

JACK

11/24/2018

Based on the novella by Carter

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FADE IN:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM, SLOAN RESIDENCE - DAY

The sound of WHIMPERING... As we PAN AROUND what looks like an adult's master bedroom -- bookshelves, a dresser, a floral painting above a queen bed, until we move down to see --

KATY SLOAN (17) and PEYTON WYATT (17). Katy is a sweet girly-type, funny, warm and smart -- while Peyton is her perfect counterpoint -- a pretty takes-no-shit type of boss-teen with a sharp sense of humor.

Katy is gently holding Peyton's head in her lap on the bed with one hand, while her other attempts to feel a pulse on Peyton's wrist. A beat. Katy looks somewhat relieved --

KATY

Come on, Peyton! Please wake up!

No response. We see Katy is sweating profusely as she wipes her own brow and takes a gulp of water from a glass on the nightstand. Now she checks Peyton's other wrist, which has BLOOD SEEPING OUT of a makeshift gauze, wrapped so tight around Peyton's wrist it's making her fingers turn purple.

SUDDEN POUNDING AGAINST THE DOOR MAKES KATY JUMP

As Katy turns her head toward the door we see she also has bloody wounds on the left side of her face and arm...

KATY (CONT'D)

Stop, Jack! Please!

Tears flow down her cheeks as she looks back to Peyton.

KATY (CONT'D)

I can't do this alone, Pei Wei.
Wake up! You're my best friend, and
you've always been the strongest of
us two. I can't lose you now.

Then, something catches Katy's eye. Sees... Her face in the dresser mirror -- lacerated, bitten, and bruised. Katy looks helpless, her tears falling onto Peyton's still face below...

Katy just stares at herself in the mirror, shocked. The camera pushing in on her face. THE SOUND OF CHEERING begins to grow stronger, and stronger, a memory transported to the present.

We're still with Katy, but as the camera pulls back we find that she's no longer in the bedroom. She's at --

EXT. WYATT RESIDENCE, BACKYARD - **FLASHBACK**

CLOSE ON Katy and Peyton (7-years-old) both wearing running gear at the starting line to begin their mom-daughter relay race.

Peyton's mom is NANCY (30s), a strong woman with a healthy competitive streak.

Katy's mom is HOLLY (30s), an easy-going casual type.

Peyton's stern dad, BOB (30s), has his work cut out for him as the chef of the barbecue in their manicured backyard.

COACH (PRE-LAP)

On your mark, get set, go!

Katy and Peyton race their 30-yard leg to touch the eager hands of their mothers, who are the second and final leg in the relay.

PEYTON

Go mom!

The moms take off -- Holly races as fast as she can but Nancy bolts across the finish line with all of her might and wins hands down.

BOB

Yay! And the Wyatts win again!

HOLLY

Again? We won last time, Bob.

NANCY

Don't mind him, Holly. He just wants to participate. He is such a competitor and an old has-been.

Nancy laughs along with Holly, Peyton, and Katy.

NANCY (CONT'D)

You know, Holly, he could join in the race if you had a gentleman friend he could race against?

HOLLY

(laughing)

A gentleman? And where do I find one? Not many of those left, Nancy.

NANCY

Bob has a friend - he wants to set you up.

Katy and Peyton roll their eyes and escape to the rear lawn.

HOLLY
Set me up, huh?

Holly sits down on the porch chairs shaking her head. Nancy joins her holding a plate of hot dogs for them to share.

NANCY
He's nice and good-looking. I'd
take him if Bob weren't around.

Bob shoots her a look and returns to the BBQ on the far side.

NANCY (CONT'D)
Holly, you are beautiful, fun, a
loving mom, great nurse... A guy
would be crazy not to fall for you.

Holly takes a drink of her Dos Equis and smirks at Nancy.

HOLLY
Sounds like you're crushing on me.

Nancy gulps her beer red-faced and shakes her head.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I'm just messing. I love you, too.

NANCY
You never know. If Bob doesn't work
out, you can always be my back-up.

Nancy takes a bite of her hot dog. Holly chuckles hard.

HOLLY
Touché.

They burst out laughing... But then Nancy starts to choke on the hot dog. She tries to spit it out as Holly continues laughing and doesn't see Nancy's face change as she grabs her throat --

NANCY
Help me.

Nancy's panicking and taking ragged gasps.

HOLLY
Nancy!

Holly jumps up and spins Nancy around, wrapping her arms around her waist, and quickly starts performing abdominal thrusts.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Get it out, honey!

Nancy struggles to breathe, her face becoming a bluish-grey color...

Holly gives a huge upward-heave and a portion of a hot dog comes flying out. But Nancy suddenly loses consciousness --

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Dammit.

Holly eases Nancy to the ground, lies her flat, and discovers she is not breathing. Checks for a pulse...

HOLLY (CONT'D)
BOB! Get over here.

The girls turn at the commotion and run with Bob toward the porch where they find Holly giving Nancy four deep rescue breaths.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Call 911! She's not breathing!

PEYTON
Mommy?! What happened to her Mrs.
Sloan?

Holly breathes for Nancy again. Bob is freaking out while he scrambles for his phone --

BOB
Oh, my God, is she going to be OK?

Holly stops when she feels Nancy's lips move. Nancy slowly opens her eyes. Looking up, she sees everyone staring at her in shock.

HOLLY
Your mommy inhaled her hot dog.

Holly smiles as a tear falls down her cheek. Bob kneels and lifts Nancy up while holding her tight. Peyton grabs onto her too, catching her breath.

Katy and Holly exchange a look --

NANCY
Bob, I'm OK. Come here, honey.

And hugs them back.

NANCY (CONT'D)
You are the best neighbors, I don't
know what I'd do without you both.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

We're back with Katy staring in the mirror. Peyton opens her eyes... Katy looks down, seeing some color returning to Peyton's face.

PEYTON
What happened?

KATY
You fainted.

She grabs the glass on the nightstand and hands it to Peyton, motioning for her to drink.

KATY (CONT'D)
Here. Take a few sips.

PEYTON
Thanks, K. I wish we had eaten
something before this thing
started. I am starving. Those
little corn dogs would be good
right about now.

KATY
Yeah, I know - as long as you don't
choke on them.

PEYTON
Ha. Like my mom that time at our
barbecue.

KATY
I just wish I could've been brave
like my mom and saved you.

PEYTON
It's not your fault. This was an
accident. Bad things happen to good
people. Remember that creeper in
the woods? He is the reason why
your mom got Jack.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL - **FLASHBACK**

It's a sunny day. Peyton and Katy (15-years-old) are jogging together on a trail wearing matching T-shirts: "BROWN HIGH SCHOOL."

KATY

So, how did your big movie date go with Trent and your parents last night?

PEYTON

The movie was pretty good, so it was a good buffer, but it wasn't a date. You know they have that lame "no dating until you're sixteen" rule.

KATY

Were your parents totally eyeing you down?

PEYTON

We sat behind them, but my dad totally kept looking at us. It was so embarrassing...

KATY

So, what do you think of Trent?

PEYTON

He's really fun and nice.

KATY

Nice, huh? You don't like him because he's hot?

Katy laughs... Peyton gives her a look -- *well, duh.*

PEYTON

Sure, he is super hot, and he runs too. We have planned some run dates.

KATY

What?! Who am I gonna run with if he's gonna take my place?

PEYTON

Get a dog or a boyfriend.

Off Katy's look -- *nice Peyton!*

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Hey- Why don't you ever have a boyfriend? You're so pretty and smart.

KATY

Smart? Maybe that's why! Just kidding- I just haven't found a good one yet, and I don't like wasting my time with some of those guys.

PEYTON

Wow, you sound just like your mom, Katy. She doesn't ever want you to have one?

KATY

My mom's just protective, that's all.

Peyton and Katy exchange a look -- *understatement*.

KATY (CONT'D)

Like, she'd never let me run this trail alone. But I guess now I will just have to...

PEYTON

Omg. You're not seriously jealous of Trent?

KATY

No, I just, well, you know how it is when your best friend gets a boyfriend.

PEYTON

No, tell me.

KATY

You kinda lose your best friend. You'll hang out with Trent a lot instead of me.

Katy shoots her a look bolts ahead. Peyton catches up --

PEYTON

That will never happen. You will always be my favorite person in the world and my best friend. No guy is going to come between us, I promise.

Then, something catches Peyton's eye. Sees...

A man standing by a tree smoking dressed in street clothes, not one piece of clothing that indicates he's a runner.

Katy follows her gaze and sees him too. As they jog closer to him, they avoid eye contact and continue faster past him on their run.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

You saw that guy, right?

Katy glances back -- he's staring right back at her creepily smoking his cigarette.

KATY

Yeah. What a total creeper. He didn't even look like he should be out here, and he was smoking. So gross.

PEYTON

Let's go fast and lose him.

They exchange a nod and start sprinting at full speed --

KATY'S PHONE ESCAPES FROM HER POCKET AND HITS THE GROUND

-- but neither of them notice as they continue to the exit.

EXT. ROAD, OUTSIDE TRAIL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The girl's catch their breath and glance around in both directions, seeing no sign of the creeper.

KATY

Looks like we lost him!

Peyton glances down at her watch.

PEYTON

Good run, Katy cakes!

KATY

You wanna come over for dinner; mom's making pizza?

A beat. Peyton guiltily looks down.

PEYTON

I'm meeting Trent at his house tonight to study and then staying for dinner.

Katy diverts from her disappointment by bending down to adjust her sneaker laces. Peyton is squirming to make her exit --

PEYTON (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow. But call me
later?

Katy nods, and forces a smile. Peyton unlocks her bike lock and takes off down the street. Katy reaches into her pocket and realizes her phone is missing --

KATY
UGH.

This gives Katy pause. She looks up at the trail entrance, her face registering dread. Katy quickly walks through the gate...

INT. TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON Katy jogging, her eyes darting to the left and right of the trail to spot the creeper, and also ahead for her phone.

Further ahead, Katy spots her phone on the path and stops, bending down to pick it up. As her hand grabs the phone --

BOOTS STEP INTO THE FRAME

As Katy looks up she is STRUCK in the face with his fist.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

THE EMS DOORS SLIDE OPEN -- PARAMEDICS quickly push an unconscious Katy on a gurney to the triage desk. Her face is BLOODY --

PARAMEDIC
We have a 15-year-old female who
was assaulted. Who's in charge
here?

And now Holly turns around -- it's Katy's mom. But the paramedics are in front of the gurney blocking her view of Katy.

HOLLY
That's me. Right this way...

She directs them toward a room down the hallway and quickly follows --

PARAMEDIC

She was hit in the face, jaw, and head several times by an unknown assailant on the Houghton County trail. A young male jogger showed up just as the man was advancing to rape.

HOLLY

The Houghton trail?

Holly's face blanches white. She cranes her neck to look at the girl on the gurney, recognizing that it's her Katy. She steps forward, gasping in shock --

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Katy? Katy, honey... It's mom.

Katy's eyes barely open but she catches a glimpse of her mom staring down at her, looking confused and terrified.

KATY

I love you, mom. I'm sorry...

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Katy and Peyton hear the SCREECH of a cat outside.

KATY

Oh no.

Katy gently moves Peyton's head from her lap to run to the nearest window.

KATY (CONT'D)

That's Ginger!

Peyton can't help but slowly limp over to join Katy.

PEYTON

Oh my GOD! He's killing that cat--

Peyton backs away from the window and starts crying.

KATY'S POV - THROUGH WINDOW

Ginger fighting hard and strong but ultimately succumbing to her wounds as she's ravaged by a rabid boxer dog named JACK --

Katy turns her head and pulls the curtains closed.

KATY
I can't watch.

Katy lies down on the bed with Peyton. They are both in bad shape and need the rest. Katy is breathing heavily.

KATY (CONT'D)
How can Jack be like that? Doesn't he remember that he loves me? And you?

PEYTON
It's the rabies, K. I don't know much about it, but I think they just go crazy when they get infected - almost like zombies. He can't help it...

Peyton's eyes are closing.

KATY
He was such a cute puppy. We saved him, you know?

PEYTON
Saved him from what?

Peyton falls fast asleep from exhaustion. Katy looks to the nightstand. Sees... A gold-framed picture of Jack as a tiny puppy.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S CAR - DRIVING - **FLASHBACK**

Holly is driving -- focused --

KATY (O.C.)
Where are we going, mom?

Holly turns to look at Katy. She's recovered well but still looks a little bruised with a few stitches remaining near her temple.

HOLLY
You'll see... We're here.

Katy follows her gaze as they pull into a carpark. She looks up and starts smiling when she sees the sign: "KINGSVILLE ANIMAL SHELTER."

KATY
Are we getting a dog? Oh my gosh,
mom, for real?

Katy excitedly jumps out of the car without waiting for a reply.

KATY (CONT'D)
Come on, Mom.

CUT TO:

EXT. KENNELS, ANIMAL SHELTER - LATER

Holly and Katy walk together behind the STAFF MEMBER. Katy has a spring in her step.

HOLLY
Maybe I can run and exercise with
the dog, too.

KATY
(laughs)
Mom, you don't run.

Holly laughs too. She shrugs her shoulders -- *busted*.

HOLLY
Or a dog that can run with you.

Off Katy's look, understanding why they're there.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
So, don't pick one of those lap
dogs.

KATY
Fine then, I want a lab.

Katy and Holly continue looking through the kennel but most of the labs are older.

HOLLY
These ones will never keep up.

Then they both spot a beagle. Katy's face lights up. But --

HOLLY (CONT'D)
How is she going to protect you,
honey? She's just too small.

Katy sighs. The staff member exchanges a look with Holly.

STAFF MEMBER

There is a dog that will be available tomorrow that just arrived this morning. We still need to finish his paperwork and registration. Would you like to meet him?

Off Katy's excited look, we move to...

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The staff member brings out a frisky 6-month-old brown and white Boxer on a leash, his nub just a wagging as he sees Katy and Holly.

KATY

What kind of dog is this?

Katy chuckles as she pets him. Glances up to listen --

STAFF MEMBER

He's a Boxer. Great family dog, active, loves to run, needs space, and likes to be inside and out. Adult Boxers will reach around 55 pounds, and while he isn't fully grown, he is well on his way.

Katy's eyes widen with excitement as she looks to Holly.

HOLLY

Perfect.

KATY

So, why did the owners give him up for adoption? He's such a sweet, little cutie.

Katy pets and kisses the dog.

HOLLY

And he seems so well-trained.

STAFF MEMBER

Right? He's only been here a few hours, and everyone just loves him already...

Katy and Holly look to him as he nervously glances down.

STAFF MEMBER (CONT'D)

After a few months with the first owners, he was given to their grandkids who abused him terribly, and they either didn't know or didn't care.

The staff member is almost shaking with fury. Katy looks back at the dog, gently stroking his fur while the staff member continues to speak.

STAFF MEMBER (CONT'D)

The kids would shoot at him with a BB gun while he tried to run away from them.

He's growing increasingly upset.

STAFF MEMBER (CONT'D)

A young girl who lived down the street saw the events and called the SPCA. She saved him.

KATY

Mom, I want him. He needs to be with a loving family like ours, don't you think?

STAFF MEMBER

I have to say- While we can't tell yet if the abuse will cause any issues, I think you would be a great fit.

HOLLY

I agree. We will take him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - DAY

Holly arrives home after work to find Katy and Jack cozily sitting outside on the swing, reading and enjoying the sun.

HOLLY

Look at you two!

KATY

Hey, mom. Anything gruesome happen today?

HOLLY

Ha! Nothing more than usual- a few car accident victims and some oldies with endless health issues who love to talk.

She joins them on the porch, and Jack starts barking, spinning in circles, and jumping up and down.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Hey, Jack! It's good to see you too.

Katy quickly joins in on the playfulness, running around the yard, yelling and waving her arms... Jack follows while barking and nipping at her heels.

Holly is riveted by the scene, observing the two while they play. She runs to join Katy, taking part in the fun.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUNNING TRACK, HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

We FLASH FORWARD to Peyton and Katy starting their senior year. They are getting ready to start their two-mile cross country race. The weather is perfect for a run, 57 degrees.

Bob, Nancy, Holly, and Jack are cheering for the girls from the sidelines. There are five schools represented at the race.

Bob and Holly rally to give the girls a quick final pep-talk.

BOB

You both have a good chance to win at this meet. I know neither one of you has won a race yet, but you have usually finished in the top six. Make this one count!

HOLLY

After today, there is only more before the UIL District Championship! Good luck, girls!

The girls nod and excitedly head off to the line up. There are eight runners in the top pack including Katy and Peyton.

The trio of parents eagerly watch them in anticipation...

The STARTING GUN smokes, and the race begins.

SERIES OF SHOTS -- THE RACE

- Katy and Peyton have a good start and stick with the group.
 - The top runners pull away but it's just to set a pace.
 - Katy and Peyton pass the 1-mile marker of a 2-mile track.
- Then Katy sees her mom with other parents at the finish line.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Go Katy! You can do it, Peyton!

Katy then catches a glimpse of Jack! He's BARKING like crazy as she passes... Her mom restrains Jack from following Katy.

Peyton, who is right behind Katy, sees Jack as well and nearly cracks up at the sight of him wanting to race too.

The leads approach the finish and the push for 1st is on...

Katy and Peyton sprint and surge their way to the front.

The crowd YELLS while Jack is BARKING because of the noise.

Katy jumps slightly ahead of Peyton when she hears Jack barking, giving her the extra inspiration. Katy and Peyton cross the finish at third and fourth...

The parents' watch from afar as the girls' approach the timers... From their expressions it looks like great news.

Katy and Peyton return to their biggest supporters, making their way through the crowd of other families and runners.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Wow, you ladies were great. What were your times?

PEYTON

Personal best for both.

HOLLY

That is so awesome. I knew it. You looked like you were going so fast. I don't know how you do it!

KATY

Well, it because of our hard work and my cute little dog.

Katy bends down to kiss and pet Jack who has been waiting patiently for his turn.

BOB

Another personal best! That means
\$25 for Peyton.

Katy and Holly exchange a look -- *busted*.

Bob gives Peyton a hug. Nancy quips to Holly smiling wide --

NANCY

We had to give her at least \$25 to
stay competitive with you and your
bribing.

Nancy and Holly laugh.

KATY

I don't know what you're talking
about, Mrs. Wyatt.

Katy holds Jack up and looks right at his little, cute face
and gives him a big kiss on the nose and a huge cuddle.

NANCY

They really have a shot at district
this year. They have worked so
hard.

Katy and Peyton exchange a glance. Then Peyton pipes up --

PEYTON

Yes, we really want it, but we are
not going to stop there. We want
State.

Peyton and Katy do a high five.

HOLLY

That sounds expensive. Sounds like
a lot of \$25 bills and a lot of
overtime. But that's alright by me.

KATY

Yep, Mom, because our times are
only going to get better.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Holly is driving, and Katy sits beaming in the passenger
seat. Jack is happily nestled in her lap getting stroked.

HOLLY

I am so proud of you, Katy. You have really worked so hard. It's so awesome to see you race. Really.

KATY

I appreciate it, Mom. I love it when you're there, and thanks for letting the cutie come along which was a bonus.

HOLLY

I don't know what was going on, but when you were in the shower he was going nuts whimpering at your cross country clothes laid out on the bed. He knew you were running and wanted to be there.

Katy looks at Jack to find him looking right back at them, his tongue hanging and panting with a sweet look in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Katy and Peyton are still trapped like prisoners in Katy's mom's room. Katy looks down and sees Peyton is passed out, her body totally limp.

KATY

Peyton. Peyton!

Katy yells while shaking her arm.

PEYTON

What? What? Is that you, Katy?

Peyton's voice is course and she looks disoriented.

KATY

Yeah, it's me. Can you see me?

Peyton's eyes are open but she isn't looking at Katy.

PEYTON

Yeah, barely. Why are my eyes blurry? Where are we? What is going on, K? I'm so scared.

Peyton slowly rises up from the bed.

KATY

You have been asleep for about 20 minutes. I thought you were, well, sleeping.

Katy looks somewhat relieved. Peyton looks out of it --

PEYTON

What? Ouch, my arm hurts.

She accidentally touches her bandage and winces in pain.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Twenty minutes? Why are we here?

Katy stares at Peyton's pale face and confused look.

KATY

Peyton, are you alright? We came here after school a few hours ago.

PEYTON

I don't remember...

KATY

We heard Jack in the back going nuts.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER, SLOAN RESIDENCE - **THREE HOURS EARLIER**

Katy and Peyton coming home dressed in their school uniforms.

The sound of BARKING...

Katy and Peyton exchange a smile and dump their backpacks.

KATY

Sounds like his old self again!

Katy's PHONE PINGS... She excitedly reads the text aloud:

KATY (CONT'D)

Grey is texting me to see if we are going running tonight. He wants to go with us if we go.

Off Peyton's hesitant look.

KATY (CONT'D)
 Or do you still feel weird after
 your breakup with Trent? You never
 told me the reason why.

Peyton's not responding, she suddenly looks frozen.

Jack's GROWLING and SCRATCHING at the back door is growing...

KATY (CONT'D)
 Look, don't worry about it. I know
 it was hard on you.

Katy holds Peyton's hands. Then, her CELL PHONE RINGS: "MOM."

Katy rolls her eyes at Peyton, answering the call on loud
 speaker.

KATY (CONT'D)
 Yes, Mother?

HOLLY (V.O.)
 (over phone, filtered)
 Hey, lock and bolt the door, then
 get food and water for Jack. Oh,
 and if y'all cook anything, make
 sure to turn off the stove
 afterward, OK?

KATY
 OK, love you, bye.

HOLLY (V.O.)
 Wait, is that Jack?

KATY
 He's going nuts. He is growling and
 jumping at the back door.

HOLLY (V.O.)
 OK, let him in. He sounds like he's
 feeling better. You should both go
 outside and play with him.

KATY
 OK, see you when you get home, mom.
 Bye.

She hangs up and places her cell phone on the sideboard
 table.

KATY (CONT'D)
 Come on! Let's get some food.

Peyton puts down her cell phone down next to Katy's and follows...

HALLWAY

They walk past several family portraits on the walls and into...

THE KITCHEN

Where Katy approaches the back door that is covered by a shade. They see Jack's shadow frenetically banging against the door.

KATY

Alright already! Geez...

Peyton excitedly waits to see Jack. But when Katy opens the door --

JACK BURSTS INSIDE AND THE DOOR FLIES BACKWARDS AND HITS THE WALL HARD SHATTERING THE GLASS ALL OVER THE TILED FLOOR

Katy is startled but pushes the glass back with her shoe as Jack races towards Peyton at full speed --

PEYTON

Come here, cutie!

Jack pounces on Peyton knocking her backwards. He bites her and aggressively scratches at her arms with his paws. She SCREAMS and starts to bleed.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

OUCH, JACK.

KATY

Jack!

Katy rushes over and tries to grab Jack by the collar to pull him off Peyton, but Katy isn't strong enough. Jack continues to maul Peyton as she tries to fight him off --

PEYTON

Katy! DO SOMETHING.

Jack bites Peyton's left wrist and BLOOD SPRAYS all over her face, Jack, Katy, and the floor.

Katy is forced to KICK him off Peyton which sends him sliding into the kitchen area...

Katy pulls Peyton up and they run toward...

THE HALLWAY

Where Peyton leaves a trail of blood as they both rush toward the first door which is open... Katy turns around. Sees...

Jack bounding down the hallway behind them.

KATY

Quick, come in here!

They enter Holly's room and slam the door shut just as Jack reaches the door, his mouth foaming and baring his teeth.

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

They hear Jack POUNDING on the door just as Katy turns the lock. He continues to beat against it as Katy holds her hands up against the door. She tries to talk to him through the door, hoping to calm him down.

KATY

It's okay, Jack. Calm down.

The sound of Peyton MOANING...

Katy turns to see Peyton just standing there in shock, her bloody, beaten up body dripping blood onto the carpet.

Peyton and Katy start crying, terrified and startled by the growing POUNDING on the door.

PEYTON

I'm bleeding everywhere.

Peyton looks at the blood on the floor and holds her wrist.

KATY

Let me see...

Katy kneels to examine the wound.

PEYTON

It's pretty bad.

She loosens her grip on her wrist -- BLOOD SPRAYS EVERYWHERE

KATY

Oh my God, that's an artery.

Katy grabs her wrist to hold pressure.

PEYTON
I know; it's bad.

Peyton takes over the pressure holding on her wrist. They exchange a look of despair. A long beat. Then --

BANG! BANG!

Katy and Peyton get on the floor and huddle together as Jack continues GROWLING and BARKING and SLAMMING himself against the door -

Peyton is holding her wound and Katy is holding Peyton.

KATY
Stop it, Jack!

She looks to Peyton guilt-ridden.

KATY (CONT'D)
My kick would have hurt him.

PEYTON
Why is he acting this way? Why did he attack me?

KATY
I don't know, but maybe if I try and talk to him again then he'll settle down.

PEYTON
No, don't! What if he attacks you, too?

KATY
I have to try. We need to get you to a doctor.

Katy gets up and walks to the door. She can't hear Jack at the door, so she moves to unlock it...

Katy takes a peek. Then --

JACK BURSTS THROUGH AND KNOCKS KATY TO THE GROUND

He starts biting her legs and then lunges toward Katy's face but Peyton quickly jumps up to tackle Jack and drags him off of Katy.

PEYTON
STOP IT, JACK.

But she's unable to hold Jack for long. She's bleeding too much from her wrist.

Katy grabs the desk chair and uses it to block and also force Jack out of the room. After a struggle, they succeed --

Peyton quickly locks the door.

KATY

Peyton! Why did you do that?

PEYTON

He was going for your head.

Peyton falls onto the blood-stained carpet. Katy holds her bloody wrist again to try and stop the bleeding. Peyton's eyes start to close...

KATY

Oh my God, I don't have my cell phone!

PEYTON

Use your mom's home phone.

KATY

We don't have one. My mom saves money with just having our cell phones.

Katy watches helplessly as Peyton fades.

KATY (CONT'D)

Keep applying pressure, I'll be right back.

INT. ENSUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katy enters and rummages through Holly's cabinets...

She grabs some Band-Aids and some small gauze wraps.

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katy returns with the goods to patch up Peyton.

KATY

OK, this is good for the scratches and now for your wrist... Are you ready, Pei Wei?

Peyton removes her hand from her wrist and BLOOD SPRAYS OUT again all over Katy and the carpet.

KATY (CONT'D)

Oh, my god.

Katy rapidly grabs the gauze wrap and encircles Peyton's wrist. The blood is squirting from her radial artery. She puts a large square piece of gauze that is then wrapped over and makes the wrap very tight to where the bleeding stops.

PEYTON

It is so tight I can't feel or move my fingers much.

Katy looks up to see Peyton is now shivering and tearing up.

KATY

I know, but it needs to be tight to stop the bleeding. We can take it off for a little while later and give you a break.

She sits beside Peyton on the bed and holds her hand.

KATY (CONT'D)

We'll get out of this. I just need to think of a plan.

Katy looks at her body. Sees... Multiple bites and scratches on her legs and arms. She patches herself up with Holly's kit.

PEYTON

Thanks for your help, Katy. You've always been so strong and smart.

KATY

What do you mean?

PEYTON

You always know what to do. You help people all the time. Kids at school always talk to you like a shrink. They love you, and so do I.

KATY

Why are you telling me all of this?

PEYTON

Because I don't know what is going to happen to us, and I wanted you to know I think you are a great person. I am glad that you are here with me.

Peyton looks up with a light smile. Katy is teary-eyed --

KATY

I am glad I am here with you too.

PEYTON

I am so sorry about Jack. I love him, too. He is always such a sweet dog.

KATY

Yeah, I know. I love him, too. Jack doesn't deserve this... OMG he was just so cute when we first rescued him.

PEYTON

You know, I don't blame him. He would have never attacked us if he wasn't sick.

This gives them pause. They lean on each other thinking --

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Let's just break a window and jump through to the backyard.

KATY

Oh my god, yes!

Katy glances around the room. Sees...

A STAINLESS STEEL TRASH CAN

KATY (CONT'D)

Got it...

Katy grabs the trash can and determinedly heads to the window.

KATY (CONT'D)

Stand back.

But Peyton gets up and joins her, hovering at the curtain to the side of the window.

Katy rears back, but before she releases the can --

PEYTON
Wait, he's there!

Katy stops her fast swing right when Jack jumps up to the window.

KATY
Oh my God!

Jack is bloody and they can barely recognize him.

They move away from the window and back up into the bedroom.

Jack then starts terrorizing the girls and jumps up to all the windows.

PEYTON
What are we going to do? We can't leave through the bedroom door or through any of the windows and we can't lock him out because the back door is broken!

Off Katy's look.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
We are going to die.

It's Katy now that loses it and falls into Peyton's arms.

KATY
I can't believe this is happening.

PEYTON
It's not your fault, Katy. I think Jack has rabies. He's acting like he does: Foaming at the mouth, going crazy, and when he gets hurt, he just gets right back up.

Katy searching -- then --

KATY
He got that scratch on his ear on the weekend. But now that I think about it... It could have been a raccoon.

Off Peyton's look.

KATY (CONT'D)
OMG! Maybe a raccoon bit Jack!

PEYTON

Raccoons are known to carry rabies.

Now Katy cries hysterically. Peyton doesn't know what to do.

KATY

Poor Jack is going to die.

Jack startles them when he BEATS AT THE BEDROOM DOOR again, cracking parts of the wooden frame. Then, he runs back to the window --

PEYTON

I need to sit down. I am feeling dizzy.

Katy looks at her, she is pale and seems ready to pass out at any moment.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

I'm tired and cold; these bites really hurt.

Peyton slowly makes her way to the bed and lays down.

KATY

I wish my mom were here. She would know what to do.

PEYTON

Yeah, I am sure she would.

Katy grabs the comforter and pulls it over Peyton.

KATY

I'm going to check mom's cabinets again...

Katy leaves and we STAY with Peyton -- it's not looking good, she's wincing in pain and her eyes are starting to roll back.

Katy returns with a Tylenol bottle in her hand.

KATY (CONT'D)

Here... Take these. And drink some water...

Katy tips two pills from a Tylenol bottle into her hand and gives them to Peyton. Then Peyton drinks from the glass of water...

PEYTON

I have never drunk water from the faucet before. It's really pretty gross.

KATY

I can't exactly walk out the door to get you your Smart water from the fridge.

The girls share a weak laugh which perks them up a bit.

PEYTON

What time is it?

Katy checks her watch. She looks up with a glimmer of hope --

KATY

It's 5 p.m.

PEYTON

What time will your mom be back?

Katy looks at Peyton and sees that she's in dire need of medical assistance.

KATY

Soon.

Peyton looks right through her, knowing that she's lying. A beat.

PEYTON

You're a great friend, Katy.

Peyton shuts her eyes. Katy can see her breathing, but she knows that she's running out of time.

Katy glances around for some sort of weapon but there's nothing strong enough.

Katy gets up and opens the dresser and finds a RING BOX among the clothes -- inside is a KEY --

INT. WALK-IN CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Katy enters and turns on the light. She uses the key to unlock a safe in the closet --

THE SAFE DOOR OPENS AND WE SEE A GLOCK 9MM GUN

Katy pulls it out slowly, holding it with both hands. She looks over to Peyton sleeping and then stares at the GUN...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, SLOAN RESIDENCE - **FLASHBACK**

Katy is staring at the same GUN that Holly is holding in her hands.

KATY

Mom, what is that? I mean, why do you have it?

HOLLY

Katy, don't get scared.

KATY

I thought you hated guns, Mom - ugh. You know they totally scare me.

Katy moves away from the bench. Jack follows her...

HOLLY

Yes, I know, but after that incident on the trail, I want to have something around in case things get out of hand.

KATY

Fine. But I don't need to see it!

HOLLY

I just want to show you how it works.

Off Katy's startled look. Holly softens her tone --

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Just in case.

KATY

No, I don't want to ever touch a gun.

HOLLY

This is not a choice.

Off Katy's look - she's never seen her mom so serious.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I need you to learn how to use it,
OK? It will just take a few
minutes; then you can watch TV.

Katy looks at Jack looking back at her and then to Holly.

KATY
OK!

SERIES OF SHOTS

Holly talks to Katy as she's giving her a demonstration.

HOLLY
I have a license to carry in Texas,
and I can openly carry it as well.

-- Holly putting in the bullets.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
This gun is a Glock 9mm.

-- Holly showing Katy how to hold the gun.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
You must protect yourself if you
are ever in any danger whatsoever.

-- Katy putting the gun on the table.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I'm going to keep it in the safe -
do you hear me, Katy?!

Katy looks up at Holly with her arms crossed, content that the demonstration is over, but still reeling over her mom's new gun.

KATY
I still can't believe you bought a
gun. You always said you hated them
because you see so much violence
with guns at work.

HOLLY
Yeah, I know. People at work, your
dad, and even Poppa said that we
should have one. Your dad said he
could show you how to use the gun
better when you are at his place.
He will take you to a gun range or
hunting.

Holly puts the gun back in its case.

KATY

Hunting, seriously, he said
hunting? I am not going hunting and
killing any animals.

Holly laughs, shaking her head at Katy's theatrics.

HOLLY

I think he meant for you just to
shoot cans or targets on trees. I
don't think he would ask you to
shoot a living thing. You are like
me. I can't kill anything with a
nose.

KATY

Yes, I know right? I can't. I even
get upset if I kill a fish while
fishing, and they don't even have
noses.

Holly keeps laughing. Katy looks like a bulb went off --

KATY (CONT'D)

Mom, you know the bat you keep in
your room ... Well, why don't I keep
it in my room, and you keep the gun
in yours?

HOLLY

Actually, I think that is a good
idea. But that still does not get
you off the hook. You still have to
learn how to use the gun.

KATY

Ugh.

Katy walks away. Jack follows her up the staircase...

INT. KATY'S BEDROOM

It's dark except for a night candle. It illuminates Katy's
pensive face as she lays in bed staring at the ceiling.

Holly pokes her head through the gap in the door...

HOLLY

I saw the light on- can't sleep?

Katy shakes her head, sliding over for her mom to sit on the bed.

KATY

Do you miss dad living here?

Holly lowers her head, putting her hand on Katy's arm.

HOLLY

Of course I miss parts of him, but honey, some people are just not meant to be together all the time.

KATY

I understand. I love you, mom.

Holly smiles and ends up laying on the bed to comfort Katy.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Katy exits the walk-in closet holding the GUN...

PEYTON

Where did you get that?

Katy looks up to see Peyton half-awake staring at the gun.

KATY

It's my mom's 9mm. Have you ever shot a gun before?

She looks melancholy as Peyton barely shakes her head.

PEYTON

Never.

KATY

Me neither. Dad was supposed to take me to a gun range or hunting to try it out, but that hasn't happened yet.

Katy lifts the gun and checks it as Holly told her that day.

KATY (CONT'D)

I'm going to shoot Jack.

Off Peyton's look.

KATY (CONT'D)
I can't believe this, but I have to. It's our only way out. I don't know how much longer you will last, Pei.

Off Peyton's look.

KATY (CONT'D)
We have three or more hours until my mom will be home.

Peyton stares wide-eyed at Katy in disbelief. She knows how conflicted Katy is with this decision. A long beat. Finally --

PEYTON
You're right. I didn't want to say anything, but I really don't feel good. I feel like something terrible is happening to me. I am having a hard time breathing.

Off Katy's terrified look.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
You can do this, K.

Katy sits on the bed and Peyton manages to sit up for a hug.

KATY
We need to figure out the strategy.

Peyton nods, trying to gather her strength.

KATY (CONT'D)
You could open the door...

Katy's V.O. CARRIES OVER:

EXT. BACKYARD, SLOAN RESIDENCE - SAME

Jack POUNDING into the back fence trying to knock it down.

KATY (V.O.)
...with me standing in front and ready to pull the trigger...

The cat we glimpsed earlier is nothing but a carcass now.

KATY (V.O.)
...as Jack comes rushing in...

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - SAME

Peyton confirming the plan with Katy.

PEYTON

Then you will fire as many times as
needed.

They exchange a confident but nervous nod. A beat.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Are you ready, K?

KATY

Yeah, let's do this --

Her eyes riveting straight to the 9mm. Then back at Peyton --

KATY (CONT'D)

Pei Wei, can you do this? Are you
going to have the strength?

PEYTON

Yes, girl, whatever it takes.

KATY

Ok, then, let's get into position.

The girls move toward the door to get set. Peyton is moving slowly but stands ready next to the door with one hand on the doorknob and the other on the lock.

Katy is standing straight, feet apart, holding the gun out in front of her.

PEYTON

I'll count it down from three.

KATY

Alright.

Katy squeezing the gun tight with both hands.

PEYTON

Three ... two ...

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Wait, Katy, what if you miss?

Peyton raises her hands up in the air and then winces in pain.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

If you miss the shot, then Jack will come straight for me, and then, we are both doomed. Neither one of us has the strength to fight a rabid, 55-pound animal.

KATY

I know, I thought about that, too. I just need to try something to get out of here. I haven't even shot the gun yet, and I would probably freak and miss him altogether and probably hit you.

PEYTON

I know, right?

Peyton walks to the bed and sits down. Her face is white.

KATY

Peyton, there's no way I can pull that trigger. I just can't shoot Jack.

Katy lies down next to Peyton teary-eyed.

KATY (CONT'D)

I can't shoot my own dog.

Peyton rests her head on Katy's chest. They lie there for a beat. Peyton falls asleep and Katy begins quietly crying...

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER, SLOAN RESIDENCE - SAME

CLOSE ON KATY'S PHONE RINGING on the sideboard table next to Peyton's phone. We see the banner: "4 MISSED CALLS MOM."

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

PAN ACROSS THE NIGHTSTAND CLOCK: "5:17 P.M..." to find Katy and Peyton taking a nap, exhausted from their ordeal. Then --

THE SOUND OF JACK POUNDING ON THE DOOR AND BARKING

Katy and Peyton awaken -- they look terrified and exhausted.

KATY

Oh my God.

They watch the two French doors as they give a little with each body slam by Jack. The frame is CRACKING more and more with each thrust.

PEYTON

I can't take it anymore.

Off her look of fear and gloom, Katy rushes over to lean back against the middle of the doors. With every lunge from Jack, she's nearly thrown forward by the doors pushing against her.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

They aren't going to hold, Katy!
He's too strong. He's going to get
in here and kill us!

Peyton jumps up, wincing in pain, and runs to the dresser where Katy left the gun. Crying now, she picks up the gun and out of pure fear and hypoxia, starts to point it at the door and in Katy's direction.

KATY

Peyton, put the gun down!

Peyton shakes her head, crying and wiping her eyes with one hand, while clutching the gun in the other.

KATY (CONT'D)

I know you can't do it, Pei, for
the same reason that I can't - we
love him. Put the gun down. We
don't know how to kill, and we
would probably shoot each other
instead like I said earlier.

Peyton lowers the gun. The POUNDING stops abruptly, and Katy no longer jolts with her back against the door.

Peyton places the gun on the dresser and walks over to one of the windows.

PEYTON

It looks so peaceful out there -
the swing set, the trees, the
little squirrels running across the
top of the fence.

KATY

This whole neighborhood is
peaceful. That's why mom wanted to
move here.

Katy moves over to join Peyton and stares out the window.

PEYTON

What do you think happened to Jack?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, SLOAN RESIDENCE - **FLASHBACK**

Holly puts Jack outside in the yard and leaves for work.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jack settles and starts to take an early morning nap. But he is awakened by the neighboring dogs BARKING like crazy...

Jack jumps up to join in the fun -- running along the fence, BARKING back, and rubbing some noses through the fence holes.

Jack hears some RUSTLING behind him. He turns to see a RACCOON eating his food. The raccoon is startled, and then sprints for the edge of the fence trying to find a way out.

Jack follows the varmint BARKING and GROWLING...

The raccoon freezes as Jack gets close to smell the odd character. Then --

THE RACCOON POUNCES AND BITES THE CORNER OF JACK'S EAR

Jack backs away quickly, wincing in pain. He uses his front paws to pull at his ear, blood slowly dripping from the gash.

The raccoon scampers up the fence slowly and makes its exit.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER, SLOAN RESIDENCE - LATER

Katy and Peyton enter the front door and dump their bags on the floor. They move into...

THE KITCHEN

Where they grab a bunch of snacks from the fridge. Katy looks to the back door but doesn't see or hear Jack.

PEYTON

Where's Jack?

Katy opens the back door... Peyton follows her while digging into her snack.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jack is lying in his bed with his eyes open. Katy smiles --

KATY
Come inside, cutie.

Katy waits by the door as Jack shuffles in slowly without enthusiasm. She shuts the door behind them.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They pet him and suddenly stop. Katy sees...

Dried blood on Jack's left ear.

Katy takes a closer look, touching his ear with her fingers.

Jack winces and WHINES... Peyton frowns.

KATY
I wonder how that happened...

PEYTON
Maybe you should call your mom?

Katy nods and grabs her cell from the counter. Speed dials...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. PHARMACEUTICAL ROOM, HOSPITAL - SAME

Holly looks alarmed at seeing "KATY CALLING" on her phone.

HOLLY
Katy? Is everything OK?

Katy takes a breath and returns to Jack to look at the wound.

KATY
There is about an inch-long scratch where Jack's ear attaches to the head. Not around the tip of the ear. It's close to his head.

HOLLY
Is it bleeding right now?

KATY

No. It's all dried. I mean, he seems fine, but he isn't acting as hyper as he usually does?

HOLLY

He's probably a little sore. I suspect that he scratched his ear along the fence while chasing the neighbor's dog. Just keep an eye on him... I'll be home soon.

Katy hangs up. She stays there looking at Jack.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Peyton and Katy are standing by the window. There is no sign of Jack...

KATY

He wasn't very playful after that day. My mom did say that his wound seemed to be taking a long time to heal. She said that she took him to the vet--

Peyton suddenly puts her hand on the wall to support herself, looking like she might drop at any moment.

Katy rushes over to help.

KATY (CONT'D)

You need to lie down.

Katy leads Peyton to the bed and sits on the edge. Katy's eyes wander to her mom's dresser. Sees... THE LOADED GUN.

PEYTON

You'll miss, Katy.

Katy turns to look at Peyton but can barely recognize her; her face is void of color and her vivaciousness has vanished.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

So, I guess we will need a note for school and cross country, huh?

Peyton offers a faint smirk. Katy feigns a grin in response.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

What about the meet? It's in six days, and I don't want to miss it. It is the last meet before the district meet--

Peyton sighs, disappointed.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

What am I saying? I may not be able to get out of here. I feel like I am going to die.

Peyton is getting hypoxic (lack of oxygen) from shock. She grows more and more anxious and starts talking erratically.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

What if I get rabies? I got bit a lot, and you did, too.

Off Katy's concerned look.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

We are going to get rabies and go crazy and die just like Jack!

Without warning Peyton leaps up from the bed and rushes to the bedroom door. She tries to unlock it...

KATY

Peyton! NO!

Katy runs over pulls her hands off the lock. She holds Peyton's hands tightly in her hands, looking up directly into her eyes.

KATY (CONT'D)

Come and sit down. I'm begging you, Peyton- you need to rest. Mom will be home soon and this will all be over.

But Peyton persists and continues over to the window. Sees...

JACK STANDING RIGHT OUTSIDE

Peyton backs away shaking her head, truly looking like she has lost her marbles.

KATY (CONT'D)

Pei Wei! Everything is going to be alright, I promise. Please, sit down...

Peyton runs around the room frantically.

PEYTON

I need you to tell my parents that
I love them and that--

KATY

Peyton!

Katy grabs both of her arms and tries to calm her down.

PEYTON

You can tell your parents whatever
you want yourself tonight over
dinner when they both come home
from work.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

I... I... I can't see--

Peyton takes another two steps and passes out, falling to the
bedroom floor like a sack of potatoes.

Katy watches as her head hits the bedroom floor.

KATY

Oh my God!

Katy kneels and rolls her over onto her back. Peyton is out
cold. Katy's worst fear has come true. Her hands start
shaking...

KATY (CONT'D)

Pei Wei... Wake up... Please!

She puts Peyton's head in her lap and holds her gently. Katy
checks everything and sees that Peyton's wound dressing is
hanging off her wrist. She quickly fixes the gauze around the
wound and holds it tight.

Peyton is moaning but is not awake.

KATY (CONT'D)

I need you with me right now.

Peyton wakes but only to close her eyes again.

Katy looks around and winces at the blood-stained carpet...

KATY (CONT'D)

My mom told me when I'm dehydrated
from running, I should lay flat
with my feet up until I feel
better.

Katy looks at the clock on the nightstand. It's now: "6 p.m."

KATY (CONT'D)
I know you can do it...

No reply. Katy leans over Peyton and begins to quietly pray.

PEYTON
(quietly, half-awake)
If your mom comes home not knowing
about Jack, then she could get
bitten too.

Katy looks down at Peyton. She can hardly stand it anymore.

KATY
Nothing bad will happen to her -
she will help us.

Peyton's eyes flicker slightly. She's now really out of it --

PEYTON
What if he gets her in the neck?

Katy's eyes grows wider.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
She could bleed out before an
ambulance arrives.

KATY
Don't say that.

Katy looks at Peyton's nearly dead body, pale with little life remaining. She's breathing fast... Katy tries to feel her pulse -- none. Katy fears the worst for her best friend.

PEYTON
Jack could get all of us again and
again.

Peyton's eyes close again.

Katy walks over to the door and reaches her hand out as though she's going to exit the room.

Peyton wakes up and looks around the room. Sees...

Katy with one hand on the knob and the other on the latch for the lock.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
What are you doing, Katy?

Katy swings around beside herself to see Peyton awake again.

KATY

Peyton! I thought you were dying!

Katy runs over to her friend. She gives her some water.

KATY (CONT'D)

Here...

PEYTON

Well, not yet. But what were you about to do? Don't go out there. He will kill you. He won't stop. I've heard about rabies, and they never stop.

KATY

I have to try something. My mom will never know what she is walking into... And I can't let that happen.

PEYTON

We need to get out of here and get to our phones.

KATY

We? There is no we. I am going alone.

PEYTON

OK, but I can at least help you with your plan. Why don't I distract Jack at the bathroom window while you run out the front door and to a neighbor's house?

KATY

I am not leaving you. I am going to try to get my phone to call for help. I can beat him. He is getting worse and slowing down.

PEYTON

I won't be able to help you if he gets you. You have to go as fast as you can.

Peyton starts to cry.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

I love you, Katy. You are my best friend and like a sister to me. I don't want to lose you.

KATY

I love you too, Pei Wei, but I have to do this now, or I will lose you. I know you have a lot of fight in you. I have seen it today, but you will die if we don't get out of here soon. You have lost way too much blood. Are you sure you can do this?

Katy is now crying too. She hugs Peyton, trying to be gentle with her wrist.

PEYTON

Yes, I have to.

Katy helps Peyton walk into...

INT. ENSUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Where she delicately sits her up on the side of the tub next to the window.

Peyton watches as Katy leaves the door open and walks back toward the bedroom door.

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The girl's can see each other through the doorway.

Katy gets ready by the door for Peyton's distraction --

INT. ENSUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

With all her strength, Peyton starts BANGING on the bathroom window.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jack is lying outside the bedroom door. His head wildly spins around at the commotion. Then --

He bolts upright and runs to jump into the window where Peyton is BANGING and cracks it even more.

INT. ENSUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peyton winces in pain from the exertion. She call out:

PEYTON
Katy, go!

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katy opens the door and exits. She quickly closes the door.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Katy races down the hall but before she reaches the staircase she sees Jack appear -- he's GROWLING and looking CRAZY --

KATY
Stay there, Jack.

But he starts bounding toward her so the only thing Katy can do is run straight to...

THE STAIRCASE

Where she bounds upwards to the landing...

INT. HALLWAY, UPSTAIRS

And then spins around the railing to continue running toward her bedroom on the right where the door is open --

INT. KATY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katy rushes inside and slams the door shut. Jack's torso bashes against the door a second later. DAMMIT - NO PHONE!

She just stands there catching her breath, her adrenalin pumping.

Jack's pounding stops but Peyton is still going...

KATY
Come on, Katy. Think!

Soon, Peyton's BANGING stops too and it's quiet.

Katy makes her way to the bed and lies there looking up at the ceiling and holding herself tightly.

We see she has a typical teenage girl's room -- bookshelves, posters of pop stars on the wall-papered walls, a desk piled high with textbooks and fiction books and a desktop computer.

Katy's current nightmare seems crazy in this ideal setting.

INT. ENSUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peyton puts her head down, sighs, thinking that they are now both safe until the police arrive. But Jack starts up again. He's really agitated and making progress. The window frame is splitting and just about to break off. Peyton limps out...

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She puts her ear against the bedroom door. But she can't hear anything and wonders if something has happened to Katy...

Peyton debates running outside too. She can hear Jack is still working on the back window. Then--

THE WINDOW BREAKS AND JACK TRIES TO JUMP THROUGH

Peyton flings the bedroom door open and bolts into the hallway --

INT. KATY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katy hears the door slam against the wall and leaps off the bed. She starts to panic trying to make out what's happened.

KATY

Peyton!

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Peyton runs as fast as she can almost falling over as she finally reaches the front door, unlocks both bolts, and flings the door open. She rushes out not looking behind.

PEYTON

(calling out)

Stay inside the room!

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS

Peyton frantically stumbles for the neighbor's house to the left, but she passes out flat on the grass and is dead still.

INT. KATY'S BEDROOM, UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Katy rushes to the window, planting both her hands firmly on the glass as she gasps at the sight of Peyton on the grass.

KATY
Peyton!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jack bolts toward the open front door and runs outside.

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS

Peyton is unconscious on the grass but still breathing.

But Jack doesn't go after Peyton; he just bounds straight ahead onto the pavement until he vanishes out of sight...

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Katy rushes down the steps, rapidly breathing and crying as she continues into...

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Where she grabs her phone off the sideboard table. Her fingers shakily dial: "911."

Katy rushes out the front door.

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS

Katy kneels beside Peyton while she frantically speaks to the operator, simultaneously feeling Peyton's wrist for a pulse.

KATY
My name is Katy Sloan and my friend
and I were attacked by my dog. We
both need to go to the hospital.
Please hurry, she has a pulse but
she's unconscious. She's lost a lot
of blood... I, I don't know, he ran
down the street. Please hurry!

Katy hangs up. Now she's shaking her head, sobbing and trying to hold it together.

She dials another number: "MOM..."

INT. CHANGING ROOM, HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Holly is closing her locker when her PHONE RINGS...

She looks equally angry as she does relieved when she sees:
"KATY CALLING." Holly answers the phone quickly --

HOLLY
I've been trying to call you! Wait,
slow down--

She struggles to understand Katy who's frantic on the other end but knows something is wrong. Holly interrupts --

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I'll be right home. Hold tight.

Holly hangs up, shoves the phone in her bag, and rushes out.

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - LATER

An ambulance and police car are parked outside.

Holly arrives to find MEDICS loading Peyton onto a stretcher.

She rushes over to hug Katy who looks like a mess and is in total shock, her wounds have been wrapped up but blood has seeped through.

HOLLY
Oh, God, Katy!

Katy calms down at the sight of her mom. A young MEDIC comes over to speak with Holly and Katy.

MEDIC
Sweetie, we're taking your friend
to the hospital.

They look over to see Peyton being loaded into the ambulance.

MEDIC (CONT'D)
We think that a doctor should look
at you too.

Holly looks at the medic. A look of dread washing over her face.

MEDIC (CONT'D)
Hi, you're Katy's mom?

HOLLY

Yes. I'm Holly. Thank you for taking care of my daughter.

MEDIC

Of course, she's a brave girl.

The medic offers Katy a smile but Katy is too worried looking at Peyton looking lethargic in the back of the ambulance.

HOLLY

(to medic)

How is Peyton doing?

MEDIC

We are starting two IVs and giving her a lot of fluids. The ambulance needs to leave ASAP, we need to get Peyton some blood replacement right away.

KATY

I already called her mom so she's driving straight to the hospital to meet us there. Can I go with my mom?

She looks to Holly for her support. The medic looks at Holly.

HOLLY

I'm a nurse. I can keep an eye out.

Two police officers approach from the gate. One is female, OFFICER STANSBY (30s), and the male is OFFICER CARLSON (40).

OFFICER STANSBY

Katy. The dog is gone. We looked everywhere, and we can't find him.

The medic looks concerned as she hops in the front of the ambulance. The other medic shuts the doors and they take off with lights and SIRENS...

HOLLY

I'm Katy's mother. What will happen?

OFFICER CARLSON

We have animal control and several police officers out looking for the dog.

He turns back to Katy.

OFFICER CARLSON (CONT'D)

I know you are hurt and in shock, Katy - but any help that you might be able to provide with regards to Jack's whereabouts would be greatly appreciated. He could hurt, infect, or kill people.

KATY

We run the trails in the neighborhood and that would be a familiar place for Jack to go. He might even follow the trail we usually run that's to the right.

Officer Carlson nods and turns away to speak into his radio.

KATY (CONT'D)

Mom, Peyton is bad. I don't know if she'll make it.

HOLLY

Of course she will, sweetie. She's getting medical attention now.

Officer Carlson turns back to Holly.

OFFICER CARLSON

We can provide a police escort to the hospital. Get you there fast.

Holly smiles gratefully and takes Katy by the hand.

HOLLY

That would be great, thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. ER, HOSPITAL - DAY

Katy receives wound care and a series of rabies shots.

HOLLY

How are you feeling, honey?

Katy tries her best to smile. But her voice is shaking --

KATY

I am fine. But can I see Peyton?

Holly looks to the nurse. The nurse looks at her chart...

NURSE

She's in the ICU on the second floor.

Katy slowly gets herself up, her mom waiting close by in case she falters. They head out of the room with great trepidation.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

An air of doom surrounds them as Katy and Holly walk past a variety of other injured patients and family members.

They reach the elevators and Katy winces in pain as she pushes the button.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Holly enters and presses the button: "2."

Then she puts her hand on Katy's shoulder who's trying not to break down.

HOLLY

Everything is going to be okay.

The doors open and Katy and Holly step out of the elevator.

INT. HALLWAY, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Katy winces at the sign ahead: "INTENSIVE CARE UNIT."

Holly takes her hand and they slowly walk into a hospital room...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They can barely tell that there is a girl laying under the sheets. The covers are white, and so is Peyton. The pink tone of her skin is void.

Katy looks frightened when she sees Nancy, Peyton's mom, standing there staring at Peyton.

KATY

I'm so sorry, Mrs. Wyatt. I--

NANCY

It's okay, sweetie. Come and give me a hug. She'll be alright...

Katy hugs Nancy.

Bob, Peyton's dad, enters the room looking more disgruntled than worried.

Holly motions for Katy to sit by Peyton. Katy takes a seat and grabs Peyton's hand.

KATY

Peyton, it's me...Katy.

Peyton doesn't respond, so Katy squeezes her hand, but still no response. Katy looks up at Nancy, her eyes tearing up.

NANCY

They gave her some pain medicine;
she will be out for a while.

Holly engages with Peyton's parents --

HOLLY

What did the doctor say?

NANCY

That Peyton lost a lot of blood and is having problems with her kidney function. Her blood pressure is getting better since they have given her a lot of blood. But he said it'll probably be a while until they can tell how well her body will regain function after the fluid replacement.

Katy lies her head down on the bed onto Peyton's abdomen.

KATY

I can feel her moving.

Katy raises her head. Peyton's breathing grows heavy and she begins mumbling inaudibly... But then she stops.

Katy holds Peyton's hand and lies her own head down on her again.

KATY (CONT'D)

I want her to feel that I'm near.

Katy closes her eyes...

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, HIGH SCHOOL - **FLASHBACK**

Katy and Peyton are at their lockers laughing when Trent and Grey, Trent's cross country teammate and friend, walk up...

TRENT
Hey, wassup?

PEYTON
Hey you.

TRENT
Hi Katy.

KATY
Hi Trent. Nice meet today.

Trent smiles wide. Love a compliment... Grey does an "ahem."

TRENT
Oh, hey, this is Grey. Grey, this is Katy. Grey's just joined the team.

Trent smiles at Katy and then loses his nerve. Trent and Peyton exchange an amused look. Katy looks dumbstruck too.

PEYTON
So, hey, Trent and I are going to dinner and a movie tonight. Do y'all want to join us?

GREY
Yeah, I'm in.

He looks to Katy. Peyton has to give her a nudge to speak.

KATY
Sure, I will go. I just need to make sure it's OK with my mom.

Peyton gives her a look. Katy flushes red with embarrassment.

GREY
I gotta check with my parents too.

Katy looks up to find Grey smiling. She shyly smiles back.

PEYTON
K. Cool. Catch up with you guys later.

TRENT
Yeah, cool. See you in a few.

Grey manages to raise a hand to wave goodbye to the girls before they head down the hall. Peyton giggles --

PEYTON

That went well. Don't you think?

KATY

I do. I think I might actually like this evening out with Grey because usually, it is boring going as a third wheel.

Katy laughs as she closes her locker. Peyton gives her a little push and then runs off.

Katy pauses, giggles, and then playfully runs after her in the hallway to their next class.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SUNSET

Trent is driving the gang through the wooded Luxing neighborhood. Peyton is beside him, Katy and Grey in the back.

Katy has her window down, looking at some people milling about and others walking their dogs...

INT. BACKSEAT, TRENT'S CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Grey stares at Katy's pretty profile for a beat. Then --

GREY

You're a real people-watcher aren't you, Katy?

Katy turns to him and laughs.

KATY

So Peyton tells me all the time.

Peyton pipes up from the front seat.

PEYTON

That's why she never hears anything that I say!

KATY

That's not true.

PEYTON
I'm just kidding. What's not to
watch? There's plenty of weirdos in
this town to keep us entertained!

Everyone shares a laugh. Then Trent turns up the song...

TRENT
Your fave, babe.

Peyton smiles wide. Trent confidently winks, turning back to
the road. Peyton starts singing her little heart out --

Katy and Grey exchange a dreamy look. Then surprisingly, Katy
starts singing...and looks out the window to hide her grin.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Peyton wakes up moaning in her sleep, and Katy looks scared
at how out of it she looks. Bob quickly approaches Peyton.

BOB
Peyton, honey... Are you OK?

Peyton's eyes open wider and sporadically open and close.

PEYTON
Katy?

KATY
Yes, I am here. I am right beside
you.

Nancy moves towards Peyton but then is stopped by Holly.

HOLLY
Can you give Katy a moment?

Nancy and Holly hold each other and watch their daughters.

PEYTON
Are you OK?

KATY
Yeah, I am fine. We're both fine.
We made it...

Katy starts to cry.

KATY (CONT'D)

But those rabies shots were painful.

PEYTON

Ha! I didn't feel a thing. I still don't. My mom said the pain medicine would be pretty good. I am even having a hard time moving my legs. I can barely feel them.

Peyton tries to keep her eyes open. She's mumbling again...

KATY

What's that about your legs, Pei Wei?

No response. Katy and Nancy look at Holly, the nurse, trying to figure out what she is saying.

HOLLY

(quietly)

Sometimes when you go into shock, the body shuts down blood flow to the extremities and shunts blood to the major organs.

Holly starts to cry as she continues...

HOLLY (CONT'D)

That's why she may have some kidney failure and decreased feeling in her limbs.

Bob, Katy, and Nancy are hanging on every word.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

If the shock is not reversed, she could lose an organ or even a leg due to decreased blood flow.

Nancy turns into Holly and holds her tighter. Katy looks back to see that Peyton has closed her eyes.

PEYTON

What happened to me?

KATY

You made it out the door. But you passed out on the lawn. The medics found us there together soon after Jack took off down the street. Why did you leave the room?

Peyton's eyes open, trying to remember the events beforehand.

PEYTON

Jack was beating down the window.
It was cracking. And then the
window just broke. Jack was coming
through it... I had to get out. I
was so scared. I just remember
running so fast.

KATY

You are so brave. You made it. Now
you are safe, and you don't have to
be scared anymore.

Katy leans into Peyton.

PEYTON

But he got out, didn't he? Did they
catch him?

Katy looks back at Peyton's parents waiting for her answer.

KATY

No. No, they haven't found him.

Off Peyton's look.

KATY (CONT'D)

Don't worry about anything. You
just get better because we have a
district meet coming up and I need
you there beside me. I really do,
Pei Wei. You have to get better.

Now she's crying again, holding Peyton's hand.

PEYTON

I'm so sorry I let him out.

KATY

Don't worry about it, now. They are
looking for him. They'll get him,
and hopefully they can help him get
better.

PEYTON

So, hey, have you talked to Grey
and told him what happened?

Peyton sees her dad quickly grow uncomfortable and grabs
Nancy by the hand and Holly on the shoulder.

BOB
Let's let the girls talk a bit.

They nod. Bob turns back to the girls, steadies his voice --

BOB (CONT'D)
We are going to the waiting room to
get some coffee. We'll be right
back.

Katy and Peyton nod back. Holly offers them a warm smile and exits with Bob and Nancy. She closes the door behind them.

INT. WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The trio sits down next to the other sad, gloomy-looking families. Nancy sees their faces and can't help but start to cry. Bob begins to comfort her and then turns to face Holly.

BOB
Holly, what happened? How did Jack
get rabies and how did he destroy
my family?

Holly lowers her head. Her voice cracking as she explains --

HOLLY
Bob, I understand that you are
upset... I mean, I'm not exactly
sure what happened. I came home one
day last week and was watching Katy
and Jack playing when I noticed a
hole in the roof. Jeff came round
and he said that a raccoon might
have caused the fissure, and that
he'd seen them around. I made a
mental note to have someone come
out and repair the hole but I guess
with work being so hectic, I for--

Holly tears up and cries, finding it hard to speak.

BOB
Holly, how could you? How could you
be so irresponsible and not get
Jack his shots?

Nancy looks up at Bob, putting her arm on his to calm him down. But he's angry and sad and just starts yelling loudly at Holly.

BOB (CONT'D)
You killed him, and you almost
killed our daughter!

The whole waiting room turns to see where those voices and strong words came from...

NANCY
Bob, calm down.

BOB
Don't tell me to calm down when our
precious daughter is lying
helplessly in that ICU bed.

Bob stands and starts pacing the floor. Holly can't blame Bob for his reaction and just sits with her head down. Nancy walks over to Bob.

NANCY
You know it wasn't Holly or Jack's
fault. That sweet dog would never
hurt Peyton, and Holly would never
hurt us.

Off Bob's look.

NANCY (CONT'D)
I know you want to blame someone,
and honestly, so do I. But please
don't hurt Holly like this. She
saved my life.

Bob stops pacing and hugs Nancy hard. They embrace for a while, and then Nancy goes over to Holly to hug and sit by her...

Bob takes a breath and then walks over to Holly.

BOB
I'm sorry, Holly; I really am. I
know you and Jack would never hurt
us. I really hate that Jack got
rabies. I loved that sweet dog, but
it does not change the fact that
our daughter is still fighting for
her life. How could you?

Bob leaves them awestruck and disappears down the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bob enters Peyton's room and goes over to hug her and sit on the opposite side of Katy.

Nancy and Holly are right behind him but stop at the door.

Bob sees Peyton is sleeping again and looks right at Katy --

BOB

Do you mind if I have some privacy
with Peyton?

Katy understands the feelings behind Bob's sullen voice.

KATY

Of course, Mr. Wyatt.

Katy stands and sheepishly walks to the door seeing her mom looking mortified and devastated. Nancy puts her arm on Katy's shoulder to soften the blow of Bob's harsh demeanor.

KATY (CONT'D)

Bye Mrs. Wyatt. I am really sorry
again for everything that's
happened. I feel terrible that I
left her in the room on her own.

NANCY

It's alright, Katy. You were trying
to get to the phone for help. It
was very brave of you to face Jack.

The Sloans walk out with their arms around each other.

Bob reaches out slowly to hold his daughter's little hand.

BOB

She's just an innocent girl. I
can't stand to see her like this...

Nancy goes over to console him.

NANCY

I know, Bob. I am just as upset.
She is my baby girl.

Nancy then puts her hands on Bob's shoulders.

NANCY (CONT'D)

You know that poor dog is going to
die. I can't believe this. He was
the sweetest thing ever.

BOB

I know. Holly killed him. How could she be so careless? She could have prevented the incident if she took care of the raccoon before it got to Jack and if she had simply gotten Jack's rabies shots.

Bob clears his eyes.

BOB (CONT'D)

He was the girls' best friend and protector.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Katy and Holly are walking toward the elevators. Katy stops --

KATY

Mom, what happened? Why is Mr. Wyatt so angry? What did y'all talk about?

HOLLY

Don't worry about it, Katy. It's between him and me. Of course, they are angry about Peyton getting hurt. I am, too. I don't know what I would do without you. I love you so much.

Holly hugs Katy.

KATY

I love you, too, Mom.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER, SLOAN RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Holly opens the door and enters with Katy. She locks the door behind them, securing both bolts.

Katy looks spooked seeing BLOOD on the floor and walls...

HOLLY

It's okay, honey.

KATY

I think a lot of things got damaged.

HOLLY

They're just things. The most important thing is that you are fine. We'll keep my phone close for when the Wyatts' call with an update.

Katy nods and they move down the hallway into...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Where Holly sees the smashed glass and the broken back door.

HOLLY

Why don't you go and jump into your PJs, and come back downstairs.

KATY

We were trapped in your room.

HOLLY

We'll stay in your room tonight.

Katy nods and she makes her way up the staircase.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Holly watches Katy disappear and looks around... She sees the splintered wood frame of her bedroom door, and BLOOD along the floor and walls.

Holly takes a breath and enters her bedroom --

INT. HOLLY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She muffles a GASP at the sight of BLOOD EVERYWHERE... On the carpet, on the bedspread, on the bedside table and water glass and on the windows and whatever the girls' had touched.

INT. ENSUITE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Holly stops in her tracks at the sight of the broken window and BLOOD MARKS on the tiles and side of the bathtub. A long beat. And then she closes the door and walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. KATY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Holly and Katy are fast asleep until Katy wakes up SCREAMING and flailing her arms, startling Holly from her deep slumber.

KATY

Stop, Jack! Stop! Please!

Holly grabs hold of her tightly and puts her head on her shoulder, gently caressing her hair until she settles down.

HOLLY

It's alright, Katy. I'm here. You were having a nightmare, honey.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Holly is cooking breakfast. Katy appears in her PJs looking distraught and exhausted. Holly has cleaned the glass and mopped the tiles, at least the kitchen is void of the blood.

HOLLY

I'm making your favorite. I have taken the day off and so have you- a carpet cleaning company and window vendor are on their way to take care of everything.

KATY

I can help clean, mom.

HOLLY

Nope. You're going to take it easy, sweetie. I've made the living room cozy for us so that we can relax in there...

Katy's phone is VIBRATING like crazy on the counter -- TEXT BEEPS one after another -- friends wondering why Peyton and Katy are not at school --

HOLLY (CONT'D)

You should probably just do one post on Twitter and Facebook asking your classmates for some space until you and Peyton are back on track, don't you think?

After she posts, Katy starts to cry. She's trying to keep her cool and not break down, but it's tough thinking of Peyton.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Take a seat, hon. Let's get something in your stomach. It will make you feel much better, I promise...

Katy sits and puts her phone on the table.

The screensaver of Jack appears and she freezes.

Then she turns the phone over.

KATY

Mom, what happened?

Off Holly's look.

KATY (CONT'D)

Why did he get rabies?

Holly sits down with Katy at the table and holds her hand.

HOLLY

I am so sorry, Katy. It is all my fault. I took Jack to a vet right after we got him at six months. His rabies shot was good for another six months.

KATY

But I thought you went to the vet.

A beat passes as Holly gathers the strength to say this.

HOLLY

The vets I went to closed down, and I was going to find another place. I never did take him, though. He hasn't had his rabies shots for two and a half years.

KATY

What? You killed him and almost killed us. How could you, mom?!

HOLLY

I know, Katy. I have no excuse. When you have a mainly inside dog, then it is easy to forget about the other varmints. He stays nice and cozy in the backyard, in the house, or on your leash. I didn't think anything like this would ever happen. I am so sorry--

Holly starts crying.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

We talked about this scenario, but it didn't work out the way we planned, did it?

KATY

No, it didn't. I guess it was the cut on the ear. But it didn't look like a bite.

Holly continues to cry and drops her head into her arms. Katy comforts her and looks guilty for blowing up at her just now.

KATY (CONT'D)

Everything is going to be fine. Just like you said, mom.

Holly looks up, trying her best to appear that she concurs...

KATY (CONT'D)

Can we go and see Peyton after the workers fix everything?

HOLLY

Of course.

CUT TO:

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - LATER

The front door opens and they exit with their jackets.

Katy is slightly ahead, walking to the curb toward Holly's car.

As they get into their car, the neighbor's dog comes running over to Katy.

Katy hears the BARKING and the grass rustling and SPINS AROUND IN A PANIC to see a dog heading her way --

KATY

NO!

The beagle jumps up on her, and she grabs the dog and throws him off her to the ground. Katy's SCREAMING BLOODY MURDER!!!

NEIGHBOR

Geez, Katy! What the hell do you think you're doing, you can't treat my dog like--

Holly grabs Katy, stroking her arm while she handles matters as quickly as she can without being insensitive.

HOLLY

Jeff, I'm so sorry. Katy isn't feeling well today. Your dog gave her a fright.

The neighbor looks down and sees that Katy is shaking.

NEIGHBOR

But Harry loves you, Katy. He was only saying hello--

Katy can't take it anymore and quickly gets in the car and shuts the door.

Holly and the neighbor see that she's crying and holding her head in her hands. He looks to Holly thoroughly confused.

HOLLY

I'm sorry, Jeff. I'll visit later to explain. Please forgive me, but I must get going now.

Holly doesn't wait for his response and gets in the car. She drives away without looking back.

Jeff stands there looking overly dramatic as he picks up his beagle and does baby-talk.

EXT. SHIRT SHOP - LATER

Holly exits the store with a bag.

Katy manages a smile from the front seat of the car as her mom gives her a thumbs up.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Katy and Holly enter the room to find Peyton awake and sitting up in bed. Katy can't believe the change -- Peyton looks so much better and has her color back in her face.

KATY

Hey, you! You look great, Pei Wei.

Holly greets Peyton's parents who are arranging some flowers that were delivered.

Katy walks over slowly to hug Peyton.

KATY (CONT'D)
I've missed you.

Holly takes a quick peek at the vital signs on the monitor, and from her expression we gather that they look pretty good.

PEYTON
I've missed you, too. This place is
soooo boring and not as fun as you.

KATY
Look what I brought!

Katy holds up the bag she has in her hand.

PEYTON
What?!

Katy pulls out two shirts with their high school names on the front and both their names on the back. She shows them both to Peyton, and Peyton smiles.

KATY
These are the shirts I want us to
wear to the district meet.

PEYTON
I love them.

She starts to cry.

KATY
What? What is wrong Pei Wei?

Katy gets closer to Peyton. She's trying not to cry herself.

PEYTON
I am not getting that much better.

KATY
What do you mean? You look better.

PEYTON
The doctors said that my kidneys
are failing, and I am going to have
to have dialysis every day until
they are fixed. And they may not
recover. I may have to have
dialysis for the rest of my life
until I get a kidney transplant.

Katy looks over to her mother and Peyton's mom who are now lost for words. They know the severity of Peyton's condition.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Until my kidneys are perfect, I have to take it easy. No strenuous exercise. Like running...

BOB

Do you see now, Holly? Do you hear what is happening to our little girl?

Bob growls as he sits beside Peyton opposite of Katy.

NANCY

Bob, stop!

Peyton, Katy, and the parents can feel the tension rising.

PEYTON

Miss Holly, I never told you the truth about why Trent and I broke up. I was too embarrassed- But who knows what would have happened if Jack didn't come to my rescue.

HOLLY

What are you talking about, sweetie?

Peyton looks to her parents, they nod their approval to get it off her chest. Katy holds Peyton's hand - it's trembling.

CUT TO:

EXT. WYATT RESIDENCE, STREET - **FLASHBACK**

We're back to the night of the double date. Trent's car pulls up outside Peyton's modest house in the suburbs.

Now it's only Katy in the backseat.

INT. TRENT'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Peyton turns to face Katy from the front seat. A big smile on her face --

PEYTON

So, aren't you glad you came out with us tonight?

KATY
(facetiously)
Yes, Peyton! You're always full of
great ideas.

PEYTON
You better credit me at your
wedding.

KATY
Shut up.

Katy opens the door, expecting Peyton to do the same...

KATY (CONT'D)
Thanks for driving, Trent.

TRENT
No problem.

KATY
Peyton, you're not going home?

PEYTON
Yes, of course. Trent and I are
just going to finish our chat.

Katy nods, getting out of the car.

PEYTON (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow. Sweet Grey
dreams!

Katy rolls her eyes and shuts the door.

Peyton watches her walk next door and enter the gate to her
house. It's just Trent and Peyton now.

TRENT
I had a great night. Those two were
so funny, weren't they?

PEYTON
Yep. How about when he asked for
Katy's number and his phone died!

TRENT
Classic! I think they'll end up
together for sure. I mean, they are
going to the same college...

This gives Peyton pause. She looks down for a beat. Then--

PEYTON

Right. College. We haven't really talked about what we're gonna do?

TRENT

What do you mean?

PEYTON

Like, stay together or call it quits since we'll be in different places.

Trent turns to her with serious eyes -- *wtf*.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

What's that look?

TRENT

So what if we're in different places?

Peyton looks up, seeing him smiling right at her.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Dinner and a movie with you is my favorite thing in the whole world.

She shrugs, grinning at his response. Peyton quietly exhales and glances at her house. Then she coyly turns back to him --

PEYTON

Do you want to come in for a little while?

TRENT

Nah, I like your parents, but your dad is way too strict and stressed. He stares at me the whole time -- like a creeper.

PEYTON

Trent, he is just being a protective dad. Don't worry about it.

Peyton laughs heartily at his expression -- *yeah right*.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

He still lets me go out with you.

TRENT

Yeah, I guess. Thank goodness because I really like you.

Trent leans over to kiss Peyton. They both enjoy the kiss for a long moment before Peyton stops and reaches for the door.

PEYTON

I better go--

Trent pulls her back and starts touching Peyton all over. He grabs her chest and moves to her groin area.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

We need to stop, Trent, and I need to go inside.

Peyton slides away from Trent and grabs the door handle.

TRENT

This is fine. Please stay a bit longer.

He won't let her go and continues to touch her more forcefully. Peyton shouts --

PEYTON

No, Trent, I don't want to do this anymore.

Trent holds Peyton's arm tighter with one hand and locks the doors using the parent lock function with the other. Now she's trapped. Peyton's eyes grow wide and she shouts louder.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Let go! You're hurting me!

He forces himself on her and pulls open her shirt. She beats her fists into his chest and screams at the top of her lungs.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

Trent! STOP. What are you doing?! I said NO.

Peyton tries to punch and kick him now, but his size and strength are overwhelming.

But she doesn't give up and manages to kick the HORN!

Just as Trent is in position to take Peyton by force --

JACK RACES FROM KATY'S FRONT YARD AND JUMPS ON THE HOOD

He BARKS LOUDLY and scratches at the windshield.

Trent doesn't know what to do. Jack has scared him...

PEYTON (CONT'D)
It's okay, Jack!

Peyton is trying to get out when she sees her dad coming out of their front door.

Bob speeds up when he sees Peyton struggling in the car --

BOB
What's all the commotion?!

Bob moves quickly over to Trent's side and pounds on the window. Trent - startled - unlocks the door.

Peyton rushes out and Jack jumps off the hood and goes right to her...

BOB (CONT'D)
Step out of the car--

But Trent starts the engine and speeds away down the street.

Bob looks to Peyton but she can't look at him and runs as fast as she can into the house and straight up the stairs.

Jack stands there on the curb still looking down the street.

INT. PEYTON'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bob enters to find Peyton face down on her bed crying.

BOB
Peyton, what happened?

Peyton is trying to speak in between crying, but Bob soon gets the picture. He looks like he could kill someone.

PEYTON
I can't believe he could be so mean
and do such a thing.

BOB
I am so sorry, Peyton. Did he hurt
you?

PEYTON
No, Dad, I am fine, but I wouldn't
be if it weren't for Jack. Dad, he
heard me in the car and came for
me. I can't believe it. He knew I
was in trouble and needed help.

Nancy stops in the doorway dressed in her bathrobe with a towel in her hair. She realizes something had happened --

NANCY

What happened? Why is Jack here in the hallway outside your door?

Peyton looks up, so touched at the thought and that Jack saved her from being violated. She starts crying again.

BOB

Why don't you have a talk with your mom, Peyton. I'll take Jack home...

He stands to leave and exchanges a look with Nancy.

PEYTON

Dad, please don't tell Holly and Katy what happened. Just take him back into the fence. Please don't say anything.

Bob turns back to face her and nods, his expression much softer now.

Nancy sits on the bed next to Peyton and gives her a hug. Peyton just buries her face in Nancy's shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Holly is stunned, looks to Katy, and then Peyton's parents, rattled by the story Peyton just relayed of Trent's attack.

PEYTON

I'm telling you this because I know that you or Jack would never hurt me or any of us. I know this was an accident, and now that poor dog is dead.

Off Holly's moved look.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

I loved Jack as much as you and Katy did. We all did.

Peyton looks up at her parents.

PEYTON (CONT'D)

And I know that everyone is fighting and everyone feels bad about what happened. It was an accident, Mom and Dad. Please forgive Jack and Miss Holly. I forgive them. I love all of you, and I can't stand to see such great friends who are my family, fighting.

Holly walks over to kiss and hug Peyton. Then Nancy and Bob go to Katy and her mom to do the same.

Out of nowhere, Peyton begins blinking her eyes, and her skin pales.

THE MONITOR ALARMS SOUND LOUDLY

Peyton closes her eyes and passes out.

KATY

Peyton! Peyton, are you OK?

Katy's shaking Peyton to wake her up.

Bob and Nancy turn toward Peyton, everyone's faces filled with dread...

NURSE (O.C.)

Move aside, honey.

They turn to find the nurse pushing a button that says CODE BLUE. They hear the intercom from out in the hallway:

INTERCOM (V.O.)

CODE BLUE ICU 12. CODE BLUE ICU 12.

Katy scrambles to get out of the way of the staff and stands in the doorway. Peyton's parents Holly stand next to Katy, watching in horror.

KATY

Mom, what is going on? Tell me.

HOLLY

I don't know. Her heart rate just dropped.

Katy watches the monitor to see what her mother is talking about. Peyton's heart rate is in the 40s.

Another nurse and a doctor rush into the room.

BOB

Can someone tell us what's
happening to our daughter please!

They shut the curtain in front of everyone.

Nancy pulls the curtain back slightly to watch the staff work on Peyton. Nancy is crying, and so is Peyton's dad.

And then the worse thing imaginable happens in front of their eyes --

A FLAT LINE AND A SOLID BEEP ON THE MONITOR

Peyton's heart rate drops to zero. The medical staff is coding her. The doctor moves quickly and with precision.

DOCTOR

Commence chest compressions now.

The nurses perform CPR immediately while the doctor places a tube in Peyton's throat to provide oxygen --

Katy, Holly, and Peyton's parents are helplessly watching --

KATY

The monitor is still reading zero.

Holly grabs hold of Katy. Nancy and Bob stand there frozen.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY, HOSPITAL - LATER

Katy and Holly stand there looking distraught. Katy looks at her watch, then at Peyton's closed door, and back again --

KATY

It's been thirty minutes.

Before Holly can answer they suddenly hear a gut-wrenching SCREAM coming from inside Peyton's room -- it's Nancy.

Holly grabs her hand to hold it but Katy's already reaching for the door handle.

HOLLY

No, honey. Wait, please.

Then the door opens... The staff exit and peel off in opposite directions. The last one out shuts the door again.

KATY

What happened? Can I see Peyton?

The doctor speaks calmly as Holly and Katy step closer.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry. But despite all our efforts, Peyton's kidneys failed, which caused her heart to stop. We could not revive her. I am sorry for your loss. Her family has asked to stay with her for a moment. You should get some rest.

Katy loses it and Holly needs to hold her up to stop her from collapsing.

The doctor looks shaken as he walks away quietly.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. HOLLY'S CAR - DRIVING - NIGHT

Katy is sitting in the passenger seat with a blank stare out the window. Holly glances over, her face filled with remorse.

INT. FOYER, SLOAN RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Holly and Katy enter and Katy rushes up the stairs...

Holly hears the bedroom door close upstairs. She shuts her eyes.

EXT. SLOAN RESIDENCE - DAY

It's a nice morning. Some joggers pass by the house. It's quiet...

We see Holly through the window sitting at the desk that's perched in the window of the home office upstairs.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katy is out of the shower wrapped in a towel. She's looking at her wounds that appear to be recovering well, but not enough for the cross country race.

She stares at herself in the mirror and starts crying...

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Katy is watching TV, wrapped in a blanket on the sofa. Holly appears in the doorway, carrying a tray with some breakfast.

HOLLY

Hey, sweetie. How did you sleep?

Katy just shrugs. Holly brings the tray over and places it on the coffee table. She sits and pulls Katy over for a hug.

The sound of the DOORBELL startles them...

KATY

Who's that, mom?

HOLLY

I'm not expecting anyone.

Holly gets up and hesitantly moves out of the room.

INT. FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Holly opens the front door to find the same police officers that came to Katy's rescue. Also with them is a woman wearing a windbreaker with the title: "Animal Control Specialist."

OFFICER STANSBY

Mrs. Sloan, may we speak with you?

HOLLY

Of course, please come inside...

They enter and awkwardly stand in the foyer.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

I didn't catch your names yesterday.

OFFICER STANSBY

I'm officer Stansby, and this is Officer Carlson...

OFFICER CARLSON

Pleasure Mrs. Sloan.

And extends a hand to shake.

HOLLY

Call me Holly.

The Animal Control Specialist also extends her hand.

SARAH

I'm Sarah with the animal control division.

OFFICER CARLSON

We were very sorry to hear about Peyton. How is Katy doing?

HOLLY

Not great. I am keeping her out of school for another day to avoid the barrage of kids' questions until she's stronger to return on Monday.

OFFICER STANSBY

Can she join us?

Holly nods and hesitantly motions for them to follow her into...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Where Katy is already standing having heard them looking concerned -- she has an awful look of dread that they are there to tell her that Jack is dead and that he had rabies.

TIME CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is sitting in the room, some on the sofa and the two officers on the armchairs. They have a solemn expression...

OFFICER STANSBY

Miss Sloan, Miss Katy, we have some bad news. We cannot find Jack. We have been looking everywhere, even in the woods and trails where you said that you run.

Holly and Katy look at each other; they were not expecting this... They both get scared and move closer to each other.

OFFICER CARLSON

Jack has bitten someone else. A male runner was on your trails and got bit. Now, he is fine. He was big enough to fight Jack and run off. The man believes the dog had rabies by the way he was acting, and the dog fits Jack's description.

(MORE)

OFFICER CARLSON (CONT'D)

The problem is that we have tried to put up signs and warn people of this dog, but they still are out there running.

SARAH

I also received a civilian report that Jack was spotted in the neighborhoods and not just on the trails. He is everywhere--

Holly interrupts as she can see Katy is getting very anxious.

HOLLY

I understand what you are telling me but why are you here saying these things that are clearly scaring my daughter.

SARAH

We need your daughter to help us find Jack.

And just like a switch was flipped, from to zero to pissed--

HOLLY

Hell, no. No way!

OFFICER CARLSON

Now wait, Miss Sloan, just listen, please. We would never put your daughter in harm's way. Please listen.

Holly sits back down to hear their plan.

SARAH

Since Katy is Jack's favorite and he knows her well, he will come to her.

Then Sarah turns to Katy to appeal to her directly.

SARAH (CONT'D)

We need you to lure Jack out so that we can contain him. He knows your smell and will come to you. We would place you in the woods on the trail. Then the officers and my animal control unit will be standing close by to grab him when he comes out. If it doesn't work today, then they will not try again. It's a one-time shot.

HOLLY

Using my daughter for bait is out of the question. You just got through saying that Jack is extremely dangerous!

OFFICER STANSBY

Katy will be safe and we will use any force needed to keep it that way.

Holly stands up to make it clear that they are done. But --

KATY

Mom, I need to do this. More people have gotten hurt just like me. What if it's a small child who gets mauled? That child will die, just like Peyton. They can't fight Jack off. He weighs over 55 pounds. I am willing to do this. Please let me.

HOLLY

Aren't you scared? Haven't you been through enough? Don't you want the nightmares to go away?

KATY

Yes, Mom, and when I know that he is not out there, then maybe I can sleep peacefully. How am I going to get back on the trails if he is still loose? It's for my peace of mind and other's safety as well.

Holly walks around the room.

They all watch her as wheels turn in her head.

Then Holly stops and looks right at Stansby --

HOLLY

I will agree to let Katy do what is needed if I stand beside her at all times. And just so you know I will be carrying my Glock and I will shoot to kill.

Off their stunned looks, Katy included, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAILS - DAY

The group reaches the spot where Jack was last seen. Right in the middle of trails where Katy, Peyton, and Jack used to run.

Holly can tell that Katy is nervous and is standing right beside her, her gun in her hand and ready to roll.

Officer Stansby and Carlson are standing by while Sarah monitors the animal control crew who are looking for Jack.

SARAH
(on radio)
Copy that.

Sarah turns to Katy and Holly.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Would you feel comfortable walking
the trail, Katy?

Holly looks to Katy and she nods. They begin walking the trail helping everyone look for Jack. Then, they stop --

THERE IS BLOOD AND DROOL ALONG THE CONCRETE OFF THE TRAIL

Katy gets emotional.

KATY
Poor Jack is suffering, and it's
not his fault. He is such a sweet
puppy, and for this to happen to
him is cruel.

HOLLY
Maybe we should stop, honey. I can
see how much this is affecting you.

KATY
No. I want to put an end to this.

Holly stops and steps closer to Katy. She holds her hands --

HOLLY
Just seeing you with Peyton at the
hospital and then out here today, I
am very proud of you.

Off Katy's teary-eyed look -- *she feels so guilty.*

HOLLY (CONT'D)

The story of how you and Peyton survived is just amazing for two young girls. Peyton was very brave, too. She risked her life by helping you and getting out. She was a great friend. I am so sorry.

Holly hugs her daughter. Then, they continue along the trail.

KATY

I do keep having flashbacks and thinking I should have done more to get us out of the house. It keeps haunting me. I could have saved her if I tried to get out earlier.

HOLLY

Katy, you can't beat yourself up like this. You did well to get out of there alive. You both gave yourselves a fighting chance. Peyton's injury was a bad one. An arterial bleed is hard to control. You can't blame yourself. She knows that you loved her and would have done anything for her. It was just a bad situation.

KATY

I know; I know. I just miss her already.

Then Katy hears something RUSTLING behind them and some DEEP BREATHING coming from the bushes.

They turn in time to see --

JACK JUMPING AND LUNGING FOR THE TWO OF THEM

Holly puts her hands up and shoos Jack off but he quickly latches onto Holly's leg and takes her down.

The gun falls and slides near Katy's feet.

CLOSE ON THE OFFICERS STRUGGLING TO TAKE AIM AT JACK

OFFICER STANSBY

Hold fire! We need a clear shot!

The officers guns swiftly move from side to side trying to track Jack but he's attacking Holly and moving around directly in front of her, stopping them from having a clear shot.

Katy picks up the gun and aims it at Jack. She is crying and unable to do the impossible --

Holly is trying her best to fight him off but he's too strong. She makes EYE CONTACT WITH KATY and signals that she will quickly move for her to take aim.

HOLLY

Shoot him!

Holly kicks him off of her and he slides a few feet away...

KATY

I'm sorry, Jack.

Katy pulls the trigger -- BANG! BANG!

KATY (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

Katy looks at Jack on the ground. She shot him in the hind leg. He is WHIMPERING when he gets up again... His innocence has left him and he now looks like the killer dog she saw attack Peyton.

Katy quickly shoots Jack once more -- BANG!

Several officers and the animal control unit rush forward and encircle Jack with their equipment to contain him right away.

Officer Stansby rushes to Holly who is still on the ground, holding pressure on her bleeding wound. The officer quickly speaks into his radio, looking up at Katy holding the gun --

OFFICER STANSBY

(into radio)

We need medical assistance.

Katy is crying so hard she can't hold the gun anymore. Her hand drops to her side, and the gun falls to the ground...

Officer Carlson picks up the gun and puts her hand on Katy's shoulder to offer some sort of comfort but she's distraught.

Jack looks into Katy's eyes, and she looks right at him. She gets closer to him as he looks innocent and injured. He's still alive but breathing fast. He looks up to Katy standing over him and closes his eyes. Jack finally stops breathing.

FADE OUT.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

MUSIC PLAYS over:

Peyton's funeral is taking place at a small yet beautiful funeral home with a quaint burial ground, and there are many people in attendance from family to Peyton's school friends.

Holly and Katy stand with Bob and Nancy as they follow the funeral procession to the burial ground... Katy and Holly are still in bandages with their bruises visible from the ordeal.

Behind them, Peyton's cross country teammates are following dressed in their jerseys to show support.

The pallbearers carry Peyton's casket to her gravesite. The crowd gathers around and lower their heads in silent prayer.

The camera pulls back and rises above to look over the funeral from afar as the minister starts speaking...

Peyton's casket is lowered into the ground.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. BURIAL GROUND - LATER

The family is saying their goodbyes and receiving prayers from their guests.

The Sloans are watching the Wyatts, and Nancy is crying the entire time.

Katy walks away to where her cross country team is standing and waiting for her... They give her hugs and support.

Holly watches, wiping tears from her eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE ON BLACK SCREEN: "SEVEN DAYS LATER."

INT. KATY'S BEDROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON KATY'S CELL PHONE ALARM CLOCK: "7:00 a.m."

The song: "We Are the Champions."

Katy opens her eyes, her bruises have subsided and she looks much stronger. Holly appears in the doorway smiling wide --

HOLLY
Morning, honey. Ready for the big
race?

Katy smiles back and kicks the covers off -- *you bet!*

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Brekkie will be ready by the time
you've showered and done your
stretching.

KATY
Thanks, mom.

Holly turns to leave and then turns back.

HOLLY
I love you, and Peyton loves you
too.

EXT. FIELD - LATER

Katy lines up behind all the other teens ready for the starter gun. She's wearing the shirt she had made for her and Peyton -- except she's wearing the one that says: "PEYTON."

This district consists of eight teams and a lot of runners.

The GUN SOUNDS loudly...

SERIES OF SHOTS -- THE THREE-MILE RACE

- Katy flinches at the gunfire before she takes off.
- Katy making good time amongst other runners.
- Katy running hard on a trail through the woods.
- Katy keeping up right behind the leader.
- Katy imagining Peyton running beside her on the trail.
- Katy and Peyton passings other runners.
- Katy and Peyton reaching the front to set the pace.
- Katy falters and Peyton waits for her to catch up.
- Katy and Peyton running through the cordoned off area.

Now they are coming down the home stretch of the race where Katy's mom is waiting... Katy happily sees the finish line.

Katy looks to Peyton and finds her smiling, then she gives her a wink and thumbs up and vanishes from her imagination.

Katy starts her sprint, the sprint she and Peyton perfected, with her eyes straight ahead. She's in front of the leaders by at least two seconds.

Katy's about to cross the finish line first. Then, she sees --

A SILHOUETTE OF JACK ON HER RIGHT SIDE RUNNING WITH HER

Katy wins and feels happy as she basks in their memories.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - LATER

The runners stand on the stage in the middle of the crowd for everyone to see. The presenter taps the microphone --

PRESENTER

I am pleased to announce our first
place winner, Katy Sloan. Please
make your way to the top podium
spot to receive the coveted medal.

Katy receives her medal and then turns around so everyone can see the back of her shirt that reads: "PEYTON."

The crowd stands and loudly APPLAUDS the senior and her accomplishments, but they are also applauding her courage and respect for a fallen friend and athlete.

THE END.