

INFANT

By

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A WOMAN GRUNTS IN AGONY.

FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Light cuts through the single, shattered window - the glass mingled on the tile floor with the broken shards of mirror.

A trail of wet blood leads to a growing pool underneath the body of--

A MAN - face down, the back of his head is caved in.

The grunts of pain turn to a shout of agony from-

THE PREGNANT WOMAN - MERRITT WEAVER (late 20's) - standing at the shower, her clothes cut off her body as her underwear shows, her hair messy and tangled as tears stream down her face.

Her belly bulges. She is in the final stretch of pregnancy.

Lacerations crisscross her face and chest. Recent, fresh wounds from a beating. Her leg is broken, fibula jutting out, blood trickling from the wound.

Her grunts of pain are that of labor. She stumbles and falls - slamming her fist on the ground, screaming.

She rests her hand on her stomach, which has one long cut across it, but nothing deep.

In the distance, SIRENS wail, rapidly approaching.

Merritt grimaces as her labor pains, her eyes bulge.

The baby is coming.

The FLASHING POLICE LIGHTS become visible through the shattered window.

Merritt lets out another SCREAM... then faints.

Her head BANGS against the tile floor.

CUT TO BLACK.

VOICES - Faint sounds of CHATTER and BEEPING swim in and out through the darkness, growing louder and louder until a FEMALE DOCTOR'S voice is heard.

FEMALE DOCTOR (V.O.)
... no choice. We have to perform a
C section...

The SOUNDS FADE and it is silent, until--

Wheels rolling on floor.

Chaotic hustling and bustling through an echoing hallway.
Merritt's eyes flutter open--

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT

POV: MERRITT

As her eyes flutter open, she finds herself being wheeled
into an operating room with DOCTORS all around her - an IV
attached to her arm.

Her lower body is covered.

One of the NURSE'S pulling the stretcher notices her eyes
opened.

NURSE
Hey, Merritt, can you hear me?
You've been seriously injured and
your baby is coming. Do you
understand? Everything is going to
be okay. You and your baby are
going to be okay.

Merritt groans as she looks around the hallway.

Following her with the Nurses and Doctors is a woman - EMMA
DELLER, a little older than Merritt, her sister - who Merritt
reaches out for.

Emma grins and grabs Merritt's hand firmly.

EMMA
Stay in there.

Merritt groans as her eyes slowly shut.

BLACK.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Merritt awakens once again.

She's extremely groggy. She looks straight ahead where a TEAM OF DOCTORS work on her abdomen.

Scissors, thread and needles protrude everywhere. The lead Doctor - DOCTOR MANN, looks at Merritt.

MANN

Let's get some more anesthesia,
please.

NURSE

Merritt, are you with us?

Merritt gives a subtle groan.

NURSE (CONT'D)

We've numbed your abdomen and lower
body. Your baby is alive. We're
getting her out now.

The Doctor goes back to work. Merritt shuts her eyes.

DOCTOR #2

She's been lapsing in and out of
consciousness for two hours.

MANN

Up her drip. We don't want her
conscious for the bone fracture
repair.

Merritt tries to look at her leg but it's covered in a blue sheet.

She watches the Doctors as they continue performing the C-section.

NURSE

Your sister is in the waiting room.
We can bring her in if you like.

Merritt viciously shakes her head, numbed and mumbling, she attempts to form the word--

MERRITT

No.

MANN

Okay, okay. Can we please get her
as still as possible?

Merritt's eyes roll back into her head as she lapses back out of consciousness.

BLACK.

SOUND: A BABY CRYING.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Merritt's eyes shoot open.

She looks at one of the Doctors holding her BABY GIRL.

NURSE

She's awake, Doctor Mann.

DR. MANN

Ah, there you are. You have a
happy, healthy, baby girl. You did
it, Merritt. Congratulations.

Merritt takes a deep breath, tears forming in her eyes.

The Doctor brings the baby to Merritt, as she struggles, but eventually forces a smile on her face.

Merritt reaches out to stroke her newborn's face.

DR. MANN (CONT'D)

You two will have plenty of time to
bond later. We need to take care of
that compound fracture now.

DOCTOR #2

She's all closed up.

DR. MANN

(to Merritt)

We'll take good care of you.

The Doctors all circle around Merritt as they grab the handles of the stretcher. The Doctor holding the baby stands and smiles as Merritt is rolled away, reaching out to her.

The Doctor smiles as the door closes.

BLACK.

SOUND: Glass shattering.

An ear piercing SCREAM.

Heavy breathing.

MERRITT (V.O.)
(screaming)
Get the fuck away! Get the fuck
away from me!

A loud THUD with a slight crack. Silence.

MERRITT (V.O.)
(sobbing)
Brett... Brett... what did you do!?
What did you fucking do!?

Silence.

INT./EXT. THE VOID - UNKNOWN

A pitch, void with stardust dancing about. It could be the vacuum of space or a subterranean cave below the earth.

A BABY GIRL floats through the darkness. A smile on her face. The umbilical cord still protruding out of her belly.

A HAND reaches out from the nothing and violently grabs hold of the cord, viciously pulling it out of sight.

THE BABY CRIES, her WAILS fade in the distance.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Merritt's eyes snap open.

Her forehead damp with a cold sweat. She breathes heavily - winded. Her face is covered in stitches, as her left eye is bruised purple.

A soothing voice calls to her.

EMMA
(faint)
Merritt. Merritt.

Merritt looks down at her leg which is elevated on a sling and in a thick plaster CAST. She looks around the room before finally finding Emma, her sister.

EMMA (CONT'D)
(gently)
Merritt, hey. You're awake. It's
okay. Everything is okay. I'm going
to get the nurse, alright?

Merritt tries to speak. Her voice is hoarse from all her painful screaming.

MERRITT
(softly)
Brett...

EMMA
I'm going to get the nurse. You're okay now... You'll be okay.

She walks quickly out of the room.

As the door swings open, Merritt catches a glimpse of the hallway where TWO POLICE OFFICERS, one male, one female stand in a huddle with A MALE AND FEMALE DETECTIVE.

The Male Detective runs his fingers through his grey hair and turns around to look at Merritt through the glass window of her room.

He gently waves a kind hello, then turns back to his huddle.

The door opens again as JANET, a kind, younger nurse walks in.

EMMA stands just outside the door observing quietly.

JANET
Miss Weaver, how are you feeling?

Merritt softly groans. She is still weak from the surgery.

MERRITT
Sore... numb... My baby. Where is she? I want to see her.

JANET
I'll bring her in straight away.

MERRITT
Is she still okay? Is she healthy?

JANET
(soothing)
Oh, yes. She is perfect. We just kept her in the nursery as a precaution.

MERRITT
And Brett? My husband?

Two Doctors walk in, the first is Doctor Mann , the second is Dr. Desikan (60's), stern faced.

JANET

(to Mann)

Miss Weaver's ready to see her baby. I'm going get her from the nursery.

MANN

Very good.

MERRITT

Where's my husband?

Janet looks to the doctors nervously and nods. With a quick sad glance back to Merritt, she leaves the room.

The two Doctors hover beside Merritt.

MANN

Hello, Merritt, I'm Doctor Mann. This is Doctor Desikan.

DR. DESIKAN

Hello.

MERRITT

My husband. Brett. Is he here? Is he going to be okay?

Looks of sorrow shine on the doctors faces.

DR. DESIKAN

I am very sorry, Merritt. Your husband has passed.

MERRITT

(stunned)

Oh god.

Merritt immediately begins tearing up. Dr. Desikan purses his lips sadly.

DR. MANN

I'm very sorry, Merritt. You've been through a lot, but you and your baby are going to be perfectly fine.

DR. DESIKAN

The lacerations will heal within a week or so. That leg will take some work. Compound fractures are--

MERRITT
 (fighting tears)
 He's dead?

The doctors share a look.

DR. DESIKAN
 (a beat)
 The police will have to explain
 everything.

DR. MANN
 If you need a moment--

MERRITT
 No. Stay. Please.

DR. MANN
 We're terribly sorry this had to
 happen to you.

Merritt wipes her tears.

MERRITT
 I want to see my baby.

DR. MANN
 Janet will be here with her in a
 minute.

Merritt sniffles.

Desikan checks her cart as Mann watches over her.

DR. DESIKAN
 Have you thought of a name for her?

MERRITT
 I... no. No, I haven't had a chance
 to think about it. It's hard for me
 to think right now.

DR. DESIKAN
 That is perfectly fine. It's to be
 expected. Take your time.
 Recovering from something like this
 is a slow process.

DR. MANN
 We can't even imagine.

DR. DESIKAN
 But we're here for you. Whatever
 you need.

DR. MANN

I'd like you to think about maybe having a talk with one of the staff counselors. It may be helpful to share your feelings with someone, if you would like.

MERRITT

I'll... I'll think about it.

DR. DESIKAN

Take your time. You don't have to do anything right now.

DR. MANN

Just rest. We're taking care of you.

Janet returns holding Merritt's baby girl. Merritt shuffles in her bed and sits up slightly. Janet gingerly hands the sleeping baby to the teary-eyed Merritt.

The baby is perfect, smooth and angelic. Merritt gently strokes the baby's face with her finger.

MERRITT

She's so beautiful.

DR. MANN

She is.

Merritt takes a large gulp of air stifling more tears.

MERRITT

Thank you, doctors. For... for everything. Without you, I'd--

DR. DESIKAN

There's no need for that. We'll give you a moment with your baby.

JANET

(to Mann, quietly)

The police asked if they could speak to Merritt. They need her statement.

MERRITT

The police?

Dr. Desikan takes a deep breath.

DR. DESIKAN

They've been here for a few hours now. They need to discuss a few things with you. I've let them know you're medicated and recovering, so they will have to be brief.

MERRITT

Thank you, Doctor.

The two doctors and Janet start to head for the exit.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Wait. One more thing.

Mann turns back, Desikan remains at the door.

DR. MANN

Yes?

MERRITT

Emma, my sister. I don't want her in here anymore.

The Doctors and Nurse exchange a look, before Dr. Mann nods.

DR. MANN

Of course. We will let the staff know.

MERRITT

Thank you.

They leave.

Merritt looks through the window and watches as they exchange words with the Officers outside.

Dr. Mann walks over to Emma and speaks with her.

Emma looks affronted, trying to get a word in. She sends a cruel glare through the window at Merritt and then storms away.

After a few seconds, the two Detectives walk towards the door. FARRIS (30's), female, athletic, serious, precise and

MARSHALL, (50's), male, now past his prime. Quiet, kind faced.

The door opens as the Detectives walk in. Merritt rocks the baby in her arms.

FARRIS

Hello, Ms. Weaver. I'm Detective Farris, this my partner Detective Marshall. We're sorry to disturb you. The Dr. Desikan has let us know you need your rest, so we'll try to be quick, okay?

They look at Merritt's baby. Marshall offers a kind smile.

MARSHALL

Beautiful baby. Absolute miracle both of you survived.

MERRITT

The doctors told me that my husband is dead.

The detectives pull up two chairs and sit. Farris has a notepad as she takes notes.

MARSHALL

(sadly)

We're very sorry. Yes, there was nothing the paramedics could do for him.

MERRITT

(trembling)

Oh, Brett...

MARSHALL

We want to clear some things up so we can continue with the investigation if that's alright?

MERRITT

Yeah.

FARRIS

Do you think you could tell us what happened?

MERRITT

(thinking)

There was an intruder... He hit him over the back of the head with a hairdryer... my hairdryer.

MARSHALL

This intruder. Do you remember what he looked like? Ethnicity? Gender? Size?

Merritt thinks hard but she can't recall.

MERRITT

He was covered. He had a ski mask
and a big jacket... boots...

FARRIS

But the intruder was male?

MERRITT

Yes, I think so...

FARRIS

Can you walk us through the night?
As much as you can remember.

MERRITT

(tears forming)
Okay.

MARSHALL

And we can stop at any time, if you
feel uncomfortable.

MERRITT

I'm fine.

Merritt takes a deep breath. She rocks the baby gently.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Okay... I'm just... I just need to
gather myself one minute.

MARSHALL

Take as much time as you need.

A few tears fall. Merritt looks at her tiny baby. The
officers wait patiently - Farris stern, Marshall sad.

MERRITT

(a whisper)
I remember...

FARRIS

Go ahead...

MERRITT

I remember the sound of his skull
cracking. It was...

The Baby shuffles in Merritt's grasp, almost awakening.
Merritt rocks her.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Shh. Shh. Shh.

The Baby quiets down. Marshall rises and walks to a jug of water, pouring Merritt a glass.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

He wanted her.

FARRIS

Who? The intruder?

MERRITT

He wanted the baby. He attacked me.
With a knife.

FARRIS

The cut on your abdomen. Dr. Mann
said that is was a pretty bad cut.
Any deeper, and it could've been
deadly.

MERRITT

I kicked him. I couldn't let him
take my baby.

MARSHALL

And he didn't. You saved your
little girl. And we just want to
find the son of a bitch who would
do this.

He hands the glass of water to Merritt who swallows it down.
Marshall sits beside Farris.

FARRIS

Can you think of anyone who would
do this to you?

MARSHALL

Take your time.

Merritt sits holding her baby.

She breathes steadily and begins to tell her horrible story,
faintly, almost imperceptibly, we can HEAR the events
unfolding as she details the night...

MERRITT

We were in bed. I was tired, of
course, and Brett had already
fallen asleep. Then, I don't know,
maybe about nine-thirty, I heard a
creak.

(MORE)

MERRITT (CONT'D)

We have a loose board on the stairs. It was that board. I should have woke up Brett then. I should have...

Merritt wipes her eyes.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Jesus, I can't believe he's...

Merritt takes another deep breath. She powers on.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

I got out of bed to look, and I heard a thud. I knew somebody was in the house then. He must've hit his hip or something on the cabinet. We do that all the time. It sticks out. And that's when I woke Brett up. He was half awake and thought I was just hearing things and told me to come to bed, but I wouldn't. I kept on pestering him... Jesus this is my fault. He got up, and everything was still for a seconds, and then... the intruder was right there, waiting. He was silent. I don't think he said anything. The only thing I heard from him was breathing. He pushed Brett back. I was terrified. I thought about our gun. Brett keeps it in a safe. But the man knocked Brett down and grabbed my legs before I could open the safe. I think Brett was unconscious then. He was lying on the ground... I didn't know how. I wasn't watching. The intruder dragged me to bathroom. I tried to push him back but I was too weak. I was shaking. And he kept on pinning my arms and legs so I couldn't escape. He slammed the door on my leg. I don't know what happened. It just snapped against the corner... it bent... I don't know how it happened, but I looked down and I just saw blood and my bone just sticking out of my skin. And he had a knife then. I don't know if he had it the whole time, but then I saw it. And he tried to stab me. He locked us in the bathroom. I was so scared...

FARRIS

Do you remember the size of the knife?

MERRITT

It was big. Much bigger than a pocket knife. More like a dagger. I don't think he meant to kill Brett, then. He could've easily used the knife to stab him. But he didn't. He used it to cut off my clothes. I tried to move but I couldn't because of my leg. Then the banging on the door started. It was Brett. He was trying to save me. The man got off of me for a second... to...

Merritt sniffles, Marshall and Farris look at her with rapt attention.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

He stabbed the knife through the door. I heard Brett scream. But he kept on banging against the door. The lock snapped, and the door opened. It brought down Brett and the intruder. His knife had dropped on the ground. I saw it. I wanted to crawl towards it, but my leg hurt so much. I was shaking. My heart was beating so fast. I couldn't feel anything... I was numb... my body wasn't... wasn't responding. I was just... I can't explain it. I was just watching Brett fight this monster, and I didn't do anything. I didn't reach for the knife. The mirror broke. There was glass everywhere. Then I heard a thud. I looked up. The light was gone from Brett's eyes. The intruder was behind him, holding my hairdryer. He looked at me. He was coming for me and I just snapped. My body just surged and I stretched out for the knife, and I stabbed him. I just lashed out just before he could pounce on top of me, and I stabbed him in the leg. He fell down with the blade sticking out, and he kicked me. And he just knelt there then.

(MORE)

MERRITT (CONT'D)

I must have hit an artery or something, because he didn't take the knife out. He just... he just looked at me... Blue eyes. He had blue eyes. I remember now.

MARSHALL

That's good, Merritt. You're doing an amazing job.

MERRITT

And then I just sat there. I felt my stomach contract. And then a pop. My water broke. I heard the sirens in the distance... Did the neighbors call?

FARRIS

Yes. Someone called nine-one-one about the noise.

MERRITT

They saved me. There's no way I would've been able to reach my cell phone. I would've been dead without them. Was it Tina?

FARRIS

Tina Nguyen, yes.

MARSHALL

You did great. Thank you, Merritt.

MERRITT

That's... that's all I think. Of... of the incident.

Merritt looks down once more at her Baby Girl.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

I can't believe she's here. Alive. Those eyes. The way he looked at me. He was going after my stomach. He wanted my baby girl.

MARSHALL

Truly a miracle.

Merritt has grown tired through the retelling.

Marshall taps Farris' shoulder and nods for the door - signaling that they should step out. They rise and move to the door.

Farris turns to ask one last question--

FARRIS

Ms. Weaver, is there anyone at all
you can think of that would want
you or your husband dead?

Merritt looks at Farris and shakes her head.

MERRITT

No. No one.

Farris nods. She closes her notebook.

FARRIS

Thank you, Ms. Weaver.

Marshall looks back at Merritt and the baby. Merritt is
staring at the Infant lovingly.

MERRITT

Raven. I'm going to name her Raven.

Marshall smiles.

MARSHALL

That's a beautiful name.

FARRIS

If anything or anyone at all comes
to mind, please, have one of the
officers out here in the hall for
you call us. Especially if you can
think of anyone who would want to
do this to you.

Merritt stays silent. She looks around the room, down at her
baby. Then she looks out the window.

To the hall. There's nobody there.

Not even the nurses or doctors who usually walk up and down
the halls of the hospital.

MERRITT

She's not here.

Marshall and Farris exchange a worried look.

MARSHALL

Who? Merritt. Who's not here?

MERRITT

(beat)
Nobody.

MARSHALL

Your house is an active crime scene, but we should have everything cleaned up and cleared out by the time you're discharged.

FARRIS

Do you have anywhere else to stay?
Family?

Merritt looks back out the glass.

The regular hustle and bustle is back. Emma paces up and down the hallway a short distance away.

MERRITT

No.

FARRIS

We'll do the best we can then.
Thank you for speaking with us, Ms.
Weaver.

MERRITT

You're welcome. Thank you,
Detectives.

Marshall and Farris nod then exit.

Merritt takes a deep breath, then immediately breaks down crying. After a moment, Merritt looks back down again at Raven.

She's overwhelmed with joy. Her first smile lights up her teary face.

She snuffles as she wipes away the tears.

The door reopens as Janet walks in holding a tray with food, water and medicine.

JANET

It's time for your medication,
sweetie.

Janet rests the tray to the side then walks over to the bed.

JANET (CONT'D)

I can take care of her.

MERRITT

Can I just hold her for one more minute?

JANET

Of course.

MERRITT

I named her Raven.

JANET

That's a beautiful name.

Merritt kisses Raven gently on the head and hands her to Janet. Janet gingerly places her in a tiny bed to the side.

Janet places the food, water and medicine in front of Merritt.

JANET (CONT'D)

(pointing)

For the pain. To help you sleep.
And some iron deficiency pills.

Merritt starts swallowing the pills.

JANET (CONT'D)

Some food, if you think you can get some down. It's normal to be very hungry after childbirth.

MERRITT

I'm okay.

JANET

If you can try. You need some calories in you. It will help with your energy level tomorrow.

MERRITT

How long do I have to stay here?

JANET

Shouldn't be more than a few days.

Janet stands up and picks up Raven.

JANET (CONT'D)

The detectives said I should put her back in the nursery. You would understand?

Merritt nods.

JANET (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow night. Alyssa
will be your nurse when you wake
up.

MERRITT

Thank you.

JANET

Good night, Merritt.

Janet switches off the light.

BLACK.

INT./EXT. THE VOID - UNKNOWN

Once more, in the pitch darkness. In the far distance
something is faintly visible coming closer and closer - its
form becoming clearer.

It's a baby. It's Raven. She is curled up in the fetus
position. She floats closer and closer.

Her umbilical cord is still fully sticking out of her belly -
the placenta attached to it.

Raven's small arms reach out to the placenta, but slowly, as
if in zero gravity.

She pulls it in closer to her. She begins nibbling on the
edge of it.

The sounds coming from the bites are wet and gushy. Like
biting into raw meat.

Raven starts floating back to the void of eternal darkness,
her image getting farther and farther away as she continues
to nibble.

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

Rows and rows of babies. Sleeping - all of them peaceful and
innocent. Raven is just one of the dozens.

A handle RATTLES as the door to the nursery quietly opens. A
faint CLICK as it shuts. Whoever has entered remains unseen.

Footsteps softly clack as the babies lie fast asleep. A pair
of sneakers walks through the rows, the shadow of the
INTRUDER being cast upon the babies.

The Intruder stops at Raven, and hovers over her, still out of sight.

After several eerie seconds, the shadow bends over Raven - a pair of lips press against Raven's forehead. A gloved hand strokes her face.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Merritt jolts up.

She's sweaty. She looks around, that momentary fear of not knowing where you are upon first waking up. She slowly recognizes her surroundings and lays back in bed, though her heart is still pumping hard.

She itches her neck and arms viciously. Then moves down her entire body.

She itches her left leg then stops as her hands hover over the cast on her right leg.

Merritt looks incredibly uneasy.

The itch in that leg is burning. She shuffles around nervously in her bed. She attempts to scratch under the cast.

It's useless. She fumbles around and hits the CALL BUTTON for a nurse. And waits, impatiently.

She looks out of the room. The police officers who were present the previous night are no longer there.

Nobody is there.

Sweat drips from her forehead as the burning sensation of the itch is prominent on her face.

ALYSSA, a younger, redheaded nurse walks in pleasantly.

ALYSSA

Ms. Weaver... you're awake--

MERRITT

My baby! Raven! I want to see my Raven! Is she okay!?

ALYSSA

Your baby is fine, Ms. Weaver. She is sleeping safely in the nursery.

MERRITT

I want to see her.

Alyssa smiles politely at Merritt who is clearly agitated.

ALYSSA
I'll bring her in right away.

MERRITT
(sharply)
And I need something to itch my
leg. Can you bring me something?

ALYSSA
Sure, I--

MERRITT
(demanding)
Please hurry. Thank you.

Alyssa curtly nods and leaves the room.

Merritt frowns and squints her eyes in discomfort. Her breathing becomes more rapid.

She sits itching her neck and chest.

She glances at the OFFICERS through her window, and for a split moment, she thinks she sees Emma sitting with them.

Merritt blinks and Emma is gone. She shakes her head and returns to her itching.

MINUTES PASS

Alyssa appears at the door with the tiny stroller with Raven.

Alyssa holds up a SCRATCHING STICK with a smile.

Merritt grabs for it and immediately begins viciously scratching her leg beyond the cast. She is relieved.

Alyssa rolls Raven up to Merritt's bed - she is still fast asleep.

ALYSSA
I'll be right back.

Alyssa leaves the room. Merritt's scratching subsides, and she looks down on Raven.

Alyssa returns with a tray of breakfast and medication.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
Breakfast for you. Dr. Mann will be
right in.

MERRITT

The police officers. From last night. Where are they?

ALYSSA

They're doing a shift change. New ones should be in shortly. Did you want to talk to them?

MERRITT

No, it's fine. I was just curious.

Merritt takes her meds.

ALYSSA

I hope you're feeling better.

MERRITT

Just sore.

ALYSSA

I can imagine.

Alyssa picks up the emptied paper cups from the tray.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Call me if you need anything.

Merritt nods as Alyssa exits.

She looks over at Raven, lying awake in her bed. She's quiet and peaceful, hardly making a noise.

The door opens. Merritt looks up and freezes--

EMMA is standing there. Her face is hard - livid.

EMMA

Who the fuck do you think you are?

MERRITT

What are--

EMMA

Telling them I'm not allowed in here. I'm your sister!

MERRITT

How did you get in here?

Emma pulls a chair up to the bed and sits down.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

I thought you were gone.

EMMA

I was here all night. Why are you trying to push me away?

Merritt doesn't respond as Emma cools off. She rubs her tired face.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Do you know how embarrassing it is to be held back by the doctors and nurses like that? I had no idea what was going on. I looked like a fucking idiot. If you wanted to send me a message you could have just talked to me.

No response.

EMMA (CONT'D)

So you don't want to talk to me then?

MERRITT

I want you to leave.

EMMA

Why? What did I do?

MERRITT

I'm not comfortable with you here.

EMMA

I just want to make sure you're okay.

MERRITT

Please go.

Raven COUGHS.

Emma looks over.

She leans over and touches the cradle. Merritt sits up in her bed, tense.

EMMA

I'm happy that she's healthy.

Emma stares at Raven judgmentally, then glares at Merritt out of the corner of her eyes.

Emma strokes Raven's face as Merritt watches with unease.

EMMA (CONT'D)

And you too. I just want what's
best for you and your baby.

MERRITT

Raven.

EMMA

Raven. Beautiful name.
(looking at Merritt)
I just want to help.

MERRITT

You can help by leaving us alone
right now.

EMMA

I'm sorry about Brett. It's a shame
that happened.
(beat)
It was nice talking to you. I guess
I'll just leave you two alone.

Emma touches Merritt's wrist tenderly, glancing at a tag with
her ID number on it.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You can always call if you need
anything.

The two share a cold stare. Emma grins then slowly rises and
walks to the door. She exits.

Merritt takes long, deep breaths.

She lays quietly a moment, wondering if she should go back to
sleep, but she instead takes the TV remote and turns on the
television.

Merritt slouches back in her bed as she flips through the
channels.

Seconds later, Raven starts CRYING.

Merritt wiggles around in her bed sheets, but finds it
difficult to move. The harder she tries to move, the tighter
the sheets get. She's virtually immobilized.

Raven's cries becomes louder and more sharp. Merritt presses
the call nurse button.

Alyssa walks in.

ALYSSA
 Are you okay, Ms. Weaver?
 (seeing Rave crying)
 Oh, no. Come here. Come here my
 little baby.

Alyssa gingerly picks up Raven from her bed and rocks her.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
 Go to mommy. Go to mommy now. Do
 you miss mommy? Here she is. Shh...

Alyssa hands Merritt her baby. Merritt consoles her crying daughter.

MERRITT
 There there, little one. Shh. Shh.

ALYSSA
 She sounds a hungry. Would you like
 me to get her some formula?

MERRITT
 No, no I think I'll breastfeed.
 Thank you.

ALYSSA
 If you're having any trouble, just
 give me a call.

Alyssa leaves the room as Merritt prepares to breastfeed.

INT. EMMA'S CAR - DAY

Driving through the city, it is a dreary day.

Traffic is slow, and Emma grips the steering wheel of her car tightly. She rubs her eyes and snuffles.

She is still aggravated from her visit with Merritt.

HER PHONE RINGS

She glances at the display: **UNKNOWN NUMBER**

She hesitates, but then answers the call.

EMMA
 (dry throat)
 Hello.

FARRIS
 Hello, Emma Deller?

EMMA

Yes. Yeah. That's me. Who's calling?

FARRIS

Detective Farris. I'm leading the investigation into the murder of Brett Weaver and attempted murder of your sister Merritt Weaver.

EMMA

Yes, uh, yeah. Of course. I saw you at the hospital yesterday. I already spoke to the police.

FARRIS

I know. We have the statement. We just wanted to know if we could talk to you more extensively.

EMMA

I don't know what more I can offer.

FARRIS

Has Merritt told you about what happened?

EMMA

No. Actually. We haven't talked about it.

A long moment of silence.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Hello?

FARRIS

Would it be possible for you to meet up today sometime?

EMMA

(hesitant)

I could meet you at a coffee shop or restaurant. Sure.

FARRIS

If you're not available to come to the station, that will be fine.

EMMA

Yeah, that works better. There is a Starbucks next to the Safeway on Orion Street. Does that work?

FARRIS

That's perfect for me. Are you free now?

EMMA

Yeah, I can be there in about 20 minutes.

FARRIS

I will see you shortly.

Farris hangs up. Emma frowns. She is unsure about this.

INT. STARBUCKS COFFEE - DAY

Emma sits at a table squeezed against the corner of a wall.

She has a plain cup of coffee and sits with her legs crossed, one foot rapidly twitching in anticipation as her eyes dart around the relatively empty establishment.

She checks her watch.

Farris walks through the entrance, looking professional and carrying a black bag.

When spotting Emma she waves.

Emma shoots a faint grin back. Farris holds up a finger telling her to wait a second.

She walks to the cashier, where a BARISTA waits with a grin.

FARRIS

Hi, can I have a tall double shot dirty chai... no water, please.

BARISTA

Sure. Anything else?

FARRIS

No. That's all.

BARISTA

Name?

FARRIS

Kristen.

Over at the table, Emma sighs impatiently.

Farris pays and w over to the table. She sits across from Emma.

FARRIS (CONT'D)

Thank you for seeing me, Miss Deller.

EMMA

Of course. Whatever you need for your investigation, but I'm not sure what more I can offer.

FARRIS

Thanks you.

EMMA

Honestly though, you know more than I do. I wasn't there. I don't know what happened. I haven't talked to Merritt about it.

FARRIS

I don't know your sister or her husband very well. I'm just trying to paint a better picture of them so we can get to the bottom of all this. Can I ask you a few quick questions?

EMMA

Yeah, sure.

Farris pulls a notepad out of her briefcase. She clicks a pen and begins very directly.

FARRIS

Are you aware if Brett or Merritt were having an affair?

EMMA

(caught off guard)
What? No, they were very happy.

FARRIS

Your parents are deceased, correct?

EMMA

Yes, they both passed away when we were in high school.

FARRIS

I'm sorry to hear that.
(checking some notes)
Mother of cancer and father in a mugging turned homicide.

EMMA
(uncomfortable)
Yes.

One of the coffee shop EMPLOYEES arrives at the table and set Farris' drink down.

Farris nods a thank you and takes a sip. Emma sits uncomfortably. Farris returns to her notes.

FARRIS
You two were in the same year of school? You're not twins though?

EMMA
No, she's a year older. She was held back in second grade.

FARRIS
Why was that?

EMMA
Combination of grades, behavior. Is all of this important to the investigation? What does this have to do with Merritt and Brett's murder?

FARRIS
I'm just trying to get the clearest picture possible of your sister. Were there any problems at home growing up?

Emma glares at the detective. Farris sips her drink. Emma does not like Farris very much.

EMMA
No, no trouble at home.

FARRIS
Can you think of anyone who would want to hurt Merritt or Brett?

EMMA
You think they were targeted?

FARRIS
We are considering every possibility.

EMMA
No. They got along with everyone.

FARRIS
Except you?

EMMA
Excuse me?

FARRIS
(looking directly at Emma)
You and her don't talk much, do
you?

EMMA
(shifting)
Yeah, well, family is family. You
know how it is.

FARRIS
Uh huh...

Farris stares at Emma, examining. Emma shuffles in her seat
uncomfortably.

EMMA
I'm sorry I'm probably not helping
very much.

FARRIS
(with a false smile)
Everything helps. Anything can
become a lead.

Emma drinks her coffee.

EMMA
Well, hopefully all your CSI stuff
like blood and DNA and fingerprint
or whatever are enough.

FARRIS
I'm sure they will.

Farris looks at Emma for A BEAT, and then snaps her notebook
shut. She packs up her stuff and stands.

Emma is caught off guard again.

FARRIS (CONT'D)
I think I have what I need for now.

EMMA
Oh, okay. Well, um, you can call me
if you want.

FARRIS

Thank you for your time, Miss
Deller.

Farris leaves. Emma scowls and finishes her coffee.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Dr. Mann sits on a chair beside Merritt who holds a sleeping
Raven in her arms. The two are mid conversation.

MERRITT

Will I need a wheelchair? I like
being mobile.

DR. MANN

No, not unless you want one. You
should be alright with the
crutches, and you will have to keep
your movement limited because of
your stitches, but as long as you
take it easy, you should be okay.
If you have someone who can help
you around the house - your sister
perhaps - I'd recommend that. Just
for a couple weeks.

MERRITT

(stubbornly)
No, I'll be okay on my own.

DR. MANN

It can be anyone, really. With your
current state of mobility, and I
can't even begin to imagine the
grief you must be going through, I
strongly recommend you have
somebody help you around the house.

MERRITT

I can manage. Thank you.

Mann shakes his head and sighs.

DR. MANN

Very well.

Mann makes some marks on Merritt's chart while she returns to
rocking baby Raven.

INT. EMMA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Emma opens the door to her small one bedroom apartment.

It's a bit of a mess, but not terribly so. She tosses her keys aside and kicks off her shoes, which land next to a collection of shoes.

EMMA

(calling)

Hey babe. You there? Today was nuts. I want to hear what you think... Babe?

No response. She slowly and groggily walks to the

BEDROOM

Where she crashes on the messy bed, immediately closing her eyes and falling asleep.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

The hospital lights shine bright in the dead of night.

The gorgeous LA skyline is in the far distance - the glowing twinkle of the skyscrapers and endless stream of headlights and taillights.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Merritt swallows her medication as Janet waits for her. Merritt hands the paper cup and glass of water back.

JANET

How are you feeling?

MERRITT

I'm pretty tired.

Merritt looks out the window.

Two POLICE OFFICERS are on guard. One of them turns back around to check inside, locking eyes with Merritt in a long stare.

After several long seconds, the Officer nods his head.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

I think I want to try and sleep a little bit. Can you take Raven to the nursery?

JANET

Of course.

Janet smiles and begins to prepare Raven to be moved. Merritt turns on her side, her back to the window and the officers.

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

The eerie silence of the nursery as the babies are all fast asleep, a small glare of fluorescent light creeps into the nursery.

Again, Raven lies there. One of many. At peace.

The door opens and closes - the mysterious figure returned.

Unseen but the shadow and the sneakers, the figure arrives at Raven's basket and lingers over her.

A GLOVED HAND checks the ID tag.

BLACK.

INT./EXT. THE VOID - UNKNOWN

The void twists hypnotically, the dusts spiraling through the nothingness.

DRIPPING - SPLATTERING, gentle at first, like raindrops against window.

Small red blots dot the darkness, making a plop at impact. The drops begin falling from above as the splatting becomes more rapid.

The red blots are BLOOD. It starts rain crimson. Mingled in the rain--

A baby LAUGHS.

The blood fall gains power as it becomes a downpour beginning to flood the darkness.

Raven begins floating across the blood stream, laughing as she splashes around. The rain continues.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Merritt is awake and sitting up. Looking healthier and fuller than the previous days. Alyssa hands her Raven.

Merritt looks at her with a smile.

She stares deep into Raven's miraculously bright blue eyes, but Merritt pauses. She looks deep into Raven's face.

Her smile begins to fade and as her countenance morphs into a state of confusion and borderline panic.

MERRITT

This isn't my Raven.

ALYSSA

Sorry?

MERRITT

Her... her eyes. They're too bright. They were never this bright. They were dark blue. Not light blue. This isn't Raven.

Alyssa moves closer to the panicking Merritt.

ALYSSA

Okay, Merritt. Stay calm.

MERRITT

(getting agitated)

Where's Raven?

Alyssa checks the ID of the baby and on Merritt's tag. Alyssa shows Merritt the tags. She shakes her head, unconvinced.

ALYSSA

This is Raven, Merritt. Look.

MERRITT

I know what my fucking baby looks like! This isn't her! WHERE IS SHE!?

Raven begins to cry.

ALYSSA

Merritt. I need you to calm down.

MERRITT

Calm down! My fucking baby is gone!

ALYSSA

It's normal for a baby's eyes to lighten in early stages. Especially for babies with blue eyes. The melanin hasn't completely formed yet. This is Raven, Merritt. Look.

Alyssa pinches the crying Raven's cheeks.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
You think any other baby has those cheeks?

MERRITT
No, no, no. This is wrong. This is someone else's baby.

Raven's crying gets even louder. Merritt is staring at her wide-eyed and angry. Alyssa is very nervous.

ALYSSA
Can you please hand me Raven, Merritt?

Alyssa reaches out her hands.

A teary eyed and worried Merritt shakes as she hands Raven back to Alyssa who immediately begins rocking her.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
Shh. Shh.
(back to Merritt)
Doctor Desikan is in right now. I'm going to call him here. You two can talk.

Alyssa gently pats Raven and sets her in her cradle.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
I will be right back, okay?

No response.

Alyssa hesitates and then exits the room. Merritt stares at the baby from her bed. Raven is no longer crying, but she is whimpering.

Alyssa returns with Dr. Desikan. Before he can say a word, Merritt demands--

MERRITT
I want a DNA test.

Dr. Desikan rubs his eyes, exhausted, but trying to stay professional.

DR. DESIKAN
Janet says you're a little confused, Merritt. She would not have brought you someone else's baby. This is Raven.

MERRITT

I'm not crazy. I want a DNA test.

Dr. Desikan starts nodding his head in defeat.

DR. DESIKAN

Fine. Fine. Whatever you want.

MERRITT

And once I have my baby, I want to go back home.

DR. DESIKAN

You have every right to discharge yourself, though I would seriously ask you consider staying a few more days. Your home may still be an active crime scene. If you would like, I can contact Detective Farris, and you two can speak about when it's safe for you to return.

Merritt settles down, her aggression subsiding. She closes her eyes and breathes calmly.

MERRITT

Yes, please call her. Thank you so much, Dr. Desikan.

DR. DESIKAN

Sure.

MERRITT

I'm sorry for freaking out.

DR. DESIKAN

It's only natural. You've been through an ordeal. I will run the test for you. I'm glad to do it.

MERRITT

It might be nothing.

DR. DESIKAN

Of course, but I'll do it for you.

MERRITT

Thank you. There's never any harm in being careful.

Dr. Desikan gives a curt nod.

He turns, and Janet hands him a cotton swab and a vial.

He leans over Merritt and swabs her cheek.

He pockets everything and exits the room. Merritt watches him go. Her eyes fall on the baby, and she looks away.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Merritt lies back and watches TV. Raven sleeps soundly in her tiny bed. Janet enters.

JANET

Hi, Merritt. Detective Farris and Marshall are here. They'd like to see you.

Merritt nods.

MERRITT

Okay.

JANET

I'll bring them right in.

Merritt watches as Janet walks out of the room and disappear down the hall.

Moments later, Marshall and Farris appear around the bend and walk towards the hospital room.

Marshall smiles at Merritt as they spot her through the glass and enter.

MARSHALL

Good to see you again, Merritt.

The two take a seat beside her.

MERRITT

I want to know when I can go home.

MARSHALL

And you will. We just have a few more questions.

MERRITT

I already told you everything I can remember.

FARRIS

Well, this is still an active investigation. Things change. Leads and what not. We still think there's a lot to the story.

MERRITT

Will I be able to go home when I get out?

MARSHALL

Oh, yes, of course. Your place has been cleaned and is all ready for you. A lot of baby stuff waiting for Raven too. Gifts from your friends and neighbors, I think.

FARRIS

(curtly)

I talked to your sister.

MERRITT

(frowning)

Emma? Why?

FARRIS

Yes, she--

MERRITT

What did she say?

FARRIS

We had an interesting conversation.

MERRITT

Tell me what she said.

FARRIS

You two aren't very close, are you?

MERRITT

No, we aren't.

FARRIS

Do you think there is any possibility that it could have been your sister who attacked you and your husband that night?

Merritt stares at the detective. She readjusts her position in bed.

MARSHALL

I know that's a tough thing to even consider, but has that ever crossed your mind? You requested very specifically that she wasn't allowed in her with you.

Merritt is a blank slate, refusing to answer the question.

FARRIS

Merritt, we need your help here. If you think your sister is a threat--

MERRITT

She's not a threat. We don't talk. Or see each other. It's like we're not even part of the same family anymore. The intruder was a man.

MARSHALL

You were unsure about that fact. We don't have a height or a weight. But you said blue eyes.

FARRIS

Your sister has blue eyes.

Merritt stares at the detectives.

FARRIS (CONT'D)

What happened between you two, Merritt? There's a rift, and that tension between you makes Emma a person of interest. Please, give us something. Is there something in your past? Childhood, adulthood, whatever, that triggered this.

MERRITT

(beat)

It was nothing.

FARRIS

What was nothing?

MERRITT

(firing up)

Nothing happened! And I really don't appreciate how you two are taking advantage of me right now. I'm grieving, I've been stuck in this fucking bed for three days. I'm losing my mind. Somebody might have stolen my Raven. My husband--

MARSHALL

Wait. Wait. What was that last one?

MERRITT

Get out.

FARRIS
Somebody might have stolen your
baby? What does that mean?

MERRITT
I don't have anything else to say.
You are harassing me.

FARRIS
Merritt, we're trying to help you
here. Keeping things secret from us
doesn't help you, it doesn't help
your baby, and it doesn't help
justice.

MERRITT
Please. Leave.

The detectives look at one another. Marshall shakes his head.
Farris sighs.

FARRIS
We hope you have a change of heart,
Ms. Weaver.

Farris and Marshall stand up.

They slowly walk to the exit and leave. Merritt peers out the
window as the detectives stop Janet who is walking by.

They immediately strike up conversation with her. Merritt
rubs her neck, in distress.

Merritt reaches over for the itch stick and begins furiously
itching her leg under the cast.

After several seconds of itching, Merritt winces in pain.

MERRITT
Ahh!

Merritt stops the itching and pulls out the stick from under
the cast.

She looks at the edge of it.

It is covered in blood.

She touches it then holds the tips of fingers in front of her
eyes, examining the sticky red.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

Farris and Marshall walk the stretch of the lot toward their car. Farris is scowling. Marshall is disappointed.

MARSHALL

There's something she's not telling us.

FARRIS

No shit. The sister too.

MARSHALL

Are we considering Merritt a person of interest too?

FARRIS

We have to. Something is off about this whole mess. Whatever they're not telling us is verging on obstruction.

MARSHALL

How much harder can we push? Do we want to risk one of them lawyering up?

FARRIS

Only the guilty need lawyers, right?

They get to the car.

MARSHALL

Must have been something horrible. Embarrassing. Illegal. I don't know.

FARRIS

I don't like her. Either of them, but Weaver? She has a weird aura around here. A little bit creepy.

MARSHALL

Creepy's not a crime. And she's been through a lot. I'm not sure we're getting a sense of the real her.

FARRIS

Maybe.

They get in the car - Farris driving. Marshall passenger.

They drive out of the lot.

FARRIS (CONT'D)
But what if this is the real her.

MARSHALL
(considering it)
Yeah...

FARRIS
The baby thing was interesting.

MARSHALL
Yeah. What did the nurse have to say about it?

FARRIS
She thought her baby was taken.
Freaked out about the eyes and asked for a DNA test.

MARSHALL
Jeez. Paranoia. Distress. Trauma. Shock. A lot of things going on here.

FARRIS
I'm surprised they haven't given her a mental evaluation.

MARSHALL
That's probably coming.

FARRIS
My eyes are on the sister. She's more stable. There's something there.

MARSHALL
Any ideas on how you want to proceed?

Farris looks over at Marshall.

FARRIS
Yeah.

They drive on.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Merritt lies in her usual spot as another doctor, DR. LEHMAN, a psychologist sits on the chair beside her with a clipboard and pen ready in her hand.

DR. LEHMAN

I'm going to ask you a series of question. You only have to respond with a number from one to five. One means never. Two means a few times. Three means sometimes. Four means often. And five means constantly. Can you do that?

Merritt nods, but looks uninterested.

DR. LEHMAN (CONT'D)

In the past three months, you have felt anxious or scared about events in your life.

MERRITT

Obviously. I was pregnant. How could I not be anxious?

DR. LEHMAN

Fair point. But beside the pregnancy. Was there anything in the last months that have left you feeling distressed?

MERRITT

My husband was murdered in front of me.

Dr. Lehman closes her eyes for a moment.

She gives Merritt a look, but Merritt is gazing elsewhere.

DR. LEHMAN

Merritt, I'm trying to get a sense of your mental well being. I am not trying to antagonize you. You can answer the questions truthfully. This is strictly confidential.

MERRITT

(sighing)
Fine.

DR. LEHMAN

(returning to her pad)
On that 1 to 5 scale, in the past
three months, have you have felt
anxious or scared about events in
your life.

MERRITT

Four.

DR. LEHMAN

You have--

MERRITT

(correcting)
No, five.

DR. LEHMAN

You have had trouble sleeping.

MERRITT

Four.

DR. LEHMAN

For the following questions, it's a
same one to five scale. This time
numbers, in order, corresponding to
not at all to mild to moderate...

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - SAME

The hustle and bustle of the hospital moves around the halls.

Doctors, nurses, patients moving around in the endless
activity of the day.

Through the window, Merritt and Dr. Lehman's conversation
continues.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Dr. Lehman finishes checking the last thing on her clipboard.

She takes a deep breath.

DR. LEHMAN

You've been very on edge the past
few months.

MERRITT

Can you blame me?

DR. LEHMAN

It's understandable, and honestly, nothing even close to being out of the ordinary, all considering. But there is one thing specifically that I would like to address.

Merritt stares into Dr. Lehman's eyes.

DR. LEHMAN (CONT'D)

You thought somebody had taken your baby.

MERRITT

Her eye color was different.

DR. LEHMAN

Are you afraid for your baby?

MERRITT

Of course. Don't all new mothers fear for their child?

DR. LEHMAN

Let me rephrase: Are you afraid somebody is trying to hurt your baby?

MERRITT

(beat)

Yes.

Dr. Lehman looks at Merritt and studies the fear in the woman's face.

INT. MERRITT'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Merritt is sitting in her bed holding Raven.

Alyssa, smiling politely, hands Merritt a paper.

ALYSSA

The DNA test came back positive. This is Raven. Your daughter. No doubt about it.

Merritt looks down at Raven, then holds her up in front of her up looking carefully at every detail of the baby's face..

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

I'll call in Doctor Mann. Get you all ready for check out.

MERRITT

Thank you for everything, Alyssa.
I'm sorry about this. I don't know
what happened.

ALYSSA

I understand.

MERRITT

Thank you.

ALYSSA

Bye Raven. You and mommy are going
home soon. Do you want to go home?

Merritt and Alyssa smile at each other.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

She was my favorite. So well
behaved.

MERRITT

(smiling)

Let's hope she never changes.
Terrible twos and threes, right?

Alyssa chuckles.

ALYSSA

I'll call Dr. Mann in right away
and come back with the crutches.

Alyssa tickles Raven's foot and leaves the room.

Merritt smiles and rocks the baby in her arms.

Dr. Mann enters the room. He has a folder for Merritt.

DR. MANN

Hello, Ms. Weaver.

MERRITT

Hi, Dr. Mann.

DR. MANN

I have all your discharge forms
ready. I've put the number for Dr.
Lehman in there. If you ever feel
the need to talk. Completely up to
you. We got your checkup
appointments all ready. Alyssa will
be right back in with the crutches.
Do you have a ride?

MERRITT
I called an uber.

DR. MANN
Well, you'll need a baby seat.

MERRITT
(gasping)
Oh no. Shit. I have one at home.

DR. MANN
Hm. Okay, well, is there anyone who
can bring it and just pick you up?

MERRITT
No.

Alyssa enters the room pushing a wheelchair and holding a pair of crutches. Merritt takes out her cellphone.

MERRITT (CONT'D)
Can you hold her, please? Maybe one
of my neighbors is home.

Merritt hands Dr. Mann Raven and then sees Alyssa with the crutches, distracting her from her call.

Merritt slowly swings her legs over the edge of the bed and gingerly steps down with the help of Alyssa for balance.

She grabs a hold of the crutches and places them under her arms as she practices moving.

ALYSSA
You're a natural.

MERRITT
Not my first time with crutches.

DR. MANN
(realizing)
Alyssa, you have a baby seat in
your car right?

ALYSSA
(hesitant)
Uh, yeah.

MERRITT
Oh! Do you have a baby?

Alyssa looks around, not knowing how to answer.

DR. MANN

How far away do you live from here,
Merritt?

MERRITT

Ten minutes.

DR. MANN

Alyssa, would it be possible to
give Merritt a ride home. Take an
early lunch break.

Alyssa is clearly uncomfortable. Merritt notices.

ALYSSA

Uh, sure. Yeah. Of course. Not a
problem.

DR. MANN

Great! Well, good luck in the
future, Merritt. Hope you and your
baby stay safe. Again, my
condolences to your husband.
Terrible, terrible thing.

MERRITT

Thank you for everything, Dr. Mann.

Dr. Mann hands Raven to Alyssa as Merritt watches, closely
and suspiciously.

Dr. Mann turns to Merritt one final time and gives her a nod.
Merritt forces a grin in return.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

Alyssa pushes Merritt - holding Raven - in the wheelchair up
to the/exit of the hospital.

Merritt rises and takes the crutches while Alyssa takes the
baby. They begin to walk to her car, as Merritt lags behind,
slower on the crutches.

Alyssa opens the back door of her car and safely places Raven
inside in the car seat. Merritt moves up next to her.

MERRITT

Careful. Careful. Don't hit her
head or anything.

ALYSSA
(cheerfully)
I can manage. Why don't you get in
next to her.

Merritt exhales then moves over to the back passenger seat of
the car. She shuts her door.

INT. ALYSSA'S CAR - DAY - LATER

It's silent. No radio. Raven doesn't make a sound.

Alyssa stares down at the road as Merritt shifts her gaze
from out the window to her daughter next to her.

ALYSSA
So...

MERRITT
You never mentioned you had a baby.
Boy or girl?

ALYSSA
Oh, I don't have any. Not yet.

MERRITT
Oh. Why do you have a baby seat
then?

ALYSSA
It's nothing really. I have a
nephew. Sometimes I have to take
care of him. This just makes it
easier.

MERRITT
Oh, okay.

A BEAT - Alyssa drives. Merritt touches Raven.

ALYSSA
Raven really is beautiful.

MERRITT
(proudly)
She is.

ALYSSA
She barely cries. Such a happy
baby. Just wonderful.

Merritt looks at Alyssa through the rear view mirror.

MERRITT

We don't have to make small talk,
you know.

ALYSSA

Sorry. I'll let you... think... or
whatever.

Merritt looks down at Raven. It's awkwardly silent again.

BUMP.

The car rattles, hitting a huge pothole. Raven starts crying.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Oh no. I'm so sorry.

MERRITT

It's okay.

Merritt strokes Raven's cheeks.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Shh. Shh.

ALYSSA

Goddamn LA streets. So much money,
and they can't even pave a stupid
fucking road.

Alyssa rubs her forehead. She shakes off her anger.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Sorry... that was... Just lost
myself for a bit.

Alyssa looks at Merritt through the rear view mirror. Merritt
looks at her eyes. Piercing blue eyes.

Alyssa looks down at the road.

MERRITT

Switch to the right lane. It's a
right up ahead.

Alyssa follows her directions.

EXT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - DAY

Alyssa pulls up into Merritt's driveway.

She quickly turns off the car and runs around to Merritt's
side, opening the door for her.

ALYSSA
Here, let me help you.

Merritt swings her legs out of the car and tries to find room to place her crutches.

MERRITT
I can manage.

Merritt works her way to her feet with the minimal help of Alyssa who closes the door behind her.

The two pause, staring at each other.

MERRITT (CONT'D)
I need your help with Raven.

Alyssa walks over to the other side of the car and opens the door. Raven still cries but not as loudly as earlier. Alyssa unbuckles the seat belt as Merritt moves closer, observing her movements intently.

ALYSSA
You can go inside. I'll be right behind you.

MERRITT
I'll wait. It's okay.

Alyssa nods then picks up Raven and starts rocking her, trying to calm her down.

ALYSSA
Shh. Shh. You're almost home now.
You're with mommy.

Alyssa looks at Merritt.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
After you.

Merritt hesitates for a second, but then moves on forward towards the door. Alyssa trails.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

The front door opens as Merritt walks in.

Alyssa lags behind, before finally entering the house. Merritt shuts the door.

MERRITT
The crib is upstairs.

Merritt goes to the stairs.

ALYSSA
Take your time.

Merritt slowly puts one leg up, then the other one trails.

It's a long tedious process with the crutches, but after a few steps, she gets more comfortable.

She strokes Raven's head, who's crying has almost subsided.

Alyssa glances back at the front door.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
Shh. Shh. Good girl.

Merritt, halfway up the stairs, looks back.

MERRITT
You coming?

ALYSSA
(fazed)
Yeah. Sorry. I just... nice place.
I was just looking around.

Merritt takes one more step.

CREAK.

She walks over it and continues upstairs. Alyssa slowly takes one step up but doesn't look inclined to go any further.

She watches Merritt reach the top, waiting.

MERRITT
It's just on the right.

Merritt looks back.

MERRITT (CONT'D)
Hello?

ALYSSA
Sorry. Sorry.

Alyssa walks up.

On the way up, the same step creaks.

Alyssa looks down on it and stares for several seconds. She looks back down at the stairs, to the top, then continues.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Merritt walks into her bedroom.

It's extremely tidy, everything cleaned, washed, and pristine. In the corner of the room rests the crib. Alyssa walks in and towards the crib.

MERRITT

She stopped crying.

ALYSSA

Yeah... guess she likes me.

Alyssa lingers around the crib, continuing to hold Raven.

MERRITT

You can put her down now. Let her rest.

Alyssa slowly and gently places Raven in the crib.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Alyssa turns and faces Merritt.

ALYSSA

(re: the leg)

Remember to elevate. The prescription will help with the pain as well. I can show myself out. You rest.

Alyssa walks to the door as Merritt heads to the bed. Alyssa looks back at her.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Be seeing you.

She leaves and closes the door behind her.

Merritt stands, frozen in space. Waiting.

A few seconds later, the CREAK is heard from the descending footsteps which fade into the distance.

Merritt slowly makes her way to the door and quietly opens it, peering out where she can just barely catch a glimpse of the front door opening.

Alyssa walks out and shuts the door behind her. Merritt continues to stare.

A few seconds of silence. Then an engine IGNITES. The sound of Alyssa driving off into the distance.

Merritt breathes more rapidly now as she reaches for her phone. She pulls out a card and quickly ms a call.

MERRITT

C'mon. C'mon. C'mon.

VOICE

Hello?

MERRITT

Hello! I need to talk to you. Right now.

INT. MERRITT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Merritt sits on the couch talking to Farris and Marshall. Farris is staring, scrutinizing Merritt.

Marshall takes notes.

FARRIS

Are you sure about this?

MERRITT

Yes. The way she was walking. Holding Raven. Looking at her. Touching her. Her eyes. I recognized the eyes.

MARSHALL

The nurse? Alyssa...
(checking notes)
Alyssa Heslop.

MERRITT

Yes.

Farris and Marshall share a look.

FARRIS

(asking clearly)
Alyssa Heslop?

Merritt's eyes light up.

MERRITT

Yes. Yes, that's her! She attacked me! She killed Brett!

Farris leans into Merritt.

FARRIS
Merritt, Alyssa Heslop is your
sister's wife.

MERRITT
What!? No. No. No. That's not
possible. My sister was--

MARSHALL
Did you not know your sister is
married?

MERRITT
She was. To a man. Alex-- Alexander
Campbell. She was--

Merritt quickly stops. She is reeling.

FARRIS
She was what?

Merritt doesn't respond. She is shaking her head, too much to
think about

MARSHALL
Merritt.

MERRITT
I don't believe this.

FARRIS
She was what, Merritt? What were
you about to say about Emma?

MERRITT
She was married. They got divorced
five years ago. I had no idea she
was remarried. I swear. And to a
woman? Jesus, what the hell is
going on?

MARSHALL
It's okay, we believe you.

MERRITT
You... you have to arrest her. Both
of them! They're working together!

FARRIS
We can't do that just yet. We'll
call them in for some questioning.

MERRITT

No. No. No. You have to arrest them now! I don't feel safe.

MARSHALL

Do you have anywhere else you can stay?

MERRITT

No! I don't have any fucking place else to go!

MARSHALL

(calming)

We'll get a squad parked out front. There's no need to worry. Nobody is coming in here to hurt you or your baby. We can guarantee that.

Merritt is on the verge of tears.

MERRITT

Isn't there anything else you can do?

MARSHALL

We're working as fast as we can. We promise. If you feel you're in trouble, or need anything, don't hesitate for a second to call 9-1-1, or get our officers' attention.

Merritt nods.

FARRIS

You mentioned you had a gun?

MERRITT

Yes? Should I get it?

FARRIS

No, I just want our officers to be aware.

MARSHALL

I'll call the department to have protection outside your front door ASAP.

MERRITT

(shock settling in)

God, Emma is married? I just can't believe this.

Farris and Marshall rise.

FARRIS

Thank you for calling us, Ms.
Weaver.

MARSHALL

This was very helpful, Merritt. If
anything -- and I mean anything
comes to your mind that could be
useful, please let us know.

FARRIS

Stay safe. Don't worry.

Farris and Marshall head for the front door. Merritt sees
them out. She looks up the stairs.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Merritt's crutches lie on the floor as she's stretched out on
her belly, opening the combination to the safe in the corner
of the room - CLICK.

Inside rests the GUN. Merritt reaches in and grabs it.

She inspects it, places her finger on the trigger and aims it
out the bedroom door.

It's her last line of defense.

She picks up her crutches and uses the safe as leverage to
stand up.

Merritt rests the gun on the bedside table and stands her
crutches up against the wall as she moves to her bed.

She lies down on the bed, exhausted. Her eyes gently close.

BLACK.

INT./EXT. THE VOID - UNKNOWN

The BLACK void. A deep PULSE thumps from the dark. Footsteps
in the distance -the sound of heels clacking on wood.

A blurred figure emerges in the distance, walking nearer and
nearer. It's a woman. She's holding something.

After a few more steps, it's visible - she holding a baby.

The woman is Alyssa, she wears a creepy smile. As expected, the baby is Raven.

Alyssa turns and faces to the left side of the void.

Silence.

More footsteps.

Unseen. Emma appears.

She takes a few steps into view and faces Alyssa. Alyssa holds Raven under her armpits and TOSSES her across the void to Emma who catches her.

Raven cries. Emma tosses her back. They continue to play catch with the baby.

Emma throws her. But the toss is short. Raven falls to the ground with a loud SPLAT.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Merritt jolts awake to the sound of Raven crying.

Merritt attempts to roll over in bed but winces in excruciating pain.

She grabs the outside of her cast as Raven's cries grow in intensity.

Powering through the pain, Merritt manages to get out of bed and to her feet.

She limps over, without her crutches, to the crib where she reaches down and picks up the wailing Raven.

MERRITT

Shh. Shh. Shh. Here... do you want
to lie down on the big bed?

Merritt limps over, trying carefully to maintain her balance, back to her bed.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Mommy is putting you on the big
bed.

Merritt places Raven on her bed.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Mommy is going to go get some
medicine for her leg.

Merritt struggles over to the bathroom door.

She opens it. Then immediately freezes at the entrance - the color leaving her face - she stares in a trance.

Raven's cries FADE in the distance as Merritt looks out.

This is where it all happened. She looks at floor. Scrubbed clean. The place where the mirror would be is blank.

Finally, she snaps out of it.

Raven's cries become audible again as Merritt limps her way to the sink.

She opens a drawer and takes out a bottle of prescription pain pills and takes two. She winces again.

She pours two more into her hand then turns on the sink.

She limps out of the bathroom and back to the bed. She picks Raven up, cradles her, and prepares to breastfeed.

Merritt strokes her daughter's head.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Shh. Shh.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - DAY

Merritt stands at the top of the stairs and looks out the front window.

She squints trying to look outside for the squad car, but it is hard to see.

She limps down the stairs. Merritt approaches the front door and peers out the window.

MERRITT'S POV:

She sees a cop car parked on the side of the street.

Merritt takes a deep breath of relief and closes the curtain. She makes sure both the door and latch are locked then makes her way through the house to--

THE BACK DOOR

Where she makes sure that is also locked up.

She closes the curtains to the large windows, then makes her way back to the stair case where she pauses, irritated to have to climb them again.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Merritt closes the door and turns the lock.

She makes her way to the nightstand, grabs the gun, places her crutches against the wall, then sits in bed.

She keeps the gun clutched to her chest, ready for battle.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The police car sits parked outside Merritt's house.

About a quarter mile behind, a car turns onto Merritt's street.

It's Alyssa's car.

The headlights illuminate the street as the car creeps closer.

INT. POLICE CAR - SAME

Two Officers, RIEDEL a burly man and HAWKINS, a blonde woman sit listening to the radio.

Hawkins eats a sandwich.

A few seconds later, the beams of light from Alyssa's car are visible in the mirror. Hawkins notices.

HAWKINS
(bored)
Car.

Hawkins look back at the car. Riedel's glance follows.

INT. ALYSSA'S CAR - SAME

Alyssa is dressed in all black.

She looks exactly like the intruder Merritt described - gloves, dark baggy clothes, and a mask with nothing but the eye slits showing off her piercing blue eyes

She notices the back of the police car.

She immediately moves to the curb and parks. She turns the car off as the lights go dark.

INT. POLICE CAR - SAME

The officers keep their eyes glued to the car.

But it's nearly impossible to see now.

RIEDEL

Do you see anybody getting out?

Hawkins shakes her head.

HAWKINS

Hard to see.

RIEDEL

Do you want to go check it out?
Make sure it's nothing.

HAWKINS

Too early for that. Could just be a neighbor.

INT. ALYSSA'S CAR - SAME

Alyssa keeps her hand on the wheel. Staring out into the darkness. Her grip tightens.

INT. POLICE CAR - SAME

The Officers continue staring back.

RIEDEL

They've been in there a long time.

Hawkins nods.

HAWKINS

You know the profile?

RIEDEL

Female. Blue eyes. Brunette.

HAWKINS

Alyssa Heslop. For ID.

RIEDEL

Got it.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt stays in place. The gun still close to her.

After a few seconds, she hears car doors shut in the distance.

It's faint but the sound reverberates through the room. Merritt's breathing gets quicker.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Hawkins and Riedel walk down the street towards Alyssa's car. Their hands hover near their pistols.

INT. ALYSSA'S CAR - SAME

Alyssa reaches to her waist and pulls out a large dagger.

Through the front windshield, Riedel clicks on his flashlight. Alyssa waits, keeping her mask on, as the officers step closer.

Alyssa's free hand hovers over the ignition.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt stands at the top of the stairs.

She looks towards the front door windows but can't see out because of the curtains. She waits.

A few seconds later, headlights faintly shine through the curtain.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Riedel and Hawkins both lift their arms up to cover their eyes from the intense headlight beams.

INT. ALYSSA'S CAR - SAME

Alyssa shifts the gear to reverse and starts backing out.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Riedel and Hawkins both panic as the car gets away.

RIEDEL
Shit. Let's go. Go. Go.

Riedel starts running back.

HAWKINS
Wait!

Riedel looks back.

RIEDEL
What?

Alyssa turns and drives off.

ALYSSA
We stay. In case she comes back.
Call it in.

Alyssa walks towards Riedel.

RIEDEL
(pointing to Merritt's
house)
Should we tell her at least?

Hawkins ponders it.

HAWKINS
You stay out here. I'll see if she
wants any protection inside. She's
going to be back. I can feel it.

RIEDEL
Should I call for backup?

HAWKINS
Just call it in.

Riedel nods.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt is almost at the bottom of the stairs.

As she reaches the ground floor, the door bell rings. Merritt
answers the door as fast as she can - opens it to see
Hawkins.

HAWKINS
Hello, Ms. Weaver. I'm officer
Hawkins.

MERRITT

What's going on? I heard something.
Saw some lights.

HAWKINS

We think she may have been back.

MERRITT

Oh god.

HAWKINS

She's gone for now. Can I come in?

Merritt nods and makes way for Hawkins to enter before closing and locking the door behind her.

HAWKINS (CONT'D)

We'll keep you safe. If she gets an
inch closer to this house we'll
grab her for trespassing. You have
my word.

MERRITT

Thank you, officer.

Raven starts crying from upstairs.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Shit.

HAWKINS

Would you like me to get her for
you?

MERRITT

No, it's okay.

Hawkins looks at Merritt's physical condition.

HAWKINS

It's no trouble, ma'am.

Merritt gives a nod of approval as Hawkins walks upstairs.
The one step creaking as she steps on it.

Merritt sits in the--

LIVING ROOM

--and elevates her leg.

The sound of Raven's crying grows as Hawkins walks down the
stairs and towards the living room.

HAWKINS (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Hawkins hands Raven to Merritt.

MERRITT

Shh. Shh.

Merritt pulls down her shirt and starts breastfeeding Raven.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Riedel bites his fingernails as he stares out the rear view mirror.

EXT. SIDEWALK - SAME

Alyssa walks down the sidewalk stealthily, trying to keep in the shadows. Her dark clothing helps keep her hidden. She holds her knife.

The police car is about fifty yards in front of her. Alyssa pauses then looks to the house on her left.

INT. POLICE CAR - SAME

Riedel turns back. He may have seen something move. A shadow. He grips his flashlight and opens the car door.

EXT. STREET - SAME

He exits the vehicle and turns on the flashlight, pointing it towards where Alyssa just was. But nobody is there now.

Riedel starts walking in that direction.

INT. MERRITT'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Hawkins turns and looks out the front door window where she sees the beam of light from Riedel's flashlight.

HAWKINS

One second.

Hawkins stands and starts walking towards the front door. Merritt finishes breastfeed Raven and covers herself.

MERRITT

What's going on?

Hawkins looks out the window. Riedel walks on the sidewalk towards the neighbors house.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Riedel stays a distance away from the neighbor's house.

He reaches a side entrance leading to the backyard - shines his light around, looking for a sign of movement.

Nothing there.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa, crouched, stealthily walks through the grass of the backyard.

The light from Riedel's flashlight shines faintly, but Alyssa is out of its beam line. She looks at the house. The light to the living room is on, but the curtains are drawn. Shadows move within.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Hawkins opens the front door.

MERRITT

Where are you going?

HAWKINS

Just checking in. I'll be back in a minute.

Hawkins walks out and closes the door.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Riedel takes one final peek at the neighbor's house before shutting down his flashlight. He looks back to see Hawkins walking towards him.

RIEDEL

I thought I saw her.

HAWKINS

At the neighbor's house?

RIEDEL

Yeah.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa takes a step towards the boundary fence of the backyard, but then the motion sensor activates and the backyard lights turn on.

Alyssa freezes in panic.

In the corner she spots some bushes, she rushes towards them.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - SAME

Riedel presses the door bell - a faint DING DONG is heard from inside.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa peers out of a gap in the bushes. She's well hidden.

Through the back window of the house, the NEIGHBOR looks out at the lit backyard, but then turns around, looking towards the front of his house.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt limps towards the front door window. She peeks out of the curtains, looking towards her neighbor's house.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa charges out of the bush towards the backyard boundary fence. She grips the top to climb over.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - SAME

The Neighbor opens the door.

Riedel is standing on the porch. Hawkins just down the front walk.

NEIGHBOR

Hey there. Is there a problem?

RIEDEL

Sorry to bother, sir. We are monitoring the neighborhood. Have you seen anyone or anything suspicious?

NEIGHBOR

Yeah, my back light came on. I got motion sensors.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa completes her climb over the fence.

INT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - SAME

The Neighbor leads Riedel and Hawkins to the backyard.

EXT. MERRITT'S BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa crouches, she looks to Merritt's house.

Mumbled voices come from the adjacent backyard, as the back door opens.

Alyssa stands and rushes to a hiding spot. As she runs across the backyard, the motion censor light activates.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt's eyes dart back. Light from the backyard leaks through the drapery.

She limps, some purpose in her steps, back towards the living room.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARD - SAME

Riedel and Hawkins shine their flashlight through the fence towards Merritt's backyard.

They find nothing out of the ordinary.

NEIGHBOR

Anything?

HAWKINS

No.

NEIGHBOR

It could've been a cat. There's a lot of them around here. We've actually been getting some coyotes lately too.

EXT. MERRITT'S SIDE YARD - SAME

Alyssa is squeezed in between the narrow gap of a wall and Merritt's house. The neighbor's backyard door closes.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt peeks out through her curtain to the lit backyard.

BANG!

Alyssa's gloved hand bangs on the window.

Merritt flinches and jumps back with a squeal.

Alyssa brandishes her knife across the window generating an unnerving SCREECHING sound.

Merritt stares out into the bright eyes of Alyssa, crystal clear through the window.

Alyssa raises her knife and taps the glass three times.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Hawkins and Riedel walk back towards Merritt's house.

HAWKINS

We can switch posts. I'll keep a look out. You can go inside.

RIEDEL

You sure?

HAWKINS

Yeah.

RIEDEL

I don't have a good feeling. I was sure I saw something.

HAWKINS

Keep your eyes open.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt staggers back.

She gives her daughter a glimpse. She's lying down peacefully, wrapped up in blankets.

A reverberated KNOCK KNOCK comes from the window.

Alyssa turns the door knob, but to no avail.

KNOCK KNOCK - from the front door.

RIEDEL (O.S.)
Ms. Weaver, it's Officer Riedel.

MERRITT
HERE! HERE! SHE'S HERE!

Riedel comes running, gun coming out.

Merritt stumbles to the window and pulls down on the string, lifting up the blinds.

Riedel stops beside Merritt and looks out the glass door.

There's nobody there.

MERRITT (CONT'D)
She was just here! I saw her! She had the knife! Oh god!

RIEDEL
Are you sure?

MERRITT
Yes. Yes. I fucking saw her. She has a knife.

Riedel nods.

RIEDEL
Outside?

Merritt nods.

Riedel grips his gun and strategically places himself to the side of the backdoor - reaches his hand out.

He unlocks it. Riedel turns the handle then rapidly jumps outside.

He plants, and looks left and right. Aiming his gun, ready to fire. There is no site of anybody.

Riedel cautiously takes steps forward, keeping his eyes peeled in all directions. Staying alert.

He walks over to the left side of the backyard and looks down the alley where Alyssa was squeezed into.

She's not there now.

Merritt watches all this from inside. She's anxious, her hand trembling on the window sill.

Raven starts CRYING. Merritt looks back - dread washing over her face.

She looks back out the door to see Alyssa charging, knife in hand toward Riedel.

MERRITT

Look out!!

He turns around.

But Alyssa is already in position.

She viciously stabs Riedel in the gut then holds out her arm, grabbing Riedel's shooting hand, not allowing him to fire a shot.

Riedel is frozen in shock. She opens his mouth, but only blood pours out.

Merritt watches this unfold. Fear in her eyes.

Alyssa jerks the knife out of Riedel, his body dropping to the grass. She looks directly at Merritt.

Merritt flees - limps in panic down the hall to the couch and picks up the still crying Raven.

She breathes heavily, laboring. Both in panic and in pain. She heads towards the staircase.

BACKYARD

Alyssa bends down and pries Riedel's gun from his hand. She checks it. Making sure it's loaded and ready to fire.

INT. POLICE CAR - SAME

Hawkins sits, her head resting on her hand.

She looks out her window towards Merritt's house. A shadow scatters through the drapery.

A look of concern sweeps over Hawkins face. She picks up her radio.

HAWKINS
Riedel. Come in, Riedel.

No response.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt is CRAWLING up the stairs, Raven tucked in her arm.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Hawkins walks towards Merritt's house.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Merritt reaches the top of the staircase. She uses the railing as leverage to stand, then sides against the wall towards her bedroom, gripping the still crying Raven.

EXT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Hawkins approaches the front door. She knocks twice then opens it and enters.

HAWKINS
Riedel? Miss Weaver? Merritt?

EXT. MERRITT'S BACKYARD - SAME

Alyssa is nowhere to be seen.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - SAME

Hawkins closes the door behind her, but leaves it unlocked.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt reaches for the gun.

HAWKINS (O.S.)
Riedel!?

MERRITT
She's here! She killed him! Call
backup!

Merritt places Raven on the bed.

AT THE STAIRCASE

Hawkins looks up.

HAWKINS
Merritt?

MERRITT (O.S.)
CALL BACKUP!

Merritt shuts and locks the door.

AT THE STAIRCASE

HAWKINS
Merritt!?

THE FRONT DOOR SWINGS OPEN. Hawkins has a split second to realize her error as Alyssa races forward and--

HAWKINS (CONT'D)
Shit.

Alyssa RAMS the dagger through Hawkins, the tip coming out the officer's back.

Hawkins lets out a little scream, but Alyssa covers her mouth.

She stabs her multiple times.

Hawkins drops dead. Bleeding profusely from her abdomen.

Alyssa drags her completely inside then clumsily leaves her in a corner. She closes the front door.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt is backed against the wall, gun pointed at the door, hands trembling.

CLICK - The sound of the front door closing.

Raven's crying continues, louder than ever.

MERRITT
(shaking)
Shh. Shh.

AT THE ENTRANCE

Alyssa hears the cries.

She wipes off the bloodied knife with her sleeve, the continues to hold it out.

She walks to the staircase. Riedel's gun is shoved into the back of her pants.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt stays in position. Ready to shoot. Raven's cries start to subside.

Raven goes silent.

Merritt looks over.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - STAIRS - SAME

Alyssa stops, about a quarter of the way up the stairs. The silence is deafening. Alyssa takes another step.

Then another.

She looks back... counting for the creaky step.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt sits there in the silence. No sound but breathing. She's anticipates the creak.

INT. AT THE STAIRCASE - SAME

Alyssa steps over the creaky one step.

She continues climbing the stairs, reaching the top.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt continues shaking. She's worried. The creak should have come by now. She wipes her sweaty forehead.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - FOYER - SAME

Alyssa, crouched down, creeps as silently as possible towards the bedroom.

She notices a set of switches on the wall.

She reaches up and switches them all off. The light in the foyer, staircase, and close to the front door all turn off.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt panics when she sees the lights go out. She's now sitting in pure darkness.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - FOYER - SAME

Alyssa reaches the bedroom she keeps her back against the adjacent wall. She lifts her hand and grabs the handle.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Merritt notices the handle start to go down - slowly. She lifts her arms, aiming the gun.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - FOYER - SAME

Alyssa takes a deep breath. She **SHOVES** the door open. The door smashes against the wall with ferocity.

Raven starts to CRY.

A dark figure emerges from the opening, rushing to Merritt. Merritt tries pressing down on the trigger.

But it doesn't budge. The safety is still on.

Merritt shuffles her grip to the safety. But it's too late.

Alyssa is there, the knife coming down.

Merritt swings the gun just in time to block the attack. Alyssa's arm is misdirected, and her body follows.

Merritt gets herself out of the corner. She tries crawling to the other side of the bed. But Alyssa has recovered.

She lashes out and swings her knife. Jamming it through Merritt's cast.

Merritt **SCREAMS** in agony, but with an instant reflex, kicks back with her other leg, striking Alyssa square in the face.

CRACK.

Alyssa groans. She yanks off her mask and grabs her broken, already profusely bleeding nose.

Merritt crawls, the knife still jutting out of her calf, towards the bed.

Alyssa sets her sights on Raven who lies on the bed, crying.

Merritt reaches the opposite end of the bed. She grabs the sheet puling herself up.

Alyssa lunges for the bed.

The two try to grab Raven. They slap away each other's hands, looks of determination light both their eyes.

Finally, Merritt gets a good grip on Raven.

She pulls her off the bed and rolls back towards the bathroom - groans in pain as the knife remains wedged in her cast.

Alyssa climbs over the bed.

Merritt notices the coming attack and sticks out her unharmed leg, landing another kick. She crawls towards her only place of safety.

THE BATHROOM

Merritt crawls inside.

Alyssa tries to force her way in, but Merritt slams the doors on her fingers.

SNAP. CRACK. SNAP. Alyssa screams in pain.

Her hand slides out of the edge of the door. Merritt shuts it and immediately reaches up to lock it.

Alyssa grabs her hand in an intense state of pain.

She pulls out the gun and points it at the door.

She hesitates. She knows the baby is in there. She puts the gun back in her trousers. She turns and leaves bedroom swiftly.

INT. MERRITT'S BATHROOM - SAME

Merritt hears the footsteps exiting.

The bedroom door opening. Footsteps fading into the distance - the CREAK of the step.

She looks down at her leg. She winces, reaches over and grabs the handle of the knife. She braces herself--.

CRRKK.

Merritt pulls the knife out of her cast leg.

The knife has some blood on the edge. Merritt smashes her fist on the tile floor.

INT. MERRITT'S KITCHEN - SAME

Alyssa opens and closes drawers with one hand.

Looking desperately for something. Eventually she finds some ACE bandages and begins wrapping up her mangled hand, wincing as she does so.

CUT TO:

INT. EMMA'S CAR - NIGHT

Emma drives. Anxious. She stops at a red light and pulls out her phone.

INT. MERRITT'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Merritt checks the gun - it's empty.

She didn't load it. She throws it across the room.

She looks at the KNIFE. She swallows hard. Moving to her baby, she scoops her up and places Raven in the shower.

MERRITT

You'll be safe. I promise.

Merritt closes the shower, then crawls to the bathroom door.

INT. MERRITT'S KITCHEN - SAME

Alyssa finishes wrapping up her hand.

BZZZ. BZZZ. Her pocket vibrates.

She takes out her phone and checks the display: EMMA. She doesn't answer. She goes over to the counter and pulls out the biggest kitchen knife from the holder.

INT. MERRITT'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - SAME

Merritt, holding the knife in one hand, crawls down the foyer towards the staircase. She starts crawling down it, keeping her focus ahead.

Seconds later, Alyssa appears, knife in hand.

Ready to strike. She shares a deadly stare with Merritt - then charges.

She runs up the steps, attempts to stab Merritt from above, but Merritt rolls over and slices a bit of Alyssa's pants with her knife.

Merritt loses her balance and rolls down the stairs.

Alyssa grabs hold of a railing. She looks down. Then up ahead. Merritt doesn't have the baby.

MERRITT

NO!

Alyssa rushes to the bedroom.

Merritt, with all her strength stands. She forces herself up the stairs as fast as her body will allow.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Alyssa barges into Merritt's bedroom.

She looks around. Then looks at the bathroom door.

She rushes towards it. Opens it. She looks at the shower, where Raven lies, all wrapped up. Silent. Crying subsided.

A slight look of victory lights up Alyssa's face.

MERRITT (O.S.)

ALYSSA!!

From the staircase, a war cry from Merritt.

Alyssa takes a split second to think, then rushes to the shower.

She kicks the GUN out of the way as she storms out of the bathroom.

The GUN slides across the carpet stopping near the bed.

INT. FOYER - SAME

Merritt limps towards her bedroom.

She falls, crashing to the ground. Her legs have failed her.
So she crawls.

Her nails digging into the hardwood floors. Grit and
determination forcing her to survive.

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - SAME

Alyssa reappears in the bedroom holding Raven in one hand and
a knife in the other.

Merritt crawls towards the entrance of the bedroom. Alyssa
stops and points the knife at Raven.

ALYSSA
I'll kill her.

Merritt surveys the room.

She spots the gun on the floor.

A CLIP just underneath the bed. But it's too far. And Alyssa
is too close.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
I'LL FUCKING DO IT!

Merritt shakes her head.

MERRITT
(weak)
No.

ALYSSA
DON'T TEST ME!

Merritt starts slowly crawling closer to Alyssa who backs up,
still pointing the knife at Raven.

MERRITT
You would've done it already.

ALYSSA
Stay back!

Tears start streaming down Alyssa's face.

MERRITT

Why? What do you have to do with any of this? Why are you here?

ALYSSA

You know what you did to her. You fucking know.

MERRITT

Is Emma making you do this?

ALYSSA

No, you stupid bitch! I'm doing this FOR her!

Merritt continues crawling.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

I'm doing this for what SHOULD have been, you fucking murderer!

Merritt's face drops - realization washing over her.

MERRITT

My god...

Merritt stops crawling. ALL THE SOUNDS DROWN OUT--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MERRITT'S CAR - NIGHT - MANY YEARS AGO

Zippping down the HIGHWAY, Merritt drives her car.

She has her PHONE in her hand - texting while driving. Next to her is a VERY PREGNANT Emma.

EMMA

(exasperated)

C'mon, put away your fucking phone.

MERRITT

(rolling her eyes)

It's fine.

Merritt continues typing. Emma looks up.

EMMA

Slow down. There's traffic up ahead.

Merritt glances at the road.

MERRITT
 (annoyed)
 Yeah, I see it.

EMMA
 Slow down.

MERRITT
 Would you stop backseat driving--

Merritt presses on the brakes. But a truck switches lanes.

EMMA
 Merritt!!

Merritt turns hard on the steering wheel, spinning out of control. Crashing into cars.

The car flips.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MERRITT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alyssa falls to her knees. She fires her anger at Merritt, who is still on her stomach on the floor.

ALYSSA
 I was her nurse. I know everything.
 You're a fucking murderer. Killing
 two children.

MERRITT
 (tears in her eyes)
 It was a mistake. You don't think I
 know what I did?

ALYSSA
 I'm going to kill you, and we're
 going to have a baby!

EMMA
 Alyssa!

Alyssa looks past Merritt. Emma is standing there with a knife in her hand.

EMMA (CONT'D)
 What did you fucking do?

Alyssa, in a fury, stabs her in the thigh.

MERRITT

(sobbing)

Oh Jesus, Emma. Emma, thank God.
She's crazy. She killed Brett! She
tried to kill me! Oh God.

Emma stalks down the hall and directly up to Merritt.

Merritt rolls over to look at her sister. Emma just glares
down at her.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

Emma?

Emma STEPS on Merritt's leg causing a CRUNCH!

Merritt SCREAMS. Caught completely off guard.

Emma kneels down and grabs Merritt and forces her up.

She squeezes her face. Tears stream down Merritt's face, she
is weak, losing consciousness from the pain.

MERRITT (CONT'D)

W-why? After all this time?

EMMA

(coldly)

You were never sorry. You never
once told me you were. You didn't
even apologize. I heard nothing
from you. Nothing!

MERRITT

I'm sorry. I I'm so fucking sorry.
I hated myself for what I did. I'm
really--

Emma laughs. Alyssa joins in.

EMMA

A little too late, don't you say?

Tears fall down Merritt's face.

MERRITT

Don't hurt Raven? Please, don't
hurt her.

EMMA

It's only fair. You see, originally
we were going to kill you both. You
and your precious Raven. An eye for
an eye.

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

You killed mine, I killed yours.
But, of course, that didn't happen.
So, we had to improvise. And
honestly, I like this plan better.
After all, what has an innocent
little baby ever done? We're not
the monsters, here now. You are.
You deserve this. Now, THIS is an
eye for an eye. Two lives for two
lives. And Raven. She belongs to me
now.

Emma holds her knife up to Merritt's throat.

EMMA (CONT'D)

And you'll die knowing what you
deserved this. Now, you'll be sorry
for what you did.

MERRITT

I AM sorry! I'm sorry!

EMMA

I visited you every day in the
hospital, and you never even came
ONCE to see me after what you did.
Not even a fucking phone call.

MERRITT

I'M SORRY. I'M--

Emma slices Merritt's throat open. Merritt immediately begins
choking as blood shoots out of her neck.

Emma releases her grip allowing Merritt, only seconds left of
her life, to slide to the ground.

Emma walks over to Alyssa. Merritt, head on the ground, blood
spurting out looks at the two of them.

POV MERRITT:

HER VISION IS BLURRY. SHE SEES EMMA AND ALYSSA PASSIONATELY
MAKING OUT. RAVEN IN BETWEEN THEM.

Merritt's eyes being fluttering. She takes her last, dying
breaths. Until her body goes limp. And her eyes close.

BLACK.

INT./EXT. THE VOID - UNKNOWN

The black, never-ending darkness. Silence as the star dust flits about in the nothingness.

SILENCE.

A BEAT

CREAK.

From the top of the blackness, Raven falls down but is suspended in midair with a rope around her neck--

CRACK.

She's held up by a noose. A noose made from her own umbilical cord, stretching from her belly button all the way around her neck. She stays suspended there.

Swinging back and forth.

CUT TO BLACK.

T H E E N D