

WARNING SHOT

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

This is one of those country cemeteries that would be an ordinary pasture without the grim slabs.

AUDREY, 30, in a flowing dress that gently rolls like waves in the breeze, stands next to...

CHEYENNE, 8, an adorable little likeness of her mother.

Together, they're a symbol of all that's beautiful about life. They gaze blankly at a casket in an open grave, pondering mortality.

AUDREY

We should go.

She puts her hands on Cheyenne's shoulders. Steers her toward a single car parked on the gravel road.

CHEYENNE

How come everyone left so soon?

AUDREY

Probably had things to do.

CHEYENNE

There weren't that many people.

AUDREY

Grandpa was pretty old.

CHEYENNE

Then it seems like he would have had more friends than anyone.

AUDREY

Most of his friends have already died, sweetie.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

The house is small with add-ons, isolated and derelict, with a couple of dilapidated buildings behind it, an old barn and machine shed. Other than the dusty road leading to it, it's surrounded by woodlands.

Audrey's car pulls up the gravel driveway and stops behind the house. Audrey and Cheyenne climb out and scan the area.

CHEYENNE
Have I ever been here before?

AUDREY
Yes. You were too young to
remember. I usually visited while
you were with grandma and grandpa.

They approach the barn like they're walking in the park.

CHEYENNE
I thought this was my grandpa.

AUDREY
No, this was my grandpa.

Cheyenne drifts toward a field as Audrey reaches the doorway.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Don't go too far, Cheyenne. And
don't get your dress dirty.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Audrey steps cautiously into the dingy building. It's filled
with a lifetime's worth of dusty old farm equipment. A coil
of rope hangs on the wall. Audrey touches an old harness.
Smacks the dust off her hands.

EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Cheyenne approaches a large woodpile. When she gets close...
a covey of quail suddenly erupts from the pile, their
TWEETING filling the air.

Caught off guard, Cheyenne falls back onto the ground. She
watches in wonder as the birds fill nearby trees. Audrey
steps out of the barn to see what's going on.

AUDREY
What did you do?

Cheyenne climbs off the ground and shrugs.

CHEYENNE
Nothing. I just walked to the
woodpile.

AUDREY
Well, come away from there. Don't
bother the birds.

Cheyenne makes her way back.

CHEYENNE
I didn't.

Audrey brushes Cheyenne's dress off.

AUDREY
I told you not to get dirty and
it's the first thing you did.

CHEYENNE
I'm sorry.

She notices, points to a dusty spot on Audrey's dress.
Audrey looks at the spot, brushes it off.

AUDREY
I guess I should have told myself
not to get dirty too.

They share a laugh. Audrey puts her arm around Cheyenne.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's look around some
more.

CHEYENNE
Are we going into the house?

AUDREY
I have to get the key from Mr.
Pendleton. We'll come back
tomorrow and look inside.

INT. BOBBY'S OFFICE - DAY

BOBBY, 30s, affluent and sleazy, paces behind his desk.

BOBBY
Those water rights have been in
that old man's family since the
eighteen hundreds.

We now see the two men Bobby speaks to...

First there's JUAREZ, 20s, a Mexican American with a
moustache. His face has a gentle quality.

Then there's RAINY, 30s, slouched in his chair. His eyes
would be completely empty except for a sinister tinge.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

The old man's personally owned the rights since nineteen thirty nine. And he isn't about to give them up without some serious persuasion.

Bobby leans over his desk to bring full attention to what he's about to emphasize.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I want you to persuade him. Do you two know each other?

Juarez and Rainy look each other over.

JUAREZ

I've seen him around.

RAINY

I got a friend who said he bought a skimpy bag of dope from him.

Juarez stiffens, offended.

JUAREZ

I don't sell skimpy bags.

RAINY

Had a bunch of stems in it.

JUAREZ

Bullshit.

Bobby dismisses them with a wave as he sits.

BOBBY

All right, all right. Juarez, Rainy. Rainy, Juarez. Can you two work together?

Rainy leans on Bobby's desk with a smart aleck smirk.

RAINY

Hey, man, I'm a professional.

Bobby looks at Juarez for an answer. Juarez nods.

BOBBY

All right, listen. I just want you to loosen the old man up. Do not kill him.

JUAREZ

When do you want it done?

BOBBY
 Tomorrow. Around noon. Just hold
 him there. I'll drop by later with
 the papers.

RAINY
 What if he gives us trouble?

Bobby flashes Rainy a sharp look.

BOBBY
 Listen, asshole. What did I just
 say? Do not kill him. He can't
 sign any papers dead.

RAINY
 I was just asking. He might have a
 shotgun or something.

BOBBY
 He's an old man. He's ninety
 something for crying out loud.
 Can't you handle a guy in his
 nineties?

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

The back door of a tiny trailer opens and Audrey leans out,
 hanging off the doorframe.

AUDREY
 Cheyenne! Dinner's ready!

She retreats, closing the door, almost like a cuckoo clock.

INT. AUDREY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Audrey turns from the back door, makes her way through the
 modest family area and to the...

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She stops over the stove where a pot of soup simmers. Grabs
 a ladle and stirs. Cheyenne rushes through the front door,
 breathing heavily, carrying a piece of paper with tape on it.

AUDREY
 Why are you out of breath?

CHEYENNE

James and Chris were chasing me and Lucia. They said they were going to throw us in the pond.

AUDREY

Oh really? Go wash up.

Cheyenne starts for the bathroom.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

What's that?

Cheyenne hurries back, still hyper, holding the paper out.

CHEYENNE

It was on the door. What's for dinner?

She hands Audrey the paper and scurries off.

AUDREY

Vegetable soup.

Audrey examines the paper. It's a FINAL EVICTION NOTICE. She frowns, looks up. Cheyenne's already in the bathroom with the water running. Audrey calls out.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

What did you think of the farm?
Did you like it?

CHEYENNE (O.S.)

Yeah! It was okay!

Audrey pulls two bowls from the cupboard.

AUDREY

Just okay?

Cheyenne comes back to the kitchen as Audrey fills a bowl.

CHEYENNE

It was fun to run around. There's lots of places to go.

They sit at the table to eat. Audrey nudges a package of crackers toward Cheyenne.

AUDREY

There's crackers if you want.

Cheyenne grabs some and crushes them over her soup.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
So, you know, Grandpa was kind of a
hermit in his old age. I'm
probably the only family he really
had any contact with.

She waits for a reaction. Cheyenne sips her soup.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
He might leave me something in his
will.

CHEYENNE
Really? Like what?

AUDREY
Like, I don't know. Mr. Pendleton
hinted he might leave me the farm.

CHEYENNE
Really?

Audrey hesitates, trying to be tactful.

AUDREY
It has a lot more space than the
trailer.

CHEYENNE
Do you have to work tonight?

Audrey's a little surprised by Cheyenne's disinterest.

AUDREY
Yes.

CHEYENNE
Who's watching me?

AUDREY
Lucia's mom.

Cheyenne looks up, grinning. Audrey smiles.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Don't let the boys throw you in the
pond.

Cheyenne giggles.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's a small all night place. Audrey finishes scribbling down an order for a TRUCK DRIVER at the counter.

AUDREY
I'll put this in. Would you like
more coffee?

He smiles, nods. Audrey returns a smile.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I'll get it right out.

She glides to a table as TWO CUSTOMERS leave behind scattered empty dishes.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Thanks, guys.

She stacks the empties, notices the tip. She picks up... one dollar and a quarter. Total. She's stunned.

INT. MARTY'S OFFICE - LATER

MARTY, the owner, 50s, sits at his desk looking over tax papers, confused and frustrated. Audrey knocks.

AUDREY
Got a minute?

Marty glances at his watch.

MARTY
A minute is about all you got. I'm
stressin' over this tax mess. This
is my last extension.

Audrey sits across from him.

AUDREY
I'm having some hard times
financially.

Marty gestures at the tax papers.

MARTY
Aren't we all?

AUDREY
I need to make some extra money.

MARTY

That's what tips are for. You want more money? Flirt with the customers more.

AUDREY

I'm not asking for a raise. I was just wondering if I could get some extra hours.

MARTY

I'm looking at cutting back hours as it is.

AUDREY

I got a kid, Marty.

MARTY

Please don't give me a sob story. I get at least one of those a week.

Marty goes back to work, ignoring her. Audrey stands, defeated, starts to leave. Marty sighs and rubs his face.

MARTY (CONT'D)

All right, look. You need some extra cash and I need to relax. We're a match made in heaven.

He shrugs, waits, wondering if she gets his meaning. She does and she doesn't like it. She summons courage.

AUDREY

You owe me overtime pay.

MARTY

(annoyed)

I told you, you'll get your overtime when I get my tax refund.

AUDREY

I know you have the money. You just bought a new car.

MARTY

So we've come to this? You wanna play hard ball? Might I remind you that there's no actual record of this alleged overtime.

Audrey stares in disbelief. It quickly turns to anger.

AUDREY

I knew you would do this.

MARTY
You all agreed to it.

AUDREY
You changed all our time-sheets.

MARTY
You signed them.

AUDREY
What choice did we have?

MARTY
I'm gonna pay you. I just can't do
it right now. You'll just have to
wait... like we agreed.

She turns away, speaking under her breath.

AUDREY
Asshole.

MARTY
I heard that. That's a code of
conduct violation. I could dock
your pay for that.

She walks away while he's talking.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NEXT DAY

Juarez parks his car a few spaces over from Rainy's truck.
Rainy climbs out, clumsily carrying a rifle and a gun, all
while holding onto a plastic ring for a sixpack of beer.

INT. JUAREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Juarez watches stunned as Rainy awkwardly climbs into his
car. Once settled, Rainy holds up the sixpack.

RAINY
Wanna beer?

JUAREZ
What the fuck is wrong with you?

RAINY
What? It's just beer.

JUAREZ
I'm talking about you carrying guns
right out in the open.

RAINY
Nobody saw me.
(re: the rifle)
Besides, this isn't a gun. It's a
rifle.

JUAREZ
You really think we need an assault
rifle for an old man?

RAINY
Here's your weapon.

He hands Juarez the pistol.

JUAREZ
A six shooter?

RAINY
It's a thirty eight. That's
respectable.

JUAREZ
How come I get a six shooter like
I'm a fuckin' cowboy and you get a
semi automatic rifle?

RAINY
Man, 'cause that's what I got.
That was my daddy's gun.

JUAREZ
Daddy? You call your old man
daddy?

RAINY
What is your problem, muchacho? I
just thought we'd have a beer
together.

Juarez glances at the chamber.

JUAREZ
Where's the bullets?

Rainy digs them out of his pocket.

RAINY
I got your bullets right here, man.

He pulls out six bullets and hands them to Juarez.

JUAREZ
Six bullets? That's all I get?

RAINY

How many do you need? It's a six shooter. Besides, we're not supposed to kill anyone, remember?

Juarez stuffs the bullets in his jacket pocket.

RAINY (CONT'D)

You got any weed?

Juarez gives Rainy an annoyed look.

JUAREZ

It's all stems, man.

RAINY

Oh, come on, muchacho. You know I was just messin' with you about that. Besides, I know your own stash will be the good shit.

Juarez hesitates, then pulls a fat bag from his pocket. Rainy grins from ear to ear.

RAINY (CONT'D)

That's what I'm talkin' about, muchacho.

INT. MR. PENDLETON'S OFFICE - DAY

MR. PENDLETON, 60s, an attorney of the tedium crunching variety, opens a drawer and removes... a key. He steps around his desk, approaches Audrey and Cheyenne.

AUDREY

This is Mr. Pendleton. He's handling Grandpa's estate.

Mr. Pendleton smiles at Cheyenne.

MR. PENDLETON

My, I never knew he had such a pretty great granddaughter.

Cheyenne smiles cordially.

CHEYENNE

My great grandpa had an estate?

MR. PENDLETON

Yes, he owned eighty acres.

CHEYENNE
Wow, that's a lot.

She has no idea how much it is. Eighty is just a big number.

MR. PENDLETON
Yes it is.

He looks up at Audrey as he hands her the key.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
Do you have any plans for it if he
leaves it to you?

Audrey stares at the key, cautious about her words.

AUDREY
It needs a lot of work. I probably
couldn't sell it for much. I've
been wondering if it wouldn't be
cheaper to live there.

Cheyenne looks up. This is news to her.

MR. PENDLETON
Well, the will won't be officially
executed until next week. We'll go
over the specifics then.

Audrey looks at Cheyenne, smiles awkwardly.

INT. BOBBY'S GRANDFATHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bobby helps his GRANDFATHER out of a wheelchair and into bed.

BOBBY
I'm going to meet with the old man
this afternoon.

His grandfather strains to climb into bed. Coughs. He's
sickly. On his deathbed.

GRANDFATHER
I quit worrying about that old man
thirty years ago.

He nestles into a comfortable position.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)
We hated each other but we
respected each other.

Bobby sits at his grandfather's side.

BOBBY

But you could never get those water rights. Even dad couldn't get 'em.

GRANDFATHER

I don't want you to end up like your father. And I don't give a good goddamn about those water rights. I hold all the water rights in the county except for that one creek.

BOBBY

But if I did, you'd know I could run the business.

His grandfather puts his hand on Bobby's. Reminisces.

GRANDFATHER

What are you gonna do, Bobby? In my day, when you didn't like someone, you told him to his face, right before you loosened his jaw for him. If he had any guts, he cracked a chair over your head.

He coughs. Bobby watches, knowing he's the last remnant of his family with his grandfather so close to perishing.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

The old days are gone, Bobby. Washed away like a creek bed. You can't just muscle your way around anymore. No one respects guts anymore. People don't even know where their water comes from anymore. Don't care to know.

He closes his eyes, drifts off. Bobby clutches his hand.

BOBBY

I'm gonna make you proud of me.

His grandfather grumbles under his breath.

GRANDFATHER

Thanks for helping me off the shitter.

INT. JUAREZ'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Rainy finishes off a beer.

RAINY

We need some more beer. You got any money?

JUAREZ

I will after we get this job done.

RAINY

We need some money now.

EXT. INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS

Juarez's car pulls to a stop at a red light. Rainy's elbow hangs out the open window. He looks over at the driver of the car in the next lane.

It's a pretty blonde woman, 20s. NOTTA CHANCE. Her window is partially up and there's a splotch of birdshit on it.

RAINY

What's your name, darlin'?

She gives Rainy a cold sneer.

NOTTA

Notta.

RAINY

Notta. Is that Mexican?

NOTTA

No.

RAINY

Notta what?

NOTTA

Notta chance.

Juarez bursts out laughing. Rainy glances at him and turns playfully back to Notta.

RAINY

You got birdshit on your window.

NOTTA

Why don't you lick it off?

Rainy hangs out the window.

RAINY

You think I won't?

A sly grin sneaks onto Notta's face. She's game.

NOTTA
I'll give you ten dollars if you
lick that birdshit off.

Rainy climbs out. The light turns green.

JUAREZ
Hey, come on, man. The light
turned green.

Rainy steps toward Notta's car.

RAINY
Do you even have ten dollars?

He gets close enough to see down into Notta's car. She pulls a ten dollar bill from her wallet. Rainy sees she has a lot more money. She waves the ten.

NOTTA
I don't believe you'll do it.

He looks into her eyes with a smart aleck smirk as he sticks his tongue out and... licks that birdshit off her window like it's chocolate and whipped cream.

Notta's mouth falls open.

RAINY
Mmmmmmmmmmm. Now gimme my money.

Notta, still shocked, holds out the ten. Rainy grabs it with one hand and with the other... slings open a balisong (a.k.a. a butterfly knife), presses the blade against Notta's throat.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll take the rest of it too.

Juarez sees what's going on from his car. Scans, panicked.

JUAREZ
What are you doing, man? Let's get
out of here.

Notta holds up the wallet. Rainy grabs it, backs away.

RAINY
Remember, I got your address. If
you call the police, you better
hope they find me before I find
you.

As he climbs into Juarez's car, Notta can't help but ask...

NOTTA

If you were going to rob me, why
did you lick the birdshit off my
window?

Rainy hangs out the window as Juarez pulls away.

RAINY

That's just somethin' for you to
remember me by, darlin'.

He laughs like a crazy man as they drive off.

INT. AUDREY'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Audrey bickers with an upset Cheyenne.

AUDREY

I'm sorry I didn't say anything
before. It's not set in stone.

CHEYENNE

What about school? Will I still go
to the same school?

AUDREY

No.

CHEYENNE

What about all my friends?

AUDREY

Honey, I don't know what's going to
happen. All I know is we can't
afford the rent anymore.

CHEYENNE

What about dad? Can we ask him to
help us?

AUDREY

Your dad doesn't give us any money.

Cheyenne's eyes well with tears.

CHEYENNE

But if he knew we might lose our
home, then he might.

AUDREY

All he'd do is try and take you
away from me. Is that what you
want? To live with your dad?
You'd still have to change schools.

It gets really quiet for several moments. Both Audrey and
Cheyenne gaze ahead, pondering. Then...

CHEYENNE

I know the birthday cards from dad
are really from you.

Audrey glances between Cheyenne and the road, surprised.

AUDREY

How do you know that?

CHEYENNE

No postage stamps or return
address. So you can't threaten me
with living with dad. I already
know he wouldn't take me.

Audrey smiles, bittersweet, at Cheyenne.

AUDREY

You're pretty smart, you know that?

CHEYENNE

Yes. Just don't put a bumper
sticker on the car about it.

They share a laugh.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Juarez's car pulls up the driveway, parks behind the house.

INT. JUAREZ'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Juarez and Rainy scan the area.

RAINY

This place is a piece of shit dump.

JUAREZ

Yeah, but there's supposedly a
bunch of water around here.

RAINY
Seems weird Bobby would go through
all this trouble for some water.

JUAREZ
He's just trying to impress his
grandfather.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Juarez and Rainy climb out. Juarez puts his pistol in his jacket. Rainy hangs his rifle over his shoulder.

JUAREZ
You have to carry that out in the
open?

RAINY
I'll stick it down in my pants.
(grabs his crotch)
Nobody will see it next to my big
dick.

Juarez rolls his eyes. They walk to the back door.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Where's yours?

JUAREZ
If it was up your ass, I bet you'd
know where it was.

RAINY
Damn, muchacho, what spoiled your
taco?

They arrive at the door. Juarez knocks. They wait idly.

RAINY (CONT'D)
So how long did it take you to
smear that doo-doo across your lip?

Juarez rubs his moustache, self-satisfied.

JUAREZ
Shit, I shave twice a day.

Rainy bangs on the door.

RAINY
Open up, old man! We know you're
in there!
(re: Juarez's moustache)
(MORE)

RAINY (CONT'D)

If you shave twice a day, I shit golden turds. You could hardly tickle a twat with that Velcro looking thing.

JUAREZ

You can kiss my damn ass, cowboy. I get more pussy than you can imagine.

RAINY

Well, if we're counting imaginary pussy, then I guess you're gonna win.

Rainy bangs on the door again.

RAINY (CONT'D)

You're not fooling anyone! We know you're in there!

A few more moments go by.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I don't think he's in there.

Juarez turns and scans the grounds.

JUAREZ

He must be around here somewhere.

The two men spread out as they walk toward the barn.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)

You check the woods on that side and come up behind the barn. I'll check the other side and come up behind that woodpile.

Rainy stops near a tree, while Juarez is still close by.

RAINY

I hate trees.

JUAREZ

How can you hate trees? No one hates trees.

RAINY

I do. Once when I was hiding out from the police, I was stuck in the woods for weeks. Nothin' but goddamn trees everywhere.

JUAREZ
No one hates trees, man. It's impossible.

RAINY
Fuck trees.

Rainy looks up the tall tree with contempt.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna piss on this goddamn tree.

Rainy unzips his pants and, true to his word, starts peeing on the tree. He flips the tree off.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Fuck you, tree. I piss on you.

Juarez shakes his head and moves on.

EXT. FARMHOUSE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Audrey's car crunches gravel along the road toward the farm, stirring up dust and pinging rocks off the fender wells.

INT. AUDREY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dust floats past the windows.

AUDREY
I'll never get used to all this dust. I hope the gravel doesn't tear the car up.

They pull up next to a large mailbox. Audrey rolls down the window and opens the box. It's filled with letters and newspapers. Audrey takes them in.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
We've got to cancel Grandpa's paper.

CHEYENNE
The mailbox is so big.

AUDREY
We could live in the mailbox if the house doesn't work out.

They giggle as Audrey rolls the window up.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Audrey's car pulls up the driveway and parks behind Juarez's.

INT. AUDREY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Audrey looks at Juarez's car, confused.

CHEYENNE
Whose car is that, Mom?

AUDREY
I don't know.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Cheyenne climb out of the car. Audrey pulls out the key as she walks toward the door.

AUDREY
Maybe it's someone from the lumber company. I think Grandpa was going to thin the forest.

Cheyenne separates, toward an apple tree in the back yard.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Don't you want to see inside?

CHEYENNE
I just want to see the apples.

Audrey arrives at the door and unlocks it.

AUDREY
Okay but don't eat any apples until you let me check them out first.

Then... the massive TWEETING of a large covey of quail grabs Audrey's attention. She turns to see... the birds filling the trees. She steps away from the house, calls out.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Cheyenne, I told you not to bother the birds!

CHEYENNE (O.S.)
I'm right here, Mom.

Audrey looks toward a bush near the apple tree. There's Cheyenne, looking right at her. Audrey isn't sure what to think. She looks toward the woodpile with an uneasy feeling.

AUDREY

Wait here.

Audrey hesitantly approaches the woodpile, scanning.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARN

Rainy hides in the back. Juarez is crouched behind the woodpile. Rainy peeks around the corner and pulls back.

Juarez peeks through an opening in the woodpile.

Audrey stoops a little as she steps nearer. She scans the woodpile until she lays her eyes... directly on Juarez's. Audrey's eyes widen in terror.

Juarez stands. Audrey turns and runs, screaming...

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Cheyenne, get in the car! Get in
the car and lock the door!

Cheyenne sees Juarez chasing her mother. She reacts quickly. Climbs into the car and locks the door.

INT. AUDREY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cheyenne clambers to the driver's side and opens the door, locks it, then pushes it wide open.

She barely makes it back over before... Audrey scrambles in and slams the door, just as Juarez reaches for the latch.

JUAREZ

(outside)

Open the door! Open the door!

Audrey fumbles for her keys in a panic. Drops them in the passenger floorboard. Cheyenne grabs them and finds the key.

CHEYENNE

Here it is!

Juarez bangs on the window as Audrey gropes the ignition, manages to get the key in and start the car.

JUAREZ

Open up! We're not gonna hurt you!

Audrey backs up with Juarez following, banging on the roof.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)

We're not gonna hurt you!

Audrey works the shifter into drive, starts to pull forward when... Rainy appears at the passenger side window with the rifle aimed directly at Cheyenne.

RAINY
Stop the car or I'll kill the kid.

Audrey freezes instantly, horrified.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Put the car into park.

Audrey hesitates. Not defiantly but paralyzed with fear. Rainy aims upward and... BANG! Fires off a round, then aims at Cheyenne again.

RAINY (CONT'D)
That was a warning shot. Put the car into park or I'll shoot her.

Audrey struggles to get her bearings. Puts the shifter into park. Rainy keeps his rifle trained on Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Unlock the door.

Audrey fights to focus, then unlocks her door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Juarez opens the door.

JUAREZ
Get out.

He takes her by the arm as she climbs out. Looks at Rainy.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
What are we gonna do with them?

Rainy lowers his rifle.

RAINY
You see any rope around here?

INT. FARMHOUSE FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Rustic charm, fallen into disarray. Dusty unkempt furniture, deteriorated over years of wear and neglect.

Audrey and Cheyenne, both with their hands bound behind them, are marshalled into the kitchen and family room area, so small the kitchen table is adjacent to the couch.

Rainy pushes Audrey onto the couch. Cheyenne sits beside her. Rainy tosses the extra rope onto the table. Kneels in front of Cheyenne.

RAINY
Let's start with names. I know
you're Cheyenne. That's a pretty
name. Is it because you're shy?

Cheyenne shakes her head. Rainy's attention turns to Audrey.

RAINY (CONT'D)
What's your name?

Audrey is so scared, her mouth is dry when she speaks.

AUDREY
Audrey.

RAINY
Audrey? That's not that pretty.
What's your middle name?

AUDREY
Michelle.

RAINY
Michelle. That's much better.

He looks up playfully at Juarez.

RAINY (CONT'D)
(sings Beatles' song)
Michelle / My belle.

He laughs. Juarez keeps a stony face.

JUAREZ
Hey, man, can I talk to you?

RAINY
In a minute.
(to Audrey)
Where's the old man?

Audrey absorbs a moment, confused as to what they want.

AUDREY
Grandpa?

RAINY
Yeah, Grandpa.

AUDREY
He died.

Juarez steps forward.

JUAREZ
Died? Who owns the water rights?

AUDREY
Water rights? I don't know.
Whoever he left them to, I guess.

JUAREZ
When will we find out who gets 'em?

AUDREY
The will gets read next week.

Rainy stands.

RAINY
We can't watch them for a whole
week.

Juarez steps toward the next room.

JUAREZ
Let's talk.

They go into the...

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's as large as the other two rooms put together, with a large open space in the middle of the floor. Juarez faces Rainy so they can talk privately.

JUAREZ
Okay, first off, I don't like you
pointing a rifle at a kid.

RAINY
Really? The old man was once a
kid. Audrey was once a kid. If
someone's seventeen and turns
eighteen tomorrow, do I have to
wait until tomorrow for it to be
okay to point a rifle at them?

JUAREZ
I've had it with your smartass
bullshit.

RAINY
I've had it with your pussyfooting.

JUAREZ
Hey, fuck you, cowboy.

RAINY
Fuck you, conquistador.

JUAREZ
Hey, I was born in America, dumb
shit. And do you even know what a
conquistador is?

RAINY
Yeah, it's one of those Spaniards
with the baggy britches and a
wrought-iron egg on his head.

They stare holes into each other another moment, then look
toward the next room.

RAINY (CONT'D)
What are we gonna do with them?

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Juarez and Rainy return.

JUAREZ
(to Audrey)
If you'll sign the water rights
over, we'll let you go.

RAINY
We don't even know if she'll get
them.

Juarez keeps his gaze fixed on Audrey.

JUAREZ
If she does, then we'll already
have the contract. How about it?

Audrey stares, confused a moment, then gently nods.

AUDREY
Okay.

JUAREZ

Bobby will be by in a bit with the papers. You sign and that's it.

Rainy kneels in front of Cheyenne.

RAINY

What about you, shy one? You know anything about this?

She shakes her head.

RAINY (CONT'D)

(to Audrey)

Does she talk?

AUDREY

She's scared.

RAINY

(to Cheyenne)

You mad at me because I pointed a rifle at you?

She nods.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Yeah, well, if you don't talk, I'm gonna aim it at you again. And this time, I might fire it.

JUAREZ

Damn it, Rainy, I told you not to threaten the kid with a rifle.

RAINY

You said you didn't want me to point it at her. Did I point it at her?

(to Cheyenne)

Go on, shy one.

Cheyenne looks to her mother for approval.

AUDREY

Go ahead and answer him, sweetie.

CHEYENNE

Mom and me can't afford rent so we thought we might move in here.

RAINY

Well, now, that's interesting. How do you know you'll get the house?

AUDREY

We don't.

RAINY

Was I talking to you? Let her answer.

CHEYENNE

Mr. Pendleton said we'll probably get it because Grandpa was a hermit and didn't have much family left.

Juarez reaches into his jacket.

JUAREZ

So that's it then. She'll probably get the water rights too. Problem solved.

He pulls out his gun. Sets it on the table as he sits.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)

All we have to do is wait for Bobby.

Rainy swaggers to the refrigerator. Noses around inside.

RAINY

I need a beer.

He goes through the cupboards.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Damn. What did the old man eat? Chipped paint? There's more mouse shit than food in these cupboards.

JUAREZ

He was ninety. Maybe mouse shit was his secret to longevity. Why don't you eat some, cowboy?

RAINY

You think I won't? How much?

JUAREZ

I told you, I don't have any money. You got some beer in the car, remember?

RAINY

Oh, that's right. Why don't you go get it for me, muchacho?

JUAREZ

Fuck you.

Rainy playfully checks out Audrey.

RAINY

Audrey, go get my beer.

AUDREY

Untie me.

Rainy chuckles.

RAINY

She's got wit. I like that.

Rainy eyes Audrey as he sits next to Juarez. Speaks quietly.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Hey, man, step out for a spell.

Juarez looks at Rainy. Glances at Audrey.

JUAREZ

We didn't come here for that.

RAINY

I know but, you know...

Juarez stares at Rainy with the most seriously "not messing around" face yet.

JUAREZ

Leave her alone.

Rainy smirks, not intimidated, but provocative.

RAINY

You draw the line at pushing around old men, huh?

JUAREZ

Leave her alone.

Rainy stands, slings his rifle over his shoulder.

RAINY

You must be the life of the fiesta, muchacho.

He saunters to the door. Winks at Audrey right before he walks out. She cringes.

Juarez digs the bullets out of his jacket, puts them down on the table. Picks up the pistol and opens the revolver. He picks up one bullet, pauses before shoving it in the chamber.

He looks at Audrey. She's frightened. He looks at Cheyenne. Same frightened face.

JUAREZ

Don't worry. It's for him, not you. Just in case.

He continues loading the gun.

AUDREY

Please don't let him hurt us.

Juarez pauses again, looks at Audrey. Softly nods.

EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Rainy ambles to the car. Notices the tree he peed on earlier as he passes by. Smirks, flips it off.

RAINY

Fuck you, tree.

He leans in the car, rummages around, pulls away with a sixpack. Pulls one free and sets the rest on the roof.

PSSSHHHT. Pops the can open. Takes a big long guzzle. Lets out a loud obnoxious sigh.

He wanders down the driveway, notices the woodpile. Picks a rock off the driveway and throws it...

POP! The rock bounces off a log and... TWEETING erupts as quail rush for the trees.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Loud ass birds.

INT. FARMHOUSE FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER

Juarez finishes rolling a joint. Lights it and takes a puff. Rainy enters with three beers left hanging off the ring.

RAINY

Why didn't you tell me you were firing one up?

JUAREZ

You didn't ask.

Rainy sets his beer on the table and reaches for the joint.

RAINY

Let me have some of that.

Juarez hands it to him.

JUAREZ

Here. Maybe it'll mellow you out.

Rainy takes a big draw. Blows out a fog of smoke, coughing.

RAINY

(while coughing)

Goddamn, muchacho, this shit could bore a hole through a bank vault.

Juarez laughs.

JUAREZ

Nah, man, it's an acquired taste.

Rainy holds it out to Audrey.

RAINY

You want some?

AUDREY

No, thank you.

RAINY

You sure? It'll loosen you up.
Get the tension out. And believe
me, darlin', I can see you're under
a lot of pressure right now.

Audrey just shakes her head. Rainy holds it out to Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)

What about you?

AUDREY

She doesn't want any.

RAINY

I didn't ask you.

Cheyenne glances at her mother, then shakes her head.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Well, suit yourself.

Rainy takes another big draw.

JUAREZ

You know what you are, cowboy?
You're a glutton. You don't know
when to quit.

Rainy coughs a cloud of smoke and hands the joint to Juarez.

RAINY

If you want it back, you could just
say. You don't have to get
personal.

Juarez chuckles, takes the joint. Rainy stares at Audrey
with that sinister tinge blooming in his eyes again. He
squeezes between her and Cheyenne.

Juarez notices, keeps an eye as he takes a draw. Rainy looks
Audrey up and down.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Comfortable?

AUDREY

No. Would you be, tied up with two
psychos in your house?

RAINY

It's not your house yet, remember?
Besides, Juarez isn't a psycho.

He laughs. Juarez chuckles along with him.

RAINY (CONT'D)

The worst thing Juarez has ever
done is sell skimpy bags of dope.

JUAREZ

Hey, I told you, man. I don't sell
skimpy bags.

RAINY

Well, now, my friend wouldn't lie.

JUAREZ

Your friend is a lying shit sack.

RAINY

Now, take it easy. There's nothin'
wrong with turning a profit.

He looks down at Audrey's lap.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Getting a little extra out of a
deal...

He puts his hand on her leg.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Is there?

He eases up her leg. Audrey, horrified, looks at Juarez.

JUAREZ
Hey, man, come on.

Rainy pauses, looks at Juarez.

RAINY
You know something, Juarez? I'm
getting awful tired of your
blocking. What are you, Zorro?

JUAREZ
Man, all we got to do is wait for
Bobby. You wanna fuck something
that simple up?

Rainy hesitates, then leaps off the couch. Walks around to
the other side of Juarez.

RAINY
You're a real killjoy, you know it?

JUAREZ
Just chill, man.

Juarez takes a draw with his back to Rainy. Rainy raises his
rifle, pointed toward the ceiling.

RAINY
Why don't you take a nap, muchacho?

BAM! He brings the rifle butt down on the back of Juarez's
head. Audrey screams. Juarez slumps forward, falls from the
chair into a heap on the floor.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Damn, that guy was annoying. He'll
be pissed when he wakes up.

He steps toward Audrey. She draws back, terrified.

AUDREY
Please don't hurt us.

He sits between her and Cheyenne again.

RAINY
Don't fret, darlin'. I wouldn't
dream of forcing myself on you.
You know what I want? I want you
to ask for it. Go on. Ask for it.

Audrey is so nervous, she can hardly speak.

AUDREY
I -- I don't know what you want me
to say.

RAINY
I want you to ask... for... it.

AUDREY
I can't.

RAINY
You can. And you will.

AUDREY
Cheyenne. Can she leave...

RAINY
No, fuck that. You can say it with
Cheyenne here. She's too young to
understand anyway.

AUDREY
I can't.

Rainy stares at her long and hard.

RAINY
Okay, then.

He turns a chair facing the doorway to the next room. Pulls
Audrey off the couch and sits her in the chair. Grabs some
rope and ties her ankles to the chair legs.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Then you can sit here and see what
happens next.

AUDREY
Please. I don't know what you want
me to say.

Rainy grabs Cheyenne by the arm.

RAINY

Maybe Cheyenne will ask for it.

He pulls Cheyenne off the couch. She breaks into tears, scared to death even though she doesn't understand what's happening. Audrey is horrified.

AUDREY

No, please, just tell me what you want me to say.

Rainy pulls Cheyenne along, toward the next room.

RAINY

Come on, Cheyenne, let's leave Audrey to think about things.

AUDREY

Please, I'll say whatever you want.

Rainy forces Cheyenne into the next room, out of sight, leaving Audrey not knowing what's happening. Audrey screams with tears streaming down her cheeks.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Take me! Take me!

Her pleas are met with eerie silence.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Take me! Take me! Take me!

The silence is terrifying. Audrey can hardly speak from crying. She makes one last desperate call.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Take me!

She finally breaks down sobbing uncontrollably. Rainy peeks back in the doorway, holding his hand over Cheyenne's mouth.

RAINY

Well, if you're gonna beg...

He pushes Cheyenne down on the couch. Loosens the binds around Audrey's ankles.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I knew my charm would wear you down.

Audrey's eyes meet Cheyenne's. The girl is traumatized.

AUDREY
Sweetie, I need you to be strong
for mama, okay? It's going to be
all right.

Then... KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK, at the front door. Rainy
shushes Audrey. He peeks out the window.

RAINY
I think it's one of those door to
door proselytizers.

He waits. There's the sound of a pamphlet being left in the
door. Rainy shakes his head, steps to the...

EXT. FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The man, DAVID, 30s, is walking away carrying a Bible when
Rainy opens the door. The pamphlet flutters to the porch.

RAINY
What's this?
(picks it up)
Why, it's a pamphlet. Whatever
could it be about?

A smile fills David's tender face as he returns. He's
slightly effeminate.

DAVID
Hi. My name is David. I just
wanted to drop by to see if you've
heard the good news concerning our
lord and savior Jesus Christ.

RAINY
Do you know what country you're in?

David's smile fades.

DAVID
I'm sorry?

RAINY
It's a simple question, David. Do
you know... what country... that
you are in?

David digests, unsettled by the awkwardness.

DAVID
America.

RAINY
That's right. This is America.

DAVID
I'm sorry, I don't know what you're getting at.

Rainy points down the road.

RAINY
Did you see that church on the corner down there?

DAVID
Yes, the big one? It's nice.

RAINY
Well, it's one of about a million on damn near every corner in the country. Do you really think you're gonna run into someone who's never heard of Jesus fuckin' Christ.

David just stares speechless.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll tell you where you need to go. You need to go to one of those remote areas of Africa, with all those crazy tribes that worship tigers and shit. That's where you'll find people who've never heard of Jesus.

David shakes his head, trying to focus.

DAVID
Okay. I'm sorry to bother you.

RAINY
Wanna know why Christians don't go to places like that to proselytize? Because you'll get a spear in your ass, that's why. They'll make a necklace out of your head.

DAVID
I'll move on.

He starts to turn and sees... Audrey in the window, horror all over her face. She mouths, "Help me." David turns away.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Have a good day, sir.

Rainy glances toward the window, suspicious. Nothing. He leans back in the doorway. Looks at David walking away.

RAINY
You saw something, didn't you?

David turns around.

DAVID
I'm sorry?

RAINY
Don't act stupid. You saw something, didn't you?

DAVID
I don't know what you're talking about. I'll move on.

He turns away. Rainy grabs his rifle, walks out, pursuing.

RAINY
That's why I hate you people.
You'll lie like the devil the second it suits you.

David turns and sees the rifle. Runs away. Rainy chases.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Oh, now you're gonna run away like a little pussy.

Rainy gets close enough and RAPS David on the head. David hits the ground, senses reeling.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I hate liars, David.

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rainy shoves David, hands bound behind him, to the floor. This is the living room with the large open space.

RAINY
I'm not trying to be an asshole. I just want you to admit you lied.

He walks into the next room, keeps talking. David listens, frightened, unsure what's going to happen.

RAINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Audrey here did something to tip
you off.

We hear Audrey moan as Rainy grabs her. FOOTSTEPS approach.

RAINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Then you acted like you were
leaving when you were really going
for help.

Rainy tugs Audrey into the room and shoves her to the floor.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Then I asked you if you saw
something and you lied.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cheyenne toils with her binds. She glances cautiously
between Juarez unconscious on the floor and the doorway to
the next room.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David looks up at Rainy with a tight face.

DAVID
Look. I don't know what's going
on. I don't know why you didn't
just not answer the door.

RAINY
This isn't about me not answering
the door. This is about you lying
and not being able to admit it.

DAVID
Okay, I lied.

Rainy kneels by David.

RAINY
Well, now, that's not a sincere
admission, now is it, David?

DAVID
I don't know what you want me to
say.

RAINY
Yeah, there's a lot of that going
around.

He stands, grabs the strap to his rifle to hold it secure.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I just want you ...

He kicks David in the stomach. David draws in, groaning.

RAINY (CONT'D)
... to admit...

Rainy kicks him again. And again. And again. While Audrey
screams for him to stop.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| RAINY (CONT'D) | AUDREY |
| ... you lied. Now is that... | Stop it! Leave him alone! |
| so hard? Just... admit... | Please! Stop it! |
| you lied. | |

Rainy finally stops, breathing heavily. Gazes down at David.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I just want a little sincerity,
David. Is that too much to ask?

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cheyenne works to free herself. She's halfway there. She
focuses on... the gun. Resting on the table. Then... Juarez
groans. Cheyenne quickly hides her hands behind her back.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David looks up with watery eyes, completely sincere.

DAVID
I wasn't sure what I saw. I
thought I kind of knew. But I
wasn't sure. I didn't know what I
was going to do.

He looks at Audrey, face filled with regret.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I don't know if I would
have helped you. I wasn't sure
what I saw. I probably wouldn't
have gotten involved.

RAINY

Did you hear that, Audrey? Mr. Christian was just going to leave you here to rot. It's okay, sweetheart. You still have me.

Rainy pulls David up to his knees.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I bet you wish that prayer bullshit really worked right about now, don't you?

JUAREZ (O.S.)

Hey, cowboy!

Rainy whirls around to see... Juarez pointing the pistol.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)

I ought to blow your head off.

Rainy steps back.

RAINY

Come on, conquistador. You're not mad at me over that little bump on the head, are you? I was just trying to get a little time alone with my lady.

Juarez steps closer, still aiming the gun. Notices David.

JUAREZ

Who the hell is this?

RAINY

That's my new friend, David. He likes to preach the gospel when he isn't leaving women and children behind to save himself.

JUAREZ

I owe you a whack.

BAM! Juarez cracks Rainy on the head with the handle of his gun. Rainy drops to the floor like a sack of flour. Juarez feels his head, grimaces.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)

I hope his head hurts as much as mine when he wakes up.

He turns toward Audrey and David.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
What happened?

AUDREY
David knocked and he answered.

Juarez shakes his head, tries to think.

JUAREZ
All right. Let's all go in the
other room. We're gonna wait for
Bobby.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Cheyenne is on the couch with her hands behind her back when
Audrey sits down. David sits in a recliner next to the
couch. Juarez sets his pistol back on the table. Takes a
seat, setting SOMETHING ELSE down that we don't see yet.

JUAREZ
This was just supposed to be a
simple job. All we had to do was
get the old man to sign the papers.
Now here we are with three
hostages. The old man is dead.

Juarez pauses, thinking. Audrey breaks the silence.

AUDREY
If I sign the papers whenever this
Bobby gets here, will you let us
all go?

JUAREZ
That's the plan. You can't tell
anyone.

AUDREY
We won't say anything. I don't
even want the water rights. You
could have just asked me for them.
I can't take care of all the pipes
and filters anyway.

Juarez gazes at her a moment, then laughs.

JUAREZ
We could have just asked for them.

He laughs harder. As it dissipates, Audrey takes a chance.

AUDREY
So how did you get mixed up in all
this? You seem nice.

Juarez stops laughing, looks at her.

JUAREZ
Lady, don't get the wrong idea.
I'm not that nice.

Audrey hesitates, still trying to gauge Juarez.

AUDREY
Thank you.

JUAREZ
What is this? You trying to use
psychology or something?

AUDREY
I'm just thankful for what you did.

JUAREZ
Really? 'Cause it sounds like
you're trying to get to know me.
Like maybe you think if I get to
know you and all, I'll be more
reluctant to hurt you.

AUDREY
It's not like that.

JUAREZ
You watch too much TV, Audrey.

Audrey decides it's best to just stay silent. Juarez rises.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
I have to go to the bathroom. You
think you can stay here without
supervision while I do that?

Audrey nods. Juarez steps to the door.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
I can hear what's going on out
here.

He steps into the next room. Audrey, Cheyenne and David
exchange nervous glances.

Audrey quietly rises and motions Cheyenne and David to come
with her. David balks. Audrey and Cheyenne sneak to the
front door. Audrey stops, notices David has stayed behind.

Their eyes meet. David shakes his head, trying to discourage them. Audrey struggles to get her bound hands high enough to unlock the bolt.

CLACK. It's not that loud, but in this quiet room and under the circumstances, it may as well be pots and pans clanging.

Audrey manages to turn the doorknob.

CREAK. The door opening is like tires squealing in the silence. Audrey opens slowly to mitigate the noise.

Finally, it's open enough. Audrey backs out.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

As soon as Audrey turns to run, she bumps right into... Juarez. She gasps.

JUAREZ
I knew I couldn't trust you,
Audrey.

He ushers them back into the...

INT. FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Cheyenne step back into the room.

AUDREY
Can you blame us?

Juarez gestures for them to sit.

JUAREZ
No, but it means I can't leave you
alone for a second.

Audrey and Cheyenne sit back on the couch. Juarez sits at the table and rubs his face, disappointed.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
Damn, Audrey. I really do have to
shit, too.

AUDREY
I promise I won't do it again.

JUAREZ
You think I'm gonna trust you now?

AUDREY

There's no way I can know whether
or not it's a trick.

JUAREZ

I know I can trust preacher. Damn,
preacher, I can't believe you
didn't even try to escape.

DAVID

I'm trying to keep us alive.

JUAREZ

Looked more like you were trying to
keep yourself alive.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

Rainy rouses. Feels his head. Winces. Struggles to get his
bearings. Looks over and sees the rifle next to him.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Rainy appears in the doorway, rifle trained on Juarez.

RAINY

Conquistador?

Juarez looks up, not the slightest bit scared.

JUAREZ

Put the gun down. You're not going
to shoot anyone.

RAINY

First off, I told you, it's a
goddamn rifle.

He lowers the rifle, focused on a rant now.

RAINY (CONT'D)

A rifle! Don't you know the
fuckin' difference!

He holds the rifle up by the barrel.

RAINY (CONT'D)

A rifle has a goddamn rifled bore!
It causes the bullet to come out
spinning! Like a football! A gun
has a smooth bore so its accuracy
is shit!

He aims the rifle at Juarez.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Secondly, I thought you knew me better. What makes you think I won't shoot your ass dead?

Juarez picks the MAGAZINE for the rifle off the table and holds it up for Rainy to see.

JUAREZ
I took the bullets out. You'd think a gun expert such as yourself would have noticed his clip was missing.

Rainy spins his rifle over and sees the empty slot.

RAINY
Son of a bitch.

JUAREZ
You're done playing cowboy. From here on, we just wait for Bobby.

Rainy stares a moment, then lowers the rifle, completely changing his tune. Ambles toward Juarez.

RAINY
Ah shit, I was just messin' with you, muchacho. I wasn't gonna shoot you.

Juarez grabs his pistol, points it at Rainy.

JUAREZ
Just have a seat. We wait for Bobby.

RAINY
Can't I even sit at the table?

JUAREZ
That's too close.

RAINY
Fine. I'll sit on the couch with Audrey.

JUAREZ
No.
(to David)
You sit on the couch.
(MORE)

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
(to Rainy)
You take the recliner.

David switches to the couch. Cheyenne scoots over to be in the middle. Rainy saunters to the recliner.

RAINY
Fine. I wanted the recliner
anyway.

JUAREZ
I can't believe the mess you've
made.

Rainy plants himself in the recliner.

RAINY
Me? I was just having a little
fun. Like the old days. Rape,
pillage, burn and all that.

Rainy glances at the small wood-burning stove next to him. There are several thin logs on top and a couple of larger ones at the base. Rainy pulls out his balisong.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Do you mind if I whittle while we
wait?

He grabs a thin log. Slings the knife open by spinning it gracefully around his fingers.

JUAREZ
I thought you hated trees.

RAINY
I do. That's why I don't mind
cutting them up.

Juarez sighs. Rainy idly whittles.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll carve you a little tiki
statue.

Juarez rolls his eyes. A few moments of silence go by.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Hey, Audrey? Want me to make you
something?

Audrey pauses, staring, not sure what to say. Turns away.

AUDREY
Just make your tiki statue.

RAINY
I don't think Juarez appreciates my efforts. Besides, you're much prettier than Juarez.

AUDREY
I don't want anything from you.

RAINY
Oh, Audrey, that's cold. That hurt my feelings.

AUDREY
I doubt you have any feelings.

RAINY
That's not true. I'm a sensitive guy. Really.

He's met with cold silence.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Let me ask you something. If I was just some guy you met... and you didn't know anything about me... would you even talk to me?

She turns her face toward him, still not answering.

RAINY (CONT'D)
If I just walked up to you somewhere and you didn't know me... if we talked, just about simple things... and I didn't do anything to creep you out... what would you think of me?

Audrey hesitates, uncertain, then softly answers.

AUDREY
You might fool me.

Rainy smiles.

RAINY
I fool myself sometimes.

Audrey raises her chin, strong with a bit of defiance.

AUDREY
But I do know you.

The smile fades from Rainy's face.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I know all I need to know. You're evil. You're cruel and vicious. You're a monster... and I wouldn't want to talk to you. I wouldn't want to see you. I wouldn't want to have anything to do with you.

Rainy scowls, speechless for once. Juarez laughs. Rainy glances angrily at him. Juarez keeps laughing as he pulls a bag and rolling papers from his jacket pocket.

JUAREZ

You struck the fuck out, man.

RAINY

Hey, fuck you, muchacho.

Juarez just laughs more. Starts rolling a joint. Rainy fights to compose himself. When he calms down enough, it's like another personality washes over him. He chuckles.

RAINY (CONT'D)

That's pretty good, Audrey. You really got me. That's funny.

He starts whittling again.

RAINY (CONT'D)

You know what I'm gonna make you, Audrey? A little giraffe. You like giraffes, don't you? Everyone likes giraffes. I don't know anyone who doesn't like giraffes.

JUAREZ

I didn't think there was anyone who didn't like trees.

Rainy pauses.

RAINY

I was in the woods for weeks. All those trees became like prison bars. Who's ever had an experience like that with giraffes?

(to Audrey)

Do you like giraffes, Audrey?

AUDREY

I don't have anything else to say to you.

Juarez laughs as he puts his joint in his mouth.

JUAREZ
Oooh, she shuts him down
completely.

RAINY
Hey, let me have a hit off that.

Juarez digs out a lighter.

JUAREZ
Nope. You stay over there.

Rainy eyes Juarez a moment. Smirks with a chuckle as he resumes whittling. Focuses on Cheyenne.

RAINY
What about you, shy one? Do you
like giraffes?

Cheyenne nods.

RAINY (CONT'D)
You know, a lot of people think
giraffes are weak because they got
those long necks. But did you know
a giraffe could kick a lion's head
off?

Juarez laughs.

JUAREZ
A giraffe couldn't kick a lion's
head off. Not with those bony
legs.

RAINY
They're bigger than you think.

JUAREZ
They're not that big.

RAINY
Their legs can get taller than a
man. Their hindquarters can get
bigger around than my waist.

Juarez keeps laughing as he blows smoke.

JUAREZ
Bullshit.

Rainy shakes his head.

RAINY
I can't believe you're going to
smoke that all by yourself.

JUAREZ
Hey, man, you ever heard of paying
for it?

RAINY
I paid for the beer.

JUAREZ
I didn't drink any beer.

RAINY
How much you want for a joint?

Rainy pulls out his (Notta's) wallet. Slips out two dollars.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll give you two bucks.

JUAREZ
Two bucks?

RAINY
How much you want?

Juarez starts rolling a joint.

JUAREZ
I'll take two bucks and you calm
the hell down, how's that sound?

Rainy grins. Focuses on David.

RAINY
So what church do you belong to? I
know you're not Mormon. They
travel in pairs.

He glances at Juarez. They both laugh. David speaks softly.

DAVID
Church of the Living Word.

RAINY
What is that, Jehovah's Witnesses?

DAVID
It's protestant.

RAINY
What do they think about you being
a homo?

David looks up stunned.

DAVID
I'm not a homo.

RAINY
You sure about that? Because I
think you are.

DAVID
You can't tell if someone's gay
just by looking at them.

RAINY
Yes, you can.

He leans a little closer to David, provocatively.

RAINY (CONT'D)
A man gets a certain look in his
eyes after he's had a dick in his
turd duct.

He looks up at Juarez.

RAINY (CONT'D)
It's this slightly wide eyed look
like, "Oh shit! I can't believe
somebody stuck a cock in my ass!"

Juarez bursts out laughing. Tosses the joint to Rainy.

JUAREZ
There you go, man. Just mellow
out.

Rainy sticks the joint in his mouth.

JUAREZ (CONT'D)
(re: his lighter)
I want this back.

Juarez tosses the lighter. Rainy catches it. Lights the
joint and takes a big draw. Blows smoke like all the tension
is leaving his body with it.

RAINY
Ah. This is some fine green, my
friend. Not nary a crack or a pop
of stem nor seed.

He tosses the lighter back. Juarez catches it.

JUAREZ

I told you my stuff doesn't have a bunch of stems in it.

Juarez pulls out a small bag of cocaine. Rainy perks up. Juarez spreads some of the powder onto the table top.

RAINY

You need to borrow my knife?

Juarez pulls a handle from his pocket. Pushes a button forward and... FLICK. A blade springs out. Juarez grins.

JUAREZ

No, thank you, cowboy. I got a real knife.

He starts cutting up the coke.

RAINY

A balisong is better than a switchblade.

JUAREZ

Dude, seriously? Think about it. My flick to your click clack. See the difference? Two steps to one.

RAINY

Fan knives are more reliable.

JUAREZ

You push a button, you got a knife. What could be more reliable? Besides, everybody knows switchblades are cooler than butterfly knives. There isn't even a competition.

Rainy starts carving on his log.

RAINY

You can't carve a giraffe with a switchblade. The blade's too flimsy.

JUAREZ

Maybe so, but mine's double edged.

AUDREY

Do you have to do all this in front of my daughter?

Juarez pauses, almost as if he sees her point. Rainy blows smoke right toward Audrey and Cheyenne.

RAINY
You can't get high off secondhand
pot smoke. If you could, we'd all
be high off Juarez.

BING. Juarez retracts the blade of his knife.

JUAREZ
It's just some coke. I'll keep it
away from her.

RAINY
I'll tell you what, Audrey. I'll
put out the joint if you'll tell me
about yourself.

Audrey looks at Rainy, reluctant to agree.

AUDREY
What do you want to know?

RAINY
What do you do for a living?

AUDREY
I'm a waitress. Now will you stop
blowing smoke at us?

Rainy takes a draw. Blows smoke at Audrey.

RAINY
After you answer some questions.

AUDREY
How many questions?

RAINY
Oh, I don't know. Let's say, five.

AUDREY
I've already answered one.

RAINY
Okay, then. Four more. Were you
ever a cheerleader?

Audrey is caught off guard.

AUDREY
What does that have to do with
anything?

RAINY
I'm asking the questions.

AUDREY
No.

RAINY
Were you popular in high school?

AUDREY
That's completely subjective.

Rainy wags his finger at her as he leans forward.

RAINY
No. No, see, it's not. Whether or not you were popular in high school will tell me virtually everything about you.

AUDREY
How is that?

RAINY
Because high school is where people are shaped for the rest of their lives. What you were then versus what you are now tells me everything.

Audrey muses over those words a moment.

AUDREY
Well, I don't know whether I would be considered popular or not.

RAINY
Yes, you do. People know whether or not they were popular in high school.

Audrey pauses, hesitant to answer.

AUDREY
I was valedictorian.

Rainy leans back excitedly.

RAINY
I knew there was something about you. And now you're a waitress. See, that tells me a lot. Did you go to college?

Audrey answers with an air of sadness.

AUDREY
I went for a couple of years but
had to drop out.

Rainy puts the joint out. It's nearly finished now anyway.

RAINY
Look how much we've learned in just
four questions. You were
valedictorian. You dropped out of
college and became a waitress.

Rainy leans forward with a telling smirk.

RAINY (CONT'D)
And don't think I didn't notice the
wording. You "had to" drop out.
Not "I dropped out." But "had to."

AUDREY
It doesn't mean anything. Lots of
people drop out of college.

RAINY
Not lots of valedictorians.

AUDREY
It had more to do with money than
anything else.

RAINY
A valedictorian who can't get a
scholarship?

AUDREY
Is that your final question?

RAINY
No. My final question is...

He ponders. His eyes rest on... Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)
My final question is, did you drop
out because you were pregnant?

Audrey gazes at him, stunned speechless. She looks at
Cheyenne. Cheyenne looks up at her mother.

AUDREY
Cheyenne is the best thing that
ever happened to me.

Rainy sighs, annoyed.

RAINY
That's what every parent says.
That's such a generic load of
bullshit.

He leans toward Cheyenne.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Let me tell you something, shy one.
People lie like lies will magically
turn to money. And no one lies
more than parents.

AUDREY
Sounds like someone had a bad
childhood.

Rainy smirks.

RAINY
Kids come from fuckin'. So don't
act like you did somethin' noble.

AUDREY
Do you have to talk that way in
front of Cheyenne?

Rainy shifts his focus back to Cheyenne.

RAINY
Parents have babies for two
reasons. They can't control
themselves sexually and babies are
cute.

Rainy's aggression unsettles Cheyenne. Her eyes well up.

RAINY (CONT'D)
But babies grow up. And as they
do, the shine wears off. Then
parents start resenting the burden.
That's all parents.

AUDREY
Leave her alone.

Cheyenne starts crying.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
That's not true, Cheyenne.

RAINY

It is true. All parents reach a point where they long for the freedom they once had. They secretly dream of all the things they might have achieved if they weren't stuck.

Audrey looks at Cheyenne, desperate to comfort her.

AUDREY

That's not true. I've never once regretted having you.

RAINY

See, Audrey, you're just like everyone else. Why can't you just be honest?

AUDREY

You've had your last question. Now it's my turn to answer.

She looks down at a tearful Cheyenne.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

This is the truth, Cheyenne, I swear. Yes, I've had regrets in life. I've screwed up a lot of things. But I screwed them up. Not you.

She looks up at Rainy.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

It's true. I got pregnant in college. I dropped out because I couldn't afford it.

Nostalgia washes over her face.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life anyway. Motherhood seemed as good a purpose as any.

Audrey's eyes meet with Cheyenne's.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

It was the hardest thing I've ever done. It was tough and I barely scraped by. I thought so many times I'd never make it. But I swear, I never once regretted it.

Cheyenne faintly smiles. Rainy gauges Audrey, unconvinced.

RAINY
There's something you're not
telling us.

Cheyenne looks indignantly toward Rainy.

CHEYENNE
Why are you so mean?

Juarez laughs as he pulls out a straw.

JUAREZ
Yeah, cowboy, why don't you tell us
about your family?

He snorts a line of coke off the table. Sniffs and tweaks
his nose.

RAINY
I'll tell you about my family if
you'll give me a couple of lines.

Juarez nods.

JUAREZ
Okay. I gotta hear this.

RAINY
Well, I wasn't no high school
valedictorian, I can tell you that.

He and Juarez chuckle.

RAINY (CONT'D)
My old man was a con artist.

JUAREZ
Why am I not surprised?

RAINY
We travelled from place to place
all the time. I was helping him
run a shell game when I was only
six.

Juarez chuckles.

JUAREZ
Little Rainy.

RAINY

I remember he broke into a used car lot office to steal keys to a car one Sunday afternoon. And some people showed up thinking the lot was open. He sold them a car.

JUAREZ

He sold 'em a car?

Rainy drifts off. Shakes his head in disbelief.

RAINY

He went inside and filled out the paperwork and everything. He pretended to call and check on their credit.

He looks up at Juarez, still in awe after all these years.

RAINY (CONT'D)

The banks weren't even open.

JUAREZ

Damn, Rainy, your old man had balls the size of Jupiter.

RAINY

I asked him why he did it and he just said, "I don't know, I just wanted to see where it went."

AUDREY

Where was your mother?

Rainy snaps out of his trance, looks at Audrey.

RAINY

I never knew her.

Juarez snorts another line and raises his head, twitching.

JUAREZ

So you just ran around with your dad? That's pretty cool.

Rainy drifts off again. This time there's something eerie about the whole thing.

RAINY

When I was twelve, we broke into a house to rob the place. There was just supposed to be a woman alone.
(MORE)

RAINY (CONT'D)

My dad made me wait in the living room. I could hear her begging.

Audrey swallows, nervous about where this is going. David and Juarez both have the same look.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Then I heard these noises. I didn't really know what it was at the time. Then her husband came home. I ran to get my dad. When I opened the door, I saw him on top of her. He was so mad.

Rainy sinks deeper into the memory.

RAINY (CONT'D)

He threw a pillow at me. Told me to get out. I guess the pillow hitting a lamp let her husband know we were there. He got a gun.

Rainy's eyes look as if he's there, witnessing it all over.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I climbed out the window first and hid in the bushes. I heard a shot. I saw my dad hit the ground. He just looked at me. His eyes were open but I could tell he was dead.

Juarez gazes at Rainy, spellbound.

JUAREZ

Wow. That's crazy, man.

RAINY

I went to a state house. I've been a menace to society ever since.

He chuckles. Stops laughing when David speaks.

DAVID

"Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

JUAREZ

Is that from the Bible?

DAVID

Jesus said it to one of his disciples after he cut off the ear of a Roman soldier. He put the ear back on and said those words.

JUAREZ

Jesus put the soldier's ear back on? After someone cut it off?

Rainy glares, fighting to contain a dark fury.

RAINY

Give me some Kool-Aid and a glass of water and I'll show you how to turn water into wine.

DAVID

Jesus's miracles are documented.

RAINY

By who? His disciples? The same people who made a living off him? That's a little like Copperfield's cable pullers claiming he can really fly, isn't it?

DAVID

There were others. Jesus healed people.

RAINY

Ever hear of the immune system?

DAVID

The immune system can't make the blind see.

RAINY

Ever hear of a setup? You fake stuff for money.

DAVID

All those people wouldn't lie.

RAINY

'Cause people are so known for their honesty, right?

David pauses, musing. Looks away.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Wanna see a magic trick? I bet I can make a line of coke disappear.
(MORE)

RAINY (CONT'D)

(to Juarez)

What do you say, muchacho? Look,
I'll put the rifle down.

Rainy lays his rifle on the floor. Holds up the knife.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I'll put the knife down.

He sets it on the stove-top and shows his hand empty, front and back. Holds up the log.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I'll put the log down.

He sets the log down NEXT TO THE KNIFE. Raises his hand to show it empty, PALM SIDE ONLY.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I need something to help me relax
after all this emotional
outpouring.

As he says this, we move behind him where we see... the knife blade is clipped between his index and middle fingers, hidden from view. Juarez chuckles, oblivious.

JUAREZ

Okay, come on. You earned it.

Rainy slowly approaches, hands still in the air.

RAINY

Did I ever tell you why I was on
the run from the police when I
spent all those weeks in the woods?

Juarez shakes his head, holds a straw out. Rainy reaches for it with his empty hand, then... flicks his other wrist, slinging the knife into his hand as he lunges forward.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Murder.

He grabs Juarez's hand as he stabs him in the gut. Juarez grunts, doubles over. The hostages stiffen, horrified.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I killed my ex girlfriend and her
lover. I had to change my identity
and everything.

He lets go. Juarez slumps over, leaving Rainy with a bloody knife in one hand and the straw in the other. He snorts a line off the table. Shakes his head, twitching.

RAINY (CONT'D)
That's what I'm talkin' about.

Juarez shoves Rainy away. Grabs his switchblade and starts to push the button. Rainy puts his hand over it... BING. The spring releases but no blade emerges.

RAINY (CONT'D)
See, the thing about switchblades,
the blade has to lock.

He stabs Juarez in the gut again. Juarez grunts. Rainy steps back. Juarez turns the knife handle over and the blade limply slides out.

RAINY (CONT'D)
If something blocks it on the way
out, it's like a limp dick. I told
you balisongs were better.

Juarez carefully grabs the blade with index finger and thumb. Pulls it out until... CLICK. It locks. He looks up at Rainy, face pale. Sweating. Quivering.

RAINY (CONT'D)
What's a matter, conquistador? You
look a little peaked.

Juarez raises his blade. The two men square off for a knife fight. Rainy laughs playfully.

RAINY (CONT'D)
This is one of those "what if"
scenarios, like what happens when a
shark meets a killer whale?

He waves his knife, chuckling.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'm the killer whale and you're the
shark.

Juarez takes a meager stab at Rainy and misses. Rainy slashes Juarez's arm. Juarez yells.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Everyone knows the killer whale
will win.

Rainy stabs Juarez in the gut. Twists the blade. Juarez's eyes have a look of certain death.

RAINY (CONT'D)
That's the same look my daddy had
on his face when he died.

Juarez slumps to the floor by the table. Rainy kneels, wipes the blood on the back of Juarez's shirt. When he stands, he folds the knife and puts it away. Snorts another line.

He raises his head, sniffing and fidgeting. Audrey and the others watch, panicked. Rainy picks up the magazine.

AUDREY
Please don't hurt us.

Rainy steps toward the recliner.

RAINY
My giraffe's not good enough for
you, remember?

He grabs the rifle. Inserts the clip.

AUDREY
I'll do anything you want. Just
don't hurt Cheyenne.

David sits forward.

DAVID
Look, there was no reason for this
to escalate to murder. There still
isn't. He may still be alive.

Rainy glances at Juarez. Slides a round in the chamber.

RAINY
Thanks for pointing that out,
David.

BANG! He shoots Juarez in the back. The hostages avert their eyes.

RAINY (CONT'D)
This is just sell-out central
around here today, isn't it? First
Audrey drags you into it. Then you
try to weasel out of helping her.
Now you want to make sure Juarez is
dead.

DAVID
I didn't mean it like that.

RAINY
What you mean is to keep yourself
alive. Even at the expense of poor
Audrey and Cheyenne here.

He aims the rifle at David.

RAINY (CONT'D)
So I'll tell you what I want you to
do. I want you to pick someone.
Whoever you pick gets killed and
the other two can live. Which
one's it gonna be, David?

David fights to keep composed. Sweat beads on his forehead.

DAVID
I can't make that choice.

RAINY
Oh, but you must. You're the one
who goes around door to door asking
everyone to make the most important
decision of their lives right there
on the spot.

DAVID
I can't.

RAINY
You better.

David's eyes dart around. His mind races for a way out.
Finally, he relents.

DAVID
No. I won't choose.

RAINY
All right, then. I'll make you
choose.

Rainy trains the barrel directly at Cheyenne's face.

AUDREY
No. Please. Don't hurt my
daughter.

RAINY
Shut up.

AUDREY

Shoot me!

RAINY

Shut up! You're too good for me!

Then... David leaps from the couch and runs. Rainy aims. David reaches the threshold to the...

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BANG! A bullet rips through his knee. David groans as he tumbles to the floor. Rainy storms into the room.

RAINY

You cowardly piece of shit!

He pulls David up, leans him against the doorframe.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rainy tromps to Cheyenne and aims at her face again. Tears stream down the little girl's cheeks.

RAINY

(to David)

I'm going to count down from ten to one. You're going to choose between yourself and Audrey. If you don't make a choice by the time I get to one, then your choice is Cheyenne.

Audrey bawls helplessly.

AUDREY

Please don't hurt my daughter.

RAINY

Shut up! You don't get a choice. The choice is David's. Are you ready, David?

DAVID

Please...

David tries to move his leg. Yells in pain.

RAINY

Here we go.

Audrey begs while Rainy counts. We cut back and forth between the faces of all of them.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Ten... nine... eight...
seven... six... five...
four... three... two...

AUDREY
Please! No! I'm begging
you. I'll do anything. No!
Shoot me! Shoot me!

David softly murmurs...

DAVID
Shoot me.

Rainy pauses. Turns to David, lowering his rifle.

RAINY
What's that?

DAVID
Shoot me.

Rainy approaches him.

RAINY
I'm impressed. You finally grew
some balls.

He raises the rifle to David's face.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'll give you one last chance to
change your mind.

David looks at Audrey, his face quivering.

DAVID
I'm sorry. He's right. I've been
a coward. I was afraid. I've been
afraid my whole life. Always
running away.

He looks up at Rainy, courage filling his face.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm not afraid anymore.

Rainy braces the stock against his shoulder.

RAINY
Look at the bright side. You won't
have to go door to door no more.

Audrey's voice cuts across the room.

AUDREY (O.S.)
I was raped.

Everyone turns toward Audrey and the room seems to freeze that way for a moment.

RAINY
What?

Audrey fights back a flood of emotions.

AUDREY
In college. At a frat party. I was smart enough to get a scholarship and dumb enough to think this guy cared about me.

Her eyes turn glassy. Like she can see it all again.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I went upstairs with him. The music was so loud. I remember his weight. I couldn't move. I could barely breathe. The pressure felt like... a coffin.

She pops back to the present and glances around.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I turned him in to the president. It was his word against mine and he said it was consensual. When I wouldn't let it go, I was expelled.

She pauses, staring into empty space.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I just left. I just gave up. I thought my life was over.

Tears well in Audrey's eyes as they fix on Cheyenne.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
And then the day came when I saw her. They put her in my arms and it was like... she was magical or something. She was so small and frail and she needed me to take care of her.

She looks up at Rainy, teary-eyed.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

So I carried on. The days went by
and things got a little easier.
Then one day I realized... she
saved my life.

Audrey turns sadly to Cheyenne. This is the big one. It's
scary but it's time to confess the whole story.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Thomas, the man you know as your
father, was my first husband. The
truth is, the reason he doesn't pay
child support is because he doesn't
have to. After we divorced, he
asked if he could still see you and
I said yes. He helped us for a
while but after he remarried, he...
he quit.

Finally, the floodgates give way and Audrey breaks down.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

He's a good man. And I am so sorry
I lied to you. Your real father
doesn't want anything to do with
you. I was too scared to tell you
the truth... because I'm a coward.

Cheyenne's eyes reach out with the kind of forgiveness only a
child can offer so quickly.

CHEYENNE

You're not a coward, Mom. You did
what you thought was right. I
forgive you.

Rainy sneers. He's had enough.

RAINY

Well, didn't this all just turn
into family night. But it doesn't
change a thing. David has already
agreed to go the Jesus route.

AUDREY

No one agreed to anything!

DAVID (O.S.)

Audrey?

She looks at David. He's filled with a calmness.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's okay.

Cheyenne manages to get her hands free. She looks toward... the gun, sitting on the table.

Rainy raises the barrel toward David, braces the stock against his shoulder once again.

RAINY

Yeah, see? He wants to do it.

Then... Cheyenne jumps from the couch and grabs the pistol. It's so big comparatively, she can hardly hold it up. Audrey's eyes widen in horror. Rainy notices. Grins.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Do you even know how to use that thing, shy one?

BANG! Cheyenne wildly fires toward the ceiling, the kick knocking her down. Pieces of ceiling fall on Rainy.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Shit!

While Rainy is distracted, Audrey leaps from the couch and rushes at him, screaming. Shoulders him with all her might. They both trip over David's legs and...

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They slam onto the floor. The rifle slides near a buffet table. Rainy grabs Audrey and pulls her down. She kicks him repeatedly. The kicks are ineffective and Rainy laughs.

RAINY

Oh, darlin', stop it. You're turnin' me on.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cheyenne climbs to her feet, lugging the gun. David waves her over with a nod. She hurries to him. He holds out his binds. Cheyenne furiously tugs at them.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rainy climbs on top of Audrey, still laughing. Audrey is fighting so hard, it's about all he can handle.

RAINY

I love a woman who can wrestle.

This goes on until... David raises the pistol to Rainy's temple, ropes still hanging off his wrist.

DAVID

Get off her.

Everything stops. Rainy stares at David. It's quiet for several moments. Then...

From outside, TIRES CRUNCH ACROSS GRAVEL. A car stops in back. A CAR DOOR OPENS. CLOSES.

Everyone stays still and quiet. After a few moments, we hear the BACK DOOR OPEN. FOOTSTEPS.

INTERCUT - FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby enters carrying a satchel. The first thing he notices is Cheyenne. He looks at her, shocked.

BOBBY

Who the fuck are you?

CHEYENNE

Cheyenne.

Bobby notices David sitting in the doorway to the living room with his leg bleeding.

BOBBY

Who the fuck are you?

DAVID

David.

Bobby sees Juarez lying dead on the floor.

BOBBY

What the hell is going on here?

He steps so that he can see into the living room. He sees Rainy on top of Audrey on the floor. He sees that David is pointing a gun at Rainy.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Rainy?

RAINY

Uh... we had some issues.

BOBBY
What the goddamn hell is going on
here? What happened to Juarez?

RAINY
We got into it and I accidentally
killed him.

AUDREY
That's not true.

RAINY
Shut up, Audrey! You don't know
what the hell you're talking about!

BOBBY
Where's the old man?

RAINY
He's dead.

Bobby angrily throws his hands in the air.

BOBBY
Goddamn it! I told you not to kill
the old man!

RAINY
He was already dead.

BOBBY
Well, where is he?

AUDREY
He died four days ago.

RAINY
The will doesn't get read 'til next
week.

Bobby stares slack-jawed a moment. Glances at David.

BOBBY
Why is this asshole pointing a gun
at you?

RAINY
He got it while I was wrestling
with Audrey. She's probably gonna
get the water rights next week.

Bobby reaches into his satchel.

BOBBY

Then she can go ahead and sign.

He whips a small pistol out, points it at David.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

First, you can put that gun down.

David starts to set the pistol down on the living room side.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

On the other side. Over here.

David sets the gun down on the family room/kitchen side.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Slide it away.

David shoves the gun. It slides to a stop a few feet away, near the door.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(to Rainy)

Get your gun.

Rainy grimaces.

RAINY

It's a rifle.

BOBBY

I don't give a good goddamn if it's Juarez's dick, pick it up.

Rainy sighs, stays on his knees and leans across the floor to grab the rifle.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Untie her.

Rainy unties Audrey. Bobby puts his pistol back into his satchel and pulls out a contract. Rainy hands it to Audrey. Bobby holds out a pen.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Sign it.

Rainy hands Audrey the pen. She doesn't even try to read the contract, she just signs it. Rainy hands the items back to Bobby. He stuffs them into his satchel. Lowers the satchel by David, who eyes it intently.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Now, what you may not realize is that wills are retroactive. It doesn't matter when it's read. The date of ownership of bequeathed items legally begins the moment the decedent dies.

Bobby looks at Rainy with eyes of cold stone.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I'm going to leave now so you can clean up.

AUDREY

We were promised we'd be let go!

He scans between the two rooms, glancing at Juarez.

BOBBY

I wanted things to stay simple but as you've seen, Rainy is somewhat of a loose cannon. I think it's best at this point to just clean up and go home.

Then... David grabs Bobby's satchel and pulls him into the living room. Bobby trips over David's legs and falls on top of Rainy.

DAVID

Run!

Audrey climbs to her feet and jumps over David, grabbing Cheyenne and pulling her along. As Audrey opens the door, Cheyenne reaches down and... grabs the gun.

Rainy gets to his feet, rifle in hand.

BOBBY

Go get them. I'll watch him.

Rainy jumps over David. As he does... David grabs his ankle and trips him. Rainy hits the floor, scrambles to his feet. He starts to kick David.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Go on. I'll take care of him.

Bobby kicks David in his injured knee. David screams in agony. Rainy scuttles out the door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Rainy bursts out the door in time to see... Audrey and Cheyenne running away. He aims his rifle.

Audrey and Cheyenne barely make it behind the tree that Rainy peed on earlier before... BANG! A bullet smacks a patch of bark off the trunk. Rainy laughs.

RAINY
Fuckin' tree!

BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG! He fires round after round as he closes in.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TREE

Audrey, back to the trunk, holds Cheyenne tightly to her while bullets riddle the tree. BANG, BANG, BANG! Pieces of bark explode on both sides.

Then... silence. Audrey listens. Starts to peek when... Rainy's face pops up.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Boo!

Audrey flinches, screams, quickly tucks Cheyenne behind her.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'm gonna miss you, Audrey. This is the most excitement I've had since my daddy tried to drown me.

BEHIND AUDREY

While Rainy talks, Cheyenne slips the handle of the gun into Audrey's hand.

RAINY (CONT'D)
Well, that and killin' my ex girlfriend.

AUDREY
And her lover.

Rainy grins.

RAINY
And her lover.

He raises the rifle, calls to the house.

RAINY (CONT'D)

I got 'em!

While he's distracted, Audrey whips the pistol around and points it at him. Rainy does a double-take.

AUDREY

I've got a gun too.

RAINY

Audrey, Audrey, Audrey. I'm disappointed in you. This is a rifle.

AUDREY

I'm sorry. You have a rifle. And I have a gun.

RAINY

Thank you. But what you don't have... is the balls.

BANG! A bullet streaks by Rainy's ear, leaving a trail of blood across the side of his head. Audrey screams, taken off guard by the recoil. Rainy yells as he's thrown back. He hits the ground with a thud.

AUDREY

Come on!

She starts to run. Cheyenne grabs the barrel of Rainy's rifle, jerks her hand back when it burns.

CHEYENNE

It's hot.

Audrey grabs her.

AUDREY

Let's go!

They head for the barn. Rainy grabs the side of his head.

RAINY

Audrey, you bitch!

Rainy stumbles to his feet. Starts for the barn. Notices the tree. Angrily kicks it.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Fuckin' tree.

He turns and staggers toward the barn.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

The door creaks open. Rainy peeks in cautiously. Steps in just as cautiously, scanning the area.

RAINY
I'm impressed, Audrey. I misjudged you. That doesn't happen often.

He steps further in, looking around, assessing. There's a loft above on one side, long abandoned livestock stalls on the other. A door out the back.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I forgot I was dealing with a high school valedictorian.

He chuckles to himself.

RAINY (CONT'D)
You got guts Audrey. And you're smart. And that's a dangerous combination.

He turns, certain she'll give herself away.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I know you're in here.

EXT. BARN'S BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Audrey waits by the side of the door with a shovel in her hands. Breathing heavily, trying to keep as quiet as she can. The gun is tucked into her pants.

RAINY (O.S.)
You could have killed me. But you couldn't bring yourself to do it.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Rainy nears the back door. He trains his rifle on the loft.

RAINY
You don't have the kind of guts it takes to kill a man. It's the eyes. Something about the eyes.

BANG! He fires a round into the loft. It blasts a chunk of the old wood into dust, tearing a hole through the floor.

EXT. BARN'S BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Audrey flinches at the sound.

RAINY (O.S.)
That was a warning shot. I sure
hope shy one wasn't in that loft.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

BANG! BANG! BANG! Several holes are blasted into the loft.
Rainy turns toward the back door.

RAINY
Where did you go, Audrey? Did you
go off into the woods?

He starts to step through the doorway.

RAINY (CONT'D)
It's scary out in the woods --

Suddenly, the back of a shovel flies right toward his face.

PING! It smacks him square in the nose, knocking his head
back. He falters, hits the dirt. Audrey screams, charging
in with the shovel over her head. She levels it like an axe
splitting wood. Rainy puts his arms up to shield himself.

CRACK! Right across his forearm. Rainy yells. He tries to
aim his rifle while Audrey draws back again. Just as he
aims... Audrey screams, swings like a baseball bat.

WHACK! Knocks the rifle out of his hand and into a stall.
Rainy manages to grab the shovel's handle near the scoop.
Audrey tries to pull it back. Rainy laughs.

RAINY (CONT'D)
I'm gonna bury you with this
shovel.

Audrey abandons the shovel and runs out the back door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Audrey runs for her life. Approaches a bush.

AUDREY
Cheyenne!

Cheyenne peeks out from behind the bush. Audrey grabs her
hand as she goes by.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Let's go!

The two of them head for the woods.

EXT. BARN'S BACK DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Rainy totters out the door with his rifle. He sniffles from his possibly broken nose and grunts from his busted forearm. Not to mention the blood across his temple from the bullet.

EXT. FARMHOUSE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Rainy staggers into the open, near the woodpile. Bobby hangs out a window in the living room.

BOBBY

What's going on out there?

Rainy calls out to him.

RAINY

I think I'm in love!

BOBBY

Quit fuckin' around!

Rainy regains some composure, stomps off toward the woods.

RAINY

Oh, I'm done playing.

INT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Cheyenne pause to listen.

RAINY (O.S.)

The next two shots you hear are gonna be the last!

AUDREY

He's coming after us. Let's go.

They turn and continue on, deeper into the woods.

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby pulls back into the house.

BOBBY
I'm tired of all this messing
around.

He sits on the buffet. David sits in the doorway. Sweat beads on his face and his breathing has become erratic.

DAVID
I can't believe you're going to
kill a mother and her little girl.

BOBBY
Yeah, well, you're next, if that
helps you forget.

He chuckles. David turns away. Notices something.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

By Juarez's body. The switchblade.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David looks back at Bobby. Bobby pulls out a cell phone. Glances at his watch.

BOBBY
I wonder if I still have time to
file today with the Water Resources
Department.

He opens his phone, pauses, looking at David.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
The kid was probably just going to
be another nobody anyway.

Bobby starts dialing. David looks at the switchblade again. Can he sneak to it before Bobby notices?

BOBBY (CONT'D)
(phone)
Yeah, how late are you open?

He climbs off the buffet, leaving his satchel behind.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
How long does it take to process a
transferral of water rights?

He turns his back absentmindedly. David sees his chance.

FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David crawls across the floor toward Juarez.

BOBBY (O.S.)
Oh really? So there's really no
way I could make it today.

David grits his teeth, fighting the pain. Trying to do this
as stealthily as he can.

BOBBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
So if I get there first thing
tomorrow morning, I could have the
rights in my company name before
the day is out?

David is almost there. Then he notices... eerie silence. He
pauses. Looks back at the doorway. Nothing. What is Bobby
doing? David waits. Waits. Then...

BOBBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That's great. I can be there by
nine. Can I get your name?

The conversation is winding up. David hurries.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby turns around as he speaks.

BOBBY
Thank you, Karen. I'll see you --

He stops cold when he sees... the empty doorway.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Tomorrow. Bye.

He shuts the phone off, eyes blazing. Rushes to the doorway.

FAMILY ROOM / KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David is at the front door, reaching for the knob.

BOBBY
Trying to escape? What's the
matter with you?

Bobby kicks him. David grunts, slides down onto the floor.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I can't believe you thought you
could crawl away.

Bobby kicks him again. David groans, doubling over.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I should have shot you right from
the get-go.

He grabs David. Turns him over to pull him up.

DAVID
Go to hell.

David stabs Bobby in the leg with the switchblade. Bobby screams as he falls back onto the floor with the knife still stuck in his leg.

BOBBY
You son of a bitch!

David crawls toward the doorway to the living room. It takes all his strength but he desperately forces himself.

Bobby grabs the knife handle. Screams as he pulls the blade out. Struggles to climb to his feet.

David passes the threshold. Bobby lurches after.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You should have slashed my throat.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David reaches the middle of the floor when Bobby limps in with the switchblade.

BOBBY
You made the same mistake I did.

David climbs up the buffet. Reaches for the satchel. Just as he touches it...

Bobby stabs him right in the back. David cries out. Falls back to the floor. The satchel drops to the floor. Some papers slip out. The gun slides out on top of them.

Bobby draws back and stabs David in the back again. And again. And again. Until...

KINK! The blade breaks off. Bobby looks at the handle and sees the broken metal. Angrily tosses the handle away. He grabs the gun. Uses the buffet to pull himself to his feet.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I bet you wish you'd killed me from
the start now, don't you?

David strains to turn himself over. Looks up at Bobby, quivering. He's about to die and he knows it.

DAVID
I don't have anymore regrets.

He relents and dies.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Audrey and Cheyenne hike through overgrowth. Climb down into a large shallow pit, grown over with grass. In the middle, Audrey stops. Looks around, confused.

AUDREY
Wait a minute.

Cheyenne stops. Watches her mother.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I remember this. This is the
reservoir. Or it was.

She glances around again, double-checking.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
The reservoir was right here. I'm
sure of it.

CHEYENNE
What happened to it?

AUDREY
I don't know.

She scans ahead. Points.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
If I remember right, the creek must
be right over there somewhere.

IN ANOTHER AREA

Rainy trudges along, searching. He pauses, noticing something. A leaf about the level of his head.

He steps closer. Takes the leaf into his hand and sees... blood. He feels his temple. The blood is his own. He smacks the leaf aside in frustration.

RAINY

I'm going around in circles.

He looks down a pathway. The depth of field contracts. The trees appear to close in. Rainy shakes it off. Looks another direction. The trees close in that direction too.

He looks another direction. Same thing. Then another. Once again, the trees are closing in. He calls out.

RAINY (CONT'D)

Audrey!

AUDREY

Whips around, hearing him. She turns to Cheyenne.

AUDREY

He's gotten farther away. He must be going the wrong way. Let's go.

They head into a long stretch of woods, angled downward.

RAINY

Runs through the forest like a madman. He trips over a root sticking out. Smacks the ground. He raises his face, then pauses, hearing something. The gentle WHOOSH of water.

RAINY

The creek.

He climbs to his feet and moves its direction.

AUDREY

Reaches the edge of the creek, followed by Cheyenne. They're about twenty feet up and it's a steep drop on both sides.

CHEYENNE

Should we go downstream where it's more shallow?

Audrey studies the drop, covered with thick exposed roots.

AUDREY

No. I think the roots will hold.

She climbs down, stepping on roots like crooked ladder rungs. Audrey pauses when she's completely over the side.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Okay, Cheyenne. Be very careful.
I'll be right below you.

Cheyenne balks, extremely nervous.

CHEYENNE

I'm scared of heights.

AUDREY

I know you are, sweetie, but we'll
be down before you know it.

RAINY

Forces his way through small branches. Emerges at a large creek bed. Smiles.

It's much lower than where Audrey and Cheyenne are but the bed covers a larger area. Rainy's footsteps sink in the soft bed as he approaches the creek.

Rainy drops to his knees at the bank. The creek flows peacefully. Rainy splashes water on his face, upsetting the tranquility.

AUDREY

Keeps one hand free to catch Cheyenne.

AUDREY

Make sure you have your footing
before you take your next step.

Cheyenne reluctantly places her foot on a root. It slips off. She screams.

RAINY

Raises his face, looking upstream. Grins. Grabs his rifle. Splashes across the creek to the other side.

AUDREY

Clutches Cheyenne.

AUDREY

It's okay. I've got you.

Cheyenne holds onto her mother, paralyzed with fear.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Climb onto my back.

Cheyenne hesitates. Tries to pull herself together.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Come on, Cheyenne. We don't have time. You can do it.

Cheyenne shakily climbs onto Audrey's back. Audrey navigates the roots, struggling with the additional weight.

They finally reach the very narrow creek bed. The creek, on the other hand, is wide and the water is rushing. Audrey sets Cheyenne down. Surmises.

CHEYENNE

Are we going to cross it?

AUDREY

I don't think we have a choice.

Audrey climbs down into the water. It's nearly waist deep.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Climb on.

Cheyenne climbs onto Audrey's back and Audrey wades across.

RAINY

Follows the creek on the other side. The whoosh of water is faster now. He treks uphill.

AUDREY

Is right at the bank. One more step and she'll be there. She loses her footing and falls forward. Cheyenne catches the edge of the bank while Audrey goes under.

CHEYENNE

Mom!

Cheyenne's face fills with panic. She pulls herself onto the narrow bank.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

Mom!

Audrey breaks the surface, gasping. Reaching for the bank.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

Mom!

Cheyenne looks back and sees... a root. She grabs it with one hand. Reaches for Audrey's hand with the other.

Smack! Their hands clasp. Cheyenne pulls with all her might. Audrey claws at the bank. With Cheyenne's help, Audrey manages to pull herself to the bank.

She climbs out of the water. Rests on the bank. Struggles to catch her breath.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

What happened?

AUDREY

An undercurrent caught my foot.

Cheyenne looks at her mother, shaken by the whole thing.

CHEYENNE

Are you okay?

Audrey nods, still catching her breath.

AUDREY

Thanks.

CHEYENNE

All we got is each other.

Audrey smiles with tears of pride welling in her eyes.

AUDREY

That's plenty. Let's go.

They pull themselves to their feet. There's another "root ladder" going up the other side.

CHEYENNE

I think I can do it myself this time.

AUDREY

You sure?

(off her nod)

Okay, then, go on. I'll be right behind you.

Cheyenne starts climbing up the roots.

BANK/WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Just as Cheyenne is about to reach the top... a rifle lowers into her face. Her eyes widen. Audrey, realizing Cheyenne has stopped, looks up to see... Rainy.

RAINY

What do we have here? This is a regular reunion. Speaking of, how old is Cheyenne? Eight? So you're what, twenty eight or so? You must have had your first high school reunion by now.

AUDREY

I didn't go.

Rainy shakes his head.

RAINY

Well, that's a shame. And you were valedictorian. I would have thought you would have felt obligated to attend.

AUDREY

I couldn't get the night off.

RAINY

Waitress duty called, eh?

AUDREY

I would appreciate it if you would stop pointing that gun in my daughter's face.

Rainy smirks.

RAINY

Audrey, how many times do I have to tell you? It's a goddamn rifle.

He braces the stock against his shoulder.

AUDREY
Don't we get a warning shot?

RAINY
You've had your last warning shot.

Desperate, Audrey looks toward Cheyenne.

AUDREY
Cheyenne? It's not hot right now.

Rainy smiles playfully.

RAINY
Yes, it is rather nice out here by
the creek, isn't it?

AUDREY
(to Cheyenne)
Push it up.

CHEYENNE
When?

RAINY
What are you two talking about?

AUDREY
Now!

Cheyenne grabs the rifle barrel and shoves it upward. From behind, Audrey reaches over and points her pistol at Rainy. His eyes widen.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
You've had your last warning shot
too, motherfucker.

BANG! Rainy grunts. Looks down. A bloodstain on his shirt over his chest grows with the pump of his heart. He looks at Audrey in disbelief.

Cheyenne pulls the rifle from his limp hand. It clangs down the drop and splashes into the creek.

Rainy stands. Looks at his own blood on his trembling hands. Struggles to speak.

RAINY
If it... hadn't been... for that...
fuckin' tree.

He falls over the edge. Tumbles down the drop and splashes into the water.

Cheyenne and Audrey climb up into the woods by the drop. Audrey gazes down, stunned by her own actions. After a few moments, she realizes something.

AUDREY
Okay, step back.

She motions for Cheyenne to clear some room.

CHEYENNE
What are you going to do?

Audrey raises the barrel into the air.

AUDREY
There needs to be two shots.

INT. FARMHOUSE - FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bobby finishes pulling David's body next to Juarez's. In the distance... a MUFFLED BANG. Bobby looks up.

BOBBY
There went the other one.

He limps into the...

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He puts his papers back into his satchel. Puts his gun back in. Takes the phone and dials.

INT. BOBBY'S GRANDFATHER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

RING. Bobby's grandfather grumbles in his sleep, half awakened by the ringing phone. It keeps RINGING until the old man finally answers it.

GRANDFATHER
What?

INTERCUT - BOBBY AND HIS GRANDFATHER ON THE PHONE

Bobby turns excitedly, hearing his grandfather's voice.

BOBBY
It's Bobby.

GRANDFATHER
I was sleeping.

BOBBY
I know but this is important.

GRANDFATHER
Well, it damn well better be.

BOBBY
I got 'em, Grandpa. I got the
water rights.

Grandfather recoils in disbelief.

GRANDFATHER
You're jerking my chain.

BOBBY
No. I really got 'em.

GRANDFATHER
I don't believe a word of it.

BOBBY
It's true. I swear. The old man
died.

GRANDFATHER
Died? When did that happen?

BOBBY
Four days ago.

GRANDFATHER
Four days ago! I can't keep up
with it anymore. I wish I'd known.
I would have gone to the funeral.
Or sent flowers or something.

Bobby can't wipe the smile off his face.

BOBBY
I got his granddaughter to sign.

Grandfather's face goes blank.

GRANDFATHER
You muscled his granddaughter?
Which one?

BOBBY
Who cares?

Grandfather asks more sternly this time.

GRANDFATHER
Which one?

BOBBY
Audrey.

Grandfather thinks back. Nostalgia fills his face.

GRANDFATHER
Yes, Audrey. I remember little
Audrey. I haven't seen her in
years. What's she doing now?

BOBBY
Who cares? We got the water
rights.

GRANDFATHER
You didn't hurt Audrey, did you?

Bobby hesitates, just now realizing he may have screwed up.

BOBBY
No. Of course not.

GRANDFATHER
I'd be very upset if anything
happened to Audrey.

BOBBY
She's fine.

GRANDFATHER
I always liked her. If I remember
right, she was the one who always
liked to rub my whiskers.

BOBBY
Fuck Audrey, okay? She's fine.

Grandfather's face takes on a chilling tone.

GRANDFATHER
Don't talk to me that way.

Bobby turns immediately submissive.

BOBBY
I'm sorry.

GRANDFATHER
I'll smack your nose around to the
other side of your head.

BOBBY
I'm sorry, okay? I didn't mean it.
Audrey's fine, okay? I'm just
tryin' to tell you something.

The DOOR OPENS from the next room. Bobby glances that way.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I can get the rights transferred
tomorrow morning.

GRANDFATHER
Listen, Bobby. You're next in
line. If you screwed this up, it's
over for you.

BOBBY
I didn't screw it up. It's fine.

Bobby calls out to the next room.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Rainy, hurry up. I gotta get
going. You need to clean up before
it gets dark.

Audrey appears out of the shadows, aiming the pistol. Bobby
freezes, shocked to see her. Audrey steps into the room.

AUDREY
Hang up the phone.

GRANDFATHER
What's going on, Bobby?

BOBBY
Nothing. I'll call you back.

GRANDFATHER
Something's wrong, isn't it?

BOBBY
No. Everything's fine. I just
gotta get off the phone.

Grandfather lowers his head. He knows something's wrong.
His last hope for a legacy has just vanished.

GRANDFATHER
You're just like your father,
Bobby.

He hangs up.

END INTERCUT

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby disconnects. Drops the phone in the satchel.

AUDREY
No one told you to drop the phone
in the satchel.

BOBBY
I'm sorry. You wanted the phone to
call the police?

Bobby starts to reach in. Audrey raises her gun higher.

AUDREY
Don't.

Bobby stops, frowns. He steps into the open as Audrey steps further in.

BOBBY
Hey, now, I didn't kill anybody.
All I wanted was for you to sign
the papers. All I wanted was the
water rights. I just told those
guys to get the old man to sign.
When they found out he was dead,
they should have left. I didn't
know what they were gonna do.

Audrey aims at the ceiling and...

BANG! Fires a round. Bobby flinches. Pieces of the ceiling
shower him.

AUDREY
That was a warning shot.

She fixes the gun on Bobby. He stares down the barrel,
visibly shaken. Audrey's aim is steady. Her face is sure.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I want you to reach in slowly. If
you want to live... take out the
phone. If you want to die... take
out the gun.

Bobby hesitates. Then he reaches into the satchel so slow,
it seems like forever. SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC PLAYS OVER.

It's unbelievable how high the tension is just watching a hand reach into a satchel. He clutches something.

The MUSIC CRESCENDOS. Audrey watches, wearing a poker face.

BOBBY

Well, I've already got the signature. So I guess there's no sense in anymore violence.

He raises the satchel with his hand still in it...

BANG! Blood spatters as a bullet rips through his chest. He groans, wildly raising the satchel into the air.

BANG! He fires a round, blowing out the side of the satchel, and into the ceiling. Pieces of ceiling rain down on him.

We follow him as he falls back in SLOW MOTION, his face filled with disbelief. All the way until... he hits the floor with a RESOUNDING THUMP. Dead.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER

Audrey ambles out the back door with the gun slack in her hand. Scans the barn and woodpile area as she approaches.

AUDREY

Cheyenne!

BEHIND THE BARN

Cheyenne peeks out from the bush she hid behind earlier.

AUDREY

Approaches the woodpile.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Cheyenne! It's okay!

CHEYENNE (O.S.)

Here I am!

Cheyenne comes running. Audrey looks at her like it's the most amazing thing she's ever seen.

AUDREY

Cheyenne.

They run into each other's arms. Hug tightly, trying to absorb the moment for all it's worth.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
I love you.

CHEYENNE
I love you too.

They pull back with bittersweet faces.

AUDREY
We don't have to live on the farm.

Exhausted smiles are as close to giggles as they can manage. They slip back into a hug, propping each other up.

INT. MR. PENDLETON'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER - "One Week Later."

Mr. Pendleton sits at his desk and reads from a file.

MR. PENDLETON
And so this concludes his last will and testament. The house is officially yours.

He closes the folder.

MR. PENDLETON (CONT'D)
I'm not sure if you'll want to live in it now or not, given all that's happened. But it's yours to do with as you please. Are there any questions?

Audrey and Cheyenne, dressed nicely, sit across from him.

AUDREY
I didn't hear you mention anything about the water rights.

MR. PENDLETON
Water rights? Your grandfather got his water from the district.

Audrey is confused. This is news to her.

AUDREY
But I thought Grandpa's water was gravity fed from a creek. I remember playing around the reservoir when I was a kid.

MR. PENDLETON

Yes, when you were a child, maybe. But he switched to district water over twenty years ago. He was too old to maintain the pipes.

AUDREY

Then who owns the water rights?

MR. PENDLETON

The state. The law is that if water rights aren't exercised for five years or more, they go into forfeiture.

AUDREY

Did Grandpa know this?

MR. PENDLETON

I don't know. He would have been nearly eighty when it went into forfeiture. It's entirely possible he couldn't read or understand the notices.

AUDREY

I don't think he did. So Grandpa couldn't have sold the water rights even if he wanted to?

MR. PENDLETON

He could have gotten them from the state. Anyone could.

AUDREY

You mean those rights were up for grabs for anyone who wanted them?

MR. PENDLETON

Yes, anyone.

Off Audrey, completely flabbergasted.

EXT. LAW OFFICES/PARKING LOT - DAY

Audrey and Cheyenne descend the steps quietly, still stunned.

INT. AUDREY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Audrey and Cheyenne climb in. They sit there a moment. Finally, Audrey breaks down. She puts her face in her hands and cries.

CHEYENNE
Don't cry, Mom.

As Audrey's "crying" progresses, it becomes more and more evident that she's not crying at all. She's laughing.

AUDREY
I'm not crying, sweetie.

She raises her face. She's on the verge of crying, but laughing nonetheless.

CHEYENNE
What's so funny?

AUDREY
All they had to do was ask.

She keeps laughing and fighting back tears.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
All they had to do was ask.

FADE OUT.