

THE PIG

Written by

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FAVS 496 Capstone

ACT II - THE PIG

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EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - AFTERNOON

BIRDS EYE VIEW

A beat-up white minivan with "DAN THE HANDY MAN" printed on the side kicks up dust down a long and winding dirt road. Slats of wood and 2x4s stick out the windows, tools pile high in the trunk and suitcases are strapped onto the roof rack.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

PENNY MARTIN, a 15-year-old girl, sits in the backseat with her noise-cancelling headphones and her backpack on her lap.

She's sitting next to NELL HARRIS, a 3-year-old sleeping peacefully in her carseat, hugging a little stuffed pig.

Her phone BUZZES, a text from PENNY'S MOM reads "Try to enjoy the fresh air up there, Pen. You've been through so much this school year. You're doing well. Love you! Love, Mom".

PENNY texts back "u don't have to sign your name. I know it's from u mom".

PENNY'S MOM sends a crazed winky face emoji back and writes "Be good to the Harris's please. And call me if you need anything"

PENNY looks to the driver's seat where DAN HARRIS lightly bickers with his wife LIZ, who's riding shotgun.

PENNY adjusts one headphone and the music reflects that.

DAN

Where are we, honey?

LIZ

We're just taking the scenic route,
(sarcastic)
honey.

DAN

We could have been there 20 minutes ago.

LIZ
Remember we are trying to avoid a
certain-

She glances back at PENNY, who quickly averts her eyes,
pretending not to have been listening.

LIZ (CONT'D)
(mouthing)
School.
(beat)
Enjoy the trees, Dan.

PENNY exhales and slips her headphones back on, the song once
again immersing the audio.

A BUZZ from PENNY'S MOM again. "Love you my shiny" she sends
a penny emoji. PENNY lovingly rolls her eyes. "Love, mom."
and PENNY smiles.

She sees her 3 bars of signal go down to 2, frowns and tucks
her phone away.

DAN looks at her through the rearview mirror and says
something but it's muffled.

PENNY pulls off her headphones, a hard switch in the audio.

PENNY
What?

DAN
I said we're almost there!

As the van turns into a long dirt driveway, PENNY sees a 3
story, white house with steps leading up to a wrap around
porch in the distance. Some of the siding is coming off and
the paint is peeling. The grass is brown with a few sections
of overgrown weeds. Weathered would be a generous term.

DAN (CONT'D)
The house itself was rebuilt by
Phillip Gregor II in 1846 after an
alleged fire took it down some
twenty years prior. It was
abandoned in the 80s.

Bored of DAN'S history lesson, PENNY's eyes wander, exploring
the house from afar until the attic window catches her eye. A
curtain blows in a breeze. PENNY squints to see the window is
closed. She turns to DAN and LIZ to say something but stops.
She looks back to the window where there's no curtain hanging
at all. She looks confused but no one is paying attention.

LIZ
Why'd it take so long to rebuild?

DAN
I asked the realtor but she didn't know. She said it was renovated into a historical museum in the 70s but soon after it was abandoned again by the owners.

PENNY
Are there any neighbors?

LIZ
(to PENNY)
Well, the listing did say there's a small cemetery nearby.

PENNY
(to LIZ)
A cemetery?

DAN
No one else for miles. But it does have all the privacy you could want and need for your "Restful, solitary, country-home airbnb retreat" as I'll call it.

PENNY
Sounds great, Mr. Harris.

LIZ smiles encouragingly as the car pulls up to the house and they step out. LIZ gently wakes up NELL, lifting her out of the carseat and onto a patchy bit of brown grass.

They look up at the house, DAN staring with pride, LIZ unsure, and PENNY unconvinced that this sad excuse for a beautiful country home will make a promising airbnb.

DAN
Well, shall we see the inside of our home for the next month?

INT. ENTRY HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The four of them are standing in the entryway, a large, dusty hallway with cobwebs on a broken and barely hanging chandelier. Where frames used to be on the walls, grey ashy marks make empty squares.

DAN's look of pride turns into horror as PENNY steps forward to look closer at the wall.

PENNY
Is that mold?

DAN
The realtor said this place needed
a little work but it passed safety.

LIZ
Who did the safety inspection?

DAN
Nothing a little elbow grease can't
fix! For the price, it was a steal.

LIZ
You get what you pay for.

PENNY
I'd love to hear your big plans,
Mr. Harris.

LIZ
Don't enable him.

Just then, PENNY steps back onto a floorboard that pops open
eating her ankle and causing her to stumble backwards. DAN
catches her. LIZ picks up a scared NELL.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Top of the line safety inspector I
see. C'mon Nellie Bellie, let's go
see your room, if the floor doesn't
cave in first.

She glares at DAN.

DAN
Careful, honey! Watch your step.

LIZ gives him a grunt and an evil eye.

DAN (CONT'D)
C'mon, Penny. You'll be up in the
old school room.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The four come up the stairs, looking around for more mold and
holes in the floor. An ancient and dirty standing mirror
leans against a wall at one end of the hallway. At the other
end is the bathroom. Doorways to rooms line opposite sides of
the hallway.

LIZ

Ugh, open some windows up here. It smells awful!

PENNY passes the mirror as she reaches the top of the landing. Foggy patches distort her reflection, there are cracks and chips scattered over the mirror, and it's heavily de-silvered - dark streaks run down while black dots stipple the edges.

PENNY

That's not creepy at all.

They all look into the mirror, their reflections slightly blurred and ashy.

LIZ

It's gotta be at least 50 years old. Wouldn't you say?

PENNY

It's great if you want to scare your guests.

LIZ

We could market it for the month of October.

PENNY

Or for the weirdos who like to stay in "haunted" houses.

DAN

That wouldn't fit the relaxing vibes I want for this place. Anyway, Penny, your room is that way. Liz, Nell and I will be in the west wing. There's two bedrooms that connect there but we'll all share the bathroom.

PENNY

Is there running water, Mr. Harris?

DAN

Yes, there is actually! I just wouldn't drink it until we can test the well water out back.

LIZ

Good thing we brought plenty of bottled water.

DAN wanders over to the other end of the hallway where a tattered carpet is rolled up on the floor, half eaten by moths and brownish green in color.

LIZ, NELL, and PENNY stand in the two doorways to the bedroom. DAN kicks it, it rolls out the length of the hallway and EXPLODES with flies, a dead rat inside.

UGH!/EW!

LIZ screams and turns NELL away, PENNY and DAN both jump back.

LIZ, holding NELL while plugging her nose, walks quickly past it.

LIZ (CONT'D)
We're going to unpack the car!

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Plastic bins labeled "KITCHEN", "AIR MATTRESSES", and "TOOLS" scatter the dining room. Camping chairs surround a foldable table that holds a small tea kettle plugged into a generator, three packs of ramen noodles, and canned baby food. Flashlights and lanterns glow up the room.

DAN
Electricity is the first thing on my list, especially that chandelier. Obviously, the house hasn't been used for a while so I have some re-wiring to do.
(to PENNY)
For tonight, take some extra flashlights up with you.

PENNY looks nervous but cracks an "I'm a good sport" smile.

DAN (CONT'D)
Home, sweet, home.

PENNY	LIZ
"Sweet" is a strong word.	"Home" is a strong word.

LIZ and PENNY'S eyes meet.

DAN
Aww you guys will love it. I have a vision. Just wait 'til you see it come together!

LIZ
Can't wait.

DAN
It'll be in much better shape at
the end of the month. As I always
say, Dan the Handy Man Can!

LIZ rolls her eyes and makes an audible grunt in response.

LIZ
Penny, we're so glad you could come
with us to help with Nell.

PENNY
I thought it would be really fun to
be a nanny.

LIZ
Oh it will be! Our little nanny.
Dan will be busy working on the
house but it'll be so nice for me
to be able to write my novel during
the day.

PENNY
My mom didn't tell me you are
working on a novel.

LIZ
It's a recent development. I had
intended to take the summer off but
money pays the bills.

DAN goes quiet and looks into his noodles - a touchy subject.

LIZ (CONT'D)
(teasing)
Plus, I think I would explode if I
had to work with Dan all day on
house projects.

DAN
(with a mouthful of
noodles)
Heeeyyyy!

LIZ
You know I love you.
(to PENNY)
We can talk about what hours you'll
take our Nell tomorrow morning.
(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

And I'll be here to take her for nap time and if you need anything of course.

PENNY

Oh, I think I can do nap time. If it's helpful. It wouldn't be a bother. I would love to do it.

LIZ

We'll see tomorrow.

DAN

Liz, after dinner I want to get the fridge up and running tonight so we can put our food away.

LIZ

Penny, why don't you and Nell go to our room and read a story while I help with the fridge? Then I can tuck her in.

PENNY

I would love to do that.

PENNY slurps her last bite of ramen, leaves it on the table and takes NELL'S hand, walking her out of the dining room.

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT (AN HOUR LATER)

PENNY is blowing up a twin sized air mattress and checking her phone to see there's only one bar of signal when the door opens and LIZ comes in. PENNY closes the mattress air valve.

LIZ

How was story time?

PENNY

She went out like a light.

LIZ

Oh, that's great. She's a good sleeper.

(beat)

I can tell she likes you already.

PENNY

I like her too.

LIZ stares at her for a moment, like she wants to speak but can't.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Is everything okay, Mrs. Harris?

LIZ

Oh, call me Liz.

PENNY

Is everything okay... Liz?

LIZ

Yeah... I am just sorry that we can't pay you this summer. I know I said we'll talk hours tomorrow but I just want you to know that I want you to have some time to yourself here. Explore the gardens or take a walk or something... healing.

PENNY

Thanks, but I did come here to care for Nell.

LIZ

I know, and we love you for being so willing. We adore your mom too, she's so sweet.

(beat)

I just want- I just think it's probably good for you to- with everything that's happened- you should get some time to yourself here. A "relaxing country-home getaway".

(beat)

All I'm saying is the fresh air will be good for you, Penny.

PENNY

Okay, goodnight.

LIZ leaves and PENNY takes out her phone to text her mom. "How much did you tell Mrs. Harris?" The text bounces back. FAILURE TO SEND. NO SIGNAL. PENNY sighs.

She climbs in her sleeping bag on the air mattress and starts going through old photos. Friends, pets, one of Nell at a party her parents hosted. She zooms in on herself at the party, subtly analyzing how she looks.

REEEEE!

A SCREAM from outside startles her and she checks outside the window but can't see much. She puts her phone away and climbs into her sleeping back, shutting off the flashlight.

NIGHTMARE

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - DAY

PENNY wakes up to a quiet house, no footsteps, no babies babbling, no movement at all.

She checks her phone, 10 AM, and jolts out of bed.

PENNY
How could I have overslept?!

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

PENNY enters into the hallway.

PENNY
Hello?
(to herself)
Where is everyone?

Just as she turns to face the mirror, she suddenly stops. Trapped on the inside of the mirror is a pig. It HUFFS and PUFFS at her, looking straight into her eyes.

Dead in her tracks she watches it. BANG! It rams itself up against the inside of the mirror. PENNY backs herself up against the wall, unable to take her eyes off it. BANG! Another ram, harder this time, like it's trying to break out.

The pig takes one final big HUFF, staring PENNY in the eyes, and rams it one final time, BANG!, shattering the glass.

END NIGHTMARE

INT. PENNY'S ROOM

PENNY wakes up, gasping for air as she jolts up in her bed. Her phone says 7:30 AM. She catches her breath.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

PENNY wanders down the staircase towards the kitchen where she hears LIZ and DAN talking.

LIZ
Do you want some eggs for
breakfast, Miss Nell? What noise
does a chicken make?

NELL and LIZ start BOKING like chickens. It's quite cute.

DAN hammers something loudly right over LIZ'S head. BANG BANG BANG! Nell starts to get fussy.

LIZ (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Do you have to bang that loud right now?

DAN
You want lights? And a fan? We got the fridge working in no time. It'll just be a few minutes, sweetie. Sorry, Nellie Bellie.

PENNY enters the kitchen. DAN is on a ladder working on the electrical while LIZ scrambles some eggs and butters toast.

NELL, sitting in a camping chair, pets her stuffed pig.

LIZ
Morning, Penny! How'd you sleep?

PENNY
Fine. Did anyone else hear that scream last night?

A spark ZAPS and DAN winces. LIZ looks annoyed and angry.

DAN
OW! Sorry, just a slip. I'm almost done.

LIZ
So Penny. Hours. I'd love for you to wake up at 7 or 8, whenever Nell gets up, and handle her until 4ish. But I'll put her down for nap, mother's helper sort of deal. I'll be right here but that way I can get some writing done too.

The toaster begins to smoke a little.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Oh shit! Sorry. Penny, can you open that window?
(making sure DAN can hear)
This house is a mess!

PENNY rushes to the tall window and lifts it up, it takes a couple tries but eventually it sticks in the open position.

NELL
Mama! Hungry!

LIZ
It's almost ready, sweetie pie.

DAN is about to cut another wire in the fixture above LIZ.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Dan, I swear to-

ZAP! LIZ jumps.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Can you please do something else
right now!

DAN
Time is money, honey.

DAN comes down the ladder.

LIZ
Well breakfast is ready.

LIZ scoops the eggs in a bowl and stacks the toast. LIZ, DAN, and PENNY sit down at the small round table in the kitchen, the air still tense but settling. LIZ takes a deep breathe.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Bon apatite!

Suddenly, the open window SLAMS shut, the panes of glass cracking in the frame, causing the four of them to startle. PENNY rushes over to the window. Chaos once more.

PENNY
I'm so sorry! I didn't mean for it
to fall. It seemed to stick before!
I'm so sorry.

DAN goes to the window to inspect the damage and PENNY faces him, her back to the pane.

DAN
It's okay, it's an old house. I'll
add it to my list to replace.

Suddenly, DAN jumps back.

DAN (CONT'D)
Ugh!

PENNY whips around to see thick black oil seeping into the cracks of the window pane, slowly oozing between the shattered lines, blackening out the morning sun.

PENNY
What is *that*?

DAN
(unsure)
Hopefully oil, or tar, or sealer
that melted in the heat.

LIZ
Whatever it is, it'll add to your
ever-growing Halloween themed
rental.

DAN, deflated, wanders back to the table to finish his food.

PENNY looks at it and runs her finger over a drop of oily goo escaping a crack.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Penny, don't touch-

PENNY
OUCH!

PENNY slices her finger on the glass and begins to bleed.

DAN
Put pressure on it. Band-aids are in
the upstairs bathroom.

PENNY nods, wrapping a paper towel over it and exiting.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

PENNY flicks on the bathroom light to no avail. One small skylight gives a pitiful attempt at providing her light so she whips out her phone flashlight.

PENNY opens the bathroom cabinet and pulls out a bandaid. She rinses her bloody finger off in the sink and pats it dry, wrapping the bandaid tight.

She closes the cabinet and WOOSH! In the mirror, she sees a dark shadow fly past the open doorway. She startles and looks out into the hallway.

PENNY
Mrs. Harris?

No one is there. A distant voice from downstairs calls to her.

LIZ (O.S.)
Penny, do you want me to save your
food for you?

PENNY
No thanks. I'm not hungry.

PENNY stares at herself in the mirror, adjusts her clothes and heads downstairs.

EXT. THE GARDEN - DAY

PENNY holds NELL'S hand as they wander through the old garden which backs up to a wooded tree line. The garden used to be beautiful. Now, dried up plants resemble gravestones, skeletons of bushes sway in the breeze, weeds crawl over the path, and thick sad trunks show where trees used to thrive.

PENNY
Do you like the garden, Nell?

NELL
Flowers?

PENNY
No, no flowers. Not yet. Maybe we
can plant some. Would you like
that?

NELL looks at an empty pot and then bursts into a huge smile.

NELL
YEAH!

PENNY laughs.

PENNY
Do you want have a tea party?

NELL
YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!

PENNY
Good thing I brought a blanket!

PENNY reaches into her tote bag and lays out a blanket. NELL immediately lays down on it and PENNY tickles her.

DAN, chopping wood across the yard but still in view, smiles.

NELL snorts from laughing too hard so PENNY starts to snort too, making her laugh. They keep snorting until suddenly a very loud SNORT makes PENNY look up to see a giant PIG staring at them.

The PIG is between them and the house, and it's not a nice-looking pig either. Instead of baby pink with a cute wet nose, it's smelly, fat, drooling, and it's coloring is in shades of brown - some because it has rolled in shit.

It HUFFS at them and as PENNY looks closer, one eye is a different color, almost milky white with no pupil.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Nell. I want you to stand up really slowly.

They stand up really slowly and PENNY picks NELL up in her arms, PENNY'S eyes quickly glance at the tree-line behind then but she keeps her eyes locked on the PIG, noticing its sickly looking eyeball.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Good. Now we're going to walk backwards towards that tree, okay?

The pig HUFFS and SNORTS as it tracks shit onto the blanket.

PENNY backs into a tree and sets NELL down. She fusses.

NELL

No, no, no-

PENNY

Shhh. I'm going to climb that tree and then pick you up, okay? Just stay right there.

PENNY steadily climbs the tree and slowly reaches down to lift NELL up with her. As she's reaching down, the branch SNAPS, the pig charges and NELL screams.

A sudden BANG! A gunshot. PENNY screams, the pig darts away right before reaching NELL who is hanging in the air from PENNY'S arms. NELL is screaming and crying. PENNY lets her down and tries to comfort her.

DAN, runs to them with his gun pointed straight up in the air. LIZ runs from inside the house toward them as well.

DAN

(out of breath)

Are you alright?

He takes NELL into his arms.

PENNY

(in tears at this point)
There was this pig! It was charging
at us. I thought I could get us up
in the tree but the branch snapped-

LIZ

WHAT is going on out here?!

She sees DAN'S gun.

LIZ (CONT'D)

You brought a gun? Jesus, Dan, it's
2022! There's no one else out here!

DAN

Thank god I did!

LIZ takes NELL from his arms and walks her back to the house,
shushing her and holding her tight.

PENNY and DAN watch her in an awkward silence, catching their
breath.

PENNY

Thank you for scaring it off.

DAN

You can help me by mopping the
upstairs.

DAN walks toward the house leaving a shaken PENNY following
soon after.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

DAN hands PENNY a mop.

DAN

The whole floor needs it. I'll be
working on electrical.

PENNY nods and starts mopping while DAN retreats to the
bathroom at the other end of the hallway.

She watches herself in the mirror, distracted. Adjusting her
clothes and wiping some dirt off her face. She then notices a
crack in the mirror, an illusion or distortion in the glass
that makes it look like a black hole.

DAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I don't hear mopping out there!

DAN pokes his head out of the bathroom.

DAN (CONT'D)
Why are you looking in the mirror
like that?

PENNY
Like what?

DAN
What did that mirror ever do to
you?

PENNY
(defensive)
Nothing!

PENNY goes back to the mop and DAN returns to the bathroom.

PENNY (CONT'D)
I just- I had a- I thought I saw a
shadow pass by the bathroom
earlier.

DAN (O.S.)
A shadow?

PENNY
I don't know. I thought it was you
or Mrs. Harris but no one was out
here.

DAN (O.S.)
Ooo, you're really trying to sell
me on this idea for the haunted
airbnb, huh?

PENNY
Ha, ha. Very funny, Mr. Harris.
(beat)
I didn't get much sleep last night,
and then the window and- god with
Nell, I- you guys must be thinking
I'm the worst nanny every.

DAN (O.S.)
Don't be too hard on yourself.
I'm just glad you're okay. You
really scared me, kid.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

PENNY'S MOM is leaning over her hospital bed.

PENNY'S MOM
I'm just glad you're okay. You
really scared me, Penny.

END FLASHBACK

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

PENNY drops the mop, in shock from experiencing the flashback, as if it wasn't just a thought in her head but a vision forced upon her memory.

DAN (O.S.)
Everything alright?

PENNY
Yep! Just dandy.

PENNY picks up the mop but her eyes glaze up to the mirror again. Inspecting it out of curiosity, she wanders closer to the hole when suddenly she sees something move quickly from inside. She jumps back.

She turns to look at the bathroom, DAN'S still inside working, so she slowly feels the glass over the hole but it's not chipped. It must be from behind. She moves to look behind the mirror. There's a small space between the mirror and the wall where she sticks her arm in, feeling for a hole. Nothing. It's smooth.

She pulls her arm out and-

PENNY (CONT'D)
Jesus, Mr. Harris!

DAN is standing right behind her in the mirror.

DAN
Ha! You sound like, Liz.
Dinner's ready.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

The four of them sit at the dinner table chewing on another easy to cook meal, mac and cheese. Awkward tense silence.

DAN
I'm almost finished with the
electrical in the bathroom.

DAN looks to LIZ as if waiting for her to say something.

LIZ
(short)
That's nice.

DAN
So Penny, what were you and Nellie
playing in the garden before the
pig-

LIZ slams her fork down and leaves the room, visibly upset.

PENNY
(whispers)
Is she okay?

DAN
I'll be right back.

PENNY watches him follow LIZ into the hallway and scoots into
LIZ'S chair, helping Nell take some bites of mac and cheese.

DAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

LIZ (O.S.)
I can't believe you brought a gun
and didn't tell me.

DAN (O.S.)
I didn't intend to use it. It was
just for emergencies!

LIZ (O.S.)
With a 3-year-old and someone
else's kid we are looking after?!
(beat)
I'm trying to do what's best for
everyone here but it's too much
right now.

DAN (O.S.)
You're overwhelmed.

LIZ (O.S.)
This house is so much bigger and it
just seems like every project you
complete, two more things get added
to the list.

DAN (O.S.)

I know.

LIZ (O.S.)

I just- we don't have the time
because we don't have the money,
Dan.

DAN (O.S.)

I know.

LIZ (O.S.)

Why did we think this was a good
idea?

PENNY hears them pull in for a hug and LIZ quietly cries.

DAN (O.S.)

Let's make a game plan later.
Together. Okay? I'm so sorry for
causing you so much stress. I'm
sorry I didn't tell you about the
gun. It's going to be okay.

PENNY hears LIZ snuffle and turn, she walks back in the room.
PENNY quickly scoots back to her seat. LIZ sits down and
eats, tension seeping in the air.

LIZ

(sniffles)

Pass the broccoli, please.

PENNY reaches quickly for the broccoli and spills it on the
table. LIZ scoops it up quickly.

PENNY

I'm sorry!

DAN

It's fine.

DAN scoops some more mac and cheese onto his plate. PENNY
looks at the bowl and then at LIZ who suddenly is looking
directly into PENNY'S eyes.

LIZ has one eye that's milky white with no pupil.

LIZ

Dave is a pig.

PENNY startles, fearful of this vision of LIZ.

PENNY

What?!

PENNY snaps out of it and LIZ has normal eyes again.

LIZ
I said Dave, can you please save
some of that for Penny?
(beat)
Are you okay, you seem a little
pale?

PENNY
I'm fine. I'm not that hungry. May
I please be excused?

Suddenly DAN is looking directly at PENNY, one milky eye with
no pupil.

DAN
(forceful)
Your mother says you must eat.

LIZ, with a milky white eye no pupil, interjects harshly.

LIZ
(cruel)
What are you going to do, starve
yourself again?

PENNY screams and jumps back, falling out of her chair, and
hitting her head on the floor.

DAN and LIZ have normal eyes again, looking concerned as they
lean over her, DAN helping her up.

DAN
Penny! Are you okay?

PENNY
Sorry, I- I don't know what just
happened. I don't feel well. May I
be excused?

LIZ
Yes, yes. I'll do story time
tonight.

PENNY
Thank you.

PENNY rushes out the door and upstairs.

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

PENNY closes the door and crouches with her back to it. She's hyperventilating and crying. She grabs a pillow to muffle the sound.

She takes a few deep breaths.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

PENNY'S MOM is sitting on the bed, looking at her with a warm and welcoming smile.

PENNY'S MOM

Remember what the nurse said, 5, 4,
3, 2, 1. 5 things you can see, 4
things you can touch, 3 things you
can hear, 2 things you can smell, 1
thing you can taste.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

PENNY searches around the room with her eyes.

PENNY

Bed, sleeping bag, flashlight,
window, wall.

PENNY begins touching objects when she sees:

A FLASH FROM DINNER OF LIZ WITH ONE WHITE EYE

A SECOND FLASH OF DAN WITH ONE WHITE EYE

She shakes her head, catching her breath and slowing it.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I'm not going crazy.

(beat)

Okay, floor, doorknob, pillow,
shirt.

She begins to slow down, closing her eyes to listen.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Creaks. Wind. Breathing.

She takes one deep breath sniffing the room.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Must, rot.

(she tastes her tongue)

Mac and cheese.

PENNY takes a deep breath, calm now, exhausted from everything that just happened.

She pulls out her phone. BATTERY LOW. A black screen. She tosses it on the floor next to her.

She hears a SCREAM from outside and rushes to the window to see what it is.

She looks around the dark yard and a small round object stares up at her from the tree line.

The PIG screams again, making her flinch, but she holds her ground.

PENNY (CONT'D)

So it's you keeping me up at night.

The PIG turns and retreats into the woods.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

PENNY carries NELL into the kitchen, taking on her nanny duties with a fresh step forward. LIZ is sitting at the kitchen table sipping coffee. NELL runs and hugs her mom's leg.

PENNY

Morning.

LIZ

Good morning, Penny. How are you feeling today?

PENNY

Uhh, better. Thanks.

PENNY opens the fridge to grab some milk for cereal.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Ugh! Do you smell something funky?

LIZ sets NELL in her chair, taking a whiff as she heads for the fridge.

LIZ
What's wrong?

PENNY
The fridge is... warm.

LIZ
God dammit, Dan! The light is off
too. How much spoiled?

PENNY pours the milk in a cup and its lumpy. She pulls out
mac and cheese covered with bugs, and a moldy vegetable.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Are you kidding me?! How is that
even possible?! It must have gone
out last night right after dinner.

PENNY
Where's Mr. Harris?

LIZ
He went to get a new window pane
from town. He'll be back in a
couple hours. This is perfect.

LIZ stops at the door frame and turns around.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Oh and Penny?

PENNY
Yes?

LIZ
Please stay *inside* today.

PENNY
Yes, ma'am.

LIZ leaves the room in a tizzy. PENNY grabs some Cherrios
from the counter, spreads them out on the table, and her and
NELL munch. After a moment...

PENNY (CONT'D)
Nell, do you want to play dress up?

NELL, shoving Cheerios in her face, stops and smiles.

INT. ATTIC - DAY

A large skylight spreads light around the normally dark and cramped room. Furniture covered with sheets line the walls and boxes are scattered everywhere, labeled "MUSEUM".

PENNY pulls the sheet off a large wardrobe.

PENNY

I bet there's some cool stuff in here!

NELL waddles up to a standing mirror and pulls at the sheet.

NELL

Penny help.

PENNY suddenly gets a FLASH of a memory.

INT. PENNY'S ROOM AT HOME - NIGHT

PENNY desperately covers all her mirrors with sheets.

BACK TO:

INT. ATTIC- DAY

PENNY pulls off the sheet and NELL makes faces in the mirror.

PENNY

You're pretty silly, you know that?

PENNY takes out a couple of jackets from the wardrobe. She reaches up high and pull down a top hat. She dusts it off and puts it on NELL'S head, it swallows her, covering her eyes.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Oh! Where did Nell go? I wonder where she went. Hmmm.

NELL, giggling, excitedly pushes off the hat and erupts with laughter. PENNY matches her as any good babysitter would.

NELL pushes the hat to PENNY, motioning for her to put it on. PENNY takes the hat and puts it on so that it covers her eyes. Then she takes it off quickly. A rousing game of-

PENNY (CONT'D)

Peekaboo!

NELL cackles. When PENNY puts the hat back on again, NELL crawls away toward a drawer at the bottom of the wardrobe.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Peekab- Nell! Where are you going?
Do you want some help?

PENNY helps NELL open the drawer and tries to pull at tissue paper. PENNY helps her and lifts out a beautiful black gown, embroidered with black flowers and beads.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Woah! Look at that, Nellie! What a pretty dress.

NELL pushes it toward PENNY to put it on.

PENNY (CONT'D)
You want *me* to put it on? Okay.

PENNY steps into it and puts her arms through the hole but it's small. It won't fit all the way.

NELL tries to pull it up her arm.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Let's not hurt the dress. Thank you for your help. It just doesn't fit, that's all.

NELL
Small.

PENNY becomes sad, a gut punch to her image.

PENNY
Yes, it's too small.

FLASHBACK

INT. BOARDING SCHOOL HALLWAY- DAY

PENNY walks down the hallway, first day of school banners hang and students are scrambling. With a schedule in her hands and a school binder hiding her stomach, she looks lost. She feels small, but not in the physical sense.

PENNY walks past a POPULAR GIRL wearing a cool jacket.

PENNY
Hi. I'm sorry but do you know where Room A22 is?

POPULAR GIRL
It's on the other side of the
building.

PENNY
Yikes. Sorry. Thank you! Um, I
really like your jacket.

POPULAR GIRL looks disgusted that PENNY would talk to her for
this long.

POPULAR GIRL
Thanks, but I don't think they make
your size.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. ATTIC - DAY

PENNY strips the dress off quickly and sits on the floor,
looking in the mirror, pulling her shirt away from her
stomach when NELL puts the top hat over her eyes.

PENNY
Hey! You silly goober! What was
that for?

She's laughing and begins to pull off the top hat when
suddenly she sees a woman with one white eye, no pupil,
wearing the dress behind her in the mirror.

She SCREAMS and whips around to see the woman vanish, the
dress sinking to the floor as if someone had just stepped out
of it.

NELL cries loudly in reaction to PENNY'S scream.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Oh, Nellie, I'm so sorry! Shh, shh,
it's okay.

LIZ hears the commotion and runs up the stairs.

LIZ
What happened now?!

PENNY
Uh- a- rat! I think there's a rat
and it just startled us. I'm so
sorry.

LIZ

Nellie come with me, sweetie. Let's
go get ready for nap time.

NELL gladly climbs into LIZ'S arms leaving PENNY defeated.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

PENNY'S stirring a can of plain chicken broth, barely
touching it.

LIZ comes down the stairs and PENNY sits up straight.

LIZ

Come out to the porch with me,
Penny.

LIZ leaves without even entering the kitchen. PENNY
hesitantly follows.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

PENNY sits like a kid who got called to the principal's
office.

LIZ

(struggling to get it out)
I am... really... worried about
you.

PENNY

Mrs. Harris, I'm fine. It was only
a rat. I can take care of myself.

LIZ

I noticed your not eating much of
anything.

PENNY

Are you monitoring how much I eat
now?

LIZ

It's important.

PENNY

I didn't come here to get more
therapy. I came because you offered
me a job.

LIZ

It's not that simple, Penny.

PENNY

Why not?

LIZ

Your mom and I organized it. But she told me you were well, she said you were getting better.

PENNY

I am better.

LIZ

Then why aren't you eating? Why do the only screams I hear in this household come from you?

PENNY

Nell screams sometimes.

LIZ

She's a baby!

PENNY

Then why did you take me?

LIZ

You're good with Nell. You seemed capable.

PENNY

Oh if I'm so capable why do you insist on taking her for nap times or whenever I make a mistake. It doesn't seem like you trust me. I thought I was your nanny.

LIZ

You're a mother's helper. A glorified babysitter! You can't be a nanny when Dan and I are both here all the time. You're 15, I wouldn't expect you to be a full on nanny.

PENNY

Then why did you tease me with those responsibilities. You called me your "little nanny". I am trying to prove myself to you. I am trying to take care of Nell.

LIZ

But your not taking care of yourself! And it's my job-

PENNY

It's not your job to take care of me.

LIZ

You can't live on your own. It is my job. Your mom told me what to watch for, in your eating...

LIZ turns her face away from PENNY so its out of sight.

PENNY suddenly experiences memories.

QUICK FLASHES

1) INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

PENNY is sitting in a circle of other patients in hospital gowns. A GROUP LEADER turns to her.

GROUP LEADER

Penny, would you like to share what you're feeling?

The POPULAR GIRL is sitting across from her, staring at PENNY with one milky white eye. She jumps back.

2) INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

PENNY sits in a chair, averting her eyes from her THERAPIST whose one milky white eye is staring her down.

THERAPIST

How has covering your mirrors been working?

3) INT. PENNY'S ROOM AT HOME - NIGHT

PENNY is screaming as she shatters her mirror. Her forearms bloody, her hands holding shards of glass, the sheet collecting her blood on the floor.

END OF QUICK FLASHES

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Tears begin streaming uncontrollably down PENNY'S face. LIZ'S face is still turned away.

LIZ
And the nightmares, she said you
scream at night, in your sleep.
It's been keeping us up.

PENNY
I haven't.

LIZ
You have.

PENNY
No, it's the pig-

LIZ
(angry)
What pig, Penny?

PENNY'S brows furrow.

PENNY
The one that attacked me and Nell
yesterday?

LIZ turns sharply, one eye white with no pupil, snatching and
twisting PENNY'S wrist. She winces.

LIZ
(quick)
Dan's not here to protect you now
you selfish mess! Stupid girl. They
hate you. They wish you were gone.
You don't *fit* here. You can't do
anything right. You're worthless.

PENNY
STOP IT!

PENNY SCREAMS and with more force than she knew, pushes LIZ
away, sending her tumbling backwards into the porch railing.

LIZ, now with normal eyes, stumble up with a gushing bloody
nose.

LIZ
PENNY! What the FUCK? This is what
I'm talking about. You're *not* well.
How can you expect me to trust you
with Nell?

PENNY steps back and gasps, realizing what she did to LIZ.

PENNY
I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to-

LIZ
If I had service, I'd call your mom
right now to pick you up.

A more tears run down PENNY'S face.

PENNY
No, but I want to help-

LIZ
You are not well, Penny. You have
to accept that in order to move
forward.

Pinching her bloody nose, LIZ stomps inside. PENNY is
horrified at what she did.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

LIZ stiffly sits at the foldable table, begrudgingly eating
another ramen and a granola bar. PENNY munches on a granola
bar, hating every bite. They hear DAN come in the front door.

DAN (O.S.)
Hey everyone! I'm back. I'm sorry
it took so long, the guy at the
glass shop had a mix up with the
pane but we're all good now-

DAN enters the dining room and his face immediately drops.

DAN (CONT'D)
Oh my god what happened to your
face?

PENNY
I-

LIZ
(interjects)
I don't want to talk about it right
now.

PENNY shuts up and stares down at her granola bar.

DAN
Okay. I brought applesauce!

NELL screams with delight.

NELL
Appa-saw!

He kisses her on the head. He tries to kiss LIZ on the head but she grunts, almost growls. He retreats glossing it over.

DAN

Did you three get some girl-time in today while I was gone?

LIZ suppresses her anger. PENNY takes a big bite to fill her mouth.

DAN (CONT'D)

I see. Quiet day.

The silence is tense, awkward, and fills the room like noxious gas.

PENNY

I might go to bed early tonight. If that's okay.

LIZ

Goodnight.

DAN

Sure thing, kiddo. You still feeling under the weather? I still have some wiring to do but I hooked up the hot water this morning if you wanted to take a bath.

PENNY

Thanks, Mr. Harris. Maybe I will. Night.

PENNY leaves.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

PENNY brings her flashlight into the bathroom and lights a few candles she finds under the cabinet. She fills the tub, throwing some soap in. The bubbles start piling up.

She's about to step in but first pokes her head outside and looks at the mirror, all is still, she closes the door and takes a breath.

The candlelight is relaxing. She gets in the tub, humming.

She closes her eyes and the water under the bubbles darkens. The bubbles slowly POP one at a time, picking up the rhythm until PENNY notices something is happening.

Bubbles start POPPING faster and faster, the water darkening. She watches them POP until there is almost no protection between her and her skin. She becomes more visibly uncomfortable with that thought.

Then one bubble remains, she holds her breath, waiting for the pop. Waiting... Waiting...

POP!

Nothing. Nothing changes.

Until a hand covered in black oil shoots up out of the water!

AHHHH!

PENNY SCREAMS, scrambling out of the tub, knocking over a candle which lights a towel on fire.

Water is splashing everywhere and wrapped in her towel, PENNY reaches for the light switch, sparks ZAP and she SCREAMS.

AHHH!

LIZ bursts open the door, sees the fire, and throws the flaming towel in the murky tub. It extinguishes.

PENNY looks helplessly at LIZ who is fuming.

The wall above the towel rack is newly covered in black ash, restoring DAN'S patch work to the original horrid condition - only worse.

LIZ

That's it. We're going into town to
call your mom tomorrow.

LIZ leaves, PENNY staring at the tub of soapy clear water. PENNY cries and runs into her room, slamming the door.

INT. PENNY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

PENNY crawls into bed, the PIG SCREAMS outside her window.

She desperately covers her head with her pillow.

NIGHTMARE SEQUENCE

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

PENNY wakes up in her hospital bed and looks around. No one is there. She sits up to see the PIG in the doorway.

PENNY
I'm dreaming.

VOICE (O.S.)
And I'm hungry.

PENNY sees QUICK FLASHES of:

- 1) The POPULAR GIRL staring at her with one white eye.
- 2) The GROUP LEADER doing the same
- 3) Her THERAPIST again doing the same
- 4) The PIG ramming the mirror in the hallway. BANG! BANG!
- 5) The mouse hole in the mirror oozing black oil

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm getting hungrier.

- 6) PENNY sees a shadow flash by in the reflection of the bathroom mirror
- 7) The black dress drops in the attic
- 8) LIZ, DAN, and NELL, each with one milky white eye, stare at PENNY from the dinner table with evil expressions.

BACK TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Aren't you tired, Penny? Aren't you
tired of being in pain? Don't you
want to get better?

Tears stream down PENNY'S face. She's terrified. The lights are flickering and pulsing, monitors are beeping wildly.

MORE FLASHES

- 9) DAN polishes his gun
- 10) LIZ screams "YOU'RE WORTHLESS" at PENNY

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

PENNY finds herself in her hospital gown, standing in front of the mirror, the PIG HUFFING on the other side. She lets out the most agonizing scream. The whole house slows, a sound wave coming from PENNY ripples through everything in it's path. Walls shake, the mirror cracks and shatters, leaving PENNY wounded, bloodied, and slumped on the floor.

END NIGHTMARE SEQUENCE

FADE IN:

INT. LIZ AND DAN'S ROOM - MORNING

The sun shines in the windows as LIZ and DAN wake up. NELL pitter patters through the door and pokes her head under the covers.

DAN
Is that my little Nellie Bellie?

LIZ
How did you get here? Did Penny
help you get dressed?

DAN lifts her into their bed when suddenly they notice a small amount of blood on the sheets.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Let me see her foot.

DAN lifts her up and LIZ inspects her foot, there's blood but no cut.

LIZ (CONT'D)
It's not hers.

They leap out of bed and rush into the hallway. The mirror is in check, everything seems normal, until they see the door to PENNY'S room is cracked open.

DAN
Penny?

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - MORNING

Stepping into PENNY'S room, they see an empty bed, stained with a big puddle of blood.

LIZ
(slowly, processing)
Jesus, Dan.

The walls are covered floor to ceiling in black writing. Scratchy pen marks appear carved into the wall. Phrases cluster and repeat, swirling and crisscrossing, etched in.

NO MORE PAIN. NO MORE BULLIES. NO WAY OUT. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. WORTHLESS. I'M WORTHLESS. 5, 4, IT DOESN'T WORK. I'M A FAILURE. NO MORE PAIN HERE. NO MORE PAIN AT ALL!

LIZ and DAN look around the room in shock and horror.

They follow a trail of blood on the floor, rushing back into the hallway and downstairs. They follow it out the front door-

EXT. PORCH - MORNING

There, in a bloody mess on the porch, is the PIG, slain. Throat cut so deep it's still pulsating.

DAN picks NELL up, holding her tighter and turns around to see PENNY standing in the entry hallway, holding a dripping axe, painted red.

PENNY has one white eye with no pupil.

She staggers towards them slowly, the family trembling, NELL'S head tucked into her dad's shoulder.

PENNY gets right next to them and drops the axe head down, BANG! It SLUMPS to the floor, making them jump a second time.

She places NELL'S stuffed pig, covered in blood in her arms and walks past them.

PENNY looks at them and smiles, a crooked but satisfied smile.

Her white eye with no pupil makes them gasp. She smiles.

PENNY
No more pain. No more failures.

She turns and walks away, eventually disappearing into the tree line.

The HARRIS'S stand there in shock.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - MORNING

DOLLY IN on the mouse hole in the mirror.

Suddenly, the black hole is vacated by a whiteish eyeball with no pupil. It blinks.

THE END