



THE PROWL

Written by

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INT. WILDERNESS - DAY

JESSICA MELENDEZ (30s), Hispanic, lies in the dirt behind trees and brush. She's disguised in camouflage clothes and a matching boonie hat... A human chameleon.

She stares down a SCOPE with determination.

Pulls back and wipes her eyes.

Near a lake, a BROWN BEAR is in her sight. She has to shoot from a long distance.

Steady. Ready. Quiet.

Patience...

CLICK.

Snaps a photo. She stares through a telephoto lens.

Jessica unveils her high-end DSLR CAMERA.

She snaps a couple more photos. Rapid-fire.

The Bear catches a fish. Jessica smiles in awe at this rare moment.

Out of the brush emerges BOBBY (30s) with a camera. He looks like a model for Men's Health. Alpha-male with a soft spot.

He steps on thick twigs.

CRUNCH.

The Bear looks in their direction, then scurries off.

BOBBY

Sorry.

JESSICA

It's okay.

She stands covered in dirt and leaves. A beautiful mess.

BOBBY

Let me help you with that.

Bobby and Jessica reach for her backpack at the same time.

They bump heads.

CLUNK.

BOBBY
Strike two.

JESSICA
It's okay. Thanks for helping.

BOBBY
(grins)
Yeah, helping. Scare away your
model, give you a concussion.

She grabs her backpack.

BOBBY
Thanks for coming with me today.

They pack up and hike away from the spot and exchange smiles.
Their eyes linger on each other.

EXT. NATIONAL PARK - PARKING LOT - DAY

Trucks, campers, and SUVs are lined up like a chorus line.
Extra busy for the early birds who get the worm.

EXT. JESSICA'S CAR - SAME

Her car is an eco-friendly hybrid. A green color that only a
creative would dare to drive.

Bobby helps Jessica load her equipment into the trunk.

BOBBY
So, what'd you get?

She pulls up the images on her camera and shows him.

BOBBY
Wow. Nice. But the last two are a
bit blurry.

She examines the two photos in question.

JESSICA
They look fine to me.

BOBBY
Look again. Were you on autofocus
or manual?

He politely grabs her camera to check.

She tugs back playfully.

JESSICA
Manual. It's a long distance. I'm
not that much of an amateur.

Bobby surrenders to her certainty with a grin.

BOBBY
See you in a couple of months for
the trip.

JESSICA
You know it.

They hug and enter their cars.

INT. JESSICA'S CAR - DAY

Jessica checks her camera and examines the photos again. He's right, blurry. She deletes them.

The last photo is perfect --

Brown Bear with the fish in its mouth.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ART GALLERY - NIGHT

A small, intimate event. A packed house. GUESTS can barely move without bumping into someone.

The bear photo is admired by well-dressed individuals.

People point at photos with intrigue and smiles, and move about to comprehend the exquisiteness of Jessica's work.

Jessica is dressed to impress. She slowly exhales with a shy smile, humbled by the number of Guests. She greets everyone.

Her niece, ZOE (13) a band camp nerd and a cheerleader, beams with excitement. She talks to Guests and gawks at her aunt's photos.

Zoe snaps photos of the event with her DSLR CAMERA. She approaches.

JESSICA
Having fun?

ZOE
Oh yeah. How do you get such great
photos?

JESSICA
 Passion, of course. Timing,
 lighting, the right moment, and --

ZOE
 Lenses?

JESSICA
 Patience.

ZOE
 Got it.

Under each displayed photo, it says, "Taken by camera ECHO."

LUPE (30s) a Hispanic female, straightens a nearby photo.
 Perfect. She's more of a suit than a creative type like her
 sis, but just as playful.

Jessica approaches her.

JESSICA
 Thank you so much for helping me
 with the setup. I couldn't have
 done this without you.

LUPE
 Yes, free labor.

Yep. They laugh and scan the room of her work.

LUPE
 So different from fashion.
 Editorial photography. The glitz
 and glamour. You miss it?

JESSICA
 Sometimes. It was fun. I wanted to
 make more of an impact in the
 environmental community.

LUPE
 Not even the male models?

JESSICA
 (playful)
 Maybe.

ZOE
 What are you talking about?

LUPE
 (in Spanish)
 Nothing.

JESSICA
 (in Spanish)
 Nothing.

JESSICA
So, which one is your favorite?

ZOE
That one.

She points to a photo of two hugging otters.

ZOE
How come you don't have any of my favorite animal?

JESSICA
Tiger, right? I aim to change that.

LUPE
You talk to that cutie, Bobby, about the final arrangements for Thailand?

ZOE
Mom told me about that. Can I come? Pretty please? I got a passport.

Lupe and Jessica glance at Zoe but don't answer her.

JESSICA
I'll call him tomorrow.

LUPE
Should make it a lunch date.

Jessica grins wickedly.

Note: Italics are spoken in Spanish with English subtitles.

JESSICA
I need to focus on my work.

ZOE
Why Thailand?

JESSICA
Because only 160 Indochinese tigers are left in the wild.

ZOE
Oh. See, now. I need to go.

LUPE
Oh, you need to, huh? What you need to do is get your things so we can go. *It's getting late.*

ZOE

Not yet.

LUPE

I said it's time to go.

ZOE

Please. It's not a school night,
and I want to be here with Aunt
Jess.

JESSICA

If it's okay with you, I can take
her home afterward.

ZOE

Please, Mom.

LUPE

(to Jessica)

Who's the Mom here?

(to Zoe)

Alright, but behave yourself and
listen to your Aunt.

ZOE

Thank you, Mom. I will, I promise.

JESSICA

I'll take care of her.

Goodbyes are said.

EXT. ART GALLERY - NIGHT

Jessica hands a ticket to the VALET.

Zoe looks up and yawns.

She stares at a FULL MOON with wonder. She snaps a photo and
shows it to Jessica.

JESSICA

That's going to be a good one.

ZOE

I even got some stars in there.
Look, five of them.

JESSICA

No, sweetie. There are only four.

ZOE

No. Five. One, two, three, four,
and the fifth one is on the right.

JESSICA

Umm... I didn't see that one.

ZOE

I want people to look at my photos
like yours. How do I do that?

JESSICA

You have to be able to see the
world, not just look at it. Humans
are visitors on this planet. If you
have that mindset, you'll have
respect for all living things and
the environments you encounter.

ZOE

That sounds like something that
only comes with old age.

JESSICA

Hey, you're going to get old, too.

ZOE

Why do the photos say, taken by
camera ECHO?

JESSICA

It's the name of the camera I used
to get the shot.

ZOE

Why Echo?

JESSICA

It helps me identify the journey
through a specific time in life. I
used ECHO to represent the future.
Almost all the animals in that
gallery are endangered, and if we
don't do something, they'll go
extinct before you get to my age.

Zoe's demeanor suddenly changes to grim.

JESSICA

Don't worry. We still have a little
time.

Zoe examines her camera and perks up.

ZOE
I'm going to name her "HOPE."

JESSICA
That's a great name.

INT. JESSICA'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

She drives Zoe home.

ZOE
When I get home, I'm going to tell
Mom I want to take photography
classes for my birthday.

JESSICA
I got something better. Your mom
and I've been talking about it, and
you'll be on spring break, so...

A beat.

JESSICA
You'll be coming with me to
Thailand!

Zoe is ecstatic and jumps on Jessica while she drives. Zoe
hugs her tight.

ZOE
Oh my god, oh my god!

JESSICA
Be careful.

Jessica hugs back with one arm and her other hand on the
steering wheel.

She watches carefully for traffic.

ZOE
Thank you!

Zoe returns to her seat.

ZOE
Thank you so much!

JESSICA
You're welcome. I'll show you some
things when we get up there, and
how to use natural light to get the
best shot.

ZOE
I can't wait. Did you know a tiger
will travel six to twelve miles at
night to hunt?

JESSICA
We'll make sure we only shoot
during the day.

ZOE
Maybe we'll get a chance to see a
tiger cub?

JESSICA
Don't get your hopes up, Zo. Cubs
found in the wild are close to
zero.

Zoe raises her camera, Hope.

JESSICA
(re: Zoe's camera)
Yep. Got it.

ZOE
I love you.

JESSICA
I love --

Jessica drives past a STOP SIGN on her right-hand side.

ZOE
Aunt Jess, you missed the--

BAM.

A sports car plows into them...

Jessica's car flips and spins.

Zoe is dazed and bleeds from her head.

JESSICA
(in pain)
It's going to be okay, sweetie...

Jessica puts her arm across Zoe.

A flash of light.

BAM.

Another car plows into them.

INT. HOSPITAL - JESSICA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jessica lies in bed, covered in a blanket of tubes and wires hooked up to monitoring devices.

Her EYES are covered with gauze. She wakes in a panic and searches the air with her arms.

Lupe is by her side. She touches Jessica's shoulder.

LUPE
I'm right here.

JESSICA
What's going on?!

She rips off the bandages from her eyes. Lupe stops her. Jessica sits up and rips the wires off. Monitors go berserk.

LUPE
Wait. Wait for the doctor.

The DOCTOR (50s) and a female NURSE (40) enter.

DOCTOR
Ms. Melendez. Ms. Melendez, please calm down. You need to rest.

Jessica grips the gauze that covers her eyes.

JESSICA
Get this off!

The Doctor instructs the Nurse to remove the bandages. Jessica blinks her eyes, makes them wide, and blinks again.

JESSICA'S POV: HER EYESIGHT IS BLURRY AND NARROW. FUZZY SHAPE OUTLINES OF EVERYONE IN THE ROOM.

Except for...

JESSICA
Where's Zoe?

DOCTOR
You suffered a traumatic car accident. We did an MRI and discovered --

JESSICA
I want to see Zoe, make sure she's okay.

She gets out of bed and knocks over the IV pole.

DOCTOR
Lay back down, please. You're
having trouble with your vision.

JESSICA
I can see just fine.

LUPE
Did you see that stop sign you ran?

Jessica settles down and shakes her head.

Lupe's body language and uneasy eyes show mixed emotions.

LUPE
Can you come back later?

The Doctor nods and exchanges compassionate glances with Lupe and Jessica. He exits with the Nurse.

JESSICA
Lupe. Where's Zoe?

Emotional silence fills the room.

Lupe's sluggish body language says the worse.

LUPE
Come with me.

Jessica gets up and finds her footing. She grabs on to Lupe's shoulder, who leads them out of the room.

Lupe's eyes well up in tears as she stares into Jessica's eyes.

EXT. HOSPITAL - ZOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jessica and Lupe stare through a glass window.

In bed, Zoe's head is wrapped in bandages. She's hooked up to a ventilator, a catheter, and an EKG machine.

Outside the room, they look grim and cold.

A MALE NURSE (20s) checks Zoe's ICP monitor.

JESSICA
Oh my god.

LUPE
She's in a coma.

Shock floods Jessica's face. Lupe's eyes swim in tears.

JESSICA
Did they say when she'll come out
of it?

LUPE
(shakes head)
With the trauma to her brain...
She's not Jess. They said it'll
take a miracle.

Lupe holds onto her chest like her heart will fall out.

JESSICA
I'm so sorry. She should have gone
with you. I wish it were me and not
her.

LUPE
How can you say that? I'm already
grieving for my daughter, and I
could have lost you, too.

JESSICA
You're right. I didn't mean...

Jessica moves toward her sister to embrace.

Lupe pulls back physically and emotionally.

Jessica nods in understanding. It hurts, but she gets it.

LUPE
You can go in and see her now.

She opens the door to let Jessica see her niece.

Jessica takes another look at her comatose niece.

She takes a step forward and blinks her eyes. She wipes them
as she hears the --

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.

The noises from the machine and the pulsing ventilator are
too much to bear.

JESSICA
No. No, I can't. I'm not ready.

Jessica cries uncontrollably and bolts.

LUPE

Not ready! Jess! Jess! Get back here!

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

An OPHTHALMOLOGIST (50) and Jessica examine her CT SCAN. Images of her skull are clasped to an LED light board. A lot of black areas behind her eyes.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

You have Optic Atrophy, damage to the optic nerve. Have you experienced tunnel vision, blurriness, or red or watery eyes?

JESSICA

I didn't think anything of it. What does this mean?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Your difficulty with peripheral vision caused you to miss the stop sign. Can you see this?

The Ophthalmologist examines her eyes, waves his hand on her right side, and gets closer to her face.

Irritated, she motions to him that she can finally see his stupid hand.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Optic Atrophy is usually hereditary. Did your parents or anyone else in your family --

JESSICA

Does it matter? When will the blindness go away?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

I'm afraid it's more than that. The blindness will become permanent.

JESSICA

Wait. What?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

I'm sorry. I suggest you learn Braille immediately.

JESSICA

How will I know when it gets worse?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST
Colors won't look the same, and
there may be dizzy spells, and
headaches.

JESSICA
How long do I have?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST
You'll lose complete sight probably
in a year. Shorter if you don't
stop photography.

JESSICA
Quit?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST
All the extra stress on your eyes
won't help and will accelerate your
condition.

Her heart sinks to her stomach. Jessica takes the news almost
as hard as Zoe.

The Ophthalmologist continues to speak. His words trail off
as Jessica sits paralyzed.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LOFT - DAY

Large with an open concept and bay windows.

Jessica is the interior designer with colorful but not loud
furniture and delicate light fixtures. An attempt to make a
cookie-cutter loft into an artistic retreat of inspiration.

Empty walls with picture frame outlines dot the place where
large artwork used to hang.

Jessica is in comfy pajamas. She sits at a large white
acrylic desk and studies braille. It's fucking hard.

RING. RING.

Jessica checks her cell phone; the Caller ID reads: Bobby.
Her finger moves back and forth, deciding if she should
answer.

She declines. He leaves a voicemail.

KITCHEN

Clean and too big for one person. Modern with custom color cabinets and clean stainless steel appliances. Jessica makes a cocktail. A strong one.

LIVING ROOM

Jessica flops herself on a long, colorful couch and watches videos on her cell phone.

First video: A WOMAN WALKING WITH A WHITE CANE struggles to walk as she hits objects, then she gets better.

Second video: A BLINDFOLDED MAN counts steps in his house from object to object.

Third video: A MAN WITH A WHITE CANE listens for the walk signal to cross the street.

Jessica performs the exercises on her own.

SERIES OF SHOTS: JESSICA BLINDFOLDED

- She counts steps aloud from the couch to the kitchen and bumps into everything. She knocks down a lamp.
- She counts steps from her bed to the toilet. She falls into the tub.
- She attempts to make coffee but fails.
- She makes a cocktail that spills over. Oh well. She drinks.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOFTOP - DAY

Jessica listens to the noises of the neighborhood. The hustle and bustle of CITIZENS, ambulance SIRENS, and cars HONKING.

But nothing takes her eyes off the fantastic sunset against the city jungle.

She closes her eyes and feels the warmth of the sun hit her. But when she opens her eyes...

JESSICA'S POV: DOUBLE VISION OF THE SUN, FUZZY FOR A MOMENT.

She brushes her eyes. Vision gets clear.

A HUMMINGBIRD whizzes by her and lands on a nearby flower. It would be a great picture...

If she had her camera.

She pulls out her phone and begrudgingly snaps a photo. She doesn't bother to look at the focus or the finished product before she starts to stuff the phone back in her pocket.

Suddenly, her phone DINGS with a text from "Doctor Suck My Nuts." She ignores. Instead, she scrolls past multiple texts from Lupe:

"I haven't heard from you. Pick up. Can you at least go to our house and feed Osita?! I'm at the hospital."

She opens the text from: "Doctor Suck My Nuts" that reads:

"I hope you're doing the exercises and watching the other videos. Here is one I forgot to send you that will help."

Jessica opens the link.

Another video: a BLIND WOMAN wears black glasses as she eats and drinks, happy. She walks across the street with a white cane. A PEDESTRIAN helps her with a smile.

A YOUNG GIRL holds her hand. She resembles...

Zoe.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LOFT CLOSET - DAY

Jessica opens the door to reveal all the framed artwork that used to be on the walls. She opens a box with cameras and photography equipment. Her camera, Echo, is in her sights.

She wants to pick it up --

Her eyes glisten as she holds back tears. Closes the box and slams the closet door.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LOFT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jessica calls her sister.

Lupe picks up on the first ring.

LUPE (V.O.)

Jess?

Jessica stays silent.

LUPE (V.O.)

I know you're there. Say something.
Jess!

JESSICA
I'm... I'm sorry--

CLICK.

EXT. LUPE'S HOUSE - DAY

Suburban area, all houses look the same. HOA type of vibe.

Jessica makes sure no car is in the driveway. She approaches the front door and enters a four-digit pin code, probably Zoe's birthday. The door unlocks.

INT. LUPE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A Tortoiseshell KITTEN, Osita, looks like a little bear. She gallops and greets Jessica with leg rubs and soft meows.

She picks up Osita and showers her with hugs and kisses.

Jessica pulls out some wet cat food and refills her bowl with fresh water from the fridge. Kitty goes berserk for the food.

BUZZ. BUZZ. Her phone goes off. Another voicemail from Bobby. This time, she listens to it.

BOBBY (V.O.)
Hey Jess, how are you? That's a stupid question. I'm sorry about what happened. Any news about Zoe? I know this is a bad time to ask, but are you still coming on the trip? It's okay if you don't. But it might take your mind off things. Let me know. Take care. Bye.

INT. LUPE'S HOUSE - ZOE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jessica enters.

Large. Clean. Organized. The bed is made with Ombre-style bedding. A lot of wall space. Not covered with pop or punk band posters, instead with wild animals, flowers, and birds.

Clearly, not the typical room of a tween girl. An example of a strict mom or a good girl.

Jessica walks around the room carefully so as not to disturb the environment. She takes in all of Zoe's essence.

Next to Zoe's bed is a vanity mirror. Decorated with pictures of friends and a selfie with her kitten, Osita.

A photo of Zoe, her mom, and Jessica grabs her attention. She carefully detaches the photo from the mirror.

She takes a picture of the lovely photo and texts it to Lupe.

"You remember this day? If she is anything like her mom, a fighter, she'll wake up. Heart Emjoi. P.S. I fed Osita."

Jessica sobs. She lies in Zoe's bed with the photo in hand. Osita jumps on the bed next to her.

MEOW. MEOW.

JESSICA
I know. I miss her too.

They fall asleep together.

MONTAGE: DREAM SEQUENCE OF JESSICA AND ZOE IN THAILAND

- Jessica and Zoe have fun taking pictures of ELEPHANTS.
- Jessica shows Zoe how to adjust her camera's shutter speed.
- They move into a better position to capture a photo of a SPOTTED DOVE.
- Zoe cringes as Jessica gets close to take a photo of a GIANT WATER BUG.
- They visit a local food market that sells bugs to eat.
- Jessica buys roasted crickets for each of them. They eat in unison. Jessica smiles while Zoe pouts.

BACK TO:

INT. LUPE'S HOUSE - ZOE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessica wakes and wishes the dream was real. It felt like it.

She sits on the bed and texts Bobby:

"I'm in."

INT. HOSPITAL - ZOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

KNOCK. KNOCK.

Jessica opens the door and peeks in to get permission to enter the room.

Lupe sits in a comfortable chair and sluggishly wakes up, giving a non-verbal blessing.

Jessica enters and sits on the other side of Zoe.

The room is deathly quiet.

Jessica's eyes circle the room so as not to look at her sister. Eventually, their eyes meet.

She gazes into her sister's tearful eyes from across the room. Lupe looks away, but not out of anger.

Lengthy and awkward silence.

Finally...

JESSICA
How are you doing?

LUPE
(trembles)
It's so hard.

She holds her daughter's hand.

JESSICA
I'm going on the trip. For her.

Lupe is silent and wipes her tears...

LUPE
I knew you would. She would want
you to.

JESSICA
So **when** she wakes up, I'll have the
perfect photo for her.

She cradles Zoe's soft hand.

LUPE
If.

Lupe shakes her head and opens a small box.

She pulls out Zoe's camera...

HOPE.

LUPE
She'd want you to have it.

Lupe gives Jessica the camera.

LUPE
Take care of it.

Jessica handles it like the most precious thing in the world.

EXT. THAILAND AIRPORT - DAY

Scooters and small old cars honk as THAI CAB DRIVERS find their next fare.

Jessica meets up with Bobby. He greets her with an overdue and eager hug. It lasts for a hot minute. She hugs back with happiness for the first time and a sense of relief.

She's finally here.

BOBBY
I'm so glad you came!

JESSICA
Thanks. Me too.

Bobby's sister, SARAH (20s), lives in the moment, and her genuine personality irritates insecure men.

Jessica comes in for a gentle hug. Sarah, not so much. Squeezes hard.

SARAH
Without you, it would be one big sausage fest.

JESSICA
We wouldn't want that. Good to see you again.

BOBBY
I'm sorry about the car accident.
If you're not up for this, tell me.
It's a long trip.

JESSICA
I am. The worst is behind me.

Bobby senses a lie.

BOBBY

Okay. If you ever need to talk, I'm here for you.

SARAH

Oh, please, big bro. She'll talk to me before you. Right, Jess?

Sarah puts her arm around Jessica like a bestie.

JESSICA

Of course, Sarah.

BOBBY

And Zoe? Any update?

Jessica shakes her head somberly. Bobby hugs her again.

BOBBY

We're going to make the most of it, and I'm going to help you get pictures of the biggest tiger for her.

SARAH

(re: Zoe)

For when she wakes up.

JESSICA

For when she wakes up. Thank you, guys.

BOBBY

We need to meet our guide. His plane just landed. You'll never guess who it is.

JESSICA

Who?

Bobby smirks.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Jessica, Bobby, and Sarah meet with PETER (40s), a published wildlife photographer. A rugged man with kind eyes. His upper body is bulky and muscular. His energy exudes confidence.

Bobby and Peter exchange a man hug with a slap on the back. Sarah cuts in and does the same to Peter. He gives Sarah a gentle kiss on the cheek.

BOBBY

This is Peter Hyatt. He'll be our guide. AKA head honcho. I trust this guy with my life.

Jessica eagerly extends her hand to Peter. A total fangirl.

JESSICA

Such an honor to meet you. I love all your work. The way you capture the souls of the animals in their eyes. I just...

PETER

Thank you. That's very kind. You shoot some pretty excellent work yourself.

JESSICA

You've seen it?

PETER

Of course, I always look at other people's work. You're a natural and made me step up my game.

JESSICA

Thank you.

Bobby nudges her with a smile at the compliment.

JESSICA

And thank you for coming.

PETER

I couldn't miss the opportunity to document these tigers.

SARAH

It's so shitty that there are more tigers in captivity than in the wild.

JESSICA

5,000 alone in the U.S., and Tigers usually die within two years after being taken captive.

PETER

All those damn poachers and trophy hunters, and don't get me started on that Tiger King motherfucker.

BOBBY

We've got a long day. Let's get going.

JESSICA

Good idea.

Jessica and Peter put spare batteries in their cargo pants pockets. Bobby puts a portable solar power pack in his back pocket. Sarah loads a memory card into a camera.

It's a lot of shit.

They manage to get it organized in their weather-sealed backpacks. Every pocket has its usefulness.

EXT. WAT ARUN TEMPLE - DAY

Numerous buildings with well-kept, lush green lawns surround large pavilions. Colorful gardens fill grand courtyards.

VARIOUS TOURISTS take pictures with their cell phones and grab selfies any chance they get.

Jessica snaps impressive photos that capture the historical significance and craftsmanship of the temple.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Jess, come take a photo with me.

PETER

Get in there, you two.

Jessica stands next to Bobby.

SARAH (O.S.)

Get closer!

Without hesitation, Bobby puts his arm around her.

BOBBY

This okay?

Jessica sees his gleeful eyes and nods. She does the same. Peter takes the picture and another one.

Sarah photobombs her bro and Jess. Bobby and Sarah exchange playful shoves.

EXT. THAILAND FOOD MARKET - DAY

Crazy busy. LOCALS and Various Tourists stroll through like an amusement park. MERCHANTS sell and eat exotic dishes of insects. Jessica, Bobby, Sarah, and Peter snap photos.

THAI CHILDREN giggle and pose for Jessica.

Sarah adjusts her camera settings. Bobby assists.

JESSICA

Hey guys!

She motions to take a picture of them. Bobby and Sarah pose as rival-but-loving siblings. CLICK.

She takes the photo. A cute one. Jessica moves the camera up and down to view the photo...

Blurry.

EXT. THAILAND COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Sarah is the first to hop out of the van. Peter and Bobby are ready with their cameras.

Jessica is the last to exit the van. She takes a few moments to get the right settings on her camera.

She's using it to compensate for her failing vision.

The group captures photos of temples with tiger and Buddha statues. They pass THAI CITIZENS who haul and load fish.

CHILDREN run amok while their MOTHERS sell clothes on the streets. Sarah snaps pictures like no tomorrow, and Bobby shows her what to shoot. Jessica notices and smiles.

Peter and Jessica wait for the right moment to grab the best shots. Jessica scans the area and takes it in.

She squints her eyes. Peter clocks this.

PETER

You okay?

She takes a picture and shows it to him. It's awesome.

PETER

Yeah. You are.

She smirks with this surge of confidence.

PETER

Time to go. I got us a rare opportunity. C'mon.

BOBBY

Where's Sarah?

The group notices Sarah in a small CROWD OF TOURISTS that gathers around a MAN with TWO TIGER CUBS. One is white.

Sarah is about to pay the Man for a CUB PETTING.

Bobby stops her with urgency.

BOBBY

Sarah, no.

He snatches her away from the Man before she can give him money. He drags her back to their group like a child.

SARAH

What? What? What's wrong?

BOBBY

Don't pay that guy. You never want to pay for a cub petting.

SARAH

But it's so cute.

JESSICA

They prey on people's affection for baby tigers to fund their operation.

PETER

Physical abuse is used to control the cub. Most are bred specially for tourist attractions and are torn from their mothers after a couple of weeks old.

SARAH

I'm sorry. I had no idea. I would never...

Jessica rubs her shoulder. They know she never meant harm. Sarah nods in understanding. A well-learned lesson.

PETER

We know, Sarah. Most of the time, it's innocent. But it causes more harm than good.

They turn back to see the Crowd of Tourists pay and take selfies with the cubs.

The Man yells and hits the cubs to make them obedient. He stops the white cub from biting a tourist's face.

A TEENAGE GIRL is eager to take a picture of the tiger cub... She looks nothing like Zoe.

The group loads the van and climbs in, their body language somber.

EXT. TIGER TEMPLE - DAY

Jessica, Bobby, Sarah, and Peter arrive.

A large tiger statue forms the main entrance with its mouth open, ready to welcome guests.

It's clearly been a long time.

Jessica captures a photo of the entrance.

JESSICA

This place was shut down in 2016
due to animal abuse and illegal
breeding.

PETER

Only a few animals live here now,
and minimal staff. I was able to
get us in. We need to be respectful
and obey the rules.

Two THAI STAFF MEMBERS greet Peter and the rest of the group.

PETER

Have you seen any tigers around
lately?

THAI STAFF MEMBER #1

No, been a while.

THAI STAFF MEMBER #2

You're more than welcome to camp
and take pictures. Please don't
feed the animals and stay away from
the east side of the park. It's for
your protection.

PETER

There are sixty acres, and getting
lost is easy, so stick together.

Everyone already has their cameras out.

Jessica reloads a memory card quickly than Peter and Bobby.

Sarah takes a couple pictures. She scrolls through her playback menu.

Every photo is black.

SARAH
What the hell?

JESSICA
Let me see.

Jessica takes off the lens cap.

Sarah feels dumb. She leans on Sarah as a way to say *it happens*. They exchange smiles.

Thai Staff Members allow the group inside. They show the photographers where they can camp.

INT. TIGER TEMPLE - DAY

Landscapes of dull green plants, brush, and trees consume concrete walls and trails. Minimal effort for cleanliness.

Jessica takes photos of a BOAR and its PIGLETS. Too cute!

She dives into tall brush, not afraid to get dirty. She gets a couple of nicks on her arms from pokey sticks. Worth it.

She takes an elegant photo of a three-foot bird, a green PEACOCK with a glittering green neck and long tail.

She climbs out of the brush and shows Peter.

They compare photos.

His are good. Jessica's is better.

PETER
See, on my toes.

BOBBY
Do you mind showing me some tricks?

JESSICA
If you can keep up?

BOBBY
I think I can manage.

He shoots her a charming smile.

They take photos of a peaceful ELEPHANT.

BOBBY
I'm really glad you came.

JESSICA
Me too.

Jessica's eyes water.

She quickly wipes her tears away.

BOBBY
Are you okay?

JESSICA
It's getting dark. Let's head back
to camp.

INT. TIGER TEMPLE - TRAIL - NIGHT

Large trees dot the sidelines. Overgrown bushes overlap a marked dirt trail. Small insects make noises. Jessica and Bobby walk back to their campsite. She rubs her eyes.

BOBBY
What's wrong with your eyes?

JESSICA
Nothing. Allergies.

They approach a closed-off area. The landscape is unkempt with dead grass and thick, broken branches.

A single thick chain blocks it with a SIGN written in Thai.

JESSICA
(re: sign)
What do you think it says?

BOBBY
Welcome. Please come in.

Jessica shakes her head. *Smart ass.*

BOBBY
This is what the staff was probably
talking about.

He hops over the chain.

JESSICA
They said we shouldn't.

Bobby holds the chain up for her. She goes under it and inserts a fresh memory card into her camera.

They walk on the forbidden path and come to --

INT. TIGER TEMPLE - CANYON - NIGHT

Jessica and Bobby approach an empty canyon with an artificial habitat complete with a rocky cliff. It faces a dirty pond.

JESSICA
This is where they kept the tigers.

PETER (O.S.)
They were led on leashes and drugged so people could pet them and take photos.

Jessica is shaken up as she soaks in all the painful energy. Peter comes from behind a large boulder.

PETER
Selfies with tigers became the go-to profile photo for dating apps.

BOBBY
We need to document this. No one has been in here for over a decade.

Jessica remembers why she's here. She walks away from the men and takes photos with determination.

PETER
Hold on. Be careful.

She doesn't listen. She's on a mission.

Bobby and Peter climb down after her.

EXT. TIGER TEMPLE - BACK OF CANYON - NIGHT

A line of concrete cells for tigers. Thick steel bars once confined the majestic animals. Revolting.

Jessica comes to a cell with dry blood. She stops.

PETER
What's wrong?

She glances down at her camera, Hope.

JESSICA
Out of memory.

Lies. The sight is just too much to bear.

INT. TIGER TEMPLE - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sarah sets up tents near a campfire. Hers and Bobby's are up. A lot of work for one person, but she doesn't mind.

Peter, Bobby, and Jessica approach.

SARAH
Hey, guys.

Peter sits on a log and whips out his laptop from his pack. He inserts his memory card and backs up his photos.

Bobby and Jessica put down their cameras and help Sarah.

Sarah notices Jessica's and Bobby's dispirited moods.

SARAH
You two get some good shots?

Bobby answers with a shrug. Jessica trips on a branch. He catches her with a gaze of worry.

SARAH
What's the deal with this place,
anyway?

PETER
Tiger Temple was founded in 1994 as
a forest temple and sanctuary for
wild animals, mostly Indochinese
tigers. It was run by monks.

SARAH
Why tigers?

JESSICA
Tiger symbolism includes strength,
cunning, independence, and
immortality.

INT. JESSICA'S TENT - NIGHT

Jessica pulls out her barely used BRAILLE BOOK.

She closes her eyes and runs her fingers against the braille. She mimes letters and numbers. She quizzes herself.

JESSICA
R, U, S, C, Y.

Did she get them right?

Nope.

Sarah barges in like a bull. Jessica slams the book shut and hides it under the sleeping bag.

SARAH
You want to see my photos?

JESSICA
Well, yeah!

Sarah flops herself next to Jessica. They scroll through her photos. Sarah's stoked.

Her energy reminds her of...

SARAH
What do you think?

They're terrible.

JESSICA
They look great.

SARAH
Ugh. No, they're not.

JESSICA
Try to find different angles to capture natural light. See?

She opens her laptop and shows Sarah pictures.

SARAH
When I get home, I'm going to take photography classes.

Jessica looks at her with familiarity.

EXT. JESSICA'S TENT

Bobby fixes himself, fingercombs his hair, and pulls down his shirt.

Sarah exits and scans her brother.

SARAH
About damn time.

BOBBY
Shut up.

He pushes her. She trips.

SARAH (O.S.)
Dick.

BOBBY
Knock. Knock.

INT. JESSICA'S TENT - SAME

Jessica scrolls through photos on her laptop.

JESSICA
Come in.

Bobby enters.

BOBBY
Hey.

JESSICA
Hey. Do you think my contrast is
off? The blues and yellows look off
to me.

He investigates the photos for her.

BOBBY
No. Blue looks blue, and yellow is
yellow.

She's frustrated.

BOBBY
Everything okay?

JESSICA
Why wouldn't it be?

She wipes her eyes.

BOBBY
Allergies, my ass. C'mon, Jess. You
can trust me.

He puts his hand on her cheek. He moves close. There's a
loaded pause. Jessica gazes into his endearing eyes.

SARAH (O.S.)
Just kiss her already! Shit!

Bobby and Jessica laugh.

JESSICA
Better do what she says.

They kiss.

Bobby's face lights up. They kiss. A moment he's wanted for a long time. Jessica feels his passion.

His hand slips inside her sleeping bag.

JESSICA
Wait.

He discovers the Braille book and picks it up.

BOBBY
What's this?

He flips through the pages.

JESSICA
The doctor said I'm going blind.

BOBBY
How soon? What are you even doing here? We should head back.

JESSICA
No, no. I don't want to ruin this for anyone.

BOBBY
Then, me and you will go back.

JESSICA
I said no.

BOBBY
Why is this so important to you?

She pulls out her camera from her backpack...

She switches to internal memory and hands him the camera.

He scrolls through the photos. A little confused.

JESSICA
Keep scrolling.

He comes to the photos from her Art Gallery event...

Selfies of Zoe and pictures with gallery attendees. Zoe, Lupe, and Jessica are in big smiles.

Jessica grabs the camera and scrolls to one more photo...

The last photo Zoe took of the full moon.

Jessica fights off tears.

BOBBY

Okay.

Jessica nods.

BOBBY

As soon as we find a tiger, we'll leave.

Bobby lies down and holds her tight.

They fall asleep.

EXT. TIGER TEMPLE - DAY

Thai Staff Member #1 talks to Peter.

Jessica, Sarah, and Bobby exchange handshakes with other Thai Staff Members and thank them for their hospitality.

PETER

Good news, all. There has been a tiger sighting nearby.

SARAH

Finally.

JESSICA

That's great.

PETER

If we take this route...

He opens his MAP and points to a spot. Bobby, Jessica, and Sarah huddle in.

A blue line indicates a RIVER.

BOBBY

It's kind of far.

He looks at Jessica.

PETER

We can hike it. Get some extra shots of other wildlife. What do you say, ladies?

Sarah gives a thumbs up.

Bobby focuses his attention on Jessica.

BOBBY

I don't know, Pete.

JESSICA

I think it's a great idea. Once we see the tiger, we can leave.

Jessica motions to Bobby, *I can do this.*

JESSICA

Alright then, we should leave now so we can get there before the sun sets.

Bobby hugs Jessica and kisses her head. He admires her strength. The group picks up their gear and start their hike.

EXT. THAI JUNGLE - DAY

Jessica, Bobby, Sarah, and Peter trek in diverse terrain. They're sweaty, from the heavy sun beams. The humidity makes their clothes stick to damp skin.

Jessica, ahead of the group, takes a picture of a PLANT. She positions it better in the sunlight.

PETER

Careful. It's poisonous. If you ingest it--

SARAH

She's not going to eat it.

PETER

No, but if you forget to wash your hands...

Jessica stops and nods to Peter in appreciation. She continues forward.

Bobby and Sarah walk alongside each other with Peter close.

Jessica hops and walks around everything, careful not to disturb the environment.

EXT. POND - DAY

Jessica, Bobby, Sarah, and Peter finally made it. They put down their packs, quietly.

Jessica and Peter pull out long lenses, attach them, and load new memory cards. They take cover among the vast greenery, sure to stay out of sight. For their sake.

SERIES OF SHOTS: WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

- Jessica lies on the ground with all the earth and takes a photo of a LEOPARD that attempts to catch FISH.

- Bobby and Sarah snap pictures of MACAQUES that play on thick branches of a Tulalang Tree.

- Peter advances closer than the rest of the group. He climbs a giant Rain Tree, snaps photos of ELEPHANTS and their young.

Animals stop...

They scan the area, wide-eyed, uneasy, and alert.

Something lurks in the bushes.

Everything goes quiet. The group notices and draws their eyes away from their lenses.

Animals scurry off.

A TIGER emerges from the brush.

In a tree, Peter practically dangles over the predator.

The Tiger marches the perimeter of the pond. Stops. Drinks.

The humans go stir-crazy on the other side of the pond with their cameras.

Jessica takes a minute for herself.

Her eyes meet the Tigers.

It stops drinking.

Tiger is fixated on her.

The air leaves Jessica's lungs in awe of this majestic creature. Jessica is still like a statue.

Completely mesmerized, her eyes act as the camera and capture this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

BANG.

BANG.

Gunshots ring out.

Tiger bolts.

BANG.

A stray BULLET hits Peter in the leg. He falls out of the tree and into the pond.

PETER

Aaah!!

BOBBY

Everyone down!

They drop.

Bobby hovers over Jessica and Sarah to protect them.

DEAN (O.S)

It's getting away.

Bobby runs out to the pond.

BOBBY

Stop! Stop!

DEAN (40s), white male, jumps down from a tree with green and brown war paint on his face. He takes his itchy trigger finger off his 12-gauge rifle.

DEAN

What the hell are you doing?

Cockly ERIC (30) reloads his camouflage LUPECHI AFFINITY SHOTGUN for a close-range kill.

ERIC

Fuck! Vernon, you can't shoot for shit!

A third man comes from behind the trees. VERNON, (mid-20s), white, lowers his rifle. A typical sheep that needs grooming.

VERNON

(to Peter)

Holy shit! I'm so sorry! You okay?

Eric and Dean scan the land.

POND

Bobby rushes to Peter, drags him out of the water, and inspects the wound.

Peter's leg bleeds profusely. He grimaces in pain.

ON JESSICA AND SARAH

SARAH

My brother.

She rushes to him, without thinking about the flying bullets. Jessica stops her.

JESSICA

Wait.

Sincerity in Jessica's eyes calms Sarah.

BOBBY (O.S.)

I need some help over here.

The women stand and raise their hands in the air.

JESSICA

Coming out!

SARAH

Don't shoot!

Jessica and Sarah race to Bobby and Peter. Jessica pulls a first aid kit out of her backpack.

Day turns into night fast. Rain drizzles.

GEORGE (early 50s), white male, ascends from a brush in a full-out ghillie suit. He swaggers out to the pond like a gorilla. Calm and collected.

He ignores everyone around him. He checks the ground for TIGER TRACKS...

Tracks lead east.

Rain picks up and drowns the tracks.

George motions to Dean, Eric, and Vernon to gather. If the jungle had a death squad, it would be these guys.

GEORGE

Is everyone alright?

PETER
Of course, not! I've been shot!

VERNON
I didn't see him. I swear. Is he
going to be alright?!

He looks to George for an answer but also for comfort.

DEAN
None of this would have happened if
you all weren't out here.

SARAH
(sarcastic)
Oh, so it's our fault? Yeah. Okay.

VERNON
Shouldn't you all be wearing orange
vests or something?

BOBBY
Shouldn't you?

Everyone scans each other with contempt. Tension in the air
is so thick, a tiger claw couldn't slash through it.

JESSICA
What are you doing out here with
guns?

SARAH
Who are you guys?

Sounds of the jungle go deathly quiet.

The reveal is scarier than a wildebeest stampede...

JESSICA
Trophy Hunters.

SARAH
Fucking assholes.

PETER
You pricks better have permits.

From the look of them, they definitely don't.

George cocks his head to examine Peter's wound.

VERNON
He's going to need a hospital.

PETER

No shit!

George sits on the ground and takes over from Bobby. George grabs Peter's leg hard and pushes on the bullet wound.

Peter jerks his head from dire pain.

Eric shakes his head, annoyed.

Vernon covers his face, remorseful.

JESSICA

You're hurting him.

GEORGE

Hold him.

Vernon and Bobby restrain Peter as George puts his finger in the bullet wound. Moves it around and pulls out his finger.

GEORGE

The bullet is lodged in his bone.

PETER

Pull it out!

GEORGE

It's not that simple.

SARAH

What do we do?

VERNON

Our jeep is a few miles from here.

ERIC

I don't think he's going to make it. The wound is wet.

Jessica looks for a thick, long branch...

JESSICA

Grab my pack.

Sarah grabs Jessica's pack and hands it to her.

Jessica pulls out a bandage and some medical adhesive tape and builds a splint for Peter. Band-aids on bullet wounds.

JESSICA

This is the best we can do for now.

PETER
Thank you.

GEORGE
Let's go before the rain gets
worse.

Bobby helps Peter up. Vernon moves in to help.

BOBBY
(to Vernon)
You've done enough.

Sarah aids her brother. Their combined strength makes it
work.

DEAN
(whispers)
We're going to lose the tiger.

GEORGE
No, we won't.

They grab their packs and follow George.
East.

INT. THAI JUNGLE - NIGHT

Dark. Loud. Their bright flashlights barely help. Animals
make noises in the background. Vernon and Eric are wary.

GEORGE
Relax, boys. Those are just Gibbon
mating calls.

VERNON
What's that?

PETER
A type of primate.

The terrain is thicker and a little more dangerous.

INT. THAI JUNGLE - STEEP HILL - SAME

Rain pours.

The group struggles as they descend. Jessica, Sarah, and
Vernon aren't used to this. It shows.

They hold on to trees and plants to brace themselves from falling.

Jessica is careful. The darkness compounds her already shitty eyesight. She's behind the rest of the group.

George and Dean are the first ones down the hill. They help Bobby with Peter.

Sarah, Vernon, and Eric avoid grabbing a white oleander tree. It's easy to see even in the dark...

But not for Jessica.

SARAH
Be careful of the Oleander --

Jessica makes a last-minute adjustment and tumbles like a log. CRASHES into Sarah and Vernon.

Jessica clips Eric at the bottom of the hill.

WHAM.

Jessica lands hard by George's feet. She smacks her face in the cold mud.

Sarah lands on her pack. At least she had some cushion. Vernon landed in the brush and pops out quickly. He's okay.

Bobby releases Peter and rushes to Jessica's aid.

BOBBY
(to Jessica)
Are you hurt?

Jessica gets up slowly and blinks her eyes. She shakes her head as if trying to shake her eyeballs straight.

Sarah dusts herself off, a little pissed.

SARAH
Watch where you're going!

JESSICA
I didn't see--

SARAH
It was right in front of you!

BOBBY
Shut up, Sarah.

JESSICA
No, she's right.

Peter winces in pain.

PETER
I can't keep going.

SARAH
How much further?

VERNON
I'm not sure. I thought we would be
there by now.

JESSICA
We should stop and find shelter.
We'll camp out and continue to your
jeep at first light.

ERIC
Who made you in charge?

BOBBY
Back off.

ERIC
Or what?

They face each other, rams about to collide.

BOBBY
This is all your guy's fault if you
didn't have those stupid guns.

ERIC
These guns saved your life,
jackass.

SARAH
How? From what? We were fine until
you losers showed up.

VERNON
What about the tiger?

SARAH
What about Peter?

ERIC
Fuck Peter.

Bobby punches Eric in the face.

Eric jumps Bobby.

SARAH
Bobby!

Vernon separates Eric and Bobby. Sarah restrains her brother even though she would love to jump in on the action.

Jessica risks herself and stands in the middle of the brawlers.

Dean notices fresh and muddy tiger tracks. So does George.

DEAN
(re: tiger tracks)
We need to keep going.

GEORGE
No. We camp.

Dean grabs George by his shirt collar.

DEAN
That's not what we paid you for.

GEORGE
Let me go.

George flashes him an "I know what I'm doing" look. Dean releases him.

GEORGE
Enough! We'll head back to our jeep tomorrow. We camp.

George points to a LARGE BANYAN TREE.

The torn photographers and the relentless hunters hike a few yards to the tree.

BOBBY
We should tell the others.

JESSICA
It will make things worse.

BOBBY
(re: her fall)
That could have been bad.

JESSICA
It's too late to go back now.

She scans the emotional and exhausted group.

EXT. BANYAN TREE - NIGHT

A tattered tree is a meager canopy. Nevertheless, shelter. Sarah builds tents. Rain stops. They look up relieved.

Dean and Eric build a barricade for safety and set up tents in appropriate positions in case of an emergency.

George pulls Peter's pant leg up. Blood erupts from his bullet wound.

GEORGE

Put pressure on it and dry it as much as possible.

Jessica volunteers her muddy self and does what he says. Peter moans in agony.

PETER

How much further to your jeep?

GEORGE

Give me your map. I can find a faster way.

Peter gives him the map. George takes it and pulls out his own map to compare. Peter is fading quickly.

VERNON

Can't you push the bone back in?
I think I got some Dermabond.

GEORGE

That won't work. It's too deep.

PETER

I'm not going to make it.

GEORGE

(without a beat)
No. You're not.

Peter and Jessica are caught off guard by the cold remark. Bobby and Sarah comfort Peter's head.

PETER

(to Bobby)
I'm counting on you to get everyone to safety.
(to Jessica)
You're stronger than you think.

Jessica struggles with the notion.

JESSICA
You'll be okay. Let me change out
the bandages.

She delicately removes the bandages. It hurts Peter. He's worse by the minute.

They drip blood. She catches every drop onto the bandages.

Unbeknownst to the group, George stuffs both maps in his pocket.

GEORGE
(re: bloody bandages)
Give me those. I'll get rid of
them.

Jessica complies.

George takes the blood-soaked bandages and moves far from the group to the other side of the tree. He disappears in the darkness.

Jessica clocks his suspicious behavior.

JESSICA
Someone should take watch. I can go
first.

DEAN
I don't think so. What can you do
anyway if a big bear comes? Fight
it off? Maybe a panda.

Eric and Vernon laugh.

SARAH
Pandas are only found in China, you
fucking idiot.

Dean is surprised by her snappy comeback. His demeanor shifts from Alpha male to vulnerable. He snaps out of it quickly and walks toward Sarah.

Bobby stands between them.

PETER
Stop it.

His gentle eyes look at his fellow photographers. They listen. Sarah and Bobby help Peter to his tent.

Everyone settles for the night.

DEAN
Vernon. You get the first watch.

VERNON
Seriously?

ERIC
Quit your bitching. Just do it.

Dean and Eric enter their tents.

George sits on a decayed tree stump and takes a few moments to check his rifle.

GEORGE
(to Vernon)
Twenty feet perimeter. Stay quiet.
Take this.

He throws him a flashlight. Vernon stumbles to catch it. He still doesn't. THUD. He picks it up.

ERIC (O.S.)
You suck, Vernon.

Vernon grabs Jessica's arm, not in a threatening manner but out of concern.

VERNON
I'm glad you didn't talk to Dean like that. Talk down to him. Tell your friend to be careful.

JESSICA
She can take care of herself. So can I.

GEORGE
(to Vernon)
Get going.

Vernon walks off.

VERNON
(to Jessica)
Night.

JESSICA
Good night.

Bobby has the tent erected. He approaches Jessica.

BOBBY

I'm going to stay with Peter. You get some rest.

JESSICA

I can do it.

BOBBY

We'll rotate. I'll be there in a couple of hours.

Bobby hugs her kisses her goodnight. He enters their tent.

Jessica sits next to George. She itemizes her backpack.

George eats beef jerky with his mouth open. SMACK. SMACK. He hands Jessica some on the right side. She doesn't see it.

Curious, he continues to get close to her face as possible...

Almost touches her cheek. He switches gears and drops it in her lap.

GEORGE

Here. You need protein.

JESSICA

No, thank you. I'm a vegetarian.

GEORGE

Of course, you are.

JESSICA

Why do you guys treat him like that? Vernon--

GEORGE

He's weak. There's always one in a pack.

JESSICA

Pack? Easy to see who's the Alpha.

He adjusts his rifle. He puts a long, fat bullet in his mouth to free his hands. He smirks at her, between a tool of death and his teeth.

He loads the bullet. Cocks back.

GEORGE

Humans are not that different from animals. It's about survival.

JESSICA
We have the ability to reason and
technology.

GEORGE
Take away technology...

He puts down his rifle and turns to her.

GEORGE
You get hungry... someone or
something comes between you and
what you need to do. Then, what?

JESSICA
Compassion.

GEORGE
Weakness.

George organizes his camouflage gear.

JESSICA
Tigers don't hunt with their eyes
like we do. They read heartbeat,
body heat. You're camo is a costume
to them.

GEORGE
At least I've got steel between me
and those claws. What's your armor?

JESSICA
Tigers don't hunt what doesn't
threaten them.

GEORGE
Your armor is surrender.

JESSICA
My armor is knowing I'm a guest
here. Not taking what isn't mine.

She stands and counts the steps from Bobby's tent to Peter's.

JESSICA
(under her breath)
One. Two. Three. Four...

George clocks this, his eyes sharpening with interest.

GEORGE
You know my aunt used to do that.
Before she went blind.

She flashes him a sudden but not-so-subtle expression of shock. She realizes this and hurries into Peter's tent.

INT. PETER'S TENT - SAME

Jessica enters. She lies next to Peter. She blinks her eyes and rubs her temples.

PETER
What's wrong?

JESSICA
Bad headache.

PETER
Jess... You don't have to stay here
with me.

JESSICA
I want to.

She grabs his hand.

PETER
Thank you.

INT. THAI JUNGLE

Vernon walks with his flashlight. Dog-tired, he can barely keep his eyes open. He points the light at his dragging feet.

He stops to take a piss. He writes his name with his wiener and hums a familiar rap tune.

He zips up and approaches Peter's bloody bandages. They hang on a branch, dripping BLOOD.

The wind blows the scent of blood into the stale, humid air.

He stares at the bandages. Contemplates...

Vernon takes down the bandages.

He struggles with one hand. He sets the flashlight down by his feet and accidentally kicks it...

Flashlight spins...

Light catches a glimpse of massive orange and white PAWS.

CRUNCH.

Vernon jolts from the noise. He drops the bloody bandages.

He picks up the flashlight and scans the wilderness. The light ping pongs around the forest.

Light reflects off of EYES...

Vernon's frozen in fear. A deer in headlights.

The eyes move closer, out from the brush...

THE TIGER.

Fuck that!

Vernon bolts back to the group.

VERNON
Tiger! Tiger!

ROAR.

Alerts the camp.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. DEAN AND ERIC'S TENT - SAME

ROAR.

Dean and Eric have their guns within arm's reach. They take the safety off his rifle.

DEAN
Hurry up. We're not going to lose
it again.

They scramble out of their sleeping bags.

They exit --

EXT. BANYAN TREE - SAME

Eric and Dean check their ammo and cock their rifles.

They take no time to aim and fire...

BANG.

BANG.

Dean and Eric miss. They're reckless with their aim and liberal with their ammo.

Tiger runs off and passes Peter's tent.

Without thinking, Eric and Dean are about to shoot...

Bobby emerges from his tent and bulldozes Eric and Dean to the floor. Stops them from shooting toward Peter and Jessica.

The fight and screams gather an audience... The Tiger.

It circles back to the group in darkness.

INT. SARAH'S TENT - NIGHT

Sarah searches her pack and whips out a small orange case. She removes the FLARE GUN.

She exits --

EXT. SARAH'S TENT - NIGHT

Sarah points the FLARE GUN in the air. Dean blitzes her before she can fire. They struggle.

SARAH
What are you doing?

DEAN
I didn't come to this shit country
for nothing.

Sarah trips over his feet, and they fall to the ground.

He's almost got the flare gun. She bites his hand. He pulls her hair. She gets the upper hand and elbows him. He bangs her head into the ground. Cheap shot.

Dean bangs her head again against a tree stump and knocks her unconscious. He snatches the flare gun from her hand.

EXT. BANYAN TREE - SAME

Eric lands a solid punch on Bobby's jaw. Bobby counters with an overhand right. Eric ducks and counters with an uppercut to Bobby's solar plexus.

Eric tackles him to the ground. They crash to the hard earth and scramble for the shotgun. Eric is victorious.

He smiles from ear to ear with blood on his nose and lip.
Eric levels the gun at Bobby.

He notices his unconscious sister. Bobby scrambles to Sarah.
Eric follows him with the gun.

George is oblivious to the madness that unfolds and focuses
on the Tiger. Watches every move. Studies it.

INT. PETER'S TENT

Jessica springs up in a panic.

JESSICA
Peter. Peter. Wake up.

She shakes him to no avail.

EXT. PETER'S TENT

Jessica exits the tent and trips on a tree trunk that would
be easy for anyone else to see. She falls.

JESSICA'S POV: EVERYTHING IS BLURRY

SERIES OF SHOTS: HELPLESS

- Unafraid, George checks his gun. He stares at the Tiger.
- Vernon hides in the tree.
- Eric gun-butts Bobby.
- Sarah wakes.
- Dean reloads his gun.

BACK TO:

EXT. BANYAN TREE

George readies to take his shot. Not your everyday kind of
gun, nor is it cheap. It's a single-shot rifle to give the
animal a chance. A true "gentleman."

He takes his time...

Patience.

Steady. Ready. Quiet.

An expert craftsman of death.

George fires...

At the same time, Tiger jumps up for Vernon.

George misses.

GEORGE

Damn!

Tiger bolts like a bat out of hell before George can get a second chance.

George and Dean follow the Tiger into the jungle.

BANG.

Dean misses. Can't shoot for shit.

DEAN

Fuck!

Jessica comes to, wipes her eyes, and immediately sees Bobby at gunpoint and Sarah on the ground.

JESSICA

Sarah! Bobby!

She stumbles as she stands and rushes to her friend.

INT. THAI JUNGLE - NIGHT

George follows a small blood trail left by the Tiger...

Only droplets.

That's all he needs.

EXT. BANYAN TREE - SAME

Vernon comes from the tree, a scared boy who knows he's about to get an ass-whooping.

Eric smacks him over the head.

George makes a gesture with his fingers to round up the men.
Time to go.

VERNON

(re: Photographers)

What about them?

ERIC
You want to go to prison? In
fucking Thailand.

Vernon's silent answer says everything.

SARAH
You can't leave us.

DEAN
We're not going to lose it again.

SARAH
What about our friend Peter?

JESSICA
He's dead.

Sarah sobs. Bobby hugs her. They stare at Jessica with sadness, who is slightly numb from everything.

The photographers turn their attention to the hunters with hateful eyes.

BOBBY
It's manslaughter.

GEORGE
He would have been deadweight.

BOBBY
You son-of-a-bitch!

He blitzes George.

George puts him in a standing guillotine choke with ease. Bobby's unable to defend. He falls to the floor, unconscious.

GEORGE
That's better.

Jessica tends to Bobby's motionless body on the ground.

SARAH
You bastards.

JESSICA
Leave him alone.

VERNON
There was nothing we could have
done.

SARAH
This all happened cause of you.

Vernon takes a moment and processes everything.

VERNON

I'm sorry--

Dean throws Vernon his pack.

ERIC

(re: tiger)

We can still catch it.

DEAN

Let's go, boys.

George, Dean, Eric, and Vernon reload their rifles.

JESSICA

We should stick together. Head back to the jeep. The tiger knows our scent.

GEORGE

10% of the world's animals live in this country. We're not leaving here--

DEAN

We're just leaving you.

JESSICA

Tell us where your jeep is.

SARAH

How far are we?

ERIC

You're as stupid as you are pretty.

Hunters don't answer.

Clarity strikes...

JESSICA

You were never taking us back. You were tracking the tiger.

DEAN

Once you saw us--

SARAH

We'll keep our mouths shut.

ERIC

Bullshit.

She gives Eric a god's honest truth stare. Vernon opens his mouth, about to tell her something. Eric turns his attention to him. Vernon shuts his trap.

JESSICA
(to George)
Please.

DEAN
I'll pay you double if we kill it
by tomorrow night.

GEORGE
Survival of the fittest, ma'am.

George points SOUTH.

GEORGE
(to Jessica)
Don't go that way.

Trophy Hunters point their guns at the photographers.

DEAN
If you follow us, we'll kill you.

ERIC
Good luck trying to find your
bodies out here.

Tiger ROARS. Everyone scans the jungle.

DEAN
Come on, we're going to lose it.

GEORGE
It's too far out.

VERNON
How are we going to get it now?

Dean glances at George and then moves away from the group.

GEORGE
Let's go.

TROPHY HUNTERS: George, Dean, Eric, and Vernon gather their gear and rifles.

GEORGE
I didn't want it to go this way.

JESSICA
How else would it have gone?

Unbeknownst to the group, Dean zips up Sarah's pack.

He hands it to her with a smug-ass smirk. Sarah snatches it with hatred.

The hunters leave the photographers.

SARAH
(to hunters)
Fucken Assholes!

Bobby recovers from the choke. She helps him off the ground.

BOBBY
(to Sarah)
Don't worry. I'll take care of us.

JESSICA
Are you going to be okay?

Bobby nods.

JESSICA
Where is the map?

BOBBY
Peter had it.

INT. PETER'S TENT

Jessica closes Peter's eyes. She gently searches his body. Bends every cloth back to its original position.

Nothing.

She checks his pack. Nothing.

She ransacks the rest of his tent anxiously.

Nada. No map.

EXT. BANYAN TREE

Jessica exits the tent.

JESSICA
He doesn't have it.

SARAH
What?

JESSICA
I looked everywhere.

BOBBY
Shit. I think I saw him give it to
George.

SARAH
Why would he be that stupid?!

BOBBY
He didn't know!

JESSICA
It's gone. Nothing we can do about
it now.

Sarah turns away from Bobby. She breaks down the tents. She
doesn't know what else to do.

BANG. BANG.

BOBBY
We should leave before the tiger
comes back.

JESSICA
Or they do.

SARAH
We have no idea where we are.

BOBBY
I saw a river on the map. It should
take us back. That's west...

He scans the jungle.

SARAH
Yeah. They were headed east--

JESSICA
And George said don't go south.

SARAH
Assuming he was telling the truth.

He pulls out a compass and points North.

BOBBY
This way.

JESSICA
Are you sure?

BOBBY
What choice do we have?

Jessica grabs her pack. They leave the tents. No time. Bobby grabs his and Sarah's pack.

SARAH
I can carry it.

He nods and lets go.

She puts on her backpack.

INT. THAI JUNGLE - ELSEWHERE - DAWN

Jessica, Bobby, and Sarah travel. They struggle with no machete to aid them. Small animals run across their feet.

Exhausted from energy and drained from trauma, the group manages to crawl, duck, and hop over rough terrain.

Sweat marks stain their chest and armpits. The girls' hair is messy and oily.

The trio smacks themselves from the buzzing insects.

A godless jungle.

Sarah sobs and whimpers, still grieving the previous events.

BOBBY
Shut the hell up, will you! I lost my friend.

SARAH
He was my friend too!

JESSICA
Bobby!

Bobby turns to his younger sister. A hot mess.

BOBBY
I should never have set up this stupid trip.

Sarah notices her brother is filled with rage. Something she hasn't seen.

JESSICA
You didn't know any of this was going to happen.

SARAH
I'm sorry about Peter. We'll be
fine. I love you.

BOBBY
Me too.

SARAH
It was important. We wanted to see
endangered species.

Sarah is about to hug him when...

RAWRRRR.

JESSICA
We're the endangered species now.
They scan the area.

RAWRRRR.

BOBBY
Fuck!

SARAH
It sounds close.

JESSICA
Could be anywhere.

SARAH
We left it's territory.

JESSICA
I know. It doesn't make sense.

Jessica notices a blood trail...

Blood goes far back...

She tracks it with her eyes...

Sarah's pack leaks blood.

WHAM.

Tiger LEAPS out of darkness, mouth open...

Tiger has Sarah's backpack in its massive jaws. It hurls the
pack around with her still tangled in it.

SARAH
Bobby!

Sarah! BOBBY No! JESSICA

Sarah tries to get her pack off. No use.

Bobby helps. His human male strength is nothing compared to a species that has evolved over two million years.

Tiger swats at Bobby. He shields his face with his arms. Claws rip through his flesh like paper.

Tiger drags Sarah by the pack with ease, like a fucking rag doll.

Jessica and Bobby watch in horror as Sarah's body enters the vast and pitch-black jungle.

BOBBY
No!

Bobby goes after his sister. Jessica stops him.

JESSICA
No. You can't. There's nothing we can do.

BOBBY
If it were Zoe, you would!

Jessica retracts immediately. A low blow, but true.

They head after the Tiger and the kidnapped Sarah.

ELSEWHERE

Jessica and Bobby maneuver through the jungle.

They come to the Tiger and Sarah.

Sarah is no longer attached to her backpack. Her body is several feet away from it.

Her eyes still open...

Sarah's dead.

Another photographer is dead. Two left.

In grief and sorrow, Bobby drops to his knees as memories of him and his sister hit him like a hurricane.

Tiger digs into Sarah's backpack.

Infatuated.

Brave (or stupid), Jessica grabs a large ROCK, rushes the Tiger, and whacks it in the face.

BAM.

Tiger scrams.

Bobby holds his sister's lifeless body in his arms.

BOBBY

Sarah! Sarah! No, wake up! Wake up!

He stares deep into her lifeless eyes.

In anger, Jessica sits and clenches the rock, red with tiger blood. She stares at it for a moment. Tosses it in despair.

Bobby takes off his backpack.

He struggles.

BOBBY

(re: his pack)

Get this off! Get this fuckin' thing off!

Jessica helps him get it off.

Bobby grabs Sarah's body and rocks her back and forth. The weight of his broken soul and pain is a lot to consume. He looks at Jessica with childlike sadness.

BOBBY

My sister, Jess. My baby sister.

He strokes Sarah's head and fixes her hair.

Jessica turns her head away to regain her strength and composure for Bobby.

She cries silently and mourns the loss of her friend, and digests the pain that Bobby feels...

All too familiar.

JESSICA

Her death was painless.

BOBBY

How the hell do you know?

JESSICA

Because she wasn't screaming.

BOBBY
She just needs water. She's fine.
Get her some water. Get me the
goddamn water!

Jessica honors his request.

BOBBY
Take off the top. Give her the
water.

JESSICA
(hesitates)
Bobby...

BOBBY
Give it to me!

He snatches the water with one hand and opens it.

He doesn't let her go. Not for a single second.

BOBBY
(to Sarah's corpse)
C'mon. Drink.

He pours the water on her lips. Water rolls off her mouth and
down her chin.

He wipes off the dripping water with his fingers before it
hits her shirt.

BOBBY
This is her favorite shirt. You
know, I gave this to her for her
birthday last year.

JESSICA
Did you?

Bobby nods. Jessica turns his face towards her.

JESSICA
Bobby...

BOBBY
Don't say it. Please don't. Don't.

JESSICA
She's dead.

BOBBY
I can't. I can't leave her here.

JESSICA

We have to.

He shakes his head.

JESSICA

I need you too. So does she.

She wipes her tears and kisses Sarah's forehead.

He takes a moment. Stops his cries. Stands. No pain receptors can stop him. He moves away from Jessica.

He digs a hole with his hands. Jessica helps. They dig quickly without having shovels.

They place Sarah's body in the hole and cover her.

Jessica makes a cross with some nearby sticks and a tree vine. She gives it to Bobby and places it above Sarah's head.

No one says anything.

Moments pass.

Jessica notices a wide and very tall RUBBER TREE with thick green leaves, a few hundred yards away.

JESSICA

We can camp there. Higher ground.

Bobby moves like a turtle.

JESSICA

Let's fix your arm first.

She examines his forearm. Clawed to the bone.

Jessica digs in their packs for a first aid kit. Nothing. Everything was used on Peter.

She rummages through Sarah's annihilated pack. Easily sticks her fingers through shredded fabric.

Jessica stumbles on a first aid kit, a water bottle, snacks, and a KNIFE.

No items to dress Bobby's wounded arm.

She gives him some painkillers.

BOBBY

This won't do anything. Not even enough to prevent my fever.

JESSICA

Take it.

He swallows the pills. She dumps peroxide on his arm and wraps it with one of Sarah's tops. Blood soaks through it.

She condenses Sarah's pack into hers.

In a zipper pouch, Jessica discovers...

Bloody BOAR EARS.

What. The. Actual.

Fuck?

BOBBY

What the fuck is that?

JESSICA

Did you know she had this?

BOBBY

Of course not. Why would she?

JESSICA

They did this.

EXT. RUBBER TREE - NIGHT

Jessica helps Bobby up the tree.

They struggle. Jessica doesn't look strong, but this place changes people.

INT. RUBBER TREE - SAME

Jessica and Bobby balance themselves on branches, teetering from side to side. Good ol' fashioned jungle gym.

JESSICA

Do you have any rope?

BOBBY

Yeah. Here.

Jessica pulls out some rope from his pack. Not enough. She scavenges the tree for a vine.

She measures the vine and rope with her body and wraps it around her. She demonstrates this to Bobby.

Jessica ties themselves together against the tree. Bobby forces himself to help and opens his wound.

BOBBY
Ahhh! Fuck.

JESSICA
Don't move. I got it.

He passes out from the pain.

JESSICA
Bobby? Bobby? Can you hear me?

She taps his face.

JESSICA
Bobby? Come on.

BOBBY
I hope they kill it.

JESSICA
Tigers don't attack like that. It
would have left us alone if--

BOBBY
I don't give a shit! Fucking kill
it!

His eyes filled with madness. It hurts Jessica to see him
like this. She has no words to argue with. She presses her
hand on Bobby's forehead.

JESSICA
You're burning up.

He dozes in and out of consciousness.

JESSICA
Bobby? Hey? Can you hear me?

She snaps her fingers at him. Bobby's there but not here.

JESSICA
I need to bring your fever down.
The aspirin didn't work.

Jessica feeds Bobby some water. He drinks.

BOBBY
(under his breath)
You need to leave me.

She kisses him. An answer of never.

Later...

Jessica sits upright, asleep. Tied to Bobby. He wakes to rustling in the bushes. He grabs the KNIFE.

Tiger strolls out from the bushes. It casually walks about. Why wouldn't it... An apex predator, except for... Bobby.

He can't untie the knot. Fuck it. He cuts the rope attached to the tree...

He's pale from blood loss and deranged with fever. He jumps down.

EXT. RUBBER TREE - SAME

Bobby lands on the ground with a THUD.

The rope jerks and wakes Jessica. Her eyes widen as she witnesses Bobby do something stupid.

JESSICA

Bobby, no!

He's face-to-face with Sarah's killer.

Tiger hisses and prepares to defend itself.

Jessica attempts to undo the rope, but she tied her knots like a fucking Boy Scout. *Goddamn it.*

Jessica sees Bobby poke the knife at the Tiger.

Tiger swats Bobby from a distance. A kind warning.

Bobby antagonizes the Tiger. It paces back and forth.

JESSICA

Stop! Don't!

Bobby takes another go...

BOBBY

Get out of here, Jess! Find the river. It'll lead you out.

JESSICA

Bobby, no!

BOBBY

(to Tiger)

For my sister, you son-of-bitch.

Bobby attacks. Tiger defends.

MAN VS. BEAST

Bobby is no match for the 10-foot-long and 500-pound animal. It lunges.

Bobby goes down with the Tiger on top of him...

It presses large paws on his chest and bites his throat. Bobby doesn't get a chance to scream.

JESSICA

Bobby!!

Her gut-wrenching scream alerts the Tiger.

Tiger looks up at her, flares its nostrils, and pulls its ears back. Razor-sharp teeth complement a blood-soaked chin.

Jessica breaks off small branches and throws them at the Tiger. She tosses Bobby's pack at it. Tiger dodges with ease.

Tiger circles the tree and jumps...

Doesn't get a good grip.

Jessica unties herself, but her hysteria doesn't help.

JESSICA

Come on, come on.

Tiger jumps again... Almost makes it. *Hurry!*

It jumps high enough on the tree, digs its claws deep, and latches itself on like tree sap.

It ASCENDS to Jessica.

She unties herself from the tree, loses her balance, and slips off the branch.

She CRASHES hard to the floor. Snatches Bobby's pack and mad dashes out of the Tiger's sight.

Deep into --

INT. THAI JUNGLE - NIGHT

Jessica runs as hard as she cries.

Her feet hurt. Her body aches. Her heart broke.

Minutes later...

She flops herself to the floor and sobs. Her chest expands with every hot breath. Her face melts in her hands.

She looks up and gazes at the beautiful FULL MOON. Bright stars contrast the pitch-black sky.

Jessica regains her strength for the will to survive.

She condenses Bobby's pack with hers. Items include one water, a snack, and a first aid kit with only Band-Aids.

Jessica journeys with no direction...

Alone.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Jessica eyes a river.

She's ecstatic and runs with a sigh of relief.

INT. RIVER - SAME

Jessica huffs and puffs. She takes a few minutes to calm down and steady her heart rate. She rubs her temples and eyeballs.

She removes her socks and shoes. Without thought, she jumps into the river and washes off the blood and dirt.

Blood comes off her pants. She bends down to wash her arms and shoulders and scrubs them with her nails so hard she almost bleeds.

Jessica watches the blood run off her. It's never-ending. So are her tears.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Soaked and wet. Jessica removes her clothes to ring them out.

She sits on the hard earth and massages her bruised and sore feet. Blisters ooze with white pus and blood.

She puts on her socks. Unaware, a POISONOUS SPIDER crawls into her boot.

She puts it on...

JESSICA
Ahhh! Shit!

She rips off her boot, and out CRAWLS the Poisonous Spider. Jessica squashes it. She rubs around the spider bite. She stands and gathers her things.

Her foot spasms as a result of the bite. She takes a few steps. Breathes heavy. Loses balance and drops to a knee...

Then, face down on the firm jungle ground. She breathes in deeply but can't find air...

Her eyes are frightened with a thwarted face. Her body spasms uncontrollably. Suddenly, a limp noodle.

The spider bite PARALYZED her.

Later...

Jessica is still paralyzed.

Two small rodents and slender mammals, TREESHREWS, encounter Jessica. They have long tails and greyish fur.

They sniff around her and play. Adorable. It would make a great photo. They scurry off.

Something moves in the brush by her feet.

She can't look down or turn her head.

Noise gets closer.

The creature parts the brush. It comes behind her and stops.

Heavy paws pummel behind Jessica. She can feel the vibrations through the soil.

Hot, wet breath consumes her neck hair.

The TIGER!

It licks her neck. The tongue bards give Jessica the chills.

Tiger comes around into Jessica's view.

It sniffs her backpack and clothes. It investigates with its tongue and paws.

Tiger scans the area and goes back to probe Jessica's statue of a body. It paws at her body a couple of times. Her body moves like a sack of potatoes.

It smells the spider-bitten foot. Tiger cringes and leaves. It's not hungry anyway.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

Jessica wiggles her big toe, and her foot jerks. She rotates her ankle. Next, come her fingers and hand. Rotates wrists.

She rubs the back of her neck free of Tiger saliva.

Finally, she's free of paralysis. She sits up. Vomits several times and chugs some water from her pack.

She moves around her fingers, toes, and every other body part she has. Grateful for all of it.

She tends to the spider bite with first aid. She gathers her things and hikes along the river.

Playful monkeys, AGILE GIBBONS, meet her. They show no fear of a human. Jessica steps back with caution.

Monkeys snatch her pack.

JESSICA

No, no. Be careful with that.

One Gibbon plays with her hair while the other opens the pack and takes her water bottle.

JESSICA

Give that back.

Gibbons look at her... Then, her pack...

They bolt with her stuff!

JESSICA

Shit, shit, shit. Come back here!

She chases the playful kleptomaniacs. They draw her away from the river --

INT. THAI JUNGLE - SAME

Agile Gibbons get ahead of her easily. She needs that water.

JESSICA

Fuck.

She presses forward, a ninja warrior of the jungle.

Gibbons are near. They stop and rummage through the pack. A treasure chest. They're cute with curiosity.

One of them pulls out the camera.

Jessica approaches. A stealth predator...

Waits for the right moment...

BANG.

Monkey drops dead.

POW.

Jessica gets coldcocked in the head by a camouflaged shotgun.

INT. THAI JUNGLE - ELSEWHERE - NIGHT

Jessica's tied up like a wrangled pig. Her head bleeds.

Dean, Vernon, Eric, and George gather near a fire.

Eric raises the dead Gibbon Monkey in the air with delight.
Fucking prick.

ERIC

Hey, George? How much do you think
I can get for this?

GEORGE

Nothing.

VERNON

Yeah, dummy, you blew a hole in its
head.

ERIC

Shut up. At least I hit it. You
couldn't hit water if you fell out
of a boat, punk ass.

Vernon flashes him the middle finger.

GEORGE

(re: monkey)

You might be able to get something
for the skin.

ERIC

Really? Well, alright then.

He whips out a BIG KNIFE. Custom-made with an engraved wooden
handle and a big-ass blade. Brand new, just for this hunt.

DEAN

Gimme' that. I'll do it before you
fuck it up.

Dean snatches the monkey's body from him.

Jessica wakes.

JESSICA
Help. Help me. Please.

ERIC
Shut up.

He shoves her with his foot. Jessica moans in pain. Vernon moves close to her. He props her up.

VERNON
I bet you're thirsty.

Jessica nods, barely. He gives her some water.

DEAN
Where was the last place you saw
that fucking beast?

JESSICA
I'm looking at him.

WHAM.

He slaps her. She falls to her side.

VERNON
Stop.

DEAN
Shut up.

ERIC
Yeah. You got a thing for her or
something?

GEORGE
Enough.

He sits next to the injured Jessica, like a friend in need.

GEORGE
Tell us what we want to know. Where
did you last see the tiger?

Jessica spits in his face. He wipes it, not his first time dealing with such disgust.

GEORGE
Where was the last place you saw
it? When?

Jessica stays silent.

GEORGE
That tiger killed your friends.

JESSICA
No. You did. You planted the boar
ears in Sarah's pack.

DEAN
No, that was me, sweetie.

JESSICA
You used us as bait.

DEAN
Why kill you back there? When we
can use you to draw it out.

JESSICA
Have it do the dirty work for you.

DEAN
And we get the tiger.

ERIC
A win-win.

JESSICA
Fuck you.

George shows her the MAP. He's agitated for once.

GEORGE
Where is it?

He points to an area on the map. She takes a hard look.

GEORGE
Here?

JESSICA
Leave me alone. Leave it alone.
Just stop hunting it.

ERIC
What's the fun in that?

DEAN
Hunting is a sport.

JESSICA
It's only a sport if both sides
know they're in the game.

GEORGE
It's a blood sport, and it's in my
blood.

He handles his rifle. The most precious thing in the world.

GEORGE
I know you're going blind. How much
time do you think you have?

JESSICA
Enough.

He touches her face. The same way he saw Bobby did.

GEORGE
Last time I'm going to ask. Where
is it?

Jessica is as quiet as a nun in church.

VERNON
Let's go back home, guys. She's not
going to tell us where it is.

DEAN
Yes, she will.

Dean and Eric rush her.

RAWWR.

They turn around...

VERNON
What the hell was that?

ERIC
What the fuck do you think it is?
The tiger, you idiot!

Jessica kicks Eric hard in the balls. He stumbles back and
yells in pain.

RAWWR.

GEORGE
It's close.

He moves slowly. Calm and collected.

The other men scramble to arm themselves.

ERIC
What about her?

GEORGE
I'm not here for her.

DEAN
Tie her to the tree.

Eric puts her hands above her head and drags to a tree. He puts her back against it.

ERIC
(to Vernon)
Get the other rope.

JESSICA
(to Vernon)
Make them stop. Please.

Vernon glances at the defeated Jessica. He wants no part of this anymore.

ERIC
Fine! I'll get it.

Eric grabs the rope...

WHOOSH.

The Tiger jumps over the campfire and lands on Eric.

George is taken aback.

ON ERIC

He squirms on the ground, pathetic.

Tiger hovers over him.

ERIC
Aww! Help me, please! Help!

He reaches out to Jessica.

She stares at him. No words. Just a look...

FUCK YOU, ERIC.

Tiger rips through Eric's back like string cheese.

Rest in Pieces.

Dean watches in shock. All bark and no bite.

George grabs a thick, fiery log from the campfire. He whacks the Tiger in the head. Sparks shower from impact.

Tiger felt it. Any creature would. It shakes it off.

George tosses the log aside and goes for his rifle.

Vernon helps untie Jessica's hands. Her eyes go fearful, wide, telling him that the Tiger is coming. He grabs his rifle.

ON JESSICA

On her hands and knees, Jessica scurries to safety. She wiggles her hands free from the ropes. She bites the rope to loosen the knot and untangles her feet.

ON VERNON

Tiger paces in front of Vernon...

Vernon raises his rifle. Pulls the trigger. Nothing happens. Safety's on. The crotch area of his pants darkens... Piss.

Tiger sizes him up...

It leaps and smacks him in the face so hard his neck snaps.

Quick death. Lucky.

ON DEAN AND GEORGE

George fires.

BANG.

Hits the tiger in the stomach. He reloads his rifle.

Dean is about to fire when...

JESSICA

Catch!

Jessica throws the DEAD MONKEY CARCASS at Dean.

He lowers his weapon to catch it and distracts his eyes from the Tiger.

WHAM.

Tiger pounces on Dean and bites his neck. His gun hits the floor and goes off...

BANG.

The bullet hits George in the thigh.

GEORGE

Aww! Fuck!

George collapses in awful pain.

Dean gets mauled to death.

CHOMP. CHOMP. Through his skull. Knifelike teeth pop his eyeball. Usually, extremely brutal for anyone. Not for this piece of shit.

Jessica grabs George's rifle.

WHAM.

George tackles her to the floor. The single-shot rifle flies out of her hands.

They grapple on the floor and reach for the rifle. He's stronger than she is, even with an injured leg.

His horrifying adrenaline makes him a bigger monster.

She grips the barrel of the rifle. George pulls on it.

A game of tug-of-war.

JESSICA

Are you crazy?

His crazed eyes are filled with mania. Life is a game, but this hunt is serious.

GEORGE

I have to be the one to kill it.

Jessica and George scuffle to gain control of the weapon.

She kicks him to create distance. They cling to the rifle.

He mounts her and grabs both ends of the rifle. He shoves it across her neck. Pushes it on her throat.

She maneuvers the rifle to her mouth and bites his fingers.

GEORGE

Aww!

She butts him with the rifle.

He lands a wallop of a punch that puts her in a daze. She releases the rifle.

George stands tall and points the rifle at her.

Jessica is down but not out. She stares through him and kicks his injured thigh.

GEORGE

Aww!!

He's done. She points his rifle at him...

Steady. Ready.

She desperately wants to pull the trigger.

GEORGE

I can get you out of here.

He pulls out the MAP from his pocket.

GEORGE

You won't leave me here. It's not
in your nature.

They share a moment.

Without a word...

Jessica snatches the map. She struts off like a bad bitch.

He smiles, almost proud of her.

Blood drips down the Tiger's chin and limps away.

GEORGE (O.S.)

It'll keep coming after you.

She pauses...

Is he right?

Jessica has been prey for too long.

Tired of this...

She stalks the Tiger.

Tiger enters a nearby rock CAVE on a cliff. Well hidden under the dense cover of hollow trees. Branches and slippery leaves serve as drapes in front of the entrance.

Jessica sees a river below, several miles away. She steps toward it. She glances back at the tiger cave.

A fork in the road --

INT. CAVE - DAY

Big. Water drips from a hole above into a puddle on the rock floor. Tiger drinks from it.

Tiger flops down. Tired and severely wounded.

Jessica enters the cave with battle wounds across her face. Ugly, but proof of victory.

Brave and fearless. Or stupid.

She raises her rifle. She blinks and wipes her eyes.

Fuck. Not now.

Tiger is at the mercy of a gun barrel and a broken woman.

Jessica grips the rifle hard.

Her eyes water, not from vision problems, but out of madness.

MEOW.

A TIGER CUB pleasantly struts out from behind a boulder. A couple of months old, it moves toward its mother and is greeted with licks of love. Cub licks mom's bullet wound.

Jessica readjusts her aim...

She deciphers who she is and who she wants to be...

Tiger looks at Jessica. Eyes meet. She stares back, not at a beast, but a...

Mother.

Jessica puts down the rifle and moves to the Tiger.

She kneels next to the wounded Tiger and sobs.

JESSICA

I'm sorry.

Tiger lies still.

Tiger stares at Jessica. An understanding and apology of two different species are spoken with defeated eyes.

Jessica wipes her eyes. Tiger blinks hers. The cub cuddles next to Mama. Jessica lies down next to them. Exhausted, Jessica shuts her eyes and instantly falls asleep.

Later...

Jessica opens her eyes.

JESSICA'S POV: BLACKNESS

SHE'S BLIND.

Panic mode activated. She pops up from her slumber.

JESSICA

No! No! No!

Jessica extends her hands and feels the air.

OVER BLACK:

Around her, sounds of...

DRIP. HOOTS. CHIRPS. RUSTLING.

Faint ROARS are heard. She's not sure if it's Mama or Cub.

Jessica trips and falls into the puddle of water.

She searches the ground with her hands.

She comes to the mama Tiger. She places her hand on its body...

Nothing.

No chest expanding. No heartbeat.

Tiger is dead.

Jessica wallows in sadness momentarily and pets the tiger's head. Cub paces around with its soft-toe beans.

Jessica looks for sounds.

RUSTLING.

Cub goes silent...

GEORGE (O.S.)

There it is. You can't catch a cub
without going into the tiger's den.

Jessica searches the floor...

She puts her arm across the Cub.

JESSICA

It's going to be okay, sweetie.

She finds the rifle and points it. Picks up the Cub.

Jessica stands with the bulky rifle. Trying to steady it and hold the Cub is difficult. She does it, mostly.

She points the rifle in different directions. Way off.

GEORGE

Blind, huh. I'd rather be dead.

JESSICA

You will be.

George's sinister laughs ECHO in the cave.

Jessica rotates her head so her ears can pinpoint the sound.

GEORGE

Remember. You only have one shot.

She points the gun in his general direction. He ducks. Then, staggers up. He drags his injured leg across the floor.

Jessica is too frantic to notice the sound he generates. She finally takes notice.

George stops in his tracks. He moves about the cave, painfully picking up his feet to not draw attention.

Silent.

George stalks Jessica with the Cub in her arms.

Frustrated and scared, Jessica moves her feet and head in different directions, jaded of George's whereabouts.

George gets closer...

He moves near a boulder next to Jessica.

He extends his arm...

George reaches for the rifle. Inches away...

Cub turns its head toward him and --

ROARS!!!

Jessica whips around and fires.

BANG.

Shoots George dead.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Jessica exits the cave with the Cub in her arms. She kisses its head.

JESSICA
C'mon, little one.

She finds a big stick near the cave entrance. She knows there is a cliff near her. She uses the stick to gauge how close she is to the edge.

Jessica climbs down the steep hill with tree vines and overgrown branches to aid her. The Cub is comfortable in her arms and looks up at her with grateful eyes.

INT. THAI JUNGLE - SAME

Jessica travels with the Cub. Sweat rolls down her face. Although the Cub is small, the extra weight makes her wear out quickly.

Jessica is tired and takes a break. She sits and faces in the direction she needs to go.

The Cub plays with a BUTTERFLY. The jungle is its playground. A Kodak moment.

Cub snuggles up to her and licks the wounds on her face. She cuddles with it. It playfully paws her face.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
(to Cub)
We'd better get going.

She stands and takes several steps forward...

CRACK.

CRACK.

BAM.

WHAM.

A SUN BEAR clips her, turns her around from her original direction, and knocks her to the floor.

Jessica gets on her hands and knees with the Cub underneath.

She screams as she has no fucking idea what the hell just ran her over.

Disorientated. Dizzy. She gathers herself.

Cub looks up at Jessica with innocence. She can feel it.

JESSICA

I know.

Cub throws itself in Jessica's hands. She stands and picks it up.

MEOW.

She turns her body around and around. Guess which way to go. Pointless. She screams out of defeat.

Angry, she dashes in the wrong direction.

Cub alerts her and climbs up her shoulders. Scratches her.

JESSICA

Okay. Okay. Not this way.

An OWL hoots and flies past her. She ducks as she feels the wind of the wings by her head.

JESSICA

Goddamit!

She hears a faint and familiar sound...

HELICOPTER.

She can't believe it.

Listens intently.

Is this real?

It is.

She sprints to the sound.

Filled with relief and excitement, she gains superspeed.

Cub bobs up and down in her arms like a rollercoaster.

JESSICA'S POV: BLACKNESS, WITH SOUNDS OF RAPID HEARTBEAT. HUFFS, PUFFS. SOUNDS OF TWIGS BREAK BENEATH HER FEET.

She runs into a web with a KIDNEY GARDEN SPIDER. It has a fat white abdomen with green legs.

She feels the thick web drape over her face.

She drops the Cub, falls on her back, and crumples into a fetal position. She claws her face to rid the webs.

Jessica has lost her ability to scream or whimper. The web and spider are gone.

She swipes at her face and shakes her hair.

She wastes time.

Cub doesn't stray.

MEOW.

Jessica quickly picks it up and runs.

The helicopter sounds get louder and louder.

SPLASH. She falls into the river.

INT. RIVER - DAY

Jessica screams.

She puts the Cub down in shallow water and waves her hands. She spins around, like an amusement ride at a fair.

A helicopter circles the area.

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME

THAI PILOT (50s) male, scans the area.

THAI CO-PILOT (40s) male, points at Jessica and motions for the Pilot to fly lower. They notice her pointing at her eyes.

INT. RIVER - SAME

Jessica's eyes well up. She blinks repeatedly.

She crouches down to find the Cub. It plays in the water.

JESSICA
Come here. Come here.

It jumps near her foot and tries to catch a fish.

She picks up the Cub and exits the river.

EXT. RIVER - SAME

Helicopter lands.

Thai Co-pilot exits.

Note: Italics are spoken in Thai with English subtitles.

THAI CO-PILOT (O.S.)
Are you okay?!

Jessica searches for the dim words.

JESSICA
What?! I can't see!

THAI CO-PILOT (O.S.)
I'm over here! Are you okay?!

JESSICA'S POV: BLACKNESS.

Sounds of the helicopter blades WHOOSH in the air.

A faint voice.

JESSICA
Where? Where? I can't see!

THAI CO-PILOT (O.S.)
(in English)
Are you okay? What's your name?

JESSICA'S POV: BLACKNESS.

Voice gets closer. River waves CRASH from the winds of the helicopter blades. Cub meows.

JESSICA
I'm blind. Where are you? I can't
see you. I want to go home. Please!

She cries uncontrollably.

A HAND touches her shoulder...

The Thai Co-pilot.

THAI CO-PILOT
I'm right here.

A switch from cries of hysteria to cries of joy.

SERIES OF SHOTS: RESCUED

- She touches the Co-pilot's hand.
- He holds her hand and guides her to the helicopter.
- She kisses the tiger Cub in her arms.
- He helps Jessica inside the helicopter.

BACK TO:

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Jessica straps herself in. She struggles with the Cub in her arms. Co-pilot helps.

JESSICA
I can't see. I'm blind.

PILOT
What are you doing out here? You're lucky to be alive.

CO-PILOT
You're very lucky.

CO-PILOT
Looks like you made a friend along the way.

The Pilot reaches over and pets the Cub.

JESSICA
How did you find me?

CO-PILOT
We've been tracking a poacher--

PILOT
His name is George Dawson. Have you heard of him?

She nods.

CO-PILOT
Do you know if anyone else made it?

Jessica shakes her head in sorrow.

PILOT
We have been tracking him for a while.

CO-PILOT

We found this.

He hands her a camera. She takes it. Smiles between tears.

Jessica listens to the sounds around her. All she hears is the playful noises of the adorable Cub.

JESSICA

Do you know what will happen to this cub?

CO-PILOT

There is a tiger sanctuary we will take it to.

He lifts the Cub's tail and checks the genitalia.

CO-PILOT

Female. That's great. It will go into the breeding program and be released back into the wild. Be well taken care of.

Jessica smiles from ear to ear. She grabs her camera and positions the Cub to take a photo.

She feels for the Cub's stillness on her lap.

Patience.

PILOT

Isn't she blind?

Co-pilot shrugs and nods.

Cub is still.

She takes a selfie with the cub.

CLICK.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. ART GALLERY - NIGHT

Huge gallery. Open and clean. Appears to be empty. No art or pictures anywhere.

In the back of the gallery...

Jessica is simply dressed but professional. She holds a WHITE CANE and wears BLACK GLASSES.

Standing by her are her sister Lupe and --

Zoe. She came out of her coma.

They all hold hands.

ART GALLERY GUESTS are in amazement.

Dozens of patrons cluster in front of a SINGLE PHOTO...

Gorgeous.

INSERT PHOTO: JESSICA AND THE TIGER CUB IN THE HELICOPTER

Below the photo reads, "Taken by camera...

Written in braille...

HOPE.

OVER BLACK:

"Wild tigers are hunted to meet the demands of the \$20 billion a year in the illegal wildlife market."

"Tigers need space, isolation, and protection. The rest they will look after."

FADE OUT: