

Death Hog

written by

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EXT. TREELINE - PRE-DAWN

The woods are moonlit and full of shadows. We see TWO LIGHTS, like the glint of a wild animal, staring out from the tree line. It's the FLASHLIGHTS held by two figures in the woods.

One "eye" vanishes, then the other.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

SETH HEAD (mid-20s, male) and METH NED (mid-20s, male) turn off their FLASHLIGHTS. The woods here are lit from exterior lights on a nearby building.

Seth points at the building. This is PORCIDYNE RESEARCH.

SETH

Okay. That's where they keep the chemicals.

NED

You sure they got what we need?

Seth has a CROSSBOW strapped to his back, and Ned has a BACKPACK. Ned hands Seth the BACKPACK.

SETH

Man, a place this size? Look at them pens. Gotta be some ketamine, animal tranq, somethin'.

Seth takes out a NERF FOOTBALL with a STICK OF DYNAMITE in it, like a pig-in-a-blanket.

SETH (CONT'D)

You sure that's the building?

We look at a small shed near the fence line. Atop the fence is a spiral of barbed wire. On the fence itself is a sign warning about ELECTROCUTION.

Ned is duct-taping the FOOTBALL onto a CROSSBOW BOLT.

NED

Yep. When they tied into the county, my brother-cousin did some of the electrical. That little shed is the weak spot in their fancy security.

SETH

Terry?

NED

Jimmy. Terry's in rehab.

SETH

Shhhh.

A SECURITY GUARD, MIKE LIU (30s, Asian male) walks the lot, bored. He stops at one of the pens, waits a moment, and enters. Once he's gone, Seth relaxes.

SETH (CONT'D)

Okay. Gonna get some height.

Seth climbs a tree.

EXT. PORCIDYNE RESEARCH LOT - NIGHT

Mike stops in front of a GIANT FENCED PEN with a METAL GATE and RED LIGHT on it. He pulls out his radio.

MIKE

(into radio)

Checking North Pen.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SECURITY GUARD PETE LIU (30s, Asian male) watches a BANK OF MONITORS showing various locations around the facility. One shows Mike.

Pete hits a button on his console.

PETE

(into intercom mic)

"North Penis" open.

EXT. NORTH PEN

A MECHANICAL KA-THUNK signals the opening of a heavy lock. The METAL GATE pops open a little as the lock releases.

MIKE

(into radio)

You're a child. Entering North Pen.

MIKE turns on his flashlight and goes into the pen.

The pen is a concrete-walled, open-roof rectangle, with a huge metal door leading out. Inside the pen are metal floor drains set into the concrete. At the far end, another massive metal door leads into the research facility building.

A red light shines next to that door.

The pen is covered in a light wash of gore and blood. The concrete in here will never be right again.

EXT. TREELINE

Seth has climbed a tree and gets settled with the CROSSBOW out.

SETH  
Hand me the kolache.

Ned hands up the BOLT, FOOTBALL, and DYNAMITE, while staring at the entire rig with uncertainty.

NED  
Look, I ain't no air-o-nautics expert or whatever. But why is it got to be inside the football?

SETH  
Cause...

Seth loads the bolt. He aims at the small shed.

SETH (CONT'D)  
It's Nerf...

The bolt goes over the fence and sticks in the side of the building with a THUNK.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Or nothin'.

Dead silence for a beat as Ned looks confused.

NED  
The fuck does that even me-

SFX: EXPLOSION. The bomb goes off, leveling the shed.

Power goes out in the PORCIDYNE lot. The woods go dark, leaving only moonlight.

EXT. PORCIDYNE RESEARCH LOT - NIGHT

From inside the North Pen, Mike sees the flash of the EXPLOSION. He uses radio to call in.

MIKE  
 Hey, what the fuck is going on up  
 there?

The light next to the interior door TURNS OFF.

A heavy KA-THUNK is heard. The far door opens a bit.

PETE  
 (on radio)  
 I'm in the dark up here too.  
 Something knocked the power out for  
 the whole facility.

MIKE  
 Fuck. Listen to me, man. I got a  
 popped interior door here. No  
 fucking around. Unsecured door,  
 North Pen.

PETE  
 (on radio)  
 Don't worry, the generators should  
 kick on any minute now.

The door creaks as it drifts open. A deep and resonant snort  
 is heard. Whatever made the noise must be HUGE.

Mike clicks the radio again.

MIKE  
 Hey, cuz... When's that genie kick  
 on?

PETE  
 (on radio)  
 Fuck. Hang tight, man.

The metal door at the far end of the pen swings open.

From inside the dark doorway, TWO EYES glow red in the dark.

Mike drops his flashlight and radio and backs up in panic,  
 tripping and falling on his ass as the HULKING SHADOW charges  
 towards him, then OVER him.

PETE (CONT'D)  
 (on radio)  
 Mike? Mike??

Mike's screams die in a spray of silhouetted blood as a huge  
 hog shape fills the frame.

TITLE APPEARS:

DEATH HOG

EXT. PORCIDYNE LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Seth and Ned come out of the building holding CASES OF MEDS and TRANQUILIZER PISTOLS, struggling to manage their haul as they run.

SETH

Quick, man! Keep up!

NED

I'm tryin'! We shoulda brought a dolly or something.

SETH

What??

NED

A dolly! Hey, I think I stole a box fulla tranq guns. What the fuck do they do here?

SETH

They shoot trespassers, that's what. Move!

Ned notices the open North Pen door.

NED

Was that open before?

SETH

What? Who cares? We gotta get out of here before they get the fence powered back up.

Seth shines his flashlight along the fence, looking for the hole they cut. He finds it and holds it the light for Ned as he crawls through.

As Seth raises his light back up, he reveals a hulking, pig-shaped monster exiting the North Pen.

NED

C'mon, man! Get through the fence! What are you looking at?

SETH

Over there, in the parking lot.

Ned glances through the fence.

NED  
 What, looks like they have a bus  
 parked there. So?

SETH  
 No, man. Look.

Ned takes a longer look.

NED  
 Is that a pig?

This is the DEATH HOG.

One ton of porked hell on four legs, with tusks that gleam in  
 the moonlight.

The Death Hog charges Seth at an uncanny speed.

Seth starts to frantically hand Ned his stolen boxes of  
 trangs. Before Seth can crawl through the hole, the hog is  
 upon him.

Seth is pushed through the metal wire like Play-Doh as the  
 hog crashes into the fence.

Ned scrambles up the same tree Seth climbed earlier and  
 squeezes his eyes shut. When he opens them, the hog is gone,  
 but Seth is mangled and intertwined with the chain link  
 fence.

EXT. CAMP ROAD GATE - MORNING

VANCE CARVER, JR. (30s, white male) shuts a pipe-rail gate  
 and gets back into his STATION WAGON. He's dressed in a plaid  
 shirt and jeans, straight out of LL Bean.

LACEY CARVER (30s, black female) sits passenger, with their  
 daughter KATIE CARVER (6) sitting in the back. Her name is  
 airbrushed on her jumper with flowers.

They drive. Lacey watches out the window as they pass  
 ramshackle deer camps. A couple of camps have deer hanging,  
 cleaned. A faded Confederate flag hangs limp from a rusty  
 pole.

LACEY  
 Third one.

VANCE JR.  
 Deer?

LACEY  
Confederate flag.

VANCE JR.  
Maybe they just love them Duke  
boys.

Lacey is silent.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)  
Look, I grew up coming out here,  
but it's not like this is who I-

She puts her hand on his leg.

LACEY  
I'm just giving you shit.

She pats his leg and takes back her hand.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
They aren't even a full hate crime.  
Like, half a hate crime each.

VANCE JR.  
So, one point five hate crimes.

LACEY  
So far.

KATIE  
KATECRIMES!

Vance Jr. snorts.

LACEY  
No, honey. Hate. Hate crimes.

KATIE  
(excited whisper)  
KATECRIMES...

Vance Jr. shrugs. Lacey shakes her head.

LACEY  
Read your book, sweetie.

Lacey looks down at her cell phone. There are several missed notifications, and no bars.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Hope there's more signal at your  
dad's place.

VANCE JR.

It's a coin flip, honey. I thought you took off work anyway.

LACEY

I'm not on rotation, but I still have patients, baby.

VANCE JR.

Save those lives. That's why we love you.

KATIE

Also 'cause you taught me how to talk-burp.

LACEY

What? No, I didn't...

KATIE

(belching)

WELL. I. LEARNED. IT. SOMEWHERE.

Vance Jr. tries not to laugh.

VANCE JR.

Say excuse me, honey.

KATIE

(burp-mumbling)

Scuse-me.

On the dash in front of Lacey is a manila folder. She opens it.

Inside are some legal papers and some mail addressed to Vance Carver, Sr.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Have I met Uncle Lukas and Uncle Micah?

VANCE JR.

Sure you have honey.

Lacey gives her husband an uncertain look.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

You'll remember them when you see them. It's just been a minute.

KATIE

Why?

VANCE JR.  
Sometimes it just goes that way  
with family, honey.

The legal papers are about a house sale. The topmost envelope of mail is from CEN-TEX ONCOLOGY. It says PAST DUE. Lacey starts going through the pile.

KATIE  
Are you gonna not see me someday?

Lacey stops.

LACEY  
Oh, honey, no. It's just that your dad and his brothers got busy. But they still love each other. We're seeing them now. We're family, kiddo. We're stuck together forever.

Vance Jr. watches the road.

VANCE JR.  
Yeah... forever.

Katie looks out the window, seeming satisfied with that answer. Lacey looks at her husband.

LACEY  
Lukas and Micah coming?

VANCE JR.  
Here already, I'm sure.

LACEY  
Their mom out here?

VANCE JR.  
Cherri-Lynn has a camper down the trail from Dad.

LACEY  
That's good. At least somebody who loves him is out here. Do you think she knows?

He shrugs.

She looks at the papers again.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Can't believe he hasn't said a word about it to you.

VANCE JR.

I can. 10 to 1 he doesn't say anything this weekend unless I bring it up.

LACEY

But you'll-

VANCE JR.

Yes. I will.

Lacey looks at him. Vance looks back.

LACEY

It's cancer, Vance, he can't let it wait. You need to know what he's doing-

VANCE JR.

I know. I will.

Lacey reaches over and plucks a price-tag from inside his shirt collar.

LACEY

Missed a tag, mountain man.

EXT. CARVER CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Two hunters, MICAH (30s, burly but soft) and LUKAS (30s, skinny but muscular), pull a DEAD DEER out of the back of a JEEP parked near a LARGE TREE.

LUKAS

Shot us a buck!

VANCE CARVER SR. (60s, pale and thin) stands on a homemade porch built out of two-by-fours in front of a single-wide trailer. He watches them unload.

VANCE SR.

(growing louder)

Now y'all wait just a minute...

MICAH

Hey, pop. Just gonna clean 'er right quick.

VANCE SR.

But why here?

MICAH

We ain't got a good tree limb at our place.

VANCE SR.

That ain't a reason.

LUKAS

Micah wants to try somethin'. We'll give you the backstrap.

VANCE SR.

See? That's why you're the brains of this outfit, Luke.

We hear a FOUR-WHEELER come up the road.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

Son of a... I done told that little shit...

We see TIMMY HESTER (teen) come up the road on an ATV.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

(yelling)

HEY! HOLD UP THERE! TIMMY HESTER  
YOU CUT THAT NOISE!! HEY!!

Timmy stops. The ATV idles. Vance Sr. motions to kill it and Timmy does.

TIMMY

Hey Mr. Carver. Lukas, Micah. Y'all shoot that this morning?

Lukas nods but doesn't pause his work.

VANCE SR.

Tim. What'd I tell you about running that thing full throttle all day?

TIMMY

Sorry, sir. I just figured a few folks already shot this morning, so the noise wouldn't...

Vance Sr. visibly flinches as he gets near the boy.

VANCE SR.

Jesus, son, that scent bait?

TIMMY

Yeah, my brother said it would keep the deer from smelling me. It's made from urine!

VANCE SR.

We're all aware. I think maybe you overdid it a bit.

TIMMY

Sorry.

VANCE SR.

Just give it a break on the throttle some today, alright? Half the camp's probably hungover. Maybe change clothes.

Timmy nods and starts up the ATV again.

TIMMY

I'll tell my folks you said hey.

VANCE SR.

I specifically didn't!

Timmy is gone before the sentence is done.

The Carver Station Wagon pulls up. Vance Sr. shakes a finger at Timmy's dust.

The family exits the car as he walks over.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

Well, Shitfire! Look what the cat dragged in!

Katie is out of the car and running around, full of energy.

KATIE

Shitfire!

LACEY

Honey.

KATIE

Sorry. Up to two point five Katecrimes today...

Vance Jr. hugs his dad. The old man is far happier than the son.

Vance Sr. looks down and Katie hugs him.

VANCE JR.

Hey, Dad.

Vance Jr. nods to Lukas and Micah, who get busy on their deer project.

LACEY

Hey, Old Man. Honey, I'm gonna look for a signal.

She crinkles her nose.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Maybe somewhere that smells less like urine.

VANCE JR.

Good luck.

Lacey starts walking around looking for cell signal, getting farther from the camp.

Katie makes a quick lap around the camp before settling back to watch Lukas and Micah. She is the adorable crown-jewel of this family.

VANCE SR.

I got y'all all squared away in the camper. Grab your bags and I'll show ya.

He and Vance Jr. grab luggage and head inside.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

Y'all gonna help?

LUKAS

Busy.

Lukas and Micah hang the deer by its front legs from a limb with rope.

Lukas grabs a nearby large METAL BUCKET and puts it under the hanging deer.

LUKAS pulls out a knife. He begins making cuts into the deer hide, around the neck, down the legs, etc.

KATIE

Whatcha doing, Uncle Lukas?

LUKAS

'Bout to skin this deer, sweetheart.

KATIE

But you're just tracing around it.

LUKAS

I'm cutting through the viscera.  
You'll see in a minute.

MICAH

Don't nick the intestines.

LUKAS

(annoyed)

I'm not gonna nick the intestines.

MICAH

Cause last time you...

LUKAS

(more annoyed)

I'm not even to that part yet.

MICAH

(muttering)

Just saying, ruined all the meat.

LUKAS

(angry)

I'M NOT GONNA... Katie, why don't  
you stand over there a minute and  
watch.

MICAH looks around. He selects a SMALL ROCK and pockets it.

Vance Jr. walks out from the trailer.

KATIE

Hi, Daddy.

He puts his arm around Katie.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You gotta get through the viscera,  
but be careful not to nick the  
test-ins.

VANCE JR.

What?

She points.

Lukas appears satisfied with his knife work. He peels back  
the neck hide and yells to MICAH.

LUKAS

Rock.

Micah pulls the stone from his pocket and throws it to him. Lukas puts the rock into the pouch he's made from the peeled back neck-skin of the deer. He reaches down and picks up some rope, then ties it around the hide-covered rock.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Ready.

Micah takes the other end of the rope and ties it to the trailer knob on the truck. He gets in the driver's seat, starts the engine, and throws it in gear, his arm over the seat as he watches his brother.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Hit it.

Katie hides behind Vance Jr.'s leg but keeps watching.

Micah pulls forward, drawing the slack out of the rope-deer-rope chain. The hide begins to peel back along Lukas' cuts.

Within seconds, the skin is off, connected only at the rear hooves. We see a tree limb connected to a skinned deer, connected to an entire inside-out deer hide, connected to a beat-up Jeep.

VANCE JR.

JESUS!

Vance Jr. storms forward toward Lukas.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

What the hell are you two doing??  
My daughter is gonna be scarred  
for-

Lukas casually cuts the piece of hide connecting the deer to the skin. The skinned deer swings back like a Hellraiser punching bag and knocks Vance Jr. to the ground.

KATIE

DADDY!

Lukas stands over Vance and offers his hand.

LUKAS

Get up, man, you're embarrassin'  
yourself.

Vance, Jr. ignores Lukas' help and gets up.

VANCE JR.  
I'm okay, Katie.

Micah takes the hide and rope off the Jeep, while Katie watches the skinned deer swing lazily from the tree.

MICAH  
How long you gonna be, Luke?

LUKAS  
Dang, man. Gimme a minute and we'll run these guts to the pile.

Lukas stops the deer from swinging and begins to carve meat. Micah drags a cooler near him and opens it. Lukas throws in meat as he cuts it.

KATIE  
What's the pile?

VANCE JR.  
It's gross, honey. You wouldn't want to be there.

MICAH  
It IS pretty gross. It's where we put all the guts and such from anything we clean here. So we don't get wild critters creeping up at night.

KATIE  
Why not just shoot the wild critters?

LUKAS  
Because they don't taste as good.

Katie looks inside the jeep and pulls out a flare gun from the glove compartment. It's safety orange and oversized, like a Looney Tunes revolver. She aims it like a real pistol.

KATIE  
Cartoon gun!!

MICAH  
That's a Flare Gun, kiddo.

KATIE  
If I were a hunter, I would blast 'em even if they weren't tasty.

She squints and grimaces as she aims.

Lukas looks at Vance Jr.

LUKAS

You sure she's your kid?

VANCE JR.

She takes after her mom, I guess.  
Careful there, Katie. We don't want  
to play around with guns like that.  
Even flare guns.

MICAH

Can I have that back?

She gives him the gun.

KATIE

Why's it orange?

MICAH

The gun is orange, but the flare  
makes a red cloud. You get in  
trouble, you shoot this up in the  
sky and people will see it for  
miles, and come help.

KATIE

Neat!! Can I fire it??

MICAH

Do you need help?

KATIE

You need help with the gut  
bucket...

MICAH

That's not the kind of help this is  
for, honey.

LUKAS

Emergencies only. They're fun to  
shoot, but the game warden don't  
appreciate false alarms much...

(to himself)

Trust me...

Micah puts the flare gun back in the glove compartment.

KATIE

Your car doesn't have doors.

MICAH  
It's a Jeep, the doors zip off.  
The Jeepus Creepus, as your  
granddad calls it.

LUKAS  
Yep.

KATIE  
Jeepus Creepus? Jeepus Creepus!

VANCE JR.  
Katie, why don't you go see if  
grandpa has any snacks for you?

KATIE  
Kay!

Katie runs off.

MICAH  
(to Lukas)  
All done?

LUKAS  
Yep.

Micah loads up the deer carcass and the gut bucket into the  
Jeep.

VANCE JR.  
(to Lukas)  
You got a minute?

LUKAS  
Sure. You want to chat now, or when  
you visit in another 5 years?  
Amazed Katie even remembers me.

Vance Jr. ignores the baited conversation. He pulls the  
Oncology envelope out of his back pocket.

VANCE JR.  
I went by the house in town. Dad's  
let it go to hell.

LUKAS  
It's his house, man.

VANCE JR.  
I don't even think he's been inside  
in months. I think he's just living  
here at camp.

Lukas looks away and lights a cigarette.

LUKAS

So?

Vance Jr. shoves the envelope in Lukas' hand. Lukas reads it with no reaction.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

(quietly)

He can do what he wants, man.

Vance Jr. steps back a little.

VANCE JR.

You know already! You fucking knew!

LUKAS

I mean, yeah. He's got cancer, man.

VANCE JR.

And you couldn't call and tell me?!

LUKAS

Hey! Secret wasn't mine to tell.  
It's his. He wants to go it alone,  
it's his choice.

VANCE JR.

Well, it's a fucking selfish one.

LUKAS

That's rich coming from you.

VANCE JR.

What's THAT supposed to mean?

Lacey walks back up.

LACEY

Y'all okay? I got no signal out here.

LUKAS

Hey, Lace.

LACEY

Hey, Lukas. Is Janeth coming up this weekend?

LUKAS

Nah, we broke up a while ago. If you see her, say something.

(MORE)

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
 She's got a bunch of warrants out.  
 You know that wasn't even her name?

LACEY  
 She CHANGED it to Janeth?

Lukas nods.

VANCE JR.  
 This kinda shit is why I left...

LACEY  
 It's the whole reason I came.  
 (to Lukas)  
 What was it before?

LUKAS  
 Yanet.

Lacey does a 'chef's kiss' motion.

LACEY  
 Perfection.

She walks inside, past Micah who finishes loading the Jeep.

MICAH  
 (loudly, so his brothers  
 hear)  
 Sure, I'll load everything, fellas.  
 Oh, thank you, Micah! Why, it's no  
 trouble at all...

LUKAS  
 (to Vance Jr.)  
 We good?

VANCE JR.  
 No.

Vance Jr. walks inside.

Lukas hops in the jeep and stares ahead. Micah looks at the house, then the jeep, then Lukas, then gets in the driver's seat.

MICAH  
 We rea-

LUKAS  
 (to Micah)  
 Let's go.

EXT. PORCIDYNE LOT - DAY

PETE LIU and DR. YIN LIANG watch as PORCIDYNE STAFF clean up MIKE'S BODY.

DR. LIANG  
I knew I shouldn't have hired him.

PETE  
You can't blame yourself.

DR. LIANG  
No, I shouldn't have hired him  
because he's fucking useless. What  
I get for hiring family.

Pete turns to her.

PETE  
WE'RE family.

DR. LIANG  
I know.

Pete sighs.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)  
Now tell me YOUR role in losing MY  
specimen.

Liang looks around the lot, we see GIANT BLOODY HOOF PRINTS leading to the HUGE HOLE in the fence.

A staffer PRESSURE WASHES pieces of SETH out of the chain-link fence, then turns to wash away the hoof prints.

PETE  
Look, a-yi...

She glares at Pete.

PETE (CONT'D)  
Dr. Liang. I'm sorry, but Mike...  
There was an explosion, and the  
power... Something got loose.

Pete's radio chirps. He gathers himself and answers.

PETE (CONT'D)  
What?

GUARD 3  
(on radio)  
Clear inside, sir.  
(MORE)

GUARD 3 (CONT'D)

All pens re-secured, locks reset  
and functional.

DR. LIANG

We just need to recover it.  
Quickly.

PETE

We'll also need to notify next of  
kin for Mike. I'll get on the phone  
to corporate, let them know the  
situation.

DR. LIANG

No.

PETE

Excuse me?

Pete steps close to his Aunt.

PETE (CONT'D)

We handle some pretty freaky shit  
here. No offense. I GOT Mike this  
job...

DR. LIANG

And I got YOU *your* job. Which you  
screwed up.

PETE

If that thing is loose in the  
woods, Mike won't be the last  
victim. Only a matter of time  
before it finds some civilians, and  
then corporate's gonna wish you'd  
given them a head's up.

DR. LIANG

Wrong. This is the kind of thing  
corporate will specifically want to  
testify that they DIDN'T know  
anything about. Or did you think  
"need to know basis" only worked  
from the top down?

PETE

So we put our lives on the line  
just so we can offer them plausible  
deniability?

DR. LIANG

They always have deniability. But yes, they do appreciate it when we make it plausible.

She looks Pete in the eyes.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

Look. Everything you want corporate to do, I'm about to authorize.

PETE

Authorize me to notify Mike's next of kin.

DR. LIANG

Except that. You keep this in-house until I say.

She gives him a look to say she's serious.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

You signed the same NDA I did. We could be dead right now and if the company didn't want us to know it, we'd act like we didn't.

She smiles. Her grin is mirthless and thin.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

Besides, like you said, we are his kin.

She looks back at the pen where Mike is being hosed away.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

I feel notified.

She walks away toward a group of workers, leaving Pete speechless.

EXT. TREELINE- WHITNEY CAMP - HOG POV

We're seeing from the HOG'S POV.

From the treeline, a rusty 5TH-WHEEL CAMPER with a homemade awning is visible. OLD MAN WHITNEY (elderly male), spry for his age, hoists a DEAD DEER up onto a tree limb in front of the camper. He positions a BUCKET beneath it.

MRS. WHITNEY (elderly female) steps out of the 5th-Wheel with a beer in a koozie. She lights a cigarette.

EXT. WHITNEY CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

We return to "regular POV".

MRS. WHITNEY

No fun to shoot one this early.  
Whatcha gonna do all day?

OLD MAN WHITNEY

Annoy you, I guess...

MRS. WHITNEY

All for a little ol' spike? Why  
even kill it?

Unlike LUKAS and MICAH, he begins to skin and clean it like a normal person.

OLD MAN WHITNEY

So I can come back early and hear  
my wife's beautiful voice ask me  
dumb questions, instead of offerin'  
a beer...

He looks pointedly at the beer she holds.

MRS. WHITNEY

Fine, oh mighty hunter. Get to  
cleaning it, though. I don't want  
that shit in the yard all day.  
We'll get kai-oats.

EXT. TREELINE - WHITNEY CAMP - HOG POV

From the treeline, we watch them talk. Mrs. Whitney goes back in the trailer.

We charge forward with the Death Hog and see OLD MAN WHITNEY react and scream.

The HOG chomps onto the HANGING DEER and tears at the flesh. OLD MAN WHITNEY scrambles away on his ass.

The HOG manages to tear the deer free of the rope.

OLD MAN WHITNEY

HONEY!! CALL THE-

The HOG swings the DEER in its jaws. The ANTLER pierces through OLD MAN WHITNEY'S SKULL, coming out his eye socket, the eyeball stuck on like a cherry on the antler tip.

The hog swings the deer back out of frame with Old Man Whitney attached. Between the rope, the deer, and the old man, it's an unwieldy mess.

It bashes the old man's head against a nearby tree, trying to shake loose the venison.

The hog grunts with what almost seems like frustration, then drops the mess of hunter and deer as it wanders away.

Silence settles on the camp.

Mrs. Whitney comes back outside with an unopened beer. She sees her husband's head stuck on deer antlers. One eyeball is perched on the end of the antler spike, staring at her.

She SCREAMS and drops her beer.

EXT. WOODS WIDE SHOT ABOVE

Birds burst into the sky as her scream rings out.

The camera pans over and lowers to show:

EXT. CAMP ROAD

Micah and Lukas drive the Jeep up a dirt road that cuts the forest in two. Micah turns as he drives and checks the GUT-BUCKET and CARCASS as they bounce on the terrain to make sure they don't fall out of the vehicle.

MICAH

Glad Junior came. Katie's gettin' big.

LUKAS

Yeah. Glad to see her and Lacey. Junior's still Junior, though.

MICAH

Aw, he's okay. Why you always sore at him?

LUKAS

I'm not! He's never around to be sore at, anyway. Just shows up every couple holidays and tells us how we're dumb or country or just wrong about whatever...

MICAH

Seems to me you're mad he doesn't visit, but when he does, you make sure to be pissed off the whole time.

LUKAS

Well it seems to me both you and Junior can suck a DEER!!

Micah slams the brakes and guts fly forward onto him and Lukas.

A DOE bursts onto the road from the treeline, pauses, startled, then bounds across the road into the woods.

THREE FAWN follow their mother across the road. It's a quiet and beautiful moment.

Micah and Lukas are covered in blood and slop.

MICAH

Aw. It's a family.

LUKAS

(wiping deer guts off himself)

I fucking hate you.

They drive on.

INT. DEER STAND - DAY

A dad and his son sit in a deer blind. The son is on a metal folding chair, the dad in a beat-up padded office chair.

They both have rifles. The kid looks fidgety.

DAD

You hear that? That car?

KID

No.

DAD

Well, you can bet your ass the deer heard it. Rude.

Dad lifts the binoculars and looks down the shooting lane.

DAD (CONT'D)

Stop moving around and keep your eyes open.

KID  
I aaaaammmmm.

DAD  
No, you're over there screwing  
around fidgeting.

KID  
(under his breath)  
You're the one talkin' about  
everything...

They sit a moment. A limb CRACKS in the woods.

KID (CONT'D)  
Dad. I heard something.

DAD  
Me too. Get ready son. Today, you  
kill your first deer and become a  
man...

KID  
I'm ready, dad.

Through the window, we see the Death Hog burst into their  
shooting lane. The kid screams.

DAD  
What the fuck IS that??

KID  
It's gonna kill us!

DAD  
Not if I have anything to say about  
it! Hand me that rifle.

The son grabs his dad's rifle to hand to him.

DAD (CONT'D)  
Oh and make sure the safety's-

EXT. DEER STAND

The rifle goes off!

The woods are quiet except for the sobbing of a small child.

KID  
Dad?... Daddy... Daddy, wake up...

EXT. GUT-PILE - DAY

Micah parks the jeep and gets out. There's a stick jammed into one tire, which is going flat.

Lukas notices the flat.

LUKAS

Son of a...

They both strip off their gory shirts and toss them on the jeep, then grab the carcass and throw it on the pile. They dump the bucket off the back, widening the pile of decaying offal.

The empty bucket is put back in the jeep, and Micah wipes his hands on his shirt. He thinks a moment, then just throws the shirt on the pile. Lukas shrugs and does the same, then kicks the flat jeep tire.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Deal with you later, you piece of shit.

MICAH

Seems to be the Carver family way nowadays, dealin' with shit later.

LUKAS

Don't you start. I'm already getting an earful from Junior about it.

MICAH

He's not wrong, though. We should get some straight answers out of dad, maybe even make him go back to the doc.

Lukas shoots him a look, then starts to walk back to camp.

MICAH (CONT'D)

(resigned)

Or, I could shut it.

Micah jogs to catch up to his brother.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

DEPUTY JACKSON MICHAELS (20s, male) takes the statement of Mrs. Whitney.

Mrs. Whitney's hand shakes as she smokes a cigarette.

MRS. WHITNEY  
He's... it, uh, he's...

Deputy Michaels puts his hand on Mrs. Whitney's shoulder.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
Annie, are you okay?

She's in shock, staring into the distance.

DEPUTY MICHAELS (CONT'D)  
Are you okay, Annie?

Nearby, GAME WARDEN TESSA HALL (30s, black, female) stares at something offscreen.

Tessa sighs a low whistle as she takes it in.

TESSA  
Well, there's something you don't  
see every day.

Deputy Michaels leaves Mrs. Whitney and heads to where Tessa stands. The carnage isn't visible until he gets closer.

We show the audience the horror when Deputy Michaels sees it.

OLD MAN WHITNEY is where we left him, still locked in a bloody embrace with a half-skinned deer.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
JESUS! Warn a guy!

TESSA  
Be more ready.

He settles down and looks at the scene.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
(whistles)  
That's why you let 'em bleed out  
before you go cleaning 'em.

TESSA  
You think Bambi here woke up half-  
skinned and just freaked out?

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
I had an cousin once was awake  
through her boob job. Said it was  
hell.

Tessa withers his theory with a glare.

DEPUTY MICHAELS (CONT'D)  
Poor Janeth.

TESSA  
(ignoring him)  
Something took that bite. Look  
around.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
For what?

TESSA  
Hog prints are my bet. He'd be a  
big boy, though. What's the common  
sign for wild boar, Deputy  
Michaels?dep

Deputy Michaels starts to scan the nearby ground as well.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
Rounded W prints, roughly two to  
three inches long. one or two  
inches wide.

He holds his hand up to show the rough size.

TESSA  
This ground's too hard. No sign.  
Still. Might let folks know to  
carry a pistol around the gut-pile.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
If it's hogs, they're likely bedded  
down for the day, yeah?

TESSA  
Very good, Deputy Michaels. Go  
ahead and call in the wagon so we  
can get this cleaned up. I'm gonna  
say death by misadventure for now,  
but we'll need to alert the Sheriff  
as well.

She pulls out her radio as they walk back up the path where  
Mrs. Whitney stands, smoking. The camera drifts away into the  
woods, where we see a hoofprint in some softer earth.

It's easily five times the size Michaels just described.  
There is no way the Deputy can miss it.

That is, until Timmy Hester runs it over with his 4-wheeler!

Michaels storms over, scolding the kid like a bad dog.

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
 Hey! No! NO! Get your urinal-caked  
 ass out of here, Hester! You're  
 contaminating a crime scene.

TIMMY  
 But I just wanted to see-

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
 (interrupting)  
 Beat It!

Timmy speeds off, disappointed he didn't get to see a dead  
 body. Give it time, Timmy. Give it time.

EXT. SCHWINN CAMP

An older woman stands in a country music T-Shirt with the  
 sleeves cut into a tank-top outside her camper. Her dirty  
 sweatpants say JUICY on the ass.

This is CHERRI-LYNN SCHWINN (60s, white, female).

She drinks from a TALLBOY BEER CAN and squints into the sun.  
 Nearby, a small dog runs around, yapping.

CHERRI-LYNN  
 C'mon, Mitzie. Don't be loud now.

The little dog continues to yap. It's now focused on the  
 nearby woods at the edge of her camp.

Two eyes glint through the brush. Is this the Death Hog,  
 about to strike?

Mitzie continues to bark.

The eyes stare. A painful howl screams out from the woods and  
 Mitzie jumps back.

Mitzie whimpers and runs to Cherri-Lynn, who settles into a  
 camp chair and lights a cigarette.

CHERRI-LYNN (CONT'D)  
 Good girl.

EXT. WOODS

We see Cherri-Lynn seated far in the background as a huge HOG  
 SILHOUETTE drags a MOUNTAIN LION CARCASS away.

EXT. CAMP ROAD

Micah and Lukas walk up to the Schwinn camp.

MICAH

Hey, mama.

CHERRI-LYNN

Hey yerself. Where you two  
knuckleheads at all day?

LUKAS

Down at Vance's, shot a six-point.

CHERRI-LYNN

Bullshit.

MICAH

Alright, prob'ly more like three.

CHERRI-LYNN

Prob'ly a spike, knowing you two.  
You hear that cat a minute ago?

MICAH

Yeah, better watch yourself.

CHERRI-LYNN

Oh, Micah Mouse, don't you worry  
about me. I got Mitzie.

LUKAS

Mitzie's barely a snack, ma. What's  
she gonna do, yap some mountain  
lion to death?

CHERRI-LYNN

She's fierce. Don't listen to him,  
you're a fierce little Mitzie...

(to Micah)

He around today?

MICAH

He's been at camp damn near three  
months straight, mama. Just go say  
hello.

Cherri-Lynn finishes her cig.

CHERRI-LYNN

He could walk over here, too.  
Sides, he's got company in this  
weekend, I hear.

LUKAS

If you heard that, why you asking us?

MICAH

Jeep got a flat, mama. It's up at the gutpile. We'll be back later to deal with it.

CHERRI-LYNN

Why don't y'all bring me some meat off what y'all shot?

LUKAS

Why don't you just come to Dad's later and we'll cook it up for supper?

She looks uncertain.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Just show up, mama. It's family.

MICAH

Pop mighta asked about you.

Lukas shoots him a look.

CHERRI-LYNN

Did he now?

MICAH

Yeah, he mighta said something about you bringing some of that coleslaw for tonight.

Cherri-Lynn thinks a moment.

CHERRI-LYNN

Shit. I don't know if I have everything for it. I'll see what I can do, Micah Mouse.

MICAH

Okay, mama. Love you.

They walk on. Lukas looks at Micah once they're out of earshot.

LUKAS

M-I-C... See you real soon! A-H-Y? Why? Because you're mama's baaaaby...

Micah punches his brother in the shoulder.

                  LUKAS (CONT'D)  
And when did you hear dad say any  
of that?

                  MICAH  
He mighta said all of it. Y'know...  
if we'd asked. You don't know.

They walk on.

INT. CARVER CAMP

Lacey shows Katie old family pictures on the walls in the camp trailer. We see Vance Sr. and Jr., Lukas, Micah, a woman we have to assume is their mom, and in one photo, CHERRI-LYNN.

                  KATIE  
Who's that?

                  LACEY  
That's Micah and Lukas' mom.

                  KATIE  
Memaw's not their mom?

                  LACEY  
Uncle Lukas and your dad have the  
same dad, your grandpa.

Katie nods.

                  LACEY (CONT'D)  
But Grandpa had Uncle Lukas  
with another mom, Cherri-Lynn. And  
Cherri-Lynn had Micah with another  
dad. So they're all still brothers.  
Make sense?

Katie stares, then slowly nods yes.

                  KATIE  
Nope.

                  LACEY  
Yeah, I get it, honey.

Vances Jr. and Sr. storm into the room. Vance Sr. is essentially fleeing from Junior and the Oncology Envelope in his hand.

VANCE SR.

Can't believe you're goin' through my mail.

VANCE JR.

When's the last time you even went to the house, Dad? The mailbox was so stuffed I can't believe they were still delivering it.

VANCE SR.

Plenty to do out here.

Vance Jr. waves the envelope.

VANCE JR.

Plenty to avoid, too. When did you first go to the doctor?

Vance Sr. looks off, ignoring his son.

Katie runs around the table like an airplane.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

Katie, why don't you go outside and play. Grandpa and Dad need to talk grown-up talk a minute.

Lacey stands just outside the living room, listening. She nods to Katie to go outside.

Katie flies out the door making airplane noises.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

Answer me, Dad. When did you first see the doctor?

VANCE SR.

Eh, bout two years.

VANCE JR.

Why? What happened?

VANCE SR.

I was shittin' blood, if you must to know. Finally got bad, so I went to the doc.

VANCE JR.

Finally got bad? Jesus Christ, dad. How long was the ass-bleeding NOT bad?

VANCE SR.  
Eh, bout two years.

VANCE JR.  
So FOUR YEARS total??

VANCE SR.  
I was in the shower, and it was just running down my legs, so I finally went and paid some fuck to tell me what I already knew.

VANCE JR.  
Dad. Stop.

VANCE SR.  
You asked.

VANCE JR.  
What did the doc say?

VANCE SR.  
Said it was pretty bad to shit blood in the shower.

VANCE JR.  
About treatment options.

VANCE SR.  
Scrawny little fuckwit talked about radiating me half to death, cuttin' out my guts, bunch of other shit. I grabbed him by the collar and told him where he could stick it.

VANCE JR.  
Of course you did. God damn it, dad.

VANCE SR.  
What're the ladies saying now? My body my choice?

VANCE JR.  
Different issue entirely. Wait.

He stands up.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)  
(in shock)  
Fuck. Four years. So mom knew?

Vance Sr. looks away.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)  
DID. MOM. KNOW??

Lacey walks up and puts her hand on her husband's shoulder.

LACEY  
Go outside and get some air, honey.  
Lemme talk to him a minute.

Vance Jr. heads outside. Lacey watches as he leaves.

VANCE SR.  
Lacey, you're looking better and  
better every-

The door shuts behind Vance Jr.

LACEY  
Can it, old man.

Vance Sr. shuts up.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Vance has been torn up about this  
since finding that letter from the  
oncology doctor. Spinning himself  
out trying to understand why you  
wouldn't say anything, trying to  
figure out if you're doing  
treatment...

VANCE SR.  
He coulda just asked...

LACEY  
Don't give me that. I thought  
losing his mom would kill him, but  
he came through okay. You, on the  
other hand, been out here hiding  
from grief, from family... from  
your own damn cancer.

Vance Sr. is angry, but doesn't move.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Because I love your son, I agreed  
to spend a long weekend up here in  
this Klan rally abattoir y'all call  
a deer lease. So you're gonna walk  
me through exactly what information  
you got from the doctor and stop  
this bed-down-and-die bullshit.

VANCE SR.  
 Jesus, you remind me of Pam.

LACEY  
 Someone fucking needs to.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

Katie is outside watching the adults. Instead of a skinned deer, this time it's a family shouting match.

Micah and Lukas stand there as Vance Jr. lectures.

VANCE JR.  
 ...let him SHIT BLOOD for damn near four years!!

LUKAS  
 Hey, man. Little pitchers.

He nods at Katie.

VANCE JR.  
 Don't you tell me how mad to be at you! I'm sick and fuckin' tired of being told how to act by y'all. You should have MADE him go to the doctor! He's our dad for Christ's sake!

LUKAS  
 You know damn well only one person on this planet could make dad do something he didn't want to do.

VANCE JR.  
 I don't need a reminder from you that she's gone. She was MY mom.

MICAH  
 Hey, let's just calm down for a sec.

VANCE JR.  
 Stay outta this Micah. I am sick of you playing protector.

MICAH  
 That's what brothers do. And y'all are my brothers.

VANCE JR.

No.

(points between himself  
and Lukas)

WE are brothers.

(points between Micah and  
Lukas)

YOU are brothers.

(he walks up to Micah)

You and I are NOTHING. We were just  
stuck together cause you didn't  
have a dad of your own.

Micah looks visibly hurt by this.

Lukas lets out a long whistle into the silence, then walks  
purposefully to the trailer. He goes inside. We hear the door  
slam shut.

No one speaks.

Lukas bursts out of the trailer door and stomps back to where  
Vance Jr. stands. In one hand, Lukas holds an egg. In the  
other, 4 metal throwing stars.

He throws the egg down at Vance Jr.'s feet, where it breaks  
on the ground.

LUKAS

Egg Knee Kyle.

VANCE JR.

No.

LUKAS

Don't make me get another egg.

VANCE JR.

(overly serious)

Do you realize the gravity of what  
you've just done?

KATIE

(from offscreen)

I don't!

MICAH

You can't refuse, Vanc-

VANCE JR.

I know the rules.

LUKAS

Egg Knee Kyle, then, bitch. Sorry, Katie.

KATIE

That's okay. What's egg knee kyle?

VANCE JR.

It's a game we used to play when we were kids.

MICAH

It's an honor duel from a cartoon we liked.

LUKAS

It's a sacred court where the questions of the universe are settled.

VANCE JR.

Questions of the... last time we played, we settled which of us could ask out... dammit.

MICAH

Denise Huxtable.

VANCE JR.

Right. How'd the universe handle that?

MICAH

She did not answer our letter. In fairness, she was a lot older than us at the time. And you know... fictional.

LUKAS

Quit stalling. I've got the throwing stars. Get the toilet seats and the cornhole bags and meet me at the King of Trees.

MICAH

(sighing in resignation)  
I'll go dig up the Trophy Beer. C'mon, Katie. We'll need to get some crawdads together in case they go into sudden death.

KATIE

What?

They walk out of earshot.

VANCE JR.

Where are the seats and stuff?

LUKAS

Where you put them last time.

VANCE JR.

That was... Jesus. Decades.

LUKAS

Yep.

Vance Jr. stares at Lukas a moment, seeing if he's really going to go through with this childhood ritual. Lukas doesn't flinch.

Vance Jr. walks away.

EXT. WOODS - THE KING OF TREES

Lukas and Vance Jr. stand away from the largest tree in this area. It's a tall, stout tree, with a jutting knot upon which they've hung a toilet seat.

Vance Jr. is holds metal throwing stars, while Lukas holds several beanbags.

Vance throws a star. It bounces off the tree. At the same time, Lukas throws a beanbag and hits Vance Jr. in the chest.

VANCE JR.

They don't stick in the wood, man!  
They didn't when we were kids, and  
they're worse now!!

LUKAS

You picked 'em out.

VANCE JR.

It was a parking lot carnival  
prize, Luke. We were 10. They were  
throwing stars. I wasn't judging on  
the craftsmanship.

He throws again. Lukas nails him in the face with a beanbag. The star bounces off the tree harmlessly.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

Damn it, man, stop! I have one more  
star!

He turns and mock-throws it at Lukas.

LUKAS

It'd hurt less than what you said  
to Micah.

Vance Jr. drops the star.

VANCE JR.

I shouldn't have said that. You  
know I didn't mean it.

LUKAS

Say it to him later.

VANCE JR.

I'm just torn up about this  
whole...

LUKAS

Man, I know. I know.

Lukas picks up a toilet seat and begins to line up his shot  
at an old weathervane sticking out of the ground nearby.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

He hid it from me until about a  
month ago, when Micah and I got him  
pretty ripped on tequila and he let  
it slip.

Lukas throws the toilet seat like a horseshoe and it spins  
around the weathervane.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Next morning when we asked, he  
forgot he'd even told us. If not  
for Jose Cuervo, I think he woulda  
just keeled over in a few months  
and none of us would know why.

VANCE JR.

Months? Seriously?

Lukas picks up another toilet seat.

LUKAS

I don't know. You grabbing his mail  
is the best lead anybody has. All  
other doctor info is filtered  
through him. And he's...

VANCE JR.

Unreliable?

LUKAS  
I was just gonna say 'a god-damn  
liar'.

VANCE JR.  
Yeah. But he's our liar.

LUKAS  
Yep.

Lukas throws the next toilet seat at a graffitied deer crossing sign. He hits it causing the sign to spin.

VANCE JR.  
Lacey is in there with him. Maybe  
she'll get some info.

LUKAS  
He is pretty scared of her.

VANCE JR.  
Yep.

Lukas hands Vance Jr. a toilet seat.

LUKAS  
You gonna throw?

Vance Jr. throws the toilet seat and hits an old mailbox. The mailbox falls open and bunch of old Carver junk mail falls out.

VANCE JR.  
Postal points! And it landed  
catalogue side up, making this a  
Pottery Barn-burner!

LUKAS  
Dammit!

Lukas grabs a plastic bottle of Ronsonol fuel that's on the ground nearby and begins to walk to the mailbox.

INT. PORCIDYNE RESEARCH OFFICE

Dr. Liang stands in her office, looking at a map of the area on her desk. Pete pops in the door.

PETE  
A-yi? Your... uh. Your mercenaries  
are here.

Dr. Liang shoots him a look.

He steps into her office and shuts the door.

Dr. Liang cocks an eyebrow at the intrusion.

DR. LIANG

What?

PETE

I still think we need to let Mike's wife know. Her name is Pam, she's...

DR. LIANG

That was your father's side.

PETE

I mean, yeah. Which is half of me. I mean, Mike and I grew up together. And after mom died, you know, and dad gone now...

Dr. Liang stares at him with open contempt for the display of emotions.

DR. LIANG

Stop your crying.

He looks up, stunned.

PETE

What is wrong with you? Doesn't your family mean anything?

DR. LIANG

Porcidyne is a family. Family with purpose, that doesn't come whining to you when it can't get the job done. A family with consequences, and competence.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

It's like I said at your mother's funeral...

PETE

You weren't at my mother's funeral.

DR. LIANG

And what did that say?

She walks out.

EXT. PORCIDYNE RESEARCH LOT - MOMENTS LATER

PORCIDYNE STAFFERS finish mending the fence, then walk uneasily around the GROUP OF BLACK-CLAD MERCENARIES standing in the parking lot.

The Mercs are checking their rifles and racking rounds into chambers, preparing for a fight.

One man is bare-faced among them. MARC MERCER (40s, black, male) stands away from the men, a pistol on his hip.

Dr. Liang walks up to the unmasked man.

DR. LIANG

No. No, no, no. We're taking it alive. Tranquilizers only.

Mercer checks her face against a photo on his phone, then nods to his men.

MARC MERCER

You heard the boss. Tranq only. Swap 'em out.

The men are already gone, efficient as hell. They return in moments with different rifles.

PETE

We may be a little short on tranq rounds, Doc.

The Mercs shake their heads. Marc turns to Pete.

MARC MERCER

You got enough knock-out shots here to put an elephant down. Unless we're trying to stop the Hulk...

Pete starts to reply, but Liang cuts him off.

DR. LIANG

We should have enough for a single encounter with the specimen. Hopefully you are more competent than my current staff.

Dr. Liang notices Mercer's holstered pistol.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

And won't have to resort to the cannon you have strapped to your thigh?

MARC MERCER  
Don't worry. That's not for your  
little science project.

PETE  
What's it for?

He gives a wink.

MARC MERCER  
Witnesses.

Pete looks horrified.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)  
(laughs)  
Just kidding. Just a little merc  
humor for ya. Lighten up bud. So,  
what's the target, exactly? The  
info you sent says you lost a lab  
animal.

DR. LIANG  
I'm not at liberty to divulge  
information about the exact  
genetics of the subject. It's a  
quadruped mammal with an expected  
home range of nearly 5 miles. It's  
going to be hungry. It's going to  
be dominant. It's going to kill.

PETE  
(giving Liang a side-eye)  
It already has.

Dr. Liang glares.

DR. LIANG  
Let's get to a secure room and  
discuss the more SENSITIVE details.

EXT. WOODS

Micah and Katie sit on the ground in the woods. Micah's hands are covered in dirt. Next to him is a dirt-caked unopened can of beer that looks to be 10 years old if it's a day. Next to that is a small hole where the beer must have been.

Micah also has some bacon, some string, and a mason jar.

KATIE  
That's the trophy?

MICAH

For the loser. They have to drink it.

KATIE

Eww. Beer is gross.

MICAH

The loser would have to steal two beers, bury one and give one to the winner. Then the loser had to toast the winner and drink the beer we buried last time.

KATIE

Life before screentime sounds sad.

Micah ties a piece of raw bacon to the end of some string and lowers the meat into a small muddy hole in the ground.

MICAH

Well, it had its perks, like craw dad fishin!

Katie stares intently, like any little kid learning about the weirdness of the woods.

KATIE

So, who is craw's dad?

MICAH

City-kid. Craw-Dads are the tiniest little greedy monsters you ever did see. Do you like bacon?

KATIE

Yeah!

MICAH

Well, so do craw-dads...

In a moment, the string jerks, and Micah pulls the mudbug out of his hole and tosses him in the mason jar brought just for this purpose.

MICAH (CONT'D)

There ya go, kid. Your very own monster.

KATIE

Wow! Why don't they just let go of the bacon?

MICAH

Too greedy for that sweet salty goodness. Leaves 'em blind to everything else. Even if it hurts them. People can get like that too sometimes. Sink their teeth into something and can't let it go...

KATIE

Like when I was too busy licking the cookie jar to notice Mommy behind me.

MICAH

You say you were "licking the jar"?

KATIE

So all the cookies in the future would be mine too.

(tapping her temple with her finger)

Smartest Katecrime yet.

MICAH

You're a weird kid, you know that?

Katie is weirdly excited and takes this as a compliment.

KATIE

Thanks, Uncah Micah!

MICAH

You called me uncle?

KATIE

Why not? It's what daddy always calls you.

Micah looks very touched by this revelation.

MICAH

You stay here and try and catch another one. We'll need at least two for the trial by combat if your Dad manages to stick one of those stars.

KATIE

Ya'll are weirder than the kids at school.

MICAH

Probably so.

KATIE

I think it's cool.

Micah smiles.

MICAH

You stay here and catch a second one, okay? I'll be right back.

Micah walks away, far out of sight of Katie. He finds a tree and unzips.

We see the STREAM OF URINE between his legs from behind as he relieves himself.

RED EYES appear in the shadows nearby. A RUSTLING NOISE makes Micah turn his head.

MICAH (CONT'D)

Katie, go play somewhere else, this part of the woods is 'occupado'.

The rustling gets louder. Too big to be Katie.

MICAH (CONT'D)

Lukas? I will piss on you, you keep fuckin' around... lucky you ain't been shot, sneakin' on people in the woods...

The RED EYES glint in the shadows behind him. STEAMING BREATH rises around FLARED HOG NOSTRILS.

MICAH (CONT'D)

Hey man, this ain't funny.

The hog breaks cover, charging him. Micah SCREAMS and runs, his pants still around his ankles, piss flying like a sprinkler. We cut in tight as the hog hits him.

Arcs of blood spray against the sky as Micah SCREAMS.

EXT. WOODS

Katie pulls out a crawdad on a string.

KATIE

Uncah Micah! I got one! Now what do I do!

Katie looks closely at the mean little monster on the end of her string, and we get a good view of the pinchers.

Katie's crawdad reverie is broken by Micah's SCREAM.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Uncah Micah?

She runs towards the noise, stick in hand with craw-dad still attached. She slips and falls, landing in something warm and squishy. She drops the stick and string as she lifts her palms.

They're covered in blood.

Micah is on the ground ahead of her, flat on his stomach, one bare leg in the Death Hog's jaws. He looks at his niece.

MICAH

KATIE RUN!

The hog tosses Micah away by the leg.

Katie tries to scream, but no sound escapes. Terrified, she looks up into the DEATH HOG'S EYES. She grabs the crawdad stick and throws it at the hog.

We see a close up as the crawdad hits near the hog's eye and the tiny pincher grabs hold of the hide. The hog squeals and tries to shake the crawdad off, giving Katie enough time to scramble to her feet and run blindly into the woods.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

The camp is calm. Cherri-Lynn walks up carrying her WORLD FAMOUS COLESLAW. Mitzie runs around behind her, barking.

Lacey steps out of the trailer.

LACEY

Hey, Cherri-Lynn. What have you got there?

CHERRI-LYNN

Lacey! Haven't seen you in a minute.

LACEY

Always good to see you and little Mitzie. What brings you here?

CHERRI-LYNN

Micah told me the old man was asking about my World Famous Coleslaw for dinner tonight.

LACEY

Did he now?

Lacey looks towards the trailer, putting two and two together and realizing Micah's attempt at helping his father.

LACEY (CONT'D)

That Micah is a good egg. You raised him right. I could use some advice. This last year with Katie has been straight hell. All she wants to do is get herself in some kinda shenanigans.

CHERRI-LYNN

Oh, don't you think for a second Micah didn't get into his own fair share of trouble. I'm sure your husband has plenty of stories about Micah taking the heat for THEIR shenanigans. But none of them were angels.

LACEY

Oh, I'm sure.

CHERRI-LYNN

Gettin' outta trouble or goin' looking for it, makes no difference. As long as they were doin it together.

Vance Sr. steps outside. He's startled to see Cherri-Lynn.

LACEY

Hey, old man! Look who walked over from her place!

Vance Sr. is clearly uncomfortable with his ex standing there, but in a sheepish manner.

VANCE SR.

Hey, Cherri-Lynn. You, uh... What. Yes. Coleslaw?

Lacey looks at him.

LACEY

Are you having a stroke? I've seen your X-Rays, that could happen.

She smiles as he squirms.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Micah was sweet enough to give her  
your invite to dinner. You  
remember.

She turns to Cherri-Lynn.

LACEY (CONT'D)

He's been talking about seeing you  
all day. Tell Cherri-Lynn all the  
nice things you were telling me  
earlier.

Cherri-Lynn is beaming expectantly. Vance Sr. looks like he's  
about to die.

Micah's SCREAM cuts the tension.

Cherri-Lynn drops the casserole dish on the ground. Her eyes  
are wide as she recognizes the voice that screamed.

CHERRI-LYNN

MICAH MOUSE!

Vance Sr. takes off toward the noise.

Lacey looks around.

LACEY

KATIE!!

She and Cherri-Lynn take off, following Vance Sr. into the  
woods.

EXT. WOODS - THE KING OF TREES

Vance Jr. and Lukas drop the plungers they are balancing on  
the palms of their hands, causing the condoms filled like  
water balloons to fall and break.

The brothers yell in unison.

LUKAS

VANCE JR.

Micah!

Micah!

Vance Jr. looks at Lukas, terrified.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

Katie.

They take off running toward the sound.

EXT. WOODS

The guys find Micah's mangled body, his pants nearby.

VANCE JR.

Oh my God!

They both mourn over their fallen brother for a moment.

Suddenly, Micah jerks with a groan and coughs blood!

LUKAS

Holy Fuck-mothering shit!! He's  
alive!

Lacey runs up.

LACEY

I can't find Katie anywh- Oh my  
God! What happened?!

She jumps in to check Micah's vitals and assess the  
situation.

VANCE JR.

Don't know, we just found him like  
this.

LACEY

Pantsless?

Vance Sr., slightly out of breath, finally joins the group.  
Cherri-Lynn arrives behind him by a few paces.

VANCE SR.

Holy Shit-mothering Fuck!

He turns and immediately stops Cherri-Lynn from walking up.

LACEY

God, I think these are bite marks  
in his leg. We need to move him  
somewhere I can work on him.

She gets out her phone and looks for a signal again.

LACEY (CONT'D)

We also need to get to a radio to  
call an ambulance.

LUKAS

Game Warden, too, if there's  
something out here fuckin' eating  
people.

VANCE JR.

Okay. Dad, help Lacey get Micah back to camp and call for help. Lukas, you're with me.

LUKAS

And what are WE doing?

VANCE JR.

The fuck else? Finding Katie!

He quickly shares a moment with Lacey.

LACEY

I'll save your brother and you find our daughter. Deal?

VANCE JR.

Deal.

Vance Jr. turns to run into the woods with Lukas.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

(over his shoulder while leaving)

And don't worry, probably just a feral hog defending its litter. It'll be as scared of Katie as she is of it.

Lacey is working on Micah and not paying attention at first to what Vance said.

LACEY

Okay hone- Wait. A What-Hog??

INT. PORCIDYNE RESEARCH WAR ROOM

Dr. Liang uses a small remote to run a presentation on a wall screen. It shows several documents, scans of paperwork that are almost entirely redacted. She breezes past the first few slides.

DR. LIANG

So, as you can see, most of this information is need-to-know.

MARC MERCER

I'd say hunting it qualifies us.

DR. LIANG

Porcidyne disagrees.

MARC MERCER

But how long did it take to make that presentation? There's no info. Just... why even make it?

DR. LIANG

You get the picture. It's a large animal. Tranq guns only. Bring it back alive.

Pete sighs, exasperated.

PETE

It's a genetically altered monster hog weighing damn near a ton.

Dr. Liang shoots him a glare.

DR. LIANG

That's ENOUGH.

PETE

What? They "signed the same paperwork as us", right?  
(to Marc)  
Bigger than Jesus. Meaner than God.  
Mutant pig.

MARC MERCER

Those technical terms?

DR. LIANG

This is all classified. But he's right.

MARC MERCER

Okay. So, a feral hog. Eurasian? Hybrid?

PETE

Man, it's the size of a Bradley. I don't think 'feral' covers it.

MARC MERCER

Y'all give it some kinda virus, anything we should worry about?

Liang shoots Pete a look that would wither crops.

PETE

At least tell 'em about the titanium legs.

MARC MERCER

Wait. WHAT?

DR. LIANG

Hips. They're titanium hips. Same as all replacement hips, same as your grandmother's. Bigger, sure.

PETE

Legs like an AT-AT. Full-on Empire shit.

DR. LIANG

I challenge any of you to make a hog weigh over a ton and not replace the hip joints and legs. I mean that's just ridiculous.

PETE

Three-foot-long lower tusks sharp enough to pierce a car door...

DR. LIANG

Pshaw. A consumer sedan, maybe.

PETE

...and the indestructible skin.

DR. LIANG

OK, just stop. It's not INDESTRUCTIBLE, it's a combination of leather and matted hair that meets Level III NIJ armor requirements. Steel core longrifle ammo would tear right through like paper.

Pete gestures, resting his case.

Marc Mercer whistles quietly through his teeth, absorbing the info.

MARC MERCER

Jesus, lady. That's some pig.

DR. LIANG

Look, I'm not going to apologize for being good at my job. If you are going to stake your career on weaponizing biology, the hog is the only logical choice. They can adapt to almost any environment. Anything and everything is an available food source to them!

(MORE)

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

The Spanish used to just leave two on an island and knew that when they came back in a year, there would be thriving pig population. To top it off, they are surprisingly intelligent. They sure as shit put dogs to shame, trust me. You make a dog more than half a ton, and... just no. Let's just say the author of Clifford doesn't know what they are talking about.

MARC MERCER

Hey. Put some respect on Norman Bridwell's name. Love that dog.

DR. LIANG

Well you'll love this pig, then.

PETE

Yeah, I bet Cousin Mike loved it.

DR. LIANG

YOUR Cousin. No blood of mine.

PETE

Yeah. His was warm.

Some of the mercs in the background are watching this like sassy high school girls. One give an "Ohhhhhh".

MARC MERCER

(taking charge of the conversation)

Speaking of collateral damage, How many civilians we got in the area?

PETE

There's at least a dozen hunting camps that border this facility. It's late in the season, but still could be 25, maybe 40 people down the hill.

MARC MERCER

(to Pete)

We got a detailed map of the lease?

Pete shakes his head no.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)

Alright then. We'll start outside the fence and look for sign.

(MORE)

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)  
 Follow what we can, and assume we  
 have this spot as our center. Got  
 it?

The men give a YES SIR in response and file out of the room.

He looks at Dr. Liang and Pete.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)  
 You two are with me.

Marc Mercer grabs the last Merc leaving the room.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)  
 Lt. Lemiere. Bring the truck  
 around. We'll need the winch to  
 drag this thing back when we find  
 it.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

Lacey is tending to Micah. Cherri-Lynn stands nearby.

Cherri-Lynn is showing Lacey pictures of feral hogs on her  
 phone. One is winched to a pick-up truck.

LACEY  
 Those can't be real.

CHERRI-LYNN  
 They're real, alright. I don't go  
 to the gut-pile if I can help it,  
 but when I do, I carry a sidearm.  
 Had to put 6 rounds into the  
 forehead of one just last year.

LACEY  
 You have to be messing with me.

Lacey glances at the pictures as she works on Micah.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
 So you just live out here with  
 straight-up monsters then?

Vance Sr. steps out the door and into the conversation.

VANCE SR.  
 I prefer to think they're living  
 out here with us.

He sets down a heavy Walkie-Talkie type handset.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

Hey Lace, I got through to the game warden on my radio. She's out here already, should be by aye-sap. She said an ambulance is on its way.

LACEY

Well that's good news at least.

Cherri-Lynn puts an unlit cigarette in her mouth.

VANCE SR.

Cherri-Lynn.

CHERRI-LYNN

Vance.

VANCE SR.

How's Micah?

LACEY

Working on it. Give me some room, okay?

Cherri-Lynn leads Vance Sr. to some chairs on the porch. They sit, but don't relax.

VANCE SR.

He's tough. And Lacey's a smart one.

CHERRI-LYNN

I know.

She lights her cigarette.

CHERRI-LYNN (CONT'D)

So, how did your family take the news?

VANCE SR.

News about what?

CHERRI-LYNN

The cancer.

Vance Sr. jerks away, sitting upright.

VANCE SR.

The fuck? How do you know about that?

CHERRI-LYNN

Pam and I talked on the regular,  
dummy.

VANCE SR.

Of course you did.

CHERRI-LYNN

It was 30 years ago, Vance. Y'all  
were separated. She was mad then,  
sure, we all were. But come on.  
Lukas, Micah and Junior basically  
grew up as triplets. You're the  
only one being weird about it  
still. For the rest of us it was  
water under a burnt bridge.

VANCE SR.

So y'all talked about my, uh...  
the...

CHERRI-LYNN

She was pretty worried. Not that  
you couldn't do it, but that if she  
got sicker, you'd crater. Shame to  
see her proven right.

VANCE SR.

Fuck off. I lost the love of my  
life. Didn't see the point in doing  
a bunch of bullshit just to be  
alone.

Cherri-Lynn flinches, hurt by the statement.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

Sorry.

She looks at Micah and Lacey a moment, then looks away and  
wipes her eyes.

CHERRI-LYNN

Anyway. I got a kid over there  
dying that you pretty much raised,  
and you got two more looking for  
your grandkid, but sure. When they  
get back you be sure to tell them  
they ain't worth living for.

VANCE SR.

Jesus, Cherri-Lynn.

CHERRI-LYNN

Jesus, yourself. If Pam were here, she woulda put a boot up your ass far enough to kick the cancer out of you, but since she's gone, I'll step up. You tell those kids everything, tonight, and then you lean on the people who love you and you get through this.

VANCE SR.

And then what?

CHERRI-LYNN

And then you take me out to dinner as a thank-you.

VANCE SR.

Wouldn't think I'm very good company.

The Game Warden's SUV pulls up.

CHERRI-LYNN

(getting up from porch)

Well, I've heard Chemo changes people's whole personality. I figure we can roll the dice. Yours can't get shittier.

Tessa and Michaels get out of SUV. Michaels opens the back door and helps the recently-widowed Mrs. Whitney and the newly-orphaned deer-blind kid out of the backseat.

The Kid snuffles, trying not to cry. Mrs. Whitney holds a lighter and an unlit cigarette like a lifeline.

TESSA

Mrs. Whitney, you just sit over there a minute and... smoke, I guess.

Mrs. Whitney nods and starts to light her smoke as she finds a seat. The Kid follows the old woman, sitting down next to her. She doesn't notice.

Lacey looks over to see the Warden and Deputy.

LACEY

Oh, thank god. We have to get him to a hospital, and my husband and his brother are out looking for our daughter.

TESSA  
Lukas is helping? First time for  
everything.

Micah stirs.

MICAH  
Mama?

CHERRI-LYNN  
(to Micah)  
Oh, Micah Mouse...

LACEY  
Stay still, you're pretty banged  
up.

Tessa approaches Micah, her professional demeanor taking  
over.

TESSA  
We need to know what did this. Tell  
us what happened.

LACEY  
Where's Katie?

MICAH  
Giant hog, some kind of demon  
fucking pig beast...

He looks around.

MICAH (CONT'D)  
Katie!! I told her to run, did you  
find... her...

Micah passes out again. Lacey and Cherri-Lynn soothe him.  
Tessa pulls out her radio and walks away.

EXT. METH SHED

We see the Meth Shed, an abandoned-looking wooden shack. Ten  
years ago, a new coat of paint would have helped. Now, the  
place can only be salvaged by a match and some gasoline.

INT. METH SHED

Ned stands inside, still shaking from fear and adrenaline.  
Stolen PORCIDYNE goods lay about the cabin. He clutches one  
Tranquilizer Pistol in his hand.

Ned sits down on a wooden stool as the shock sets in.

NED  
Aw, Seth, man...

He starts to cry. Ned looks at the stolen goods with fury.

NED (CONT'D)  
STUPID BULLSHIT!

Ned throws the tranq pistol away. It hits the ground and goes off. The dart hits Ned in the neck and he slumps over instantly, still on the stool. We can see the door of the cabin behind him.

After a beat we hear a knock on the door.

KATIE (O.S.)  
Hello?

The door opens. We see Katie in silhouette in the doorway.

We move to Katie's perspective as she sees Ned asleep on the stool.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Mister? I'm lost and I need an adult.

Ned groans and mumbles in his sleep.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Do you need an adult?

Ned slumps a bit further, moving over his center of balance. He hits the floor hard and continues to sleep.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
I'll go find us an adult.

EXT. WOODS

Vance Jr. and Lukas look for Katie. Lukas is bent down examining some tracks.

LUKAS  
Well, good news is that looks like whatever got Micah didn't follow Katie. I only see her tracks. Bad news is it looks like she is heading towards Ned's property.

VANCE JR.

Meth Ned?!

LUKAS

The very same. And no, that particular moniker has not become ironic since you left.

VANCE JR.

So instead of running away from whatever the fuck got Micah, she's running toward a meth lab. Great! That's just great!

Vance takes a moment to vent his frustration as Lukas looks pensive.

LUKAS

You think Lacey can fix Micah?

Vance sees his brother needs reassurance.

VANCE JR.

Hey. He's gonna be okay. I'm not gonna lie, his roller-skating days may be behind him, but there ain't nothing or nobody Lacey can't stitch back together.

LUKAS

It was pretty hot how "take charge" she was back there.

VANCE JR.

That was also not lost on me.

LUKAS

Reminds me of mom.

VANCE JR.

Oh my God! Why?!

LUKAS

What? Shit no, not the hotness. The take-chargeness. Though that's probably why we both find it so attract-

Vance puts his fingers in his ears.

VANCE JR.

La la la la la la!

LUKAS

Fine.

VANCE JR.

Seriously, man, we were having a moment and you ruined it.

LUKAS

We're still having a moment. Not my fault you are uncomfortable with intimacy. You tried therapy? It's good stuff, man.

VANCE JR.

(yelling over his brother)

I'm not uncomfortable with intimacy! I AM in therapy! I can't believe YOU'RE in therapy!

EXT. CAMP ROAD - DAY

The road is serene between the tall pines, then we hear the approach of a FOUR-WHEELER. We see Timmy Hester crest the horizon and bear down on us, laughing and enjoying his ride.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

The DEATH-HOG tears apart some carrion, then looks up at the sound of the FOUR-WHEELER and SNIFFS THE AIR.

EXT. CAMP ROAD

Timmy Hester guns the four-wheeler and gives a wild shout of joy as he listens to "WAR PIGS" on headphones. Even in the wind of his ride, he sniffs himself and sneers.

The scent bait is pretty rank.

Behind him, we see the Death-Hog burst out of the trees and give chase.

Timmy turns while riding and sees the Hog. He faces forward, eyes wide, and lays on the throttle. He looks back again and again as he reaches an intersection of the trail and a wider dirt road.

The Death Hog gains on Timmy, charging up behind him in slow motion. The music blasts. DUN-DUN! DUN DUN DUUUUUUUUN!

Ahead of Timmy, red lights flash faintly. Without stopping, he flies through the turn! OH LORD NOW!

An AMBULANCE strikes him!

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

The ambulance driver screams and jerks the wheel as they hit Timmy and flip their vehicle sideways.

EXT. CAMP ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

The Ambulance is on its side, wheel turning. Ahead of it, the ATV is mangled. Ahead of that, Timmy is mangled.

The Death Hog walks up, sniffs, then turns and walks away.

EXT. CAMP GATE ROAD - DAY

Black SUVs pull up to the pipe-rail gate that Vance Jr. closed earlier. A Merc jumps out of the front vehicle and checks the gate. There's a padlock on it.

GATE MERC

Locked, sir!

Marc Mercer leans out of the SUV passenger window.

MARC MERCER

Cut it, then.

The Merc pulls a small hi-tech cutting tool from his utility belt and makes short work of the lock. He moves the gate and the SUVs drive through.

The Merc shuts the gate, and tries to put the broken lock back in place as best he can. It takes a moment.

When he looks up, the driver of the rear SUV is hanging out his window, staring. The driver gives a "what the fuck, man?" glare.

The Merc at the gate shrugs back.

GATE MERC

Just basic decency, man.

He runs back to his SUV and they head into the lease.

INT. MERC SUV

Pete and Liang ride in the same Merc vehicle as Marc Mercer. Pete looks uncomfortable, but Liang looks FOCUSED.

DR. LIANG  
 (to Marc Mercer)  
 Anything?

Marc Mercer ignores her. He holds up his fist out the window.  
 The SUV caravan stops.

MARC MERCER  
 On foot. Let's get a look around.  
 Any sign, radio back.

His radio chirps.

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE  
 (on radio)  
 Yes, sir.

Marc Mercer opens his door to get out.

MARC MERCER  
 (to Liang)  
 Doc, you stay with the vehicles.  
 I'll circle back once we scout the-

DR. LIANG  
 Like hell. I'm with you.

MARC MERCER  
 Suit yourself, then. Keep up.

He and the driver get out of the SUV. Liang opens her door to  
 get out.

Pete grabs Dr. Liang's hand.

PETE  
 A-yi?

She glares at the audacity of his grasp. He lets go.

PETE (CONT'D)  
 Sorry. I just... I need to know  
 that you'll let them kill it if we  
 have to.

DR. LIANG  
 They can't.

PETE  
 I think they have to.

She laughs.

DR. LIANG

You misunderstand, as usual. By 'they can't', I mean 'I'd like to see them try.'

She shuts her car door again. They're alone in the SUV.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

Nothing those men are carrying would be likely to kill it. But, they might damage it and compromise my ongoing studies.

PETE

What did you do to that pig?

DR. LIANG

I made it a god.

She pauses.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

Well, I made it a test case for making humans into gods.

She opens her door and gets out of the vehicle. She turns and talks to Pete, still seated inside.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

Peter. You've always thought too small. You see a pig. The company? They see a protein to sell to a starving country, or an organic bulletproof vest for every soldier. I see a chance to unlock the potential of genetics, for humanity.

PETE

What?

DR. LIANG

Imagine a generation of humans too tough to fail. Unkillable by climate change. Able to survive a nuclear winter. I'm saving humanity.

PETE

You want to do THAT to PEOPLE??

DR. LIANG  
 (quietly)  
 This research could have saved your  
 mother.

That hits Pete like a slap as he sits in the SUV. Liang stands in the open door, watching him.

PETE  
 Do you... do you really think it  
 could've saved... Could help  
 people?

DR. LIANG  
 I do, Peter. But I need you to help  
 me first.

She offers her hand. He accepts it, and gets out of the SUV.

EXT. METH SHED

Vance Jr. and Lukas step out of the woods to find the Meth Shed. The broken windows are open.

They creep up to the door. Lukas peeks in the window and sees Ned slumped on the floor.

LUKAS  
 (whispering)  
 Ned's passed out. Is it locked?

Vance Jr. tries the door. It opens easily. They enter the shed. Lukas leans down and shakes Ned.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
 NED! HEY!! NED!!

NED  
 Piggily Biggily!!

Lukas slaps him.

NED (CONT'D)  
 SETH NO!!!

Lukas slaps him again, unnecessarily.

NED (CONT'D)  
 BIG PIG!

Lukas goes for another slap, but Vance Jr. catches his hand. Lukas mouths 'what??' to his brother.

VANCE JR.  
NED. WAKE THE FUCK UP.

NED  
Fuck, man, damn. What??

VANCE JR.  
You seen a little girl running  
through here?

NED  
A what? No, dude. Fuck.

Lukas slaps him again before Vance can intervene.

NED (CONT'D)  
Stop it!

LUKAS  
Think, you tweaker turd. Little  
girl, bout yay high.  
(gestures height)  
Scared shitless and running through  
the woods. Have you seen her, heard  
her, heard ABOUT her, anything??

NED  
No, dude. I been here since last  
night and I didn't go near that  
facility.

VANCE JR.  
What facility?

NED  
Nothing. I ain't seen no girl.

A voice comes from outside.

MARC MERCER (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
Anyone in the shed, come out. We  
need to talk.

NED  
Fuck! They found me!

Lukas looks around and sees all the PORCIDYNE labels on the  
boxes.

VANCE JR.  
Who the fuck "found you"??

NED  
 Porcidyne, man!! THEM FUCKIN'  
 SCIENCE COPS!

LUKAS  
 God damn it. You thievin' little  
 shit.

Ned gets up and pulls a hidden pistol from under a shelf.

VANCE JR.  
 Jesus, is that a pistol??

NED  
 You won't take me, you fascist  
 fucks!

Ned runs to the window and fires wildly at the approaching  
 mercs.

VANCE JR.  
 (whispering)  
 ARE they fascists?

LUKAS  
 (pulling Vance Jr. down to  
 the floor)  
 Get down. That asshole robbed the  
 lab up the road. That's private  
 security. They don't fuck around.

EXT. METH SHED - MOMENTS LATER

Marc Mercer inspects a bloody rip in his sleeve where a  
 bullet grazed his arm. He pulls his sidearm from his hip,  
 cocks the hammer, and aims at Ned in the window.

MARC MERCER  
 ...fuckin' shoot at me...

Marc fires one shot. Ned's eyes go wide and he starts to  
 move, but it's too late. The bullet finds its target.

INT. METH SHED

Ned's head explodes onto the brothers.

VANCE JR.  
 FU-

EXT. METH SHED

VANCE JR. (O.S.)

-uck!

Pete looks to Dr. Liang, his eyes wide with panic.

Dr. Liang shrugs at Pete, conveying with her expression that the Mercenaries are in charge. Pete looks at Marc Mercer.

PETE

Oh my God! You said you were kidding about witnesses!

MARC MERCER

(not looking at Pete)  
The best comedy is derived from truth.

Marc picks up a bullhorn.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)

(through bullhorn)  
ANYBODY ELSE IN THERE, PUT YOUR WEAPONS DOWN AND COME OUT.

The door swings open.

Vance Jr. and Lukas come out single file, Vance Jr. in the rear, with Lukas holding Ned's corpse in front of them like a shield. Lukas looks through where Ned's head should be.

He holds up Ned's hands in surrender. The mercs flank them.

LUKAS

DON'T SHOOT! DO NOT SHOOT! Look, we are not with him!

VANCE JR.

We are UNARMED! We're just looking for my daughter! We did not shoot at you, so there is NO NEED to shoot us!

Lukas waves Ned's arm, in case there was confusion.

MARC MERCER

Well, can't argue with that logic. Guess the only question is... do I want to shoot you? Lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE

Sir!

MARC MERCER

Do I want to shoot them?

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE

Sir! I believe very much so, Sir!

MARC MERCER

What can I say? The man knows me.

Marc gives the go-ahead motion and one of the mercs shoots tranquilizers at both brothers. They fall sideways as the camera tilts with them and we FADE TO BLACK as they hit the ground.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

The sun is starting to set.

Lacey, Deputy Michaels, Vance Sr. and Cherri-Lynn stand over Micah, who is awake again.

Tessa gets off her radio and walks to the group.

TESSA

No word yet on that ambulance. Tell me more about this pig you saw.

MICAH

A monster. More than a pig, Tess.

Tessa looks at Deputy Michaels.

TESSA

I assumed that kid was talking nonsense earlier in the truck, but damn.

She looks over her shoulder to Mrs. Whitney and the Kid.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Kid! What'd you call it?

The Kid stares off into space.

Tessa turns back to the group.

TESSA (CONT'D)

He called it a Death Hog, I think.

DEPUTY MICHAELS

Yep. Said it was HUGE.

MICAH

It was. Came out of nowhere, bigger than... anything.

VANCE SR.

So a Feral pig, then. What, 300 pounds? Four?

Micah gathers his strength.

MICAH

No. This thing looks like it could shit a 400 pound pig. It's a tank. Tusks as tall as the Jeepus. I was hanging a leak when it hit me hard. Bit the shit outta my leg, flung me a good ways. I think if it hadn'ta thrown me so far, it woulda finished me off.

CHERRI-LYNN

Oh, honey...

MICAH

Shit. That one was my good knee.

TESSA

Guess the other one is the good one now.

VANCE SR.

Only one, likely.

Micah groans in pain and closes his eyes. Cherri-Lynn soothes him.

LACEY

God, they went out into same woods as that thing. What if they find it?? What if it finds Katie?? What-

CHERRI-LYNN

Lacey. I'm scared too, hun. But I tell ya this - I wouldn't want to be the thing between Junior and that little girl. Our boys're tough as nails.

EXT. METH SHED - NIGHT

We sit in total darkness for just a moment, before it's interrupted by a SLAP!!

VANCE JR.  
OW!! Hey! I have a loose crown on  
that side, man.

Marc Mercer stands over the camera, looking at us, his hand  
pulled back for another slap.

MARC MERCER  
Wake up.

LUKAS  
I'm up! Fuck.

We jump out to show him standing over Vance, Jr. and Lukas on  
their butts next to the shed, hands behind their backs.

VANCE JR.  
These cuffs are tight.

MARC MERCER  
They're zip ties, and I don't care.  
Why the fuck did you shoot at us?

VANCE JR.  
What??

LUKAS  
We didn't shoot at you, that was  
Meth Ned.

MARC MERCER  
Well, he's Dead Ned, now. You don't  
shoot at me and live.

VANCE JR.  
Meth Dead?

Lukas thinks about it, then shakes his head no.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)  
Dead Ned, yeah.

LUKAS  
Yeah. First thought, best thought.

MARC MERCER  
HEY!

Marc claps his hands to get the brothers' attention.

LUKAS  
(speaks casually then  
builds into a scream)  
I'm sorry, man.  
(MORE)

LUKAS (CONT'D)

We get like this when we're TIED UP  
AND SCARED SHITLESS!

MARC MERCER

Listen, we have a situation with  
some dangerous exotic wildlife in  
the area, and...

VANCE JR.

Hey, hey. Look... We're just trying  
to find my daughter, sir. If you're  
saying there's some panther or wolf  
or something loose...

PETE

It's more of a giant pig.

MARC MERCER

Shut it, all of you. I'm saying we  
have a situation, and I'm going to  
need your understanding and  
discretion about the accidental  
death of your friend back there...

LUKAS

Nah man, Ned sucked. No harm, no  
foul. Mind cutting us loose now?

MARC MERCER

No.

Marc Mercer walks away.

PETE

Sorry about this, fellas.

DR. LIANG

Don't talk to them, idiot.

PETE

Hey! Rude. They lost their kid.

MARC MERCER

Lt. Lemiere, gimme a check-in. I  
want to be ready with that winch  
and the tranqs when we see it.  
Hogtied and home by dark.

EXT. WOODS

Lieutenant Lemiere patrols the woods.

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE  
Delta squad, this is Delta leader,  
all units check in.

We hear responses over the radio.

\*Delta 1 all clear\*

\*Delta 2 all clear\*

\*Delta 3 all clear\*

\*Delta 4 all clear\*

A tense silence hangs in the air.

\*Delta 6 all clenighar\*

Lt. Lemiere stops short. He hits the radio again.

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE (CONT'D)  
Delta 5 what's your status?

All we hear is static.

He looks through some night vision goggles at where Delta 5 is supposed to be. Sees nothing. He gets on the radio.

EXT. METH SHED

We hear Lt. Lemiere over the radio.

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE  
Boss, we may have a possible  
contact...

MARC MERCER  
Well? Do we or do we not?

EXT. WOODS - NIGHTVISION

We see through Lt. Lemiere's NIGHTVISION as he picks up a blood trail and follows that to a steaming pile of ripped up mercenary.

Someone's going to have to break the news to Mrs. Delta 5 that little Tommy 5 is gonna grow up with no papa.

LIEUTENANT LEMIERE  
My god...

He hears a squeal from the right. The camera turns just in time to see a giant hoof coming towards him as the hog kicks him in the face.

EXT. METH SHED

Lieutenant Lemiere stumbles out of the woods.

His goggles stick out of his face where they're embedded.

A nearby merc sees him staggering around.

MERC 1

Is that the Lieutenant?

He steps closer to get a look, and the hog bursts out of the trees behind Lemiere.

MERC 1 (CONT'D)

Contact! WE HAVE CONTACT!!

He barely gets the words out before the hog charges at him, throwing him into the air.

MARC MERCER

Men, Let 'em have it!

The other Mercs are in motion, unloading tranq darts into the hog.

The Hog thrashes around, fighting the tranquilizer. Finally, it falls unconscious through the Meth Shed wall, half inside the building.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)

Well done boys. Alright, let's hook it up. This little piggy's going wee-wee-wee all the way home.

The mercs begin to hook up the back legs of the hog with metal cable connected to a winch on the back of one of the SUVs.

INT. METH SHED - CONTINUOUS

We see the head of the unconscious Death Hog inside the shed through a broken wall. Some chemicals spilled from Ned's various supplies start to pool in front of it.

CLOSE UP ON HOG NOSE

It starts to sniff the fumes.

CLOSE UP ON HOG EYE

The eye pops open, and the pupil dilates!

It has become... METH HOG!

EXT. METH SHED

The Hog jumps up like a champion fighter! It kicks at the winch cable. The cable snaps and flails around, slicing a Merc in half.

Lukas and Vance Jr. watch him die with wide-eyes and horrified faces.

The brothers get to their feet and keep trying to run, but their hands are still behind their backs, zip tied. They run around aimlessly, constantly re-directed by the chaos around them.

The hog kicks its legs free from the cable, then it tusks one man, hooking him and bouncing him along as it tramples and eats others, finally shaking the corpse off by bashing into one of the merc vehicles, totalling it.

DR. LIANG

TRANQ ONLY! TAKE IT ALIVE!

Liang hides behind one of the SUVs.

A merc looks at her, incredulous at the 'advice' during this firefight. The hog bites him in half while he is distracted. His lower torso stands on it's own for a moment before collapsing.

Vance Jr. sees the open shed door and runs inside.

VANCE JR.

LUKAS!

INT. METH SHED

Lukas follows and drags the door shut behind him. Half the shed is missing, like a box open on one end.

Vance Jr. is on the floor, using a broken piece of glass to cut his tie. Lukas scurries against the wall next to him.

They cut their ties and watch out the open box as violence occasionally crosses through their frame of vision.

Mercs run past the shed. The Hog chases them. A Merc body flies back across the frame with a scream (use Wilhelm).

Vance Jr. notices a PROPANE TANK in the corner of the shed.

VANCE JR.

That's really unsafe indoors.

LUKAS

You should let Ned know.

It gets quiet outside. A MERC BODY is thrown from outside THROUGH the wall of the shed next to the door. The body and the splintered wood barely have time to land when the hog follows, entering the shed.

Lukas grabs the propane tank and opens the valve, then kicks it toward the hog. He grabs Vance's hand and they run from the shed while the hog roots for pieces of dead mercenaries in the destruction.

EXT. METH SHED

Vance and Lukas run from the shed. It's blood and carnage outside. No one is standing.

Lukas pulls his zippo lighter from his pocket, lights it, and throws it into the shed.

It explodes with enough force to knock them off their feet.

EXT. CAMP ROAD

We see a familiar stretch of road. We are where Lukas and Micah got sloshed by deer guts (and watched an adorable group of deer burst from the trees).

Katie steps out of the tree-line just where the doe and fawns were earlier.

She looks up and down the road.

KATIE

HELP!!

Nothing responds.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
 Okay. Road means people. People  
 means camp.

She walks a few steps one way.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
 Hmmmm. Which way goes home?

She walks back the other way, cups her hands and yells.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
 HELLO? THIS IS KATIE AND I NEED AN  
 ADULT!

Silence.

Katie looks down the road.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
 Eenie meanie miney...

On the horizon, a HUGE EXPLOSION fireballs into the sky. It's  
 the Meth Shed going boom, and it makes the decision easy.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
 Moe.

Katie walks the other way... away from camp and toward the  
 gut-pile.

EXT. METH SHED - MOMENTS LATER

We FADE IN to Lukas and Vance on their backs on the ground.

The sound is all ringing noise, and a disoriented Vance Jr.  
 watches a blurry, flaming hog run away into the woods.

Marc Mercer stands over the brothers, holding his head as he  
 gets his bearings. The sound starts to fade back in.

MARC MERCER  
 (yelling generally to the  
 area)  
 Delta Squad, Sound Off!

Nobody sounds off.

Marc looks around and realizes his team is dead. Pete groans  
 and stands.

PETE  
 YIN!

Doctor Liang comes out from her hiding spot, dusting herself off.

DR. LIANG  
ABSOLUTELY USELESS! Get in the vehicle and let's find my specimen. I don't pay for failure.

MARC MERCER  
Yes, ma'am.

PETE  
Seriously?? You can't still want to capture it. I almost died. YOU almost died!

She heads toward the working SUV.

LUKAS  
(to Marc)  
Where is the hog?

MARC MERCER  
Ran off, but...

VANCE JR.  
No buts. That's great news. Let's agree to just forget...

He looks around at the chaos.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)  
...whatever the fuck this all was, and call it kosher.

MARC MERCER  
Well, I'd be inclined to... But... is your campsite that way?

He points the back way they came.

VANCE JR.  
Why?

MARC MERCER  
Well, according to our map, it would seem that our little pork problem just ran towards it.

VANCE JR. & LUKAS  
(together)  
Fucking shit mother!

MARC MERCER

I think your deep-fry attempt just pissed it off. It probably won't be in the best of moods when it runs into any of your people back there. I would suggest you catch a ride with us. We can help take it down.

Vance Jr. considers the offer, then nods.

Lukas and Vance Jr. get in the SUV.

Pete grabs Marc Mercer and pulls him aside.

PETE

Listen. You can't just tranq it. We have to stop it for good. My Aunt has lost her mind. She's got too much invested in the project. She's gone off the deep end. I'm begging you; we have to kill it! You have to-

Marc Mercer lowers his voice but gets close and puts his finger in Pete's chest.

MARC MERCER

Your fucking lab animal killed my entire team. We aren't retrieving shit. I'm terminating. As far as I'm concerned, you, her, and those two idiots are just bait to distract it while I line up my shot.

(cocks his pistol)

That thing may be the world's toughest pork rind, but everything has a soft spot somewhere. I'm gonna empty this mag into an eye socket. For starters.

Marc Mercer un-cocks and holsters his pistol.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)

We're not leaving these woods until I see that chicharron dead.

He walks away and talks to Pete over his shoulder.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)

Now get in the fucking truck.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

Cherri-Lynn holds Mitzie, while Vance Sr. paces nearby. Mrs. Whitney rocks back and forth. The Kid from the deer stand sits next to her.

She pulls out her pack of smokes, takes one, considers it, then offers the pack to the kid.

He thinks about it, takes the cig. She lights hers and passes him the lighter.

Micah wakes up, weak.

LACEY

Hey. Your mom's still here. Want me to get her?

MICAH

It's okay. Can't believe she came at all. I mean, I asked her to, for dinner, but... Guess that's off.

LACEY

Yeah.

MICAH

She's been weird about Pops since Pam passed.

LACEY

They seemed pretty cozy earlier. Might want to keep an eye on that. Might wake up with more brothers.

MICAH

Oh God.

LACEY

Nah, you're right. They're probably both pickled down there.

MICAH

God, Lace! I don't want to think about that! Terrible bedside manner...

Mitzie begins to bark.

Tessa walks up.

TESSA

How is he?

LACEY

He's stable for now, but we have to get him to a hospital.

TESSA

Bad news on that front. Still can't raise the ambulance. But we can take my ride. Want to help me get it squared for him?

She starts to head to the SUV. Lacey follows.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Just got to move the M4 in the back. Don't want him layin' on that.

LACEY

M4? Like an assault rifle?

TESSA

Standard issue for every Game Warden in Texas.

LACEY

That can't be right.

There is a gleam in Tessa's eye.

TESSA

But it is Texas as fuck.

Lacey and Tessa move the seats back and get the SUV ready for Micah.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Your first time at the lease?

LACEY

(sarcasticly)  
What gave it away?

Tessa laughs.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something?

Tessa stops what she's doing to pay attention.

LACEY (CONT'D)

How do you stand this much redneckery? I think it's a scream, but I'm just a tourist. You actually have to live here.

TESSA

Hey, I fell in love with a country boy, too. Mine just didn't move to the city for me.

LACEY

You wanted to, though?

Tessa looks away. We hear Mitzie barking faintly.

TESSA

Nah. I grew up around here. I love these woods.

She shuts the car door and walks around to Lacey's side, conspiratorially.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Besides, Game Wardens pretty much run shit here.

Mitzie's barking is more and more insistent.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Help me get him to the car. We can lay him in the back. Everybody, c'mon.

Lacey and Tessa gather Micah and move him to the car. Mrs. Whitney and the Kid sit and smoke while watching them work. They take a long drag side by side in unison, exhaling a cloud.

Mitzie continues to bark.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Damn it, Cherri-Lynn, can't you shut that dog up for a minute?

CHERRI-LYNN

Mitzie!! You hush!

EXT. CARVER CAMP - HOG POV

The Hog POV is blurry. Encounters with the Carvers are taking their toll on the pig. Still, we can see Mrs. Whitney and the others.

Mitzie grows louder. Mrs. Whitney begins to whisper a word.

MRS. WHITNEY

Death. Hog.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

We return to normal POV.

LACEY

What?

MRS. WHITNEY

Death. Hog.

She rises and points, cigarette sticking to her lip like Dan Ackroyd's in Ghostbusters. It drops as she screams.

MRS. WHITNEY (CONT'D)

DEATH HOG!!!

DEPUTY MICHAELS

What??

The Hog bursts out of the trees!

It hits Deputy Michaels like a bull charging a matador, knocking him into the air. Michaels lands IN the open back door of the SUV.

In the chaos, the Hog knocks loose the staked rope holding up the dining tarp, which drifts down onto Mrs. Whitney, the Kid, and a nearby Lacey.

TESSA

MICHAELS!

Tessa has her pistol drawn before her words are out.

TESSA (CONT'D)

I got it.

She takes a shot at the pig. It does nothing, and the hog ignores it.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Fuck, maybe I don't.

Tessa runs to the SUV to check on her Deputy.

MRS. WHITNEY

DEATH HOG DEATH HOG DEATH HO-

Mrs. Whitney turns and runs directly INTO Lacey, knocking them both down under the fallen DINING FLY tarp. The Kid scrambles out.

Lacey and Mrs. Whitney fight under the tarp as the Kid watches, cigarette still in his mouth. He's in complete shock. The hog runs past him, over the tarp.

Lacey manages to push herself partway out from under the tarp, on her butt.

The Kid snaps out of it, screams, and flicks his cigarette at the hog, which makes it stop short and turn on the tarp.

Unfortunately, it's standing on Mrs. Whitney.

Lacey, lying partly out from under the tarp, is unfortunately the path of least resistance for every pint of blood inside the old woman. Mrs. Whitney covers Lacey like a wave.

The hog turns and starts licking at the sprayed remains of Mrs. Whitney. Lacey sees its nostrils sniffing closer and closer towards her as it makes it way down the tarp.

Lacey tries to scramble further away, but the slick gore of it all makes that impossible. The Hog looks over, noticing the mother lode of wet Whitney nearby.

Lacey changes tactics.

LACEY

Tessa!! Throw me your pepper  
spray!!

From the SUV, Tessa hurls the can at Lacey.

Lacey catches the can of mace out of the air just as the rampaging boar closes in on her. Bullets may not faze it, but boy howdy does it react when she shoves that can into one nostril and unloads compressed, peppery hell.

She withdraws her snot-soaked hand from its snout.

The hog backs up in pain, sneezing out phlegm and viscera. It sits down on The Kid, crushing him.

Vance Sr. pulls a screaming Cherri-Lynn into the trailer for safety.

Vance Jr., Lukas, Marc Mercer, Pete and Dr. Liang burst out from the tree line into the camp.

MARC MERCER

HEY!!

Marc Mercer pulls his pistol and aims at the seated hog.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)  
That'll do, pig.

DR. LIANG  
NO!

Liang swats at his arm knocking his shot awry.

MARC MERCER  
GOD DAMN IT, DOC! That's it. I've  
had it with you.

He grabs his zip ties from his belt and turns toward her.

MARC MERCER (CONT'D)  
Gonna sit you the fuck down while I  
kill that thing...

The hog charges into them both. Liang shoves him into the hog and falls backwards, hitting her head on a low tree limb in the process. She lands limp on the ground.

The hog bites Marc's head off in a single bite!

Still sniffing from the spray, the beast throws its head back and gives a mighty sneeze. A slurry of Merc brains and Hog snot showers the unconscious Liang.

The Hog turns towards the SUV, where Tessa is checking on Deputy Michaels.

INT. SUV

Micah lays under the wounded Deputy Michaels as Tessa leans into the back seat.

Michaels coughs blood. Micah lets out a small yelp and tries to push himself back, but can't in his wounded state. He tries to look away.

TESSA  
Michaels! Oh god...

DEPUTY MICHAELS  
Is it... bad?

TESSA  
C'mon, kid. You got this. You...

She succumbs to the reality of the situation.

MICAH  
Tessa. He's gone.

She checks his pulse.

TESSA  
God damn it, Jackson.

Micah sees the Hog appear over Tessa's shoulder from inside the SUV.

MICAH  
TESSA! BEHIND YOU!!

She turns, realizes how close the pig is, and dives away. The hog forces its head into the back seat, chomping on the remains of the Deputy.

Micah sees Deputy Michael's taser. He grabs it and sparks it, then jams the thing into the exposed tongue of the hog. The squeal is painful and insane as the pig pulls out of the vehicle.

The Death Hog shakes its head, trying to regain some sense after the shock. Its tongue lolls out the side of its mouth, deadened.

Vance Sr. comes charging out of the camper holding a PISTOL-GRIP PUMP SHOTGUN.

VANCE SR.  
(screaming)  
SUUUEY, MOTHERFUCKER!

He fires the shotgun into the hog, which does nothing more than get its attention.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)  
Well, shit.

Pete yells out.

PETE  
The EYE!! Hit it in the good eye!!

Vance Sr. nods and starts to aim at the hog's face as it runs toward him.

The Hog tackles Vance Sr. and they fall backwards. The shotgun goes off again and the pig squeals in pain from the point-blank blast.

VANCE JR.  
DAD!!

We see a CLOSE-UP on VANCE SR. and the HOG.

VANCE SR.

Take a good look, piggy. I'm the last thing you'll ever see!

He lodges the shotgun barrel against the remaining unburnt eye of the Hog and fires. The eye bursts into goo and blood. The pig lets out a tremendous scream and runs into the woods.

Everyone rushes to Vance Sr., prone and bloody from the attack.

Tessa pulls the remains of Deputy Michaels from the SUV and helps Micah out of the gore-filled backseat.

TESSA

C'mon.

Lacey helps her move him over to where Senior is lying.

Vance Sr. coughs and blood sputters from his mouth.

VANCE SR.

Is it gone?

VANCE JR.

Yeah, Dad. You ran it off. Dad, we gotta get you to a hospital...

Vance Sr. shakes his head.

VANCE SR.

C'mon, now, son. Just let an old man have his moment, wouldja? I don't think there's much they could do for me at county anyway. And even then, I'd still have the cancer.

Lukas touches his dad's shoulder.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

I watched your mother die in that cold hospital, and with her gone, I just... I just didn't want to fight to live anymore, boys. When the doc said how bad mine was... it just felt unwinnable. So I just... Lacey's right. I bedded down to die.

LUKAS

Even if that was what you wanted to do, Dad, you coulda told us.

VANCE JR.

We just wanted to be there for ya,  
Dad. Even in the bad shit.

MICAH

The worst shit.

LUKAS

The unwinnable shit.

VANCE SR.

I know. And I'm sorry for it. I  
feel ashamed. Lukas, Vance, Micah.  
I love you boys so much. You  
promise to look after each other  
yeah?

VANCE JR.

Of course Dad.

Vance Jr. looks toward Micah.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

We're brothers. Brothers protect  
each other.

Micah smiles and nods at him.

Vance Sr. coughs again, weaker.

VANCE SR.

Cherri-Lynn... I'm sorry. I  
shouldn'ta made you part of my  
whole mess of a marriage, but once  
you were part of it, I shouldn'ta  
froze you out these last couple  
years, either. I regret that I  
didn't come find you again. Didn't  
come find US.

CHERRI-LYNN

(crying)

I was just down the road, you  
dummy.

VANCE SR.

I know. I know.

Vance Sr. closes his eyes.

Everyone is silent around the old man's body.

TESSA

Fuck.

Lacey hugs her husband. Tessa puts a hand on Lukas' shoulder.

LACEY  
What was that thing?

Tessa looks at Deputy Michael's remains.

TESSA  
Fucking Death Hog.

EXT. CAMP ROAD

Katie runs down the Camp Road, looking over her shoulder where a smoke plume rises in the distance. She trips and falls, skinning her knee.

As she lies on the ground, she sees the yellow of Micah's Jeep ahead through some trees.

KATIE  
Jeepus Creepus?

It's the Gut-Pile! Katie walks up, wrinkling her nose at the stench.

EXT. GUT-PILE

Katie squeals with joy at the sight of something familiar and runs to the Jeep. She climbs in and looks around.

She sees the black smoke of the Meth Shed in the side mirror of the Jeep. She can also see the glove compartment in the same shot.

She smiles.

Katie opens the compartment. The FLARE GUN is there like a orange Holy Grail before her. She grabs it.

KATIE  
It's an emergency, Uncah Micah.

She aims the flare gun at the sky, squints both eyes shut...

KATIE (CONT'D)  
I promise.

...and fires.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

Tessa and Lacey survey the damage. Tessa's SUV appears drivable, other than the thick coat of gore in the backseat.

Lacey looks at the squashed Kid, the chewed remains of Marc Mercer, and the oozing tarp that was Mrs. Whitney.

She kneels down with Micah.

Pete huddles over Dr. Liang as she wakes. Pig-snot sloughs off of her in thick ribbons.

PETE

Yin! Are you-

DR. LIANG

Tell me it's still alive.

PETE

You could be concussed. We have to get you to the hospital.

DR. LIANG

You get me to my pig.

PETE

Yin. Enough. You're hurt. I'm hurt. People are dead. Tell me you understand that.

Dr. Liang sits up.

DR. LIANG

What I understand is that no amount of handouts will cure your weakness. I blame your father's genes, but your mother died weak, too.

She stands, slinging more snot.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

I thought this job might give you the chance to rise, but no. I shouldn't have bothered. And Michael... his contribution to the project is easily the best thing he did in his short, stupid life.

PETE

His contribu- You mean his death?

He backs away from her.

PETE (CONT'D)  
There's something wrong with you.

A FLARE burns into the sky.

LACEY  
Vance, do you think...

MICAH  
That's Katie! I showed her the flare gun in the Jeepus. Bet my life.

LUKAS  
(looking over, excited)  
Has to be. She was playing with the flare gun this morning. Looks like it's comin' from the gut-pile.

LACEY  
Same direction the pig ran.

TESSA  
Cherri-Lynn?

Cherri-Lynn catches the THROWN CAR KEYS from Tessa.

TESSA (CONT'D)  
You good to drive to the hospital?

CHERRI-LYNN  
Yeah, I finished a beer about an hour ago, but I'm good...

TESSA  
That's not what I meant.

She points at the SUV, which looks like an open wound.

CHERRI-LYNN  
We can put down some towels.

TESSA  
Great. You get to the hospital.

Tessa grabs her state-issued M4 from the back.

CHERRI-LYNN  
(to Lacey and Vance Jr)  
Find our girl. And if you can, kill that fucking thing.

She heads into the trailer.

Vance Jr. picks up his dad's shotgun and pumps it.

VANCE JR.  
Let's go kick this pig.

Tessa racks the M4 and shoulders the strap.

TESSA  
Leave him squealin' from the  
feelin'.

Lukas has somehow grabbed Tessa's pistol without anyone noticing. He cocks it.

LUKAS  
Oinkin' from the boinkin'.

Tessa takes the pistol back from him and holsters it.

TESSA  
Give me that.

LUKAS  
Aww man...

Pete stands away from Dr. Liang, listening to the group. They look at him to confirm his loyalty.

Pete looks back at them, then at his Aunt.

Pete takes the pistol from Marc Mercer's dead hand. He cocks it.

PETE  
Squeakin' from the freakin'.

Lacey has no gun but looks absolutely ready to tear the world apart, barehanded.

LACEY  
Let's save our daughter.

They start to walk into the woods.

Dr. Liang clears her throat. They turn to see her holding Marc Mercer's keys.

DR. LIANG  
We could take his SUV.

EXT. GUT-PILE

Katie looks up in victory as the flare cuts the sky.

KATIE  
 (whispers)  
 Shit-fire...

We watch Katie's face as she watches the flare, then suddenly our focus racks to something behind her. Something revealed by the light of the flare.

The Death Hog charges with a horrific squeal!

EXT. WOODS

The group drives down the trail at top speed, their engine noise overtaking the fading hog squeal from the previous scene.

INT. SUV

Tessa is at the wheel, Lukas is in the passenger seat. Lacey and Vance Jr. are in the second row. Pete and Liang sit in the back. The Carvers look like they chaperoned Carrie's prom. Liang still looks shiny from the snot.

In the very back of the SUV are Tranq pistols.

Liang looks at the pistols as they drive.

LACEY  
 We need a plan.

LUKAS  
 Find Katie. Avoid... hog.

VANCE JR.  
 A REAL plan. You saw what it did back there. If it's headed that way... I mean, we've seen it kill soldiers. What IS our plan?

LUKAS  
 NO IDEA. I don't know what that thing is, but one of them pistols sure would make me feel better.

PETE  
 Pistols won't do it. Might as well throw rocks at it. That M4 might, depending on the ammo and the range. Worth a try, anyway.

VANCE JR.

WORTH A TRY?? Man, who the fuck are you people? What is that thing?? Gimme one good reason not to throw you two out of this truck right now!

DR. LIANG

Because Porcidyne will sue you into dust. And I can confirm the ineffectiveness of small arms fire. That rifle really shouldn't work either, but the subject has already been through so much today..

PETE

The dart guns. They're tipped to pierce the hide. Unfortunately, it would take a swimming pool of the stuff, and we're running kinda low.

DR. LIANG

The specimen IS a good deal livelier than expected. A positive development, frankly.

Lacey looks ready to kill Liang.

LACEY

So you're the crazy bitch who made that monster? You're Frankenstein?

DR. LIANG

Insulting. Frankenstein's monster was a one-off. A trick pony. My research will change the face of warfare, of meat production, of pharmaceutical testing...

TESSA

It killed nearly a dozen people today. Good, taxpaying, god-fearing people.

DR. LIANG

So you say. I assure you, none of the mercenaries today will be reported dead. Porcidyne will obviously send someone to discuss the appropriate compensation for...

She looks at Pete.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)  
...other losses.

She pauses.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)  
Confirmed, of course. After a  
signed NDA.

LACEY  
If that thing has "confirmed" my  
daughter, lady... there's no lawyer  
on earth that'll keep you safe.

Vance Jr. touches Lacey's leg.

Dr. Liang shrugs, looks away, then sneakily grabs a tranq  
pistol from the back and tucks it into her jacket.

LUKAS  
Hey, man. I'm sorry.

VANCE JR.  
What?

LUKAS  
I been riding you since you got  
here, but this Katie thing, and  
Dad. I'm sorry, man. We gotta stick  
together.

VANCE JR.  
Thanks, man. I'm sorry, too. I got  
off to school, then work, living  
away from y'all...

LUKAS  
Turning into a stuck-up fancy  
asshole...

Lukas smiles.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
Sorry. Sorry.

VANCE JR.  
I just didn't feel part of it. Then  
finding out about Dad, I just...

LUKAS  
I get it, man. I do. But you're  
always part of it here. Even when  
we ain't seen each other in years.

VANCE JR.

Throwing seats and stars with you today was the best I've felt in a while, man.

LUKAS

Me too, brother.

Vance Jr. sighs.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

We're gonna find her.

PETE

(to Liang)

See? That's family. That's how people behave.

DR. LIANG

Useless.

She touches the tranq pistol hidden in her jacket.

EXT. GUT-PILE

The group parks just outside the gut pile.

As they exit the vehicle, Liang raises the tranq gun and fires, hitting Pete in the back.

Pete winces at the dart in his back like he's been stung by an insect. He realizes what's happened and turns to see Liang in the SUV with the gun.

DR. LIANG

Apologies, Peter.

PETE

(as he falls)

Oh, you biiiiiiiiip...

Lukas hears it and starts to turn around.

LUKAS

(turning around)

"Bip"? Hey, who you callin' a "bip"?

He sees Liang who has both the tranq gun and Pete's gun pointed at Lukas.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Oh, son of a bip...

DR. LIANG

I TOLD you. I told you all. There's no way I'm letting you damage my project any further. This research is my life's work. It's more valuable than all you rednecks and my idiot nephew combined. I may not have enough darts to take it back to the lab, but I have more than enough to put you bumpkins to sleep while I call in a second team to handle this. Now, I'd kneel down if I were you, it's a long drop when you pass out while standing.

LUKAS

Yeah, I remember. Also, fuck you.

DR. LIANG

I just want to get back to my lab, with my specimen.

She waves the pistol she took off Pete.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

I COULD just kill you, but I am really not that person. Just let me dart you, and call in my team.

She shoots the tranq gun at Lukas, but he's quick and she misses as he charges her. They fight in the open back door of the SUV.

LUKAS

Vance! Little help?

Suddenly, Liang grunts and goes limp. As Lukas lets her go, he can see through the backseat of the SUV to where Lacey is crouched. An open box of Tranq Darts is next to her.

LACEY

Found 'em in the back. They're just big hypos, basically.

LUKAS

Thanks. Crazy fuckin'...

Lacey shoots him a look.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Bip. He okay?

Lukas motions to Pete.



LUKAS (CONT'D)

Taste the meat, not the heat.

VANCE JR.

Thing must be going off smell and sound.

TESSA

So, how we gonna fuck this pig?

Lukas smiles. He reaches down and touches the soft, muddy earth at his feet.

LUKAS

Well, it IS one ugly motherfucker... I say we go full 'Predator'.

Vance Jr. smiles. He and Lukas begin spreading mud on themselves. Vance looks at Katie, motions to stay quiet and pantomimes rubbing mud on himself.

Katie watches, puzzled at first, then smiles and covers herself in mud.

The rest of the party follows suit, and soon everyone is muddy.

VANCE JR.

Good. Now we don't compete with the gut pile. There's food, and there's ground, and we should smell like the latter.

LACEY

Now what?

Lukas gives a thin smile.

LUKAS

Now I distract it while y'all get Katie.

TESSA

What??

Lukas pulls the THROWING STARS from his jeans pocket.

He looks at Vance Jr. and grins.

LUKAS

Unwinnable shit, brother.

He runs into the clearing, hurling the useless metal stars like a maniac.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
EGG KNEE KYLE, YOU BITCH!

The hog turns and sniffs at him. He bounces another star off it.

It charges.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
Aw, fuck.

The hog runs past him! Lukas is shocked and confused.

Vance Jr. rushes to the Jeep, pulling Katie free from the wreckage. Katie runs to her mom.

Tessa shoots at the pig with the M4 rifle, laying down cover fire. It doesn't seem to really hurt the animal but keeps its attention.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
Havin a hard time seeing me,  
Scarface? Here's a hint.

Lukas runs up and kicks the Hog in the rear haunches.

The hog squeals, then slowly turns towards Lukas with murder in what's left of its eyes.

LUKAS (CONT'D)  
Shit.

Lukas dashes past the tree line and into the woods with the Death Hog in hot pursuit.

Tessa looks at Vance Jr. holding Katie.

TESSA  
Get Katie back to the truck. I  
gotta go find my dumbass fiancé.

Tessa runs toward the woods.

Lacey takes Katie from Vance Jr.'s arms as Tessa's words sink in.

He looks at Lacey.

VANCE JR.  
Her WHAT??

EXT. WOODS - HOG POV

The POV is now completely fucked, as a result of damage to the Hog's eyes. We can see rough shapes, barely.

Lukas is hiding from the Death Hog. He looks out from behind a tree and doesn't see it. The camera cuts back behind him as the Hog appears.

The hog tries to sniff him out. It noses around near him but doesn't smell him. Lukas kicks at the pig, then jumps back. He smiles. Suddenly, the pig turns and hip-checks him!

Echoing Ah-nold's fight with the Predator, the Death Hog knocks Lukas into a nearby creek!

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

We cut back to normal POV.

Lukas stands and sees he's lost most of his mud. The hog sniffs the air, catching his scent.

Tessa steps into the scene and starts firing the rifle until her magazine is empty, making the Hog back up from Lukas.

TESSA

Run, you mud-brained moron!

Lukas makes a run for the Jeep and the Gut-pile. The hog follows him.

EXT. GUT-PILE

Lukas exits the woods with the Death Hog right behind him, struggling to outrun the beast. He is not gonna make it.

The Hog is suddenly hit by the Merc SUV, knocking it to the ground. Vance Jr. throws Dad's shotgun out the window to Lukas.

VANCE JR.

Heads up!

Lukas catches the gun and unloads it into the Hog's face. His last shot shoots out its only barely-functioning eye. The Hog is now fully blind.

The Hog starts to chase Lukas again, enraged and blinded.

Lukas scrambles through the flipped jeep like parkour, coming out the passenger door into the gut pile itself.

The hog, sniffing wildly, follows him into the small space. It pushes its head through the driver's side door of the jeep, and almost out the passenger side.

The tusks get stuck for a moment, with a tusk caught around the bent metal of the jeep frame.

Lukas sees this, and jumps back onto the top of the jeep, pushing the metal down further. The hog's tusks are fully caught, and it can't pull its head out of the vehicle.

LUKAS

Vance!! It's stuck!! It's-

He falls, and the hog makes a lunge for him, moving the entire jeep forward a bit. He gets tusked in the ass and ends up falling into the gut pile.

Vance Jr. exits the SUV, but is not sure how to help his brother.

The Hog continues moving itself and the Jeep forward to try and get Lukas, but it is distracted by the gut pile and starts eating.

KATIE

Daddy look! It's a greedy crawdad.  
Just like Uncah Micah said.

Vance Jr. looks at the hog, then down at the SUV's winch.

VANCE JR.

Uncle Micah just gave me an idea...

INT. GUT-PILE

Lukas digs deeper into the guts towards us as the Hog snaps and gnaws at the meat around him.

LUKAS

Fuckshitfuckfuck!!

EXT. GUT-PILE

Vance holds the winch hook and cable from the SUV. He attaches the winch cable to the Hog's back legs.

VANCE JR.

Alright, you piggly fuck...

Vance yells to Katie and Lacey in the SUV. Katie is at the window watching for his signal.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)  
 NOW HONEY! NOW NOW NOW!!

Katie gives a thumbs up. She turns to her mom in the car.  
 Lacey's hand is on the control marked WINCH.

KATIE  
 Hit it.

Lacey flips the switch.

INT. GUT-PILE

The hog is still trying to push through the mangled Jeep to kill Lukas. The creature suddenly stops snapping at him and SCREAMS out an unholy noise.

EXT. GUT-PILE

We see the WINCH CABLE wrapped around the Hog's back legs pull tight. The Jeep starts to roll backwards, but the Hog's own body prevents it.

The skin slowly begins to tear as the winch drags the Hog's body away from its skull, pulling the spine away with the legs like a Mortal Kombat fatality.

INT. GUT-PILE

The head rolls toward Lukas, who screams and scoots away before realizing it's dead.

Vance Jr. walks over to Lukas, prone in the gut-pile.

VANCE JR.  
 Get up, man, you're embarrassing yourself.

KATIE  
 Best... Kate Crime... ever!

Vance and Lukas share a look before smiling to one another.

VANCE JR., LUKAS AND LACEY  
 Kate Crime!

They all begin chanting "Kate Crime" as we pull upward and see the carnage.

We begin to FADE TO BLACK. We hear Tessa yell as the screen goes dark.

TESSA

What the FUCK are you all yelling??

The FADE is undone and we're back in the shot for a moment.

Tessa has joined them and is very confused as to what exactly they are chanting.

INT. CARVER CAMP

ONE MONTH LATER

We see the family back at camp, inside Vance Sr.'s trailer. Cherri-Lynn makes breakfast.

CHERRI-LYNN

Bacon's ready, everyone!

LACEY

Ugh... still?

LUKAS

Hey, that thing dressed out at damn near a ton. We'll be eating...

TESSA

Don't-

LUKAS

*High on the hog* for a while still.

TESSA

I will divorce you.

LUKAS

(mock horror)

You can't divorce a fiancé. Not until after the ceremony, at least.

TESSA

Yeah, I do want that gift registry... I guess I can live with the...

Lukas looks over, excited.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Pun-ishment.

Lukas looks at Vance Jr.

LUKAS

I love this woman.

LACEY

She's a mile better than Janeth. No offense, Lukas.

TESSA

Hey. Don't make fun of Janeth. She's a nith girl.

They share a laugh. Micah comes over and sits down. He's missing half his leg, and Lukas and Vance Jr. get up to help him from his crutches into a chair.

Katie runs over and begins poking at Micah's leg while eating some bacon.

MICAH

Ow!!

Katie jumps back, nearly dropping her bacon.

Micah laughs, clearly faking his pain.

MICAH (CONT'D)

Just kidding. It's pretty numb down there.

Katie giggles, pulls back her fist and with gleeful madness in her eyes, and swings a punch at Micah's leg.

Before she connects, we cut to VANCE SR. stepping out of the bedroom.

Micah's sincere 'OW!!' is heard as Vance, Sr. is revealed.

He survived! His arm is in a sling, though, and he's definitely in some pain.

He takes his seat at the head of the table.

VANCE SR.

Thank you all for being here one last time. I know these woods are the last place y'all want to be again, but I promised myself if I healed up from all that, there were some things I needed to say.

The family watches attentively.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

I'm letting the lease go next year. Gonna get the house back in order, see if maybe I can talk someone into keeping me company.

He looks at Cherri-Lynn, who blushes.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

And don't worry, she's got a whole plan for how I'm gonna survive chemo, even though I think it's still bullshit.

CHERRI-LYNN

Bitching about it won't help, old man. You're gonna live whether you like it or not.

She sits down a green smoothie in front of him.

VANCE SR.

Seriously, it's so good to have you all around me. To family.

VANCE JR.

To family.

Vance Sr. toasts with the smoothie, then grimaces.

Lukas claps an arm around Micah and Vance, Jr.

LUKAS

Always.

KATIE

Even when it's been a minute.

Vance Jr. smiles.

VANCE JR.

That's right, honey.

He looks to his dad.

VANCE JR. (CONT'D)

But maybe we don't make it so long 'til next time.

VANCE SR.

Agreed, son.

The old man surveys the loving group. He's proud. His eyes well up with tears.

VANCE SR. (CONT'D)

I wish Pam was here.

VANCE JR.

She is, dad.

They begin to eat.

We hear a vehicle drive up.

Everyone stops for a moment, waiting.

EXT. CARVER CAMP

Vance Jr. looks out the trailer door at the PORCIDYNE SUV that just parked.

Pete gets out of the SUV wearing a dress shirt and slacks, holding a briefcase.

Vance Jr. smiles and steps out the door.

INT. CARVER CAMP

Vance Jr. steps into the trailer with Pete in tow.

VANCE JR.  
Look who I found!

PETE  
Salutations!

The family gets up and greets him.

KATIE  
Salu-what?

PETE  
Hey, Katie. That's just my fancy way of saying hello or good morning.

Lukas looks outside at the SUV with the company logo on it.

LUKAS  
Thought you were quitting that place.

PETE  
Yeah... Turns out I'd seen so much shit that weekend, Porcidyne couldn't afford to let me go. They're paying me a shitload to do very little.

VANCE JR.  
(coyly)  
What shit? What weekend?

PETE

Exactly. Thanks for signing the NDAs. Sucks about the leg, Micah. I fought for the most payout I could get you.

Micah nods.

LUKAS

I hear the Hesters bought themselves an entire island with what Timmy got. Like the lottery.

LACEY

Timmy's paralyzed, though.

LUKAS

Yeah. Still. An island.

TESSA

It's not the same.

PETE

Yeah, it's not. I got Mike's family a good settlement, but... yeah.

MICAH

What about your Aunt? The Lab?

PETE

Officially? This lab is shut down. Haven't heard from *Dr. Liang*. According to the company records, she's off the payroll, no longer associated with Porcidyne.

VANCE JR.

How about unofficially?

He pulls a folder out of his briefcase.

PETE

Yeah. That's why I'm here. If they knew I took this, they'd... well, let's just say you shouldn't trust a corporation that keeps a pig farm.

He lays the folder down. It says PROJECT: T.U.S.K.

LUKAS

Shit just don't stop, does it?

PETE

Nope. According to this, shit's just getting started.

INT. PORCIDYNE RESEARCH - FACILITY 002

A silhouette is on a screen talking to Dr. Liang, who wears goggles over her bandaged face.

DR. LIANG

Please let the board know I appreciate their faith in me continuing the project.

PORCIDYNE CORPORATE

Of course, Doctor. Porcidyne takes care of their own, and you've been nothing if not loyal. How are you healing?

DR. LIANG

Fine, just fine. The company's in-house medical is quite good. And the augmentations...

Dr. Liang removes her goggles, revealing a cybernetic eye beneath the bandages on her face.

DR. LIANG (CONT'D)

...have their advantages.

PORCIDYNE CORPORATE

And how long till we're back online?

DR. LIANG

Fully operational in a week or so, if the data is accurate. It's a shame they put down Subject 00343, but he was just an average bull.

PORCIDYNE CORPORATE

And the sow?

The camera drifts elsewhere in the lab, to a large pane of thick safety glass that overlooks a pen. An enormous sow suckles 8 full-size DEATH HOGS.

DR. LIANG

Project T.U.S.K. is still on track...