

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

INT. LIBRARY-NIGHT

SHANNON CARPENTER (17) is seated in an empty library, lit by a single candle, reading a book. Her blonde hair looks almost ethereal golden under this light, and her green eyes sparkle with excitement as the pages are turned.

Completely lost in her reading, Shannon does not notice the red light that starts to shine subtly from behind one of the many bookshelves in front of her.

Shannon finally notices the light once it shines on her face, blinding her.

Shannon gets up. Slowly, carefully and cautiously, she starts to move towards the origin of the light.

Once she reaches it, she moves two books and finds the source of the red light.

Suddenly, the light dies out.

Shannon looks at it, bewildered.

A hand appears. Not a flesh hand, but rather a hand made out of red light.

Shannon looks at it, scared, and takes a step back.

The hand calls for her.

Shannon looks at it, more curious than scared now.

She takes a step forward, and holds the red hand.

EXT. MEADOWS

Shannon finds herself confused on a top of a black horse.

She looks around and sees a beautiful green meadow.

Shannon smiles and signals the horse to gallop. The horse obliges. She laughs and smiles unashamedly.

So enthralled by her happiness, she doesn't see a rock on the ground.

Her horse trips on it, projecting Shannon across the air.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-EARLY MORNING

Shannon wakes up, breathing heavily.

She looks around her room.

It's dark, but a tenuous light slightly illuminates it. The room does not have much stuff-just a small table, a cupboard and a bedside table.

Shannon sighs and looks at her digital clock on her bedside table-it's 8:30.

The door opens violently. ALBERT CARPENTER (50) enters her room.

ALBERT
(aggressively)
Get dressed. Mr. Smith needs us.

SHANNON
Okay, dad.

Albert leaves the room, leaving the door open.

Shannon stretches, yawns and sighs.

INT. ASSEMBLY ROOM-LATER

Shannon stands with other teenage girls in a big assembly room, all dressed in white dresses.

The walls are painted white and there are no chairs. At the center, there is a small stage with a microphone and a huge white cross in the background. The sun enters through a large circular skylight.

GRAHAM SMITH (55) enters the stage, surrounded by some men wearing dark robes and with swords on their hands. He's dressed in a gray robe.

Graham approaches the microphone.

GRAHAM
Good morning.

EVERY GIRL
Good morning.

GRAHAM
Glad to know you're all super energetic.

Shannon smiles.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Before we get started with our usual
routine, let us join in prayer.

Every girl and men, including Shannon, close their hands and
their eyes.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Father in Heaven, we stand here today
before You to ask for strength to
resist temptation, forgiveness for
any sinful thought that may occur in
our heads and the bravery to stand
against any voice that rises against
You and Your message. Amen.

EVERY GIRL
Amen.

Shannon and everyone else open their eyes.

GRAHAM
Shannon and Lucy, please come to my
office. I need to talk to you two.

She and LUCY (17) look at each other, concerned.

INT. GRAHAM'S OFFICE

Graham seats on a chair, in his small office. Completely
dark, it is only illuminated by a small lamp.

Shannon looks around his office, and notices the complete
mess that is installed there, with tons and tons of books
just piled together on the floor.

Shannon then looks at Lucy, and admires her dark hair. Lucy
notices this, and her dark brown eyes light up.

GRAHAM
So... How are you today?

SHANNON
I'm good.

LUCY
I'm also good.

GRAHAM
Can I get you anything? Water,
coffee, maybe some juice?

SHANNON

No, thank you.

LUCY

I'm good, yeah, thank you.

GRAHAM

Very good. Ladies, I have called you here because it has come to my attention that someone has been using one of the computers in the library in ways that they are not supposed to be used.

Lucy and Shannon look at each other, terrified.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

And we also know it was one of you.

Lucy and Shannon terror turns into shock.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Listen, girls... You took an oath when you entered Expanded Horizons. Your fathers pay good money to have you here. And you two, to be fair, have been our finest members since the first day. You participate in all the activities, you help around with the new girls... You're excellent. I really can't complain... and neither can He. But when you break the rules... There's a price to be paid.

Graham takes a small pistol from his desk and puts it on top.

Lucy and Shannon look frozen in fear.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Just because you're special doesn't mean the rules don't apply to you. Now... will one of you just admit to it? I have people waiting. And don't even think about running away because...

(touches a button on
his desk)

The place is locked.

Lucy and Shannon share a quick but scared look.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Okay, since you girls are choosing
not to take me seriously...

Graham picks up the pistol and unlocks it. He puts it on his table.

Lucy and Shannon gasp.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
I'm going to count till 10...

Lucy and Shannon look at each other.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
10...

Lucy raises her eyebrow.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
9...

Shannon shakes her head.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
8...

Lucy opens her eyes as wide as possible.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
7...

Shannon shakes her head, in despair.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
6...

Lucy closes her eyes

GRAHAM (cont'd)
5...

Shannon starts to cry.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
4...

Lucy takes a deep breath.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
3...

Shannon opens her eyes.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
2...

SHANNON
It was me. It was me. I'm so sorry.
It won't happen again.

Lucy looks at Shannon, surprised.

GRAHAM
(smiles)
Thank you, Shannon.

Graham shoots Lucy.

Lucy falls to the floor, with the red of her blood painting her white dress.

Shannon kneels, with tears in her eyes.

SHANNON
(holding her hand)
I'm sorry, Lucy... I'm sorry.

Graham gets up.

GRAHAM
I knew it was her, Shannon. I was just trying to see if she was brave enough to admit her sins... And as it turns out, she wasn't. Good riddance.

Shannon ignores him. She cries her eyes out.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Not that it needs any reminding...
But I hope this reinforces the idea that...

Graham walks towards Shannon, kneels and puts his mouth right next to her ear.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
There is no escaping in this place.
You are here until you aren't.

Graham gets up.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Go wash your face. I need you ready in five minutes.

Graham leaves the room.

Shannon looks straight at Lucy's dead face.

INT. BATHROOM-LATER

Shannon washes her face violently.

Some water splashes on her dress, but Shannon doesn't seem to mind.

After she is done, she looks at herself in the mirror.

She opens one of the drawers, looking desperately for something.

Shannon takes out a knife, and looks at it. She starts crying again, silently.

Shannon puts the knife close to her left wrist and...

INT. ENTRANCE-LATER

A construction worker puts his brush on the wall, painting it red.

Shannon runs across the hall.

By the entrance, which is nothing but a huge glass door, Graham awaits her arrival, accompanied by JOHN WATERS (35), MICHAEL JONES (50) and MARCIA JONES (17). Both David and Marcia are people of color.

Shannon eyes are drawn to Marcia, in particular her red hair, that shines in the sun.

GRAHAM

There she is. Mr. Jones, this is the girl that I was telling you about-Shannon Carpenter, the best of the best.

Shannon takes a bow.

MICHAEL

Pleased to meet you, Miss Carpenter.

SHANNON

(smiling)

The pleasure is all mine.

GRAHAM

Shannon, dear, will you please show
Marcia around while me and John talk
to her father?

SHANNON

Yes, of course.

GRAHAM

Thank you, dear.
(turns to Michael)
Shall we?

JOHN

Sir, before that... Can I please have
a word with you in private?

GRAHAM

Of course.
(turns to Michael)
Excuse me.

Graham and John take a few steps to the right, away from the
Jones, before they both stop.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Shannon, dear, please come with us.

Shannon smiles to Marcia and runs towards Graham and John.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

What now, John?

JOHN

Sir, I know my place here...

GRAHAM

Then why are you talking?

JOHN

Are we sure these are the kind of
people we want here?

Shannon looks at Marcia and David, and raises her eyebrow.

GRAHAM

John... It's not the 1960s anymore,
no matter how much we'd all like it
to be.

JOHN

But sir...

GRAHAM

My decision is made, John. It's a brand new world-and we must embrace some of it.

John looks down, defeated.

Shannon looks again at Michael and Marcia.

INT. LIBRARY-LATER

Shannon and Marcia are in the library.

The library is large, with multiple bookcases, a few tables and one computer, almost hidden in a corner.

SHANNON

So... This is the library. There are so many books, mostly about religion, although we do have other topics.

Marcia looks silently serious to Shannon.

Shannon smiles awkwardly.

SHANNON (cont'd)

We also have one computer over there.
(points to the
computer)
You have to make a reservation though, and you can only access certain sites.

Marcia keeps looking at Shannon with the same silent seriousness.

Shannon smiles awkwardly.

INT. GYM-LATER

The gym is filled with lots of girls, who are doing everything from running on treadmills to simple heavy lifting.

Shannon shows Marcia around.

SHANNON

This is our gym... This is where we exercise... Which is what most gyms are for anyways.

Shannon laughs nervously, while Marcia just stares at her with the same silent seriousness as before.

SHANNON (cont'd)
It's a good place to wind down after
a tough day...

Marcia stares at Shannon with the same serious look.

Shannon smiles awkwardly again.

INT. SHOOTING RANGE-LATER

Marcia and Shannon stand in an empty shooting range.

SHANNON
This is our shooting range. It's a
great place to develop your aim and
your skills with a gun, because
yeah... you never know when you're
going to need them.

Marcia looks at the whole thing, weirded out.

Shannon smiles, uncomfortably.

EXT. GARDEN-LATER

Shannon and Marcia look at the carefully taken care garden,
filled with vegetables and flowers.

SHANNON
This is our garden... It's lovely
isn't it?

Marcia looks dead serious to Shannon.

Shannon smiles, uncomfortably.

INT. CAFETERIA-LATER

Marcia and Shannon are seated in a table.

The cafeteria is big but empty.

Marcia eats a plate of soup.

Shannon eats a sandwich.

SHANNON
Look, I know this is a lot...

Marcia looks at her, with a very serious face.

SHANNON (cont'd)
I get that this might feel
overwhelming and probably really
weird for someone who spent their
entire lives on the outside world. I
really do get that. But I want you to
know that my job here is to help you-
and if you keep not talking to me, I
can't do that.

Marcia puts down her spoon.

MARCIA
I'm sorry. You seem nice and all,
Miss Carpenter...

SHANNON
Call me Shannon.

MARCIA
Okay, Shannon... Thank you. As I was
saying, you seem nice and all, but
this is literally the last place on
Earth I want to be in.

SHANNON
You say that now, but you'll see...
You'll get used to this.

MARCIA
No, I won't.

SHANNON
If you give it a chance...

MARCIA
There are no chances to give. I
fucking hate it here already.

Shannon reacts in shock.

MARCIA (cont'd)
This is so fucked up. Are there no
teachers? No classes? Why is everyone
so religious? Is this a convent? Why
do our fathers have swords? And wear
robes? Is this a cult? Do you guys
sacrifice virgins? And why do you
need a shooting range? You planning
on taking over the world or
something.

SHANNON

(trying to remain
calm)

Look... The Expanded Horizons
Institute is a sanctuary. On today's
overly sexualized and violent world,
this is an oasis where good values,
tradition and modesty can still be
practiced in peace.

MARCIA

What the fuck does that any of that
mean?

SHANNON

We're basically an abstinence group.
But instead of existing in schools,
we decided to just entirely separate
ourselves.

MARCIA

Why?

SHANNON

Well, God appeared in one of Mr.
Smith's dreams and told him to build
this place in his honor.

MARCIA

And how long have you been here?

SHANNON

All my life, basically.

MARCIA

You were born here?

SHANNON

No, but my dad and I joined when I
was really young, so this is all I've
ever known.

MARCIA

You've never left this building?

SHANNON

Mr. Smith sometimes sends me on an
errand...

MARCIA

And there are no classes here?

SHANNON

Our younger sisters are taught how to read, write and count. We also shooting lessons.

MARCIA

That's all?

SHANNON

Well... Remember that library? We basically study those books by ourselves...

MARCIA

So basically... You're bread to be nuns?

SHANNON

If we want to, we can become that. But we don't have to. Once you leave, as long as you're married, you can do whatever you want.

MARCIA

How do you find a husband here?

SHANNON

They find us. Once you turn 18, Mr. Smith organizes visits with some men to see if things happen.

MARCIA

I bet they're great...

SHANNON

I wouldn't know. Once you turn 18, you're moved to a different part of the compound so I don't know.

MARCIA

So... Is that all you do around here? Study religion, go to the gym, shoot things, gardening and wait until you turn 18.

SHANNON

Well... When you finish that, I'll show you two more things.

MARCIA

Okay... What's up with the swords?

SHANNON

Our parents also take an oath, to become knights that protect this institute... and us of course.

MARCIA

From what?

SHANNON

The outside world.

MARCIA

I see...

SHANNON

I know this is a lot...

MARCIA

I think I'm starting to understand... It's just... extreme.

SHANNON

Well, yes... Most of the parents put their daughters here to protect them.

MARCIA

From what?

SHANNON

Boys... I've talked with some girls who came here when they were a bit older, and they tell me so pretty disgusting stories.

MARCIA

Boys are pigs, I agree.

SHANNON

Here you don't have to worry about that. There's no boys, no sex, no violence... Just pure unfiltered traditional fun.

MARCIA

I see.

Marcia has finished her soup.

MARCIA (cont'd)

So... What else is there to see?

Shannon smiles.

INT. AUDITORIUM-LATER

Marcia and Shannon are sat in the auditorium.

There is a large stage at the center, and hundreds and hundreds of chair.

MARCIA

Is this what you wanted to show me?

SHANNON

Yes. I mean... Not just this... But yeah.

MARCIA

What do you girls do here?

SHANNON

Well... We have a drama club. It's not mandatory, but everybody loves it, so pretty much everyone is involved.

MARCIA

Oh I love it. What kind of plays do you do here?

SHANNON

Well... We have a designated team of writers.

MARCIA

Who are they?

SHANNON

At the moment, just me...

MARCIA

At the moment?

SHANNON

There was another girl, but she left.

MARCIA

She left?

SHANNON

Yeah...

MARCIA

I thought you couldn't leave.

SHANNON

There are always exceptions-

Shannon begins to scratch her left arm.

Marcia notices it and touches her shoulder.

MARCIA

You okay?

SHANNON

Yeah... Anyways, let's move on...

EXT. MEADOWS-LATER

Shannon and Marcia ride two horses, in the middle of a green meadow.

MARCIA

Why didn't we start with this?

SHANNON

Well... There's a reason dessert is the last thing we eat in a meal.

MARCIA

There are desserts here?

SHANNON

Yeah... We're not Amish you know?

MARCIA

I was starting to think that, to be honest.

Shannon chuckles.

MARCIA (cont'd)

This almost makes me forget I'm in the middle of nowhere and that I can't have sex anymore.

SHANNON

Wait... You were having sex before you came here?

MARCIA

No, honey. It's called sarcasm. You know what that is, right?

SHANNON

Yeah...

Marcia laughs and rides off in her horse.

Shannon looks at her, with her red hair shining in the sun, and smiles subtly.

INT. CAFETERIA-EARLY EVENING

Shannon and Marcia seat at one of the tables, in the empty cafeteria.

MARCIA

Where is everybody else?

SHANNON

They should be coming.

MARCIA

Who do you usually have dinner with?

SHANNON

Mary and Kate. They're 16, so it's just easier talking to them. The rest of the girls are like 12/13, so they all sit together in another table.

MARCIA

How about our fathers?

SHANNON

They have dinner with Mr. Smith in a private room.

MARCIA

I see.

The rest of the girls enter the cafeteria.

Shannon waves at MARY (16) and KATE (16). Mary, a redhead with brown eyes, and Kate, a brunette with dark eyes, wave back, and head towards the table.

MARY

I was wondering when we'd get the chance to meet the new girl...

SHANNON

Marcia, this is Mary.

MARCIA

Nice to meet you.

KATE

I'm Kate.

MARCIA
Nice to meet you.

Kate and Mary sit down.

MARY
So, Marcia... How did you end up here?

MARCIA
Well, you know the usual... I was in trouble, so I came here.

KATE
What kind of trouble?

MARCIA
I... really don't want to talk about it.

MARY
No worries. You are in the right place, that's all that matters.

Marcia smiles awkwardly.

Graham enters the cafeteria, surrounded by his knights.

All the girls get up.

GRAHAM
Hello girls. Before our usual prayer, I just wanted to welcome our newest member, Marcia Jones. I know Marcia is a bit older than most new members, but I trust that you'll make her feel at home.

Shannon looks at Marcia, who is visibly uncomfortable.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
We can pray now...

Every girl closes her eyes and her hands.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Father in Heaven, we stand before You once again, as the world loses its mind, as decency, values and morality fade into obscurity, replaced by greed, vanity and pride.
(MORE)

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Father in Heaven, we stand before You asking you, once more, for the strength to fight the rising tide of Godlessness and depravity that has taken control of the outside world. Father in Heaven, we stand before You not to ask for no more battles and no more wars, but merely the bravery to fight them for you and your hopeful and timeless message of purity, virtue and peace. Amen.

EVERY GIRL

Amen.

Shannon opens her eyes, and looks at Marcia.

Marcia looks incredibly uncomfortable.

Shannon raises her eyebrow.

INT. CAFETERIA-LATER

Marcia, Kate, Mary and Shannon are still at the table. Their plates are empty.

KATE

Nah, if I could go anywhere in the world, it'd be Jerusalem.

MARY

Why?

KATE

I don't know... It feels like if there is peace on Earth, it's probably on Jerusalem.

MARY

If you want peace, go to the woods.

SHANNON

What woods?

MARY

Any woods... nature is the most peaceful place you can find.

SHANNON

Why not the sea then?

MARY

The sea is dangerous. It's filled with sharks.

SHANNON

Mary, you've never been around a shark. How do you know it's dangerous?

MARY

In the abstinence group I was before I came here, the guy who ran it compared horny boys with sharks.

SHANNON

What?

MARY

Yeah, you know... Huge predators who just want to eat you and get all excited as soon as they smell blood.

SHANNON

I see...

MARY

You've never met a boy, have you?

SHANNON

Well... I interact with some every time Mr. Smith sends me shopping.

MARY

I bet they have undressed you with their eyes a million times.

SHANNON

If they have, I haven't noticed.

KATE

You have no idea how bad it gets... One time I was on a bus and there was this older guy taking pictures under the skirt of some girl.

SHANNON

Jesus...

MARY

Didn't you have the same problem, Marcia?

Marcia does not hear Mary, as she is completely zoned out.

SHANNON

Marcia?

MARCIA

Yes, sorry, I was... thinking.

SHANNON

Kate and Mary are talking about their bad experiences with boys... Care to share?

MARCIA

Oh... I really don't want to talk about that.

SHANNON

Fair enough.

Mary holds her hand.

MARY

It's okay. You're safe now.

Marcia looks uncomfortable.

Shannon notices this.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Marcia and Shannon are in her room.

SHANNON

So... This is my room. And it will be yours while...

(pauses)

Lucy's room is being cleared.

MARCIA

Who is Lucy?

SHANNON

She wa... is the girl who used to be a member.

MARCIA

Is that the girl who wrote the plays with you and left?

SHANNON

Yeah.

MARCIA

Honestly... I'm surprised.

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

I thought this was a "you leave in a body bag" kind of place.

Shannon smiles awkwardly.

Marcia raises her eyebrow, suspiciously.

SHANNON

So... I'll sleep on the floor, and you can have the bed.

MARCIA

I beg your pardon?

SHANNON

Do you prefer the floor?

MARCIA

Your bed is big enough for the both of us...

SHANNON

I don't think that's a good idea.

MARCIA

Am I so hot you can't resist me?

SHANNON

What are you talking about?

MARCIA

Are you afraid that something... is going to happen?

SHANNON

No... I took a secret vow to remain a virgin until marriage. And you're taking yours tomorrow.

MARCIA

I see.... In that case, why not?

SHANNON

I've never shared a bed with anyone in my life.

MARCIA

Well, first time for everything...

Marcia takes her shirt off.

Shannon looks very confused at her.

SHANNON
What are you doing?

MARCIA
I'm having a shower...

SHANNON
Why?

MARCIA
We're in July. It's really hot. I
need to cool off...

SHANNON
What about tomorrow?

MARCIA
I'll have another shower.

SHANNON
What a waste of water.

MARCIA
Why are you nervous?

SHANNON
I'm not... nervous.

MARCIA
Girl... It's not like I'm having
shower with the door open. I'm going
to save your pretty innocent eyes of
such a divine image.

SHANNON
You think too much of yourself.

MARCIA
Or maybe you just think too little of
me.

Marcia walks towards the bathroom, and takes her bra off.

Shannon watches as Marcia walks towards the bathroom.

Marcia closes the door behind her.

Shannon lies down in bed.

She looks at her hands, and notices that they are shaking.

EXT. CEMETERY-LATE AT NIGHT

Shannon walks in a cemetery, late at night. It rains quite heavily, but she keeps walking, holding a lamp to guide the way.

Shannon looks around, confused and lost.

She stops in front of a grave, engulfed in darkness.

She kneels in front of it, dropping the lamp, that breaks on the ground.

A lighting paints the sky in blue, and briefly illuminates the name Lucy on the grave.

Shannon's tears are hardly visible due to the heavy rain.

Another lighting strikes, which illuminates the grave, and allows Shannon to notice the hand that has risen from the ground.

Shannon quickly walks back, in shock.

The lighting strikes one after the other, in quick fashion, showing glimpses of Lucy rising from the grave.

Shannon screams.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-EARLY MORNING

Shannon wakes up, sweaty and breathing fast.

She looks next to her, and notices that Marcia sleeps safe and sound.

Shannon opens the drawer in her bedside table, and sees the knife.

She takes it out, and closes her eyes.

INT. CAFETERIA-LATER

A single drop of red wine falls in the white napkin around the wine bottle.

Shannon looks at it, completely lost in her own thoughts.

The cafeteria is filled with both fathers and children, and everybody chats and eats. However, Shannon does not hear a sound. Everything's silent.

In her table, Kate and Mary talk happily with Marcia, who laughs nervously.

Shannon does not hear a thing.

INT. ASSEMBLY ROOM-LATER

Every girl, dressed in white, stands around the stage.

Marcia and Graham stand on the stage. Shannon, lost in the middle of the white crowd, looks on.

Graham holds a copy of a book. Marcia has her right hand on the book.

GRAHAM

We are gathered here today, by the will of Almighty God, to help our sister Marcia find her way to salvation and to a life filled with meaning and virtue. In today's world filled with disgusting sex, rampant violence and so many other forms of degeneracy, it fills my heart with hope that souls like yours have found this oasis of purity, where tradition is still upheld exactly as it should be. But, to finally join us and take your place in this beautiful paradise, I need to know, Sister Marcia... Are you ready to take your oath?

MARCIA

Yes.

GRAHAM

Do you swear to abstain from all sexual activities unless it's under God's divine protection of marriage?

MARCIA

I do.

GRAHAM

Do you promise to give your body, your soul to this church?

MARCIA

I do.

GRAHAM

Then, be God my witness, I welcome
you into our little family.

Graham takes a little ceremonial knife and...

INT. CAFETERIA-LATER

Graham's tomato sauce falls from his mouth. He laughs, very
audibly.

Shannon looks at him, completely lost in her thoughts.

MARCIA

Shannon... Is everything okay?

Shannon snaps back to reality.

SHANNON

Yes, I was just... Thinking.

MARCIA

About what?

SHANNON

I don't know... Just thinking.

MARCIA

I wish I had that power.

SHANNON

The power of thinking?

MARCIA

No... The power to think about
nothing.

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

It's a lot better to think about
nothing at all than to think about
anything specific.

SHANNON

Thinking is thinking...

MARCIA

Yes... But thinking about nothing
doesn't keep you up all night.

SHANNON
(nervously)
Does... does that usually happen to
you?

MARCIA
Oh yeah...

SHANNON
Oh... I had no idea. You looked so
peaceful last night.

MARCIA
(raising her eyebrow)
You were watching me sleep?

SHANNON
No, I just... woke up and saw you
sleep so peacefully.

MARCIA
(smiling)
Sure.

Marcia chuckles.

Shannon smiles, uncomfortable.

MARCIA (cont'd)
So... I'm officially a member of
this... group. What now?

SHANNON
Well... You enjoy your stay.

MARCIA
Do I get my own room now?

SHANNON
That's not up to me... I guess you're
stuck with me, for now.

MARCIA
Well... I could be worse.

SHANNON
How?

MARCIA
At least you don't make me sleep on
the floor.

Shannon smiles.

Marcia smiles too.

SHANNON

So, our little theater group will be having a rehearsal on the next couple of days... Do you care to join?

MARCIA

Am I forced to?

SHANNON

No one forces you to do anything here.

MARCIA

Okay... Then it's a date.

John walks towards the table. He puts his arm on Shannon's shoulder.

Shannon shivers.

JOHN

Shannon, honey... Graham wants to talk to you in private.

Shannon looks at John, and sees his creepy smile on his face.

JOHN (cont'd)

He's waiting for you.

INT. GRAHAM'S OFFICE-LATER

Graham is on his chair.

Shannon looks at him, nervous.

GRAHAM

So... Shannon... Sweetie... How are you?

SHANNON

I'm fine.

GRAHAM

How you getting on with introducing Marcia?

SHANNON

It's been smooth.

GRAHAM

Good... And have there been any problems with you two girls sharing a bedroom?

SHANNON

Not at all, Mr. Smith.

GRAHAM

Good to know. Part of me was scared something was going to happen, because you know how people like her usually are... they'll fuck anything that moves.

Graham laughs.

Shannon smiles uncomfortably.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Anyways... I need you to go to the supermarket and pick up some candles.

SHANNON

Can I take the car?

GRAHAM

Yeah, of course.

Graham throws her the car keys.

INT. CAR-LATER

Shannon drives the car, alone.

The full moon shines in the sky.

She looks at the empty passenger seat.

INT. CAR-LATE AFTERNOON

Shannon drives the car. The sun shines in a fiery golden light.

Lucy is in the passenger seat, with the window open.

SHANNON

Do you mind closing the window?

LUCY

Are you joking? It's like 50 degrees outside.

SHANNON

I know. That's why I'm asking you to close the window, so I can turn the air conditioner on.

LUCY

Why not both?

SHANNON

Because it kind of defeats the purpose of having the air conditioner on?

LUCY

Why?

SHANNON

It'd be like trying to defeat thirst with salt water.

LUCY

I have done that.

SHANNON

How are you still alive?

LUCY

I ask that same question everyday.

They both laugh.

SHANNON

So...

LUCY

Yes...

SHANNON

About our little project...

LUCY

Yes...

SHANNON

Did you work on it today?

LUCY

Yeah, I did.

SHANNON

Did anyone see you?

LUCY

No, no... Don't worry.

SHANNON

And you're sure it can't be tracked?

LUCY

My dad is useless on many things, but he has taught me a thing or two.

SHANNON

Okay cool...

They both remain in silence.

Lucy stares through the window.

Shannon takes her eyes off the road and looks at Shannon.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Lucy?

LUCY

What?

SHANNON

Are you scared?

LUCY

A little bit. You?

SHANNON

I'm terrified.

LUCY

We don't have to do this if you don't want to.

SHANNON

I want to, of course I want to...
It's just... I'm scared what they're
going to do if they catch us.

LUCY

They are not going to to catch us.

SHANNON

I hope so... Mr.Smith is many things.
Forgiving is not one of them.

LUCY

I know... But don't you worry. We're
not getting caught.

SHANNON

It does feel silly to hide this. All
we're doing is write a story.

(MORE)

SHANNON (cont'd)
It's not like we're actually doing
anything dangerous.

LUCY
Stories can be dangerous.

SHANNON
They're silly little fictional things
with no barring on the real world.

LUCY
They're more than that.

SHANNON
What are they?

LUCY
A way out of here.

Shannon nods, in agreement.

SHANNON
Do you ever think about...

Shannon stops talking.

Lucy looks at her.

LUCY
Think about what?

SHANNON
You know.

LUCY
No, I don't know.

SHANNON
Yes, you do.

LUCY
How could I know if you don't say it?

SHANNON
Forget it.

LUCY
Say it.

SHANNON
Forget I said anything.

LUCY
Say it.

SHANNON
Forget about it, okay?

LUCY
Say it.

SHANNON
You know what I'm talking about.

LUCY
I know, but I want you to say it.

SHANNON
If you know, why do you want me to say it?

LUCY
Consider this a growing pains moment.
Say it.

SHANNON
Forget it.

LUCY
It's always the same with you... You think these things, like any human being would, but then you let them shame you for thinking them.

Shannon looks at Lucy, sadly.

LUCY (cont'd)
Or maybe you shame yourself...

Shannon takes a deep breath.

SHANNON
Do you ever think about... you know... escaping?

LUCY
Yes.

SHANNON
Why don't you?

LUCY
Because I would never, ever leave you here alone.

Shannon smiles.

SHANNON
Thanks.

LUCY
Don't mention it.

Shannon puts her eyes back on the road.

LUCY (cont'd)
You know something?

SHANNON
What?

LUCY
I love the way your hair shines in
the sun.

Shannon smiles, and stares at Lucy's lips.

Lucy notices this, and smiles knowingly.

INT. CAR-NIGHT

Shannon wipes a tear from her eye, and keeps driving.

INT. SUPERMARKET-LATER

Shannon stands in line on the mostly empty supermarket.

In front of her, stands an OLD MAN (70), who is just
finishing his shopping.

He moves, finally leaving Shannon face to face with DAVID
(22), the cashier.

His brown eyes light up with excitement when he sees
Shannon.

DAVID
Shannon, hello.

SHANNON
Hello, David.

DAVID
I was beginning to wonder when I was
going to see you again.

Shannon smiles awkwardly and puts a package of candles on
the table.

DAVID (cont'd)
Just that?

SHANNON
Yeah...

DAVID
Slow day?

SHANNON
Yes.

David registers the package.

DAVID
Okay... Thank you.

Shannon picks up the candle.

David stretches and drops a pen to the floor.

Shannon notices this.

DAVID (cont'd)
Can you pick that up, please?

Shannon nods and picks it up.

CALLUM (27), one of David's co-workers, takes his phone out and quickly takes a picture of her ass, without Shannon realizing that.

Shannon gives David the pen.

DAVID (cont'd)
Thank you.

Shannon smiles and leaves the supermarket.

EXT. STREET-LATER

Shannon sits in her car, watching a street cat sleep on a bench on the other side of the street.

OFFICER NOLAN (35) passes by, doing his patrol.

He smiles and waves at her.

Shannon smiles and waves back.

Nolan walks towards her car.

NOLAN
Hi Shannon, how are you?

SHANNON

Hello, officer Nolan. I'm fine, how are you?

NOLAN

You can call me Nolan, sweetie. I'm fine as well.

Shannon laughs nervously.

NOLAN (cont'd)

How are things at Expanded Horizons?

SHANNON

Same old, same old...

NOLAN

I might go there, someday... I think the Commissioner is going to have dinner with Mr. Smith at some point in the next couple of weeks. I might join him.

Shannon smiles awkwardly at him.

NOLAN (cont'd)

Maybe I'll see you there.

SHANNON

That'd be nice.

NOLAN

You should go. I don't think it's a good idea to stay out this late.

SHANNON

I know... I was just watching that cat sleeping and lost track of time.

Nolan turns back and sees the cat sleeping.

NOLAN

I didn't know you enjoyed pussies.

SHANNON

I'm sorry?

NOLAN

Pussy is another name for cat.

SHANNON

I didn't know that...

NOLAN

I love me some pussy, in fact. It's a pity they usually don't like me back...

SHANNON

Why?

NOLAN

It seems like every time I see one... they just ran off.

SHANNON

Cats are difficult creatures.

NOLAN

They certainly are.

Shannon starts the car.

SHANNON

Bye, Nolan.

NOLAN

Goodbye, Shannon.

Shannon drives away, leaving Nolan alone, watching her drive away, with a tenuous smile on his face.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon opens the door to her room very quietly.

Nevertheless, she wakes Marcia up.

SHANNON

Sorry. I tried to not wake you up.

MARCIA

It's fine...

SHANNON

I hope I didn't wake you from a wonderful dream.

MARCIA

You didn't...

(rubs her eyes and
yawns)

I didn't know you knew what dreams were.

SHANNON

Why wouldn't I know?

MARCIA

Do you dream?

SHANNON

Everybody dreams, Marcia.

MARCIA

Yeah, I know... But you've lived your whole life here.

SHANNON

So what?

MARCIA

How can you a dream of a world you haven't seen?

SHANNON

I do have an imagination, you know?

Shannon closes the door and throws herself to the bed.

MARCIA

Is... everything okay?

SHANNON

Yeah... Just tired.

MARCIA

Oh, I'm sorry...

SHANNON

Oh, not from you... This has nothing to do with you.

MARCIA

Wanna talk about it?

SHANNON

Just didn't really sleep last night and this was a long ass day...

MARCIA

Why didn't you sleep?

SHANNON

I had nightmares.

MARCIA

What were they about?

SHANNON
I don't want to talk about it.

MARCIA
What do you usually dream about?

SHANNON
Well...

Marcia looks at her, with curiosity just overflowing her eyes.

SHANNON (cont'd)
I used to have this dream when I was younger... I was in a desert, riding a camel and I was...

Shannon bites her lips.

MARCIA
You were?...

SHANNON
I was naked.

Marcia bursts out laughing.

MARCIA
Naked on a camel? I bet that was comfortable...

SHANNON
It really wasn't... But you know, dreams are dreams.

MARCIA
What happened afterwards?

SHANNON
I came across an oasis... and I immediately started running towards the water. I was so thirsty... I drank so much water. After I was done with that, I looked at the reflection... and it wasn't me.

MARCIA
Who was it?

SHANNON
I don't know... It was a woman, who looked just like me, but it wasn't me.

MARCIA

If she looked just like you and it was your reflection, why do you say she wasn't you?

SHANNON

She was crying... I wasn't.

MARCIA

That's weird.

SHANNON

Yeah...

MARCIA

How did the dream end?

SHANNON

That's all I remember.

MARCIA

Do you think it meant anything or was it your subconscious screwing with you?

SHANNON

My what?

MARCIA

Your subconscious... You know, your deepest desires, thoughts, everything you repress while you're awake but takes over you while you're asleep.

SHANNON

That's a scary thought.

MARCIA

Why?

SHANNON

Because that means everybody is essentially two people at once.

MARCIA

Well yeah... But it's also a relaxing thought.

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

Because it means we can't really
escape our desires no matter how hard
we try to.

SHANNON

And that's supposed to be relaxing?

MARCIA

Well... Yeah.

SHANNON

How?

MARCIA

Life is a lot easier when we admit to
ourselves what we want. And we do
something about it.

SHANNON

What do you want?

MARCIA

Right now.. I want to sleep.

Marcia closes her eyes.

SHANNON

Good night.

MARCIA

Good night.

Shannon stares at the ceiling, deep in thought.

EXT. GARDEN-LATER

Shannon trims the weeds, under a hot sun. She wears a straw
hat.

Her eyes catch Marcia, who does the same thing a few meters
away.

They both smile at each other.

JOHN

Shannon.

Shannon turns around, and sees John next to her.

MARCIA

What's up?

JOHN

Graham wants you to be present at dinner.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon looks in the mirror, combing her hair nervously.

Marcia lies in bed.

MARCIA

Why are you so nervous?

SHANNON

These dinners... they're usually not for us.

MARCIA

Why?

SHANNON

Well, you know... They discuss business and important matters there.

MARCIA

We're all members, aren't we?

SHANNON

Yes... But you know...

MARCIA

Some members are more members than others.

SHANNON

Couldn't have put it better myself.

MARCIA

Thank you.

SHANNON

Well... I have to go. Does my hair look okay?

Marcia takes a look at her.

MARCIA

You look gorgeous.

Shannon smiles.

INT. PRIVATE DINING ROOM

Shannon is seated n a massive table, with the knights. They're all talking to each other.

Shannon looks around the room.

It's dark, almost oppressive, with multiple religious paintings on the walls.

The doors open-and Graham and John enter the room.

All the knights and Shannon get up.

Graham smiles and sits down.

GRAHAM
You may sit, gentlemen.

Everybody sits.

Shannon looks nervous and can't even look at anyone in the room in the eye.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
I'd like to thank our lovely Shannon,
our most dedicated member, for
joining us today.

Shannon smiles timidly.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Before we eat, we need to discuss
some... things. As you are all
probably aware at this point, Lucy
was caught using the computer for...
unauthorized uses. She has been dealt
with. Her and weak father, who failed
to put a leach on his bitch.

Shannon swallowed hard.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
This, however, presents a challenge.
I built this Institute to honor God
and his will. He came to me in a
dream, and told me to build him a
castle to protect today's youth from
a society that constantly sexualizes
them, rewards them for being whores
and bombards with them with sex and
violence.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (cont'd)
He asked me to protect them for the
legions of boys and men who prey on
them, like vampires do on the weak
and fragile, trying to feed
themselves with their innocence,
their virtue... and I obeyed. I
fulfilled my destiny. I have done my
part-and I have done it well.

Graham smashes the table with his hand.

Shannon looks around to the sombre and stoic faces of the
men.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
I will not let that bitch ruin that
for me. So, in the next few days...
You can expect some changes. What
those changes will be I don't know
yet, but I trust God will send me a
sign, like he did to Noah. Don't be
mistaken gentlemen, we are at war. I
can't promise you anything but blood,
sweat and tears. But I hope all of
you know that it will be worth it.
When Judgment day comes-and I believe
it will come soon-all our sacrifices
will have proved to not have been in
vain.

A giant roasted boar is put on the center of the table,
surrounded by rice and potatoes.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Now feast, gentlemen. Feast!

Shannon looks at it, somewhat disgusted.

EXT. MEADOWS-MORNING

Shannon and Marcia ride their horses in the meadows.

MARCIA
This is so fun. It almost makes not
having a cell phone worth it.

Shannon smiles.

MARCIA (cont'd)
Do you know what a cell phone is?

SHANNON
Again... We're not Amish.

MARCIA

But you don't have one.

SHANNON

If I believed that only the things I have exist, the world would be a very sad and boring place.

MARCIA

Sorry.

SHANNON

Why are you apologizing?

MARCIA

Sometimes I get the feeling I treat you like a child who doesn't know anything about the outside world.

SHANNON

Well, I'm only seventeen so I am a child...

MARCIA

You're seventeen?

SHANNON

Yeah... Why?

MARCIA

I thought you were younger.

SHANNON

No... Just seventeen. How old are you?

MARCIA

I'm also seventeen.

SHANNON

Have you ever ridden a horse before?

MARCIA

I had classes when I was younger...

SHANNON

Well, you're a good rider.

Marcia smiles cheekily.

Shannon notices this and raises her eyebrow, puzzled.

MARCIA

What?

SHANNON

Why did you smile?

MARCIA

Nothing, nothing... So, how was dinner yesterday?

SHANNON

Nothing special.

MARCIA

Why did they need you there?

SHANNON

Just boring business stuff, you know.

MARCIA

Can I ask you a question?

SHANNON

Sure.

MARCIA

What do our parents do during the day? Cause like... You and I are here riding a horse... We have the garden to take care, the library and etc.... But I never see them. What do they do?

SHANNON

I don't know.

Marcia sighs sadly.

SHANNON (cont'd)

What's up? You miss your dad?

MARCIA

It's complicated...

SHANNON

Are you two close?

MARCIA

I mean, it's always been just the two of us... I don't really have anyone else.

SHANNON

What happened to your mom?

MARCIA

She died... When I was 10.

SHANNON

Oh... I'm sorry.

MARCIA

It's fine... Time heals all wounds.

Shannon looks at the horizon.

MARCIA (cont'd)

How about your mom?

SHANNON

My mom ran away when I was just a baby.

MARCIA

Oh my god. Why?

SHANNON

I don't know... My dad never told me.

MARCIA

Weird.

SHANNON

It's fine.

MARCIA

Still... Must really suck not knowing who she is and worse off... Not knowing why she left.

SHANNON

I think it makes it easier...

MARCIA

Why?

SHANNON

Since I don't know why she left... I can just make up the reason. It's a great exercise for my imagination.

MARCIA

And that's good?

SHANNON

Everybody needs an imagination, Marcia. Especially people who lived their entire lives behind closed walls.

Marcia smiles.

INT. LIBRARY

Shannon and Lucy are in the library, with lots of notes across the table.

LUCY
I give up.

SHANNON
We can't give up.

LUCY
How are we supposed to finish this goddam play?

SHANNON
We write an ending.

LUCY
How? It's pretty obvious the only possible finale is to have them to kiss, but I don't think that's going to fly well...

SHANNON
Okay... Let's recapitulate.

LUCY
Yeah...

SHANNON
There's two nuns... Betty and Chloe.

LUCY
Yes.

SHANNON
They're in a convent... alone, because everyone else has died from the Black Plague.

LUCY
Yes.

SHANNON
They've survived because they're being protected by God.

LUCY
Reasonable.

SHANNON

However, the Devil, angry with this, disguises himself as a beggar and manages to infiltrate the convent.

LUCY

Yeah.

SHANNON

He puts a curse on them, giving them only two months to live and laughs maniacally while escaping.

LUCY

Yeah.

SHANNON

They try to live their lives as best as possible...

LUCY

Yeah.

SHANNON

And then they die.

LUCY

See? We can't just end it like that. Where's the hope? The happy ending? Every story needs one.

SHANNON

I agree, I just... I don't know how we're going to go about that.

LUCY

How did we end up here?

SHANNON

Well, you know... We're written and written, and now... now we're here...

LUCY

I still can't remember how.

SHANNON

The important isn't the how, the important is that we did.

LUCY

I agree... But we need an ending. We have to get this done by tomorrow.

SHANNON

Well...

LUCY

Yes?

SHANNON

It's a stupid idea.

LUCY

We need ideas, Shannon. It doesn't matter if they're stupid or not.

SHANNON

Well, we could just kill them off...

LUCY

Would you be okay with that?

SHANNON

No... But hear me out...

LUCY

Okay...

SHANNON

We write our own ending. In secret...

LUCY

(smiling)

I like where this is going...

SHANNON

And we keep it to ourselves. It'll be our little secret.

LUCY

That's a great idea.

SHANNON

Thank you.

LUCY

You know something?

SHANNON

What?

LUCY

I'm glad I've found you here.

SHANNON

Lucy, we're like twenty girls here.
It's not exactly hard to find someone
here.

LUCY

I wasn't talking about this place. I
was talking about the world.

SHANNON

Oh... Why?

LUCY

You're the first person I've met who
loves this as much as me.

SHANNON

Well... There's not a lot more to do
around here.

LUCY

I know, but still...

SHANNON

We all need escapism, Lucy. I'm just
glad I get to make mine with you.

Lucy smiles.

Shannon smiles back, and stares at her lips.

Lucy does the same.

LUCY

We should...

SHANNON

Get back to writing, I know.

Shannon starts to write, but stops quickly, as she notices
Lucy is staring at her.

SHANNON (cont'd)

What?

LUCY

You're so cute when you write.

Shannon smiles, timidly.

LUCY (cont'd)

So... Shall we?

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon wakes up suddenly as Marcia is touching her shoulder endlessly.

SHANNON
What?

MARCIA
Time for rehearsal...

SHANNON
Oh right...

MARCIA
Sorry I had to wake you up.

SHANNON
Why are you apologizing?

MARCIA
You were sleeping very peacefully...
I feel bad.

Shannon smiles.

SHANNON
It's fine.

INT. AUDITORIUM-LATER

Shannon and Marcia walk into the auditorium.

The auditorium is completely empty-except for John, who is seated on the stage.

Shannon and Marcia look at each other, puzzled.

SHANNON
Mr. Waters... where is everybody else?

JOHN
They're not coming...

SHANNON
What?

John gets up.

JOHN
Marcia, darling... Could you please leave?

Marcia, suspicious, leaves the auditorium.

Shannon and John are alone in the auditorium.

SHANNON
What is going on?

JOHN
What is happening, my darling... is
that I'm onto you.

SHANNON
What do you mean?

JOHN
I know.

SHANNON
What do you know?

JOHN
I know about you and Lucy.

Shannon raises her eyebrow.

JOHN (cont'd)
You're probably wondering why you're
still alive... And why our great
leader doesn't know anything. Well, I
can tell you simply... I need you...
I... need... you.

SHANNON
Why?

JOHN
You have something I need. Something
I've desired for so, so long...

John leaves the stage and starts walking towards Shannon.

Shannon walks back, slowly.

JOHN (cont'd)
Don't be scared... I'm not going to
hurt you... If you obey me.

Shannon starts to shake.

JOHN (cont'd)
Don't pretend you haven't felt it
too... I know you have. I can see it
in your eyes.

Shannon looks at the exits.

JOHN (cont'd)
Don't run away. Where would you even go? To Mr. Smith? Who do you think he'll believe in? Me, his most trusted follower, or you, a little girl who was best friends with a traitor? How hard do you think I'm going to have to try to convince him? Especially when I know what you and Lucy were up to...

SHANNON
(with a trembling voice)
All we did was write a story...

JOHN
I get it. I really do. But do you think he will?

Shannon starts to cry.

JOHN (cont'd)
Now, any man in my position would just take away what he wants and leave it at that. However, I am, after all, not any man... So I'll make you a deal, little princess.

Shannon wipes the tears from her eyes.

JOHN (cont'd)
In about two weeks, our great leader is having a dinner. The mayor, the commissioner... They'll all be here. On that night, I'll say I'm sick... and you'll come to my room. Make yourself pretty... and I'll do the rest.

SHANNON
I made an oath.

JOHN
But I haven't...

SHANNON
I'll tell.

JOHN
Again... Who will he believe?

SHANNON
(trying to remain
strong)
I'll shout, I'll scream and I'll cry.
I'll make it messy.

JOHN
Do you think you're the first to make
such threats? I don't care. I stopped
doing so a long, long time ago...

SHANNON
How has Mr. Smith not caught you? The
walls are so thin...

JOHN
(smiling)
Who says he hasn't?

Shannon tears up again, and walks away.

JOHN (cont'd)
See you in two weeks, sweetheart.

Shannon stops walking, and stares at John, with tears in her
eyes.

JOHN (cont'd)
Don't be late.

INT. CAFETERIA-LATER

Shannon, Marcia, Kate and Mary are all seated at one table,
having dinner. They are the only ones there.

KATE
That's really, really weird.

MARY
Why would they just shut it down?

MARCIA
I don't know... Did he say anything
to you after I left, Shannon?

Shannon, completely zoned out, doesn't hear anything.

KATE
Shannon?

MARY
Sweetie?

Marcia touches her shoulder, startling her.

SHANNON

Sorry...

KATE

Are you okay?

SHANNON

Yeah, just... thinking.

MARY

We were asking if Mr. Waters told you anything else about the shutdown of our drama club?

SHANNON

No...

KATE

What did you guys talk about?

SHANNON

He was just letting me know about this special dinner that's happening in two weeks...

MARY

Are you invited or something?

SHANNON

He just wanted to let me know...

MARY

Weird...

Marcia looks at Shannon, with her eyebrow raised.

INT. SUPERMARKET-LATER

Shannon buys a couple of wine bottles from David.

Her eyes are empty and she looks aimlessly.

David notices her vacant look.

DAVID

Shannon... Is everything okay?

SHANNON

Yeah... I'm just... tired.

DAVID
I understand...

David finishes registering the wine bottles.

DAVID (cont'd)
Is that all?

SHANNON
Yeah... Isn't that enough?

DAVID
I guess... I'll put on Mr. Smith's
tab then.

Shannon smiles and picks up the wine bottles.

DAVID (cont'd)
Shannon... Can I ask you a favor?

SHANNON
What?

DAVID
I bought my girlfriend a bikini, but
I'm not sure if it fits her... You're
about the same size as her... Do you
mind trying it on and telling me if
it fits?

SHANNON
Are you sure you'd rather not just
see me with it?

DAVID
I know how you girls are all about
your oaths so no... I trust you to
tell me the truth.

Shannon smiles.

DAVID (cont'd)
We can use our changing rooms...
They're over there.

David points to a door just to the left.

SHANNON
Okay, thank you.

David hands her the bikini and watches as Shannon walks
towards the room.

Right as she has closes the door, David looks at the computer beneath the counter.

He opens a tab that just says "SECURITY CAMERAS" and observes as Shannon takes her dress off and unbuttons her bra.

David smiles.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon lies in bed.

Marcia brushes her teeth, in the bathroom.

MARCIA

Shannon?

SHANNON

Yeah?

Marcia spits in the sink.

MARCIA

When am I getting my own room?

SHANNON

I don't know... You should ask Mr. Smith, he must know.

MARCIA

It's not that I don't like sharing a room with you, but sometimes I just want to be naked and that's hard with you here.

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

Because I think your face would melt like the Nazis at the end of Raiders of the Lost ark if you ever saw me naked.

SHANNON

I'm sorry, but what are you talking about?

MARCIA

Oh that's right... You've probably never watched that... or any movie.

SHANNON

That's not true.

MARCIA

You've watched Raiders of the Lost Ark?

SHANNON

No, but I have seen movies.

MARCIA

What kind of films?

SHANNON

Well, Mr. Smith sometimes shows us Pure Flix movies...

MARCIA

What's that?

SHANNON

It's a Christian studio.

MARCIA

Oh...

SHANNON

So... What do you mean by Nazis being melted?

MARCIA

You do know what Nazis are, right?

SHANNON

Yeah... I'm not that dumb.

MARCIA

Well, in that movie they're after the Ark of the Covenant and once they open it... Well, their faces melt.

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

Divine punishment.

SHANNON

God doesn't punish.

MARCIA

Have you ever read the Old Testament?

SHANNON

No.

MARCIA

That tracks. God punishes evil, isn't that his whole deal?

SHANNON

God is all about forgiveness.

MARCIA

Even when it comes to personifications of Evil?

SHANNON

Especially when it comes to those.

Marcia laughs and lies down in bed, next to Shannon.

MARCIA

Do you think Mr. Smith shares those views?

SHANNON

Yeah... Why wouldn't he?

MARCIA

He doesn't strike me as the forgiving type...

SHANNON

He is.

MARCIA

He has too much venom in his words to be forgiving.

SHANNON

He's worried about the world. And he's right to be.

MARCIA

We're all concerned about the world, Shannon. But not all of us lead a cult in the middle of the woods with a bunch of teenage girls and their fathers dressed as knights.

SHANNON

What's the alternative?

MARCIA

I don't know... Literally anything else.

SHANNON

I thought you had come around to this place...

MARCIA

Shannon... I was born free. At least, as free as one can be. I had a life... I could go to the movies, I could read books that weren't about religion, I could listen to music... And now I'm here, a prisoner.

SHANNON

You're not a prisoner, Marcia.

MARCIA

Why do you say that?

SHANNON

Because you're free here.

MARCIA

Free from what?

SHANNON

Think about it... Here you're free from worrying about the future. You're free from all those sex pests. You're free from all the violence, the degeneracy of the outside world... You can be anything you want here without having to worry about a boy trying to take away your innocence. Or the world robbing your innocence.

MARCIA

You sound just like Mr. Smith.

SHANNON

Because he's right.

MARCIA

No, he isn't. And I should know...

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

You wouldn't understand.

SHANNON

I'm a pretty smart girl. Tell me.

MARCIA
What's the point? You're
brainwashed... It's too late.

Marcia turns her head to Shannon's opposite side.

Shannon puts her hand on Marcia's shoulder.

SHANNON
Please tell me.

INT. MARCIA'S ROOM-LATE NIGHT

Marcia and TOM (17) lay down in her bed.

Her room is small, but cozy, filled with posters. In addition to the bed, there is a closet, a bedside table and a chair, in which a computer lies.

Marcia and Tom watch as the credits roll.

TOM
I don't get it though... Did she
accept the request or not?

MARCIA
It's called ambiguity, Tom. You're
not supposed to know.

TOM
That's just lazy.

MARCIA
Did you like the film at least?

TOM
I did... Way too much talking though.

MARCIA
What do you mean too much talking?

TOM
They talk way too much. I wanted like
at least one fight scene.

MARCIA
Watching this and complaining about
too much talking is like going to
church and complaining there is too
much God.

TOM
But there is no God in church.

MARCIA
You know what I mean...

TOM
No, I don't... It's ambiguous.

Tom smirks.

Marcia rolls her eyes.

MARCIA
You're a complete dork.

TOM
I might be... But I am in your bed.

Marcia smiles.

MARCIA
Oh.. And what are you going to do
about it? Something ambiguous?

Tom comes near her, on top of her, and kisses her on the
lips.

TOM
I don't think there is anything
ambiguous about this...

Marcia smiles and kisses him back.

They start to make out.

A door is heard.

DAVID
Honey, I'm home.

Marcia and Tom stop kissing, and they both look at each
other, panicking.

David starts to climb up the stairs. Each stair makes an
increasingly louder sound.

MARCIA
Shit...

TOM
Is that...

MARCIA
Yes.

TOM
The one who's...

MARCIA
Yes...

TOM
The one who owns...

MARCIA
Yes, yes, yes. Hide. Hide in the closet.

Tom quickly hides in the closet while Marcia tries to put her hair right.

Michael opens the door.

MARCIA (cont'd)
Hi dad.

Michael looks at the bedroom, suspiciously.

MARCIA (cont'd)
Is everything alright?

MICHAEL
Yes... I just had this weird feeling that someone was here.

MARCIA
No one's here...

MICHAEL
If you say so...

Michael shuts the door.

Marcia breathes out of relief.

Tom opens the closet.

MARCIA
That was too close.

TOM
Too close.

He silently walks out of the closet.

TOM (cont'd)
He's gone, right?

MARCIA
Yeah, I think so...

Tom walks towards Marcia, and kisses her.

MARCIA (cont'd)
Are you sure this is a good idea?

TOM
We both know it isn't, and that is
exactly why we do it.

Marcia smiles.

Michael opens the door again.

Tom and Marcia look at him, terrified.

MICHAEL
You mother...

Michael runs off.

MARCIA
(screaming)
Jump.

TOM
Jump to where?

MARCIA
Our neighbor has a pool. You'll be
safe.

Tom runs to the window and opens it.

He climbs out and looks down.

There is a pool in there.

MARCIA (cont'd)
What are you waiting for?

Tom looks down.

TOM
It's too high.

Michael walks into the room again, holding a shotgun.

He fires it instantly.

Tom falls into the pool.

Marcia gets up and goes to the window. She looks down.

Tom's body floats in the pool, with the blood painting the water red.

Marcia cries.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM

Shannon looks at Marcia's face, covered in tears.

She hugs her tightly.

SHANNON

I'm so sorry...

MARCIA

It's fine, it's fine...

SHANNON

What happened afterwards?

MARCIA

I helped my dad bury the body in the woods... and a few days later I was here.

SHANNON

But... wasn't there an investigation?

MARCIA

You know that neighbor with the pool? He was friends with my dad... and he was the police captain.

SHANNON

I see... But there's just one thing I don't understand.

MARCIA

What?

SHANNON

That is absolutely horrible... but it would never happen here. So why are you worried?

MARCIA

You don't get it, do you?

SHANNON

What?

MARCIA

I told you this story to show you...
I did stuff. I watched movies. I
kissed people. That all ended that
night.

SHANNON

I see... I'm sorry. You're right.

MARCIA

It was violence that put me here. And
what they're doing to me, to all of
us, is violent. They're taking away
our freedom, Shannon. They're locking
us up here, away from the world, and
they tell us we are free from harm,
they shield us from everything and
everyone... and they call it freedom.
But is it worth being free from harm
if we are also being kept away from
all that's good?

Shannon looks at her confused.

MARCIA (cont'd)

I'm not expecting you to
understand... It's like explaining a
rainbow to a blind man.

SHANNON

Can I just ask one question?

MARCIA

What?

SHANNON

That boy... Did you like him?

MARCIA

Tom was the sweetest.

SHANNON

What's it like to... kiss someone?

MARCIA

It's... like eating a meal you never
imagined in your mind but now that
you've finally tasted it... you
wonder where this was all your life.
It's like flying without leaving the
ground, like... looking into the
universe and seeing nothing but
stars.

SHANNON

That sounds... extra.

MARCIA

Yes... But you know... Not that I'm going to get anything here.

SHANNON

Well... After you leave, you're free to do anything, as long as you get married.

MARCIA

Honey, you've been here all your life. Who have you seen leave and lead a normal life?

SHANNON

Ah...

MARCIA

Right.

SHANNON

We have a choice, though.

MARCIA

Do we?

SHANNON

So... what are you going to do? Run away?

MARCIA

I don't think that's a safe choice...

SHANNON

Yeah...

MARCIA

Now it's my turn to ask a question.

SHANNON

What?

MARCIA

What really happened to that girl... Lucy?

SHANNON

Well... Me and her... we were writing a story about two nuns who fall in love during the Black Plague and are being haunted by the Devil.

(MORE)

SHANNON (cont'd)

We were using the computer... She
swore that we wouldn't get caught...
But alas...

MARCIA

What happened?

SHANNON

Mr. Smith killed her.

MARCIA

Oh my god! Really?

SHANNON

It happened right in front of me... I
couldn't... I couldn't save her.

Shannon breaks down in tears.

Marcia hugs her.

MARCIA

It's not your fault, it's not your
fault... It's not your fault.

Shannon continues to cry, while Marcia pets her hair.

INT. POOL-EARLY MORNING

Shannon looks at the pool in front of her. It's quiet and
still.

Shannon closes her eyes and dives in.

She swims two laps very quickly and rests.

She looks to the the pool and realizes that it's painted
red.

She screams and starts to swim to get out of the pool.

The pool just gets bigger and bigger.

Shannon swims, but there is no end to the pool.

She looks frantically around, but all she sees is red.

Shannon looks up, and sees a ladder.

She latches onto it and climbs up.

She reaches a hot air ballon, and, baffled, climbs inside.

Lucy awaits her.

SHANNON

Lucy... What are you doing here?

Lucy smiles at her.

LUCY

Saving you.

SHANNON

From what?

LUCY

Yourself.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-EARLY MORNING

Shannon wakes up, frantically.

She realizes Marcia is sleeping with her hands around her, cuddled up.

Shannon raises her eyebrow, but just shrugs it off and smiles.

EXT. GARDEN-LATER

Shannon and Marcia are trimming the weeds.

SHANNON

I'm sorry for last night...

MARCIA

Why are you apologizing?

SHANNON

I pushed you way too hard to open up and then made it all about me...

MARCIA

Girl, I asked you to share.

SHANNON

Still... I feel bad.

MARCIA

Don't. It was nice talking to someone who understands...

SHANNON

I can say the same...

Shannon and Marcia smile at each other.

JOHN
(V.O. screaming)
Shannon!

Shannon turns her head, and sees John at the door.

SHANNON
(screaming)
What?

JOHN
Graham wants to see you.

INT. ELEVATOR-LATER

Shannon and John are inside the elevator alone.

JOHN
So... How have you been?

SHANNON
Good, good...

JOHN
Have you made your choice?

SHANNON
I wasn't aware I had one.

JOHN
(smiling)
Good girl.

Shannon feels John's hand coming down her back.

She closes her eyes.

John puts his mouth near her ear.

JOHN (cont'd)
(whispering)
I can't wait to do a lot more than
just touching you...

The elevator stops.

John takes his hand off her back, quickly.

Two men enter the elevator.

Shannon opens her eyes, and begins to tear up.

The two men talk to John, completely unaware of Shannon crying.

INT. GRAHAM'S OFFICE-LATER

Shannon waits for Graham, seated.

She looks through the window, and notices that the sky is completely dark.

Graham enters the office.

GRAHAM
Sorry to keep you waiting...

SHANNON
No worries...

Graham sits i~~on the chair in front of Shannon.

GRAHAM
So... You must be wondering why
you're here.

SHANNON
No.

GRAHAM
I'm always surprised at how little
women think...

Graham chuckles.

Shannon smiles awkwardly.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
So... I'm here just to tell you that
in about two weeks there's going to
be a dinner with some very high
profile people.

Shannon looks at him, confused.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
What?

SHANNON
Is that all?

GRAHAM
Well... Yes. What else would there be
to speak about?

SHANNON
May I leave then?

GRAHAM
Yes.

Shannon gets up and starts to leave.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Ah shit, I almost forgot.

Shannon turns back.

SHANNON
What?

GRAHAM
I need you to go our storage and pick up a box. You can't miss it-it's red.

SHANNON
(confused)
What... storage unit?

GRAHAM
Oh shit, that's right. You don't know about our storage unit... Well, now you know so I might as well tell you.

Shannon raises her eyebrow.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
So... We have a small storage unit, where we keep old records and other lost items. I need you to get me a red box.

SHANNON
Where is it?

GRAHAM
The car has GPS, it's the last address.

SHANNON
How far is it?

GRAHAM
Like 15 minutes away.

SHANNON
Okay. I'll be back as fast as I can.

Graham throws her the keys.

INT. CAR-LATER

Shannon drives the car.

She looks to the empty passenger seat.

A thunder is heard. It starts to rain.

Shannon closes the window and sighs.

A police car passes by, and stops a little bit ahead.

Shannon stops as well and opens the window.

SHANNON
Is everything okay, officer?

The police car opens the window, revealing Nolan.

NOLAN
I just wanted to say hi.

Shannon smiles.

SHANNON
Hi officer Nolan.

NOLAN
You okay Shannon?

SHANNON
Yes. You?

NOLAN
Yeah... Just wanted to check on how
you were doing. I was worried.

SHANNON
Why?

NOLAN
Well the commissioner told me you had
a wild animal in your little
community.

SHANNON
A wild animal?

NOLAN
Yes... That new girl, Marcia. I hope
she hasn't bitten you.

Shannon smiles, uncomfortably.

SHANNON
No, no... She's alright.

NOLAN
Well, be careful. I've seen too many
Planet of the Apes movies to trust
those fuckers...

Shannon laughs awkwardly.

NOLAN (cont'd)
I have to go. Bye, Shannon.

SHANNON
Bye, officer Nolan.

INT. STORAGE UNIT-LATER

Shannon is inside the storage unit.

It's a large storage unit, filled with boxes and dust, only
tenuously lit by old lamps.

Shannon cruises through the halls searching for a red box,
but she keeps only seeing normal card boxes.

She stops walking and looks up.

Shannon sees the red box, up high.

She takes a deep breath and starts to climb over the
mountain of boxes to get there.

Shannon loses balance and falls down, with multiple boxes,
including the red one, falling with her.

The boxes open, with multiple papers flying across the air.

Shannon lands on one of the boxes, minimizing her pain.

SHANNON
Ouch.

She gets up, slowly and with great effort, and looks around.

There are many papers spread across the floor and multiple
boxes open.

Shannon sighs and starts to put the papers back in the
boxes.

She takes a quick glance at the papers and notices they are
mostly spreadsheets and financial reports.

One of them catches her attention. It says oven.

Shannon takes a quick look at it and keeps the paper.

She picks up the red box and is surprised to see how light it is. She opens the red box and sees a red cloak and a mask.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon and Marcia are both lying down in bed.

MARCIA

A red cloak and a mask? What the fuck?

Shannon quietly looks to the ceiling.

MARCIA (cont'd)

Oh, damn. Didn't mean to curse. Sorry.

SHANNON

Marcia...

MARCIA

What?

SHANNON

I don't give a fuck.

MARCIA

Damn, girl. What's gotten into you?

SHANNON

Something very weird is happening here... And I don't like it. I'm scared.

Marcia tries to hold Shannon's hand.

Startled, she moves her hand, which leads Marcia to grabbing her wrist.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Ouch.

MARCIA

Oh my god I'm sorry, I was going for your hand...

Shannon caresses her wrist.

MARCIA (cont'd)
Are you hurt here?

Shannon tries to get up, but Marcia grabs her hand.

Shannon looks at her, surprised.

Marcia stares at her, worried.

MARCIA (cont'd)
(calmly)
Please... Show me.

Shannon shows her the cuts on her wrist.

Marcia hugs her.

MARCIA (cont'd)
I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry... I
should've seen it. I should've been
there for you. I'm sorry I wasn't.
You're not alone. You are not alone.
I'm here now. I'm here for you.

Shannon begins to break down.

SHANNON
(crying)
I just... I didn't know what else to
do. I had this knife for a while now,
for protection... I was afraid they
were going to come for me. But
then... I was in so much pain... I
had no one to talk to, I didn't know
what else to do...

MARCIA
It's okay...

SHANNON
Marcia...

MARCIA
Yes...

SHANNON
There's something else I haven't told
you.

MARCIA
What?

SHANNON

Mr. Waters... wants to... have sex with me.

MARCIA

What the fuck?

SHANNON

He said that if I don't obey, he will tell Mr. Smith about how I was on with it with Lucy... So you know... I guess I'm going to hell.

MARCIA

Girl, I don't think that's your biggest problem right now.

SHANNON

I have a lot of problems right now...

MARCIA

I understand... So, what you gonna do?

SHANNON

I don't know... Do I have a choice?

MARCIA

We always have a choice.

SHANNON

You don't get a choice in Expanded Horizons.

MARCIA

Then leave.

SHANNON

And where do I go? Where do I go, Marcia? I'm not like you. I don't have a life outside... All my life is here.

MARCIA

You call this a life?

SHANNON

It's the only life I've ever known.

MARCIA

Let me show you more.

SHANNON

How? Where do we go? With what money?

MARCIA

Okay... We can think better about it later. But I will not let you be raped. And I will not let us waste the rest of our lives here.

SHANNON

How?

MARCIA

I don't know how... But we will.

Shannon smiles.

MARCIA (cont'd)

What happened to her body?

SHANNON

What?

MARCIA

You said they killed Lucy...

SHANNON

I saw it before my very own eyes.

MARCIA

How did they get rid of the body?

SHANNON

Why do you care?

MARCIA

Because if we're going to escape... We need to make sure these bastards don't come after us. We'll put them in jail.

SHANNON

The local police is friends with Mr. Smith. I doubt they'll do much.

MARCIA

We can still tell people.

SHANNON

They'll never believe us.

MARCIA

I know what to do. But we need evidence...

SHANNON

What?

MARCIA

You know this building better than me. Where could they have hidden the body?

Shannon thinks, and then her eyes open.

SHANNON

Oh my god...

MARCIA

What?

SHANNON

I... found something in the storage unit.

MARCIA

What?

Shannon hands her the paper.

Marcia reads.

She puts the paper down, shocked.

SHANNON

You don't think...

EXT. MEADOWS-LATER

Shannon and Marcia ride their horses, in silence.

SHANNON

Marcia, we're never going to find it... I think I should get that information out of Mr. Waters...

MARCIA

You are not going to be raped by that man so we can find a fucking oven.

SHANNON

How else are we going to find it?

MARCIA

I don't know, but we will... We will... We have to...

Marcia stops talking.

Shannon looks at her, confused.

SHANNON
Marcia... What's up?

MARCIA
I think I found it.

Shannon looks ahead, and sees a small cabin, in the middle of the meadows.

SHANNON
How come I had never seen it before?

MARCIA
Sometimes we only find things when we are ready to find them.

Shannon looks at Marcia, who smiles cheekily.

INT. CABIN

Shannon and Marcia walk inside the cabin.

The cabin is small, and completely dark.

Shannon tries to find a light, and eventually finds it.

She turns on the light, revealing a huge oven.

SHANNON
We found it, alright.

MARCIA
Yes, but this isn't enough. They're just going to say they use it to make bread.

SHANNON
Maybe they've kept souvenirs or something...

MARCIA
These guys are not serial killers. They kill because they have to, not because they like it. They're not the kind of weirdos to keep souvenirs... I'll give them that.

SHANNON
Does that make a difference? They kill people anyway...

MARCIA
Touché.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon and Marcia lie down in bed, next to each other. They stare at the ceiling.

SHANNON
So... we're stuck here.

MARCIA
I guess so...

SHANNON
We could just escape...

MARCIA
I feel bad leaving the rest of the girls here.

SHANNON
Me too...

MARCIA
You know, if this was a movie, there would be like some sort of book to prove all of this shit... But alas, we're nothing but two girls with a crazy story and no evidence.

SHANNON
Wait...

Shannon gets up from bed.

Marcia looks at her, baffled.

MARCIA
What?

SHANNON
We have a story.

MARCIA
Yeah, so?

SHANNON
What if we write it?

MARCIA
Write what?

SHANNON
Our story...

MARCIA

Why would we do that?

SHANNON

Someday... we will leave this place. Dead, alive... to a convent, to the oven... We will leave this place. We will die someday. From old age, from a bullet, from a sword... we will die. But our story... that will live on long after we're gone. Once something's written, it can't be erased. Even if they burn it, even if they tear it to shreds... Stories never disappear. They endure, as long as someone reads them.

MARCIA

Shannon... But who will read our story?

SHANNON

Someone... someone will read it.

MARCIA

How? Who?

SHANNON

They always find a way.

MARCIA

How will this help us? How will this help anyone?

SHANNON

Do you want to know why I haven't killed myself yet?

MARCIA

You've thought about it?

SHANNON

Ever since I was 14.

MARCIA

Why?

Shannon looks at her deadpan serious.

MARCIA (cont'd)

Point taken...

SHANNON

Our drama club. Writing those stories... that was the only thing that kept me going. The fact that there was something else than this, a world, a life that existed far beyond the confinements of this fucking place...

MARCIA

But you never lived that life. You never saw that world.

SHANNON

And maybe I never will... But I'm still here, aren't I? And I'm more than more than Mr. Smith's perfect little soldier.

MARCIA

I'm glad you are.

SHANNON

Thank you.

They both smile at each other.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Will you help me?

MARCIA

Of course... and I know exactly where to write it.

Marcia runs to the closet, and takes off a typewriter.

SHANNON

A typewriter?

MARCIA

Yes.

SHANNON

How did you manage to sneak that in here?

MARCIA

If there's one thing I can thank my dad for, it's the fact that I can hide stuff very, very well.

SHANNON

How did you get that?

MARCIA

One of my exes left this at my apartment.

SHANNON

I thought you lived in a house.

MARCIA

You know people move, right?

SHANNON

Right... Sorry. Why did he left it there?

MARCIA

Let's just say he was straight from a certain department...

SHANNON

A department?

MARCIA

It's a joke... You wouldn't get it.

SHANNON

I want to get it.

MARCIA

I'll tell you later.

Shannon smiles at her.

Marcia smiles back.

INT. CAFÉ

Shannon cleans a table with a wet piece of cloth.

Marcia writes in her typewriter a couple of tables away.

Their eyes meet-and they both smile at each other.

The café is nearly empty, with only them and a PIANIST (45).

The pianist notices the exchange of looks, and smiles at them both.

He starts to play a melody.

Shannon and Marcia keep looking at each other, but soon find themselves confused.

They are levitating, alongside with the tables and the chairs.

The pianist and his piano remain stuck on the ground.

Shannon and Marcia look at each other and start swimming across the air to find each other.

They eventually do, and they grab each other's hands.

They smile at each other.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-EARLY MORNING

Albert opens the door violently.

Shannon and Marcia wake up.

SHANNON

What, dad?

ALBERT

You're late. Get the fuck up.

SHANNON

Jesus Christ dad. No reason to be this aggressive.

ALBERT

Watch out for blasphemy.

Albert closes the door, violently.

MARCIA

Your dad is quite something.

SHANNON

We are all quite something, Marcia.

Marcia laughs.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Where is it?

Marcia puts her hand under the pillow and takes a lot of papers.

SHANNON (cont'd)

I still can't believe it's real.

MARCIA

You better believe it.

INT. AUDITORIUM-LATER

Graham performs his usual sermon, with the multiple knights and girls patiently listening.

Shannon and Marcia, however, do not pay attention. They only have eyes for each other.

EXT. GARDEN-LATER

Shannon and Marcia trim the weeds.

SHANNON
I still can't believe we've done
it...

MARCIA
Same...

SHANNON
What are you going to do about it?

MARCIA
I don't know... We need to write a
good ending first.

JOHN
(V.O.)
Shannon!

Shannon turns her head, and sees John calling for her.

SHANNON
What?

JOHN
Graham wants to see you.

Shannon rolls her eyes.

INT. ELEVATOR-LATER

John and Shannon are in the elevator together, alone.

JOHN
You know... That special dinner is
next week.

SHANNON
I know.

JOHN

I forgot to tell you... I like my pussies shaved. So please take care of that.

SHANNON

Mr. Waters, I don't have a pussy to shave . If you do have one, please shave yours.

John throws her to the wall, violently.

JOHN

Who... the fuck do you think you are?

SHANNON

I'm Shannon Carpenter.

JOHN

You know I could just take you here for myself.

SHANNON

No, you can't.

JOHN

Excuse me?

SHANNON

You heard me. You can't.

JOHN

Why is that?

SHANNON

I'm assuming that Graham does know about your... extracurricular activities, so if he walked in I doubt he would care. But if someone else does... I doubt that he'll forgive you for doing this in such a public way. After all, how will he sell this place as an oasis for the depravity of the outside world if his own right hand men can't control himself?

JOHN

I can just kill you here though.

SHANNON

Honey, you want me. You could never kill me.

JOHN

You think I won't fuck when you're dead?

Shannon sheds a tear.

JOHN (cont'd)

You can't win this, sweetheart.

SHANNON

Maybe not. But I can live to fight another day.

Shannon kicks him in the nuts.

John screams out of pain, and falls to his knees.

JOHN

You fucking whore. I am going to make you regret that. You fucking bitch... I am going to make you squeal, you fucking who-

Shannon throws his head against the wall. The blood paints the wall red.

John falls down, dead.

Shannon screams, but puts her hand over her mouth.

The elevator opens.

Shannon runs to her room, opens her door and goes to the bathroom.

She cries uncontrollably.

She takes the knife of the drawer.

The door opens.

MARCIA

(V.O.)

Shannon? Is that you?

Shannon drops the knife.

MARCIA (cont'd)

(V.O.)

Is everything okay?

Shannon falls to the floor.

Marcia enters the bathroom.

MARCIA (cont'd)
(kneeling)
What's wrong sweetie?

SHANNON
I... I killed him.

MARCIA
Who did you kill?

SHANNON
I killed Mr. Waters. He... was
talking about raping me, killing and
I just... smashed his head against
the elevator.

MARCIA
Hey, hey it's okay... You were
defending yourself.

SHANNON
I'm going to hell.

Marcia hugs Shannon, as she is crying.

MARCIA
Honey... It's okay.

SHANNON
Leave me. Please. There's no reason
for both of us to go to hell.

MARCIA
Shannon, sweetie... Hell with you
would be heaven for me.

Shannon smiles.

MARCIA (cont'd)
We have to run. Do you think we can
get to the horses?

SHANNON
Where are we going?

MARCIA
First to the city. We'll figure out
the rest later.

Shannon smiles.

SHANNON
Thank you.

MARCIA

No worries.

EXT. MEADOWS-LATER

Shannon and Marcia ride their horses through the meadows.

SHANNON

I can't believe we've managed to escape.

MARCIA

Well... Maybe God does exist.

SHANNON

You don't believe in God?

MARCIA

Honey, do you really think right now it's the time to have that discussion?

SHANNON

Why not?

MARCIA

Because you've just killed a guy, we've just ran off from a cult on horses... Do you really want to debate the existence of God now?

SHANNON

Fair enough.

MARCIA

I was thinking we could go to the road, ditch the horses and find a ride there.

SHANNON

We're leaving them?

MARCIA

Do you want to ride a horse in the city?

SHANNON

Why not?

MARCIA

We want to keep a low profile. Do you think the horses will help with that?

SHANNON

But I don't want to leave these horses... I love them.

MARCIA

I know. But we have to.

SHANNON

You're being too logical.

MARCIA

There will be plenty of time to be emotional later. Now we have to think.

EXT. ROAD-LATER

Marcia and Shannon walk on the side of the road.

SHANNON

(out of breath)

Tell me you at least regret ditching the horses...

MARCIA

No... Do you really think it would be a good idea to enter a city riding a fucking horse when we're trying to avoid being seen?

SHANNON

Well, it beats walking like this...

A police car appears and stops a few meters away from the pair.

Marcia realizes this.

Shannon does not.

MARCIA

Shit...

SHANNON

What?

Marcia points to the car.

Shannon looks at it.

The door opens, and Officer Nolan walks off.

SHANNON (cont'd)
Don't worry, I know him.
(screaming)
Hey, officer Nolan. How are you
today?

Nolan pulls his gun away.

NOLAN
On your knees! Now!

Shannon starts to kneel.

NOLAN (cont'd)
Not you, princess. I'm talking to
that fucking ape.

Shannon stares at Marcia, confused.

Marcia nods, and kneels.

SHANNON
Nolan, what are you doing?

NOLAN
Catching an animal. Apparently I'm on
animal control now. They ask me to do
everything but they pay me to do the
equivalent of nothing.

SHANNON
What did she do?

NOLAN
Get behind me, Shannon.

Shannon looks at Marcia.

Marcia nods her head.

SHANNON
Nolan, she didn't do anything. It was
all me.

NOLAN
You don't have to lie, anymore. We
know she's killed John and kidnapped
you.

SHANNON
That's not true. I killed him. Take
me in.

NOLAN

Spear me your Stockholm Syndrome non sense Shannon, and get behind me.

Shannon walks towards Nolan.

NOLAN (cont'd)

That's right... you're not going anywhere, you fucking monkey.

Shannon puts herself behind Nolan.

NOLAN (cont'd)

You're not going anywhere expect prison.

Shannon looks to the car and notices a heavy notebook on top of the car seats.

NOLAN (cont'd)

And let me tell you something about prison...It's a jungle in there.

Shannon picks up the notebook.

NOLAN (cont'd)

And while an ape like you might feel at home there, let me assure you: I'll make sure it won't be long until a lion bites your head off.

Shannon smashes the notebook on Nolan's head.

He falls to the floor, passed out.

Shannon runs towards Marcia.

SHANNON

Oh my god, are you okay?

She hugs her with all her strength, who's still on her knees.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Are you okay?

MARCIA

(mumbling)

I'm okay, I'm okay...

Shannon hugs her even tighter.

Marcia, still on her knees, has her face completely smashed against Shannon's crotch.

MARCIA (cont'd)
Shannon, sweetie.

SHANNON
Yeah?

MARCIA
Can you let me go? I can't breathe
with my face against your pussy.

SHANNON
My pussy? I don't have a cat...

MARCIA
Your vagina, Shannon, Jesus.

SHANNON
Oh shit. I'm sorry.

Shannon lets her go.

Marcia gets up quickly.

MARCIA
Thank you.

SHANNON
No worries.

INT. SUPERMARKET-LATER

Shannon and Marcia are in line at the supermarket.

An old man is in front of them, talking to David.

Shannon and David look at each other.

David rolls his eyes.

Shannon smiles.

The old man finally leaves.

Shannon and Marcia take a step forward.

Shannon puts the groceries, which consist of a few water
bottles and some burgers, in front of David.

DAVID
Very unusual shopping, Miss
Carpenter.

SHANNON
(laughing)
Well, you know... We all deserve to
go a little crazy sometimes.

DAVID
That's true... Who's your friend?

SHANNON
That's Marcia.

David smiles awkwardly at Marcia, who looks at him blankly.

DAVID
Is everything okay with her?

MARCIA
Yeah... She's just... shy.

DAVID
I see... Well, I'll just put this on
Mr. Smith's tab as usual.

SHANNON
Thank you.

David throws the pen at the floor.

DAVID
I'm sorry... Can you pick that up
please?

SHANNON
Sure.

Shannon gets down to pick it up.

Callum, behind her, takes his phone out to take a picture.

Marcia notices this and punches him in the face.

Callum falls to the floor, bleeding from his nose.

CALLUM
You bitch!

Shannon turns around, shocked.

David takes a step back.

SHANNON
What happened?

MARCIA

Tell her what you were about to do.

CALLUM

You fucking whore. I'm going to kill you...

Marcia kicks him in the nuts.

Callum screams in pain.

MARCIA

Tell her what you were going to do...

CALLUM

You bitch. You fucking bitch.

MARCIA

Well, as this gentleman isn't going to tell you... I'll tell you. He was going to take a picture of your ass.

SHANNON

What?

MARCIA

And with the help of that lovely gentleman over the...

Marcia stops mid-sentence, in shock.

Shannon looks at David.

He holds a shotgun.

SHANNON

David... What the...

DAVID

(hysterical)

Everybody calm down... Everybody calm down before I have to shoot anyone.

SHANNON

David, the only one who's not calm here is you. Put the gun down. We'll leave and that'll be the end of it.

DAVID

Shut up. Shut up!

Shannon starts walking backwards, with her groceries in her hands and eventually stops next to Marcia.

SHANNON

David... just let us go. You don't want to kill anybody. Trust me, I know.

DAVID

What the fuck do you know about anything? You're nothing but a glorified nun. You come here, looking so pure, so innocent... pretending like you don't know that being like this drives me crazy.

SHANNON

What are you talking about?

DAVID

Stop being so dumb. How do you think we men feel when you come here looking so innocent, with that sweet voice and that body covered in white... How do you think that makes us feel? We're just normal men... We see a girl like you and we... can't control ourselves.

Marcia, behind Shannon's back, grabs one of the water bottles.

MARCIA

David...

DAVID

What?

MARCIA

I understand how you feel.

DAVID

How? Do you have a dick you fucking monkey?

MARCIA

No... But you do have.

DAVID

What the fuck?

MARCIA

And I can only imagine how much that hurts.

DAVID

What? It doesn't hurt...

Marcia throws one of the water bottles to David's crotch with all her strength.

David falls in pain, and drops the gun.

Marcia runs and grabs it, immediately pointing it to his face.

MARCIA
I was thinking about shooting you...
But it'd be a waste of bullets.

Marcia walks away, not before kicking Callum one last time.

Shannon looks at her, shocked.

Marcia stops.

MARCIA (cont'd)
You coming or what?

Shannon runs towards her.

SHANNON
Thank you.

MARCIA
No worries.

EXT. BEACH-LATER

Shannon and Marcia are seated by the sea, on the beach. They eat their burgers, calmly.

The moonlight paints the water silver.

SHANNON
I can't believe David did something like that.

MARCIA
Oh, he probably has done much worse.

SHANNON
But I don't get it... He has a girlfriend.

MARCIA
That fucking rat?

SHANNON
Yeah... So he said.

MARCIA
God does miracles...

SHANNON
He's not that ugly.

MARCIA
I didn't know you had a taste in
men...

SHANNON
Just because I grew up isolated from
the rest of the world doesn't mean I
don't have eyes.

MARCIA
When did you first realize it?

SHANNON
Well... Mr. Smith has a son... about
our age. He used to spend the
weekends with us... He was so cute.

MARCIA
Hmm... Did anything ever happen?

SHANNON
No. He barely noticed me.

MARCIA
I find that very hard to believe...

SHANNON
You think I'm beautiful?

MARCIA
You're probably the most beautiful
girl I've ever seen.

SHANNON
Can I ask you a question?

MARCIA
What?

SHANNON
Do you like girls?

Marcia spits out her food.

SHANNON (cont'd)
You okay?

MARCIA

I was not expecting that question...
How do you even know about lesbians?

SHANNON

They taught us that lesbians are
devils, women whom the Devil has
possessed to seduce us.

MARCIA

Ah... That checks out.

SHANNON

I know you're not a lesbian... So I'm
asking if you like girls.

MARCIA

Well... Yes. I like girls.

SHANNON

How?

MARCIA

You do know you can like both...

Shannon looks at her, confused.

MARCIA (cont'd)

I guess they didn't teach you that...

SHANNON

How?

MARCIA

Well, you know... the world has so
many beautiful people, why limit
yourself?

SHANNON

Because...

MARCIA

Because of the Devil? Shannon, honey,
Devil is the name men have long given
to things they don't like about us.

SHANNON

What do you mean?

MARCIA

They burnt women who they feared
because of witchcraft, devil
possessions or whatever.

(MORE)

MARCIA (cont'd)
They blame the Devil for war,
disease, poverty, disasters... Not
understanding that all of this
evil... It doesn't come from any
Devil who burns people for a living.
It comes from us.

SHANNON
So you think God and the Devil aren't
real?

MARCIA
I don't know... I like to think that
there is something bigger than me,
bigger than all of us, something
mystical, something... divine maybe,
that is out there putting some order
in this mess of a universe. But...

Marcia stops talking, staring at the sea.

SHANNON
But?

MARCIA
I don't know.

SHANNON
Well... You can believe something
without being sure of it.

MARCIA
How?

SHANNON
Faith, Marcia. Like I have faith that
we're going to make it. Faith that
the story we wrote will not just be
some more ashes in some forgotten
fire. Faith that... this will end
well.

MARCIA
I get the feeling that it won't.

SHANNON
Maybe... But I get the feeling it
will.

MARCIA
How?

SHANNON
I believe.

MARCIA

How?

SHANNON

Again... Faith.

MARCIA

Isn't faith reserved for God and
etc.?

SHANNON

Maybe... But as you said earlier...
If there is no Devil to cause Evil,
I'm assuming there's no God to do
some good. So, following your line of
thought... all the evil, all the good
in the world are just inside of us.
So maybe God and the Devil are all
inside of us.

MARCIA

I see...

SHANNON

Yeah...

MARCIA

Do you want to go for a swim?

SHANNON

Are you crazy?

MARCIA

What's the worst thing that can
happen?

SHANNON

We don't even have any appropriate
clothing...

MARCIA

We can just go naked...

SHANNON

No... I don't think that's a good
idea.

MARCIA

Why? Scared to see me naked?

SHANNON

No... I just...

MARCIA

What?

SHANNON

I've never been naked in front of anyone.

MARCIA

Are you embarrassed?

SHANNON

Yeah...

MARCIA

Then let's just not get naked.

Marcia gets up, and takes her clothes off, revealing her lingerie.

Shannon stares at her.

SHANNON

What?

MARCIA

Your turn...

SHANNON

Girl, what...

Marcia runs towards the sea and dives straight in.

MARCIA

Your turn.

Shannon looks at her.

She gets up, takes off her dress, also revealing her lingerie.

Marcia looks at her, and smiles.

Shannon runs towards the sea and dives.

Shannon swims under the sea, and smiles.

She comes to the surface.

MARCIA (cont'd)

I told you this would be fun.

Shannon smiles.

Marcia smiles back.

SHANNON
You're... so pretty.

Marcia blushes.

MARCIA
Stop it...

Shannon puts her hand on Marcia's face.

Marcia looks in shock, but eventually cracks a smile.

Shannon closes her eyes, and she kisses Marcia on the lips.

Marcia reciprocates.

Shannon stops kissing and takes a few steps back.

SHANNON
No, no... I'm sorry.

MARCIA
Girl... Why are you apologizing for
kissing me like that?

SHANNON
I shouldn't have... It's just...
You're so pretty, you're so beautiful
and I...

MARCIA
It's okay...

Marcia takes a few steps forward, and hugs Shannon.

SHANNON
I'm going to hell...

MARCIA
I'll follow you there.

Shannon looks at Marcia, with tears in her eyes.

Marcia smiles.

MARCIA (cont'd)
You sure you want to do this?

SHANNON
Yes.

MARCIA
You don't have to...

SHANNON

I know... But I want to.

Shannon kisses Marcia, with all her strength.

Marcia returns the kiss.

They start making out passionately.

Shannon almost bites Marcia's lips.

MARCIA

Take it easy tiger.

SHANNON

I'm sorry...

MARCIA

You kiss like a feral animal.

SHANNON

What can I say? I've been waiting for
this my whole life...

Marcia kisses her softly on her lips.

MARCIA

I love you.

SHANNON

I love you too...

They both leave the water, laughing.

INT. CHURCH-LATE NIGHT

Shannon kneels in a church, praying. She wears a dark robe,
with a hood on her head.

The church is dark, only subtly lit by candles and the
moonlight.

Shannon makes the sign of the cross.

MARCIA

(V.O.)

Are you praying for God or are you
praying for me?

Shannon turns her head and sees Marcia, wearing a similar
robe, walking towards her in the empty church.

SHANNON

I wasn't aware there was a difference.

Marcia smiles as she slowly takes her robe off.

Shannon smiles.

Marcia is naked walking towards her.

Shannon remains on her knees.

MARCIA

Aren't you getting up?

SHANNON

I do my best work on my knees.

Marcia stops walking, right in front of Shannon.

Shannon puts her tongue on Shannon's clitoris.

Marcia moans.

MARCIA

You know people usually build up to do this?

SHANNON

I think we've built up quite enough... But in that case.

Shannon gets up and kisses Marcia on the mouth, with her hands on her breasts.

MARCIA

That's better.

They continue to kiss as Shannon takes her robe as well.

Marcia takes a look at her naked body.

MARCIA (cont'd)

It's even better than I imagined...

SHANNON

So you imagined it?

MARCIA

So many times...

They kiss, as the moonlight lights her in silver lights.

They finger each other, and moan incredibly loudly.

Shannon smiles and starts to go down on Marcia.

First, on her breasts.

Then on her clitoris.

Marcia moans.

The large statute of Jesus in the cross lights dramatically, as lighting drop outside.

It starts to rain heavily.

EXT. BEACH-EARLY MORNING

Shannon wakes up.

She looks around the beach, lit by early dawn's rising sun.

She then looks next to her, and sees Marcia sleeping.

Shannon smiles, yawns and then stretches.

She puts her white dress and gets up.

MARCIA

Were you just gonna leave me here?

Shannon looks at Marcia, who has just woken up.

SHANNON

I'm sorry... I didn't mean to wake you up.

MARCIA

It's fine. You wouldn't be the first to leave me after a night like yesterday.

SHANNON

I'd never leave you...

MARCIA

I know... But if you ever do, please leave a typewriter.

SHANNON

Why?

MARCIA

So I could say I fucked someone from the Tortured Poets department.

SHANNON

The what?

MARCIA

(smiling)

Forget about that.

SHANNON

I will not be forgetting last night.

MARCIA

Me too.

SHANNON

So... Did you like it?

MARCIA

I loved it. Did you?

SHANNON

Yeah...

They both smile at each other.

Shannon notices Nolan, holding a gun, walking towards them.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Shit.

NOLAN

(on his mini radio)

Hey! I found them.

Marcia turns her head, and sees him.

NOLAN (cont'd)

Stop. Police.

Shannon tears up.

SHANNON

Nolan... Please. Leave us. Pretend you didn't see us.

NOLAN

Hands up!

Shannon puts her hands up.

Marcia covers herself with her dress.

NOLAN (cont'd)

Both of you, come on!

Marcia puts her dress on.

NOLAN (cont'd)
I said both of you!

MARCIA
Can I at least get dressed?

Nolan fires a shot, that hits the sand.

NOLAN
I won't miss my next one.

Marcia puts her hands up, letting her dress fall.

Nolan fires one shot, hitting her right leg.

Marcia falls down in pain.

SHANNON
Nolan, are you fucking crazy?

Shannon kneels next to Marcia.

NOLAN
Shannon, get away from her. Walk
towards me. It's over. You don't have
to be scared of her anymore.

Shannon cries next to Marcia.

NOLAN (cont'd)
Shannon!

Marcia looks at Shannon.

MARCIA
Go to him. No reason we should both
die.

Shannon holds her hand.

SHANNON
I'm sorry.

MARCIA
It's okay.

Marcia smiles.

Shannon lets her hand go and walks towards Nolan.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon lies down in her bed, alone. She stares at the ceiling.

LUCY
You finally did it...

Shannon gets up, frightened, only to see Lucy standing in front of her bed.

She starts to tear up.

SHANNON
How are you here?

LUCY
Hey girl. No time no see...

SHANNON
Lucy... How... I... I saw you die.

LUCY
Oh I'm still very much dead.

SHANNON
Then how are you here?

LUCY
Who knows? Maybe I'm a ghost, maybe I'm a spirit, a figment of your imagination... It doesn't really matter what or who I am, all it matters is that I'm here.

SHANNON
What... are you doing here?

LUCY
I wanted to congratulate you. You did it. You ran off.

SHANNON
Well, I'm still here.

LUCY
Yes, but you left once. You can leave twice.

SHANNON
Where should I go?

LUCY
Anywhere but here.

SHANNON

I can't leave Marcia here...

LUCY

Who said anything about leaving her here?

SHANNON

She's hurt... because of me. I can't take her with me.

LUCY

Shannon... Did you fire the gun?

SHANNON

No.

LUCY

Then you're not the reason why she's hurt. Stop blaming yourself for things that are not your fault. Life is too short and the world is too horrible for us to waste time blaming ourselves for things we haven't done.

SHANNON

I miss you.

LUCY

I know... I miss you too.

SHANNON

I'm sorry for what happened to you...

LUCY

What did I just say?

SHANNON

I'm sorry, I'm sorry...

LUCY

Stop apologizing.

SHANNON

I will.

A knock is heard.

Shannon turns her head to the door.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Who is it?

ALBERT
(V.O.)
It's me...

Shannon looks to where Lucy was, and realizes she's gone.

SHANNON
Give me a minute.

Shannon gets up from bed and opens the door.

ALBERT
Thank you.

Shannon lets him in, and sits in bed again.

ALBERT (cont'd)
How are you?

SHANNON
Alive. You?

ALBERT
I was... worried.

SHANNON
Why?

ALBERT
Cause my daughter was kidnapped by a
deranged killer.

SHANNON
Oh really? Is that the story they're
telling?

ALBERT
Is it not the truth?

SHANNON
Marcia didn't kill Mr. Waters. I did.

ALBERT
Mr. Smith knows. I know. We all know.

SHANNON
Then why is she the one locked up?

ALBERT
Because...

SHANNON
It's because she's black. Isn't it?

ALBERT

Remember when Mr. Smith said that a sacrifice was needed for God to forgive Lucy for her sins? Marcia was chosen...

SHANNON

Why?

ALBERT

Well, think about it... Before her, you were the best of the best. Obedient, calm, pure... and now look what you've become: aggressive, sexually devious, delirious... Why do you think that it is?

SHANNON

Maybe I've always been like this. Maybe Marcia didn't do anything but give me the strength to be what I was deep inside all along...

ALBERT

Don't be silly, sweetie. I know you. You're not like this.

SHANNON

Do you know me dad? Do you? I mean... I've never talked to you outside of a few short sentences here and there. You've dragged me here and you left me all alone in this goddam place while you lived out your knight fantasy.

ALBERT

I did what was best for you.

SHANNON

How do you know what's best for me if you never even asked me what I want?

ALBERT

You're a teenage girl, Shannon. You don't know what you want.

SHANNON

Leave.

ALBERT

Shannon...

SHANNON
Please leave.

Albert walks away, leaving Shannon alone.

He closes the door behind her.

Shannon looks under the pillow, and finds the manuscript.

EXT. MEADOWS-LATER

Shannon rides her horse, alone, in the meadows.

On her lap, there is a towel.

She ties the towel to the horse, and gets off from it.

SHANNON
(whispering to the
horse.)
Ride. Ride as fast you can.

The horse rides off, while Shannon watches him.

INT. ASSEMBLY ROOM-LATER

Marcia lies down on the stage, inside a coffin.

Her wound is still open.

Around her, the many knights surround her, all dressed in their dark robes.

The girls stand a bit further off.

All the windows are closed, and the dark room is only lit by candle lights.

Graham enters, donning a red cloak and a mask.

He comes near the coffin and he looks at Marcia, lying down, in clear pain.

Graham smiles.

GRAHAM
We are gathered here today to do what
we should have done a long time
ago... A sacrifice to honor our long,
strong commitment to our Lord and
Savior.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (cont'd)
The red of this black devil will be spilled, and we will find ourselves again on his graces. This devious creature will die and be on her way to meet her Maker, and we will be able to maintain ourselves pure, virtuous and clean. We will save our innocence. We will endure. When the world around us collapses us into further moral decay, sex, violence and devious behavior, we will be safe. We will survive. We will endure.

Graham takes a dagger from his pocket.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Lord Almighty, please accept this creature's life as a gift. A gift to assure our salvation. A gift to save our souls. A gift to...

A shot is heard.

Graham looks at his chest, and sees a bullet hole with a lot of blood dripping. He falls, dead.

Everybody turns and sees Shannon holding a pistol.

SHANNON
Please God, accept the life of this monster. Not as a gift, but as a sign for you to stop encouraging motherfuckers like him.

All the knights draw their swords.

The girls scream and run away.

SHANNON (cont'd)
If you put down your swords, you'll live. If you choose to fight, I can't make promises.

One of the knights charges towards her.

Shannon shoots him down.

SHANNON (cont'd)
Anyone else?

All the knights charge towards her.

Shannon shoots four more shots.

Four knights fall dead, but the rest keep charging.

Shannon drops the pistol and runs off towards one of the candlesticks.

She throws the candlestick to the floor, setting fire to the room.

The knights panic and chaos starts.

Amidst it, Shannon runs towards the coffin.

SHANNON (cont'd)
Marcia, Marcia.

Marcia looks at Shannon, and smiles.

Shannon smiles at her.

INT. SHANNON'S ROOM-LATER

Shannon lies down Marcia on the bed.

MARCIA
What are we doing here? Shouldn't we... try to run.

SHANNON
By now, they've probably shut down the whole building and called the police. And even if we ran... You're hurt really badly. They'd catch up with us pretty quickly.

MARCIA
So... We're done?

SHANNON
I'm afraid so.

Shannon shuts the door.

MARCIA
Why did you do that?

SHANNON
I wasn't going out without taking that bastard with me.

MARCIA
I see...

SHANNON

They'll probably come here soon.

Someone tries to open the door, but fails.

SHANNON (cont'd)

Speak of the devil...

MARCIA

I'm sorry to have you dragged to this.

Violent knocks are heard.

SHANNON

Life is too short and the world is too cruel for us to waste time apologizing for things we are not to blame for.

Marcia smiles.

SHANNON (cont'd)

No regrets. It was great.

Several kicks against the door are heard.

MARCIA

Shannon?

SHANNON

Yeah?

MARCIA

I hope you don't mind... But I finished the story. That night... I couldn't sleep. So I finished it.

SHANNON

Really? Did you give it a happy ending?

MARCIA

Of course.

SHANNON

So we're free?

MARCIA

Yes...

SHANNON

Good...

MARCIA
Is it safe?

SHANNON
Yes.

MARCIA
They won't find it... Right?

SHANNON
I promise you that they won't.

MARCIA
How can you promise that?

SHANNON
Faith, Marcia. Faith

Marcia smiles.

More violent knocks are heard.

MARCIA
Shannon?

SHANNON
Yes?

MARCIA
I'm glad I met you.

SHANNON
I'm glad I've met you, even if was it
in the wrong place...

MARCIA
Maybe it was in the wrong place, but
I do think it was just at the right
time.

Shannon pets Marcia's hair, and kisses her forehead.

The door is kicked down.

EXT. ROAD-EARLY EVENING

VICTORIA (16) and her father, ROMAN (56), are in a car.
Roman drives, while Victoria sits in the backseat.

There is a gun next to her.

VICTORIA
Are we there yet?

ROMAN

No, Victoria. Still half an hour away.

VICTORIA

What is the place anyways?

ROMAN

Somewhere where you'll learn to behave...

Victoria sighs and looks through the window.

She notices a horse by the road.

VICTORIA

Dad! Stop! There's a horse there.

Roman stops the car.

ROMAN

What?

Victoria opens the door and runs towards the horse.

She looks at it, and notices the towel wrapped around it.

She unwraps it and notices a manuscript.

ROMAN (cont'd)

(V.O.)

Victoria! We're already late.

Victoria hides the manuscript inside her clothes, and turns around.

VICTORIA

In a minute, dad. Just had to see what this little's fellow story was.

THE END