

YELLOWJACKETS

Episode 207

"Burial"

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**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - INTAKE AREA - DAY 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Loaded silence in the intake room. NATALIE and LOTTIE watch as --

In a reversal of what we saw in 206, MISTY passes the SHALLOW BRASS BOWL for SHAUNA, TAISSA, and VAN to unload their personal items into. They warily drop in the contents of their purses and pockets (KEYS, CHAPSTICK, a crumpled TRAVEL PACK OF ADVIL, a cheap PEN, etc.).

It's only been a few minutes since Shauna, Tai, and Van arrived, and Natalie is amazed and moved by their presence; she really wants to understand it.

Meanwhile Lottie hangs back, quiet and nervous; she believes that she already knows what force is drawing them together, and it scares her.

NATALIE  
(fascinated; earnest)  
Why are you all here?

Shauna, Taissa, and Van trade looks.

VAN  
(a playful challenge)  
Tai?

TAISSA  
Well... Misty called me.

VAN  
(re: Tai)  
And she needed a ride, so...

Van shrugs: *so that's why I'm here too*. Misty beams proudly, having set all this in motion with her calls. Natalie forces a patient smile.

NATALIE  
Right...  
(to Tai, Van, and Shauna)  
Are you in crisis? Do you feel like  
maybe something... brought you  
here?

The true answer, of course, is yes, but... to Taissa, Van, and Shauna, the image of Natalie and Misty in purple, flanking Lottie fucking Matthews, makes them less than eager to come clean.

TAISSA

(to Natalie and Misty)

I'm sorry, have you two *joined* a *cult* since we last saw you?

LOTTIE

It's an intentional community.

VAN

And what is the *intention*, exactly?

NATALIE

To help people access their own truth.

Shauna and Taissa share a look -- *since when is Natalie interested in 'accessing truth'?* Shauna gestures to Nat's PURPLE CLOTHES.

SHAUNA

So this is what your "truth" looks like? A Sherwin Williams color sample?

NATALIE

(pointed)

What brings you here, Shauna?

SHAUNA

I just... needed a break.

NATALIE

From?

SHAUNA

(evasive)

You know, a mother just needs to get away sometimes.

(nervous laugh)

No crisis, that's for sure.

Another awkward silence. Frustrated by their collective caginess, Natalie decides to try a different tack.

NATALIE

Fine. Since obviously no one is ready to be honest about why you're really here, I'll go first. About a week ago, I had my rifle in my mouth and was about to pull the trigger. That's when Lottie found me.

SHAUNA/VAN/TAISSA  
*What?/Christ.../Natalie, my god.*

Misty squeezes Natalie's arm -- proud to have already known this.

MISTY  
 Suicide is never the answer...

NATALIE  
 I'd put up a lot of walls. They're finally starting to come down -- thanks to this place. It isn't easy, but now I understand it's what I need.  
 (to Tai, Van, and Shauna)  
 I'm pretty sure you need it, too. We brought some bad shit back with us from that place. Maybe it's time we actually deal with it.

*Off the newcomers -- who is this person and what has she done with Natalie Scatorccio? And what does she want from them?*

#### **MAIN TITLES**

#### **INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - DAY 1 (1997)**

We open CLOSE ON the ALTAR that Travis created out of the horse skull in 206 -- only now it is a crowded mess of "offerings": various LOCKS OF HAIR, SMALL SCRAPS OF FABRIC, A PENCIL, AN ORIGAMI CRANE, DRIED DROPS OF BLOOD.

It's been a couple days since 206, and the Yellowjackets are deep in a collective depression. Most of them (including MISTY) are lying on their beds, although it's daytime --

At least, it's *probably* daytime. The windows are completely blocked by DRIFTS OF SNOW, so the lighting effect feels strange and in-between, the air smoky and stale.

SHAUNA is still curled up on her birthing bed, the blood-stained blanket pulled up to her neck. Her eyes are open but unfocused. TAISSA kneels in front of her, proffering a cup of water.

TAISSA  
 You need to drink some water,  
 Shauna.

Shauna doesn't move. Taissa tries to put the cup to Shauna's lips --

TAISSA (CONT'D)

Come on, just a little bit...

But Shauna pulls her face away, then turns over so her back is now to Tai. In Shauna's movements we can sense that, under the blanket, *she is cradling something in her arms...*

Taissa locks eyes with LOTTIE, who stands nearby. They both know that Shauna is holding onto the body of her dead infant-- and they are concerned.

After a moment, Lottie *gets a feeling*, and looks toward the door.

TAISSA (CONT'D)

What is it?

LOTTIE

The snow... *I think it finally stopped.*

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - ENCLOSED PORCH - DAY 1 (1997)**

Moments later: Lottie, AKILAH, TRAVIS, MARI, and VAN collectively PULL at the outside door, trying to force it open against the weight of the massive snow drift.

They struggle and grunt... it seems impossible... but finally the door begins to budge...

TRAVIS

It's moving--! Don't let up...

The door moves an inch... then a few more... then finally enough for Mari and Van to start digging into the exposed snow with their hands. As they continue their efforts --

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - AT THAT MOMENT - DAY 1 (1997)**

-- we FIND Tai, who watches them work as she keeps her vigil next to Shauna.

TAISSA

This will be good for you. They'll clear the door and you can maybe take a walk and... get some air.

Taissa's meaning is clear: she hopes that opening up the cabin will mean that Shauna can finally lay her baby to rest.

TAISSA (CONT'D)

(gently)

I can come with you if you want...

Tai reaches out and touches Shauna's arm, but Shauna FLINCHES at her touch -- and Tai draws back. Unsure how to help.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - HUNTING CABIN - DAY 1 (1997)**

Later, most of the girls are outside working to dig out the cabin with MAKESHIFT SHOVELS. Though they're still feeling the loss of the baby, it feels good to be out in the fresh air. They can channel their grief into their labor.

Natalie works at digging out one of the windows. As she finally wipes the glass clean, satisfied, she looks inside --

Where Travis and Lottie, having taken a break from digging, are seated close together. Lottie is carefully changing the dressing on Travis' HAND WOUND (from 206). Once she's done, she keeps on holding his hand, and closes her eyes. Observing this, he does the same. They silently cling to one another.

Watching this intimate and spiritual moment, Natalie feels a wave of alienation and heartbreak and rage. As she finally turns away, WE LINGER on the window --

And see that Shauna's birthing bed is now EMPTY.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY 1 (1997)**

Shauna, cradling a small BUNDLE wrapped in a FUR PELT, trudges through the snow.

Finding a spot beneath the trees where the snow is less deep, she gently lays the bundle down.

We then see her gathering dozens of ROCKS of various sizes.

She surrounds the bundle with some of them. Then, her chin trembling, she starts to carefully pile the rest of the rocks on top of the bundle, making a little BURIAL CAIRN.

She works intensely, almost in a daze. She's barely processed her terrible loss, and is still unsure what *really* happened. Her friends *told* her that the child was stillborn, but... what about everything she experienced? What about their *bond*? Her heart simply cannot accept that it was all just a dream.

She struggles to contain her emotions as she whispers --

SHAUNA

You and me. You and me against the  
whole w--

NATALIE (O.S.)

Shauna?

Shauna looks up, to see Natalie approaching. Natalie, like everyone else, is not sure what to say to Shauna.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Can -- I help you, or--?

Shauna doesn't respond.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, Shauna. All of us are  
just so sorry--

As Shauna stares, we FLASH TO -- *The Yellowjackets, hunched in a sinister circle by the fireplace, turn toward Shauna with their faces slick with blood. Natalie, seemingly sorry, wipes her blood-stained mouth (Ep. 106).* BACK TO --

Shauna's eyes are full of hate as she steps between Natalie and the cairn, as though Natalie has designs on raiding it.

SHAUNA

Stay the fuck away from me.  
(re: the cairn)  
From *him*...

NATALIE

(raising her hands)  
Look, I didn't mean to--

With the ROCK that's in her hand, Shauna WINDS UP, threatening to throw it at Natalie.

SHAUNA

GET AWAY! I MEAN IT!

NATALIE

(backing away, confused)  
Okay, okay! I'm going...

We stay with Natalie as she turns and trudges away, now feeling totally alone.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - HUNTING CABIN - DAY 1 (1997)**

Van and Taissa are digging snow outside the bedroom door. Van catches Tai swiping away a tear. Van reaches out to her --

VAN

Hey...

TAISSA

I'm fine, I just--

Tai smiles self-consciously, embarrassed by her emotions.

TAISSA (CONT'D)

I really thought that he would make it. And, like Lottie said, that he would... change things for us. Somehow. Like, I thought that, if we wanted it enough, the Wilderness might--

(again, dismissing herself)

I dunno.

VAN

We all were hoping for it, Tai. Though... I think we kinda knew it was impossible.

(sadly matter-of-fact)

Even if the baby made it for a while, it wouldn't change the fact that his mother's fucking starving. That we all are.

(beat)

I guess it's time we all woke up.

Tai is taken aback by Van's attitude. Van clocks this.

VAN (CONT'D)

What?

TAISSA

It's just... this doesn't sound like you.

VAN

(scoffing sadly)

The indestructible believer, right?

Tai shrugs. *Yeah, kinda...*

VAN (CONT'D)

I know. I kept surviving all this shit that should've killed me, and I figured it -- *meant* something. Like, that I maybe had some greater purpose in all this, but...

(a painful admission)

(MORE)

VAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'm just not fucking seeing it, Tai.

TAISSA

*You have a purpose, Van. Come on -- you're our goalie. You're steady, and hilarious, and beautiful, and you keep life from scoring on us, you know? You've helped me see, and hear, and -- and sleep... and I would be dead without you. I need you, Van.*

VAN

(earnest; loving)

And *I need you, too*. But... I also need something that feels bigger than the two of us. I need to know why the fuck I'm still here.

Tai understands Van's deeper need, and wishes she could help. Off our sad, soul-searching lovers --

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM/PAUL'S NYC APARTMENT - DAY 1 (1997)**

-- we FIND BEN SCOTT, peering out the partly snow-occluded window at Van and Tai as they clear snow from the campfire. He is moved by how much they clearly care for one another...

Suddenly a PHONE RINGS... As Ben turns toward the sound of it, he finds himself back in Paul's New York apartment -- only now the space is only about 20% distinguishable from the cabin.

BEN

Paul? Where are you...?

Suddenly Paul rushes in from the back room.

BEN (CONT'D)

There you--

Paul crosses to the hearth, his movements almost frantic as he answers the ringing PHONE there. Ben's sense of unease growing by the second as he watches Paul listening intently to whoever (or whatever) is on the other end of the line.

PAUL

But... he isn't ready. Please--

Paul looks up as the line goes dead. Slowly, he returns the receiver to its cradle.

BEN  
Are you alright?

PAUL  
We need to talk. Sit down, Ben.

BEN  
No.

The absurdity of his defiance not lost on either of them.  
Trying to force a smile (but betrayed by his glassy eyes):

PAUL  
Why do people always say that  
anyway?

BEN  
Who was on the phone?

PAUL  
Well, I'm going to sit.

BEN  
Paul, what the fuck is going on?

Paul puts his head in hands...

BEN (CONT'D)  
You're scaring me.

PAUL  
I'm scared too.

BEN  
I don't understand!

PAUL  
I know...

Paul stands back up, from a nearby chair he grabs the  
familiar FLANNEL JACKET (Ep. 207 etc).

PAUL (CONT'D)  
I have to go. I'm sorry... But you  
had to have known you couldn't stay  
here forever. This wasn't meant to  
be your hiding place--  
(then)  
It doesn't matter... What matters  
is that you aren't welcome here  
anymore. I love you... But it's  
over, Ben.

He turns and starts for the door. Ben grabs his shoulder, turning him back around.

BEN

Paul, wait-- please! What did I do?

PAUL

You didn't do anything. It's just time. You didn't... it's just time. I love you. We all love you, Ben?

Ben can't know the significance of those words ("We all love you, Jackie"), but the way he reacts, it's as though, somehow, in this place, he can sense the connection...

Then, as Paul disappears out the door--

BEN SCOTT

Paul, wait -- *Paul* --

Ben follows him out --

**EXT. WILDERNESS - HUNTING CABIN - DAY 1 (1997)**

-- Only to find himself on the FRONT PORCH.

BEN SCOTT

PAUL!

But Paul is nowhere to be seen. There's only Tai and Van, still clearing snow. They trade a look.

TAISSA

Coach Scott? Are you okay?

BEN SCOTT

(shaken)

I'm--

Ben blinks, as his gaze settles on the girls --

BEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

Yeah. I'm fine.

A new emotional resolve seems to come over him.

BEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

I'll be just fine.

OFF Ben, as he tries to wrap his mind around losing the only shred of comfort he had left. We wonder -- will he take Paul's words to heart? Will he become more *present* now?

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - JUICE BAR - DAY 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

We return to the adult women, who have moved to the JUICE BAR, as Lottie picks up a SMALL WOODEN MENU, on which a list of WORDS has been burnt in: Self/Care; Guidance; Forage; Renewal.

Though Lottie is still nervous, she, like Natalie, feels she needs to understand more about what's going on with the other women.

LOTTIE

When someone new comes in, a way we often start is to let them choose a therapy -- without description. Just, whatever speaks to them the most.

Awkward silence.

VAN

No disrespect, but this... is not for me.

Van stands up to go.

NATALIE

I said the same thing.

Natalie shrugs, gestures to her purple clothes.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Just give it a chance.

VAN

(to Natalie)

Look, I'm really glad that you're alive. And, Lottie, that you're not in... *Switzerland* anymore --

LOTTIE

It's been over a decade.

VAN

Wow, that's-- good for you! But... I'm gonna--

TAISSA

--I'll take "Renewal."

Tai gives Van a challenging look. Lottie smiles a little.

LOTTIE  
(re: menu)  
Shauna? What is calling out to you?

SHAUNA  
Oh, just all my rational instincts  
are kinda screaming, but...  
(re: menu)  
Of *these*, I'd say, "Self/Care"?

MISTY  
I'd love to do "Forage"--

LOTTIE  
And Van?

Van can't turn down a chance to irritate Misty.

VAN  
Fine. I'll take "Forage."

LOTTIE  
That leaves Misty with my favorite  
therapy. "Guidance." Now...  
(Gently calling)  
Todd--

As Lottie turns back to the women, ACOLYTE ROB and THREE  
OTHER ACOLYTES -- one of whom is ACOLYTE TODD (30s, pale,  
tall, humorless) -- enter...

LOTTIE (CONT'D)  
...We're going to move outside and  
get you started but, before we go --

Lottie points to a LOCAL PHONE NUMBER stenciled on the wall.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)  
Just text the landline number to  
whomever you think might need it.  
(explaining)  
You'll be giving up your phones.

TAISSA  
You're kidding, right?

MISTY  
(parroting the acolytes)  
Our devices leave us captive to  
other people's priorities.

Shauna, Van and Tai exchange another look -- skeptical, but  
curious.

SHAUNA  
That's... I can't really argue with  
that, actually.

VAN  
(re: her own phone)  
I fucking hate this thing, so...

Shauna and Van start to tap the landline number into the phones. Tai sighs and does so as well...

Once they've finished, Acolyte Todd approaches Shauna... And HUGS HER. Then gestures for Shauna to follow him. As he leads her out, the other women are each approached, hugged, and lead out by one of the other acolytes (Misty by Lisa, Taissa by Acolyte Rob, and Van by the remaining Acolyte).

Off Lottie watching them go, her confident facade wavering...

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - BARN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

-- the barn. Full of noisy, smelly ANIMALS.

SHAUNA  
This is "Self/Care"? I was expecting a massage. Or maybe, like, a mud bath, with some self-reflective questions to be contemplating while I--

Shauna freezes, as she sees that Acolyte Todd is now standing right in front of her, cradling a BABY GOAT in his arms. He holds the creature out to her, along with a simple LEASH MADE OUT OF ROPE.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

ACOLYTE TODD  
Take him.

SHAUNA  
I don't want to.

They begin an awkward kind of dance, where Acolyte Todd keeps trying to press the goat into Shauna's arms, but she keeps refusing to take it.

ACOLYTE TODD  
Here, just *take him* --

SHAUNA  
*No!*

When Shauna straight-up holds her arms behind her back, Acolyte Todd relents in quiet irritation.

ACOLYTE TODD

"Self/Care" means taking care of the goat for the rest of the day... and thus experiencing all the personal discoveries and sacrifices that go along with doing so.

SHAUNA

*Sacrifices?* Okay, yeah, I understand. You want for me to spend all day, like, taking care of it and getting all attached, and at the end of the day you'll make me cut its fucking throat or something -- right? Well, I decline.

ACOLYTE TODD

If you opt out of the treatment, the alternative is mucking out the barn all day. It's up to you.

Shauna looks around, disgusted. There is so much literal shit everywhere. She sighs.

SHAUNA

Ugh. Fine.

She grabs the goat from Todd. Satisfied, Todd moves off.

Shauna looks down at the goat. It's outrageously cute, but she is determined to resist its charms.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

Your eyes look like an alien's eyes, you know that? Yeah, it's creepy. You're very creepy.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - HUNTING CABIN BACK DOOR - DAY 1 (1997)**

Misty is hard at work digging out the landing from snow drifts. She still looks rather shell-shocked over the loss of the baby -- she was the lead midwife, after all; it kind of seems like, lately, everyone she touches ends up dead.

Mari, Akilah, and GEN are nearby, digging out a pathway to the OUTHOUSE (though we don't see where it leads).

Misty eavesdrops, as --

GEN

I just keep thinking, if she'd gotten to a hospital...

AKILAH

What hospital, Gen?

(a beat)

We did the best we could. And, I mean, Misty... she was amazing. There's no way I could've kept my shit together like she did at the end.

GEN

That's true. She didn't even flinch.

In a moment reminiscent of Ep. 102, Misty basks in the glow of admiration and approval. But then --

MARI

(wry)

Well, that makes sense.

Gen and Akilah look at Mari, confused.

MARI (CONT'D)

You guys, I think she's even more psychotic than we thought.

(quietly; with pleasure)

I'm pretty sure she *did something* to Crystal.

Misty's eyes go wide in sudden worry.

AKILAH

Like... what do you mean? Like, *killed her?*

GEN

Why would she kill her only friend?

MARI

Um, I dunno, because she's *Misty*? I mean, God, she tried to poison Coach Scott when she was *supposedly* in love with him. And think about it: now that the snow has stopped, wouldn't you think that she'd be out there, *looking for her friend*? That is, if Crystal really did just "get lost in the snow"...

Mari lets her insinuations land. Off Misty, freaking out, we  
CUT TO --

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - DAY 1 (1997)**

Misty has gathered the Yellowjackets inside (all are present except Shauna and Natalie) to make an announcement.

Meanwhile Ben is in one corner. He's been using a bowl, a HANDHELD MIRROR and a SAFETY RAZOR to shave his face, and is nearly finished.

As everyone settles --

MISTY

(antsy)

Thanks. Thank you for gathering.

(clears throat, then --)

I know we're very sad about the baby. It's a terrible, extremely sad and tragic thing. But we can't let it cloud our minds. Okay? Now that the snow has cleared, we need to look for Crystal. Because she still could be out there. *Alive.*

Akilah and Gen shoot Mari a look. *See? Maybe you're wrong...*

Mari sets her jaw and looks to Lottie. Many of the others are doing the same -- awaiting Lottie's take on this. But, as Lottie thinks on what to say --

BEN SCOTT

Misty's right.

Everyone turns to Ben, surprised, as he wipes his face clean. They've grown accustomed to him being... disengaged. But now he's present, and invested.

BEN SCOTT (CONT'D)

If Javi stayed alive out there for months, then... Crystal could have made it through a couple days.

The girls sneak looks at Javi, who shrinks into himself, uncomfortable with the attention.

MELISSA

(tentative)

But... what if the Wilderness, like, took her? What if It took the baby, too?

This disturbing idea lands on everyone.

GEN

Then... maybe It'll give us something back.

TAISSA

What, like... food?

AKILAH

Or, like... It made the blizzard stop.

Another beat, as they consider this.

GEN

What, *that's* the trade? Two people dead, for a... break in the snow?

MELISSA

Yeah. God, that sucks...

LOTTIE

It doesn't work that way.

They all turn to Lottie now, who speaks with passion.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

It doesn't *trade*, It doesn't *haggle*, It-- *the Wilderness is something greater than us all*. We'll never know exactly what It wants, but if we're humble and attuned, we can engage with It. And we can still have hope.

As Lottie looks around, she can sense that many of the girls are finding *hope* a little hard to muster. After all, Shauna's bloody birthing bed is still right in the middle of the room.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

We can't give up right now. The Wilderness, *It heard us*, and It gave us what we wanted. *Shauna lived*.

This idea lands on all of them -- that, though the baby was a loss, Shauna's survival was a win.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

Now... may It do the same for Crystal.

Lottie reaches for the hands of those standing next to her, and soon all those present -- even Ben -- have formed a

circle with joined hands and bowed heads. Off their silent plea to the Wilderness, we CUT TO --

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - DAY 1 (1997)**

LATER -- Lottie, Taissa, Misty, Mari, Akilah, and Van are getting bundled up, to go out searching for Crystal.

They're all surprised to see Ben, also bundled, hobbling past them toward the door.

TAISSA

Coach, hey, you don't have to--

BEN SCOTT

No, I need to help with this. For Crystal. And... for myself.

Faced with Ben's determination, Tai relents. She and Lottie watch as Ben exits.

A moment later Van approaches them, prepared to head out for the search.

VAN

Well? Shall we?

LOTTIE

Oh -- I kinda hoped you might stay back here, Van.

VAN

What? Why?

LOTTIE

Because when Shauna gets back, she shouldn't have to look at this.

Lottie gestures to the bloody bed. All the traumatic energy.

VAN

So have these other people do it.

LOTTIE

No, it should be you. You have a clarifying energy, Van. That's what this cabin needs right now.

VAN

So... I'm a *cabin cleaner*?

TAISSA  
(gently)  
It's important, Van.

Tai gives Van's arm a squeeze, then she exits with Lottie. Leaving Van feeling more purposeless than ever.

We FIND MISTY, who's about to head outside, herself. She notices Gen and Melissa peering out one of the windows at Tai and Lottie.

GEN  
(quietly, to Melissa)  
I hope they find Crystal alive, but... if they find her, and she's not, I mean... that's not the worst thing that could happen, right?

MELISSA  
You mean -- like, we could...

*Eat her?*

GEN  
I'm not saying that I *want* to, but if that's the situation, then...

MELISSA  
(nodding)  
It'd be, like, disrespectful to the Wilderness to waste it.

GEN  
Right, exactly.

A beat, as both girls ponder the prospect of a rich, delicious human meal...

GEN (CONT'D)  
(slightly hollow)  
Still, I hope that she's okay.

MELISSA  
Oh. Same. No question.

Off Misty, alarmed and disturbed by the fact the girls are thinking of eating Crystal --

**EXT. WILDERNESS - LIGHTNING STUMP - DAY 1 (1997)**

LATER we're with our search party -- Tai, Lottie, Misty, Mari, Akilah (Ben Scott having gone off on his own) -- as they reach the Lightning Stump.

LOTTIE  
(to all but Taissa)  
You guys go ahead; we're gonna take  
a minute here.

The others trudge away, leaving Tai and Lottie to clear the  
snow off of the outdoor altar...

LOTTIE (CONT'D)  
You were the one who knew where  
Javi was...

TAISSA  
I didn't *know* --

LOTTIE  
And yet *you found him*. Maybe you'll  
find Crystal, too.

TAISSA  
Yeah, I don't think so. Ever since  
I started doing all your...  
(gestures at the altar)  
...circles and whatever, I don't  
sleepwalk anymore. And that, like,  
*other me*? Who maybe knew where Javi  
was? I think she's gone.

LOTTIE  
She isn't gone. And that's a good  
thing, Tai.

Off Tai, taking this in...

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - BARN - DAY 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

We find adult Taissa engaged in "Renewal" therapy -- which  
consists of painting the exterior of one of the compound  
buildings with an absurdly tiny brush.

She spots Lottie crossing in the distance, and hurries over  
to intercept her.

TAISSA  
(breathless)  
Lottie, look -- I get that this is  
all just kind of a warm-up to  
whatever's gonna happen here, but  
can we just cut through the  
bullshit? 'Cause me painting that  
whole building with a makeup brush  
is not exactly solving all my  
problems.

LOTTIE  
(cautiously curious)  
Okay... tell me what your problems  
are.

TAISSA  
I've been sleepwalking again.  
(ashamed)  
I killed my dog, and then I crashed  
my car and put my wife into a coma.  
I need help.

Lottie takes this in.

LOTTIE  
That other you... she always had a  
deep connection to the wilderness.  
And she had wisdom in her, too.

TAISSA  
(incredulous)  
Lottie, did you hear what I just  
said? The other me, *she wants to  
hurt my family.*

LOTTIE  
She may not want to. She just  
doesn't want to be suppressed. So  
maybe, ease your grip a little.  
(sensing Tai's resistance)  
She's still a part of you, Taissa.  
She will always be a part of you.

Off Tai, considering this rather frightening prospect.

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - DAY 1 (1997)**

Van and the other remaining Yellowjackets work on cleaning up  
the cabin.

We see that, in the meantime, Shauna has returned, and now  
sits quietly, her back against the wall, her eyes unfocused.  
The others give her a wide berth.

We FIND Travis who, while sweeping, spots a tiny object on  
the floorboard. He bends and picks it up.

His father's RING -- which we last saw Travis giving to Javi  
in Ep 104. Travis is enraged to see this precious item,  
seemingly discarded. He calls out to Javi.

TRAVIS

Javi, what the fuck? Did you just fucking *drop* this?

Javi just looks at him, expressionless. All Travis' pent-up feelings toward his brother -- guilt, love, frustration -- are exploding.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you??

Javi starts heading for the door.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

I'm talking to you, freak! Now fucking answer me! I *know* that you can talk --

Javi slams the door behind him. Now the nearby girls are all staring at Travis, who tucks the ring into his pocket and returns to his cleaning in a quiet fury.

We FIND Van, who is stripping the bed. As she pulls away the bedspread, she is surprised to see -- the BABY BLANKET WITH THE SYMBOL ON IT, wadded-up and blood-soaked.

Shauna's eyes land on the blanket. As she stares at it, we FLASH TO -- *the same blanket, spread out on the floor, the ravenous Yellowjackets kneeling all around it as they devour her (unseen) baby (Ep 106)*. BACK TO --

Shauna scrambles up, snatches the blanket from Van's hands, and THROWS IT INTO THE FLAMES OF THE FIRE.

Van and the others exchange looks of concern...

As Shauna just stands there, silhouetted by the fire. Watching the blanket burn.

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - BACK BEDROOM - DAY 1 (1997)**

LATER Van (holding a BROOM) retreats from this intensity into the bedroom -- then makes a face.

VAN

Smells like rotten ballsack in this room...

Van starts sweeping, and moving the furniture around to get more access to the floor.

As she moves a HEAVY PIECE OF FURNITURE, she is surprised to find a yellowed, dusty SHEET OF PAPER underneath. This is a

page from the Wife's manuscript in 207. Intrigued, Van reads out loud:

VAN (CONT'D)

*"Though I still miss my baby desperately, I am beginning to accept a greater wisdom than my own. I think it lives here, in the wilderness. It is the wilderness... and there is comfort in the fact that none of this was ever up to me at all."*

Off Van, struck by this mysterious discovery...

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - FLOAT TANK ROOM - DAY 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

LISA leads Misty to the location of her individual therapy -- a room that contains a FLOAT TANK/SENSORY DEPRIVATION CHAMBER.

LISA

If you're not comfortable with nudity, there are a couple clean swimsuits on the shelf next to the towels. When you're ready, you just climb into the tank and pull it closed.

MISTY

So... I'll be just inside that water-coffin in the dark? All by myself? I thought this was supposed to be "Guidance"!

LISA

The most authentic guidance comes from within.

Misty calms, as she can see a new approach to take --

MISTY

Okay, sure. *My soul contains the wisdom of the ages, right?* Well, good news is: I get it. I mean, look at me --

She indicates her purple clothes.

MISTY (CONT'D)

I didn't just fall off the turnip truck. I've been here for a while,  
(MORE)

MISTY (CONT'D)

I'm all "tuned in" --  
(gestures to tank)  
-- so there's no need for *this*.

LISA

You've been here for less than 24 hours, and you haven't engaged in any actual therapies yet.

MISTY

(a beat, then --)  
Okay, fine. But can I use the bathroom first? Just so my bladder doesn't "guide" me into peeing in that thing?

Lisa sighs, and gestures for Misty to exit. Misty heads for the door...

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - VARIOUS - DAY 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Misty moves as though she's heading for the bathrooms... then hurries off in another direction.

We then see her scampering from hiding spot to hiding spot, being unnecessarily cloak-and-dagger about it all. She pauses and squints as, in the distance she spots --

Shauna, sitting with her back against a tree. Curious, Misty surreptitiously jogs over to her.

In Shauna's posture and unfocused stare, we see an echo of Young Shauna in the cabin. Deeply isolated. Peering into her own darkness and wondering, as she has for her whole life, whether there is something truly wrong with her.

MISTY

Something wrong? You followed my advice, right? No talking to the cops without a lawyer?

SHAUNA

(overlapping)  
Ugh God, Misty. Yes, *of course*. Shouldn't you be in "therapy" right now?

MISTY

Shouldn't you?

SHAUNA

I'm caring for myself, and for a goat. It's tied up over th--

She points -- to a THIN ROPE, hanging limply from a tree trunk.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

Fuck! It must have chewed through the rope...

Shauna scrambles up and starts looking around for the escaped goat.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

Fuck. *Fuck!*

Misty (happy to continue avoiding the float tank) helps her look. She pulls a house-made GRANOLA BAR from her pocket.

MISTY

Here, I've got bait.

(explaining)

I've been kind of hoarding food, in case they try and force us into calorie restriction as a way of inducing out-of-body experiences or something -- my blood sugar just can't handle that...

Misty holds the granola bar aloft and starts making unidentifiable clucking sounds to try to lure the goat into the open. As Shauna keeps searching intensely --

SHAUNA

(mostly to herself)

I don't believe this. Why do I give a single shit about finding this goat when Lottie's goons are just gonna make me fucking kill it?

Misty, noting Shauna's trepidation, jokes:

MISTY

If it helps, you can just pretend that it's your arty-farty lover. You seemed pretty quick to get stabby with *him*.

Shauna gapes at her, offended.

MISTY (CONT'D)

That's not a criticism.

SHAUNA

That was-- he *attacked* me, Misty.

MISTY  
I was joshing you!

SHAUNA  
Well, I don't want to be joshed  
about it.

Misty rolls her eyes. A beat, as they keep looking for the goat. Shauna clearly irked by Misty's comment.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)  
I'm not like you. I don't --  
(sotto)  
-- think of killing as a joke.

MISTY  
(sotto)  
Hey, news flash, I'm the only one  
who took your killing with the  
seriousness that it required. I  
fixed it for you. And you never  
show me any gratitude--

SHAUNA  
I'm grateful! Okay?? I am truly  
very grateful that your hobby is,  
like, planning out how you would be  
a perfect serial killer.

After her traumatic talk with Walter in 205, this hits Misty where she lives.

MISTY  
Why is everybody saying that to  
me??

SHAUNA  
'Cause... it's a fact?

Misty squares her shoulders.

MISTY  
Well it's not like you're so  
innocent.

SHAUNA  
(grimly)  
I know that, Misty. Don't you think  
I know that?

A long and loaded beat of stare-down, but before more can be said -- *Ma-aa-aa!* They both turn --

To see the bleating baby goat behind a nearby tree.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)  
 (relieved/annoyed)  
*Ugh*, there he is --

Shauna hurries toward it while Misty, spooked by Shauna's words, stays where she is. She impassively watches Shauna pick up the goat and hold its face in front of her own.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)  
 You little *idiot!* Where did you think that you were going, huh? Not to a MENSA meeting, that's for sure.

Though Shauna's being mean to the goat, we also see that she's developed an affection for it. As she carries it away --

SHAUNA (CONT'D)  
 If you think I'm gonna carry you around all day, then you're delusional, on top of being dumb...

Meanwhile Acolyte Todd approaches Misty from behind.

ACOLYTE TODD  
 Lisa's looking for you. You're supposed to be in the tank.

With one last glance at Shauna, Misty reluctantly follows Todd away.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY 1 (1997)**

Misty, Mari, and Akilah come into a clearing.

AKILAH  
 Crystal?!

MISTY  
 Crystal, can you hear me??

MARI  
 (more skeptical)  
 Crystal? You okay out there?

Misty SNIFFLES dramatically. Mari and Akilah pay no attention -- so Misty does a little SHUDDERING BREATH.

AKILAH  
 Are... you okay?

MISTY  
 (sniveling)  
 I thought that I was ready for this, but now I'm so afraid I'm gonna see her, just like Jackie  
 (MORE)

MISTY (CONT'D)

was. All blue, and stiff. A little song, just... frozen in her throat. I mean, after the baby, I don't think that I can handle that.

AKILAH

(genuine)

We understand. This is a lot for you. You should go back.

MARI

(with a sarcastic edge)

Yeah. Sure. You go on back, and we'll keep looking for your friend.

MISTY

That's really nice of you guys. Thanks.

Misty smiles and wipes her nose as she turns back and heads towards the cabin...

But, as soon as she is out of their sight, she hurries off in another direction, having dropped the crocodile tears.

MISTY (CONT'D)

(quiet and determined)

*I'm not gonna let them eat you.*

As we move off Misty's declaration...

**EXT. WILDERNESS - CONTINUOUS - DAY 1 (1997)**

... FIND Ben Scott as he struggles through the snow on his crutches, heading *somewhere*. It's rough going. His crutches keep punching down into the snow. He falls... but then he forces himself back up. He's on a mission.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - STREAM - DAY 1 (1997)**

FIND Natalie on the river bank, taking hold of the GILL NET's line. With no sign of fish for months, it appears she's already chalked this up to another futile effort.

But Nat tugs at the net and, against all odds, it's TAUT. Her eyes go wide, *no way*. Now laser focused, she carefully pulls the line out, bit by bit. Sure enough, there's a SMALL FISH at the end of it. It's exhilarating. Nat pulls it out and marvels, a tiny miracle.

Starving, she wastes no time. It's still squirming in her hands as she rips into it with bare teeth. It's grotesque,

strangely PRIMAL, and is proof of just how starving she is; it tastes INCREDIBLE. But our feast is cut short when she sees:

JAVI, off in the distance, walking purposefully. Once more too far from home. Goddammit.

NATALIE

Javi!

He doesn't hear. *Is he running away again?* She starts gathering her gear in frustration. Off Nat, *fucking Javi...*

**EXT. WILDERNESS - ROCKY OUTCROPPING - DAY 1 (1997)**

Nat follows Javi's tracks to a small clearing, the half-eaten fish still dangling in hand. She spots Javi crouched before a small rocky outcropping at the base of a SYMBOL TREE.

NATALIE

JAVI!

Caught, he freezes. Like she yelled with a bit more authority than either of them expected. Natalie stands there, pissed, but unsure what's even the best approach with him anymore. *Is she going to have to chase him?*

Nat huffs, swallowing some anger. She holds out her mangled fish: a begrudging peace offering.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Split this with me.

Javi's guard comes down. He approaches, accepting the meat and eating on a nearby log. Equally ravenous.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

You trying to run away? I don't blame you. I would, too. Except, I don't know. I have this weird thing about not dying.

Though he doesn't respond, he's taking it in.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Jav, you gotta stop pulling this shit, okay? It's -- I know it's easy to feel alone out here. But even if it doesn't look like it right now, we all still need each other, okay? It'll be spring soon. Everything will change. It has to...

Like she's trying to convince herself as much as anyone else. With that, Nat stands and tugs his shirt.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

C'mon. Let's go get warm.

With a slight hesitation, he joins her. As they leave, Javi glances back with eerie longing at that SYMBOL TREE...

**INT. WILDERNESS MEAT SHACK - DAY 1 (1997)**

A fragile Shauna enters the meat shack. In stark contrast to her previous visits here -- when it was full of bear meat to butcher and, of course, Jackie's body -- the shack is empty now. No food. No body. But, Shauna is still seeking something...

She sits on the floor, and stares at the spot where Jackie used to be. Desperation in her eyes.

SHAUNA

Jackie? I really need you.

(Silence.)

*Please...?*

Nothing happens. It overcomes her: grief, isolation, a cruel fog of betrayal around her loss. Shauna sobs.

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - BARN - LATE AFTERNOON 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Shauna marches her goat back up to the barn, with perhaps more concern than she'd care to admit. She approaches Acolyte Todd.

SHAUNA

This stupid goat ate a rope, can someone take a look at it?

ACOLYTE TODD

The animal is currently under your care.

SHAUNA

*What?* Come on. Well, does it look okay to you? I think it's been acting weird. But, also, I can't tell.

ACOLYTE TODD

All the insight required resides  
within the self. The kid's care is  
entwined with your own.

*Kid?* An unwittingly poor choice of words, Shauna bristles --

SHAUNA

What did you say?

ACOLYTE TODD

The kid, the baby goat. Your care--

SHAUNA

(snaps back)

This IS me caring for it. Look, it  
ate a bunch of rope, and part of me  
thinks that might even be *fine* for  
goats, but I don't *know*, because  
you people took my phone, so I'm  
just going off shit I remember from  
cartoons. And that's a huge  
problem, because it is ONE thing if  
I stab this goat later, but no  
fucking way is it dying while I'm  
supposed to be watching it. So  
SOMEONE is going to make sure this  
goat is okay. Right now.

He doesn't budge! In a reversal of their earlier scene, it's  
now Shauna who lifts the goat and attempts to dump it into  
Todd's arms, but he steps back and folds his arms behind him.  
Frustrated, Shauna spots Lottie walking by.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

Know what? *Fine*. I'll take this up  
with her.

She and the goat leave. As they go, Shauna turns back --

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

And hey, here's some of that  
insight. How about leashes not made  
out of shit the goat eats!?

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - DIRT PATH - LATE AFTERNOON 1**  
**(PRESENT DAY)**

Shauna stomps over, baby goat in tow, catching up to Lottie.

SHAUNA

I'm ending my "Self/Care," right  
here, right now, okay? 'Cause I  
(MORE)

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

don't give a shit what this *big lesson* is. I'm not gonna kill this fucking goat. *Fuck you.*

LOTTIE

(perplexed)

Shauna, you don't have to kill the goat.

SHAUNA

(scoffing)

Yeah, of course you say that but I--

Shauna stops. Her jaw's still clenched, but her walls are crumbling a bit. Wanting to believe it.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

Wait... really?

LOTTIE

(nodding)

I just find it gives a person clarity, to have to care for something innocent.

With that, the switch is flipped: Shauna wraps her arms around the goat, a big mushy HUG. Rolling tears of relief and affection. It's a bit much, but it also seems healing. Like she maybe needed to be reminded she's capable of healthy attachments.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

I think he likes you, too.

SHAUNA

No, he doesn't.

(sniffles)

Oh my god, I am *not* crying over a goat.

LOTTIE

(knowingly)

Of course you're not.

Shauna's eyes start to tear over. She laughs at herself as one rolls down her cheek.

SHAUNA

Seriously, I don't know where this is coming from...

Lottie just looks at her. Waiting.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

I guess I just always kept my daughter Callie at arm's length, you know? Out of fear. That she would die, or -- maybe that she was never even real to begin with.

Lottie takes this in. She understands that Shauna is talking about the wilderness baby. The nightmare of 206.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)

And now I try to tell myself: she's all grown up, it's safe to think of her as *mine*, and be her mom, but something in me must be broken, Lott, 'cause I can't fucking do it. I just feel so... poisonous.

Lottie takes this in.

LOTTIE

Poisonous. Or maybe... poisoned?

SHAUNA

Yeah.

LOTTIE

(slightly haunted)

I can remember what that's like.

Shauna meets Lottie's eyes. Off this moment of connection --

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - FLOAT TANK ROOM - EVENING 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

It's Misty next to the big soundproof float tank, sporting a BATH ROBE and an impatient eye roll. Lisa opens the tank door.

LISA

Please get in this time.

Misty stalls, not moving.

MISTY

What do I do if I need you to unlock it?

LISA

Nothing, because there is no lock. It's super safe. There's no catch. I promise truly no one cares that you are in the tank or here at all.

MISTY

*Ouch.* But I'm sure you're just kidding. We're actually the talk of the town around here.

LISA

Look, no one is required to do the full hour. Like, literally, once you're in there, I can leave. And you can stop whenever you're done. Just try something new.

Misty sighs. PRE-LAP the sound of the tank door CLOSING...

**INT. SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK - EVENING 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Awash in PINK AND BLUE LIGHT, we find Misty sitting in a foot of water as the door to the tank closes...

She sits there for a moment, looking between the closed door and the lights at the other end of the tank. Then, her decision made, she lies down, finds that she easily floats...

Suddenly, the lights go out, leaving us in PITCH BLACK. And in silence, but for Misty's sigh, and the sound of her restlessly shifting in the water...

... Until we hear a distant sound. The vibe shifts, growing ominous. *Is there something in here?*

MISTY

*...hello?*

Uh oh. It's all the makings of a bad trip, until --

**INT. MISTY'S VISION - THE VOID - CONTINUOUS (PRESENT DAY)**

A giant BLACKLIGHT swoops over us, as if scanning the surrounding area for filth (echoing Misty's blacklight cleaning methods/discovery of Walter's letter in 202).

Newly clothed, and with absolutely NO idea what is happening, Misty now STANDS in inky blackness -- though impressionistic SET PIECES will materialize throughout. In fact, she looks around, and we now realize we're at the bottom of a...

**INT. MISTY'S VISION - GIANT BIRDCAGE - CONTINUOUS (PRESENT DAY)**

From above, a deep, startling FWOOSH: the sound of enormous wings. The blacklight swings back overhead; it's now a

spotlight beam falling onto a newly appeared SMALL STAGE. This birdcage is now a...

**INT. MISTY'S VISION - BIRDCAGE/INTIMATE BLACK BOX THEATER - CONTINUOUS (PRESENT DAY)**

*What on earth?* A disbelieving eyebrow cocked, Misty lightly checks her own pulse, just in case. MUSIC swells. She sits in the lone seat.

On the stage emerges A LIFE-SIZED VERSION OF CALIGULA, Misty's pet bird. Or rather, a VETERAN STAGE PERFORMER in costume (think *Cats* but birds). Misty is enrapt.

MISTY

*Caligula??*

Caligula winks, kicking off a splashy little MGM-style **MUSICAL NUMBER**. Soon, a tuxedo'd WALTER joins the act.

Around them, visions of our favorite Misty-related artifacts swirling in Technicolor. AXES, SYRINGES, TRANSPONDER LIGHTS blinking RED.

Misty LOVES IT. She even JOINS THE ROUTINE for the big finale. As the number ends, Walter spins off into the darkness.

CALIGULA

*Bye, doll!*

FOUR STAGE HANDS -- 2400 MOTEL MANAGER (201), STAN (Misty's date in Ep. 102), Acolyte Rob, and an ELDERLY WOMAN -- appear, wheeling out a VANITY, CLOTHING RACK, and TWO CHAIRS -- the lights go out. And when they come back up, we see they've transformed our stage into:

**A DRESSING ROOM...**

Caligula, wearing a robe and his COSTUME HEAD, sits in chair in front of the vanity. Behind him, we see the COSTUME BODY hanging on the rack...

He removes the head, revealing that he is, in fact, a BIRD PERSON (think the "Chicken Lady" from *The Kids in the Hall*) with a BEAK and FEATHERED CHEST. So, if you're keeping score at home, yes, that means Caligula was a bird dressed up as a different bird...

He leans back in his chair. Post-show vibes. Lights a CIGAR. Misty tiptoes over, a fangirl.

MISTY

Caligula! *That was amazing.*

CALIGULA

(waving the review off)

Talk to me, Misty. What's goin' on?

MISTY

When people look at me, do they just see someone... *desperate for love?* Just some... murderer?

CALIGULA

*People?* Who gives a shit!? In this day and age, *other people* still trying to tell *us* how to love each other? When you look at yourself, what do *you* see?

MISTY

I don't know.

CALIGULA

Then try again. It's perspective! The truth's all around you, kid, but you refuse to see it. You're looking at the floor instead of looking at the magic. How much do we all count on you? How many times did you get the ball across the goal line? *A murderer*, pfft. You're not a murderer, Misty. You're a closer. And *that's* not the best kind of love to give!?!? The gift of a life BEYOND the problems of the day?? You're *damn right* it is! I see it, your girls see it, and it sounds like that sweet boy sees it, too.

MISTY

(suddenly confused)

Who...?

We hear a familiar RINGTONE. Misty's RED LIP PHONE (from Ep. 102) is wheeled to her by Stan. She picks it up, answering:

MISTY (CONT'D)

*Walter??*

Walter returns holding the receiver to a GARFIELD PHONE, the base of which is being wheeled by the motel manager.

WALTER  
(desperate to confess his  
love)  
*Misty?? I-- I just wanted to say...*

He starts mashing the KEYPAD, frantically tapping the world's most romantic MORSE CODE MESSAGE into the phone. The Morse DOTS and DASHES animate to life, pouring out of Misty's phone and twirling in a HEART around her.

Whatever this message is, SHE SWOONS. MISTY: IN LOVE AND REBORN. Suddenly, Caligula reappears on a GIANT BIRD SWING guided by two of our stagehands. As he is brought to center stage, the VISION ENDS, a proud Caligula WHITES OUT...

MISTY  
*Thank you, Caligula...*

**INT. SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

As she opens the tank door, BRIGHT HEAVENLY LIGHT lands on our newly enlightened Misty's face. *It's a brand new day.*

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - KITCHEN - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Misty slips in and crosses to the phone. She dials eagerly and gets Walter's voicemail, in which he inexplicably disguises his voice with a VOICE MODULATOR.

WALTER (V.O.)  
(distorted/an octave deep)  
*Please leave a message for Walter.*

MISTY  
Hi! Sorry if you've been texting me, my friends and I decided to unplug for a little girls' weekend. You were right about -- the thing. As a woman in this world, when it comes to trust, it can be -- hard for me to take that leap with someone. I'm still growing. But, I'm sorry. I never should have pushed you away, and I miss you, and your grandmother sounds really cool, and-- Thank you for *seeing* me. Ok. I'm gonna hang up now. Heh, *no, YOU hang up first...* Ok. Bye.

Misty hangs up, grinning. The door opens. It's Natalie.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Nat! I am having the *best* time.

NATALIE

C'mon. We need you.

Off Misty's grateful smile: *they sure do...*

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - AMPHITHEATER - BEHIND THE STAGE -  
NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

A somber Taissa comes upon a makeshift STONE ALTAR. Two spent BLACK CANDLES flank a small BRONZE DISH with several "offerings" on it (A BEADED BRACELET, SECOND PLACE RIBBON, A NECKLACE), likely left to some unnamed (and probably made-up) water spirit.

Heeding Lottie's advice to *stop fighting her other self*, Tai stands before it...

With hesitation, she removes her WEDDING RING, apparently intending to offer that piece of her life as a SACRIFICE. Tai gravely holds the RING before the offering plate, edging closer, until a voice from behind --

VAN (O.S.)

Tai, I just don't see how marrying that lake solves any of your problems.

Tai turns to find a smiling Van, lounging on some nearby rocks, stargazing with a bottle of TEQUILA.

The gravity of Tai's moment is totally punctured, but she's amused enough to see Van...

TAISSA

Shouldn't you be wandering the woods doing woo-woo shit like the rest of us?

Tai takes a seat in the hole. Van shares the tequila.

VAN

Well, I got "forage" on Lottie's weird chore chart, so I went to my trunk and did just that.

TAISSA

Perfect. Cheers.

They look at the altar, passing the bottle back and forth.

VAN

Is this what Lottie told you to do?  
About the sleepwalking?

TAISSA

Yeah, in a sense.

(a beat)

I just never thought I'd be back  
here again.

VAN

Making offerings to the dirt?

Their EYES MEET. Tai holds Van's GAZE.

TAISSA

Something like that...

THEN -- IT HAPPENS. They go in for THE KISS!

And for a moment, it is ELECTRIC; exactly the intoxicating,  
25-years-in-the-making kiss we wanted it to be --

But Tai's alarm bells go off. She PULLS AWAY apologetically,  
wanting it, but regretting letting this go so far --

TAISSA (CONT'D)

*Shit, shit, I'm sorry --*

VAN

*Shit, no I know, I didn't --*

Nervous embarrassment all around, everyone all elbows and  
knees.

TAISSA (CONT'D)

Van -- I'm so sorry, of course I'm  
thinking about it too, but -- it's  
just such a long road before we --  
before I -- could ever...

VAN

Tai, I can't wait for you.

TAISSA

Nobody's asking you to --

VAN

No, I LITERALLY can't, I don't have  
that kinda time... Tai. I have  
cancer.

STUNNED, Tai tries to compute. Like Van said she's from Mars.

TAISSA

What do you mean? What's the  
situation?

VAN

Ok. You know those times when someone says they have cancer, but then there's the part where they say "they caught it early" or "it's the best kind of cancer to get"?

Taissa's eyes brim with tears. She's way ahead of this, but hoping against hope. Van, with an apologetic smile...

VAN (CONT'D)

This is not one of those conversations.

TAISSA

Van, what are you telling me?

VAN

I have...

*Breast cancer? A tumor?*

VAN (CONT'D)

Months.

SHOCK.

TAISSA

Months!? What?? Jesus CHRIST Van, and you're only deciding to tell me now!?

VAN

What are you talking about?? You showed up at MY door, I wasn't GOING to tell you.

TAISSA

Why the fuck not??

Van throws her hands up, clearly regretting this clusterfuck.

VAN

We don't know each other! If I'd contacted you out of the blue and said something, what would you have done?? Have your office send flowers? Message me on fucking Facebook?

TAISSA

(stung)

I don't know, but --

VAN

I didn't want to have to see THIS  
look --

MISTY (O.S.)

Tai! Van!

It's Misty, Natalie, and Shauna. Van hides her booze and shoots Tai a look: *don't say a word.*

VAN

Act fucking normal.

TAISSA

*What?*

Van walks hurriedly towards the other women, putting some distance between herself and Taissa, eager to end this conversation. Tai can't believe she's expected to shut it all off. But, she does so. She composes herself and follows.

NATALIE

I thought we could gather. And talk  
about what we've all learned.

PRE-LAP, the sound of wind whipping through...

**EXT. WILDERNESS - BOTTOM OF THE GORGE - DAY 1 (1997)**

Misty climbs down, scanning for signs of Crystal's body sticking out of the fresh snow. But... nothing. Just unbothered powder. Misty exhales, relieved.

For due diligence, she walks over and starts digging a little. But -- wait. Where is Crystal? Misty keeps digging -- but Crystal's body is GONE? WHAT? Misty's baffled.

MISTY

*Crystal?? ...Kristen?*

No sign of her. Puzzled, Misty climbs back up...

**EXT. WILDERNESS - TOP OF THE GORGE - DAY 1 (1997)**

Misty reaches the top, looking around to see if the coast is clear. She FREEZES when she spots: Ben Scott sitting on a rock, his head in his hands. Unlike the energized Ben we saw earlier, he now seems hopeless. At the end of his rope.

With his back to Misty, he doesn't notice her. She's slipping away undetected, BUT she stops when she sees a despondent Ben

rise, standing WAY too close to the edge. He's about to throw himself off the cliff. Misty can't stop herself.

MISTY

Ben! You're too close to the edge.  
What are you--

She realizes, with horror and incomprehension, that he's doing this ON PURPOSE. He never takes his eyes off the gorge.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Coach Scott?

BEN SCOTT

I had one thing. And I knew it was a lie, and I knew it was pathetic, but it was the only hope I had in my heart. I can't keep losing everything...

MISTY

Ben! Don't you DARE!

With that, Ben finally turns to her, the slightest spark in his eyes. Maybe there's hope just yet. Off Misty, *yes! It's working*. She stands a little taller, ready to be his rock, to give him the strength to carry on, but --

BEN SCOTT

Misty... can you just push me off?

MISTY

What?? No! I would never-- How could you say that to me?

She's horrified, but undeterred. An earnest speech:

MISTY (CONT'D)

Ben! We need your strength! People are dying all around us! And -- life is so precious, you can't just throw yours away.

Ben is unmoved. Platitudes are not cutting it. So, Misty takes a more aggressive approach.

MISTY (CONT'D)

If you kill yourself right now, we will eat you.

BEN SCOTT

I don't care.

MISTY

We'll -- we'll gobble you right up!  
And I will savor all of you, every  
bit, *especially* the high calorie  
butt meat. We'll lick our fingers--

BEN

I DON'T FUCKING CARE, MISTY.

Panic hits Misty; she can't stop this.

MISTY

Fine. Well, if you jump-- Someday,  
when the rest of us go home, I'll  
tell the WHOLE world our love  
story. All of it. And worse stuff!  
(growing desperate)  
I'll, I'll tell your parents you  
got Shauna pregnant! That you tried  
to get us *all* pregnant! Ben! Listen  
to me! I'll tell the whole world  
you're GAY!

BEN

FUCKING DO IT. Tell them!

With no tricks left, Misty starts to emotionally unravel. But  
it's not an act. Ben inches forward, he's going to jump --

MISTY

(weeping)  
Wait...!

She lets out genuine, heavy sobs. Even Ben notices the shift.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Please. Please. I tried to keep the  
baby alive, I swear to god I tried  
so hard, I'm sorry. Don't...

Ben looks at her. And for maybe the first time, he sees her  
as the traumatized, vulnerable child she still technically  
is. It may not give him the will to live. But it at least  
gives him the will to not die right here, in front of her.

He relents, taking a step back. It's over. Misty straightens,  
wiping her eyes. Together, they leave in silence.

**INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

A tense Lottie and her PSYCHIATRIST settle into their  
session.

LOTTIE

Even more of them are here now.  
Shauna. Van. Taissa. This is proof  
of what I told you.

PSYCHIATRIST

That this... "It" is sending your  
old friends to you.

LOTTIE

Not just to me, but to each other.  
This is what it wants. For us to be  
together.

PSYCHIATRIST

For what purpose?

LOTTIE

(nervous; holding back)  
I don't know that yet.

The Psychiatrist cocks her head; a gentle therapist-y move.

PSYCHIATRIST

I need you to be fully honest with  
me, Charlotte, if we're going to do  
effective work.

Lottie thinks on this and chooses her words carefully.

LOTTIE

Them all being here, I feel it in  
my body. It's like something deep  
and primal that I haven't felt in  
years. It feels... *wonderful*. And  
yet I'm also fucking terrified.

PSYCHIATRIST

Because of all these "bad things"  
that you did. You and these women,  
back when you were very young.

Lottie nods tightly.

PSYCHIATRIST (CONT'D)

Charlotte, when does self-  
repression ever serve us? Weren't  
you just saying as much, to one of  
these old friends?

A flicker of hesitation on Lottie's face. *How would she know  
that?* But it passes, as --

PSYCHIATRIST (CONT'D)

It could be that this reunion strikes a primal chord with you because, in the past, when you were with these other women, you were *free*. You were your truest, most authentic self.

The same words from Lottie's speech in 201...

PSYCHIATRIST (CONT'D)

And what is standing in the way of you embracing that again?

LOTTIE

It was... we hurt each other. People died.

PSYCHIATRIST

Tell me, is there anything of value in this life that doesn't come with risk? Or loss? Or consequence?

Lottie blinks. The Psychiatrist's manner is still measured, professional, thoughtful. But the content is... unusual.

LOTTIE

I-- Are you... really saying what I think you're saying?

As we cut to the Psychiatrist again, she's suddenly in the ANTLER QUEEN COSTUME, her face covered. Her posture rigid.

PSYCHIATRIST

You tell me. *Does a hunt that has no violence feed anyone?*

As Lottie struggles with how to respond to this, there is a KNOCK on the closed door. Lottie turns toward it, briefly.

LISA (O.S.)

Charlotte?

When Lottie turns back towards the Psychiatrist, the chair is empty. The Psychiatrist is GONE. Lottie stands, freaked: *what the fuck??* She looks around, and sees that --

**INT. LOTTIE'S LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT 1/SAME (PRESENT DAY)**

-- all the walls have suddenly changed from smooth to RUSTIC.

It turns out: we are in Lottie's living quarters -- and have been for all of her "Psychiatrist" appointments. They have ALL BEEN IN HER HEAD.

LISA (O.S.)  
Charlotte? Are you in there?

Lottie is too shaken to respond.

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - SURRENDER AREA - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Shauna, Van, Taissa, and Misty stand in a row on one side of the room, watching as Natalie futzes with a PORTABLE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER, trying to get some canned new age-y MUSIC to play. She has lit some nearby CANDLES. Going for moody/chill, as she will try to get the women to share more about themselves.

NATALIE  
I hope that each of you got something unexpected from today. I know that none of us are people who just buy into a bunch of bullshit, and there *is* some bullshit in this place, I won't deny that... but it's really all about, like, finding something in yourself that you just never realized was there, you know?

MEANWHILE, with Natalie occupied, Van sneakily PASSES the tequila bottle to Misty, who grins and quickly SWIGS, then passes it to Shauna.

Shauna takes a BIGGER SWIG, as Nat finally gets the music to start playing.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
Ugh, finally.

Shauna hides the bottle behind her back just as Natalie turns toward them with a smile.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
So who would like to get us started? Shauna?

SHAUNA  
Yeah-- to be honest, I've already gotten started...

Shauna sheepishly reveals the bottle.

NATALIE  
(irritated)  
Where did *that* come from?

SHAUNA  
It's Van's.

VAN  
You narc.

MISTY  
I thought I didn't like tequila,  
but... that's pretty good.

Nat can tell she's losing them. Her irritation grows.

NATALIE  
You guys, the point of all your  
therapies was getting comfortable  
with--

SHAUNA  
(smiles)  
Oh seriously, is *Natalie Scatorccio*  
going to forbid us from fucking  
around? Will the universe collapse  
in on itself?

Nat looks at them: everyone's eager to do anything else right now. Annoyed, but choosing her battles, Nat stands down.

NATALIE  
*Fine...*

A tiny hooray from our group. Van holds up the bottle to Nat: *Do you..?* Nat gives a small *no thanks* wave. Van offers the bottle to Taissa -- a peace offering. Tai would rather have an actual conversation with Van... but accepts.

As our YJs settle into a little old school slumber party hang...

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - TRAIL - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Lottie, clearly still SPOOKED by the Psychiatrist reveal, has been walking around, looking for the women.

Finally spotting them (talking, laughing) from a distance, she strides over.



**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - JUICE BAR - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Glimpses of our six Yellowjackets unexpectedly having a grand ol' time: drinking, laughing, etc.

Lottie's cautious, but she's slowly allowing herself to stop resisting and enjoy.

CUT TO:

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - SURRENDER AREA - LATER THAT NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

We find our adult Yellowjackets as they take it up a notch, laughing and bullshitting as they lounge around the yoga area. Behind them we see some booze and party supplies on nearby tables; one bottle of tequila definitely wasn't going to cut it...

NATALIE

Ok Misty, so what's up with that guy? Is he your boyfriend?

MISTY

(LOVING the attention)

*Oh, we don't have to talk about that... Well, okay. So there's someone pretty special in my life. His name's Walter. We met online. It's all very new, so we haven't totally defined the relaysh just yet, but-- when you know, you know.*

VAN

(under her breath)

Does *he* know?

LOTTIE

I'm happy for you, Misty.

SHAUNA

What does he do?

MISTY

Oh, he doesn't have a *job-job*. He dedicates all his time to the passionate pursuit of knowledge.

TAISSA

Oh nice, where does he go to prison?

They're cracking up, so entertained by themselves.

SHAUNA  
(heart eyes)  
*Ahh, Mrs. Misty Menendez Brother...*

Misty rolls her eyes. Looking to take the heat off herself --

MISTY  
Nat hooked up with Kevyn Tan!

LOTTIE  
You fucked Goth!?

SHAUNA  
(disappointed)  
Aw, I already knew that one.

Nat shoots Misty a friendly look: *Really?* Misty smiles: *Oops.*

LOTTIE (CONT'D)  
Ah! What was *that* like?

NATALIE  
(smirking)  
Ask Misty, she watched.

VAN  
WHAT.

MISTY  
That is *not* true --

Everyone cracking up again. The conversation comes to a gentle lull, everyone feeling good. Until --

MISTY (CONT'D)  
Okay. That first summer, do you remember --

VAN  
Whoa whoa! I'M sorry, "*That first summer??*" You wanna reminisce about our time in fucking oblivion?

MISTY  
You don't even know what I was going to ask.

TAISSA  
How about we never find out.

LOTTIE  
Misty, maybe another time?

MISTY  
*K. Suit yourselves.*

They settle into a lull. Nat looks to Lottie.

NATALIE

This is a weird question, but...  
I've been thinking a lot about this  
lately. How much do you guys  
remember?

No one loves this question.

SHAUNA

Wait. Are you saying you *don't*  
remember it?

NATALIE

No, like-- Yes, of course, I  
remember. But also, parts of it  
are... harder. Hazier.

TAISSA

Yeah. Or, like they were just  
stuffed somewhere. Deep down.

LOTTIE

It's a familiar cognitive response.  
Particularly after such prolonged  
periods of extreme --  
(avoiding the word *trauma*)  
*Overstimulation*. In an ecstatic  
state, the human body cannot store  
memory all that well.

SHAUNA

Well, if there are things I don't  
know I'm repressing, I am very okay  
with never finding out.

LOTTIE

Fair. But they always do seem to  
end up manifesting in other  
disruptive ways, don't they?  
*Compulsive behavior, disease --*

At the mention of "disease," Tai and Van's eyes meet briefly.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

*Mental health issues --*

VAN

*Cutting your own bangs*. Yes Lottie,  
we're all deeply familiar with the  
bad parts, thank you.

The group conversation drifts on. Van walks off for a refill.  
Tai, spotting an opening, follows her. She leans in.

TAISSA  
Listen, I know a specialist at  
Johns Hopkins --

But Van hits eject on this conversation immediately, changing the subject by crossing to the BOOMBOX, grinning.

VAN  
*I love this song.*

Van turns up a beloved SONG and starts moving. She is officially a dance party of one. But, that Vanessa Palmer charm magnet is just too powerful. She beckons Misty, who eagerly joins in. So Van dances over to the most likely holdout: a stone-faced Natalie.

VAN (CONT'D)  
(playful frowny face)  
*Bratalie Scatorccio... C'mon, you  
know you wanna...*

Before Nat replies, LOTTIE grabs her by the wrist on her own way to the "dance floor." Nat obliges, *okay fine...* Soon, Tai and Shauna join. A burgeoning, gentle little dance moment...

As everyone gives into the groove, loosening up and having a ball, Misty glances towards a window. She sees something that makes her eyes LIGHT UP.

MISTY  
Guys, is it snowing??

Everyone looks over, absolutely charmed by the first snowfall. Van leads the charge, grabbing her coat and the boombox as she runs towards the door, beckoning them.

VAN  
C'mon!

They eagerly oblige.

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT 1 (1997)**

Shauna stomps into the cabin, menace in her eyes. As she moves, the girls give her a wide berth; part pity, part fear. She mistakes this for coldness. Lottie and her followers do a silent sort of prayer. Shauna openly glares at them with mistrust. Tai particularly. Shauna looms over them quietly. Like she's looking for a fight...

The prayer finishes. As they disperse, they all try to avoid Shauna. Misty straightens up a little, humming "QUI," which

we recognize from the girls' haunting rendition in Shauna's dream (206).

Shauna's eyes go wide. Hearing it fills her with HATE. Like it's all the evidence she needs that the Yellowjackets killed her baby. She steps in front of Misty. An intimidation.

SHAUNA

Why are you singing that? Where did you hear that song??

Misty's afraid. Around them, everyone senses trouble.

MISTY

What? Um. Maybe... Crystal sang it? I -- Shauna, I don't know.

This sets Shauna off. She attacks Misty, landing a heavy SMACK. Misty's GLASSES fly off. Shauna lunges.

SHAUNA

YOU KILLED MY BABY.

TAISSA

What the fuck!

Everyone scrambles to intervene. Tai and Nat get between them, trying to restrain her, but she's unhinged. Shauna sees dream image FLASH POPS once more, blips of her friends' mouths smeared with blood. She rages.

NATALIE

Shauna, stop! Misty did everything she could!

SHAUNA

SHUT UP. You ate my fucking baby! I saw you! All of you did! You were covered in blood. I TRUSTED YOU!

Horror on everyone's faces as they realize how untethered Shauna has become. And how she may never come back from it.

NATALIE

Listen to me. You KNOW that isn't possible! CALM THE FUCK DOWN.

VAN

*She's fuckin' gone, man...*

SHAUNA

YOU'RE ALL DEAD! I'll kill you!

TAISSA

Shauna, STOP IT. That is insane! We were praying for you AND the baby to live. *This broke us, too.*

But she's lashing out at anyone near her. Van tries to get her arms around her, but Shauna spins --

VAN

She fucking bit me!

Shauna keeps struggling -- til Lottie steps in front of her, empathy in her eyes. Shauna seems to calm at first. Then, she HITS Lottie. Lottie staggers, nose bleeding. When others try to intervene, Lottie gestures for them to stay back.

LOTTIE

(calmly)

Travis, take Javi to the bedroom.

Travis nods, unsure, but he does as he's told. Lottie calmly folds her hands behind her back. The others realize: she intends to submit to Shauna's violent rage.

VAN

Lott?

LOTTIE

Shauna, we need you. But right now, there's too much pain. *So let it out.*

Everyone on edge, the other girls look to each other. It's a horrid idea, but... they're nodding. In this terrible moment, it all makes a sickening emotional sense. They'll allow this violent ceremony.

LOTTIE (CONT'D)

(to Shauna)

It's okay. Let it--

Shauna unceremoniously grabs her by the hair and unloads, swinging her fists down on Lottie like a hammer, over and over in a flurry, as if beating a drum. It's chilling, an almost matter-of-fact starkness to it.

With no one to interfere, it plays out uninterrupted, the room frozen silent but for the flat THOCK of Shauna making contact. Fists and slaps and kicks.

When we need to look away, the music swells and time slows down as we begin **INTERCUTTING** the TWO TIMELINES, weaving back and forth between images of --

**IN THE HUNTING CABIN - NIGHT 1 - INTERCUT (1997)**

Shauna's fury. The other girls circled around them. Some afraid, some desperate to stop this. Others excited. Faces of terror and bloodlust. A trauma.

**AT LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - AMPHITHEATER - BONFIRE - NIGHT 1 - INTERCUT (PRESENT DAY)**

A celebration. Those same faces, now adults, dancing in moonlight, a dreamy haze. The first snowfall begins. Warm smiles and nostalgic gazes, *It's so good to see you*.

As the SONG is ending...

**INT. HUNTING CABIN - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT 1 (1997)**

Exhausted, Shauna finally relents. She kneels beside Lottie, catching her breath. Horribly injured, Lottie isn't moving.

SHAUNA

Lottie, get up. *Lottie...*

AKILAH

Is she dead?

Rising panic on all the girls' faces. Misty instinctively moves to give Lottie medical attention but STOPS HERSELF, afraid to near Shauna. FINALLY, Lottie moves. Barely. Shauna walks off, allowing the others to rush to Lottie's side.

**EXT. WILDERNESS - HUNTING CABIN - NIGHT 1 (1997)**

A light snowfall. Shauna observes her KNUCKLES, ripped raw. She ices them in the snow.

**EXT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - AMPHITHEATER - BONFIRE - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

The six women mill about the "dance floor." Lottie grins in falling snow. Nat observes her, and maybe even starts to feel a little proud of her work today. ACOLYTE TODD approaches.

ACOLYTE TODD

Charlotte, sorry to interrupt.  
There's an urgent call for one of  
your guests.

Lottie nods to him, *go ahead*. Misty, assuming it's Walter, puts her drink down, but --

ACOLYTE TODD (CONT'D)  
Shauna? It's your husband.

Everyone turns. Shauna's face betrays the slightest bit of  
*hm, at this hour?*

SHAUNA  
What time is it?

NATALIE  
It's late.

Shauna tries to have no reaction to this. The others observe  
her: *Is this a bad sign?* Shauna gets up.

SHAUNA  
What? No, it's fine. It's --  
probably a sex thing.

**INT. LOTTIE'S COMPOUND - KITCHEN - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

Shauna picks up the receiver, a slight anxiety.

SHAUNA  
Hey, is Callie okay?

INTERCUT WITH --

**INT. SADECKI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 1 (PRESENT DAY)**

It's JEFF, panicked. On the TV behind him, a CRIME SCENE NEWS  
REPORT. Both fearing a wiretap situation AND being a terrible  
liar, Jeff gives a stiff impersonation of an innocent person.

JEFF  
Shauna... do you recall the missing  
man from your recent auto  
collision? I have difficult news.  
*He's dead.* The authorities believe  
they found his... remains, buried  
in Hacklebarney State Park.

THE BOMBSHELL. Off Shauna's terror...

**CUT TO BLACK.**