

REMNANTS OF THINGS BURNED

by

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FADE IN

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - DAY

The doorbell rings. MADELYN FREEMAN (12, Black, loose natural hair) opens the door without asking/seeing who it is.

DAVID MANNING (Caucasian, early 60s, British, well-dressed) stands on the front porch with a leather bound journal in hand.

DAVID
Hello. Is Dr. Greer in?

MADELYN
Yes.

DAVID
Please tell her that Dr. Manning is here.

Lightning strikes close to David. It leaves a scorch mark inches from his foot.

MADELYN
I know you... You killed her.

Three lightning bolts take aim at David. They are bent horizontally, then sent back skyward before making contact.

DR. MIRANDA GREER (63, Black, locs, very fit) hurries to the front door with a glass of water in hand.

Miranda is shocked to see Dr. Manning there.

MIRANDA
Dr. Manning? What are you-

DAVID
Come to give this to her, actually.
I just didn't want to hurry off
without speaking to you. Here you
are Madelyn.

David holds the journal out to Madelyn, who takes it with tears streaming from her eyes.

MADELYN
(to David)
You killed her.

DAVID
I had to.

MIRANDA
(to Madelyn)
We had to. Now, go finish packing.

Madelyn pretends to go all the way up the stairs, but stays just out of sight in order to eavesdrop.

DAVID

(os)

She didn't seem that upset when it happened. What changed?

MIRANDA

(os)

She's just conflicted. She hasn't gotten used to being alone.

Madelyn coughs up a 'residual' (a clear glass sphere about the size of a large gumball).

Madelyn throws her residual down the stairs, with enough force to break it.

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

There is no furniture, only a sleeping bag on the floor and a back pillow against the wall near a power outlet. A laptop and cellphone are plugged into the outlet.

There is a distinct burn mark on the floor. A file box with an old laptop, studio style headphones, a stethoscope, a small photo album and two 3-ring binders is on the floor.

The smaller binder (.5") is contorted as if it's been melted by high heat. (The other binder is 1.5")

The closet is open and still full of clothes, shoes and a full set of luggage.

Madelyn sits on the floor, resting against her back pillow. She opens her laptop, which shows the blog archives of PETRA DE PETER, THE MOST EXALTED (drag queen, early 30s).

Madelyn opens the journal. In the front inner pocket, there is a class photo from a private all-boys school circa 1997.

TEEN TREY MURRAY (15) looks unhappy. KYLE MANNING (15, green eyes) stands beside Teen Trey with his arm around his shoulder.

Madelyn flips the picture over. An 'X' is drawn on the back where Kyle's head is.

"Kyle" is written under the 'X', but has been crossed out. Under the crossed out 'Kyle' is written 'Kai'.

Madelyn scrolls through her contacts on a videophone app via her laptop. She selects 'Trey'.

TREY MURRAY (37, 'nerdy') answers on the third ring.

TREY

(on video)

Maddie. What's wrong?

MADLYN

Nothing. This is you, isn't it?

Madelyn shows Trey the photo. She has her finger over Kyle's face.

Trey is shocked. He backs away from his screen, looking very uncomfortable.

TREY

Yes. Where did you get that from?

MADLYN

From a murderer. Was this boy your friend?

Madelyn moves her finger from Kyle's face.

TREY

No. He wasn't.

MADLYN

Did he do something to you?

INT. PRIVATE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

[Flashback to 1997]

MR. GRAHAM, the teacher, stands at the front of the class with new student Kyle, who is a transfer from England. Students are all 14/15.

MR. GRAHAM

This is Kyle. Our new boy. Be polite to him and I expect he will be to you. Won't you, Kyle?

KYLE

Of course.

Kyle passes by Teen Trey on the way to his desk. Trey squirms in his seat and avoids eye contact.

Kyle sits behind Teen Trey. Mr. Graham looks at the notes on his desk.

MR. GRAHAM

Ah, yes. Dictators. Next assignment is an oral presentation on any dictator of your choosing except Hitler.

Kyle snaps with one hand, then claps.

KYLE

Why not Hitler?

The entire class, except Teen Trey, repeats 'Why not Hitler?' in robotic, emotionless tone. Mr. Graham is baffled. He stares at them with his mouth open.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - SAME

Students are standing around, walking or sitting on the benches. Teen Trey sits by himself under a tree.

Kyle glares at him as he walks by and bites the residual in his mouth so that it breaks.

Kyle passes by LEX CARTER who is talking to a group of boys from a different class.

LEX

Graham said 'Any dictator of your choosing except Hitler', then blackout. Seriously. I don't even remember anything after that. And not just me. Mason and Andrew said the same thing.

Kyle chews up the glass shards and spits some out that are covered in blood.

INT. PRIVATE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

There is no teacher in the room. The boys are all talking and horseplaying. ANDREW BURRESS is at the front of the room writing obscenities on the chalkboard.

Andrew picks up a yardstick and slaps the chalkboard with it. Kyle reads a novel while intentionally kicking the back of Teen Trey's chair. Teen Trey sits still and upright like he is afraid to move.

ANDREW

That's enough. Settle down. In your seats and we will begin.

The boys all play along with Andrew's nonsense. Kyle keeps reading and begins sucking on a residual kept in his cheek.

ANDREW

Kyle Manning! Put the book away, please.

Kyle ignores Andrew. Andrew takes the yardstick to Kyle's desk and slaps the desk with it.

ANDREW

Put the book away.

Kyle puts his book down and stares at Andrew.

KYLE

Tell me a secret.

ANDREW

Your mother was a prostitute.

The whole class giggles except Teen Trey and Kyle. Andrew walks back to the front. Kyle snaps and claps.

KYLE

Tell me a secret, Andrew.

Andrew stops in his tracks. He drops the yardstick and turns around in a stiff, doll-like manner.

ANDREW

I wet the bed until I was ten.

Kyle snaps again, breaking Andrew from his trance.

KYLE

What was that, Drew? You were a bedwetter? Is that what you said?

Andrew is confused. The other boys snicker and whisper among themselves. Andrew runs out of the classroom. Kyle resumes reading his book.

EXT. SCHOOL DORMITORY - SAME

Police and an ambulance are on scene. The entrance is blocked. The boys are all kept out of the way by police and staff.

Kyle sucks on his residual while listening to Lex and MASON WILCOX whisper behind him.

LEX

Who was it?

MASON

Andrew. He hung himself in the shower.

Two EMTs come out of the dorm with a black body bag on a gurney.

INT. SCHOOL DORMITORY - NIGHT

Teen Trey sits on the floor outside his room. He has his back to the door and his eyes closed. Kyle walks down the hall towards him.

Kyle stops in front of Teen Trey. Kyle snaps and claps.

KYLE

Tell me a secret.

Teen Trey opens his eyes and hurries to stand. He looks absolutely terrified.

TEEN TREY

What? What do you want to know?

KYLE

What is your problem? Why are you always so terrified?

TEEN TREY

I don't know. I don't have any secrets. I don't know.

INT. SCHOOL KITCHEN - DAY

Mr. Graham leads Kyle, Lex, Mason, Teen Trey and five other boys into the kitchen. There is a mountain of dishes/pans to wash.

MR. GRAHAM

It's not that bad. You should be done everything in an hour.

Mr. Graham leaves. Once he is gone, Kyle snaps then claps. All the boys, except Teen Trey, stand straight up, with dead eyes.

Kyle walks over to the sink, plugs the drain and fill it almost to the top.

KYLE

Lex. Mason. Bring Trey to me.

Lex and Mason grab Trey by the arms and drag him to the sink.

TEEN TREY

Let go! Let go of me.

KYLE

(to Trey)

Tell me a secret. You're hiding something.

TEEN TREY

I'm not, you freak!

KYLE

(to Lex and Mason)

Hold him under until I say 'up'.

Lex and Mason hold Teen Trey's arms behind his back and dunk his head in the sink. Kyle whistles softly and looks bored until Teen Trey starts kicking at him.

KYLE

Up.

Lex and Mason let Trey up.

TEEN TREY

I don't have any secrets. Why won't you leave me alone?

KYLE

Because you don't obey me. I don't like it. Back down you go.

Lex and Mason force Trey's head back under water. MR. COOKE, head of security, bursts into the kitchen.

MR. COOKE

What the hell do you think you're doing?

Kyle snaps and all the boys snap out of their trance. Lex and Mason release Trey. Trey falls to the floor and starts sobbing.

Mr. Cooke grabs Lex and Mason by their shirt collars.

MR. COOKE

You think that's funny? Let's go see how hard the dean laughs.

Mr. Cooke drags Lex and Mason out of the kitchen while Kyle glares at Teen Trey with disdain in his eyes.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn watches Trey as he stares off into space.

MADELYN

You should talk to somebody about it.

Trey is startled. He jumps as he's totally forgotten that Madelyn is there.

TREY

Oh. Yeah. I did. I told Dionne. Years ago.

At the mention of DIONNE (FREEMAN, biracial, 28), Madelyn closes her laptop. She flips through the journal which is still mostly blank. All the entries are from 2014 except the last two, which are dated January 2020.

Madelyn's cellphone buzzes to notify her of an incoming text message. She looks at the sender: it is from Trey.

Madelyn skims through the pages of the journal until she sees Trey's name. She opens her laptop back up. Trey is still there on the videophone app.

MADELYN

Your name is in here.

TREY

Really? What does it say about me?

MADELYN

(reading from journal)

What I did to Trey isn't even the worst. At least he's still alive.

Madelyn stops reading to look at Trey's reaction. Trey rubs his eyes and breathes heavily like he is going to cry.

EXT. SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD - DAY

[Flashback to 1997]

PE teacher and soccer coach MR. HENDERSON watches from the sidelines as the boys run laps around the field.

When they are done. Teen Trey collapses on the ground near the bleachers.

When Kyle is done his laps, he stands right next to Teen Trey, in his personal space to make him uncomfortable.

TEEN TREY

If you're going to kill me, just do it already.

KYLE

Why would I want you to die? That wouldn't be interesting or fun. I want to find out what's wrong with you.

TEEN TREY

Lex and Mason got expelled because of you. Everybody's been different since you came here.

KYLE

Everybody except you. Haven't you noticed? There's a reason why and you won't tell me.

TEEN TREY

I don't know.

KYLE

We'll find out.

TEEN TREY

Us. Them. Everyone.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

All students and staff are present. The teachers and dean, MR. JACOBS, are on the stage.

Everyone is in pajamas and entranced, with the exception of Teen Trey. Teen Trey looks around at everyone and stands up when he realizes they are all dead-eyed.

TEEN TREY

Hey! Snap out of it!

Kyle stands up and walks up to the stage. Teen Trey stomps and claps to get a response, but no one pays him any mind.

TEEN TREY

Wake up! Wake up, dammit!

Kyle speaks directly into the microphone.

KYLE

Look at Trey Murray.

Everyone directs their eyes from the stage to Teen Trey, who is still standing. Kyle spits a residual into his hand and holds it up for Trey to see.

Teen Trey rubs the left side of his face, as if he has a toothache.

KYLE

Snap. Clap. Obey. That's how it works. I command. You follow. You should. But you don't. What about you is different from every other person I've come across?

TEEN TREY

Maybe they're just weak. You called us all here just for this?

KYLE

To show you. You have no friends here. No allies.

TEEN TREY

I have friends nowhere.

KYLE

What about your family? If you never went back to them, would they miss you?

TEEN TREY

Probably not.

Kyle is shocked by this admission.

TEEN TREY

You want to know a secret? I was adopted. Given up by a seventeen year old girl. My parents divorced because of me. Now my father might marry a whore who won't acknowledge my existence. My mother doesn't talk to any of her family. I haven't seen or spoken to any of them in years.

Kyle stares at Teen Trey with no expression. He places the residual back in his mouth and chews it. Teen Trey is horrified, but doesn't move.

KYLE

Go to bed.

Everyone leaves the auditorium except Teen Trey and Kyle. Kyle jumps down from the stage. He walks slowly to Teen Trey and wraps his arms around his neck.

KYLE

We've made some progress. I feel like I know you now.

TEEN TREY

But you really don't. And you hate that, don't you?

Kyle spits bloody glass pieces on Trey's shirt, then leaves. Trey sticks a finger in his mouth to feel his (left) upper gums. They are bleeding.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey's phone rings; he answers it.

TREY

(on phone)

Hello Mother. What's up? Say what now? Oh. I'm actually on a video chat with Maddie right now. She didn't mention. Does she remember? Oh. Okay.

Trey hangs up his phone. He looks sad.

TREY

Mom said Dr. Manning is there now.

MADELYN

Murderer.

TREY

Don't. Don't do that. He just lost his son. Don't do that to him.

MADELYN

Who died?

TREY

That boy in the picture. The one who is not my friend.

MADELYN

This is his?

Madelyn continues skimming through the journal. She sees Dionne's name on almost every page. VIVIAN (FREEMAN, biracial, 31) is also mentioned several times.

TREY

Yes, it is.

MADELYN

What did he do to you? How did he know Mommy?

EXT. PARK - DAY

[Flashback to 2012]

Dionne watches TODDLER MADELYN (4) and TODDLER MADISON (3) play in the sandbox.

A little dog runs by Dionne. She steps between the dog and the sandbox when it gets too close to the girls.

Trey comes to fetch his dog.

TREY

He doesn't bite.

DIONNE

Of course it does. It has teeth.

TREY

So, what did you want to talk to me about?

DIONNE

I wanted to ask you if Mommy hurt you. You stayed at our house for a weekend and you were all paranoid and scared of everything after that. Do you remember?

Trey looks very uncomfortable. He looks like he is going to cry. Trey massages the left side of his face.

DIONNE

Please, tell me.

TREY

I don't remember staying at your house. I remember having blackout episodes for months after. My mother suspected that Hollis did something to me, but had no proof.

DIONNE

They stopped though? The seizures and the fear?

Trey's eyes tear up and he struggles to remain composed.

TREY

There was one of...whatever you are, at my boarding school. This sadistic little British prick. He could make people do whatever he wanted. Mind control or something like it. It didn't work on me and he didn't take it too well.

Trey loses his fight not to cry and wipes the tears away as they fall.

TREY

He tormented me. Made the whole class torture me until he figured it out.

DIONNE

Figured what?

Trey shows Dionne his gums(upper left) .

TREY

He pulled it out. Coaxed is probably a more accurate term. He was kicked out of school once everybody figured out what he was doing. I haven't had any issues since then.

DIONNE

What's his name?

[End Flashback]

EXT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Dionne knocks on the door of unit #387. She can hear shuffling and moving around inside.

The chain lock is undone and the deadbolt. The door is cracked open a tad. KAI (MANNING, 32, green eyes) peeks through the crack

DIONNE

Hello. Are you Kyle?

KAI

Do I know you?

DIONNE

No, you don't. But you know Trey Murray, don't you?

Kai swings the door open. He smiles a big, wicked smile.

KAI

You're cute. Why don't you come in and--

Kai is about to snap, but Dionne is too quick for him. She holds her hand out and makes a turning motion, throwing Kai's heart out of rhythm.

Kai clutches his chest and falls to his knees. Dionne spits a residual into her hand and shows it to him.

DIONNE

Snap. Clap. Obey. That's how it usually works for you? So, you haven't changed since high school? That's really sad.

Kai pulls himself up using the door frame.

DIONNE

I was told you could coax things out of people. Can you coax a confession out of my mother and sister?

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn turns to the back inner pocket of the journal. There is an SD card in the pocket.

Madelyn inserts the sd card into her laptop. There are only two files on it, one named 'Confession' the other named 'SnapClapObey'. Both are videos.

MADELYN

Can I send these to you?

TREY

What are you sending?

MADLYN

Videos. You watch them first. Then tell me if I should watch them to.

TREY

Dr. Manning gave that to you?

MADLYN

Yeah. He could have just mailed it. He didn't need to come all the way here to give it to me.

TREY

He could have. Okay. Send them on and I'll call you right back.

Madelyn reads a journal entry dated March 3, 2014:

'I've agreed to do something heinous and horrific. This woman Dionne was a supervillain in a past life and I honestly don't think she realizes it. I am well aware of what I am and I don't shy away from it. She's just made me realize that there is worse. It's not even the murder part. Her daughters will be without their mother when this is all over. And Dionne doesn't think that will harm them at all. Seriously. What is this woman?'

Madelyn places her laptop and phone on the floor. She crawls across the floor to retrieve the 1.5" binder from the file box.

Madelyn pushes the binder back to her sitting place and rests against her back pillow.

The front cover of the binder has 'My Victims, May They Rest In Peace, by DTF' written in marker on a sheet of printer paper.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, DEAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2012]

Dionne sits at the desk while the all-in-one prints out scanned copies of over two dozen obituaries and funeral programs.

She takes a blank sheet of paper from the printer and gets a black marker out of the desk drawer.

Dionne writes on the blank page: My Victims, May They Rest In Peace, by DTF. She slides the cover page in the pocket on the front of her binder, then places the obit/program copies in individual sheet protectors.

HOLLIS (FREEMAN, 51, Black, visibly ill) appears in the doorway.

HOLLIS

What are we working on?

DIONNE

A memory book.

HOLLIS

You really shouldn't feel bad.

DIONNE

I don't. That's why I made it.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Vivian is at the stove making an omelet. There is an empty plate on the counter near the stove.

Dionne enters with a .5" binder. The cover page has "By Vivian Freeman" written on it in marker.

Dionne leaves the binder on the counter where Vivian can see it.

VIVIAN

What is this?

DIONNE

A memory book. I made one for myself so I made one for you too.

Vivian moves her omelet to the plate and opens the binder. Every page is a copy of different articles regarding mysterious fires dating back to 1995, when Vivian was twelve.

There are at least fifteen events of buildings burning with no cause found.

DIONNE

You should show it to Mommy.

Vivian glares at Dionne. Vivian closes the binder and reopens it.

All the papers have been burned to ash and the sheet protectors are melted.

DIONNE

I should have killed you a long time ago.

VIVIAN

Why didn't you?

DIONNE

Because of Mommy.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn clicks on a video from Petra de Peter's blog date December 24, 2013.

PETRA DE PETER

(on video)

Happy Holidays, to all you lovely people. I must confess to you, that I really don't like Christmas. My mother passed away on Christmas when I was fifteen and since then, it's just been a day of mourning for me. I mentioned her before, but never said what her cause of death was.

Petra de Peter coughs up a residual and holds it close to the camera.

PETRA DE PETER

(on video)

Hers started out this size, as far as I know. Then they started getting bigger and bigger and causing her to choke. Until one day, it was just too big and it killed her. The doctors were dumbfounded. I knew what it was, but they insisted that she swallowed it to kill herself. As long as I know the truth and share it, her memory can be honored in some way. Rest in peace, Sharon.

Madelyn hears quick and loud footsteps coming up the stairs. Miranda comes into Madelyn's room.

MIRANDA

Did you watch them yet?

MADELYN

No. Wait. How did you know--

MIRANDA

Trey just texted me. Don't watch them yet. I'll be right back.

Miranda leaves. Trey calls Madelyn back via app. Madelyn answers it.

MADELYN

Aunt Randi just told me not to watch them yet.

TREY

She did? Oh. Why?

MADLYN

I don't know. She's coming back.
What were they?

TREY

Videos from Kyle.

Miranda comes back with a flashdrive. She gives it to Madelyn.

MIRANDA

Watch these first.

Madelyn plugs the flashdrive into her usb port. Miranda leaves.

There is only one folder on the drive named 'memorybook'. Madelyn opens it. The folder contains twenty or so videos made by Dionne.

Madelyn breaks down. She starts crying before even watching one.

TREY

What? What is it?

Madelyn breathes deeply and tries to compose herself. She selects the video named 'ThePlan'.

DIONNE

(on video)

I have decided that it's time for the truth to come out. Since Mommy and Vivian won't be honest by choice, I have to do it by force. Maddie. Mads. I apologize for using you, but there weren't a lot of other options. I'm hoping to send you to Vivian next week and if everything goes as planned, it will be the beginning of the end for us.

INT. DIONNE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Dionne talks to Vivian on speakerphone while painting her toenails.

VIVIAN

(os)

What do you want?

DIONNE

I need you to take the girls for a week.

VIVIAN

Seriously? I never thought you would let me have them for one whole day. You are way too overprotective.

DIONNE

So, is that a yes?

VIVIAN

Yes! Give me the babies! Oh, right. my friend will be around. That's not a problem is it?

DIONNE

Your boyfriend you mean?

VIVIAN

Friend.

DIONNE

Maybe you should tell him.

VIVIAN

I'm not telling him anything. He'll just have to deal with it.

Dionne clears her throat and coughs up a residual. She looks at it, puts it back in her mouth and swallows it.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kai watches TV, while wearing sweatpants and no shirt. The front door opens. Vivian enters with YOUNG MADELYN (6) and MADISON (4.5) in tow.

Kai stands up, looking kind of surprised but not upset.

KAI

Whose kids did you kidnap?

VIVIAN

My sister's. And she loaned them to me. Maddie. Mads. Say 'hi' to Kai.

YOUNG MADELYN

Hi.

MADISON

Hi, Kai. Why are you ripply?

VIVIAN

Put a shirt on. I'm going to take a shower. Make sure they don't accidentally die for like fifteen minutes.

Vivian takes her shirt off and flings it at Kai on her way out of the room. Kai just stands there, staring at the girls until Vivian is out of sight.

YOUNG MADELYN
Your eyes are green.

KAI
Yes, they are.

INT. VIVIAN'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

Young Madelyn and Madison sit on the floor, sharing a plate of tiny sandwiches. Vivian comes in to check on them.

VIVIAN
How are we doing, babies?

YOUNG MADELYN
I like these.

MADISON
You should make some more.

VIVIAN
Still hungry?

MADISON
Not for me. For Stefano.

Vivian's face turns suddenly very serious.

VIVIAN
Stefano? Is that your make believe friend?

YOUNG MADELYN
He's real. And he's hungry.

Young Madelyn and Madison stare at Vivian until she leaves.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Vivian and Kai sit on the couch watching a movie. Madison comes running into the living room with something in her hand.

Madison stands in front of the TV blocking their view.

VIVIAN
Mads, can you move?

MADISON
I need your hammer.

KAI
Why? Are you building something?

Madison opens her hand to show Kai and Vivian her residual.

KAI
Is that a marble?

Vivian jumps up from the couch. She grabs Madison by the shoulders to steer her out of the room.

VIVIAN
Come on, Mads. It's bath time.
Let's go take a bath.

Young Madelyn comes into the living room with her shirt on her head.

VIVIAN
Maddie, put your shirt on.

MADISON
You just said it's bath time. Can
Stefano take a bath with us?

KAI
Stefano? Who's that?

VIVIAN
Their imaginary friend.

YOUNG MADELYN
He's real.

KAI
Of course he is.

VIVIAN
Don't encourage them. Come on,
babies. Come on.

MADISON
Stefano has green eyes.

Vivian stops in her tracks. She stands there staring blankly at nothing for a few seconds. She holds out her hand to Madison.

VIVIAN
Give me that.

MADISON
Can I keep it?

VIVIAN
No. It's bath time.

INT./EXT. VIVIAN'S CAR - DAY

Vivian drives; Kai is in the front passenger's seat. Young Madelyn and Madison ride in the backseat. There is an empty space between their booster seats.

KAI
Is Stefano still around or did he
go home?

VIVIAN
Don't.

KAI
What? It's cute.

YOUNG MADELYN
He's right here beside me.

MADISON
He doesn't like you.

YOUNG MADELYN
He loves me. I will marry him when
I am old like Mommy and Vi Vi.

VIVIAN
Did you just call me old?

MADISON
(to Madelyn)
He doesn't love you!

YOUNG MADELYN
He does!

Lightning strikes the ground four times. The last one hits a
public trashcan and starts a fire in it.

Madison sees the fire and smiles.

MADISON
Fire. Can you make fire, Vi Vi?

Vivian grips the steering wheel tighter. Her expression is
terror and panic. Kai stares at Vivian with a look of
complete bewilderment.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kai and Vivian stand at the front door. It's open because
Kai is leaving.

KAI
No offense, but your nieces are
weird.

VIVIAN
Not offended. They get it from
their mother.

Kai sees Madison walk by in her pajamas. She goes to the
kitchen.

KAI

Mads is a little psycho. You know
that, right?

Vivian snorts. She turns around just in time to see Madison
walk by with a butcher's knife.

VIVIAN

Madison! No!

Vivian attempts to take the knife from Madison, but is
struck by sudden and severe head pain.

Vivian screams and falls to the floor, holding her head. She
also suffers bleeding from the nose and ears.

Kai holds his hand out.

KAI

(to Madison)

The knife. Give it to me.

Madison gives the knife to Kai with no objections.

KAI

Go to bed.

Madison goes to the guestroom. Kai stares at Vivian as she
lies on the floor groaning.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn stares at the screen, focused on nothing in
particular. Trey is still there waiting for her to say
something.

TREY

Maddie?

Madelyn snaps out of her trance.

MADELYN

I'm sending this to you.

TREY

Alright.

Madelyn sends video 'ThePlan' to Trey. He watches the video
while Madelyn flips through Dionne's memory book.

INT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Miranda is in the spare bedroom/office with the closet open.
She carries a file crate full of folders to her desk chair.

Miranda flips through the folders before taking one out.

A file box full of Dionne's belongings (laptop, headphones, stethoscope, pictures, baby books for both girls and her memory book) is open on the floor.

Young Madelyn comes into the room drinking from a sippy cup. Young Madelyn takes the memory book out of the box. She sits on the floor and flips through the pages.

Young Madelyn counts the pages out loud.

YOUNG MADELYN

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six.
Seven...

Miranda stops reading the contents of a folder to look at Young Madelyn.

MIRANDA

What are you counting?

YOUNG MADELYN

People. Eight. Nine. Ten. Are these
people dead?

Miranda drops the folder and holds her hand out for the binder. Madelyn gives it to her.

Miranda flips through every page, counting in her head.

MIRANDA

Yes. They are dead.

YOUNG MADELYN

Dead people. Dead people. Yay. How
many?

MIRANDA

Thirty one.

YOUNG MADELYN

How did they die?

MIRANDA

Heart failure.

Miranda closes the binder and gives it back to Young Madelyn.

MIRANDA

Thirty one.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey has finished watching video 'ThePlan'. Madelyn closes Dionne's memory book.

TREY
Do you remember?

MADELYN
Remember what?

TREY
Going to Vivian's house?

Madelyn thinks on it for a moment.

MADELYN
I remember going to her house then
going to Aunt Randi's apartment.

TREY
Condo. She had a condo. You don't
remember anything in between?
Dionne said she's sorry for using
you. What does that mean?

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014)

The doors of the guestroom and Vivian's room are closed with
kitchen chairs shoved under the knobs.

Vivian has locked Young Madelyn in her bedroom and Madison
in the guestroom. Both of them are banging on the doors,
screaming and crying.

Vivian has dried blood in her ears and around her nose.

Vivian is on her cellphone trying to get in touch with
Dionne.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Answer the phone, bitch. Answer! I
know you see me calling you.

The doorbell rings. Vivian runs to the front door to open
it. She doesn't ask who it is, because she knows that it's
Kai.

KAI
What the fuck is even going on
around here?

Vivian ends call and immediately speed dials Dionne again.

VIVIAN
Fuck this bitch. Fuck every single
cell in her body. I wish they would
shut up already.

Kai goes into the hallway.

KAI
Maddie. Mads. Quiet.

All the noise stops. Vivian looks at Kai suspiciously.

VIVIAN
They've been at it for hours and
finally stop for you. Must be
because you're a man.

KAI
Must be.

VIVIAN
Can you use your man power on my
sister? She won't answer her phone.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Vivian stands by her car, watching Young Madelyn and Madison fight in the backseat. She is still trying to get in touch with Dionne.

VIVIAN
(on phone)
Bitch, pick up. Bitch, pick up.
Bitch pick up.

OFFICER BURNS (mid-late twenties) a uniformed cop, sees Vivian in distress. He approaches just as she allows her cellphone to fall to the ground.

Officer Burns picks her phone up.

OFFICER BURNS
Good thing you've got a case on it
or the screen would be cracked.

Officer Burns sees Young Madelyn and Madison fighting in the car. He is alarmed.

OFFICER BURNS
Jesus. Are you going to break them
up?

VIVIAN
No. Let them kill each other.

Officer Burns opens the car door and tries to pull Young Madelyn out. Madison has both hands full of Young Madelyn's hair.

MADISON
He doesn't love you.

YOUNG MADELYN
He does!

Officer Burns plucks Madison's knuckles to make her let go. She glares at him.

VIVIAN

Mads. Don't.

Officer Burns successfully rescues Young Madelyn from her sister's grip and frowns at Vivian.

OFFICER BURNS

Why would you let them be so unruly?

VIVIAN

They aren't my kids, so it's not my fault or my problem.

Vivian closes the back door and gets into the driver's seat.

OFFICER BURNS

You can't just leave her here.

VIVIAN

She's safer here. I'll be back. Maybe.

Vivian starts her car up and drives off, leaving Young Madelyn in Officer Burns' arms.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Vivian sits on the couch staring at the wall. Kai looks out of the window through the curtains. There is a police car out front.

KAI

Fantastic. The cops have come to see us. I'll be right back.

Kai goes outside. Madison comes into the living room and sits on the couch next to Vivian.

MADISON

Can you make fire, Vi Vi?

A scorch mark appears on the wall. Tears roll down Vivian's cheeks. Kai comes back in with Young Madelyn and closes the door.

KAI

No fighting.

Young Madelyn sits on the couch next to Madison. Both of them stare blankly at the scorch mark on the wall.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn and Trey stare at each other.

MADELYN

Trey, how did my grandpa die? Do you remember him?

Trey is outraged. He jumps up from his seat.

TREY

She didn't tell you? I thought you knew by now! That woman.

Trey grabs his phone off of his desk and sends a text message.

TREY

I can't believe this woman.

MADELYN

Aunt Randi?

TREY

Yes. Aunt Randi. Let's see what she has to say for herself.

Trey receives a reply from Miranda.

TREY

She says I should tell you. Yeah, put it on me.

Trey sits back down. He inhales/exhales several times to calm down.

TREY

There was a shed behind your house. He accidentally set it on fire and died in it.

MADELYN

Accidentally? He wasn't playing with matches was he?

INT. DEAN'S SHED - NIGHT

[Flashback to 1995]

DEAN FREEMAN (Caucasian, early 50s, attractive) has books about fire scattered all over the floor. He also has hundreds of matchboxes, lighters, and a blow torch on the floor.

Dean sits at his work table staring at a framed picture of TAYLOR FREEMAN (24, green eyes, attractive). 'Taylor Stefano Freeman' is printed on the bottom of the picture.

There is a knock at the door, then it swings open. Hollis, Young Vivian (12) and Young Dionne (9) are dressed to go out.

HOLLIS

We're ready. What are you doing?

DEAN

They couldn't find a cause.

HOLLIS

Cause of?

DEAN

The fire. It just started by itself.

YOUNG DIONNE

It was-

Hollis places her hand over Dionne's mouth.

HOLLIS

Dean, can you get yourself together, please. We're ready to go.

DEAN

Do you think spontaneous combustion is a thing? You think things or people can just burst into flames on their own?

HOLLIS

Can we talk about this after dinner? I'm starving.

Dean gives the photo of Taylor a kiss. Hollis pushes Vivian and Dionne out of the door.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn has her face all screwed up as if she's trying very hard to process something mentally.

Trey has both hands over his face.

TREY

I can't do this.

Madelyn selects the next video to watch named 'GreenEyes'. She sends it to Trey.

Trey sees the video sent and raises his eyebrow at Madelyn.

TREY

Shall I watch it first? I don't know how personal these videos get. I don't want to intrude on a mother-daughter thing. Understand?

MADELYN

Intruder. You can't intrude, intruder. I invited you. Let's watch it together. Press play in three...two..one.

Madelyn and Trey press play at the same time.

DIONNE

(on video)

I don't know exactly when Vivian fell in love with Taylor, but I don't remember her not staring at him and talking about him nonstop. My earliest memory of her saying she was going to marry him and that she loved him was when she was seven or eight. She was eight. I was in kindergarten. She would not shut up about his eyes. I don't think I've shown you any pictures of him. Ask Aunt Randi to show you. Taylor had bright green eyes. From his mother apparently. I told Aunt Randi not to let you watch these until you were old enough to understand how disgusting this is. It is disgusting, but V didn't see anything wrong with it. She was in denial. Deep denial.

The video ends abruptly. Trey is in shock. He has his hand over his mouth. Madelyn is confused.

MADELYN

Who is Taylor? Do I know him?

Trey puts both elbows on his desk and twiddles his thumbs. He mumbles to himself.

TREY

Why me and why now? I can't lie, but I don't want to say. She shouldn't find out this way. This is bullshit. Fuck this whole entire family.

MADELYN

What did I do?

TREY

Nothing. Not you. That last part
doesn't apply to you.

MADELYN

What happened to Taylor? Did he
accidentally die in a fire, too?

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE, GARAGE - DAY

[Flashback to 1994]

Taylor's garage is a mess. He has boxes, file crates, three bicycles (two of which are upside down and without wheels), an old broken TV and more clutter everywhere.

Young Dionne and Young Vivian watch from the door (that goes through the kitchen) as he tries to tidy up some. His house phone rings.

Young Dionne and Young Vivian step aside. Taylor goes inside to get the phone. Taylor stands right behind them, while talking on the phone.

TAYLOR

(on phone)

Hello? Jordan? Oh. Come over now?
Not a good time. My sisters are
here. My dad and stepmom are at the
hospital. Her sister was in a car
accident. I'll let you know when
things have calmed down. Love you.
Bye.

Young Dionne snickers. Taylor rubs the top of her head.

TAYLOR

What's funny?

Young Dionne goes into the garage and flips one of the broken bikes right side up.

Young Vivian starts rummaging through random boxes. She is furious, which Taylor doesn't realize.

The doorbell rings. Taylor goes to answer the door. Young Vivian stops her mindless rummaging and closes the garage/kitchen door.

YOUNG DIONNE

Ha. Told you. Told you. Told you.

YOUNG VIVIAN

Shut up, bitch.

YOUNG DIONNE

I told you. Told you. Told you.

A crate full of folders and papers catch fire. Followed by a box full of old shirts and hand towels.

YOUNG DIONNE

Stop that!

Young Dionne tries to lift the garage door but she is not strong enough.

More items catch fire. Young Vivian doesn't realize that there is a propane tank hidden under an open tent. The fires keep popping up and spreading. Smoke fills the garage as Young Dionne tries to escape.

DIONNE

Vivian! You're going to kill us!

Taylor kicks the garage/kitchen door in and picks Vivian up.

TAYLOR

Vivian, are you hurt?

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - SAME

Young Dionne runs pass Taylor and Young Vivian to get out of the smoke. Young Dionne sees Young Vivian smirk while Taylor holds her.

YOUNG DIONNE

(to Vivian)

You could have killed me!

TAYLOR

Di di, don't say that. Come on. We have to get out of the house.

Young Dionne lifts her right hand and makes a pushing motion towards Young Vivian. Taylor's heart stops immediately. He falls to the floor, dropping Young Vivian.

The kitchen fills with smoke. The fire has overtaken the garage. The propane tank explodes. Young Dionne and Young Vivian flee through the front door.

EXT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - SAME

A crowd has gathered to watch the fire department get the blaze under control. POLICE WOMAN stands near her squad car with Young Vivian and Young Dionne.

Dean arrives on scene just as EMTs are loading up Taylor's body. Dean is distraught. He falls to the ground, weeping.

YOUNG DIONNE

(to Young Vivian)

It should have been you.

POLICE WOMAN

That's not nice. There's nothing quite like a sister. I would know. I have two.

YOUNG DIONNE

(to Police Woman)

Take her with you and you'll have three.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, VIVIAN AND DIONNE'S ROOM - DAY

Young Vivian wears all black. It is the day of Taylor's funeral service. She pulls a box out from under her bed.

Young Vivian opens the box, which contains love letters to Taylor and drawings of the two of them as a couple.

Young Vivian goes to their trashcan. She holds the papers over the can and watches them burn. Young Vivian opens the window to get rid of the smoke and burning smell.

Hollis comes into the room, also dressed in mourning clothes.

HOLLIS

It's time to go. The limo is here.

YOUNG VIVIAN

I don't want to.

HOLLIS

Neither do I, but if I have to go, so do you. Now, come.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey has his fingers interlocked and his chin resting on them. His eyes are closed as if he is meditating.

Madelyn presses her face against her laptop screen.

MADELYN

I'm still here. Tell me--

TREY

He was their brother.

Madelyn quickly backs away from the screen. Her face is contorted with disgust.

MADELYN

What? Aunt Randi didn't tell me they--

TREY

This is probably why. My stomach hurts now.

MADELYN

Did you know? Did you know that Vi Vi was-

TREY

No and I didn't want to know. Dionne made it sound like Vivian was obsessed.

MADELYN

Maybe she was.

INT./EXT. DEAN'S CAR - DAY

[Flashback to 1994]

Dean drives. Young Vivian and Young Dionne ride in the back seat. Young Vivian refuses to make eye contact with Young Dionne, who is glaring at her.

DEAN

Why so quiet back there? You aren't up to anything are you?

YOUNG DIONNE

I'm not.

YOUNG VIVIAN

Up to? I didn't do anything.

YOUNG DIONNE

Yet.

DEAN

What's that mean?

Dean looks at the them via his mirror. He notices Young Dionne staring daggers at Young Vivian.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - SAME

The doorbell rings. Taylor runs through the living room to open the door. He has a set of furniture and a pile of boxes stacked up to the ceiling as he's just moved in.

Dean hugs Taylor around the waist and picks him up as soon as the door is open.

Young Vivian stares at Taylor, breathing heavily like she is star-struck. Young Dionne pushes Young Vivian out of the way and walks around Dean and Taylor.

DEAN

Taylor! My boy. You've gained some weight. Give me some tips. I'm trying to bulk up.

Dean puts Taylor down. Taylor notices Young Vivian staring at him. He snaps in her face to get her attention.

TAYLOR

Hello, Vivian. We're all on Earth. Where are you?

Young Dionne snickers. She takes her shoes off and stretches out on the couch. Taylor pulls Young Vivian inside by the arm.

TAYLOR

Come on in. My home is your home.

Dean steps inside and closes the door.

DEAN

Glad to have you so close now. When I need a break from all the estrogen, I'll just come here.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Young Vivian stands at the microwave with a spoon in hand. There is a coffee mug in the microwave.

When the cup is done heating, Young Vivian takes it out and places it carefully on the counter. It is plain water.

Young Dionne appears in the doorway, but Young Vivian does not realize she is there.

Young Vivian coughs up a residual and drops it into the hot water. She stirs the water and checks several times to see if the ball has dissolved. It has.

YOUNG DIONNE

It won't work.

YOUNG VIVIAN

You don't know that.

YOUNG DIONNE

He doesn't love you.

YOUNG VIVIAN

He will. Go away.

Young Vivian climbs up on the counter to get a box of tea bags from the top shelf in the cabinet. She jumps down and makes herself a cup.

VIVIAN

What do you know anyway, murderer?

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey stands up and reaches upward to stretch. He bends left and right, then rotates both shoulders.

Madelyn opens the journal and skims through the pages. She searches each page for a mention of Taylor, which she finds in entry dated May 11, 2014.

MADELYN

He mentions Taylor in here. Are you listening?

Trey sits back down.

TREY

I am listening. Against my better judgement.

MADELYN

(reading)

I regret agreeing to do this. I thought Dionne was exaggerating when she said that Vivian was obsessed. It's sick enough that this wench had a crush on her brother, but I found a picture of Taylor in her underwear drawer. I won't even mention what else was in there. She is so fucked in the head. I doubt either of those little girls will turn out normal. What a weird family.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Kai and Vivian stand in the living room. Kai sees a crystal bowl on her bookshelf full of residuals.

They all look cloudy and gray tinted like blown light bulbs. Kai tries not to look directly at them.

VIVIAN

Make yourself at home.

The doorbell rings. Vivian goes to open the door, but there is no one there.

Vivian goes outside and comes right back in.

VIVIAN

Those little bastards. I'll be right back. I have some kids to go fuck up right quick.

Vivian grabs her keys off the coffee table and leaves. Kai hastens to the bookshelf and puts one of the residuals in his mouth.

He rolls it around on his tongue then spits it back out. The ball is no longer tinted but perfectly clear.

Kai goes to Vivian's bedroom and looks through her drawers. In the back corner of her underwear drawer, he finds her vibrator, personal lubricant, and a photo album full of pictures of Taylor.

KAI

Eww.

Kai closes the drawer and goes to the kitchen. He turns the coffee pot on. Vivian returns. She joins Kai in the kitchen.

VIVIAN

I'm gonna fuck those bitch ass kids up one day.

KAI

What do you like about me?

VIVIAN

What?

KAI

What do you like about me specifically?

Kai and Vivian stare at each other for a moment.

VIVIAN

I like that you are specifically you.

Kai chuckles and looks through the top cabinets until he finds the mugs.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn looks at Trey, who is shaking his head furiously.

MADELYN

What else do you think was in there?

TREY

I won't say.

MADLYN

Why not?

TREY

You'll piece it together one day.

Madelyn closes the journal and looks like she's had an epiphany.

MADLYN

Grandpa must have been sad.

TREY

What? Oh. Are we changing the subject? Good. Yes, he was distraught. Taylor was his first born and only son. He didn't take Taylor's death well at all.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

[Flashback to 1994]

Hollis, Young Vivian and Young Dionne watch from afar as Dean watches Taylor's grave be filled.

YOUNG VIVIAN

I'm bored. Can we go home?

HOLLIS

We have to wait for Daddy.

YOUNG DIONNE

(to Young Vivian)

This is your fault. You made Daddy sad. You should have died instead.

HOLLIS

It's nobody's fault. Everybody dies. Some way. Some day. I'll die. You'll die. We should all just wear black all the time. Just in case.

YOUNG VIVIAN

We should. I like wearing black.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - SAME

Hollis and DELANEY (CARTER, late 40s) sit at the table, having tea. Hollis clears her throat and coughs up a residual. She shows it to Delaney.

HOLLIS

Eighth one so far this week.

DELANEY

New record?

Hollis holds it out for Delaney.

HOLLIS

Want to try it?

DELANEY

No, thanks. Where's Dean? I haven't seen him since we left the cemetery.

HOLLIS

Don't know. Somewhere crying probably. Taylor meant the world to him.

DELANEY

You sound strangely okay with that.

HOLLIS

A son is a son. Nothing can compare or replace that. He'll never be the same. I'll give him his space.

INT. VIVIAN AND DIONNE'S ROOM - DAY

Hollis has two giant bags of clothes and shoes for Young Vivian and Young Dionne. She hangs all the new outfits with the tags still on them.

Hollis places the four boxes of new shoes on the top shelf in the closet. Dean appears in the doorway, but says nothing. Hollis rolls her eyes and sighs quietly. Her back is to Dean, so he doesn't see the eye roll.

HOLLIS

They're growing too fast.

DEAN

Yeah. Still so little though.

There is a short but awkward silence between them. Hollis turns around to look at Dean.

HOLLIS

Can I make a suggestion?

DEAN

Sure.

HOLLIS

Take a break. Spend a week in the mountains with your family.

DEAN

My family? Does that not include you and the girls?

HOLLIS

Your parents. Your siblings. I can't give you what you need right now.

DEAN

Not a bad idea. I'll run it by them.

Dean leaves. Hollis rolls her eyes again and continues putting the girls' new clothes/shoes in the closet.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn and Trey stare at each other.

TREY

Well?

MADELYN

Thinking.

TREY

About?

MADELYN

Coincidence? Is it a coincidence that Grandpa died in a fire and Taylor died in a fire. Mommy, Grandma and Vi Vi died in a fire.

TREY

It's not, but Taylor didn't die because of the fire. He died of heart failure.

Madelyn picks up Dionne's memory book and shows it to Trey.

MADELYN

He's not in here.

Madelyn opens the binder and slowly flips through the pages. He sees the funeral program of WILLIS WARNER. The year of his death is 1991 (DOB 1940).

TREY

I know him. He was Mom's friend.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - DAY

[Flashback to 1991]

Willis Warner, an associate of Miranda's, leans against his car. Hollis stands facing him. DIONNE AGE 5 stands behind Hollis with her arms wrapped around her mother's waist.

Willis eyes Hollis seductively, without caring that Dionne Age 5 is right there.

WILLIS

Guess what I did last week?

HOLLIS

Don't feel like guessing.

WILLIS

I added you to my will.

HOLLIS

Why?

WILLIS

I just really, really like you.

Willis notices Dionne Age 5 staring at him. He looks uncomfortable for two seconds then goes back to flirting with Hollis.

WILLIS

I guess I should be going. Two more stops to make.

HOLLIS

Bye. Say 'goodbye', Dionne.

Dionne Age 5 waves at Willis and makes a pushing motion towards him. Willis' heart stops. He grabs his chest and falls to the ground.

HOLLIS

Let's go in. We have to call somebody to come get him.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE, PORCH - NIGHT

Miranda stands on the porch. She rings the doorbell continuously until Dean opens the door.

DEAN

Randi! Sorry about Willis. I heard he's been a friend of yours for some years.

MIRANDA

Uhuh.

Hollis appears behind Dean.

MIRANDA

(to Hollis)

You know why I'm here.

DEAN

Do I?

Hollis gently moves Dean aside. She steps out onto the porch and closes the door.

MIRANDA

What did you do to him?

HOLLIS

Nothing.

MIRANDA

Bullshit. Will was a marathon runner and vegetarian. His heart was perfectly fine. You killed him.

HOLLIS

Prove it.

Dozens of black widows and brown recluse spiders crawl up the steps and head straight for Hollis' legs. Hollis doesn't notice at first due to it being dark.

MIRANDA

How did you do it? He's the third one...One of those girls. You've been using one of those babies.

Miranda backs away and down the steps.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey has his hands on his face and looks like he's just made a mental connection. Madelyn stares at the cover of the binder.

TREY

Oh shit. I just now realized. I'm slow as fuck.

MADELYN

What?

TREY

Dionne. She said the weirdest thing to me once and I just now realize why.

INT. RENTAL HOUSE - DAY

[Flashback to 1994, Day of Dinner]

Dean, Hollis, Young Dionne and Young Vivian wait for 'surprise' dinner guests. Dean paces the floor, while looking through the curtains from time to time.

Young Dionne and Young Vivian take themselves on a tour of the house. Hollis sits on the couch, flipping through channels on the TV.

Dean opens the door. JONATHAN MURRAY (mid 40s, very friendly) Miranda and Young Trey (12) have arrived.

DEAN

Johnny!

JONATHAN

Dean!

Dean and Jonathan give each other a hug.

JONATHAN

Surprise! Family dinner!

HOLLIS

What the fuck is this?

Jonathan, Miranda and Young Trey enter the house. Miranda and Hollis glare at each other. Young Vivian and Young Dionne return. Young Dionne sits on the couch beside Hollis.

YOUNG DIONNE

(to Young Trey)

Your heart is too loud.

Everyone looks at Young Dionne.

JONATHAN

Say what now?

YOUNG DIONNE

Trey. His heart is loud.

Miranda's mouth drops open.

JONATHAN

That's interesting, but how nice is this? My boss owns this house. He let me borrow it for today. I figured it was the only way to get you two to sit down together and act like sisters.

Miranda tries to leave, but Jonathan stands in front of the door.

JONATHAN

Oh no you don't. We are going to have dinner and enjoy each other's company. How in the world did your brothers put up with you two?

HOLLIS

Family secret.

Hollis winks at Miranda. Young Dionne raises her hand out towards Trey.

DIONNE
Your heart is too loud.

Hollis grabs Dionne's hand.

HOLLIS
We want to keep him around. Focus
on something else.

Jonathan, Dean and Young Trey all look confused.

[End Flashback, cont pg 46]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey stands up and starts pacing back in forth out of view. Madelyn scoots across the room to grab the file box full of Dionne's stuff. She pulls it to her resting spot.

Madelyn pulls the stethoscope out and puts it around her neck.

MADELYN
What did she say?

TREY
What? Oh. She said my heart was too loud. I honestly think she would have killed me if Hollis hadn't stopped her.

Madelyn puts one side of the stethoscope in her ear and listens to her own heart.

MADELYN
This makes it even louder.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, VIVIAN AND DIONNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

[Flashback to 1995]

Young Dionne sits on the floor wearing studio headphones. They are not plugged into anything. She has her eyes closed.

Hollis comes in with a gift bag. She places it on the floor beside Dionne and taps her on the top of the head.

Young Dionne takes her headphones off and opens her eyes.

HOLLIS
Try this. Listen to your own heart
and tell me if it helps.

Young Dionne peeks inside the bag first then takes out a stethoscope. She listens to her own heart and gives Hollis a thumbs up.

Hollis gives Young Dionne a pat on the head and leaves.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey sits back down and twirls once in his chair. Madelyn takes the stethoscope out of her ear.

MADELYN

If the sound bothered her why did she become a nurse?

TREY

That is an excellent question.

EXT. PARK - DAY

[Flashback to 2006]

Dionne has her stethoscope around her neck while sitting on a bench with her laptop.

Dionne searches for 'exalted glass' on the internet. She scrolls through four or five pages of unrelated things until she sees a link for the blog of Petra de Peter, The Most Exalted.

Dionne plays the welcome video on the main page.

PETRA DE PETER

(video)

Hello and welcome to my world, my life and my love. I am Petra de Peter the Most Exalted. I'm all about helping and healing here so no negativity. Any and all abusive, degrading, judgemental and/or bigoted comments will be deleted.

Petra coughs up a residual and stares into it like it is the crystal ball of a psychic.

HEART PATIENT (50ish) walks close to where Dionne is sitting. Heart Patient stops and grabs her chest.

Dionne doesn't react, until Heart Patient slowly falls to her knees.

HEART PATIENT

My heart...Surgery was supposed to...

Dionne pauses the video and goes over to Heart Patient. She holds her hand close to the woman's chest and makes a pulling motion.

Heart Patient recovers. Dionne pulls Heart Patient to her feet then sits back down.

HEART PATIENT
Are you a doctor or a nurse?

DIONNE
Neither.

Dionne continues watching the video.

PETRA DE PETER
(video)
I see with my spiritual eyes that
we will get along just great as
long as you follow the rules.

Dionne pauses the video. She scrolls through the blog archives (by date, earliest is Dec 2005) until she sees one titled "The Truth and Fiction of My Power".

Dionne clicks on it and reads the first paragraph: 'I am special. Not because I can dehydrate anything containing water, but because I don't try to hide it. Hiding is not me. I'm too proud a person to hide any aspect of my being.'

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey watches Madelyn rummage through the box of stuff. Madelyn takes out a photo album.

Madelyn flips through the pages and stops at a photo of herself as a newborn in Dionne's arms.

Madelyn shows the picture to Trey.

TREY
Cute.

MADELYN
Do you remember me being this
small?

TREY
Well...

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

[Flashback to 2008]

Dionne sits on the bench, with studio headphones on. She wears NEWBORN MADELYN in a carrier on her chest.

Dionne watches a shiny, black car park across the street. Trey gets out of the driver's side.

Dionne walks across the street, with diaper bag over her shoulder to talk to him.

DIONNE

Trey! Trey that is you, isn't it?

Trey takes a second to realize who she is, when he does his eyes fill with fear. He is too eager so get away from her.

DIONNE

Do you know who I am?

TREY

Dionne. Yes. Can't talk now. Bye!

Trey runs by everyone on the sidewalk and disappears around the corner. Passersby stare at Dionne as Newborn Madelyn starts crying.

[End of Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn has her mouth hanging open in surprise. Trey spins around so that the back of him is displayed on her screen.

MADELYN

You ran away? Why?

Trey turns back around.

TREY

Panic. I can feel your judgement radiating from here. We're being honest, aren't we? I just didn't have any positive memories associated with her.

Madelyn looks appalled.

TREY

I didn't dislike Dionne. She was just odd and the war between Mom and Hollis just made our relationship awkward.

MADELYN

Grandma and Aunt Randi didn't like each other?

TREY

They hated each other as far I could tell.

EXT. RENTAL HOUSE - NIGHT

[Flashback to 1994, Day of Dinner]

Young Vivian and Young Dionne sit in the backseat of Dean's car. Dean, Hollis, Miranda and Jonathan stand on the sidewalk. Young Trey is already in the backseat of Jonathan's car, which is parked on the street.

DEAN

Come on. I have never seen you two hug each other. Just a little one arm back pat.

MIRANDA

No.

JONATHAN

Why won't you tell us why you hate each other so much?

HOLLIS

Who said I hated her? Just because we're sisters, doesn't mean we have to be friends. So just drop it already.

Hollis gets into the front passenger seat of Dean's car. Miranda stares at her through the window making a soft kissing noise.

JONATHAN

Trying to kiss her through the glass?

MIRANDA

Something like that.

JONATHAN

(to Dean)

We tried, man. We tried.

DEAN

We did. Oh well.

INT./EXT. DEAN'S CAR - SAME

They are back home. Hollis sits in the passenger's seat. Dean, Young Vivian and Young Dionne are already on the way inside the house.

Hollis opens the car door and swings both legs out. Dozens of brown recluse spiders crawl up her legs as soon as her feet hit the ground.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE, PORCH - SAME

Young Dionne waits on the porch for Hollis. Dean and Young Vivian are already inside. Hollis gets to the porch and stops, she stares straight ahead, dead eyed.

YOUNG DIONNE

Mommy, your heart is getting louder.

Hollis tries to reach for Young Dionne, but falls to the ground. Young Dionne kneels down and places her hand on Hollis' chest.

YOUNG DIONNE
 You're fine, Mommy. I have your
 heart.

Hollis foams at the mouth and begins having a seizure. Young Dionne doesn't move; she yells to Dean.

YOUNG DIONNE
 Daddy! Come get Mommy!

Dean comes running outside. He scoops Hollis up in his arms.

DEAN
 What is happening? What is going
 on?

A dead brown recluse spider falls off of Hollis' leg. Dionne catches it.

YOUNG DIONNE
 Look, Daddy. What kind is it?

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn leans towards the door as she can hear Miranda and David right at the bottom of the stairs.

Trey watches her intently.

TREY
 What are we hearing?

MADELYN
 I think he's leaving.

TREY
 If you want to ask him anything,
 you should do it now.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - SAME

Miranda and David are at the open front door. They shake hands and David turns to leave. Madelyn comes sprinting down the stairs and jumps over the last two steps.

DAVID
 I used to be that athletic once. A
 long, long time ago.

MIRANDA
 What is the problem?

MADELYN
 (to David)
 Did he tell you anything about me?

DAVID
Only that he felt sorry for you.

MADELYN
Why don't I remember him?

Miranda pushes the door to encourage David to leave. She tries to push Madelyn away from the door with her other hand.

MIRANDA
(to Madelyn)
Have you packed your clothes?

MADELYN
No. I was watching the videos Mommy made for me.

DAVID
I do wish things could have gone differently for the little one. I really do. I don't ask for forgiveness, only understanding. Good afternoon to both of you.

David leaves. Miranda closes the door. Miranda holds Madelyn by the shoulders and looks her in the eyes.

MIRANDA
Dr. Manning is not the enemy. I know you feel alone, but do you really think it would be better with her here? Don't you remember what she was like?

INT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Young Madelyn and Madison share a full size bed in Miranda's spare bedroom/office.

Miranda stands by the door. Young Madelyn is already in bed. Madison is on the floor, rocking a plush squirrel like a baby.

MIRANDA
(to Madison)
Time to go to sleep.

MADISON
I will sleep when Mommy comes back.

YOUNG MADELYN
Mommy's not coming back.

MADISON
She is.

MIRANDA

She isn't. Mommy is gone.

YOUNG MADELYN

Gone.

Madison holds the plush squirrel around the neck and squeezes like she is trying to choke it.

Young Madelyn screams and kicks while holding her head. Miranda feels a sudden, sharp pain in the head. Blood runs from her nose.

MADISON

Bring back, Mommy. Bring back,
Mommy. Bring back, Mommy!

Miranda taps on the door frame. Hundreds of black widows and brown recluse spiders appear on the floor around Madison.

The spiders crawl up Madison's arms and legs and eventually make it to her neck and face. Madison drops the squirrel plush to brush the spiders away.

Young Madelyn stops screaming and flailing, but starts sobbing. Five powerful lightning strikes in a row hit the ground close by.

Miranda runs to the bed, grabs Young Madelyn and runs out of the room. Miranda closes the door and holds it shut. She puts Young Madelyn down.

MIRANDA

Get my keys. They are hanging up by
the front door.

Young Madelyn runs off still crying. She returns with a ring of keys. Miranda locks Madison in the room. (the lock is double cylinder)

MIRANDA

Come on. You can sleep in my room.

[End Flashback]

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - SAME

Miranda hugs Madelyn. Madelyn doesn't return the embrace but doesn't fight it either.

MIRANDA

Do you remember that nice police
man who took Madison for a night?
Just one night so we could have
some peace?

INT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Miranda and Young Madelyn sit at the kitchen table eating pizza straight from the box. Madison is locked in the spare bedroom/office and is banging on the door and yelling.

YOUNG MADELYN
Mads needs sleepy juice.

MIRANDA
I gave her some sleepy juice. It's not working.

The doorbell rings. Miranda gets up to look through the blinds. It is Officer Burns.

Miranda opens the door and stands aside.

MIRANDA
Come on in. We have pizza.

Officer Burns comes in. He stares at the door of spare bedroom/office. Madison continues yelling and ramming the door.

MIRANDA
What's up?

OFFICER BURNS
Doing a voluntary welfare check.

YOUNG MADELYN
(to Officer Burns)
Can I use your gun?

Officer Burns is taken aback by this request.

OFFICER BURNS
Why would you need my gun?

YOUNG MADELYN
To shoot Mads in the head.

Officer Burns is clearly unnerved by her statement.

OFFICER BURNS
I think I know why she's locked in there.

MIRANDA
Do you?

OFFICER BURNS

There's something off about that little girl. I don't know why, but since the first time I saw her, I've been having the worst nightmares.

MIRANDA

Interesting.

OFFICER BURNS

And I remember them all in great detail. That never happens. Have you been doing okay with her here?

YOUNG MADELYN

No.

MIRANDA

Not at all.

OFFICER BURNS

I can watch her tonight if you want. If you trust me. I can take her home with me. I know that must sound pervy and strange. But I have surveillance cameras in every room. I can show you the footage to prove I didn't-

MIRANDA

Tempting proposition. I'm not worried about you doing anything to her. If you tried to, she would most likely just kill you.

Officer Burns stares at the door of the spare bedroom/office. Madison is still making a racket.

MIRANDA

Having second thoughts?

OFFICER BURNS

No. I'll do it. Just one night.

Young Madelyn gets up and fetches Miranda's keys from the hook by the front door. She selects the correct key and gives it to Officer Burns.

MADELYN

I told Mommy she wouldn't be good.

Miranda gets another slice of pizza from the box.

MIRANDA

(to Officer Burns)

Have a slice.

[End Flashback]

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - SAME

Miranda has let Madelyn go. Madelyn looks as if she's thinking about something.

MADELYN

I remember. You locked her in your office. She wouldn't stop screaming and kicking the door.

MIRANDA

I saw that cop a year or so ago. Said he was moving to the beach. I don't blame him.

MADELYN

Are his dreams still bad?

Miranda is taken aback and somewhat scared. She was not expecting Madelyn to ask that.

MIRANDA

How do you even remember him saying that?

MADELYN

He's not the only one who had bad dreams. Anyway, Trey is waiting.

Madelyn runs full speed up the stairs, leaving Miranda looking shocked.

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn closes her door and locks it. She takes a seat on the floor against her back pillow. Trey is still there.

TREY

He left?

MADELYN

Yes.

TREY

And?

MADELYN

And nothing.

TREY

You must know that Dr. Manning didn't just show up by coincidence. He was called.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, MIRANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Miranda sits at her desk. She drinks gin straight from the bottle.

Miranda dials the number of David Manning on her office phone. When the call is answered she switches over to speakerphone.

DAVID MANNING

Hello?

MIRANDA

Hello. I need your help.

DAVID MANNING

Dr. Greer?

MIRANDA

Yes.

DAVID MANNING

That bad, is it?

MIRANDA

Worse than bad. Way worse.

DAVID MANNING

Alright. Can you manage for two more days?

MIRANDA

I hope so.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn has tears streaming again. Trey watches her while twirling a pen around his fingers.

TREY

Do you know how Dr. Manning knows my mother?

MADELYN

No.

TREY

Let's trace a path, shall we?

MADELYN

A path?

TREY

Dr. Manning is Kyle's father. Kyle knew Dionne.

INT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Miranda sits at the kitchen table drinking gin straight from the bottle. Dionne leans against the wall sipping a lemonade.

MIRANDA

I want to help, but you might be asking for too much.

DIONNE

I am asking for a lot. That's why I'm asking so you have the option of saying no. If it's no then say 'no'.

MIRANDA

The alternative to me is-

DIONNE

Not ideal...considering.

MIRANDA

Okay. I'll do it. I can't make any promises.

DIONNE

Do your best. If your best isn't enough, call him.

Dionne gives Miranda a tiny folded piece of paper. Miranda unfolds the paper and reads a phone number and the name D Manning.

MIRANDA

Their father, does he-

DIONNE

He knows now and told me to keep them away from him. Not them, just her. She's a scary little bitch.

MIRANDA

Terrifying. I'll do my best.

DIONNE

Thank you.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn breathes heavily, like she may be on the verge of a panic attack. Trey leans in closer to his screen/camera.

MADELYN

Mommy told them to kill Madison?
She did not. She did not.

An intense lightning storm begins suddenly, with deafening thunder cracks. The lightning is so powerful that it shakes

the house.

Quick footsteps come pounding up the stairs and right outside Madelyn's door.

Miranda bangs on the door.

MIRANDA

(os)

Maddie! Maddie, whatever it is, we can work on it together.

MADELYN

Go away MURDERER!

MIRANDA

(os)

Dionne told me to call him! She gave me his number! She knew I couldn't handle it. Nobody could handle it! I told Dionne I would do my best and I did. You said yourself that Madison wouldn't be good. You said it!

EXT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Miranda stands on the front steps in sweatpants and a big t-shirt.

Dionne has Young Madelyn and Madison in tow, already in their pajamas. The girls are sleepy and sway as they walk.

MIRANDA

Wake up, girls. It's still early.

YOUNG MADELYN

Bedtime. Bedtime. Yay.

MADISON

Aunt Randi, can I sleep in your bed?

MIRANDA

Sure you can.

Dionne gives the girls one last hug.

DIONNE

Be good for Aunt Randi.

YOUNG MADELYN

I will. Mads won't.

Miranda and Dionne give each other an alarmed look.

MIRANDA
 (to Dionne)
 I'll do my best.

DIONNE
 Call him, if it's not enough.

Dionne takes a folded in half envelope from her back pocket and gives it to Miranda.

DIONNE
 The last one will be mailed to you.

Miranda nods. Dionne salutes her and leaves. Miranda takes the girls inside.

MIRANDA
 Bedtime. Bedtime. Yay.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Miranda jiggles the doorknob once then gives up. Trey sits there wide-eyed. Madelyn folds her arms defiantly.

MIRANDA
 (os)
 Feel free to hate me. I'm used to
 being hated.

Trey and Madelyn sit in silence for a moment.

TREY
 Do you hate her?

MADELYN
 No. Why would I? Why would anybody?

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, GUEST ROOM - DAY

[Flashback to 1994]

Hollis stands in front of a full length mirror wearing only underwear and a tank top. Her legs are covered in jagged, indented scars.

Dean comes into the room, but stays near the door.

DEAN
 Don't get mad, but I offered to let
 Trey stay with us while Randi and
 Jon are out of town. They didn't
 want him to be at home alone the
 whole weekend.

Hollis doesn't respond. Dean leaves. Hollis coughs up a residual. She sticks her tongue out with the ball balanced on the tip of it.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, GUEST ROOM - SAME

Young Vivian sits on the bed. Young Dionne and Young Trey sit on the floor. Hollis comes in with a tray of hot chocolate for them. Two of the mugs are white, one is black.

Hollis gives the black mug to Trey.

HOLLIS

Are we having fun in here?

YOUNG VIVIAN

Yes. Trey said he's going to boys' school for high school. No girls.

YOUNG TREY

No girls. Not even the teachers.

HOLLIS

Sounds exciting. Boys are violent. I love it.

Hollis watches Young Trey take a sip of his hot chocolate.

HOLLIS

Don't burn your mouth. I just took it off the stove.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hollis sits at the table drinking a cup of tea. Dean enters with the three mugs given to Young Dionne, Young Vivian and Young Trey.

DEAN

If you want to curse me out, just do it and get it over with. The silence is getting old.

HOLLIS

I'm not mad. I just have nothing to say. Are they getting ready for bed?

DEAN

The girls are. Trey is already passed out.

Dean places the mugs in the sink and leaves. Hollis gets up and goes to the sink. She looks in the bottom of the black mug. There is gritty residue in it.

Hollis rolls a residual around in her mouth. She bites it in half, spits a piece into her hand, and chews up the other half.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, GUEST ROOM - SAME

Hollis enters the guest room and closes the door. Young Trey is asleep on top of the comforter and fully clothed.

Hollis squeezes Young Trey's cheeks together with one hand. She taps him on the nose and drums on his forehead with her fingers.

When she is sure he won't wake up, Hollis pulls Young Trey's upper lip up to expose his gums. She places the sharp edge of the piece of glass against his gums (left side) and watches it slowly disappear.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jonathan and Miranda have come for Young Trey. Both of them stand by their car, waiting for him to come outside.

Dean carries Young Trey's bags to the car. Young Trey comes out of the house looking nervous and on edge.

DEAN

(to Jonathan)

I think some of the weird rubbed off on him.

MIRANDA

Who's weird?

JONATHAN

Your whole family. You're the least weird, but still not completely normal. Love you, though.

MIRANDA

Screw you.

Young Trey walks slowly to the car, with his eyes fixed on Miranda. Instead of going towards her, he goes the long way around to the other side of the car to avoid her.

Young Trey gets into the back seat and remains pressed up against the door like he is terrified of something.

MIRANDA

What did I do?

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hollis sits at the table having a cup of hot tea. Dean comes in and sits at the table with her.

DEAN

I just got off the phone with Randi.

HOLLIS

And?

DEAN

She says since Trey left here, he's been acting different. Like he doesn't want to be near her.

HOLLIS

Okay?

DEAN

You don't think that's strange?

HOLLIS

It is, but how is it our problem? She can take him to a therapist.

DEAN

She says it's all your fault and she's never speaking to you again.

HOLLIS

That's fine. I can't stand her voice anyway.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey is getting teary eyed. Madelyn picks the journal up and turns to the last page with writing. It is dated January 27, 2020.

MADELYN

(reading)

I think Dionne was right.

TREY

What? About what?

MADELYN

It says here 'I think Dionne was right'. That's the last thing he wrote.

TREY

What else did he write about Dionne?

Madelyn flips through the pages until she comes across an entry dated April 12, 2014.

MADELYN

(reading)

Dionne told me that her mother is dying.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2008]

Hollis sits at the table having a cup of tea. She coughs up a residual and spits it into her hand.

Hollis sees that it has a few drops of blood inside of it. Hollis swallows the residual quickly when she hears the front door open and shut.

A pregnant Dionne comes into the kitchen. Dionne sits down at the table with Hollis and stares at her.

HOLLIS

Di Di.

DIONNE

What's wrong?

HOLLIS

Nothing.

DIONNE

Your heart...

Hollis puts her hand over her heart.

HOLLIS

It's still beating.

DIONNE

I can't hear it.

HOLLIS

I'm still here.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn continues reading while Trey watches her.

MADELYN

(reading)

And has been for years. According to Dionne, her mother started to decline around the time that Madelyn was born. Knowing this, I feel like this is more of a mercy killing than outright homicide.

Madelyn looks at Trey. He has no expression on his face.

MADELYN

What does he mean?

TREY

By?

MADELYN

Mercy killing? He thinks killing grandma was a good thing?

TREY

She was dying. Slowly. So, yes.
Does he describe her condition?

Madelyn skims the page, then turns several pages. She stops when she sees the name 'Hollis' in an entry dated May 28, 2014.

MADELYN

(reading)

I saw Hollis for the first time today. She is in a sad state. This woman is fifty-three years old and can't walk unassisted. She is also on oxygen. It's taken six years for her to get this bad.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2009]

Hollis sits at the table, drinking a cup of tea. NEWBORN MADISON is in a carseat on the floor next to Hollis.

Dionne comes into the kitchen with 1 YEAR OLD MADELYN asleep in her arms.

HOLLIS

You could put her down.

DIONNE

I could, but I won't. What's up with you?

HOLLIS

What do you mean?

DIONNE

I still can't hear it and you look thinner.

Hollis clears her throat. She coughs and coughs until she produces a residual. She spits it into her hand.

Hollis holds it between her fingers. It is about 1/5 filled with blood.

Dionne stares at Hollis with wide eyes.

HOLLIS

Don't look like at me like that.
You better not tell anybody.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn closes the journal and gently taps herself on the forehead with it.

Trey stands up.

TREY

Be right back.

Trey disappears from view. Madelyn selects a new video from Dionne named 'DrRandi'.

DIONNE

(on video)

It took a while for Aunt Randi to listen to me. I don't really blame her. After what Mommy did to Trey, Taylor's death, Daddy's death, all the people I killed...she was right for not wanting anything to do with me. But she changed her mind. It was because of you.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, MIRANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 2009]

Miranda sits at her desk, mindlessly clicking a pen while reading through an old newspaper. The page she is reading is about the explosion at Taylor's house.

There is a knock at the door.

MIRANDA

It's unlocked.

A very pregnant Dionne comes in with 1 Year Old Madelyn in an umbrella stroller.

Dionne closes the door with her foot then plops down on the patient chaise.

MIRANDA

How can I help you?

DIONNE

Tell me how to get rid of it.

MIRANDA

Rid of what exactly? Do I know you?

Dionne coughs up a residual and flings it across Randi's desk. It lands right over the image of Taylor's destroyed garage.

Miranda jumps up from her chair. Suddenly the entire ceiling is covered in brown recluse and black widow spiders.

MIRANDA

Dionne?

DIONNE

Aunt Randi.

Dionne points to the stroller.

DIONNE

This is Madelyn. I think I'll go with Madison for the bun. I can't come up with anything else. At least nothing that I like.

Dionne slaps her belly hard enough to make a sound. She yawns and closes her eyes.

MIRANDA

Get out. Now.

DIONNE

You'll have to drag me. This chair is so comfy.

All the spiders come down the walls and form a circle around 1 Year Old Madelyn's stroller.

MIRANDA

You have ten seconds. Ten...nine...

Dionne jumps up from the chaise with her eyes still closed.

MIRANDA

Eight...seven...

DIONNE

You're bluffing.

MIRANDA

Six...Five...

Dionne opens her eyes and sees the ring of spiders around the stroller.

DIONNE

Is this what happened to Mommy's legs? I saw the scars. She could have died. I thought you weren't like us. I thought you were good.

Dionne stomps on as many spiders as she can. She grabs the stroller and leaves Randi's office.

EXT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - NIGHT

Miranda has a purse on her shoulder and briefcase in hand. She checks her mailbox. There is only junk mail and a large white envelope with 'DO NOT BEND' written in large letters.

The envelope has no return address, only the initials DTF with a tiny red heart beside it.

Miranda rummages around in her purse and takes out a cigarette lighter. She flicks the lighter on, but is hesitant to set the the envelope on fire.

INT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - SAME

Miranda sits at the kitchen table, drinking gin directly from the bottle.

The white envelope is on the table, still not open. Miranda closes her eyes and taps on the table with one finger.

MIRANDA

Widow to open. Recluse to burn.

Miranda opens her eyes. A black widow appears on the envelope crawling across her name.

Miranda opens the envelope. She dumps the contents out on the table. It is professional photos of 1 Year Old Madelyn and Newborn Madison.

The black widow disappears.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn has paused the video. Trey returns with a short glass of rum and a package of pepperonis.

TREY

What did I miss?

Madelyn restarts the video.

DIONNE

(on video)

I asked her if I could make myself normal and not like this. There is no way. We can't be fixed.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, MIRANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 2010]

Miranda lounges on her chaise, staring up at the ceiling. There is a knock at the door.

MIRANDA

It's open.

Dionne comes in hauling a tandem stroller with 2 YEAR OLD MADELYN and 1 YEAR OLD MADISON.

Dionne parks the stroller near the wall and takes a seat behind Miranda's desk. A patient file is open on the desk.

Dionne starts reading it aloud.

DIONNE

Oooh. Schizophrenic. Sounds more fun than our defect. I'd love to have imaginary friends.

MIRANDA

What do you want, Di Di?

DIONNE

I told you. I want to get rid of it.

MIRANDA

You can't. Anything else?

DIONNE

No. That is all.

Dionne closes the patient file. Miranda stares at 2 Year Old Madelyn and 1 Year Old Madison with a sad look on her face.

MIRANDA

I guess when I see you again, you'll be lugging another baby?

DIONNE

No. I'm done. Got number three undone.

Miranda sits straight up and stares at Dionne.

MIRANDA

Does that mean-

DIONNE

I was pregnant like two weeks ago. But I'm not now. I'm still a murderer.

MIRANDA

Still? When were you ever?

Dionne closes her eyes and drums the beat of Miranda's heart on the desk.

DIONNE

Irregular. At least it's not too loud.

Dionne opens her eyes and jumps up from the chair.

DIONNE

My only option is--

MIRANDA

Death. Yes.

DIONNE

Just reward or something like that...

MIRANDA

What are you talking about?

DIONNE

Nothing. As usual.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn pauses the video again. Trey snacks on his pepperonis.

MADELYN

Do I need to be fixed?

TREY

No. You aren't broken.

MADELYN

Mommy thought so.

TREY

She was talking about herself.

MADELYN

And Grandma and Vi Vi. She thought they were broken too.

TREY

They were. You're fine. You'll be fine.

MADELYN

What about Mads? She was broken. She almost broke us.

TREY

Do you miss her?

MADELYN

Sometimes.

TREY

Do you feel like you shouldn't miss her?

MADELYN

Most of the time.

Trey takes a swig of rum. Madelyn plays the video.

DIONNE

(on video)

I didn't just take Randi's word for it. Not at first. Then I got a call from my uncle Silas. That sealed it. I had no other choice.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

[Flashback to 2013]

Dionne sits at a picnic table alone. She has a lemonade and her cellphone on the table.

Dionne receives a phone call from a blocked number. Dionne accepts and immediately puts the caller on speakerphone.

DIONNE

Who are you and what do you want?

SILAS laughs. (Silas is the brother of Miranda and Hollis)

SILAS

(os)

Di Di, I know Dean taught you better manners than that.

DIONNE

Do I know you? How did you get my number?

SILAS

You don't recognize my voice? It has been a while. I think it was Dean's funeral last time you saw me.

DIONNE

Uncle Silas?

SILAS

Bingo! She got it.

DIONNE

Well?

SILAS

Just checking on you.

Dionne makes an annoyed face at her phone.

DIONNE

And what else?

SILAS

I heard that you got two babies now. They got what y'all got? It's not spiders is it?

DIONNE

I don't know yet. They are too young to show anything. If they do maybe I can fix them.

SILAS

You can't. Don't try either.

DIONNE

What do you know about it? You're normal.

SILAS

I hear things and see things. My granny called your kind 'exalted'. Seemed to think God gave you all special preference.

DIONNE

I didn't ask for preference and you didn't answer my question. How do you know it can't be fixed?

Silas doesn't answer right away. Dionne checks her phone to make sure he didn't hang up.

SILAS

I had another sister. Our youngest sister Lauren. She could control people like a puppeteer. She did it to our neighbors' boy and made him stab himself in the neck.

DIONNE

I never heard of a Lauren.

SILAS

Granny sent her back to God, so she said. We moved right after and never mentioned her again.

DIONNE

Nobody asked about her? Nobody missed her from school? That is some bullshit.

SILAS

She never went to school. When this happened, she had just turned four.

Dionne is speechless. She stares at her phone with her mouth open.

SILAS

Not shocked are you? But like I said. It can't be fixed. Only given to God. I'm glad you're doing well for yourself and kiss them babies for me since I'll probably never see them. Bye!

Silas hangs up.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn pauses the video again. Trey stuffs several pepperonis into his mouth.

Madelyn sends the video 'DrRandi' to Trey then stands up.

MADELYN

Watch it while I pack right quick.

Madelyn goes to the closet. She pulls her luggage out and opens all of it.

Madelyn pulls all of her clothes and shoes out of the closet and stuffs everything into her luggage set.

Madelyn zips up her stuffed suitcases/bags and sits back down. Her cellphone buzzes to alert her of an incoming text message.

Madelyn reads the text message. It is from Miranda and says: What do you want for lunch?

Madelyn responds with: CAKE.

Trey has finished his pepperonis. Madelyn waits for him to finish watching the video.

MADELYN

I don't know Silas, do I?

TREY

No.

MADELYN

Is he alive?

TREY

No. He died three years ago. When Mom went away for a week and asked me to stay at the house with you, she was attending his funeral.

MADELYN

What did he die of?

TREY

He was shot during a failed robbery.

Madelyn grimaces then immediately continues watching the video.

DIONNE

(on video)

I needed someone to confide in and somewhere safe for you to go. That's why I pulled some strings to get Aunt Randi to be my doctor.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, MIRANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 2012]

Miranda scrolls through her laptop files looking at her current patient roster and new referrals.

She sees a referral from a Dr. Sherard Brooks for Freeman, Dionne T.

Miranda takes her cellphone out of her top desk drawer to make a phone call. There is a knock at the door.

MIRANDA

Come in.

Dionne comes in alone. She closes the door and locks it. Dionne throws herself on the chaise and sighs dramatically.

MIRANDA

This Dr. Brooks. Did you threaten him to get referred to me?

DIONNE

No. He owed me a favor.

MIRANDA

I have an appointment in twenty minutes. I'll have to fit you in some other day.

DIONNE

I want the girls to be good. Not like me or Vivian or Mommy. You're good. How can I make sure they turn out like you?

MIRANDA

Do your best. Where are they? With Hollis?

DIONNE

With their dad.

MIRANDA
Does he have a name?

DIONNE
Sherard Brooks Jr.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

The video ends. Madelyn closes it. Trey notices that all of his pepperonis are gone.

MADELYN
Is Aunt Randi a good doctor?

TREY
She's a great doctor.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, MIRANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 2012]

Dionne is stretched out on the floor. Miranda stands beside her desk. Trey sits on the patient chaise.

TREY
Is this legal? I mean for me to be
in here now?

MIRANDA
Yes. She requested you.

DIONNE
Show him. Still can't believe you
haven't after all this time.

TREY
Show me what?

DIONNE
Our weird.

Miranda taps on the desk with one finger. Hundreds of spiders (black widow and brown recluse) appear on the ceiling, walls, floor and desk.

Trey jumps up on the chaise and curls up in a ball. Miranda taps the desk again and the spiders disappear.

TREY
What the fucking fuck?

MIRANDA

I knew Hollis did something to you,
I just didn't know what. All these
years I've been wondering what her
defect was. She is so sneaky. So
manipulative. She hid it so well
for almost fifty years.

Dionne sits up and assumes a meditation pose.

DIONNE

You should probably tell Jon.

TREY

Dad? Why?

DIONNE

He and Daddy were friends. I think
he deserves to know that Daddy
wasn't crazy.

TREY

Hollis killed him?

DIONNE

In theory. We can't prove she did
anything to him.

TREY

You sound so chill about it.

DIONNE

I am chill about it. Very chill.

TREY

I used to be ashamed of being
adopted. Now, I'm grateful that I
didn't inherit your psycho genes.

MIRANDA

Understandable.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey looks at his empty pepperoni package with longing.
Madelyn shakes her head at him.

MADELYN

Is she your doctor, too?

TREY

No. She can't be. That's a conflict
of several interests.

MADELYN

What?

TREY

She can't be my doctor, we are too closely related, even if it is by adoption. There isn't much for me to tell her anyway. She already knows.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, MIRANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Trey sits at Miranda's desk. There is an old photo of a little girl (approx 3 y.o.) on the desk.

Miranda opens the door. Jonathan enters. There is awkward tension between Miranda and Jonathan.

TREY

Dad. What's up?

JONATHAN

Is this an intervention?

TREY

No. An overdue explanation if you're willing to except the bizarre and fantastical.

Miranda closes the door, but remains near it. Jonathan takes a seat on the patient chaise.

JONATHAN

What's this all about?

TREY

My seizures and Dean's untimely demise.

JONATHAN

How are the two related?

MIRANDA

That photo on my desk. Take a look at it.

Trey hands the photo to Jonathan.

JONATHAN

Whose baby?

MIRANDA

That's my youngest sister Lauren.

JONATHAN

I never heard of a Lauren. What happened to her?

MIRANDA

My granny killed her. That's why the family hates me. I won't let them erase her.

JONATHAN

And what's this got to do with Trey blacking out and Dean losing his mind?

TREY

Long story. It all comes together. Trust me.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn smells the cover of the journal. Trey looks disgusted.

MADELYN

I like how leather smells. It still smells new. Do you think medicine would have helped Madison? Like something really strong?

TREY

No. I'm sure anything stronger than the sedative she was already being given would have killed her or caused permanent brain damage.

MADELYN

Sedative...

TREY

Dionne told us that she was giving both of you anti-anxiety meds.

INT. DIONNE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Dionne stands at the counter cutting a pill in half with a knife. She crushes each half into a powder and transfers the powder into two sippy cups.

Young Madelyn and Madison come into the kitchen wearing pajamas.

Madison holds out her hand to show Dionne her residual.

MADISON

Can I keep this one?

DIONNE

No, you can not. Give me that.

Madison pouts and tries to run away, but Young Madelyn blocks her way. Dionne wrestles the residual out of Madison's hand. Young Madelyn coughs and spits out a residual and gives it to Dionne.

Dionne rummages through the kitchen drawers.

DIONNE

Where's the hammer?

YOUNG MADELYN

Mads has it. It's under her bed.

DIONNE

(to Madison)

Why do you have it? Go get it.

Madison runs out of the kitchen and returns with the hammer. Dionne places both residuals on the counter and smashes them with a hammer.

MADISON

I'm keeping the next one.

Dionne takes a jug of apple juice out of the fridge. She fills both sippy cups and gives them to the girls.

YOUNG MADELYN

Sleepy juice. Sleepy juice. Yay.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn stares blankly at the burn mark on the floor. Trey taps on his screen to get her attention.

MADELYN

Sleepy juice.

TREY

Did you notice?

MADELYN

Yes. My dreams weren't as bad. I forgot most of them as soon as I woke up. I wonder if that police man tried anti-anxiety juice.

TREY

What police man?

MADELYN

He took care of me when Vi Vi left me at the hospital. He came to see me at Aunt Randi's apartment. I mean condo.

TREY

Oh really?

INT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Miranda sits on the sofa watching Young Madelyn and Madison put a puzzle together. Her doorbell rings.

Miranda gets up to look through the blinds. There is a police car outside. Miranda opens the door to see Officer Burns waiting.

OFFICER BURNS

Miranda Greer?

MIRANDA

Yes.

OFFICER BURNS

There was a fire at the home of Vivian Freeman. I must inform you that-

Young Madelyn squeezes by Miranda to stand in front of her.

YOUNG MADELYN

Hi. Did you come here for me?

OFFICER BURNS

No. I came to tell your-

MIRANDA

Aunt. Great Aunt.

OFFICER BURNS

Your aunt a secret. So, go back inside. I can only tell her.

Madison squeezes by Miranda and pushes Young Madelyn aside.

MADISON

Did Vi Vi make fire?

Officer Burns looks back and forth from the girls to Miranda several times. He is very concerned and confused.

MIRANDA

You were saying?

OFFICER BURNS

I really don't think they should hear this.

Miranda goes outside and beckons for Officer Burns to join her on the sidewalk away from the door.

EXT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - SAME

Miranda keeps her eyes on the girls while she and Officer Burns talk.

OFFICER BURNS

There was a fire early this morning. Three bodies were found in the house. We are assuming that one of them is Vivian Freeman. The other two are believed to be-

MIRANDA

Her mother and sister.

OFFICER BURNS

Okay. This sister is--

MIRANDA

Dionne Freeman. These girls' mother.

Officer Burns eyes Miranda suspiciously.

OFFICER BURNS

You seem very undisturbed by this news. If my loved ones were killed in a fire I'd be inconsolable.

MIRANDA

Well, I'm not you and no one said I loved them.

Officer Burns is shocked to hear this. He looks at Young Madelyn and Madison standing on the front step.

OFFICER BURNS

What will you tell them?

MIRANDA

The truth.

OFFICER BURNS

The cause of the fire has yet to be identified. We still don't know if it was accidental. Strange thing is, the three of them were sitting on the couch. Side by side. Isn't that odd?

MIRANDA

No. Not really.

Officer Burns gives Miranda another suspicious look.

OFFICER BURNS

Well. Good evening to you.

Miranda goes back to the door and pushes the girls inside. Officer Burns stands there looking dumbfounded.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey stands up and stretches again. Madelyn looks at the calendar on her phone and pouts.

TREY

I know. It's in three days. The anniversary.

EXT. PARK - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

David Manning sees Miranda, Young Madelyn and Madison near the playground. He goes over to them.

Young Madelyn pushes an empty swing. Madison sits on a swing not moving.

DAVID MANNING

Dr. Greer.

MIRANDA

Dr. Manning.

Madison sees a squirrel and tries to follow it.

MIRANDA

Leave the squirrel.

Madison ignores Miranda so David blocks her path.

MADISON

Move.

DAVID MANNING

No. Leave it.

Madison glares at David. Her face is full of rage. Madison's nose starts bleeding then suddenly she screams and falls to the ground unconscious.

David and Miranda just stand there looking at her.

DAVID MANNING

Shall we call an ambulance?

MIRANDA

Yes. I suppose we have to, don't we. You don't have to hang around. Thank you for your help, though.

DAVID MANNING

You are most welcome. I'm sorry it had to come to this.

Young Madelyn stops pushing the swing to check on Madison. She feels her neck then puts an ear to Madison's chest.

YOUNG MADELYN

Heart failure. Thirty two dead people.

EXT. MIRANDA'S CONDO - NIGHT

Miranda is on the front steps waiting for Officer Burns to get out of his car. He joins her on the steps.

OFFICER BURNS

She's gone?

MIRANDA

Gone.

OFFICER BURNS

Wow.

MIRANDA

Sad about it?

OFFICER BURNS

Hell no. How'd you manage it?

MIRANDA

Apparently, she had a brain aneurysm. It ruptured. What are the odds?

OFFICER BURNS

I'm guessing very low. How lucky.

Miranda snickers.

MIRANDA

Yeah. Luck would do it.

OFFICER BURNS

How's the normal one?

MIRANDA

There is no normal here. Trust me. The relatively harmless one is doing better than expected.

OFFICER BURNS

Good. Glad to hear it.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey touches his toes then reaches for the ceiling.
Madelyn scrolls through Petra de Peter's blog archives.

TREY
Tell me something.

MADELYN
What?

TREY
Do you resent Madison?

MADELYN
What do you mean?

TREY
These past years, I've noticed a pattern. Whenever the anniversary gets close, you lash out. You miss her, but you also seem very angry.

MADELYN
Maybe I do resent her then. All she had to do was be good. I'm sad because I don't think she even tried to be.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

The front door is open. Miranda is just inside the door on her cellphone.

Young Madelyn sits on the front steps looking at the sky. There is a lightning storm going on, but nothing hits the ground.

A car pulls up and parks in the driveway. Trey gets out of the car. Jonathan is with him.

Trey notices the lightning in the sky. When he passes by Madelyn on the way inside he gives her a pat on the head.

Jonathan gets out of the car. He stands beside the porch and watches the lightning.

Miranda sticks her head outside.

MIRANDA
(to Jonathan)
What are you looking at?

JONATHAN
Just enjoying the show.

Miranda looks up at the sky.

MIRANDA
(to Young Madelyn)
Are we sad today?

YOUNG MADELYN
We are.

MIRANDA
What would make us not sad?

YOUNG MADELYN
Cake.

MIRANDA
Let there be cake. As soon as we
leave here.

Young Madelyn stands up. The lightning stops, the sky clears
and Young Madelyn goes inside.

JONATHAN
If that's her being sad, then what
would her being furious look like?

MIRANDA
It would look like a lot of dead
people.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey lookS at his cellphone. Madelyn flips through the
journal and stops on an entry dated March 7, 2014.

MADELYN
(reading)
I dislike Vivian. I really really
dislike her and I don't dislike
many people. I'd be lying if I said
I'm not looking forward to seeing
how this whole thing plays out, but
my god, this bitch is insufferable.

TREY
Whoa there. That b- word.

MADELYN
(reading)
I've managed to convince her that I
like her in a romantic way. It
didn't take any effort at all.

EXT. GYM - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Vivian and Kai wear work out clothes. Vivian leans against her car while they talk.

Kai has his cellphone in his hand. Vivian stares deeply into his eyes, with unnatural interest. Kai pretends not to notice.

KAI

I'd love to take you out sometime.

VIVIAN

Yes. I would love that.

Vivian holds her hand out and Kai gives her his phone. Vivian adds herself to his contacts. She gives him his phone back and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

VIVIAN

Call me now so I can save your number.

Kai calls her number. Her phone rings from inside her car. Vivian gets in her car and lets the window down.

VIVIAN

Do you believe in fate?

KAI

Yes. Why?

VIVIAN

Just asking. Bye.

Kai watches Vivian speed out of the parking lot. He snickers and calls Dionne right away.

Kai puts Dionne on speakerphone and talks while walking back to the gym.

DIONNE

Successful?

KAI

You were right. I think she would fuck my eyes if she could.

DIONNE

Good luck on the rest. Let me know when she let's you move in.

KAI

You can't be serious. Like that would happen. Especially so soon.

DIONNE

Couple of weeks. Leave some clothes there accidentally on purpose. If she doesn't make you take them, consider yourself moved in.

KAI

Right.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey holds his cellphone screen up to his computer camera. Madelyn squints to see what's on the screen.

MADELYN

What am I looking at?

TREY

It's from my weather app. They've noticed a pattern of irregular lightning storms. Someone pointed out to them that it's been happening for six years, every year since 2014.

MADELYN

They don't know that it's me.

TREY

No. But they noticed. Just thought it was interesting.

Madelyn continues reading from the journal.

MADELYN

(reading)

Playing games with people is a hobby of mine, but Vivian is so annoying. If I had to chose, I'd prefer to be in a pretend relationship with Dionne. She's more attractive and more enjoyable to be around. She's done something to me honestly. Dionne has made me a bit softer. I could have done something genuinely, unforgivably diabolical today. But I didn't. Because of her.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Kai and Dionne sit at a picnic table. Dionne is in her nurse scrubs. Her purse is on the table.

There is an empty table right next to theirs. Dionne has a salad and lemonade; Kai only an energy drink.

DIONNE
Any questions, ask now.

KAI
I must be insane for agreeing to do this.

DIONNE
Sanity is a delusion.

KAI
What if she doesn't like me? Then what?

DIONNE
She doesn't need to like all of you. Just your eyes will do it.

KAI
Do I want to know why?

Dionne takes her cellphone out of her purse. She scrolls through her pictures until she finds a close up of Taylor.

Dionne shows the picture to Kai.

OBNOXIOUS MOM #1 and OBNOXIOUS MOM #2 arrive, both with infant twins in strollers.

(Obnoxious Mom #2 has carrier/car seats on a tandem frame.)

Obnoxious Mom #1 plops a huge diaper bag on the table very close to knocking Dionne's drink over.

OBNOXIOUS MOM #1
Fucking hell, my shoulder hurts.

OBNOXIOUS MOM #2
I told you to use luggage. The one with wheels so you don't have to carry it.

Obnoxious Mom #2 sniffs one of the babies and recoils.

OBNOXIOUS MOM #2
You reek. And I just changed you.

Obnoxious Mom #2 takes the car seat/carrier off the frame and swings it around, almost hitting Kai in the face.

KAI
Can you two dairy cows move your shit and your shitters to the next fucking table?

Obnoxious Mom #1 looks super shocked. Obnoxious Mom #2 rolls her eyes.

OBNOXIOUS MOM #2
Whatever dude.

Kai looks at Dionne, totally exasperated. Dionne shrugs.

DIONNE
Snap. Clap. Go off.

Kai snaps, then claps. Obnoxious Mom #1 and Obnoxious Mom #2 both stand facing him with shoulders slumped and mouths agape.

They stare straight ahead with 'dead' eyes.

KAI
Take your shit and leave. But leave the babies here. Come back for them in twenty minutes.

Obnoxious Mom #2 puts the stinky baby back in the seat. Obnoxious Mom #1 takes her diaper bag off the table. Obnoxious Mom #1 and Obnoxious Mom #2 leave in a car together.

DIONNE
And now?

KAI
Call the police about some abandoned babies.

DIONNE
You have changed. Good.

Dionne dials 911 on her cellphone.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn turns the journal back to the entry dated May 28, 2014. She selects a video from 'MemoryBook' named 'UsThree'

Trey rubs his stomach and looks sad. Madelyn notices.

MADELYN
If you're hungry go get something to eat. I'm not going anywhere.

Trey jumps up from his chair and runs out of view. Madelyn plays video 'UsThree'.

DIONNE

(on video)

I don't think Mommy ever loved Daddy. I think she just wanted security and kids. I never said anything, but I noticed he was always happier to see her than she was to see him. She just tolerated him. He didn't know about us. About me, Mommy and V. He didn't know about our defect. Aunt Randi tried to warn him and it backfired.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

[Flashback to 1994]

Dean looks through the day's mail. There is a large envelope addressed to him from 'M.J. Greer'.

Dean opens the envelope and dumps the contents onto his desk. Paper clipped together are fourteen funeral programs. All have 'Cause of death Heart Failure' written in black marker on the the front.

Dean looks through each program then places them back into the envelope.

INT. VIVIAN AND DIONNE'S ROOM - DAY

Young Vivian and Young Dionne make their beds up. Dean enters with the large envelope.

DEAN

Girls, I need to ask you something.
Come take a look at these.

Dean takes the funeral programs out of the envelope and arranges them side by side on Young Vivian's bed.

DEAN

Do you know these people?

Young Vivian and Young Dionne look at each one carefully. Young Dionne backs away slowly.

YOUNG VIVIAN

All these people are dead?

DEAN

Yes. They are.

Young Vivian places a finger on the face of 'Gregory Miller.'

YOUNG VIVIAN

I saw him before.

Dean notices the look of horror on Young Dionne's face.

DEAN
 You've seen them before, Di Di?
 When you were with Mommy?

Young Dionne doesn't respond. Dean gathers up the funeral programs and leaves. He stands right outside their door.

YOUNG VIVIAN
 (to Young Dionne)
 Murderer.

INT. DEAN'S SHED - NIGHT

Dean has fallen asleep at his work table. There is a pile of burnt matches on the table along with a small can of lighter fluid.

Dean has taped the funeral programs to the wall.

The door opens and Young Dionne comes in. She tiptoes across the floor and picks up the framed photo of Taylor. Dean wakes up and takes it out of her hand.

DEAN
 What are you up to?

YOUNG DIONNE
 Nothing.

Young Dionne stares at the funeral programs.

DEAN
 Do you know what 'coincidence'
 means?

YOUNG DIONNE
 Yes.

DEAN
 Do you think--

YOUNG DIONNE
 It's not.

DEAN
 So, what are you saying?

YOUNG DIONNE
 It's all I'm good at. I didn't know
 then. But I know now. I don't do it
 anymore. I won't ever again. Unless
 I have to.

Young Dionne snatches the picture of Taylor from Dean and kisses it. She tosses the frame onto the work table and leaves.

Dean sits there with his mouth open.

INT. VIVIAN AND DIONNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Young Vivian and Young Dionne are dressed for bed and picking out clothes for the next day.

Dean comes into their room with a camcorder. He closes the door.

DEAN

Up for an interview?

YOUNG VIVIAN

Interview?

DEAN

Yeah. Like on the news. Pretend I'm a reporter and I'm doing a story for the news. Come, come.

Young Vivian and Young Dionne sit on Young Dionne's bed.

DEAN

First question is for Vivian. The day of the fire, did you see Taylor with matches or a lighter?

YOUNG VIVIAN

No.

DEAN

Okay. Next question for Dionne. Did Taylor ever look like or say that he had chest pain?

YOUNG DIONNE

No.

DEAN

Back to Vivian. The fire started in the garage. Who was in the garage first? You, Taylor, or Dionne?

YOUNG VIVIAN

Me.

DEAN

Dionne.

YOUNG DIONNE

Yes?

DEAN

You said 'It's the only thing I'm good at'. What does that mean? What are you good at?

Hollis comes into the room.

HOLLIS
What are we doing? Playing a game?

YOUNG DIONNE
I don't like this game.

DEAN
(to Hollis)
We're doing an interview. Just asking them about the day.

HOLLIS
That day?

DEAN
Yes. That day. I just wanted to clarify some things.

HOLLIS
It's late. They need to go to sleep.

Dean turns the camcorder to Hollis.

DEAN
They don't have school tomorrow. I'm allowed to ask questions. You girls. Always so hush-hush and secretive. Did you think I wouldn't notice? Is it a girl thing? Or is it me?

Hollis pulls Dean into a hug.

HOLLIS
It's an 'us' thing.

DEAN
Does 'us' include me?

Hollis doesn't answer. She stares at Young Vivian and Young Dionne.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey has not returned yet. Madelyn continues watching the video 'UsThree'.

DIONNE
(on video)
I tried to tell Mommy and Daddy about V, but she was too sneaky. She hid it better than I thought was possible. There's a burn mark on the floor in our room from her playing around.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE, BACKYARD - DAY

[Flashback to 1994]

Young Vivian and Young Dionne watch Dean fill a metal barrel with dead leaves. He feels around in his pockets for a matchbox.

DEAN

Shit. I forgot the matches. I'll be right back.

Dean walks by the girls to get back inside the house.

YOUNG DIONNE

V can make fire.

DEAN

I'm sure she can.

Dean goes inside the house. Young Vivian grabs a handful of Young Dionne's hair and twists it.

VIVIAN

Don't tell him that. Don't ever tell him that!

YOUNG DIONNE

Let go or I will kill you.

VIVIAN

All you're good at is killing people. Murderer.

Young Vivian releases Young Dionne's hair. Dean comes back out with a box of matches in hand. He notices that the grass around Young Vivian's feet is burned.

Dean returns to his barrel but the leaves are already on fire. Dean sees Young Dionne rubbing her head.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey has not returned. Madelyn continues watching video 'UsThree'.

DIONNE

(on video)

I remember the day it happened. Mommy sent us to her friend Delaney. We came home to a fire truck and police.

EXT. FREEMAN HOUSE, DRIVE WAY - DAY

[Flashback to 1995]

Young Vivian and Young Dionne are in the back of Delaney's car. Hollis talks to Delaney. Dean stands on the porch out of earshot.

DELANEY

Planning something evil, are you?

HOLLIS

What choice do I have? I mean, he's forced me to choose between him and them and it will always be them. Always.

DELANEY

I know. Call me when you want them back. Unless you want me to keep them forever.

HOLLIS

I'll call you.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey returns with a plate (sandwich, handful of potato chips) and a 2 liter soda. He sits down and puts his plate on the desk.

Madelyn continues watching video 'UsThree'.

DIONNE

(on video)

It really was just the three of us, then Daddy, then everyone else. Everyone else below and beneath. I don't want it to be like that for us.

The video ends. Madelyn opens the sd card. Madelyn selects the video named 'Confession'.

Trey eats his food while Madelyn watches the video.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

[Flashback to 2014, Day of Confession]

Vivian, Dionne and Hollis sit on the sofa (Vivian in the middle) Kai is on his way out of the door.

KAI

Be right back. Don't move.

Kai goes outside. Hollis coughs violently and hacks up one residual after another. She lets them all fall and roll across the floor. There are at least nine of them and all are full of blood.

Kai comes back in with a small camcorder in hand. He turns the camera on and sits it on the entertain center facing the couch.

KAI

Hollis, tell Maddie and Mads what happened to Dean.

HOLLIS

He lost his mind and accidentally killed himself because of me. He suspected that Vi and Di Di caused Taylor's death so I got rid of him. I'm not sorry.

Tears stream down Vivian's face. Scorch marks appear on the chair and couch with smoke coming from them.

KAI

Vivian tell them what happened to Taylor.

VIVIAN

I started a fire in his garage. It caused an explosion. It's Di Di's fault. She should have shut up and let me dream. I'm not the one who killed him. The murderer stopped his heart.

DIONNE

I was aiming for you.

Small flames appear on the ends of the curtains. The batteries are still out of the smoke alarm.

KAI

Anything else to say Dionne?

DIONNE

No. Nothing.

Kai snaps and claps.

KAI

Hollis, stay where you are. Vivian you will not move. You will stay here with Hollis and Dionne. You will burn this house down.

Kai gets his camcorder and leaves.

[End Flashback, cont pg 98]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey watches Madelyn while he eats. Madelyn closes 'Confession'.

MADELYN
Grandma killed grandpa.

TREY
Yes. In a way.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, INFORMAL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

[Flashback to 1995]

Dean has fallen asleep on the couch. His mouth hangs open and he snores loudly. Hollis watches him from a reclining chair.

Hollis spits a residual into her hand. She bites it in half. Hollis gets up from her chair and stands over Dean.

Hollis puts one half of the broken glass in Dean's between the gums and cheek.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Hollis sits at the table, drinking a cup of tea. Dean comes running into the kitchen, sweating and frantic.

DEAN
Did you see him?

HOLLIS
Him who?

DEAN
Taylor. He was just here.

HOLLIS
I'm sure he wasn't.

DEAN
He was. I heard him.

Dean runs all over the house, calling for Taylor and becomes more unhinged by the minute. He eventually gives up and sits at the table with Hollis.

DEAN
Taylor. He was just--

Dean's eyes widen and his jaw goes slack. He has an absence seizure, that lasts for a few seconds. Hollis stares at him and continues drinking her tea.

When Dean recovers, tears roll down his cheeks.

DEAN

Taylor is--

HOLLIS

Gone. He's gone.

INT. DEAN'S SHED - SAME

Dean bursts into the shed, completely out of his mind. Instead of turning the light on, he strikes match after match, dropping them on the floor as they burn out.

The last match that Dean drops does not go out. It starts a fire.

DEAN

Taylor? Are you in here?

The framed photo of Taylor falls to the floor. The glass breaks. Dean hallucinates that Taylor's body is there on the floor.

Dean kneels down to hold Taylor's body and weep, not realizing that his shed is on fire.

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE - SAME

Hollis watches through the window as Dean's shed burns. She picks up the telephone to call Delaney.

HOLLIS

Hello? Laney. You can bring the girls back later today. Yeah. I have to call the fire department.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey starts choking on his food. He opens the soda to wash it down.

Madelyn plays video 'SnapClapObey. (Kai speaks with his natural British accent)

KAI

(on video)

Hello. Madelyn and Madison, if you're still with us. I hope you're doing well. I need you to pass on a message for me if you can and your aunt doesn't do it first. Tell Trey that I am sorry for the way I treated him. I would have preferred to apologize in person, but this is the best I can do. This will go completely against Dionne's wishes but I feel like it's the right

(MORE)

KAI (cont'd)
 thing to do. I don't know if this
 will work, but I will try anyway.

Kai snaps, then claps.

KAI
 (on video)
 Madelyn. Madison. Remember my
 voice. Remember my face and my
 name. Remember me at Vivian's
 house. Remember everything.

Kai snaps again.

INT. DIONNE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Kai enters Dionne's apartment. Dionne closes the door, but
 remains near it.

Young Madelyn and Madison are in their pajamas. They kneel
 on the living room floor, blindfolded. Kai stands behind
 them.

MADISON
 Who is here?

DIONNE
 No peeking.

MADISON
 Who is it?

DIONNE
 A new friend.

YOUNG MADELYN
 New friend. New friend. Yay.

Kai snaps, then claps.

KAI
 Madelyn. Madison. You have a friend
 named Stefano. He is real. He is
 always with you and has green eyes.
 You will fight over him, but not
 until you get to Vivian's house.
 Otherwise, you behave normally. You
 will forget my voice and never
 recognize it.

Kai snaps again. Dionne opens the door. Kai leaves quickly.
 Dionne closes the door without a word.

Madison takes her blindfold off.

Young Madelyn keeps her blindfold on. Young Madelyn stands up and reaches out as if feeling for the hand of a child her size.

MADELYN

Bedtime Stefano. You can sleep in my bed.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey is still eating and watching Madelyn. Madelyn stares blankly at the screen with tears streaming down her face.

TREY

Maddie? Hello?

MADELYN

Stefano. Stefano. Stefano.

TREY

What? What are you doing? Who is Stefano?

Madelyn buries her face in her hands for a moment. She recovers and continues to watch 'SnapClapObey.'

KAI

(on video)

I came back home after I played my part. You don't know what happened after though. The morning after Dionne left you with Dr. Greer. I think you deserve to.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Kai sits on the couch, looking at his phone. He has a blanket and pillow, as he slept there.

Kai gets up to open the door; it's Dionne. Kai steps aside for Dionne. She goes into the kitchen to turn the coffee pot on.

Kai sits back down. Dionne sits beside him. She spits a residual into her hand and gives it to Kai.

INT. VIVIAN'S BEDROOM - SAME

Vivian wakes up. Young Madelyn is sleeping in bed with her. Vivian inhales deeply and gets out of bed.

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Vivian comes into the room and sees Dionne sitting on the couch with Kai drinking coffee. A large scorch mark appears

on the ceiling.

The room suddenly fills with smoke, causing the smoke alarm to go off. Kai jumps up and snatches the smoke alarm off the wall. He takes the batteries out.

VIVIAN
(to Dionne)
Where have you been?

DIONNE
On a retreat.

Vivian sits on the couch in Kai's spot. She taps her foot in an agitated manner.

VIVIAN
You two seem comfortable with each other. If I didn't know any better, I'd think you've met before.

DIONNE
We have.

Kai snaps then claps. Vivian's facial expression goes blank.

KAI
Vivian. You will sit here. On this couch for three days. You won't be able to move or speak, but you will see and hear everything. When I come back, you will to tell me what happened to Taylor.

Young Madelyn comes out of Vivian's bedroom.

YOUNG MADELYN
Mommy? Did you have fun?

DIONNE
Yes, I did. Go get Mads. We're going out for breakfast.

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

[Day of Confession]

Vivian is on the couch staring at the scorch mark on the wall. She is in the same clothes from three days prior.

The door opens. Dionne invites herself in.

DIONNE
We're back. Did you miss us?

Dionne goes into the kitchen and comes back to the living room.

DIONNE

I left the coffee pot on.

Dionne sits on the couch next to Vivian.

DIONNE

It's been too long. That's what it is. I'm tired.

The door opens again. Kai stands aside so Hollis can go in first. Kai has to help her walk.

Hollis notices the scorch marks on the wall and ceiling. Kai helps Hollis to her seat, on the other side of Vivian.

Kai snaps. Vivian is released from his hypnosis. She is able to move. Vivian tries to stand up and falls over, landing face first on the floor.

Kai hurries to the kitchen and comes back with a tall glass of water and a box of granola bars. He puts both items on the coffee table and helps Vivian get back into her seat.

Vivian drinks the entire glass of water in seconds. She eats three granola bars.

HOLLIS

What did you do, Vi Vi?

Kai takes the empty glass back into the kitchen. He returns with the glass refilled and gives it to Vivian.

VIVIAN

I made fire.

[End Flashback, cont pg 103]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Madelyn wipes the tears off her face. Trey watches her with wide eyes. Madelyn continues watching video 'SnapClapObey'.

KAI

(on video)

Madison if you're here, then good. I'm glad that you were able to control yourself. Dionne was very worried that you wouldn't.

EXT. PARK - DAY

[Flashback to 2014]

Dionne sits in a swing while Young Madelyn pulls up grass, one blade at a time.

Madison stands in front of Dionne.

MADISON
I want a squirrel.

DIONNE
You aren't getting one.

MADISON
I want one.

DIONNE
Too bad. You can't have one.

A squirrel runs by Madison and falls over near her feet. It screeches and writhes as if it's in pain. Madison just stares at it.

Dionne gets up from the swing to take a look at the squirrel. It has blood pouring from its nose and ears.

Dionne grabs Madison by the front of her shirt.

DIONNE
Stop that!

Madison looks Dionne straight in the eyes. Dionne feels a sharp and sudden pain in the head. She bleeds from the ears and nose.

Dionne releases her grip on Madison to hold her head. The pain subsides. Madison walks around Dionne to sit in the swing.

The squirrel stops moving. Dionne checks it for any signs of life but it's dead.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey watches Madelyn, looking concerned but less alarmed. Madelyn continues watching video 'SnapClapObey'.

KAI
(on video)
Last thing that I wanted to point out to you is a blog. Dionne told me about it. Search for Petra de Peter and it should come right up. Brace yourself for the last one. That's all. Good bye and good luck.

The video ends. Madelyn closes it and stares at Trey.

TREY
Maddie.

MADLYN

His name is Kai. It was Kyle. What did he do to you when he was Kyle?

INT. PRIVATE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

[Flashback to 1997]

Kyle sits at the teacher's desk with his feet up on it. Mr. Graham stands beside him. Graham and all the present students are hypnotized. Teen Trey is the only one missing.

When Teen Trey arrives. Mr. Graham closes and locks the door.

KYLE

Restrain him.

All the boys descend on Teen Trey. He is knocked to the floor. Teen Trey doesn't fight back. His limbs are pinned down and he is encircled.

KYLE

Brandish weapons.

All the students take silver forks from their pockets and hold them up.

TEEN TREY

(to Kyle)

Changed your mind?

KYLE

About?

TEEN TREY

Killing me.

KYLE

No. You will live. But you lied to me. Liars deserve no mercy. You said you had no secrets. But you do. You do.

TEEN TREY

Seriously, dude. Fuck you.

KYLE

What is your mother's name? The one who adopted you?

TEEN TREY

Eat a dick.

KYLE

Poke holes in him.

The boys all take turns stabbing Teen Trey in the torso, legs and arms with their forks. Teen Trey screams and starts

crying.

KYLE

Her name.

TEEN TREY

Miranda. Miranda Greer.

KYLE

She is estranged from her family?
Why?

TEEN TREY

She doesn't like them. And they
don't like her.

KYLE

I want to know why?

TEEN TREY

I don't know. Why would they tell
me?

Teen Trey runs his tongue over his gums and shows Kyle the
blood on his tongue.

KYLE

Something has happened to you.

TEEN TREY

No shit.

Kyle squats down and leans close to Teen Trey's face.

KYLE

Do you have any medical issues?

TEEN TREY

Not your business.

KYLE

Poke him.

Trey is stabbed multiple times in both legs.

TEEN TREY

I have seizures. Sometimes.

Kyle spits a residual into his hand.

KYLE

Open up.

Kyle pulls Trey's upper lip up to expose the gums (left
side). They are bleeding. Kyle holds his residual close to
Teen Trey's gums. Slowly, a piece of broken glass emerges
from Teen Trey's gums.

Kyle pulls the shard of glass out and holds it up for Trey to see.

KYLE

Your mother didn't do this to you,
I don't think. You don't even
remember this happening, do you?

TEEN TREY

No.

KYLE

This right here is it. The cause of
your problems.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

Trey leans forward so that his face is directly in front of his computer camera.

Madelyn backs away from her screen and rubs her temples.

TREY

Yeah. What he did to me was
horrible, but what he did for me
almost made up for it. He undid
years of pain for me.

MADELYN

Does it still hurt?

TREY

I don't mean physical pain. It was
emotional. Psychological. The fear
was the worst thing ever.

MADELYN

He's still a bad person and he ran
away.

Madelyn scrolls down to the last post on Petra de Peter's blog.

INT./EXT. CAB - DAY

[Flashback to 2014, Day of Confession]

The cab is on the way to the airport, which is visible through the window. CAB DRIVER looks at Kai via his mirror several times.

CAB DRIVER

That was a nice house. That was
your old man?

KAI

Yes.

CAB DRIVER

So, where you off to? Vacation?

Kai smiles. His accent changes from American to his native British.

KAI

This was a vacation. I'm just going back home.

Cab Driver doesn't acknowledge the change in accent.

CAB DRIVER

Ahh. Makes sense.

Kai uses his phone to go to the blog of Petra de Peter, the Most Exalted.

There is a new posted video. Kai watches it without headphones.

Petra is crying and has makeup smeared all over her face. She has one hand behind her back.

PETRA DE PETER

(on video)

I'd like to say thank you for joining me on this journey. I wouldn't have made it this far without all of you. Every journey has an end. This is the end of mine. I love you. Good bye.

Petra reveals that the hand behind her back is holding a gun. Petra coughs up a residual and spits it into her free hand.

CAB DRIVER

You into soap operas? Thought only women and gay men liked them shows.

Petra de Peter puts the residual back in her mouth. She puts the end of the gun in her mouth and pulls the trigger.

KAI

Holy fuck!

CAB DRIVER

My wife used to watch them soaps. So ridiculous and over the top.

Kai puts his phone back in his pocket.

KAI

Yes. Very over the top.

[End Flashback]

INT. MADELYN'S ROOM - SAME

There is a knock on the door. It is Miranda.

MIRANDA

(os)

Maddie. Come on, let's go get some lunch.

TREY

Go get some lunch. This therapy session has been enlightening to say the least. To be continued.

MADELYN

Bye.

TREY

Later.

Trey closes his video app. Madelyn selects the file 'LastRequest' in the 'MemoryBook' folder (flash drive).

INT. FREEMAN HOUSE, DEAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

[Flashback to 2014]

Dionne sits on the floor with her laptop on her lap.

She has a video clip of herself open. Dionne presses play.

DIONNE

(on video)

I just have one request. Please be good. Don't be like me. Be better. I'm sorry for creating you. I shouldn't have. Back then, I thought creating life would feel like something. Taking a life felt like nothing. I feel nothing. The only time anything has ever affected me is when Taylor died. I wasn't sad about it. I was pissed off. Daddy died and I was disappointed. Maybe? Not sad. Not hurt. Just whatever. Just...feel something. Try not to hurt anybody. Madelyn. Madison. Good luck with life and be good for Aunt Randi. Be good. Bye.

The video ends. Dionne closes the file. She drag and drops the video into a folder labeled 'memorybook'.

THE END