well, I'm not.

SARA

Sorry, are you okay?

JJ

Fuck no, you hit me with a bat, in the head.

SARA

Sorry, did I get you bad?

JJ

You didn't get me 'good'. My arm took most of it but, yeah, kinda.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

JJ is sitting on the sofa. Sara walks in and hands her a bag of frozen peas to ice her wound.

SARA

Here, ice. Kinda.

JJ

Thanks.

She takes them and applies the bag correctly.

JJ (CONT'D)

Who carries a baseball bat these days?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

It was for protection.

JJ

Ever heard of condoms?

SARA

Not that kind of protection. I said I was sorry.

JJ

You better be, slugger.

SARA

You scared the shit outta me.

JJ

What are you doing going to bed so early anyway, you know it's Friday night, right?

SARA

And the Thirteenth.

JJ seems a little puzzled.

JJ

Just another night to me.

Sara nods her eyes in the direction of a large FAMILY PHOTO on the wall of a younger Sara and her PARENTS.

JJ (CONT'D)

October 13th, oh God, I'm sorry, I didn't even think.

SARA

Isn't your car in the shop, how did you get here?

JJ

Yeah, Justin dropped me off. Gave him a handy for his troubles.

SARA

Hmm. Handy.

JJ

God, men can suck sometimes, ya know? Sometimes you just need girls around you and no guys, no guys at all.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ (CONT'D)

Except maybe for when some nut job  
with a baseball bat leaps at you  
from the shadows.

SARA

I said I was sorry.

JJ

I know, I'm just playing with ya.  
(quick beat)  
Or at least I will be if you let  
me.

JJ tickles Sara's ribs.

SARA

Knock it off.

Sara gently knocks JJ's hand away.

JJ

So, how's the coloring gig treatin'  
ya?

SARA

It's not coloring, it's art.

JJ

You play with crayons for a living.

SARA

Five year old's use crayons, I work  
with pastels.

JJ

Crayons, pastels. Same thing,  
different price tag.

JJ moves cushions on the couch looking for something.

SARA

What are you looking for?

JJ

The clicker thingy.

Sara grabs the remote and offers it to JJ.

SARA

You mean this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
(triumphantly)  
Ha Ha!

JJ grabs the remote.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Success.

SARA  
You're welcome.

JJ flicks through the TV channels. Same bad choices as before.

SARA (CONT'D)  
And to answer your question, I just made two grand for my last piece on eBay.

JJ throws Sara a look.

JJ  
Bitch.

Sara smiles.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Oh well, I may not make cash like that, but my tips are way better.

JJ grabs her purse and pulls out a WAD of small scraps of paper and slaps them down on the couch. Phone numbers.

SARA  
Oh my God, so sinister.

JJ  
The food isn't the only thing that's hot.

Sara grabs a note and reads from it.

SARA  
For a good time call 'Redd'.

Sara grabs another.

SARA (CONT'D)  
You're smokin', Todd.

Sara grabs another, looks at it with wide open eyes then reads it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA (CONT'D)

Lets make a sandwich, Bryan and Joe-  
- oh my God.

Sara puts the paper back down and pushes the pile towards JJ.  
JJ grins back and puts the numbers back in her purse.

JJ

Maybe I should quit my gig and  
become an escort.

SARA

I wouldn't let you abuse yourself  
like that.

JJ

How could I abuse myself?

SARA

Others then.  
(quick beat)  
Have you ever thought of modeling?

JJ

You mean like nude, one of those  
artsy fartsy art classes with a  
bunch of strangers staring at my  
bits?

SARA

Err.. no, that's not what I meant.

JJ

Shame, a bunch of hot guys staring  
at me naked would probably get me a  
whole other bunch of numbers... and  
it would be easy to sort the gay  
from the straight from how they sit  
when they draw me.

JJ grins cheekily.

SARA

They make a lot of money.

JJ

(interested)  
Like how much?

SARA

Three-hundred a session. One a  
week and you wouldn't have to work  
for a living.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
How long is a session?

SARA  
Couple of hours, not much more.

JJ  
A hundred and fifty an hour just to sit around and let someone draw you naked?

SARA  
I never said naked, and you'd have to sit completely still.

JJ  
Ah see, I could never sit completely still.  
(beat)  
Unless it was on someone's face.

JJ giggles again.

SARA  
Hey, how did you get in?

JJ  
I came in through the side door, through the garage.

SARA  
Oh shit, I thought I locked it.

JJ  
Dumb dumb.

SARA  
God.

Sara presses her hand against her forehead.

JJ  
Headache?

SARA  
No, just annoyed I forgot close the damn thing, I was sure I'd done it, but... tonight of all nights.

JJ  
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

It's just, this guy called me.

JJ

Ooh, and?

SARA

Nothing just some creepy guy  
looking to get some cheap tricks  
over the phone.

JJ

Like 'freaky' creepy?

SARA

Is there a difference?

JJ

Well, how did he sound?

SARA

Actually, despite his annoying  
conversation style, he sounded  
pretty handsome. I know that's a  
stupid thing to say about someone  
from a voice, but--

JJ

No, I get it, first he's creepy,  
then you realize you like it and  
suddenly he's handsome.

SARA

Shut up.

JJ winks.

JJ

Did you get his number?

SARA

Is that really all you think about?

JJ

Well?

SARA

No, I didn't. I didn't even get  
his name.

JJ

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Yeah, he wouldn't give it to me but he seemed to know mine. Weird right?

JJ

'Seemed' to know?

SARA

Well, he called me Sara, so-- I don't know, I mean I didn't recognize the voice and I didn't hear any distortion for it to be one of those voice changer toys, so-

JJ

Could have been one of Toran's friends messing around.

SARA

I suppose so, but, when I told him I was hanging up--

JJ

You hung up on him?

SARA

Well, let me finish and you'll find out.

JJ

(miming)  
Sorry.

SARA

Anyway, when I told him I was hanging up on him, he called me a bitch.

JJ

What?

SARA

Yeah, what's that about?

JJ

Maybe he was just drunk or something.

SARA

I guess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

If he sounded hot I'd let him talk to me any way he wanted.

SARA

Oh, I bet you would, sandwich girl.

JJ grabs the pillow from behind her and playfully hits Sara in the head with it.

JJ

I will not take this abuse from a cartoonist. So a guy, who sounded hot, calls you to get some free phone sex and you hang up on him?

SARA

I'm starting to assume you sleep with every date.

JJ

What do you think?

SARA

Yes, I think you definitely do--

JJ

(interrupting)

No, silly. About the guy.

SARA

I mean he didn't even give me his name, that's the weird thing to me. If you call up a girl wanting to talk, you introduce yourself, even if you give a fake name. I mean he could have just made something up, but he didn't even bother.

JJ

Oh well, at least you don't have to remember it, at least this way if you see him he can't get mad at you for forgetting.

SARA

I don't think I wanna meet that creep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Doesn't sound like you'll have much of a choice, he knows your name and phone number, he probably knows where you live too.

SARA

Why do you say that?

JJ

Well, your cell was turned off when I tried to call you an hour ago, so he called you on your home phone, right?

SARA

Yeah.

JJ

Face it, he could knock on your door with a bunch of headless flowers at any minute.

Suddenly a single KNOCK on the front door is heard and the girls JUMP in surprise.

SARA

You heard that, right?

JJ

Yeah, I'm dumb, not deaf.

SARA

What was that?

JJ

Err.. the front door, maybe?  
(smiles)

Sara looks in the front door's direction.

SARA

Who would be calling at this hour?

JJ lifts her arm above her head and points down to herself.

SARA (CONT'D)

Besides you, obviously?

JJ

I don't know, you should so check it out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara thinks about it a beat then stands.

SARA  
Aren't you coming?

JJ  
Hell no, if it's creepy stalker guy  
with dead flowers, I want a head  
start.

Sara exits alone.

INT. FOYER

Sara slowly approaches the front door with caution. She gets up close to the glass and looks out. She breathes in slowly as if trying to stay quiet, then speaks.

SARA  
Hello?

There's no sign of anyone on the other side of the door.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

Sara cautiously looks out of the glass either side of the front door as before.

Nothing.

SARA (CONT'D)  
(to self)  
Kids.

Sara turns back and straight into...

VOICE  
Aaauuggghhh!!!

Sara JUMPS BACK in fright as JJ appears hands out like a zombie, laughing to herself.

SARA  
Shit JJ, my heart nearly stopped.

JJ laughs her ass off.

JJ  
You should have seen your face.

JJ SLAPS her thigh in celebration.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
Thirteenth, remember.

JJ  
Crap, I forgot. Sorry, I've had  
one too many.

Sara heads back to the living room.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Who was at the door?

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara sits back down on the couch. JJ follows close by.

SARA  
You could have given me a heart  
attack.

JJ  
Sorry.

JJ playfully hits Sara in the face again with the pillow.  
Sara grabs her own pillow and WHACKS JJ right back.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Oh, it's on!

JJ rises from the sofa and SWINGS her pillow at Sara's head.

SARA  
Yeah?

JJ  
Oh yeah, I got a black belt in  
pillow talk and fighting, bitch.

SARA  
Pillow talk? Whenever you're in  
bed with someone your mouth's  
always full.

JJ thinks a beat, then gets it.

JJ  
Hey.

BAM! Sara lands a blow to JJ's temple and she's knocked back  
off of the couch and onto the floor. Sara mounts JJ and  
reigns blows down on her from above.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ (CONT'D)  
Hey, no fair, you hit me while my  
guard was down.

SARA  
Excuses, excuses.

Sara lands some more shots before...

EXT. HOUSE - THROUGH LIVING ROOM WINDOW

Through the window, we see JJ GRAB Sara's shoulders and PUSH her off the couch and onto the floor. JJ takes top position.

INT. LIVING ROOM

JJ knocks Sara's pillow out of her hands with one large strike with her own. Sara is defenseless.

JJ  
Haha! Now you shall die,  
cartoonist. Eat my muff.

JJ covers Sara's face with her pillow in a fake attempt to suffocate her.

SARA (MUFFLED)  
Quit it!

JJ  
What?

SARA (MUFFLED)  
You're gonna suffocate me.

JJ  
I can't hear you.

Sara grabs JJ's pillow and hits her in the face with it then throws it to one side.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Spoil sport.

JJ drops her bottom lip in protest.

SARA  
If you were a boy they'd say you  
have special needs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

And if you were a boy you could  
take care of those special needs.

JJ holds Sara down by her wrists and play rides her.

JJ (CONT'D)

Oh Sara.

SARA

JJ, stop it.

JJ

Ooh, you're making me wet--

SARA

Oh God, you're twisted.

Sara glances at the window as SOMETHING MOVES quickly out of  
the way outside.

JJ

You know you like it.

Sara throws JJ off of her and gets up.

SARA

Did you see that?

JJ

No, what?

SARA

Outside, something moved by the  
window.

JJ

Oh God, it better not be a spider.

JJ gets behind Sara for arachnid protection.

SARA

No, something outside.

Sara edges slowly closer to the window to see what's out  
there. JJ relaxes.

JJ

It was probably just a stray animal  
or something. Maybe even a shadow  
from the trees outside of the  
window.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara takes a cautious look from behind the curtain.

SARA  
No, this was much closer.

JJ  
Well, let me know if you see a frat  
boy out there. I'll see him on his  
way.

Suddenly the phone RINGS and JJ SCREAMS in nervous surprise.  
Sara jumps.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Is that lover boy?

SARA  
God, I hope not, I'm not in the  
mood.

Sara stands staring at the phone for a beat.

JJ  
Well, are you gonna answer it?

SARA  
No, you know what, just let it  
ring.

JJ  
Oh come on, it'll be fun.

JJ grabs the phone and picks up.

SARA  
JJ.

JJ  
(into phone)  
Hello, Conroy residence.

JJ jumps onto the sofa for a seat.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Hmm, a new voice, could it be?

JJ  
Can I ask who's calling?

CALLER (V.O.)  
You sound striking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
(flirting)  
You don't sound so bad yourself.  
She was right, you do sound  
handsome.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Is that what she said?

JJ  
Uh-ha.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Interesting.

JJ smiles Sara's way.

SARA  
Tell him to get a life.

JJ  
(miming)  
No.

SARA  
Hang up, it's past late.

JJ  
(to Sara)  
Where's the fun in your life?

JJ presses the phone back to her ear.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Hello? Are you still there?

JJ  
Yes, I am. My name's JJ, how about  
yours?

CALLER (V.O.)  
JJ, that's a pretty name. Are you  
friends with Sara?

JJ  
Yeah, for the moment.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Can I ask you something? Do you  
find her to be a little rude  
sometimes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
Oh, totally.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Me too. You know, she hung up on  
me earlier.

JJ  
Well that was cold of her, and I'd  
like to apologize for her behavior.

JJ covers the bottom receiver of the phone with her hand.

SARA  
He flirts, you listen. I'm getting  
something else to eat.

JJ  
So am I.  
(grins)

Sara exits. JJ moves her hand away and speaks.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Do you always call women this late  
at night, or is this a special  
occasion?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Do you always talk to strange men  
you've never met?

JJ  
Hey, I do believe I asked you  
first.

CALLER (V.O.)  
You got me there. Actually no,  
tonight is a special occasion.

JJ  
Oh, congrats then.

CALLER (V.O.)  
And now your turn.

JJ  
Er no, I never just talk to any  
man.

JJ crosses her fingers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)

I bet that's not true at all now,  
is it?

JJ

Are you trying to call me a slut or  
something?

CALLER (V.O.)

No, you just sound like you enjoy  
the chase, that's all.

JJ

Okay, you got me.

CALLER (V.O.)

I thought so.

JJ

So what do you look for in a woman?

CALLER (V.O.)

Well, it's not really what's on the  
outside that counts, it's what's on  
the inside that drives me wild.

JJ

Ah, that sounds sweet.

CALLER (V.O.)

So, if you're not busy how about we  
hook up sometime?

JJ rolls over onto her stomach.

JJ

I was just thinking along those  
same lines.

JJ squeezes her ass.

CALLER (V.O.)

Good.

JJ

When do you feel like doing  
something then?

CALLER (V.O.)

Well, there's one last thing before  
we go any farther.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
Oh yeah? What's that?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Let's just say it's sort of a  
fetish.

JJ  
Ooh, I like those. Kinky.

CALLER (V.O.)  
It's a little different from what  
you're probably used to, I gotta  
say.

JJ  
(to self)  
You'd be surprised.  
(into phone)  
Hit me with it, big boy.

CALLER (V.O.)  
(a little stricter)  
I need to strangle you. Not for  
long, just until your eyes start to  
bulge, you won't black out or  
anything, I promise.

JJ's excited face turns into a blank dull stare as she sits  
back up.

JJ  
Sorry?

CALLER (V.O.)  
Come on, don't make me repeat it.

JJ  
Excuse me, do what? I'm not sure I  
heard you properly.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Oh, you heard me just fine. It  
doesn't have to be for very long,  
just until you need to breath  
again.

JJ  
(suddenly cautious)  
I'm afraid I'm not into that kind  
of stuff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER (V.O.)  
Have you ever tried it?

JJ  
No and I'm not sure I want to  
either.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Well, are you sure you don't want  
to?

JJ  
Pretty sure. Sounds kinda scary.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Some people love it, it's called  
auto-erotic asphyxiation, I think  
you'd love it.

JJ  
No thanks, that doesn't sound like  
my cup of tea.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Oh, don't be like that.

JJ  
Look, I... I have to go.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Just until your pretty face  
loses...

JJ hangs up. Sara returns with a banana and a drink.

JJ  
That guy was seriously creepy.

SARA  
Yeah, I know, I told you, remember?

JJ  
No, I mean creepy, creepy.

SARA  
And again, yeah I know, I told you,  
remember?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

You didn't say he was like that, you just said he was weird and wouldn't give you his name, not that he liked to strangle people during sex.

SARA

He said that to you?

JJ

Well, yeah didn't he to you?

SARA

Er, no because I wasn't flirting with him.

JJ

You said he sounded handsome though.

SARA

Yeah, and that was an observation, I didn't tell him that.

JJ

Well, next time warn me, okay?

SARA

I did warn you, and besides, he'll probably call back anyway, so consider yourself re-warned.

JJ

If he calls, you answer it this time.

SARA

I'm not answering it.

JJ

It's your house and your phone--

SARA

Who says anyone has to answer it? I was going to let it ring before you picked up.

JJ says nothing.

SARA (CONT'D)

So what was his name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
I don't know, he didn't say.

SARA  
You didn't get it?

JJ  
You didn't either.

SARA  
Yeah, but I wasn't ready to spread  
like butter.

Sara bites into her banana.

JJ  
Oink, oink.

JJ watches Sara eat.

JJ (CONT'D)  
You know it's impolite to eat in  
front of a guest and not offer them  
something.

SARA  
Help yourself, you know where the  
kitchen is.

JJ  
I don't know where you keep your  
one and only knife, which is weird  
that you only have one, by the way.

SARA  
I don't want burglars stabbing me  
with one of many of my own knives,  
thank you.

JJ  
Don't worry, I'm sure burglars  
bring their own.  
(beat)  
I'm not hungry anyway.

Sara rises from the sofa and yawns.

SARA  
Well, I think I'll hit the hay.

JJ  
What about me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
You're welcome to the sofa.

JJ  
You've got a Queen sized bed.

SARA  
Yes I do, princess.

Sara grabs a pillow and fluffs it for JJ.

JJ  
What about a sheet?

SARA  
Ugh, hold on.

Sara EXITS the room and JJ makes herself comfy on the sofa.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara opens the tumble dryer and pulls out a LARGE BED SHEET.

She turns to return to the living room but glances at the side door JJ 'broke in' through. She opens the door and reaches inside (this is the GARAGE) she FLIPS A SWITCH and we hear the electric garage door begin to close.

Sara closes the door and locks it, then heads back into...

INT. LIVING ROOM

Sara returns with a sheet. She snaps it in the air and covers JJ, laying on the sofa, in one swift move.

SARA  
There ya go, happy?

JJ  
Read me a story.

SARA  
How about you read this.

Sara flips JJ the middle finger.

JJ  
That will be all. Ta Ta.

Sara turns to walk away when the phone RINGS again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
Oh Christ.

JJ  
He's gonna keep me awake all night,  
isn't he?

SARA  
Even if I put it in the oven.

Sara answers the phone.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Hello, it's late and this better be  
good.

CALLER (V.O.)  
Check your mailbox.

The line goes dead. Sara looks at the phone confused.

JJ  
Wrong number?

SARA  
He said look in the mail box.

JJ looks at her watch.

JJ  
It's past midnight.

INT. FOYER

Sara makes slowly for the front door. JJ follows close behind nervously.

Sara flips on the porch light and takes a look through the glass either side of the front door, then reaches for the lock.

JJ  
Careful.

Sara un-clicks the lock and slowly opens the door. She prepares her bat, ready to swing.

JJ (CONT'D)  
You see anything?

Sara turns her head back and forth scanning for someone. Nothing in sight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

No.

She stares out her front door to her MAILBOX. The flag is ERECT.

SARA (CONT'D)

Stay here.

JJ

(to self)

No fucking problem.

Sara makes towards the mailbox cautiously.

EXT. MAILBOX

Sara hurries towards the mail box looking left then right along the way. She opens the mailbox carefully with her bat and puts the flag down.

She pulls out a brown ENVELOPE and takes another quick look left and right and goes to rip it open when...

JJ (O.C.)

What is it?

Sara jumps at the sound of JJ who is now by her side.

SARA

Jesus Christ, JJ.

JJ

Sorry.

SARA

Damn it, get back in the house.

Sara grabs JJ's hand and runs with her back inside.

INT. HOUSE

Sara and JJ rush back into the house. Sara locks the door behind them.

JJ

What do you think's inside?

SARA

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara tears the envelope open and empties out the contents: A newspaper clipping that reads: DAUGHTER FORCED TO WATCH PARENTS GET BUTCHERED.

The color rushes from Sara's face and JJ glances at Sara nervously, unknowing of how Sara will react.

JJ  
(almost to self)  
That's not funny.

Sara shakes her head slightly in disbelief.

SARA  
No, it's not.

The phone RINGS. Sara stares at it a beat, then approaches slowly, swallows and picks it up.

SARA (CONT'D)  
(slowly)  
Hello?

CALLER (V.O.)  
I've been thinking about your hair,  
Sara. I bet it's the shiny kind  
you can run your fingers through  
over and over again for hours.

A look of terror falls over Sara's face.

CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I bet you know my name now.

JJ folds her arms in fear from the look on Sara's face.

SARA  
(almost whispering)  
Cyrus.

JJ  
What?

CALLER/CYRUS (V.O.)  
We're not done yet, Sara.

JJ puts her hands to her mouth.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Not by a long way.

Sara hangs up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
Was that--?

SARA  
Let's get the fuck out of here.

Sara grabs JJ's arm and pulls her into...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara bursts in and runs straight to a draw. JJ follows her in.

JJ  
Sara, what do you mean, it's him?  
How can it be, isn't he in jail?

Sara pulls the LARGE KNIFE from the draw.

SARA  
He should be, but that was him on  
the phone and someone is out there,  
so either it's him or some psycho  
groupie who wants to help him  
finish what he started. Either  
way, we stay here, we're fucked.

Sara hands JJ the baseball bat and dials 911. It rings and Sara looks out off the window into the back yard for Cyrus until someone picks up.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
Sheriffs department.

SARA  
Hello, my name is Sara Conroy, I'm  
at 65802 McGregor Hill Road--  
(cut off)

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
(interrupting)  
All officers are currently busy at  
the prison riot to ensure nobody  
escapes. If you'd like to...  
(cut off)

SARA  
(interrupting)  
Someone already has escaped. Cyrus  
Skid. He's here and he's armed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
Cyrus Skid? The serial killer?

SARA  
Yes, him.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
What did you say your name was?

SARA  
Conroy. Sara Conroy.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
(beat)  
That Sara Conroy?

SARA  
Yes, that one.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
Oh my God, I-- I don't know what to  
tell you, there's no one here to  
take the phones if I--  
(cut off)

SARA  
(interrupting)  
Listen to me, do you want to end up  
one of those cops on the news for  
leaving someone to die because  
there was no one to answer the  
phones if they did their actual job  
and responded to a call in order to  
save a life?

A beat of silence down the phone.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
No. Absolutely not. I'll be there  
as soon as I can. Lock yourself in  
a room and try to stay quiet.

SARA  
I have a car, we're gonna try and  
make a break for it.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
We?

SARA  
I have a girlfriend with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE VOICE

Okay, find something to arm  
yourself with first and--  
(cut off)

SARA

(interrupting)

Done.

Sara hangs up, throws the phone on the counter and opens the side door into the...

INT. GARAGE

Sara flips on a light and scans the room then makes towards her car, guarding JJ as she does. She puts her key in the door and quickly looks in the backseat. Empty.

SARA

Get in.

Sara unlocks the doors and they climb in.

INT. CAR

Sara keys the ignition and turns it. Nothing.

SARA

Come on.

She turns it again. Still nothing.

JJ

Oh no.

SARA

Not now.

A third attempt results in nothing, yet again.

SARA (CONT'D)

Shit.

Sara waits a beat before turning the key hard as far as it will go. Nothing happens. She looks around then gets out of the car.

JJ

Where are you going?

INTERCUT BETWEEN: Sara outside the car and JJ inside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sara pops the hood and inspects the engine. No Battery.

SARA  
Oh shit.

JJ  
What?

INSERT: A FIGURE ROLLS OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE CAR.

Sara drops the hood, revealing CYRUS SKID, wearing a full body, prison issue black jumpsuit, standing by her door.

SARA  
JJ, lock the doors.

CYRUS  
Hey, Sara.

JJ sees Cyrus, screams and locks both doors. Skid moves around the car towards Sara. Sara goes the opposite way.

SARA  
JJ, grab the bat and the knife and open the garage door.

JJ grabs the weapons and looks around for the door remote.

Outside Sara and Skid move around the car.

JJ  
Where's the clicker?

Sara glances back at the door.

SARA  
In the glove compartment.

Skid moves faster towards Sara. She sees in time and runs.

JJ rummages through the glove compartment and finds the remote. She points it and clicks. The garage door opens.

Sara stands like she's ready to make a tackle.

SARA (CONT'D)  
JJ, get out of the car and get ready to run.

Cyrus chuckles to himself.

JJ looks really unsure about what is expected of her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
What are you going to do?

SARA  
Just do as I say and you'll be  
fine. Okay?

JJ  
Oh fuck.

JJ swallows hard and slowly opens the car door.

JJ cautiously steps one foot out of the car and stands.  
Cyrus is on the opposite side.

SARA  
Good. Now when I say, I want you  
to run to the front of the house,  
unlock the door and wait for me,  
okay?

JJ  
Wait, why don't we just stay inside  
the car?

SARA  
Because he can get in through the  
window. Now go!

JJ  
What, now?

SARA  
Yes, now. Go!

JJ flees the garage whimpering.

Skid lunges at Sara with his knife. She avoids the blade and  
grabs his wrist. She gives it a TWIST and BANGS it against  
the wall and he drops it. Sara KICKS it under the car.

Cyrus pushes Sara hard up against the wall.

CYRUS  
Hello Sara, happy anniversary.

Sara KNEES him in the groin and he doubles over slightly.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE

JJ pulls out the keys and looks for the right one. There are  
many.

INT. GARAGE

Sara and Cyrus struggle for a while before Skid STAMPS on Sara's ankle and she SCREAMS in pain.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE

JJ hears Sara's cry.

JJ

Sara?

INT. GARAGE

Sara gets hold of Cyrus' wrists, turns them over each other and PULLS him face first into the wall, he bounces off of it and hits the ground hard.

Sara limps around the car looking for the kicked knife but it's nowhere to be seen.

SARA

Fuck.

Cyrus climbs back to his feet. Sara sees him and limps out of the garage as fast as she can.

EXT. GARAGE/HOUSE

Sara hops her way out of the garage and finds JJ waiting for her.

JJ

Oh my God, are you okay?

SARA

Run.

Cyrus exits the garage. JJ sees him.

JJ

Oh no.

JJ helps Sara around to the front door. Sara tries to open the door but it's still locked.

SARA

JJ, I told you to unlock it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
I couldn't find the right key.

JJ pulls out the keys and Sara snatches them from her hands. She finds the right key and something catches her eye off screen.

SARA  
Oh shit.

Cyrus is almost at her side. Sara puts the key in the lock and Cyrus catches them up.

CYRUS  
Hello ladies.

JJ screams and drops the baseball bat and knife.

Cyrus SLAMS his body against Sara, pinning her to the door. JJ screams as she watches the whole thing.

Cyrus CHOKES Sara until JJ picks up the baseball bat and WHACKS him in the head knocking him down.

SARA  
Stab him.

JJ  
What?

SARA  
Get the knife and stab him in the neck. Quickly before he gets up.

JJ  
I can't, Sara, I can't.

SARA  
It's him or us. There's no time.

Cyrus rolls over. He grabs the fallen blade and stands.

CYRUS  
Too late.

INT. HOUSE

The girls stumble inside as Cyrus makes for the door. Sara closes the door but his hand makes it inside the house before the girls can fully close it. His knife waves violently in the air as he tries to push his way in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Push.

JJ

I'm trying.

Sara and JJ push from the other side but his arm is stopping it from shutting.

JJ (CONT'D)

He's too strong.

SARA

Just keep pushing.

JJ

I'm trying. I can't hold on much longer.

Suddenly, a pair of HEADLIGHTS flood the scene as a CAR pulls into the driveway.

JJ (CONT'D)

Someone's here.

Skid pulls his arm from the door and flees around the side of the house. The girls close the door and lock it.

JJ (CONT'D)

Who's that?

Sara peeks through the glass.

SARA

The police.

Sara unlocks the door and opens it again.

JJ

Sara.

Sara rushes outside as a POLICE CAR pulls up. Sara shouts at the car.

SARA

He's behind the house. He went around back.

A young looking COP exits the car.

COP

Which way did he go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
(pointing)  
That way, around the back.

The cop draws his GUN.

COP  
Okay, get back inside and lock the door. Don't come out until I call to say it's safe.

SARA  
Okay.

The cop raises his weapon and cautiously begins to walk around the side of the house.

INT. HOUSE

Sara locks the door. JJ stands with her hands in a nervous praying position.

SARA  
In the kitchen.

Sara pulls JJ's arm to follow her as they make for the other room.

EXT. HOUSE

The cop investigates the sides of the house slowly and makes his way around the back.

He checks all the visible areas then HEARS something. He doubles back on himself and raises his gun a little more.

Something moves out the corner of his eye. The cop turns to see Cyrus moving in the shadows.

COP  
Freeze!

Cyrus BOLTS and the cop gives chase around the outside of the house but quickly loses him.

A CRASHING noise is heard.

The cop approaches with caution, his gun tightly held by both hands out in front of him when...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cyrus steps out from the shadows BEHIND the cop and THRUSTS a knife into the left side of the Cops torso, right under his raised arm and straight into the heart. BANG! The gun goes off.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ and Sara comfort each other as the sound of cop and killer battling it out goes on outside the window. Multiple shots are fired. The whole clip? It suddenly goes quiet.

JJ  
Is he okay?

Sara tries to see through the glass, but it's too dark.

SARA  
(shouting)  
Are you okay?

Suddenly the Cops face SLAMS against the window and blood splatters on the glass. The Girls quickly SCREAM and the Cop disappears just as quick.

Sara and JJ stay still for a beat, then the phone RINGS. Sara and JJ give each other a look. Sara answers it but says nothing.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Now I have a gun.  
(laughs)

Sara hangs up.

SARA  
Get up stairs.

INT. FOYER

JJ and Sara rush up the stairs.

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Sara and JJ enter. Sara pushes the bed behind the door to lock them in. JJ is inconsolable.

JJ  
What do we do now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

I don't know.

JJ

Can't we just call the police again?

SARA

He said no one else was there to handle the phones. He came himself, there's no one to call.

JJ

No one at all?

SARA

No one close enough.

JJ

There must be someone.

SARA

It doesn't matter if there is, we can't put them in danger by bringing them out here with him down there. We'll just get them killed.

JJ

But what if we get lots of people, like Justin, Nick and Toran?

SARA

He has a gun, JJ, they don't.

JJ

Well, maybe they know someone who does have one.

SARA

We can't risk it.

JJ

What do you mean 'We can't risk it'? We can't not risk it.

SARA

Okay, say we call someone and we get them out here in time and they get themselves killed, then what? Could you live with that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
I don't know, but at least I'd live  
to regret it.

SARA  
You might not.

JJ  
But we have to do something or he's  
just going to get us.

SARA  
Look at it this way, if he knows  
there's only us here, then he's  
less likely to go full psycho on us  
and just break in here through the  
window or something.

JJ  
Oh God.

JJ breaks down crying.

SARA  
He was in the garage. How did he  
get in the garage?

JJ  
The door was open when I got here,  
remember? That's how I got in.

SARA  
Shit.

JJ  
You must have locked him in when  
you closed it.  
(beat)  
Why didn't he just come through the  
door and up the stairs?

SARA  
He likes to play games. Maybe he  
just didn't think to try it. Who  
knows?

JJ  
What do you mean 'play games'?

SARA  
When he had me and my parents tied  
up he... he went around us all to  
see who would scream the most.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA (CONT'D)

And I was the one that screamed the most, so he focused on hurting them to get the most out of hearing me scream for him to stop. He's a fucking sadist who feeds on fear.

JJ

Oh God.

(beat)

There's no way we can stay here all night, we need to find a way out.

SARA

We could run out of the front door, but he'd be right behind us, and I'm guessing he's a lot faster than either of us.

JJ

But surely he'll get bored of waiting down there if we're not there to play his game and he'll break in anyway.

SARA

That's why we lock ourselves in a room.

JJ

So we're just hoping for the best?

SARA

I've really got no better plan right now for getting the both of us out of here.

JJ

Well, what's to stop him just breaking through the door if he does get in?

SARA

The bed.

JJ

That won't hold him back, so what's the point?

SARA

So, should I move it?

JJ

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
Then stop complaining.

JJ  
Stop yelling at me.

Sara tries to comfort JJ.

SARA  
Look, I'm sorry, but you're not thinking rationally right now, and I'm trying to think of a way to get us out of here, and in order to do that I need to make us as safe as I can so I can think properly. Okay?

JJ  
Okay.

Sara hugs JJ. She calms down a little... then the phone RINGS and JJ loses it again. Sara picks up the phone.

SARA  
What?

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Seems you've got a lot of fight in you these days.

SARA  
Yeah well, you know, a girl's gotta know how to handle herself these days. There's a lot of psycho's out there with penis problems.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Ooh, such a potty mouth. Did your mother teach you to talk like that?

SARA  
How dare you?

CYRUS (V.O.)  
What, too soon?

Cyrus chuckles.

CYRUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Look, why don't you just come downstairs, open the door and we'll sort this whole thing out?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

The only thing that's getting sorted out is you, when I get my hands around your throat.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Ooh, sounds scary.

JJ

Sara, don't antagonize him.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Yeah Sara, don't antagonize him. You never know what he might do.

SARA

I know what you'll do, but first I have to give you the chance, and I'm not about to.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Do you really think you are in control here? I can get in there any time I want. I just don't want to make a mess, like last time. Do you remember last time? I do. Tell me, how long did it take to clean up after your parents? Or should I say, how long did it take to clean up your parents?

Cyrus laughs down the phone. Sara hangs up and looks around for something.

JJ

We need to call someone and get as far away from here as possible.

SARA

JJ, I've told you, we can't risk someone else's life just to try and escape, if you can think of a way that will guarantee our get away then fine, we can call someone, but until then I'm not putting anyone else's life in danger.

JJ

What if we sneak outside and hide by the bushes and have someone drive by, pick us up and drive off.

Sara stops and thinks a beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
It's too risky.

JJ  
Why?

SARA  
Because he might find us.

JJ  
We could be really quiet. He won't even know we've left the house.

SARA  
You don't know how long it's gonna take them to get here.

JJ  
Then maybe we could have them pull right up to the door and reverse away.

SARA  
No, it's not safe. He could shoot right through the windscreen.

JJ  
But we have to do something.

SARA  
Look, the car's dead and I don't have a bike, so other than waiting here for the police to return to the station and see that no one is there and come looking for the car, I have nothing, but if you think you do then please, let me know.

JJ waits a while before speaking again.

JJ  
Well, yours might be dead but, what about the cops' car?

Sara looks up with hope. She moves the bed from behind the door and exits. JJ follows her.

INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM

Sara enters without turning on the light and walks over to the window. JJ follows her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We can see it her parents' old bedroom, untouched. Sara looks out of the window and sees Cyrus pushing the police car away from the house.

SARA

Damn it.

JJ

Why is he pushing it away, why doesn't he just take out the battery like he did with yours?

SARA

Probably afraid of setting off some alarm within the cars system and sending back up.

JJ

But it's close enough, I mean we can get to it, right?

SARA

If we can get the keys, which are probably in the car.

JJ

If they're in the car, why doesn't he just drive it away?

SARA

Yeah. The cop must have taken them when he got out so's not to let him escape in it.

JJ

So the keys are on the dead body? Outside. With him?

SARA

Exactly.

JJ

Shit.

SARA

We're gonna need another weapon.

JJ

What about the cops 'baton thingy'?

SARA

Also outside with him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Damn.

(beat)

Sara, when we went into the garage,  
did you lock the side door?

SARA

No.

JJ

And, the garage door is still open  
right, so, he could get in.

SARA

Shit.

Sara flees from the room.

INT. FOYER

Sara runs down the stairs and into the...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara runs to the garage door and opens it.

INT. GARAGE

Sara places her hand on the door switch and pauses a beat.  
She watches Cyrus push the car away from the house in the  
distance as she thinks something over. JJ appears by her  
side.

JJ

What are you doing? Close it.

SARA

We need a weapon.

JJ

What? No, just close the door and  
get back upstairs.

SARA

And wait unarmed until morning?

JJ

You'll get us both killed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

If I can get the baton I can get the keys too, if I get the keys we just need to hurt him enough to get a small head start and get up to the car.

JJ thinks it over until she sees something outside of the garage and suddenly looks scared.

JJ

Too late, he's coming.

Sara watches Cyrus running towards the garage then PRESSES the button. The door closes quick enough, but he almost slides under the bottom before it hits the ground.

Sara stands still a beat before...

CYRUS (O.S.)

Sara!

JJ hides behind Sara as Cyrus taunts the pair from the other side of the door.

CYRUS (MUFFLED) (CONT'D)

Saaaraaa!

JJ pulls Sara inside the house and closes the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara locks the door and JJ snaps at her.

JJ

What were you thinking?

SARA

If I could have gotten around without him seeing me then we could get what we needed and get one step closer to getting out of here.

JJ

But he was at the front of the house. Step on one stone an he'd be all over you.

SARA

I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
You'd be dead and I'd be dead too.

SARA  
I was desperate. And you want to get out of here just as much as I do. Right?

JJ  
More so, I think.

SARA  
Then one of us might have to take a risk in order to make that happen.

JJ  
Not that kind of risk, we don't.

SARA  
Well, it's either do something risky, or barricade ourselves inside until help arrives.

JJ  
Or call someone for help.

SARA  
God damn it, JJ. I've told you, I'm not about to risk someone else's life.

JJ  
But you will risk mine though, right?

SARA  
What?

JJ  
You're willing to risk my life by not calling anyone else for help. You're willing to risk me dying rather than call someone bigger and stronger, who can handle themselves better against him than either me or you can. Right?

SARA  
I'm not talking about this.

Sara walks away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Why not?

Sara turns back.

SARA

I'm just not.

The phone rings again and Sara answers immediately.

SARA (CONT'D)

Yes?

CYRUS (V.O.)

I've been thinking about that long, shiny hair of yours and how much fun it was to run my fingers through it. I can't wait to do it again.

SARA

You're not going to scare me. I'm not the same fifteen-year-old girl I was back then.

CYRUS (V.O.)

No, you're a woman now, and that's much more fun.

SARA

This game is old already.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Then why are you still playing?

SARA

The only game I'm interested in playing is baseball, but I don't have a ball so how about you lend me your head?

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh, I can lend you some balls, but that attitude of yours tells me you're less of a baseball girl and more of a softball girl, if you know what I mean.

SARA

Jesus Christ.

JJ

So you and JJ, are you-- ya know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

What, like you and your cell-mate?  
No.

Sara hangs up.

JJ

I should have bought a taser when I  
had the chance.

(beat)

Hey, he'll be expecting us to go  
out of the front, right?

SARA

Probably.

JJ

So why don't we go quietly out the  
back. Down the garden, over the  
fence and make a break for it over  
the fields? He won't be able to  
see us.

SARA

And we won't be able to see where  
we're going. And when we don't  
answer the phone he'll just break  
in, see we're gone and come looking  
for us. It's two miles to town,  
we'd need a good ten minutes to get  
there, which means at least a five  
minute head start.

JJ

Maybe you could keep him on the  
phone while I go get help.

SARA

JJ, he--

The PHONE RINGS again. Sara answers it straight away.

SARA (CONT'D)

What the fuck do you want?

CYRUS (V.O.)

Well that's rude. I could have  
been anyone. Is that really a  
polite way to answer the phone?

SARA

Of course it's you, who else?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (V.O.)

Ah, so you knew it was me again and still answered. My my, I think you might be getting a thing for me, Sara.

SARA

Yeah, it's called a pain in my ass.

CYRUS (V.O.)

I can be a pain anywhere you want, little lady.

SARA

No, you can't, you don't have the balls for the job. That's why you use a knife, to make up for where you're lacking as a man.

Cyrus chokes a little then speaks.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh, I'm pretty sure I gave your mother more than she could handle. You should know, you were there.

SARA

The only thing you can do is go after weaker people. People you see as being helpless--

CYRUS (V.O.)

Oh I remember your daddy putting up quite the fight... at first.

SARA

You can only go after people you see as being an easy target because deep down inside you know that you're weak.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Quite the psychology major, I see.

SARA

You can't handle the face-to-face interactions it takes to be a regular person, so you wave a weapon because you know no matter how many push ups you do, you'll never be what a woman wants and you'll always be alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Well, aren't we little Miss Freud.  
Did you learn all that online or  
have you actually left the house  
since I was last here?

SARA  
I'm not afraid of you.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Sure you're not, that's why you  
worked so hard to keep me out of  
the house. Why you called the  
police as soon as you knew it was  
me on the phone.

SARA  
That's called smarts.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
It's called being afraid.

SARA  
Why don't you drop that knife and  
that gun and we'll see who's afraid  
of who.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
I believe it's 'whom'.

SARA  
Detracting from the topic, just  
like the coward you are.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Oh Sara, Sara. You really have  
become such a bore.

CLICK! Cyrus hangs up.

SARA  
Hello?

JJ  
What's wrong?

SARA  
He hung up.

JJ  
Well, good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

No he hung up. That means I was getting to him.

JJ

How do you know?

SARA

Because I was psycho-analyzing him. I bet he heard that same thing over and over in prison.

JJ

Does that mean you were right?

SARA

It means he doesn't like being talked to that way. He can't handle a real conversation, that's why he hung up.

JJ

What if he calls back?

SARA

We'll just do the same thing and piss him off.

JJ

Won't that just cause him to do something drastic?

Sara thinks.

SARA

I don't know.

(beat)

We need that weapon, we have to get it.

JJ

But you said it yourself, he has a gun, we can't possibly go out there.

SARA

Not if one of us keeps him busy.

JJ

Busy how?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

I don't know yet, but as long as we can hear where he is then we can keep far enough away from him.

JJ

Well, until we have a plan let's get back upstairs before he comes back.

JJ grabs Sara's hand and leads her to the stairs.

INT. BEDROOM

Sara and JJ enter and put the bed back behind the door.

JJ

How come you didn't recognise his voice on the phone when he first called?

SARA

He never really spoke. Just the occasional whisper and laugh to himself.

JJ

Didn't he speak at the trial?

SARA

Yeah, but only to say 'No comment' and laugh some more.

JJ

What was it like? You know...

SARA

To see my parents murdered in front of me?

JJ shrugs her shoulders.

SARA (CONT'D)

The worst thing a child could witness. Parents are supposed to be the shields that protect us from the dangers of the world, and mine were strapped to chairs, helpless to help themselves, let alone me. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
How did you get away?

SARA  
My mom was made to tie me to the chair, but she did it in such a way that made it look secure but had a flaw that I could exploit.

JJ  
How?

Sara demonstrates on her own hand.

SARA  
Your wrist is thinner than it is wide, so you tie it widest side up, then twist your wrist to loosen the wrap to slip out of it.

JJ  
Huh. Clever.

SARA  
Yeah.

The phone rings and both girls stop and look towards the phone.

JJ  
So much for not calling back.

Sara answers the call.

SARA  
Yes.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Oh, hi Sara, is JJ there please?

SARA  
What do you want?

CYRUS (V.O.)  
JJ please.

SARA  
(covering the receiver, to JJ)  
He wants you.

JJ looks terrified and shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
No, no way.

SARA  
He's outside, he can't hurt you  
with words.

JJ  
I don't care, I don't wanna talk to  
that creep.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
I'm waiting.

Sara's eyes light up as she gets an idea.

SARA  
Listen, keep him on the phone, I've  
got a plan.

JJ  
What plan?

SARA  
There's no time, just keep him on  
the phone as long as you can and  
I'll be right back, I promise.

Sara forces the phone into JJ's hands then rushes out of the  
room. JJ swallows and lifts the phone slowly to her ear.

JJ  
Hello?

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Ah JJ, just the cutey with the  
booty I wanted.

JJ wipes away a tear and tries not to make a sound.

EXT. HOUSE/DOOR

Sara looks left and right making sure the scene is safe then  
carefully and quietly opens the door. She sticks her head  
out and takes another look around, then places her back  
against the wall and begins to creep to the edge of the  
house.

INT. FOYER

JJ is standing at the bottom of the stairs biting her nails as she listens to Cyrus on the phone.

CYRUS (V.O.)

I'll be honest with you JJ, you're not really my type. I mean sure, you do have a really nice ass on you but, you just don't do it for me like she does.

JJ

Okay.

EXT. HOUSE

Sara quietly makes her way to the corner of the house and peeks around it: It's clear. She makes her way carefully down to the back of the house... she looks around the corner to see...

CYRUS'S BACK to her, so close that if she breathes he'll hear her.

CYRUS

(on the phone)

Anyway, that's why I called...

Cyrus trails off as Sara quickly but quietly doubles back on herself.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ paces around the kitchen as Cyrus taunts her on the phone.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Being as it's not you that I want I have a proposition for you.

JJ

What kind of proposition?

CYRUS (V.O.)

The kind that could ensure your safety. You wanna walk away from here in one piece, right?

JJ tries to hold back her tears but a few break out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
What do you want?

CYRUS (V.O.)  
If you want to live, then all you  
have to do is unlock a door for me,  
or a window, and let me inside  
without her knowing.

EXT. HOUSE

The dead cops body lays still. Sara appears around the corner. She sees the body and pauses a beat before looking around and making towards it.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ seems a little calmer.

JJ  
I won't do that, not to my best  
friend.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Do you think she'd do the same for  
you?

JJ  
Yes, no question, she'd never leave  
me to save herself.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Are you sure? Are you sure she  
wouldn't just run away and leave  
you to take the pain?

JJ' eye widen as she realizes Sara left her alone.

CYRUS (CONT'D)  
That's what she did with her  
mother. She escaped death once,  
you think she wants to have to  
chance it again?

EXT. HOUSE

Sara carefully rolls the cop onto his back and un-clips his baton from his belt and places it at her side and begins searching his bloodied body for the car keys.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ seems suddenly more nervous than before.

CYRUS (V.O.)

Listen, I'll get in there either way before Sun up, I'm just giving you the chance to save yourself, whether you choose to do so or not is up to you. So, what's it gonna be?

JJ looks towards the front door. Considering giving Sara up?

EXT. HOUSE

Sara finally finds the keys. She picks up the baton and turns back for the front door. She takes a few quick steps back towards safety when...

THE DEAD COPS' RADIO GOES OFF.

Sara turns sharply back to it. Seeing an opportunity to get help she takes a couple of steps towards it when suddenly...

CYRUS APPEARS BEHIND THE DEAD BODY.

Sara turns back and RUNS for the door. Cyrus gives chase. Sara disappears around the corner of the house.

Cyrus closes in fast. He runs to the corner and turns to look for Sara only to be met with A SMASH TO THE FACE from the police baton held by her.

Cyrus falls to the floor like a sack of bricks and Sara runs back into the house, locking the door behind her.

INT. KITCHEN

Sara enters and JJ stands.

SARA

Okay, I got the keys, we just need to hold out a little until he is far enough away from the front door to make a break for it.

JJ

For how long?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
I don't know.

JJ  
So, we could be here all night?

Sara stands against the wall and looks out the window.

SARA  
No, he won't wait that long.

JJ  
If you have the keys, why didn't  
you just drive away?

SARA  
Because I wouldn't do that to you.  
How can you even ask that?

JJ  
Sorry, I'm just emotional.

SARA  
Okay.

JJ  
Wait, do you have an alarm? Maybe  
we could break a window and set it  
off and get help that way?

SARA  
The alarm is broken, it's being  
fixed tomorrow.

JJ  
Do you think we'll make it?

SARA  
At least one of us will.

JJ  
What do you mean, one?

SARA  
If one of us is done for the other  
can make a run for it.

JJ  
You're gonna leave me?

SARA  
No, I just said I wouldn't when I  
could have.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ  
Yeah, but you just said--

SARA  
Look, if one of us is-- look, say one of us gets stabbed in the heart, it's pretty clear that person isn't going to live, so while that is happening the other can make a break for it.

JJ  
(an emotional mess)  
Please don't leave me.

SARA  
I won't.

JJ  
But you just said--

SARA  
That's a last resort outcome only. Think of it as me giving you permission to run if I get hurt... Just like my mother did me. Okay? I'm not just gonna leave you the second I see a chance to run.

JJ  
But you have the car keys.

Sara thinks for a beat then takes out the keys and puts them in JJ's hands.

SARA  
Here, you take them, just keep them in your pocket and don't lose them, whatever you do, okay?

JJ  
Okay.

JJ puts the keys in her pocket and Sara rubs JJ's shoulders to comfort her.

SARA  
What did he want?

JJ  
Who?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

On the phone.

JJ

Oh.

(quick beat)

Just, wanted to talk about my ass  
and what he'd like to do to it.  
Usual creep stuff.

SARA

You did good.

JJ

(with hint of a smile)

Thanks.

(beat)

Do you think he's not breaking in  
because of the alarm?

SARA

What do you mean?

JJ

Well, he doesn't know it's broken  
right? So, is he not breaking in  
to keep the police away?

SARA

He might have been, but now he's  
killed one so I'm not sure how much  
longer he'll stay outside.

JJ

God, I wish I hadn't had so much to  
drink.

Sara smiles.

JJ (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something?

SARA

Sure.

JJ

Why do you stay here? I mean, if  
your parents were murdered here  
then, why would you wanna stay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Because this is where I've always lived. It's where I have all my best memories.

JJ

And worst.

SARA

Yeah, but, I'm not gonna let him drive me away, otherwise he wins.

A beat of silence.

JJ

Do you think we could set a trap?

SARA

Like what?

JJ

I don't know, some kind of sledgehammer above the door type thing, like in Freddy one.

SARA

I wouldn't know how to put it together.

JJ

What about a trip wire or something? Just let him in the door somehow without it appearing obvious and lure him in to something deadly?

SARA

Do you have a trap in mind?

JJ

No but, I'm not the creative type, that's your job.

Suddenly A LOUD KNOCKING from the front door. Cyrus speaks from behind it.

CYRUS (MUFFLED)

JJ, come out and play.

JJ covers her mouth with both hands and holds back tears. Sara comforts her with an arm for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Ignore him. He can't get you in here and he can't get to you unless you let him.

JJ

I should have just gone home. I wish I'd never come here.

SARA

Hey, coming here you saved my life. Remember that.

JJ

What?

SARA

If you hadn't have come here I wouldn't have stayed up, or answered the phone. He'd have gotten bored, broken in and most likely, killed me in my bed. You being here kept me awake and helped me think about my surroundings. You gave me someone to take care of, too. I think that's why my Mom held in for so long. She had me to think of, because she knew, once he was done with her, it was my turn. And she was gonna hang in for every last second she could until I could get to safety.

JJ

So it's true?

SARA

What's true?

JJ

That you just left your Mom to die?

SARA

I didn't just leave her to die, she told me to go and get as far away as I could, and I--, wait, how do you know that?

JJ

He told me. On the phone. He said you left your Mom to die and that you'd leave me to die too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
I thought he just wanted to talk  
about your ass.

JJ  
Not just. There was other stuff.  
Well, just that.

SARA  
My Mom wanted me to go and I wasn't  
strong enough to stay. You don't  
want me to go and I am strong  
enough to stay. Understand?

JJ no longer seems as trusting in Sara.

JJ  
Okay.

SARA  
JJ, I promise, I'm not going  
anywhere.

JJ  
Okay.

SARA  
Okay?

JJ  
Okay.

Sara looks out of the window and thinks a beat.

SARA  
JJ.

JJ  
What?

SARA  
Maybe you're right.

JJ  
About what?

SARA  
Your escape idea.

JJ  
Going over the back?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

Yeah, but not quite. I think I have it.

JJ

What?

SARA

We open the back door and throw something heavy at the fence, he hears it and goes to check it out, he sees the back door is open and thinks we made a break for it. He heads after us over the fence, and we sneak out of the front door, into the cop car and drive away.

JJ

You think that would work?

SARA

Yeah, I think it could.

JJ

Could? Okay.

SARA

Shall we give it a try?

JJ

Sure.

SARA

Okay, we'll turn off all the lights and hide in the cubby by the front door. Okay?

JJ

Sure.

SARA

Okay. Let me just go to the bathroom, and we'll go.

JJ

Alright.

SARA

Back soon.

Sara exits leaving JJ alone. After a few seconds Cyrus speaks from somewhere outside the house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (O.C.)  
I heard that.

JJ looks towards the window to see as Cyrus pins himself against the frosted glass to reveal his silhouette. She backs up against the wall, phone in hand, and quietly sobs to herself. Cyrus scrapes a knife down the glass slowly and JJ covers her teeth gritted mouth and backs into another room via an open doorway.

INT. LANDING

We hear the toilet flush.

INT. BATHROOM

Sara washes her hands in the sink and dries them.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ looks at the phone sitting on the table, grabs it and hits \*69.

EXT. HOUSE

Cyrus' phone lights up in his hand. He picks up.

CYRUS (V.O.)  
Hello?

INT. LANDING

Sara exits the bathroom, heads for the stairs but pauses then goes too...

INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM

Sara grabs a picture of her parents from the bedside table, pockets it and leaves.

INT. HALLWAY

Sara quietly makes her way downstairs and turns into the...

INT. KITCHEN

Sara appears in the doorway and FREEZES in fear as she sees CYRUS standing behind JJ with a KNIFE to her throat. Cyrus pulls his other hand from behind his back revealing the cops' gun.

CYRUS

Hi Sara. Why don't you come in and take a seat? Just like old times.

SARA

What the hell do you want?

CYRUS

You, to take a seat.

Cyrus pulls the knife closer to JJ's throat. JJ closes her eyes and grits her teeth a beat expecting to be cut.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now.

Sara sits.

JJ

Sara, please, just do what he says.

SARA

How did you get in?

CYRUS

JJ, you wanna fill her in?

Sara looks to JJ with confusion.

JJ

I'm sorry Sara, he just kind of slipped in somehow...

CYRUS

Oh, now that's not true, is it JJ? Come on, we're all friends here, you can tell the truth, she won't be mad, I'm sure.

SARA

JJ?

JJ

Well, I don't know, I mean...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

Oh, come on, JJ, don't you wanna tell her about our secret phone conversation where you agreed to...

SARA

What?

JJ

He called me earlier and said he'd let me go if...

SARA

You let him in?

JJ

Sara, I...

SARA

How could you?

JJ

Sara, I'm sorry, I was just scared and I thought I could get help from somewhere if he let me go and--

SARA

You really thought he was going to let you go, you stupid bitch?

JJ

Sara, please, I'm sorry. Don't be mad at me.

CYRUS

Yeah Sara, don't be mad at her, survival is a very primal instinct. It's what connects us all. Now how about we stop this melodramatic bullshit and you sit down?

Cyrus rests his gun on JJ's shoulder. Sara stands a beat in defiance then Cyrus cocks the gun.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now.

JJ

Please Sara, just do what he says.

SARA

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

Sara he's going to kill us if you don't.

CYRUS

Yeah Sara. He's going to kill you if you don't do as he says.

Sara makes two fists.

SARA

He's gonna kill us anyway.

JJ

Sara, just sit down.

SARA

If I surrender he'll have both of us.

CYRUS

Surrender? Come on, it's not like I don't already have you exactly where I want you.

SARA

Not exactly. Not yet.

JJ

Sara, please.

Sara doesn't take her eyes off of Cyrus.

SARA

JJ, shut up.

CYRUS

Oh, so rude.

Cyrus sees Sara's front foot seems to be moving back and forth a little like she's gonna do something.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Really, Sara? My knife is against your friends throat and you think charging at me will save her?

SARA

It's not about saving her, it's about killing you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

Hear that JJ? It's not about helping you but helping herself.

JJ cries.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Yet she tells you off for trying to help yourself.

SARA

What do you want?

CYRUS

Oh, come on, you know the answer to that question. I had such a good time last time I was here that, I just had to come again. Now, I gotta be honest with you, I had no idea you were gonna have a friend over, I had something entirely different in mind... but knowing I get to play a game just fills me with the warm and fuzzies.

SARA

We're not playing your game.

CYRUS

Not yet, but I'm sure you know where this is going, and how I'm a man of my word and if you don't do as I say, then both of you will die.

Cyrus points the gun directly at Sara's stomach.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Sit, or it's a shot to the gut.

Sara pulls out a chair far from the table and sits down.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

There's a good girl.

Cyrus pockets the gun.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now we can get started.

Cyrus removes the blade from JJ's throat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

What do you want from me?

CYRUS

Well, for starters I'd like some duct tape, how does that sound?

JJ

What do you want... oh no. No, no, no, no...

JJ starts to sob.

CYRUS

Oh, come on, it's not that bad.

JJ

I don't wanna be tied to a chair.

Cyrus searches through a draw for tape.

CYRUS

Not tied, taped.

JJ

I don't care, it's the same thing.

CYRUS

No, it's not.

JJ

Sara, help me.

CYRUS

What, like you tried to help yourself? Oh no, Sara's way past helping you, I think.

JJ

Sara, I'm sorry, please, I don't wanna be stuck to a chair.

CYRUS

If it helps, think of it like this, it Sara makes a break for it, I don't have to cut your throat in order to give chase. Okay?

JJ

(crying)  
Oh God.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS  
There ain't no such thing honey.

SARA  
Draw on your right.

JJ  
Sara!

CYRUS  
Why thank you, pretty and polite,  
whaddaya know?

Cyrus pulls out the tape and forces JJ into a chair opposite Sara and stretches the tape out. He looks at Sara watching.

CYRUS (CONT'D)  
You know what? Why should I have  
all the fun? Sara, come and tape  
your friend up.

JJ  
Oh God.

SARA  
No.

Cyrus takes out his gun and fingers it.

CYRUS  
Yes.

Sara stands slowly and walks around to JJ, avoiding passing Cyrus along the way. She opens the tape and grabs JJ's wrist.

JJ  
Sara, what are you doing?

SARA  
(quietly, angry)  
Shut up and trust me.

CYRUS  
Yeah JJ, trust her.

Sara positions JJ's fists thumb side up and pulls the sleeve of her shirt down to then begins wrapping the tape over it and securing her wrists to the arms of the chair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Trust Sara the way she trusted you before you opened up the door to let in the guy who butchered her daddy in front of her, just so you could get away scott-free.

JJ holds back tears and whispers to Sara.

JJ

I'm so sorry.

Sara begins wrapping JJ's second wrist the same way as the first.

CYRUS

Such a good girl, Sara, always so willing to help please others, bringing joy into their lives without even trying. Brightening the lives of others just by being around.

Sara finishes taping JJ's other wrist.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

That's it, teamwork. Again. Doesn't it feel good?

Cyrus motions his gun for Sara to back up and sit down. She does.

SARA

What the hell do you want from me?

CYRUS

What do you think?

SARA

You already took everyone closest to me. What else could you possibly get from me?

CYRUS

Well, according to you, I just want to make myself feel better by going after someone I think I can take.

Sara looks like she regrets analyzing him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

According to you, I just want to make myself feel more like a man by using a knife where I can't use... anything else. Right?

Sara stays silent.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

But we both know what I really want, don't we?

Cyrus leans in behind JJ and speaks right next to her ear.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I wanna play a game.

JJ holds back from sobbing aloud but tears stream down her face.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Now, like last time there are three choices, number one we--

JJ

Wait, what? What do you mean?

CYRUS

Oh yeah, Sara probably never told about that night and how things really went down, did she? Tell me, JJ, what do you know about it?

JJ

I just know that you knocked on the door, killed Sara's dad and then her mom.

CYRUS

Really, is that all?

JJ

She doesn't like to talk about it.

CYRUS

Really? Well, I can imagine. I doubt I'd feel too comfortable telling people that I'd killed my own mother in order to save my own skin, either.

JJ

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ looks at Sara in disbelief. Sara doesn't look away from Cyrus.

CYRUS

Oh yeah, see, I might have crashed the party and laid the ground rules, but it was Sara that chose to play.

JJ looks back and forth between Sara and Cyrus.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

With Sara and her mother, I put a knife in the middle of the table, and told them that one would have to kill the other in order to survive, and that if they chose not to play, that I'd shoot them both. And being a man of my word, Sara is still alive.

JJ

Sara.

CYRUS

You see, I'm not just a pain and pleasure kinda guy, I want to know that the person is still hurting long after it's all over. So the deal is, one kills the other, or I kill you both. It's that simple. And Sara here, well Sara was actually the only one who ever went through with it. None of the others did.

JJ

(to Sara)

How could you?

SARA

She told me to do it, my mother. She told me it was her or both of us and either way she was dead.

CYRUS

What an excuse.

SARA

She begged me to do it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS

I've got a feeling that JJ isn't the type to sacrifice herself, and we all know that Sara is willing to do whatever it takes to survive, so, this time the game will be a little different. I will strap Sara to her chair then whomever gets free of their binds first gets to kill the other one and live to see another day.

JJ breathes in heavy and fast, like she's ready for it.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Sound fair?

Cyrus approaches Sara gently.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

You know what to do.

Cyrus is right next to her.

SARA

Yeah, I do.

Sara grabs the KETTLE and WHACKS him around the head with it and runs around the other side of the table.

Cyrus goes after her from the other direction, Sara knocks over a stool and Cyrus trips over it sending him over.

JJ

(yelling after Sara)

Sara, where are you going? Don't leave me.

INT. HALLWAY

Sara runs to the front door and unlocks the door, she takes out the keys and opens it to run when ...

Cyrus' hands SLAMS it shut with one hand and bangs Sara's head up against it with the other. She knees him in the balls and grabs a nearby lamp, SMASHING it over his head and breaking his grip. She runs up the stairs.

## INT. LANDING

Cyrus gives chase and Sara pulls a picture frame off of the wall and throws it down onto Cyrus' head and he slips back down a few steps, it smashes all over the place.

Sara grabs a small ornament from the window-sill at the top of the stairs and throws it at him... Cyrus CATCHES it and throws it back, hitting Sara in the head. She clutches her head and blood trickles out through her fingers and down her forearm.

Sara throws one last picture frame at Cyrus, hitting him in the face and knocking him over, then runs into her bedroom.

## INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Sara closes the door and pushes her bed up against the back of the door. As soon as it's safely in place there is a massive THUD sound against it as Cyrus charges at it from the other side.

Sara holds the bed in place as she looks around the room for a weapon. Cyrus continues to kick and punch against the door.

Sara runs over to the window and opens it. She looks down. It's a long way.

CRASH! Sara looks back at the door to see a LARGE CRACK now appears across the wooden door as Cyrus has put enough force into it to break it a little.

Sara puts one foot onto the window-sill then looks back into the room.

## EXT. LANDING

Cyrus takes a run up and puts all his weight into charging against the door. It BREAKS and he climbs into the room.

## INT. SARA'S BEDROOM

Cyrus climbs in over the back of the bed. He sees the window is open and runs over to it. He looks down.

Sara rolls out from under the bed and takes aim at Cyrus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cyrus turns around just in time to see Sara charging at him. She KNOCKS into him full force and sends him flying out of the upstairs window.

Sara looks out and sees him land hard on his back. He moves a second then stops. Dead? ... His leg moves.

Sara runs to the door and climbs out over the broken wood.

INT. LANDING

Sara jumps out of her room and runs straight into...

INT. BATHROOM

Sara runs in and ELBOWS the vanity mirror, smashing it into large and small pieces. She looks around for something, she sees a small towel and wraps it around her hand and picks up a LARGE KNIFE-LIKE shaped piece of mirror and exits the room.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ is crying and pulling at her binds. We hear Sara's footsteps as she runs down the stairs. JJ stops crying at the sound and calls in fear.

JJ  
Oh my God, no!

Sara appears and JJ instantly seems a little calmer. Sara goes straight for the window and looks out.

JJ (CONT'D)  
Oh God, Sara, help me, please!

Sara sees Cyrus struggling to roll himself over. She runs over to the door and UNLOCKS it.

SARA  
Flatten your hand and pull.

JJ  
What? Sara, please, I'm sorry.

Sara exits the kitchen door and storms out like Ripley from 'Alien' on a mission.

EXT. BACK OF HOUSE

Sara charges out the back door and down the steps to look for Cyrus ... only to find Cyrus MISSING from where he landed.

SARA

Shit.

She takes a 360 look around but doesn't see anything until...

INT. KITCHEN

JJ flattens her hand and pulls it. It gives way a little. She pulls at it harder and frees a hand. She pulls at the other hand.

EXT. HOUSE

Sara creeps quietly through the shadows in search of Cyrus when a NOISE sounds. She turns to see CYRUS CHARGING HER.

Cyrus knocks into Sara like a pro-Footballer and knocks them both over to the ground. Sara rolls back onto her feet and KICKS the crouching Cyrus in the face then runs around the other side of the house. Cyrus gets up and gives chase.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ frees herself and runs quickly EXITS.

INT. HALLWAY

JJ runs to the front door and LOCKS it. Just as she finishes SARA appears at the glass.

SARA

JJ, let me in.

JJ

No, you left me, and he only wants you.

SARA

JJ, he'll kill us both, now open the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JJ

No, he just wants you, and you wouldn't call for help, so it's your fault.

SARA

JJ, you have the phone now. If you wanna call someone you can, just let me--

Sara is cut off by the sound of Cyrus creeping up on her.

CYRUS

Come here, you little bitch.

SARA

JJ.

JJ

I'm sorry.

Cyrus SLAMS Sara up against the door. JJ sees and backs up away from it. Cyrus grabs Sara's hair and BANGS her head against the glass. JJ runs back into the kitchen.

Sara pushes an arm against Cyrus' throat and SCRAPES her glass blade across his face, cutting him deep. He loses his grip a little and Sara HEAD-BUTTS him, knocking him back. She breaks free and runs back around the side of the house.

INT. KITCHEN

JJ is looking at the phone when she hears something outside. She looks out of the blinds to see Sara running to hide.

JJ pulls the keys from her pocket. She looks as if she has an idea and looks towards the front door.

EXT. HOUSE

Sara slips into the shadows and Cyrus appears on scene to look for her.

CYRUS

You can't hide from me forever, you know. You have to come out sometime.

Sara watches him from the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Face it, you have no one now. Your mother's gone, your Daddy's gone, now JJ doesn't want you for betraying her and tying her up like that, and then leaving her strapped to that chair to be left alone with me. I'm all you have now, Sara. So how about you come out and we finish this. I can reunite you with your parents and this can have a happy ending?

INT. COP CAR

The door opens and JJ enters, she sticks the keys in the ignition and turns it. The radio goes off.

RADIO VOICE

Car-jacking in progress on First and Jackson. Available officers please respond.

JJ grabs the police radio and speaks into it.

JJ

Hello, is anybody there? Please, we need help.

EXT. BACK YARD

Sara slowly makes her way through the darkest areas in the yard so's not to be seen by Cyrus, whom we can HEAR in the background.

CYRUS

I can still remember your mom screaming in pain through her gag as I sliced across her shoulder blades, and how your daddy could only sit there, bleeding out.

A tear rolls down Sara's face as she slowly approaches Cyrus from behind.

EXT. HOUSE

A pair of hands search the dead cops' pockets. His uniform is open and we can see a white t-shirt under it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (O.C.)

Do you ever wonder, what might have  
been if you'd just taken the risk  
and come at me with the knife  
instead?

Success. Something, hidden by shadows, is pulled from one of  
the pockets.

EXT. BACK YARD

Sara picks up a potted plant. Cyrus stands waiting for an  
answer under the back light.

CYRUS

Well? Don't you have anything to  
say?

Sara appears behind Cyrus, plant pot held high.

SARA

Yeah.

Cyrus turns and Sara brings the pot down hard on his face,  
KNOCKING him down.

SARA (CONT'D)

Shut the fuck up.

Sara runs towards the bottom of the garden. Cyrus stands,  
yells and gives chase after her.

Sara gets to the fence at the end of the yard and tries to  
climb it. She gets about 70% of the way before Cyrus catches  
up to her. He grabs her by the legs and pulls her back down  
and SWEEPS her to the ground. He mounts himself over her,  
grabs her wrist and SMASHES her glass weapon against the  
ground. It breaks.

CYRUS

More fight in you than your mother,  
that's for sure.

Sara struggles and Cyrus punches her in the face.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I'm sure you know already, but God,  
do you ever look like her. I gotta  
say, I was surprised when you  
actually stepped up to the plate  
and stuck that knife in her.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I was actually looking forward to gutting her, but, oh well, can't have them all.

Sara tries to get herself up and Cyrus grabs her wrists and leans his weight forward over her.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Don't bother, it's no use.

Sara lifts her hips to try and get Cyrus off, but he just sits down hard on her, pinning her back to the floor.

SARA

You're a psychopath.

CYRUS

Ha! No shit. Well, it's been nice torturing you again. I'd love to do it again sometime but, sad to say, this is the part where you die.

Cyrus forces Sara's hands together and sits on them.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Thanks for securing JJ so well, I'm gonna have some fun with her.

Cyrus raises his knife high above his head.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Say hello to your mother.

BANG! A gun shot sounds and Cyrus is thrown to the ground revealing JJ, cop gun in hand, standing behind him.

Sara scrambles to her feet and looks down at him a beat. She holds her hands out to JJ for the gun. JJ goes to give it her when Cyrus STANDS and JJ turns back towards him and fires all rounds of the fresh clip into his chest.

Cyrus drops to the floor and JJ continues to squeeze the trigger even after doing so results in 'Clicks' as the chamber becomes empty.

Sara and JJ stand staring at each other not quite sure what to say until JJ breaks the silence.

JJ

I radioed for help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA  
Okay.

JJ  
From the car.

SARA  
Good.

JJ  
With the keys you gave me.

Sara nods.

SARA  
Are you okay?

JJ  
I killed someone.

SARA  
Good.

JJ  
Am I going to hell?

SARA  
You saved me.

JJ  
Really?

SARA  
Again.

JJ looks down at Cyrus. Sara takes the gun from JJ, puts her arm around her and leads her back up the garden towards the house. Their voices slowly fade out as they get further away.

SARA (CONT'D)  
You locked me out.

JJ  
I know. You tied me up.

SARA  
Yeah, I did.

JJ  
Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

To stop him from killing you when I made a break for it.

JJ

You were gonna run all along?

SARA

How else would I get us help?

JJ

Phone?

SARA

Sorry.

MOVE IN SLOWLY ON CYRUS as we hear the girls talking in the background.

JJ

Did you have a plan all along?

SARA

No, I just ran out of options.

JJ

Oh, okay, so that's when you call for help?

SARA

I'm sorry I left you.

JJ

You better be, I think I've shit my pants a little.

Sara laughs.

JJ (CONT'D)

It's not funny, I'm serious. I'm gonna need to borrow some clothes.

Cyrus breathes. He grabs at the front of his prison issue jump suit and RIPS it open to reveal the word POLICE written on the bullet-proof vest.

He sits up 'Boogy-man' style and heads slowly towards the house. The girls can't see what's right behind them as we CRANE SHOT into the air.

We watch Cyrus as he makes his way towards the house as Sara and JJ slowly head to it's safety. They don't notice what is happening behind them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Over the top of the house we see FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS followed by a stream a police cars heading for the house.

The girls enter the back door of the house, but leave it wide open. Cyrus is approaching it. He's almost there...

CUT TO BLACK: