

THE DESTROYER

written by

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EXT. HURRICANE FROM SPACE

Down below it may be raging, but 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.

Several tornadoes touch down around Kat, one almost on top of her. She runs.

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

She can't get away.

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

The tornado sweeps over Kat. She disappears.

Beat.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

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.

KAT
You're sure you don't want to come
help me pick out the cat?

CLINT
I trust your judgement.

Clint stands, kisses Kat, and leaves.

Kat sighs.

She pulls out her phone, fiddles with it.

Beat.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY

Kat stands in a room with a bunch of cages of cats. A volunteer stands with her. Kat looks through the cages, picks one.

KAT

Can I hold that one?

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

It's tiny; barely enough space for the couch, TV, and bookshelf, but there's a coffee table, too.

Kat plays on the floor with a little black kitten (named Bean) in a yellow bow. She tickles it, lets it bite at her fingers.

She's having a great time.

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

KAT

Shit.

She scoops Bean into her arm; Bean settles right in to snuggle. So cute.

Kat 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, only four tables in the whole restaurant.

SAL

You think I can go home early tonight?

KAT

No, I think I'll keep you until after closing. You can do all the dishes.

No response. Kat was hoping for at least a fake laugh.

KAT (CONT'D)

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 snorts.

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; Bean sleeps on Kat's stomach.

Clint watches TV while Kat stares at her laptop, idly pets Bean.

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. Her phone DINGS; she looks at it.

KAT

Oh oh oh! Another Bean picture!

She coos at the picture of Bean asleep on a pillow. Shows it to Jasmine.

JASMINE

I can't tell if this cat is wonderful for you or the worst thing ever.

KAT

Tell me that's not cute.

Jasmine rolls her eyes, but nods.

JASMINE

It is very cute.

Kat looks at the phone again, smiles.

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - EVENING

Townhouse in the suburbs. There are birds everywhere.

Kat comes out the front door dressed for work.

Bean tries to follow her; she scoops him up.

KAT

No, little boy, no no.

She scratches his head, puts him back inside and quickly shuts the door.

She looks at the birds. Whistles a little tune as she walks to the car.

Every single bird whistles back the same tune.

She's... confused.

KAT (CONT'D)

Um.

She reaches her jeep, parked on the curb.

She looks at the birds.

Takes a breath...

Gets 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.

CLINT

Why don't we get out like this more often?

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 one more mile, 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 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 surprised at her sincerity.

JASMINE

Jesus, Kat. I'm not a psychiatrist.

KAT

No, but-

JASMINE

Kat, really. Just go see someone. 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.

Kat exits the grocery store, a few bags in hand, 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' KITCHEN - DAY

Kat unloads groceries as Clint makes himself a sandwich. Bean MEWS at Clint's feet.

KAT

He wants some ham.

CLINT

(to Bean)

You've got your own food. This is people food.

KAT

Give him some, you monster. Tear off a corner.

CLINT

This is why he's begging. You're teaching him to beg.

KAT
 I'm teaching him to be wonderful
 and it's working.
 (to Bean)
 Come here little boy!

She kneels, pets Bean, picks him up.

KAT (CONT'D)
 Don't worry about mean old daddy
 not giving you ham, I got you some
 yummy...

She looks at the groceries, grabs a can.

KAT (CONT'D)
 Salmon and chicken pâté! Yum yum
 num-nums!

She opens the can, puts it on the floor by another, half-
 finished can.

CLINT
 Wait, he already has some?

KAT
 He likes them better fresh! Would
 you eat two-day-old tuna?

Clint laughs. He's annoyed but also amused.

CLINT
 He's a cat! He'd eat week-old tuna!

KAT
 (sing-songy)
 Clearly not!

Kat looks out the window. Sees a massive flock of birds - way
 more birds than before.

Her demeanor chills.

Beat.

CLINT
 Everything okay?

She doesn't look at him.

KAT
 Yeah.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kat sits on the edge of the bed, pets Bean. 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 stops petting Bean, gives Clint 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. Bean hides under the bed.

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. Bean follows.

INT. PETERS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kat sleeps on the sofa, Bean on the armrest half leaning on her head; an empty bottle of wine on the floor.

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

Kat jerks awake, knocks Bean off the sofa, panics for a beat.

She realizes where she is.

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 shadow her jeep is hurtling towards. Hard to tell what it is; another car? Some kind of animal?

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 it. 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.

She looks up. As a car drives past, its headlights illuminate some massive animal in the trees. Like a deer, but bigger than an SUV.

KAT (CONT'D)

What...

Another car drives past; Kat doesn't see anything.

Beat. She's getting pretty wet.

She climbs back in her jeep. Drives away.

INT. HAPPY'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

It's another slow night. Maybe they're all slow.

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 registers, 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. Among half a dozen sketches of Bean, She has a pretty decent half-finished sketch of a deer. It's got six antlers, and is covered in vines and moss. She scribbles a bit 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.

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

KAT (CONT'D)
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.

Bean runs in the kitchen, ready to play.

They ignore him.

KAT (CONT'D)
I'm telling you, everything 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, scoops up Bean and cradles him like a baby.

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, stroking Bean.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Rain beats down on Kat. Her long hair is plastered to her face by the wind and rain.

Several tornadoes touch down around Kat, one almost on top of her. She runs.

A booming voice - not deep, but LOUD.

VOICE

IT IS INEVITABLE

She stops. Looks at the tornadoes. Knows can't get away from them.

She extends her arms, embraces what's coming.

The tornadoes sweep over her.

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Kat stands in the rain in her pajamas, arms still outstretched.

She sputters, coughs. What the hell?

Behind her, the front door is wide open.

She shakes her head. looks behind her, sees the open door.

KAT

Oh, shit.
(calling)
Bean!

She runs inside.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kat, still soaking wet, shakes Clint awake.

KAT
Clint. Clint!

Clint blinks awake.

CLINT
What?

KAT
I think Bean got out and I can't
find him.

Clint's still half-asleep. He doesn't understand.

He sits up.

KAT (CONT'D)
Clint!

CLINT
Shit, okay. How did he get out?

KAT
Can we just look?

He stands. Kat runs out of the room to continue the search.

EXT. PETERS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Clint walks around in his pajamas and a windbreaker, carrying a flashlight. Kat's calls can occasionally be heard elsewhere.

CLINT
Bean! Beeaaan!

He scans the edge of the house. Catches a glimpse of something.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Goddamnit.

He drops the flashlight, runs over to scoop up an unconscious Bean.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Kat! KAT!

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

No sound.

Kat crouches in the corner, holding a lifeless Bean, sobbing. A hot water bottle sits on the floor next to her, and a towel hangs from her shoulders.

Clint, also with a towel, sits next to Kat; he's crying too, if less, and holds on to Kat.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - MORNING

Kat sits at the kitchen table, leaning over, maybe asleep. Her hair is matted from the rain. A box of wine and a half-empty cup sit in front of her.

Clint shambles into the kitchen, still half asleep, but showered.

He rubs her shoulders until she stirs.

She grabs the cup and downs it.

CLINT

Kat, I know-

She turns, glares pure death at him. He leans in closer, hugs her.

CLINT (CONT'D)

I know it sucks. Tell you what,
I'll cut out early today, and we
can go to the shelter and look for
another-

Kat's head wobbles, her speech slurs.

KAT

Fuck that shit.

She shrugs him off of her.

KAT (CONT'D)

I don't want another cat! I want my
cat!

She starts crying again.

KAT (CONT'D)
I want my little boy.

Beat.

CLINT
No, you're right, I... fuck, Kat, I
don't...

He tears up too.

CLINT (CONT'D)
I got to work. You want me to...
I'm gonna call Jazz.

Kat leans back over to sleep some more.

KAT
I want my little boy...

Clint pulls out his phone. Dials as he walks out the door.

CLINT
Hey.

EXT. PETERS' BACKYARD - DAY

Kat sits under the deck, watching the rain.

A mound of freshly upturned soil sits in the corner of the garden. Kat looks at it periodically throughout the scene.

The back door opens. Jasmine steps out, carrying a bag of fast food.

JASMINE
Have you eaten?

Kat doesn't look, just shakes her head.

Jasmine sits next to her, sets the bag in front of her.

Beat.

Jasmine shakes the bag.

Beat.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Hey. I brought food.

KAT
I'm not hungry.

JASMINE
(yeah, right)
You're not hungry.

Beat.

KAT
It was my fault.

JASMINE
It wasn't your fault.

KAT
I left the door open.

JASMINE
While sleepwalking. You can't blame
yourself for that.

Kat shrugs.

She reaches into the fast food bag, pulls out some fries.
Munches on them.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Can I be a little insensitive and
change the topic to something you
don't want to talk about right now?

Kat looks at her.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
This is... this sucks. And it's,
it's normal to...

Beat. She can't find the words, but Kat knows what's coming.

KAT
Just say it.

JASMINE
You're borderline alcoholic
already, and I'm worried this is
going to push you to drink more.

Jasmine tenses, prepares for the backlash.

But Kat just looks away.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Like, this sucks. And it's
reasonable to want-

KAT
What if this is who I am?

Jasmine thinks she means "an alcoholic."

JASMINE
No. We can always change. You're
the strongest-

KAT
Not that.

Kat gestures to herself.

KAT (CONT'D)
This. A... a waitress. A nobody.

Jasmine scoots closer, puts an arm around her.

JASMINE
You're not a nobody.

Kat's frustrated. It's like Jasmine can't hear her.

KAT
You know what I mean. I don't mean
it in a bad way, just, like... I
feel so powerless.

JASMINE
Katie-

KAT
When Clint found him he was still
breathing. I was holding him when
he stopped, and I couldn't...

Beat.

JASMINE
That's not your fault. Nobody-

KAT
Stop. That's not what I mean.

Beat.

It's subtle, but over the next several lines Jasmine switches
from Best Friend voice to Dealing with a Patient voice.

JASMINE
What do you mean, then?

KAT

I think... I think I'm going crazy.

JASMINE

Okay. Tell me about it.

KAT

There's something important.
Something I'm supposed to do?
Something I need to do? But if I
can't even take care of a stupid
cat, how can I...

Beat.

KAT (CONT'D)

I think it's here because of me.
The storm.

JASMINE

The hurricane?

Kat nods.

KAT

I don't know if it's a punishment,
or a calling, or what.

JASMINE

How long have you felt this way?

KAT

I don't know. A week? A month? My
entire life? It's like...

She looks at the sky.

KAT (CONT'D)

I'm the wrong person for this.

JASMINE

I know it may feel like that. Tell
me more.

Kat finally notices Jasmine's tone. She shrugs her off, looks
at her, disgusted.

KAT

Don't. Don't.

JASMINE

(still using the voice)
Don't what?

Kat gets up walks into the rain.

KAT
Just...

Beat. She yells to the sky.

KAT (CONT'D)
Just tell me what you want!

A BOOMING VOICE, loud, but distant.

BOOMING VOICE
I WANT NOTHING

Kat stumbles back, looks at Jasmine, terrified.

KAT
Did you say that?

JASMINE
Say what?

Beat. Kat's scared. Jasmine's scared, too.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Maybe we should head back inside.

Kat looks around.

Beat.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Kat?

Kat talks to the sky.

KAT
What... what am I supposed to do?

JASMINE
Kat?

Beat.

KAT
Talk to me!

Jasmine doesn't know what to do.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - EVENING

Kat sits at the window, stares at a movement of starlings drifting through the sky.

She drags her finger along the window, following the starlings.

Outside the room, you can just barely make out Jasmine and Clint talking in hushed tones.

Kat stops, sighs; the movement curls around itself, stops moving.

She looks at the starlings.

Moves her finger. They follow it.

She leads the starlings on every wider paths, and they keep following her finger.

In the distance, in a copse of trees, there's a shape like a huge deer.

Kat puts her face to the window, tries to get a better view.

She doesn't notice Clint walk up behind her until he puts his hand on her shoulder. She jumps.

CLINT

Let's get some dinner, huh?

Kat looks back out the window. The deer is gone.

She lets Clint drag her away.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat and Clint sit with some Chinese takeout.

Clint picks at his food with chopsticks. Kat has a full plate that she ignores.

Clint puts down his chopsticks.

Beat.

CLINT

I don't know how to help you.

KAT

I don't want you to help me.

Beat.

Clint picks up his chopsticks, eats again.

KAT (CONT'D)

Do you think a lot of people are going to die?

CLINT

What?

KAT

The hurricane's pretty big.

CLINT

Sure. I guess... I guess some people will. But they've got, like, FEMA coming in already. They'll bring in the national guard if they have to.

KAT

FEMA can't save everyone.

CLINT

Where is this... no. I guess not. Doesn't mean they can't try.

Beat.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kat lies in bed, staring out the window.

She sits up.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kat walks in, in her pajamas.

She leaves the lights off, gets a glass of water. Looks out the window at her jeep.

She sees the Deer, from before. It's seven feet tall at the shoulder, with six antlers, covered in moss and flowers.

Kat 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.

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?

The Deer looks behind her. She follows its gaze.

The sky darkens. Clouds roll in.

Kat looks up.

KAT (CONT'D)

Figures.

The clouds roil overhead.

Lightning STRIKES; a bright FLASH.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

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.

She 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.

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. Nothing happens.

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.

KAT (CONT'D)
Fuck! Stop!

It stops.

She stares at it.

KAT (CONT'D)
What.

Beat. She can barely process what's happening fast enough to be terrified.

KAT (CONT'D)

Grow.

It starts growing again.

INT. PETERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Kat sits at the kitchen table, stares at a box of wine.

She hears the front door open.

JASMINE (O.S.)

Hello!

KAT

In here.

Jasmine enters the room. She wears workout clothes, carries a 12-pack of diet coke.

Kat doesn't look up. Jasmine notices the box of wine.

JASMINE

Kat...

KAT

I haven't had any. Yet.

Jasmine cocks her head. Sits down, puts the coke on the table.

KAT (CONT'D)

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

JASMINE

(nurse voice)

Okay. Tell me about it.

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.

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, each with a glass of wine. The soda sits forgotten on the counter.

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 too, but she's 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, that's
a lot of soda.

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 not.

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 more confused than scared, but he's definitely both.

KAT

Yeah.

CLINT

What happened? How did it...

He looks at the basil plant again, still growing.

Scared starts to win over 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
I am.

KAT
What's happening? What does this mean?

Clint sighs.

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

Kat sits up.

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.

Kat looks at him.

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)
We can't let this freak us out so much.

KAT
Why the hell not?

CLINT
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 gross-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.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Kat sits alone at the bar, drinking a beer.

Jasmine walks in. Sits next to Kat. Looks at the beer, but doesn't say anything.

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.

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

Kat shrugs. The bartender drops off a beer. Before Jasmine reacts, Kat grabs it and takes a deep drink.

Jasmine looks worried. Kat shakes her head.

KAT
You wouldn't drink in this
scenario?

Jasmine sighs. Motions to the bartender.

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

What the hell, man.

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

Maybe?

She opens her mouth to speak, but a BOOMING VOICE ECHOES THROUGH HER SKULL.

BOOMING VOICE

NO

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

She sees the Deer, standing in a dark glade, deep in the forest. It's his voice we heard

DEER

THAT IS NOT YOUR ROLE
IT IS HIS

The deer looks to one side. Kat's vision follows his gaze, rockets into the storm, in all its fury and power.

She sees 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 falls backwards, hard.

JASMINE

Holy shit, Kat! Are you okay?

Kat's twitching.

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, arch 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 - NIGHT

Kat, Clint, and Jasmine sit at the kitchen table. Kat is wrapped in a towel, with a hot drink.

Clint does not look happy.

CLINT

I have to wake up in six hours. We know she's okay now. Can't this wait?

Kat takes a sip of her drink.

Beat.

KAT

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

JASMINE

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

Oh my god. Not glasses.

JASMINE

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. I'm going to bed.

He heads upstairs.

JASMINE

Look, are you... are you okay?

KAT

What do you think?

JASMINE

But like...

She peeks at her phone.

KAT

Oh. Shit, yeah. No, you're good. Go home.

JASMINE

Just, after the bar, and the car, and... the bar...

Kat sighs.

KAT

Honestly? I'm kind of scared to drink right now. I think I'll take a little too much Nyquil and just sleep.

Jasmine considers... nods.

JASMINE

I'll call you in the morning.

KAT

Yeah.

Jasmine leaves.

Kat sighs. Pulls the towel around her, walks to the stairs.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Clint sits on the steps. Kat jumps when she sees him.

CLINT

Jasmine said you were at the bar.

Kat sighs.

KAT

It didn't... I don't know. Yeah. I was. I had a beer, but... it was like it didn't... take?

CLINT

You have a pretty high tolerance-

KAT

I know what my fucking tolerance is.

She hesitates. Calms down.

KAT (CONT'D)

I think I might not be able to get drunk anymore.

CLINT

That's... that's good, right?

KAT

I don't know. Yes. I guess.

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, whatever is really happening, it's bad, right? So of course I'll help. I just... I'm a little out of my depth, here.

Kat laughs.

KAT

You're out of your depth.

She pushes past him, goes upstairs.

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 Deer. She freezes.

KAT

You.

She looks around.

KAT (CONT'D)

This is... I'm dreaming.

DEER

YES
AND NO

She takes a step back, then two steps forward.

KAT

This is... you can talk.

DEER

YOU MUST FIND THE SEED

Kat is suddenly angry, maybe in pain.

KAT

What are you talking about? What seed?

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.

INT. PETERS' BEDROOM - MORNING

Kat jerks awake to her phone RINGING. She grabs it.

KAT
Hello?

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Jasmine on her phone. She looks out a large window. Lots of noise and movement behind her.

JASMINE
I only have a second. Are you okay?

INTERCUT BETWEEN KAT AND JASMINE

KAT
Yeah. Yeah, I'm fine. Thanks for
checking on me.

JASMINE
Look, if you need to get out of the
house, things are crazy here but
you can-

KAT
It's okay, Jazz.

JASMINE
Okay.

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.

KAT
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.

KAT
Shit.

JASMINE
Yeah. Well.

Someone RUSHES PAST Jasmine. She turns.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Shit, I gotta go.

She hangs up before Kat can say anything.

Kat looks out the window.

EXT. PETERS' BACKYARD - DAY

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 - DAY

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 - DAY

Kat paces, on her phone.

KAT
Yeah, sorry, were you napping? 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. Sorry, yes. Yes! That's it! Thanks mom bye!

INT./EXT. KAT'S JEEP - EVENING

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.

Her phone CHIMES. She looks at it - a text from Clint. "Where the fuck are you?"

She puts it in her pocket.

KAT (CONT'D)

What am I supposed to remember?

She turns around. Her flashlight shows the Deer.

She's not surprised this time.

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
THERE IS NOT TIME
THE DESTROYER COMES
YOU MUST FIND THE SEED

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 trails 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 - FLASHBACK - 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

NOT YET
BUT 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, stares at the pot.

Clint comes downstairs.

CLINT
You are home. Where the hell-

KAT
Coffee's on the counter.

Clint looks. Goes and pours himself a cup.

He sits across from her. Bites his tongue.

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

CLINT
What?

Kat'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
No. You can't do this. I thought I
didn't like the drinking, but-

Kat grabs his hand.

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

CLINT
What the fuck, Kat? What is going
on? Where were you?

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

KAT
I don't... I don't know. The woods.

CLINT
The woods.

She grabs his coffee, drinks it.

KAT
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 stands in the kitchen, looking in.

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
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.

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.

KAT
 I can save lives.

Clint sighs.

CLINT
 What if... what if your... powers
 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 know a lot is happening, but-

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. RUINED TOWN - 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 (50s), 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 now 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 blossom on the bush, and several different varieties of fruit hang from vines, ripe enough to eat. 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 more 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 flooded road, making a bridge.

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,
targeting cities and stuff.

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 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.

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 six, seven 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.

Before he can speak, they hear something.

CLINT (CONT'D)
What is that?

Someone's CRYING. WAILING.

They round a corner to see:

EXT. COLLAPSED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A house with a tree straight through it. The source of the wailing is in front of the house: a young MOTHER holds a dead boy, about 8 years old. Her husband kneels next to her, also crying.

A pair of volunteers stand nearby, giving the couple space.

MOTHER
I want my son back! I want my
little boy!

Kat and Clint stop. Step back to avoid interrupting.

EXT. EMPTY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Clint walks away. Kat follows.

CLINT

I can't... man. I don't know, man.

Kat tears up.

KAT

I just... I know it's not the same.
Not at all. And I feel dumb. But I
keep thinking...

CLINT

About Bean?

Kat nods.

CLINT (CONT'D)

Me too.

KAT

It's just... these people. I can't
even replace a dumb cat. How can
they-

She cries into Clint's shoulder.

Clint cries too.

Kat looks up. Wipes her eyes.

KAT (CONT'D)

It's late. We should head back.

They walk back to the camp.

You can still hear the WAILING.

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) through a neighborhood that has just been levelled by the storm. Houses lie in ruin, basements visible from the street, fallen trees all over.

KAT
Will the hurricane stop? ...Will
the Destroyer stop?

DEER
NO

KAT
He's just going to destroy
everything?

DEER
NOT EVERYTHING

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, stares at the sky. Kat approaches, leans against the jeep, lost in thought.

Clint jumps.

KAT
Good morning to you too.

CLINT
You're not even tired, are you?

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 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 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 rubs his eyes.

KAT
You okay?

JIM
I'm fine. Trouble sleeping.

Clint hesitates.

CLINT
Nightmares?

Jim nods.

CLINT (CONT'D)
What about?

Kat looks at Clint.

JIM
Floods. But the water was animals.

CLINT
Like tigers and wolves and snakes.

Jim looks at Clint. Nods.

CLINT (CONT'D)
Shit.

JIM
You too?

KAT
This... you think it's, like, a
prophecy?

CLINT
I hope not, but it... means
something.

Jim sighs.

JIM
I haven't been to church in a long
time, but it...

Clint takes a sandwich. Sits.

JIM (CONT'D)
Before you got here, I was thinking
this hurricane seemed... Different.
Now I keep thinking about, you
know. Noah's ark. A flood sent to
wipe out humanity.

He looks at Kat. She stares into space, listening, but also
processing.

JIM (CONT'D)
One person chosen to keep humanity
alive.

CLINT
I don't know, man. All the animals,
two by two?

JIM
 You don't think she could do
 something like that?

They look at Kat.

KAT
 Do you think I'm supposed to? Is
 that-

DEER
 NO

The Deer stands among them. Jim falls over in shock. Clint jumps to his feet.

DEER (CONT'D)
 THAT IS NOT NECESSARY

CLINT
 Holy shit.

JIM
 Jesus Christ almighty.

KAT
 Can you hear him?

CLINT
Yeah. This is who you've been
 talking to?

KAT
 (to the Deer)
 Are they right? About Noah?

The Deer cocks his head, confused.

KAT (CONT'D)
 Was there another one before me?

DEER
 HIS NAME WAS UTNAPISHTIM

CLINT
 So there is going to be a flood?

DEER
 THIS AEON WILL NOT END IN FLOOD,
 BUT IN STORM

KAT
 This... aeon. How many were there
 before this one?

DEER

MANY

JIM

Are we all gonna die? Everyone but
her family?

The Deer looks at Kat.

DEER

THAT IS HER CHOICE

KAT

My choice? I choose who lives and
who dies?

DEER

YOU CHOOSE WHO TO SAVE

KAT

I choose everyone.

The Deer shakes his head.

DEER

YOU CANNOT SAVE EVERYONE
THE OLD MUST PASS
BUT THERE WILL BE NEW LIFE

KAT

New life...

The Deer looks at her.

Kat shakes her head.

KAT (CONT'D)

No. Fuck that.

Everyone stares at her. She stands.

KAT (CONT'D)

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

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
 I don't like it either, but if
 that's the way things have to be-

KAT
 No, this is the way things have to
 be.

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 plants drag the jeep deeper into the woods.

Kat turns around. Sees the Deer.

CLINT

Kat, we're gonna...

He follows her gaze. Sees the Deer.

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's voice BOOMS like the Deer's.

KAT

SHUT UP!

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 pours. 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 damn...

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 with a highway alongside.

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.

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.

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. *Gegensätze*.

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, hard.

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 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.

DEER
YOU CANNOT DO THIS

KAT
You don't get to decide what I can
and can't do.

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)
Listen to me, motherfucker-

EAGLE
it is you who must listen

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

EAGLE (CONT'D)
all will be lost. he will leave
nothing

KAT
I'm choosing to stop. Tell him to
stop, too.

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

KAT
Oh, yeah. Fuck me, right?

EAGLE
you doom everyone.

Kat hesitates. The adrenaline's wearing off.

KAT
So many people are going to die...

EAGLE
they will die regardless. you
cannot save them

DEER
BUT YOU CAN SAVE MANKIND

Beat.

KAT
This has happened before.

DEER
MANY TIMES

KAT
And everyone else went along with
it?

EAGLE
would you truly rather die?

KAT
No! But... I don't know.

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

She looks back.

KAT (CONT'D)
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.

She looks at the cigarette lighter.

Leans back.

KAT

Fuck.

She pushes in the cigarette lighter.

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

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

EAGLE

we cannot.

KAT

Bullshit. You're stopping me right
now.

She gestures at her jeep.

KAT (CONT'D)

Don't pretend you couldn't stop
him, too.

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

KAT
I don't believe you.

She swears under her breath.

Beat.

She chuckles.

KAT (CONT'D)
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, waiting till now to explain it all clearly didn't work, either.

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 they can't stop her from bringing the cigarette lighter over to herself.

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.

The Eagle 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
SHE HAS CHOSEN

EAGLE
he will end everything.

DEER
SHE HAS 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