

VISITING COUSIN

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Scripted

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INT.- NIGHT

A female is on the phone in hysterics.

FEMALE:

Hello? My name is Lindsay Bane.
I'd like to report a murder.
(pause) The victims are my
parents. Please send someone as
soon as possible.

The phone is hung up. Two bloody bodies are seen on the floor.

EXT.- CHARLOTTE WAITS OUTSIDE OF A SCHOOL BUILDING OBVIOUSLY HAVING BEEN WAITING FOR A LONG TIME BY HER IMPATIENT DEMEANOR.

CHARLOTTE

Where is he? (pause) He probably forgot! He always forgets!

Charlotte looks up and down the street and not seeing any cars coming either way she begins to walk down the street.

CHARLOTTE

One of his sessions probably ran long. I bet one of those crazies he calls patients went off on him!
(laughs) Still no excuse for leaving me waiting at school. Especially on the last day before Spring Break! (mimics her father's voice) Oh sure honey I'll pick you up at school and then we can go out to dinner, just you and me!
(speaking normally) Yeah right!
(pause) Well at least I still have dinner to look forward too.

Charlotte arrives at her father's psychiatric office, walks inside and up to the Secretary's desk..

CHARLOTTE

Hey Marianne

MARIANNE

Oh, Charlotte. How are you today?

CHARLOTTE

I'm good. Is my father busy?

MARIANNE

He went out on a lunch meeting about two ours ago. Did you two have plans?

CHARLOTTE

No, I guess not. I'm going to go get a drink. If he comes before I get back...

MARIANNE

I'll let him know you're here.

CHARLOTTE WALKS AWAY FROM THE SECRETARY DESK AND DOWN THE HALL. MEANWHILE A CAR PULLS UP OUTSIDE AND DR. ANDREWS GETS OUT AND RACES INTO THE BUILDING AND PACES ABSENTMINDEDLY BETWEEN HIS OFFICE AND THE SECRETARY DESK.

DR. ANDREWS

It's been crazy Marianne. I went to lunch with the board president to discuss our office location and it's impact on the community but the man invites all of his colleagues along and all they want to do is talk about Freudian Theory and the like. I swear we were probably at the restaurant for over an hour and then they insist on me accompanying them to a tour of the new board office. The thing takes so long that I had to excuse myself in the middle of it so that I could get back here and pick up some papers before I had to race over to Charlotte's school and...

Dr. Andrews stops talking when he sees Charlotte standing by Marianne's desk.

CHARLOTTE

Well look who it is.

DR. ANDREWS

Charlotte!? What...Oh not again! How long have you been waiting here?

CHARLOTTE

Oh, not long, but I guess that doesn't really matter does it?

DR. ANDREWS

Look, I got held up. I'll still take you out for dinner, just you and me, when I get off.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, whatever. Since caring for your only daughter is such an inconvenience. I'd rather starve.

DR. ANDREWS

Don't be like that. I tried to get away, I really did!

CHARLOTTE

Whatever. Can we just go to dinner now?

DR. ANDREWS

Sure hon', just let me get a few more things from my office.

Dr. Andrews walks into his office with Charlotte on his heels. She sits in one of the patient's chairs while Dr. Andrews rummages through his desk.

DR. ANDREWS

Alright, that should be about all I need. Let's get a move on!

Dr. Andrews motions to Charlotte to stand up but as he walks toward the door his phone begins to ring.

DR. ANDREWS

That's strange. Normally the line would connect to Marianne...

Dr. Andrews walks toward the phone

CHARLOTTE

C'mon Dad! You said you were ready to go! Whoever it is can wait 'til tomorrow!

Dr. Andrews ignores Charlotte's pleas and answers the phone.

DR. ANDREWS

Hello?

CUT TO:

Lindsay sits at the top of the stairs, the phone is held to her ear and she is sobbing uncontrollably

LINDSAY
Hello? Michael, it's Lindsay.

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrews office

DR. ANDREWS
What's wrong?

CUT TO:

Lindsay's house

LINDSAY
My, my...oh uncle Michael!

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrews office

DR. ANDREWS
Charlotte, I have to take this
call. Could you please go back out
into the waiting room for a couple
of minutes?

CHARLOTTE
Dad, you promised!

DR. ANDREWS
I know, but I just have to take
this call. So, could you please...

Charlotte leaves in a huff, slamming the door

DR. ANDREWS
Lindsay, I need you to calm down.
Just calm down I can't understand
you. That's right, take a big deep
breath! Now, what were you trying
to tell me?

CUT TO:

Lindsay's house

LINDSAY
My parent's are gone!

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrews office

DR. ANDREWS
What do you mean by gone? And
remember stay calm...

CUT TO:

Lindsay's house

LINDSAY
I mean gone, Michael, gone! Gone
as in passed into the next life!

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrews office

DR. ANDREWS
Dead? How? What happened?

CUT TO:

Lindsay's house

LINDSAY
I don't know! I just got off the
phone with the police. I came home
and they were lying on the floor
covered in blood,
and...(uncontrollable sobbing)

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrews office

DR. ANDREWS
When did this happen?

CUT TO:

Lindsay's house

LINDSAY
I don't know! I wished them good
night last night and this morning
I found them on the living room
floor.

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrew's office

DR. ANDREWS

Alright, alright. Now listen to me carefully. What I need you to do for me now is to just sit tight and stay calm. Do you have any relatives to stay with?

CUT TO:

Lindsay's house

LINDSAY

No. (sniffling)

CUT TO:

Dr. Andrews office

DR. ANDREWS

Don't worry, I'll be there soon to take over as your guardian.

Dr. Andrews hangs up the phone and leaves his office.

CHARLOTTE

So, are you done with your "business" call? Can we go now?

DR. ANDREWS

I'm sorry Charlotte but something very important has just come up. I'm afraid I won't be able to take you to dinner tonight. I'm sorry, but you have all next week off! We'll do something then!

CHARLOTTE

Sure we will...

Charlotte begins to walk toward the door, Dr. Andrews stops her

DR. ANDREWS

Is there anything you would like to do other than go to dinner with your grumpy old father?

Charlotte turns back toward her father

CHARLOTTE

I guess I can have Miranda come over...

DR. ANDREWS

There you go! Have fun with
Miranda, I'll be home as soon as I
can!

Dr. Andrews walks back into his office while Charlotte walks
out of the building, heading for home.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE

Charlotte paces across the living room while Miranda sits
and watches her, obviously annoyed by this behavior.

CHARLOTTE

What is his deal? I swear he's
always busy, always forgets! It's
annoying and I'm really getting
sick of it!

MIRANDA

C'mon Charlotte, don't you think
you're being just a little harsh
on him? I mean, he has a very
stressful job as a psychiatrist,
he's under loads of emotional
pressure everyday, he's helping to
cure people. He...

CHARLOTTE

Talks to a bunch of crazy people
about all their crazy problems
while they act crazy! I hate his
job! Who in their right mind would
want to be around a bunch of
lunatics all day!

MIRANDA

You just don't understand...

CHARLOTTE

I understand plenty Miranda! I
understand that he would rather
spend time with a bunch of..a
bunch of FREAKS instead of his own
daughter! I should really give him
a piece of my mind!

Charlotte finally stops pacing and sits down, both girls are
silent.

MIRANDA

So, has Alex asked you yet?

CHARLOTTE;
Asked me? Asked me what?

MIRANDA
You know...to be his, girlfriend.

CHARLOTTE
Of course he hasn't asked me! And why, I still don't know! All we ever do is hang out! That should count for something right? Wrong! I swear, him and my father are the most frustrating people in my life! The only difference is I have my Dad all figured out, but Alex...I always seem to be a little lost with. One minute he's all over me, nothing serious of course, heaven forbid! And then he's halfway across the room in another! Give me one good reason why I shouldn't just give up men for the rest of my life?

MIRANDA
Because you and Alex are just so cute together!

CHARLOTTE
I know! That's why I don't understand why he hasn't asked me out!

During the last few seconds of this conversation Dr. Andrews enters the house.

DR. ANDREWS
No boy's going to be asking out my little girl anytime soon!

CHARLOTTE
Yeah right, like you'd pay enough attention to even know I had a boyfriend!

DR. ANDREWS
Still angry at me I see! Well, maybe some dinner will cheer you up. And by the way, Miranda I called your mother and she said it would be fine if you wanted to stay the night.

MIRANDA

That would be great Dr. Andrews,
thanks!

DR. ANDREWS

I'll go and set up dinner.

CHARLOTTE

He probably had Marianne call your
Mom for him, the liar!

MIRANDA

Oh lay off your Dad Charlotte. At
least he's trying to make up with
you. Who cares if he had Marianne
call my Mom, at least he
remembered that I was coming over
tonight.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, that's a first!

MIRANDA

See, you have to give him some
credit once and a while, he's not
all that bad!

Dr. Andrews walks back into the living room

DR. ANDREWS

Oh, and I forgot to tell you, your
cousin Lindsay is going to be
staying with us for awhile.

CHARLOTTE

Cousin who?

DR. ANDREWS

Lindsay. She and her family are on
your...Mom's side and her
parent's, your Aunt and Uncle are
taking an extended vacation that
they can't take Lindsay on and so
they asked me to let her stay with
us for awhile and I jumped at the
chance. I'm sure you two will be
very good friends.

Dr. Andrews leaves the living room.

MIRANDA

That sounds exciting, a long
distance relative!

CHARLOTTE
Exciting, yeah...I just wish I
could remember her.

DR. ANDREWS
Alright girls, dinner is served!

Charlotte, Miranda and Dr. Andrews convene around the table
to eat.

DR. ANDREWS
Now, we need to discuss
arrangements for Lindsay. I was
thinking we'd celebrate her
arrival by going out to dinner.

CHARLOTTE
Oh, yeah! Take her out to dinner
the day she arrives, but don't
take me out when we had plans set
for a week.

DR. ANDREWS
Oh, come now dear. It's a special
occasion.

CHARLOTTE
Everything's a special occasion
when it comes to anything besides
me.

DR. ANDREWS
That's enough of that. Now, where
will Lindsay be able to sleep?

CHARLOTTE
On the couch in the basement.

DR. ANDREWS
Why don't we consider something
more practical, like a bed.

CHARLOTTE
You suggest my room and I'm
leaving.

MIRANDA
How about you give her the guest
room?

DR. ANDREWS
That's a great idea Miranda. See,
Charlotte, it's not going to be
all that bad.

CHARLOTTE

That's what you say now.

DR. ANDREWS

I was thinking since it was spring break, you wouldn't mind taking her out with you.

CHARLOTTE

But Dad...

MIRANDA

That sounds wonderful. I'm sure we'll be the best of friends.

Miranda gives Charlotte a look that says she needs to stop acting so spoiled.

DR. ANDREWS

It's settled then. I'm picking Lindsay up tomorrow morning.

All three sit around the table feeling differently about the situation. Dr. Andrews is content in his decision to go get Lindsay since he is certain of the stability of her condition. Miranda appears exhausted after being in between the argument of her best friend and her father. Charlotte sits slumped in her chair, pushing her food around her plate, seething at her father's decision with no regard to how she felt.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Miranda sits quietly on the bed while Charlotte paces the floor. It is not a large room but large enough that two of them were comfortable without feeling cramped. As Charlotte paces the floor she rants about her father, just like she always does.

CHARLOTTE

How long must I put up with this? He has a job, he comes home, he makes promises and breaks them. He cares nothing about my life.

MIRANDA

It's not that he doesn't care. He still provides for your needs. You have food, clothing and a roof over your head.

CHARLOTTE

All right, fine. He provides the basics, but when was the last time he showed he cared about my interests? When was the last time he bothered to even keep his promise of going out to dinner just the two of us?

MIRANDA

Pressing matters do come up, Charlotte. Try to be more reasonable.

CHARLOTTE

Now he's inviting some strange relative home for God knows how long. Who knows, she maybe as crazy as all of his patients.

Charlotte makes her way toward the bed to lay down and fall asleep.

MIRANDA

We'll just have to wait until tomorrow. I'm sure she can't be all that bad. Besides, Alex promised to take you to the movies tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, sure, not bad at all. Maybe he'll finally decide to ask me out.

Miranda gets up to turn off the light.

MIRANDA

Don't forget we're getting up early to get Lindsay.

CHARLOTTE

Joy, an early Saturday. Go to sleep Miranda, I'm exhausted.

MIRANDA

Good night Charlotte.

Miranda turns off the light and falls asleep on the air mattress set up on the floor.

Sunlight floods the room and the smell of bacon fills the house. Miranda is already up and in the kitchen eating breakfast. Dr. Andrews serves food for himself and Charlotte. Meanwhile Charlotte tries to amble out of bed, not caring about her appearance or her attitude.

DR. ANDREWS

Well, good morning Sleeping Beauty.

Charlotte groans and flops down in front her plate of food. She begins to eat without looking up.

DR. ANDREWS

Still mad at me I see. Well, no matter. Things will all change when Lindsay arrives.

MIRANDA

Dr. Andrews, should we come with you to greet her?

DR. ANDREWS

No, no, definitely not. You see I've got to pick her up at the airport and I don't want to lose you girls in the crowd. You just wait here and get the house ready for her arrival.

MIRANDA

All right.

DR. ANDREWS

Charlotte, do you understand that?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, sure. Could I have Alex over?

DR. ANDREWS

That's a great idea. He can help the two of you get ready.

Charlotte glares from her place at the table. She had meant to have Alex over for her own entertainment, not to make him clean. And she most certainly did not want him there when Lindsay arrived.

DR. ANDREWS

Well girls, I'm off. Don't want to be late to pick up a special guest.

Dr. Andrews walks down the steps to the basement. He enters the garage through the basement attachment. Charlotte waits until she hears him pull away to get up and tossing her dishes in the sink.

CHARLOTTE

(mocking her
father)

Don't want to be late to pick up a
special guest.

(normal)

Can you believe this? First, her
above me and now he expects us to
be slaves for her arrival. Could
he be any less considerate?

MIRANDA

You still have Alex. Aren't you
going to call him?

CHARLOTTE

Why should I call him? He's only
going to want to help clean the
house for Lindsay and won't pay
any attention to me.

By this time the girls have moved out to the living room.
Miranda moves toward the closet to get the duster and begin
cleaning. Charlotte throws herself on the couch and buries
her face in a pillow.

MIRANDA

You know Charlotte, if you call
Alex the cleaning will be done
faster. The faster the cleaning
gets done the more time he'll have
to pay attention to you.

CHARLOTTE

You know Miranda, that's the best
idea I've heard. Perhaps when the
cleaning is done he'll pay
attention to me and finally ask me
out. You go ahead and do the
dusting, I'm going to call Alex.

Charlotte leaves the living room and rushes toward her
bedroom for the phone. Meanwhile, Miranda decides to start
dusting from the top floor of the house and move toward the
bottom.

Charlotte sits on her bed impatiently waiting for Alex to
answer the phone.

CUT TO:

ALEX

(groggy voice)

Hello?

CUT TO:

CHALROTTE
Alex, it's Charlotte.

CUT TO:

 ALEX
Morning Charlotte. What's
happening?

?CUT TO:

 CHARLOTTE
Nothing, other than the usual. My
dad left to go pick up some
special guest.

CUT TO:

 ALEX
Oooh, special guest. Who is this
special guest?

CUT TO:

 CHARLOTTE
Don't be getting any ideas, Alex.
She's only staying until her
parents come back from their trip.
She's supposed to be a long
distance cousin.

CUT TO:

 ALEX
Sounds like fun. A long distance
cousin. It'll be fun.

CUT TO:

 CHARLOTTE
I wish everyone would stop saying
that. This cannot possibly any
fun. Which brings me to the point
of why I called. Would you come
over? Now.

CUT TO:

 ALEX
I don't know Charlotte. If you're
having company over don't you
think it would be better if I
didn't come over?

CUT TO:

CHARLOTTE

(pleading)

Please, Alex. Miranda's over here. My dad wanted me to get help cleaning the house for Lindsay's arrival. I could really use your help.

CUT TO:

ALEX

All right Charlotte. I'll be there in about fifteen minutes.

CUT TO:

CHARLOTTE

Thanks Alex. You're a lifesaver.

Charlotte hangs up the phone. She walks out of her bedroom to find Miranda.

Miranda is in the basement finishing the dusting and getting ready to run the vacuum.

CHARLOTTE

Miranda, listen for Alex. He said he's be here in about fifteen minutes. I've got to get dressed and ready for him to arrive.

MIRANDA

And that takes fifteen minutes?

CHARLOTTE

Of course. Have you learned nothing of getting a guy's attention? You must present yourself with beauty and confidence.

(pause)

Oh, and when you get done vacuuming if he hasn't arrived go ahead and do the dishes.

Charlotte disappears back up the stairs to her room. Miranda shakes her head and continues her task of cleaning.

Fifteen minutes later a knock is heard at the front door. Miranda goes to the door to answer it. As she opens the door and reveals herself Alex looks surprised.

ALEX

Miranda?

MIRANDA

Hey Alex. Why so surprised? Didn't Charlotte tell you I was here?

ALEX

It's not a surprise to me that you are here, it's a surprise that you are the one to answer the door.

MIRANDA

Yes, well, Charlotte said she was busy. Come into the living room. I'll see if I can find her.

Charlotte and Miranda walk up the stairs and stop in the living room.

MIRANDA

Just wait here. She's probably cleaning the guest room for Lindsay.

Alex sits down on the couch and Miranda goes down the hallway towards the guest room and Charlotte's room. She glances once over her shoulder to make sure Alex will not see her turn the opposite direction of the guest room and into Charlotte's room. Once she is convinced his back is to her she enters Charlotte's room.

MIRANDA

Knock, knock, Miss Glamor.

CHARLOTTE

Glamor, do really think so?

Miranda rolls her eyes behind Charlottes back.

MIRANDA

I came because Alex has arrived.

CHARLOTTE

That's great. Is the cleaning done?

MIRANDA

Everything except the kitchen, guest room and bathroom.

CHARLOTTE

I'll work in the Guest Room in a moment, you can take care of the kitchen and bathroom.

MIRANDA

Oh, great, thanks! What about Alex?

CHARLOTTE

Alex, me, guest room...I thought that was implied here!

MIRANDA

Why me, why me...

Miranda starts to walk out of the room but is stopped when Charlotte says...

CHARLOTTE

Hey, I can hear you. Why you, what?

MIRANDA

Nothing Charlotte. I'm on the cleaning right now.

CHARLOTTE

That's right. You'd better be. And don't forget to send Alex to the guest room with me.

Miranda just waves over her shoulder in acknowledgement to Charlotte's last remark. Charlotte walks across the narrow hall to the guest bedroom. She is in the process of pulling off the bedding when Alex steps in the doorway.

ALEX

Is this your idea of cleaning?
Creating a bigger mess.

CHARLOTTE

Alex!

Charlotte drops what she is doing and gives Alex a hug.

ALEX

Nice to see you too. I thought I came to help clean, not be attacked with displays of affection.

CHARLOTTE

You are here to help. You're going to help me straighten up this room for Lindsay. Oh, and I am not creating a mess. I'm changing the bedding. God knows how long this bedding has been here.

ALEX

Uh-huh. And changing the bedding requires you to just throw it all over the floor?

CHARLOTTE

(playfully)

No, silly. This is the old bedding that you're going to take down and put in the wash. I'm going to get in the hall closet to get the clean sheets, pillowcases, and blankets.

ALEX

Right. Taking the laundry that's not really dirty down to the wash and starting it. What about Miranda?

CHARLOTTE

She was cleaning the bathroom and the kitchen. She should be just about finished.

Alex stares at Charlotte, not convinced that she is as happy as she appears. When Charlotte does not meet his glance, he leaves the room and begins to walk downstairs to start the laundry.

While down in the basement Alex hears Dr. Andrews pull into the garage. He decides to ignore this fact and start the laundry. Just as Alex closes the lid to the washing machine Dr. Andrews walks in the door with Lindsay moving slowly, shyly behind him.

ALEX

Hi, Dr. Andrews.

DR. ANDREWS

Oh, Alex. That's right I forgot I told Charlotte it was all right for you to come over. Sorry, I'm a bit tired. By the way, this is Charlotte's cousin, Lindsay.

ALEX

Hi Lindsay. Charlotte never mentioned you. I wonder why that is?

Lindsay opens her mouth when Dr. Andrews interjects.

DR. ANDREWS

Charlotte, is a bit shocked by the fact herself.

ALEX

I see. She's in the guest room fixing up the bed. Come on, Lindsay. I'll show you the way while the hostess is busy. Oh, and I should probably grab...

DR. ANDREWS

Don't worry about her luggage Alex. I'll bring it up to the guest room in a minute.

ALEX

Sure thing Dr. Andrews.

Lindsay loops her arm around Alex's shyly while Dr. Andrews is left in the basement to haul the luggage. Before going upstairs he opens Lindsay's suitcase. Convinced that everything is as it should be he makes his way up the two flights of stairs.

DR. ANDREWS

Charlotte, where are you at now?

CHARLOTTE

In the guest room, Dad. Do you have Lindsay's luggage?

DR. ANDREWS

(straining
under the
weight)

Yeah, I've got it. So, I see Alex already introduced you.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, yeah Dad. I think you're right. I think Lindsay and I are going to be great friends.

Charlotte smiles at her father. Her father doesn't see it. He has his back turned easing Lindsay's luggage onto the bed.

DR. ANDREWS

Have you introduced Miranda to Lindsay yet.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, I forgot. Where is that girl?
She was cleaning the bathroom.

Miranda walks in the room behind Charlotte. Lindsay points shyly from the bed.

CHARLOTTE

Miranda! There you are.

MIRANDA

Yeah, here I am. FYI, the cleaning is finished. Alex wanted me to tell you that the laundry should be moved over in about half an hour.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, I'll remember. Where are you guys going?

MIRANDA

Alex said he was going home to do his own chores. I didn't say that I was going anywhere.

CHARLOTTE

Good. I need you here to help me make Lindsay feel at home.

Miranda stands in the doorway and stares at Lindsay. Seeing that she's not going to be introduced she takes the initiative.

MIRANDA

Hi. You must be Lindsay. I'm Miranda.

Lindsay takes Miranda's hand hesitantly.

LINDSAY

(shyly)

Hi, Miranda. If you have something to do I don't want you to stay on my account.

MIRANDA

Actually, I didn't have any plans, but I think Charlotte...

CHARLOTTE

What are you talking about... Oh! That's right. I was making plans for the three of us to go to the mall.

MIRANDA

That's right. We were talking last night about taking Lindsay to our favorite stores.

CHARLOTTE

What do you say Lindsay?

Charlotte offers Lindsay a genuine smile. Lindsay smiles back.

LINDSAY

All right. When shall we go?

Charlotte turns to her dad who is resting in the chair in the room.

CHARLOTTE

What do you say, Dad? Will you take us to the mall before you go to work today?

Dr. Andrews looks at Lindsay trying to communicate a hidden message. Lindsay looks back at him with pleading eyes to go to the mall with Charlotte and Lindsay.

DR. ANDREWS

All right. Don't forget Lindsay, you and I need to talk about your arrangements here.

LINDSAY

Of course, Michael. We'll talk this evening after dinner.

Charlotte and Lindsay exchange curious glances. Nobody had ever called Charlotte's father by his first name before. The girls decided to shrug off the instance for now.

CHARLOTTE

Please, Dad. I want to get to know Lindsay better.

DR. ANDREWS

All right. Give me five minutes to gather my papers for work today and then I'll take you to the mall.

CHARLOTTE

Thank-you Daddy.

With that one promise Charlotte did two things she'd never been known to do. She gave her father a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

CHARLOTTE

We'll be down in the basement.

When Miranda and Lindsay weren't following Charlotte turned around toward them.

CHARLOTTE

Come on girls. We're waiting for my dad in the basement.

MIRANDA

Oh, right. Right behind you Charlotte.

Lindsay continues to sit on the bed staring as Charlotte walks away. A new side of Lindsay begins to show itself. Miranda begins to follow when Lindsay poses a question to her.

LINDSAY

Where are you going?

MIRNADA

Listen, there's something you need to know about Charlotte. You don't piss her off. Her life has been hard enough since her mom died.

LINDSAY

So... you just give her everything she wants despite her reasoning?

MIRANDA

Well, that's the way it's always been. Believe me. Stay on her good side and give her what she wants. It's the surest way to be her friend.

Lindsay's shy personality returns.

LINDSAY

Oh, I see. I'm glad you're here to help me. Otherwise, I fear I might never fit here.

Charlotte pops her head back in the room.

CHARLOTTE

Hey, Dad's just about ready. What are you two doing conversing without me?

MIRANDA

Charlotte, I was just giving Lindsay some tips on which stores are the best at the mall.

CHARLOTTE

Whatever. There will be plenty of time for that when we get to the mall. Let's go.

All four members in the house pile in the car. Miranda and Lindsay are seated in the back and Charlotte sits with her dad in the front.

When they reach the mall Dr. Andrews drops them outside the food court.

DR. ANDREWS

All right girls. I'll pick you up here after work.

CHARLOTTE

What time is that today, Dad?

DR. ANDREWS

I'll be here by six.

CHARLOTTE

(mutters under her breath)

Sure you will.

DR. ANDREWS

Six, Charlotte. I promise.

CHARLOTTE

Got it, Dad. We'll see you at six.

Charlotte begins to walk into the mall.

MIRANDA

Thanks Dr. Andrews.

LINDSAY

See you at six, Michael.

Dr. Andrews waves to Lindsay and Miranda as he pulls away. The two girls quickly follow Charlotte into the mall.

CHARLOTTE

What took you two so long?

Miranda opens her mouth to speak but Charlotte stops her.

CHARLOTTE

Never mind. Oh, can you believe this?

Miranda come up beside Charlotte.

Miranda

What is it Char...

Miranda sees what it is Charlotte is speaking of.

CHARLOTTE

Went home to his own chores, did he?

MIRANDA

He's probably just getting you a special gift.

Lindsay boldly comes up beside Miranda and Charlotte to see what they were talking about.

LINDSAY

What are you guys talking about? Who's buying Charlotte a special gift? Is that Alex?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, that's him. I'd like to know what...

LINDSAY

Alex seems like such a nice guy.

CHARLOTTE

What's he to you?

Lindsay backs down and becomes shy again.

LINDSAY

N-n-nothing. I just thought he seemed kind...

MIRANDA

Maybe it would be better to find out what he's doing later. Remember Char, we're here to show Lindsay the best stores.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, let's go. I just... never mind.

The girls shop at every store without finding anything worth buying.

They decide to pass the rest of their time in the food

court. The girls get food that they think is the lowest fat and waters.

CHARLOTTE

I still want to know what Alex was doing here?

MIRANDA

Don't worry about it. I'm sure it was something important.

LINDSAY

Or secret.

CHARLOTTE AND MIRANDA

(simultaneously
)

What?

Lindsay's bolder side takes over again.

LINDSAY

Secret? Obviously he didn't want you to know or he would have invited you as well. What ever he was doing here, he was shopping for someone special.

Charlotte and Miranda just stare at Lindsay, this new friend who seemed to have an odd perception as to what was going on.

CHARLOTTE

I'll call him when we get home.

LINDSAY

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

CHARLOTTE

Why not?

LINDSAY

What happens if you're disappointed with his answer?

Charlotte ponders Lindsay's answer.

CHARLOTTE

You know, you're right. I'll wait. Why didn't you think of that Miranda?

Miranda gapes at Charlotte, then at Lindsay.

CHALROTTE
Cat got your tongue?

Charlotte glances up at the clock nearby.

CHARLOTTE
Guys, we got to go. Dad's probably
already outside waiting.

The girls walk out and see Dr. Andrews waiting.

DR. ANDREWS
Hey, girls. Miranda, do I need to
take you home?

MIRANDA
Yes. Thanks Dr. Andrews.

The car is silent until they reach Miranda's house.

MIRANDA
Hey Charlotte, are we doing
anything else this week?

CHARLOTTE
I don't know. I'll give you a call
later.

MIRANDA
All right.

Miranda walks away toward the front door and turns back to
the car just as Dr. Andrews pulls away. She watches
sullenly.

MIRANDA
I hope this doesn't last long with
Lindsay.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BASEMENT- EVENING

Charlotte flops down on a couch in the basement in front of
the tv. Lindsay stands in the center of the room. Dr.
Andrews comes in the door of the garage attachment.

DR. ANDREWS
I take it you girls have already
eaten?

CHARLOTTE
Sure have, Dad.

DR. ANDREWS
All right, then. Umm, Lindsay,
would you come upstairs with me?

LINDSAY
Of course Michael.

Dr. Andrews and Lindsay go upstairs to his study. Charlotte continues to sit in the basement watching tv.

DR. ANDREWS
(from the top
of the stairs)
Charlotte, Alex called.

Charlotte looks delighted, but reveals nothing to her father. She goes to the phone in the basement and dials Alex's number.

The phone rings.

CUT TO:

ALEX
Hello?

CUT TO:

CHARLOTTE
You called?

SPLIT SCREEN

ALEX
Charlotte! Yeah, I was wondering
if I could come over tonight?
There's something I want to ask
you.

CHARLOTTE
That's not a problem. Come on
over.

ALEX
Be there in fifteen.

Charlotte hangs up the phone and rushes up to her room.

DR. ANDREWS
What did Alex want?

CHARLOTTE
He's coming over. He said there's
something he wants to ask me.

Lindsay steps out into the hall with a smug grin on her

face.

LINDSAY

Told you he was shopping for
someone special.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, I'll give you that one, but
I still don't know what or, more
importantly who.

LINDSAY

(muttering)

I'm pretty sure I do.

CHARLOTTE

What was that, Lindsay?

LINDSAY

Hmmm? Oh, nothing.

Charlotte looks at Lindsay suspiciously when the doorbell
rang.

LINDSAY

I've got it.

CHARLOTTE

No, he wanted to ask me something.
I'll get the door.

Charlotte raced down the stairs. She checked her hair in the
mirror. Then eased open the front door.

ALEX

Hey.

CHARLOTTE

Hey.

ALEX

Can I come in?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah. Go on up to the living room.
(coming up
behind him)
Can I get you anything to drink?

ALEX

No, I'm good. Thanks.

Charlotte sits down on the couch.

CHARLOTTE

Well, come on. Have a seat. I don't bite.

Dr. Andrews passes through on his way to the office.

DR. ANDREWS

No, but I do.

Charlotte turns to him.

CHARLOTTE

Daddy!

Dr. Andrews quickly makes his way back to his study, smirking.

CHARLOTTE

So, what was it you wanted to ask me?

ALEX

Charlotte, there's no easy way for me to say this...

CHARLOTTE

Say what? Out with it, Alex.

ALEX

We've known each other a long time. I mean, a really long time, and...

CHARLOTTE

Alex!

ALEX

Okay, okay. The point is...Charlotte

(reaches into his pocket)

Will you be my girlfriend?

Alex pulls out a gold necklace with a gold, heart-shaped locket at the end.

CHARLOTTE

Alex, I don't know what to say.

ALEX

If you don't like it I can take it back and...

CHARLOTTE
No, no. Alex I love it and my
answer is yes.

DR. ANDREWS
(back in the
study)
Charlotte!

Charlotte sits on the couch and rolls her eyes.

CHARLOTTE
Hold on, Alex.

Charlotte gets up and storms back to her father's study.

CHARLOTTE
What, Dad?

DR. ANDREWS
What did I say about no
boyfriends?

CHARLOTTE
But Dad...

DR. ANDREWS
No buts little lady. When I say
no...

Outside in the hall Lindsay sneaks toward the living room
where Alex sits by himself.

LIDNSAY
Hey, Alex.

ALEX
Lindsay, hi. What's been happening
since this morning?

LINDSAY
I was with the girls at the mall
all day.

ALEX
That should have been fun.

LINDSAY
Sure, if you consider hanging out
with a bitch and a girl without a
brain all afternoon fun.

Alex appears to be uncomfortable at the derogatory terms for
his new girlfriend and her best friend.

Lindsay moves up close to Alex on the couch. Much closer

than two people who had only met that morning should be sitting.

LINDSAY
Alex, do you like me?

ALEX
Sure, Lindsay. I like you.

LINDSAY
You wouldn't disappoint me, would you?

ALEX
Not if I could help it.

She begins to stroke his arm and lean her head against his broad shoulder.

LINDSAY
(in a seductive tone)
So, what did you do today.

ALEX
(in a higher voice)
Umm, I didn't do anything today. I went home and did chores.

Lindsay sits up straighter and looks Alex straight in the face.

LINDSAY
Don't play that game Alex. We all saw you at the mall this afternoon.

ALEX
You saw me at the...but Charlotte...

LINDSAY
Charlotte? Is that all anybody care about is Charlotte? I thought you liked me?

ALEX
I do like yo...Oh! Whoa! When I said that I didn't mean...

Lindsay places a finger against his lips to silence him.

LINDSAY
Hush, love. I understand.

Then she leans in and begins to kiss him.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. ANDREWS' STUDY

CHARLOTTE
Don't you see, Daddy? Dating is a
life experience.

DR. ANDREWS
Fine. I'm still not happy about
it, but I know you're going to go
ahead with your plan anyway. Just
remember...

Alex shouts in the living room.

CUT TO:

LIVING ROOM

ALEX
What is the matter with you? I've
been trying to explain to you I'm
dating Charlotte.

LINDSAY
Always pleasing the every whim and
desire of Charlotte.

Charlotte and her father enter the living room. Both are
shocked at the conversation in front of them.

ALEX
Charlotte, this is not what it
seems.

CHARLOTTE
Lindsay? Is that really how you
feel?

LINDSAY
(shy and
confused)
What? What do you mean is that how
I really feel? I admire you
Charlotte.

Charlotte moves to take Alex's hand being offered to her.
Lindsay stands between the young couple and Dr. Andrews
confused. Dr. Andrews watches the scene slightly perplexed,
but ready to take control.

DR. ANDREWS

Lindsay, could I talk to you
privately?

Lindsay follows Dr. Andrews back to his study without a
word.

DR. ANDREWS

Alex, I think it would be for the
best if you just went home for the
night.

ALEX

Yes sir.
(to Charlotte)
I'll call you.

DR. ANDREWS

Not after nine thirty.

Alex walks down the stairs smiling. Charlotte following
behind him glumly.

ALEX

What's the matter, love?

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry. I didn't know that
would happen. I didn't know she'd
try anything...

ALEX

Whoa, hey, it's okay. I don't
understand what happened up there,
but it's not your fault. I'll give
you a call when I get home.

Alex holds Charlotte to him before kissing her on the
forehead.

ALEX

I love you. But I better go before
something else happens. All right?

CHARLOTTE

All right.

ALEX

Night, Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Bye, Alex.

Charlotte watches him pull away before closing the door and
going back to her room for a few minutes of quiet in her
hectic life.

CUT TO:

DR. ANDREWS' STUDY

DR. ANDREWS

Lindsay, are you feeling all right.

LINDSAY

I feel fine, Michael.

DR. ANDREWS

Can you explain tonight's outburst? What caused it?

LINDSAY

I don't know. I don't remember there being an outburst.

Dr. Andrews sighs. It appears that his niece that he has offered to foster can't recall the events. It seems to him typical for someone after a devastating situation.

DR. ANDREWS

All right Lindsay. I want you to write me a daily journal about any problems, feelings, thoughts, anything you're having trouble expressing aloud. Can you do that?

LINDSAY

Yes, Michael.

DR. ANDREWS

I want to first journal tomorrow night.

Lindsay nods and leaves to go to bed.

CUT TO:

CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Charlotte is on the phone.

CHARLOTTE

Alex, I am so sorry. I don't know...

ALEX

Charlotte, it's okay. I'm sure she didn't mean it.

CHARLOTTE

I know. I mean, she's only been here a day, but she feels almost like my sister.

ALEX

Charlotte, that's great. You never say that about anybody.

CHARLOTTE

Don't get used to it. I don't know how long she's staying.

ALEX

Anyway, I didn't get to ask you this before I left. Do you want to see a movie this weekend?

CHARLOTTE

We're seeing the new romance, right?

ALEX

Whatever you say.

CHARLOTTE

I've got to get off here. Miranda's probably wondering if I've forgotten her.

ALEX

I like this change for you Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

I said don't get used to it.

ALEX

I know. I'll talk to you later.

CHARLOTTE

Not too much later, I hope.

Charlotte hangs up with Alex and calls Miranda.

SPLIT SCREEN

MIRANDA

Hello?

CHARLOTTE

Miranda, it's Charlotte.

MIRANDA

(unenthused)

Hey, Charlotte. What's so new that you have to call me at nine thirty?

CHARLOTTE

I'll give you one good guess.

MIRANDA

Charlotte, it's late. I'm not in the mood for guessing games.

CHARLOTTE

Okay, well, two big things happened tonight. I'll tell you the good news first.

MIRANDA

I'm listening.

CHARLOTTE

I can't believe you can't guess this.

MIRANDA

(agitated)

Charlotte, will you just spill it?

CHARLOTTE

Alex came over and asked me out tonight!

MIRANDA

(interested)

When? Why didn't you call me the moment it happened?

CHARLOTTE

It's only been an hour. Will you chill? I couldn't call you the moment it happened because I was arguing with Mr. Over Protective.

MIRANDA

So, when's the first date?

CHARLOTTE

This weekend. Now, I have to tell you the bad side and the other reason I couldn't call you the moment it happened.

MIRANDA

Well?

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay...

MIRANDA

What did she do?

CHARLOTTE

Miranda, it wasn't intentional. She didn't know Alex has asked me out. But, well...

MIRANDA

Charlotte!?

CHARLOTTE

She tried to make a move on him.

MIRANDA

She didn't!

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, and what was even weirder was she didn't know what had happened.

MIRANDA

You don't think she's...

CHARLOTTE

Miranda! I can't believe you would even suggest such a thing.

MIRANDA

Well, this afternoon she was acting two different ways. One moment she was shy and adorable, the next moment she was as...smug and confident as you.

CHARLOTTE

Mockery is the highest form of flattery.

MIRANDA

What has gotten into you? You're not acting like yourself tonight.

CHARLOTTE

I'm gonna tell you the same thing I told Alex: Don't get used to it. But, if I keep up this attitude, Alex said he likes the change.

MIRANDA

I don't know you right now.

CHARLOTTE

Miranda, come over and hang with me and Lindsay tomorrow.

MIRANDA

I don't know Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Come on, we'll make low fat pizza and have fun.

MIRANDA

Well, I guess. I'll be over around eleven thirty.

CHARLOTTE

I'll see you tomorrow.

When Charlotte hangs up the phone she sees Lindsay in the doorway.

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay! Geez, you startled me.

LINDSAY

Miranda doesn't like me, does she?

CHARLOTTE

It's not that. She just thinks it's strange that you acted two different ways when we were out today.

LINDSAY

Well, I came to apologize for my behavior.

CHARLOTTE

It's fine. Don't worry about it.

LINDSAY

But I do worry about it. I feel like my behavior tonight could ruin any chance I have of being a part of your family.

CHARLOTTE

Wow, this really means a lot to you. Anyway, like I said don't worry about it. Everything's fine.

LINDSAY

That's great. Well, good night
Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Good night Lindsay.

Lindsay walks across the hall to the room she occupies.
Charlotte turns out the lamp over her bed and falls asleep.

Once Lindsay is back in her own room her smug, confident
personality takes over again.

LINDSAY

That's right Charlotte. It does
mean a lot to be a part of your
family. You have no idea how bad I
want to fit in. And as for your
relationship with Alex, that will
end soon enough. Eventually,
everything you have will be mine.

Lindsay lays down in the bed and closes her eyes, ready for
a peaceful night's sleep.

Light streams into the room on Charlotte. It's nine in the
morning. She rolls out of bed and walks into the kitchen.
Lindsay is in the process of cleaning up breakfast.

LINDSAY

Good morning. Can I get you
anything to eat?

CHARLOTTE

Just get me a bowl of dry cereal.
Where's Dad?

LINDSAY

He just l...

CHARLOTTE

Don't tell me. He already left for
work. Figures. Well, what shall we
do?

LINDSAY

Miranda called a few minutes ago.
She wants to know if you still
want to make pizza today.

CHARLOTTE

Cuss! I forgot I told her that. If
you don't want to do that I can
call her back and make other
plans.

LINDSAY

No!

Charlotte looks surprised.

LINDSAY

I mean, don't change your plans.
I'd love to make pizza this
afternoon. When will she be here?

CHARLOTTE

She said she'd be here about
eleven thirty, but I need to call
her back to confirm.

Charlotte reaches for the wall phone.

LINDSAY

Eat first.

CHARLOTTE

My goodness aren't we the motherly
type. You're beginning to sound
like Marianne.

LINDSAY

What's Marianne got to do with
anything?

CHARLOTTE

Never mind. It's some stupid stunt
of Dad's since...

Lindsay leans in as if wanting Charlotte to go on.

CHARLOTTE

Just... Never mind. It's nothing.

Lindsay let's it drop for the time being. Charlotte eats
half of the breakfast she requested and picks up the phone.

CHARLOTTE

Hey Miranda. Yeah, we're still on
for today. I'll see at eleven
thirty.

Charlotte walks back to her room to get dressed. When she
reaches the door she sees Lindsay at her mirror.

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay?

Lindsay doesn't move. She's looking at something on the
dresser beneath the mirror. She reaches to pick it up.

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay, don't!

Lindsay stops, realizing that Charlotte is coming at her.

LINDSAY

What? I was only going to look at it.

CHARLOTTE

That's my favorite picture of me and my mom. Nobody ever touches that.

LINDSAY

My, I didn't realize it was of such sentimental value.

CHARLOTTE

Are you using a sarcastic tone?

LINDSAY

Why? When did that become such a crime?

CHARLOTTE

Get out!

Lindsay leaves without further argument. She has found Charlotte's weakness.

Charlotte stands alone in her room, tears beginning to fall.

CHARLOTTE

Who does she think she is? She may be a part of this household, but she does not have any right to be in here.

Charlotte calms down and gets dressed.

Charlotte crosses the hall to Lindsay's room. She knocks on her door.

LINDSAY

What can I do for you?

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay, I'm sorry.

LINDSAY

Well, this is a first.

Charlotte glares for a moment.

CHARLOTTE

Anyway, I shouldn't have gotten so uptight. It's just that I miss my mom. It's the only real keepsake I have to...

LINDSAY

What happened to her?

CHARLOTTE

I'd rather not tell the story. Anyway, I'd appreciate it if you stayed out of my room.

LINDSAY

Fair enough. I shouldn't have pried.

The girls hug. Lindsay smiles smugly at the new information. They keep to themselves until the knock on the door announcing Miranda's arrival.

Charlotte goes to open the door.

CHARLOTTE

Hey, Miranda.

Miranda steps inside the door.

MIRANDA

Hey. Is Lindsay here?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, she's here. Why?

MIRANDA

I don't feel comfortable around that girl. She seems a little...

Lindsay appears at the top of the stairs.

LINDSAY

(quietly)

Hey, are we making pizzas, or what?

Charlotte shrugs her shoulders as if nothing is wrong. Miranda glares at Charlotte for not listening. Lindsay turns and smiles smugly. They all three move up to kitchen.

CHARLOTTE

Let's get started.

The phone rings.

CHARLOTTE

I've got it.

Charlotte answers the wall phone in the kitchen.

CHARLOTTE

Hello?

(turns to the
girls)

It's Alex. Do you girls mind if I
take this to the other room?

LINDSAY AND MIRANDA

No.

Miranda glares at Lindsay. Lindsay just turns away shyly and
continues making her pizza.

Charlotte leaves the room. Silence falls on the room as
Lindsay and Miranda ignore each other.

LINDSAY

Hey Miranda. I think we got
started off on the wrong foot.

MIRANDA

Yeah, maybe.

LINDSAY

So, how long have you and
Charlotte known each other?

MIRANDA

Let me just leave at this: I'm
that girl's voice of reason. I've
been here awhile.

LINDSAY

Oh.

Silence falls again.

MIRANDA

I'm just going to say this. And I
hope it doesn't offend you.

LINDSAY

I don't get offended.

MIRANDA

Okay. Well, when we went to the
mall I felt a bit uneasy around
you. And I don't like what you did
to Alex after he asked Charlotte
out.

LINDSAY

I'm sorry you felt uneasy around me. As for what happened with Alex, I don't know what happened.

Miranda looks at Lindsay, obviously not convinced. Lindsay shows only a look of confusion, as if she really doesn't remember what happened. At that moment Charlotte steps back into the room.

CHARLOTTE

How's it coming? Miranda, is mine just about ready?

MIRANDA

Almost Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Alex wants to come over. Do you girls mind?

LINDSAY AND MIRANDA

No.

CHARLOTTE

Great.

Charlotte leaves the room again. When she comes back Lindsay and Miranda have seated themselves across from each other at the table.

CHARLOTTE

He said he'll be here after one. So, I'm feeling a bit better about each other.

LINDSAY

I think so. I understand a bit more about...

The phone rings again.

CHARLOTTE

Who could that be?

Charlotte stands and answers the wall phone again.

CHARLOTTE

Hello? Hi, Dad. Yeah, she's here. Hold on. Lindsay.

Charlotte hands the phone to Lindsay.

LINDSAY
Michael?

CUT TO:

INT. DR. ANDREWS OFFICE

DR. ANDREWS
Lindsay, I need you to come into
the office. I currently have an
opening to discuss your situation.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' KITCHEN

LINDSAY
I'm on my way.

Lindsay hangs up the phone. She turns to leave the kitchen.

CHARLOTTE
Hey Lindsay. Where are you going?

LINDSAY
I need to go see Michael about my
parents.

CHARLOTTE
What about your pizza?

LINDSAY
Keep it warm for Alex, I guess.
I'll just take a sandwich and eat
it on the way.

CHARLOTTE
Are you sure?

LINDSAY
Yup.

Lindsay takes a pre-made sandwich out of the fridge and
leaves.

MIRANDA
Why would your Dad contact Lindsay
about her parents?

CHARLOTTE
Don't you remember? Her parents
went on vacation.

MIRANDA

That seems a bit convenient.

CHARLOTTE

What do you mean?

MIRANDA

Don't you think you should have gotten more notice that Lindsay was coming than twelve hours?

CHARLOTTE

He probably forgot. You know how he is.

MIRANDA

He wouldn't forget something that important. What really happened to her parents?

CHARLOTTE

They went on vacation. That's all I know Miranda. Why do you have such a problem with Lindsay?

MIRANDA

Have you noticed any other mood swings?

CHARLOTTE

Only a slight misunderstanding that we had this morning.

Charlotte catches the arched eyebrow from Miranda. She feels cornered when Miranda uses her trademark against her.

CHARLOTTE

It was nothing, really.

MIRANDA

Nothing? Then why is she going to see your dad of his office?

CHARLOTTE

I hope you're not suggesting what I think you're suggesting.

MIRANDA

I'm just curious.

CHARLOTTE

What do you want me to do, check my dad's study for evidence?

MIRANDA

Maybe just a peak.

CHARLOTTE

Forget it. I hate my dad because he works with crazy people, but I'm not going to make it worse by seeing the evidence of how crazy they are.

MIRANDA

So you think Lindsay might be crazy?

CHARLOTTE

No. I just don't want to hate my dad even more.

MIRANDA

I thought you hated him for putting Lindsay above you anyway? Don't you want to know why she's really here?

CHARLOTTE

Miranda, I said forget it. I'm not checking my dad's office.

The girls fall silent.

MIRANDA

The pizzas should be about ready.

They eat in silence and leave Lindsay's in the oven for Alex.

At one the girls are startled by a knock at the door.

CHARLOTTE

Alex!

MIRANDA

Ask Alex how he feels about Lindsay.

CHARLOTTE

He said last night it was no big deal. Let it drop.

Charlotte rushes down stairs. She pauses at the mirror to check her looks, then finishes going down the stairs and opens the door.

CHARLOTTE

Hey Alex.

ALEX

Hey Charlotte. How's it going this morning?

CHARLOTTE

I feel better. Miranda's upstairs with a pizza for you.

ALEX

No Lindsay?

CHARLOTTE

She left earlier to go see Dad at his office.

Alex glances at her with a questioning face.

CHARLOTTE

Not you too.

ALEX

What?

CHARLOTTE

You'll soon find out.

The new couple move up the stairs to the kitchen. Miranda waits in the doorframe.

ALEX

Hey Miranda. I hear there's a pizza waiting for me.

MIRANDA

It's on the table.
(turning to
Charlotte)
Did you ask him?

CHARLOTTE

I told him he'd find out soon enough.

ALEX

What was Charlotte supposed to ask me? What am I about to find out?

Miranda looks at Charlotte. Charlotte shrugs it off like there's nothing to say. Miranda takes that as reason enough to ask Alex about Lindsay herself.

MIRANDA

After last night, do you feel uncomfortable around Lindsay?

ALEX

Uncomfortable how?

MIRANDA

Just uncomfortable. Does she make you feel uneasy like she's going to, I don't know, fly off the handle at any second?

ALEX

Is that about the weird mood swing? I thought it was just a conflict of emotion or something.

CHARLOTTE

There, you see. There's nothing odd or (flinches) crazy about Lindsay.

MIRANDA

I'm still not convinced.

ALEX

Come to think of it, it is odd that she suddenly appears in your life.

CHARLOTTE

Now you are doing it. Dad forgot to tell me, that's all.

ALEX

Most likely. But why is she seeing your dad at his office this afternoon?

CHARLOTTE

I don't know. All I heard was it had to with Lindsay's parents. I can't believe you think she's crazy.

ALEX

I'm not saying that, I just think the situation is a bit unusual.

CHARLOTTE

I have no solid proof.

(turns to
Miranda)

And I'm not looking for it.

Silence falls between them. The front door is heard downstairs.

CHARLOTTE

She's back. This conversation is finished. I don't want to hear anything more about it.

Alex shrugs and Miranda just glares. Lindsay comes up the stairs and sees the three of them standing there.

LINDSAY

Is everything okay?

ALEX

Hey Lindsay. Everything's fine here. We were just finishing a conversation.

CHARLOTTE

What's happening with your parents?

LINDSAY

Michael says they're having lots of fun. They're not sure when they'll come back.

Miranda groans in the background. Charlotte elbows her in the ribs.

ALEX

Well at least they're having fun.

LINDSAY

I don't wish that I was there.

CHARLOTTE

Why?

LINDSAY

No reason. I just don't want to be with my dad.

CHARLOTTE

Join the club.

Lindsay smiles.

CHARLOTTE

By the way, did Dad happen to mention when he'd be home tonight.

LINDSAY

I don't know.

CHARLOTTE

I wish he'd get another job.

No one sees Dr. Andrews come in the door.

DR. ANDREWS

Well, get used to it. This is the only job I'm qualified for.

CHARLOTTE

So you've said God knows how many times Dad.

Dr. Andrews comes upstairs.

DR. ANDREWS

I see you're all adjusting well.

ALEX

We sure are, sir.

Dr. Andrews glances at Alex.

DR. ANDREWS

Charlotte...?

CHARLOTTE

Save it Dad. He's leaving now.

Charlotte guides Alex downstairs to the front door. She steps outside with him.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry he's being such an a...

ALEX

Don't worry about it. He'll get used to it. I'll call you later.

Alex kisses Charlotte on the forehead and gets in his car. Charlotte stands there smiling as he drives away.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' LIVING ROOM

Lindsay stands at the window looking down at Alex and Charlotte.

LINDSAY
Smile while you can. It'll all
soon be over.

Miranda sits down on the couch behind Lindsay.

MIRANDA
What did you say?

Lindsay turns.

LINDSAY
Hmmm? Nothing, I didn't say
anything.

Lindsay leaves the room without another word.

MIRANDA
Something odd is happening. Why
can't anyone else see it?

Charlotte comes back in. She carefully glides up the stairs
and sits down on the couch next to Miranda.

CHARLOTTE
I think I can put up with Dad as
long as Alex is around.

MIRANDA
That's great Charlotte.

Charlotte turns to Miranda catching the indifferent tone in
her voice.

CHARLOTTE
What's wrong now? I thought you'd
be happy that we're finally
together.

MIRANDA
Hmmm? I am happy. I just caught
Lindsay looking out the window at
you guys and I thought I heard her
say something.

CHARLOTTE
I'm surprised you weren't at the
window.

Miranda ignores Charlotte's comment.

MIRANDA
I'm not sure, but I think I heard
her say: "It'll all soon be over."

CHARLOTTE
What would all soon be over?

MIRANDA
I don't know.

CHARLOTTE
I've never known you to be so
paranoid.

MIRANDA
I don't want anything to happen to
you.

CHARLOTTE
Oh, I get it. You think she's
going to replace you as my best
friend.

MIRANDA
No, yes, I don't know. It's just
odd, okay.

CHARLOTTE
Whatever.

MIRANDA
I've got to get home Charlotte.
I'll call you.

Charlotte does not get up.

CHARLOTTE
I'll talk to you later.

Miranda leaves and Charlotte relaxes into the couch.

INT. ANDREWS' KITCHEN- EVENING

Charlotte, Lindsay and Dr. Andrews sit around the table.

DR. ANDREWS
Well, there's no telling when
Lindsay's parents will be back.

CHARLOTTE
Lindsay already told me Dad.

DR. ANDREWS
Yes, well. That being the case
Lindsay will just have to stay
here until we know more.

CHARLOTTE
Sounds good to me.

LINDSAY
That's great Michael.

Charlotte yawns.

CHARLOTTE
Well, it's been a long day. I'm going to bed.

DR. ANDREWS
Don't you want to finish eating?

CHARLOTTE
Save it for me, would ya?

Dr. Andrews shrugs his shoulders. Charlotte walks out of the kitchen. Lindsay moves to follow.

DR. ANDREWS
Shall I save your dinner too?

LINDSAY
No, I'll be right back.

Lindsay walks out of the room. Charlotte hears her and turns.

CHARLOTTE
Going to bed already?

LINDSAY
No, I need to get something out of my room.

CHARLOTTE
Oh, night then.

LINDSAY
Night.

Charlotte disappears into her room and shuts the door. Lindsay slips into Dr. Andrews study. She grabs her folder and switches some papers. Then she leaves to go to her room to grab a notebook and pen. She goes back out to the kitchen.

DR. ANDREWS
Journaling?

LINDSAY
Yup, just like you wanted Michael.

DR. ANDREWS

Keep it up. It'll do you a lot of good in the end.

Dr. Andrews looks up at the clock.

DR. ANDREWS

Well, I'm off to get some work done for tomorrow.

LINDSAY

Night, Michael. I'll be going to bed in a little bit.

Lindsay leaves the kitchen at ten to go to bed. Charlotte gets up and nearly gets knocked over when Lindsay is on her way to bed.

CHARLOTTE

Oh! Lindsay, you're still up?

LINDSAY

Actually I was just headed to bed.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, well I'm going to get something to eat and go back to bed.

Lindsay is no longer paying attention. She walks into her room and closes the door. Charlotte walks into the kitchen and gets her leftover dinner out of the fridge. In the light she notices something on the table.

CHARLOTTE

Now he's stooping so low as to leave his work on the table?

Charlotte goes to turn on the light. When she does she notices it's not her father's work.

CHARLOTTE

Wait, this is Lindsay's writing.
 "I want her dead. He doesn't care for her anyway. He thinks of me as his daughter..."
 What?

Charlotte looks around her. Seeing no one she folds the paper in half, turns out the light and goes back to her room to read more.

INT. ANDREWS' KITCHEN- MORNING

Lindsay scrambles around in the kitchen looking for something.

LINDSAY

Where did I leave that paper? If it got picked up it better have been thrown away.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM- MORNING

Charlotte stretches. Outside she hears Lindsay scrambling about in a panic. She quickly gets up and opens the door.

CHARLOTTE

Hey, Lindsay. What's all the moving about for? Did you lose something?

LINDSAY

Oh, I think I misplaced my journal. It's nothing. I probably left it somewhere obvious and I'm just overlooking it.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, I see. Well, I'm going to get breakfast and call Miranda.

LINDSAY

Is something wrong?

CHARLOTTE

No, nothing. I just want to apologize for yesterday.

Lindsay looks confused but leaves the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. LINDSAY'S BEDROOM

Lindsay glances behind her before closing the door. She rushes to the nightstand. She digs through all the papers.

LINDSAY

There is a paper missing. What happened to it?

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' KITCHEN

CHARLOTTE

What ever she's looking for, it
must be important.

(pauses)

Or it could be a cover-up.

Without bothering to get something to eat Charlotte rushes
back to her room. Once there, she closes the door and grabs
the paper up off her dresser.

CHARLOTTE

What does she mean "I want her
dead?" Who thinks of her more as a
daughter?

Charlotte notices a piece of the paper had been ripped.
There was more to the paper than what appeared on the page.
Charlotte grabbed up the phone by her bed and began dialing
a number.

CHARLOTTE

Miranda? It's Charlotte. We may
now have evidence for an
investigation.

CUT TO:

INT. MIRANDA'S ROOM

MIRANDA

What investigation?

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

CHARLOTTE

(hissing)

Lindsay.

CUT TO:

INT. MIRANDA'S ROOM

MIRANDA

What did you find?

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

CHARLOTTE
I'll tell you when you get here.
I've got to call Alex.

CUT TO:

INT. MIRANDA'S ROOM

MIRANDA
I'll be there as soon as I can.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

Charlotte hangs up with Miranda and begins dialing another number.

CHARLOTTE
Alex? It's Charlotte. I need to
discuss something with you. Can
you come over?

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S ROOM

ALEX
Charlotte, is everything all
right? I can come over, but what's
so urgent?

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S ROOM

CHARLOTTE
I'll tell you when you get here.
Please, get here as fast as you
can.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S ROOM

ALEX
Calm down, hon. I'm leaving now.
I'll be there as fast as I can.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM

CHARLOTTE

Thanks Alex.

Charlotte hangs up the phone again. She quickly runs out of her room and into her dad's study. As she begins rummaging through the drawers of his desk, Lindsay sneaks up behind her.

LINDSAY

Are you sure you haven't seen my journal?

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay! Still no luck? I swear I haven't seen it.

Charlotte looks like a thief caught in the act and Lindsay just stares back at her.

LINDSAY

What are you doing?

CHARLOTTE

Oh...I was looking for a pen. The one I was using ran out of ink.

Lindsay points to the mug of pens at the corner of the desk.

LINDSAY

Why do you need to dig through his drawers when there are pens right there?

CHARLOTTE

Oh, those are his good pens. I was, uh, looking for his pack of generic pens.

Lindsay continues to stare at Charlotte, unconvinced.

LINDSAY

If you happen to see a sheet of paper with my handwriting on it, will you bring it to me?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, sure thing.

Charlotte gives Lindsay a weak smile. Lindsay leaves the room and Charlotte breathes a sigh of relief. She decides she won't find anything in her dad's study and gets ready visit to him at the office. She runs to her room to grab her purse and go when the phone rings.

CHARLOTTE

Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. MIRANDA'S ROOM

MIRANDA

Charlotte, it's Miranda. Do you still need me to come over?

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S ROOM

CHARLOTTE

Yeah. I'm headed to Dad's office to see if I can learn more. Just wait for me in the kitchen. I'll be back as soon as I can.

Charlotte hangs up the phone and runs toward to stairs. Lindsay blocks the stairs.

LINDSAY

(innocently)

Who was that?

CHARLOTTE

It was just Miranda. Why?

LINDSAY

What did she want?

CHARLOTTE

She just wanted to come over and spend time with me in a bit.

LINDSAY

Got it. If she's coming over, where are you going?

CHARLOTTE

I remembered I forgot to ask Dad to give me something last night. I'm going to the office to get it from him.

LINDSAY

Should I tell Miranda to come back later?

CHARLOTTE

No, I told her to wait for me here
in the kitchen. Do me a favor and
just let her in.

Charlotte brushes past Lindsay and dashes out the door.
Lindsay stands at the top of the stairs.

LINDSAY

Sure , I'll let her in. This is
why he chooses not to spend time
with you, little Miss It's-All-
About-Me.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STREET OUTSIDE DR. ANDREWS' OFFICE

Charlotte reaches the door to the psychiatric office.

CHARLOTTE

(muttering)

Please, be out. A meeting,
luncheon, anything, just don't be
in the office.

She pulls the door open and approaches the secretary's desk
calmly. Marianne looks up hearing Charlotte approach.

MARIANNE

Well, hello Charlotte. What do you
need?

CHARLOTTE

Is Dad in?

MARIANNE

Not at the moment. What do you
need?

CHARLOTTE

He was supposed to give me a
document for a school research
paper. It's probably on his hard
drive. Do you mind if...

MARIANNE

You know the rules Charlotte. I
can't let you back into his office
without an appointment.

CHARLOTTE

Please, Marianne. I really need this document. My paper is due when I get back to school.

MARIANNE

Well, I suppose I can make an exception this time, but please don't do it again. I need this job.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you.

Charlotte walks back to her dad's office. Once out of earshot she mutters to herself.

CHARLOTTE

You don't need this job. All you have to do is sweet talk, *Michael*. He'll allow you to keep it.

She reaches her Dad's office and walks in without even a glance behind her. She strolls casually over to his desk as if to get on the computer. Instead of logging onto his computer she rummages through the pile on desk.

CHARLOTTE

I'm looking for a file all right. But this one isn't on his computer.

Her hand touches a folder. She glances down. She immediately recognizes the picture attached to it.

CHARLOTTE

What? This isn't possible.

She turns to the computer and realizes that her father has the same file in her hand pulled up on his computer. Without a second thought she prints the file. Once it is printed she leaves the office.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE

Miranda arrives at the house and knocks on the door.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' LIVING ROOM

LINDSAY

She's here already? Well, I guess
it's time to play the hostess.

Lindsay walks down the stairs to the front door. Pulling the door open she feigns surprise.

LINDSAY

Miranda? I didn't know you were
coming over.

MIRANDA

Well, I'm here. Can I come in?

LINDSAY

Oh, sure. How rude of me. Come
upstairs and we'll have lunch.

Miranda brushes past Lindsay and begins to go upstairs. Lindsay continues to stand at the door glancing up the street.

MIRANDA

Lindsay? What are you looking at?

LINDSAY

Nothing, I was just checking to
see if Charlotte was on her way.
Now, what shall we eat?

MIRANDA

Did Charlotte happen to tell you
where she was going?

LINDSAY

I think she said she was going to
Michael's office for something.

MIRANDA

Did she say what?

LINDSAY

Can't say I'm sure.

Miranda sits down at the table glaring at Lindsay.

MIRANDA

I guess we'll just have to wait
for her to return.

Lindsay nods and moves to the 'fridge

Just then Miranda's cell phone begins to ring.

MIRANDA

I'll be there in a second. Hello?

CHARLOTTE

You'll never believe this! Guess what? Lindsay isn't my cousin she's one of my father's patients!

MIRANDA

I told you there was something about her I didn't like!

CHARLOTTE

That's why she's been acting so weird, like she has two different personalities. It's because she does, that's what she's seeing my Dad for!

MIRANDA

Isn't that kind of dangerous to leave someone so unstable alone with two girls who are completely clueless about her condition.

CHARLOTTLE

It's only dangerous now that we know and my father was banking on our ignorance.

MIRANDA

What are we going to do?

CHARLOTTE

You're going to stay put until I get there. We'll have to decide what the next step is when I get home. Bye.

Miranda hangs up her cell phone and turns around to see Lindsay standing right behind her, a cold expression on her face.

LINDSAY

So I guess my little secret's out, huh? Michael was so hoping that you wouldn't find out...

MIRANDA

We're glad we found out your secret you freak! Now we know how to deal with you!

LINDSAY

Do you really Miranda? Are you absolutely positive you have any idea what I'm capable of? You don't stand a chance.

Lindsay smacks Miranda in the face, Miranda stands and slaps Lindsay. Miranda starts toward the door but Lindsay launches herself toward her grabbing Miranda's ankle and pulling her to the floor. Lindsay gets on top of Miranda and starts hitting her, Miranda gains leverage and throws Lindsay off of her and runs for her phone which she dropped on the couch. She grabs the phone and turns to find Lindsay has disappeared. She starts slowly toward the door when all of a sudden Lindsay comes at her from the kitchen with a knife. Slicing her arm open she grabs Miranda by the shoulder, pushes her into the wall knocking her out. Lindsay drags Miranda out of the kitchen out under the stairs leading to the balcony.

Later, Charlotte arrives home to find Lindsay nowhere to be found.

CHARLOTTE

Where's Lindsay?

Charlotte starts when a hand is laid on her shoulder from behind.

LINDSAY

I couldn't stop myself. I'm so sorry Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

My God Lindsay! A little bit of notice would be nice.

LINDSAY

Did you get what you needed?

CHARLOTTE

Yes. Did Miranda ever show up?

LINDSAY

No, I haven't seen her.

Charlotte moves past Lindsay grabbing the phone as she left the kitchen. Without warning, Lindsay pins Charlotte into the hallway wall.

LINDSAY

Did you really think I would let you walk away from me?

CHARLOTTE

So it's true. You are one of my father's patients. Isn't this arrangement a conflict of interest?

LINDSAY

Does it matter? Everything I've worked for is about to become a reality and you will cease to exist. No different than your current situation.

CHARLOTTE

That's not true. I have friends and a life. You are a sociopath, you live other peoples' lives.

LINDSAY

Ooh that hurts me so deeply. But that makes it so easy to be whatever I want to be.

Lindsay pushes Charlotte down the stairs with force. Charlotte crumples to the floor.

At that moment the phone begins to ring. Lindsay glares at Charlotte's still body at the bottom of the stairs, ignoring the phone. After the third ring the answering machine picks up the call.

ALEX

(on machine)

Charlotte, are you at home? I'm on my way to hear what you have to say about Lindsay.

Alex hangs up and Lindsay turns, distracted.

LINDSAY

Alex? Of course, I should have known she would involve him. Well, he has two choices: give her up or die with her. Now, I need to find a place to keep the body captive.

Lindsay moves down the stairs and grabs Charlotte under the arms. She begins to drag her down the stairs to the basement. At the bottom of the stairs she stops she drops Charlotte's body on the floor.

LINDSAY

Now, where to...? Oh, there we go.

Lindsay picks up Charlotte's lifeless body again and moves into the laundry room. Once again, she leaves the body on

the floor and runs back upstairs. She grabs a chair out of the kitchen and moves more slowly down the stairs. Once downstairs again she places the chair in the middle of the room and places Charlotte's body in it. Then she goes to the garage to get some rope. She finds the rope and ties Charlotte to the chair.

LINDSAY

That will hold 'til you wake up.

EXT. ANDREWS HOME

Alex is just about to enter the house when his cell phone rings. Without thinking about the caller he answers.

ALEX

Hello?

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK

FEMALE

Alex?

CUT TO:

EXT. ANDREWS HOME

ALEX

Who is this?

CUT TO

EXT DARK

FEMALE

Neve mind who this is. I need you to listen to me. I know you're heading to Charlotte's house. You need to be very careful when you enter if Lindsay is there. She may have already begun to take over.

CUT TO

EXT ANDREWS HOME

ALEX

Who is this? What are you talking about? Has something happened to Charlotte?

The line disconnects and Alex receives no further information

ALEX

Damn it!

Without any further thought he rushes into the house.

INT. ANDREWS' LAUNDRY ROOM

Charlotte is just beginning to regain conscience. Lindsay stands over top of her.

LINDSAY

Why Charlotte, are you all right?
You seem to have hit your head.

CHARLOTTE

Where am I? What happened?

LINDSAY

You don't remember? You fell down
the stairs. I think you may have
gotten a concussion.

CHARLOTTE

Lindsay?

LINDSAY

You guessed it Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

(still
confused)

Lindsay, where's Miranda? What did
you do to her?

LINDSAY

Miranda is gone. She left about an
hour and a half ago. Don't worry
Charlotte, she'll be just fine.

Charlotte blacks out again.

LINDSAY

And you will be too, very shortly.

The front door slams.

LINDSAY

Damn!

Lindsay bolts up the stairs.

LINDSAY

Alex!?! Wh-what are you doing here?

ALEX

Charlotte called and said she wanted to see me. Is she home?

LINDSAY

I'm sorry Alex. She's not home right now. She went out with Michael for lunch and won't be back for quite awhile yet.

ALEX

Do you mind if I come in and wait? You could tell me more about yourself.

LINDSAY

No, you see, I shouldn't have even opened the door. I was told to stay inside and keep the house locked.

ALEX

Come on, Lindsay. I'm already here. Just let me stay.

LINDSAY

No!

Lindsay pushes Alex outside and slams the door in his face.

EXT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE

ALEX

Something is really off. Charlotte called and said she needed to talk to me and that she had to visit her dad's office.

Alex sneaks around the side of the house. He peers in the window by the kitchen and sees Lindsay cleaning something off the floor. He observes more closely and notices that she is cleaning blood off the floor.

ALEX

(terrified
whisper)

Charlotte!

Alex rushes back to the front of the house.

ALEX

She's not going to let me in. I've got to find a way into the house.

CUT TO:

INT.ANDREWS' KITCHEN

Lindsay finishes cleaning up the blood on the floor from Miranda's body.

LINDSAY

There. That should do it. No sign of anything is wrong.

She grabs the dirty rag she used to clean the floor and put it in the wash. She goes downstairs and opens the door to the laundry room where Charlotte is still dizzy from her fall down the stairs.

LINDSAY

Well, hello there. I see we're slightly more awake.

CHARLOTTE

What have you done? When Dad gets home I plan to tell him what you've done.

LINDSAY

You really believe he's going to listen to you? He thinks I'm cured of my disorder. I've been playing the part of innocent to step in and take your place.

CHARLOTTE

It's over Lindsay. He's going to see you for what you really are. You won't be able to stay here any longer. You can't win.

LINDSAY

Oh, but I can. Don't you know how I got here to begin with?

CHARLOTTE

You're parents didn't go on vacation without you, that's for sure.

LINDSAY

Oooh, aren't we clever. You're right they didn't go on vacation, because I killed them.

CHARLOTTE suddenly notices the KNIFE in LINDSAY'S hand.

CHARLOTTE

This can't be. Lindsay, if you kill me the decay of my body will eventually be noticed.

LINDSAY

You didn't think I was going to leave you here that long, did you? I'll take good care of your body when night falls.

CHARLOTTE begins to struggle against the restraints holding her to the chair.

LINDSAY

It's no good to struggle. You're not going anywhere. Now, I'll be back to move these dirty rags into the dryer.

LINDSAY drops the BLODDY RAGS in the wash and leaves the room. closing the door.

CHARLOTTE

(muffled behind
the door)

Lindsay! You can't do this!

LINDSAY

Oh, but I can.

Lindsay walks upstairs and turns on the stereo.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANDREWS' PATIO

ALEX sneaks around the backside of the house. He tries the patio sliding door. Finding it unlocked, he slips in. He's right by the LAUNDRY ROOM, but Charlotte's screams cannot be heard over the stereo upstairs.

ALEX

Charlotte?

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

CHARLOTTE

Alex? Alex!

CUT TO:

INT. ANREWS' BASEMENT

ALEX
Charlotte! Are you all right?

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

CHARLOTTE
(in tears)
My head really hurts right now.
She's crazy Alex! She's got me
locked in here tied to a chair!
You've got to find the key and get
me out of here!

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' BASEMENT

ALEX
Where is the key?

CHARLOTTE
(muffled behind
the door)
I don't know. She has it. Be
careful Alex, she'll kill you
next.

ALEX
Who?

CHARLOTTE
(still muffled)
Lindsay!

ALEX stands momentarily stunned.

ALEX
Don't worry Charlotte. I'll get
you out of there.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

CHARLOTTE
Alex, watch out for Lindsay.
(whispers)
I don't want to lose you too.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' BASEMENT

ALEX creeps up the stairs quietly. At the top of the stairs by the front door he stops to peer around the corner. Not seeing LINDSAY he creeps up the second set of stairs into the living room. At the top of the stairs he hears footsteps. Glancing around quickly he ducks around the side of the chair around the railing.

LINDSAY steps out of the kitchen. ALEX notices the KEY dangling from her hand. LINDSAY steps back into the kitchen. ALEX moves away from the chair. Down on all fours and being as quiet as possible he scuttles around to the other kitchen entrance around by the dining room. He peers around the corner and no longer sees LINDSAY.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

LINDSAY looks around the living room.

LINDSAY

I could have sworn I heard something.

Seeing no one she goes down the hall to her room.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREWS' KITCHEN

ALEX steps into the kitchen. He looks around the kitchen in search of the KEY. He looks behind every appliance and everything on the table. He looked in every drawer.

ALEX

(whispers)

Damn! She still has the key.

ALEX glances around the corner and leaves the kitchen. He makes for the guest room. Suddenly he sees a shadow moving toward the door of her room. Without thinking he moves into Charlotte's room. Seeing the closet door open he ducks inside and moves to the far, dark corner.

LINDSAY walks into the room and glances around.

LINDSAY

Is anyone here?

(whispers)

I could have sworn I heard footsteps. Did I lock that door?

LINDSAY leaves the room and goes down stairs. She has left without the KEY.

After her footsteps were unheard ALEX bursts out of the closet and runs for the guest room at the end of the hall. Glancing around quickly he notices the KEY on her nightstand.

ALEX
(whispers)
Got it!

ALEX leaves the room to go downstairs. At the end of the hall he heard LINDSAY'S FOOTSTEPS coming back up the stairs. Glancing around his only escape was to dive into the hall closet. He jumped in and had the door shut before LINDSAY hit the landing by the front door.

LINDSAY climbs the stairs.

LINDSAY
Well, I locked the door.

Her FOOTSTEPS recede to end of the hall. Once ALEX hears the door close he bursts out of the closet. In the close proximity of the closet, the chain of Alex's dog tags broke and fell just outside the closet door.

INT POLICE STATION

A female stands with her back to the camera.

FEMALE
Officer, I need to report an emergency. I do mean emergency. It needs immediate attention

OFFICER
Slow down miss. Could I get your name?

FEMALE
No time. Listen, the Andrews residence on Thirteenth Ave? Officers need to get out there and help a young teenager. She may be injured. She's home alone with a known sociopath.

INT. ANDREWS HOME

Alex rushes down to the basement Outside the laundry room, ALEX struggles to get the KEY in the lock.

ALEX
Charlotte, say something.

ALEX listens for a sign of life. Inside Charlotte is out again from her concussion. ALEX manages to get the door

unlocked and rushes inside. He kneels in front of her tapping her face to get her to wake up.

ALEX
Charlotte? Charlotte, wake up!

CHARLOTTE opens her eyes slowly.

CHARLOTTE
Alex?

ALEX hugs CHARLOTTE.

ALEX
Yes, it's me.

CHARLOTTE
(panicked)
Quick! Get me out of here. She'll be down any minute. If she finds you here she'll kill you.

ALEX
Relax, she doesn't suspect a thing.

ALEX moves behind CHARLOTTE and begins to untie her.

CHARLOTTE
She suspects more than you think. She's a criminal mastermind and sociopath.

ALEX
Sociopath?

CHARLOTTE
Will you just get me out of here.

ALEX
If you don't be quiet she will come down here and kill us both.

At that moment footsteps could be heard on the stairs above.

CHARLOTTE
Quick. Get behind the door.

Just as ALEX made it behind the door, LINDSAY swung it open.

LINDSAY
What's going on here? Why are you being so noisy? Perhaps I should just kill you now.

CHARLOTTE

Are you sure it's not your stereo?
 (coldly)
 Could you turn that thing down.
 You're giving me a greater
 headache than I already had.

LINDSAY

I could have sworn I heard another
 voice down here.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, yeah. Someone could've gotten
 in here. No one can even hear me
 scream down here.

LINDSAY

I suppose you're right. Well, I'll
 be off then.

LINDSAY walks out the door pulling it shut behind her. ALEX and CHARLOTTE wait for her footsteps to recede. When they think they are safe again, ALEX begins to move out from behind the door. At the moment when he begins to move LINDSAY swings the door open again hitting ALEX in the face. His nose begins to bleed.

LINDSAY

(sweetly)
 Alex, oh I'm so sorry.
 (menacing tone
 resumes)
 I've been waiting for you. You
 couldn't possibly think that you
 would get in and out without
 coming to see me, did you? I'm
 hurt.

ALEX

(still
 bleeding)
 Lindsay, it doesn't have to be
 this way. Just let Charlotte go
 and we'll go upstairs and talk
 things out.

LINDSAY

Who do you think you are? Michael?
 The simpleton has thought we
 talked everything out and I was
 nearly cured. Nothing can cure me
 now that I'm set on the path to
 what I want.

CHARLOTTE

What the hell do you want that my father hasn't given you?

LINDSAY

Why, Charlotte. I'd have thought you of all people would have guessed that by now. Although, having a simpleton father seems to have rubbed off on you. Think back to my journal entry you read.

CHARLOTTE

Killing me is not going to help you get the family you want.

LINDSAY

No one will ever know what happened to you. You'll just disappear like my parents.

CHARLOTTE gasps. No one knew what had happened to Lindsay's parents. It was assumed they were on a vacation trip somewhere.

ALEX

Lindsay, the murders have to stop. You're not going to get what you want by taking lives away...

LINDSAY

Shut up Alex. You'll live. But there's something I want from you as payback for your life.

LINDSAY kneels down in front ALEX. She leans in close. CHARLOTTE notices the hilt of a KNIFE sticking out of LINDSAY'S back pocket.

CHARLOTTE

Alex, stop! She's going to kill you anyway.

LINDSAY turns toward CHARLOTTE.

LINDSAY

What's the matter Charlotte? Jealous that your boyfriend is showing a bit of affection to someone else.

LINDSAY leans in and kisses ALEX. As she gets the one thing she wanted out of him, she plunges the knife into his lower rib cage.

LINDSAY

Sorry, Alex. But, perhaps you should have gotten to know the other side of me before choosing Charlotte.

ALEX lays curled on his side on the cold floor.

CHARLOTTE

No! What's your problem you psychotic freak?

LINDSAY

I only did what had to be done

LINDSAY wipes blood off the blade of the KNIFE with another rag she's been carrying in her pocket.

CHARLOTTE

Who are you to decide who lives or dies? What gives you the right?

LINDSAY

Well for one, I'm not the one that's tied to the chair.

LINDSAY leaves the room again. This time she leaves the door open.

ALEX groans and begins to crawl toward the back of Charlotte's chair.

CHARLOTTE

Alex, what are you doing? You should stay still for a better chance of survival.

ALEX

(coughing)

The wound isn't really that deep. I'll keep pressure on it. Hold still so I can finish getting this last knot in the back. You need to hold her off until your father gets home.

CHARLOTTE

What do you mean? How soon will he be...

CHARLOTTE brushes the rope off her wrists. They're cut from how tight the ropes were around her wrists. She kneels down beside ALEX'S BODY.

ALEX

I called him when Lindsay wouldn't let me in the house. I love you

CHARLOTTE

What about the police?

ALEX

I'm sure they've been notified.

CHARLOTTE wipes away the tears before they can consume her entire body.

CHARLOTTE

Time for payback.

CHARLOTTE goes over to the fireplace and pulls the poker from its place. She moves quietly upstairs. She peers around the corner at the front door. She watches LINDSAY walk into the kitchen. She rushes up the stairs and into the guest room. She immediately ducks behind the door.

LINDSAY walks back to her room and picks up her journal.

LINDSAY

It's finished.

LINDSAY begins to walk back out of the room. As soon as she is out the door, CHARLOTTE moves from behind the door and begins to follow LINDSAY. CHARLOTTE has the FIREPLACE POKER raised to strike. LINDSAY steps into the kitchen. CHARLOTTE waits outside ready to strike when LINDSAY emerges.

LINDSAY emerges from the kitchen with KNIFE in hand but is struck down momentarily. The KNIFE falls from her hand and lands by the stairs. CHARLOTTE moves to pick it up, but LINDSAY reaches out and grabs her ankle. She pulls CHARLOTTE to the floor and she begins to tumble down the stairs.

LINDSAY picks the KNIFE back up and moves down toward CHARLOTTE. As LINDSAY moves to strike CHARLOTTE a death blow CHARLOTTE instinctively grabs the FIREPLACE POKER up and blocks her blow. With such force CHARLOTTE knocks the KNIFE from LINDSAY'S hand again. This time it lands at the bottom of the stairs in the basement. CHARLOTTE proceeds by beating LINDSAY continuously with the FIREPLACE POKER.

CHARLOTTE then drops the FIREPLACE POKER by LINDSAY and races down the stairs. As she moves to pick up the KNIFE, LINDSAY strikes her across the cheek with the FIREPLACE POKER. CHARLOTTE is knocked backwards. LINDSAY picks up the KNIFE and moves to strike CHARLOTTE. CHARLOTTE drops to the floor and rolls away from LINDSAY. She reaches for the FIREPLACE POKER but is unable to reach it. LINDSAY has her pinned.

CUT TO:

EXT ANDREW'S HOME

Dr. Andrews moves to step out of his car and is greeted by an officer stepping out cruiser that has pulled up in front of his home.

DR. ANDREWS

Good afternoon officer. Is there a problem?

POLICE OFFICER

Yes. You see, Michael. The patient you are fostering is responsible for not only her parents' disappearance, but their death.

DR. ANDREWS

I thought for sure she was almost cured.

POLICE OFFICER

We're here thanks to this young lady who arrived at the station a half hour ago.

Miranda steps out of another cruiser that has arrived as well as an ambulance.

DR. ANDREWS

Miranda? What's happened?

MIRANDA

I'll explain later. Right now you need to help you daughter.

POLICE OFFICER

Dr. Andrews. We need to collect Lindsay for questioning.

DR. ANDREWS

Collect her?

(suddenly in a hurry)

Of course. If you'll excuse me officer. Let us step inside.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

Alex finds the strength to get up and make is way upstairs.

CUT TO:

The girls have moved their fight back upstairs to the living room.

LINDSAY

Did you really think you were going to be able to stop me? Just think of it this way; you won't have to deal with your father not caring about you anymore. You'll be happy to be rid of him and he'll be happy to have a daughter with less attitude.

The girls have moved out onto the patio at this point.

CHARLOTTE

Not likely. This ends here.

CHARLOTTE picks up the FIREPLACE POKER and makes a swift move to strike. LINDSAY predicts her move and raises the KNIFE to block. LINDSAY knocks the FIREPLACE POKER away from CHARLOTTE effortlessly.

CHARLOTTE seeing no other escape moves for the balcony door and opens it. Before CHARLOTTE reaches the stairs to the yard LINDSAY blocks her path. LINDSAY moves to strike with the KNIFE again. She misses CHARLOTTE, but manages to pin her to railing of the balcony.

DR. ANDERWS

Lindsay, stop!

LINDSAY drops the KNIFE but does not release her grip on Charlotte.

DR. ANDREWS

Lindsay, I need you to step away. We can work this out.

There is no further change in the stand off between the girls. Charlotte finds one last burst of strength and grabs Lindsay's collar. There is a fast shift and Lindsay is now pinned to the rail.

LINDSAY

(whispers)

You wouldn't. You don't have in you to push me over this rail.

CHARLOTTE
I could push you off the rail.
You'll live I promise.

The police have just positioned themselves at the below the balcony.

CHARLOTTE
(whispers)
Good-bye Lindsay.

Charlotte gives one good push. Lindsay falls, is caught and cuffed by the police. Dr. Andrews steps up to his daughter.

DR.ANDREWS
Charlotte, I'm so sorry. I had no idea...

CHARLOTTE
Save it Dad. Where's Alex?

Suddenly, Miranda appears.

CHARLOTTE
Miranda? You're alive! How?

Charlotte hugs her friend.

MIRANDA
She only knocked me out.
Apparently, she wanted to finish me later. Alex is being checked by the paramedics now.

Charlotte moves out the the ambulance that has been waiting.

CHARLOTTE
Alex? What's the verdict? How are you feeling?

ALEX
Calm down. I'll be fine. I'll be out of commission for a few weeks but I'll be fine. Where's Lindsay?

CHARLOTTE
Gone. The police have her in custody now. She'll never be able to hurt anyone again.

SIX MONTHS LATER

INT. PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION

PSYCHIATRIST

How are you today, Miss Banes?

LINDSAY

I feel much better. I also feel full of remorse for killing my parents and nearly killing those innocent youths.

PSYCHIATRIST

Keep up this behavior and I may be able to release you from my institution.

LINDSAY

That would be wonderful.