

THE DESTROYER

written by

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EXT. HURRICANE FROM SPACE

While down below it may be raging, viewed from up here, the storm drifts gently across the Earth.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Rain beats down on KATRINA "KAT" PETERS (26). Her long hair is plastered to her face by the wind and rain.

KAT (V.O.)
I've been having a lot of dreams
about, like, storms.

CLINT (V.O.)
Yeah. This hurricane's got a lot of
people worried. They say it's the
biggest hurricane ever. But there
have been bigger typhoons, which I
guess are different but also
aren't?

She's in the middle of a large field.

KAT (V.O.)
I don't care about that.

Kat's voiceover laughs.

KAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)
No, I'm sorry, I didn't mean it
like that. I meant, like, that's
not what I... I just, I die in all
of them.

CLINT (V.O.)
I don't think that's weird.

A number of tornadoes touch down around Kat, one giant one in particular. She extends her arms, embracing the oncoming wave of wind and fury.

KAT (V.O.)
I know it's not. But I wanted to
tell you anyway. Just in case.

CLINT (V.O.)
Just in case what?

The tornado sweeps over Kat. She disappears.

Beat.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom has more decorations than it does space. One wall is covered in old movie posters, there are two completely packed bookshelves, and a basket in the corner is full of stuffed animals.

Kat sleeps next to CLINT PETERS (25). Clint keeps his hair short and his facial hair neat.

Beat.

Kat gasps awake. She rolls over to see out the window.

It's pouring rain.

Clint rolls over.

CLINT
(groggy)
Another one? You okay?

Kat nods.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Honey?

KAT
Yeah. Go back to sleep.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is small and lived-in.

Kat and Clint sit at the table eating cereal. Clint's dressed for office work, while Kat is still in her pajamas.

KAT
It's whatever. I've been sleeping
fine otherwise.

Clint eyes her... shrugs.

CLINT
Just stop drinking so late.

Kat groans. She's heard this before.

CLINT (CONT'D)
I'll swing by Happy's for dinner?

KAT
Yeah.

Clint stands, kisses Kat, and leaves.

Kat sighs.

She pulls out her phone, fiddles with it.

Beat.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

The living room is definitely tiny. There's barely enough room for the couch and TV, but they've shoved a bookshelf and coffee table in there, too.

Kat reclines on the couch with her feet on the coffee table, playing games on her laptop with the TV on in the background.

Kat's phone DINGS. She looks at it: "REMINDER: SERIOUSLY IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS MOW THE LAWN DUMBASS"

KAT

Shit.

She gets up. Walks over to the window, looks at their tiny, fenced-in lawn, then up at the sky. The rain is light, but still too much to mow in.

KAT (CONT'D)

This is definitely a record.

She adds a new reminder: "I'M NOT JOKING THIS TIME MOW THE LAWN"

INT. HAPPY'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

Happy's is an average family restaurant. Kat, a server, wears a red polo and an apron, lounges near the back with SAL (18), another server.

Kat subtly takes a hit from a hip flask. She's hiding it from the customers, not Sal.

Sal fiddles with her phone. Looks up. It's a slow night, maybe six tables in the whole restaurant.

SAL

You think I can go home early tonight?

KAT

Get started on your cleanup. if you haven't gotten a table by the time you're done, I'll cut you.

Clint and three other guys enter the restaurant. Sal groans, then notices who it is.

SAL

That's your husband, right? You want the table? Please?

Kat laughs.

KAT

Go get started.

Sal scurries over to the other side of the restaurant. Kat heads over to Clint.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat and Clint lounge on the sofa. Clint's in his underwear, Kat in pajamas.

Clint watches TV while Kat stares at her laptop.

KAT

How did we spend six hundred dollars on groceries last month?

Clint shrugs.

KAT (CONT'D)

Seriously. What's this two hundred twenty bucks at Costco?

Clint sighs, tears his eyes away from the TV to look at the laptop.

CLINT

That was the, all the birthday gifts. Most of it wasn't groceries.

KAT

Right! Do you still have the receipt?

Clint gives her a look.

KAT (CONT'D)

Then how much of it was gifts and how much of it was groceries?

CLINT
Just split it fifty-fifty.

KAT
No, I wanna get it right.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Kat sits at the bar with JASMINE (29). Jasmine wears glasses and an outfit chosen for comfort over appearance.

KAT
I get where he's coming from, and I guess I'm glad he cares enough to worry. But I just...

She sighs. Takes a drink.

JASMINE
(joking)
You wish he didn't know you had a problem.

Kat gives her a look.

KAT
Very funny. But no, seriously, I swear he thinks I'm a legit alcoholic.

JASMINE
You're not an alcoholic. And that's my professional opinion a nurse. We're all alcoholics, so we know.

Kat laughs.

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - EVENING

The Peters live in a pretty okay townhouse in a pretty okay neighborhood in the suburbs.

Kat comes out the front door dressed for work. There are birds, like, everywhere.

She looks at them. Whistles a little tune as she walks.

Every single bird whistles back the same tune.

She's... confused.

KAT

Um.

She reaches her jeep, parked on the curb.

She looks at the birds.

Takes a breath... .

Whistles another note.

The birds whistle it back.

She hurries into the jeep.

EXT. NOT-REALLY-FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Think something like Olive Garden. Kat and Clint eat dinner.
Kat has an empty wineglass in front of her.

CLINT

It's gotta let up soon, right?

KAT

They're saying it's gonna be at
least another week.

CLINT

No.

Kat nods.

CLINT (CONT'D)

I wonder if we should stock up on
stuff. Canned food, gas.

Kat laughs.

KAT

You're right, it's probably the end
of days.

Clint laughs.

CLINT

Not like that.

KAT

It's Y2K all over again! We're all
doomed! DOOMED!

They both laugh.

Kat reaches over, rests her hand on Clint's. They smile.

KAT (CONT'D)

We need to get out like this more often. I wish work wasn't so unpredictable.

CLINT

It's alright. Any time we get is nice.

A waiter walks by. Kat raises her hand to get his attention, points to her empty wineglass.

Clint pulls his hand back, rolls his eyes.

EXT. JOGGING PATH - DAY

The rain is lighter today. Kat and Jasmine jog through a scenic path that winds through the trees behind some neighborhoods.

Jasmine's doing great. Kat looks like she's gonna die.

They stop at a bench in front of a small pond.

Kat sits. Jasmine jogs in place.

KAT

I'm so out of shape.

JASMINE

We've got two more kilometers, come on.

KAT

Just go on without me. I'll call a Lyft or an ambulance or something.

Jasmine rolls her eyes. Sits next to Kat.

Across the pond, in some trees, Kat catches a fleeting glimpse of a massive, six-antlered deer.

She does a double-take, but it's already gone.

KAT (CONT'D)

What?

Jasmine looks at her expectantly.

KAT (CONT'D)

I dunno. I just...

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
How do you know if you're going
crazy?

Jasmine snorts.

JASMINE
Trust me, you're long past crazy.

Kat's earnest.

KAT
Really, though.

Jasmine's taken aback.

JASMINE
Jesus, Kat. I'm not a psychiatrist.

KAT
No, but-

JASMINE
Kat, really. Just go see someone. A
few years ago, when my dad died, I
had, effectively, a check-up with a
therapist. Just one appointment,
where she could tell me, "X is
normal, Y isn't, so unless Y
happens, you're fine."

Kat groans.

KAT
I dunno. It sounds like a good
idea.

JASMINE
...Because it's a good idea. Why,
what's up?

KAT
It's nothing, really. Come on, I
think my lungs are finished
bleeding.

She gets up and jogs away. Jasmine joins her.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Birds flock all around the grocery store - mostly crows, but there are plenty of smaller birds, too.

Kat exits the grocery store and walks to her jeep.

Some of the birds flutter over to be closer.

She notices. Examines the birds.

They all watch her as intently as she watches them.

She pulls her flask out of her pocket. Looks at her jeep.
Puts it back.

Gets in her jeep.

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - DAY

As Kat pulls up to her house, a swarm of birds lands in the trees around the neighborhood.

Kat gets out. Stares at the birds.

She pulls out her flask. This time she takes a swig.

Clint pulls up in his smallish pickup truck.

As he gets out of his truck, the birds scatter.

He looks at Kat as she watches them leave.

CLINT

You okay?

Kat blinks. Pulls out the grocery bags.

KAT

Yeah.

She heads inside. Clint follows.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kat sits on the edge of the bed. Clint stands in the bathroom doorway, flossing.

KAT

I think I want to see someone.

CLINT
Who?

KAT
Like... a doctor. A psychologist.

Clint processes.

CLINT
I think that's a great idea.

Kat gives him a look.

KAT
Why?

CLINT
I mean, or not! Whatever. Maybe
just, like, a meeting or something.

KAT
A meeting? What...

She understands what he meant. Stands.

KAT (CONT'D)
(angry)
Seriously, Clint? Seriously?!

Clint's a deer in the headlights. What is happening?

CLINT
It was your idea!

KAT
I'm not an alcoholic!

CLINT
I didn't say you were!

KAT
But you want me to go to an AA
meeting?

CLINT
Seeing a doctor was your idea!

KAT
Not because of drinking! What the
hell? Why is that always the first
place you go?

CLINT
Just forget I said anything! Holy
shit!

Kat throws up her hands, leaves the room.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat sleeps on the sofa.

A HUGE BOLT OF LIGHTNING strikes outside. The thunder is deafening.

Kat jerks awake, panics for a beat.

She realizes where she is.

She sees the empty bottle of wine on the floor next to her.

She lies back down.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - EVENING

Kat's in her work uniform.

Her windows are all fogged up. She tries to be careful, but she just can't see.

KAT
Sssshhit. Come on.

She fiddles with the defroster controls.

She doesn't notice the massive six-antlered deer walk out in front of her jeep.

She looks up just in time to realize she's gonna hit it.

KAT (CONT'D)
SHIT

She slams on the brakes, but still hits the deer. There's a dull PUFF sound, no real impact.

Beat. Kat breathes heavily.

She climbs out of the jeep into the rain. She looks around. There's thousands of dead leaves everywhere - all along the road, covering her windshield, smashed in her grill.

She looks at the nearby trees - it's spring. There's no dead leaves anywhere on them.

She examines the front of her jeep. No damage. No sign of the deer.

KAT (CONT'D)

What...

She looks around again. A car drives past.

Beat. She's getting pretty wet.

She climbs back in her jeep. Drives away.

INT. HAPPY'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

It's a slow night, maybe six tables in the whole place.

Kat finishes taking a table's order.

KAT

Fantastic! Let me know if there's anything else I can get you.

She heads back to one of the computers, but it's being used by Sal.

SAL

You know if we still have the chili dogs?

KAT

Yeah, but you have to ring it in as a chicago-style and special order it.

SAL

Okay. I'm gonna be a minute, it's an eight-top.

KAT

I'm not in a rush.

She flips open her notepad to the back page. She has a pretty decent half-finished sketch of the monster deer she hit (or didn't?) earlier. She scribbles on it a little more.

KAT (CONT'D)

Hey, you hunt, right?

SAL

Yeah.

KAT
How big can deer get? Like, what
qualifies a deer as being a big-ass
deer?

SAL
Um... I dunno. I need to focus.

KAT
Sure, sure.

INT. HAPPY'S BAR AND GRILL - LATER

Clint enters the restaurant. Kat comes over to greet him.

KAT
Hey handsome!

CLINT
Hey! What happened to your car?

KAT
What? What do you mean?

Clint looks serious.

CLINT
Kat.

KAT
Oh. Yeah. I hit a... bush, or
something.

Clint gets close.

CLINT
(quiet)
Were you drinking?

KAT
Oh my god.

She turns away.

CLINT
Tell me what happened.

KAT
I got a table right now, let me go
check on them, and then I'll tell
you about it?

Clint bites his tongue. Nods.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat and Clint enter through the garage.

CLINT
No, it looks fine. No damage, just
a bunch of leaves.

KAT
Okay. Good.

CLINT
You're sure you weren't-

KAT
Ask me if I was drunk one more
time. Do it.

Kat takes off her apron, throws it on the counter.

Clint hesitates.

KAT (CONT'D)
I'm telling you, the bushes looked
fine. It was just the rain.

CLINT
You didn't tear up someone's yard
or anything?

KAT
No! God!

Clint holds up his hands.

CLINT
Alright, alright.

He massages her shoulders.

CLINT (CONT'D)
I don't... maybe you should see a
doctor.

She shrugs him off.

KAT
It was just the rain and the foggy
window. I'm fine.

CLINT
Kat, it was your idea. I'm just
saying-

Kat leaves the room.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clint is fast asleep. Kat lies awake.

She shifts. Looks out the window. It's still raining.

She groans quietly.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat leaves the lights off as she gets a glass of water. Looks out the window at her jeep.

She sees the deer from before standing next to it.

She freezes. The deer looks at her.

She very slowly puts down her water.

KAT

Is that...

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, she's outside with the deer. The sun comes up, and everything is bright and green and lush.

The deer approaches her. Leans down. She holds up her hand, and he nuzzles it.

KAT

You're the deer I hit.

The deer looks right at her.

She looks back. Looks at her hand. She's holding a small sapling, roots and all.

KAT (CONT'D)

Oh. Thanks?

It looks behind her. She follows its gaze.

The sky darkens. Clouds are rolling in.

Kat looks up.

KAT (CONT'D)

Figures.

The clouds roil overhead.

Lightning STRIKES; a bright FLASH.

Suddenly, they're surrounded by lush forest. The storm is gone; everything is green.

Kat looks at the Deer. She opens her mouth to speak, but...

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - MORNING

Kat gasps awake. She's holding the sapling.

She looks at it, uncomprehending.

Blinks.

Looks at Clint, still asleep.

Looks back at the sapling.

Understanding hits her. She sits up.

KAT

What the fuck? What the fuck!

Clint wakes up.

CLINT

Hm?

He rolls over, sees how freaked out she is. He sits up.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

He sees the tree.

Gives her a look.

KAT

I don't...

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Clint is dressed for work. He stands, staring at Kat, who sits at the table, staring at the sapling in her hand.

CLINT

If you're not feeling well, I can-

KAT
I'm fine. I was gonna hang out with
Jasmine today anyway, I'll ask if
she has anything for sleepwalking.

He looks at her for a beat, concerned.

CLINT
Yeah. Okay.

He nods. Heads to the door. Pauses.

CLINT (CONT'D)
(deliberate)
I love you.

KAT
(automatic)
Love you too.

Clint leaves.

EXT. PETERS' BACKYARD - DAY

It's still raining. Kat has accepted that she'll get wet, and
is in some crummy jeans and a hoodie, digging in the dirt.

She plants the sapling near the fence, replaces some of the
dirt.

Stands up. Looks at it.

KAT
There. I don't-

The tree starts growing.

KAT (CONT'D)
What? No. No.

Its rate of growth quickens. Kat freaks out.

KAT (CONT'D)
Stop. Stop!

It... stops.

Kat takes a couple deep breaths.

KAT (CONT'D)
Woah.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
(quiet)
Go.

Beat.

She points at it, speaks in a commanding tone.

KAT (CONT'D)
Go! Start! Grow!

It starts growing at the same pace as before.

Kat stumbles backward, laughs.

KAT (CONT'D)
Fuck! Stop!

It stops.

She stares at it.

KAT (CONT'D)
(amused)
Whaaaat.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
Grow.

It starts growing again.

KAT (CONT'D)
Am I going crazy, or...

Her smile disappears.

KAT (CONT'D)
Holy shit, I'm going crazy.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Kat sits at the kitchen table, a box of wine on the table in front of her. She refills a plastic cup and takes a drink.

She hears the front door open.

JASMINE (O.S.)
Hello!

KAT
In here.

Jasmine enters the room. She's wearing workout clothes.

Kat doesn't look up.

JASMINE

You got started without me.

KAT

I think I've cracked, Jazz. For real this time.

JASMINE

I've been saying that for years.

Kat shakes her head. Points towards the living room.

KAT

Go look in the backyard.

Jasmine gives her a curious look, but goes into the other room.

JASMINE (O.S.)

What am I looking for?

KAT

Notice anything new?

JASMINE (O.S.)

...No?

Kat cringes.

She gets up, carrying her wine.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kat walks to the window Jasmine's looking out.

KAT

You don't see that tree?

JASMINE

What? That one?

Kat's excited.

KAT

You do see it?

JASMINE
That's... new? Holy shit, that's
new. What the hell, Kat? How much
did that cost?

KAT
It didn't.

JASMINE
I don't understand. You got a full-
grown tree-

KAT
It wasn't full-grown.

Jasmine gives her a look.

EXT. PETERS' BACKYARD - DAY

Kat and Jasmine stand in front of the tree.

KAT
Watch. Watch.

She points at the tree.

KAT (CONT'D)
Grow!

Jasmine doesn't notice anything.

JASMINE
What...?

KAT
Look! Look! Do you see that?

She points at one of the branches, extending closer and
closer to the house.

Jasmine sees it.

JASMINE
What?

KAT
Check this out.

She points at the branch.

KAT (CONT'D)
Stop! Just you.

The branch stops growing.

Jasmine notices the rest of the branches growing too, the trunk extending further out of the ground.

JASMINE

Holy-

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - EVENING

Kat and Jasmine sit at the table, a second box of wine on the table now.

JASMINE

Only that tree?

KAT

Yeah.

She thinks.

KAT (CONT'D)

Actually, I didn't try anything else.

Jasmine gets excited.

JASMINE

You've gotta try! Come on!

She looks around the kitchen. There's a potted basil.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Here!

She gets up, grabs the basil. Puts it in front of Kat.

Kat points at it.

KAT

Grow!

It starts growing.

Jasmine laughs. Kat laughs, but she's kind of freaked out.

KAT (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're enjoying this.

JASMINE

You're not?

KAT
I don't know! It's kinda freaky,
isn't it?

Jasmine marvels at the basil.

JASMINE
What is it eating?

KAT
What?

JASMINE
It's growing so fast. How's it
getting enough water?

KAT
Yeah. That's the only weird part
here.

Jasmine gives her a look.

Kat shrugs.

The basil plant sprawls outside the pot.

JASMINE
You think you can make it grow
outside of dirt, too?

KAT
I don't know...

Jasmine groans.

JASMINE
Oh come on!

The front door opens. Clint walks in.

CLINT
Hey Jasmine. What's... wow, you're
on your second box?

Kat points at the basil. Clint marvels.

CLINT (CONT'D)
What is it... doing?

KAT
Growing.

CLINT
But how is it growing so fast?

KAT

Stop.

The plant stops. Clint looks at Kat, doesn't notice.

CLINT

Stop what?

KAT

Not you.

Clint notices the plant.

CLINT

...What?

KAT

Grow.

It starts growing again.

Clint takes a step back.

CLINT

Woah!

He leans in, pokes it. Laughs.

CLINT (CONT'D)

What? How is it doing that?

He points.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Stop!

It keeps growing.

CLINT (CONT'D)

What is it?

KAT

It's our basil plant.

CLINT

I can see that. How'd you make it do that?

JASMINE

We don't know!

Jasmine's having such a great time. Kat's cheer is fading.

CLINT
What?

KAT
It started with the tree.

CLINT
From this morning? What do you mean?

KAT
It's out back. I planted it.

Clint wanders into the living room.

CLINT (O.S.)
I don't see it.

JASMINE
Yeah, you do.

CLINT (O.S.)
What do you mean?

JASMINE
It's the tree. The big one.

Beat.

CLINT (O.S.)
Holy shit!

Clint runs back into the kitchen.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Holy shit!

He's hard to read. He's clearly freaked out, though.

KAT
That's why the second box of wine.

CLINT
What happened? How did it...

He looks at the basil plant again, still growing.

Now he's getting less excited, more confused.

CLINT (CONT'D)
That's our basil plant.

KAT
I told you.

CLINT
No, but, that's our...

He looks at the counter where the basil was.

CLINT (CONT'D)
It's some sort of trick.

KAT
If it is, I'm not in on it. Stop.

The basil plant stops growing.

CLINT
Kat. What the hell.

Kat stands.

KAT
I just... I need a minute.

She walks away, heads upstairs.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - EVENING

Kat is curled up in a ball on the bed.

A KNOCK on the door. It cracks open.

Clint slips in, lies down next to her, spoons her.

Beat.

KAT
Should I be scared?

CLINT
Why?

Kat's annoyed.

KAT
"Why?" What's happening? What does
this mean?

Clint sighs.

CLINT
Can't you just... not do it?

Kat sits up. Looks at him.

KAT
Jasmine's going to turn me into a
lab rat.

CLINT
Maybe you'll figure out it's all
some perfectly normal thing going
on.

Beat.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Maybe.

Kat shakes her head. Climbs out of bed.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - MORNING

Kat and Clint eat cereal. The basil plant is gone.
The mood is... awkward.

Beat.

CLINT
So-

KAT
Please no.

Beat.

CLINT
I was just gonna ask if you wanted
more cereal.

Even he doesn't believe that lie.

Beat.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Why does this freak you out so
much?

KAT
It doesn't freak me out. Why
doesn't it freak you out?

CLINT
It does! But... I just think, if we
ignore it-

KAT
I can't ignore it.

Clint's trying to keep things calm, but the volume is still rising.

CLINT
But why not? I want to understand.
Help me understand where you're at.

KAT
No.

She gets up. Clint's shocked.

KAT (CONT'D)
I have to go. I'm opening.

CLINT
Right. We'll talk about it-

She heads upstairs.

Clint sighs.

INT. HAPPY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kat grabs a plate of food - a burger with a sad looking piece of lettuce and an old tomato slice.

She looks at it. Looks around. Nobody's paying her any attention.

KAT
(sotto)
Be... better.

Beat.

She grimaces with a bit of mental effort. The lettuce unwilts, and the tomato reddens.

She looks around. Clears her throat. Walks out.

Beat. She comes back in.

A SERVER sees her come in, approaches her with a crummy-looking salad.

SERVER
Kat!

Kat stops, looks.

SERVER (CONT'D)

They're trying to get me to serve this.

Kat looks at it. Gross.

She considers. Nods.

KAT

Give it to me. I'll deal with it.

EXT. HAPPY'S BAR AND GRILL - EVENING

Kat walks outside, heads to her jeep.

Stops.

There's a bush growing out of and around the front of her jeep. Its leaves are just like the leaves that were wedged in the grill before.

She groans. Looks around. There's a bar nearby that's still open. She heads to it.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Kat sits alone at the bar, drinking a beer.

Jasmine walks in. Sits next to Kat.

JASMINE

Hey. What's up?

KAT

My car's... planted.

Jasmine's not sure what that means, but she doesn't pry.

JASMINE

Where's Clint?

Kat sighs.

KAT

At home, probably.

Beat. Jasmine waits for more.

KAT (CONT'D)

We fought about it this morning. I didn't feel like fighting more.

Jasmine nods.

The bartender approaches. Jasmine just points at Kat's beer and holds up two fingers.

JASMINE

Isn't he gonna wonder where you
are, though?

Kat shrugs. The bartender drops off two more beers. Kat grabs one and takes a deep drink.

Jasmine looks worried. Kat shakes her head.

KAT

No no no, we're fine. Stop it.
We're just both under a lot of
stress right now.

Jasmine nods. Drinks.

JASMINE

So tell me about your car.

Kat groans.

EXT. HAPPY'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

The plants have grown a little. Are still growing. The jeep is three-quarters covered now.

Jasmine has an umbrella. Kat just stands in the rain.

JASMINE

Woah.

KAT

Yeah.

Jasmine pokes at the plant. A squirrel appears from under the leaves, runs away.

JASMINE

Oh!

KAT

For fuck's sake.

JASMINE

Can't you just... like, tell it to
leave?

KAT
It doesn't have legs.

JASMINE
Well, but you could... kill it?

Kat furrows her brow.

KAT
I don't... I don't know. That seems
kind of wrong, doesn't it?

Jasmine laughs.

JASMINE
According to who?

Kat sighs.

KAT
Whatever. You know what I mean.

JASMINE
I have no idea what you mean.

KAT
(strangely serious)
I don't want to kill it.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
I just want it gone.

It ripples. Shimmies.

KAT (CONT'D)
What was that?

JASMINE
I don't know.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
And the car won't start?

KAT
I can't get in. Try to open the
doors.

Jasmine tries. The doors are held shut.

Jasmine's excited.

JASMINE
This is crazy.

KAT
No it's not.

JASMINE
You don't think it's crazy?

KAT
Not in that tone of voice. You say
it like you're happy.

Jasmine rolls her eyes.

Kat groans.

KAT (CONT'D)
Just, fucking... get off my car!

Another shimmy, this one violent. The plant sloughs off the jeep.

JASMINE
Holy...

Kat's just so fucking done. She gets in her jeep and drives away, leaving Jasmine standing there.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clint is asleep. Kat climbs into bed.

Clint wakes up.

CLINT
Hey. What time is it?

KAT
I'm scared.

Beat.

CLINT
Okay.

KAT
What's going on? Why is it
happening? And why is it happening
to me?

CLINT
I don't know.

Beat.

KAT
You asked why I'm so freaked out.

CLINT
Yeah.

KAT
It doesn't feel wrong. It feels natural. Like, I fucking talk to a plant and I'd be surprised if it didn't listen.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
That's weird, right?

CLINT
Yes. You're talking to plants. Stop talking to plants.

KAT
You don't get it.

She rolls away.

Beat.

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - MORNING

It's really pouring today.

Kat's looking out the window.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine and Clint stand behind her.

KAT
I dunno, it's really coming down.
Let's do this some other time.

Jasmine's disappointed.

CLINT
It's not supposed to stop any time soon.

JASMINE

Really? But isn't it, like, already record-breaking?

CLINT

I think it's broken a couple. I think I saw it's the biggest cyclone in history and still growing.

JASMINE

Should we be, like, worried?

CLINT

Nah, they're saying it's heading away from us now.

KAT

So...?

CLINT

So no reason to do anything now. Just chill. It'll stop eventually.

Kat sighs.

Jasmine looks at Kat.

JASMINE

I'm down if you're down.

KAT

Fine.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Kat and Jasmine walk deeper into the woods behind Kat's neighborhood.

Jasmine is wearing a rain jacket with a hood. Kat's wearing exercise clothes.

KAT

What do you think? Far enough?

Jasmine looks behind them. You can't see anything but trees.

JASMINE

Let's do it.

KAT

What, exactly, are we doing?

Jasmine shrugs. Sticks her hands in her pockets to warm them.

JASMINE
Start talking to something.

Kat walks over to a tree.

KAT
Hi. How are you?

Kat laughs, looks back at Jasmine.

Jasmine's not amused.

Kat rolls her eyes. Turns to the tree.

KAT (CONT'D)
Bend... bend over!

Beat.

The tree shakes. Leans over until it's almost at a 90-degree angle.

Jasmine cheers. She's exhilarated.

Kat's terrified.

KAT (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Shit. Okay.

She coughs. Raises her arms.

One of the branches wraps around her.

KAT (CONT'D)
Stand up!

The tree returns to standing upright, lifting her thirty feet up in the air.

Kat takes a deep breath, smiling despite herself. She lets herself enjoy it this once.

When she's at the top, she looks out at the storm.

Her vision shifts, twists, zooms; she can see further than she should be able to see.

She can see the storm, in all its fury and power.

And she can see a figure floating at the heart of it, hovering in the eye. He drifts along with the storm, not so much flying as he is suspended in the middle of everything.

He looks at her, his eyes hidden behind the thick glare of glasses.

Her vision rockets back to normal, hits her like a truck.

She would've fallen if the tree didn't have her.

The branches shift to lower her, gently laying her on the ground. She's twitching.

JASMINE

Holy shit, Kat! That was...

Beat.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Kat?

Kat's having a seizure.

Jasmine snaps into pro mode as soon as she realizes.

She kneels next to her, rolls her on her side.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

You're gonna be fine, okay? I've got you.

Jasmine's muscles seize, arching her back. Her eyes roll back into her head, and GLOW.

KAT

THE DESTROYER COMES. THE DESTROYER COMES. THE DESTROYER COMES.

She keeps repeating it, over and over again.

Jasmine panics a little.

JASMINE

You're scaring me now!

A THUNDERCRACK. Kat falls unconscious and the rain stops.

Beat. Jasmine catches her breath.

The rain starts again. Kat comes to, coughing.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

KAT
I think we're in trouble.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Kat, Clint, and Jasmine sit at the kitchen table. Kat and Jasmine are wrapped in towels, with hot drinks.

Clint does not look happy.

Beat.

Kat takes a sip of her drink.

Beat.

KAT
Fuck. Okay. It was like I could see, like, everything. The storm. But in the middle of it, there was a guy.

CLINT
What do you mean, "a guy?"

KAT
Like, a guy. A dude was just hanging in the eye of the storm, maybe ten thousand feet in the air.

JASMINE
What did he look like?

KAT
I don't know. I didn't... I couldn't see him like that. I don't know what to tell you.

Beat. She thinks.

KAT (CONT'D)
I think he was wearing glasses?

CLINT
But so he wasn't, like, some sort of terrifying demon?

KAT
No. I think he just a guy.

JASMINE
Maybe he's not the Destroyer?

CLINT
He's not even real.

JASMINE
Who? The Destroyer, or the guy in
the storm?

CLINT
Both!

KAT
Yes. Definitely real.

CLINT
This is ridiculous.

KAT
You don't think I know that?

JASMINE
So what if this is, like, related?

KAT
To me? I think it's pretty clearly
related.

Beat.

JASMINE
Just a thought.

Kat waits for her to continue. Clint's already pretty much
checked out.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
I'm not saying... like, I don't
know what to think. Right? I don't
think this is the case. But it's
worth considering.

KAT
What?

JASMINE
What if you're the, the Destroyer?

The idea washes over Kat. She's more terrified than ever.
Even Clint takes notice of that.

KAT
Holy shit. Holy shit.

She stands up.

KAT (CONT'D)

Fuck. No.

Jasmine gets up, supports her.

JASMINE

It's probably, I'm, that was crazy,
I shouldn't have even said it.

KAT

But no, you're right. Like, I might
be.

JASMINE

You're making plants grow. That's a
creator, not a destroyer.

Kat's freaking out too much to listen. Clint glares at
Jasmine.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Clint and Jasmine stand together in the living room. Kat's
still in the kitchen.

JASMINE

I'm just saying, this is above my
pay grade. I think we need-

CLINT

Fuck no. You're not going to turn
her into some wacky experiment. All
she needs is a doctor and support
group.

JASMINE

This is bigger than her, Clint!
This is bigger than any of us! Just
the things she can do alone, even
without the threat of some magic
storm coming to destroy us.

CLINT

Get the out of my house.

JASMINE

I'm not saying-

CLINT

You're always welcome here, except
right now.

JASMINE

But-

Clint glares at her. She yields, walks into the kitchen.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JASMINE

I've got work in an hour, so I should get going. Let me know if you need anything, okay?

Kat just nods, doesn't look.

Jasmine leaves.

Clint walks to Kat, puts his hands on her shoulders.

CLINT

We're gonna get through this. We're gonna get you the help you need, whether that's a therapist-

Kat glares.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Or whether that's a... magic... man. Look, if this is really happening, it's bad, right? So of course I'll help. I just think we need to consider all the possibilities. That means we consider the possibility all this is real, yes, but it also means we consider the possibility that it's very much not. Does that sound fair?

Kat stares at him. Chews on her tongue.

KAT

That sounds fair.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Kat walks around the forest. It's not raining. In fact, it's pretty sunny.

She enjoys herself. She runs through meadows, climbs a tree.

It's all pretty cool.

She sees the six-antlered deer. She freezes.

KAT

You.

She looks around.

KAT (CONT'D)

This is... I'm dreaming.

A VOICE echoes through her skull.

DEER

YES

AND NO

She takes a step back, then two steps forward.

KAT

This is... you can talk.

DEER

YOU MUST REMEMBER

Kat is suddenly angry, maybe in pain.

KAT

What are you talking about?
Remember what?

DEER

YOU MUST REMEMBER

She grabs her head, glares at the deer.

KAT

You can shut up with that!

DEER

YOU MUST REMEMBER

She turns around, but the deer is somehow still in front of her.

DEER (CONT'D)

YOU MUST-

KAT

Remember, I know, remember what?!

Everything freezes. The sky darkens. It starts to rain.

The deer looks at the oncoming clouds.

DEER
THE DESTROYER COMES

Kat looks at the clouds. Looks at the deer.

KAT
What's going on? Who's the
Destroyer?

The deer looks at her. Gets close.

DEER
(urgent)
YOU MUST REMEMBER

KAT
I'm fucking trying to-

A rushing wall of wind washes over everything.

FADE TO:

WHITE

The thick sound of static.

The static slowly fades as Kat appears in the whiteness.

JASMINE (O.S.)
(distant, growing closer)
One, two, three, four, five, six...

Kat looks around.

KAT
What? Jasmine?

CLINT (O.S.)
(distant, desperate)
Kat! Kat, please, wake up!

Kat looks around. What the fuck is-

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - DAY

Kat's eyes snap open.

Kat's lying on the floor. Jasmine crouches over her performing chest compressions.

Clint stands nearby, almost in tears.

CLINT
She's awake!

Jasmine stops, looks at her.

JASMINE
Oh thank god.

KAT
What's going on?

CLINT
Are you okay?

Jasmine grabs Kat's wrist, checks her pulse.

KAT
I'm fine.

Jasmine scowls. She checks Kat's neck for a pulse.

KAT (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Beat. Jasmine scowls again.

JASMINE
What the hell?

KAT
What?

JASMINE
I'm having trouble finding a pulse.

KAT
Well, I'm clearly fine, so if you
could just get off of me-

She tries to shove Jasmine off of her, but Jasmine is still in go-mode, and holds her down.

Jasmine pushes her against the floor and holds her ear to Kat's chest.

Kat groans, but allows it.

CLINT
Is she okay?

JASMINE
 (to herself)
 Seriously?

She takes off Kat's pajama shirt, leaving her topless.

KAT
 What are you doing?!

JASMINE
 (doctor voice)
Hold still.

She presses her ear to Kat's chest.

Beat.

She sits up, looks at Kat.

Kat sits up too.

KAT
 Can I put my shirt back on?

CLINT
 What's going on, Jazz?

JASMINE
 I can't find your heartbeat. At
 all.

KAT
 I feel fine. Maybe a little cold
with my shirt off.

Jasmine hands Kat her shirt. Kat puts it back on.

JASMINE
 (to Clint)
 Look. Look at her chest.

KAT
 You want me to take the shirt back
 off?

JASMINE
 Do you see it moving?

CLINT
 What do you mean?

JASMINE
 I don't think she's even breathing.

KAT
Don't be ridiculous, of course
I'm...

Now that Jasmine's drawn attention to it, she notices.

KAT (CONT'D)
Wait.

She plugs her nose. Unplugs it. Looks around.

KAT (CONT'D)
Ho-ly shit.

CLINT
Holy shit.

KAT
Does this have anything to do
with... you know?

JASMINE
It has to.

CLINT
This is crazy. There's-

Jasmine gives him a look.

She turns back to Kat.

JASMINE
How are you even talking?

KAT
What do you mean?

JASMINE
Without breathing.

KAT
Oh. I don't... I don't know.

Jasmine stands up. She's actually a little angry.

JASMINE
I'm seriously starting to have
enough of this shit. What the fuck
is going on?

KAT
You're asking me?

Jasmine sighs.

JASMINE

No. But who the fuck am I supposed to ask?

KAT

So wait wait wait. Can we get back to me? Am I really not breathing?

JASMINE

And your heart isn't beating.

KAT

But I feel fine. I feel...

She gets to her feet. Looks at herself.

KAT (CONT'D)

I feel great.

JASMINE

Can I please take you to the hospital so we can run some tests?

CLINT

We've talked about this-

JASMINE

This isn't about figuring out what's going on anymore, this is figuring out if she's going to drop dead at any moment.

Beat. Kat and Clint look at each other.

KAT

All the possibilities, right?

Clint sighs.

CLINT

All the possibilities.

Kat eyes Jasmine.

KAT

I don't want... I want it to be a secret. Nobody else sees anything but you.

JASMINE

I don't know if I can promise that. I'll do my best.

Kat sighs. Looks at Clint. He shrugs.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kat sits on a doctor's table, and Clint stands next to her. Jasmine takes Kat's blood pressure. She furrows her brow.
Beat.

JASMINE

I don't know what I expected. I'm
just gonna draw some blood.

She reaches into her bag, pulls out the stuff she'll need.

KAT

But if my heart's not beating-

JASMINE

That's the question. Give me your
arm.

She sticks a needle in Kat's arm, but encounters some unexpected resistance.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

What the...

She pulls the needle out. There's something sticky on it.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Hold on a second.

Clint's getting nervous, trying not to pay attention.

Jasmine pulls out a tiny one-use blade, takes Kat's hand, and pricks one of her fingers.

Nothing happens. It's not bleeding.

Jasmine squeezes the cut. Slowly, slowly, a thick brown liquid is oozes out.

Clint goes a little pale.

CLINT

What the hell...

He sits down.

Jasmine gets in close, looks at it. She dabs some of it away.

KAT

This isn't normal, right?

JASMINE
I think it's...

She sniffs it. Lets go of Kat's hand.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
It doesn't smell... Taste it.

KAT
What? But what if it's, like,
poisonous?

JASMINE
It's running through your veins, I
don't think it'll hurt you.

Kat's not so sure.

Beat. She stares at Jasmine.

Fine. She sucks on her finger.

KAT
(surprised)
It's sweet. It reminds me of...

Beat. She looks at her finger. Laughs despite herself.

KAT (CONT'D)
It's syrup. It's maple syrup.

Clint's losing it. He's in another place.

KAT (CONT'D)
What does this mean?

A KNOCK on the door as it swings open, revealing DR. WORTHEN.

DR. WORTHEN
Oh. What's going on here?

Jasmine panics just a tiny bit.

JASMINE
Just giving my friends a tour,
that's all!

Kat hides her pricked finger.

Dr. Worthen looks at Jasmine and Clint. They look like deer
trapped in the headlights.

DR. WORTHEN
Jasmine? Is everything okay?

JASMINE
We're all good, really.

Dr. Worthen nods, keeps looking at them.

DR. WORTHEN
You know you're only supposed to have patients back here. Are you even working today?

JASMINE
I'm covering for Steve, but listen I am on the clock and they just showed up so I've got to get them out of here so I can get back to work.

She all but shoves Dr. Worthen out of the room.

DR. WORTHEN
O-okay.

He leaves. Jasmine catches her breath.

EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - EVENING

Kat and Jasmine wait under the awning.

KAT
I'm not gonna die?

JASMINE
Or if you are, I don't know how or why or how to stop it. Now's not the time, but I'd really like to run some more-

KAT
Jazz.

Beat. Jasmine sighs.

JASMINE
Fine.

Kat looks out the window.

KAT
Storm's getting worse.

JASMINE

Some of the nurses were talking about evacuating. It's looking more and more likely.

CLINT

Can you evacuate a hospital?

JASMINE

Sure. You can. It's not easy, though. Even if the city evacuates, some of us might stay here.

CLINT

Shit.

JASMINE

Yeah. Well.

They look at the rain.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - EVENING

Clint drives, with Kat in the passenger seat. Kat stares out the window.

KAT

What do I even do?

CLINT

What do you mean?

KAT

So, I'm some sort of plant-lady. There's a Destroyer coming. What am I supposed to do about any of it?

Beat.

CLINT

I know you're getting tired of me saying it, but-

KAT

This is happening, Clint. I don't understand it and I don't really like it, but we can't just pretend it isn't.

Beat.

CLINT

But like, what if it's-

KAT

Please.

Beat. Clint nods.

CLINT

If we assume this is all real -
like, the Destroyer guy. Do you
think he's... what side do you
think he's on?

KAT

The Destroyer?

CLINT

Obviously he's bad. But... do you
think you guys are on the same
team?

KAT

I'm not on anybody's team.

CLINT

I know that. But.

Beat.

KAT

(quiet)

I don't know.

CLINT

But if you're not. You're supposed
to, what? Stop him?

Kat sighs.

KAT

Do you think he has any idea what's
going on?

CLINT

What do you mean?

KAT

What if he's like me? What if he
just woke up one day and could make
hurricanes and has no idea how or
why?

CLINT

And the first thing he decided to
do was wreck everything.

KAT

Maybe. Maybe he's crazy. Or
maybe... he can't control it.

Clint pulls over.

He stares at Kat for a beat. His face is unreadable except
that this is all very hard for him.

Puts his hand on Kat's thigh.

CLINT

You're not going to do anything
like that.

Kat tears up.

KAT

How can you know that?

Beat.

A long beat.

He pulls back on the road.

Kat wipes her eyes.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat and Clint walk in.

Kat goes to the cabinet, grabs some crackers.

CLINT

I think I'm just gonna crash.

KAT

Do it. I would if I thought I
could.

CLINT

Are you-

KAT

I'm fine. Go to sleep. I'll be up
sooner or later.

Clint nods, goes upstairs.

Kat looks out the window at the tree.

Sighs.

EXT. PETERS' BACKYARD - NIGHT

Kat walks to the tree, heedless of the rain.

She puts her hand on the trunk.

Sighs.

She examines the trunk. Picks at the bark.

Beat.

She rests her forehead against the tree.

Lets out a slow breath.

DEER (O.S.)
YOU MUST REMEMBER

She gasps, jerks back.

KAT
Remember what?

No response.

KAT (CONT'D)
Remember what?!

She slams a fist into the tree; it leaves a weirdly deep dent, without cracking anything.

KAT (CONT'D)
...Fuck.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat sits on the floor, photo albums splayed out around her.

KAT
No... no... no...

She sifts through one.

KAT (CONT'D)
We had... a garden...?

She puts it down. Grabs another.

Sighs. This is pointless.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat paces, on her phone.

KAT

Yeah, sorry, were you asleep? Oh good. Yeah no so look, I was just trying to remember, did I...

She looks exasperated. What is she even asking?

KAT (CONT'D)

Did I like plants as a kid? -Or animals?

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

I know. Of course. I don't know.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

But dad was all into his tomatoes and green beans. Uh-huh, yeah, I know, but maybe-

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

Okay, so not gardening. But wasn't there anything-

Beat. That's interesting.

KAT (CONT'D)

Ohhh shit. Yes. Yes! That's it! Thanks mom bye!

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - NIGHT

Kat drives through the rain.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Kat wanders through the forest in a poncho, with a flashlight that is just too small.

KAT

This is ridiculous. This is fucking ridiculous.

She looks around.

KAT (CONT'D)
What am I supposed to remember?

She turns around. Her flashlight shows the Deer.

She's not surprised this time.

DEER
YOU MUST REMEMBER

KAT
So are you, like... do you even
know what you're saying, or are you
like a parrot?

DEER
YOU MUST-

KAT
Remember! I know! Fuck!

She groans.

KAT (CONT'D)
I hung out here a lot as a kid. I
had a treehouse somewhere... that
way. I...

She looks at the Deer.

KAT (CONT'D)
I knew you. Holy shit. You were...

She approaches the Deer.

KAT (CONT'D)
I... I didn't think... I played a
lot of games out here, but-

DEER
THE DESTROYER COMES

KAT
Where is it? Show me.

A path glows through the forest; the path is lit as if in daylight, with everything around it still dark as night.

Kat follows the path, the Deer trailing behind her.

They walk under her old treehouse, now half-decayed.

She points, opens her mouth to speak, but then looks at the Deer and says nothing.

She turns a corner in the path.

KAT (CONT'D)

Oh god.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Years ago. Kat is just a little girl, running in the slivers of sunshine that make it through the trees.

LITTLE KAT laughs and plays. She runs under her treehouse, still beautiful and in good repair.

But all at once, she's lost. She turns around. Where's the path? She's worried.

She turns and sees an abnormally large tree, overgrown with flowers - it looks like some sort of forest shrine.

It's fascinating, beautiful. Little Kat creeps closer.

She doesn't notice the Deer standing off to the side, watching.

She reaches the tree. Climbs up the side a little to peek in the glowing knothole.

Hidden in the knothole, resting on an altar of lilies and honeycomb, is a beautiful golden acorn.

It's overwhelmingly beautiful. She can't tear her eyes off of it.

DEER

SOON

She jumps, turns, sees the Deer right next to her. She screams, backs off-

And is suddenly right under her treehouse again.

She runs out of the forest, more unnerved than scared.

INT. FOREST - NIGHT

Kat stares at the same tree she found as a little girl.

The deer walks to the tree. Nuzzles it.

Kat creeps up to the tree. Examines it. She's in awe.

KAT

Oh god. I remember.

She reaches into the knot, picks up the acorn carefully, gently. Cradles it like a baby.

KAT (CONT'D)

Ohhh god.

The Deer looks at her. She looks back.

KAT (CONT'D)

I can't... I have no idea what I'm doing.

The Deer's voice is different now; less urgent, more... sad.

DEER

THE DESTROYER COMES

KAT

I know, but...

She looks at the acorn.

KAT (CONT'D)

What do I do with it? Where do I plant it? When? How?

The Deer looks at her.

KAT (CONT'D)

I know, I know. "The Destroyer comes." But...

She looks up at the Deer, but it's gone. So is the tree. She's in a completely different part of the woods.

She looks at the acorn. Still there.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - SUNRISE

Kat enters the house, still cradling the acorn. She looks around.

EXT. PETERS' BACKYARD - SUNRISE

Kat goes outside, looks in the corner where they store some of their tools. She grabs the pot the basil used to be in, and a trowel.

She scoops some dirt into the pot, then gently plants the acorn.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - MORNING

Kat sits at the kitchen table, staring at the pot.

Clint comes downstairs.

CLINT
Hey. You sleep at all?

KAT
Coffee's on the counter.

Clint looks. Goes and pours himself a cup.

He sits across from her.

KAT (CONT'D)
I don't... I'd forgotten all about it.

CLINT
Is that, uh... the basil?

KAT
It's an acorn.

CLINT
You growing another tree?

Kat shakes her head. She's almost reverent.

KAT
This is important.

She looks at Clint, dead serious.

KAT (CONT'D)
Whatever happens, you have to keep this safe. Okay?

CLINT
(casual)
Okay.

He's not serious enough for her. She grabs his hand.

KAT
Clinton. If you have to choose
between me and the acorn, you
choose the acorn. Okay?

CLINT
I don't... what's so important
about it?

The craziness of the situation settles in on Kat a little.

KAT
I don't... I don't know.

She grabs his coffee, drinks it.

KAT (CONT'D)
Fuck. Shit. ...Fuck.

CLINT
Do you wanna get some sleep?

KAT
I don't think so.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
I wanna check the weather.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kat sits at the TV, turned to the weather.

Clint sits nearby, eating cereal and looking at his phone.

On the TV, pictures of absolute destruction. Ruined
neighborhoods, collapsed buildings, flooded streets.

REPORTER
(choking up)
As you can see...

Beat.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
It's... it's a lot to take in.
Initial death tolls are in the
hundreds, but they're expected to
rise exponentially as soon as it
reaches metropolitan areas.

Clint shakes his head.

CLINT
Shit. That doesn't make any sense.

KAT
What doesn't?

CLINT
It looks like it got stronger after making landfall.

KAT
It's the Destroyer.

Clint looks at her. Sighs. Looks back at his phone.

CLINT
There could be some weird meteorological explanation. Global warming is-

KAT
It's the Destroyer. The whole point was to get the cities. He's gonna...

She listens to the TV again.

REPORTER
With thousands wounded, trapped by the flooding and in the debris, rescue efforts are working overtime and still struggling.

Kat's eyes light up.

KAT
(to herself)
I can help them.

The Deer's voice. Kat doesn't react, and Clint doesn't hear it.

DEER (O.S.)
YOU CAN

KAT
I'm supposed to help them.

DEER (O.S.)
YOU ARE

CLINT
(to Kat)
What did you say?

She looks at him.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - DAY

Kat scurries around the room, filling some luggage on her bed. Clint can't seem to stay out of her way - not that he's trying particularly hard.

CLINT
This is crazy. You shouldn't be using your powers at all, but-

KAT
Not even if I can save lives?

Clint sighs.

CLINT
What if... what if they don't work there?

KAT
They'll work there.

CLINT
But how do you know?

KAT
I know.

CLINT
What if you're supposed to help here?

KAT
Then I'll come back. I-

She stops. Looks at Clint. Gathers herself.

KAT (CONT'D)
I don't know what's going on. I don't know what is happening to me. But for the first time, I feel like I know why it's happening. And I have to see this through.

Beat.

She goes back to packing. Clint considers.

He leaves the room.

Kat watches him go, even as she packs.

She's sad.

Clint comes back in, throws a duffel bag on the bed.

Kat pauses, looks at him.

He sighs.

CLINT

I'm not, like, on board with this.
But I'm not letting you go alone.

Kat embraces him. He hugs her back.

EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - EVENING

Clint and Kat pull up in front of the hospital. Kat jumps out of the jeep and runs to the awning as Jasmine jogs out of the hospital.

JASMINE

Kat? What's going on?

KAT

I'm going to Georgia.

JASMINE

What? But the hurricane...

She starts to understand.

KAT

(hopeful)

I can't ask you to come with me.

JASMINE

Oh, Katie. I can't. It's all hands on deck here right now, and it's only gonna get worse as the hurricane gets closer.

Kat nods. She expected it, but she's disappointed.

Beat.

Jasmine tears up.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

God, Kat. Be careful.

Kat tries to respond, chokes up. She nods.

They embrace.

KAT
I gotta...

Beat.

Jasmine releases her.

JASMINE
Go. I'll hold down the fort.

Kat hesitates. Goes back to the jeep.

Gets in.

Jasmine watches them drive away.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - NIGHT

The rain is intense. Clint drives, Kat slumps in the passenger seat.

Her fingers dance on the window, playing some invisible game.

Clint glances over at her, but it's raining too hard to take his eyes off the road for more than a second.

CLINT
You can try to sleep.

KAT
I don't think I can.

CLINT
I think I packed some Nyquil. It's in the first aid-

KAT
No, like. I don't think I can anymore.

CLINT
Oh.

Beat.

CLINT (CONT'D)
But like, don't you want to?

KAT
What? No, I'm not tired.

CLINT
But you'll get... like, I don't know, isn't it-

KAT
(snapping)
It's not exactly my choice, okay?

CLINT
Fine! Okay!

Beat. Clint can't just drop it.

CLINT (CONT'D)
But okay just-

KAT
Would you like me to pretend? I can sit here and close my eyes if it'll make you feel better.

CLINT
I'm just saying, if someone brings me chicken when I ordered fish, I send it back. But you... you just take it, right? You shrug and you take it. And I'm wondering how much of this is you just taking it.

KAT
Oh, yes, that is a perfect analogy. I'd ordered the powers over fire and volcanoes, but I got the nature powers, and instead of complaining-

CLINT
Don't be a dick, you know what SHIT

He SLAMS on the brakes; the jeep SCREECHES to a stop in front of a fallen tree that crosses the highway.

Kat instinctively clutches the pot. She gets some pretty crazy whiplash, though, yelps in pain.

Clint breathes heavily as Kat comes to her senses.

KAT
What the hell...

She looks out the window, sees the tree. She's pissed.

KAT (CONT'D)
Move, damn it!

She gestures.

Outside, the tree's roots grip the earth. They pull the tree off the road and into the woods.

Kat rubs her neck. Clint stares at her.

Kat's hand glows gently as she massages her neck. The pain on her face melts away. She doesn't seem to notice what she's done, but Clint does.

Beat.

Clint starts driving again, this time in silence.

EXT. DEVASTATION - MORNING

This place used to be a small coastal city. Now, buildings have collapsed, the roads are still flooded, and there's no power anywhere.

Clint and Kat drive into the area past a fallen tree that subtly shifts a little out of their way.

The jeep stops. Kat gets out, then Clint.

CLINT
God.

KAT
This is... this is bad.

CLINT
What do we even do? Where do we go?

Kat looks up at some birds whistling on a telephone pole.

KAT
There's an aid tent nearby.

She gets back in the jeep.

Clint looks at the birds. Looks at her.

Gets in the jeep.

EXT. AID TENT - DAY

The aid tent is set up outside a mostly-still-standing school. Firemen, EMTs, and volunteers work together on triage and coordinating the rescue efforts.

Kat and Clint pull up, park. People notice - in particular, JIM, a firefighter.

Kat and Clint get out. Jim walks over.

JIM
Are you folks hurt, or are you here
to help?

Clint looks at Kat.

KAT
I'm, uh, here to help.

Jim nods.

JIM
Great. What we really need help
with is distributing supplies, and
if you've got a car-

KAT
That's not really...

Clint is ready to go.

CLINT
I'm on it. Who should I talk to?

Jim points.

JIM
You see that young lady in blue?
Her name's Joanne, she'll tell you
what to do.

Clint walks over to Joanne. Jim turns to Kat.

JIM (CONT'D)
Is there something in particular
you're here for?
(hopeful)
Are you a doctor?

Kat shakes her head.

KAT
I'm, a... I'm special.

Jim just looks at her.

EXT. COLLAPSED BUILDING - DAY

Volunteers dig through the debris, trying to reach a trapped SURVIVOR who intermittently yells for help.

Jim leads Kat over.

JIM

He's been down there almost twenty hours now. Each time we think we're close, everything shifts a little more.

He looks at her.

JIM (CONT'D)

How exactly do you plan on helping?

He's not sarcastic or skeptical, he's just lost hope.

Kat ignores him, walks to the debris.

KAT

(to herself)

Okay, Kat, what the hell, let's do this.

She puts her hair back, stretches a little.

Looks at a bush off to the side of the debris.

KAT (CONT'D)

You're up.

She reaches a hand towards the bush. It grows quickly over the debris.

Jim startles backwards. The other volunteers don't notice until it starts growing past them - then some of them yell, while others back off, confused.

SURVIVOR (O.S.)

What's going on?

The bush overgrows everything, its roots winding through all of the debris.

JIM

What are you doing?

Kat ignores him. Takes a breath.

She gestures upwards, struggling to lift her hands. As she does, the bush rolls up almost like a blanket, lifting the debris with it.

Most of the volunteers are too awestruck to move, but one runs in and gets the survivor out.

Kat relaxes, and the bush and the debris collapse. Already, brilliant flowers are growing on the bush, and several different varieties of fruit. A bunny runs out from under the debris, then jumps back in.

Kat catches her breath, walks back over to Jim, who just stares at the bush.

KAT

Where else can I help?

Jim would probably be freaked out if he couldn't come up with a dozen uses for her just off the top of his head.

In the distance, unnoticed even by Kat, the Deer watches approvingly.

EXT. COLLAPSING SCHOOL - DAY

Kat uses a tree to shore up a collapsing brick school. Jim's amazed.

JIM

So you've always been able to do this, or...?

Kat strains with effort as the tree grows within and around the school.

KAT

No... it's pretty new...

JIM

You get pricked by a radioactive rose or something?

KAT

A deer gave me a tree... in a dream.

Jim nods.

JIM

Right.

EXT. FLOODED STREET - DAY

Kat snakes vines across a deeply flooded road, trying to make a bridge.

Jim is starting to get a little freaked out.

KAT

I don't really understand either.
It just sort of happened.

JIM

But like, what are you doing? How
do you do it?

Kat snorts, shrugs.

EXT. AID TENT - EVENING

Kat and Jim walk back to the tent. Jim's exhausted, clearly confused and scared. Kat's hale and hearty.

KAT

Oh, and the storm is piloted by
some guy called The Destroyer.

JIM

...What? Piloted?

KAT

Yeah. I think it's like I can
control plants, he controls storms.
That's why it's getting worse over
land, instead of getting better.

This is too much for Jim. He stops. She doesn't notice, keeps walking for a beat.

She realizes he's stopped. Turns around.

KAT (CONT'D)

It's not... it's a lot to handle.

JIM

No kidding.

KAT

How do you think I feel? I didn't
ask for this.

JIM

Sure, but at least you get to participate. Whatever is happening, you're not on the sidelines.

Kat looks at the tent, sees Clint sitting on a cooler, looking simultaneously exhausted, bored, a little worried, and very much "on the sidelines."

She grunts.

KAT

I guess I hadn't looked at it like that.

She leaves Jim, walks over to Clint.

KAT (CONT'D)

Hey stranger.

CLINT

How was your day?

KAT

Oh, you know. Talked to some trees, watered some flowers.

CLINT

Yeah, same here. There's a cool oak up on the hill, but why are all elms such assholes?

They laugh.

KAT

You know, I don't actually know anything about trees? I don't think I could tell an oak from an elm.

Clint laughs.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

You wanna... go for a walk or something?

EXT. EMPTY STREETS - NIGHT

Kat and Clint walk on a sidewalk down the street. Nobody has power, so the stars are out in force.

CLINT
Makes me think of college. All the
volunteer stuff we did.

KAT
Right? We talked about joining the
Peace Corps and everything.

CLINT
What do you think our lives
would've been like?

Kat laughs, sighs.

KAT
I have no idea.

CLINT
God. I just wanted to travel so
bad. I would've done anything.

KAT
Let's do it.

Clint looks at her.

KAT (CONT'D)
Once this is all done... if this
ever ends. Fuck everything. We'll
get a shitty van and just start
driving south.

Clint laughs. Kat doesn't.

KAT (CONT'D)
I'm serious! How much do we have in
savings? Like ten thousand?

Clint blows some air between his lips.

CLINT
Give or take. Yeah.

KAT
And if we just sold everything we
had and left?

Clint sighs.

CLINT
Kat-

KAT

What's the worst that could happen?
A massive human hurricane sweeps
through and destroys everything?

Clint laughs.

Looks at her.

Laughs again, but this time more... believing.

CLINT

Alright. You're right. When this is
over, we'll... we'll figure it out.

They hold hands.

Clint takes a deep breath.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Look, I'm... I like this. And I
don't want it to end. But I am
wiped.

KAT

Yeah yeah yeah, sure.

He turns to face her. They embrace.

They kiss gently, then surprisingly deep.

Take a breath.

Walk back leaning on each other.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - NIGHT

Clint lies in the jeep, windows down, trying to sleep. Kat
stands outside the jeep, bored and restless The pot with the
acorn sits on the hood. Kat leans on the hood, stares at the
pot.

KAT

You're supposed to be so important,
but why? What's the deal?

She drums her fingers on the jeep.

Clint groans.

CLINT

Just because you don't need to
sleep...

Kat stops drumming.

KAT
Sorry.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
I'm gonna for a walk.

CLINT
Please. Sorry. Thank you.

She starts to leave, stops. Grabs the pot. Walks off.

EXT. AID TENT - NIGHT

Kat walks aimlessly around the parking lot behind the aid tent. There's still some activity going on, but even the volunteers need their rest.

She makes her way to the aid tent. Nods to the 16 year-old VOLUNTEER manning the radio.

KAT
Anywhere I can help right now?

VOLUNTEER
Uh... I mean, I'm just listening for emergencies. I don't...

Kat nods.

KAT
Yeah, no biggie. Don't worry about it.

She sighs. Walks back towards the jeep.

KAT (CONT'D)
There's gotta be something I can do.

DEER (O.S.)
THERE IS

She looks, sees the Deer in the woods across the street.

Beat.

EXT. DESTROYED NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

The Deer leads Kat (still carrying the pot) to a neighborhood that has just been levelled by the storm. Houses lie in ruin, basements visible from the street, fallen trees all over.

Kat notices a body, pinned beneath a massive fallen tree. A dead teenage girl.

KAT

Jesus.

She walks over to it. The Deer trails behind.

The tree bears scars indicating the volunteers tried to cut it to free the body, to no avail. Kat shakes her head, fights back tears.

KAT (CONT'D)

This isn't...

She puts down the pot and puts a hand on the tree, lifts it with some effort. It's hard to tell if she has super strength, or if she's getting the tree to help her.

She tries to pull out the body with her other hand, but the angle is awkward.

She looks at the Deer.

KAT (CONT'D)

Hey, can you-

DEER

NO

KAT

But I can't-

DEER

NO

Beat.

Kat looks at the Deer.

KAT

(defeated, exhausted)

I just want to get the body out.

DEER

FROM DEATH, COMES LIFE

The Deer walks over. Nuzzles the body.

Looks at Kat.

KAT

What? You want me to... what?

The Deer looks at the pot with the acorn.

Kat hesitates. Picks up the pot.

The Deer stares at her.

She takes a breath. Scoops the acorn out of the soil. It glows brilliantly.

KAT (CONT'D)

What do I do with it?

The Deer gives her nothing.

She kneels next to the body. Puts the acorn in its hand.

Vines slide out from the body's sleeves, leaves grow in its hair. Flowers burst from a gash in its side, and soon the entire body is lost beneath vibrant plant life.

It's grotesque and beautiful.

Kat steps back, lets the tree drop.

KAT (CONT'D)

That's... kinda gross.

The Deer nudges her hand.

KAT (CONT'D)

What? What do you...?

She looks at the plants that used to be a body.

KAT (CONT'D)

Oh. I can...

Beat. She stares at the plants.

Clears her throat. Kneels. Leans in close.

KAT (CONT'D)

(reverent)

Grow.

A tree erupts from where the body once was, grows up and up and out and out, the size of building. Glowing silver veins run through its bark, and every kind of fruit and flower you can imagine grow on its branches.

The plant growth spreads throughout the neighborhood, faster and faster. It's like a time lapse video of forest growth. In the span of a minute, they're in dense woodland.

KAT (CONT'D)

Woah. This is...

She looks at the Deer. The Deer seems happy, proud.

KAT (CONT'D)

This is the idea, isn't it? This is what I'm supposed to do. Make life out of death?

The Deer bows its head.

Kat looks back at the still-growing forest, and the tree at its center.

EXT. AID TENT - SUNRISE

Kat walks back as things start gearing up for the new day. A sharp eye will catch significantly more trees in the distance than there were yesterday.

Kat walks to her jeep.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Clint lies in his reclined chair, staring at his phone. Kat approaches, leans against the jeep, lost in thought.

Clint groans.

KAT

Good morning to you too.

He groans louder.

CLINT

You're not even tired, are you?

Kat shrugs.

KAT

Any idea what the breakfast situation is?

CLINT

Oh, do you still eat?

She laughs, but it's pretty sardonic. She's getting tired of this.

KAT

You know what? I don't know.

He laughs, gets out of the jeep.

CLINT

Let's see what's happening.

INT. AID TENT - MORNING

Jim opens up a cooler filled with turkey sandwiches, displays it to Kat and Clint.

JIM

Right now, we're just going off of donations. Some church dropped off a few hundred of these yesterday, so that's what we've got for now.

CLINT

That's it? I mean, I like turkey, but not... this much.

Jim laughs.

JIM

Relax. We're getting the supply chain set up. We'll probably even have something hot for dinner.

Clint shrugs, takes a sandwich.

Kat chews on her tongue.

She walks away.

EXT. AID TENT - CONTINUOUS

Kat stands under a tree, touches it. It makes her comfortable.

Clint follows, curious.

CLINT

So are you really not hungry?

KAT

I dunno. I am. But... I think I'm a vegetarian now.

CLINT
 What? But you're the one that
 taught me how to barbecue! Your
 favorite part of Thanksgiving-

KAT
 (upset)
 I know! I just...

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
 I'm allowed to get freaked out by
 all this too, okay?

Clint softens.

CLINT
 Yeah. That's okay.

Kat absent-mindedly reaches up, pluck a delicious-looking
 pear from the tree she's standing under.

There wasn't a pear there before she reached for it. She
 doesn't notice, just takes a big bite.

Clint stares, doesn't say anything.

KAT
 I made a forest last night.

CLINT
 What? Where?

She gestures. He looks.

CLINT (CONT'D)
 Jesus.

KAT
 Out of a dead girl. Maybe 15. She
 was crushed by a tree.

CLINT
 Out of...?

KAT
 I don't know. She was, like, the
 soil. And it was good, it was
 really good. I took this horrible
 event, and turned it into
 overwhelming life, right? Like, I
 felt like I finally understood why
 I have... this.

She gestures at the tree, flowers explode from every branch.

KAT (CONT'D)

But the whole time, I'm thinking...
a tree did this. Like, it wasn't a
house that fell on her, she wasn't
struck by lightning. A tree fell. I
could've... I could've stopped it,
you know?

Clint embraces her.

CLINT

Okay, Kat, no no no, you can't do
this to yourself. This wasn't-

KAT

I don't want to just follow behind
the Destroyer and clean up after
him. I want to stop him.

DEER (O.S.)

(urgent)
YOU CANNOT

CLINT

But what if-

KAT

Maybe I can't, but I have to try.

DEER

YOU CANNOT

She shakes her head. It's decided.

KAT

Come on. We're going.

She walks to the jeep. Clint's nervous as hell.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - DAY

The rain pours. Kat drives, determined. Clint grips the door.

CLINT

We don't need to go so fast.

KAT

Every second we wait...

Beat.

Visibility is absurdly low, and they're still going at least
45 MPH - way too fast.

CLINT
We can't help anyone if we're dead.

KAT
We're not gonna-

A sudden turn; Kat JERKS the steering wheel.
The jeep almost hydroplanes. Kat barely keeps control.
Clint grits his teeth. Can't force himself to relax.

KAT (CONT'D)
We're not gonna die.

CLINT
Seriously, Kat? Slow down!

The jeep SWERVES. Kat loses all control.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The jeep hurtles off the road and into the trees.

An EXPLOSION of growth and foliage cushions the jeep, but it still hits hard.

Across the highway, the Deer watches.

A long beat.

The driver's door opens. Kat climbs out. She half helps, half pulls Clint out with her. He clearly got the worst of it, but he's walking.

KAT
Fuck.

She gestures at the plants. They envelope the jeep, pull it deeper into the woods.

CLINT
What are you doing?

KAT
I'm not...

She reaches her hands out. Strains with effort.

The plants stop, but they still hold the jeep tight.

KAT (CONT'D)
It's like something's...

She stops. The jeep is dragged deeper into the woods. She turns around. Sees the Deer.

CLINT

Kat, we're gonna...

He follows her gaze. Sees the Deer.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Oh.

CUT TO:

Kat stands on the other side of the highway with the Deer. Clint stands in the middle of the highway, impotent.

KAT

You really just want me to stand back and do nothing?!

DEER

IT IS NOT YOUR PURPOSE

KAT

What is my purpose? To turn dead people into trees?

The Deer just stares at her.

Kat yells, frustrated.

She gets in the Deer's face. As she yells, the plants around her shudder.

KAT (CONT'D)

You listen to me. I'm gonna get my car out of those trees, and I'm gonna go find this Destroyer, and either I'm gonna stop him or he's gonna stop me. But one of those things is gonna happen. Because if not, I'm gonna stop. I'm not gonna plant anything else. I'm not gonna make anything else grow. In fact, I'm gonna get myself a truck full of weedkiller and just run around murdering everything.

The Deer jumps around, terrified.

DEER

THAT IS NOT YOUR PURPOSE

KAT
I thought that'd get your
attention.

DEER
YOU MUST NOT

KAT
Are we clear?!

The Deer stops, stares at her. It doesn't look happy.

Beat.

Kat turns around, marches back towards her jeep. She gestures, and the trees all but fling it back onto the road.

KAT (CONT'D)
(to Clint)
We're leaving.

She gets in the jeep, which is still running. Clint hops in.
They drive off.

EXT. REST STOP - NIGHT

The rain is pouring. Kat stands in the rain, leans against the jeep.

Out of nowhere, a voice like strangled thunder.

VOICE
youuu should NOT! be here

She looks around, surprised.

Doesn't see anything.

KAT
Hello?

VOICE
you should not be here

Clint runs out of the rest stop to the jeep.

CLINT
What are you doing? You're soaked!
Let's go let's go!

He hops in the jeep.

Kat looks around a beat.

Gets in.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - NIGHT

They reach the latest city the hurricane hit - or rather, the city it's currently hitting. The streets are half flooded, there are sirens everywhere.

Clint watches a building burning despite the downpour.

CLINT
God almighty...

Kat keeps her eyes on the road.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Kat, maybe we should... I dunno,
these people need help.

DEER (O.S.)
YES

KAT
We're going to the source.

Beat.

Clint turns, faces forwards.

CLINT
Right.

EXT. ROLLING HILLS - SUNRISE

The eye of the storm drifts over mostly unoccupied farmland.

Way up in the air, THE DESTROYER floats along with the storm. He hangs in the air almost like he's being suspended, rather than floating.

He's just a kid, no more than 20, maybe 120 pounds soaking wet. His glasses are as thick as you've ever seen.

Kat's jeep pulls out of the wall of rain and thunder and into the eye.

The Destroyer notices. He descends.

Kat pulls over.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Kat stares out the window, watches the Destroyer land in the middle of a field.

Kat shuts off the jeep. Looks at Clint.

KAT

I don't know what's gonna happen now. But you need to... I shouldn't have even brought you, okay?

CLINT

I can... you're sure you don't want me to... help?

She looks at him. Smiles.

He laughs.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Yeah, yeah. So, what, I'm just supposed to run away?

KAT

If you can.

He shakes his head.

CLINT

That's comforting.

Kat opens the door.

Shuts it.

Faces Clint.

KAT

...I love you.

CLINT

I love you too.

KAT

I'm sorry for-

Clint puts his hand on hers.

CLINT

Get out there and do what you have to do.

She nods.

Gets out of the jeep.

EXT. ROLLING HILLS - MORNING

Kat walks to the Destroyer, who hovers a few inches above the ground.

THE DESTROYER
Guten morgen.

KAT
Um...

THE DESTROYER
Good morning.

KAT
Yeah. Hi.

She sizes him up. He's not very impressive to look at, but he has a desperate hunger about him.

THE DESTROYER
You are *die Allmutter*?

Kat shrugs.

KAT
You're the Destroyer?

The Destroyer smirks.

THE DESTROYER
"The Destroyer." I like it.

Kat scowls.

KAT
I can tell.

THE DESTROYER
You disapprove?

There's genuine confusion in his voice.

KAT
Um... yes.

He considers.

THE DESTROYER
This... makes sense, *ich nehme an*.
We are opposed. Opposites.

Beat.

KAT
So you're, German?

THE DESTROYER
Yes.

KAT
Long way from home.

The Destroyer shakes his head, gestures all around.

THE DESTROYER
I carry my home with me, *Allmutter*.

He looks at her.

THE DESTROYER (CONT'D)
I could almost say you are...
trespassing.

Kat's fists clench. Thorns grow in the grass around her.

KAT
You could almost say.

THE DESTROYER
I am curious as to why.

KAT
I'm here to stop you.

He drifts backwards in surprise.

THE DESTROYER
Stop me? Why?

KAT
Why?! You killed thousands of
people overnight and you're asking
why I want to stop you?

He leans forward, talks like he's explaining to a child.

THE DESTROYER
This is my purpose. I harvest life
as a farmer harvests grain.

Kat's skin thickens, slowly growing more and more barklike.

KAT

I guess you missed the memo. I'm
the plant lady. I protect the
grain.

The Destroyer looks up at the sky, still confused.

THE DESTROYER

*Ich verstehe nicht. Ich dachte, wir
waren auf der gleichen Seite, sie
und ich?*

The Voice from before speaks.

EAGLE

doch. she does not know her place.

Kat looks up, follows the Destroyer's gaze. She sees an Eagle
the size of a pickup truck, way up in the sky. It stares at
her with the same queer intelligence of the Deer.

KAT

He's your Deer.

The Destroyer looks at her.

THE DESTROYER

I don't know what you mean. My
English is not perfect.

Kat looks at him.

KAT

No, I... there's a deer that talks
to me.

THE DESTROYER

Ah, "*Hirsch*", *nicht "liebe."* Yes. I
understand. Your *Pate*... your
sponsor? Is a deer.

Now Kat's getting confused. Her skin softens. This is all
getting to be too much for her.

KAT

S-sure. I don't...

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

Why are you doing this? Why kill
all these people?

The Destroyer stares at her. Considers.

THE DESTROYER
I do only as my sponsor wishes.

Kat gestures towards the Eagle.

KAT
And your sponsor is...

The Destroyer nods.

THE DESTROYER
Yes. The bird. He came to me in a dream, handed me power, more power than I can imagine. It is all I can do to repay him.

KAT
By murdering people?

THE DESTROYER
It is not murder. I am a forest fire, reviving the soil for new growth.

KAT
Whatever lets you sleep at night.

The Destroyer looks at her, considers her.

He looks up at the Eagle.

THE DESTROYER
Was soll ich machen? Ich will sie nicht töten.

EAGLE
Du solltest sie nicht töten. Ignoriere sie. Mach weiter.

The Destroyer nods. He looks at Kat, apologetic.

THE DESTROYER
Forgive me. I have a job to do.

He lifts back up into the air.

KAT
No! No! Stop!

THE DESTROYER
I am sorry! Good luck to you!

Kat reaches a hand up towards him. The grass around her shoots up into a thick vine that wraps around his leg. She pulls back, and the vine whips him into the ground.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Clint, who's still watching, cringes.

CLINT

Oh, shit.

He clambers out of the jeep.

EXT. ROLLING HILLS - CONTINUOUS

The Eagle SHRIEKS up in the sky.

Kat looks up at it. Gives it the finger.

THE DESTROYER

You should not have done that.

The Destroyer gets to his feet. His eyes glow with power and his face curdles with unchecked rage.

Kat clenches her fist. It hardens over into bark and thorns.

KAT

Cry me a river.

The Destroyer gathers a lightning bolt in his hand.

EAGLE

nein, NEIN

Kat throws her arms up, and a surge of thick foliage springs up in front of her like a shield.

In the distance, Clint runs towards them, shouting.

The Destroyer hurls the lightning bolt at her.

It spears right through her shield and blows her backwards.

She struggles to her feet.

Clint runs towards her.

The Destroyer soars over to her, punches her with a lightning-charged fist. She flies back another ten feet.

The Destroyer doesn't stop. He's on top of her, pounding her into the ground, a PEAL OF THUNDER accompanying each hit.

All of the plants in a growing radius around her die.

Clint finally reaches them, tackles the Destroyer.

The Destroyer throws Clint off of him with a BURST of lightning.

Clint flies up at least twenty, thirty feet into the air, hits the ground with a wet THUD.

EAGLE (CONT'D)

Genug jetzt!

The Destroyer hesitates, calms down.

The Eagle swoops down, lands next to the Destroyer.

It glares at him for a beat. He's defiant only for a moment, and then backs down.

They both examine Kat.

The Destroyer looks to the Eagle, waiting.

EAGLE (CONT'D)

sie lebt.

THE DESTROYER

Was machen wir?

EAGLE

mach weiter.

The Destroyer nods. He flies away, followed by the Eagle a beat later.

A long beat.

The radius of dying plants grows further still.

EXT. ROLLING HILLS - NIGHT

Kat comes to with a start.

The storm is in full force. Furious winds, driving rain, frequent lightning.

Every plant within sight is dead. Kat looks healthy, though, with no sign of the beating she took.

She looks around.

KAT

What...

She sees Clint.

KAT (CONT'D)

No.

She runs to him. He's clearly dead.

KAT (CONT'D)

No no no no no no...

Kat weeps over him, buries her face in his chest.

She feels something move. A brief spark of hope. She looks up.

Vines grow out of his sleeves, flowers bloom in his hair, and he generally starts turning into a plant.

KAT (CONT'D)

No.

Kat stumbles to her feet, horrified as her husband revitalizes the hills all around her. The grass beneath her feet returns to life, and the trees across the highway turn green again.

Kat is furious, distraught.

KAT (CONT'D)

NO! STOP! NO!

But already, Clint's body is lost beneath a thick flowerbush.

Kat gestures violently, and the bush tumbles aside. But there's nothing underneath now but Clint's empty clothes.

Tears stream down Kat's face, but she's not weeping anymore. She's mad.

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - NIGHT

Kat starts the jeep and speeds back the way she came.

The Deer watches her leave from the woods.

EXT. TRACTOR SUPPLY STORE - NIGHT

In the middle of the destroyed city she'd driven through before, Kat loads bulk containers of weed killer into her jeep from a half-destroyed tractor supply store. She's got a couple cans of gas as well.

EXT. AID TENT - MORNING

Everything here is overgrown with plant life, enough that they're packing up to leave.

Jim sees Kat's jeep. Stops to watch as Kat speeds past them and into the new wilderness.

EXT. THE SILVER TREE - DAY

The tree is bigger than it was before, and still growing. Kat manages to get the Jeep over its massive roots, but gets stuck in a particularly large gap.

Doesn't matter, she's here now.

She gets out of the jeep, moves to the back.

As she goes to open the back, plants grow over it, hold it tight.

KAT

Oh, come on!

She gestures at the plants, and they shudder, but resist.

She freezes. Turns, looks around.

Sees the Deer.

It looks angry.

She glares back.

KAT (CONT'D)

What did you think was gonna happen? I guess you thought I wasn't gonna find out?

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

Is this... has this happened before? Am I the first one?

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)
 Fuck you. Fine. Don't say anything.

She walks to the jeep. Goes to the door.

The vines around it wrap tight.

She glares at them. They try to resist, but they move.

She looks back at the Deer.

KAT (CONT'D)
 ...Why me, though? Did you just
 pick me out of a hat? I was the
 lucky one? Heck, you can do all the
 stuff I can do. Why use people at
 all?

EAGLE
 it is not our place

She looks up. The Eagle swoops down, lands next to the Deer.

EAGLE (CONT'D)
 only man can decide the fate of
 man.

KAT
 And the plan was for man to choose
 to destroy itself?

DEER
 THE PLAN WAS REVIVAL

EAGLE
 the destroyer fulfills his role. it
 is the the creator who falters.

KAT
 Oh, yeah. Fuck me, right?

EAGLE
 you doom everyone.

That gives Kat pause. She'd been running on adrenaline, now she's second-guessing herself.

KAT
 But... so many people would have to
 die...

EAGLE
they will die regardless. you
cannot save them

DEER
YOU CAN SAVE MANKIND

Beat. Kat considers.

She looks at her jeep. The vines have been wrapping tighter
and tighter.

She looks back.

KAT
Can you let me get in my car?

The Deer stares at her.

Kat sighs, rolls her eyes.

KAT (CONT'D)
Not, ugh. The stuff's all in the
back. Can I turn on the radio and
listen?

The Eagle looks at the Deer.

Beat.

The vines loosen - only around the driver's door.

Kat gets in, turns on the radio. Tunes it to the news.

RADIO
...Evacuation notice for the
following counties: Hancock.
Warren. Glascock. Washington.
Jefferson...

The list goes on. Kat chews on her tongue.

Pushes in the cigarette lighter.

Leans back.

KAT
Fuck.

She sighs. Gets out of the car.

The Deer and the Eagle look at her. Both of them are patient.

KAT (CONT'D)

If I don't... what would happen?

EAGLE

he will destroy everything.

KAT

He can't destroy everything.

EAGLE

he can destroy mankind. he can
destroy homes and roads and farms.

KAT

Fuck. I get it. But you wouldn't
stop him?

EAGLE

we cannot.

KAT

You're stopping me right now. You
supposedly leave the choice to
humans, but I'm making my choice
and you're...

She gestures at her jeep.

KAT (CONT'D)

This isn't you stopping me?

The Deer and the Eagle look at each other.

Back at her.

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

You'd really just let humanity die?

The Eagle shifts. It almost looks nervous.

DEER

YES

She considers.

Swears under her breath.

Beat.

She laughs.

KAT

You know what's funny?

They stare at her.

KAT (CONT'D)

If you'd just... if you'd just explained it all to me to begin with, I would've freaked out. Clint would've freaked out. We would've... I'd probably have drunk myself into a stupor and not done anything.

She reaches a hand towards her jeep. Clenches her fist. The vines constrict and crush it.

In particular, the gas tank crumples open. Gas drains out on the ground below.

EAGLE

what are you doing?

KAT

On the other hand, if you'd explained it all in Georgia, before he killed Clint, I wouldn't have understood what I was dealing with, and I would've fought you. I probably wouldn't have fought him, but I might've just refused to do anything else. Certainly I wouldn't have trusted you enough to plant your tree.

Kat stomps over to the jeep. Thrusts a thorny root into the window. The root grabs the entire dashboard around the cigarette lighter, rips it out.

KAT (CONT'D)

I guess what I'm trying to say is, you were fucked the moment it was me.

DEER

YOU MUST NOT YOU MUST NOT YOU MUST NOT YOU MUST...

The Deer dances around. Vines shoot up around Kat, trying to restrict her, but she just whips them over to her chunk of dashboard and uses them bring it to her.

KAT

And if you really won't stop him, I
guess humanity's fucked too.

The Eagle takes off, flies away.

The vines wrap all around her, pinning her arms to her chest. She grabs the cigarette lighter with her teeth, yanks it out, spits it under the jeep.

The EXPLOSION sparks several smaller EXPLOSIONS as the gas tanks in the trunk catch fire.

Shrapnel flies everywhere, shreds through Kat. The Deer is nowhere to be seen.

Another EXPLOSION. The massive tree is burning now.

Kat lies on the ground, surrounded by flames. It's hard to tell if she's alive or dead.

Her body sprouts dozens, hundreds of beautiful flowers. They obscure her completely before the fire reaches them and everything burns away.

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: THE DESTROYER

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE - DAY

It's pouring rain.

The Eagle swoops down into a small clearing near the edge of a massive forest. Some national park somewhere, probably.

It lands. Stares into the trees.

The Deer hobbles out. It's withered, burnt skin and bones, half the height it previously was, its antlers gnarled and tangled.

EAGLE

what do we do?

The Deer's voice is simultaneously just as strong as before, and yet somehow quieter, like you're hearing it from a distance.

DEER
THEY HAVE CHOSEN

EAGLE
he will end everything.

DEER
THEY HAVE CHOSEN

Beat.

The Eagle flies away.

EXT. THE EYE OF THE STORM - DAY

The Destroyer hangs in the middle of the storm. The Eagle soars above him.

The Destroyer's face contorts in anger.

THE DESTROYER
(in German, subtitled)
What is that to me? Let them die!

EAGLE
(also German, subtitled)
this is not eternal. another mother
will come.

THE DESTROYER
Then she will come! I will continue
in my duty until then!

EAGLE
she needs time.

THE DESTROYER
I care not for the world of men!

EAGLE
you are of the world of men.

THE DESTROYER
Once, perhaps, but no longer! I am
above all of them now!

Beat. The Destroyer can't see the Eagle anymore. He looks for it, but can't find it.

EAGLE
i am sorry

It swoops behind him, grabs him in its massive talons.

It shakes him loose, and he plummets to the ground.

The storm weakens immediately.

The Eagle lands next to him. It's already smaller, missing some feathers, almost mangy.

The Destroyer is dead.

The Eagle takes off and flies away.

ROLL CREDITS over the body of the Destroyer.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END