

Midnight

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FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS-EVENING

SUPER: 2012

Wind blows through the woods, and *leaf's* blow like a tornado is coming.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN HALL-EVENING

Missing poster's stapled to *telephone poles* on both sides of the cross streets.

The missing poster's blow in the wind. A photo of a teenage girl, smiling.

DAISY (V.O.)

Mama always told me not to go out after midnight. Or not to be awake when one day ended and a new one began.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

SUPER: SUMMER 2000

A woman sits on the end of the bed. MAMA, early 30s. A strict woman that takes precautions.

Mama leans down -- and kisses 5-YEAR-OLD DAISY on the cheek -
-

MAMA

-- Goodnight baby girl.

5-YEAR-OLD DAISY

Goodnight, Mama.

Mama touches her nose --

MAMA

Now, go to sleep. You don't want to be awake past midnight.

5-YEAR-OLD DAISY

Why not, Mama?

MAMA
Trust me, girl.

Mama stands up -- and walks towards the door -- She flips the light switch off --

Daisy pulls the blanket over herself -- and hides her head --

5-YEAR-OLD DAISY
(breath)

DAISY (V.O.)
Mama had her reasons and I never
questioned her about them again.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

SUPER: SUMMER 2012

A teenage girl walks into the kitchen and sits at the end of the table. DAISY, 17. A high school student. A talkative, sociable, action-oriented, enthusiastic, friendly, and outgoing young lady.

She pours the **cereal** from the **Honeycomb box**, into her bowl and the bowl across from her --

DAISY
-- Maria!!!

MARIA (O.S.)
Coming!!!

MARIA, 12. A middle school student. A shy but bright young girl.

Maria rushes into the kitchen -- and sits --

Daisy scoops her spoon into the cereal -- and takes a bite --

DAISY
Is Mama out of the shower?

MARIA
She's doing her hair.

DAISY (V.O.)
Mama's a strict woman with many
fears.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MORNING

Mama wraps the ends of her hair around a *curling iron*.

DAISY (V.O.)
Mama would tell my younger sister,
Maria and I all about ancient
legends that we all would fear.

MAMA
Daisy!!! Maria!! Breakfast!!

DAISY (O.S.)
Yes, Mama!!

MARIA (O.S.)
Eating it right now, Mama!!

The door opens -- Daisy peeks her head in --

DAISY
-- Mama?

MAMA
What?

DAISY
Can I go to a sleepover?

MAMA
Who's having it?

DAISY
Izzy.

MAMA
Are her parents going to be there?

DAISY
Yes.

DAISY (V.O.)
That was the first time that I lied
to my Mama.

MAMA
Okay.

A smirk forms on Daisy's face.

Mama steps out of the bathroom --

MAMA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
-- Remember what I told you. Stay
inside and don't go outside after
midnight.

Daisy looks up --

DAISY
(Rolls eyes)
(breath)
-- I will.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN HALL-AFTERNOON

Daisy walks ahead of Maria. Her right hand gripped around a
laundry bag.

MARIA
Daisy!! Wait up!!

Daisy looks back at Maria --

DAISY
-- Come on then!!

Maria runs -- and drops the bag to the ground -- She falls --

Daisy leans down -- and reaches her hand out --

Maria grabs a hold --

Daisy pulls her up --

DAISY (CONT'D)
-- There you go!!

Maria reaches down -- and grabs the laundry bag -- She tosses
it over her shoulder.

DAISY (CONT'D)
I'll race you to the **laundromat**.

MARIA
I don't know --

-- Maria runs --

DAISY
Oh! You are going down little
girl!!

Daisy runs --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

SUPER: 10:30 PM

Daisy sits on top of her sleeping bag. Three other teen girls surround her. IZZY, 17. A senior student. An adventurous but naive young woman living her life with many privileges.

DAISY (V.O.)
This is Izzy. She comes from a
wealthy family. I stayed the
weekend at her house one time.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING-EVENING

Daisy looks at the large **lobster**.

Izzy looks at Daisy --

IZZY
-- Well!!

Daisy looks at Izzy --

DAISY
Well, what?

IZZY
Are you going to eat?

DAISY
How?

Izzy snaps the shell of her lobster open --

Daisy stands up -- and walks out of the dining room --

DAISY (V.O.)
I went home the next morning.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

A teenage girl lays across the floor. She sticks her hand into a bowl of **popcorn**. JULIANA, 16. A junior student and cheerleader.

DAISY (V.O.)

Juliana is a cheerleader. If these were the late 60s and the both of us were from two different gangs, Juliana would still have my back no matter what.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD-HIGH SCHOOL-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

CHEERLEADERS, 17, 16, 15 and 18.

Juliana is held up by the other Cheerleaders.

CHEERLEADERS

Go team!!!

The Cheerleaders let go of Juliana, and let her drop down --
Juliana lays face up --

JULIANA

(breath)

DAISY (V.O.)

I don't even trust them when they drop her like that.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

A teenage girl stands on the stage, dressed in **renaissance men's clothing**. RILEY, 17, a senior student and member of the glee club. A rebellious, and carefree teen girl trying to do things her way.

DAISY (V.O.)

And Riley, how can I forget. A dreamer trying to reach for the stars.

AUDITION JUDGE #1, #2, and #3.

RILEY

Alas, that love, whose view is
muffled still, Should, without
eyes, see pathways to his will!
Where shall we dine? O me! What
fray was here? Yet tell me not, for
I have heard it all.

AUDITION JUDGE #1

Next!!!

Riley pulls the *fake mustache* from under her nose -- and
steps towards the end of the stage --

RILEY

-- What!!

AUDITION JUDGE #2

Next, please!

Riley steps away --

DAISY (V.O.)

If there were trees in that scene,
Riley definitely would have climbed
and not come down.

RILEY

Amateurs!!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

Izzy leans towards Daisy --

PHONE SCREEN

Izzy, Daisy, Riley and Juliana in the frame of the camera
screen. The camera flashes.

BACK TO SCENE

Izzy, Riley and Juliana get up -- and step towards their
sleeping bags --

Daisy pulls her sleeping bag over her lap -- She lays her
head back on the pillow.

DAISY

(breath)

Daisy rolls to her right side -- and closes her eyes --

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Daisy lays asleep in the middle of the woods. She opens her eyes -- and sits up. Daisy stands up from her sleeping bag -- and steps further into the woods --

The wind blows.

Daisy looks around --

DAISY
-- Who's there!

Cricket's chirp.

Daisy steps deeper into the woods --

A **DEER** runs past her --

DAISY (CONT'D)
(scream)

DEER
(Izzy's voice)
Wake up!!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

Izzy shakes Daisy's arm --

IZZY
-- Wake up!!

Daisy opens her eyes --

DAISY
-- What!!

IZZY
It's Juliana!

DAISY
What about her --

-- Daisy rubs her eyes --

IZZY
She went outside.

DAISY
What!!

Riley rushes into the bedroom --

RILEY
-- Come on --

-- Riley runs out of the bedroom --

Daisy stands up --

DAISY
-- What time is it?

IZZY
It's 11:55.

DAISY
Give me a **flashlight**!!

Izzy grabs a flashlight from the side of her bed -- and hands it to Daisy -- Daisy rushes out of the bedroom --

IZZY
-- Wait!

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-NIGHT

Izzy and Daisy walk through the woods. Daisy shines the flashlight around at the **bushes** --

DAISY
-- What possessed you all to come out here this late?

IZZY
Just having a little fun.

DAISY
With what? Going missing!

IZZY
Wow!

DAISY
What!

IZZY
Just that, you sound just like my
mother.

A rustle in the bushes. Daisy shines the flashlight on it --

DAISY
Riley!! Juliana!!! Where are you!!

IZZY
I'm getting a closer look --
-- Izzy rushes further into the woods --

DAISY
-- Wait!!
Izzy looks at Daisy.

IZZY
What!

DAISY
Don't you watch the movies. Never
split up.

IZZY
Whatever.

Izzy runs into the woods --

Daisy rushes after her --

The flashlight goes out --

Daisy shakes it --

The flashlight goes on and off --

Daisy looks at the trees and rushes past, feeling scared of
the idea that someone is watching her. A MAN-LIKE THING leans
onto the **trunk** of the **tree**. A **deer's head** with **antlers** on
his. He watches Daisy run away --

JULIANA (O.S.)
(moan)

Daisy rushes towards the bushes --

A rustle from the bushes --

Daisy gets closer --

She sees curly blonde hair as she gets a little closer towards the bushes.

Juliana's face appears --

Daisy rushes towards Juliana --

Izzy and Riley appear from behind the bushes -- Izzy holds her upper body while Riley holds her up by the legs.

DAISY

Juliana!!!

Streaks of blood run down Juliana's face. A blank expression on her face.

DAISY (CONT'D)

What happened to her?

RILEY

We just wanted to play with the man. We just wanted to play with the man, now it's your turn.

DAISY (V.O.)

I ignore everything they had just said to me, and I blurt out the only thing you say to your friends when there is an emergency.

DAISY

We need to get her to the hospital!! Now!!

Daisy rushes off and leads the way out.

Daisy's red pickup truck sits parked in front of the house. She looks back at Izzy and Riley, carrying Juliana towards her.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Hurry!!

The Man-Like Thing rises up from the hood of the truck.

Izzy's eyes grow with a frightened look in her eyes.

Daisy looks at the Man-Like Thing. She makes no sudden movements. Daisy stands still like a statue.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Maria lies asleep in bed.

DAISY (O.S.)
(scream)

Maria opens her eyes, and looks up --

MARIA
-- Daisy?

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-NIGHT

Izzy, Juliana and Riley lay on the ground.

Izzy's eyes open. She watches the MAN-Like Thing pull Daisy by her foot.

Daisy's emotionless blank face stares back at Izzy.

DAISY (V.O.)
Now I know why Mama didn't want me
out at this time.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN HALL-AFTERNOON

The missing person's flyer blows in the wind.

DAISY (V.O.)
They never found my body.

Izzy steps up to the poster and rips it off the pole -- She tosses it into the garbage can --

JULIANA
-- I saw that!

Izzy smirks --

IZZY
-- Like I have to hide it.

Juliana's left arm is in a **sling**.

Izzy steps past Juliana --

JULIANA
I thought she was your friend.

IZZY
I got plenty of friends.

JULIANA
You can't always count on your
parents' money.

A teen boy wraps his arm around the back of Izzy's neck. ELI,
18. A senior high school student.

Izzy kisses him on the cheek --

Eli looks at Juliana --

ELI
-- She has me.

Eli and Izzy step away --

Juliana looks at her arm in the sling and looks at Izzy walk
away with Eli.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-NIGHT

Eli's silver pickup truck sits parked underneath a tree.

CUT TO:

INT. ELI'S TRUCK-NIGHT

He kisses Izzy's neck, forcefully -- Izzy pushes his head
back --

IZZY
(laugh)
Stop!! It tickles!!

Eli opens the driver door --

ELI
-- I got to take a leak --

-- He kisses her on the cheek --

IZZY
That's an overshare!

Eli gets out of the truck -- and slams the door shut --

Izzy opens a can of **Diet Coke** -- and takes a sip --

Izzy looks at her watch --

She rocks herself back and forth --

IZZY (CONT'D)

-- Thanks a lot, Eli! Now I have to go!

Izzy opens the passenger door -- and gets out -- She slams the door shut --

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-NIGHT

Izzy rushes towards the tree -- She crouches down -- and closes her eyes --

Footsteps approach slowly --

IZZY

-- Forget it, Eli! You missed your chance. It's time to take me home!!

ELI

(scream)

Izzy opens her eyes -- and stands up --

IZZY

-- Eli!!

An **arrow** flies past Izzy -- and hits the tree -- Izzy looks at the arrow and looks at a woman wearing deer antlers. A **crossbow** in her hands.

DAISY

Surprise!

IZZY

Daisy!

DAISY

In the flesh.

IZZY

How?

DAISY
A friend can pretend, like you can.
You tried to trick me, and you let
him take me away.

IZZY
You knew?

DAISY
Yes.

IZZY
You got me. All three of you!

DAISY
Yeap.

IZZY
Friends?

DAISY
(laugh)

Daisy raises the crossbow -- and shoots an arrow at Izzy --

CUT TO:

INT. RILEY'S BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Daisy steps into the bedroom. Riley turns her head -- She
looks at Daisy --

RILEY
-- Hey.

Daisy steps towards the bed -- Riley sits up -- Daisy leans
down -- and hugs her --

RILEY (CONT'D)
-- Ahh --

-- Daisy back away --

DAISY
-- I'm sorry --

RILEY
-- It's cool.

Daisy sits down --

DAISY
-- I'm sorry that you have broken
ribs.

RILEY
I'm sorry about the prank that we
tried to pull on you. It was Izzy's
idea, really?

DAISY
I know.

RILEY
How'd you know?

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

DAISY (V.O.)
Izzy knew it was my birthday, and I
knew she pulled pranks on her
friends for that reason.

Daisy holds a **compact mirror** in her hand over Izzy's
shoulder. Izzy types on the screen of her cell phone.

DAISY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(Izzy's voice)
Twelve o'clock.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-EVENING

Izzy stands across from a man in the front yard. She hands
him a **wad** of **cash**. ACTOR, early 30s.

DAISY (V.O.)
Mama didn't raise a fool.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-NIGHT

Juliana sits on the ground and leans against a tree. She
types on her cell phone --

DAISY (V.O.)
 Because she couldn't do the job
 herself, she sent Juliana to fetch
 the Actor.

JULIANA
 (wave)
 Bring her out!!

The Man-Like Thing appears alongside of Juliana. She looks at him.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
 (scream)

Juliana runs away -- and trips over a **pebble** -- She falls onto a **big rock** -- and hits her head --

JULIANA (CONT'D)
 (moan)

The Actor rushes towards Juliana --

ACTOR
 -- What happened to you!!

Juliana looks at the Actor --

JULIANA
 -- Something's back there!!

ACTOR
 Who!

JULIANA
 A monster!

The Actor pulls out his cell phone -- and types --

ACTOR
 -- I'm gone --

-- The Actor runs off --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Izzy sits up on her bed -- and looks at her cell phone -- She stands up -- and rushes towards Daisy --

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS-CONTINUOUS

DAISY (V.O.)
 Izzy saw that thing drag me away
 and she didn't stop it.

Izzy looks at the Man-Like Thing. It drags Daisy away -- Izzy smiles. The Man-Like Thing pulls her further into the woods --
 -

CUT TO:

INT. FIELD-NIGHT

The Man-Like Thing drops Daisy's foot to the ground -- and steps away from her -- Daisy opens her eyes -- and backs away quickly -- She runs away --

DAISY (V.O.)
 It let me go.

INT. BEDROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

Daisy reaches into her sweatshirt pocket -- and pulls out a few **polaroid** pictures. She hands them to Riley -- Riley takes them -- and looks through them --

Daisy stands up -- and steps towards the door -- She grabs the doorknob --

RILEY
 -- Daisy --

-- Riley looks at a picture of Izzy -- and then the next picture of Eli --

RILEY (CONT'D)
 -- Are they dead?

DAISY
 (wink)

Daisy opens the door -- and steps out -- The door shuts --

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-AFTERNOON

RILEY (O.S.)
 Daisy!!!

Daisy smirks.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET-AFTERNOON

A *moving van* drives' past. Maria rides her bike alongside of the road.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR-AFTERNOON

Izzy sits in the backseat. Her face down. She looks outside the window at Maria.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET-AFTERNOON

A smile stretches across Maria's face.

MARIA
(wave)

TITLE CARD: MIDNIGHT

FADE OUT:

THE END