

Hide and Seek

By:

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Inspired by the book:

"A Game of Hide and Seek"

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OVER BLACK WE HEAR A WOMAN'S TERRIFIED BREATHING.

THE SOUND OF HEAVY BOOTS COMING CLOSER, FLOORBOARDS CREAKING.

A MAN HUMS JINGLE BELLS... DERANGED AND OUT OF TUNE.

WOMAN'S POV -- As a black cloth bag is yanked off her head.

Revealing a smiling, almost maniacal SANTA MASK inches away from her face. Plastic bulbous nose, stiff beard, rosy cheeks. The mask is crooked, bent --

The eyes of this CROOKED SANTA dart back and forth from behind his mask, staring at the woman head on. His breathing heavy. Aroused.

The woman looks down. We see her hands are bound with plastic ties, her wrists raw --

Crooked Santa holds a crow bar in one hand, a vodka bottle in the other. The woman tries to focus, but all she hears is his demented voice humming Jingle Bells.

She tries to call for help, but her mouth is taped shut.

All around the woman, blurry, we see other respectable adults -- their arms and legs bound with plastic ties, duct tape over their mouths. They huddle on the floor like animals.

Two other ARMED MEN in similar Santa Masks stand nearby. Surveying the flock.

Suddenly, one of the bound men JOLTS up and LUNGES at Crooked Santa. The woman's vision blurs as Crooked Santa BASHES the bound man with a crow bar, each hit harder and harder, still humming that damn song.

The other men and women writhe, muffled screams all around, as we --

BLACK OUT.

SUPER: TEN HOURS EARLIER

A JOYFUL VERSION OF JINGLE BELLS PLAYS as morning snow sprinkles on a park in some New England town. Children build a lopsided snowman.

In a suburban neighborhood, giant candy canes adorn every light-post.

Storefronts with twinkling Christmas displays open for the day. Passersby rushing past, about to do their last minute shopping.

Snow piles on the sidewalk as a boy and girl slide into their yard on homemade trash can lid sleds. They fall into the snow face first, laughing.

FADE IN:

EXT. ALLIE'S MODEST HOUSE - DAY

Silence. No Christmas decorations -- though the neighbors' lawns are decked out with plastic Nativity scenes and candy cane jungles.

We PUSH in through the window to...

INT. ALLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Walls plastered with band posters surround the massive stereo system.

ALLIE LANGFORD (17) sits with headphones on, lost in music we can't hear. She's pretty, with purple-streaked hair, wearing a Fleetwood Mac T-shirt and old Chucks.

A loud KNOCK on the door jostles her from her trance.

ALLIE

Yeah.

ALLIE'S DAD stands in the doorway, eternally pre-occupied with his Blackberry. He's all business, all the time. The space between them might as well be the Grand Canyon.

ALLIE'S DAD

Packed yet?

ALLIE

Finished last night.

Allie keeps her head low. Her dad checks another message, barely making eye contact --

ALLIE'S DAD

Be nice to see the guys again.
Excited to see Brian?

ALLIE

(deflecting)
Shouldn't we be leaving soon? It's a long drive.

Allie's Dad's Blackberry rings.

ALLIE'S DAD
(on phone)
Rex-- yeah, already on the road.

Allie's Dad turns and walks out of the room. She shuts the door behind him.

After a moment, she pulls out her CELLPHONE. Thumbs through some texts until she finds SAVED MESSAGES.

There must be dozens of them. All from BRIAN.

Her thumb hovers over the delete button, but then she puts the phone down, turning the music back up.

INT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A frantic morning in a bustling household overly decorated for the season. It looks like Hallmark puked in here.

BRIAN MORRISON (17), an All-American jock with blonde hair and blue eyes stands at the counter sifting through a stack of mail. He's nervous, constantly glancing towards the hallway.

BRIAN'S MOM is busy at the stove whipping up eggs, humming Jingle Bells. She's pretty in a plain way.

BRIAN'S MOM
Shane! Eggs!
(without turning, to Brian)
Set the table please.

Brian continues to furiously sift through the stack of mail as his father enters from the hallway. **BRIAN'S DAD** is an overbearing former jock who runs a chain of sporting goods stores. He's intimidating and determined to turn his son into a better version of himself.

BRIAN'S DAD
Smells good--
(to Brian)
Egg whites, right?

Brian finds the large ENVELOPE that he was looking for, RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN written on the front in big block letters.

In one swift motion, he folds it and stuffs it into the back of his pants as he turns to his dad.

BRIAN
It's Christmas Eve.

BRIAN'S DAD
You think USC gives a shit?

Brian's Mom fixes Brian a plate of scrambled egg whites.

BRIAN'S DAD
Eat up.

SHANE MORRISON (15), Brian's skinny younger brother enters, head down, consumed by a game on his portable Nintendo DS.

Brian's Dad shakes his head, unable to hide his disappointment.

BRIAN'S DAD
Time to unplug.

SHANE
What else am I supposed to do in
nowheresville?

BRIAN'S DAD
Enjoy the scenery. Go for a hike.

Shane puts the video game away, then shakes his head and sits at the table. Brian nudges him playfully --

BRIAN
(re: video game)
I'll show you how it's done later.

SHANE
Eat your egg whites, fool.

Brian grabs Shane, playfully wrestling him into a headlock.

INT. TIFFANY'S GARAGE - DAY

Next to a beat-up old car and some rusty tools, two teens make-out. And it's heavy.

When they take a breath, we see a scruffy **ROCKER DUDE** and **TIFFANY REESE** (17). Tiffany is way too sexy for her age. Flowing hair, revealing clothes and way too much make-up.

ROCKER DUDE
Can't you say you're sick?

TIFFANY

Every Christmas my parents like to pretend they're rich like their old college friends. I can't get out of it. Believe me, I've tried.

ROCKER DUDE

But you're gonna be so far away in those mountains--

TIFFANY

(leaning in, teasing)

And who's going to keep me warm?

The Rocker Dude smiles and moves back in for another round when the garage door OPENS with a loud *CLAAANK!!* Standing outside is **TIFFANY'S MOM**. If she didn't look so tired and annoyed, she'd be a beauty. Not hard to tell that she was a former college cheerleader.

TIFFANY'S MOM

Dad's waiting.

TIFFANY

I gotta say goodbye to Johnny.

Tiffany's Mom stands there with a condescending look. In a huff, Tiffany gets up and storms towards the door.

TIFFANY'S MOM

(as Tiffany walks by)

And put a jacket on.

Tiffany keeps walking. Her mom shakes her head and just as the Rocker Dude moves for the door, she closes it right in his face.

EXT. JJ'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY

Pacing on the terrace of a high-rise condo in the heart of downtown Boston is **JJ CHENG** (17), a good-looking Asian kid wearing a private school uniform, flipping through a stack of hundreds while hustling on his Blue-Tooth.

JJ

(on phone)

It's Hova and Kanye at the Garden. Backstage-- I don't care, auction to the highest bidder. I can't, I'm gonna be at one of my properties-- just start the bidding at eight.

JJ snaps off his Blue-tooth as his blonde-haired step-dad **REX MORRIS** (40s), opens the patio door and approaches.

JJ
Yo, Rex--

REX
Making deals?

JJ
Always.

REX
Your mom's almost ready.

JJ
She complaining yet?

REX
For the last hour.

JJ smiles.

JJ
Still glad you married her?

Now Rex smiles.

REX
Can't get rid of me that easy.

SARAH (O.S.)
We going or not?

Enter **SARAH CHENG** (40s). Wrapped in a fur coat and designer duds, she seems a bit distant, but there's warmth somewhere under that ice.

SARAH
One call to dad and we could all be having Christmas dinner in Palm Springs, or Cancun again--

REX
I really want to show our friends the place. It took a lot for your folks to trust me with my first property.

JJ
I dig Rosewood. It's creepy--

SARAH
There's no landline, no cellphone service--

JJ
 (playfully mocking her)
 No butler-- no foot massages while
 you eat caviar and gargle Moet.

Sarah can't help but crack a small smile as Rex leans in and holds her hand.

SARAH
 Let's get this party started then.

Rex gives her a thankful kiss as they head inside.

REX
 This is gonna be great--

EXT. BRIAN'S HOUSE - LATER

In the driveway of their upscale house, the SUV is fully packed for their trip. Brian's Dad and Mom wait by the vehicle, anxious to leave. Shane's in the backseat, secretly playing his Nintendo game when Brian exits --

BRIAN'S DAD
 Lock it up.

Brian turns and makes sure the door's locked before he jumps into the backseat of the SUV.

Brian's Dad pulls out of the driveway while Brian settles in the back seat. He puts his headphones on, then flips through some of his TEXT MESSAGES.

Dozens of SENT MESSAGES but no replies.

All of them to ALLIE.

He swipes to his playlist and a soft, melancholy song begins. It plays over the following...

MONTAGE --

Where we see all the families driving deep into the mountains, snow covered forest for miles...

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - EVENING

The sun sets over the pine trees, casting an orange haze over the freshly falling snow.

After a moment... Allie and her Dad's SEDAN pulls into view, moving slowly as it struggles up this slippery pass.

INT. ALLIE'S SEDAN - SAME

Allie's Dad drives, white-knuckled, eyes focused on the ever-narrowing road. Allie sits in the passenger seat, studying the empty landscape.

A local radio weather report talks about a massive snow storm headed for SUMTER COUNTY.

ALLIE

Mom would love it up here. Remember in Park City when she insisted on going down that crazy black diamond run a million times?

ALLIE'S DAD

Should be right over this hill.

Allie shakes her head and sits back as more snow falls.

They finally manage to crest the hill, but the car SLIPS on the ice, swerving--

Allie grips the passenger side door as her Dad turns the wheel, gaining control of the car again. They spot a turn-out up ahead with a tattered WOOD SIGN that reads, "ROSEWOOD LODGE".

EXT. ROSEWOOD LODGE - EVENING

What once was a luxurious New England mountain resort looks more like a rundown mansion in the middle of nowhere.

The MAIN BUILDING is three-stories high, completely constructed of wood that has long since become brittle and cracked. Some sections stick out at odd angles. Around back, we see a frozen pond and some smaller dilapidated sheds scattered about.

Snow picks up as Allie's Dad parks the car next to a row of other cars.

Allie steps out of the car, the wind KNOCKING her back and fiercely swaying the tree branches above her. She spots Rex and JJ hanging a string of Christmas lights above the front door.

REX
You made it!

ALLIE'S DAD
Barely.

REX
I checked the forecast. Heavy stuff won't touch us. But we got a snowmobile if you need to run to town and buy some panties.

With a big smile, Rex wraps Allie's Dad in a massive hug right before they jump into their old complicated fraternity handshake like a couple of college kids -- ending with a chest bump.

REX/ALLIE'S DAD
FOR LIFE!

JJ and Allie scoff from the side.

JJ
I'll never get use to seeing that.

ALLIE
Still scamming freshman for lunch money?

JJ
Love the hair. Sort of Lady Gaga meets Snookie. You're afraid of an actual color found on Earth?

ALLIE
Fear is my defining characteristic.

JJ
Hardly.

JJ and Allie smile. It's obvious these two are good friends.

REX
JJ-- show Allie to her room.

JJ
Yes sir, new-dad.

ALLIE
 "New dad?"

As JJ walks by, Rex grabs him and they playfully wrestle for just a second.

REX
 (to Allie's Dad)
 Come on-- everyone's in the back
 grabbing drinks.

Rex and Allie's Dad head inside as JJ and Allie follow.

JJ
 You're gonna love this place-- it
 reminds me of you. Weird.

Now Allie grabs him and they smile --

INT. MAIN LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They enter the massive foyer of the lodge, decked out with last minute Christmas decorations. It's a cavernous space lined with deep mahogany wood panels. Giant oak beams run the length of the ceiling. A set of staircases branch off and lead up to the second story.

REX
 Welcome to Rosewood.

Everything about this lodge is a bit "off". The angles and levels seem just a bit tilted; different colors of stain and wood clash; even the design and architecture of each section don't quite gel. It's an oddity of craftsmanship. A Frankenstein of buildings.

ALLIE'S DAD
 You got yourself a real fixer-upper
 here, Rex.

REX
 Laugh away, but in the early 20s,
 this lodge was an upscale ski-resort--

JJ
 Gangsta's paradise--

REX
 (off Allie's Dad's look)
 "New-son" speaks the truth.

REX (CONT'D)

Bootleggers used this place as a stopover when they ran shipments through the mountains. There's been so many owners, JJ and I are still discovering all the secrets built into these walls.

ALLIE'S DAD

Not exactly the typical Cheng property.

REX

Want to bet?

(off Allie's Dad's look)

I convinced Sarah's parents, and by the end of the weekend I'll convince you too.

JJ

(to Allie)

Come on--

JJ leads Allie upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

JJ and Allie walk down a narrow corridor lined with dozens of thin doors and antique furnishings. The hallway forks in two and they walk to the right where it almost immediately forks again. It's a maze.

ALLIE

Glad my phone has GPS.

JJ

Good luck getting reception.

They continue to walk.

ALLIE

So, uh... everybody's here?

JJ knows exactly what she's asking.

JJ

You and the pretty boy on the outs?

ALLIE

I thought you were the pretty boy?

JJ smirks.

ALLIE
(lying)
Besides, I've moved on.

JJ
Too bad. You guys were interesting
together in a Peanut Butter and Mayo
kinda way.

JJ rounds another corner. Allie tries to keep up. She turns the same corner and enters another long hallway, but JJ's gone.

ALLIE
JJ?

Completely confused, Allie scans the area. No doorways nearby or closets or stairs. He literally just disappeared.

ALLIE
JJ?

Allie walks forward slowly but there's still no sign of him.

Suddenly, a section of the wall slides over to reveal a passageway that leads into a dark space between the walls about two-feet wide.

JJ stands there with a grin on his face.

JJ
Told you this place was weird.

Intrigued, Allie checks out the claustrophobic secret corridor. It seems to go on forever. Dank and dusty.

JJ
There are passages like these
everywhere. Must've been for the
gangsters to hide and get around.
There's even a bunch of old mining
crap in the basement.
(off Allie's look)
I know, random. And check this out --

JJ walks ahead and uses all his strength to slide over a heavy table, revealing an opening near the floor. It's a hidden MINI-FREIGHT ELEVATOR with a grated door -- big enough for a few crates of whiskey.

JJ
Booze could go right down to the
first floor.

ALLIE
Convenient.

JJ
Come on-- your room's over here--

INT. ALLIE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

JJ leads Allie into the small guest room. He sets down her bags as she settles in.

JJ
We better hurry before Shane eats all
the food.

ALLIE
Be down in a minute.

JJ
I get it. You wanna freshen up for
the big reunion--

ALLIE
(as if she's insulted)
I gotta use the bathroom.

JJ gives her a little look.

JJ
I'll tell him you're coming.

JJ exits. As soon as he's gone, Allie moves to the mirror and regards herself, checking her hair and make-up. She takes a deep breath.

INT. BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT

Strings of Christmas lights, a giant pile of presents, and a large evergreen tree aren't enough to hide the decay of what used to be an opulent dining area, complete with thirty-foot ceilings, stone fireplace, brick columns and EXPOSED WATER PIPES.

Everyone mingles, eating Christmas cookies, drinking wine, and laughing about stories from college and past trips.

TIFFANY

My mom's been working like crazy, too. Doing these nursing conferences every other weekend. She's terrified of leaving me alone-- thinks I'm sleeping with the whole town.

BRIAN

Aren't you?

TIFFANY

Just half. I leave the ladies to you.

BRIAN

What would your mom say if she knew?

TIFFANY

Can't all be perfect like her--

JJ (O.S.)

You're perfect to me.

JJ saunters over and goes right for Tiffany. Sort of charming in an awkward way. Tiffany scoffs.

JJ

This is the year we finally get this thing going.

TIFFANY

"Thing"?

JJ

The attraction-- the sexual chemistry that bubbles between us. I'm heating up, can't you feel it?

TIFFANY

I feel sick, does that count?

Brian can't help but smile as all the parents suddenly stop their conversations and turn to the entry way where Allie stands, stunning in a classic black dress and boots.

She keeps her head low as she enters and all the parents say their "hellos" and "you look so pretty's".

Brian is transfixed. But Allie stays on that side of the room, far away from him.

JJ and Tiffany can see the tension.

TIFFANY
(re: Brian's staring)
Lust much?

Brian snaps out of it.

Shane takes a minute from his video game and shakes his head at his brother's plight.

SHANE
Just talk to her.

BRIAN
If I want to, I will--

JJ
Man, you are officially in the doghouse.

Brian stares at Allie across the room. Debating.

INT. BANQUET ROOM - LATER

Everyone is still in party mode, eating, drinking, singing terrible versions of Christmas carols. But in the corner, it's Allie and Brian. He finally walked over...

BRIAN
Hey.

Allie doesn't even look at him. She stares out the window, through the trees and falling FLURRIES of snow, where in the distance she spots the faint figure of a man wearing a SMILING SANTA MASK. Allie leans in, trying to get a better look.

BRIAN
You look nice.

Allie glances Brian's way and then out the window again, searching for that mask, but all she sees is nature. She turns her attention to Brian.

BRIAN
You didn't text me back.

ALLIE
I lost your number.

Brian's Dad sees Brian and Allie talking alone and frowns.

BRIAN'S DAD

Brian! Stop moping in the corner.
Come join us.

A tense moment...

Allie walks away just as Brian reaches out to stop her.
He's interrupted by Rex, who's in the middle of the room,
corralling everyone together --

REX

(looking at his watch)
Alright, come on-- you know what time
it is.

Tiffany groans loudly. They all know what's coming.

REX

Time for a little game of hide and
seek!

ALLIE

I think I'm gonna sit this one out--

BRIAN

I second that.

SHANE

Me, three.

TIFFANY'S MOM

Oh come on, it's tradition.

SHANE

A tradition that started when we were
losers who thought hide and seek was
fun.

JJ

Let's just play. 'Tis the season.

REX

You know the rules. Kids have to a
hundred to hide, then the parents
have an hour to find them.

ALLIE

Dad, come on--

ALLIE'S DAD

(ignoring her as usual)
If we win... kids are on clean up
duty for the whole trip.

TIFFANY

And if we win, we never play this
stupid game again.

Tiffany's Mom gives her a little look of disappointment.

BRIAN

Let's do it then.

As the parents begin counting, the kids reluctantly walk off in separate directions. Brian tries to follow Allie but she hurries away from him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Brian enters the living room and finds JJ standing by a GRANDFATHER CLOCK against the wall.

BRIAN

You seen Allie?

JJ

I've got my own lady to find.

BRIAN

Don't think she's in there.

JJ turns and smiles, then PUSHES the clock. It's on a creaky wheel system and slides over to reveal another cramped passageway inside the walls.

JJ

Adios.

JJ enters the wall and the CLOCK slides back into place.

Brian just stands there for a moment, dumbfounded.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - LATER

Allie is alone, walking down a narrow hallway towards the back of the lodge. It's quiet and eerie.

The boards below her feet CREAK as she moves.

Something STIRS behind her.

She turns, but there's nothing there.

ALLIE
You're supposed to count to a
hundred.

No reply. Allie shakes it off and keeps walking, turning corner after corner in this labyrinth until she enters --

INT. TRIANGLE ROOM - SAME

-- which is empty save the desk and a couple of large PAINTINGS on the wall.

There's something odd about the way one of the frames hangs.

Just as Allie reaches her hand up to touch it --

A HAND GRABS her shoulder!

Allie screams and turns to find Brian standing there.

ALLIE
(still freaked out)
Are you following me?!

BRIAN
You can't be mad forever.

Allie takes a moment to catch her breath.

ALLIE
You obviously don't know me very
well.

Brian shakes his head, frustrated. Then, he notices the way the PICTURE FRAME is hanging crooked.

He walks past her and grabs the frame, tilting it away from the wall to reveal part of a RUSTED METAL DOOR with a lock at its center.

Brian and Allie exchange a look before Brian opens the door and peaks inside...

INT. SMALL BRICK HOLDING ROOM

Allie and Brian walk tentatively into the cramped area but there's no windows, doors, furniture... nothing.

Brian smiles, mischievous.

BRIAN

You know what I think this is?

Allie inspects the wall a bit closer and is horrified to see what look like frantic FINGERNAIL SCRATCHES.

ALLIE

Some kind of cell.

BRIAN

More like the perfect hiding place!

Brian SWINGS the door closed. All we see is Allie's alarmed face as the door SLAMS SHUT.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Tiffany sneaks a beer from the fridge when she hears a slight TAPPING sound.

It's hard to make out but there's something there.

She stops to listen. TAP. TAP. Like it's coming from behind the wall.

Tiffany walks over and puts her ear next to a tall SHELVING UNIT made of wood panelling, when --

WHAAAAAAM!!!!

Something SLAMS into the wall and makes Tiffany jump back, alarmed.

Then, the shelving unit opens to reveal JJ.

JJ

That was way too easy--

TIFFANY

You're a dick.

JJ

You can't hide in here. Come on--

JJ grabs her hand and drags her down the hallway, towards the stairs.

INT. SMALL BRICK HOLDING ROOM - SAME

Allie pulls out her cellphone and lights up the display screen, revealing her panicked face. She searches for the door handle. Brian instantly looks sorry.

ALLIE
Why would you do that?

BRIAN
The handle's right here. It was a
joke?

Allie pushes down on the handle, releasing them back into...

INT. TRIANGLE ROOM - SAME

Allie steps away from Brian.

BRIAN
(apologetic)
So, that didn't go as planned.

ALLIE
You sure know how to romance a girl.

Her eyes fall on another one of the CROOKED MURALS, and she pulls it back to reveal a DARK HALLWAY filled with cobwebs and dirt.

BRIAN
Now *this* is the perfect spot.

ALLIE
Have fun with that.

BRIAN
Scared?

Allie stares Brian down then moves past him and enters the narrow corridor, disappearing into the shadows. Impressed, Brian follows her into the darkness...

INT. JJ'S ROOM - LATER

Tiffany sits on the bed, bored, while JJ rummages through one of his suitcases.

TIFFANY
I thought we were going to hide.

JJ
We need supplies--

BAAAAAAM!

From out of nowhere, a hi-tech RADIO-CONTROLLED CAR slams into JJ's foot. He jumps back, pissed --

JJ
Ow, shit!

Shane stands in the doorway, REMOTE CONTROL in hand, smirk on his face.

SHANE
Sorry--

JJ grabs the car and REMOTE from Shane --

JJ
Get outta here!

SHANE
This place sucks. I need to entertain myself--

JJ
Go somewhere else.

SHANE
Lame.

Shane pulls out his Nintendo and goes back to playing a video game as he walks out of the room.

JJ
(to Tiffany)
Ready for a date with destiny?

TIFFANY
I know your family's like a bunch of billionaires, and they always get what they want-- but you're not getting this.

JJ smiles at the challenge --

JJ
We're successful for a reason-- we don't take no for an answer.

TIFFANY
Not gonna happen--

JJ lifts his hand to show Tiffany what he found inside his suitcase. A JOINT.

Tiffany takes a moment, then slightly grins.

INT. NARROW CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Brian and Allie move slowly through the space, which becomes tighter and more cramped. Their feet kick up dust and grime as the light continues to fade.

ALLIE
Are the walls closing in, or is it
just me?

BRIAN
It has to lead somewhere.

ALLIE
We should go back.

Allie claws through some cobwebs, but Brian still pushes ahead. They hear a strange SCRATCHING sound.

ALLIE
What was that?

They both stop. Silence. Allie takes another step. There it is again.

A long moment. More SCRATCHING. Allie breathes heavy as the sound echoes around them.

Allie backs away, freaked out, when a FAT RAT scurries in front of her.

She JUMPS as the rat darts into a small crack in the wooden walls.

They each take a deep breath, then can't help but laugh. Their eyes connect briefly -- the spark's still there.

ALLIE
Is that another door?

The moment is broken. Brian and Allie venture towards another door. Behind it are stairs that lead down into...

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM FLOOR - SAME

It's just a small space under the floorboards. The ceiling is only about six feet high. Through a small crack, they can see directly into the living room.

BRIAN

They'll never find us in here.

They both lean against the wall.

A long awkward moment, then...

BRIAN

You ever hear from your mom?

(no reply)

How long's it been since she left?

It takes Allie a moment, but she finally answers...

ALLIE

One year, two months, six days.

Who's counting though?

BRIAN

Your dad still always working?

Allie shrugs.

BRIAN

Remember when we used to talk about this stuff?

ALLIE

Remember when you weren't an asshole?

She cringes. That came out harsher than she intended. Brian takes a moment, recovering.

BRIAN

It's cool. I deserve that.

(beat, still trying)

Maybe it's good your dad doesn't bug you. Mine won't let up. He's obsessed with me getting that stupid swim scholarship.

Brian glances at Allie again. It almost seems like she's going to say something, but then she turns away.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

JJ opens an old door to reveal a dank STAIRCASE that leads up to the darkness of the attic. He FLIPS on a light and an old fluorescent BULB flickers to life...

TIFFANY

If you try anything--

JJ

I'll be a perfect gentleman.

Tiffany gives him a look, then climbs up. JJ takes a moment to admire her backside as he follows her up the stairs.

TIFFANY

I can feel your eyes.

Suddenly, JJ FALLS through one of the broken steps. He steadies himself, regaining his balance.

TIFFANY

Smooth.

JJ looks below the broken step where he can see a cracked plaster floor, which is the ceiling to the room below.

JJ

Maybe we shouldn't go up.

TIFFANY

You're pussyng out?

JJ looks to the top of the stairs as Tiffany turns. A bit sweaty, hair a mess, she looks sexy-as-hell waiting up there for him --

JJ

No, ma'am.

Tiffany shakes her head in disgust as JJ climbs up --

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM - SAME

Brian continues to plead his case to Allie.

BRIAN

I should have called after-- I wanted to-- I mean, Cancun was amazing and--

ALLIE

Message received. You got what you wanted.

BRIAN

It wasn't like that. All that stuff I said... I meant it. It's just when I got home--

ALLIE

Three weeks. That's how long I stayed in my room, waiting for you to call. My dad thought I had mono. And believe me, the fact that he noticed... stop-the-presses huge.

BRIAN

I've been trying to text you.

ALLIE

Too little too late.

Above them in the living room, they hear someone enter and their conversation is interrupted.

Allie stands up and peeks through the ceiling into...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

It's Brian's Dad and Tiffany's Mom. They're walking right on top of them, oblivious.

BRIAN'S DAD

You look great.

He turns to Tiffany's Mom. A small smile.

TIFFANY'S MOM

We should try upstairs.

BRIAN'S DAD

I miss our little trips.

TIFFANY'S MOM

Don't.

BRIAN'S DAD

I've got a store opening next month. You can go to another conference.

Brian's Dad moves in close.

TIFFANY'S MOM

Not here.

He grabs her seductively.

BRIAN'S DAD

Where?

She smiles a bit --

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM - SAME

Riveted, Brian maneuvers to get a better look as his dad
KISSES Tiffany's Mom.

Brian can't believe his eyes. He falls back and sits.
Stunned.

Allie shifts beside him, not sure what to say.

INT. ATTIC - SAME

The entire floor is made up of rotted wood. Boxes and junk
crowd the space, though there's tarp and power tools along
one wall -- signs of a renovation.

JJ and Tiffany carefully walk around a GAPING HOLE that
peers thirty-feet down into the banquet room below --

TIFFANY

Place is a death trap.

After a precarious little journey, they find a corner of
reinforced plywood to sit on. JJ moves a few old pieces of
clothing and gets comfortable.

TIFFANY

Are we gonna smoke or what?

JJ lights up the little joint and takes a puff.

JJ

(handing it to Tiffany)

Sure you can handle this? It's
medical grade--

Tiffany grabs the joint, takes a massive puff and blows a
perfect smoke ring into JJ's face.

JJ
God, I love you.

TIFFANY
Shut up.

Tiffany hands JJ the joint as they both settle in.

TIFFANY
What's up with this shithole anyway?

JJ
It's not a shithole.

TIFFANY
You actually like him, don't you?

JJ
Rex? Yeah. He brings me up here sometimes to help. When he was a foreman, before he married my mom, he kept beggin' my grandparents to buy into this place. After they got married, they finally did. He's gonna fix it up and sell it for a ton of dough.

TIFFANY
How long's he been working on it?

JJ takes another puff --

JJ
Long time.

TIFFANY
Still looks like a shithole to me.

JJ can't help but laugh. Then, he starts COUGHING. And that makes Tiffany laugh...

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM - SAME

Brian hasn't moved. He just sits there as his dad and Tiffany's Mom finally walk out of the room above their heads.

BRIAN
After all the shit he gives me-- what a prick.

ALLIE
They're parents. They're supposed to
be pricks.

Then -- there's a KNOCK on the front door. Allie and Brian stand up, trying to get a peek at who it is, but it's hard to see everything through the cracks in the floor.

ALLIE
Shhhh...

FROM ALLIE AND BRIAN'S POV -- they watch as Brian's Dad walks back into the LIVING ROOM and moves for the door.

He peeks outside through the peep-hole.

TIFFANY'S MOM
(reentering)
Who is it?

BRIAN'S DAD
Can't see...

Another gentle rap on the door. Just as Brian's Dad turns the handle --

WHHAAAAAAAAAAAAAMMMM!!!

The door BURSTS inward --

KNOCKING him to the floor!

Before Tiffany's Mom can even scream...

TWO MEN IN SANTA MASKS

BARGE INTO THE ROOM -- GUNS IN HAND! They wear blue-collar jeans and jackets as a gust of WIND and SNOW swirls inside.

All we can make out are those MASKS -- smiling, perpetually jolly -- even as the larger of the two men SHOVES Tiffany's Mom to the ground, ripping her shirt, her hands scraping on the floor.

We don't see the faces underneath the masks, but the large, quiet man we'll come to know as SPENCER.

And the one in charge. That's MALCOLM.

Brian's Dad tries to defend Tiffany's Mom until Spencer RAMS his pistol into his head.

Completely in shock, Brian and Allie can do nothing but watch from under the floor as the parents are manhandled and pushed around.

Brian has to put a hand over Allie's mouth so she won't scream.

MALCOLM
(to Brian's Dad)
Where are they?

Malcolm leans into Brian's Dad's ear. Menacing.

MALCOLM
Where?

BRIAN'S DAD
Where what?

Spencer ELBOWS Brian's Dad in the back of the neck. Before Brian's Dad can reply, Malcolm hears some laughter in the other room. Spencer follows the laughter, dragging Brian's Dad as Malcolm pushes Tiffany's Mom towards the kitchen.

Under the floor, Brian and Allie are still frozen in disbelief.

Brian hurries back down the corridor. Allie follows.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Brian and Allie quietly exit the hidden doorway behind the painting and creep down the hall, towards the kitchen.

A second after they dart through another door, Malcolm and Spencer walk by, mere feet away, with Brian's Dad in tow.

Brian motions for Allie to follow as they sneak towards...

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

The rest of the parents, including Rex and Sarah, drink glasses of red wine.

SARAH
Shouldn't we be looking for the kids?

ALLIE'S DAD
Why would we do that?

A brief moment of laughter, when without warning, Malcolm and Spencer, still wearing their smiling Santa Masks, blast into the room with their guns waving.

Malcolm throws Tiffany's Mom, who's now SOBBING, into the center of the room as Spencer rounds the rest of the parents up like cattle.

REX

Who are you people?

ALLIE'S DAD

What do you want?

BRIAN'S DAD

Money?

Rex holds tight to Sarah. Tiffany's Dad makes a run for it, but Spencer FIRES his gun into the cabinets!

Everyone goes deathly still. Brian and Allie stay hidden in the hallway, watching everything.

Malcolm looks at Sarah and moves towards her. He nods to Spencer --

REX

No-- don't--

Malcolm grabs Sarah --

REX

NO!

Rex PUSHES Malcolm back, fighting with every ounce of his strength, but Malcolm SMASHES him in the face with the butt of his gun. Rex falls to the ground, nose bleeding --

SARAH

Rex!

BRIAN'S DAD

Leave him alone!

Malcolm waves his gun again, even more menacing --

Rex staggers to his feet as Spencer starts binding each of the parents' hands with plastic ties.

SARAH

I'll go with you-- just don't-- my parents-- they'll pay--

MALCOLM

Yeah. We know.

Just as Malcolm and Spencer have their backs turned, Brian and Allie are able to sneak away, moving quietly up the stairs.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

On the far end of the lodge, Allie and Brian tread carefully down another long hallway, careful not to make too much noise.

Allie breathes hard, barely able to keep it together as Brian steps ahead, on the lookout --

ALLIE

What're we gonna do?

BRIAN

We gotta find the others.

As they're about to turn the corner, there's a NOISE up ahead.

Brian and Allie hide behind the opposite wall as the noise moves closer.

Tears stream down Allie's face -- still fighting panic.

Someone's coming.

ALLIE

(whispering to herself)

Thiscantbehappening...

Brian scans the room, then grabs a LAMP from a nearby table, holding it like a weapon.

ALLIE

Brian-- don't--

Brian puts a finger to his lips. *Be quiet.*

They both wait for an excruciatingly long moment, holding their breath as someone moves closer.

Finally...

Just as the person arrives, Brian JUMPS out, about to take a ferocious swing --

JJ
Whoa whoa!!

It's JJ and Tiffany and they're both baked out of their minds.

TIFFANY
What's your problem?

ALLIE
(frantic)
There's these guys-- downstairs--
they have guns--

JJ
Yo, chill out --

BRIAN
They broke in-- they're here for your
mom--

TIFFANY
(to JJ)
Your mom's hot. What went wrong with
you?

ALLIE
We have to do something --

BRIAN
Where's Shane?

JJ
What are you talking about?

BRIAN
They're gonna kidnap your mom for
ransom--

JJ
Dude, you are high. I'm gonna grab
some chips --

TIFFANY
Oooh, munchies.

JJ and Tiffany giggle.

BRIAN
Listen. They've got our paren--

But JJ and Tiffany just keep walking down the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

JJ and Tiffany make it down the stairs and into the large living room when Brian grabs him from behind and PUSHES JJ against the wall with brute force.

JJ
What the hell, bro--!?

BRIAN
Goddamnit, JJ--

TIFFANY
Let him go--

BRIAN
Listen to me! These men have guns.
They have our parents. We need to
find Shane--

ALLIE
We shouldn't be down here--

TIFFANY
This is so not funny anymore--

JJ breaks free from Brian's grasp when they hear commotion in the other room and Malcolm's voice, loud and gruff. JJ's eyes widen, attempting to comprehend.

JJ
Who the hell's that?

BRIAN
Now you believe me.

ALLIE
What do we do?

BRIAN
We get Shane and get out of here.
Find the police.

Brian and Allie push a startled JJ and Tiffany towards the front door when it starts to open. Someone else is coming in!

Stuck between the front door and the kitchen, they dive behind a large CABINET in the nearside entry way.

The front door slowly opens and we see a PAIR OF BLACK BOOTS step inside, crusted with ice.

Standing there is a thin, spindly man, a frantic energy about him. He clutches a CROW BAR in his grime-covered hands and wears another SANTA MASK, but his is dirtied and bent. Beneath the mask, we can still make out his crazed, drug-fueled eyes and jagged, stained teeth.

This is **FINN**.

Malcolm and Spencer drag Sarah in from the kitchen. They hold her still and duct tape her mouth, shoving a black cloth bag over her head.

FINN

That her?

Malcolm PUSHES Sarah towards Spencer, furious.

MALCOLM

You were supposed to wait--

FINN

Screw that. You've been taking your sweet time.

MALCOLM

Pull up the car--

FINN

Can't.

MALCOLM

What do you mean-- you can't?

Finn walks to the refreshments table, perusing the alcohol, finally settling on a Christmas inspired vodka jug.

FINN

We're stuck.

He uncorks the vodka as Spencer and Malcolm exchange a glance. Malcom rushes to the window. He opens it to see nothing but WHITE. Finn's piece of shit truck's barely visible, half-covered in snow.

MALCOLM

Wasn't supposed to hit for the next two days.

FINN

That's the thing about weather. Shit's unpredictable.

Spencer, distraught, keeps looking out the window as the snow falls.

FINN

Them's the breaks, big boys. Could be a few hours or more till it passes.

Malcolm cracks his knuckles, a nervous tic.

MALCOLM

Bring the rest of them here --

Spencer doesn't move, still staring at the snow. Still not saying a word.

MALCOLM

Do it!

Finally, Spencer tilts his head, sizing Malcolm up. There's a tense beat, but then Spencer exits. Finn takes a seat, kicking his feet up, fiddling with that crow bar.

MALCOLM

You leave it to me. Understood?

FINN

(flashing a smile)

Yes, sir, boss.

BEHIND THE CABINET --

JJ and Tiffany are in complete shock, they can't believe what's happening fifteen feet in front of them.

Brian motions for them all to stay down and stay quiet.

INTERCUT.

IN THE LIVING ROOM --

Spencer re-enters with the parents in tow. They're all bound by plastic-ties, scared.

Rex and the others continue to plead with the masked men --

REX

Please-- just let us go--

BRIAN'S DAD

We won't say anything-- just leave now before something bad happens--

Finn laughs hard. This makes the parents stop.

FINN

You fools are doing this all wrong.

He grabs the extra plastic ties and roughly binds Tiffany's Mom's feet together. Finn rips off a piece of duct tape --

TIFFANY'S MOM

We don't want any trouble--

He covers her mouth.

FINN

Sorry, sweetheart.

Finn methodically moves on to the next parent.

Soon all the parents' mouths are duct taped shut and their wrists and feet are tightly bound.

Malcolm surveys the hostages, overly anxious --

MALCOLM

(quietly)

Now we just wait till the snow stops.
Then we bolt with Cheng.

(to parents)

You hear that? You behave, and no
one gets hurt. You don't behave...
that's a different story.

Finn isn't even listening. He kneels down and stares right into Tiffany's Mom's eyes.

FINN

Ooh, I'm gonna party with you.

Finn caresses her exposed arm. Tiffany's Dad squirms, trying to yell, his voice muffled under the duct tape. Finn grins.

FINN

Tell him to simmer down or I'll put
my boot in his face. Oh wait, that's
right.

Tears form in Tiffany's Mom's eyes.

FINN

A woman who can't talk. My kind of
girl.

Finn touches her arm again.

FINN
Bet you like it dirty.

MALCOLM
Back off.

FINN
Just playin'.

Malcolm nods to Spencer and they both double-check the restraints.

FINN
What? You don't trust me?

Racked with fear, the teens can only watch as their parents lie there, bound and humiliated.

Brian points backwards, letting them know they should sneak quietly into the adjoining room.

JJ nods in agreement. They wait for the right moment.

As Finn and Spencer work, Brian's Mom spots the kids hiding behind the cabinet. Realizing Shane isn't with them, she locks eyes with Brian.

Brian nods at his mom. *He'll find Shane.*

The teens slither backwards slowly one by one. Tiffany goes first, then Allie.

Just as JJ and Brian begin to move backwards, Malcolm paces in their direction.

He's about to stumble right onto them. Brian's Mom jolts forward with a muffled SCREAM, knocking a lamp off a nearby table. CRASH.

Malcolm turns around as Finn BACKHANDS Brian's Mom, drawing blood from her lip.

Brian's Dad reacts, furious. He throws his body at Finn.

Finn jumps, crow bar about to rain down, but Malcolm GRABS his arm and stops him from beating Brian's Dad to death.

MALCOLM
Back off!

Finn yanks his arm from Malcolm and stares daggers at him.

FINN
Don't ever touch me.

The tension is palpable as Malcolm backs off.

MALCOLM

We're on the same team. Okay?

FINN

Sure. Yeah.

MALCOLM

(to Brian's Mom)

Do that again and I won't be able to stop him.

Brian's Mom cowers. She looks over, relieved that her son is safe... for now.

INT. LOWER HALLWAY - SAME

Tiffany, Allie, JJ, and Brian regroup, still careful to remain quiet. Brian points towards a back room.

They all move towards the back when Allie turns to see something that startles her. This makes Brian turn.

Down the hall, he can see his brother SHANE walking directly towards the living room.

His head's down, engulfed in a game on his portable Nintendo, headphones in.

BRIAN

Nonononono...

JJ

I got him.

JJ darts ahead, turning the corner and doubling back around.

Brian and Allie try to get Shane's attention because they can't walk towards him without being seen.

BRIAN

Come on, look up --

We can hear the commotion in the living room, but Shane is oblivious as he keeps walking forward.

INT. OPPOSITE HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

Shane is about to turn into the living room, just a few feet away from imminent danger --

When JJ appears from the opposite side and GRABS him.

Shane rips off his headphones as JJ wraps a hand over his mouth and YANKS him backwards, out of harm's way.

JJ

Keep your mouth shut.

Shane wants to say something, but the horrific look in JJ's eyes scares the hell out of him.

As they both slowly move backwards, we see Shane's Nintendo on the ground.

He dropped it.

INT. BACK DEN - MOMENTS LATER

Brian, Allie and Tiffany are frantic until JJ and Shane rush in. Brian gives his brother a big hug --

BRIAN

Stupid dick.

SHANE

Love you too.

TIFFANY

So what now?

SHANE

This is really happening, isn't it?

Brian nods, and Shane nods too, trying to process the situation.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

The parents huddle beside each other as Finn goes through nearby purses. He takes a swig of his vodka. Malcolm and Spencer pace back and forth, obviously on edge.

After a moment, Malcolm spots something on the floor near the couch. He walks over and quickly realizes what it is:

Shane's VIDEO GAME.

But he doesn't say anything. When Finn turns around, Malcolm KICKS the game under the couch and out of view.

MALCOLM
I'll do a perimeter check--
(to Spencer)
Why don't you check the doors? Make
sure they're all locked.

FINN
(grinning)
You two gonna leave me here all
alone?

Malcolm looks at the parents, hesitating.

FINN
(wicked smile)
You can trust me, boss.

Malcolm and Spencer walk out as Finn eyes the huddled parents like fresh meat.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

The moment they exit and are out of earshot of Finn, Malcolm pushes Spencer to a corner --

MALCOLM
How well do you know this guy?

Spencer shrugs.

MALCOLM
You said you did time with him.
Didn't say he was out of his mind.

SPENCER
You needed a driver. He was
available.

Spencer gestures aggressively to the snow covered window.

SPENCER
This wasn't part of the deal.

MALCOLM
You tell him about the kids?

SPENCER

He knows about Cheng. That's it.

MALCOLM

Christ.

Spencer steps closer to Malcolm. Sweat drips down Malcolm's neck, his hands shake. Spencer's almost a foot taller than him. He leans over Malcolm, gun raised.

SPENCER

How many of these runs have you actually done, *Boss*?

Malcolm stares Spencer down, a creepy Santa Mask face-off, but Malcolm's hands tremble, which is answer enough.

MALCOLM

Go find the kids-- lock em up somewhere secure. I'll stay with the others-- make sure he doesn't do anything stupid.

Spencer hovers over Malcolm for a second longer, then lumbers off. As soon as he's gone, Malcolm relaxes.

INT. BACK DEN - SAME

The teens are gathered by the wall, glancing out into the hallway as they try to formulate a plan.

BRIAN

We have to get help--

TIFFANY

Can't we just go to a neighbors or something?

JJ

The closest house is over five miles away--

ALLIE

They said they were gonna leave when the snow stops--

JJ

Yeah, with my mom.

Brian has his CELLPHONE out -- no signal --

JJ
I told you, man-- no cell service.

BRIAN
What about a landline?

JJ shakes his head.

JJ
Rex wanted this place to be a real
retreat from civilization.

But then he brightens:

JJ
We have an emergency radio in the
kitchen.

TIFFANY
We can use that to call the cops?

JJ
There's a direct channel to the
Ranger station.

ALLIE
How do we get down there?

BRIAN
We don't. I'll go--

SHANE
We should stay together--

JJ
Shane's right. Besides, I know the
house.

JJ sneaks out of the den and the others follow.

BRIAN
Which way are we going?

ALLIE
If the five of us try to sneak
through the halls--

JJ stops at a large PAINTING. He shifts it to reveal
another narrow passageway that leads INSIDE the walls.

JJ
We're not going through the halls.

They all climb into the corridor between the walls --

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Finn samples the alcohol by the refreshments, humming Jingle Bells, though it sounds hostile and off kilter. He opens an unopened bottle of Scotch, ripping the cap off and taking a big swig. Malcolm watches him from the other side of the room.

FINN

Good shit.

Malcolm glances out the window. The snow's still falling.

FINN

Relax. Have a drink.

Malcolm shakes his head. Finn scoffs, then moves towards Sarah and yanks the mask off her face. Her eyes red from the tears, mouth duct taped shut.

FINN

So, you shit out diamonds?

MALCOLM

Stop messin' around--

FINN

(back to Sarah)

Sleep on a pile of cash at night, rub that shit all over your body? I know that's how all you rich fucks live.

Rex leans into Sarah, trying to shield her.

FINN

Who the hell are you?

MALCOLM

What're you doing?

FINN

Just wanna get to know our friends a little better.

MALCOLM

Enough.

FINN

Chill the hell out, Malcolm--

MALCOLM

No names you idiot!!

Finn snaps up and glares at Malcolm --

FINN
What'd you say?

A tense moment as Brian's Dad keeps an eye on the situation, waiting for an opportunity. He positions his legs under him.

MALCOLM
You said my name--

FINN
I ain't no idiot--

Suddenly, Brian's Dad jolts up, lunging at Finn. In response, Finn BASHES Brian's Dad with the crow bar. He resumes humming Jingle Bells as he SMASHES Brian's Dad in the legs and arms and back --

The parents writhe, attempting to cry out, their voices muffled from the tape.

FINN
You stupid, boy!?

MALCOLM
Get off him!

Finally, Malcolm pulls him back.

Finn almost smiles as Brian's Mom slides over to her husband, who's badly bruised and shaken.

Finn takes another swig of Scotch.

FINN
Just playin'.

INT. CORRIDOR BETWEEN WALLS - NIGHT

JJ leads Tiffany, Brian, Allie, and Shane through the confined hidden corridor behind the walls. They move slowly, careful not to trip or cut themselves on exposed nails and jagged corners.

JJ can hear something through the walls. Someone is on the other side --

INTERCUT.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

It's Spencer. Gun in hand, he's checking every room as he walks down the hallway.

JJ and the others hold their breath. Allie sees Spencer's smiling Santa mask through a small crack in the wall. It almost looks like he's staring right at her.

Allie looks at Brian. She wants to make a run for it, but he shakes his head.

Spencer halts as if he heard something, and JJ and Brian exchange a glance.

But then Spencer keeps walking, stopping at another one of those PAINTINGS on the opposite wall. It's a bit crooked. He reaches out and slides it over to reveal...

Nothing. No passageway behind this one.

Finally, Spencer turns and keeps walking.

When the coast is clear, the FALSE WALL across from where Spencer just was, slides open and JJ steps out. The others soon follow.

JJ
Kitchen's this way.

They all sneak down the hall... heading for the radio...

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

They enter and JJ immediately moves for the cabinet and pulls out a dusty EMERGENCY RADIO from a cardboard box.

JJ fumbles plugging it in.

BRIAN
Please tell me you know how to use
this thing.

JJ
(sheepish)
We've never had an emergency before.

Brian takes the radio from him. He plugs it in, turning the knob, but all we hear is static.

SHANE

Fix it.

JJ

We just have to get a signal.

JJ and Brian change the channels on the radio, trying to find a clear station.

Frantic, they all crowd around --

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Finn keeps drinking. Malcolm is tense. Brian's Dad nurses his wounds as the other parents cower in fear.

FINN

How much you gettin' for her?

MALCOLM

You already agreed on your share.

FINN

A hundred grand to drive. For some reason, that don't seem fair.

MALCOLM

Stick to the plan.

Malcolm glances down and spots Shane's VIDEO GAME which, after the recent scuffle, is now in plain sight.

FINN

My brother used to do all our planning. He'd like you. And by that I mean he'd probably slit your throat.

Malcolm acknowledges what Finn's saying, but moves forward and tries to slide the video game console back under the couch without him noticing --

FINN

Whatcha got there?

MALCOLM

Nothing.

Finn walks over and grabs the VIDEO GAME. His eyes flicker back and forth... becoming increasingly manic...

FINN
A kid's game?

ALLIE'S DAD
That's mine.

Malcolm and Finn both ignore Allie's Dad. From the kitchen comes a low BANGING.

MALCOLM
Just relax--

Finn reaches around his back and retrieves A GUN as he moves for the hallway.

MALCOLM
Don't-- !

The Parents attempt to SCREAM, trying to warn the kids as Finn rushes into the hallway. Malcolm follows.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

After another moment of turning the knob, a station comes in clear, though there's some static --

SHANE
Got it--

They all fight for control, but Brian grabs the radio's receiver.

BRIAN
(then)
Hello? Hello? There's been a break-
in-- we need help--

They all listen, quickly losing hope as the channel dips in and out of static. Then:

RADIO
(static-filled)
This is... Ranger station... verify
location...

Success! They all jump up, hugging each other, relieved.

BRIAN
We're at the old Rosewood lodge. JJ,
what's the address? JJ?

Brian freezes when he sees JJ and Tiffany, wide-eyed, staring behind him. Turning fast, Brian sees Spencer standing by the doorway, gun drawn.

Spencer walks over and THROWS the static ridden radio on the floor, STOMPING on it until it's in pieces. The other kids move to the far corner with Brian.

Brian hones in on the exit door, but Spencer keeps a close eye -- glancing at the door and then back to Brian, as if challenging him.

Suddenly, through the door, Finn appears. When he sees the kids, rage builds in his eyes --

FINN

You gotta be kidding me.

When Spencer turns, Brian uses the opportunity and pushes Spencer towards Finn.

BRIAN

Run!

Completely panicked, the kids race out of the kitchen, but not before Finn reacts and PULLS the trigger --

SHOOTING JJ IN THE SHOULDER!

The force of the bullet SLAMS him against the wall --

TIFFANY

JJ!!!

BRIAN

GO! I've got him!

Brian grabs JJ, leading him away.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

The parents struggle against their bindings, reacting to hearing that gunshot!

INT. HALLWAY/FOYER - SAME

The kids sprint down the hallway, Brian helping JJ along, as Finn chases them --

Shane grabs a VASE from a nearby table and throws it at Finn's head. It BREAKS, slicing Finn's head and slowing him down --

The kids all dart to the stairs, taking two and three steps at a time when Malcolm appears from another hallway.

MALCOLM

Put the gun away--!

Still enraged, Finn shoves the gun right in Malcolm's face.

Finn's hand trembles, finger scratching the trigger --

FINN

Move.

Malcolm backs off --

FINN

I'll take care of this.

Finn bounds up the stairs --

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

Allie helps Brian with JJ as they all run down the hallway.

Finn appears at the end of the hall --

ALLIE

Over there!

Allie leads them to the old MINI-ELEVATOR --

ALLIE

Get in!

They pile into the cramped space, barely able to fit --

Brian's the last one to get inside as they see Finn round the corner and their eyes lock.

Brian slams the grated door shut, Finn feet away --

INT. MINI-ELEVATOR - SAME

SHANE

What now?

Finn BANGS on the door with so much force it rocks the whole elevator.

JJ
There--

JJ points to a lever. Brian yanks it and the whole thing PLUMMETS down to the ground level as they all scream --

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Finn watches the mini-elevator drop and then turns and runs back the way he came.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

The elevator SLAMS to a stop on the first floor as they all stagger into the hallway.

Allie spots Spencer up ahead. He sees her too --

ALLIE
Go back!

JJ
This way!

They sprint around the corner and past a small room --

BRIAN
Over here!

INT. TRIANGLE ROOM - SAME

Brian runs into the room and immediately pulls back the painting that covers the secret door they found earlier.

INT. NARROW CORRIDOR - SAME

They all make it inside as Brian slides the painting back in place, sweating from the exertion. Allie makes them stop, even though it's a tight squeeze.

As everyone catches their breath, she motions for silence...

INT. SMALL ROOM - SAME

Through the doorway, we see Spencer run down the hall, past the triangle room.

Then, Finn shows up. He looks into the triangle room, then steps inside, staring long and hard at his surroundings.

His gaze falls on the painting covering the secret door, though with that smiling Santa Mask it's hard to tell what he's really focusing on.

After a tense moment, Finn moves back into the hallway.

INT. NARROW CORRIDOR - SAME

The kids stay still until they hear Finn leave, the floorboards of the house CREAKING under his feet.

ALLIE

That Ranger heard us. Right?

BRIAN

Keep moving--

Brian leads them all down the narrow hall. Tiffany almost hits her head on a rusted beam.

TIFFANY

Where are we?

Allie shushes Tiffany and points up ahead as they walk through the room we saw earlier.

Above them is the floor to the living room. They can hear their parents whispering as Malcolm mumbles to himself.

There's a wooden door that leads through another passageway. Brian helps JJ as they enter...

INT. MINING BASEMENT - SAME

A large room cluttered with old, rusty mining equipment. As soon as they shut the door, JJ buckles over.

Tiffany runs to him --

TIFFANY

OhmyGod we have to do something!

Allie and Brian kneel beside him --

JJ
I'm okay--

ALLIE
You're bleeding bad.

BRIAN
Put him on the table--

Brian tosses everything off a wooden table as they all lift JJ and carry him over. On the table, JJ's pale.

SHANE
Do something!

Allie and Brian look to their surroundings, at a complete loss. Then...

TIFFANY
Maybe-- I uh... a bandage.

Flustered, but determined, Tiffany RIPS the arm off JJ's shirt --

JJ
Kinky.

TIFFANY
(kindly)
Shut up.

BRIAN
He doesn't look good--

ALLIE
We have to get him to a hospital.

BRIAN
How?

ALLIE
I don't know, but--

TIFFANY
Help me with this--

Brian and Allie prop JJ up as Tiffany uses JJ's shirt as a bandage and ties it around his arm, trying to stop the bleeding.

TIFFANY
(to JJ)
How do you feel?

JJ
Your hand's on my naked chest... I
feel great.

JJ tries to smile but he winces instead. Brian and Allie
exchange a worried glance.

TIFFANY
We have to get the bullet out or
close his wound...

ALLIE
(to Brian)
That Ranger's coming soon.

BRIAN
There was a lot of static--

ALLIE
But we got through, right?

Brian doesn't answer.

TIFFANY
We have to get him to a hospital.

JJ almost laughs --

JJ
In case you forgot, there's a
blizzard going on.

TIFFANY
He's losing too much blood--

JJ
I can hear you, you know.

SHANE
Somebody help him--

TIFFANY
Supplies-- first aid kit-- if I had
sterilizer and a needle-- bandages--
maybe I could--

JJ
There's a first-aid kit.

BRIAN
What? Where?

JJ
Rex's bedroom. In the cabinet by the windows.

BRIAN
I'll go get it.

SHANE
No way. We stay together.

BRIAN
I'll be fine. You guys stay here.

Tiffany and Shane stay with JJ. Brian steps back, collecting himself as Allie approaches him. Worried.

ALLIE
What if they catch you?

BRIAN
They won't.

Brian moves for the door. Before he leaves...

ALLIE
Brian...

He stops and turns. Allie wants to say something but Tiffany interjects --

TIFFANY
Hurry.

A little nod between Allie and Brian as he hurries off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The parents are still struggling against the plastic ties around their wrists when Malcolm, Spencer and Finn enter. The parents freeze. Finn is wound up, gun in hand.

MALCOLM
You were supposed to drive-- that's it. You coulda killed him!

Brian's Dad and Allie's Dad exchange a glance. *What the hell happened?!* Freaked out, the parents try to speak through their duct taped mouths.

FINN
Quit your whining.

On edge, Finn leads Spencer and Malcolm to the corner of the room.

FINN
You really think you two are gonna pull this off?

MALCOLM
Just put the gun away--

FINN
Ain't no way you get paid. Ain't no way.

Finn sits back down with his Scotch. He eyes Tiffany's Mom and then winks. Tiffany's Dad sidles up to her.

FINN
Someone needs to go find them damn kids.

Malcolm turns to Spencer.

MALCOLM
Go.

Spencer leaves, begrudgingly.

FINN
You two-- runnin' around with your heads cut off-- shit...

Rex, wobbling, attempts to get up. Sarah shakes her head, trying to stop him --

FINN
Sit down gold digga.

Rex struggles to speak through the duct tape. His eyes are earnest, pleading.

Malcolm nods to Finn, who RIPS off the duct tape. Rex gasps.

REX
Money-- that's what you want, right?
I've got it. In my room.

That gets Finn and Malcolm's attention.

FINN
How much?

REX
It was a deposit for my contractor--

FINN
How much?!

REX
A hundred and fifty thousand.

FINN
That's it? That won't pay for shit.

REX
You can just take it and go, we won't
say a word. No cops, no trouble.
Just money.

Finn and Malcolm exchange glances.

MALCOLM
Show me.

Malcolm drags Rex up and heads for the door, Rex struggling to keep up with his bound hands and feet.

MALCOLM
I'll be back with the cash and then
we're leaving.

FINN
Sure, boss.

INT. MINING BASEMENT - NIGHT

JJ is on the table. Blood from his shoulder wound soaks the "bandage". Allie tries to comfort a terrified Shane.

ALLIE
How is he?

JJ
I'm not dead yet.

TIFFANY
He's gonna be fine if we can close up
his arm.
(off Allie's look)
What?

ALLIE
You're pretty smart when you wanna
be.

TIFFANY
Tell that to my mom.

Shane spots something in a pile of junk in the corner.
It's a FLINT LOCK PISTOL.

SHANE
Whoa--

ALLIE
Put that down!

SHANE
Is it loaded?

Allie examines the gun --

ALLIE
I don't know. Maybe.

Allie thinks about it for a moment, then sets the gun back
down. Too afraid to even think about using it.

SHANE
Shouldn't Brian be back?

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAYS - SAME

Brian slowly makes his way down the hall towards...

INT. REX'S BEDROOM - SAME

A massive room with exposed wood beams and tons of art
hanging from the walls. By the windows there's a wall full
of cabinets which Brian looks at with dismay.

He begins opening cabinet after cabinet, rummaging through
the junk in each one before he finally finds the FIRST-AID
KIT.

Then, he hears Malcolm and Rex approaching, the floorboards
groaning under their feet.

Thinking quick, Brian moves for the PAINTINGS, hoping to
find another secret passage but there isn't one.

Malcolm and Rex are getting closer.

Brian, more flustered now, keeps searching behind everything in the room. The clock, the mirror, the desk.

No hiding spot.

Finally, just as the door starts to open, Brian dives underneath the massive four-poster BED.

Malcolm and Rex enter. Malcolm pushes Rex right onto the bed as he slams the door.

A long, tense moment... and then...

REX

That psycho in there wasn't part of the plan. Tying us up like animals.

Rex stands up, wobbly.

MALCOLM

I had a driver, but he got nailed a few days back. We needed someone--

REX

He's gonna kill somebody!

MALCOLM

We're okay--

REX

Okay?! We're screwed. Please tell me he doesn't know I set this up.

MALCOLM

He thinks it was all my idea.

BRIAN shimmies farther back under the bed, careful to remain silent. He can see Rex's feet.

REX

We need a new plan. Fast.

MALCOLM

Working on it.

REX

Work harder. I swear, I should have gone with that guy down in Dorchester. This would all be over by now. We'd all be rich and I'd have ten witnesses saying I was trying to be a hero--

MALCOLM

You're the one who came to me--

REX

And you said you could handle it, you
fucking idiot--

MALCOLM

I'm the idiot? I didn't decide to
have my own wife kidnapped to pay off
my debts.

REX

No one was supposed to get hurt. Not
Sarah, JJ-- Oh God!

Malcolm backs down. Rex seems genuinely overwhelmed.

REX

He's down there right now with my
friends... my family...
(then)
We have to fix this.

Malcolm pulls off his mask, revealing his face for the
first time. He looks nothing like we thought -- more
janitor than criminal.

MALCOLM

Any ideas?

REX

We knock him out-- tie him up.

Malcolm takes a seat on the bed. His gun at his side,
dangling just inches from Brian's face.

BRIAN reaches his hand out for it. If he snatches it
quickly, he'll be armed and have the upper hand.

MALCOLM

You distract him. Make a run for it.
I'll catch him from behind. It'll
look like a grudge between us two.

REX

Good-- good-- we can do this--

Just as BRIAN'S about to grab the gun, Malcolm moves
slightly and Brian misses.

But Malcolm feels his touch and jumps up, gun raised.

MALCOLM
 Who's down there?
 (off Rex's look)
 There's someone under the bed.
 (no reply)
 Fine.

Malcolm aims for the middle of the bed, but then Brian's hand reaches out.

BRIAN
 Please. Don't shoot.

Malcolm drags Brian out from under the bed, and Rex's eyes widen.

REX
 Brian-- it's not what you think--

BRIAN
 JJ's hurt. These guys shot him. He could be dying right now--

REX
 What?

BRIAN
 They shot JJ!

REX
 Nononono... that's not what they said would happen--

BRIAN
 We need to help JJ!

Rex is at the end of his rope --

MALCOLM
 What do we do with him?

BRIAN
 You gonna shoot me too?

REX
 No-- of course not. How bad is he?

BRIAN
 Bad. I'm not a doctor, but he's lost a lot of blood.

Despair crosses Rex's face, but before he can respond, someone KNOCKS on the door.

FINN (O.S.)
You in there?!

MALCOLM
Finn-- shit--

Rex pushes Brian back under the bed just as the door swings open and Finn enters. He immediately sees Malcolm without his mask on --

FINN
The hell's this?!

MALCOLM
Calm down--

FINN
Your mask!

MALCOLM
Relax--

FINN
Where's the money?

MALCOLM
There is no money--

Finn has his gun in the air, riled up like a snake --

FINN
You trying to cross me? You know who I am?

REX
He's telling the truth--

In a flash, Finn SMASHES Rex to the ground with the butt of his gun!

FINN
Shut up!

MALCOLM
This whole thing was his idea!

This stops Finn. He looks from Malcolm to Rex --

FINN
What?

MALCOLM

He hired me. We were supposed to grab his wife and then mess him up a bit. Make him look like a hero. Like he fought for her. After the heat died down, we were supposed to meet up with him and split the ransom.

FINN

(to Rex)

This is a scam?

REX

It can still work with my help.

FINN

Why the hell would I need your help?

(then)

How much were you gonna get?

(no reply)

How much!?

REX

Ten million.

FINN

Damn. Now that's a payday!

MALCOLM

It's enough money for all of us. We just need to work together--

Sensing an opportunity, Rex LUNGES at Finn. Malcolm goes for the gun and the fight begins --

It's Rex and Malcolm on Finn, but Finn fights dirty. He claws and bites -- elbowing REX in the head and knocking him back to the ground.

Malcolm wrestles Finn when the gun goes off, firing right through the bed. Bullet this close to hitting Brian, who's trembling underneath it.

Rex gets back on his feet and wobbles over, biting Finn. The three of them fight for the gun with everything they've got.

During the brawl, Finn's SANTA MASK is ripped in half and we see his lean, hollow-cheeked face for the first time. Those crooked teeth and crazed eyes coupled with that cheery St. Nick grin.

Malcolm and Finn both have the gun, struggling for control.

Then... suddenly...

The gun goes off again!

And Malcolm falls to the floor.

Finn, gun in hand, pushes Rex to the ground and looks down at Malcolm, who's gurgling blood and convulsing. For the first time, Finn seems a bit overwhelmed, like he's never actually killed someone.

FINN

Shit.

REX

You killed him--

FINN

Yeah, well-- I didn't have a choice, did I?

Finn paces back and forth, staring back at Rex.

FINN

Shit shit shit! This is all your fault. Fuckin' genius.

REX

It's over-- just let us go--

Finn PULLS Rex up by his hair and YANKS him out the door like a sack of rocks.

When the coast is clear, Brian emerges from under the bed.

He leans down as Malcolm tries to say something, but only blood comes from his mouth.

Brian leans closer and he can hear Malcolm's last word...

MALCOLM

... *hide*...

This sends a shiver down Brian's spine as he stumbles back towards the door and exits with the first-aid kit.

INT. MINING BASEMENT - NIGHT

Brian has a hand over JJ's mouth, muffling his screams while Tiffany pours hydrogen peroxide on the wound. Allie squeezes one hand and Shane squeezes the other.

JJ
Jesuuuuus-- !

TIFFANY
I've never done this before-- !

BRIAN
Keep going--

ALLIE
You're doing great--

JJ SCREAMS again as Tiffany pours more --

TIFFANY
Just a little more.

All we can see is blood seeping out of the shoulder wound.

INT. HALLWAYS - SAME

Spencer walks up and down the hallways. He passes the small triangle room with the secret door.

He stops. Like he heard something.

INT. MINING BASEMENT - SAME

Tiffany finishes cleaning the wound. JJ's sweating and shaking. Allie and Shane standby as Brian paces in the background.

JJ
No more... please...

Tiffany steps back. Tries to calm herself down --

TIFFANY
I have to sew it up--

ALLIE
And he'll be okay?

TIFFANY
(to JJ)
You'll have to go to a doctor soon
and have it removed... but at least
you won't bleed to death.

JJ
Let's go with that. No bleeding to
death.

Tiffany grabs a needle and thread.

TIFFANY
(holding his hand)
You know, you're kind of cute when
you're in pain.

JJ
You gonna make out with me now?

Tiffany cracks another nervous smile. Thankful for the
reprieve. She takes a deep breath and gets back to work.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

With his mask hanging around his neck, Finn enters,
dragging Rex behind him.

SARAH
Rex!

Finn throws Rex to the ground as Sarah comforts him. Finn
locks eyes with the other parents. He can feel them
staring at his exposed face.

Finn grabs the Scotch and takes another drink. After a
moment, Spencer enters from the hallway, taking in the
scene --

SPENCER
Where's-- ?

REX
He shot him! He's dead.

This knocks Spencer back. Completely caught off guard.

FINN
(re: Rex)
Did you know?

Spencer looks at Rex. Finn clenches his gun.

FINN
Did you know about him?!

SPENCER
Wasn't supposed to go down like this.

Finn aims his gun at Spencer.

SPENCER

All I know is we got the same bookie.
One day he gave Malcolm a call, said
he could make big money.

The parents all turn to Rex. Rex can't meet their eyes,
especially Sarah's --

SPENCER

We had it all figured-- hide-out,
drop location. But this guy...
(nods to Rex)
He got it started.

FINN

And those shit kids?

SPENCER

He told us they'd be out of the way.
We were just gonna grab Cheng and go.

Tears stream down Sarah's face. Rex finally looks at his
wife, then his friends. Soaking in his guilt.

He hangs his head in shame. The others can't believe it.
Brian's Dad lunges at Rex, but Finn holds him down.

Sarah collapses, a complete mess. The other parents stare
at her and then Rex, the sting of betrayal in their eyes --

REX

I made some bad bets-- dropped too
much into this damn lodge.
(to Sarah)
What was I supposed to do? Tell your
parents I used their money to pay off
a bookie-- that I still owe him seven-
figures?!

Sarah curls up in a ball, SOBBING, not wanting to hear it.

Rex just sits there, drowning in regret. The other
parents' anger clouds the room.

Spencer and Finn move to the side. Talking quietly.

SPENCER

I say we bail.

Finn takes a drink, considering --

FINN
How many kids still running around?

SPENCER
Five.

Finn sees all the parents looking at him. He touches his exposed face, thinking.

FINN
New plan.

Spencer shakes his head. Turns to door. Finn cocks his gun, a warning.

FINN
You want to piss me off?

Spencer lurches towards him, swiftly strong arming Finn until he has Finn's gun. He's nearly twice Finn's size.

FINN
Go ahead. You sure you want to hurt me? Take that chance? You know who'll come after you if you do. It's happened before. Pretty little wife of yours might not be so pretty when he's done.

After a long moment, Spencer backs down. Hands Finn back his gun.

FINN
Find those kids.

Finn clenches his teeth. Takes another drink and finishes the bottle.

INT. MINING BASEMENT - NIGHT

Tiffany finishes bandaging JJ's freshly sewn-up arm. It actually looks pretty good as JJ slowly stands up, a bit wobbly, but okay.

TIFFANY
Don't ever get shot again.

JJ
I'll try not to.

Brian keeps pacing.

SHANE

Would you sit down already?

ALLIE

You've barely said a word since you got back.

Finally, Brian turns to JJ --

BRIAN

It was Rex. He hired those guys to kidnap your mom for the ransom.

JJ

Bullshit--

BRIAN

I heard him say it. It was right before I saw one of them get shot!

JJ

You're lying.

ALLIE

Why would he lie?

TIFFANY

What about my parents-- are they okay?

BRIAN

Don't worry. My dad'll make sure your mom's just fine.

TIFFANY

What's that supposed to mean?

BRIAN

All those conferences your mom was going to-- my dad opening stores-- they were together.

Tiffany's taken back. All of their lives falling apart.

TIFFANY

Gross.

BRIAN

Guess she's not so perfect after all.

JJ

I'm gonna kill him--

TIFFANY

How could she do that to my dad?

ALLIE

Stop! I think we're missing the point here. If we don't do something, our parents could all be dead by morning.

The kids exchange glances. They know she's right.

TIFFANY

They've got guns.

SHANE

So do we.

Shane lifts up the Flintlock Pistol he found earlier --

BRIAN

Drop it.

SHANE

We'll just shoot 'em.

JJ

There's no bullets in that thing.

SHANE

Then what's it for?

JJ

One of the miners must have left it back in the day. It's ancient. Only thing it shoots now is sparks.

ALLIE

(then)

Snowmobile. Your dad said--

JJ

Shit, I forgot. There's an old one in the back shed. The keys should be hanging behind the door.

TIFFANY

You can't ride with your shoulder--

BRIAN

I can--

SHANE

You're not going by yourself again--

ALLIE
I'll go with you.

Brian looks to Allie.

BRIAN
Sure?

ALLIE
It's worth a shot.

BRIAN
Okay, me and Allie will go to town
and get help. You guys stay here--

JJ
You think you're just gonna walk out
and start 'em up? They'll hear you
from a mile away.

BRIAN
Got a better idea?

JJ takes a breath. Checks his shoulder. He pulls out his
cellphone, sets the timer.

JJ
A distraction.

TIFFANY
What kind of distraction?

JJ
Give us ten minutes.

INT. TRIANGLE ROOM - LATER

The PAINTING slides over as Brian and Allie sneak out
quietly, carrying archaic mining equipment as weapons.
They check the halls. They can hear commotion at one end.

They sneak down the other end, towards the kitchen and out
the back door, careful to not make too much noise.

EXT. ROSEWOOD LODGE - NIGHT

The blizzard has died down considerably, but there's still
a flurry of snow falling outside as Brian and Allie quietly
sneak into the back yard.

They trudge through the two-feet of powder, heading straight for a small WOODEN SHED near the FROZEN POND.

INT. SHED - SAME

We see an old rusted SNOWMOBILE parked inside, covered with cobwebs and dust.

BRIAN
Keys--

Allie looks behind the door. There must be twenty sets.

ALLIE
Which one?

BRIAN
Try 'em all.

Allie and Brian grab keys and scramble to try them in the snowmobile. Brian checks the timer on his cellphone: four minutes remaining --

INT. BANQUET ROOM - SAME

JJ, Tiffany, and Shane sneak into the room, carrying their own mining equipment weapons, careful not to make too much noise. They can hear Finn and the parents a couple rooms away. No sign of Spencer.

TIFFANY
What're we looking for?

JJ moves to the exposed brick wall and the WATER PIPES.

He checks the timer on his phone and then TWISTS one of the valves as water pours out of a nearby faucet. Shane and Tiffany get the idea and they start twisting faucets as well.

Soon, there's a flood of water pouring onto the floor...

INT. SHED - SAME

Brian finds a key that fits the snowmobile --

BRIAN
Got it!

Allie hops on the back, wrapped in blankets.

BRIAN
You ready for this?

ALLIE
(smiles)
No.

Brian returns the smile and positions his shaking hand over the keys.

They both watch the timer on his phone tick down from one minute --

BRIAN
Come on JJ...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

The tension in the room is palpable. Rex is in the corner by himself, an outcast. Finn's drunk, playing with his gun, staring lustfully at Tiffany's Mom, who's huddled by the rest of the parents.

FINN
I'm Finn-- short for Finnegan.

Finn swaggers towards her. Leaning in close.

FINN
How about you and me grab a little alone time?

Tiffany's Mom tries to head butt him in a rage. Her husband writhes in protest.

FINN
Alright, hero. What you gonna do?
Gonna take a bullet for her?

Tiffany's Dad thinks about this. He stops struggling.

FINN
Didn't think so.

The second Finn uses his hand to caress Tiffany's Mom's leg, reaching up her inner thigh, Brian's Dad LUNGES --

Finn stares at Brian's Dad, then looks at Tiffany's Mom. Connecting the dots.

FINN

Damn. How many of these boys you
bangin'?

Panic flashes across Tiffany's Mom's face. Tiffany's Dad
and Brian's Mom look over.

Finn picks up on the confusion. He laughs and points his
gun right at Tiffany's Mom --

FINN

(to Brian's Dad)

You love her?

Brian's Dad shakes his head. He squirms, trying to get
free.

Finn presses the gun into her forehead. She cries --

FINN

Do you love her!? No lying. I can
tell.

REX

Stop it!

FINN

Answer or I put her brains on the
floor. Do you love her?

Brian's Dad shakes his head, flailing, attempting to SHOUT
through the duct tape, but it just sounds like guttural
grunts.

FINN

I don't believe you.

Finn CLICKS the pistol. Everyone screams. The tension
amps to an unbearable level --

Then Brian's Dad flings himself over Tiffany's Mom, trying
to shield her.

He nods, broken. Crying. He looks to his wife, who sits,
stunned.

Finn uncocks his gun and leans back, amused. The parents
all stare. The seams unraveling.

FINN

Damn you rich kids! More fun than a
bag of firecrackers!

Allie's Dad shakes his head, mumbling something derogatory towards Finn.

FINN
(to Allie's Dad)
Say something?

Finn laughs in his drunkenness.

FINN
Too much excitement for you? Maybe
you're right. Maybe I should find
another way to have fun.

Finn leans right into Allie's Dad --

FINN
I did see a couple cute girls running
around earlier. Maybe when I find
them, I can have some real fu--

Enraged, Allie's Dad attacks, catching Finn off guard and knocking him down, where he CRACKS his head on the floor. Blood trickles down Finn's face.

But Finn is swiftly up, his gun pointed at Allie's Dad, who's bubbling with anger --

FINN
You don't think I'll do it?!

Allie's Dad stands firm.

Finn has his finger on the trigger --

FINN
Don't ever touch me!!!

Finn pushes Allie's Dad to the floor when he notices a small river of WATER flooding in from the hall --

FINN
The hell?

Finn follows the water to check it out --

INT. BANQUET ROOM - SAME

He enters to find more water spraying out of the faucet, flooding the room. Finn trudges through the water and turns off the valve.

Outside, he hears a noise. An ENGINE starting --

INT. SHED - SAME

Brian and Allie watch the timer on Brian's phone hit zero.

Brian TURNS the ignition and it sparks for a moment, then gurgles and dies.

BRIAN

Shit!

ALLIE

What's the matter?

BRIAN

Frozen--

Brian tries again. The engine roars loudly, then dies again.

INT. FOYER - SAME

As soon as Finn enters --

JJ (O.S.)

Hey stupid! You slow or something?

He turns to see JJ, Tiffany, and Shane standing at the top of the stairs. Finn immediately runs for them, bounding up two steps at a time --

FINN

Little shits!

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

JJ, Tiffany, and Shane sprint down the labyrinth of halls as Finn catches up behind them.

JJ

Come on!

JJ pushes over a TABLE to block the hallway, but Finn jumps over it with ease.

INT. SHED - SAME

Brian and Allie continue to crank the snowmobile over and over, but it just won't start.

ALLIE
Can't you do something?

Brian has the hood popped, desperate to get it working.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

Tiffany and Shane round a corner when Finn dives and KNOCKS JJ to the ground. Finn's got him by the legs as JJ kicks and fights --

TIFFANY
JJ!

JJ
Keep going!

JJ finally lands a kick, though he grimaces from the exertion. Finn lets go, and JJ scrambles to his feet, nursing his hurt shoulder --

JJ
To the right!

FINN
You ain't goin' nowhere!

Finn is back on his feet as he continues to chase them.

JJ, Tiffany, and Shane run through a doorway into --

INT. SQUARE ROOM - SAME

A half-finished room with exposed walls and FOUR CLOSET doors. Two of them are old and two new.

JJ, Tiffany, and Shane enter the LEFT DOOR and slam it shut.

Seconds later, Finn enters. He opens the RIGHT DOOR and looks inside, but no one's there.

Then he moves to the left door. The one they entered.

That room is empty, as well. He notices that one wall is broken and leads right into the next closet over.

Just as he realizes it, JJ, Shane, and Tiffany run out of the CENTER CLOSET DOOR.

Finn doubles back --

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

JJ leads Tiffany and Shane to the back STAIRWELL and they run downstairs --

INT. FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - SAME

Shane is the first one down, but the second his feet touch the first floor --

He's ambushed by Spencer, who pops up behind the bannister and grabs him.

TIFFANY

Let him go!

Shane fights under Spencer's grasp. JJ and Tiffany try to wrestle him free while fending Spencer off with their mining equipment.

But they can hear Finn coming down the stairs towards them.

TIFFANY

He's almost here!

Shane ducks, realizing he's doomed.

SHANE

Go! Get out of here!

JJ

No way in hell.

SHANE

Hurry!

Finn's almost there. At the last second, Tiffany and JJ back away, running down the hallway and around the corner, out of sight.

Finn sees them and gives chase. But when he turns the corner, Tiffany and JJ are gone. He kicks the wall.

FINN

Shit!

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

The parents huddle together. They hear FOOTSTEPS O.S.
Finn YELLING.

Brian's Dad nods to Allie's Dad. They struggle to stand.
The others attempt to loosen their plastic tie bindings,
their wrists raw and bloody.

INT. SHED - NIGHT

Brian tries one more time to get the snowmobile started.

He cranks the key and the engine roars to life, but then it
starts smoking and dies. This thing's not moving.

ALLIE

What now?

Brian is at a loss. He SLAMS his fist into the handlebars.

BRIAN

We have to go back.

ALLIE

They'll see us--

BRIAN

Either that or catch hypothermia.

They hear the sound of an approaching vehicle --

Brian and Allie scramble to their feet and stare out the
frosted window.

Outside, they see a pair of HEADLIGHTS as a vehicle parks
on the far end of the driveway, near the street.

In the darkness of the night and the snow flurries, it's
impossible to tell what kind of car it is.

BRIAN

(relieved)

You were right!

ALLIE

Come on!

Allie runs out of the shed. Brian follows.

EXT. FRONT YARD - SAME

They fight through the still falling snow as a MAN exits the BEAT UP TRUCK and moves towards them.

BRIAN
Hey-- hello!

ALLIE
We need help!

Wrapped tightly in a thick jacket, scarf, and hat, the MAN approaches with a calm, smiling face.

MAN
You two okay?

Suspicious, Allie backs away --

ALLIE
Who are you?

MAN
I live at the bottom of the hill.
Wife thought she heard gunshots.
Now what's going on? You two look
freezing.

BRIAN
These men broke-in. They have our
parents--

ALLIE
And guns--

MAN
Whoa, slow down. Guns? What men?

ALLIE
Please, we need to call the police.

The Man looks towards the house, a bit nervous --

MAN
Let's go to my place. I have a
landline--

ALLIE
Thank you so much.

The Man leads Allie and Brian to his truck.

BRIAN
So, where's your house?

MAN
About a mile down the road.

Allie opens the passenger side door. Brian slows, thinking.

BRIAN
Strange.
(off Man's look)
It's just... our buddy said the
closest house was over five miles
from here.

A heavy silence. The Man smiles.

Before Brian and Allie can even register what's happening, the Man pulls out a flat black sawed-off SHOTGUN. It's only about ten-inches long but it could put a ten-inch hole in your chest.

BRIAN
What're you doing!?

Brian LUNGES at the Man, but he gets SMASHED in the face with the butt of the shotgun. He spits blood.

When the Man speaks, it's simple and straight. Almost inhuman.

MAN
House. Now.

Brian looks at the Man, then does the unexpected. He lurches up and KNOCKS the shotgun into the snow.

BRIAN
(to Allie)
RUUUUN!!!

Brian and Allie sprint back towards the shed and the FROZEN POND as the Man casually leans down, finds his shotgun, and wipes it off with his scarf.

He just starts walking after them. Slowly.

BRIAN
Hurry!!!

BOOOOOOOM!!!!

He FIRES a shot. Wood on the shed confettis!

BRIAN

This way!

They turn the other way, trudging through the snow, stumbling towards the pond. They're exposed with nowhere else to hide.

After a struggle, they make it to the shore line and just keep running across the ICE.

BRIAN

Keep going!

On the bank, the Man just stands there. He lifts his shotgun and puts Brian and Allie in his crosshairs. They're like sitting ducks...

And just as he's about to pull the trigger...

The ice CRACKS and they BOTH FALL THROUGH, into the freezing water.

UNDERWATER -- Allie struggles to get back to the surface but Brian stops her. He's a swimmer and he knows they can't just pop back up or they'll get shot. Panicked, she fights him.

On the bank, the Man stands there for what feels like minutes, his shotgun aimed, waiting to pick the kids off when they re-surface.

UNDERWATER -- Allie pushes against Brian, fading.

The Man studies the calm waters of the pond.

From the lodge comes an EAR-SPLITTING GUNSHOT BLAST --

The Man's attention shifts. With one last glance at the pond, he lowers his shotgun and heads towards the lodge.

After another moment...

Brian and Allie peak to the surface, gasping for air, shaking from the cold.

Brian helps Allie climb onto the ice, dripping with water as he helps her up and they stumble towards the shed.

INT. SHED - SAME

The second they get inside, Allie falls to the ground, going into shock.

Brian helps Allie out of her soaking wet jacket and outer clothes, and then takes off his outer clothes, as well. A desperate attempt to stay warm.

He grabs the tarp that covered the snowmobile and wraps it around them both, holding Allie close, rubbing her arms, trying to increase their body warmth...

BRIAN
(shivering)
Stay with me...

INT. NARROW CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Tiffany and JJ slip through the cramped passageway under the main floor.

TIFFANY
You think Brian and Allie got away?

The keep moving forward until they're in...

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM - SAME

Before they pass through, they hear something above. They sneak a look into...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Finn and Spencer enter. They throw Shane to the ground as his parents slide over to him. Finn fires a SHOT to the ceiling, trigger happy. The parents cringe.

Spencer binds Shane with plastic ties, slapping duct tape over his mouth.

SPENCER
Time to go.

FINN
And leave all these witnesses running around?

And right on cue, the front door begins to open.

Finn and Spencer train their guns on the door, but Finn drops his gun and grins once he sees it's THE MAN, his stare eerily calculating and cold.

FINN
Oh, it's on!

Spencer steps back.

SPENCER
How'd you call your brother?

This is **GABE**. A full-blooded psychopath, and everyone's worst nightmare. Gabe just looks around the room, studying the parents watching him and Finn.

FINN
Knew you'd show up.

GABE
What took so long?

FINN
Damn blizzard messed it all up-- then Malcolm--

Spencer stiffens, realizing --

SPENCER
What the hell? You were gonna screw us over all along?

FINN
Just Malcolm. We were gonna dump him after getting the girl into town.

SPENCER
What were you gonna do with me?

GABE
Hadn't decided.

Spencer takes a moment. He grips his gun, but then he sees Gabe watching, challenging Spencer with that calm, non-blinking gaze. Spencer relaxes his grip.

GABE
Where's Malcolm?

SPENCER
He killed him.

Gabe glances at Finn, impressed.

FINN
(fake bravado)
He had it coming.

At this Gabe smiles slightly. It's enough encouragement for Finn to get the pep back in his step.

FINN
Oh, and get this-- this whole thing was a joke. Turns out the husband over there was the one who hired Malcolm in the first place.

GABE
Doesn't matter.

Gabe turns to Sarah. He walks over and straightens her top. Taking his time. She shudders, repulsed and afraid. His hands lower to smooth out the wrinkles on her skirt.

FINN
I know I messed up and took too long but tell me you got some kinda plan? Somethin' genius?

Gabe just stares at the parents. Brian's Mom meets his gaze, eyes wide, tears streaming down her face. Gabe pulls out a switchblade.

GABE
Brother, do you want to play a game?

Finn claps his hands, getting pumped.

FINN
Aw, yeah.

GABE
(nods to Spencer)
Take off your mask.

SPENCER
Hell, no.

Gabe leans down to Brian's Mom, thrusting the blade towards her eye. She tries to scream, squirming, but Gabe holds her down. The other parents struggle around her.

GABE
Life, dear brother, is about choices. Will our friend go with choice A and take off his mask? Or choice B--

He brings the blade inches away from Brian's Mom's eye.

GABE

(laughing good-naturedly)

Well, shit. What do you call knifing someone in the eye and yanking out their optic nerve?

Finn can hardly contain himself.

FINN

You're all screwed. You're gonna get it. You're gonna--

Gabe pushes the blade millimeters above Brian's Mom's eye. She's hysterical, floundering --

SPENCER

Jesus!

Spencer throws off his mask, and Gabe drops Brian's Mom, who sobs on the floor.

Spencer looks down. Without his mask, he almost seems gentle, his face soft and pudgy.

GABE

All about persuasion, brother. Compromise.

Finn whistles, soaking in every word.

Gabe stands. He sees the cut on Finn's head and examines it.

FINN

(re: Allie's Dad)

Hero tried to kill me when I started talkin' about his daughter.

GABE

(to Allie's Dad)

The one I met outside? With the blonde boy--

Brian's Mom and Allie's Dad exchange a look.

Gabe turns to Allie's Dad, who's trembling now, fearing the worst. He tries to speak, but of course can't through the tape. The other parents look on with dread.

SPENCER

(resigned)

What did you do?

Finn's getting riled up again, feeding off the fear. Gabe puts away his switchblade and takes out a cloth from his jacket. He picks up his shotgun, cleaning it. Brian's Dad still struggles to speak.

FINN

Yeah, brother. Tell us.

Gabe puts away the cloth. He squats down next to Allie's Dad and then smiles.

GABE

I watched 'em drown.

Rage fills Allie's Dad. He lunges forward, but this time there's no hesitation --

GABE JUST FIRES HIS SHOTGUN INTO ALLIE'S DAD'S CHEST!

He's blown backwards -- BLOOD and GUTS splatter, falling on the other shocked parents.

UNDER THE FLOOR -- JJ clamps a hand over Tiffany's mouth, preventing her from yelling out.

Even as blood drips through the cracks in the floor, trickling down on JJ and Tiffany.

The parents murmur and sob, completely horrified. Spencer and Finn are even stunned. Gabe calmly wipes away bloody chunks of Allie's Dad off his jacket.

GABE

Gas cans in my truck.

SPENCER

What're you gonna do?

But Gabe just fixes his gaze on Spencer. Spooked, Spencer nods and heads for the truck.

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM - SAME

JJ pulls Tiffany back into the corridor.

TIFFANY

He killed them-- Allie, Brian,
Allie's Dad-- they're dead--

JJ eyes a small, dirty window at the end of the corridor leading to the front yard.

JJ
Come with me--

TIFFANY
Where?

JJ
Can't let them do this.

Tiffany nods, wiping away her fear as JJ leads her to the window.

EXT. FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The coast is clear as JJ and Tiffany run through the freezing cold, towards Gabe's truck.

From the front door, Spencer plods through the snow to the truck, head down in the wind.

JJ
Hurry--

Tiffany lifts a tarp in the bed where she finds TWO LARGE CANS OF GASOLINE --

They grab them and run, ducking around the truck just as Spencer walks up.

INT. SHED - NIGHT

Brian and Allie huddle in the corner, shivering.

ALLIE
Worst Christmas ever.

Brian has no answer.

BRIAN
I got accepted to RISD this morning,
for graphic design.

ALLIE
Your first choice.

BRIAN
I hid the letter under my mattress so
my dad wouldn't see. I was too
afraid what he'd say. Just like when
I got back from Cancun.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

My dad's an asshole, Allie. He didn't want me to be with you. He wanted me to "sow my oats." That's why I never called. You were right, I am an asshole. Just like him.

Allie tries to focus through the cold.

ALLIE

(with warmth)

For the record, even if you are one, you'd make a great designer.

Brian smiles slightly, and that's when they hear a noise outside. They lean up and look out the frosted window --

BRIAN

JJ--

He opens the door and calls out to JJ and Tiffany, who run over, carrying those gas cans. Tiffany hugs them both.

JJ

You're alive!

BRIAN

Barely. Snowmobile wouldn't start--

ALLIE

What happened inside? Is everyone okay?

TIFFANY

You didn't hear the... ?

Tiffany and JJ exchange a look. Before they can say anything, there's another NOISE outside.

JJ

Get down--

They all crouch down and peek out the window as Spencer checks the front seat and the bed of the truck, but there's nothing.

ALLIE

There's something you're not telling us.

JJ

They wanted to use the gas to burn the lodge down-- get rid of all the witnesses--

ALLIE

Oh my God. We have to get our
parents out of there.

Another look between JJ and Tiffany...

JJ

The guy... the one that just got
here. He shot your dad.

Allie can barely register what they just said.

ALLIE

What?

TIFFANY

He was defending you. I'm so sorry.
He thought you were dead.

Allie wants to scream or sob, but she can't. The tears
just fall down her face as she lets it soak in.

Allie takes a deep breath. Motivated by anger. Then...

ALLIE

We gotta stop them.

They look to her, sensing her determination.

BRIAN

Okay--

JJ

I'm with you.

TIFFANY

Me too.

JJ

(looks to Brian)
So what's the plan?

Allie glances down at the gas. Without hesitation, she
grabs the cans and heads towards the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gabe and Finn surround the parents when Spencer walks in
looking confused.

GABE

Well?

SPENCER
Nothin'.

GABE
Under the tarps.

SPENCER
First place I looked.

Gabe clenches his teeth, annoyed.

From a nearby hallway, they hear a NOISE. Sounds like someone shutting a door.

GABE
(to Spencer)
Go.

Spencer pulls out his gun and exits. Gabe turns to Finn.

GABE
Get ready.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

JJ stands in the corridor, waiting. He opens and shuts another door, creating that same noise.

Just before Spencer rounds the corner, JJ slips into a three foot high secret doorway and disappears between the walls.

Spencer checks the area when he hears a similar NOISE coming from the foyer.

Spencer turns and follows the sound into...

INT. FOYER - SAME

Spencer stalks into the entrance room when he hears a sound at the top of the stairs. He looks up, catching a glimpse of Tiffany as she runs past --

Spencer bounds up the stairs after her --

INT. ROOM UNDER LIVING ROOM - SAME

Allie sneaks quietly through the corridor, carrying one can of gas. She soaks a pile of old cloth and papers, then lights them on fire.

The blaze rages, spewing thick SMOKE up into...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Gabe and Finn are caught off guard as the cloud of smoke engulfs the room. They cough and stagger back, their visibility slipping away.

FINN
What are they doing?

GABE
(re: Sarah)
Grab her.

Through the smoke, Finn grabs Sarah.

FINN
What about-- ?

But Gabe's already out the door. Finn quickly follows.

Shane, Rex, and the other parents are choking on smoke as they cough and slither on the floor, desperate for breath.

After a moment, the GRANDFATHER CLOCK on the far side of the wall begins to wobble and move. It slides over as Brian, holding a jagged mining knife, enters from behind the wall where JJ was earlier.

He carries in WET SHEETS that he wraps around the parents.

Brian's Dad is hurt, but beyond happy to see his son.

SHANE
Brian!

BRIAN
We need to get you guys outta here.

Brian helps the parents to their feet, using the knife to cut through their plastic ties. Once free, the parents pull off the duct tape covering their mouths.

REX
Where's JJ?

Brian doesn't even answer Rex as they all stumble into the hidden corridor and heave the clock back in to place.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Finn grips Sarah's arm, jittery. Gabe scans the area, calm and calculated.

GABE
They wanna play.

FINN
Let's just go--

Gabe looks at his brother and he stops cold.

Up ahead, there's another NOISE.

Finn musters up his strength, then walks forward with Sarah in tow. She struggles, but Finn SLAMS her against the wall until she stops fighting.

Gabe looks back towards the living room and the growing blanket of smoke.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Gabe immediately sees that the parents are gone when he enters.

He looks towards the back doorway and towards the kitchen, but just before he moves in that direction, he hears something from behind the walls.

INT. CORRIDOR BETWEEN WALLS - SAME

The parents are crammed in the tight space. Brian's Dad winces, coughing slightly.

Brian tries to keep him quiet, when --

BAAANG!! A spray of shotgun shells RIP right past Brian's neck, piercing a hole in the wall as smoke and light spill into the dark space.

INTERCUT.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Gabe stands in the center of the room, shotgun in hand.

GABE
(yelling out)
IN THE WALLS!

Gabe shoots again -- bullet nearly hitting Tiffany's Mom as Brian hustles them down the tight corridor.

Gabe can hear them scurrying behind the wall like rats as he fires a few more shots. Then... silence...

INT. CORRIDOR BETWEEN WALLS - SAME

Brian shushes everyone. He pulls out his CELLPHONE and presses some buttons, then tosses it down the hall --

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Gabe hears the sound of the phone hit the ground and he unleashes another barrage of bullets.

Something is still moving behind the wall so he moves closer, still FIRING --

Shredding the wall like swiss cheese.

After a moment, Gabe walks over to the tattered wall and rips the wood aside, but there's no one there.

No blood. No bodies.

But there's still a sound.

Gabe looks down and finds a vibrating CELLPHONE -- the alarm continually going off, mocking him.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

The shelving unit opens up as Brian escorts Shane and the parents out the back door and into the yard. Brian turns to head back into the house. His dad stops him --

BRIAN'S DAD
I'm not leaving you.

BRIAN
Just go.

BRIAN'S DAD
Listen--

BRIAN
No-- you listen! Make sure Mom and Shane are safe. Get the others outta here. Now.

Brian's Dad is about to protest letting Brian go, but he can see the determination in his son's eyes. Turning, Brian's Dad exits with the others.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Gabe reloads his shotgun and moves for the kitchen, but the second he enters --

Brian ambushes him, STABBING Gabe in the side with the mining knife. Both of them take a moment, surprised. The blade sticks below Gabe's ribs. Gabe drops his shotgun, grimacing. It almost looks like he'll fall down --

But then he grabs Brian by the neck, even more angry. Gabe SLAMS Brian into the cabinets, shattering wood and glass.

Brian is strong, but Gabe tosses the teenager back into the living room like a rag doll --

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - SAME

Spencer moves slowly down the hall, gun in hand. He hears something behind a door.

Spencer puts his finger on the trigger, takes a breath, and swings the door open to reveal a ROOM ON FIRE!

Flames lick up the walls and flicker the ceiling.

Spencer backs up when he sees Tiffany running. He chases Tiffany as they sprint down the maze of hallways. She darts into the attic doorway as Spencer continues to chase her.

But the second he pounces up the steps, his FOOT BREAKS through the cracked wood and he falls through the plaster floor where JJ nearly fell earlier.

SPENCER
(in excruciating pain)
Ahhhh!!!!

He's able to pull himself from the hole and get back on his foot, but he stumbles. His ankle swollen like a balloon.

INT. BANQUET ROOM - SAME

Dragging Sarah with him, Finn makes his way into the cavernous room which is now swamped with smoke.

FINN
Where are you, kid?! Come on out!

JJ (O.S.)
Let her go!

Finn's startled. He can't see JJ, but he can hear him.

FINN
Where are you?

JJ's voice seems to ECHO off the walls of the large room --

JJ (O.S.)
You messed with the wrong family.

FINN
Is that so?

Finn turns, but still no one.

JJ (O.S.)
I said let her go!

Finn just starts SHOOTING. He unloads his clip into the walls of the room -- bullets RIPPING into wood and plaster.

EXT. BACK YARD - SAME

Shane, Rex and the other parents make it into the snow covered yard, exhausted after their ordeal --

BRIAN'S MOM

The kids are still inside--

They look at the lodge which is filled with flames --

TIFFANY'S MOM

Tiffany! Allie! Brian!

Suddenly, Rex turns and runs back into the lodge, right through the fire. The other parents try to follow, but a chunk of the porch ceiling falls, blocking their way.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Rex fights through the flames. He finds a KNIFE in a drawer and runs down the back hallway, towards the banquet room --

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Brian, spitting up blood, struggles to get to his feet. He swings at Gabe but misses wildly.

GABE

Had enough?

Brian lifts his hands, surrendering, but Gabe ELBOWS him across the jaw and sends him flying into the wall.

GABE

Not me.

Gabe storms towards Brian when he's SMASHED across the back of the head with a CHRISTMAS RUM BOTTLE. Liquor SPILLS all over him as he staggers for just a moment.

Standing there, trembling but strong, is Allie.

She SWINGS with the broken bottle again, but this time Gabe dodges and grabs her wrist.

He BACKHANDS her across the jaw.

Allie goes flying to the ground, blood oozing from her lip.

She looks over to see Brian lying there, and next to him, her father's motionless body.

With a rage filled cry, Allie gets up and tries to fight again but Gabe KICKS her and she falls back down.

INT. ATTIC - SAME

Tiffany finishes laying a blanket over the gaping hole in the floor. Spencer appears in the doorway.

SPENCER
You broke my ankle.

She gives him a sexy little nod.

TIFFANY
Thought you were tough.

Spencer smiles then moves forward, limping precariously over the rotted wood.

SPENCER
Dumb slut. Messed everything up.

TIFFANY
So come and punish me.

Tiffany moves to the side, steering Spencer towards the hole. But he keeps missing it. She rushes around the room, attempting to dodge him --

And just as Spencer's about to reach her, he takes a step forward, PLUMMETING through the cloth --

INT. BANQUET ROOM - SAME

Finn is there with Sarah when he looks up to see Spencer falling thirty-feet to the banquet room floor.

His neck SNAPS with a sickening crunch.

INTERCUT.

Suddenly, the wood floor gives way and Tiffany falls!

She reaches out, grabbing a beam and catching herself, her legs dangling as she hangs there, exposed.

Finn senses an opportunity. He points his gun at Tiffany, about to shoot, when --

JJ (O.S.)
Hey, douchebag!

JJ pops out from behind the fireplace mantle. Finn narrows his eyes, pissed.

TIFFANY
JJ!

Finn turns his gun to JJ when Sarah HEADBUTTS him, breaking his nose, and makes her escape.

FINN
Bitch--

JJ dives back behind the mantle, but Finn chooses to go after Sarah instead of him.

JJ
(to Tiffany)
Hold on!

Tiffany struggles, but finally is able to pull herself up and into the attic. She yells back down --

TIFFANY
Find your mom!

JJ nods and runs after Finn and Sarah --

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

Tied and gagged, Sarah stammers down the smoke-filled hallway, bumping into tables and chairs, desperate to get away from Finn, who's gaining from behind.

FINN
Get back here!

Sarah keeps going, until she hears a voice in the distance -
-

JJ
Mom!

JJ runs to his mom, helping her along.

JJ
Come on!

JJ leads his mom farther into the labyrinth when they turn another corner and slam right into Rex.

They both jump back, scared. Rex hurries to cut Sarah's ties. She pulls off the duct tape on her mouth. A heavy silence between them.

REX
(sincerely sorry)
Go.

Sarah and JJ look confused as Finn rounds the corner to see Rex standing there, blocking Finn's way with a kitchen knife.

FINN
Outta the way.

REX
It's over.

Rex doesn't budge as Finn lifts his gun. JJ and Sarah slowly move back, getting a head start.

It's just Rex and Finn now.

FINN
Move!

Rex charges him like a wild animal, wielding his kitchen knife.

But before he gets close, Finn FIRES and Rex falls to the ground. Dead.

SARAH
Rex!

JJ freezes, horrified. Finn looks at JJ and Sarah down the hall and then bolts toward them.

JJ
Mom-- come on!

JJ leads his mom down the hallway and into --

INT. TRIANGLE ROOM - SAME

JJ grabs the REMOTE CONTROL from Shane's car that rests on the desk.

JJ

Hide!

JJ moves for the HIDDEN CELL DOOR that we saw earlier.

INT. SMALL ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Finn enters the room. He looks around but JJ and Sarah are gone. It's empty save an old desk.

Finn moves for the desk. He knows they must be behind it.

FINN

You ain't leavin' with my meal
ticket.

Just as Finn's about to round the desk, he hears the sound of someone moving. He turns to see that hidden DOOR to the CELL quickly shut.

Finn moves for the door.

FINN

Come on out!

He opens it to see a SHOESTRING tied around the inside door handle. He pulls the string and finds a REMOTE CONTROL CAR at the end of it, used to shut the door from the inside.

Before he can realize the trap, JJ appears from behind Finn and SHOVES him inside the room, locking it closed from the outside.

Now inside the cell, Finn SLAMS his fist against the door, but there's no way out.

He's trapped in the tiny room.

Outside the door, Sarah stands up from behind the desk.

JJ

Let's go--

JJ grabs his mom and goes.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Allie, bloody and broken, struggles to stand as Gabe walks towards her. In the background, Brian fades in and out of consciousness, too weak to help.

GABE
Enough games.

Allie rises to her feet, revealing the FLINTLOCK PISTOL in her hand, pointed right at his face.

GABE
Well played.

She has Gabe's attention, but he's not scared.

In a flash, he GRABS the Flintlock Pistol from her hand.

Allie SWINGS her arms -- CLAWING at Gabe's face and ripping skin from his cheek with her fingernails --

But Gabe just THROWS her on the floor --

GABE
Stay down.

Allie tries to get up, but she's weak. Giving it everything she has, she slowly stands. Dizzy. Swaying.

GABE
(amused)
Stupid girl.

Gabe points the gun at Allie's forehead. She manages to steady herself, staring right at him.

ALLIE
Do it.

She's wrecked, drenched in dirt, blood, and sweat.

ALLIE
Shoot!

Gabe COCKS the trigger.

ALLIE
Come on! You've already taken my dad. Shoot me!

And then...

GABE
Merry Christmas.

Gabe PULLS THE TRIGGER and the antique gun SPARKS --

In a massive flash of bright light, Gabe's rum-soaked shirt goes up in flames!

GABE
ARHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

His entire body is on fire as he writhes in pain!

Allie watches him burn before she moves to help Brian get on his feet --

ALLIE
Brian!

Brian finally gets up as the fire RAGES around them.

Flames and smoke growing in intensity with every passing second.

ALLIE
I'm here--

From the foyer, Tiffany, JJ, and Sarah enter.

JJ
The whole place is coming down--

They help Brian up, barely breathing.

The group of them head towards the back, but they barely get a few feet when the ceiling begins to CRASH to the ground in front of them.

TIFFANY
Go back the other way!

They stagger into the foyer, but it's crumbling down too.

There's nowhere to turn as the flames and falling debris block their path.

They're trapped.

And just when it seems all hope is lost...

SOMEONE jumps through the wall of fire, wrapped in a wet cloth. It's Brian's Dad --

BRIAN'S DAD
Come on!

That's when the other parents rush in, all wrapped in soaking wet cloth.

TIFFANY'S DAD
Hurry!

Together, they all fight back the flames and run outside...

EXT. ROSEWOOD LODGE - BACK YARD - SAME

Just as they exit the lodge, part of the roof collapses in a ball of fire!

But they did it. They escaped.

Allie looks back to the burning house as we hear the sound of SIRENS approaching.

INT. INSIDE HOUSE - SAME

As we move through the flames, we see the dead bodies...

GABE...

REX...

AND ALLIE'S DAD...

EXT. ROSEWOOD LODGE - BACK YARD - SAME

The rest of the group stands there, exhausted and bloody. No words are spoken as they all just watch the lodge go up in smoke, consumed by fire.

JJ stays close to his mother, holding hands with Tiffany, as Tiffany's Dad and Mom stand nearby, the tension palpable between them.

A few yards away, Brian's Mom and Shane huddle together, Brian's Dad on the sidelines, by himself.

And then there's Brian and Allie, kneeling down. Brian reaches for Allie's hand, and she embraces him. Their bond deeper than ever.

WE PULL BACK from the destruction of the scene...

THROUGH THE SMOKE AND FLAMES..

And into the starry night air...

Where that JOYFUL JINGLE BELLS SONG we heard in the opening credits begins again.

ROLL CREDITS:

FADE IN.

EXT. ROSEWOOD LODGE - MORNING

The fire has subsided as emergency crews clean up the mess.

On the far side of the building, under a pile of rubble, some debris moves ever so slightly.

Then, a piece of wood slides down and we see a small SQUARE BRICK "BOX" just sitting there.

The small door opens and we realize that this box is the HOLDING CELL from the triangle room.

After a moment, he exits.

FINN. His clothes are tattered and his skin burnt. Eyes filled with rage. He looks like a monster now.

Finn spots a gurney with a scorched and blistered body being loaded into an ambulance.

Fury in his eyes, when he realizes it's his BROTHER.

Revenge on his mind...

Finn prowls into the woods and we --

SMASH TO BLACK: