

GIRLS UNWANTED

by

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**DRAFT**

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SCENE 1

A halfway house.

In the inner city. Nothing fancy. 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 messy-haired and wearing an oversized t-shirt.

KAT

You have to shut up! I'm telling you, if you don't keep your stupid mouth closed, I'm gonna hurt you!

HANNA

Yeah there's the tough talk! Calm down, okay. You're way too worked up.

KAT

I'm worked up? Who's the one that's been whining about her fucking breakfast for the last ten minutes?

HANNA

That wasn't breakfast. It was a bowl of cereal. Breakfast is eggs or waffles.

KAT

Waffles? What's your fucking problem...

HANNA

I'm just saying, if I'd wanted a lousy bowl of cereal I could have made it myself.

KAT

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

HANNA

Except you and your nasty mouth you mean. Fucking this. Fucking that.

(MORE)

2.

HANNA (CONT'D)

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! Everything's always wrong for you. You don't like your breakfast. You don't like your room. Then there's that crap you keep feeding us about being abused...

HANNA

I was abused.

KAT

Oh please fuck off!

HANNA

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

KAT

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

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!

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. Some  
nasty moody bitch who likes to bang  
strangers.

KAT

Yeah. Bang strangers. And beat the  
crap out of fat girls.

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.

HANNA

I'm not fat, you druggie skank!

Kat recovers, puts Hanna down and starts to bang her head on  
the floor.

HANNA (CONT'D)

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

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?

KAT

I said I'm sorry.

HANNA

(looks at her)  
Are you?

5.

KAT

Kinda.

HANNA

Kinda. God. What's wrong with you?

KAT

(mumbles)

I don't know.

HANNA

What?

KAT

What's wrong with you?

Hanna just looks at her.

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. Katherine. 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. It's a mug shot. Where'd you get this?

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?

HANNA

Yeah. She's up in her room.

MAX

Well can you ask her to come down?

HANNA

Sure. But she won't do that unless I tell her who you are.

MAX

It's private.

HANNA

What is?

MAX

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

HANNA

Maybe. If you stop being so pushy.

MAX

Right. 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 tunnel of love... Don't think there's any permanent damage, so if it really is a little action you're looking for--

MAX

It's not.

HANNA

Well whatever. 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.

HANNA

We got water, lemonade and... maybe a coke or something.

(entering kitchen)

Let me know if you change your mind.

Max just stands there, looking around.

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

KAT

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 kinda strung out.

KAT

Yeah? Well fuck her. I remember that snarky bitch just fine. 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. 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 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.

KAT

Max. And you're my brother? Really?

MAX

Yeah...

Kat sits.

HANNA

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

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

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

That didn't work out by the way. The adoption thing. I left that happy home when I was twelve.

MAX

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

KAT

Yeah I made sure of that. If they find you, they sometimes send you back to the place 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 house. That's her story anyway. I think it's just one of her ugly lies.

KAT

(to Max)

It's true.

MAX

Jeez. Okay... Well they tried. Our parents, I mean. 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

She has depression. It's 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.

KAT

Right. 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 my... 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. 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  
Yeah before that, I was molested.

MAX  
Molested. In the same place where  
they made you clean?

HANNA  
(from kitchen)  
A little hard to believe, isn't it.

KAT  
(to Max)  
Wait until you hear *her* story.  
So should I keep going or have you  
heard enough?

HANNA  
(from kitchen)  
I have!

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

HANNA (CONT'D)  
I'm going to my room. Unless you're  
all of a sudden 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.  
(MORE)

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KAT (CONT'D)

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 turned eighteen last month so now I'm an adult. Kinda. And soon they'll be letting me go out there on my own. Any questions?

MAX

What about school?

KAT

Yeah I went sometimes.

MAX

Just sometimes?

KAT

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

MAX

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

KAT

Hey this is about me. You'll get your turn. Okay where was I?

MAX

School. You weren't there much.

KAT

No. 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 fights with other kids, so after the thing with the teacher they decided I needed to be put in a special place for students who were "Prone to Violence." The special place was a storage closet they'd cleared out for us near the boiler room. Me two other potential serial killers and a part time teacher who looked like a prison guard spent all day there learning to be "patient."

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  
Time for another snack?  
(to Max)  
What are their names? The parents.

MAX  
Julia and Tom.

KAT  
Julia and Tom Harvey. Okay. And  
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 my mum had to deal with that all on our own, and it was kinda--

KAT

Hard.

MAX

Hard. 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, yeah.

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  
(leaving kitchen)  
She called awhile ago. Maddy.  
(approaching)  
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  
(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 overweight?

HANNA

You think that's funny. I could show you the scars I got from what he did.

KAT

Go ahead.

HANNA

I will.

KAT

When?

HANNA

When I feel like it.

KAT

Which means never.

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

Don't pull that shit. 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.

HANNA  
They sound like lies to me.

KAT  
That's because they're 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!

HANNA  
I mean really!!

KAT  
Okay!! Really! 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  
tonight to try it out?

KAT  
That's the plan.



24.

Kat is leaving, trying to compensate for her limp.

Hanna watches her go.

Slut. HANNA

Idiot KAT

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  
Well whatever you're both doing can wait. 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?

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?

HANNA  
Well I don't know what her therapy  
was. Coulda been anything.

KAT  
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.  
(MORE)

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HANNA (CONT'D)

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.

MADDY

We don't know that.

HANNA

She bit him, didn't she. She bit him on the wrist, and the man quit.

KAT  
What a pussy, eh.

HANNA  
He was worried she gave him Hep C.

ASH  
Why?

HANNA  
Because no one knows what you're up  
to when you disappear. What you  
take. Who you fuck.

ASH  
Who I fuck?

MADDY  
Do you remember doing that, honey?

ASH  
Fucking someone?

MADDY  
No. Biting Victor.

ASH  
No.

MADDY  
Well that's probably because you'd  
stopped taking your medication.

ASH  
Yeah, maybe. 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.

ASH  
Aren't you too young?

HANNA  
(to Maddy)  
Yeah. Maybe you don't have enough  
experience. Some of us have serious  
problems, you know.

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 actually very  
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.

HANNA

So what?

KAT

She thinks you don't have the right kind of life experience.

MADDY

(to Hanna)

Is that right?

HANNA

Yeah, kinda.

MADDY

Ten 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. Is that true?

MADDY

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

HANNA

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

MADDY

You mean show you my resume.

KAT  
(to Hanna)  
The point is, she's totally  
qualified to deal with us. Okay,  
Chubby?

MADDY  
Kat...

KAT  
Come on. It's just a nickname.  
(to Hanna)  
You know, like slut.

ASH  
Or retard.

MADDY  
Nobody here calls you retard.

ASH  
Not to my face you mean.

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 all that shit. Don't give 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?

KAT

Because it's food. And food's her only reason for living.

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...  
(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. You're  
sick, Kat.

KAT  
Well at least I only take up a  
normal amount of space.

MADDY  
Jesus. What's all this about her  
weight all of a sudden?

KAT  
You don't think she's kinda gross?

HANNA  
Everyone looks fat to druggies.

KAT  
(off Ash and Maddy)  
*They don't.*

Ash staggers a bit, rubs her head.

KAT (CONT'D)  
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.

MADDY  
Since when do you get migraines?

ASH  
Since I started to fight back.

MADDY  
Fight back?

KAT  
What's that mean?

ASH  
I decided to fight back 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 way stronger, but he'd  
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.

(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

They don't?  
(rubs her temples  
furiously)  
Oh this is bad...

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.

KAT  
That's all behind me.

ASH  
(to Hanna)  
Yeah it is.  
(to Kat)  
But *do* you have something though?  
Because I could really use  
something.  
(another sharp pain)  
Please.

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 shit 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.

HANNA

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

MADDY

(to Kat)  
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. 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

Sure you have.

HANNA

Hey. Not everyone's turned off by a few extra pounds.

KAT

You mean 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!! There's too much noise. My head...

KAT

You'll feel better in a minute. Promise.

ASH

Yeah but what about later. I'll need more later.

KAT

I'll get you some.

MADDY

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

ASH

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

KAT

Before what? The hospital?

ASH

No after that. When I escaped from the hospital for awhile. Where was I then?

MADDY

They found you in the ravine.

ASH

Right the ravine. 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 ... Well we  
can't just ... Of course I will. I  
mean as best I can but ... Yeah.  
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

Okay. 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 we might not  
be prepared to--

ASH

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

MADDY

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 though.

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.

HANNA

(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.

MADDY

(approaching)

What?!

HANNA  
I just 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.

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

KAT

Why not?

ASH

I've got a feeling she knows more about me than I do. Stuff about my family maybe.

KAT

Like what?

ASH

Can't be anything good. I mean what kind of people let their eleven year old daughter go hitch hiking on her own?

KAT

That's how old you were?

ASH

Yeah...

KAT

You were eleven years old when you were raped.

ASH

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

KAT

And some guy--

ASH

Two guys...

KAT

Two guys. They picked you up and...

ASH

Yeah...

KAT

Ah God. 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.

KAT

No. Come on. 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

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

I know. The ones they found in that field.

ASH

Yeah. They were killed and then killed again.

MADDY

What?

KAT

She means they'd already been kind of--

ASH

And before that there was the only friend I had in that basement. Cassie. She was being raped in one of the rooms they had upstairs, and 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  
What else? Well actually it could  
be about almost anything. A stupid  
thing you did sometime, for  
example.

KAT  
Yeah, maybe.

MADDY  
Anyway, the police 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 going to the cop shop? 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  
Sure I am. I mean I'm not doing *all*  
the same shit. But I still have  
trouble talking to cops. Anytime  
they've ever been in my face,  
they've thrown a bunch of crap at  
me and--

MADDY  
And what? You panicked? Confessed  
when you didn't mean to?

KAT  
Well not exactly, but--

MADDY  
Did you kill him?

KAT  
What?

MADDY  
Did you fucking kill Victor?

KAT  
No. Jesus.

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)

I guess you made her shower first. She usually smells like a herd of goats.

HANNA

(to Max)

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

(MORE)

HANNA (CONT'D)

(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)  
Go finish getting dressed.

HANNA  
I'm already dressed.

KAT  
You're gonna wear that horse  
blanket to the police station.

MADDY  
(to Hanna)  
They want to talk to us about  
Victor.

HANNA  
Okay. So why can't they come here?

MADDY  
Because I don't want the neighbours  
seeing police visit 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  
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 about that.

KAT  
Yeah. Effing wow.

ASH  
Think I better put something clean  
on. You know, to make a better  
impression.

MADDY  
Good plan. And maybe lose a few of  
the piercings.

ASH  
I just put them back in when they  
let me out of the hospital...

MADDY  
I know. But they're cops, honey.  
They think a certain way about  
things. 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 even freakier than she used  
to be.

Hanna leaves.

MADDY  
(to Kat)  
What's cooking in there?

KAT  
We were making some kind of stew.  
Ash had a recipe in her head, but  
she wasn't sure about all the--

MADDY  
It smells awful.

KAT  
Yeah maybe we should toss it.

MADDY  
No that'll hurt her feelings. I'll  
just put it in the fridge for now.

Maddy heads for the kitchen.

Kat looks at Max.

KAT  
So did you have fun up there?

MAX  
Well she cried a few times. And  
that 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

Sure. I get that. What's the hurry?  
You think he'd be a bit more  
excited to see me, that's all.

MAX

Oh he's excited, I think. He got  
pretty worked up when I told him  
I'd found you.

KAT

What's that mean, worked up?

MAX

He cried. A lot. Took him awhile to  
get it together too. I mean  
eventually he did because he didn't  
want my mum to hear him. The thing  
is, he doesn't think she could  
handle knowing about you. Not  
without a little preparation... 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. 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 from kitchen.

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.

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

ASH  
Better?

MADDY  
Definitely.  
(to Max)  
Make yourself at home.

The women leave.

Max looks around.

MAX  
Sure... Okay...

He sits.

Blackout

SCENE 5

Max is gone. Kat storms in, very agitated.

KAT  
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  
dumb prick's head...

MADDY  
Okay calm down!

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

MADDY  
No she's not.

KAT  
Yes she fucking is! When she's  
upset like this, she hears them  
call her.

Hanna comes in.

HANNA  
Hears who call her?

KAT  
The voices in the pit.

MADDY  
The pit. You mean the cage in that  
basement.

HANNA  
I've never heard her talk about any  
voices.



KAT

To *me*! She talks about them to *me*.  
They're the voices of the girls who  
never got out.

MADDY

And what are they saying to her?

KAT

They want her to come back and be  
with them.

HANNA

But they're dead, right.

KAT

Yeah those evil freaks shot them  
all when the cops were closing in.  
And sometimes Ash hears them asking  
her to *join* them.

MADDY

You mean asking her to kill  
herself.

KAT

Yeah. And she thinks she should.

MADDY

Because she believes it was her  
fault.

KAT

Which it wasn't.

HANNA

Except it kind of was.

(to Maddy)

After she escaped she took the cops  
to that farmhouse where they were.

KAT

She told you that?

HANNA

No I heard her telling *you*.

KAT

You mean when you were spying on  
us.

HANNA

Well how else am I supposed to find out what's going on around here.

(to Maddy)

Anyway that's why she's so upset.

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 totally outta control idiot cops!?

HANNA

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!

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  
through.

KAT

From the very beginning, right.

HANNA

Right. Even when I was first born.  
None of the nurses would come near  
me!

Maddy returns. Putting away her phone.

KAT

(to Maddy)

Help me out here. She's  
disappearing up her own asshole  
again.

MADDY

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

HANNA

(off Kat)

Except her.

MADDY

Well she doesn't know all 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.

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 us 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

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, eh.

MAX

Yeah. And this one cousin let's me stay there when it gets hard to be around them.

KAT

You mean Tom and Julia.

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 is all right?

KAT  
Just concentrate on breakfast,  
okay.

HANNA  
(to Max)  
Can you do eggs benedict?

MAX  
What?

KAT  
Don't worry about it. Put whatever  
you make in something that looks  
like a trough, and she'll be fine.

Max goes into the kitchen.

MADDY  
What is that he does 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

The one who died.

MADDY

Or maybe 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--

KAT  
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. 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

So the cops are looking at her now too.

KAT

I guess people think there's a point when everything someone's been through just disappears from their brains, and they become normal. But maybe they don't. And maybe the never will.

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, there was friend of mine in there too. And there was a lot of talk about you, girl. There aren't that many violent female stalkers. That's something guys usually do.

Hanna is trying to ignore her. Kat closes in.

KAT (CONT'D)

I know you've had some action here. But it wasn't from any of the girls. 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 I was told you did to the first person who ended it with you. That sweet little neighbour girl. That was ugly, Hanna. Even to me.

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. Not if you stop trying to put what happened to Victor on Ash. 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

(to Max)

I told you to put it in a trough.

Blackout.



SCENE 6

Night

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

ASH  
Are they all asleep?

MAX  
Yeah, 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. None of them like to cook. So if you can handle that for them you can probably stay as long as you need to. You got trouble at home?

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

ASH

Yeah. I'm in the shit.

MAX

Did you kill that man?

ASH

I can't remember. I might have. Victor was too much sometimes. Too pushy, too mean... and, you know, other things. He wasn't allowed to live here, but he checked in all the time. Maybe the basement? Yeah I could hide down there until...

MAX

Until what?

ASH

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

MAX

I could probably tell Kat. She seems pretty cool.

ASH

Yeah but she'd still want me to give myself up. You know, thinking it'd be best in the long run. I don't know about that right now. Tomorrow could be different. I might remember something. Then I might know something. Did you buy cheese? I could sure use some cheese.

MAX

Okay...

He goes into kitchen.

ASH

Nothing soft. Or creamy. Very old cheddar! You get something strong like that?!

MAX

(sticks his head out)

Shh. You'll wake them up...

(MORE)

74.

MAX (CONT'D)

(listens)  
Too late.

Someone is coming down.

ASH

Shit.

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 your dinner menu. 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.

MAX

Well you're eighteen, so at least they can't put you in foster care again.

KAT

Yeah, but there was usually food in foster care. And on the street getting hungry makes you do things...

MAX

(sitting by her feet on the couch)

What about getting a job.

KAT

Getting one's possible. Keeping one's the problem.

(off his look)

I have a lot of trouble being told what to do. I mean it's hard to go from 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.

MAX

I just think he 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

Really?

MAX

Yeah. 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. 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. A few of them are okay. But 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 all of it. But it's still family, right. Still *my* family.  
(sits up)  
I need to hit the street.

She hurries out.

Ash comes out of the kitchen, eating cheddar cheese.

ASH

That's where she heads when she's got a lot of shit to work out. Problem is she sometimes does stuff out there that makes it worse.

MAX

I think I've already made it worse for her.

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. A couple of  
others though. Don't worry. I'm not  
going to tell you about it. It  
would only make you feel really  
sorry for me. And I don't need  
anymore of that shit 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

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. I wouldn't bother pushing it. 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.

(MORE)



HANNA (CONT'D)

She was a neighbour and a friend and I thought she cared about me. But she didn't. Not really. 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 that person was against the law. But really on a human level, adding in how often I was left alone by my parents, it was totally understandable.

MAX

I wish my parents would leave me alone more.

HANNA

I wasn't actually finished talking about myself. But okay... *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 godsake."

MAX

That's your parents talking?

HANNA

No that's what they were probably thinking. I mean 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)

81.

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 we had a little chat.

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  
Just black, okay.  
(to Hanna)  
This is cool. It's like we're in a  
restaurant, isn't it.

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 when she  
wants to be.

MAX  
Yeah...

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

ASH  
It seemed like something I needed  
to do.

HANNA  
Well it's not helping anyone, I can  
tell you that.  
(MORE)

HANNA (CONT'D)

Until they can be sure it was you who bashed his head in, I might still be a suspect. Kat is for sure.

ASH

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

HANNA

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

ASH

I'm saying I don't know. So it'd be a lie to say I did, wouldn't it.

HANNA

So what? What's a fucking lie under these circumstances. I mean what are they going to do to you. You'll be sent back to the hospital for a few years and then... whatever.

MAX

(out with Ash's coffee)  
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.  
(to Ash)  
Right?

ASH

I guess.

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

You will? 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.  
(to Max)  
Jesus. If she's in bad shape now,  
wait until she has to start  
dealing...  
(off Kat)  
...with this one.

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 really 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. I mean 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

I don't know if I had a reason to kill Victor. He was on me a lot to forget about the situation I was in. Telling me all the time that if I'd just try to 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

I think 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 really 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--

ASH

Killed. The person I was... was killed.

KAT

Yeah... in a way.

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.

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 to me! And how you knocked out two of Victor's teeth. And what you'll probably do to his family at some point.

(to Max)

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're homeless again.

KAT

No. Not even then.

MAX

Okay, then I better stay with you.

KAT

Why?

MAX

Because you need *someone* to be with you. Unless you know a lot of other people who want to 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

He's right. It's too sad. Leaving people behind is the worst thing ever. You'll hate yourself.

KAT

He's still in school.

MAX

I can always go to school later.

ASH

He's right. And you need what you've always needed. 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 bitch!

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. Look back  
off, okay. I'm really scared.

ASH

Are you?

HANNA

Yes...

ASH

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

(points to her head)

I've had a lot of noise going on in here. And I've been trying to make it stop. But when I woke up in that basement it was like I was back in that cage with the all the others. And they were my friends.

(crying)

My friends, okay! So what's going on with me? I mean really. I can't keep thinking about that. It's not good. Because those other girls are dead. They're not still in that cage. They're not still calling me. They found them in that fucking field, all of them just lying there together. Not even buried. Just left there like garbage. And maybe I'm just waiting to be used and killed and thrown away too. Because that could happen again, right. I could get grabbed again. From anywhere, really. Because nowhere is safe really. That road wasn't safe for an eleven year old girl. That park wasn't safe for a fifteen year old. Not even in the middle of the day.

(off knife)

And that's why I need this knife. Middle of the day. Sun shining. Kids in the playground. And their parents, not even that far away, none of them saw or heard what was happening to me. Arm around my neck. A cloth over my mouth. Then darkness. And then it was two years of being visited. Taken for a shower. Taken to a room. Waiting for whoever it was to come in.

(MORE)

ASH (CONT'D)

I was dead for most of the time  
near the end. I felt dead. Beat up  
and used and dead.

KAT

I know.

ASH

Yeah. But...  
(off Hanna)  
Does *she*?

HANNA

I do now.

ASH

You do?

HANNA

Yeah...

ASH

Good. 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.

ASH

Sure. 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

Thanks...

MADDY

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

Ash just shrugs.

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. 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 sympathy. We understand that because of all we've been through, this is not a normal situation. We can't deal with problems that come up the way most people, including the police, would. Because we know the consequences could be very severe. Maybe deserved. Maybe not. But definitely more damaging to any one of us than it would be to most others. So what I'm saying is... we need to talk about that a bit. You know, to see if there's anything we can do to make those consequences any 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 while we talk about this.

MADDY

If that's okay with everyone.

They all look at Hanna.

HANNA

What? I can say no to a snack. I can do that.

(to Maddy)

But... food calms people and helps them think more clearly, doesn't it?

MADDY

It can, yeah.

ASH  
So let's have a snack then.  
(to Kat)  
Okay?

KAT  
Sure.

MAX  
(heads into kitchen)  
Coming right up.

MADDY  
I'll make sure thee's enough to go  
around.

Hanna goes into the kitchen

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

MADDY (CONT'D)  
Come over here.

ASH  
Oh...  
(sits on the couch)  
This is going to be bad, isn't it.  
(to Kat)  
I'm going to get locked up again.

Kat sits on the other side of Ash.

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

So did I.

MAX

Really?

KAT

Yeah I liked they way they took control of a situation and 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. And 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 really fear. The kind of fear that comes from having no support. I mean she calls it support. I call it having a better life. Something or someone that you know is 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, that sounds right. Maddy's pretty good at this. Helping you figure things out, I mean.

KAT

Yeah...

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 not for awhile. So fuck him.

MAX

Right.

KAT

I mean why get into that work if helping isn't what you wanna do. No matter now tired you get or disappointed you get. And when someone's supposed to help you and doesn't act like he even gives a shit about you, you're gonna have a real problem with him. I did. And Ash did too. In her own way... which was to resent any "suggestions" he made that didn't look sincere. And Victor did not look sincere most of the time. And when he started to... 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

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

MAX

I know it's the only thing that will help her. Losing Leanne and not having you there... not ever having had you there, is this big awful 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 if you want or stay here.

(MORE)

101.

MAX (CONT'D)

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.

KAT

Really.

MAX

Yeah.

He takes her hand.

KAT

Jesus...

MAX

Don't cry, man.

KAT

(is she?)

Me? Cry? No worries there. No, sir...

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  
Okay. 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  
just 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. Get things rolling.  
Tell him we're gonna back off for  
awhile. And... you could use a  
shower.

MAX  
Right. So...

KAT  
(gesture towards door)  
Just let me know how it goes.

MAX  
Yeah. For sure.

He grabs his jacket.

MAX (CONT'D)  
See ya soon.

KAT  
Definitely...



He hugs her. Leaves.

HANNA

What's all that stuff about his dad?

KAT

None of your business.

HANNA

As usual. 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 ran down 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 run her down. I just knocked her over.

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 the police to tell them what actually happened.

HANNA

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

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. If it had to be a man who had almost no compassion 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. Well what was all that about trying to lay it on me?

KAT

That's something I'll still do if you don't shut up about all your "problems" for awhile and concentrate on 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 fat 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 are now two other 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, 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 like just 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 run someone I loved over with a car. But...

(MORE)

111.

HANNA (CONT'D)

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

KAT

(to Maddy)

You think they'll ever be sure about  
Ash?

MADDY

They'll do their best to move her  
along... make her better.

KAT

That won't happen. 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 I think something just happened  
between them. Maybe Victor said  
something, did something...

KAT

When can we visit her?

MADDY

I don't know. Probably not for  
awhile. It depends on where she  
winds up, where we're all going to  
be. I mean 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... 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, not to. Bad girls. Worthless girls. Well worthless except for what pleasure they can offer you. But Ash was different, right. Ash wasn't having anymore of that. Not when she was in that scary place in her head.

(MORE)

MADDY (CONT'D)

And I'm sure that's where she was 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. 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 thought... or maybe even a wish.

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. When I was your age and I needed to get high, I did a lot of things to make that happen. Never killed anyone, but I could have. The fact that I was even thinking about doing it now, I think that means there's still a lot of that fucked up girl inside me. 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

They sound pretty weird from what Max told me.

(to Kat)

I wouldn't go anywhere near them if I were you.

KAT

Thanks for the advice.

HANNA

(to Maddy)

I think she should stay here. You can tell them she lied about her age and that she's still eligible, to live here.

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