

ERZULIE

Revision 1

By

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1 EXT. PONT LAVEAU CAMPGROUNDS - ENTRANCE - DAY 1

It's a sunny day at PONT LAVEAU, an old riverside camp in South Louisiana. A stripped jeep with 4 rowdy COLLEGE KIDS rumble up the dusty road.

They pass a garish digital billboard featuring DIY photos of a burly man enjoying various outdoor activities with the caption: VISIT PONT LAVEAU, WHERE NATURE REIGNS. "Resort style pool and free wifi" flashes in Vegas worthy colors.

ROCK MUSIC blares. Everyone's in their bathing suits, ready to party. The jeep crosses under the original handmade wooden Pont Laveau sign, still nailed to a tree trunk.

2 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - STAIRS - DAY 2

The College Kids haul their beach chairs and swim tubes towards the sandy banks of the river. *

A frat brat in a backwards cap, BROCK, and his girlfriend, ALLISON, bring up the rear toting a heavy ice-chest.

BROCK
Allison! C'mon!

ALLISON
It's not a competition, Brock!

She tries to adjust her grip. Brock doesn't slow down. She drops her side of the cooler. Booze and ice spill everywhere.

BROCK
Damnit!

ALLISON
Sorry!

She picks things up as Brock rushes to join a group of other college students, already floating on the river.

3 EXT. RIVER - A LITTLE WHILE LATER 3

Allison floats beside her girl friend and re-applies sunscreen while they watch the guys horseplay. She hands the sunscreen back to her friend and scrunches her nose.

ALLISON
Do you smell that?

Her friend sniffs the tube of sunscreen. Allison bends closer

to the river:

ALLISON

I think it's the water.

Behind them, Brock burps, crushes a beer can on his forehead, and laughs. Allison rolls her eyes.

BROCK

Al! the cooler!

Allison leans over and opens the floating cooler near her. Brock takes aim and tosses the crushed can into it perfectly. The guys holler and whistle.

BROCK

Three pointer! Going for six.

He grabs a beer from his friend's float and chugs it too.

ALLISON

We get it! Pace yoursel-

Brock shoots the can, but it's way off - it hits Allison in the face and nicks her.

ALLISON

Shit! BROCK!

She wipes a drop of blood from her cheek.

BROCK

Whoops.

The dudes giggle. Allison dips her hand in the water, rinsing off the blood.

ALLISON

(under her breath)

Dumbass.

BROCK

It was an accident! Don't be a bit-

SPLASH! Brock is violently yanked under. Allison screams. She leans forward. Looks at the water frantically, in search of movement.

ALLISON

Brock??

A second later he pops up again, gasping for breath.

ALLISON
That's not funny!

SPLASH! Brock jerks under again. The water froths and bubbles. The others SCREAM.

Brock's CAP floats to the surface. BLACKOUT.

TITLE CARD: ERZULIE

The font drips with water and blood in campy slasher style.

4 EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - ENTRANCE - PRESENT DAY 4

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER.

The familiar Pont Laveau sign peeks from the trees in the empty campground.

A blue cottage-style Visitor's Center and Gift Shop remains open. An old ATV is parked outside.

5 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - CHECK IN DESK - DAY 5

It's a cheesy tourist trap with sackcloth dolls and alligator heads. Random taxidermy decorate the counter space.

A bent over grizzled man shuffles around under the counter. His butt crack peeks out from his pants. His name tag says RHETT.

He heaves a dusty box onto the counter, shuffles through its contents and pulls out a map. Hands it over to an ex-military type in his 40s, PIERCE. *

RHETT
Alright Mr. Pierce. The property extends about 25 miles southeast but you'll be bush-whacking after mile six.

PIERCE
The map says you've got fifteen miles of trail.

RHETT
It's out of date. Stick to the highlighted path.

PIERCE
I'd also like to rent a kayak.

Enter WENDY WOLOFT, a sage-looking Black woman in her forties, dressed in drapey linen.

RHETT
(eyes on Wendy)
River's off limits.

Rhett pushes Pierce's map out of the way.

RHETT
Afternoon, ma'am.

Pierce swipes his map and leaves.

WENDY
Woloft, party of 4.

Rhett flips through an antiquated paper planner.

RHETT
Ms. Wendy? Crow's Nest Cabin?

WENDY
That's right.

He hands her a couple of keys. She takes in her surroundings.

WENDY
You've redecorated. Are the Lafittes
still in charge? *

RHETT
You mean my Dad and step-mother.
They're "wanderin' free," seeing the
world together.

Rhett points to the a photo on the back wall of a smiling couple in matching Hawaiian shirts. Rhett grins at Wendy.

RHETT
I'm in charge now.

WENDY
(genuine shock)
Oh! Good for them. They're such great
people. I held a retreat here a few
years back: they made everyone feel
like family.

Rhett grunts, uninterested in small talk. He snorts.

RHETT

To get to the Crow's Nest, you --

WENDY

I remember. You didn't redecorate the cabin, did you?

RHETT

Not yet.

WENDY

Perfect.

She sweeps out.

6 EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - DAY

6

Wendy approaches an old red cabin. It's decorated with seashell wind chimes and hand-woven nets like a classic beach house. She climbs up the porch steps with an air of homecoming.

Above the door is a curious CARVING that looks quasi-religious: two hearts melting into each other, one red and one green, separated by blue waves.

An inscription surrounding it reads: *Un mer, plusieurs d'eaux, lié par l'unité et l'amour.*

7 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - DAY

7

Wendy enters the cabin: it's cozy and eccentric. Oceanic art and sculpture, dried herbs, polished stones, and mysterious jars abound.

A loft over the kitchenette is adorned with batik tapestries and beaded curtains. It's practically a mermaid's grotto.

Wendy sets down her suitcase and locks the door behind her.

She peeks out the front window to make sure she's alone, then she produces a gauzy SACHET filled with something that looks almost like iridescent potpourri. She sets it on the counter.

She grabs a decorative clay BOWL from a shelf and empties it of the crystals it holds.

She takes the bowl to the counter and pulls a PARING KNIFE from the kitchen block.

8 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER 8

The sachet lays open on the counter. Wendy leans beside it and reads from a small SCROLL.

On her other side, the bowl now contains an ornate crystal SALT SHAKER, a small glass JAR of earth, and the paring knife.

The scroll Wendy reads has a FRENCH inscription, the same as the one above the cabin door:

Un mer, plusieurs d'eaux, lié par l'unité et l'amour.

Below, an ILLUSTRATION depicts women using a ceremonial bowl to bathe in a river under the full moon.

Several CAR HONKS sound from afar. Wendy hurries to hide her mysterious treasures in her room. *

9 EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON, CONTINUOUS 9

Three women pile out of their car, bags in tow.

ARI PALOVERDE, a perpetually laid-back counterculture maven, calls out.

ARI
Wendy!

WENDY
Ari!

ARI
Has it really been five years? *

Ari hails a mermaid statue at the base of the stairs. *

ARI
Bonjour, Mami Wata! It's like we never left. *

She lifts the statue to reveal a hidden key. She holds it up and says to herself --

ARI
Right where I put you.

She slips the key into her bra.

VIOLET BURNS, an Asian urban nomad in her mid-thirties,

carries a growler of beer in each hand.

VIOLET

How'd you get here so fast? Ride a broom?

WENDY

Took the shuttle this time.

She heads inside as FAYE SMALLING brings up the rear: she's a mousy, tired twenty-something wearing shapeless clothing, holding her bag in one hand and a pillow in the other. *

FAYE *

Mama Wendy. *

Wendy's face lights up as she opens up her arms to Faye. *

WENDY *

Baby Faye. Get in here, girl. *

Violet hands Wendy a growler. *

WENDY *

Is that your home brew? *

VIOLET

Damn right. It's the nectar of the gods! *

WENDY

Sharing is caring!

ARI

What's going on slow pokes? Party at the river?? *

Faye and Violet trail behind. *

FAYE

(to Violet) *

That's what I forgot! Sunscreen. *

10 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - FRONT GIFT SHOP - AFTERNOON

10

Faye grabs SUNSCREEN and BUG SPRAY off the gift shop shelves. The girls are all dressed to swim. Behind her, Violet shoulders her TOTE containing the GROWLER and plastic CUPS.

VIOLET *

Look, hopefully you don't have to use *

them, but it gives you the power to
protect yourself. I mean, look at that
Asian grandma who beat up her
attacker? Right?

*
*
*
*

They walk towards the front desk.

*

11 INT. VISITOR CENTER - MIDDLE GIFT SHOP - AFTERNOON

11

Meanwhile, Ari grabs CHIPS and briefly admires the ALLIGATOR HEADS on an end-cap before passing an aisle of Voodoo goodies where Wendy gathers BLACK CANDLES.

Ari locks eyes with Wendy and raises a curious brow. Wendy smiles, sphinx-like, and carries the candles up front.

12 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - CHECK IN DESK - MOMENTS LATER

12

Violet and Faye place their items on the check out desk, just as Wendy and Ari walk out into the same hallway.

*
*

FAYE

Fine. But I was so tired last class, I don't remember half of it.

*
*
*

VIOLET

That's okay. I'll show you again. Just takes practice.

*
*
*

Violet takes Faye's hands and guides her through the motions of a wrist lock; she allows Faye to mock-disarm her. As they finish their mini defense lesson, Wendy and Ari approach. Wendy rings the service bell. Silence.

*
*
*

Faye runs her finger over a SYMBOL painted on the counter: it's the same one from the cabin door and Wendy's scroll.

WENDY

Pop Quiz: Name the Veve!
(VAY-vay)

FAYE

Ah, I knew you were going to ask me!
Ursula? No, Lasulai?

WENDY

(ER-zoo-lee)
The Water Goddess *Erzulie*, Protector
of Women.

Faye tries to sound out the French motto. Wendy translates:

WENDY

One Sea, Many Waters, Bound by Unity
and Love.

FAYE

Mrs. Lafitte's favorite motto, how
could I forget?

ARI

That lady was a trip.

Ari rings the bell this time. Shuffling sounds from the back.

VIOLET

(to Faye)

Don't feel bad, if I pulled graveyard
shifts like you, I'd forget my whole
life.

ARI

Since you work at a hospital shouldn't
you call them *anti*-graveyard shifts?

Rhett blusters out, caught off-guard, powder on his nose.

RHETT

Oh good, you're back. I forgot to tell
you-

He snorts loudly as he rings up their items.

RHETT

The river's off-limits. Hope that
doesn't put a damper on your plans.

A collective "aww" of disappointment. He bags their things.

ARI

Isn't the river like your whole deal?

RHETT

It was, until some drunk kid on spring
break got snapped up by a gator.

ARI

Woah.

RHETT

River's off limits 'til we catch it.

For now I suggest you enjoy our new pool. It's a real hit.

He pushes their bags forward, checks the clock on the wall, and pulls out a counter-top CLOSED sign.

The women grab their purchases and head out the door. *

13 EXT. VISITOR CENTER - AFTERNOON 13 *

The women stroll across the grounds toward the pool.

Behind them, Rhett exits the Visitor's Center with a TOOLBOX and CRANKS up the ATV. The noise makes Faye jump.

She looks back and puts her hand to her heart, exhaling deeply. Violet touches her arm.

VIOLET

You okay?

FAYE

Yeah. Thought it was a motorcycle...

Behind them, Rhett motors off to a just-visible Victorian style home on the property: the "River House."

13A EXT. RIVER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 13A *

Further up ahead, Ari notices Faye and Violet lagging behind. She gestures to Wendy to stop. They both wait for the others to catch up. *

ARI *

C'mon slow pokes! *

WENDY *

What's wrong? *

VIOLET *

Faye thinks she saw James at the gas station on our way out. *

Behind them, Rhett parks in the yard next to an old TRUCK and mosies inside the house. *

FAYE

I hate that he's got me so paranoid.

WENDY

Are you sure it was him?

FAYE

I could be wrong, but it looked like the helmet and jacket I bought him- which, of course, he would never wear when we were together.

VIOLET

He would do that...

Ari nods solemnly in confirmation.

14 INT. RIVER HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

14 *

Rhett enters the River House kitchen. Tosses his keys on the counter and pulls out an envelope from his pocket. *

*

*

He opens it: it's a check from LAVARIS CHEMICAL. Rhett grins and tosses it on the table too.

He withdraw a relic-like cellphone and lets a voicemail play on speaker while he pours himself a whiskey at his well-stocked personal bar:

MRS. LAFITTE (V.O.)

Rhett! Your father and I heard the terrible news about that poor young man. Are you still keeping an eye on things at the camp? You made a promise, son-

RHETT

I'm not your damn son.

MRS. LAFITTE (V.O.)

If you can't handle the responsi-

Rhett deletes the voice mail.

15 EXT. POOL - AFTERNOON

15 *

The women are glum when they reach the pool. They throw their things on the cabana chairs. Ari and Violet dress the table with food and drink.

VIOLET

You're safe with us, you know that right?

FAYE

Yeah. Can we talk about something else?

Ari unveils a secret bottle of tequila from her bag.

ARI

Shots?

16 EXT. POOL - MAGIC HOUR

16 *

Twinkle lights shine on the cabana. Empty cans and solo cups litter the pool's edge.

Faye wears a modest bathing suit and cover-up: old self-harm SCARS are visible on her arms. *

*
*

Violet lounges on a pool float. She playfully splashes Faye who is soaking her feet. *

*
*

VIOLET

Anyone else getting in? Faye?

FAYE

Maybe later.

ARI

This blows. I wanted to float on the river.

Wendy adjusts the portable speaker. Ari gestures towards Wendy with her bottle. Wendy shakes her head no. Ari shrugs, takes another swing.

VIOLET

You can float in the pool.

ARI

It's not the same. Remember, how it was all 40 of us on the river, packed in like sardines?

VIOLET

Yeah, but at least we're not gator food. That would have ruined the atmosphere.

FAYE

Like when that lady did a swan dive into the shallow part of the river and cracked her head open?

VIOLET

Don't remind me, that was gnarly.

FAYE

You're telling me, I waited with her

for the ambulance. I forget her name.

WENDY
Samantha Caldwell.

FAYE
That's right.

ARI
Didn't she win the damn lottery the
next day? *

WENDY
A cool million.

ARI
No wonder we never heard from her
again. I guess she didn't need your
program after that.

A beat as everyone thinks of what they would do with a
million bucks. Faye looks around.

FAYE
This place has really changed.

VIOLET
Yeah, what's with all the backwoods
Americana?

ARI
It's so tacky that it's almost cute.

FAYE
When's the next big retreat, Wendy? Is
it too late to request Hot Springs?

Wendy's expression darkens.

WENDY
There won't be any more retreats.

Collective groans. Violet swims over to rest beside Faye.

ARI
What? *

WENDY
The city cancelled the whole program.
Didn't even take a vote. *

Ari hands Wendy the bottle. This time Wendy takes it.

FAYE

But why?

WENDY

They wanted to add more police at our
sister shelters. I fought them. Hard.

*
*

Wendy pours a shot. The others gather around to comfort her.

WENDY(CONT'D)

They knew the retreat was MY baby. So
they shut it down and fired me!

*
*

Wendy downs the shot. Ari shakes her head. In the background,
Rhett's old TRUCK lights up the dirt road, heading for the
exit.

Ari lights a hefty citronella CANDLE on the cabana table. In
their cover-ups and towels, the women look like a coven.

FAYE

I knew something was up. You stopped
sending the newsletter after
Halloween. Why didn't you say
anything?

WENDY

Denial? Shame? Especially when I lost
the car.

ARI

Wait, what??

VIOLET

Is that why you took the
shuttle??

Wendy nods. Violet grabs some chips from the table.

VIOLET

Come on, you know better than that! If
I have a ride, you have a ride. If I
have a couch, you have a couch.

Ari reaches over for some chips from Violet's bag.

ARI

See? Sharing is caring. YOU said that!

*

VIOLET

You have to let us know.

WENDY

It's hard to ask for help when you're
used to being the helper.

Faye nods in deep agreement.

17 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 17

Ari smokes cigarettes out on the porch. Neon bug lamps and whimsical fishing nets full of string lights cast colorful light on her face as she quietly levels her buzz.

18 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 18

Violet and Faye's silhouettes can be seen moving in the loft behind the batik tapestries.

VIOLET (V.O.)

Ok, one more time.

19 INT. CABIN - LOFT - CONTINUOUS 19

Violet and Faye spar in pajamas. Violet swipes at Faye; Faye grabs Violet's wrist and pulls her thumb backwards.

VIOLET

Ahh! That's it!

Faye releases her.

FAYE

I got it?

VIOLET

Nailed it.

FAYE

You're just saying that.

VIOLET

No! Do exactly that, every time.

FAYE

(smiling)

Kay.

Faye flops down on her air mattress. Violet smiles at her.

20 EXT./INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 20

Ari opens the front door, just as the lights go out in the

loft above. She turns off the living room lights and heads to the bathroom.

She shuts the door. Light shines through the cracks. The SINK runs.

Wendy's bedroom door opens slowly. Wendy tiptoes out, concealing a tote bag. She slips out the front door.

21 EXT. CABIN - FRONT YARD - NIGHT 21

Wendy strides into the night, toward the river.

22 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 22

The light shines from under the bathroom door.

ARI (O.C.)

Shit.

23 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER 23

Ari opens the bathroom door and scoots over to Wendy's bedroom door. Knocks. Notices it's already open.

ARI

Hey, did you bring any toilet paper?

She peeks her head in the door.

24 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - NIGHT 24

Wendy sits by the water reading a scroll. In front of her sits: the sachet, salt, jar of earth, knife, and clay bowl. *

ARI (O.C.) *

WENDY! WENDY! *

She takes the bowl and scoops up water from the river. *

ARI (O.C.)

Wendy?

Wendy looks up as the others trot over. *

FAYE

What are you doing out here?

(off her first deep breath)

Ugh, it smells like death!

They hover around Wendy.

ARI
Having fun without us?

Violet scrutinizes Wendy's items. Picks up the sachet.

WENDY
You don't have to agree with me, but
please don't try to stop me. *

Violet opens the sachet and palms its contents.

VIOLET
(mutters to herself) *
Are these dried fish scales?

ARI
Are you *tripping* without us?

WENDY
No. Remember how Samantha Caldwell
cracked her head open and won the *
lottery? *

ARI
Yeah?

WENDY
It's because she bled in this river.

The others look very confused. Wendy brandishes the scroll.
The girls can make out the VEVE OF ERZULIE symbol on it.

WENDY
These waters belong to *Erzulie*.
They're sacred! Mrs. Lafitte told me
when she gave me the scales.

VIOLET
These fish scales?

WENDY
These *mermaid scales*.

ARI
(slow and skeptical)
So, according to Mrs. Lafitte, this is
a sacred river that belongs to the
Goddess *Erzulie*.

Wendy nods.

ARI

And if you bleed in it, she will grant
your wishes?

WENDY

That's up to her, but she's known to
favor women and children. See...

(She reads and translates.)

"She who pours her heart's water in
the river, joins her heart to Erzulie
as all rivers join the sea."

ARI

And so, right now, you are..??

Wendy snatches the scales back from Violet.

WENDY

Erzulie's here! In this river! If
Samantha can get her blessings, I can
too!

The girls are dumbstruck. Violet finally makes sense of
Wendy's special ritual attire.

VIOLET

That's why you look like Miss Cleo...

Wendy makes her way into the water with the salt shaker and
knife.

WENDY

Please just respect the process!

She starts to chant and pour salt into the bowl.

WENDY

Mother of Waters, receive this salt
and know my sacrifice.

ARI

(whisper)

Intervention?? We stop her, right?

They mull it over. Faye bites her lip.

WENDY (O.C.)

Receive this earth and know my
journey.

FAYE

When things were bad with James, I
went to a Palm Reader.

VIOLET

My aunt is really into crystals.

ARI

Yeah but this is more of an active
delusion.

As the girls confer, Wendy proceeds with the spell. She draws
the paring knife and nicks the inside of her elbow. She dips
the bloody knife tip in the bowl.

WENDY

Receive this blood and know my desire.
Send your daughter to bless me. Send
your daughter Erzulie.

The water in the bowl starts to GLOW.

The others are talking close and not watching Wendy.

FAYE

Let's just be supportive. I'm sure
she'll wrap it up soon? *

Ari looks up from the huddle and sees the glowing bowl.

ARI

Woah.

WENDY

Change your minds? *

Ari runs straight into the water towards Wendy. *

WENDY

(to Violet) *

Come on! Grab the stuff! *

Violet runs into the water to Wendy after Ari. *

Faye looks conflicted and rubs her scarred arm. Violet and
Ari look intrigued.

ARI

If she's a Goddess, do you think she
can speak to the dead?

WENDY

You can ask.

Ari adds salt. *

ARI *

Recevez ce sel,

Violet sprinkles earth: *

VIOLET *

Cette terre,

It's Faye's turn. Wendy turns towards Faye who still refuses to enter into the water. She stares at the knife, unable to make the move. She shake her head like she's escaping something. *

FAYE

I can't.

WENDY

She could help make you feel safe again.

Faye weighs this thought, but turns away. *

FAYE

This isn't safe for me.

FAYE

Come get me when you're done. I'm not walking back by myself.

Faye wanders off to the tree line with her arms folded. While walking, she kicks the leaves off some POLICE TAPE, still hanging up from the incident last week.

She stares at the tape, unsettled, and turns to look at the water, avoiding the sight of her friends.

Wendy gestures for Violet and Ari to follow her as she slips off her shoes and wades into the river.

Ari and Violet exchange skeptical glances, but follow anyway.

VIOLET

When we get back, I've got dibs on the shower.

ARI
I'll arm-wrestle you for it.

VIOLET
Joke's on you, 'cuz I'm asking the
Goddess for *super strength*.

Wendy anoints the three of them with the shimmering contents of the clay bowl. The water around their feet is luminescent.

Next, Wendy sips from the bowl. Ari pulls a face.

ARI
We drink this?

Wendy presses the bowl into Violet's hands. She drinks.

ARI
(under her breath)
Gotta play to win.

*

She holds her nose and drinks.

Another LOUDER THRASHING noise startles Faye.

FAYE
Do you hear that?

ARI
(to Wendy)
Is that supposed to happen??

WENDY
Don't be distracted! It's working!

She takes their hands. The water bubbles and shines around them. The noise grows closer, more urgent, and SPLASHING.

WENDY
Call her with me: Erzulie! Erzulie!

Something big SLAPS the water's surface. Behind the police line near Faye's ankle, a more sinister WIRE which runs into the water snaps taut. Another SPLASH.

*

VIOLET
That sounded really close!

*

*

ARI
Nope! Not gonna be gator food!

Ari tugs her hands back from the others but Wendy holds fast.

WENDY

Wait! We're almost finished!

Ari yanks her hands free and tromps back to shore.

WENDY

It could be her! *Erzulie!*

Another SPLASH, dangerously close to Faye. She gasps and stumbles backward: her ankle catches in the POLICE TAPE and long WIRE.

SNAP! The wire pulls taut around her foot. *

FAYE

Ahh!

ARI

Faye?

The river seethes. Something in the water is pulling on the wire. Faye is dragged violently toward the waves.

VIOLET

Faye!

Violet abandons Wendy to rescue Faye but before she can reach her, Faye is fully submerged.

Violet dives in to grab her. She pulls her up.

FAYE

I'm stuck!

Faye struggles to keep her head above water, but is yanked under again. Violet dives back under.

Ari runs back into the water to keep Faye steady while Violet disentangles her. Something continues to thrash, yards away.

ARI

Wendy! Help us!

Wendy joins them just in time to catch Faye as her foot is freed and she is propelled forward, howling.

Violet emerges, gasping with exertion, hands bleeding. They labor back to shore. Faye hops on one leg. Her ankle is bleeding.

Wendy looks back one last time as they leave: the thrashing continues and the water is filled with light.

25 EXT. RIVER TRAIL - BAMBOO FOREST - NIGHT

25

As they approach the main campgrounds, the beam of a FLASHLIGHT sweeps toward them. They stop short, take cover behind the trees, and peek out:

Pierce, the man Wendy saw at check-in, is heading for the river. He's wearing a big, military style backpack and carrying a small COOLER.

They move as silently as possible away from the path, but in Faye's condition silence isn't possible.

The man stops and looks around. He shines his flashlight their way. Nobody moves.

After a moment of silence, he treks on. Before reaching the river, he cuts off into the deep woods.

The women are curious, but don't wait around to learn more.

As soon as he's out of sight, they bail.

26 INT. CABIN - LATER THAT NIGHT

26

Wendy pours hot water over four cups of PASSION-BERRY TEA. The tea bursts into scarlet pink plumes in the water.

Everyone is showered and in pajamas. Faye and Violet tend to their wounds in Ari's makeshift couch bed. A scant first aid kit lays open on the coffee table. Faye bandages Violet's hands. *

Ari absentmindedly fiddles with a pretty CORKED BOTTLE from the nearby knickknacks. *

Wendy hands a mug of tea to Ari, before grabbing two additional steaming mugs of tea and walking them over to the coffee table. She sets them down in front of Faye and Violet as a peace offering. *

WENDY

I didn't mean for anyone to get hurt.

Faye bandages her ankle using the last of the gauze. The first aid kit is now bare.

VIOLET

Yeah, Faye almost got her leg ripped off.

*

WENDY

Well I didn't ask you to be there.

Violet looks affronted.

FAYE

That's part of your problem.

ARI

So, when do we know if the spell worked?

WENDY

I don't know. I thought Erzulie would appear at the river.

ARI

So it was all for nothing?

Everyone stares at Wendy.

WENDY

What do you want me to say? I've never done this before!

Ari lies back into the couch, stewing. Violet tries to sip her tea unsuccessfully and gives up. Wendy skulks off toward bed.

FAYE

Wait, why don't we do something to wind down?

VIOLET

Good call.

ARI

Yeah, adrenaline is not my drug of choice.

Faye holds Violet's tea cup for her while Violet takes a sip.

FAYE

What about one of your mindfulness exercises, Wendy?

27 INT. CABIN - LOFT - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

27

The lights are low and beds shoved to the sides. Ari, Violet, and Faye sit on pillows a circle around the clay bowl from the ritual. They each have a pen and paper.

Wendy walks up the loft stairs, carrying 4 BLACK CANDLES: 1 lit candle in her right hand and 3 unlit in her left.

She gives Ari the candles and she passes them around. She sits.

WENDY

See how this candle lights others
without losing its flame?

*
*

She lights Ari's candle; Ari lights Faye's; Faye lights Violet's.

WENDY

This energy that connects all of us
sustains us and restores us... if we
allow it.

*
*

She holds her candle in her lap; the others do the same. She breathes deep; the others mimic her.

WENDY

The light shows us where we need
healing.

The sound of WIND CHIMES tinkles outside.

WENDY(CONT'D)

To face our demons we have to see
them, so let's write them down.

*
*

VIOLET

That might be a problem for me.

FAYE

I can do it for you.

VIOLET

Uh, sure. Just write down
"nightmares".

Faye writes on Violet's paper for her.

WENDY

Now to conquer our demons we must name

*

them, so let's call them out.

*

Wendy looks at Ari.

ARI

Me first?

Ari holds her paper close.

WENDY

There's no shame in sharing.

ARI

That's debatable.

Faye slides Violet's paper back to her and picks up her own.

FAYE

I'll go first. Nothing I have to say will surprise you. I took the night shifts at the hospital because that's the only place I feel safe, plus it tires me out enough that when I finally go home, I sleep all day. Just so I can avoid thinking about James. I hate the amount of control he still has over me.

WENDY

Release your pain to the fire.

*

Faye tears off the written portion of her paper, lights it with her candle, and drops it in the bowl. Now it's Violet's turn.

VIOLET

I wish I could sleep all day, just sleep. No dreams.

WENDY

Why is that?

VIOLET

My sleep paralysis has gotten worse.

Faye tears Violet's paper for her and folds it, hands it to her.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Imagine your childhood attacker sitting on your chest, and you can't

breathe or scream.

(pause)

And I guess with all the Asian hate
happening, I keep thinking, like what
if I'm next? Or someone I care about?

*
*
*
*

WENDY

Let the fire burn away the bonds of
your fear and purify your anger.

*

Violet burns the paper with her candle and tosses it into the
bowl.

ARI

This is not relaxing.

VIOLET

Just open up, you'll feel better.

ARI

No, I wont. Don't tell me how to feel!
You three are good people who have had
bad things happen to you! I'm the only
one here responsible for my own
misery.

*

Ari snuffs out her candle, tosses it down and leaves. Her
paper drifts to the floor.

The front door SLAMS. Wendy rights the candle and grabs the
piece of paper.

Violet and Faye blow out their candles and start to rearrange
the beds.

Wendy sits alone and stares at the paper. It says, "*I sold my
brother the drugs that killed him.*"

28 EXT. RIVER - BAMBOO FOREST - NIGHT

28 *

Pierce, now with rubber gloves, makes his way back up the
steep bank towards the trail. He pauses to shine a flashlight
at a test tube full of blackish lake water with an abnormal
radioactive glow.

*
*
*
*

Suddenly, his phone RINGS. He answers automatically.

*

PIERCE

Yes, ma'am.

MRS. LAFITTE (V.O.)
 What did you learn?

PIERCE
 I'm afraid you're onto something, but
 we need more proof.

Pierce reaches the trail, where his cooler sits. He opens the cooler and places the tube inside.

MRS. LAFITTE (V.O.)
 Search every inch of the property.
 Don't let my step-son deter you. If
 you find anything from Lavaris
 Chemical, sound the alarm.

29 EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

29

Ari sits on the front porch and smokes cigarettes. Wendy slips out to join her.

Ari doesn't react to her arrival. Wendy sits down beside her.

WENDY
 Can I bum one?

Ari looks skeptical but hands her the pack. Wendy takes one.

Ari lights it for her. Wendy inhales and coughs. Ari snorts and rolls her eyes.

ARI
 Why are you wasting my Joes? You don't
 smoke.

WENDY
 I do!
 (She coughs.)
 I smoke hookah at the Lebanese grill
 sometimes.

ARI
 Right.

Wendy tries another drag while she thinks.

WENDY
 You've got to stop flaying yourself
 over Benny's death. You're not that
 person anymore.

ARI
It's his birthday tomorrow.

Wendy puts her hand on Ari's shoulder.

ARI (CONT'D)
And I wish I could '*abra cadabra*' my
problems away too, but I don't think
it works that way.

She stubs out her cigarette and leaves Wendy on the porch.

30 EXT. POOL - THE NEXT AFTERNOON 30

Rhett picks up trash from the edge of the pool. Two REDNECK THUGS (DUSTY AND DELMAR) are behind him fishing cans out of the water. *

31 EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS 31

Rhett motors past the girls' cabin, towing the trash.

32 INT. CABIN - WENDY'S ROOM - AFTERNOON 32

The faint purr of the ATV finally rouses a haggard Wendy. She's puffy-eyed and rashy. She drags herself out of bed and checks the time: 2:14 PM.

She goes to stretch but recoils in pain from the place where she cut her forearm.

She looks closer: it's infected and looks like it's spreading.

33 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 33

Wendy walks out of her bedroom over to the couch-bed where Ari was sleeping: she's not there. Wendy looks over at the bathroom but the door is open: it's empty.

She walks into her bedroom. Comes back out with a phone. Calls Ari. REGGAE RINGTONE plays from under a couch cushion. She hangs up. Heads towards the front door sticks her head outside, then comes right back in. *

She heads upstairs to the loft. *

34 INT. CABIN - LOFT - CONTINUOUS 34

Wendy waits outside the tapestry curtains.

WENDY (O.C.)

Knock knock.

She peeks her head in as Violet and Faye rouse on their air mattresses. They look rough, too.

WENDY

I take it you don't know where Ari is.

They shake their heads sleepily. Violet coughs.

VIOLET

Ooh, I feel gross.

WENDY

Let me see your arm.

Violet holds out her cut arm. It looks necrotic.

FAYE

What time is it?

Faye sits up and reaches for her phone. She looks suddenly grave and puts the phone to her ear.

FAYE

Oh no.

Violet and Wendy both turn and gasp: Faye looks ghastly. Violet swoops to her side.

WENDY

Oh my god.

Wendy is looking at Faye's pillow: clumps of HAIR have shed in the night. She gathers them in her hand as Faye clicks on SPEAKERPHONE and sobs.

JAMES (V.O.)

Now you've really wounded me, Faye.
They said you quit the clinic to get
away from me! Do you know how that
makes me feel?? We need to talk abou-

FAYE

How does he keep finding me?

*

She ROARS and throws the phone with all her might. It SMASHES against the wall.

35 OMIT 35 *

36 OMIT 36 *

37 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - CONTINUOUS 37

Ari sits on the bank and writes in her JOURNAL.

She tears the page out then puts the journal back in her satchel. We can make out the words "Happy Birthday Benny. I'm sorry." *

She withdraws the pretty CORKED BOTTLE that she toyed with last night and dusts it off. She uncorks it. Rolls up the paper.

She pushes her message in a bottle into the river. She watches it go and lights a cigarette.

38 OMIT 38 *

39 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - LATER 39 *

Wendy, now dressed for the day, strolls towards the beach. Violet comes jogging up behind her. *

VIOLET *

Wait for me! *

Wendy turns around as Violet catches up with her. Violet pants. *

VIOLET *

I must be slipping on my cardio. *

WENDY *

Faye alright? *

VIOLET *

She's in the shower. I thought she might need some alone time. *

Violet flexes her bandaged hands and winces in pain. *

WENDY *

Exciting weekend, huh? *

VIOLET *

Oh yeah! Slightly triggering. *

WENDY

Which part, the failed spell or the stalking?

VIOLET

Just the flying objects. I *wish* I had a witch in the family, that would be useful!

(She sighs.)

She could make James *disappear*.

Wendy and Violet spot Ari. She hears them coming and sits up.

ARI

Hey, you look as bad as I feel.

WENDY

We feel as bad as we look. Hungry?

ARI

Nah, but I could go for some homebrew.

Ari gets up and brushes off her clothes.

VIOLET

God, that smell. Why would you come back here?

ARI

Because it smells like my childhood?

Wendy and Violet look sympathetic. They all walk uphill.

WENDY

Have you heard from your grandma?

ARI

Not since she said she didn't want anything to do with me.

VIOLET

(under her breath)

'Cause, it's hard for her to see you this way.

They watch their steps and glance about for the wire.

WENDY

Oh my god.

The others follow her gaze to a copse of trees a few yards

away where a NAKED WOMAN lays unconscious, covered with cuts and tangled in sharp WIRE.

She is lithe, muscular, and angular, almost like an elf. Her hair is long, thick, and unkempt.

The women rush over to her.

WENDY

Ma'am? Can you hear me?

She doesn't respond.

Violet whips her shirt off and uses it to wrap around the sharp wires. Wendy and Ari carefully pull them away:

ARI

This must be what got you and Faye!

VIOLET

Looks like it could catch Godzilla!

They all look questioningly at the unconscious stranger.

40 EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - ROAD - DAY

40

Wendy, Violet, and Ari haul the stranger out of the woods together onto the dirt road leading to the entrance of the campground.

They pass the River House on the way to the Visitor's Center.

Wrapped in Violet's shirt, the stranger is nearly more than they can handle, as if she were denser than she appears.

*

41 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - CHECK IN DESK - DAY

41

Wendy pushes into the Visitor's Center hauling the stranger's feet while Violet and Ari follow with the rest of her.

WENDY

Hello?? Rhett? Help!

They are severely winded, but they lay the stranger on the ground as gently as possible. The stranger's eyes flutter; she's barely conscious.

A sign on the counter says GONE FISHING with a phone number listed at the bottom.

Wendy pats her pockets. Notices her phone is not with her.

WENDY

Violet do you have your phone?

Violet is also empty-handed. Wendy runs around the desk and finds the corded phone.

Ari kneels close to the stranger.

ARI

We're gonna call you an ambulance.

The stranger shakes her head weakly.

ARI

No?

STRANGER

(raspy)

No.

WENDY

We should at least call Rhett!

She grabs the Gone Fishing sign and dials the number.

VIOLET

He'll be lucky not to be sued for negligence!

The phone rings.

42 INT. STRIP CLUB - CONTINUOUS

42 *

Rhett's CELLPHONE rings on the bar top of a real seedy joint where Rhett is face down in a stripper's ample cleavage. He can't hear the phone over the HONKY TONK music.

He rears his head; there's a rolled up hundred dollar bill in his nose. He removes it and tucks it back down the stripper's chest.

RHETT

Keep the change. Daddy's on the payroll now.

43 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - CHECK IN DESK - CONTINUOUS

43

Wendy slams the phone down on the counter at the Visitor's Center.

VIOLET

Do you see any first aid?

Violet joins Wendy in searching the shelves and cabinets, spilling papers and scattering supplies.

Wendy grasps at something tucked away behind the cabinet.

WENDY

Jackpot!

She pops the kit open on the counter.

Unfortunately, it's actually a STASH BOX filled with a gunky old pipe, a small baggie of ditch weed, and an empty bag of what was probably cocaine. She holds it up.

ARI

Perfect.

(to the Stranger)

Are you sure you don't want to go to the hospital?

STRANGER

(faintly)

No.

WENDY

Then we'll take you to our cabin.

The stranger nods. Violet raises her hands. Her bandages are bloody.

VIOLET

I don't think I can carry her any more. Someone can drive my car.

ARI

I'll go.

Ari runs out the door, then runs back inside and grabs the baggie of ditch weed from the first aid kit stash box. She pockets it and runs out again.

44 INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - DAY

44 *

Faye blow-dries her hair, feeling for bald spots, when Ari bursts through the front door.

*
*

ARI

I need Violet's keys!

Faye turns off the blow-dryer so she can hear.

FAYE

What?

Ari has already headed up to the loft

*

ARI (O.C.)

The car keys! Nevermind! Found 'em!

*

*

FAYE

What's going on?

Ari's already halfway downstairs.

ARI (O.C.)

Emergency! C'mon!

*

Faye gets up and hobbles after her.

45 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - CHECK IN DESK - DAY

45

Faye stares at the unconscious stranger.

FAYE

What happened?!

Ari and Wendy slowly lift the stranger.

WENDY

We have to bring her to the cabin!

FAYE

We do??

VIOLET

She doesn't want a hospital. Can you help her, Faye?

FAYE

I'll try but we're out of supplies.

WENDY

We can at least wash her wounds.

FAYE

She needs more than that!

46 EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - DAY

46

Ari parks the car and runs around to help Wendy and Faye

carry the stranger.

As they carry the stranger across the threshold, the carved VEVE OF ERZULIE on the doorframe GLOWS.

47 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

47

Ari, Violet, and Wendy sit on the couch and confer in hushed voices. Violet's hands are re-wrapped with paper towels.

ARI

Is it just me or was she weirdly heavy?

VIOLET

Like she was made of marble or something.

The door creaks open. Faye appears, returning Violet's shirt. *

FAYE

Her wounds look a lot better but she's still unconscious.

WENDY

How about we make a supply run? *

ARI

And a beer run.

VIOLET

You two go for it, I'm beat.

FAYE

Get what you can find at the gas station I guess.

ARI

Great! You get the gauze; I'll get the beer. *

She rises from the couch and wobbles. She puts her arms out to steady herself.

ARI

Hey-o.

Faye and Wendy brace her. Ari shakes it off.

ARI

Got lightheaded there for a second.

FAYE
You should sit down.

ARI
Nah, I'm cool, I'm cool.

WENDY
I'll drive, just in case.

48 EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - MAGIC HOUR

48

Wendy drives down the dirt road through camp.

ARI
Was that Faye's phone in the loft, all
smashed up?

*

WENDY
James found her new number.

ARI
Damn. Girl needs more burners than a
drug dealer.

49 EXT. CAMP ENTRANCE - MAGIC HOUR

49

Ari and Wendy turn onto the highway, passing the Pont Laveau
SIGN. For a moment, all is quiet.

Suddenly, a MOTORCYCLE roars as it barrels into view. The
rider, in full gear and a helmet emblazoned with a NEON
LIGHTNING BOLT, screeches to a stop at the camp entrance.

He hops off the bike and rolls it into the nearby bushes. He
removes his helmet: it's the babyfaced psychopath, James.

James walks down the dirt road, mumbling frantically.

JAMES
Let's talk. Let's just talk, okay? Is
that so wrong? I rode a long way to
see you. You really won't talk to me?
After I rode all this way? I think
that's *very selfish*, Faye.

50 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - MAGIC HOUR

50

Violet and Faye sit on the couch.

FAYE
Maybe she was drowning and she pulled

her clothes off because they were weighing her down??

Violet shrugs.

FAYE

God, what if she was attacked? What if she was *raped and left for dead??*

Violet's eyes bulge at the graphic thought.

VIOLET

We'll see what she remembers when she wakes up.

FAYE

Makes our own problems seem small in comparison.

VIOLET

Faye, you're allowed to feel upset about your own problems.

(barely suppressed rage)

James terrorizes you.

(She reels it in.)

If I were you, I'd throw my phone, too.

Faye bites her lip.

FAYE

I'm really sorry about that.

VIOLET

Don't be sorry. Do you remember the way you looked on your first day of my class? Split lip and a big black eye? I wanted to take whoever did that to you and make him look ten times worse!

Violet's eyes are fiery. Faye is moved.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

You're beautiful, kind, responsible, and smart! You don't deserve what he puts you through! It's bad enough that he keeps calling, but I swear to God if he tries to lay a finger on you ever again, he won't have that finger ever again.

Faye hangs on every passionate word.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

I care about you, Faye. I, I lov-

Faye pounces! EXUBERANT LIP-LOCK.

Violet's papered hands fly out as she's happily overpowered.

51 INT. CABIN - WENDY'S ROOM - DUSK 51

GIGGLES ring out softly from the living room while in Wendy's room the sleeping stranger's lacerations begin to glow.

They knit themselves up and shrink away to nothing.

52 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - DUSK 52

Faye and Violet's wounds glow too, caught up in peripheral magic. They are too busy to notice.

Under Wendy's closed bedroom door, blue light shines.

53 INT. CABIN - WENDY'S BEDROOM - DUSK 53

The stranger opens her orb-like eyes.

She rises from the bed and flexes, testing her freshly healed skin. Her blanket falls to the floor.

More giggles from outside. The stranger gazes towards the door and smiles, until a CREAKING sound from the porch turns her head. She frowns and walks silently towards the window.

54 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - DUSK 54

A set of eyes peek through the blinds: it's James. He snarls with jealousy, witnessing the two lovers.

He watches as Faye turns some music on the speaker and leads Violet towards the loft. Then he's gone.

As Violet and Faye disappear upstairs, the stranger slips out of Wendy's room and heads for the front door.

55 EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - DUSK 55

James tests the front door handle. Locked.

He returns to the living room window and attempts to jam his fingers under the window pane when -

A SHADOW falls over him. He whips around, sneers, and pulls out a POCKET KNIFE.

56 INT. CABIN - LOFT - DUSK

56

A THUD from outside startles Faye into surfacing. She and Violet are nearly out of their shirts.

FAYE

What was that??

They pause, but hear nothing more. Faye looks troubled.

VIOLET

If it makes you feel better, I can show you some more moves.

Faye giggles as Violet wraps her up in a mock sleeper hold.

57 EXT. CABIN - FRONT YARD - DUSK

57

James kicks madly as he is dragged away by the collar.

He flails desperately and breaks free. He chokes out:

JAMES

Help! Faye!

A hand flies out and smacks him unconscious. His feet slither through the grass as his limp body is DRAGGED AWAY. The soles of his shoes are emblazoned with NEON LIGHTNING BOLTS.

58 INT. VIOLET'S CAR - NIGHT

58

Wendy and Ari drive back with beer and supplies. Ari grabs a BEER out of a paper bag in her lap and cracks it open. She scratches at her rash, which has spread.

ARI

This shit really itches.

WENDY

Mine's not great either.

(She massages her neck)

I think my lymph nodes are swollen.

Ari shakes her head, laughing.

ARI

I can't believe I jumped in gator-infested waters and got tetanus with

you, just so I could talk to Benny.

She swigs again.

ARI

Guess we have to put on our Big Girl
panties and solve our own problems.

59 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

59 *

They park. Ari hops out.

*

60 INT. VIOLET'S CAR - NIGHT

60

A shiny KEY catches the light from Ari's empty seat. Wendy
reaches for it and brings it with her.

61 EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

61

WENDY

(waving the key)

This yours?

ARI

Oh yeah!

Ari pockets the key as they head up the porch stairs.

ARI (CONT'D)

Well, technically it's Mrs. Lafitte's,
but she said I could use it any time.
I don't know if that counts now that
she's gone, but I do know where she
used to keep the liquor.

WENDY

Not gonna lie, I could go for a
cocktail.

62 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

62

Wendy and Ari enter with supplies. The door to Wendy's room
is wide open, the room clearly empty.

ARI

Honeys, we're home!

A shuffling from the loft: Faye and Violet poke their heads,
but only their heads, out of the tapestry curtains.

FAYE & VIOLET

Hey!

ARI

Anything interesting happen while we were gone?

FAYE

No!

VIOLET

Not really!

ARI

Uh-huh. Y'all do know you're wearing each other's shirts, right?

They look at their shirts. Busted. They grin bashfully. Wendy notices her room door slightly ajar. She peaks inside.

WENDY

Where's our guest?

ARI

Bathroom?

Violet notices her freshly healed hands. They're good as new.

VIOLET

Holy shit!

FAYE

Oh my god!

They rush down the stairs to show Ari and Wendy. Faye checks her ankles. All better.

Wendy opens the bathroom door, notices no one is in there.

FAYE

Look!

Wendy addresses the group.

WENDY

She's gone.

63 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

63

The women file out onto the porch with FLASHLIGHTS and HEADLAMPS to search for the stranger.

VIOLET

Why would she leave? She needs like fifty stitches.

ARI
Or does she?

As they reach the foot of the stairs, Wendy spreads her arms to stop them from treading on the dirt path.

WENDY
Look for footprints.

They do. Ari's light falls on the clear, fresh LIGHTNING BOLT PRINTS of James'S BOOTS.

The others circle around. Faye recognizes the prints with a look of abject terror.

FAYE
James.

She reaches for Violet's hand. Violet puts on her KITTY BRASS knuckles. She scans her surroundings, ready to fight. *

Ari walks further, checking for prints. *

ARI
There's more.

She shines her light on the trail. There are signs of struggle in the dirt. Ari looks at Wendy. *

WENDY
The pool? *

VIOLET
(to Faye)
Go inside. Lock yourself in. *

FAYE
No way! I'm the only one who can ever talk any sense into him. *

WENDY
Faye, he stalked you here. You can't reason with him.

FAYE
I'm coming! I'm not going to hide while you deal with my problems.

VIOLET
Fine. Do you at least have your mace? *

Ari notices that with Violet's knuckles, Faye's mace, and Wendy's heavy duty flashlight, everyone has some sort of weapon.

ARI

Hold on.

She runs back inside the house. Emerges with a ROLLING PIN.

64 OMIT

64 *

65 EXT. POOL - CONTINUOUS

65

Wendy's flashlight appears in the distance. SPLASHING sounds usher them into the pool. They press on toward the source of the noise until they stand poolside.

The swirling water casts reflections on their faces: it's crimson with BLOOD.

James'S BODY, recognizable only by his LIGHTNING SHOES, floats face-down in the deep end.

Faye rushes toward the far end of the pool, quaking.

FAYE

James?!

She falls to her knees and helplessly reaches for him, but his body floats away. Before Violet can reach Faye, another SPLASH ripples the water.

An enormous TAIL slaps the surface at the opposite end of the pool. Wendy aims her light towards the sound, but the tail is gone.

Suddenly, an unearthly MER-QUEEN rises from the water before them. The water foams all around her as though boiling.

She seems to be equal parts shell, coral, and scaly sea creature. The women are awestruck. Wendy inches forward. Sets down her flashlight.

WENDY

Erzulie.

Erzulie smiles. Wendy kneels in reverence.

ERZULIE

Rise, Wendy Woloft.

Her regal voice echoes and hisses like rushing waves.

ERZULIE

You summoned me and rescued me from
the hunter's snare. Each one of you
showed me mercy and kindness. Name
your heart's desire and you shall
possess it.

The girls are amazed. Wendy is weak-kneed with glee.

WENDY

Where to begin??

She paces and runs her hands through her hair.

WENDY

I want, I want justice. I want
revenge.

ARI

Uh?

*

WENDY

I was blacklisted because I wouldn't
roll over! It's time for the tables to
turn.

*

*

ARI

What are you talking about?

*

*

WENDY

Aren't you tired of being under their
thumb? At their mercy?

*

*

*

VIOLET

Who?

*

*

WENDY

Men!

(she points at James's body)

Brutal, selfish men who ruin people's
lives and get away with it!

*

*

*

The others are quiet for a beat while Wendy fumes.

ARI

Why don't we talk about this somewhere
else? Like, away from the body?

*

VIOLET

We can't just leave him here.

ARI

I didn't put him here!

FAYE

We have to call the police.

WENDY

Are you kidding? Think of what they would do to her!

(to Erzulie)

I won't let you be discovered.

ERZULIE

Your sisters fear me.

WENDY

We need you!

Wendy rushes to pull Erzulie out of the water. *

WENDY *

(to the others)

Help me pull her up!

Ari and Violet help but Faye stands back, rubbing her scarred arm. The others pull Erzulie onto the concrete with a SMACK.

They try to lift her. She's heavy and slippery. Violet grabs her waist and fumbles.

VIOLET

And I thought you were heavy without the tail! *

They wobble toward the exit-

ARI

Ope! Goin' down!

They crash land Erzulie into a lounge chair on top of Ari. *

They all stop to catch their breath. *

ARI

I have an idea! *

She pulls the small KEY from her pocket. Sprints off. Faye walks towards Violet away from James' body. *

FAYE

I can't stay here.

VIOLET

We'll leave together as soon as we can.

FAYE

I can't just *stand here* with James's guts floating beside me!

VIOLET

(to Wendy)

See you at the cabin.

*

Wendy nods, hiding her frustration. Erzulie watches placidly from her chair.

66 EXT. RIVER HOUSE BACK YARD - NIGHT

66

Ari rants to herself as she jogs to the River House.

ARI

"Come out to the woods, we'll get together, have a few laughs!" Maybe a little murder? It definitely won't trigger your PTSD! Sure, sounds great! Oh, can we also get arrested or institutionalized? Excellent idea!

*

She slowly approaches the back door, noting the lights are out.

She keeps an eye on the periphery and tries the key: the door clicks open.

67 OMIT

67 *

68 INT. RIVER HOUSE - KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

68 *

Pierce walks out into the kitchen examining a MAP and the Lavaris Chemical CHECK STUB with a FLASHLIGHT, just as Ari enters. He SCREAMS, drops his papers.

*

*

*

PIERCE

(gathering the papers)

Who are you?? What are you doing here??

*

*

ARI

I could ask you the same!

*

PIERCE
I work for the Lafittes!

ARI
Why were you in the dark??

PIERCE
Because I work for Mrs. Lafitte, not
her step-son.

ARI
Okay...well, Mrs. Lafitte gave me this
key, so I'm not breaking and entering.

She eyes the long, hand-labeled KEY RACK hanging on the wall.
She inches toward it and slowly takes the SPARE ATV KEY from
its spot.

ARI
And I'm not stealing this, I'm just
borrowing it!

She looks closer at the papers in his hand.

ARI
Is that a map of the property?

Ari squints: there are BIOHAZARD SYMBOLS stamped on the map,
over the river. Pierce snatches the map out of sight.

PIERCE
I'm not asking you any questions!

ARI
That's fair! That's fair. We never saw
each other.

PIERCE
Agreed.

Ari notices a nice liquor bottle on the counter. She snags
it. *

ARI
(testing her luck)
Mrs. Lafitte said I could have this,
too.

Pierce looks skeptical but doesn't stop her as she backs
away.

ARI

Okay then, I'll leave you to it.

She flips the light switch off again and shuts the door.
Pierce clicks his flashlight on.

69 EXT. POOL - NIGHT

69

Ari zooms up on Rhett's ATV with the liquor in her lap. She stashes it next to the TOOLBOX in the back before rushing towards the pool. Ari notices Violet and Faye missing as she approaches Wendy.

*
*
*

ARI

Where's Violet and Faye?

*
*

WENDY

The cabin.

*
*

The girls struggle to move Erzulie.

*

ARI

We're not alone. Some guy was snooping
inside the River House.

WENDY

Does he know what we're up to?

ARI

Not yet. But now I really wanna know
what *he's* up to.

Behind them, Rhett's TAIL LIGHTS glow as he returns to camp.

WENDY

Now's not the time.

70 EXT. VISITOR'S CENTER - NIGHT

70

Rhett parks in front of the Visitor's Center while, in the distance, the girls and Erzulie ride off on his ATV.

71 INT. VISITOR'S CENTER - CHECK IN DESK - NIGHT

71

Rhett whistles as he moseys through the lobby only to discover a mess of papers and his open stash box. He frowns and reaches down to tidy.

72 EXT. RIVER HOUSE - NIGHT

72

Rhett notices the missing ATV as he parks. He looks at the

front door: the screen is open. He grabs his gun before heading inside.

73 INT. RIVER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 73

In the house, Rhett keeps his gun drawn and looks for signs of a break-in. He finds the KEY RACK and notes the bare spot where his SPARE ATV KEY should be.

74 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 74

The cabin looks empty, but soft voices chime from the loft.

FAYE (V.O.)
Why are we protecting her?

75 INT CABIN LOFT - CONTINUOUS 75

Faye rocks back and forth. Violet sits beside her.

VIOLET
Did you not hear her offer us our
heart's desires! You don't want to get
in on that??

FAYE
She killed James!

76 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 76

Wendy bursts in the door.

WENDY
Vi! Need a hand!

77 INT. CABIN - LOFT - CONTINUOUS 77

Faye looks beseechingly at Violet. Violet weighs her choices.

WENDY (O.C.)
Violet??

VIOLET
(to Faye)
What if it was self-defense?

Violet disappears behind the tapestries. Faye stays put and pulls a blanket around her.

78 EXT. POOL - NIGHT

78

Rhett strolls up to the pool and sets foot on the concrete with a SPLASH. He looks down: it's flooded.

His gaze rises slowly to the murky red pool water and James's corpse. He walks closer in horrified curiosity, shining his flashlight on the remains.

Something GLINTS at the edge of the pool.

Rhett plucks and studies it: it's a FRESH MERMAID SCALE. He looks back at the corpse, piecing everything together. He pulls out his cell phone and hits the speed dial.

RHETT

Hello?

*
*

Rhett looks at his cell phone. Pulls up the antenna.

*

RHETT

Can you hear me now?

(pause)

Need some back-up. Wake up Delmar and meet me at the house. Yeah. Bring the net.

*
*

79 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

79

Erzulie lays on the couch, wrapped in towels, while Wendy finishes drying her with Faye's hair-dryer.

Ari and Violet keep a respectful distance and watch Erzulie's scales shrink away.

Faye sulks in the loft.

Wendy turns off the hair dryer.

*

WENDY

It won't be long before someone comes to question us.

VIOLET

Should we return the stolen ATV?

ARI

Borrowed! And it's too late, Rhett's already back.

VIOLET

So we're leaving it parked out front?
What's our alibi for that?

Ari shrugs.

WENDY

Maybe we needed transportation because
Faye sprained her ankle?

Faye shouts from the loft:

FAYE (O.C.)

Leave me out of it!

ARI

Transportation from where? Shouldn't
we pretend we were here all day??

WENDY

My fingerprints are all over the
lobby! We can say that we went in to
get help but no-one was there, which
is true, so we borrowed the ATV. The
call history will match up. Then we
made a run for first aid and were here
for the rest of the night.

Faye appears on the staircase.

FAYE

I said leave me out of it! I'm not
going to lie for her.

WENDY

If your story doesn't match ours then
we'll all be suspect!

FAYE

I guess you better tell the truth
then!

Wendy springs up.

WENDY

What don't you understand about
needing to keep this a secret??

FAYE

I'm not going to risk my life so you
can do black magic! Not when you

clearly couldn't care less about my
safety or happiness!

VIOLET

Faye-

FAYE

And you! Did you see James's
intestines in the pool? That's not
self-defense: it's human sacrifice!

The women are silent in the face of Faye's righteous anger.

FAYE

The fact that you're all pampering her
and not losing your minds tells me
everything I need to know!

Faye flies back up the stairs. Wendy yells after her.

WENDY

We've got a once-in-a-lifetime chance
here, Faye! You have to see that for
what it is-

*
*

80 OMIT

80 *

81 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

81

Faye storms back downstairs with packed bags. Wendy is
waiting for her on the landing.

*
*

WENDY

It's a miracle.

Faye pushes past Wendy.

Violet steps in front of the door.

VIOLET

We've got to stick together.

FAYE

Well then, are you coming??

VIOLET

There's nowhere to go!

FAYE

I'll walk to a payphone! Call a cab!

Violet doesn't budge.

FAYE

You still want her blessing, after
what she did??

Violet doesn't answer; she's at silent war with herself.

ERZULIE

I have done you harm.

Everyone stops, unaccustomed to Erzulie's strange voice. She rises on her fresh legs, a towel still clinging to her waist. Wendy drapes another towel over her shoulders.

ERZULIE

It was not my intention.

She walks toward Faye who shrinks at the door. Violet stands before her in a protective stance. Erzulie studies them both, looking deep into their eyes.

ERZULIE

But you will not know peace until you
admit your heart's desire.

She reaches toward Faye. Violet steps in between them. Erzulie smiles at the gesture. She lets her hands hover near Faye's and Violet's chests, as if feeling their heartbeats. *

ERZULIE

Your blood sings to me of freedom. Did
I not rescue you?

FAYE

No. No! I didn't ask to be rescued! I
didn't ask for your protection!

Faye collapses into tears. Violet holds her.

VIOLET

(meek)

I did.

Faye draws back, confused.

VIOLET

I didn't want him dead, I swear, I- I
just wanted you safe and- and *happy*.

Faye and Violet stare at each other: it's hard to tell who

looks more devastated.

Violet tries to guide Faye away from the door. Faye jerks her hands away in disgust and retreats to the staircase where she collapses. Tears trickle down Violet's cheeks.

Wendy surveys the devastation around her, walks calmly to her bag and retrieves the sachet of mermaid scales. She approaches Erzulie and presses them into her hands.

WENDY

I release you.

ERZULIE

A debt has not been paid.

Erzulie presses the scales back into Wendy's hands.

WENDY

You don't owe us anything. Please, I think we need to take care of ourselves from now on.

ERZULIE

If that is your desire.

Wendy looks back at Ari, who has been silent so far. She looks disappointed but nods in agreement.

WENDY

It is.

Erzulie gracefully walks out into the dark. *

82 EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS 82

Wendy stands in the doorway and clutches the scales.

83 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 83

Wendy locks the door. Violet and Faye weep softly in their corners.

ARI

I'll pretend to have the sprained ankle, if anyone asks.

VIOLET

(wiping her running nose)
That lie will last about two seconds.

ARI

Well I'm not actually gonna sprain it.

VIOLET

Then we have no cover. Maybe you shouldn't have stolen the ATV.

ARI

Borrowed.

FAYE

So are we gonna come clean now?

WENDY

I told you, we're not selling out a Goddess to the police!!

FAYE

She's not even human! Why are you choosing her over us?

WENDY

How is she the monster in your eyes and not James?

FAYE

I loved him! You should understand, aren't you supposed to be a counselor?

WENDY

You should know, with all the *free therapy* I give you.

FAYE

What Erzulie did is *evil*. And you brought her here!

WENDY

But James came here following you!

Dirty looks are interrupted by a KNOCK on the door. Everyone freezes.

RHETT (O.C.)

Management!

Everyone bolts around the room in all different directions.

84 EXT. CABIN - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

84

Rhett knocks again with his flashlight. Wendy cracks the door

*

open.

*

RHETT

Everything alright? I heard raised voices.

WENDY

That's my fault! I always turn the TV on too loud. I didn't wake you, did I?

RHETT

Oh, no ma'am, that's not why I'm here, but now that I am, could you tell me why my personal all terrain vehicle is parked in the yard?

*

WENDY

Oh gosh, no-one told you? I thought they left a message.

RHETT

Afraid not.

He pulls out his phone to check.

WENDY

How embarrassing! We had a little accident. Nothing major! My friend sprained her ankle. We needed to get her back to the cabin and you weren't here. Is that okay?? We really did try and call!

He calmly pockets his phone.

RHETT

And how do you know where I keep the spares?

WENDY

Oh, your mother showed us the place inside and out.

Rhett looks suspicious. He sucks his teeth.

RHETT

Not my mother.

(pause)

Well, while I'd prefer that you didn't help yourself to the rental equipment, I'm sorry I wasn't there to assist

you. Does your friend need a doctor?

WENDY

Oh no, she's sleeping it off. But
thank you so much. Let me get you that
key!

She slips back inside. Rhett hears the lock click. He narrows his eyes.

He looks around the porch for anything suspicious. His light falls on a sloppy trail of WATER leading from the ATV, up the front steps to the door.

Wendy returns and hands him the key.

WENDY

Sorry about the mix-up!

He pockets the key and pushes the door open wider. *

RHETT

Did you enjoy the pool?

Wendy sees the puddles and realization washes over her face.

WENDY

Oh. Yes. Well, briefly. That's when my
friend slipped.

RHETT

Oh, that's a shame.

WENDY

She'll be alright.
(Nervous laughter)
We promise not to sue.

Rhett laughs too, a little too heartily.

RHETT

That's mighty kind of ya. Just one
more thing and I'll get outta yer
hair. When were you at the pool? My
only missed calls came in around 4:00.

WENDY

That sounds about right.

RHETT

Funny that your porch is still wet

then, isn't it?

Wendy is lost for words. There's fear in her eyes. Rhett forces himself inside the cabin. Shuts the door behind him.

*
*

85 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

85

He backs Wendy into a corner. She hears the cold CLICK of Rhett cocking his gun.

*
*

RHETT

So, are you gonna take the fall for that body in the pool, or are you gonna tell me where the mermaid is?

*
*
*
*

Rhett keeps the gun trained on Wendy and leaves the flashlight on the counter. The room appears empty. All the doors are shut.

*
*

RHETT

Where are your little lesbian girlfriends?

*

WENDY

They're sleeping. Please, I don't know what you're talking about!

Rhett examines the room, notes the towels on the couch and water on the floor around it. He grabs a towel and rubs his face in it.

WENDY

What are you doing?

RHETT

I know fish when I smell it.

Rhett walks towards Wendy's closed bedroom door. Opens it.

86 INT. CABIN - WENDY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

86

Rhett peers in all the nooks and crannies, working his way toward the closets.

RHETT (CONT'D)

The whole town thought she was touched, and that daddy was a fool for letting her run her mouth so much.

WENDY

Your mother?

RHETT
She's not my mama!

He throws open the first closet. Empty. Second closet. Empty. Rhett spins around to face Wendy, punching the air with the gun.

RHETT (CONT'D)
Where is she??

WENDY
Erzulie's gone! Okay! She left! We sent her away!

He throws open a closet door. Empty.

RHETT
Right. That's what everyone does when they discover mermaids exist.

WENDY
We didn't want any trouble. We didn't mean for it to get out of hand.

A SOUND from the loft captivates Rhett. He grabs Wendy's shoulder and marches her out the room towards the loft stairs.

87 INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

87

Wendy climbs up the stairs as Rhett clutches her shoulder and shoves the gun in her back.

Out of sight, the bathroom door opens just a hair: Violet waits in the shadows for her moment. She slowly creeps towards the bottom of the loft stairs.

88 INT. CABIN - LOFT - CONTINUOUS

88

Wendy stops at the top of the stairs. There's nothing but a big, unmoving pile of blankets. She gestures towards them.

WENDY
See, she's not here. The others had nothing to do with this!

RHETT
Then why aren't they asleep like you said?

Suddenly, Faye pops over the loft railing and blitzes Rhett

*

with the PEPPER SPRAY. Ari and Wendy kick him in the back. *

Rhett falls down the stairs giving Violet just enough time at the bottom of the stairs to put him in a WRIST LOCK and make him drop the gun. Violet knees him in the crotch. Rhett goes does groaning in agony. *

Violet grabs Rhett's gun and points it at him. *

89 INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER 89 *

Rhett, now hogtied with various items of clothing, lays on the bathroom floor. The girls stare at him from the living room. *

RHETT

You think you're some kind of heroes, hiding that freak? I've heard the stories, I know she's supposed to be this mystic feminine protector. But she's a man-eater!

Wendy shoves a sock in his mouth, then shuts the bathroom door behind her. *

89A INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 89A *

Faye has had enough. *

FAYE

I never thought I'd live to see the day Wendy Woloft shoved a sock in a hostage's mouth.

WENDY

He was gonna shoot us, Faye. He doesn't get to keep the moral high ground.

ARI

There's no talking our way out of this now. I say we leave and don't look back.

She takes the others aside and whispers so Rhett can't hear:

ARI

I have cousins in New Mexico that will give us a place to stay.

VIOLET

But if we leave him and nobody finds him, that's more blood on our hands.

WENDY

We can call in an anonymous tip once we're at a safe distance.

Their huddled exchange heats up.

FAYE

You seriously think we can just show up in-

(she mouths the words:)

New Mexico-

(she resumes speaking)

-and start over?! How does that work???

ARI

I dunno, let's figure it out in the car!!!

VIOLET

Sorry, some of us can't drop everything and drive to

(she silently screams the words:)

New Mexico!! to live like drifter burnouts!

ARI

First of all fuck you. Second of all drive us wherever the hell you want as long as it's away from here!

*
*

Wendy pulls at her hair, overwhelmed with the magnitude of their troubles.

WENDY

Let's go home! Let's just go home. Please! I'll take the fall for everything! I don't care anymore! I'm sorry!

Wendy looks tired and defeated. Her friends stop fighting.

90 EXT. FAR UPRIVER - NIGHT

90

Pierce paddles the kayak upriver. His oar hits something with a THUMP. Up pops a large plastic DRUM.

Pierce turns it with his oar: the label has been spray-painted to hide the brand.

Pierce shines his flashlight, he can see the faint outline of a LAVARIS CHEMICAL logo.

91 EXT. RIVER TRAIL - FURTHEST POINT - NIGHT

91

Erzulie silently walks down the path to the river bank. She still wears the towel around her waist and another draped over her shoulders, covering her chest.

Her arrival surprises Pierce, who is dragging the kayak out of the water. Erzulie pays him no attention, drops her towels, and steps towards the water.

*
*
*

PIERCE

Ma'am!

She looks at him, not bothering to replace her towels. He attempts to look away in modesty while he secures the kayak at shore and steps out.

PIERCE

You shouldn't swim here!

She furrows her brow. He approaches her, still trying to look away politely.

PIERCE

The water is dangerous. You shouldn't touch it.

Erzulie looks confused. Pierce elaborates:

PIERCE

A Chemical plant has been dumping upriver.

He picks up one of her towels from the ground and tries to hand it to Erzulie.

PIERCE

You dropped this.

92 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

92

The girls are hauling their suitcases out to the car when an ATV, transporting a large fishnet, and a 4-wheeler whirl up to the drive. Dusty and Delmar hop off their rides. They both wear DUCK CALLS on cords around their necks. The man in the

*
*
*

driver's seat greets them:

DUSTY
Evenin' ladies. Is Rhett Lafitte in
there?

The women look at each other, petrified: the jig is up.

WENDY
Afraid not.

DUSTY
That's his ATV.

ARI
No, we rented that one.

DUSTY
Now that sounds a little fishy to me,
don't it Delmar?

DELMAR
Rhett don't let nobody touch his
toolbox.

DUSTY
Not a soul.

The men pull out their SHOTGUNS.

93 EXT. RIVER TRAIL - FURTHEST POINT - RIVER BANK - CONTINUOUS 93

Erzulie adjusts her towels for Pierce's comfort.

PIERCE
Are you alright? Can I do something to
help? *
*

SCREAMS in the distance. Erzulie whips around toward the
source. Pierce doesn't seem to have heard them. Erzulie
quickly sizes him up.

ERZULIE
Yes.

94 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 94

Rhett walks to the kitchenette to flush his eyes in the sink,
just as Delmar steps inside with bags from the porch. Dusty
has the other women at the end of his shotgun, huddled in the
corner. *
*
*
*

RHETT

One of 'em took my gun. Search their stuff.

Delmar spills the bags' contents on the floor.

The gun falls out of Wendy's bag, so does the sachet of mermaid scales. Delmar grabs the gun.

Rhett walks over, dabbing his face with a dish towel. He takes the gun and looks at the pile of stuff. He picks up the sachet.

DELMAR

What is it, boss?

RHETT

Boys, you're not gonna believe this. They're mermaid scales.

The men look at each other for a beat then burst into laughter.

DUSTY

Are you high again? Did you really call us out here in the middle of the night for one of your mama's campfire stories?

*

*

RHETT

She's not my mama! And you can see for yourselves, there's a body in the pool with its guts falling out.

This quiets the men.

DUSTY

(pointing his gun at the women)
What does that have to do with them?

RHETT

They're all witnesses. Loose ends.

Rhett exchanges knowing looks at Dusty and Delmar. All three men converge on the cornered women.

WENDY

You need us! You don't have a clue where to find her!

RHETT

She's a mermaid, sweetheart, she's headed for water. And even if I did need you, I wouldn't need four of you.

WENDY

You'll never catch her without us. You don't even know how to call her! You have the key in your hand and you don't know how to use it!

Rhett looks at the satchet in his hand. He opens it and pulls out the scroll.

WENDY

Can you even read it?

He gives her the stink eye, of course he can't read it.

RHETT

Shut her up so I can think!

Dusty pops her in the mouth with the nose of his shotgun, cutting her lip.

DUSTY

Well, what's it say?

Rhett crumples the scroll in his fist.

RHETT

I don't know, damnit!

He sucks his teeth and comes to a decision. He grabs Wendy from the couch. *

RHETT

Alright. Ms. Know-it-All comes with us. As for the others... shoot 'em. *

Noises of shock and distress from the girls.

WENDY

Wait! You'll only going to make her angry. We're bound to her by blood. Remember the stories your mother told you? *

DELMAR

What's she talkin' about? *

DUSTY

Sounds like your mama put a hit out on you.

Rhett turns the gun on Dusty, pointing it straight between his eyes.

RHETT

Call her my mama one more time, I dare you, I double-dare you!

Dusty gulps. Message taken. Rhett returns the gun towards the girls.

RHETT

Congratulations, you've earned a final hour on Earth. Make it count.

95 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - NIGHT

95

Rhett rides his ATV with Wendy and Faye zip-tied and gagged in the back. Dusty follows on the other ATV with Violet and Ari tied up in the back and the fishing net up front. Delmar rides in on his 4-wheeler.

*
*
*

They come to a halt at the beach. Rhett hops out.

RHETT

Okay boys! We laid the razor wire over yonder where that frat boy died. There must be a nest around here somewhere.

Wendy and Faye can smell the putrid air. They wretch into their gags.

RHETT

Yep, pretty foul ain't it? Fresh shipment this morning! But thanks to you, our waste management days are soon behind us!

(He walks over to the boys.)

We're gonna be zoo-keepers, boys, for the rarest beast in the world.

*

DUSTY

So what do we gotta do?

RHETT

We gotta trap her.

Dusty and Delmar grab the net and strike off downriver.

96 EXT. RIVER - BAMBOO FOREST- CONTINUOUS

96 *

Dusty and Delmar march through the woods with the net.

DELMAR

Man, I'm gettin' tired of being a cokehead's bodyguard. I don't like the hours.

DUSTY

That's the part you don't like? Not the fact that we're on some kinda D&D-style wild goose chase?

DELMAR

I dunno, something ate that kid, and no-one's ever seen a gator in this river before! Pretty weird if you ask me.

DUSTY

But how is killer swamp mermaid the next logical answer?

DELMAR

I'm just sayin it's pretty weird.

Delmar shrugs and wades into the river with his half of the net, toward the other side. Dusty stops feeding Delmar the net and stares at him.

DUSTY

You were adopted.

97 EXT. WOODS - NEARBY - CONTINUOUS

97

Pierce follows Erzulie through the woods towards the sound of Dusty and Delmar's voices.

They can barely make out Dusty moving along the tree line, downhill. Erzulie motions for Pierce to keep going forward, towards the girls. Erzulie homes in on Dusty.

98 EXT. RIVER - MIDDLE POINT - CONTINUOUS

98

Dusty shifts his weight uncomfortably while holding his end of the net.

DUSTY

Probably a bad time to take a leak, right?

Delmar puts his hand to his ear on the far shore.

DELMAR

What??

Dusty waves him off.

DUSTY

Nothin'!

He looks at the long rope in his hand and has a bright idea. He ties the rope around his pants like a makeshift belt, then walks over to the tree line and unzips his fly.

He whistles while relieving himself.

A twig snaps on the other side of the tree. He looks around but it's too late: He's SNATCHED out of sight.

On the far side of the river, the rope ZOOMS out of Delmar's hands as the net is pulled into the woods on the opposite bank.

Delmar grabs his DUCK CALL and sounds the alarm.

99 EXT. RIVER - BEACH

99 *

Rhett hears the duck call.

RHETT

She's here.

100 EXT. WOODS DOWNRIVER - CONTINUOUS

100

Delmar splashes through the river to reach Dusty. He finds his brother's lifeless BODY on the ground with a broken neck. Dusty's fly is still unzipped.

101 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - CONTINUOUS

101

Delmar comes racing back, blowing the DUCK CALL.

DELMAR

She got Dusty!

Rhett's not playing around anymore. He stomps over to his ATV and snatches up Faye who has managed to move half her body off the ATV.

*
*

RHETT.

Cute.

*
*

He tosses Faye over his shoulder and walks her over to the water. *

RHETT. *
 (to Erzulie) *
 Here fishy, fishy, fishy! *

Rhett tosses her to the ground, then kicks her in. Faye rolls down into the water with a SPLASH. *

Meanwhile, He doesn't notice the KITTY CAT BRASS KNUCKLES in Violet's back pocket that she's been using to tear apart her ZIP TIES. Violet pretends otherwise, but her zip-ties are broken. *

In the river, Faye sinks out of sight, unable to swim in her bindings. Rhett shouts out: *

RHETT *
 I got some Damsels in Distress over *
 here, Erzulie! It'd be a shame if I *
 had to kill 'em! *

Rhett hears the SPLASH from afar. He walks toward the sound, trying to catch a glimpse of Erzulie. *

RHETT *
 That's what I thought. *

Rhett slaps Delmar on the chest. *

RHETT *
 Alright, muscles, it's your time to *
 shine. *

Violet takes advantage of their distraction by unbinding her own feet and freeing Ari with the Kitty Cat knuckles. Ari and Violet both pull their gags out. Violet gives Ari the kitty knuckles. *

RHETT (CONT'D) *
 Get in there. *

DELMAR *
 In the water? *

RHETT *
 Where else?? *

At the river, water ripples ominously toward Delmar as he wades in. He looks back nervously at Rhett. *

RHETT

It's too late to set a better trap.
Just tackle her! Whatever you do,
don't shoot her. I want a zoo, not a
museum.

Rhett looks around for a less deadly weapon. His eyes settle
on a large rock. He reaches down to grab it.

Delmar squats like a Sumo wrestler, wading cautiously into
the water. He scans around for signs of Erzulie. The water is
still for a moment.

Suddenly, Erzulie shoots up from behind him and takes him
down in a powerful death roll.

102 OMIT 102 *

103 OMIT 103 *

104 OMIT 104 *

105 OMIT 105 *

106 EXT. RIVER - UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS 106

Delmar fights Erzulie as she drags him under.

Out of the corner of her eye, Erzulie sees Faye sink deeper
into the river depths, struggling to hold her breath.

With one hand Erzulie attempts to drown Delmar, while
catching Faye with the other, and pulls her to the surface. *

107 EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS 107

Faye breaks the surface and gasps for air.

Rhett spots Delmar as he resurfaces, dragged by Erzulie.
Delmar flails around, yells out weakly --

DELMAR

I can't swi--

Erzulie drags Delmar down again. Rhett drops the rock.
Resigned.

RHETT

Damnit. *

He pulls out his gun. Shoots into the water. A miss. He

shoots again. A SCREAM echoes from below. He lowers the gun.

Out of nowhere the sound of SCREECHING TIRES makes him turn his head- as Violet barrels towards him in the ATV! *

They ram right into him. Rhett and the gun go flying. The gun flies onto the beach. *

108 EXT. RIVER - UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS 108

Meanwhile, Erzulie sinks, blood streaming from a wound in her shoulder.

She floats down onto something stuck in the riverbed: a LAVARIS CHEMICAL DRUM. Oily plumes rise up from the impact of her weight.

She begins to seize and contort. Her eyes go SHARK BLACK. She starts to MUTATE.

109 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - CONTINUOUS 109

Violet hops out of the ATV and dashes into the water after Faye, while Ari tears through Wendy's zip-ties. *

The noise of water turns everyone's heads. The river is practically a geyser. A maddening BANSHEE WAIL swells all around. Gale force WINDS surge from the river as a DEMONIC ERZULIE rises in the middle of a TYPHOON. *

Everyone cowers at Erzulie's fearsome display as LAVARIS DRUMS pop up on the surface, dislodged from the riverbed. *

Violet pulls a gasping Faye out of the water. They rush towards Rhett's ATV, fighting against the surging winds. *

Delmar manages to emerge out of the water and goes rogue. He bum rushes Erzulie. *

DELMAR *

This is for Dusty, you bitch! *

Erzulie grabs Delmar's throat and crushes it like a can. She throws his lifeless body ashore. *

Rhett crawls over to his gun and grabs it. He pops up and points the gun at Erzulie. *

Wendy spies Rhett's TOOL BOX and raids it. *

WENDY
We gotta save her!

ARI
She can clearly save herself!

WENDY
I can't leave her.

Wendy grabs a BOX CUTTER. Faye and Violet arrive at the ATV.

VIOLET
Well, we're not leaving without you.

Violet grabs a TIRE IRON. Ari grabs a HAMMER and Faye grabs the WRENCH. Wendy looks at their faces, everyone is in stoic agreement. They rush towards Rhett.

Wendy breaks out, wielding the box cutter, and sprints toward the shore. Ari follows with the hammer. Violet and Faye bring up the rear.

Rhett hears them coming: he spins on his heels and lunges. Wendy is ready with the box-cutter: she slices Rhett's arm as he grabs at her.

Rhett recoils from the cut and Ari hops onto Rhett's back and attempts to choke him with her hammer.

Rhett doubles over and falls.

Suddenly, Wendy and Ari are pulled towards the river by the typhoon. They fight the wind into the core of the storm. Rhett switches gears and aims his gun at Faye.

Faye does a wrist-lock and releases the gun from Rhett just as Violet clocks him with her tire iron.

Wendy, now within arms reach of Erzulie, sees an opportunity and takes her shot: she STABS Erzulie in the ribs with the box-cutter!

Erzulie screams. She grabs hold of Wendy and they both fall back together into the water and disappear.

Moments later, Wendy emerges pulling Erzulie to shore before collapsing. The girls rush to aid. Erzulie surveys the devastation around her with horror. She doubles over and heaves up SIZZLING BLACK BILE.

ERZULIE
(weakly)
Wendy Woloft?

Violet looks out across the water, furrows her brow, squints.

VIOLET
Someone's coming.

Faye looks out at the river: A DINGHY rows out of the shadows. There's a LAMP on the prow.

110 OMIT 110 *

111 OMIT 111 *

112 EXT. DINGHY POV - CONTINUOUS 112

Ari and Erzulie register the newcomers' arrival as the dinghy glides to shore.

113 EXT. RIVER - BEACH - CONTINUOUS 113

The PROW hits the sand and two pair of FEET in socks and sandals step onto the bank, plus Pierce's familiar shoes.

Pierce who holds a lantern, leads the pack flanked by MR. and MRS. LAFITTE.

The newcomers' kneel over Wendy. They softly CHANT. BLUE LIGHT surrounds them. Wendy blinks awake.

WENDY
Mrs. Lafitte?

Wendy falls back asleep. Rhett opens one eye as Pierce and the girls hog tie him and weakly mumbles:

RHETT
Jesus! Is every camper trying to kill
me...

Then passes out again.

114 OMIT 114 *

115 INT. AIRSTREAM TRAILER - DAWN 115

Wendy awakens in a retro-looking airstream trailer. Mrs. Lafitte is sitting by her side. Erzulie sleeps nearby, wrapped in blankets, again in human form.

MRS. LAFITTE
Wendy Woloft. Welcome back.

She helps Wendy pull herself upright.

MRS. LAFITTE
I see you've met my great, great,
great grandmother.

Wendy looks at Erzulie, amazed. Mrs. Lafitte nods.

MRS. LAFITTE
Your friends told me about your
encounter with my step-son. I am
deeply sorry.

WENDY
Mrs. Lafitte, I'm so sorry. Faye's
boyfriend followed us and Erzulie-

MRS. LAFITTE
Shh, I know, dear. Rest now.

WENDY
Are my friends alright?

MRS. LAFITTE
They're right behind us.

Wendy peers out of a window.

WENDY
Where are we going?

MRS. LAFITTE
Somewhere safe.

Mr. Lafitte' VOICE comes in from the WALKIE TALKIE sitting on
the RV kitchen counter. Mrs. Lafitte grabs it.

*

MR. LAFITTE (O.C.)
Is she awake?

MRS. LAFITTE
Yes.

MR. LAFITTE (O.C.)
Hi, Wendy!

They hit a pot hole.

MRS. LAFITTE
Watch the road, Eric!

116 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAWN 116

The Airstream pulls off onto the side of the road; Violet's car parks behind it.

The girls hop out of the car and run over to the RV.

117 EXT. AIRSTREAM - CONTINUOUS 117

Wendy steps outside and her friends are waiting. She manages to fold them all into a big group hug.

Pierce gets out of the car but hangs back, letting the women have their moment.

Mr. Lafitte comes around from the truck pulling the airstream to take Mrs. Lafitte's hand as she descends the RV steps, preceding a robed Erzulie.

Rhett is in the passenger side of the truck, blindfolded and duct-taped around the wrists, with his seat belt on.

Faye hands Wendy the sachet of mermaid scales.

FAYE
We got these back for you.

Wendy stares at the sachet in her hands, deciding.

118 EXT. DISTANT WOODS - DAWN 118

Everyone walks through the forest to yet another river, far away from camp. They stop at the water's edge.

Wendy presents the sachet to Erzulie.

WENDY
Where will you go?

ERZULIE
To the ocean. To my Mother.
(to Mrs. Lafitte)
Restore our water.

Mrs. Lafitte nods.

Erzulie hands her the robe and dives into the water. Pierce blushes and looks away modestly. Mrs. Lafitte giggles at him

as they turn away and head back to the highway. *

WENDY

(to Mrs. Lafitte)

I'll do whatever I can to help you
save the river.

MRS. LAFITTE

Thank you, honey. It's going to be a
full-time job.

WENDY

Perfect.

ARI

(to Mrs. Lafitte)

So if Erzulie is returning to her
mother, are there more of you?

MRS. LAFITTE

Oh yes! Eric, tell them how my sisters
all fought over you when we first met.

MR. LAFITTE

Picture this, I was a dashing young
Lieutenant in the Navy...

FADE OUT.

ROLL CREDITS.

119 EXT. BEACH - MORNING

119

THREE DAYS LATER. NEAR GRAND ISLE, LOUISIANA.

Two golden tan BEACH BUMS hike across scrubby sand dunes with
their towels and coolers. They pass through a veil of sea
oats to the shore. *

CONNOR *

I dunno what she's so pissed about. *

Everybody knows it's not cheating if *

you pay for it. *

ADAM *

Heh, totally. *

There's a NAKED WOMAN face down in the sand. She stirs.

The bums grin as she lifts herself up on an elbow, exposing
her breasts. They WOLF WHISTLE before throwing down their

stuff.

They run joyously toward the shore to greet the woman. Of course, it's Erzulie. She smiles. Her eyes turn BLACK.

BLACKOUT.

THE END.