

GIRLS UNWANTED

by

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DRAFT

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SCENE 1

A halfway house

In the inner city. Nothing fancy, or new. The living room and part of the kitchen. An old dining table just outside the kitchen

Kat and Hanna enter from the kitchen. Arguing. They are both in their late teens. Kat is lean and tough and dressed in jeans and a t-shirt. Hanna is very clean and tidy.

KAT

Really? You wanna keep on about this?

HANNA

I'll stop when you start doing your job better.

KAT

My job is to make breakfast. I made it.

HANNA

Making breakfast is not putting a bowl on the table with a box of cereal next to it. You didn't even take the milk out of the fridge.

KAT

You're not up to doing that yourself, eh.

HANNA

Every day it's the same thing. Cheerios. And that's another thing. Why is it always Cheerios?

KAT

I'm pretty sure I put out a box of Corn Flakes yesterday.

HANNA

An empty box of Corn Flakes.

KAT

No no it was--

HANNA

It was empty! Maybe you didn't notice because you were still high from that midnight crawl with your buddies.

KAT

That's possible. What's your excuse?

HANNA

My excuse for what?

KAT

Well the only thing you do for our lunch is open a fucking can of soup.

HANNA

But I serve it with crackers. Sometimes with cheese *and* crackers. And it's not the same thing. Everyone knows breakfast is the most important meal of the day!

KAT

Okay you have to shut up, or I'm gonna hurt you!

HANNA

Yeah here comes the tough talk! Calm down for godsake. I'm just saying a bowl of cereal isn't breakfast.

KAT

You're still talking, bitch.

HANNA

Breakfast is eggs or waffles.

KAT

Waffles? What the fuck--

HANNA

If I wanted a lousy bowl of cereal I could make it myself.

KAT

Yeah, but then you wouldn't have anything to complain about.

3.

HANNA

Except you and your nasty mouth you mean. Fucking this. Fucking that. How long do I have to listen to that garbage?

KAT

Until I fucking kill you, I guess!

Kat pushes her.

HANNA

Knock it off.

KAT

Sure...

She pushes her again.

HANNA

I mean it, Kat.

KAT

"I mean it, Kat."

(pushes her)

Idiot. What is it with all your bullshit anyway! Where the hell do you think you are? A fucking resort? You don't like your breakfast. You don't like your room. Then there's that other crap you keep feeding us.

HANNA

What other crap?

KAT

About how you were abused, what else.

HANNA

I was abused. I was abandoned. And that's a kind of abuse.

KAT

You were "abandoned" in a house with an in-ground pool.

4.

HANNA

What's it matter about the pool? I was still abandoned. And left alone with a brother who *did* stuff.

KAT

What kind of stuff?

HANNA

Stuff I'm not ready to talk about!

KAT

Yeah, because you haven't finished making it up yet!

HANNA

What about you? Your nasty mouth. All the garbage you leave lying around. When's the last time you washed a dish or swept a floor? You think that's not bullshit behaviour? And sneaking out at night looking for random guys to bang. What's that about?

KAT

Sex. It's about sex, Hanna.

HANNA

Yeah, well I have nightmares about it.

KAT

You have nightmares about me getting laid.

HANNA

No. About you bringing some guy back here who rapes and murders us all.

KAT

Really?

HANNA

Yes!

KAT

Okay. Except in your case, he'd probably skip the rape and get right to the murder just to shut you the fuck up.

HANNA

That's just ugly, Kat. That shows what kind of monster you really are.

KAT

Fuck off.

HANNA

No you fuck off, you nasty bitch. That's all you are, you know. A nasty moody bitch who likes to bang strangers.

KAT

Yeah. Bang strangers. And beat the crap out of whiney spoiled little cows like you.

Kat goes for Hanna's throat. They struggle, both trying to throw punches. Kat is better at it. But Hanna manages to land a kick to Kat's groin. Kat recovers, puts Hanna down and starts to bang her head on the floor.

HANNA

Stop it. You're hurting me! Kat!!
Please!! Stop!!

Kat stops. Gets off her. Leans back against the couch. Looks at Hanna who is whimpering and rubbing her head.

KAT

I really hurt you, eh?

HANNA

Yeah. You did.

KAT

(mumbles)
More bullshit.

HANNA

What?

6.

KAT
I said I'm sorry.

HANNA
God. What's wrong with you?

KAT
(mumbles)
I don't know.
(looks at her)
What's wrong with you?

They both mutter something nasty to themselves.

Blackout

SCENE 2

Hanna is on the couch with a bag of frozen peas on her head, looking at Max who is standing at the entrance to the living room.

HANNA
Hi...

MAX
Hi...

HANNA
You looking for someone?

MAX
Yeah. Kathy. I mean... Kat.

HANNA
I'm Kat.

MAX
Really? No, I mean this Kat.

He takes a small photo out of his pocket. Holds it up.

HANNA
Let me see that.

He hands her the photo.

HANNA (CONT'D)
Yeah this is Kat all right.

MAX
The other Kat.

HANNA
There is no other Kat. I was just messing with you.

MAX
Why?

HANNA
Because I felt like it. This is a mug shot. Where'd you get it?

MAX

I found this social worker who has a policeman friend and he--

HANNA

What do you want with her? Are you a friend.

MAX

No, not really.

HANNA

Right, so you're just someone she screwed. And now you want another piece of that bony little ass of hers?

MAX

No. Look, is she here or not?

HANNA

Maybe.

MAX

Maybe...

HANNA

Yeah. Maybe she's up in her room.

MAX

Well can you maybe ask her to come down?

HANNA

Not unless I can tell her who you are.

MAX

It's private.

HANNA

What is?

MAX

Who I am. What I want. It's all private. So can you just go get her.

HANNA

Maybe. If you stop being so pushy.

MAX

Right. I'm sorry. Please. Could you please just get her for me?

HANNA

That's better.

She jumps up. Goes to hallway.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Kat! Get down here. You've got a visitor!!

(looks at Max)

It might take her awhile. She's having a little trouble walking.

MAX

What's wrong with her?

HANNA

She got kicked in the cooch.

(off his look)

You know...

(gestures to her groin)

The pink, the poontang, the muff, the gash. Those aren't my terms for it but around here they're are some of the usual terms.

(gets up)

Have to get these peas back in the freezer for awhile so...

She heads towards the kitchen.

HANNA (CONT'D)

You want a beverage of some kind?

MAX

No I'm okay.

Max just stands there, looking around.

Kat comes in, a slight limp. Looks at Max.

KAT

Hi there. You looking for me?

MAX

Yeah...

KAT
Do I know you? You look familiar.

MAX
I do?

KAT
A little, yeah. Have we... spent
time together? I mean I mighta been
high, and I can't always remember--

MAX
No I'm not someone you-- We've
never met.

KAT
Okay. So whatya want?

MAX
Yeah. Well I was talking to Ms Able
and she--

KAT
Ms Able.

MAX
Yeah. She said she was your social
worker awhile ago. But you might
not remember her.

KAT
Because?

MAX
Because... most of the time you
were pretty strung out.

KAT
True enough. So you were talking to
her about...?

MAX
Our situation.

KAT
We've got a situation?

MAX
Yeah. And she said it might be good
for you if I made contact.

(MORE)

11.

MAX (CONT'D)

And that's what I wanted to do
anyway so--

KAT

Dude, what the fuck are you talking
about?!

MAX

(smiles)
I'm your brother.

Kat just looks at him. Hanna sticks her head out from the
kitchen.

HANNA

What was that he just said?

KAT

He said he's...
(looks hard at Max)
My brother.

HANNA

No shit. You told everyone you were
given up at birth.
(to Max)
That's the only personal thing
she's ever told us. I *thought* she
might have been lying. She lies a
lot.

KAT

Go away, Hanna.

Hanna ignores her.

HANNA

(to Max)
Unless you meant you're a foster
brother.

KAT

(to Max)
Yeah. I knew I recognized you from
somewhere. You were at Nicki's
house on Delaware, right. That was
like almost ten years ago.

MAX

No...

KAT
Earlier?

MAX
No. I'm not one of your foster
brothers. I'm your real brother. We
have the same parents.

KAT
(just looks at him)
I don't have any parents.

MAX
Yeah. You do. We both do. And
they're the same people.

HANNA
What's your name?
(off Kat's look)
I thought someone should ask.

MAX
(to Kat)
My names's Max.

HANNA
Max. And you're really her brother?

MAX
Yeah...

HANNA
How about that. So who's the one
that's *really* all alone in the
world now, eh? Me! Just me!

Hanna heads back into the kitchen

KAT
(to Max)
So did they give you up too?

MAX
No. They... kept me.

KAT
They kept you. Jesus. Why?

HANNA
(sticks her head out)
Because he's a boy, you idiot.

MAX

No it wasn't that.

(to Kat)

They just got back together. I mean after they let you go, they got together again and they--

KAT

(sitting)

Had you.

MAX

Yeah...

KAT

And they kept you.

MAX

Well they were a little older. And they were ready to start a family then, so--

KAT

Start a family.

MAX

Yeah...

HANNA

(sticks her head out)

And she couldn't be part of that family for some reason?

KAT

(to Max)

What *she* said.

MAX

You'd been adopted, and they couldn't find out where you--

KAT

Adopted, yeah. That didn't work out by the way. I left that happy home when I was twelve.

MAX

Yeah. They found that out. But no one knew where you'd gone.

KAT

Well I made sure of that, didn't I.
If they find you, they sometimes
send you back to where you ran away
from.

HANNA

(from the kitchen)

And there was no way she was going
back to those *awful* people.

(sticks her head out)

They only adopted her so they'd
have someone to clean their
toilets. That's her story anyway. I
think it's just one of her ugly
lies.

KAT

(to Max)

It's true. Their toilets, their
floors. The whole fucking house.

MAX

Jeez. Okay.

KAT

What's okay.

MAX

Nothing. I didn't mean that what
you had to do was okay. I just
meant "okay" like I was moving on
to talking about--

KAT

What?

MAX

Our parents. To talking about how
they tried really hard to find you.

KAT

They tried. And then they just gave
up.

MAX

Well the thing is, Mum has some
problems.

KAT

What kind of problems.

MAX

Depression. It can get pretty bad, so dealing with that took over everything for them.

KAT

For *them*. But not for you. You kept looking.

MAX

Yeah... and people like Ms Able felt sorry for me because I was still a kid when I started. Just twelve... and they bent some rules for me and--

KAT

You've been looking for me for--

MAX

Four years. Off and on. I mean I had to go to school, right.

KAT

Sure. But here you are. And... What?

MAX

You mean what *now*? Like what do I want to happen?

KAT

Yeah. You got something in mind?

MAX

I... just wanted to meet you. And then maybe take it from there.

KAT

Take it where?

MAX

Well that's--

KAT

What's your name?

MAX

Max.

KAT

Yeah I got that part. Your whole name.

MAX

Harvey. Max Harvey

KAT

Harvey's a first name.

MAX

(smiles)

Except when it isn't, I guess.

KAT

Right. So are you the only one?

(off his look)

The only kid they had after me.

MAX

No. I had a younger sister. Leanne. She died of leukemia.

KAT

Leukemia.

MAX

Yeah it's a kind of--

KAT

I know what it is. When did that happen?

MAX

She was eleven. She was a great kid. You would have liked her. Everyone liked her. We miss her a lot. And that's why my... our mum is--

KAT

Depressed?

MAX

Right.

KAT

So is that why you're here? You think I'd be a good replacement for her or something.

MAX

No. Well maybe... in a way. I know it would mean a lot if I could bring you together with our parents. But mostly I'm here because I thought we could get to know each other and then--

KAT

Sure. Let's do that.

MAX

Sorry?

KAT

Let's get to know each other. Here's my life story. You know, just to get us started. I was given up at birth. I was adopted. I was molested. I ran away.

MAX

What?

KAT

I ran away.

MAX

No. Before that...

KAT

Before that, I was molested.

MAX

Molested. In the same place where they made you do all that cleaning?

HANNA

(from kitchen)

A little hard to believe, isn't it.

KAT

(to Max)

Wait until you hear *her* story. She's an escaped princess from a real palace... So about my life, should I keep going or have you heard enough?

HANNA
(from kitchen)
I have!

Hanna steps out of the kitchen with a sandwich she has made.

HANNA (CONT'D)
Unless you're going to start
telling the truth. That'd be worth
hanging around for.

KAT
Eat me.

HANNA
(leaving)
That's never gonna happen.

Hanna is gone

KAT
(looks at Max)
I lived on the street. I was
"rescued," and put in foster care.
Five different families. Molested a
little again in one of those.
Banged up a bit in two others.
Wound up on the street again. Got
seriously into drugs. Stole shit.
Got arrested. Did two years in
detention. Got out. More time on
the street. More drugs. More
stealing shit. More time inside but
with a rougher crowd. Got beat up.
Got rescued and put in here. I
think they'll be letting me leave
here pretty soon, and then who
knows where the fuck I'll wind up
after that. Any questions?

MAX
What about school?

KAT
Yeah I went sometimes.

MAX
Just sometimes?

KAT

Well who the fuck can listen to all that garbage five days a week.

MAX

Yeah that's kinda my problem too. I Mean I just do it because of my--

KAT

Hey! This is about me. You'll get your turn. You asked me about school, right?

MAX

Yeah...

KAT

I wasn't there much, but I was still doing okay. Not great. But good enough to pass. Then one day my gym teacher got the idea that a little verbal abuse might motivate me more. She was right. It motivated me to break her face.

MAX

Break her face...

KAT

Her jaw. I'd already had a bunch of fights with other kids, so after the thing with the teacher they decided I needed to be put in a special place for kids who have O.D.D.

MAX

What's that?

KAT

Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

MAX

Never heard of it.

KAT

You only hear about it if they think you have it.

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)

And they thought I did, so they put me in a little room in the basement with two other potential serial killers and a part time teacher slash social worker where we spent all day learning how to be "patient" and "calm"

MAX

All day, all year?

KAT

Until I fucked off for good.
(looks at him)
Okay go ahead.

MAX

What?

KAT

It's your turn.

MAX

Oh. Well I'm--

KAT

Normal. Right.

MAX

Well not totally. But-- So are you still...?

KAT

Violent? Yeah I still get a little worked up sometimes.

HANNA

(entering)
Sometimes like every second day.

Hanna goes back into the kitchen.

KAT

Forget the garnish and the pickle?
(to Max)
What are their names? The parents.

MAX

Julia and Tom.

KAT

Julia and Tom Harvey. Okay. So what are they like?

MAX

What do you mean?

KAT

I mean do they keep their hands off you? Is there food in the fridge? Is the house heated? Do you actually live in a house or in a box in a field or--

MAX

No. Yeah. We live in a small house. There's food. All that's okay, but...

KAT

What?

MAX

Well like I told ya, Mum's sick. She hears things.

KAT

You said she's depressed.

MAX

She's depressed, *and* she hears things.

KAT

And what about *Tom* Harvey? Does he hear things too?

MAX

No. But he's been in jail.

KAT

Really.

MAX

Twice.

KAT

For what?

MAX

Both times for fraud. Second time was the worst. Because that's when Leanne got sick, and me and mum had to deal with that all on our own, and it was kinda--

KAT

Hard.

MAX

Hard, yeah. And scary.

KAT

Yeah... Well you really lucked out with this family thing, eh. Maybe I shouldn't be so bitter about being given up. Okay, you gotta go now. I need to think about this.

MAX

Sure. But--

KAT

No. Just go. Come back tomorrow. Or maybe next week is better. Okay?

MAX

What? Next week?

KAT

Yeah... if you can. If you still want to.

MAX

Yeah. Sure that'd be...
(starts out, stops)
Aren't you supervised here. Ms Able told me this a halfway house.

KAT

That's what they call it. Half way to where is the question.

MAX

And you're on your own?

KAT

No. We've got Maddy. She's our... guardian. Any more questions?

MAX

No...
(he starts out)
No...

He leaves.

HANNA

(leaves kitchen munching
on a pickle)
She called awhile ago. Maddy.
She wanted us to be prepared.

KAT

For what?

HANNA

She's bringing Ash back.

KAT

Yeah? Is she on her meds?

HANNA

I didn't ask.

KAT

So how are we supposed to prepare
then? Ash on her meds, Ash *off* her
meds, not really the same thing, is
it?

HANNA

No...
(gesturing to door)
He seems nice.

KAT

So what?

HANNA

Well if you're gonna have a brother
it's better if it's someone who's
kinda normal. My brother's a creep
and a bully, and my parents let him
do anything he wanted to me because
he was their favourite.

KAT

Because he wasn't a total asshole
like you are?

HANNA

I could show you the scars I got
from what he did to me.

KAT

Go ahead.

HANNA

I will.

KAT

When?

HANNA

When I feel like it.

KAT

Which means never, right.

HANNA

I've got scars, Kat.

KAT

Really? Like this one?

She lifts her t-shirt to reveal a long scar on her abdomen.

HANNA

Gimme a break. That's from getting
your appendix out or something.

KAT

Something like a knife with a six-
inch blade.

HANNA

Jesus... I mean is that true?

KAT

Why the fuck would I lie about it?

HANNA

I don't know. Why do you lie about
other things.

KAT

They're not lies, idiot. They're
just about things you've never
experienced. Why do you lie about
your brother doing things to you.

HANNA
I don't.

KAT
Okay.

HANNA
I said I don't!

KAT
And I said okay! Jesus!

HANNA
My head hurts. I might have
internal bleeding.

KAT
Well that should get you extra
attention.

HANNA
Which I might actually need!
How's your lady part.

KAT
Almost as good as new.

HANNA
Think you'll be hitting the streets
to try it out?

KAT
That's the plan.

Kat is leaving, trying to compensate for her limp.

Hanna watches her go.

HANNA
Slut.

KAT
Idiot

Blackout

SCENE 3

Maddy (late 20s) and Ash, 17 (sullen and in a hoodie) are in the living room.

MADDY
(yelling upstairs)
Okay, you guys. I need you downstairs!

KAT
(off)
I'm busy!

HANNA
(off)
So am I!

MADDY
I don't care! Get down here now!
(to Ash)
You okay? You look a little... Ash?

ASH
What?

MADDY
What's wrong with you?

ASH
Can I go to my room?

MADDY
Yeah as soon as we all have a little--

Kat enters.

KAT
(to Ash)
Hey, Babe. I missed you.
(hugs her)
How are ya?
(no response)
Ash?

ASH
What?

Hanna enters.

HANNA
Well look who it is.
(to Maddy)
What's wrong with her? Is she doped
up?

MADDY
I think she just needs to lie down.

HANNA
Isn't that all she's been doing for
the last month?
(to Ash)
That hospital keep you on a
treadmill or something?

MADDY
What are you talking about?

HANNA
Well I don't know what the therapy
is for someone like her. Could be
anything.

KAT
Anything except a fucking
treadmill.
(to Maddy)
What's happening?

MADDY
We're having a meeting. There's
some stuff we need to talk about.

HANNA
Like what?

MADDY
Well first off, there's a lot of
work around here that's not getting
done.

HANNA
(off Kat)
By her, you mean.

KAT
I do my share.

HANNA

Her share is whatever's done when she feels like stopping. The bathroom hasn't been cleaned in a month.

KAT

I did it last week.

MADDY

Yeah? Well you did a lousy job.

HANNA

Right. Plus there's all that garbage still on the back porch.

KAT

(off Hanna)

That's her "task".

HANNA

I never agreed to that. It was supposed to be up to Ash. I mean before she...

MADDY

Right. Ash... now that you're back, maybe you can...

(no response)

Hey. I'm talking to you, okay.

ASH

(looks around)

Where's Victor?

MADDY

He's not here right now.

KAT

We think he mighta quit.

ASH

Why?

HANNA

Because of you probably.

MADDY

We don't know that.

HANNA

She bit him. She bit him on the wrist, and the man quit.

ASH

What? No. I didn't bite anyone. I'm not a dog. You think I'm some kind of dog?!

KAT

He upset you, and you bit him. No big deal. The dude's a fucking pussy.

HANNA

He was worried she gave him Hep C.

KAT

Because?

HANNA

Because no one knows what she's up to when she disappears. What she takes. Who she fucks.

MADDY

Do you remember doing that, honey?

ASH

Fucking someone?

MADDY

No. Biting Victor.

ASH

I told you no.

MADDY

But are you sure?

ASH

Am I sure? Well I was but... now I'm---

MADDY

Confused. You're confused about it, and that's probably because you'd stopped taking your medication at the time, and--

KAT
(to Ash)
You can't remember.

ASH
Yeah, maybe that's it. Okay. Did I bite anyone else? Did I bite you, Hanna?

HANNA
Are you kidding? When I see that freaky look in your eyes I don't go anywhere near you.

MADDY
Okay, that's enough.

HANNA
I'm just saying she looks like a vampire sometimes. And not a normal one either. More like a vampire/zombie cross.

MADDY
I said that's enough!

KAT
(to Hanna)
Yeah shut up.

MADDY
(to Ash)
It wasn't because you bit him. Victor just needed a break.

ASH
Oh. So who's in charge?

MADDY
I am. For awhile, anyway.

HANNA
No that's no good. You don't have enough experience. I mean you're only here to do your community service.

KAT
Who told you that?

HANNA

Victor. She and her ex husband were car thieves.

KAT

(to Maddy)

That true? I thought you were a social worker.

MADDY

I was.

HANNA

Before she started to steal cars.

Its a long story. Anyway before all that I did what I'm doing here now.

KAT

Okay.

(to Hanna)

Good enough?

HANNA

Of course not. Some of us have serious problems we need more than someone who used to--

KAT

(to Maddy)

She means her. She thinks she's actually the only one here who has "serious problems."

HANNA

No I know Ash is messed up. But all you need to do is stop sucking so much cock.

KAT

Oh. That's my cure, is it?

HANNA

Well it might give you some self respect. And then you can get the hell out of here and leave the rest of us to our healing process.

KAT

Jesus, man. You're too much. Your "healing process?"

MADDY

She's not doing anything to get in the way of that, Hanna. If you want, you and I could talk alone more.

HANNA

Didn't we just establish that you're not qualified.

MADDY

I have a degree in social work. Just like Victor does. And fifteen years ago I was just out of Juvie. I was an addict, a thief, a total fuck up.

KAT

Just like me.

HANNA

(to Maddy)

You were in Juvie. And you were an addict. Then you got a degree in social work. And after that you stole cars? Is all that true?

MADDY

Why, do you think I'm just trying to impress you?

Kat laughs

HANNA

I just meant why didn't you tell me all that before?

MADDY

You mean show you my full resume.

KAT

(to Hanna)

The point is, she's qualified in a lot of ways to deal with us. Well maybe she was never a stalker like you were, Princess. At least not one who tried to kill somebody.

HANNA

Knock it off with the princess stuff, okay.

KAT

(Maddy)

She's pretty much okay with being called a stalker for some reason. But she hates Princess.

(to Hanna)

It's just a nickname. You know, like slut.

ASH

Or retard.

MADDY

Nobody here calls you retard.

ASH

(sad laugh)

Not to my face.

KAT

I never do.

HANNA

And I only do it when you make me mad.

KAT

And how does she do that?

HANNA

By doing something retarded.

MADDY

Okay, enough! Let's all just--

HANNA

Like giving our food to the raccoons.

KAT

(to Ash)

I don't mind that. But you should probably stop feeding the rats.

ASH

Why? You don't think they get hungry?

HANNA

They're rats! Look just stop giving our food to anything. Rats. Raccoons. Skunks.

MADDY

(to Ash)
Skunks? You feed skunks?

ASH

Just one.

HANNA

Yeah. I saw her doing it.
(to Ash)
Getting close up to that thing.
Feeding it out of your hand.
Suppose you get sprayed and bring that smell into the house.

ASH

It's a pet. It would never--

MADDY

What do you mean it's a pet, Ash?

HANNA

Who gives a flying fuck what she means!? I'm serious, Ash! If I see you giving our food out to any kind of freakin' animal again, I'm gonna get really upset.

ASH

Why?

HANNA

Did you hear that? Why. Jesus...

MADDY

Okay. No more of this. No matter how heated the situation gets, we knock it off with the stupid insults, okay.

HANNA

Even on Twitter?

MADDY

You're not allowed on Twitter.

KAT
Since when?

MADDY
Since forever.

KAT
Oh. I guess I forgot.

HANNA
She goes on it all the time to make
fun of me to her foster friends.

MADDY
How do you know that?

HANNA
I follow her.

ASH
Into the computer room?

HANNA
Jesus... No...
(to Maddy)
I follow her on Twitter.

KAT
And that's the only reason I tweet
about her.

HANNA
You mean to piss me off.

KAT
Yeah.

HANNA
You're sick, Kat.

Ash staggers a bit, rubs her head.

KAT
Whoa. What's wrong?

ASH
I think I need to take a pill.

MADDY
(off her watch)
Not for another two hours.

ASH

I don't mean my meds. I'm getting... a migraine, I think.

MADDY

Since when do you get migraines?

ASH

Since I started to fight back.

MADDY

Fight back?

ASH

Against things I see. You know, things that happened to me after I was taken.

MADDY

You mean your memories?

ASH

Can you smell memories? It's the smell I need to push away. But when the headaches start I get too weak to do that so...

MADDY

And these pills you're talking about...

ASH

They gave me some in the hospital. And I thought I could get more from Victor, but--

KAT

Victor gave you pills.

ASH

His were stronger, but he'd only give me one if I begged him.

KAT

(to Ash)

You had to beg him?

ASH

Or maybe that's just what it felt like.

(MORE)

37.

ASH (CONT'D)

(to Maddy)

Can I have one of yours?

MADDY

I don't have any migraine pills.

ASH

So whatya do when you get one?

MADDY

Not everyone gets migraines, Ash.

ASH

(rubs her temples
furiously)

Oh... this is... It really hurts

HANNA

(to Kat)

Why don't you give her something
from your stash?

MADDY

Hanna!

HANNA

"Hanna!" Hanna, what? You don't
think she has shit hidden somewhere
in this place.

ASH

(another sharp pain)

Please.

She looks at Kat

KAT

I might have something in my coat I
forgot to get rid off.

(leaving)

It's in the hall.

HANNA

I thought so. The crap she gets
away with in this place.

MADDY

You think I should clamp down on
her, eh.

HANNA

Yeah I do. I mean mostly for her own good.

Kat returns.

KAT

(handing Ash a pill)
Here.

HANNA

Just happened to have that in your pocket, eh.

MADDY

(to Kat)
What is it.

Ash swallows the pill.

KAT

Does it really matter? It'll handle her pain. And it was definitely my last one.

Ash is stretching out on the couch.

HANNA

Yeah sure.
(to Maddy)
I want her punished.

MADDY

(smiles at Kat)
She means for your own good.
(to Hanna)
I'll deal with her.

HANNA

I want her punished!

MADDY

I said I'd deal with her!

HANNA

Yeah but you won't. You'll talk to her. And that'll be it. If I break the rules I get punished. She hides drugs all over this place. She hides liquor. She even sneaks guys in here for sex sometimes.

(MORE)

HANNA (CONT'D)

And that's definitely not on.
That's a really big rule, right!
I've passed up a lot of
opportunities for some action
because of that rule.

KAT

Except with Victor?

MADDY

What?

HANNA

Victor and I were close. So what?

MADDY

How close?

HANNA

Like friends. That's all.

MADDY

Hanna?

HANNA

That's *all!!* Leave me alone for
chrissake!!

ASH

Stop! Please!! My head is...

KAT

You'll feel better in a minute.
Promise.

ASH

Yeah but... later.

KAT

I'll get you more somehow

MADDY

No you won't. I'll call the
hospital.

ASH

Yeah, they gave me some when they
let me out. But I... lost them.
Where was I before?

KAT

Before what? The hospital?

ASH

No after that. Where was I then?

MADDY

Just today? They found you in a ravine.

ASH

The ravine. Yeah. People there always had pills. Can we go there and ask for some?

MADDY

We're not going to the friggin' ravine, Ash. I'll call the hospital like I said!

Maddy's phone goes off.

MADDY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hi ... What is it? ... Oh God ... When? ... Well what do they think happened? ... Really? ... Jesus Christ ... Yeah they're all here... Why not ... No. I don't agree. I think they should know ... Yeah. Very serious. Later...

She disconnects.

KAT

Who was that?

MADDY

Will Muncie. He's in charge of our section at the Ministry.

KAT

Yeah, so what's--

MADDY

Do you remember a few weeks ago when we had that talk about how you should try to deal with unexpected things?

ASH
Was I here?

KAT
No...

MADDY
Victor was talking about coping
strategies for things you might not
be prepared to--

ASH
Where else was I? I mean where was
I when I wasn't here?

KAT
You mean besides the hospital or
the ravine.

ASH
Yeah...

HANNA
How the hell are we supposed to
know that. You could have been
anywhere.

ASH
Not anywhere. Somewhere.

HANNA
Jesus...
(to Maddy)
What's going on?

KAT
Yeah. What did he tell you?

MADDY
Okay. But try to keep everything
Victor said that day in mind
because-

KAT
Ah for fucksake, Maddy!

MADDY
(looks at them all)
Victor's dead.

KAT

Dead.

HANNA

What?

(laughs)

Come on. Seriously?

MADDY

Yes, Hanna. Seriously. You know, you really need to get control of what comes out of your mouth! And when a person is telling you something that might be kind of hard to explain because it's so... upsetting, you should just be quiet and fucking listen! Okay!?

HANNA

Whoa. Calm down, woman.

MADDY

(approaching)

What?!

HANNA

I meant... Sorry.

KAT

(to Maddy)

He just... died? He just all of a sudden--

MADDY

They found him in an alley.

KAT

They found him in an alley... dead. So he, what...?

HANNA

Just went into an alley and...?

ASH

He was attacked.

MADDY

How do you know that?

ASH

Just a guess.

43.

MADDY

A guess.

ASH

Yeah. I think so.

They all look at her.

Blackout

SCENE 4

Ash and Kat are in the kitchen, chopping vegetables.

ASH

It was just a guess. People get killed in alleys all the time, don't they.

KAT

It happens, yeah.

ASH

That's all I was saying. I don't think Maddy believed me though.

KAT

Why not?

ASH

Because of what I'm from.

KAT

You mean your family?

ASH

Yeah. And they're the kind of people who let their eleven year old daughter go hitch hiking on her own. So probably she thinks all of us are bad like that.

KAT

You were eleven years old when you were raped.

ASH

The first time. I was on my way to town.

KAT

And some guy--

ASH

Two guys...

KAT

Two guys... picked you up and...
Ah shit. I didn't know that. You
only told me about the other time.

ASH

Because the other time was worse. I
escaped from the first guys. The
other guys killed me.

KAT

What?

ASH

Well I'm dead, right. I mean kinda.

KAT

No. No. You're just--

ASH

They put me in that basement, and I
died there. So did all those other
girls.

KAT

Except they actually *did*. And you
escaped. You escaped from those
guys too.

ASH

Not really.

Maddy comes into the living room.

MADDY

Get in here. We need to talk. Come
on. Hurry up.

Kat leaves the kitchen and approaches Maddy.

KAT

What's up? You okay?

Ash joins them.

MADDY

No. I'm not. Someone I knew pretty
well just got fucking murdered.

KAT

Yeah. Right. I guess it's been awhile since that happened to someone you hung with.

MADDY

What? I never had a friend get killed, Kat.

KAT

Really? I had two. One got stabbed by a pimp. Wasn't even *her* pimp. Another girl I knew got run over by a cop car. That was just weird.

ASH

I knew a lot of girls who got killed.

KAT

(to Maddy)

The ones they found in that field.

ASH

They were killed and then killed again.

MADDY

What?

KAT

She means they were already kind of-

ASH

And before that there was Cassie. She was getting raped in one of the rooms upstairs. She broke the guy's vodka bottle on the wall, cut his throat, and then cut her own. That was good. It was good that she took him with her.

(to Maddy)

So what's up?

MADDY

(a beat to recover)

The police want to talk to you.

ASH

Just me?

MADDY

No. All of you. Me too.
(to Ash)
Go wake Hanna up, okay.

Ash nods and hurries off.

MADDY (CONT'D)

We have to keep an eye on her,
okay.

KAT

Sure. Like always.

MADDY

No she's gotten worse. Don't you
think?

KAT

Maybe, yeah. So the cops... this is
about Victor?

MADDY

Yeah, they have some questions for
us.

KAT

What kind of questions?

MADDY

I don't know.

KAT

No you gotta give me an example. I
need to get prepared.

MADDY

To do what? Lie? Just try to relax
until we get there.

KAT

We're actually going to the cop
shop. Jesus fuck. I don't think I
can handle that.

MADDY

It'll be okay.

KAT

It's never been okay before.

MADDY

Yeah well you're not the same person you were.

KAT

Yes I fucking I am. I mean I'm not doing *all* the same shit I used to. But I still have trouble talking to cops. Anytime they've ever been in my face, I--

MADDY

You what? Panicked? Confessed when you didn't mean to?

KAT

Well not exactly, but--

MADDY

Did you kill him?

KAT

What?

MADDY

Did you kill Victor?

KAT

No.

MADDY

Okay so just try to remember that before you open your mouth.

Ash comes back in.

ASH

Her door's locked. I knocked and yelled a little, but she didn't--

MADDY

I'll get her.

KAT

How?

MADDY

I've got a key.

KAT

Just to her room?

MADDY
No. To all of them.

She leaves.

KAT
Weird. Why would she have keys to
all our rooms?

ASH
Maybe for emergencies...

KAT
Emergencies. You mean like a...

ASH
Like a fire, yeah.

Maddy comes in.

KAT
What's going on?

MADDY
You tell *me*.

She is followed closely by Max and Hanna. Max has just finished getting dressed. Hanna is wrapped in a large blanket.

KAT
(off them both)
What the fuck is this?

MADDY
Hanna says this young man is your
brother.

MAX
I am.

KAT
(to Max)
Jesus. What were you doing with--

MADDY
Since when do you have a brother?

KAT
Since yesterday maybe.

MAX

No. It was yesterday.

Maddy's cell goes off. She steps away to answer it.

KAT

I meant maybe I have a brother.

(to Hanna)

Are you so hard up you'll bone anyone? He's just a kid.

MAX

It's no biggy. I do it a lot.

KAT

Yeah? And do you usually do it with freak shows like her?

HANNA

(to Max)

I told you she'd get nasty about it.

(to Kat)

What's it to you anyway. You don't even know him. And if you'd been awake to say hi when he got here, I wouldn't have had to entertain him.

KAT

(to Max)

How was she? Did she move at all, or just lie there and let you worship her?

HANNA

(to Max)

Ask her how many guys came on her face last night.

(to Kat)

Whore.

KAT

Yes. You are.

Maddy steps back in.

MADDY

Okay knock it off. That was the police making sure we're coming.

(to Hanna)

(MORE)

51.

MADDY (CONT'D)

Go finish getting dressed. They want to talk to us about Victor.

HANNA

So why can't they come here?

MADDY

Because I don't want anyone seeing the police enter this house any more than they already have.

HANNA

(to Ash)

That was your fault.

(to Max)

She tried to burn us all alive once.

ASH

(to Max)

I had problems. But I'm a little better now.

KAT

She means it was an accident.

ASH

(to Max)

I forgot there were other people in the house. I was supposed to be the only one who--

HANNA

Got burned to a crisp?

ASH

Yeah...

(puts out her hand to Max)

Ash.

MAX

Max.

ASH

And you're her actual brother?

MAX

Yeah.

ASH
(to Kat)
How cool is that, eh.

KAT
Yeah. Effing wow.

ASH
Think I better put something clean
on.

MADDY
Good plan. And maybe lose a few of
the piercings. They're cops, honey.
Some of them are--

KAT
Assholes. They see certain things
and they judge.

MADDY
Lose whatever you can without
harming yourself.

HANNA
She means don't just yank the
friggin' thing out of your nose.

ASH
That's funny.
(to Kat)
She says funny things sometimes.

Ash leaves.

HANNA
I don't like the way she said that.
She's way freakier than she used to
be.

Hanna leaves.

MADDY
I better go hurry them up.

Maddy leaves.

Kat looks at Max.

KAT
So did you have fun up there?

MAX

Yeah. She laughed a few times so that was a little--

KAT

Weird?

MAX

She kept saying "well this is a surprise" Every time I... did something she said it was a surprise. I kept asking her if she was all right. And she'd say, "Yeah, just surprised."

KAT

And then she'd laugh.

MAX

(nodding)

It was kinda strange. But basically, it was nice. I like her.

KAT

Oh good. So... this isn't next week like I suggested.

MAX

No. But...

(he takes a note out of his pocket)

I wanted to give you this.

(hands it to her)

It's from our dad. He wants you to call him.

KAT

Call him. Not go see him. Just call him.

MAX

To start with, yeah. Like he says in the note. He thinks we should go slow.

KAT

Slow. Sure. I guess maybe I thought he'd be excited to see me, that's all.

MAX

Well he got pretty worked up when I told him I'd found you.

KAT

Worked up.

MAX

He cried. You know, like a lot. But then... well basically he doesn't know how mum would handle it.

KAT

You mean handle *me*.

MAX

I mean handle *knowing* about you. That you're alive even and that you're--

KAT

A criminal.

MAX

Both those things I guess. Not without some preparation anyway. So do you think you might do that? Call him?

KAT

Probably not.

MAX

Right. So... probably not. That could actually mean maybe. Right?

KAT

What? Yeah. I guess it could but-

MAX

Good. So how've you been?

KAT

Since yesterday?

MAX

Yeah. Whatya been up to? I mean Hanna told me about that social worker getting killed.

KAT
Yeah. That happened.

MAX
Right. And now you're off to talk
to the cops about it. So...

KAT
So what.

MAX
I dunno. Do you have any ideas
about who did it?

KAT
Yeah. Lots of them. But I think
I'll keep them to myself for now.

Maddy comes in.

MADDY
(to Kat)
You ready?

KAT
Sure.

MADDY
(yelling off)
Hanna! You coming!?

HANNA
(off)
Hold on!

MADDY
(to Max)
So can you wait for us?

KAT
Why would he want to do that?

MADDY
So we can have a talk.

KAT
About what?

MADDY
About you. What else?

Hanna appears in a very nice outfit.

HANNA
Okay. Let's go.

They all start out.

MADDY
That's a pretty dress, Hanna.

HANNA
Thanks. I was saving it for a special occasion.

KAT
And a trip to the police station qualifies, eh. Weirdo.

Ash appears with fewer piercings. And she is wearing a clean t-shirt.

ASH
Better?

MADDY
Yeah it's fine.
(to Max)
Make yourself at home.

The women leave.

Max looks around.

MAX
Sure... Okay...

He sits. Looks around. Stands. Sits again.

Blackout

SCENE 5

Max is gone.

We hear Maddy and Kat coming in.

KAT
Hey stop pushing me.

MADDY
Get in the house.

KAT
I gotta go find her.

MADDY
You're not going anywhere. Just get
in

KAT
Well someone's gotta look for her.

MADDY
The police are doing that.

KAT
Yeah and that's great, isn't it.

Kat storms in, very agitated.

KAT (CONT'D)
Fucking dumb-ass bullies. I mean
the smirk on that one
motherfucker's face when Ash
started to cry?!

Maddy enters.

KAT (CONT'D)
I wanted to break a chair over the
stupid prick's head. Fucking low
life dirt bags.

MADDY
Okay calm down!

KAT

No. Fuck that. She's out there somewhere now, and she's gonna hurt herself!

Hanna comes in.

MADDY

No she's not

KAT

Yes she fucking is! When she's upset like this, she hears them call her. You know, the voices of those girls asking her to join them.

HANNA

I don't get that. She knows they're dead, right. She knows those evil freaks shot them all when the cops were closing in on them.

KAT

Yeah. But that's what she hears. And that's why she thinks she should kill herself. Because she thinks it was her fault.

HANNA

Which it kinda was.

KAT

What?

HANNA

Well after she escaped she took the cops back to that farmhouse. And that's why she's so upset. Guilt.

KAT

Yeah? You don't think it has anything to do with being accused of murder and then chased out of a police station by a couple of outta control dirt bag bully cops!?

HANNA

Maybe that was because of her guilt too. And they weren't outta control.

KAT

Shut up.

HANNA

They were just doing their jobs.

KAT

I told you to shut your slobbering gob! You keep talking and I'll put my fist through your face!

HANNA

Like I'm afraid of--

Kat rushes her and is about to pound on her. Maddy intervenes and grabs Kat from behind.

MADDY

Kat. Get off her!

KAT

(to Hanna)

I warned you, didn't I. But you can't ever just shut the fuck up!!

MADDY

Kat! Knock it off!!

Maddy with a very large effort manages to pull Kat away.

MADDY (CONT'D)

For chrissake! I am so sick of this crap between the two of you!

KAT

Look I know how she felt, okay. I know what it's like when cops zero in on you like that. And it was all because of the garbage this fool was telling them about her!

Maddy's phone buzzes. She takes it into the kitchen.

HANNA

It was the truth! She's dangerous.

KAT

To herself.

HANNA

Oh yeah? What about the fire? And she hit me once.

KAT

Everyone you know has probably hit you at least once. You told me Victor hit you for mouthing off to him.

HANNA

It was just a slap. And so what?

KAT

So maybe *you* killed him!

HANNA

Ash killed him. She basically admitted it.

KAT

No she didn't. She said she'd had a blackout.

HANNA

While she was with Victor.

KAT

While she was *looking* for Victor.

HANNA

Well you put two and two together and you can assume she found him. The cops did.

KAT

After you went on about her sometimes being "outta control."

HANNA

I should withhold evidence?

KAT

You should keep everything you *think* you know inside your ridiculous brain, and just stay in bed all day sucking on Gummy Bears.

HANNA
I've got low blood sugar!

Maddy returns. Putting away her phone.

KAT
Okay here we go...

HANNA
Low blood sugar, deep anxiety and very low self esteem because of all the neglect I've had to suffer for most of my life. Even when I was first born. None of the nurses would come near me!

KAT
You remember that, do you?

HANNA
My parents told me about it all the time. They thought it was funny. I told you. They're horrible horrible peop--

KAT
(to Maddy)
Help me out here, will ya.

MADDY
Look, Hanna. No one thinks you don't have serious problems--

HANNA
(off Kat)
Except her.

MADDY
Well she doesn't really know everything about your history. But that stuff you told the police about Ash, it was like you were trying really hard to *make* them think it was her who killed Victor.

HANNA
I was just pointing them in a direction.

MADDY
A very specific direction.

KAT

And if Ash does anything to herself--

HANNA

It'll be because that's what she was going to do anyway. Look, I'm sorry about all those things she went through. Being a sex slave, that's really ugly. But if she's totally damaged then--

KAT

Then what? We should just let her rot in jail!?

HANNA

(to Maddy)

Who was that on the phone?

KAT

Was it the cops?

MADDY

No.

HANNA

Was it Ash?

MADDY

No. Look it's not--

HANNA

So who was it? Had to be someone.

MADDY

It was just a friend.

HANNA

You don't have any friends.

MADDY

Fuck off.

HANNA

Hey. You can't talk to me like that.

MADDY

Why not?

HANNA

Because you're not allowed. Because of your position here. Even if it is temporary.

MADDY

Right. I forgot. But fuck off anyway.

Max comes in with two bags of groceries. They look at him.

MAX

While I was waiting I got a little hungry, but there wasn't much in the kitchen so--

MADDY

You went shopping for us?

MAX

Well you were gone all night, so I thought when you got back I could make you breakfast. What did the cops want? Where's Ash?

HANNA

We don't know.

KAT

(to Max)

Yeah. Do that.

MAX

Do what?

KAT

Make breakfast. I mean it's the only reason I can think of for you to be here, so...

MAX

Yeah. Sure. Okay...

He starts into kitchen. Stops.

MAX (CONT'D)

About that call to Dad. It might be too complicated to get rolling on that right now.

KAT

Whatever.

HANNA

(to Max)

How long are you going to be staying anyway?

KAT

Why, you hoping to get another shot at him?

HANNA

No. I'm just wondering how he can be away from home this long?

MAX

My parents think I'm at one of my cousins' place.

KAT

You've got cousins. Wow. There's a whole bunch of you in that family. I thought Tom and Julia were basically on their own

MADDY

Who are they?

MAX

Our parents... I'll get breakfast going.

He starts off again. Stops.

MAX (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, so what did the cops want?

MADDY

Just to ask us some questions.

MAX

Okay. So everything's all right?

KAT

Just concentrate on breakfast, okay.

HANNA

(to Max)

Can you do eggs benedict?

MAX

What?

KAT

Don't worry about it.

Max goes into the kitchen.

MADDY

What is it that he wants from you,
Kat?

KAT

Probably nothing I can give him.

HANNA

He's lonely.

(off Kat's look)

He told me when we were upstairs.
After his little sister died his
parents stopped talking...

KAT

To him.

HANNA

Yeah. And each other. Sounds pretty
bleak there. He thinks he's not
enough.

KAT

What's that mean, not enough?

HANNA

Not enough to help his mother. He
thinks she just needs her daughter
back.

KAT

(to Maddy)

He means the one who died.

MADDY

Or maybe he means the one who's
still alive. Look you need to talk
all this through with him. When
you're allowed to leave here and
spend more time with him, you can-

KAT

Whatya mean, when I'm "allowed".
I'm 18. I can leave whenever I
want.

MADDY

No. Sorry. I told the police I'd be
responsible for you until--

KAT

Until what?

MADDY

Victor was killed. They don't know
who did it. So...

KAT

So they think it might be me. I
mean if it wasn't Ash.

HANNA

Well you'd be next on my list for
sure. If they think it was someone
who had a problem with him, that'd
be you, wouldn't it.

KAT

But not you.

HANNA

I never got into a fist fight with
the man like you did.

KAT

No you just sent him threatening
emails.

HANNA

There was no proof that was me.

KAT

You're the proof, idiot. It
wouldn't be the first time you'd--

HANNA

That's in my past. All that
happened when I was someone else.

KAT

We were all someone else, Hanna.

HANNA

Except for you. You're still the nightmare you always were.

MADDY

Shut up. Both of you. You can't go anywhere either, Hanna. They want you both staying put.

HANNA

Well good luck with that. How are you going to stop *her* from sneaking out every night,

MADDY

I'm going to ask her not to.

HANNA

Oh. Good plan.

KAT

(to Maddy)

No. I'll stop. I thought you were okay with it.

MADDY

It was what you needed to do at the time.

HANNA

You mean screw half the city?

KAT

(to Maddy)

I don't know why it makes her happy to think that.

(to Hanna)

I walk, Hanna. *That's* what I do.

Maddy gets another call. She leaves.

HANNA

You walk. You just walk around all night.

KAT

Not all night. For three or four hours maybe. It's a habit I picked up when I was on the street. Walking felt safer than sleeping.

HANNA
Okay. I get that.

KAT
Oh well good for you then.

HANNA
And you never get laid.

KAT
Only when I meet someone who--

HANNA
Who has a dick.

KAT
Not necessarily. And seriously,
what the fuck's it to you anyway.
It's not my fault you don't get any
action.

HANNA
I've had my share.

KAT
Who with?

HANNA
With a lot of the girls who've come
through here, that's who.

KAT
Name one. Come on. Just one and
I'll shut up.

HANNA
Okay. Cara.

KAT
Cara. She was blind, right.

HANNA
Partially blind.

KAT
You mean blind *enough*.

HANNA
Oh go fuck yourself.

KAT
Sure. You wanna watch?

Maddy comes back in.

KAT (CONT'D)
(to Maddy)
So Ash and me are the only ones on
the cops' list.
(off Hanna)
What about *her*?

MADDY
No one's told me she's in the clear
either.

HANNA
They haven't?

KAT
And what about all the other girls
who've come through this place that
Victor mighta pissed off?

MAX
(steps out of kitchen)
Five minutes. Maybe someone can set
the table.

They look at each other.

MADDY
A reasonable request.

Kat and Hanna get to the task.

KAT
Who was on the phone that time?

MADDY
Muncie.
(off her look)
Will Muncie? My boss? It was him
the last time too.

HANNA
So why didn't you tell us that?

MADDY
Because I'd just hung up on him
and...

She is just looking at them.

KAT
What is it?

MADDY
The police have been looking into
all of us and--

HANNA
You mean you too?

KAT
(to Maddy)
They found out you had a record.

MADDY
Yeah. But Will knew that. What he
didn't know is that I'm currently
seeing a psychiatrist.

HANNA
You are?

MADDY
Yes, Hanna. I am.

KAT
And he's got a problem with you
doing that?

MADDY
He wants me to tell him *why* I'm
doing it. And I'm wondering why
can't I be allowed to have issues
just like anyone else.

KAT
You can.
(to Hanna)
Right?

HANNA
Maybe. As long as her issues don't
get in the way of my issues.

MADDY
I bet half the social workers in
this city are in some kind of
therapy.

(MORE)

MADDY (CONT'D)

I guess I was supposed to leave my "troubled" past behind and become a completely new person. I'll see if he needs any help in there.

She goes into kitchen.

HANNA

I'm not happy that she's in therapy.

KAT

She's probably not happy that you're in her *life*. Okay maybe you should hear this. There's no time when everything bad someone's been through just fades away and they become normal. No one ever does.

HANNA

Well you won't, that's for sure. You'll always be messed up and dangerous. Why are you smiling? It's the truth.

KAT

Maybe. But the truth about you is a lot scarier.

HANNA

Sure it is.

KAT

Yeah these problems you say you had with your family, that's just smoke. You're actually a fucking psycho, right.

Hanna continues putting down the plates

KAT (CONT'D)

(laying out cutlery)

You didn't wind up in the system because your family ignored you. When you were in Juvie, a friend of mine was in there with you. And there was a lot of talk about you, girl.

HANNA

Well I guess they thought I was sort of special.

KAT

Yeah you're right. A violent female stalker who'd just tried to kill her best friend, that definitely made you special.

Hanna is trying to ignore her. Kat closes in.

KAT (CONT'D)

That thing you and Victor had going on before he dumped you... If the cops find out about that, you become suspect number one.

HANNA

No way.

KAT

Come on, with what you did to that sweet little girlfriend of yours. Trying to crush her against a garage door. That was ugly Hanna. That was some heartless demented shit. And I think the cops should hear more about it.

Hanna suddenly picks up a fork from the table. Turns on Kat with it.

KAT (CONT'D)

Really? A fork?

HANNA

Get outta my face or this goes in your fucking eye.

KAT

Chill, Hon. I'm not gonna say anything to the cops.

HANNA

Bullshit.

KAT

No no. Not if you stop trying to put what happened to Victor on Ash.

(MORE)

73.

KAT (CONT'D)

She's been through more than
enough, don't ya think.

(closer)

Don't you!?

HANNA

Yeah... Okay... I guess she has.

They continue to set the table.

Max and Maddy bring out the breakfast.

MAX

Scrambled eggs and toast. It's all
I really know how to do.

KAT

Looks good.

MAX

(serving)

Thanks.

They all sit around the table except Hanna.

MADDY

Hanna?

HANNA

I'm not hungry.

She leaves.

KAT

I'll have her share.

MADDY

I heard all that. You should
probably back off her.

KAT

Not gonna happen.

Kat starts to eat. Toast first. Then some eggs.

Blackout

(MORE)

74.

KAT (CONT'D)

SCENE 6

Night

Max on the couch, sleeping. Ash comes in from outside, quietly. Max stirs, sits up.

ASH
Are they all asleep?

MAX
I think so.

ASH
I just came for food.

She heads into kitchen.

MAX
Oh okay. I did some shopping, so there's a bunch of stuff in the fridge.

ASH
(from kitchen)
You went shopping for them.

MAX
I was trying to be helpful.

ASH
(from kitchen)
So they'd let you stay.

She comes out of the kitchen with a jar of pickles.

ASH (CONT'D)
(eating a pickle)
Good plan. You got trouble at home?

MAX
Yeah. Well not like the kind of trouble you're in.

ASH
I'm in the shit.

MAX

Yeah sounds like. Did you kill that man?

ASH

(looks at him)

I'm not sure. I might have.

MAX

Did he do something to you.

ASH

He was too much sometimes. Too pushy... mean... You know, too much.

MAX

Did he live here?

ASH

No he wasn't allowed. But he checked in a lot. Maybe the basement? Yeah I could hide down there until...

MAX

Until what?

ASH

I dunno. Something. Would you be okay not telling them I was there.

MAX

How long you planning to stay

ASH

I'm not planning anything right now. Tomorrow could be different. I might remember something. Then maybe I could plan something. Did you buy cheese? I could sure use some cheese.

MAX

Okay... Why are you here anyway?

He starts towards kitchen.

ASH

I told you. I came for food.

MAX

No I mean what is it you did wrong?

ASH

Besides maybe killing Victor?

MAX

Yeah... like originally.

ASH

Oh. It's always fire. I tried to burn myself alive right here. That didn't work, right. And before that I set fire to my parents house. But they got out alive too.

MAX

You were trying to kill them.

ASH

They're mean people. They had it coming. Cheese?

MAX

Yeah.

He goes into the kitchen

ASH

Nothing soft. Cheddar! Did you get something strong like that?!

MAX

(sticks his head out)

Shh. You'll wake them up...

(listens)

Too late.

Someone is coming down.

ASH

(to herself)

No. Not good...

She runs into kitchen...

Kat comes in. Looking around.

Max comes out of the kitchen.

KAT
What's going on?. I heard someone.

MAX
That was me.

KAT
What? Talking to yourself?

MAX
I guess. I was looking through the
fridge... thinking what I could
make for dinner.

KAT
Dinner.

MAX
I mean if that's okay. I'm a guy,
right. And I know guys aren't
supposed to be living here.

KAT
You're living here now?

MAX
No. But you know what I mean. I'm
a--

KAT
You're a guy, yeah. You know what,
I don't think anyone cares. They
must think you're harmless.

MAX
I am.

KAT
Right. So go ahead. Plan dinner.
I'll just...

She stretches out on the couch.

MAX
You're not going back to sleep?

KAT
I wasn't asleep. I was just lying
there. Might as well do that here.

MAX

You have trouble sleeping, eh?
Me too. I mean I did. After I
started high school.

KAT

Too much pressure?

MAX

Too much Oxi.

KAT

Ah shit.
(sits up)
Go away. I can't deal with that.

MAX

No it's okay. I stopped awhile
ago. I only started because it all
got to be too much. Leanne dying.
My mum getting sick. How about you?

KAT

What?

MAX

What was your "too much?"

KAT

Nothing.
(off his look)
Too much nothing. Nothing to look
forward to mostly. Didn't see how
the future could be any different
than the past. Except maybe worse.
Like when I leave here I'm gonna
worry about starving to death
again.

MAX

(sitting by her feet on
the couch)
Not if you get a job. You can do
that, right.

KAT

Getting one's possible. Keeping
one's the problem.
(off his look)
I have a lot of trouble being told
what to do.

MAX

Because of you condition.

KAT

What condition?

MAX

O.D.D.

KAT

Whatever. It's just hard to go from having no one caring about you to having people boss you around. How come you don't want me to phone "Dad" all of a sudden. You think it's a waste of time? That he might tell me to fuck off and leave tem alone?

MAX

No. I think he just needs more time to figure things out.

KAT

That sounds like a load of crap. Are we gonna have a relationship based on crap, Max.

MAX

He's not over losing Leanne, and he's having a really tough time dealing with Mum's problems. The thing is, he's kind of weak, and I'm worried he'll do something stupid and wind up in prison again.

KAT

Because Of me?

MAX

No because that's what he does when he's confused. And you being in the picture confuses him. But I'm not giving up.

KAT

You probably should. Look it's gonna be hard enough for me going forward. Going back might just give me more garbage to deal with.

(MORE)

81.

KAT (CONT'D)

Plus I'm extra pissed off with Mister and Missus Harvey now that I find out they had this big family they coulda asked for help.

MAX

You mean so they could keep you. All that family you're talking about, they're mostly fuck ups. None of them have any money, and they're always mooching off mum and dad.

(off her look)

What's wrong?

KAT

I don't know how to feel about that. I mean there's "yay for me" for avoiding it. But it's still family, right. Still *my* actual family.

(sits up)

I need to hit the street.

She hurries out.

Ash comes out of the kitchen, eating cheddar cheese.

ASH

It's not always good when she heads out there to think. Sometimes she does things that make it worse

MAX

I think I've already made it worse.

ASH

Maybe. But at least you're here. She's never had anyone before.

Pointing to the blanket on the couch.

ASH (CONT'D)

I think I'll need that.

She takes it.

ASH (CONT'D)

The floor down there is probably pretty cold.

MAX

You're going to sleep on the
basement floor?

ASH

Won't be the first time.

(off his look)

Not this basement. I'm not going to
tell you about it because it'd only
make you feel really sorry for me.
And I don't need anymore of that in
my life.

She heads into the basement.

Blackout

SCENE 7

Hanna is at the table. In a bathrobe. Her hair wet. Max is pouring her cereal.

HANNA

Raisin Bran. Well that's a bit of an upgrade. What are you now? Our butler?

MAX

Just trying to help out while I'm here.

HANNA

And how long is that gonna be?

MAX

Until I'm asked to leave, I guess.

HANNA

So bringing Kat into the mix, that stirred things up at home, right. I wouldn't bother pushing that idea. She won't fit in. She doesn't fit in anywhere.

MAX

That's not all her fault though, right.

HANNA

If you say so.

MAX

Well whatever's wrong with you, is that all your fault? I mean you're here, aren't you? And you were in Juvie, so you must have done something wrong.

HANNA

Maybe I was innocent. Did you ever consider that?

MAX

Were you?

HANNA

I gave my affection to the wrong person.

MAX

That's it?

HANNA

No that's not "it!". I thought she cared about me. But she didn't. Not enough. Not in the way I needed her to. And that deeply disappointed me and made me very very angry. So... technically what I did, or tried to do, to her was against the law. But really on a human level, considering how often I was left alone by my parents, it was totally understandable.

MAX

I wish my parents would leave me alone more.

HANNA

Okay I wasn't actually finished talking about myself. But sure... your parents. Go ahead.

MAX

It's just that they rely on me too much. I know it's been hard for them, and I try to help... but I'm still basically a kid, right.

HANNA

Well at least they're in the same city as you are. Mine did most of their living in other countries. And I was never allowed to complain about it. "Do you like this lifestyle our business is providing for you or not?" "If the answer is yes, try to suck it up and make some friends for chrissake." And have they visited me here? Not even once. Okay I told them not to. I told them I'd slit my throat if they did, but even so...

(looks at him)

(MORE)

85.

HANNA (CONT'D)

By the way, where'd you sleep last night?

MAX

On the couch.

HANNA

Okay, so that feels like rejection. Was it? Were you rejecting me by sleeping down here?

Max heads into kitchen.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Where are you going? I was just asking a simple question.

MAX

I'm gonna make you some toast.

HANNA

Well that's different. As long as you're not avoiding the issue. Lots of butter. Not margarine. And marmalade. Okay? Marmalade!

MAX

(off)
Got it.

HANNA

Where's everyone else?

MAX

(off)
Out. Kat left when it was still dark. And Maddy went to see the police.

HANNA

About Ash?

MAX

(off)
Dunno.

HANNA

Maybe they found her.

MAX

(off)
Maybe.

HANNA

Well if they didn't, I think she should just turn herself in. With her background they'll definitely go easy on her.

MAX

(out of kitchen)
How can they go easy on someone they think is a murderer?

HANNA

Come on. With what she went through. It was the worst. And not even with the same people. She was sold twice. What about my toast?

MAX

Right.

He heads back into kitchen.

MAX (CONT'D)

(off)
But she might not have done it. I don't think she really believes she did.

HANNA

You've been talking to her?

Ash comes in. Wrapped in blanket. Shivering. Dirty. Messed up.

ASH

Yeah. He has.

HANNA

Jesus. Where you been?

ASH

Basement.

HANNA

All this time?

ASH
No. Just last night.

Max brings out Hanna's toast.

MAX
(to Ash)
Are you okay?

ASH
Could I get a coffee?

MAX
Sure.

He heads back into kitchen.

ASH
(to Hanna)
This is cool. It's like we're in a
restaurant.

HANNA
Maybe in your fucked up head it is.
Maybe next you'll be thinking we're
having a picnic by the lake or
something.

ASH
That's funny.
(to Max)
She can be very funny sometimes.

MAX
Yeah...

HANNA
(to Ash)
What's up with all the running and
hiding?

ASH
It felt like what I should do.

HANNA
Well it's not helping anyone. Until
they can be sure it was you who
bashed his head in, I might still
be a suspect. Kat is for sure.

ASH
Okay. But I don't think I should
lie about it.

HANNA
So you're saying you didn't kill
the man.

ASH
I don't know.

MAX
(bringing in a coffee)
So it'd be a lie to say she did.

HANNA
So what's a fucking lie under these
circumstances. I mean what are they
going to do to her anyway. She'll
be sent back to the hospital for a
few years and then... whatever.

MAX
What's that mean? Whatever?

HANNA
Well that's what's going to happen
to her no matter what. A lot of
whatevers and who the fuck knows.

MAX
Okay but--

HANNA
Stay out of it. We're trying to get
this thing sorted.

MAX
I understand, but--

HANNA
(standing)
I mean it. Butt the fuck out!

ASH
(to Max)
It's okay. She's just scared.
(to Hanna)
I'll think about it. Okay?

MAX

Think about what? Confessing to something without knowing if you did it?

ASH

But I can remember hating him. So there's probably more chance that I did than I didn't.

HANNA

Just what I've been saying. Here. Have some of my toast.

MAX

(to Ash)

I'll make you some eggs if you want.

ASH

Thanks...

He smiles, goes back into the kitchen.

HANNA

Me too.

(no response.)

Did you hear me?! Eggs for me too!

MAX

Sure.

HANNA

(looks at Ash)

You had a rough night down there, eh. Maddy says there are rats in that basement.

ASH

I like rats.

HANNA

Yeah I forgot.

Kat comes in. She also looks pretty rough.

KAT

(taking in Ash)

Hey. What the--

HANNA
She spent the night in the
basement.

KAT
(to Ash)
Why?

HANNA
Because she's on the run, why else.
How did you spend your night? Bent
over a park bench, taking it in the
ass?

KAT
Not now, Creepy Girl.

HANNA
I'm just wondering why you look so--

KAT
That means shut the fuck up, okay!
Jesus, Ash. The cops were just--

ASH
They scared me.

KAT
Okay, but they were just asking
questions.

HANNA
Questions she couldn't answer.
Questions that were maybe leading
to the truth.

KAT
Which is?

HANNA
You know what it is.

KAT
No I don't. And neither do you.
Why? Just tell me why she'd wanna
kill the guy?

ASH
Because I hated him?

HANNA

Yeah. And because you're not right
in your freakin' head.

MAX

(coming in)

I know someone who isn't right in
her head. And she's never going to
kill anyone. Except maybe herself.

HANNA

Who's that.

KAT

His mother.

HANNA

You mean *your* mother. Jesus. If
she's in bad shape now, wait until
she has to start dealing with you.

MAX

No I think it'll help.

ASH

It helped me.

HANNA

What did?

ASH

What he said about his mother.
Because I don't want to hurt anyone
most of the time either. I just
have these other times when I can't
figure out where I am or where I
might be where or where I might
still be. And that maybe I should
do something to protect myself. And
that makes me...

HANNA

(quietly to Max)

Really fucking dangerous.

ASH

He was on me a lot to forget about
the situation I was in.

KAT

You mean Victor.

ASH

He was telling me all the time that if I'd just be stronger, things would be okay.

KAT

That's what he thought about all of us. That we were just weak. It was like we disgusted him or something.

HANNA

Not me. He liked me.

KAT

He wanted to fuck you. Just like he wanted to fuck me.

ASH

And me.

KAT

(to Hanna)

Only difference is, you let him. And we didn't.

ASH

That's probably why I bit him. He was always grabbing me.

KAT

Me too. Grabbing my tits, my ass, trying to kiss me. Shove his hand down my pants. It was gross. And pathetic. I felt sorry for him at first. I mean he was pretty old, right. Then no, fuck that. I mean here we were "under his supervision" and none of us in great shape... But he didn't see us as anything except targets.

HANNA

He was lonely.

KAT

What?

HANNA

He'd get carried away. That's all. Just because he wanted to have sex with us didn't mean he didn't like us. And he was very tender with me.

KAT

Tender. Okay. You're definitely the most messed up person I've ever met.

ASH

Including me?

KAT

You're different. You were--

HANNA

(suddenly)

He liked me! That's why he did it with me.

(off Max)

It's the same reason *he* had for doing it with me. He liked me. Even though he's gonna deny it now.

MAX

No I still kinda like you. You just scare me a little.

HANNA

I scare you. But you're willing to have...

(off Kat)

... this violent freak in your family? She tried to crack my skull open two days ago. And she does shit like that all the time.

MAX

She used to.

HANNA

Used to, my ass.

(to Kat)

Tell him. Tell him what you've done. How you knocked out two of Victor's teeth. And what you'll probably do to his family at some point.

(to Max)

(MORE)

HANNA (CONT'D)

By the way, fuck you with that I
"scare" you crap.

Hanna leaves the room.

KAT

(to Ash)

It doesn't matter. I'm not going
anywhere near his family.

MAX

She means not right now.

KAT

Not ever.

ASH

Not even if you've got nowhere else
to live.

KAT

No. Not even then.

MAX

Okay, then I better stay with you.

KAT

Why?

MAX

Because you need someone to be with
you. And help you.

KAT

Help me how? Look never mind. Just
go home. I'm leaving here in a
little while anyway.

MAX

Yeah. And I'm coming with you.

Hanna comes in, wiping her eyes with a damp cloth.

HANNA

To where?

KAT

Shut up... Hey, have you been
crying?

HANNA

Who cares?

(to Max)

She has no idea where she'll wind up.

(to Kat)

Do you?

KAT

No I don't.

HANNA

Well there you go.

Hanna goes into the kitchen.

MAX

(to Kat)

There's no way I can just say goodbye to you now.

ASH

Yeah it's too sad. Leaving people behind is the worst thing there is.

KAT

He's still in school.

MAX

I can always go to school later.

ASH

He's right. And you need some kind of family.

KAT

I can take you. You're some kind of family.

Hanna comes out of the kitchen, opening a can of peaches.

HANNA

But she'll be in jail.

KAT

Look just be quiet, okay. I'm asking you nicely.

Hanna is fishing the peach slices out of the can with her fingers.

HANNA
Either in jail or a mental
hospital.

ASH
She told you to be quiet!

HANNA
Or grabbed by some other psychos
and--

ASH
Hey!! That's not funny, okay.
(up fast)
So shut the fuck up, you know-
nothing cunt!

Ash pulls a switchblade and flicks it open.

HANNA
(standing and backing
away)
Ah, what the...

KAT
Ash.

ASH
Tell her she needs to keep her
mouth closed.

KAT
Okay, but please--

ASH
Just tell her!

HANNA
It's okay. I hear you. Back off,
okay. I'm really scared.

ASH
Are you?

HANNA
Yes...

ASH
Oh. I'm sorry... But I can't take
any of your shit right now. Unless
it's funny. And that wasn't funny.
(MORE)

ASH (CONT'D)

(points to her head)

Right now you're just another voice
in here. And I don't need it, okay!

HANNA

Yeah. Okay...

ASH

(crying)

What's going on anyway? I can't
help those girls. They're all dead.
So why are they still asking me to--

(to Kat)

Oh I know what it might be. Maybe
I'm waiting to be used and killed
and thrown away like garbage too. I
could get grabbed again from
anywhere. Because nowhere is safe.
That road wasn't safe. That park
wasn't safe. Not even in the middle
of the day. Nobody saw what was
happening. Arm around my neck.
Pushed into a van, and no one
saw...

(off knife)

That's why I need this.

KAT

I know.

ASH

Yeah. But...

(off Hanna)

Does *she*?

HANNA

I do now.

ASH

That's good. So keep quiet, okay,
and let me think about leaving this
place with my friends here.

HANNA

Okay...

ASH

(sitting)

Okay. So I'll just think about
that. And then make a decision.

KAT

All right. Can you get rid of the knife though.

HANNA

Because we're not going to hurt you.

KAT

And you're going to stop saying things that aren't funny.

HANNA

Definitely.

ASH

Then no problem.

Ash pockets the knife.

KAT

I think it's better if you give it to me.

ASH

No. I can't do that.

KAT

Ash.

ASH

No. I can't... do... that!!

(to Hanna)

Don't worry. I'm not mad at you anymore.

HANNA

Oh, good.

Hanna sits.

Maddy comes in.

MADDY

Hi, Ash. Welcome home.

ASH

(almost a whisper)

Thanks...

MADDY

You look a little ragged. What's been going on?

HANNA

She slept in the basement. But I didn't know that at the time.

KAT

You mean or you would have turned her in.

HANNA

For her own good, sure. Am I the only one who gets how serious this situation is?

MADDY

I've got a fair idea. The police have a person who saw someone in the alley behind Victor's house that night. They were passing out your photos in the neighbourhood and that person--

KAT

Recognized one of us?

MADDY

I think we should talk about how we're going to handle this.

HANNA

What's that mean? Handle it?

MADDY

Well we know quite a lot about each other, don't we? Maybe we know enough to show each other some special concern. Maybe we understand that because of all we've been through, this is not a normal situation we're in.

(a glance at Ash)

We can't deal with problems the way most people, including the police, would. Because we know the consequences could be very severe. Maybe deserved. Maybe not.

(another glance at Ash)

(MORE)

100.

MADDY (CONT'D)

But definitely more damaging to one of us... than it would be to most others. So what I'm saying is... we need to talk about that a bit. We need to see if there's anything we can do to make those consequences less severe.

She sits at the table,

MADDY (CONT'D)

Max. Can you fix us a little snack?

KAT

A snack. We're going to have a snack.

MADDY

Food calms people and helps them think more clearly.

ASH

As long as it includes hard cheese.

MAX

(heads into kitchen)
Coming right up.

MADDY

(to Hanna)
How about you go help him.

HANNA

Why?

MADDY

Just do it.

Hanna shrugs, goes into the kitchen

Maddy looks at Kat then beckons Ash to sit next to her.

MADDY (CONT'D)

Come over here.

ASH

Oh...

(to herself)
This is going to be bad.
(to Kat)
I'm going to get locked up again.

Ash sits.

Kat sits beside her.

KAT

(hugs her)

I won't let them hurt you.

(crying)

I won't... ever... let them hurt
you...

Blackout

SCENE 8

Kat and Max on the couch.

MAX

When I was a little kid I wanted to be a cop.

KAT

Yeah so did I.

MAX

Really?

KAT

I liked the way they took control of a situation. They made it better. Bad people were taken away, and everyone else could get on with their lives. I mean it coulda gotten way worse in those situations without them showing up. Then later... I was the person they were showing up to take away. So that was different. That was a war I was in, and the cops always won. Because I couldn't get what was going on inside me under control. Still can't sometimes.

MAX

And that's anger, right.

KAT

Maddy's says it's fear. The fear that comes from having no support. I mean she calls it support. I call it just not having a better life. You know, something or someone that's gonna be there no matter how bad it gets.

MAX

Like me.

KAT

Someone who wants to help make it better.

MAX

Like I do.

KAT

Someone who'd have a hard time giving up on me.

MAX

I'll never do that. Promise.

KAT

Okay. If you say so.

(a gentle punch on his arm)

Maddy told me I'd find someone like that one day.

MAX

You mean me. Not someone. Me.

KAT

Okay, yeah.

MAX

Except *I* found you. But that thing about fear sounds right. So Maddy's good at this. Helping you figure things out, I mean.

KAT

Sometimes.

MAX

What about Victor? Did he ever help like that?

KAT

I don't wanna talk about Victor.

MAX

Okay...

KAT

I mean what's the point.

(thinks)

I think he must have wanted to help at the beginning. But that didn't last. So fuck him.

MAX

Right.

KAT

I mean why get into that work if helping people isn't what you wanna do. No matter now tired or disappointed you get. And when someone's supposed to help you and doesn't act like he really gives a shit about you, you're gonna have a real problem with him. I did. And Ash did too. He thought she was just a mental case and she got that message real clear. And when he started to get personal, well that was just too fucking much.

(looks at Max)

I think sometime, maybe when... your mother's a little better, I'd like to meet our--

MAX

Mum's not gonna get better. Not without you there.

KAT

No that's just some idea you've got in your head, but it's not--

MAX

Losing Leanne and not having you there... not ever having had you there, is this big sadness she's got in her that won't go away. It's just too...

KAT

Don't cry, man. I can't--

MAX

No no it's okay. I was just... Anyway we've gotta give Dad some time to just suck it up. We can move around or stay here. Whatever you want. Then in a little while we let him meet you, and see how much you look like Mum and--

KAT

I do? I look like her?

MAX

Oh yeah. And when he sees that and gets to know you like I already do, then--

KAT

And how's that? How do you know me?

MAX

Well... I guess I know you well enough to love you.

Kat just looks at him. He takes her hand.

KAT

Jesus...

MAX

Don't cry, man.

KAT

(is she?)

Me? Cry? No worries there...

Hanna comes in. Sits next to them.

HANNA

They're leaving.

KAT

Right now?

HANNA

Yeah... What's wrong with you two?

MAX

Nothing...

KAT

We're fine.

Maddy comes in. Followed by a cleaned up Ash.

MADDY

All right. We're off.

KAT

Okay but--

MADDY

I'll take care of her.

KAT

Yeah... because someone *thinking* that they saw her doesn't mean they actually did.

MADDY

I know...

KAT

And don't leave her alone with them. Ever. A couple of big cops hovering over her... I've been there. You'll say almost anything to get them to back off.

(to Ash)

You all right with this?

ASH

If I was seen, I was seen.

MADDY

Do you know where I keep the emergency cell?

KAT

Under your--

HANNA

Mattress.

MADDY

Right. One of you get it. Keep it handy. And I'll call to let you know what's going on.

ASH

(to Kat)

Bye...

KAT

Yeah...

(hugs her)

Ah Jesus, Ash. Please try to be okay. No matter what.

ASH

(gives her a thumbs up)

No matter what.

Maddy gently ushers Ash out.

HANNA
I'll go get the phone.

KAT
(wiping her eyes)
Sure... but we need to talk first.

HANNA
About what?

KAT
(to Max)
Maybe you should go have that talk
with your dad. Tell him we're gonna
back off for awhile. Give him a
chance to get his head around the
idea.

HANNA
What idea?

KAT
The idea of me.

HANNA
The idea of you. Who the hell could
ever get their head around that.

KAT
(to Max)
And you could use a shower.

MAX
Right. So...

He grabs his jacket.

MAX (CONT'D)
See ya soon.

KAT
Yeah...

He hugs her. Leaves.

HANNA
So it's not an easy thing. I mean
inserting yourself into that
family.

KAT

I really don't want to talk about that with you.

HANNA

Sure. You know, you really have to learn to open up. Even a little would be an improvement. You were right about him needing a shower though. I was gonna have to mention it eventually.

Kat just looks at her.

KAT

We can't let Ash take the blame for this.

HANNA

What are you talking about?

KAT

I'm talking about what Maddy said. The special situation we're in. The special circumstances... for Ash.

HANNA

Which the police and the courts will take into consideration.

KAT

But not enough. There won't be enough "consideration" to help Ash in any real way. If they don't put her in prison she'll wind up a mental ward forever. How's that gonna be okay.

HANNA

But she killed him. She was seen.

KAT

Not actually killing him she wasn't. I could make them think it was someone else.

HANNA

Who?

Kat just looks at her. Hard.

Slowly Hanna gets it.

HANNA (CONT'D)

You fucker!

KAT

Well it makes sense, right. I mean look how Victor treated you. And you have a history of lashing out when you get thrown aside.

HANNA

That happened once. Just once.

KAT

No you told me you were just as mad at Victor as you were with the girl you tried to crush in your daddy's car.

HANNA

No I didn't.

KAT

We had a long conversation about it.

HANNA

No. We did not! And I didn't try to crush her. I just pinned her against the garage so she'd have to stay put and listen to me

KAT

You told me you meant to kill her. That was a big part of the conversation you say we didn't have. And me telling the cops about that conversation might be enough to get them to--

HANNA

What are you doing?

KAT

I'm going to tell the police what actually happened.

HANNA

Oh come on. They're not going to--

KAT
Relax. I was just messing with you.

HANNA
What?

KAT
I'm going to tell them it was me.

HANNA
(looks at her)
You. You did it?

KAT
That's what I'll say.

HANNA
So you didn't do it.

KAT
Ash was in the neighbourhood. I saw her when I was waiting in the alley near Victor's car.

HANNA
Waiting to kill him. You'll say you were waiting to kill him.

KAT
Yeah...

HANNA
Why?

KAT
I'm still working on that.

HANNA
I mean why are you doing this?

KAT
Because Ash won't get through it.

HANNA
She killed him, Kat.

KAT
Well someone was gonna have to pay for what she's been through.
(MORE)

111.

KAT (CONT'D)

If it had to be a man who had almost no good left in him, big motherfucking deal.

HANNA

And you're willing to pay the price. Prison for life maybe.

KAT

Better me than her.

HANNA

Why? Why better you?

KAT

Because I'm gonna wind up there anyway. You've told me that a hundred times, Hanna.

HANNA

Yeah... but that was before...

KAT

Before what? Max? You think I'm gonna let him attach himself to me, so I can take him down too.

HANNA

So this is serious. You're really going to try to pull this off.

KAT

Yeah. But I still might point it all at you if I hear you're not helping Ash when she comes back.

HANNA

Helping her how?

KAT

By caring about her as much as you care about yourself. It's gonna be hard for you at first, but if you keep at it...

HANNA

What? I could become a better person? Jesus. You're such an idiot.

KAT

I've gotta go pack my tooth brush.

HANNA

No really. Are you high or something? You are, aren't you. You're fucking out of it. Just go lie down and get yourself straight, for chrissake!

Kat leaves.

HANNA (CONT'D)

"It was me, Officer. I did it" "No actually it was her. The well dressed pretty one"... I mean really... Idiot!

Blackout.

SCENE 9

Kat comes down and starts out just as Maddy returns

MADDY
Where you going?

KAT
For a walk. How's Ash?

MADDY
She's being processed.

KAT
Processed. Right. Well I'll see you
in a--

HANNA
(exits kitchen)
Tell her.

KAT
Hanna.

HANNA
Tell her. You know, just to see
what she thinks about the idea.

MADDY
What idea?

HANNA
She's off to confess to killing
Victor.

MADDY
Ash killed Victor.

HANNA
No. Kat did. Ask her how she did
it. Did she use a rock, a stick...
(to Kat)
I bet the cops know what it was. So
you better get that one right.

MADDY
Kat. Look at me.

Kat obeys.

MADDY (CONT'D)

There's another witness who saw Ash leaving that alley. You can't help her.

Kat just looks at her. Then at Hanna.

MADDY (CONT'D)

She'll be all right.

KAT

Will she?

MADDY

Well she didn't have control of herself, we know that. And when they find that out--

KAT

It won't matter. They'll still have to put her away somewhere.

(she might be crying)

And then she'll be gone... again...

Maddy sits on the couch. Gestures to Kat.

MADDY

Come here.

Kat sits beside Maddy.

KAT

Putting her in a mental hospital. That's just like putting her on a shelf somewhere.

HANNA

She's right.

MADDY

Hanna, don't.

HANNA

But she's right. You think I like admitting she's right? They did that to me when I broke down. They put me in a room and drugged me. Okay I was pretty hysterical because I'd just tried to crush someone I loved to death.

(MORE)

HANNA (CONT'D)

Well that's what they did until they were sure I wasn't going to... hurt myself.

KAT

(to Maddy)

They'll ever be sure about Ash. They'll always want he watched. At least here with us she had her moments, lots of times when she was just getting on with it, right. Feeding rodents. Sharing her food with them.

HANNA

And thinking about killing someone.

KAT

No way.

(to Maddy)

You think that? That she planned it?

MADDY

No something just happened between them. Maybe Victor said something, did something...

KAT

When can we visit her?

MADDY

Probably not for awhile. It depends on where she winds up, and do you have any idea where you're going.

KAT

Not really.

MADDY

And if I lose this job I might have to move to another city for work.

HANNA

They can't let you go. I need you.

MADDY

You do?

HANNA

Well I need somebody. And I'm getting used to you, so...

KAT

She's right. They can't fire you just because you're seeing a shrink.

MADDY

A shrink who warned the police that I might be about to harm someone.

HANNA

Harm who?

KAT

Victor

(to Maddy)

Why? What was he doing to you?

MADDY

Nothing. It's what I was sure he was doing to all of you. I had a hard time believing it for awhile because when I came here back then, just out of detention myself, he was pretty wonderful. Protective. Kind. So is that what can happen? You lose respect for the people who come to you for help. They all start to look basically the same to you. Bad girls who'd done bad things and didn't give a damn about the consequences. So why should you? Did he think like that. Maybe it's hard after awhile, even for people who should know better. Bad worthless girls. Well worthless except for the pleasure they can offer. But Ash had for sure had more than enough of that. Especially if she was hearing and remembering all those things. And I'm sure that's what was happening to her when she bashed in Victor's skull... I told Muncie about what I thought Victor was up to. He said he didn't believe it.

(MORE)

MADDY (CONT'D)

But I think it was just too much for him to deal with. So I... started thinking about putting an end to it myself.

KAT

How?

MADDY

Well I didn't think going through normal channels was going to work. It started as just a passing thought.

HANNA

What?

KAT

The idea of killing Victor.

MADDY

An idea that wouldn't go away. So I started talking to my therapist about it. I guess I talked about it enough for him to think I was actually going to do it.

HANNA

Were you?

MADDY

I'm not sure.

KAT

Come on. You're way beyond--

MADDY

When I was your age I did a lot of things when I needed to get high. Never killed anyone, but I for sure could have. The fact that I was even considering doing it now... That was scary, man. Oh well, who said it was going to be easy.

(off their looks)

Getting myself together.

(to Kat)

Why not go spend some time with the family you just found out about?

HANNA

(to Maddy)

No I think she should stay where she is. You can tell them she still needs a lot of supervision.

KAT

You want me to stay?

HANNA

Well I'm used to you.

(off Maddy)

Like I'm used to her. You're people who are... here. We're together. Like all the time. And I'm okay with Max visiting when he wants...

(to Maddy)

Plus you should *fight* to stay with us. Because... why not? You didn't actually kill him. You just talked about it. I mean we all *want* to kill someone sometimes.

(off Kat)

We want to kill each other maybe three or four times a day.

(to Kat)

Right?

KAT

At least.

Maddy looks at them. Almost smiles.

THE END