

# RUGGED

*Written by*

**April Prosser**

United Talent Agency  
Kaplan-Perrone Entertainment

OVER BLACK:

KATE (V.O.)  
*Oh God please, I don't want to die!*

EXT. SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS - DAY

FOG rolls ACROSS a rocky ALPINE RIDGE. KATE (*think Kristen Wiig*) filthy, terrified, covered in cuts and bruises - hangs from a CRUMBLING SLOPE, CLINGING to a BREAKING BRANCH. A die-hard optimist... except for now that she might actually die.

BLAIR, (*think Amy Schumer*) 30, drinks a little too often to be in great shape, tries to PULL Kate back onto SAFE GROUND:

BLAIR  
(yells over shoulder)  
*Help!! Anne, Cassie, quick!*

*But no one's coming -- it's up to Blair. She STEELS herself.*

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
OK, I can do this. Do you trust me?

KATE  
(whimpers, sincerely)  
Not really.

BLAIR  
I need you to trust me.

KATE  
I don't trust you. Get someone else. Please!

BLAIR  
Kate - give me your hand.

Kate SHAKES her head, *frantic*. But just as the BRANCH *snaps*, Kate lets go - *SLAP!* - connecting with BLAIR'S HAND. Their eyes locked, Blair uses every *trembling muscle* to DRAG her up. *It's heartwarming, heroic...* Until Kate SLIPS from Blair's grip and FALLS OUT OF SIGHT INTO THE ABYSS.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
*Oh no! Oh shit! Oh fuck!*

ANNE, 34, and CASSIE, 28, arrive moments too late - to find:

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
I think I killed our boss.

DISSOLVE TO:

**OPENING CREDITS:** WE SEE A DREAMY SEQUENCE OF STARTING A JOB:

INT. GREEN TECH - FLASHBACK MONTAGE

A young, hustling LOFT SPACE for a 25-person SILICON VALLEY TECH STARTUP. MOD CUBICLES in the middle - and a GRAFFITI FOREST MURAL painted across the WINDOWS and GLASS OFFICES.

KATE (V.O.)

You know when you start a job and everything is new and exciting?

The quirky tech CEO, EMMETT introduces Kate to coworkers.

EMMETT

This is Kate, our new VP of Sales.

KATE'S OFFICE: Kate assembles her team: Blair, Cassie (*think Ellie Kemper*) - equal parts enthusiastic and naive, and Anne - (*think Rashida Jones*) reserved, here to work not play.

KATE

Blair, Cassie, Anne: welcome aboard...

CUBICLES: Anne, Blair and Cassie SIT in adjacent desks - working the PHONES - *already firing on all cylinders.*

KATE (V.O.)

It's when everyone tries their best to work hard and get along. Our sales team operates like a relay race. Cassie finds the leads, Blair closes and Anne handles contracts.

CASSIE

New lead for you!

Blair NODS, finishing her own CALL.

BLAIR

Great decision, Paul, you're going to be very happy!

(hangs up)

Booyah! Anne, email coming shortly!

ANNE

On it.

Blair PICKS UP the next CALL. Kate PASSES BY, *impressed*.

KATE

Good job, team. You're on fire.

KATE (V.O.)

Of course, the more you get to know people, the more you get to know their quirks. Like there's always that one overly-cheerful coworker just waiting for you to arrive.

MORNING: Cassie waves them over to watch a CAT VIDEO.

CASSIE

It's cats talking about God! You have to watch until the end!!

KATE (V.O.)

Or the slightly standoffish one...

LUNCH: Anne STANDS uncomfortably as the whole office sings her "**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**", GIVING her cake - *which she DECLINES*.

KATE (V.O.)

Or the one who works harder at getting out of work than working.

EVENING: Blair, wearing an "**I LIKE BAGELS**" t-shirt and sunglasses, NODS OFF at her DESK, *hands on keyboard*.

KATE (V.O.)

And before you know it, this unspoken hierarchy forms between the dominant personalities and the weaker. The cynical one starts picking on the naive one...

NIGHT: Blair FAKE-READS from her PHONE to a riveted Cassie.

BLAIR

Cassie, did you see your horoscope?  
"Hey Aries, you deserve a treat!  
Take coworkers out for a round of drinks and you'll be glad you did."

CASSIE

Omigosh, wow!

BLAIR

Yeah, geez, I guess drinks on you tonight... Anne, you in?

Anne stifles a SMILE, SHAKES her HEAD - *not wanting to partake*.

ANNE

Aw, sorry, I'm not drinking. Scott and I are doing a cleanse.

BLAIR  
Pregs?

ANNE  
(smirks)  
No. Not every married person wants  
kids.

BLAIR  
(dumbfounded)  
Why else wouldn't you be drinking?

DAY: Anne receives an EMAIL from Blair - "**I'm so sick, could you cover for me?**" Anne replies, "**Of course! Feel better!! :)**

KATE (V.O.)  
And at first you pass these things  
off as funny. As long as the job  
gets done. But... they say  
*familiarity breeds contempt.*

ANOTHER MORNING: Cassie STANDS UP while on her desk phone - doing weird, limber STRETCHES and BENDS to POP her JOINTS.

CASSIE  
(into phone, pitching)  
*Hi, I'm calling from Green Tech. We  
make charging stations for electric  
vehicles... Yes, the future is now!*

Meanwhile, Blair pours a COFFEE in the coffee station and HUMS INCONSPICUOUSLY, SLIDING over to the OFFICE BAR to POUR BAILEYS in before heading back to their desks. Anne notices.

ANNE  
It's eight o'clock somewhere, huh?

BLAIR  
Oof... Had a work drinks last night  
I'm still easing out of.

ANNE  
Your dedication is inspiring.

BLAIR  
Closed it. It's not easy to have so  
many flaming margaritas but those  
are the sacrifices I'm willing to  
make for this job.

(turns to Cassie)  
Dude, quit being weird. You're  
giving boners to the engineers.

A LINE of nerdy SOFTWARE ENGINEERS watch Cassie bend over.

CASSIE

(covers phone, defensive)

My sciatica acts up when I'm stressed. Good lead, line two! He's starting a new software company.

BLAIR

Does he have revenue? Employees?

(off her unsure look)

The last lead you sent was a kid in middle school pitching me his science project.

CASSIE

What, he had a good idea.

KATE (V.O.)

And after days upon months upon years, you find yourself becoming more and more *annoyed*... Ditz becomes dumb, standoffish becomes bitchy and lazy becomes degenerate.

ANOTHER MORNING: Cassie emails, doing WEIRD STRETCHES in her CHAIR - *in back pain*. Anne RECEIVES an email from Blair - "**Flu, could you cover?**" Anne FIRES OFF, "**I guess so.**"

ANNE

I can't believe she gets paid the same amount as us.

CASSIE

I think she gets more.

ANNE

What?!

KATE'S OFFICE: Anne meets with Kate.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I don't want to tattle but Blair's been missing work a lot and I think if you addressed it, she'd listen.

KATE

Totally, yes, absolutely, will deal with it right away.

MORNING: Anne ARRIVES- sees Blair's empty chair. Shakes her head, *irritated*. Kate did nothing about it.

DAY: The three girls WORK side by side, on the phone, disgruntled, all at **breaking points for different reasons...**

KATE (V.O.)

Until finally if they do it one more goddamn time you're going to lose your fucking mind and no one can stand working together and the whole system breaks down.

(then, ominous)

That was today.

Cassie guns for a deep knee pop, waving PHONE at Blair.

CASSIE

Blair!

BLAIR

No.

CASSIE

Blair-Blair! It's a good one!

BLAIR

NO. You waste my time with these terrible leads. And if you yoga pop one more time, I'll hurt you.

(turns to Anne)

Why didn't you tell me AAA's not signing?!

ANNE

(mutes her own call)

Oops, I'm sorry, I didn't want to interrupt your afternoon nap.

Blair WAVES contracts in Anne's face.

BLAIR

They were closed with me which means you fucked the end game.

ANNE

Oh right, I fucked it?

BLAIR

Yeah, with your negative juju.

ANNE

Please. You probably blacked out and forgot to get back to them. You know drinking all day's not how work works, right? This isn't Mad Men. And stop waving these in my fucking face!

Anne grabs the PAPERS, THROWS them back at her. Kate walks up, showing a group of INVESTORS around...

KATE  
I'm so excited to introduce you to-

Kate sees the girls, ABOUT-FACE-TURNS *one moment too late*. The Investors LOOK ON in shock as Blair YANKS Anne's HEADSET off and THROWS it behind her, KNOCKING Cassie off of her CHAIR into a PLANT...

KATE (V.O.)  
And that's when the big boss notices...

INT. GREEN TECH - EMMETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Quirky startup decor: bean bags, Nintendo, outdoorsy photos. The eccentric, obtuse CEO, Emmett (*think Bill Hader*), SITS across from Kate. **This is the source of our voice-over.**

KATE  
... and you get called into his office and he stares blankly at you and you get nervous.

He stares at her.

EMMETT  
You know I'm not your therapist, right? I just asked if you can fix your team...

KATE  
Oh! Yes! Sorry, no, yes, I do think this is fixable-

EMMETT  
--You just said no one can stand working together.

KATE  
Right but who *really* likes their coworkers, am I right?  
(off his look)  
I mean I do. Everyone's amazing.  
But elsewhere in other offices.

EMMETT  
Kate, look at my career. Do you know why I'm considered an innovator?  
(MORE)

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I saved Groupon from bankruptcy in 2008 when I forced the entire staff to live in a commune for a month. I sent a team of Google engineers scuba diving to increase productivity, the list goes on. What got me here? ...My brain?

KATE

No.

EMMETT

(surprised)

No?

KATE

Sorry, you set it up like that wasn't the answer.

EMMETT

It's not, you're correct. But it was supposed to be a trick question. Okay. How about my gut?

KATE

(now unsure)

No.

EMMETT

Yes, gut. I go on gut.

KATE

Oh, I almost said yes, was just expecting three...

EMMETT

I don't look at résumés, they only tell me what someone's done - I look at what someone can do. I see you, Kate. I see so deep within you, I'm inside you right now. Do you know where I'm going with this?

KATE

I hope not.

EMMETT

Most bosses would have taken one look at your bio and thrown it right in the garbage. "Loser. Next." And they'd be right. You probably shouldn't be a supervisor.

KATE  
(humbly, whispers)  
Well, fifteen years experience-

EMMETT  
--But my gut said you were going to do something special so I gave you a shot. I find you less intolerable than I find most sales people.

KATE  
Thank you.

EMMETT  
Perhaps because you remind me of my great Aunt. Or that you say yes to pretty much everything I say...

KATE  
Yes...

EMMETT  
But you're a pleaser. I think you avoid conflict.

KATE  
Uh-oh, have you been talking to my ex? I'm kidding - a little personal relationship humor - listen, okay, I take full responsibility here. I wanted to give them a chance to resolve things on their own but hey if it's time to bring the hammer down, then it's hammer time.

EMMETT  
Do you really mean that or are you just saying it to avoid conflict?

KATE  
What part?

He PICKS UP a photo of him SUMMITING the harrowing, ice-capped peak of K-2 alongside three red-headed IRISH MEN.

EMMETT  
Do you know what this is?

KATE  
Three gingers?

EMMETT  
K-2. One of the best experiences of my life.

(MORE)

EMMETT (CONT'D)

We had to wring out our socks and drink the sweat when things got rough but we made it through. We didn't start off as friends but we ended as goddamn brothers - excuse me, I get passionate about this. Nature has the power to heal, do you understand what I'm saying?

KATE

You want us to do a team building?

EMMETT

That sounds too corporate. Let's call it a digital detox-- Nah, that's so trendy... perhaps think of it as one long happy trail.

*Did he mean that innuendo?*

KATE

Okay...

EMMETT

Get out in nature. Disconnect with society to connect with each other. I think you should take them on a three-day hike up Mount Angeles.

KATE

*Wait, that's it? We just have to go on a hike? Yes! Like with a guide?*

EMMETT

Kate, fuck a guide. FUCK-A-GUIDE. Do you need a guide at work?!

KATE

(rallying)

"F" no! I mean, technically you but-

EMMETT

You're leading! I don't care how good your team is if they're not being led. There's no better way to learn how to work together than hiking a mountain. You can't "accidentally" get to the top. If you do it, that means you really had to work and live together nonstop for three days. It's no K-2 but if you can summit, you can save your team. Do you get what I mean?

KATE

Yes, if we get to the top, we've proven we can work together?

EMMETT

I mean that if you don't get a photo at the top everyone's fired.

KATE

Everyone - as in- to be clear, who are we including in that?

EMMETT

(deeply)

Summit a mountain, save your team.

(more deeply)

Summit. Save.

KATE

Got it, yes. *"Sometimes you gotta RETREAT to advance, right?"*

(then, explains joke)

Company retreat to...

(then)

This will be great, thank you. They will be so excited!

INT. GREEN TECH - BULLPEN - EVENING

The girls GRIMACE in disappointment at Kate's news.

BLAIR

Backpacking?! I'm gonna have to stop you right there.

ANNE

No. Three days together? No.

CASSIE

Does it have to be during the work week? Why not a weekend?

BLAIR

(cringes, to Cassie)

Do you even know what you're fighting for?

KATE

This is not negotiable, guys. He said if we don't take a photo at the top, not to bother coming back.

ANNE

You know why else we don't have to  
bother coming back? We're dead.

BLAIR

Listen, I'm all for team building  
yayyy, but Jews don't camp. We're  
very nervous about getting stuck in  
the desert again... Now a champagne  
brunch I've heard can be *quite*  
*bonding*-

KATE

--We can bring wine on the trail.  
(grim)  
And we do this or *everyone's fired*.  
Without severance. And it'll be  
tough to find a new job without a  
recommendation from this one.

BLAIR

I can do trail wine.

Kate LOOKS at Anne, *hopeful*. Anne GROANS, *relenting*.

ANNE

Fine. Whatever. If I don't have to  
watch Blair pick her ear with a pen  
anymore, why not?

Blair pulls the PEN out of her EAR, *busted*.

KATE

Thank you. Good attitude.

ANNE

Although, to be clear, four girls  
alone in the woods sounds like how  
every horror movie starts. Stalked  
one by one, mutilated-

KATE

--Okay. Cassie?

They LOOK at Cassie, who is already stressing.

BLAIR

(whispers, counting down)  
"Sciatica" in five, four, three...

CASSIE

Believe me, I'd love to be in the  
Great Outdoors and out of this  
stupid chair with my sciatica-

BLAIR

Whaaaat?! You have sciatica?! Why didn't you ever tell us?!

CASSIE

But I have a big solar panels demo on Tuesday. Plus my P's about to start and I have a heavy flow.

KATE

You do grasp there's no job to come back to if you don't do this?

BLAIR

She doesn't. Doesn't grasp that.

(calls out, waves iPhone)

Cassie, did you see your horoscope?

"Hey Aries, if someone offers an adventure, your life depends on saying yes." Wow, so cryptic - I wonder what it means.

Cassie considers this - LEANS BACK in her CHAIR, *debating...*

Anne has to look away to suppress a smile. Cassie's CHAIR suddenly collapses under her. She FALLS TO THE GROUND. She GETS UP with PRIMAL RAGE, violently SHAKES the CHAIR.

CASSIE

I hate this motherfucking fucking fucker!!! Fuck this, let's do it.

BLAIR

(frightened, whispers)

Too late to change my answer back?

KATE

Alright, "summit a mountain, save our team." Let's do this.

As they start to HEAD OUT... Anne TURNS to Kate:

ANNE

You know what you're doing, right?

KATE

Absolutely, I've gone backpacking with my ex. This will be great!

KATE (PRELAP) (CONT'D)

*I have no idea what I'm doing.*

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A TRAIL MAP of the Sierra Nevada Mountains is ROLLED OUT. Kate and her super-athletic / trainer ex-boyfriend, MIKE, 40, the eternal bachelor, SIT at THE BAR, LOOKING at it.

MIKE

*Come on, you've done this before.*

KATE

Yeah, with you. That's different.

MIKE

Eh, I was always weighing you down. He actually picked a pretty popular hike on Mount Angeles. Look:

He SCRIBBLES START and END SPOTS as he talks:

MIKE (CONT'D)

The best way to do it is leave a drop-car here and start here on Thousand Lake Trail. Night one you'd camp at Crane Lake...

KATE

Aw, at least that sounds pleasant.

MIKE

Come up Devil's Neck night two.

KATE

Not as pleasant.

MIKE

And summit day three. There'll be plenty of markers and other hikers. I have some gear you can borrow and I'll make a list for REI.

KATE

(nods, overwhelmed)

Thank you.

MIKE

You'll be great. Don't worry. People do this all the time. I wish I could come.

KATE

Me too...

He DRAWS SMILEY FACES on TWO MOUNTAIN TOPS... much less intimidating now. She LAUGHS, LEANS against him, longingly.

His phone BUZZES, "Sarah." She looks. He uncomfortably FLIPS it. She PULLS AWAY, *crushed but covering*.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Well, I don't want to keep you.

MIKE  
No, don't forget to get bear spray.

KATE  
Yeah, thank you so much for the help. You're right, this will be great. How hard could this be?!

INT. REI - NIGHT

ON TV: a Mountain Biker SOARS in SLOW-MO down a SKI SLOPE, a River Rafter takes a JAGGED LEAP through WATERFALL MIST, a Rock Climber DANGLES from a HARROWING CLIFF...

Anne, Cassie and Blair WATCH - *no fucking way*. Kate cheerily APPROACHES with a SHOPPING CART, HOLDING her LIST.

KATE  
Mike gave me a list of everything we need.

A friendly FEMALE REI EMPLOYEE approaches. Kate FLAGS her.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Oh good, which is the backpacking aisle?

FEMALE REI EMPLOYEE  
(gestures to entire store)  
You're looking at it.  
(off Kate's overwhelmed look, comforting)  
Outdoor enthusiasts this way.

They FOLLOW behind with the CART.

BLAIR  
What about outdoor iffy-ists?

FEMALE REI EMPLOYEE  
What are you guys looking to do?

BLAIR  
As little as possible. Which aisle is that?

CASSIE  
We're backpacking Mount Angeles.

BLAIR  
Allegedly. Or we hang at base camp,  
we'll see how it plays out.

Kate rallies the troops, HEADING into the TENTS SECTION.

KATE  
Okay girls, stay close! We have a  
budget but if we stick to the list,  
we should be in and out in thirty!

Kate TURNS. No one's behind her...

KATE (CONT'D)  
And they're gone.

Anne and Blair look at the FREEZE-DRIED FOOD SECTION.

ANNE  
Ooh, a quinoa one!

BLAIR  
Mac and Cheese? I'm listening.

Blair OPENS the bag of freeze-dried MAC AND CHEESE.

ANNE  
Don't eat that.

BLAIR  
(eats, almost spits out)  
Oh my God.

ANNE  
Okay you're eating it. You're still  
eating it.

BLAIR  
(mouth full)  
Are you obsessed with me?  
(takes another bite)  
Can I live?

Cassie FLIPS through a clothes rack, tries a JACKET on.

CASSIE  
Do we need rain jackets? Does this  
make me look lumpy?

Anne spots a NERDY REI EMPLOYEE, follows him.

ANNE  
Do you have any flares?

NERDY REI EMPLOYEE  
We don't carry anything  
combustible... Well, except those.  
(nods towards camp stoves)  
We do have glow tubes and whistles.

ANNE  
Yeah - don't feel like those are  
going to help a lot.

Blair STARTS TOSSING things into the CART: bear spray, bug  
jacket, first aid kit, blister medic, water purifier...

BLAIR  
Yep. Feels necessary. Yep. Freeze  
dried ice-cream?! Hello, obviously,  
that's in, don't waste my time.

A MALE REI EMPLOYEE tries to help, holds up different items.

MALE REI EMPLOYEE  
Camp mirror?

BLAIR  
Why would anyone want to know what  
they look like during this?

CASSIE (O.S.)  
They sell hiking dresses! Hurry!

BLAIR  
Other than her.

Kate puts a STOVE in the CART - starts REMOVING extra items.

KATE  
We're on a budget and sticking  
together! Did no one listen to me?!  
(notices Customers)  
And I'm still talking to myself...

LATER, the CASHIER scans items out of their overloaded cart.  
Kate MOANS LOUDER every time the TOTAL dings up and up to:  
\$2,187. Kate SWIPES her PERSONAL CARD. Anne NOTICES.

ANNE  
You're not using the business card?

KATE  
Nah, I'll just use this for now.

Anne DOUBLE-TAKES: *is Kate paying for this?* As Kate PUSHES the CART out:

KATE (CONT'D)  
 Leave the tags on everything.  
 (to REI clerk)  
 I'm just kidding!  
 (to girls)  
 I'm not kidding.

INT. ANNE AND SCOTT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Anne's husband, SCOTT, PACKS her CAMP GEAR while she WATCHES. She's clueless how to prepare and he's happy to oblige.

SCOTT  
 These techie business ideas crack me up.

ANNE  
 I'm just trying to see it as good exercise. Believe me, if I knew any places hiring, I'd quit in a blaze of glory.

SCOTT  
 At least you like camping.

ANNE  
 Sure, when you handle the tent, the fire, the food... and I sit in a fold-out chair providing my good personality because obviously: *equal division of labor*.

SCOTT  
 Is that what you were providing?  
 All this time I never knew.

ANNE  
 Yes, I'm a delight. Every time's a good time.

SCOTT  
 Don't forget to bring warm clothes.

Anne LIFTS UP a STACK of HIKING OUTFITS, *proud of herself*.

ANNE  
 Got it! All by myself.  
 (jokes)  
 (MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)  
I'm not sure why you want to have  
kids when I'm already like your  
five-year-old...

SCOTT  
(laughs)  
That's true. Speaking of - did you  
hear Tracey and Doug are pregnant?

This is a loaded topic. She gets up to FILL her THERMOS.

ANNE  
Do you think one thermos is enough?

SCOTT  
Am I on mute? What just happened?

ANNE  
(teasing, re: him packing)  
Why mess with a perfect thing?! You  
used to not want kids either.

SCOTT  
Because we were twenty-six. We were  
still getting settled.

ANNE  
Can we not talk about this right  
now? I'm already stressed. Can we  
talk about it when I get back?

SCOTT  
Yeah.

ANNE  
Okay, we'll talk about it when I  
get back. I love you.

Anne WALKS OVER and KISSES him meaningfully.

INT. BLAIR'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

*Final packing.* Blair removes TWO WINE BOTTLES off her wine  
rack and STUFFS them in her already-full BACKPACK. Doesn't  
fit. She TAKES OUT a WATER BOTTLE, thinks for a moment, then  
FILLS it with a bottle of wine.

INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

Cassie WEARS a cute HIKING OUTFIT, CURLS her HAIR - giving it  
that perfect wave. *What?* This has to last three days, guys!

EXT. KATE'S DRIVEWAY - EARLY MORNING

Mike helps STRAP a BACKPACK on Kate. It's intimate - to her.

MIKE  
Is this too much for you?

KATE  
What?

MIKE  
The weight. Is it too heavy?

KATE  
(struggles, lying)  
Oh. No, it's okay.

He BUCKLES her stomach STRAP.

MIKE  
I'll be really impressed if you  
pull this off. I don't feel like  
you'd ever have tried something  
like this when we were dating.

KATE  
(adjusts straps, bravely)  
Well, guess it's the new me...

MIKE  
I like it. So, just pull these to  
tighten the straps. Too loose, it  
will give you back problems, okay?

KATE  
(trying to remain casual)  
So, there's signs for Crane Lake,  
right? Where we stop for the night?

MIKE  
Yes.

KATE  
And it's super easy, just follow  
the trail, it's not rocket science?

MIKE  
(smiles, comforting)  
Yes, you got this. It'll be just  
like when we did this. *Except with*  
*your whole team depending on you.*

She nods, then suddenly struggles to breathe.

KATE

I think I'm having second thoughts.

MIKE

Aw, I was kidding. Come on, what about the new you?

She SHAKES her HEAD, bends over, full panic-attack starting. She frantically starts unfastening her pack.

KATE

Old me's very persuasive. Oh god. Can't breathe. Feel hot. There's no escape if they start fighting. You know I don't love confrontation.

MIKE

Yes, I know. When I broke up with you, you literally ran away.

KATE

Is it too late to do that now?

Mike LOOKS OVER as Anne and Blair both PULL UP.

MIKE

Think it might be, yes.

EXT. KATE'S DRIVEWAY - MINUTES LATER

Kate helps Anne and Blair FINISH LOADING Kate's red FOUR-RUNNER and Blair's yellow VW BUG. Anne, looking yoga-fit in Lulu Lemon's, notices Blair's huge wedgy in SAFARI SHORTS.

ANNE

Nice "Dora the Explorer" shorts.

BLAIR

It's called fashion, ever heard of it?

ANNE

(under breath)

I didn't think you were supposed to wear a wedgy after Labor Day.

(then, looks around)

Where's Cassie? Anyone text her?

Cassie's car SQUEALS UP, WAVES out the WINDOW.

CASSIE

Sorry I'm late! Can I park in your driveway? I got lost.

Cassie PARKS in the DRIVEWAY, HOPS out.

ANNE  
You've been here like seven times.  
You have GPS.

CASSIE  
I was trying to do it without GPS.  
It's the best way to learn.

Cassie HAULS her PACK into Blair's VW BUG. Hops inside.

INT. KATE'S CAR - SAME

Anne sits on the passenger side, waiting, *bemused*, as Kate GIVES Mike a *very-long* HUG goodbye. Kate finally GETS IN.

ANNE  
That's your EX-boyfriend? Mmmkay.

MIKE  
Your window's down. Good luck out there, girls. If you see a bear...  
try not to let him eat you!

Their concerned FACES as both cars DRIVE OFF...

EXT. THOUSAND LAKES EXIT TRAIL - PARKING LOT - LATE MORNING

Cassie and Blair DROP OFF Blair's VW and get into the back of Kate's four-runner for the final drive.

INT. KATE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Kate DRIVES. Cassie's WEDGED in back between BACKPACKS and Blair, keeps LEANING AGAINST her along this BUMPY ROAD.

CASSIE  
Why, again, do we need two cars?

KATE  
It's a drop-car so we can hike from one side to the other.

BLAIR  
(to Cassie)  
Ugh, you're on me.

Blair ADJUSTS, trying to put an inch between their BARE LEGS.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Can you lean the other way? You're  
all over me.

CASSIE  
There's nowhere for me to go.

BLAIR  
Lean forward or something!

CASSIE  
I have to stare at the road or my  
eyes get wobbly. I'm very prone to  
car sickness.

KATE  
(keeping it light)  
Don't make me separate you two...

ANNE  
Please do.  
(looks at mountains ahead)  
Is that Mount Angeles?

Blair LOOKS, POINTING to a CRAGGY OUTCROPPING of ROCKS.

BLAIR  
That one? It looks like Everest.

KATE  
No, that's a hill. That's Mount  
Angeles.

Kate POINTS to the TOWERING BEHEMOTH behind the HILL.

BLAIR  
That silhouette thing? That could  
take our whole lives to cross.

KATE  
See how the ridges look like wings?  
Angel wings...

BLAIR  
How couldn't we? It's taking up the  
entire sky.

ANNE  
Looks like gargoyle wings.

BLAIR

You know how you say yes to something because it's in the future but then it's actually happening and suddenly every second is filled with a little more dread than the second before?

KATE

Whaaat?

CASSIE AND ANNE

Yes.

EXT. FOREST ACCESS ROAD - DAY

ABOVE SHOT: KATE'S CAR kicks up dust along the winding road. Pulls into the Thousand Lakes Trail Parking Lot.

EXT. KATE'S CAR - LATER

Kate tries to USHER the girls, doing everything she can to wave them towards the trail - *it's like herding cats.*

KATE

We really gotta move faster if we're making it to the first pass before dark. Can we zip up and go? Everyone zip up and go?! Zipppp?!!

No one's listening. Cassie inhales her woodsy surroundings.

CASSIE

Oh wow, that air! What time is it, people? Team building time!

Anne TALKS on her CELL to Scott.

ANNE

(into phone, whispers)  
Can you hear me? I love you... Can you still hear me? I miss you.

Blair sees FOUR CUTE GUY BACKPACKERS embarking on the trail.

BLAIR

(interest piqued)  
I wonder if anyone is on Tinder on this mountain.

As Blair STARES at her PHONE, she WALKS right into a BUSH.

KATE

(to herself)  
This is gonna go well.

EXT. THOUSAND LAKES BASIN TRAILHEAD - MINUTES LATER

They *CHEERS* with WATER BOTTLES in front of the SIGN.

ANNE

I guess this is really happening...

CASSIE

Wait - isn't it bad luck to cheers  
with water?

BLAIR

That's why I spiked mine with wine.

*And they're off!* Kate CLAPS her HANDS, CHEERING from behind.

KATE

Alright, crew! We can do this!  
"Summit a mountain, save our team!"

CASSIE

I can't wait to see the top. I'm  
not sure if I've actually hiked a  
mountain. I feel like I have but I  
might have just seen it on TV.

BLAIR

Great story. Tell it again.

KATE

Hey guys, why don't you wanna play  
poker with cats in Africa? ...  
Because if they're not a CHEETAH,  
they're probably a LION!

Blair GRUNTS. They TRUDGE on in silence, getting a RHYTHM  
along the wooded trail, gaining elevation. A *steady climb up*.  
Cassie at the helm, then Anne and Blair. Kate brings up rear.

CASSIE

(excitedly snaps photos)  
The wildflowers are purple!

Blair - *clearly already struggling* - TRIPS, SCRAPING HER SHIN  
- RESUMES WALKING... Blood trickles down her sock.

BLAIR

Bleeding to death! No one stop,  
don't worry, I'll just walk it off.  
(wipes sweat, flails)  
Sunscreen in eyes, now blind!

KATE  
You okay?  
(to Anne and Cassie)  
Guys.

Anne, *irritated*, and Cassie, ANTSY, reluctantly WAIT. Blair STOPS panting, GRIPS a TREE.

BLAIR  
Holy shit, you have to be in superhuman shape to scale this.

TWO OLD WOMEN BACKPACKERS with trek poles easily PASS them.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
No comment.

A PUPPY and an OLD DOG amble past with THREE OTHER BREEDS.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Do they even have owners?!

ANNE  
I can't do this if we're gonna keep stopping. It'll take forever.

BLAIR  
Then don't stop. I don't care. Win the day, Anne. Go for it. Someone give that woman a blue ribbon!

KATE  
Mike was saying if you maintain a steady pace you utilize far less energy than stopping and starting and commenting on everything.

BLAIR  
I'm going to ignore the last part.

*Blair reluctantly pushes on...* Anne and Cassie gratefully CONTINUE. They begin a STEEP SECTION of tight switchbacks.

CASSIE  
(sing-songy)  
So, Kate... what's the deal with Mike?

KATE  
Nothing... He's my ex.

CASSIE  
Why'd you break up?

ANNE

Cassie-

KATE

No, it's okay, that's part of what this trip should be: reconnecting. Getting to know each other on a more personal level. Mike just felt like we were more friends.

BLAIR

Ooh, so now you're just friends?  
Cut the chord on that shit.

KATE

(smiles)

I like having him in my life, I don't want to cut him out. Maybe if I wait long enough... Which I know doesn't sound great when I say it out loud but if you heard it in my head, I really think you'd agree.

BLAIR

Yeah, that's super unhealthy. Drop the Mike, walk off stage.

CASSIE

"Stage" of arrested development.

KATE

Yeah, maybe that's enough personal connection for one day. This trip's about our team. Let's focus on that, huh?

Blair NOTICES a LIZARD scurry past.

BLAIR

A lot of nature happening. Do we think there's bears creeping?

KATE

Oh, we'd be lucky to see a bear.

BLAIR

We may have differing definitions of luck.

ANNE

What is the bear protocol? Climb a tree? Stand your ground? outrun the coworkers?

CASSIE

Luckily, I'm the fastest!

BLAIR

Not if I trip you and hop over your body to freedom.

KATE

Don't worry, if bears come creepin' I'll bear-spray their peepin'.

(off their looks, serious)

Also if we make noise, they stay away. Mike says you can just firmly clap and shout, "Hey, Bear" around corners so you never startle one.

CASSIE

(claps, cheerful)

Hey Bear! Hello Bear!

BLAIR

You're not calling it to dinner... Or maybe you are.

Something RUSTLES in the bushes. Blair startles.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Guys. Shit just got real.

Blair RAISES her THERMOS, *threateningly*, whispers:

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Something huge on the move. This is not a drill. We got a fast-movin' bogey at three o'clock.

From out of the SHRUBS, the monster emerges. A SQUIRREL.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Squirrel. Squirrel sighting. Everyone's welcome. Could've had rabies.

ANNE

Wow, you saved us.

EXT. THOUSAND LAKES TRAIL - THREE MILES LATER

They make a STEEP DESCENT into THE THOUSAND LAKES BASIN. Blair HUFFS and PUFFS, struggling. Kate looks at a map.

KATE

Okay, almost halfway to Crane Lake!

BLAIR

Ah, why are we going back down to  
go up? This is not efficient.

ANNE

Take it up with the mountain.

They approach a FORK in the path.

KATE

Hey, Yogi Bear says if you see a  
fork in the road... pick it up.

(off silence, explains)

Fork?

BLAIR

No time to laugh... or energy,  
desire.

Cassie POINTS excitedly at a SIGN for LAKE CLOSURE.

CASSIE

"Lake Closure!" Kate! It's a sign  
that you should get over your ex!  
We should go there!

ANNE

It's not named "Lake Closure." It's  
literally saying the lake's closed.

CASSIE

(beat, defensive)

Oh. It's still technically a sign.

EXT. THOUSAND LAKES TRAIL BASIN - LATER

Cassie and Anne CROSS COUNTRY through MEADOWS and LAKES.

CASSIE

Should we wait?

They turn and wait for Blair and Kate who've fallen behind.  
They see Blair approach a TILTING TREE - look skeptically at  
it like it might CRASH on her any second and HURRIES under.

ANNE

If we tell her there's a full bar  
at the top, think she'll go faster?

A HIKER COUPLE pass Cassie and Anne, exchange friendly waves.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Hi.

Once they pass, Anne sees the WOMAN has a baby on her back.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Can you imagine doing this with a  
baby?

CASSIE  
Sure!

Anne SHAKES her HEAD - *no thanks*. Turns on her HEEL, onwards.

ANNE  
We can just arrive first. Let's go.

They CONTINUE ON. Teaming off together.

CASSIE  
Lake number one. Only nine hundred  
ninety nine to go.

They see the next BODY OF WATER coming up.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Lake two. Nine hundred ninety eight  
to go.

ANNE  
I think that one's just a pond.

CASSIE  
Ope. Nine hundred ninety nine still  
to go.

Anne immediately regrets pairing off with her.

ANNE  
I'm pretty sure Thousand Lakes is  
just a hyperbole. You really don't  
have to count each one aloud.

Anne WALKS faster. Cassie WALKS faster too, closing the gap.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
What's going on here, Cassie?! Are  
you trying to mug me?

EXT. CRANE LAKE - HOURS LATER

Cassie and Anne SCRAMBLE UP a STEEP WALL OF ROCKS to reach  
the pass for **Crane Lake** - their breaking spot for the night.  
They SET down their PACKS, *exhausted but victorious*.

Anne kisses the rock.

ANNE

Ah!

CASSIE

We made it! Omigosh, the victory is  
so sweet after-

ANNE

-We can stop talking.

Kate FOLLOWS right behind them.

KATE

Day one done, girls! A third of the  
whole trail!

They take in the spectacular sight of the ICE-BLUE LAKE.

Blair is still slowly TRUDGING UP the TRAIL far BEHIND THEM,  
*DRENCHED in sweat.*

BLAIR

(calls up, bottom of soul)  
This is dumb. I hate this. I quit!  
None of you helped me!

ANNE

No one helped us either.

BLAIR

This is supposed to be team  
building not the Olympic Trials. I  
bet Louis and Clark never left each  
other in the dust.

KATE

You're almost there, Blair...

CASSIE

Nothing to it but to do it!

BLAIR

(between panting breaths)  
Fuck. Everyone. And everything.  
That's ever. Existed.

Blair USES *every ounce of energy left* - to finally reach the  
TOP, PANTING. She DITCHES her BACKPACK, MAD AS HELL.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

No one talk to me. I'm going to sit  
on that rock and cry for an hour.  
Maybe longer, don't time me.

She WALKS towards a ROCK and SITS on it, *facing away*.

EXT. CRANE LAKE - LATER

Anne and Cassie do YOGA, POINTING their LEGS into the air in HALF DOWNWARD DOG - silhouettes against a majestic backdrop.

CASSIE

This is great for my sciatica.

ANNE

Oh good, you hadn't brought that up for awhile. Almost forgot.

Blair begrudgingly DRAGS herself over.

BLAIR

You're working out after working out? What is wrong with you people?

ANNE

(flat, to Blair)

We told you - post-hike yoga. It's on the schedule.

BLAIR

I thought you said *yogurt*. It was the only thing keeping me going.

Meanwhile, Kate TALKS on her cell as she UNPACKS the tents.

KATE

(into phone)

Hi Emmett. We made it. This may be the last time we have signal. Yeah, it's going so well, we might even drink each other's socks for the fun of it!

Weirded out, Cassie MOVES her balled-up socks closer.

BLAIR

(looks at her phone)

Ugh, how does she have service? I can't get this text to go through.

CASSIE

Is it important?

BLAIR

Yeah. "Bottomless mimosas."

Blair shows them a guy's DICK PIC next a CARAFE OF MIMOSA.

ANNE

Ahh! Warn someone!

BLAIR

I thought I just did... Bottomless?

CASSIE

(confused, then realizes)

Ohhhh... because he's not wearing anything on bottom, I get it!

Kate HANGS UP, WALKS over.

KATE

Alright, we should set up the tents so we can get cooking.

Everyone looks at the pile of POLES and FLAPS, unsure.

KATE (CONT'D)

Alright, okay, alright... so first we should... are there directions?

CASSIE

These pole-thingamaboppers lace through these flapper deals, right?

BLAIR

Usually when I help "pitch a tent," my titties are involved.

ANNE

Helpful.

Anne picks up a NYLON TENT with two fingers, grossed out.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Ohhh, it's wet...

KATE

Let's shake it out.

Anne WAVES IT around like a FLAG, *drying it out* - it gets STUCK in a TREE. She YANKS it free and WHIPS Cassie's face.

Blair SNAPS TENT POLES - trying to figure out what goes where. The POLE unsnaps and BOPS her on the HEAD.

A QUICK SERIES OF SHOTS: A hilarity of errors watching these girls with no teamwork skills try to pitch their first tent. But finally, they STAKE down a FINISHED SEMI-LOPSIDED TENT.

KATE (CONT'D)

Victorious!

Cassie picks up a REMAINING PIECE.

CASSIE  
What's this extra flap for?

KATE  
No idea. Let's not worry about it.

ANNE  
Okay, thanks, guys. Need a quick nap. Wake me for dinner, please.

Anne STARTS CLIMBING inside, worn out. Blair stops her.

BLAIR  
Whoa, not so fast and furious, this is my tent.

ANNE  
No, it's not.

BLAIR  
Yes, it is. I wouldn't have wasted all *my* energy making *your* tent.

ANNE  
I thought it was nice of you to help. Certainly didn't ask you to.

CASSIE  
Guys, remember I'm actually who dibbed this because it's fuscia?

BLAIR  
Well, we can all sleep in there because I have no energy left.

ANNE  
Four can't fit! It'll take you five minutes now that you learned how.

BLAIR  
It'll take you five minutes now that you learned how.

KATE  
It'll take us five minutes now that we learned how!

CASSIE  
Guys! I don't know why no one remembers I'm who hiked this in.

A GUST OF WIND FLIPS the TENT, BLOWS IT AWAY. No one notices.

KATE

Come on, this doesn't need to be a thing. I'll make them, it's okay.

ANNE

No, Kate, you shouldn't have to. This is what happens at work. She always gets everyone else to do the hard work for her.

BLAIR

Ah, but you wanting to hide in a tent and not talk to anyone seems totally out of character.

They finally NOTICE the tent has blown off and RUN after it.

EXT. CRANE LAKE - TWILIGHT

Kate, Cassie, Blair SIT around the saddest, tiny CAMPFIRE. Kate empties a DEHYDRATED BLOCK of FOOD onto the small stove.

KATE

Mike's fires always seemed bigger.

BLAIR

This could take awhile.

Kate CALLS OVER to Anne who's SITTING by herself, reading.

KATE

Anne?

ANNE

Is food ready?

KATE

Not yet. Whatcha doing over there?

ANNE

I'm just... I dunno.

Anne COMES OVER to sit, exhausted, SLAPS a mosquito.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Ugh, is anyone else getting bit?  
(scratching, to mosquito)  
I'll burn you alive, asshole, to send a message to all your friends.

BLAIR

I thought you were vegan. Those are all God's little creatures.

ANNE

I'm not vegan. I'm gluten-free. You know there's a difference, right?

BLAIR

I know they're both annoying.

KATE

Okay, while this cooks, it seems like a good chance to do exercises.

BLAIR

Why are we doing so much exercise?!

KATE

(pulls out print-outs)

Team building exercises.

ANNE

(leans over, reading)

Did you just Google, "How To Do Your Own Team-Building?"

KATE

(hides papers, defensive)

Maybe... Okay, everyone here has great qualities and if you have a compliment, why keep it to yourself, right? Let's go around and say the first word that pops in your mind about the person beside you. I'll start: Blair... Funny.

BLAIR

Aw, thank you! Okay... Cassie.

(nods at Cassie, cheery)

Useless.

CASSIE

Hey!

KATE

No, keep it positive.

BLAIR

Sorry. Okay... Aspergers?

ANNE

(covers mouth, laughs)

Yes.

KATE

No!

BLAIR

You said the first thing...?! I  
don't get this game.

KATE

Alright, maybe everyone will feel  
more like spilling the beans after  
we bake some beans, hmm?

ANNE

(under breath)

Doubts it.

KATE

We've got gluten-free miso tofu  
quinoa for Anne and beef stroganoff  
for the rest of us.

Kate POURS the SLUDGE in everyone's BOWLS. They TAKE A BITE  
OF the watery MEAL, seeming to chew forever.

CASSIE

Is the beef stroganoff supposed to  
be... soup?

ANNE

It's like it *starts* with an  
aftertaste.

BLAIR

Like cum.

The girls all PUT their PLATES down.

ANNE

Okay, ruined that.

BLAIR

'Cause it's Beef Strokin' Off.

KATE

No, we got it. That was clear.  
(looks at box)  
Did we somehow miss a step?

ANNE

Yeah, the part where we go home and  
eat real food?

BLAIR

Perhaps, a lovely two-buck chuck  
will take the edge off.

Blair PULLS a WINE BOTTLE out of her PACK - *to their awe.*

ANNE  
You actually hauled wine up here?

KATE  
No wonder your pack was so heavy!

BLAIR  
Not all heroes wear capes.

Blair PASSES out CUPS. Cassie eagerly sets to work UNCORKING IT with a wine screw. The CORK *breaks* inside the BOTTLE.

CASSIE  
Crap.

BLAIR  
Amateur hour. Here, hand it to me.

Blair PUSHES the CORK inside the BOTTLE with her INDEX FINGER and her finger gets stuck. Her FACE goes SLACK with HORROR.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Oh no.

ANNE  
(smirks)  
Amateur hour.

Blair TWISTS her finger FRANTICALLY - finally FREEING it.

BLAIR  
Oh God, I was afraid that's how it ends. Walking around a mountain with my finger stuck in a bottle. Alright, drink up, people. A little cork never hurt anyone.

Blair POURS their drinks as Kate HANDS out PENS and PAPERS.

KATE  
Okay, I know trust exercises can be cheesy but I think if we take this next one seriously, it could be great. Everyone anonymously write down your greatest fear.

Anne aggressively SLAPS another MOSQUITO.

ANNE  
Seriously? No one's getting bit?

As everyone WRITES fears, Kate looks at everyone, *admiring*.

KATE

I'm proud of everyone today.  
Teamwork makes the dream work!

ANNE

(smirks, looks)  
Did you just read that off there?

KATE

Stop looking at my paper.  
(then, reading)  
First rule of team building: don't talk about team building.  
(then, looks up)  
Just kidding, it doesn't say that.  
But *sincerely*- today wasn't easy.  
We have a ways to go but it was a good first step.

BLAIR

(nods touched then *sniffs*)  
Okay, someone thinks they're some kind of fart ninja in this group and I just want you to know I smell what's going on and it's not cool.

KATE

Moving along - everyone draw a fear and read it aloud.

Everyone PUTS their PAPERS in a HAT. Kate MIXES them up.  
Blair DRAWS first, reads it aloud.

BLAIR

"*That I'll lose all my hair.*"

CASSIE

That's my fear, too! Whose it that?

BLAIR

(holds up paper)  
Yours. It's your handwriting.

CASSIE

Oh. Alright...  
(draws from hat, reads)  
*"I fear my best love is behind me."*  
(to Kate)  
Your best love is not behind you.

KATE

(grins, embarrassed)  
Who says that was mine?!  
(draws one, reads)  
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay, this says: "Team building exercises." Real nice, guys.

ANNE

(laughs, busted)

Okay, I'll do it for real... Um, my deepest fear right now? ...Having kids, probably...

Everyone "oohs", LOOKING at Anne, nodding supportively.

ANNE (CONT'D)

It's like bungee jumping. If you spend too much time standing on the edge, you psych yourself out...

(clams up, drinks)

Do you want to hear this? You don't want to hear it...

(to Blair, pointed)

You're going to make fun of me.

BLAIR

No, I'm not. I didn't know "people wanting kids" was still a thing. I thought we'd moved past that.

CASSIE

But they're so cute! And you can dress them just like you.

ANNE

Yeah, I guess at 34 I've gotten too used to my lovely selfish lifestyle and don't wanna give it up now.

KATE

What's Scott think?

ANNE

(debating how to reply)

There in lies the rub. His "boy-ological" clock's going off...

(changes subject)

Alright... last one:

(draws last one, reads)

"That I'll be trapped next to the Farter tonight."

They all GLARE at Blair.

BLAIR

What? So much for anonymity! That's legit my greatest fear. That and obviously a world without wine.

KATE

Alright, thanks everyone for your honesty - of varying degrees. Now we'll set these free into the fire.

Kate ceremonially CRUMPLES them into the FIRE - but the FIRE'S so small, the papers PUT it OUT... And then BLOW AWAY. They sit in darkness for a MOMENT.

KATE (CONT'D)

(wryly)

Well. Hope you all found that to be a powerful exercise.

BLAIR

Yes, the answers are blowing in the wind.

Anne SLAPS CRAZILY at her NOSE, EARS, CHEEKS for a MOSQUITO.

ANNE

I can hear the fucker whining!!

(miserable, to Kate)

My legs are killing me, this bug's clearly the only one eating. Should we just call it a night?

KATE

Sure I'd call this a strong first day. What's it- almost midnight?

CASSIE

6:30.

BLAIR

(hugging the wine)

Yeah, you guys should hit the hay.

They hear COMMOTION in THE DISTANCE... Yelling? Rustling?

ANNE

Oh shit. Did you hear that?

CASSIE

That was definitely close by.

BLAIR

Was it this way?

Blair STANDS, starts creeping towards the noise.

ANNE

Don't go towards it... Well, this is where we die.

KATE

Yeah, Blair, let's maybe not go  
towards the strange sound. Blair?

They see across the lake... FOUR MALE CAMPERS and a DOG.

BLAIR

Boys! Look at their native food!

CASSIE

And their native fire!

ANNE

And their native tents!

BLAIR

Dibs on the dude with the guitar!  
Unless he plays any Jason Mraz...  
and then dibs on the guy with the  
beanie.

KATE

Guys, this is bonding time for-

They're already *GONE*.

KATE (CONT'D)

A few minutes only! Tomorrow's a  
big day!

BLAIR (*PRELAP*)

*Can we never leave?*

EXT. BOYS CAMPSITE - LATER

This is a magical oasis of BOOZE and FEAST. The same FOUR GUYS Blair spotted in the parking lot perform uber-masculine roles as the girls sit at this new, huge campfire in awe.

*FANTASY SLOW MO...* as ONE SHIRTLESS GUY, six pack abs, chops wood with an axe. He wipes the glistening sweat off his brow.

ANOTHER GUY stokes an impressive bonfire.

PETE, the guitar player, strums a melodic tune.

JACOB - *scruffy, ruggedly handsome* - bites into juicy meat, rips it from his mouth. Passes a plate of heavenly food onto the girls - sausages, corn, freshly-caught trout. The girls TAKE ravenous, heavenly bites.

Kate looks CONCERNED - *this wasn't the point of the trip...*

JACOB  
Does anyone want more corn?

ANNE  
Could you pass the Cholula?  
(re: entire situation)  
This is an upgrade...

CASSIE  
Best thing I've ever eaten.

JACOB  
Camp food always tastes better.  
(chews something hard)  
Yep. Spoke too soon. Okay, that's a  
rock.

The Golden Retriever BRINGS a stick to Pete - he TOSSES it in  
the fire. Blair PETS the dog, *trying to flirt with Pete.*

BLAIR  
He retrieves firewood?! We need one  
of these. What's his name?

PETE  
Yellow.

BLAIR  
Hello Yellow...

Yellow starts aggressively sniffing Blair's CROTCH.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Whoa, hello, okay. Mellow, Yellow.  
(quietly, to Yellow)  
Listen, not sure what you're trying  
to point out but let's cool it.

CASSIE  
Did you guys catch this fish?

JACOB  
Yeah.

BLAIR  
So, you camp all the time, huh?

ANNE  
Will you help us with our tents?

KATE  
(embarrassed, to guys)  
Oh. You don't have to do that.  
We've imposed too much.

JACOB  
You're not imposing.

BLAIR  
(to Kate)  
See? We're not imposing.

PETE  
But you really don't know how to  
pitch a tent? You might wanna learn  
how before you go any further.

BLAIR  
Or we follow you around the next  
few days, we'll see how it goes.  
(theatrically)  
Does this sweeten the deal?

Blair pulls out another WINE BOTTLE - to the GUYS' CHEERS.

KATE  
How many do you have in there?!

LATER, a JOINT gets passed around the campfire. Pete plays a FOLK SONG on his GUITAR. Blair TEACHES Cassie how to SMOKE.

BLAIR  
Like this: empty your lungs,  
lightly puff.

Cassie EMULATES her in a very exaggerated, very serious, WIDE-EYED WAY. Making exaggerated PUFFS - *trying way too hard*.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Why do you look like such a weirdo?

CASSIE  
I don't know how to do it!

ANNE  
I can't believe you're not a pot-head. It would explain so much...

Later, the guys - all high - RACE each other to set up the GIRLS' TENTS the fastest at the guys' campsite. Kate covers her eyes, shakes head - *probably shouldn't be allowing this?*

JACOB  
(calls out to guys)  
Remember to hang the food so we  
don't attract bears.  
(to girls)  
Are you girls paying attention?

ANNE  
I'm learning a lot here.

CASSIE  
Oh, that's where that flap goes.

PETE  
What would you all have done if you hadn't met us?

BLAIR  
That's what I wanna know.

AS THE NIGHT GOES ON: Music switches to DRUM-CIRCLE HIGH-HIPPIE TRIBAL DANCING... Pete HOLDS his HANDS UP in an "EMBRACING THE SKY" Chief-esque DANCE. Everyone follows his moves in a Woodstock-level high. Blair is vibing him hard.

CASSIE  
I'm not on drugs. I'm in them.  
(looks at joint on hand)  
They're on me.

ANNE  
Ooh. Someone's throwing up tonight.

Kate SITS on a LOG, TALKING to Jacob and looking at the stars. The moon is just beginning to peek over the mountains.

JACOB  
Look how you can see the stars starting to dim.

KATE  
Oh, because the moon's coming up?  
Like God's flashlight seeing what we're up to.

Jacob offers a bag of assorted candy-store candies to Kate, including a hilariously large red gummy bullfrog.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Who buys that?!

JACOB  
(proudly)  
It's a bullfrog.

KATE  
(laughing hard)  
I know! I know it's a bullfrog. But who buys that out of all the candies in the store?

PETE

I do.

KATE

(shakes head grinning,  
takes sour patch instead)

How often do you guys go camping?

JACOB

They always go for Pete's birthday-

KATE

-For Pete's sake!

JACOB

What?

KATE

(laughs, no answer)  
I'm sorry, I really don't know.

JACOB

(grins, continuing)  
But this is actually my first year  
to join. I'm Jewish so-

KATE

--What is it with this "Jews don't  
camp" thing? It's an actual fact  
Jewish people don't like camping?!

Blair STOPS DANCING, POINTS a FINGER in the AIR, vindicated.

JACOB

I was going to say I'm Jewish so  
usually their trip falls on the  
high holidays which is a bummer  
because I LOVE camping-

KATE

Oh!

JACOB

I'm just kidding. She's right. Jews  
don't camp. The only camps our  
people do are summer.

KATE

And internment.

She COVERS her own MOUTH in horror.

JACOB

Did you make a holocaust joke?!

KATE

I immediately regret it. No.  
 (scrambling for anything)  
 I meant, internship camps for  
 college hopefuls...

JACOB

No, no, no, you're terrible-

KATE

--Nooo...

JACOB

Yes. Wow. Glad at least I know now.

Kate PUTS her HEAD down, *shamefully*. He likes her.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Ah, you're so nice I can't even  
 pick on you. I mean, I might have  
 to - because that was massively  
 inappropriate.

KATE

I'm so sorry. I'm not anti-semitic.  
 I'm anti-me! I'm going to wake up  
 in cold sweats for years over this.

JACOB

It's okay. You're this sweet,  
 little cute-faced bigot. I'm glad I  
 didn't give you my bullfrog. No,  
 I'm actually kind of glad you said  
 that because it means nothing I say  
 could be worse. You just gave me  
 the golden ticket.

(calls out)

When are the rapings, m'ladies?

CASSIE

What?! Sick!

ANNE

Not funny.

Jacob PUTS HEAD DOWN beside Kate. She laughs.

JACOB

We are oh-for-two here.  
 (changes subject)  
 So... you said you're on a team-  
 building trip?

She LOOKS OVER at her TEAM getting DRUNK, HIGH or HORNY...

KATE

Yeah. Maybe not your traditional kind at the moment but this is the best they've gotten along, so it must be somewhat effective, right?

Jacob NODS, smiling at her, wants to KISS HER. She realizes this - bashfully LOOKS AWAY. Notices Blair FOLLOWING Pete into his tent. We see them TAKING THEIR SHIRTS OFF inside.

KATE (CONT'D)

(calls out)

We can see you!

Blair and Pete continue, *not hearing*, their SHADOWS seeming to fold onto each other in a strange way - are they 69'ing?

KATE (CONT'D)

I don't - I can't even tell what's happening.

(calls out, pleading)

No, please. Alright.

EXT. CAMPSITE - EARLY MORNING

Everything is still. SEVEN TENTS set up, FOOD hung in TREES. A CROW sits on top of a tent and SQUAWKS. *Wake up, assholes.*

INT. PETE'S TENT - MORNING

Blair COVERS her EARS with the SLEEPING BAG.

BLAIR

(croaks, pleading)

BE QUIET.

The crow stops... Then SQUAWKS MORE. Blair pulls a leaf off her face, sees Pete asleep beside her. He FARTS in their sleeping bag. GROSSED OUT, she tries to slip out, the tent CRACKLING with EVERY MOVE.

EXT. CRANE LAKE - MORNING

Anne and Cassie SIT on ROCKS, WATCHING the BIRDS floating on the LAKE. Blair EMERGES from Pete's tent and JOINS them.

CASSIE

Morning.

ANNE

No alarm clock needed, huh?

BLAIR

Do you think the birds talk the same shit about us at night? Like:  
 (valley-girl voice)  
*"We've got an early morning, could you monsters keep it down?!"*

CASSIE

Did you know crows are highly intelligent? They have a very advanced social system.

BLAIR

Yeah - I noticed.

Blair LOOKS at a CALIFORNIA QUAIL with a hilarious PLUME on its forehead staring at her.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

(to bird, unimpressed)

Really?

The BIRD PUFFS UP its BEAUTIFUL NECK.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Please, I can do that.

(makes double chin)

It's nothing to brag about.

Cassie TAKES IN the serenity with SEVERAL DEEP EXHALATIONS.

ANNE

You alright over there, Cassie?

CASSIE

I love it out here. I didn't realize how much I needed this.

ANNE

(turns to Blair)

So, did you have "fun" last night?

BLAIR

(wise, soulful)

We had a romantic relationship, just two kids teaching each other about love. But then he farted in the sleeping bag all night.

ANNE

(small smile)

Oh no! Your biggest fear come true.

BLAIR  
(nods, grimly)  
I got stuck next to the Farter.  
Speaking of, did Kate have "fun?"

They TURN to see but THE CAMPSITE is just hidden from view.

EXT. CAMPSITE - SAME

Kate PACKS her TENT alongside the guys. Jacob STRAPS his PACK on, hates to say goodbye but the other guys are watching.

JACOB  
Maybe we'll see you out there?

KATE  
Yeah. You're ending at Devil's Neck tonight, too?

JACOB  
Yeah, we're gonna be fishing a couple more days than you so-

KATE  
--Well, see ya.  
(realizes she cut him off)  
You were still talking, I knew a goodbye was coming and I just couldn't stop the momentum of my words.

JACOB  
(laughs)  
Alright, well, good luck out there.

Pete and the other guys WAVE BYE to her.

PETE  
Tell everyone we said bye. Sorry we gotta get going.

KATE  
No, we do, too. Thanks for letting us mooch off you guys.

She gives one last awkward SMILE to Jacob and HEADS towards:

EXT. CRANE LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

Kate APPROACHES the girls, BACKPACK on, *ready to go.*

KATE

You kids ready to get a move on?

BLAIR

Yeah. Let's hurry up and dip so I don't have to give Pete my number.

KATE

He just left. He told me to say bye. They wanted to get fishing.

BLAIR

He dipped on me?! Who does that?

(humbled)

How'd he say it at least?

KATE

(simple)

"Bye?"

BLAIR

With like a twinge to it?

KATE

(confused, shrugs)

A twinge? No, just normal. "Bye."

BLAIR

Hmm... sounds nuanced.

EXT. VALLEY TRAIL - MORNING

The girls HIKE through a serene mountain meadow. They keep the same order - Cassie LEADS and Kate BRINGS UP the rear.

CASSIE

Hey guys, did you think about that I find leads at work and I'm leading here?

KATE

(sympathetic, cheers)

That's good, Cassie.

ANNE

Aw, that was so sad.

They all burst into LAUGHTER. Blair READJUSTS her STRAPS.

BLAIR

Ya know, this doesn't feel as heavy today.

KATE

Probably because you lost six  
pounds in wine weight.

BLAIR

Did I, though? Or did it just  
change locations...

CASSIE

Maybe we're getting stronger!

ANNE

From one day?

Kate LOOKS at the SUN beating down on the OPEN FIELD.

KATE

It's gonna be a hot one. Let's try  
to cover as much ground as we can  
and then we'll stop at Mirror Lake  
to eat lunch in the shade.

BLAIR

Someone smells so bad. Offensive!  
Take care of your shit, people!

CASSIE

Hey, whoever smelt it...

Anne and Kate discretely smell themselves - seem fine. Blair  
BREAKS AWAY, irritated - *then realizes with horror*:

BLAIR

Omigod... it is me.

EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM - MORNING

The four guys are PEPPERED ALONG the BANK of the STREAM,  
RIGGING UP their fly rods and taking their FIRST CASTS.

JACOB

Hey, what fly are you gonna use?

PETE

Elk Hair Caddis.

JACOB

I thought we'd see those girls  
passing by now.

PETE

They'll turn up when they need help  
with their tents, I'm sure.

Jacob LOOKS DOWN and sees a BEAR PRINT in the MUD.

JACOB  
Hope they brought bear spray.

EXT. LAKE - SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS - DAY

The TREES and BLUE SKIES are a perfect mirror image reflected in Mirror Lake. A WATERFALL cascades into it. They excitedly drop their packs and STRIP DOWN to their UNDIES to WASH UP.

ANNE  
Well, H.R. would deem this wildly inappropriate.

Anne DIPS her FEET in the *ICY, REFRESHING WATER*.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Oh, wow.

CASSIE  
Is it cold?

ANNE  
(pained)  
It's so fucking cold.

CASSIE  
Ahhh.

BLAIR  
It hurts so good.

ANNE  
Ya know, I'm not sure the last time my feet actually touched the earth.

KATE  
That's true... You would never go barefoot in the city.

CASSIE  
I have to say, my sciatica hasn't been hurting out here.

Blair STARES at Cassie's unreal, gorgeous BODY.

BLAIR  
Omigod, how is your butt real? It doesn't even jiggle.

CASSIE  
Are you kidding? It jiggles! Look.

Cassie jiggles her BUTT.

BLAIR

Flinches at best. When mine gets going, time PASSES. It's like a trained-seal clapping.

Blair JIGGLES her BUTT.

ANNE

Yep, this feels about the moment the rapey mountain men appear.

Kate LEAPS off a huge rock into the frosty LAKE, FOLLOWED by Cassie and Blair as Anne HANGS lazily on SHORE.

CASSIE

(doggy-paddles, trilling)  
Speaking of rapey, you seemed to be hitting it off last night, Kate.

ANNE

Sentences not often uttered.

CASSIE

He made that rape joke!

KATE

(smiles)

Oh yeah, he's nice... Jacob.

BLAIR

What do we think of Jacob?

KATE

Oh, I'm not in the right place for anyone new, yet.

CASSIE

Because you're not over Mike?

BLAIR

Girl, you need to drop Mr. Friend Zone and get into Mr. Bone Zone.

KATE

Thank you. I'll take that under consideration.

CASSIE

Nowhere better than Lake Closure!

ANNE

Yeah, still not a real place.

The SKY darkens. Fog ROLLS in mystically OVER THE MOUNTAINS.

BLAIR  
Hey, look at those clouds.

KATE  
Those aren't clouds, that's fog.

They WATCH in silent awe. This HARBINGER OF DOOM.

CASSIE  
It's kind of eery, isn't it?

Blair's EYES suddenly fill with TERROR - being PULLED forcefully UNDERWATER. She SPLASHES frantically.

BLAIR  
Ohmygod, guys!

Blair goes under. FIGHTS her way back TO THE SURFACE.

CASSIE  
Are you being serious??

KATE  
Stop messing around...

But Blair DISAPPEARS for good BENEATH THE WATER.

CASSIE  
Ah! Blair! What's happening?!

Cassie SWIMS OVER to LOOK - Blair's VANISHED.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Blair! Blair?!

HOLD.

KEEP HOLDING.

FINALLY- TWENTY FEET AWAY, Blair BURSTS UP from BEHIND a ROCK under the WATERFALL, THROWING her HAIR back in a sexy Ariel move, singing the "African Chant" from **The Lion King**.

BLAIR  
Baaaaaaaaas Sowenyaaaaaa  
mamabeatsebaba!... HUMMM.

Kate and Cassie SPLASH WATER her way, over it. But Anne is on shore still freaking out.

ANNE  
Oh shit, guys. Oh shit.

BLAIR  
Dude, don't drag out the joke.

Anne DIGS through the BACKPACKS. Pulling everything out.

ANNE  
Where's the food?

KATE  
What?

They SWIM back to SHORE. Dripping WET, COLD, in their UNDERWEAR, they start *frantically* RIFLING through their BAGS.

BLAIR  
No wonder our bags felt so light.

CASSIE  
(realizes)  
We left it hung up in the tree.

They share a LOOK - *shit*.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - LATER

The girls are LOADED UP, Kate LEADING them down the TRAIL. *Adrenaline charged*, hair wet. Fog descending on the trees.

KATE  
Okay, nobody panic. We'll just backtrack.

ANNE  
Three hours each way...

BLAIR  
Can we dump our packs somewhere?

KATE  
We should keep everything with us.

CASSIE  
I hate to complain. But I'm feeling pretty faint. My blood sugar's low from skipping breakfast and I really need a snack attack.

KATE  
Don't worry, we'll be back to the food any second.

They WALK AROUND a BEND and come face-to-face with a STEEP CLIFF. Pebbles SKITTER OFF the TERRIFYING DROP...

BLAIR

Well... We fucked up.

Kate PULLS OUT a TOPOGRAPHIC MAP, trying to pinpoint their location. They all LOOK.

KATE

This shouldn't be here...

ANNE

(realizes with dread)

But it is here... Which means... we shouldn't be here.

KATE

Alright, we're still OK. We're on:

(unsure, points at map)

...One of these cliffs, I think.  
Mike would know how to read this  
better than me.

BLAIR

A paper map? It looks like a buncha varicose veins. How do you zoom in?

Anne POINTS to one of the HUNDREDS of LAKES...

ANNE

Okay, we were just at Mirror Lake.

Anne TRACES her FINGER to the EDGE of a CLIFF. Then TRACES backwards leading from Mirror Lake to Crane Lake.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Somehow we took the wrong trail so we just need to head back to there.

CASSIE

But we don't know where we are.

BLAIR

Who cares where we are? Let's just head back in the direction we came and get the food.

CASSIE

We can't head back if we don't know where we're going.

ANNE

We do know where we're going. We just need to backtrack to Mirror Lake and then we'll find the right trail to get back to Crane Lake.

Anne and Blair TURN to start HEADING BACK - *can't take Cassie's idiocy right now.* Kate TURNS to Cassie.

KATE

We're gonna be fine, don't worry.  
This is all part of the adventure.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - LATER

The girls excitedly SPEED UP towards a CLEARING, relieved to see the first signs of a BODY OF WATER ahead.

BLAIR

Is that a lake?!

ANNE

That's the lake!

They STOP IN their TRACKS, LOOKING at a SMALL, MUDDY LAKE.

ANNE (CONT'D)

That's a lake.

BLAIR

More of a cesspool.

ANNE

Are we... lost?

CASSIE

*I told you, guys.*

*This sinks in...*

BLAIR

I don't want to die up here!

KATE

Guys, let's not freak out.. Does anyone have signal?

They all PULL their CELL PHONES out of the BACKPACKS.

ANNE

Dead.

KATE

Same.

BLAIR

Dead... just like us. I'd never have sexted Jeremy if I knew it'd get in the way of a helicopter.

CASSIE  
I still have fourteen percent!

KATE  
Do you have signal?!

CASSIE  
No. But I think you can call 911  
even without service.

Cassie DIALS. They all WAIT - *everything riding on this.*

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
It's not ringing.

Everyone DEFLATES. Kate pulls out the MAP.

KATE  
Let's see...

Anne takes the map - *to Kate's surprise* - but deferentially allows it. Anne POINTS to three possible lakes.

ANNE  
Okay, if we were at Mirror Lake -  
here's the closest options for what  
lakes we might now be at.

CASSIE  
Would you guys please listen? We  
never were at Mirror Lake. Look at  
the map - it doesn't look like it.

KATE  
(gently)  
Drought. Things could have changed.

CASSIE  
(can't think of the word)  
There was the splashy thing! The  
thing where the water comes down.  
The drought changed that?

ANNE  
The splashy thing? A waterfall?

CASSIE  
Yes. My mouth moves faster than my  
brain sometimes.

BLAIR  
(irritated, like a dog)  
What are you trying to tell us,  
Lassie? -I mean, Cassie?

CASSIE

I think we got off trail when we went to the boys camp last night and never got back on this morning.

ANNE

Hold on a second, we were following you this morning...

CASSIE

I wasn't leading. I thought you were leading.

BLAIR

You were in front! Saying that stupid thing about leading!

CASSIE

(not listening)

Yeah! Waiting for someone to tell me which way to go! I didn't have the map! Why would anyone think I knew?!

Kate COWERS behind the MAP, blocking out the conflict.

KATE

This is quickly approaching my worst nightmare. Ha! Okay, let's calm down. Panicking won't help.

ANNE

(freaking out, internal)

Ohmygod... They call this Thousand Lake trail. We could be at any of these...

BLAIR

(to Cassie)

Why did anyone trust you?! You get lost just leaving the house.

CASSIE

Excusez-moi but you're why we even left our camp last night.

ANNE

Yeah, you sniffed men in the air and HAD to chase after it.

BLAIR

Wow, you weren't complaining when you were sucking down sausages!

ANNE  
 You were the one suckin' on a  
*sausage!*

Kate steels herself: *knows this is her chance to lead.*

KATE  
 Guys! Please! This isn't helping!  
 We need to take stock. Does anyone  
 have food that wasn't in the bag?

They SHAKE their HEADS.

KATE (CONT'D)  
 Okay, we can live awhile without  
 food. I've seen Survivor. Please  
 tell me we have the water filter.

Blair and Anne are both unsure - LOOK OVER TO...

CASSIE  
 (quietly)  
 I put it with the rest of the food.

BLAIR  
 Perfect. Why don't we smash all the  
 flashlights while we're at it?!

KATE  
 How much water is left?

The girls SET DOWN four half-full THERMOSES. This is bad.  
 Anne KNEELS, the heat of panic taking hold, *retreats inward.*

KATE (CONT'D)  
 (trying to stay strong)  
 Okay, uh...  
 (less strong)  
 Okay, uh...  
 (full-panic)  
 Okay, uh...

CASSIE  
 What's happening to her right now?

KATE  
 (emphatic but tearing up)  
 Okay, we're gonna be fine. Okay?

BLAIR  
 It's hard to believe you when  
 you're fully weeping.

Kate SNAPS OUT of it - takes the MAP back from Anne - taking back control. Kate points to the PARKING LOT on the MAP.

KATE

Alright. We just have to head south right? The parking lot's south - no matter where we start from. I'll just tell Emmett we couldn't do it.

CASSIE

Are you gonna get fired? Are we all getting fired for not getting the photo on top?

KATE

I'll take the blame, this is my failing.

BLAIR

I'll photoshop us onto a screensaver. Who cares?

KATE

No, I'm not going to lie. But we don't need to worry about that. Right now I just want to focus on getting you guys back safe.

ANNE

(fretful)

How do we even know what's south?

Kate LOOKS AROUND. Sun behind fog. *How do you tell direction?*

KATE

Birds! Birds fly south for the winter and north for the summer...  
(unsure, thinking)  
So, in early Autumn, they...?

They LOOK at a group of SITTING BIRDS.

CASSIE

Those birds aren't flying at all.

Blair TOSSES a rock - the birds FLY in ALL DIRECTIONS.

BLAIR

Crap.

KATE

(thinks, then)  
Wait. Is there a compass on the phone?

Cassie LOOKS on her PHONE - lights up. She points it: SOUTH.

CASSIE  
Yes! That's due south.

KATE  
Let's move, quick.

They HEAD in that DIRECTION with purpose.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

They BUSHWHACK through THICKLY WOODED FOREST - following the COMPASS - no time to spare, STICKS and SCRATCHES be damned. The phone DINGS. They STOP - *hopeful*.

BLAIR  
You have signal?!

CASSIE  
(gasps in delight, looks)  
Yes!  
(reading new email)  
*"It's been awhile since you updated your credit score." That's ridiculous, I just did a month ago.*

Cassie HOLDS the PHONE up, RUNNING around crazily. DIALS 911.

BLAIR  
Cassie, if this works, I'll never make fun of you again!

Cassie eventually SLOWS to a STOP - *nothing*.

CASSIE  
It's still not connecting.

BLAIR  
Bit of an over-promise, anyway...

CASSIE  
It's down to three percent.

KATE  
Try texting Emmett we need help. An SMS might go through more easily.

CASSIE  
(texting aloud)  
Okay... "S.O.S."

She HITS SEND - just as it AUTOCORRECTS to "**SEX.**"

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
 Ah! It auto-corrected to SEX.

She quickly TYPES "S.O.S." again. Autocorrects "SEX" again.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
 Oh no!

She tries a THIRD TIME - same. The the PHONE shuts off.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
 I just texted our CEO: sex sex sex!

They STAND THERE, all hope waning. Kate points forwards.

KATE  
 Okay, we still know this way's  
 South. We just need to keep moving.

Kate looks at the giant SEQUOIAS - *they look eerily the same*.

KATE (CONT'D)  
 This way, right? It's this way.

She POINTS FORWARD again, less sure. They follow.

KATE (CONT'D)  
 Does anyone remember that saying  
 about moss? It grows on the north  
 side of a tree, right? ...Or south?

No one knows.

CASSIE  
 (thinking aloud, unsure)  
 A rolling stone gathers no moss...?

BLAIR  
 You know when a stewardess tells  
 you how to buckle your seat belt  
 and you're like, "please, I got  
 this" so you tune out but later if  
 you were crashing, you'd be like:  
 (falling down well voice)  
 "Wait, what's the part about how  
 the seat cushion device workkkks?!"

Kate WALKS beside Anne, who has gone silent with stress.

KATE  
 You okay? You're not talking much.

ANNE  
 There's not much to say.

KATE  
That doesn't stop the others.

Kate smiles but Anne barely NODS. Blair SETS down her PACK.

BLAIR  
I know this is bad timing but  
nature calls. Do we have t.p.?

KATE  
No, just use a leaf. Although, not  
that leaf. That's Poison Oak. Or  
any leaves like this:

Kate POINTS to some GREEN LEAVES.

BLAIR  
That's like every leaf!  
(huffs off behind tree)  
Prison has more perks! We had a  
good life - we had homes with  
perfectly good doors and fridges  
and toilets - and decided, we're  
tired of having it all, let's go  
outside where there's nothing!

Kate LOOKS UP through the thick tree coverage...

KATE  
Okay, we just need perspective on  
where we are and we'll be okay.

THE CAMERA FLIES UP the TOWERING SEQUOIA TRUNK - a hundred  
meters high - a skyscraper in the sky. We ZOOM OUT to see  
acres in every direction... and realize how screwed they are.

EXT. FOREST - MILES AND HOURS LATER

They SLOG ONWARDS - *weak but pressing forward.*

BLAIR  
(mumbling to herself)  
My Dearest Eugene, I'm lost in the  
woods. Everything hurts: head,  
shoulders, knees and toes. Please  
tell Ma I love her. Make sure Bessy  
combs her hair and Pa feeds the  
pigs. I fear the worst, withdrawals  
are setting in.

CASSIE  
Hey, at least you don't have a  
withdrawal headache!

BLAIR  
Don't say headache. If I think  
about one I'll -Ugh- here it comes.

LATER, Blair HOVERS to a STOP, RUBS her TEMPLES, gagging.

CASSIE  
(bashful)  
I know a natural pain killer but I  
don't want to say.

ANNE  
Say!

CASSIE  
...An orgasm.

BLAIR  
With who?!

CASSIE  
No, *hands solo*. It changes blood  
flow towards your *pleasure sensors*.

BLAIR  
Great idea! I'm gonna go masturbate  
right now. Quick, pinch my nipples.

CASSIE  
Told you I didn't want to say...

BLAIR  
Yes, as exciting as that sounds to  
go rub myself down in Poison Oak  
Central while the sales staff waits  
for me, shockingly I'd rather die  
with a small rice grain of dignity.

LATER, Blair VOMITS in a BUSH, guzzles the last of her water.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
(mutters to self)  
*It'll be fun, they said. It'll be  
like a vacation, they said.*

KATE  
Are you okay?

BLAIR  
I'm not awesome.

Kate REMOVES items from Blair's bag and stuffs it in her own,  
lightening Blair's load. Kate straps the bulky pack back on.  
Cassie, concerned, and Anne, openly disdainful, watch her.

KATE  
(to Anne and Cassie)  
Do you guys need any help?

CASSIE  
(shakes head, worried)  
Are you gonna be okay?

KATE  
I'm fine, I'm fine.

Kate looks up at the sky darkening past late afternoon.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Okay, just so we're clear... who is  
going to notice us missing if we  
don't show up tomorrow? Boyfriends,  
roommates, husbands, anything...

CASSIE  
Just our coworkers on Monday.

BLAIR  
Same, no one tomorrow.

ANNE  
Scott will if he doesn't hear from  
me by late tomorrow night.

BLAIR  
One person in our group has someone  
who cares about them. Maybe we  
should reevaluate our life choices.

KATE  
One is enough. So, if he reports us  
missing tomorrow night, Search and  
Rescue would probably wait until  
first light which means thirty-six,  
forty-eight hours at the soonest...

BLAIR  
Soonest is Tuesday? It's Saturday!  
What about Sunday and Monday?

CASSIE  
There's a lot of area for a search  
team to cover.

ANNE  
Without food or water in this heat.

BLAIR  
At the soonest? The soonest?

ANNE

Yes, we got that part, Blair.

KATE

That's why we should keep heading south, we can't afford to wait...

They START again. Kate ADJUSTS her overloaded pack on her shoulders, wincing silently. Anne SQUISHES her foot into:

ANNE

Ugh! I stepped in poo!

Anne starts WIPING her SHOE against a TREE, repulsed.

KATE

That looks like human poo.

CASSIE

(looks around, excited)  
Definitely people poo. It's fresh, too. Are we near civilization?!

KATE

There must be a trail near here.

(yells out)

Hello! Can anyone hear us?!

ANNE

(yells out)

We need help!

CASSIE

Who pooped here?!

BLAIR

Uh, guys... I think that's my poo.

KATE

What? That's impossible.

BLAIR

I kind of doubt anyone covered their poo with one twig and one red leaf for effect like I did.

CASSIE

You're supposed to bury it! Dig a hole six-inches deep. No trace!

BLAIR

Not really the point right now. You should be thanking me for leaving breadcrumbs. Am I a hero? Maybe.

ANNE

That's the opposite of breadcrumbs.  
Fuck, we're walking in circles?!

They PUT their PACKS down.

ANNE (CONT'D)

We need to stop. This tactic's not working. We're wasting energy. The more un-lost we try to be, the more lost we become.

KATE

I wish Mike were here, he'd know what to do.

Blair and Anne have had enough with Mike.

BLAIR

Would you stop it with the "Mike?"  
It doesn't help!

ANNE

Yeah, you're who dragged us out here. You should know.

KATE

(trying to remain upbeat)  
To be fair I didn't say I was a wilderness survivalist. I know how to hike a trail.

ANNE

(stewing, to herself)  
Well - not really since it took a day to notice we weren't on one.

BLAIR

Why are we even here? Everyone knows team building is a joke. No one ever changes from it. It's just this dumb excuse for boundary crossing. I don't need coworkers to know my fears. I need them to pass the fucking stapler.

ANNE

I should have quit, I was planning on quitting. I should have listened to my instincts.

KATE

Guys! I know this is stressful and everyone's upset but we need to make a plan before dark. You guys are right. I can do this with or without Mike.

BLAIR

Without.

KATE

(corrects herself)

Yes, without.

CASSIE

Yeah, this is only a three-day hike. We can handle this!

BLAIR

(weary, speaks slowly)

Cassie, this is only three days if we know where the fuck we are. Otherwise, this hike is very long and never ends and then we die.

CASSIE

(horror)

I have the big solar panels demo.

BLAIR

Once again missing the point.

EXT. CLEARING - EVENING

Kate and Anne COLLECT ROCKS to spell out "HELP" while Cassie and Blair YELL INTO THE CANYONS.

CASSIE

HELP WE'RE ON A TEAMBUILDING TRIP AND GOT LOST AND RAN OUT OF FOOD.

BLAIR

Maybe edit it a bit. HELP!

CASSIE

ANYONE OUT THERE?!

(then)

I'm realizing I never get to yell at the top of my lungs. I have a really powerful voice.

(sighs, looks around)

If we weren't lost, I'd be in awe of how beautiful this place is.

(MORE)

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
I mean, how do some of these plants  
survive in such arid conditions?

BLAIR  
Can we focus?  
(yells)  
PLEASE SAVE US... OR JUST ME!

Cassie SPOTS bright, red berries along the BUSH.

CASSIE  
Hey, rose hips!

BLAIR  
Oh totally, I recognize those  
bright red berries. They're on  
every brochure of what not to eat.

CASSIE  
No, these are safe! You can trust  
me. They're high in anti-oxidants.

BLAIR  
Thanks but I'll wait twenty-four  
hours to see how you fare first.

IN THE FAR DISTANCE, Blair sees a CESSNA PLANE. They start  
CHASING AFTER IT. WAVING. POINTING AT THEIR "HELP" SIGN.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Omigod! Hey!!!

CASSIE  
Hello there!!!

Kate and Anne RUN OVER.

KATE  
Yes, down here!!

ANNE  
(yelling at sky)  
Why are we yelling! You can't hear!  
(realizes)  
Or see us...

It never CROSSES OVER, DISAPPEARING behind the MOUNTAINS -  
along with the sun. They go silent in disappointment.

CASSIE  
If we had a mirror, we could use it  
as a signal.

Blair realizes something - damn.

BLAIR

Ahhh. The guy at REI asked me if I wanted a camp mirror.

ANNE

We need sun for that, anyway. And fuck REI. They can eat my ass.

BLAIR

Wow, okay.

ANNE

I'm serious. They're worthless. They don't even carry flares. They said they only have whistles and glow sticks.

(then, considers)  
Except...

Anne starts DIGGING through Kate's PACK and excitedly pulls out the camp stove butane canister.

ANNE (CONT'D)

If this explodes, it's sure to get some attention.

EXT. CLEARING - EVENING

Kate HOLDS the canister in front of a SMALL CAMPFIRE. The others WATCH from a SAFE DISTANCE away, *expectant, hopeful*.

KATE

(calls out)  
Could this start a forest fire?

ANNE

I hope not.

KATE

Why won't you do this again?

ANNE

Too scared...  
(pleads)  
You're the boss!

With TREMBLING FINGERS, Kate TOSSES the canister into the FIRE and RUNS FASTER than any Olympian *towards them*. ARMS pumping, HAIR flying...

She TRIPS and spectacularly FALLS - *to everyone's horror*. The CAMPFIRE puffs ominously HIGHER behind her...

She yelps, SCRAMBLES to her FEET. Finally REACHES them - she BENDS over, catching her breath... TURNS to see...

Nothing. The CAMPFIRE resumes its NORMAL. DAMN. LEVEL.

BLAIR  
Yep. That's gonna save us.

ANNE  
Is it empty? Did we use it up?

CASSIE  
You sure you turned the safety off?

KATE  
Maybe I didn't do it right...

**BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!**

FOR A MOMENT: Everything's **DEVILISH RED**. FLAMES LICK the SKY.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Did it right.

They CHEER, HIGH-FIVING as the BURSTS return to a safe level.

CASSIE  
Way to go, Kate! And Anne!

ANNE  
(high-fives Kate)  
Yeah!!!

BLAIR  
We're not totally helpless!

KATE  
That definitely got some attention.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ANGELES - VARIOUS SHOTS

THE CAMERA ZOOMS across the miles... *capturing reactions to the explosion...* A grazing MOUNTAIN GOAT freezes, listening... A pack of BIRDS squawk and scatter...

The Four Guys are SETTING UP their TENTS at Devil's Neck. They stop and turn in surprise...

JACOB  
What was that?

PETE  
Probably thunder.

JACOB

Didn't sound like thunder. They should have caught up by now, right? Should we look for them?

PETE

They probably took one look at Devils Neck and turned around.

(teases)

Or maybe she's just avoiding you.

Suddenly, a loud crack of THUNDER growls. They look up.

PETE (CONT'D)

See?

EXT. CLEARING - SAME

ANNE

Please tell me that's someone's stomach.

As if in response: wind RUSTLES in. GATHERING CLOUDS.

BLAIR

Oh, this feels promising.

KATE

It's pretty dry - it's probably not that big a deal...

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - SAME

Jacob looks out, concerned, at the impending weather.

PETE

Sure hope they learned how to make a tent.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

POURING HEAVIER than you've ever seen. The fire is out. The girls HOLD a single TENT FLAP over their HEAD, HUDDLING together. Kate finally lets down her *optimistic veneer*...

KATE

Well, this sucks fucking ass.

So much WATER gathers on TOP of their FLAP that it TIPS onto their HEADS. A river of rainwater gushes by their feet. HAIL starts pelting down on them.

ANNE

Ow! Side rain! Is that hail?! Are you kidding me?!

The TREES *sway* ominously. They LOOK at the HAIR standing STRAIGHT UP on their ARMS from static electricity...

KATE

(yells over wind, worried)

Uh-oh. That's not a good sign...

CASSIE

How far away do you think it is?

A LIGHTENING BOLT explodes and hits a PINE TREE beside them. EVERYTHING FLASHES BLINDING WHITE: as the TREE SPLITS in HALF, BRANCHES TIMBERING down on both sides as THUNDER booms.

They SCREAM, DROP the FLAP and start RUNNING for their lives.

INT. KATE'S TENT - NIGHT

THE MASSIVE DOWNPOUR *beats* upon their hastily-made TENT. They CLIMB inside, *drenched*. Freezing cold. Shivering. Breath visible. But relieved for shelter. Kate ZIPS the DOOR, HANGS LANTERN. They PEEL off wet LAYERS. Anne YANKS off her dripping SOCKS.

ANNE

So much for waterproof boots.

Kate PUTS a BAG in the CENTER.

KATE

We can put any wet stuff in here.

ANNE

So, everything.

Blair *faces modestly towards a corner*, PULLS off her SHIRT.

BLAIR

Don't look at me.

ANNE

Why would anyone try to be looking at you?

(wryly)

Besides, I can see your rock-hard nipples in the shadows.

INT. TENT - MINUTES LATER

They're WEARING every DRY ITEM they have, looking hilarious: long pants tied for scarves, wool sweaters as hats - inside their sleeping bags, RUBBING HANDS together to warm up.

TIMBER GROANS outside as GALE-FORCE WINDS BLOW their TENT. Cassie unzips the tent - gusts of rain BLOWING IN.

BLAIR

What are you doing?!

CASSIE

At least we have water to drink.

Cassie pulls in a pot of rainwater and sets a new one outside. She REZIPS the TENT, takes a drink from the pot.

BLAIR

Great, so we can live to die of starvation.

ANNE

Pretty sure this is End of Days, biblical kind of rain.

KATE

We'll just have to wait this out.

CASSIE

What if we get out of this and discover the world ended while we were out here and we're the last four left?

BLAIR

I'd finally eat your poison-berry.

Cassie's LEG GRAZES Blair's and Blair SCOOTS away, annoyed.

CASSIE

I saw in a movie once that people who die in the wilderness, die of shame. They die thinking, "How could I have gotten myself into this?" Not doing the one thing that could have saved them...

(dramatic pause)

Thinking. Did you see THE EDGE? Alec Baldwin, Anthony Hopkins? It's pretty under-rated.

ANNE

Yeah, if I ever get out of this,  
I'll be sure to check it out.

KATE

Everyone stop saying "if." Dead  
people say "if." Cassie's right -  
we're smart, we can think our way  
through this. Tomorrow we'll find a  
vantage point.

(then)

As long as it doesn't flash flood  
and we drown.

THUNDER *bangs again*. This is grim. Anne POKES the BOTTOM SIDE  
of the TENT - it's floating over the RAINWATER.

ANNE

Oh yeah, we're floating.

INT. TENT - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

The RAIN *putters* to a stop. They're SITTING AGAINST each  
other's BACKS like a chair. *Hungry, bleary, desperate.*

BLAIR

Does anyone remember food?

KATE

It was good.

CASSIE

I feel like I didn't appreciate it  
enough. Like there were times I ate  
things without enjoying every nib.

ANNE

I'd even eat our disgusting first  
night's dinner at this point.

BLAIR

It pains me to know someone found  
my freeze-dried ice cream and is  
enjoying it with their friends like  
a bunch of assholes.

ANNE

I've done diets where I eat every  
other day. It's called intermittent  
fasting. Just picture you're full.  
Your stomach adjusts after awhile.

CASSIE  
How long does that take?

ANNE  
A couple weeks.

BLAIR  
We'll have eaten Cassie by then!  
Ugh, why couldn't we be stuck on a  
"dessert" island? Where the sands  
are made of cookie crumbles.  
Survival of the fattest.

ANNE  
Why do I feel like you've thought  
of this before?

KATE  
(notices)  
It sounds like it's finally let up.

BLAIR  
Good, because I have to pee.

Blair MOVES - which makes Cassie *fall over*. Blair TAKES one last SIP of WATER. Sniffs something FOUL... SNIFFS the POT - the AIR - the GIRLS.

ANNE  
Quit sniffing everything.

BLAIR  
It smells like ROTTING ASS.

ANNE  
Are you gonna say that the whole tr-  
(smells it, winces)  
--Oh. Ugh!

BLAIR  
See?!

KATE  
Ew, that can't be human.

ANNE  
Come on guys. You can't do that  
when we're trapped together...

BLAIR  
Oof, I'm going out here-

Blair UNZIPS the TENT and comes face-to-face with an eight-foot-tall **BLACK BEAR** (*the source of rotting ass stench*).

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Hey, Bear.

Blair matter-of-factly REZIPS the tent back up.

CASSIE  
Omigod! Was that a black bear? It's a black bear?! A black bear?

ANNE  
Stop saying black, you sound racist!

The BLACK BEAR *GROWLS*, SNIFFS at the DOOR FLAP, *curiously*.

KATE  
We don't have any food in here!

BLAIR  
We're the food! People in sleeping bags are like soft tacos to bears.

CASSIE  
No. You smell terrible to bears.  
Like Red Bull and battery acid.

BLAIR  
Thanks for that self-esteem boost - but what about Gluten-Free Annie over here? She probably tastes delicious! Like a pot full of honey and pic-i-nic baskets.

KATE  
That's not how it works!

The BEAR turns from curious to aggressive, *CLAWS* at the FLAP. The girls JUMP to the other side of the TENT, HORRIFIED.

KATE (CONT'D)  
(quietly, pleading)  
We don't have food! Go away!

They suddenly NOTICE Anne... secretly SWALLOWING a nutella sandwich as fast as she can. Their MOUTHS drop open *in shock*.

BLAIR  
Well, well, well!

ANNE  
This is MINE!

Blair BODY *SLAMS* Anne to WRANGLE it from her. Anne ROLLS, SHOVING it in her MOUTH by the FISTFUL.

BLAIR

"Picture you're full," my ass!  
Fudge packer!

ANNE

Thought you hated gluten-free!

Cassie FLIES through the AIR to snatch a PIECE...

CASSIE

Do you have any Macadamia?!

BLAIR

Selfish!!! No wonder you don't want  
kids! You'd starve 'em out!

A PIECE *flies* onto the WET, DIRTY GROUND and Blair EATS IT.

ANNE

My husband made this for me. I owe  
no one!

A BEAR starts *pulling* the FABRIC, *trying to drag them off*.  
Kate, *shaking*, HOLDS THE BEAR-SPRAY with one hand - and  
STARTS CLANGING a POT with the other.

KATE

Guys! Focus!

They join her, grabbing pots and pans, start *chaotically*  
*banging*... CLING, CLANG, CLONG! They slowly find a RHYTHM...  
A drum circle. Their eyes DARTING for signs of the bear.

They eventually STOP-

CASSIE

The smell is gone.

They SNIFF, *nodding*... the BEAR *fled*. They SIT, *chests*  
*heaving from the adrenaline*. Sweat turning cold.

BLAIR

(shivers violently)

Oh shit. Now I have to nervous pee,  
too, but I can't go out there.

KATE

It's not a serial killer, we either  
scared it off or we didn't.

BLAIR

Yeah, it's the second part of that  
sentence I'm not comfortable with.  
Anne, hand me a pot.

ANNE

No.

BLAIR

I have to NERVOUS PEE!

ANNE

Nervous pee somewhere else. You already shit on me today.

BLAIR

Maybe you should familiarize yourself with the saying: poo onto others. You could learn something.

ANNE

Ugh, you always think you're funny.  
(fends off Blair's reach)

NO.

CASSIE

Just give it to her, Anne. When your body has to go, you get colder because it's focusing all your energy on holding it in.

ANNE

Fuck that. She gave me a black eye when she death-rolled me!

(ferocious)

If she "goes" by me, I'll -no joke- punch her in the butthole. Try me.

Blair STARES her down - Anne STARES back, dead serious.

BLAIR

(backs down)

Fuckin' A. Give me the bear spray.

Kate GIVES Blair the BEAR-SPRAY. Blair UNZIPS the DOOR, PEEKS OUT - turns, PULLS down her PANTS and bravely SHOVES her ASS out - BEAR-SPRAY perched beside her ready to SPRAY.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

(yells at any bears)

YOU BETTER NOT EAT MY ASS,  
MOTHERFUCKER!

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

The world glistens green from leftover rain. A CROW SITS atop their partially deflated TENT - *SQUAWKS. Rise and shine!*

CLOSE UPON... THE TENT ZIPPER... stuck. They're PULLING hard from inside, one inch up, catches, one inch down... CAN'T GET OUT - FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER, they finally YANK it open.

Blair, Cassie and Anne TUMBLE OUT like a clown car.

CASSIE  
Sciatica's back from the stress.

ANNE  
I know how you can fix it. Don't ever talk about it again.

Blair looks at a BIRD circling above.

BLAIR  
Look. Even that vulture is waiting for us to die.

CASSIE  
That's a duck.

BLAIR  
Probably still waiting for us to die.

They walk over to Kate who is standing nearby, holding a map.

ANNE  
(bossy, over it)  
I think we should just follow a river downstream.

KATE  
(points to right)  
Well, I was thinking - the sun rose there so that's the East.  
(points to left)  
Set there - so that's the west...  
Never Eat Salty Watermelon...  
(points behind her)  
...so that's north.  
(straight ahead, forest)  
And that's south. We'll keep the mountain to the left. With the time of year, it could be a few degrees off but it's our best bet.

ANNE  
Ten degrees off could make a huge difference. Miles. And it's a maze in there. Everything looks the same.

CASSIE

Yeah, every time we go in there, we can't see the mountains for the trees and lose perspective.

ANNE

I learned in Girl Scouts that rivers lead to towns and towns lead to new lives where we can forget this ever happened and that's what I'm doing.

BLAIR

Oh, the Girl Scouts? That's much better! Was that on the front of the box of cookies or back?

KATE

It's not a river, it's a stream. What if it dead-ends, Anne? We need to stick together.

ANNE

Fine, I'm following the stream, then. And no, we don't. Whoever can follow me but I'm not trusting anyone else with my life, anymore.

CASSIE

Guys, the reason no one trusts each other is we don't trust ourselves.

BLAIR

Oh God, go away.

CASSIE

Stop -- you always treat me like I'm dumb and I'm not dumb!

BLAIR

Aren't you, though? Aren't you the dumbest?

CASSIE

No!

BLAIR

But dumb people are probably last to know, right? Wait, what's this?

(digs fake-paper out of pocket)

*"Hey Aries, I've been making up fake horoscopes for you for years."*

Blair's prank DAWNS on Cassie.

CASSIE

You're mean. Geez la F-ing weez! I didn't die from the rose hips, did I? I guess I must be too dumb!

Kate CLOSES her EYES, *wishing she could be anywhere else.*

KATE

Come on, guys! Blair!

Cassie is firmly aligning with Anne now... *away from Blair.*

CASSIE

Maybe we should split up. It increases our chance to find help.

KATE

(pleading, waving)

Cassie! Stop, stop! Please, stop!

ANNE

What are you gonna do, Kate? Oh, that's right - nothing. Because god forbid you acknowledge conflict. Can you even see us right now? Are we invisible?

KATE

(finally snaps)

Ah, fine, FINE!!! You want me to acknowledge conflict? Watch this!

Kate picks her BACKPACK up, SWINGING it around aggressively and THROWS it. It LANDS in the STREAM.

KATE (CONT'D)

(imitates them, walks  
funnily, hands on hips)

"Ooh, I'm Anne. I'm too cool for school. But you wouldn't know where I went to school because I don't talk to anyone."

(then)

"Hello, Cassie here, I'm on the spectrum. I spend one hour of the work-day working and seven hours inspecting my fucking chair."

(drinks pine-cone)

"Hey, I'm Blair: Glug, glug, glug."

(then)

Everyone says, "Ooh, it's Year Of The Woman.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

*Females: so in right now! What a banner year for ladies everywhere!" Except you guys!!!*

BLAIR

That doesn't feel legal to say.

KATE

I am trying so hard! I've tried everything! The only reason we're out here is because I was trying to save your jobs! Which clearly doesn't matter now because we can't even work together well enough to get out of these woods. But I'm your boss and I deserve RESPECT!

They STARE at her, *speechless*. Kate SOBERS up, goes to PICK her pack up out of the stream. Puts on a now DRIPPING PACK.

KATE (CONT'D)

Please follow me a little longer?  
You're my responsibility.

ANNE

No, Kate, we're not. Not anymore.  
Our only responsibility is to ourselves now.

(to Kate and Blair)  
Good luck following the sun. We'll send help.

Anne FOLLOWS the STREAM - and Cassie follows in tow.

BLAIR

Good luck to you! We'll send help!

Blair looks at crazy Kate - with her dripping pack- not sure she wants to go with her, but she ostracized the others. She and Kate HEAD SOUTH... *Which happens to be the same way...*

BLAIR (CONT'D)

This awkwardly is the same direction for a minute.

They all WALK AWKWARDLY together through the mud. The STREAM finally turns off away from the trail.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Okay, bye!

We see the two groups BRANCH OFF from each other. Bad idea. Kate's heartbroken over this failure but PRESSES FORWARD.

EXT. CLEARING - MINUTES LATER

Kate and Blair PASS the "HELP" ROCKS... They STOP short, NOTICING fresh bear scat with berries in it.

BLAIR  
The bear shit in our HELP sign?  
That's like the ultimate F.U.

MINUTES LATER, they continue along a SERPENTINE MOUNTAIN PATH snaking upwards with constant BLIND CORNERS.

KATE  
Careful, if we can take this trail,  
bears probably like it too.

They start CLAPPING. Kate CLUTCHES the BEAR-SPRAY, ready.

KATE (CONT'D) BLAIR  
Hey Bear! Hey Bear!

Their PACE quickens with fear. Things grow more TENSE. The more they CLAP, the more the ANTICIPATION and FEAR grows.

BLAIR  
At least we got the bear-spray...

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Meanwhile, Anne and Cassie cross over a FALLEN TREE, continuing to walk DOWNSTREAM.

ANNE  
At least we're not the blonde  
leading the blonde.

CASSIE

ANNE  
Nevermind.  
(notices)  
Shit.

The stream TRICKLES into a SMALL POND where the stream ends.

CASSIE  
What do we do now?

Anne stands on top of a TREE STUMP to get perspective.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
See anything?

ANNE  
 (scratching legs)  
 I don't understand why I'm the only  
 one ever getting bit. You really  
 haven't gotten one bite?

Anne HEARS them before she SEES them... *BUZZING*.

YELLOW JACKETS SWARM up Anne's LEGS from the NEST she's standing on. She YELPS and starts RUNNING for her life, SWIPING madly as WASPS STING her in a frenzied circle.

She BELLY-FLOPS into the POND. She SWIMS underwater in the SHALLOW WATER, pokes her HEAD UP.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
 Are they gone?!

Doesn't wait for the answer. Pokes HEAD back DOWN. Then, UP.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
 Are they gone?!

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - DAY

Blair and Kate reach GIANT BOULDERS. Kate HURLS her PACK over them and shimmies her way snugly between TWO ROCKS.

Blair FOLLOWS suit, *a much tighter fit*... She SCRAPES her PALMS trying to SLIDE through, gets completely stuck.

BLAIR  
 Bad idea, bad idea.

Blair barely SQUEEZES back out. She tries to CLIMB OVER the BOULDER but just sort of hugs it, *unsure how to mobilize*.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
 Coming. Any minute now.

LATER, Kate and Blair freak themselves out *more* with EVERY FEARFUL CLAP. The DROP OFF to the left is perilous. A BULKY ANIMAL lurks ahead - Blair looks again - it's just a TREE.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
 Everything looks like a fucking bear ahead.

KATE  
 Hey Bear!

BLAIR  
 (screaming)  
 HEY BEAR HEY BEAR HEY BEAR!!

They're WALKING at such a FRANTIC GAIT, they almost don't STOP in time to realize that around the BEND:

A MASSIVE ROCK SLIDE has taken out the trail. A MOSSY ROCK comes loose and FALLS into the RAVINE a million miles below.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
 There's no way to cross.

KATE  
 This must be because of the rains.

They hear VOICES in the DISTANCE...

BLAIR  
 Civilization?

KATE  
 Rescuers?

BLAIR  
 (sniffs wind)  
 Men?

They carefully CRABWALK up the UNSTABLE ROCKS, still slick from the rain, to LOOK. The FOG is ROLLING in, *making it tough to tell but in THE FAR DISTANCE they see **TWO HIKERS!!!***

Kate and Blair excitedly WAVE...

KATE  
 Hey!!!

The HIKERS wave back who seem equally surprised and excited. *Only to realize they've just run back into ANNE AND CASSIE.*

BLAIR  
 Un-fucking-believable.

But the GULLY gives way and Kate SLIDES down - grabbing for anything but there's nothing to hold onto... She SWEEPS DOWN THE EDGE, clings madly to a BRANCH. The BRANCH starts to bend. She LOOKS at the VALLEY a THOUSAND FEET below. Trying to PULL herself up but can't.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
 Kate!

KATE  
*Oh God please, I don't want to die!*

As we saw in the opening: Blair INCHES DOWN, REACHES for KATE, YELLS over her SHOULDER.

BLAIR  
Help!! Anne, Cassie, quick!

CUT TO: Anne and Cassie RACING towards them through TREES.

CUT TO: Blair GRABS for Kate's other HAND.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Kate - give me your hand!

Kate SHAKES her head, *frantic*. But just as the BRANCH *snaps*, Kate lets go - *SLAP!* - connecting with BLAIR'S HAND.

Their eyes locked, Blair uses every *trembling muscle* to DRAG her up. *It's heartwarming, heroic...*

Until Kate SLIPS from Blair's grip and falls INTO THE ABYSS.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
Oh no! Oh shit! Oh fuck!

Anne and Cassie reach the AVALANCHE PATH - moments too late.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
I think I killed our boss.

ANNE  
Oh my god. Oh my god.

CASSIE  
Kate!!

They PEER over the TERRIFYING EDGE. FOG envelops the BOTTOM.

Blair tries to SPEAK but breaks into SOBBING TEARS. Cassie HOLDS her. Then Anne. *This loss is more than they can take.*

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)  
(faintly)  
Hello?

They are huddled so tight, they don't hear it at first.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Hello?

They PULL APART. Start looking everywhere for the source...

CASSIE  
Hellooo?

They SCAN AGAIN BELOW: Partway down, almost entirely hidden in FOG is --Kate-- CLINGING to a FOREBODING LEDGE.

BLAIR  
Kate!!!

KATE  
(always the peace-maker)  
I'm fine, I'm okay... just a flesh  
wound I think!

Kate doesn't realize her FOOT is going in a weird direction.

BLAIR  
(notices)  
Ah!

KATE  
(looks, freaks out)  
Ahhh!!

But there's no time to panic. She's on a CRUMBLING LEDGE.

ANNE  
Is there any way up?

KATE  
No.

ANNE  
We're gonna get you up. Drop your  
backpack, it's weighing you down.

CASSIE  
(can't help it)  
Aw, that's littering.  
(off their looks)  
Obviously, this is worth it.

Kate lets it DROP and skitter down the ROCKY SIDE.

ANNE  
What do we have that's long enough?

CASSIE  
The tents!

ANNE  
Tie them together. Quick.

The girls frantically PULL THE NYLON TENTS out of their  
PACKS, tying them together. They DANGLE the TIED TENTS down.

BLAIR  
We're getting you safe, we promise.

CASSIE  
Do you trust us? Take hold. Do you trust us, Kate?

Kate looks at the TENT ROPE - LOOKS at them. Kate TAKES HOLD.

KATE  
I trust you.

They pull the TENT ROPE up... SLIDING HER *slowly, surely* up the slippery rockface... When Kate's STOMACH finally reaches STABLE LAND, she EXHALES in TEARS, *embracing the ground*.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Ohhhh my God, thank you.

BLAIR  
Oh fucking Christ... Tell Emmett we nailed the trust exercise.

ANNE  
Yeah, I guess we finally figured out how to use our tents, huh?

They LOOK DOWN at Kate's BACKPACK - a barely visible RED DOT.

CASSIE  
Well, say goodbye to Mike's tent.  
(calls out)  
You were nice while you lasted but we don't need you, anymore.

KATE  
Guys, I saw Angels out there.

CASSIE  
I'm sure. It was really scary!

KATE  
No, I mean - Mount Angeles.

Blair CLIMBS to a better vantage point - breaking through the trees, sky opening up into an impressive vista... and LOOMING IN THE DISTANCE with ridges like wings... Mount Angeles.

BLAIR  
Holy shit. That's it. I'd recognize that angel asshole anywhere.

Anne and Cassie HELP Kate to her feet but she HOBBLES, *almost falls*. Her ankle a hundred shades, swollen, bloody, sprained.

KATE  
(gulps for air, pained)  
Whoa... I can't- Ah, fuck.

ANNE  
Are you okay?

They help Kate sit again. She BRACES herself against a ROCK.

KATE  
I can't stand on it. I can't walk.

BLAIR  
Well, we're not leaving you here.

CASSIE  
Yeah, there's gotta be a way.

KATE  
Guys, please - *there's no way*.

ANNE  
No.

KATE  
Yes! Go! I'll hold you back. You'll get out and give me a glamorous helicopter exit. I'll be fine. I'll just sit against this... cozy rock. Is this a comforter? So fluffy.

ANNE  
Goddamn it, Kate, no. That rock is not fluffy. Stop pretending you're fine. We're a team. We look out for each other, right? You're making it out with us. We'll find a way.

KATE  
(conflicted, wipes tear)  
Could have said it nicer.

EXT. RIVERBANK - LATE AFTERNOON

Kate SOAKS her puffy ankle in the river. Blair and Anne help her wrap it.

ANNE  
I've had a sprain before. Does it feel like your heart's beating in your ankle?

KATE

Yeah if my ankle's having a heart attack.

BLAIR

(cringes, grossed out)

Oof, it's like a mongoloid foot.

(off Anne, defensive)

What?

ANNE

You don't have to say it.

BLAIR

Kate has eyes, she knows. It looks like she's transforming into Shrek. Not gonna be wearing a dress for awhile. Her legs look like Passion of the Christ.

KATE

(laughs)

Thanks. Great river-side manner.

Cassie COMES OVER with TWO BIG STICKS.

CASSIE

Not to bring up my sciatica but the pain got so bad I made make-shift crutches once. These could work.

ANNE

I could make a cushion on top.

(shrugs, explaining)

Girl Scouts.

KATE

(nods, grateful)

Thank you.

BLAIR

And I know how to reset your ankle. I'm going to count to three and you're going to hear a tiny CRUNCH.

(off Kate's surprise)

I'm just kidding, I'm not a doctor. So, what should we do?

They all look to Kate for the plan.

KATE

Well, if we go back in the forest, we risk getting lost again. I say we consider our original plan.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)  
We know if we can get to the top of  
Mount Angeles, there'll be a trail  
that leads us back to Blair's car.

CASSIE  
*"Summit a mountain, save our team,"*  
right?

ANNE  
Summit a mountain, save our team.

BLAIR  
Summit a - are we all repeating it?

ANNE  
Kate, are you up to this?

KATE  
I'm willing to try if everyone is  
on board. Do we have solidarity?

They LOOK at Blair. She LOOKS back.

BLAIR  
Hey, if peg-leg can do it, I can.

KATE  
Then it's settled: we'll leave at  
first light tomorrow. It's going to  
be a long haul. Would have been  
tough in normal conditions but I'm  
gonna really be leaning on you guys  
for support. We're gonna need all  
our strength. Anne, can you use  
those Girl Scout craft skills to  
make a fishing net or pole? Blair,  
think you can finally learn how to  
make a proper tent and fire?

They NOD. Kate LOOKS next to Cassie - *debating her skills...*

KATE (CONT'D)  
And Cassie you're good with... your  
skills are...

CASSIE  
--I want to kill.

KATE  
Alright, then.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

**A SERIES OF SHOTS:**

Cassie TIES a KNIFE to a STICK with VINE. A HUNTING SPEAR.

Blair PITCHES a TENT - Anne reaches inside and pulls off the mesh pocket attached to the ceiling.

Anne uses the NET POCKET to make a FISHING NET.

Kate BOILS water. Blair CARRIES over fistfuls of BERRIES.

BLAIR

Cassie said these are  
hallucinogenic berries! Win-win.  
(off their looks)  
What? We all help in our own ways.

CASSIE

(quietly, to others)  
It's rose hips but it's the only  
way I could get her to eat them.

Anne WATCHES a ROBIN soar through the air. The song, "SUMMER BREEZE," plays over her reverie.

SEALS AND CROFTS

*Summer breeze, makes me feel fine.  
Blowing through the jasmine in my  
mind.*

The Robin lands in her NEST and begins feeding her fluffy, squawking BABY ROBIN. Anne's lost in thought - a nice cinematic moment until Cassie BURSTS IN:

CASSIE

Good find. I'll go get my club.

ANNE

No!  
(covers, casual)  
I mean, no. That's not enough food.  
Fish are jumping over there...

EXT. CLIFF - EVENING

Cassie, Anne, Blair and Kate (on her new make-shift CRUTCHES) STARE OUT at a WHOOSHING WATERFALL cascading from the BEDROCK above into a SUNKEN PLUNGE POOL twenty feet below them.

CASSIE

Fish City. We just gotta catch one.

BLAIR

Not to add a wrinkle to this plan  
but how are we getting down there?

KATE

Yeah, it's too steep-

ANNE

--I'll go.

BLAIR

What? Really?

KATE

You don't know how deep it is.

ANNE

Sometimes you just gotta take the  
leap, right? Don't stand at the  
edge too long...

Anne BRACES herself and JUMPS into the WATER. She LANDS BELOW with a HUGE SPLASH - *resurfaces*. WAVES to them she's *okay*.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
UNIMAGINABLY COLD!

Cassie DROPS the FISH NET DOWN. Anne SWIMS over to GRAB IT.

BLAIR

Don't go chasing waterfalls!  
(notices, to Cassie, grim)  
We got company.

Cassie turns, sees THREE SQUIRRELS stuffing their cheeks with BERRIES from the basket. She LIFTS her SPEAR like a warrior.

CASSIE

Time to hunt.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LATER

Blair SQUEEZES her EYES SHUT - HOLDING DOWN a squirrel as Cassie SMASHES it with a ROCK. Blair peeps - yelps.

BLAIR

(repulsed, impressed)  
Damn, that is some rugged ass shit.

Cassie nods, appreciates the *small acknowledgement*.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
You're really in your element here,  
huh?

CASSIE  
Maybe more than the office?

BLAIR  
Cassie, I'm sorry for always  
treating you like you're dumb.  
You're not. You're... trusting.

CASSIE  
I know, I need to work on that.

BLAIR  
*Don't.* I mean, you can - I don't  
want you to get abducted. But I  
think we're just smart in different  
ways. You work hard - I could  
probably stand to learn from you.

CASSIE  
Well, thank you.

Cassie SHARPENS her KNIFE against the ROCK.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Now we skin.

BLAIR  
Glad we had that talk before you  
said that.

EXT. CAMPSITE - SUNSET

SQUIRREL SKEWERS and TROUT blackens over the fire. They all  
TRY their *first bites*, their first meal in two days.

They so want it to be delicious. After a few chews, it's  
clearly NOT.

ANNE  
Hmm, the squirrel is... gamey?

BLAIR  
How did those guys make their trout  
not taste like mud?

KATE  
No, you know what this tastes like?  
(meaningful)  
Like hope.

They NOD, *contemplating this.*

CASSIE

I'm so glad you didn't say cum.  
(off their looks)  
The last dinner?!

ANNE

Not this joke again.

They LOOK OUT at their view... The FOG has DISSIPATED - leaving the MOST STUNNING SUNSET ever seen. RAYS OF LIGHT descend from the HEAVENS as the SUN SINKS behind the RANGES, leaving THE ENTIRE LAND in a WARM PURPLISH GLOW.

KATE

Ya know, there's this poster by my StairMaster at the gym...

ANNE

You still use a StairMaster?

BLAIR

Was the Nordictrack broken?

KATE

Stay with me. It reads... "Only the man who is not hungry says the coconut has a hard shell."

Kate BITES heartily into her SQUIRREL SKEWER.

CASSIE

We weren't hungry enough, yet?

KATE

We kept waiting for someone else to save us. I just think we're so over-reliant on everything else - men, technology, this convenience culture - at least I am - and we finally realized we're capable of being our own heroes.

ANNE

Yeah, I'll toast to that.

They TOAST their ROASTING STICKS of squirrels to that.

BLAIR

But really, on this Stair Master, are you wearing neon spandex? I just need to set the scene.

Kate waves her off, smiling.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
When you make a good joke but all  
you hear are actual crickets.

The girls *listen to CHIRPING CRICKETS* - ROAR LAUGHING.

EXT. CAMPSITE - STARRY NIGHT

They SIT outside their TENTS, *dinner long-finished* -  
STARGAZING. An unending SKY machine-gunned with STARS.

ANNE  
My parents used to say, if you see  
a shooting star together, you're  
supposed to be friends forever.

CASSIE  
They "used to say?"

ANNE  
They both passed away when I was  
eleven.

BLAIR  
Oh no, what happened?

ANNE  
My mom died of cancer and about two  
weeks later my Dad had a heart  
attack. They say "broken heart," I  
dunno. It certainly broke my heart.  
(gathers self, rallying)  
Yeah, 1992 was not a great year for  
me. But I made it through that so  
what the hell does this mountain  
possibly have?

KATE  
I'm so sorry, Anne. I had no idea.

Cassie PUTS her ARM around her.

ANNE  
Yeah, that's okay, thanks guys,  
obviously it's been awhile but  
clearly it still has an effect on  
me. I became more private after  
that. Maybe it's even tied to my  
having kids fear, who knows?  
Anyway, I guess there's probably a  
lot we don't know about each other.

BLAIR

I feel like we all had some misconceptions about each other.

ANNE

Here's to getting to know each other better.

BLAIR

When we get outta this, Cassie's horoscope says to take us all out for drinks to do just that...

(then, jokingly relents)

Okay, FINE - first round's on me.

They smile, STARE at the SKY. Blair sees a SHOOTER - squeals.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Did you guys see it?! Right there!

They SHAKE their HEADS, *disappointed*.

CASSIE

Uh-oh. You saw a shooter by yourself? That means you're gonna spend the rest of your life alone.

BLAIR

Nice try. Gotta wake up a lit-tle earlier to get me, Cassie.

Cassie grins, busted. Kate RUBS her ANKLE, *thoughtfully*...

KATE

Guys, I'm sorry, this whole thing... was my fault.

ANNE

No...

KATE

It's true, the reason we even need a team building. Our communication issues stemmed from me. Conflicts are natural and I did you guys a disservice thinking if I ignored them, they'd just go away. Obviously that's the opposite of what happens. But we're having a lot more open, honest discussions from now on, I'll tell you that much!

BLAIR  
(jokes, concerned)  
Great.

They LAUGH.

ANNE  
I've been wanting to ask. Did you  
pay for this with your own money?

KATE  
(humble)  
Oh, well, we were on a budget and  
we went over. I didn't want to push  
my luck asking for more.

ANNE  
So, you paid for this whole thing?

KATE  
It's not that big a deal. I knew  
it'd be worth it.

ANNE  
Why do you believe in us so much?

KATE  
I like you guys. Sometimes you just  
don't make room for each other. But  
I knew you were capable... which is  
why I set this whole "getting lost"  
thing up.

BLAIR ANNE  
What?! Shut up...

Anne and Blair LEAN IN, mouth agape - utterly shocked.

KATE (CONT'D)  
(bursts into a smile)  
I'm just kidding. I wanted to take  
that further and say we're a block  
from the parking lot but I can't.

ANNE  
(playfully slaps at Kate)  
Agh!

CASSIE  
I knew she was joking!  
(high-fives Kate)  
You guys are so gullible sometimes!

ANNE

(continuing, to Kate)

Well, you should make sure Emmett reimburses you. He can afford it and it's Step One in developing conflict resolution skills.

KATE

(hates saying yes)

Ah... okay... I know I need to work on that. I also know I need to drop the Mike. I'm realizing I only wanted him back so much because it's what I know, I was just afraid of letting go. But it's time to let someone new in. Enter the bone zone, as they say.

BLAIR

Yes!

THREE METEORS streak across the sky. They SHRIEK, happily.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Whoa, what about three streakers?!

SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE: a PACK of coyotes HOWL and YIP. The girls hush in surprise... Cassie CLIMBS to her FEET and HOWLS along. The rest STAND beside her, beneath the GLOWING MOON, around the SIMMERING FIRE and really, really let go.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAWN

The LIGHT at sunrise is PURE GOLD. *The chilling air of dawn.* Cassie EMERGES, SITS ALONE, ENJOYING the serenity. She presses her PALM against the EARTH in prayer. The others quietly ARISE from their TENTS, PULLING her from her reverie.

KATE

You ready to get home?

CASSIE

(heavy-hearted)

Yeah.

She STANDS, DUSTS off her HANDS... Blair sees a MURDER OF CROWS - her morning alarm clock. They SQUAWK.

BLAIR

What's that saying about eating crow? Caw!

The CROWS fly off. Blair smiles, victorious. The girls begin.

EXT. VALLEY - MORNING

The girls APPROACH the RIVER. Anne SPLASHES in first.

ANNE  
It's not that deep. It's mid-thigh.

Cassie WADES IN - *much shorter* - the water REACHES her BELLY.

CASSIE  
Mid-thigh on who?

EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING

The four guys FINISH HIKING, PILING PACKS in their TRUCK.

JACOB  
Ugh, I can't wait to take a shower  
and have a beer.

Pete sees a YELLOW VW with an "I LIKE BAGELS" bumpersticker.

PETE  
(laughs)  
Look. That one's gotta be Blair's.

JACOB  
No, can't be. They were supposed to  
finish yesterday.

Pete NODS towards the Green Tech parking permit.

PETE  
I dunno. Isn't that their company?

Jacob SIGHS, *knows what he must do* - PULLS his PACK back out.

PETE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

GUY #1  
Come on, dude.

Jacob starts HEADING BACK.

PETE  
Come on, I'm sure they're fine.  
There's rangers for this shit...  
(Jacob keeps walking)  
Damn it, wait up.  
(reluctantly grabs pack,  
waves to the other guys)  
We'll be back. Don't drink my beer!

EXT. RIVER - MORNING

The girls FORD a FAST CURRENT. It's dangerous but they HOLD ONTO the PERSON in front of them, using HIKING STICKS. Kate PIGGY-BACKS on Blair's back. All finding their rhythm.

BLAIR  
(singing)  
*"Cause baby there ain't no mountain high enough. Ain't no valley low enough. Ain't no river wide enough to keep me from getting to you!"*

Blair's STICK BREAKS. Her FEET lose GRIP on the ROCKY BOTTOM, threatening to rip her and Kate DOWNSTREAM. Blair panics.

ANNE  
(grabs Blair, steadyng)  
I got you, I got you guys.

BLAIR  
(heart racing)  
I'm good. I better get a promotion for this.

KATE  
Let's worry about making it back, first.  
(then)  
Also, what would you be promoted to? My job? No.

BLAIR  
Worth a shot. I mean, technically your vagina is on my neck, I'd like to point that out. Really taking one for the team here...

They REACH shore and look at the TOWERING MOUNTAIN ahead.

ANNE  
This must be the backside of Devil's Neck.

BLAIR  
(muttering, as they go)  
Fabulous, what's next? Dead Woman's Pass? Swift Current Killer? Oh fun, here comes Breakneck Ridge!

EXT. MOUNT ANGELES - LATER

They BACKPACK up the BACKSIDE of the MOUNTAIN.

This is *not* a *path*. It's FRACTURED GRANITE - each step tenuous. Especially with *Kate* LEANING on them for support.

Blair GRIPS a ROCK, steadyng herself. It CRUMBLES, tenuous. She WIPES sweat off her FOREHEAD, leaving a SMUDGE of dirt. Uncaring, she TAKES the NEXT STEP onwards...

They're all quiet - *joke time over* - FOCUSED on the TASK at HAND. The absolute most EXCRUCIATING FIGHT of their lives.

But finally they CREST the grueling PEAK... only to LOOK UP and see the thousand times BIGGER, SHADY, DOMINEERING MOUNTAIN before them... it's so VERTICAL, it looks like a CLIFF WALL they'll be WALKING STRAIGHT UP.

BLAIR

Damn it. The top's never the top with this thing, is it...

ANNE

Are you guys gonna be okay?

Blair and Kate NOD, weary but willing.

EXT. MOUNTAIN VISTA - DAY

Pete and Jacob reach a LOOKOUT POINT. They HEAR a FEW HIKERS approaching - *just a family*.

JACOB

Hi, did you guys happen to see four women? Thirty-somethings?

PETE

Probably looked like they had no business out here?

The Family shakes their heads. Jacob SCANS below... *nothing*.

PETE (CONT'D)

This is pointless. Man, we tried. I'm sure they went home. There's no way they made it this far.

Jacob SIGHS, nods - taking ONE LAST LOOK. They TURN to go.

EXT. MOUNT ANGELES - DAY

And from the other side of the mountains, we see the girls finally REACHING the actual summit.

BLAIR

Oh, thank God, there's nothing  
above us but sky.

ANNE

Yes!

KATE

Wait-- where's the trail??

CASSIE

Oh no, there has to be a trail...

BLAIR

Did we do this all for nothing?!

They're pushed so far past their limit - they have nothing left. They LOOK for signs of anything. And then they SPOT THE TRAIL one SUMMIT over... just one KNIFE-EDGED RIDGE away.

KATE

You gotta be kidding me.

ANNE

(looks with dread)

Is there even a safe way to cross?

BLAIR

I'm gonna go with no.

CASSIE

How do we even do it with Kate?

EXT. ALPINE RIDGE - DAY

THE CAMERA ZOOMS ACROSS THE KNIFE-EDGED RIDGE: to find the four SCOOTING ALONG on their BUTTS - *inch by inch* - TIED to each other with a SHORT TENT ROPE TIE.

ANNE

Please don't die, please don't die,  
please don't die.

Every SMALL, TERRIFIED SCOOT takes them inches CLOSER.

BLAIR

Tell Emmett we nailed the ropes  
course.

They chuckle nervously. They *finally, finally* ARRIVE AT the BEAUTIFUL FUCKING SECURE GROUND of MOUNT ANGELES SUMMIT...

Cassie and Anne help Kate back onto her crutches. AND FROM OUT OF THE MIRAGE: THE TRAIL... BLURS into sharp focus.

ANNE  
Ho-ly shit.

They all start laughing hysterically with relief.

BLAIR  
(genuine)  
I've never accomplished anything even close to this. I didn't think I had it in me...

CASSIE  
(soulful)  
I think I did know... I just needed to be reminded.

BLAIR  
(stands, untying herself)  
Yeah, conquered you, bitch!  
(dirt crumbles, she trips,  
freaks out)  
Too soon.  
(saving face)  
Loose gravel, watch out.

KATE  
Good teamwork, good teamwork, good teamwork.

ANNE  
Team work makes the dream work.

KATE  
Should we take the photo?

They PUT their ARMS around each other for this epic moment and snap a SELFIE with Cassie's camera.

BLAIR  
Judging from the amount of calories I burned, I'm fairly sure I must look like a supermodel right now.

They HOLD EACH other close. It looks like one of those 1970s photo of seasoned hikers on the highest rock atop the world.

ANNE  
(faux unhappy)  
We're gonna have to be friends forever now, won't we?

CASSIE  
 (smiles)  
 Even longer.

They're all pretty but *dirty*, *TWIGS* in their *HAIR*, *CLOTHES TORN*... you would never have described them as rugged when you first met them...

But these some RUGGED ASS BITCHES now.

BLAIR  
 Yeehaw!!!!

THE CAMERA SPINS AROUND FOR THIS PANORAMIC MOTHERFUCKING MAGNIFICENT VIEW... The entire Sierras beneath them.

AS THEY LOOK OUT TOGETHER: arms AROUND each other, seeing the CRAZY MILES TRAVERSED... and the final miles remaining...

KATE  
 There's our trail. We did it!

ANNE  
 We got our asses kicked by the Sierras and lived to tell the tale.

CASSIE  
 Maybe they'll call us pioneers.

BLAIR  
 (jokes)  
 We're natives now, Cassie. We couldn't blend back into society if we tried.

They TURN and begin their DESCENT DOWN THE TRAIL...

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

They continue the STEEP DESCENT down - past FIELDS OF PURPLE WILDFLOWERS. Cassie snaps PICTURES.

BLAIR  
 What if we get back and Emmett's like, no I meant the G8 Summit. The political conference. Why would I want you to summit a mountain?!

ANNE  
 (laughs, then)  
 I'm gonna tell Scott I'm ready to take the leap. How hard can popping out a couple babies be after this?

BLAIR

And I for one plan to drink less...  
at work. I mean, work harder.

CASSIE

...And I quit.

They LOOK at Cassie in *shock*.

BLAIR

Wait, what?

KATE

*Cassie...?*

CASSIE

I'm sorry, the longer I've been away, the more I realize I don't want to go back. I feel like my life's meant for more than sitting in a bad chair staring at fake trees... and this is the start.

BLAIR

We just hiked a mountain to save our jobs that you don't even want? Shit. Even if I wanted to quit, I never will now.

KATE

Yeah, no one's quitting damn it!

CASSIE

(hurt, confused)

But I found my life's passion...?

KATE

(immediately relents)

Sorry, thought I'd give this conflict resolution a try... Went a little strong outta the gate.

(then, sincere)

Okay. I mean that wasn't the point of a team building trip at all but it was about us becoming a team and we did that. And if you're happy I'm happy. That's the bigger point.

BLAIR

Totally.

(quietly)

Considering I was the only one who didn't mention quitting, should a raise at least be discussed?

KATE  
No.

BLAIR  
Wrong time, I get it.

KATE  
Maybe I'll put you in charge of the  
holiday party.

BLAIR  
Sold.

EXT. TRAILHEAD - EVENING

They STOP SHORT at what they SEE...

KATE  
Well, if that isn't the most  
beautiful sight I've ever seen.

Blair's VW in the parking lot. They EXHALE with relief.

BLAIR  
I want to apologize to everyone if  
I got a little cranky back when I  
thought we were gonna die.

CASSIE  
Yeah, thank you, Kate, for always  
staying so strong.

KATE  
Are you kidding? I was lying my ass  
off. I was sure we were dead.  
(they laugh, then)  
But hey maybe being a leader  
doesn't mean always knowing the  
right direction, it means never  
fucking giving up.  
(they nod, then)  
We should keep moving, it uses more  
energy to stop and start.

They HURRY towards Blair's car with Kate hobbling behind.  
Kate sees a note tucked in the hood, picks it up to read: as  
YELLOW the dog RUNS up, BARKING. It SNIFFS Blair's crotch.

BLAIR  
Don't even try. I'm warning you.

They SEE Jacob, Pete and the others STRANDED by their TRUCK.

JACOB  
(brightens, seeing Kate)  
Hey.

KATE  
Hey! Do you need help?

PETE  
Our truck died. You don't happen to have jumpers, do you?

BLAIR  
I do believe I do. Who's asking?

ANNE  
So, to be clear... are you guys asking us to save you?

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

Pete's truck ROARS to life. Jacob says goodbye to Kate.

JACOB  
We went looking for you and these bozos left the car running and killed the battery.

KATE  
You went looking for us?

JACOB  
Yeah, although clearly you can take care of yourself. What happened?

KATE  
Ah, well, that's a "bottle of wine" kind of story.

JACOB  
Can I call you to arrange that?

KATE  
Sure. I mean, I need to charge my phone for like two days. But then yeah. I'd like that.

JACOB  
Oh, I saved something for you.

He RUNS back to his PACK, DIGS out the last candy left in the bag. The bullfrog gummy bear. She GRINS.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
Don't knock it 'til you try it.

INT. BLAIR'S VW - MOMENTS LATER

Kate sits in the passenger seat - happy, hopeful. Blair gets in the driver seat, looks at her.

BLAIR  
Splitsie on that gummie?

Kate smiles. Then SHOVES the entire gummie in her mouth.

BLAIR (CONT'D)  
I miss old Kate.

EXT. FOREST ACCESS ROAD - EVENING

OVERHEAD SHOT: The VW bug drives back.

BLAIR (O.S.)  
Man, TBT the time a bear tried to eat us. That was hilarious.

CASSIE (O.S.)  
Can I charge my phone? I wanna see if Emmett replied to my "sex sex sex" text, yet!

ANNE (O.S.)  
Why are you driving so slow?

BLAIR  
It's Pot Hole City out here.

KATE (O.S.)  
You're going under the speed limit.

BLAIR (O.S.)  
This is my comfort level. I have poor night vision. Can I live?

ANNE (O.S.)  
Ah, great, this is gonna take a hundred hours to get home.

*And off the LONG and WINDING ROAD, someone cues up, "AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH." And they sing their hearts out...*

FADE OUT.