

A NIGHT OUT

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Third Draft

CUT IN:

INT. TENT (AMANDA'S) - DAY

We start at a **medium shot** of a girl sleeping. Amanda, a young adult (let's say 18-20, somewhere around there), is fast asleep. Her curly black hair covers her face. All of a sudden we hear a **scream**! Amanda jolts awake, her face moving into a **closeup**.

It sounds nearby.

AMANDA
(worried)
Babe, did you hear that?

No response. She turns around to see there's no one next to her. Dressed in a white T-shirt and green sweatpants, she crawls out of the sleeping bag and grabs her shoes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST (CAMPSITE) - MOMENTS LATER

We see a **medium shot** of Amanda's tent. The camera pulls back as she gets out of the tent, moving with her as she stands up. She takes two steps forward then stops. We then see an **OTS shot** behind Amanda. It pans from right to left as she scans the campsite.

It looks like a crime scene. Burned firewood is scattered everywhere, a backpack is overturned with its contents strewn around the ground. We see drag marks in the ground coming away from the other tent.

AMANDA
Symmie? Jack? Millie?
(beat)
What happened?

With no response, Amanda continues to walk forward, trying to figure out what happened. She takes a turn to the left and walks toward the other tent.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT (JACK & MILLIE'S) - CONTINUOUS

Amanda looks in the tent. There's no one there and the sleeping bag is neatly folded, but the radio is smashed.

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST (CAMPSITE) - CONTINUOUS

She turns around and moves towards the emptied backpack, crouching near it. "Property of Jack Renfield," it says on the shoulder strap. The contents near it include a lighter, a pack of cigarettes, and a bunch of other junk. Amanda moves to get up, but stops herself. She moves the backpack and finds something interesting--a *polaroid*. It's face down, and it's got something written in red sharpie.

AMANDA
(reading polaroid)
"They're on their way, can you
catch up?"

Confused, Amanda flips the polaroid over and examines the frame. We see what she sees: it's an image of her leaning against a large tree. She's wearing an entirely different set of clothes (a bright yellow blouse and black skinny jeans with black Stan Smiths). The camera moves in towards the image until we--

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The flash wears off, and we see Amanda leaning against the exact tree we see in the picture. Behind the camera, we see Symere, her boyfriend. He's dressed in a light blue varsity jacket and a black T-shirt, with some khakis and Jordans to bring it all together. She runs up to him to examine the freshly-printed polaroid.

AMANDA
(excited)
How's it look, Symmie?

Symere shakes it a bit in his hand. The picture comes out clear, Amanda's smile in it is palpable.

SYMERE
Like you're the happiest person I
know.

Symere moves to put his arm around her. Before he can get it all the way around, **Jack** chimes in behind him.

JACK

You know who would be happier? Me,
if I wasn't always carrying all
your shit.

Symere turns around grabs the extra camping equipment on the ground next to him. Jack fixes his red hair--which matches the obnoxious red bomber jacket he's got on. He's also wearing a white long-sleeve henley, and bright blue skinny jeans with dirty white Vans to boot.

SYMERE

(sighs)

Jack, you're just mad you haven't
smoked yet.

The group continues to walk while this bickering occurs.

JACK

(scoffs)

Yet?

(beat)

It's not yet, it's "Oh my fucking
god, I haven't smoked in a year."

SYMERE

Millie, you wanna chime in here?

Millie, Jack's girlfriend, follows behind Jack. She's dressed the most over-the-top of the whole group (black beret over her brown hair, blue jean jacket, maroon shirt, camo pants that cuff at the ankles, and some black boots).

MILLIE

Hmmm...you know, I could. Or I
could let you two keep arguing like
a married couple and enjoy the
show.

(beat)

What do you think, Amanda?

AMANDA

(put on the spot)

I think--I think we should try to
find the campsite already. Let's
just keep going.

MILLIE

Well, you two heard her. Let's get
to that campsite.

JACK
(annoyed)
Babe, I'm way ahead of you on that.
You don't have to tell me.

MILLIE
Are we gonna fight again?

JACK
Oh, by all means, let's ruin
another outing. Please.

MILLIE
(agitated)
Really?? You're still mad becau--

SYMERE
ENOUGH!!!
(beat)
Now who's got the map?

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY (PRESENT)

Amanda puts the polaroid back down. She stands up, concerned
at the complete absence of both her memory and her friends.

AMANDA
This isn't funny anymore. We're
supposed to be back soon, where the
fuck is everyone?

All of a sudden we hear a branch ***crack!*** The camera and
Amanda whip around in the direction of the noise, where we
see absolutely nothing. Amanda is back at a **closeup** now,
where we hear:

VOICE (O.S.)
(whisper)
You still have time.

Amanda whips around again. The camera is circling her at a
medium shot.

AMANDA
Is someone there?

The camera moves forward and stops at an **OTS Shot**. We don't
see another person, but what we do see is even more
disturbing.

It's Millie's jean jacket, and it's nailed to a tree.

Amanda moves closer to inspect the jacket, only to find it's covered in blood. Scared now and having no real weapon, Amanda picks up a tree branch.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Millie? Where are you?

She looks at the jacket again--then towards the ground. We see a blood trail leading down the tree and heading towards the left away from Amanda. She follows the trail, and it leads us to another tree. Amanda is almost at the source of it, but she hesitates briefly. The trail goes around the other side of the tree, where we see something poking out a little. Amanda moves around the tree to find what's awaiting her. We're at a **closeup** of her face now. Upon seeing what we can't, she gasps and brings her (shaking in terror) hand to her mouth.

It's Millie. She's dead.

Her thin black belt is wrapped tight around her neck. She's been strangled, and her face is bruised and bloody. Propped up against the tree, we can see her mouth is open at a weird angle--and that there's something inside. Disgusted, scared, and hesitant, Amanda slowly pulls the object out of her mouth.

It's another polaroid.

She opens the crumpled photo to look at the white back. It reads:

"One down, two left. It's never too late."

Amanda flips it around to see another picture. This time it's of Millie, holding a sleeping bag at the campsite, which appears to be in the process of being setup.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Jack and Symere are setting up the tents. Millie is taking sleeping bags out of their cart, and Amanda is holding the camera, having just taken the picture. She shakes the freshly printed polaroid before laying it down with the camera. The sun is almost set.

SYMERE
(struggling with the tent)
Ugh--this fuckin' thing--

Symere drops the half assembled tent, frustrated.

SYMERE (CONT'D)

Why? W-why they gotta make this
shit like this?

(beat)

You got the easy job, babe.

AMANDA

Oh yeah? And what's that?

Jack, standing in front of an almost-finished tent, turns his gaze towards Amanda's direction.

JACK

To start a fire. Take the flint
from my backpack. Front pocket, on
the left.

(beat)

And Millie! Keep doing what you're
doing. You know, standing there.

Amanda goes into Jack's backpack and grabs the flint. A pile of wood has already been set up at the center of the campsite, and she kneels over it.

She strikes the flint once. It sparks, but nothing happens. She tries again. Same result. We're at a **closeup** of the flint now.

Amanda strikes it a third time. A small fire starts. Mission success.

MILLIE

What the fuck?

JACK

(setting up tent)

What is it, babe?

MILLIE

There's someone else here.

(points)

Look over there.

Way, **way** in the distance, we can see the silhouette of another human being. We can't see them well enough to know specific details about them. They have their hands up to their face, and it looks like they're holding something up, as if they're taking a picture or spying with binoculars.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

Amanda, get the camera now. Tell me
I'm not crazy.

Amanda picks up the camera and points it in the direction Millie is looking.

AMANDA
(looking through the
viewfinder)
Millie...I-I don't see anything at
all.

We see a **POV Shot** of the viewfinder looking into absolutely empty forest, exactly in spot Millie pointed to.

JACK
(laughs)
You sure you haven't smoked yet,
Millie?

MILLIE
Are you fucking kidding me?
(beat)
He-he's *right there*. How can you
guys not see this?

Jack turns away from his now completely-set-up tent.

JACK
Just relax, you're probably just
seeing things. It was a long hike
to get up here, we're all tired and
we all just wanna rest.
(beat)
And maybe smoke a little too.

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY (PRESENT)

Amanda puts the polaroid down and stares into the eyes of her dead friend for a moment. She then breaks her gaze and stands up.

AMANDA
(distressed)
Who are you and what have you done
to my friends?

No answer. The camera spins around her at a **medium long shot**.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Show yourself!

VOICE #2 (O.S.)
Now why would I do that?
(beat)
That'd spoil all the fun.

Off in the distance, we hear another scream for help.

It sounds like Jack.

Amanda runs towards the noise, before tripping abruptly, like she hit a wall. In actuality, it was a string tied to two trees.

Someone is setting traps.

She looks up and to her left and sees something written on a tree in red:

YOU DIDNT BELIEVE ME AND NOW LOOK AT US

THIS IS YOUR FAULT

Amanda stands up again and begins walking towards the direction of the sound. The screams continue, or at least it seems like they do.

VOICE #2 (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Shouldn't you be running?
(beat)
I know I would.

Leaves start crunching as we hear footsteps behind Amanda. She sprints off to the right and hides behind a tree. We have her terrified face at a **closeup** now. She peeks out to see what was behind her, and that's when we see it.

It's a man, or at least it looks like one. He's wearing a white hoodie and sweatpants and black boots with a white fox mask on, and he's standing firmly in place, looking for Amanda. He begins walking forward, and that's when we see he's dragging a fire axe in his left hand. Amanda has her hand over mouth once again, absolutely petrified. The footsteps get louder. Amanda stays as still as she possibly can be, and we see the man walk right by. The screams (presumably from Jack) start up again as we lose sight of the man. Amanda looks on the ground for footprints to follow, *but she sees none*. She looks straight ahead and sees another sign, this one is carved into the tree:

TAKE A LEFT

DONT LOOK BACK, YOULL REGRET IT

Hesitant, Amanda does what the sign says and heads left. The screams get louder as she continues pushing forward. She wants to run to him, but she doesn't want to die either. She stops in her tracks, scanning the area. We hear footsteps **rush** behind her, but she remembers the warning on the tree, and stays as still as possible. The footsteps get louder and louder until they suddenly stop. We hear a loud **grunt** before the forest falls completely silent. In the silence, we hear one thing: *heavy breathing* right behind Amanda.

VOICE (O.S.)
(whisper)
Look down.

Right in front of Amanda's feet, we see another polaroid face down. Amanda picks it up to examine the writing on the back, which reads:

DONT TRUST THEM

THEY ARE NOT YOUR FRIENDS

The handwriting on this one is different than the others, and it seems a bit more rushed. She flips the polaroid around to see Jack on the frame. He's hitting a blunt and sitting in front of the fire.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The flash from the camera hits Jack right as he hits the blunt.

JACK
(coughs)
Amanda, can you knock that shit
off?

Jack passes the blunt to the right over to Millie.

JACK (CONT'D)
W-why don't you enjoy the moment?
Both you *and* Symere have been
fuckin' around with that camera *all*
day.

SYMERE
See, don't listen to him, he just
wants to start another argument.
(beat)
Can we just fucking relax? For one
night?

Millie takes a hit of the blunt and passes it to the right over to Symere.

JACK

You know, you're right.

(to Amanda)

Since you're the new one here, what do you think of this little setup we have here? Same spot every year.

AMANDA

I mean, it's alright? It feels like we're trapped inside of an 80's horror movie--but in a cool way.

Symere passes the blunt to Amanda, who takes a hit.

JACK

What do you mean?

Amanda passes the blunt back to Jack.

AMANDA

You don't see it?

(beat)

Creepy woods, four teenagers alone at a campsite smoking weed--it's like Sam Raimi's about to come up behind us with a camera.

MILLIE

(turns to Jack)

Who's that again?

JACK

Never mind, babe.

(turns to Amanda)

I mean, I see what you're saying, I guess. But c'mon! There's nothin' else out here.

AMANDA

Whatever.

(turns to Symere)

Babe, you wanna tell them how we met?

JACK

Oh, I am all ears for this.

A silence hangs for a moment before Symere speaks up. The fire continues to crackle.

SYMERE

Well, uh, alright. I mean it's not *that* interesting, we just met at a party.

JACK

Oh, c'mon. Give us more detail than that.

SYMERE

Okay, okay. Well, I'm at this party, right? I'm getting a drink, and I see this girl across the room. I thought she was cute, so I decided to walk over and talk to her. And I'm on my way over, got that red solo cup in my hand. Right before I get up to her--*BOOM!*--I run into this one right here.

(beat)

My drink goes everywhere, and by everywhere, I mean all over her. Girl I noticed at first, she's long gone. Now I have this pretty girl in front of me mad as hell and she says--

(to Amanda)

What did you say again?

AMANDA

(laughs)

I said, "What the fuck, I just got this shirt."

SYMERE

That's it! That's what you said. So I'm just like, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, can I get you a towel?" She says to me, "No. What you can do is take me to the mall and get me a new shirt."

(beat)

And I did. Aaaaaand you can guess where it went from there, since we're all sitting here right now.

MILLIE

Hm. That's a pretty cute story actually.

(beat)

Jack just kept coming up to my locker, I thought going out with him would finally shut him up.

JACK
I mean, has it worked really? I'm
still here.

MILLIE
Shut up. You know that I...

Millie's voice fades out as we zoom in on Symere. His face
drops from happy to a concerned and alarmed look as we hear--

VOICE (O.S.)
(whisper)
You're not alone.

SYMERE
(disturbed, to the group)
Yo. Anybody hear that?

JACK
Hear what?

SYMERE
That voice.

JACK
Do you mean Millie? I know she
talks a lot.

Millie punches Jack in the arm.

SYMERE
No, dumbass. It came from out
there.

MILLIE
I'm telling you guys! Something's
out here!
(beat)
None of you saw what I saw when we
were setting up camp. We were being
watched.

SYMERE
I'm glad *someone* believes me. We
gotta check this shit out.

Millie and Symere get up to investigate the Voice. Before
Symere can stand up, Amanda grabs his arm.

AMANDA
Wait.
(to group)
Have any of you guys heard of *folie*
à deux?

SYMERE
Folleez a what?

AMANDA
Basically it's shared psychosis.
Millie thinks she saw something,
now you think you heard something.
If we investigate further into
something we're not even sure is
real, we're just at risk of making
things really dangerous for all of
us. We're all gonna start seeing
things that aren't real and acting
on them.

JACK
(missing the point)
Fuck that. We need to make sure
these assholes aren't around the
camp.

Jack stands up and runs over to his tent.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT (JACK & MILLIE'S) - CONTINUOUS

From inside, we see the tent opening unzip. Jack's arm
reaches in and yanks his backpack out of the tent.

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST (FLASHBACK) - CONTINUOUS

Jack frantically opens the backpack and begins rifling
through it until he grabs a knife.

JACK
Symere, get the camera.

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST (PRESENT) - DAY

Amanda puts the polaroid back down and begins walking forward
again. As she moves forward, we hear footsteps **running**
parallel to Amanda in the opposite direction. Amanda turns
around to get a better look, and of course nothing's there.

We don't know what's real anymore.

Amanda turns back towards where she heard the screams and pushes forward. She's determined to find her friends. As she gets closer to the origin of the noise, Amanda is antagonized again. Heavy breathing can be heard behind her like the last time.

VOICE (O.S.)

(whisper)

Are you sure you know what's real?

AMANDA

Either tell me where the rest of my friends are or leave me alone.

Amanda takes a few more steps forward, slower this time. In front of her we see a tree with a foot sticking out from behind it.

It's Jack's.

Amanda's face holds a look of sheer terror, but she pushes closer to get a better look. The camera moves around the tree with Amanda to see Jack's body sitting against the tree. His head is slumped forward and we see something even worse has happened to him--*he's been disemboweled.*

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Jack?

Amanda reaches forward and lifts his head up. His eyes are black and his face is bloody. She lets go and he slumps back down.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

No, no, no--

(yelling)

SYMERE! SYMERE!

(beat)

If you lay one finger on my boyfriend, I swear t--

VOICE (O.S.)

(interrupting, whisper)

You're getting closer.

Amanda looks down at Jack's body. The camera holds at a **POV shot** of Amanda looking at him. She looks up at the tree right above Jack, and we see writing carved into the tree:

YOU DID THIS

Amanda looks down at Jack one more time. She reaches down and pats his chest looking for something. She searches his jacket and pulls something out--*his knife.*

With something to defend herself, Amanda takes a look around. She stands up, but the camera stays on Jack's body. We see his guts strewn in front of him--and something poking out of them. Before Amanda moves away from his corpse, she decides to take a closer look. At a **closeup**, we see what's sticking out of Jack--another crumpled up polaroid. Disgusted, Amanda reaches in slowly to grab it. The sound, the visuals of it all--it's all gross as fuck. She pulls out the polaroid and unfolds it. The back of it reads:

DONT BLAME ME FOR YOUR SINS

Amanda flips it around and we get a look at the frame. It's the pitch black forest, lit up only by the camera flash.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

The camera flash wears off. In a **wide shot**, we see the four teens moving forward to investigate what might be haunting them. Symere leads the group with the camera flash lighting the way. To Symere's left, we see Jack holding his knife out, with Millie to the left of him. To the right of Symere is Amanda, who has a cautious look on her face. As they march forward, Symere keeps letting the flash rip into the (seemingly?) empty forest. All of a sudden, Symere puts his right arm up to stop Amanda. The only sounds we hear are the shutter of the camera and something much more disturbing--*it's the first Voice*. A faint shriek gets louder and louder until it sounds like it's right in front of them. The group holds their ground, too scared to move. Symere continues to light the flash as the Voice's scream comes to an abrupt stop at the end of a flash. There's a short moment of silence before he lights the flash again. At the very moment the forest in front of them lights up, we're greeted by a familiar face--*it's Voice #2, axe in hand*.

SYMERE

What the fuck?

JACK

Hey asshole! You either leave us
the fuck alone *or else!*

Before anyone can say anything, Jack runs at the figure as fast as he can. Voice #2 doesn't even wait for Jack to get too close to them before they grab him and drive the axe into his stomach. He lets out a short grunt before the figure yanks the axe out of him and lets him sink to the floor.

MILLIE
(horrified)
JACKKK!!!

Having no regard for her safety, Millie rushes over to protect her boyfriend. Amanda and Symere snap out of their frozen terror and begin running away from the nightmare unfolding in front of them. Behind them, we hear Millie let out a frightened scream before it's cut off abruptly, most likely by Voice #2.

AMANDA
Is this really happening??

SYMERE
(distressed)
Do you wanna stick around to find
out???

The two continue running for their lives until Symere faceplants straight into the ground. In what little light there is we can see he ran into the same tripwire Amanda did in the present day.

AMANDA
Symmie!

Amanda runs back to help him back up.

SYMERE
Don't worry about me, just go!

Ignoring this, Amanda starts to help him up. As Symere gets up to his knees, he's pulled back down before being *dragged into the darkness*.

AMANDA
NO!!

Amanda turns around and begins running again. Footsteps ***thud*** behind her. She breaks off to the left and hides behind a tree. Amanda closes her eyes, just HOPING that she's safe. She lets a short breath out before we hear--

VOICE (O.S.)
(whisper)
There's no escape.

Out of seemingly nowhere, Voice #2 grabs her by the arm and yanks her to the ground. They drag Amanda as she does her best to fight back.

AMANDA
 Let me go! Let me go!
 (beat)
 HELP!!!! HELP!!!

Voice #2 lets go of Amanda before walking around her.

VOICE #2
 Found you.

Before Amanda can even sit up, Voice #2 runs forward and kicks her in the head. She's out cold.

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST (PRESENT) - DAY

Amanda puts the polaroid down. She's convinced this is real now. Terrified, she holds the knife out in front of her while looking around.

AMANDA
 (desperate)
 Okay, where the *fuck* is my
 boyfriend?

VOICE (O.S.)
 (whisper)
 What you're looking for is where
 you were.
 (beat)
 There's one more piece.

Amanda scoffs, then looks back towards where she came.

They want me to go back to the campsite.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST (CAMPSITE, PRESENT) - MOMENTS LATER

Amanda walks back from the forest to find the campsite the exact same way it was before--like a crime scene (because it is one).

AMANDA
 Symmie? Symmie, where are you?

We notice something new as the camera sweeps the floor of the campsite: Symere's camera. Amanda crouches down and picks the camera up to see yet another face down polaroid. However, this one's got no writing on the back.

Dreading what she'll find, she slowly turns it over. The frame contains Amanda's worst nightmare.

It's Symere's bloody and mangled body. He's face down, and his body is completely contorted.

At a **wide shot**, Amanda drops to her knees and cries. She's absolutely devastated. Before she can even start properly grieving, we hear footsteps approach. Amanda doesn't have the energy or the drive to run away this time, despite having every reason to. The footsteps are none other than Voice #2, who crouches next to Amanda. She wipes her tears, before staring straight at them. A heavy moment of silence hangs in the air before Voice #2 slowly pulls their hood down and takes off their mask, revealing their face.

It's Amanda.

CUT TO BLACK.