

THE MINE

PILOT

Written by

FILM CRUX

lion@filmcrux.com

COLD OPEN

INT. DARK PLACE [DREAM SEQUENCE]

-Slowly moving in toward a dark and ominous entrance.

-A man's point of view as he hides from what sound like creatures running by. He sees faint shadows of them blocking the light as they pass.

-A man's point of view as he slowly walks around a corner revealing a bloody hand, twitching.

-A man's point of view as he slowly reaches out to touch some sort of orb. The moment his hand touches it--

CUT TO:

INT. HUNTER AND KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HUNTER, mid 30s, ruggedly handsome and in good shape, opens his eyes. He's laying in bed.

He reaches his arm over to the other side of the bed and notices he's alone, unexpectedly.

HUNTER

Kate?

Hunter gets out of the bed. He's wearing pajama pants and a white t-shirt.

He looks around, and then walks out of the room into...

THE HALLWAY

HUNTER

Kate.

As he walks down the stairs, he looks across the living room and notices the sliding glass door is open.

Hunter walks into...

THE LIVING ROOM

He walks over to the open sliding glass door. He sticks his head outside to look around.

HUNTER

Kate?

Hunter's wife KATE pops up behind him.

KATE
RAAAAAAH!!!

Hunter flinches before he realizes what happened and smiles. Kate laughs hard. She's in her 30s, all smiles and beautiful without makeup.

Hunter turns around to face her.

KATE
(laughing)
I GOT you. I told you I would get you.

HUNTER
(smiling)
You didn't get me.

KATE
I totally did. You flinched.

HUNTER
That's because you yelled.

KATE
That's the point!

HUNTER
(smirking)
Whatever.

Hunter closes the sliding glass door.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
What are you doing anyway?

Kate turns around and starts heading for the kitchen.

KATE
I couldn't sleep so I just thought I'd come make some tea.

Hunter follows Kate into...

THE KITCHEN

Kate grabs a tea cup out of the cabinet as the teapot heats up on the stove. Kate notices something's on Hunter's mind.

KATE
You okay?

HUNTER

Yeah.

(beat)

I just had a really weird dream.

Kate grabs the box of tea out of the cabinet.

KATE

Aww. The poor baby. You want some tea?

HUNTER

No thanks.

Kate puts a tea bag into her cup.

KATE

(playfully)

What was your dream about. Were you cheating on me again?

HUNTER

(smiling)

I should've never told you about that dream.

Hunter hugs Kate from behind.

KATE

At least you have cool dreams. I had a dream we went to visit my parents.

HUNTER

(jokingly)

Hm, sounds more like a nightmare.

KATE

(smiling)

Oh, stop it.

Hunter kisses her on the side of the cheek.

HUNTER

I'm gonna get back to bed. You hurry up...

(playful)

...or you're gonna get it.

Hunter spanks Kate on the ass and starts to walk away. She turns and smiles at him.

KATE

Oh, is that right?

Hunter smiles back at her as he exits the kitchen.

Hunter begins to walk up the stairs with a smirk on his face. The teapot begins to whistle. Hunter stops and walks back down the stairs and head towards the kitchen.

HUNTER

Hey, you know what I think I will
have a cup of--

Hunter enters...

THE KITCHEN

A horrifying creature on all fours has Kate's dead corpse by the neck. She hangs in its mouth like dead prey in the mouth of a lion.

Blood is everywhere.

The creature turns to look where Hunter was standing.

Hunter bolts into the...

LIVING ROOM to a grab a shotgun from the gun case on his bookshelf.

He turns to see the monster running across the living room with Kate's body.

Hunter fires at the creature as it bursts through the sliding glass window, shattering it. The shotgun round wings the creature and spray's the living room wall with blood.

Hunter, now frantic and on the verge of hysteria, sprints for the broken sliding glass window. He jumps through it to the backyard.

EXT. HUNTER AND KATE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Hunter doesn't even seem to notice as shards of broken glass splinter into his feet.

He sprints through the lawn after the creature toward the forest's edge.

The creature is fast, even wounded. Hunter is running harder than he's ever run in his life in pursuit of the creature as it dashes into the treeline.

HUNTER
KATE!! KATE!!!

The creature disappears into the dark shroud of the woods. Hunter follows after it without hesitation.

A sharp tree branch rakes Hunter across the face leaving a deep gash. Hunter has so much adrenaline that it barely fazes him.

He runs blindly through the darkness as blood rushes down his face.

HUNTER
KATE!!!!

Hunter tries to follow the sound of the creature, but it seems to be getting further and further away. He desperately struggles to keep up.

Hunter breaks out into an open clearing. He stops to look around, but all he sees is darkness in every direction.

HUNTER
KAAAAAAAAAATE!!!!!!!!!!!!

END COLD OPEN

CUT TO:

EXT. FALMER - DAY

We see a beautiful view of a small, secluded town in the middle of nowhere. This is Falmer.

A pickup truck speeds past in the foreground.

INT./EXT. RYAN'S PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS [DRIVING]

RYAN, a savvy, street smart city girl in her late 20s, is driving a rundown pickup truck into a small town.

Her brother, JASON, a rough, twenty something fuck-up in jeans and a jacket, is asleep in the passenger's seat.

There's a dog named ROCKY in the backseat who's just happy to be along for the ride. He's a boxer with a zest for life.

RYAN
(to Jason)
Hey. Hey.

Jason opens one eye as if he had no intention of waking up.

RYAN (CONT'D)

We're here.

Jason sits up in his seat and looks around.

JASON

Man, this place looks lame as fuck.

Jason pulls some beef jerky out from a bag beneath his seat.

RYAN

Well, it'll have to do for now.

Jason takes a bite of the beef jerky as they pull into the parking lot of a cheap motel.

JASON

You want some of this Rocky?

Rocky's ears perk up as Jason holds up the beef jerky.

JASON (CONT'D)

Yeah. I bet you do.

Jason hands Rocky the beef jerky. He hastily scarfs it down as Ryan gets out of the cab, closing the door behind her.

INT. MOTEL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ryan walks into the motel office and goes up to the RECEPTIONIST's desk. The Receptionist is an older woman with a kind face. She's sitting reading a magazine and doesn't notice Ryan approach.

Ryan clears her throat. The Receptionist notices her and puts down the magazine.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, I'm sorry about that honey what can I do for you?

RYAN

No, it's fine. Are you guys pet friendly?

RECEPTIONIST

That depends. Is your pet friendly?

RYAN

He's as sweet as they come.

RECEPTIONIST

Well then, what are you looking for?

RYAN
The meaning of life, but I'll
settle for two adjacent rooms.

The Receptionist smiles and starts typing into the computer.

RECEPTIONIST
Just for the night?

RYAN
We were planning on staying here
for a couple weeks. Do you guys do
extended stay?

RECEPTIONIST
Not a problem. We just need a
credit card on file.

Ryan leans onto the counter.

RYAN
I don't have a credit card but I
can pay cash up front.

Receptionist looks at Ryan suspiciously.

RECEPTIONIST
Well we don't normally do that...

RYAN
I can give you a little extra for
a... deposit.

RECEPTIONIST
Well, I suppose I can make an
exception.

The Receptionist looks back at her computer.

RECEPTIONIST
That'll be fourteen hundred for two
weeks.

Ryan pulls out a money clip. She counts out two grand and
hands it to the Receptionist.

The Receptionist turns and grabs two keys off of a key rack
behind her. She turns back around and hands them to Ryan.

RECEPTIONIST
Enjoy your stay.

RYAN

Thanks.

INT. GUN STORE - DAY

Hunter, now grizzled with a light beard and a scar from that night in the woods, walks up to the counter of the gun shop. BILLY, an older guy in his late 50s with grey hair and a kind face, is behind the counter.

BILLY

Hey Hunt. Ain't seen you in a while. You doin' alright?

HUNTER

I guess I'm alright.

BILLY

What's it gonna be today? The usual?

HUNTER

The usual.

Billy turns around to grab some ammo off of the rack behind him.

HUNTER

What about you Billy? You been doin' alright?

BILLY

I suppose so. I might take this extra money I've been gettin' from the mining company and finally move out of this town.

Billy puts the boxes of ammo on the countertop.

HUNTER

Billy, you been sayin' you're movin' outta this town since I met you. You ain't goin' nowhere.

BILLY

(laughs)

I guess you're right. Anyway, if I leave, who's gonna talk to you?

Hunter smiles. Billy starts bagging up the ammo.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I finally got a smile outta you ya
(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)
stubborn bastard.

Billy hands the bag of ammo to Hunter. Hunter takes out his debit card and hands it to Billy, but Billy puts up his hand to decline it.

BILLY
This one's on me.

Hunter is caught off guard by the gesture.

HUNTER
Thanks.

BILLY
Kathleen told me to invite you over
to dinner next time I saw you...
So?

HUNTER
Maybe next time Billy.

Hunter tips his head toward Billy, Billy returns the gesture, and Hunter walks out of the store.

INT. MOTEL - DAY

Jason is laying back on the bed with his jacket and shoes on. Rocky is laying on the bed next to him.

Ryan carries a duffel bag over to the safe in the corner of the room.

JASON
What, a, shithole.

Ryan opens the safe.

RYAN
I've seen worse.

Ryan unzips the duffel bag and reveals it's filled to the brim with money. She starts putting stacks of cash into the safe.

RYAN (CONT'D)
It'll take about two weeks for us
to get our passports, so I guess
we'll just hide out here in the
meantime.

JASON
That sounds, awful.

RYAN
I'm thinkin' Aruba.

JASON
What do they speak in Aruba?

RYAN
English, Dutch, Spanish and...
Papiamento is their native language
I think.

JASON
That last one's not real. Why you
makin' shit up?

They laugh.

RYAN
Look it up?

Jason springs up out of bed. Rocky follows him excitedly.

JASON
No, I believe you. You've always
been way smarter than me.

RYAN
Well that's the truth.

Jason walks up next to Ryan as she continues to put money in the safe.

JASON
(seriously)
Look. Sis. I just want you to know
that, I appreciate everything
you've done.

Ryan looks at Jason, and then back at the safe.

RYAN
Well, I love you. You ARE my only
brother after all.

Ryan closes the safe. Jason hugs Ryan. Ryan lays her head on him.

Jason then lifts her up off the ground and spins her around as she laughs. He puts her down as Rocky gets excited.

JASON
I'm gonna go take Rocky for a walk.
You should go take shower. You
(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

stink.

Ryan pushes Jason away playfully.

RYAN

Asshole.

Jason grabs Rocky's leash off of a nearby table.

JASON (CONT'D)

Come on Rock.

Rocky goes over to Jason excitedly as Ryan heads for the bathroom. Jason puts the leash on Rocky and leads him out the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Hunter walks into the police station. Some of the officers immediately notice him and flash him dirty looks.

Hunter walks up to a bulletin board near the front with a slew of missing persons flyers on it. Hunter takes out his phone and begins taking photos of the board.

JIM, a do-good police officer in his early 30s, walks up and stands beside Hunter. Hunter doesn't turn to look at him.

JIM

(to Hunter)

Third one this month.

HUNTER

(to Jim)

Jim.

JIM

Hunter.

HUNTER

Any leads?

JIM

Nada. It's fuckin' weird man. Every time something comes up it gets pushed up to the guys at the top. It's startin' to seem like we're the only ones who care around here.

HUNTER

I don't care.

Hunter walks out of the police station leaving Jim standing

by himself.

INT. TRAIL IN WOODS - DAY

Jason is walking Rocky down a trail through the woods near the motel while smoking a cigarette. Rocky stops suddenly and goes on alert. He's looking deeper into the woods while standing absolutely still with his ears perked.

JASON
What is it Rock?

Jason looks in that direction but doesn't see anything. Then, all of a sudden, Jason a loud sound similar to a TV turning off. And then, silence.

Jason turns to see a large, perfect hole in the side of a tree trunk nearby. Jason hears the tree crackling. He looks up toward the canopy as the massive tree slowly begins tilting toward he and Rocky.

Jason's face turns to dread as he realizes the tree is starting to come down. Jason runs with Rocky out of the path of the falling tree just as it lands behind them with a loud crash.

Suddenly, a quiet helicopter flies overhead. Voices can be heard in the distance.

Jason runs to hide underneath a nearby embankment and pulls Rocky in beside him.

The voices get closer.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey, 'Y' formation.

Out of Jason's view, a group of what appear to be specially armed SOLDIERS are making their way through the woods carrying what look like strange, futuristic rifles.

SOLDIER #1
It's around here somewhere. Keep
your guard up.

Most of the soldiers pass, but then Rocky whimpers, catching the attention of the soldier nearest to them, SOLDIER #2. Soldier #2 stops suddenly and looks in Jason's direction.

Soldier #2 begins carefully making his way toward Jason and Rocky, neither of who can see the soldier approaching.

The soldier gets closer and closer, but just before looking

over the edge of the embankment, a call comes through his radio headset. He puts one hand up to his ear to listen.

SOLDIER #2

Copy.

The soldier heads off in a different direction until he's out of view.

Jason hears a sound coming from the treetops. He looks up into the canopy. His face turns to terror as he sees a humanoid creature perched up high on a tree branch looking down directly into his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Hunter is pushing a cart down an aisle inside the grocery store. He stops to grab some canned chili off of the shelf.

A random stranger turns into the aisle and notices Hunter. She looks down, turns her cart around and heads in a different direction.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Hunter pulls his cart into a checkout lane. A LADY and her SON are just finishing up putting their bagged groceries back in their cart as a young CASHIER in his late teens finishes ringing them up.

The woman's son stares at Hunter as he begins putting his stuff on the conveyor belt. The boy's mom notices Hunter and pulls her son closer.

CASHIER

(to Lady)

Have a good day.

The Lady hastily leaves with her son.

Hunter stands in front of the Cashier. The Cashier's eyes get wide when he notices Hunter. The Cashier gets visibly nervous.

CASHIER

(nervously)

Hey.

Hunter says nothing as the Cashier anxiously rings up Hunter's groceries.

Two guys get in the checkout line behind Hunter. Their demeanor turns aggressive as soon as they notice Hunter in the line.

CASHIER
 (to Hunter)
 That'll be sixty-two fifty.

Hunter takes out his debit card and puts it in the card reader. The transaction goes through and Hunter takes his groceries.

HUNTER
 I don't need the receipt.

Hunter starts to walk away.

RANDO #1
 (to Cashier)
 Was that the guy that killed his wife?

CASHIER
 Uh...

Hunter stops and turns around. He walks back up to Rando #1 and stands in front of him, unblinking, unflinching.

HUNTER
 (to Rando #1)
 The fuck did you say?

Rando #1 puffs up his chest and turns to Hunter. Rando #2 gets behind his buddy as if to back him up.

RANDO #2
 (to Hunter)
 Just get outta here.

RANDO #1
 (to Rando #2)
 No, it's alright.
 (to Hunter)
 I said, is that, the guy, who killed--

WHOP! Hunter lays Rando #1 out with a mean left hook that sends his head crashing against the checkout counter on the way down.

Hunter looks up at Rando #2. Rando #2 puts his hands up in surrender as everyone in the grocery store looks on.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL - DAY

Ryan is laying on the bed in the hotel room watching TV.

There's a makeshift tension lock on the door where a cord has been tied around the doorknob, with the other end tied around the doorknob of an adjacent door in the room.

Suddenly, Ryan hears barking coming from outside.

She gets out of bed and goes over to the door.

Ryan unties the tension lock and opens the door. She sees Rocky with his leash still attached.

Ryan looks outside the door both ways. Rocky barks again. Ryan quickly puts her shoes on and heads outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIL IN WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Ryan is holding Rocky's leash as he leads her through the woods.

RYAN

Jason!

(beat)

Jason!

Rocky pulls hard on the leash in a direction off the path. Ryan follows him over toward an embankment. She sees blood sprayed over nearby plants.

RYAN

JASON!!

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Ryan is standing at the front counter inside the police station talking to one of the POLICE OFFICERS.

POLICE OFFICER

Look, we sent a squad car out. We didn't find anything.

RYAN

What are you talking about?! There was blood everywhere!

POLICE OFFICER

Calm down. We didn't find any blood or anything.

RYAN

What about my dog? He wouldn't just walk off and leave my dog by himself, and my dog would never leave his side.

POLICE OFFICER

Look, Miss, I understand you're concerned--

RYAN

Well I understand my concern too. What I don't understand is your lack of concern.

POLICE OFFICER

Please ma'am. Calm down.

Hunter walks out of a door after getting released on bail, escorted by Jim.

JIM

(to Hunter)

Take a seat. I'll give you a ride back.

Hunter sits down in a nearby chair.

RYAN

This is such bullshit. My brother is missing. I want to file a missing persons report.

HUNTER

(Ryan)

They'll never find him.

Ryan turns to look at Hunter.

RYAN

What?

The Police Officer glares at Hunter and then turns his attention back to Ryan.

POLICE OFFICER

Don't listen to him. Look. You can't file a missing persons report as of yet. But what you can do is

(MORE)

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

enter him in the NamUs Database.
And if you give me your name and
contact information I can--

RYAN

You guys are fucking useless.

Ryan steps away from the counter frustrated. She starts to walk out of the police station when she notices the 'missing persons' board. She looks at the numerous fliers on it.

POLICE OFFICER

Williams.

Hunter gets up and approaches the counter. Ryan notices that one of the missing person fliers says, "Kate Williams". Ryan looks back over at Hunter. She walks over to him.

RYAN

(to Hunter)

What did you mean they'll never
find him?

Hunter doesn't look at Ryan. He just continues signing paperwork.

HUNTER

If you go missing in this town, no
one ever finds you.

Pause.

RYAN

You need a ride?

Hunter turns to look at her.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. RYAN'S PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT [DRIVING]

HUNTER

You always pick up guys from jail?

RYAN

Sometimes.

HUNTER

You don't seem worried.

Ryan pulls her handgun from out of the door panel and sets it in her lap.

RYAN
I can take care of myself.

HUNTER
Maybe I should be worried.

Pause.

RYAN
Was that your wife on that flier?
Hunter just looks down without saying anything.

RYAN
I'm sorry.

HUNTER
You said it was your brother right?
Who went missing.

RYAN
Yeah.

HUNTER
Did you see what happened to him?
Ryan shakes her head.

RYAN
He took our dog for a walk, and he
just never came back.

Pause.

RYAN
What's going on around here? Why
are there so many missing people?

HUNTER
I don't know but I'm pretty sure
Apex has something to do with it.

RYAN
What company?

HUNTER
Apex.

RYAN
Never heard of 'em.

HUNTER
No reason you should, but ever
since they came into town, people
(MORE)

HUNTER (CONT'D)

have started going missing. They pay a stipend to everyone in the town so they can mine here, which is probably why no one seems to care. It seems like even the cops might be in on it.

RYAN

In on it?

HUNTER

Right here.

Ryan starts pulling into the grocery store parking lot.

HUNTER

Thanks for the ride.

The truck stops. Hunter opens the door and gets out.

RYAN

Wait.

Hunter turns to look at Ryan.

RYAN

Can you help me find my brother?

Hunter looks down as if to think about her request.

HUNTER

I'm gonna be honest with you. You should leave this town as soon as possible.

Hunter slams the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL - MORNING

Ryan wakes up to a knock on the door. The TV is on low and the tension lock is on the door.

She grabs her handgun and goes to see who it is.

She looks through the peephole and sees two men in suits. They appear to be AGENTS of some kind.

Ryan immediately runs to the safe, opens it, and starts putting the money in a duffel bag as quickly as possible.

Another knock can be heard on the door.

AGENT #1 (O.S.)
F.B.I. Open up.

Once Ryan has all her money in the bag, she zips it up.

RYAN
Who is it?

Ryan grabs the remote and turns up the T.V.

AGENT #1 (O.S.)
F.B.I. Open up!

RYAN
Be right there!

Ryan hears the men try to open the door with a room key but the tension lock stops it from opening.

Ryan clicks her lips for Rocky to follow her through the connecting door into the adjacent room. She closes the door behind her.

Ryan hears the men kick the door to the other room three times before it bursts open and comes off its hinges.

AGENT #1 (O.S.)
Ma'am. Are you in here?

Ryan quietly exits out the front door. She sees that the other room door is kicked in and the men are inside as she runs to her truck with Rocky in tow.

Ryan has Rocky hop in the cab of the truck. She hops in behind him and starts the engine before peeling out of the parking lot. As she leaves, she catches eyes with Agent #1.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - MORNING

Hunter is at the checkout counter inside the liquor store getting a large bottle of Gentleman Jack.

The cashier at the register is an OLD WOMAN who looks like she could have been one of the town's first residents. She looks Hunter up and down as he pays for the liquor.

OLD WOMAN
A little early isn't it?

Hunter ignores her, grabs two cigars and puts them on the counter.

HUNTER
Throw me in one of those lighters.

The Old Woman grabs a Zippo lighter and starts ringing Hunter up.

Hunter pays as the Old Woman takes out a paper bag and puts the bottle inside it, the whole time staring at Hunter with disdain.

Hunter grabs the bag and walks out.

EXT. GUN STORE - DAY

Hunter pulls up to Billy's Gun Store. He gets out of his truck, walks up to the door and sees that it's closed. Hunter looks around.

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Hunter pulls up to the front of Billy's house. He grabs the bottle of Gentleman Jack out of the passenger's seat and gets out of his truck.

Hunter walks up to the front door and rings the doorbell. After a few moments, the door opens. It's Billy's wife, KATHLEEN, late 50s, gentle and frail.

Kathleen starts crying immediately. She goes over to Hunter and hugs him.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE - LATER

Kathleen is sitting on a sofa in the living room. Hunter brings her tea. Trembling, she takes the cup and saucer from Hunter and sets it on the table beside her.

Hunter sits down on the couch across from her.

HUNTER

Alright.

(beat)

Tell me what happened.

Kathleen takes a moment to try and compose herself. She never looks at Hunter.

KATHLEEN

Ever since about two weeks ago, Billy's been telling me, he's been hearing strange sounds comin' from the storm drains out front the house. I told him it was probably, rats or somethin'. An opossum. He said it sounded too big for that.

(beat)

(MORE)

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

You know Billy, would always exaggerate... so I didn't believe him.

Kathleen breaks down crying. Hunter gets up from the couch and goes over to Kathleen.

HUNTER

It's okay Kathleen.

Hunter takes a bottle of prescription pills out of his jacket. He removes the cap and shakes out one pill. He holds the pill up for Kathleen.

HUNTER

Here. Take this.

Kathleen looks down at the pill and takes it out of Hunter's palm with her pointer finger and thumb. She puts it in her mouth, picks up her teacup and takes a sip. She swallows the pill and then exhales.

HUNTER

You okay?

Kathleen nods. Hunter goes and sits back down.

KATHLEEN

Today was trash day so, last night, Billy took the garbage out to the street. After he came back inside, we heard one of the garbage cans tip over. Billy grabbed the flashlight and we both went out to see what it was. Sure enough, the trash can was tipped over. We had thrown out some old deer meat, so we figured some kind of animal must've done it. Billy stood the trash cans back up when he heard something comin' from the storm drain. He flashed the light on it and somethin' reached up and snatched him.

(crying again)

It pulled him halfway into the storm drain. I could hear his bones breaking... over the sound of his screams.

(beat)

I can still hear him now. By the time I ran up to him, it had pulled

(MORE)

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

him all the way down into the
sewers. I called the police, but
they didn't believe me. I didn't
know what else to do.

Pause.

HUNTER

It's okay. I'll stay here with you
tonight.

INT. SKETCHY MOTEL - DAY

Ryan walks into the motel room with a laptop in one arm and Rocky in tow. The rest of her belongings are already inside the room.

Ryan sits down on the bed lotus style and opens up her laptop. Rocky jumps up on the bed and lays down beside her.

She opens a private window and types "Falmer" into the search bar. The first result is Falmer's Wikipedia page.

Ryan clicks on it and skims through the sections. There's nothing particularly notable.

Ryan goes back to the search results. The third result that comes up is an article from a local paper, The Falmer Journal. She skims it:

"Where are they going?

...record missing persons in Falmer...

...Over the last three years, the rate of missing persons in Falmer has doubled annually...

...where police believe the missing persons may be attributed primarily to lost hikers in the surrounding..."

Ryan goes back to the search results on Google.

She thinks to herself for a moment about what to type.

She types in "Apex" which pulls up strange results.

The first result is the definition of the word. The second result is the company website.

Ryan clicks the link. On the site, there is only a generic home page devoid of any useful information.

Ryan presses back on the browser to go back to the Google search results for "Apex". Many of the search results at the

bottom of the page have been removed and replaced with a warning that reads:

"Some results have been removed under data protection law."

Ryan ruffles her brow in confusion. She goes to page two of the search results only to find the same thing.

Ryan searches "NamUs", the national missing persons database. She clicks on "Missing Persons". It opens in a new tab.

Ryan searches by state and organizes her results by location.

She sees a list of names come up. She gets up to grab a pen and pad from the office desk in the room. She returns to the bed and sits back down in front of the computer.

Ryan starts writing down the names of the missing people. BOOM BOOM BOOM. Loud knocks on the door.

Ryan looks over to the door as Rocky's ears go up. Ryan quietly closes her laptop and gets out of bed.

She stealthily walks over to the door and pulls her handgun out of the back of her jeans.

Ryan looks through the peephole and sees a LARGE MAN, casually dressed, standing outside. Ryan pulls back the hammer on her pistol.

RYAN

Who is it?

LARGE MAN (O.S.)

Are you kidding me. Open the damn door Becky.

RYAN

You got the wrong room.

LARGE MAN (O.S.)

Oh. Sorry about that.

Ryan sees the Large Man walk down to the next door and knock again. Ryan rests her back against the door and exhales.

EXT. RANDOM HOUSE - DAY

Ryan gets out of her truck and walks up to the front door of the house. She knocks.

A woman in her late 40s, MS. GREENWOOD, answers the door,

leaving the screen closed.

RYAN
Ms. Greenwood?

MS. GREENWOOD
Whaddya want?

RYAN
My name's Ryan. My brother Jason
went missing the other night. I
just wanted to ask you a few
questio--

Ms. Greenwood closes the door on Ryan's face.

MONTAGE

-Ryan looking out the window of her truck at house numbers
as she drives.

-Ryan driving.

-The door opening to another house. An ELDERLY MAN is
standing in the doorway.

ELDERLY MAN
Can I help you?

RYAN
Are you, Lynette's father?

Elderly Man closes the door in Ryan's face.

-Ryan getting gas at a gas station.

-Ryan is talking to a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN standing in her
doorway.

RYAN
Anything you can tell me would be
helpful.

The woman closes the door on Ryan.

-A series of doors slamming in Ryan's face.

BACK TO SCENE

After the last door slams in her face, Ryan starts to walk
back to her truck. She open's the door on the driver's side,
turns around and notices a young neighborhood kid, KENNY,
standing behind her beside his bike.

He hesitates awkwardly for a moment before saying anything.

KENNY

Are you looking for James?

RYAN

No. Not exactly. I was just trying to find out what happened to him.

Pause.

KENNY

I saw what happened to him.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ryan is sitting next to Kenny on top of a park bench under the veranda.

Ryan takes out a stick of gum and folds it into her mouth. She then extends the pack of gum out to Kenny.

KENNY

I don't take candy from strangers.

RYAN

Fair enough.

Pause.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You know I never learned how to ride a bike?

KENNY

(smiling)

Nah uh.

RYAN

(smiling)

I'm serious. I never even HAD a bike.

KENNY

I can teach you.

RYAN

Yeah. Maybe one day I'll take you up on that.

Pause.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So... Were you friends with James?

Kenny nods his head.

RYAN

What happened to him?

KENNY

Last summer, me and some of the other kids from our neighborhood built a treehouse out in the woods. A couple weeks ago me and James went out there to hang out. It started to get dark so we were gonna head back before it got too late. When James looked out the window, he must've saw something because he got pale as a ghost. He was always the brave one of the group, so to see his face like that... I thought he was joking, until he screamed "Run!" He scared me half to death. We got out of there as fast as we could. James screamed, "Don't look back!" He was basically crying. I ran as fast as I could, as hard as I could for as long as I could. When I got to the edge of the woods, I finally looked back and James was gone.

Pause.

KENNY (CONT'D)

I thought I was never gonna see him again.

(beat)

Then a couple days ago, I was out riding my bike, and I saw him. I couldn't believe it. I rode closer to him. Then I realized, whatever it was, it wasn't him.

RYAN

What was it?

Kenny gets up from the park bench, rattled.

KENNY

Look, I gotta go. It's getting dark.

Kenny lifts up his bike's kickstand.

RYAN

Wait. Do you know what it was?

KENNY

I don't know, but I'm starting to think Hunter might have been telling the truth.

RYAN

Wait, you know Hunter?

KENNY

Everybody knows Hunter.

CUT TO:

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

MONTAGE

-Hunter grabs a five gallon gas can out of his truck bed.

-Hunter dumps scraps of deer meat from a bloody bag in front of a storm drain up the street from Billy's house. Hunter then walks down the street to the next storm drain and dumps deer meat in front of that one.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hunter is sitting in a lawn chair in the middle of the street in front of Billy's House holding a handgun with a flashlight attachment.

A car comes down the street. It slowly goes around Hunter. The man inside flashes Hunter a weird look. Hunter doesn't acknowledge him. The car drives off into the distance.

Moments later, the deer meat from down the street gets snatched into the drain. Hunter looks and notices it's gone. He turns the safety off on his gun.

Hunter gets up from the lawn chair and takes out a Zippo lighter.

He lights the Zippo and holds it up while firmly gripping his handgun with the other hand.

Hunter looks at the storm drain, waiting in suspense.

What seems like an eternity passes.

A quiet, feral sound comes from the storm drain. Hunter

flashes on his light. A non-human arm reaches out from the drain. Hunter throws the lighter.

The gasoline ignites lighting the drain and the creature on fire. The creature lets out a long and terrifying shriek as it burns to its death.

Hunter watches it burn, unrepentant.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. HUNTER'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Hunter turns into his driveway. He sees Ryan's truck parked there.

He pulls up alongside her and sees her inside. Ryan looks at him.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan is sitting in a chair in the living room. Hunter comes out of the kitchen with two glasses and a tray of ice.

HUNTER
You want a drink?

Hunter sits down across from Ryan.

RYAN
No thanks.

Hunter takes the bottle of Gentleman Jack out of the bag and places it on the coffee table.

HUNTER
Why are you here?

Hunter opens the liquor and pours one of the glasses half full.

RYAN
I'm trying to find my brother.

HUNTER
(sarcastic)
You think he's here?

Hunter takes a sip of his drink.

RYAN
Well no, I just think you know something you're not telling me.

HUNTER

I know a lot I'm not telling you.

Pause.

HUNTER

You didn't answer my question. Why are you here?

RYAN

I told you. I'm looking for--

HUNTER

No, I mean why are you in this town?

RYAN

Me and my brother were just stayin' here for a couple weeks. Kinda like a little vacation.

HUNTER

Vacation? No one comes to Falmer on vacation.

Hunter finishes off his drink.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

Let's try this again. Why are you here?

Hunter fills his glass back up while Ryan contemplates to herself.

RYAN

I came here for my brother. After our parents died, he got in with the wrong people. He tried to get out, but they wouldn't let him, so we skipped town, and we came here to hide out.

HUNTER

Well you picked a hell of a place.

Hunter puts his drink down and takes out a cigar.

HUNTER

You got a light.

Ryan pulls a lighter out of her pocket and tosses it to him.

RYAN

What the hell's going on here?

Hunter puts the cigar in his mouth and lights it.

HUNTER

That's what I've been trying to figure out. It's like I got, puzzle pieces... but none of them go to the same puzzle. The only thing I know for sure, is that everything seems to point to this mining company.

RYAN

Apex?

HUNTER

Yeah. Apex came into this town three years ago, and all the disappearances started right after that.

RYAN

What do you think this company is taking them?

HUNTER

No. It's not them.

RYAN

Well if Apex isn't causing the disappearances then--

HUNTER

I didn't say Apex wasn't causing it.

RYAN

I don't understand.

Pause.

HUNTER

There's, something else out there.

RYAN

What do you mean something else? What is it?

HUNTER

I don't know what it is, but whatever it is, it's not human.

RYAN
 (sarcastically)
 O-kay.

Ryan stands up.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 I think I should be leaving.

HUNTER
 Yeah you should be leaving. You
 should get out of town as soon as
 you can.

RYAN
 I'm not leaving without my brother.

HUNTER
 Don't you get it. You're never
 gonna find him.

RYAN
 Well I'm not leaving until I do.

HUNTER
 Well, I guess you're not leaving
 then.

Ryan glares at Hunter and then walks out the front door,
 slamming it behind her. Hunter takes another drink.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. RYAN'S PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT

Ryan is driving down a dark backroad. You hear thunder in
 the distance, but no rain.

Ryan calls a number on her cell phone and puts the phone on
 speaker. It rings once and then goes to a DISCONNECT
 MESSAGE:

DISCONNECT MESSAGE (V.O.)
 We're sorry, but the number you
 have dialed is no longer in
 service.

Ryan hangs up the call and then dials another number.

Lightning strikes and it begins to rain.

The phone rings and rings before eventually going to a
 voicemail recording for ROBERT STERN.

ROBERT STERN (V.O.)

This is Robert Stern with the Falmer Journal. I'm not able to come to the phone right now but please leave your name, number and a brief message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

The phone beeps a tone for Ryan to record her message.

RYAN

Hi, my name's Ryan Love, I was calling about--

Ryan sees Jason out of the driver's side window.

She slams on the brakes. The truck slides to a stop in the middle of the road.

Ryan hops out of the cab into the rain and sees Jason disappear into the forest.

RYAN

Jason!

Ryan quickly gets a flashlight out of the toolbox in the bed of her truck and runs over to where Jason entered the forest.

She turns on the flashlight.

RYAN

Jason!

Ryan slowly walks into the trees, doing her best to see through the rain.

She carefully makes her way through the forest. She doesn't see anything.

She stops as she comes to a small natural trail. She begins to look around when she hears something move nearby.

She turns to shine her light on what appears to be Jason, crouching down in his signature jacket with his back to her in front of a dead deer.

RYAN

Jason?

It turns sharply revealing something non-human with a ghoulish face and a mouth covered in deer blood.

Ryan screams and drops her light in shock. She sprints back through the woods towards the road, crying hysterically.

Ryan makes it to the road and immediately sprints toward her truck. She opens the cab and jumps inside, frantic.

Robert Sterns's ANSWERING MACHINE is playing on her phone's speaker.

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)
If you would like to leave this
message press one.

Ryan shifts the truck into gear and slams on the gas, pulling the wheel into a hard u-turn.

A loud thump hits the passenger side door causing Ryan to jump, as she cries hysterically.

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
If you would like to re-record your
message, press the pound sign.

Ryan looks in her rearview mirror as she speeds off down the street.

BOOM!

Ryan slams into a deer causing her to spin out 360 degrees on the wet pavement. She ends up on the side of the road, just short of hitting a tree. The truck stalls out.

Panicked and shaken up, Ryan desperately turns the key over trying to start the engine.

Just as the engine turns over, the creature breaks through the passenger's side window, reaching for Ryan.

Ryan picks up her gun and unloads into the creature, with some of the bullets going through her passenger side door.

The creature falls out of the window. Ryan shifts the truck into gear and slams on the gas, pulling the truck back up onto the road.

This time, she doesn't look back.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's raining outside. Hunter is sitting on the couch in the living room, lost in thought. His cigar is sitting in an ashtray next to the half empty bottle of Jack.

Rapid loud knocks are suddenly heard on the door mixed with

frantic doorbell rings.

Hunter looks over at the door and then stands up. He grabs his handgun off of the end table and heads for the door. The frantic knocks and rings continue.

Hunter looks through the peephole to see who's outside. He opens the door to see Ryan standing outside in the rain, terrified and soaking wet.

RYAN
I believe you.

THE END