

PLAYDATE
by Marie Østerbye
3.draft
March 2024

PLAYDATE

PROLOGUE

Out of the darkness, a woman, ALICE (50), her face, neck exposed, eyes closed, head tilted back. She arches her back, lets herself fall back towards a darkness to the sound of heavy, plaintive rhythms and lingering sensual MUSIC.

Alice falls and falls, backwards, slowly into the darkness. She floats, lands softly, lies still, eyes closed. An inviting pleasant darkness. A faint smile passes her lips.

A hand at her throat. Alice's eyes suddenly opening, her mouth opening, gasping for air in shock, ecstasy - horror?

A woman's hand intertwining with Alice's fingers. Nails scratching at skin, fingers digging into flesh, lips around fingers. Dark hair merging with blond.

It could be a scene of love-making. It could be an assault.

Slowly, Alice tries to disentangle herself but the woman on top of her presses Alice's body down. Alice struggles more and more as a growing shadow sucks up all the light until only Alice's eyes can be seen in the vanishing light. Alice opens her mouth wide, SCREAMS-

SMASH CUT TO:

1 INT. STAIRCASE, APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

1

CLOSE-UP of a smiling cat's face moving up and down on a backpack. The cat's teeth form the front pocket of the bag; the cat's ears flap up and down in front of the young girl's dark hair.

The backpack belongs to the little girl (SOFIE, 8) who we only see from behind. She is making her way up the staircase. The outside door slams shut behind her as she runs up each flight of stairs, her footsteps echoing as she goes. Higher and higher she climbs-

CUT TO:

2 INT. APARTMENT, HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - DAY

2

SLAM. The front door of a small apartment slams shut behind Sofie who runs like the wind through its few rooms, zigzagging in and out of removal boxes stacked in piles - or standing half-empty on the floors.

We see Sofie only as a blurred shadow racing past us to the next room and finally to the door of a room that is once again slammed shut with an almighty BANG.

CLOSE-UP of the door; smiling wooden letters in different colours that spell the name SOFIE.

Behind the door the sudden SOUND of Sofie's inconsolable CRYING.

3 INT. APARTMENT, KITCHEN - DAY

3

ALICE, slim, hair scraped back from her face, worried wrinkles around the mouth, no make-up. Jeans and cotton top. Practical. Unspectacular.

She stands motionless at the kitchen counter, staring down at two Tupperware containers filled with cupcakes with pink icing on top. One of the containers is full of cupcakes, the other only half so.

Alice bores a finger deep into the icing of one of the cakes, twists her finger round and round in the sticky mass as if getting ready to suck the finger clean, then opens the rubbish bin and scrapes her finger carefully against the rim.

4 INT. APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY (LATER)

4

Alice, who is standing outside Sofie's room, knocks cautiously on the door.

ALICE

Sofie? Sweetie, can I come in?

No answer. After waiting a moment, Alice opens the door and enters.

5 INT. APARTMENT, SOFIE'S ROOM - DAY (CONTINUED)

5

Sofie is sitting on her bed with a drawing pad, engrossed, her face red from crying, closed off. Sofie is a little overweight but in a sweet, childish way. The room has only recently been occupied; the walls are bare, clothes still in transparent plastic boxes.

Alice walks over to the bed and sits down. Look as Sofie, knows her well enough to give her time.

SOFIE

No one wanted the stupid cakes.

ALICE

But. Did you hand them out to the class like we said?

Sofie doesn't answer. Alice nudges her a little.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Did you?

SOFIE

Yes! One of the boys took one and then he said it tasted gross and then the others didn't want any!

ALICE

Did you say they were sugar-free?

SOFIE

Mum! That's why! They tasted like shit!

ALICE

Hey. I don't mind you being angry but I won't have you talking to me like that.

SOFIE

Just go!

ALICE

Sofie...

SOFIE

Why did we have to move? I miss my old school! It's all your fault!

A pained expression on Alice's face as she gets up from the bed.

ALICE

We can talk more about this later.

Alice is on her way of the room when she stops.

ALICE (CONT'D)

If only one of them took a cake, then where are the rest?

Sofie looks down, lips pressed together.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Sofie? Did YOU eat them?

Cupcakes flying into the rubbish bin in a continuous pink stream as Alice scrapes them out of their plastic container. She has her phone pressed to her ear.

ALICE (O.S.)
 (on the phone)
 I'm just worried about her. I hated
 school. I don't want Fie to go
 through the same thing.

MADS (O.S.)
 She won't. It's just all new for
 her and difficult in the beginning...
 Want me to bring something?

Alice carefully covers the pink mess in the rubbish with the
 newspaper used to wrap the glasses she's busy unpacking.

ALICE
 No, it's fine. I'll cook.

MADS (O.S.)
 What? Aren't you going to need me
 to hammer a nail into a wall or
 something? I'm standing here with a
 toolbox all ready for action!?

ALICE
 Mads. You don't own a toolbox.

MADS (O.S.)
 Okay, but a hammer at least... what
 d'you mean you hated school?

7 INT. APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (LATER) 7

Alice, Sofie and MADS (42), Alice's younger brother, bearded,
 chubby, cuddly with a twinkle in his eye, are sitting around
 the dining table, finishing off their evening meal.

MADS
 Thanks for dinner! That was the
 best lasagne I never had!

He winks at Sofie.

SOFIE
 Mom makes it with spinach.

MADS
 Yeah, she's disturbed like that.
 There's some chocolate in my coat
 pocket.

Sofie smiles at Mads and jumps up from the table.

ALICE
 Hey, take your plate with you!

Sofie disappears with her plate. Alice turns to Mads with a look of disapproval. He doesn't notice, looks instead at a big bouquet of red roses on a side table.

MADS
Someone got you flowers?

ALICE
You can't buy flowers for yourself?

Mads shrugs.

MADS
More wine?

ALICE
No thanks.

MADS
No, it was a question. Is there
more wine?

ALICE
Maybe in that box over there.

Mads stands and begins rummaging inside a removal box.

MADS
Hey, when I was five years old this
was my dream scenario. Getting the
chance to go through all your stuff.

Mads stands holding a candlestick; looks at it with obvious disappointment.

MADS (CONT'D)
Now it's just... dumb.

ALICE
You could be a bit more supportive.

MADS
About what?

ALICE
Sofie. And her diet. The fat cells
she's creating now stays there once
she hits puberty.

Mads stops, looks at Alice.

MADS
Ali, come on! Sofie isn't fat.
(MORE)

MADS (CONT'D)
(referring to the
bottle)
Well, hello, baby!

Mads has located a bottle, returns to the table with it and pours himself a glass.

MADS (CONT'D)
Besides, round is beautiful.
(taking out his phone)
Want to see my Tinder?

ALICE
No thanks.

Mads shows her anyway.

MADS
They're crazy about my dad bod.
Listen to what this one writes "hi,
big bear, if you're looking for Big
Bird, I've got long legs and stunning
red"-

ALICE
Okay, thanks!.. Anyway it's different
for men.

MADS
Fuck off, then you haven't seen the
booties I've been swiping right on.
Aren't you going to get out there?

ALICE
I don't understand how you got the
nerve. They are strangers. You
don't know what they'll do to you.

MADS
Yeah, that's the best part!

ALICE
It's not the same for women, men can
be dangerous, it's-

Alice gets up abruptly, starts clearing the plates.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Some boys just want someone they can
take it out on. Are you done with
that?

Alice scrapes food off the plates, carries them out.

8 EXT. SCHOOL/INT. CAR - DAY (NEW DAY)

8

Alice is parked in front of a school, waiting. A FEW CHILDREN of middle school age are on their way out.

Alice seems lost in thought and jumps with a start when a MAN (40) on a bike wearing a cycle helmet bangs his fist down on the car bonnet.

CYCLIST

Hey! You can't park here!

The man wheels his bike over to Alice's side of the car and knocks on the window. After a moment, Alice cautiously lowers the window to half.

The man glares at her.

CYCLIST (CONT'D)

You can't park here!

ALICE

But I'm just picking up my daughter?

CYCLIST

Yeah, but you can't park here. Are you stupid or what?

Alice opens - and closes her mouth - without being able to offer a reply.

CYCLIST (CONT'D)

Move your car, you dumb bitch!

The cyclist jumps on his bike and drives off, leaving Alice staring after him in shock, she starts hyperventilating, her body tenses, hands on the steering wheel cramping, then SLAM, Alice jumps when the front passenger door flies open and a breathless Sofie jumps in and throws her cat backpack onto the seat.

SOFIE

Hi mom!

Sofie turns and waves at someone.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

Hi, see you tomorrow!

Sofie turns to Alice with a smile. Alice starts the engine, her hands still shaking.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

That's Ida! Isn't she pretty?

Alice follows Sofie's gaze to a PRETTY, BLOND-HAIRED GIRL (IDA, 9) who is crossing the school playground towards a dark, expensive-looking car with tinted windows.

Ida smiles at Sofie in the car, waves with a self-confident air before climbing into the waiting car.

ALICE

Yeah.

(insincere)

She seems nice.

SOFIE

She asked if we can have a playdate.

And I can sleep over if I want to.

Can I??

9 INT. APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (LATER) 9

Alice and Sofie are eating dinner; the removal boxes are nowhere to be seen, the living room looks cosy, lived in. Sofie is excited, happy, talking at a thousand words a minute.

SOFIE

At first I didn't think Ida wanted to talk to me, but then she came over yesterday and asked where I got my backpack and then we sat together in the big break.

ALICE

That's great you've made a new friend.

Alice runs her fingers playfully through Sofie's hair.

ALICE (CONT'D)

And lucky Ida having YOU as a friend!

Alice leans back in her chair, taking in her daughter, the apartment, their new life.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Shall we go out and buy an ice cream?

SOFIE

Ice cream? NOW?

ALICE

Yes? We've forgotten to celebrate that we moved in! And we also have to celebrate your playdate?

SOFIE

Mum... Cringe...

ALICE

Cringe? Who's cringing? I'll make
YOU cringe!

Alice pretends to attack Sofie and tickles her, Sofie tries to fend her off but can't because she's laughing too hard.

10 EXT. APARTMENT - EVENING (CONTINUED)

10

Through the window, in the soft light framed by darkness, mother and child play together, laughing and play fighting until Sofie flees from the table and Alice, still laughing, chases after her and the two tumble onto the floor further inside the flat and disappear from view.

A small square of light on a block of cement.

We rest on the empty living room.

11 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET/INT. CAR - DAY (NEW DAY)

11

Alice's worried expression as she looks up at something.

Alice, parked in the car with Sofie on the passenger seat, is looking up at a large house in a well-to-do neighborhood with green gardens and high hedges. Houses in the street languish in sprawling grounds. We see a driveway up to Ida's house with brick pillars facing the street.

ALICE

You sure this is the place?

SOFIE

Uh-huh.

Alice turns the car in to the driveway and drives slowly up to the house.

12 EXT. HOUSE - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

12

Alice and Sofie are standing outside the front door of the house - Sofie holding her cat backpack. Alice rings the doorbell and then, without thinking about it, nervously grabs hold of Sofie's hand, but Sofie pushes her away.

SOFIE

I don't want you holding my hand!

ALICE

Oh, yeah. Sorry.

The door opens. We don't see the woman at the door, instead we rest on Alice's face.

KATRINE (O.S.)
 Hiii! Welcome!
 (re: Sofie)
 You must be Sofie?

Alice's face slowly changes from a polite smile to something akin to shock.

KATRINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I can't tell you how MUCH Ida has been looking forward to you coming.

Beat.

KATRINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Please... Come in, come in!

Sofie steps inside the house and after a moment's hesitation, Alice follows after, like a wind-up toy.

The door closes behind them. Like a great beast, the front of the house has just swallowed up mother and daughter.

13 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY, LIVING ROOM - DAY

13

Alice and Sofie follow the woman (KATRINE, 50), expensively dressed in kashmir and silk. We only see her from behind, long, well-groomed hair, jewelry glittering on hands and wrists.

Katrine gestures towards the living room.

KATRINE
 Ida's in there. Something about some bead plates that couldn't wait-

Alice follows speechlessly after Sofie who follows Katrine into a large, open living room with a fireplace, big sprawling sofas and lots of design and art - a subtle tasteful decor.

Ida is leaning over the coffee table, carefully arranging the beads when Alice and Sofie enter. Ida looks up and smiles.

IDA
 Hi. Just wanted to finish making this for you!

Ida holds up a bead plate in the shape of a unicorn for Sofie.

IDA (CONT'D)
 You can hang it in the window if you like.

SOFIE
 Thanks!

A beaming Sofie accepts the bead plate; the moment is followed by an awkward silence.

Beat. Katrine looks from Ida to Sofie and to Alice, then folds her hands.

KATRINE

Well then-

ALICE

Can I use the bathroom!?

CUT TO:

14 INT. HOUSE, GUEST BATHROOM - DAY

14

The toilet seat flies up with a THWACK. Alice kneels down in front of the toilet as if she's going to be sick. Nothing's coming. She bends her head forward, sits in front of the toilet as if in prayer. Takes a few deep breaths.

Alice stands, cups her hands and takes a couple slurps of water from the tap, then looks at herself in the mirror. Beat. She rubs the sides of her mouth - hard.

15 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

15

Ida and Sofie are sitting together, leaning over the bead plates when Alice makes a hurried return. Alice tries to smile at the girls, then walks over to Sofia and tugs at her shoulder.

ALICE

Sofie, can I talk to you a minute?

SOFIE

We're doing stuff.

ALICE

(pleading)

I need to talk to you.

Sofie sends her mother a disapproving look but stands anyway and follows Alice slightly to one side.

Alice bends over Sofie.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

We have to leave again, sweetie.

Sofie looks up at her mother, totally speechless.

SOFIE

Why?

ALICE

Because. I'll explain when we get home.

Alice glances towards the kitchen - there's an open connection to the living room. OFF, she can hear Katrine fiddling with some glasses.

ALICE (CONT'D)

We'll just say you're not feeling well.

SOFIE

No?! Why are you being so weird?

ALICE

Please, Sofie, I need you to come -

Ida looks over at them, beginning to wonder what's wrong. Sofie notices.

SOFIE

(quietly)

Mum! I want to be here? I want to be with Ida!

KATRINE

Chips and Coke, everyone!

Katrine walks in with a tray of snacks for the girls. Alice quickly straightens up and automatically backs away a little.

Katrine notices the stiff look Alice is sending her; nods at the tray.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Or... it's not okay? It's just that it's Friday.

ALICE

No. No. It's.. Fine!

KATRINE

(relieved laugh)

Cool, cool. For a moment I thought you were one of those anti-sugar bitches!

Alice just looks at Katrine, who rests the tray on the coffee table in front of the girls. Katrine then turns to Alice.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

She walks over to Alice, holds out a well-manicured hand.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

I'm Katrine.

ALICE

I... Alice.

Katrine stands for a moment, raises her eyebrows, then slowly breaks into a smile.

KATRINE

..Alice? From.. From school?

Alice nods.

ALICE

Yes. Yes, that's me.

KATRINE

My GOD, how FUNNY! I didn't recognize you?

ALICE

Me neither. I only realized just now!

Katrine turns to their daughters.

KATRINE

Want to hear something crazy, girls?
Your mum and I were in third grade together? Just like the two of you?

The girls shrug, seemingly disinterested.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

And we were best friends, just like you?

(turning to Alice again)

Or, until I had to change school again. My parents moved all over the country back then, but... Now we're here again! Weird, huh?
'Life'.

ALICE

Yes. Life is.. Weird.

KATRINE

Crazy. Well, I'll be...

Another awkward silence. The two women look at each other, gauging one another, not quite knowing what to say or where to begin. Katrine laughs, then Alice laughs a little, acknowledges the awkwardness of the situation and shrugs.

ALICE

Yeah.

KATRINE

Yeah! So, what have you been doing
for the last 40 years?

16 EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

16

The house as darkness begins to fall. Alice's car is still parked in the driveway.

17 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM / HALLWAY - EVENING

17

Katrine is giving Alice a tour of the house.

KATRINE

So, that's the living room, you saw that already, and the dining room facing the garden, and Ida's room is upstairs. I thought the girls could sleep there! Oh, I almost forgot. I need an extra mattress in there. You'll help me?

Without waiting for an answer, Katrine heads up the stairs.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

We just need to move it from the office into Ida's room. My husband's office. Ex-husband's. The room with the best view of the garden. Naturally.

Alice stands at the foot of the stairs, looks up at Katrine, then follows her up.

18 INT. HOUSE, FIRST FLOOR, OFFICE/HALLWAY - EVENING (CONTINUED) 18

Katrine is struggling to remove a heavy mattress from the office. Alice walks up from the stairs and hurries over to help.

ALICE

Let me help you...

KATRINE

Thanks. It just needs to go in there!

Together, the two woman succeed in moving the mattress from the office into Ida's room.

19 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (CONTINUED) 19

Alice and Katrine carry the mattress into Ida's room and deposit it on the floor. Alice comes to an inevitable halt.

The room is spacious and twinkles like a fairy landscape with fairy lights, bean bags in every imaginable color, funny anime teddy bears, cosy corners, make-up mirrors, disco ball, a big princesse canopy tent - pure heaven for a nine-year-old girl.

Katrine follows Alice's eyes, admits:

KATRINE

Yeah, I know. I went a bit nuts in here. When you only have one, you go over the top. You got more children?

ALICE

No - just Sofie.

KATRINE

And you've just moved here?

ALICE

Yes. We live in a... Apartment.

KATRINE

Just the two of you?

ALICE

Yes. Just the two of us.

KATRINE

Okay! Well, I don't know about you but I seriously need a drink now.

Katrine abruptly exits from the room, leaving Alice in a pink wonderland.

KATRINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Helloooo... You coming?

Alice hurries out after Katrine.

20 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (MOMENTS LATER) 20

Alice walks into the living room as Katrine disappears into the kitchen.

Alice stops in her tracks, watches Sofie and Ida sitting like two peas in a pod, making bead plates and whispering together.

Alice sees how happy Sofie looks, her quiet smile - and she can't help smiling herself.

Sofie looks up, catches her mother smiling. She turns away ever so slightly, as if intent on shielding the game from her mother, wary of being interrupted.

Alice's smile fades. She looks down at Sofie's cat backpack lying on the floor. Looks at Sofie playing with Ida.

KATRINE (O.S.)
(shouting from the
kitchen)
You'll have a gin & tonic, won't
you?

ALICE
... Yes please!

With a quick movement of her foot, Alice kicks Sofie's backpack under an armchair.

Then she heads out into the kitchen.

21 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (CONTINUED)

21

Alice walks out into the kitchen where Katrine is standing by the counter, mixing a couple of drinks - slicing a lemon.

ALICE
No... I'm driving so just tonic for
me, thanks.

Katrine pouts, plops a slice of lemon into a tonic water and hands it to Alice.

KATRINE
There's a tiny bit of gin in. Just
a tiny bit.

Alice accepts the drink, but doesn't drink it. Katrine looks at her.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Cheers!

Katrine drinks while she looks at Alice, who suddenly remembers something.

ALICE
The backpack!
(smiling)
I forgot Sofie's backpack in the
car. It's got her toothbrush and
pajamas and... I'll just go and get
it.

Alice puts her drink down without having touched it, and smiling and apologizing, hurries out from the kitchen.

Katrine watches her leave.

22

EXT. HOUSE/INT. CAR - EVENING (CONTINUED)

22

Alice closes the front door and hurries over to her car, gets inside, fumbles about for her phone and calls a number. Mads answers.

MADS (O.S.)

What's up?

ALICE

I haven't got long to talk. I'm in the car. I just dropped Fie off on a playdate-

MADS (O.S.)

Wow, your Friday evenings are just SO exciting. Anyway, I'm sitting here with a really good beer from a new microbrewery just down the-

ALICE

Mads, listen to me! I just dropped Fie off on a play date. She's finally found a friend at school, but I want to take her home with me and she won't come!? And I don't know what to do. She doesn't have other friends and I don't want to ruin any more for her than I already have-

MADS

RELAX, take a deep breath. Why d'you want to leave? Isn't she nice?

ALICE

Who?

MADS

Fie's new friend?

Alice takes a deep breath.

ALICE

It's not the friend. It's her mother-

Alice looks about.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I never told anyone.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

You were also too young to understand then, but, the. The mother of the other girl, I went to school with her. She arrived in third grade. She was the new girl and about a year later they moved, anyways, I never saw her again, but back then she was-

Suddenly, a KNOCK on the window. Alice almost jumps out of her skin, then looks up to see a smiling Katrine leaning towards the window.

Alice freezes, looks back at Katrine who's smiling at her through the window, then Katrine suddenly opens the car door.

KATRINE

Everything okay? Sofie was just asking after her mum.

ALICE

I... I'm coming now!

Katrine nods, but remains where she is.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(on the phone)
Mads, I have to go.

Alice hangs up abruptly, gets out of the car. Katrine shudders, gathers up her cardigan to fend off the cold.

KATRINE

The boyfriend?

ALICE

Huh? No, my brother.

KATRINE

Too bad. It's really turned cold, huh? Did you find it?

ALICE

What?

KATRINE

The backpack?

ALICE

...No.

Katrine scrutinizes her for a moment, shrugs and heads back towards the house. Alice has no alternative but to follow after her.

23 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - EVENING (CONTINUED)

23

Katrine and Alice walk back inside the house. Katrine continues on through to the living room where the girls are still playing with their bead plates - then into the kitchen. Alice, for her part, stops by the coffee table.

ALICE

What did you want, Fie?

Sofie looks up at her mother.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You wanted me?

SOFIE

What are you talking about?

Alice sends Sofie a confused look; Sofie turns back to Ida and their bead plates.

Alice lingers for a moment, looks in the direction of Katrine in the kitchen, then hardens like she has just made a decision.

She then quickly kicks the backpack out from under the armchair and picks it up in one movement.

ALICE

(re: kitchen)

Found it!

24 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (CONTINUED)

24

Alice walks out into the kitchen. Katrine stirs a pot at a big luxury gas cooker. She has her back turned to Alice. Alice holds up the backpack and shakes her head at her own stupidity.

ALICE

It was sitting in the living room
the whole time!

Katrine turns, looks at Alice and the backpack.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I'd begun to think we'd left it at
home!

KATRINE

(calm)

Well. Then Sofie could've borrowed
a toothbrush here... and pajamas.

ALICE

Yeah. Of course.

Alice puts down the backpack, picks up her drink and drinks a little too quickly. The high alcohol content causes her to cough.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Wow, that was strong. Did I drink yours by mistake?

KATRINE

Nope.

ALICE

Well, it's good!

Alice smiles at Katrine, takes in the big, shiny kitchen.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Have you lived here long then?

Katrine raises an eyebrow, as if ridiculing Alice's attempt at small talk.

KATRINE

A few years. We always moved to wherever Frederik's next new big job was. Frederik is my ex-husband.

ALICE

Ida's father.

KATRINE

Yes. And soon also father to Flaxon and Gluten or whatever the fuck they're planning to call them.

ALICE

What?

KATRINE

The twins Frederik's put up his new young wife. Of course, they're not married yet. First he has to get a divorce from me!

Katrine finds her own drink, laughs a little at herself.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Yeah, it's pathetic. It's not so much that he left, it's just that it's such a cliché, you know what I mean?

Katrine, who doesn't wait for a response, gives Alice an examining look.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
You're not together with Sofie's
father either?

A beat. Then Alice shakes her head. Katrine nods.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Practical. Fuck!

A pot is boiling over on the stove. Katrine turns to take the lid off.

Alice looks at her drink, quickly downs it in one swoop.

Katrine turns back, dries her hands on a dish towel.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I hope Sofie likes meatballs. Only
slightly burned.

ALICE
She does. Sofie eats everything.
Well, not everything of course.

The two women exchange an awkward smile. Katrine realizes something.

KATRINE
Hey, now you can't drive anywhere.

ALICE
What?

KATRINE
Your drink?

Alice looks down at her empty glass.

ALICE
Oh. Oh, no.

Beat.

KATRINE
Why don't you stay and eat with us?
That'll give us a chance to catch
up!

Alice looks up at Katrine, smiles, nods.

ALICE
Thanks. I'd love to.

Katrine smiles.

KATRINE

Great!

25 INT. HOUSE, DINING ROOM - EVENING (MOMENTS LATER)

25

Katrine is carrying the pot into the dining room, which faces out onto the garden. Alice follows on behind with the plates and cutlery.

KATRINE

(shouting)

We're eating, girls!

Katrine goes straight out into the kitchen again while Alice sets the table - clearly unaccustomed to the situation.

Ida walks into the dining room with Sofie seconds behind. Sofie gives her mother a strange look.

SOFIE

Are you eating with us? Why?

ALICE

We... thought it could be fun?

IDA

Are you already drunk?

Alice looks surprised.

ALICE

...No? What makes you say that,
Ida?

Katrine returns from the kitchen clutching a large Coke and a bottle of white wine which she sets down on the table.

KATRINE

Friday treats for the mums, more
Coke for the kids.

Sofie looks from the soda bottle that Katrine's holding - to her mother.

SOFIE

But I've already had a glass?

ALICE

It's okay, Fie. You can have another
one. Seeing how it's... Friday.

Katrine looks at Alice and bangs the Coke bottle down on the table.

KATRINE

YOU LIAR!

Alice gives Katrine a frightened look.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

You ARE one of them!

Katrine smiles.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

The anti-sugar bitches?

Beat. Alice looks from Katrine to the girls, who stare dumbfounded at their mothers.

Then she nods.

ALICE

Yes. Yes, I am. One of them. Hallo, my name's Alice and I'm an anti-sugar bitch!

Katrine laughs loudly. Alice tries to do the same. Their daughters look at them as if they've completely lost it.

IDA

What... are you laughing at?

SOFIE

Yeah, what's so funny?

Katrine and Alice look at each other.

KATRINE

Just sit down, girls, help yourselves. You EAT pasta, right?

ALICE

Yes. I eat pasta.

They all sit down at the table and begin serving out the food and drinks.

26 INT. HOUSE, DINING ROOM - EVENING (LATER)

26

Everyone is well into their meal. Katrine is pouring another glass of wine for herself and already seems a bit tipsy. Alice rearranges the food on her plate and eats very little. Katrine is watching her do it, but doesn't let on.

KATRINE

So, until recently I always had an au pair, but now Ida is old enough
(MORE)

KATRINE (CONT'D)
to look after herself. But when she
was little, she saw more of the au
pair than she did her own mother.
Didn't you, sweetheart? You could
hardly speak English until the age
of five!

Ida just shrugs.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
But of course it's an advantage being
able to speak Filipino now that Asia's
taking over the world...

Alice doesn't know what to say.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
That was a joke.

ALICE
Okay!

KATRINE
Yeah, she doesn't speak a word.

Alice looks at Katrine, then realizes she is joking again.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Yeah, so, I specialized in criminal
law and became a defense lawyer.

ALICE
So you defend... criminals?

KATRINE
I defend all kinds of people. You'd
be surprised how easy it is to do
the wrong thing.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
You also focused on your career?

ALICE
No - why?

KATRINE
Because... an only child? Late?
We're not exactly young mothers, are
we..

ALICE

It was just the way things turned out. I'm a nurse.

KATRINE

Oh, one of the nurses with 'warm hands' that are always in such short supply. That must be wonderful, giving back to the community! So it wasn't something you planned?

Alice sends her a questioning look.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Having children so late in life.

Alice's only answer is to look at Sofie; Katrine understands the look.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Children never come at the right time. Ida certainly didn't.

(re: Ida)

That was a joke, honey. You were very much a wanted child.

Katrine looks back at Alice and gives the tiniest shake of her head and mimes 'no', then suddenly claps her hands.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

So, who's up for dessert?

Sofie looks excitedly up from her plate, shoots a glance at Alice, then shake her head. Katrine notices.

SOFIE

No thanks. I'm full.

IDA

Can we go up to my room?

KATRINE

Sure, off you go, girls.

The girls leave the table and head over to the staircase and the first floor of the house. Katrine continues looking at Alice as she shouts to the girls:

KATRINE (CONT'D)

There's ice cream in the freezer!
Take some bowls and spoons, you can just take the whole box up with you!

The girls turns about and run happily into the kitchen. Beat.

ALICE

Well, it is Friday after all.

KATRINE

Exactly. Peace at last.

Katrine holds out the wine bottle.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

More wine?

Alice hesitates.

ALICE

I'm driving...

(plucking up her nerve)

I. Katrine, there's something I'd
like to talk to you about, about the
time we-

KATRINE

You're driving. I'll make some
coffee!Katrine stands abruptly and heads for the kitchen, leaving
Alice alone at the table.

27

INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

27

Ida and Sofie are in Ida's room; Ida on the bed with her phone
while Sofie is scarfing down ice cream until she notices that
Ida isn't touching hers.Sofie puts down the ice cream and walks about the room,
examining everything, clearly impressed.She touches everything, picks up some toys, glances at Ida to
gauge her reaction, puts everything back in place.

Then, Sofie stops in front of a large cage.

SOFIE

You've got a... is it a guinea pig!?

IDA

Uh-huh.

Sofie squats down in front of the cage.

SOFIE

It's so cute! What's its name?

IDA

Pig.

Sofie looks at Ida, who shrugs.

IDA (CONT'D)
We didn't know if it was a girl or a boy.

Sofie watches Ida typing away on her phone.

SOFIE
I'm not allowed a phone yet. My mom says I'm not old enough.

Ida suddenly laughs out loud at something; every time she gets a message on her phone, it makes a loud, shrill MEOWING SOUND. Sofie stretches her neck and tries to laugh along.

SOFIE (CONT'D)
What is it?

IDA
Just something Molly's writing.

SOFIE
Who's Molly?

IDA
My best friend.

Sofie swallows hard, sits on the floor and stares inside the cage.

SOFIE
(whispering)
Hi, there. Hi, Pig.

With her back turned to Ida, Sofie makes a fist and begins pinching the fat on her thigh.

28 EXT. HOUSE - EVENING (LATER)

28

The house. The trees in front of the house shield it from the street. The large area behind the house lies in shadow. Darkness has fallen.

Warm, glowing light from the living room and kitchen on the ground floor - and pink light from Ida's room on the first floor.

29 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (LATER)

29

Alice is sitting on one of the cream-colored sofas, in front of her a tray with coffee, milk and cups. She sits with her hands resting on her thighs, opening and closing her hands, preparing herself, battling her nerves.

Katrine walks in carrying a large plate with a chocolate layer cake on it.

Alice looks surprised - first at the cake - then at Katrine.

KATRINE

If you're not having any more wine,
then you're having some cake.

ALICE

You.. You really shouldn't have
bothered. I'm good, thanks.

KATRINE

It's just one of those frozen thingys.
They're disgusting but sadly they
taste amazing. How big a slice do
you want?

Katrine gets ready to cut a piece with a large shiny knife.
Alice gives her a strange look.

ALICE

I'm not having any.

KATRINE

I'll cut you a *small* piece. Just a
tiny one.

ALICE

No thanks.

Katrine ignores her, begins cutting a piece, places it on a
dessert plate.

KATRINE

You say that but wait till you've
tasted it. Here, try some, just a
little slice-

Katrine hands the plate to Alice.

ALICE

But I said NO!

Alice knocks the plate out of Katrine's hand; the cake lands
on the sofa.

Katrine stops, knife in hand, stands speechless, staring at
Alice.

Alice stares at the squashed cake lying like a turd on the
cream-colored sofa; then up at Katrine holding the knife.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Why did you do that!?

KATRINE
...Why DID I? What are you talking
about?
(nods at the cake)
I'll get a cloth for that.

Katrine turns and begins heading for the kitchen - Alice,
meanwhile, suddenly jumps to her feet.

ALICE
Don't you remember anything?

The question leaves her mouth like a stifled little scream.
Katrine freezes, turns to face Alice.

KATRINE
What do you mean?

ALICE
You.. You're acting as if
everything's fine, as if we were
best friends back then?

KATRINE
And?

ALICE
But we weren't?

KATRINE
Yes, we were? Alice?

Beat.

Alice stares in disbelief at Katrine. Katrine lingers for a
moment, holds out the knife, finally relents.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Okay. Okay, fine. I lied to you.

Alice breathes a sigh of relief as if Katrine has confirmed
that she's not crazy.

ALICE
Good! 'Cause I was starting to think
I was crazy-

KATRINE
(interrupting)
I knew you'd come.

ALICE

What?

KATRINE

I recognized you when I picked Ida up from school the other day. When I was sitting in the car. Some psycho was hitting your car?

Beat.

ALICE

But the cake? So you did it on purpose?

Katrine just stares at Alice.

KATRINE

I really have no idea what you're talking about. Yeah, it was stupid that I didn't just come out and say it, but.. Maybe I was just embarrassed to be so needy? "Like I don't have any other friends!" I've just moved around so much... I never get to know anyone!

Alice is struggling to express her frustration.

ALICE

But. But you. You were. Back then. You. You, for fuck's sake-

Katrine can't help laughing.

KATRINE

You wanna buy a vowel?

ALICE

I want an apology!

Beat.

KATRINE

What?

ALICE

I want you to apologize for what you did back then. To me.

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 How could I ever forget it, I think
 about it every day? It.. It
 destroyed me?

Katrine just stands there, looking at Alice. Looks down at the knife, as if only now discovering it in her hand.

KATRINE
 I'd be happy to apologize. If I
 knew what I was apologizing for.

Katrine carefully places the knife on the coffee table, then looks at Alice.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
 We were friends, Alice?

ALICE
 ...Friends?

Alice inadvertently laughs, falls back into the sofa, somewhere between laughter and tears.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 You were... evil? I never knew what
 you'd do... I came to school with
 stomach cramps every day?

Katrine just stands there shaking her head.

KATRINE
 I need a drink to listen to this.

Katrine turns and heads for the kitchen. After a moment's hesitation, Alice jumps up and runs after her.

30 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (CONTINUED)

30

Katrine stands next to the wine fridge, selects a new bottle of wine and opens it as Alice walks into the kitchen.

ALICE
 I'm in the middle of telling you
 something very painful. You can't
 just walk off.

Katrine looks at Alice not quite sure whether to laugh or cry.

KATRINE
 Sorry, is this my house?
 (MORE)

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Where I invited you and your daughter in AND served you dinner and you have... ruined my sofa and accused me of ruining your life? Sorry if I thought this might be nice, that we could maybe be friends again?

ALICE

But we were never friends!

KATRINE

Yes, you keep saying that. So apparently we have two different versions of the past.

ALICE

YES, one that's true and one that's a lie?

Katrine just shakes her head at Alice and walks back to the living room, glass and wine bottle in hand - and with Alice at her heels.

31 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (CONTINUED)

31

Katrine plops down in the sofa, pours herself a glass and drinks, then shakes the bottle at Alice.

KATRINE

And you are sure you don't want any?

Alice shakes her head.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

No, no thanks and no cake or food or sugar either. Or clothes that fit. If anyone's ruining your life, it's your own damn self.

Katrine looks down and just now realizes she's sat on the cake.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Shit... Now you owe me a new sofa AND a new pair of trousers.

ALICE

Oh, sorry that I'm ruining your perfect life.

KATRINE

My perfect-

(MORE)

KATRINE (CONT'D)
(spluttering with
laughter)
My what?

ALICE
Yeah, your beautiful clothes and
your beautiful furniture in your
perfect home and... and your perfect
hair and your perfect career and
your perfect daughter who's oh so-

KATRINE
Thin?

Alice shuts up. Katrine can't hide a little victorious smile.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I don't know why you're comparing my
life to some women's magazine, it's
not. But if something's gone wrong
in your life, then don't blame it on
ME. Stop being such a fucking victim.

Alice opens and closes her mouth, left speechless by Katrine's direct manner.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
That's right, because that's what
you are right now, isn't it?
(mimicking Alice)
"We live in a apartment. There's
just the two of us. No, I don't
have a career, I work as a nurse."
Is that my fault as well?

ALICE
It.. I never said that?

KATRINE
Everything about you says it. Your
whole body says it. That it's
everyone else's fault.

ALICE
You don't know anything about me!

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Can't you stop this? Can't you see
that this is just a new kind of abuse?

KATRINE
- "Abuse"!?

*

ALICE

Yes, that I've finally found the courage to confront you, tell you what happened to me and you pretend nothing did!

KATRINE

(shouting)

But I don't know what it is you want from me!

Beat.

ALICE

I want you to admit what happened back then. What you did.

Katrine leans back in the sofa and simply stares at Alice.

32 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

32

A flashing child's boom box playing shrill kiddy pop MUSIC, the disco ball is spinning around, spreading glittering light on everything pink.

Ida and Sofie are standing in front of the make-up mirror in feathered boas, tiaras and high heeled shoes, applying make-up. It's more clown-like than pretty.

Bloody red mouths.

Sofie is constantly keeping an eye on Ida, watching how she does things. Ida puts down the eye shadow.

IDA

There. All done.

SOFIE

Me too.

The two of them admire themselves in the mirror, posing. Sofie looks at herself, at Ida's body, measuring one against the other.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

You're much thinner than me.

Beat.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

I'm ugly.

IDA

I don't think so.

Sofie suddenly begins removing all her fineries.

SOFIE

I don't want to play this anymore.
Can't we take Pig out?

IDA

No, that's not a good idea.

SOFIE

But I just want to sit and hold him
for a while? Don't you ever take
him out?

IDA

Sometimes.

SOFIE

Do you let Molly?

IDA

What?

SOFIE

Hold him.

IDA

It's just best if only I do it.

Beat.

SOFIE

I thought we were friends.

Ida doesn't answer. Sofie looks at her.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

You asked me if I wanted a playdate?

Ida shrugs, owns up.

IDA

It was my mum's idea.

SOFIE

What?

IDA

To invite you. She felt sorry for
you.

Sofie just stares at Ida. Then she turns and walks out of
the room.

IDA (CONT'D)

Where you going?

SOFIE

I want to go home now.

Sofie leaves the room. Ida watches her, still in her fancy dress.

33 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

33

Alice and Katrine are sitting across from each other in their respective sofas. Katrine is staring open-mouthed at Alice.

KATRINE

I forced you to eat cake?

ALICE

Yes. In front of all the others.
In the playground.

KATRINE

Honestly, I don't remember.

ALICE

Well, I do. And don't pretend that it was a coincidence that you were trying to force me to eat cake just now-

KATRINE

Yeah, because it's so sick and evil to serve cake with coffee!

Katrine lets out a weary sigh, then leans forward.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Okay. Let's just say for argument's sake that I remember.

ALICE

'Argument's sake', we're not in your courtroom right now and please stop gaslighting me-

KATRINE

Gaslighting! Wow! Now you just need "toxic" and "triggered" and you've won in Victim Bingo!

*

Alice gets up.

ALICE

I don't want to sit here and be violated like this-

KATRINE

Fine! I remember!

Alice stops in her tracks.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

But then I also remember that everyone laughed. That YOU laughed? Because it was funny?

ALICE

I was almost throwing up! And you kept on shoving it in my mouth so I couldn't breathe! What the hell's funny about that?

Alice is on the verge of tears, but does her best to hide it.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I felt sick and ran to the bathroom and...

Alice can't go on; something's holding her back.

Katrine sits for a moment.

KATRINE

Okay. So you're telling me that one moment ruined your life.

ALICE

No, that's not what I'm saying!

KATRINE

Yes, you're saying I humiliated you, that I broke you somehow and that that has affected every day of your life until now and that somehow it's all my fault.

Beat.

ALICE

That's not how I meant it.

KATRINE

Okay.

Katrine sits in silence. Then both women make to speak at the same time.

ALICE

-I just wanted you to say-

KATRINE

-Then eat the cake.

ALICE

What?

Katrine nods towards the rest of the cake still standing on the coffee table between them.

KATRINE

If it's not what you mean, then eat a piece of cake.

ALICE

No? No, absolutely not?

KATRINE

Either I've ruined your life or I haven't. And your life IS ruined, apparently.

ALICE

My life isn't ruined. I've got a good job, a daughter I love-

KATRINE

Hurray. Then eat some cake.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Just a bite? If you can, then your life's not ruined. And if you can't, it IS. And then I'll apologize because nine-year-old me apparently was responsible for fucking up your entire life.

Alice looks at Katrine.

ALICE

There's something wrong with you.

KATRINE

Yes, I guess there's lots of things wrong with me, but I haven't blamed YOU for it, have I?

Beat. Alice sits frozen like a statue. Katrine nods to herself and prepares to carry the cake out to the kitchen.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I'll take it away.
(MORE)

KATRINE (CONT'D)
(feigned chanting)

And sorry for making you eat cake
when we were kids and for ruining
the rest of your life-

Alice shoots out her hand and grabs the kitchen knife from the table. Katrine freezes in mid-movement.

Alice gets up knife in hand, bends over the cake and carefully cuts herself a big slice.

Katrine sits back in the sofa again.

Alice puts the cake on a plate, picks up a cake fork, sits down with the cake, all with very calm, deliberate movements. Like a silent ritual.

Katrine watches her.

Alice breaks off a piece with the fork and puts the cake in her mouth without taking her eyes off Katrine the whole time. Chews.

Katrine throws up her hands in defeat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay, you win. You're eating cake, I'll eat my words. There's nothing wrong with you or your life. Congratulations.

Alice responds by cutting off another piece with the fork; a bigger piece that she pops into her mouth. Some of the cake falls off the fork and onto her clothes. Alice is struggling to eat the cake, which seems to fill her whole mouth, but she refuses to stop. Instead she decides to stuff a third piece in her mouth, tears welling up in her eyes as she does so-

-Katrine looks on with growing concern.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Okay, that's enough. Stop it, Alice.
Stop.

-Alice doesn't stop.

- Sofie appears at the living room door. She stares in horror at her mother who is eating the cake and crying at the same time.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

That's enough. That's enough now.

-Alice eating the cake, cake falling off the fork and down on her clothes. Alice tries to swallow another bite; her tears are running down into the chocolate filling-

KATRINE (CONT'D)

STOP IT!

Alice stops with a start, looks down at herself, then at Katrine, sees her shocked expression, sees herself from a distance.

Alice gets abruptly to her feet and runs into the kitchen.

34 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (CONTINUED)

34

Alice runs to the sink, spits out the last mouthfuls of cake, opens the tap and desperately rinses out her mouth with handfuls of water.

After having rinsed and spitted, she stops, catches her breath while she tries to wipe her mouth clean.

35 EXT. HOUSE - EVENING (CONTINUED)

35

We see Alice, framed by the bright kitchen window, slowly recovering her composure.

Alice suddenly straightens up, looks out at the darkness, did she see something?

36 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (CONTINUED)

36

Alice stands by the window, staring out in the darkness. We now see that it was only her own reflection in the window that caught her eye - chocolate and water stains running down her top, chin and neck.

She looks about the kitchen for something to dry herself with, searching inside drawers, then a bottom kitchen cupboard-

The cupboard is crammed with empty bottles, wine and liquor bottles, and when Alice makes to close the cupboard, two bottles spill out onto the floor.

KATRINE (O.S.)

You okay out there?

Alice frantically struggles to stuff the bottles back inside the cupboard, close it and stand, just as Katrine appears in the doorway.

ALICE

I was just looking for a dish towel
or something I can...

Katrine quickly opens a drawer, finds a towel and hands it to Alice.

KATRINE

Here.

Beat. Alice takes the towel.

ALICE

Thanks.

Alice tries to dry herself off, then the front of her top -
Katrine watching her.

KATRINE

Don't you want... to borrow some
clean clothes or something.

ALICE

I think I'll just head on home.
I'll pick Sofie up first thing in
the morning. I'll just go up and
say goodbye.

KATRINE

Like that?

Alice looks down at herself.

37 INT. HOUSE, KATRINE'S BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (LATER) 37

Katrine is busy finding some clothes for Alice, who is standing in the middle of the room, awkwardly. Katrine hands her a warm red blouse and a pair of loose-fitting, Bordeaux-colored sweat pants, both items in the luxury category.

KATRINE

Take these. You can just give them
back to me... some other time.

ALICE

Thanks.

Alice stands, waiting for Katrine to leave. Katrine gets the message.

KATRINE

Sorry, I'll give you some privacy.

She points to the adjacent master bathroom.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

You can clean up in there if you
like.

Katrine hurries out. Alice stands holding the clothes until Katrine has left the room.

Alice slowly begins undressing, suddenly spots herself in the huge floor to ceiling mirrors mounted on all the doors of the wardrobe.

Alice takes in several different versions of herself in her underwear, gets lost in her own thoughts, touches her collarbone, her stomach.

Then, as if suddenly disgusted, she flings open the wardrobe doors to hide all evidence of her own reflection.

She lets her fingers run over Katrine's numerous dresses, coats, stroking the different fabrics, kashmir sweaters on the shelves - her hands touch something hard. Alice removes some sweaters and finds a half-empty bottle of whisky hidden in between the layers of wool.

She takes out the bottle, holds it for a moment.

38 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (LATER)

38

Katrine is in the kitchen, tidying up after the coffee and cake, wearing a new, clean pair of pants. On the table next to her stands a scratched cardboard box with some documents and files inside.

Alice walks in dressed in Katrine's soft red jogging outfit, hair brushed back, face washed and cleaned.

Alice, who is holding the whisky bottle she found in the bedroom, places it calmly on the kitchen counter so Katrine can't help noticing it.

Katrine sees the bottle, but continues tidying up, seemingly unperturbed. After a beat, she smiles at Alice.

KATRINE

So, was it nice to get into some
clean clothes?

ALICE

Yes.

KATRINE

Great.

Katrine turns, and as if playing for time, finishes what she's doing at the sink. Then she turns again to Alice, takes a deep breath, and throws out her hands with a guilty expression.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I was thinking... Can we start again?
Please?

Katrine nods towards the living room.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I mean what the hell just happened
here. We're two adult women? We're
not in third grade anymore.

ALICE
No.

KATRINE
But look what I just found!

Katrine holds the box out to Alice.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I was up in the attic while you were
changing. I found all kinds of old
stuff, and I think our old class
photos are in there somewhere...
(gingerly)
Do you want to... Should we have a
look at them? Before you drive home,
I mean?

ALICE
Okay.

KATRINE
Okay. And can we... toast to that
as well?

Katrine nods, sending a wry smile at the whisky bottle.

ALICE
I can't stomach whisky.

Katrine's smile fades.

ALICE (CONT'D)
But I'm okay with another one of
those.

Alice nods at the gin and tonic bottles, lemons etc. That
are still on the welcome drinks tray. Katrine smiles, visibly
relieved.

KATRINE
You bet... coming right up-

ALICE
(interjecting)
I can make it myself.

Alice smiles at Katrine who nods, stuffs the whisky bottle under her arm and picks up the heavy cardboard box.

KATRINE
Okay, I'll take this into the living room then! It'll be fun!

Katrine hurries into the living room. Alice waits for her to leave, then quickly empties the contents of the gin bottle into the sink, fills it instead with tap water, puts the bottle back on the tray and carries it into the living room.

39 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MEANWHILE) 39

Sofie and Ida are watching a loud kids movie on Ida's flat screen television. Sofie, who is staring at the screen, looks quite pale. Ida glances at her, immediately senses that something's wrong.

IDA
You can have the last ones if you like.

Ida hands a bowl of sweets to Sofie, who just shakes her head. Ida sits a while.

IDA (CONT'D)
Were they very drunk?

SOFIE
What?

IDA
When you went downstairs.

Sofie shakes her head.

SOFIE
I don't know...

Ida sits for a moment, then gets up, walks over to the cage and takes the guinea pig out. She returns and sits down next to Sofie.

Sofie looks tentatively at Ida, then stretches out her hand to stroke the guinea pig.

SOFIE (CONT'D)
We're not allowed pets at the new place.

Ida looks at her.

IDA
You can hold Pig if you like.

SOFIE
Really?

Ida nods, hands the guinea pig over to Sofie to hold.

Ida stands, walks over and picks her phone off the bed as if she's already a bit bored, sees something on the phone that makes her laugh.

Sofie gets up, walks over to Ida, looks over her shoulder. Ida shows her something on her phone.

IDA
It's a Tik Tok Molly sent.

SOFIE
Okay.

Ida looks at Sofie.

IDA
You can't hold him so tight. They can't take it.

Sofie looks down, sees she's squashing the guinea pig a little.

SOFIE
I wasn't.

Ida turns her attention back to the phone and Sofie moves away a little, sits down on the window sill with the guinea pig in her lap. She looks at Ida, and out of the half-open window.

Ida laughs at something on the phone again, glances across at Sofie, quickly writes something on her phone - was she writing about Sofie?

Sofie looks down at herself, at her love handles that are poking out under her top. She straightens her body, tries to hide her fat under her top, covering up her bare skin.

The SOUND of an iPhone taking a picture. Sofie quickly looks up.

SOFIE (CONT'D)
Are you taking pictures of me??

IDA
No.

The WOOSH sound of a message being sent. Ida giggles and texts something on her phone. Sofie looks at Ida, bites the inside of her mouth.

Then she carefully rests the guinea pig on the window sill, lets it run about. Casts a glance at Ida.

Then, with one hand, she nudges the guinea pig out of the open window.

Ida laughs at something on her phone.

40 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY (MEANWHILE)

40

Katrine is standing by the stereo, puts the MUSIC on, semi-loud 90s pop. Lit candles everywhere, lights off in the living room; an intimate, cosy atmosphere.

Katrine is on the sofa, moving in time to the music, while Alice, drink in hand, is going through the contents of the box.

Alice holds up something - a sheet of class photos - a variety of child versions of Katrine.

KATRINE

Whoaa!

Katrine sits next to Alice in the sofa, takes the photo sheets from her, studies them.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Look at those teeth. Some overbite.
Cheers.

Katrine clinks her glass against Alice's, who is obliged to drink. She studies the photo.

ALICE

I don't see any overbite?

KATRINE

I wore night braces for three years.
Orthodontic headgear.

ALICE

I didn't know. I just always thought you were so.. Cool.

Alice stops herself in mid-sentence. Katrine looks at her.

KATRINE

Come on, lets' find one of you.
There must be in here somewhere.

Katrine begins rummaging through the box, pulls out a file, browses through it. A class photo falls out. Katrine picks it up.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

There! That's from fourth grade,
just before I moved again... now
where's little Alice.... don't be
shy...

Alice joins in the search, leans forward. They sit there, heads together.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Okay, I can't find you anywhere.

ALICE

Can't you? It's not hard.

KATRINE

...There?

ALICE

No, that's... what was her name...
Judith.

Katrine looks at Alice, raises her eyebrows. Alice gives a tentative laugh.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Look for the fatty..

Katrine studies the class photo again, then just shakes her head.

ALICE (CONT'D)

There.

Alice points to a slightly chubby girl on the front row, the one holding the class sign.

Katrine studies the picture more closely.

KATRINE

Is that you?

Katrine sends Alice a puzzled look.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

You weren't fat at all. Why d'you
pretend you were?

ALICE

I was.

KATRINE

No you weren't. Look at the picture?

Katrine holds it up like a piece of evidence in court.

ALICE

Yes, I was. Everyone used to tease
me for it. You... and the others.

Katrine leans back in the sofa, just looks at Alice.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I wasn't trying to start anything!
All I'm saying is, I know why I wasn't
one of the popular girls in the class.

Alice smiles at Katrine, trying to smooth things out.

KATRINE

Why do you do that to yourself?

ALICE

What.

KATRINE

Belittle yourself. Make yourself
ugly.

Katrine leans forward suddenly, takes a lock of Alice's hair
and pushes it behind her ear.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Don't you know how beautiful you
are?

Katrine takes in Alice.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

And it's okay to wear beautiful
clothes and eat all the food you
want and get drunk... and dance all
night if that's what you want.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

You're allowed to be here.

Alice stares back at Katrine, their faces are close enough
for a kiss. Katrine smiles, holds out her hand, strokes Alice
gently on the cheek.

Katrine leans forward suddenly and kisses Alice softly on the lips. With a gasp, Alice jerks away and-

SMASH CUT TO:

41 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MEANWHILE) 41

With horror on her face, Ida is leaning out of the window while Sofie stands next to her, rooted to the spot.

SOFIE

I'm sorry! It just jumped out of my hands!

Ida is halfway out of the window. We see now that the roof is sloping, above a garage.

IDA

(calling out)
Piiig, come here! Come, Pig!

Ida pulls herself back inside the room with some difficulty.

IDA (CONT'D)

I can't reach him. He's over by the gutter. I'll get my mom.

SOFIE

I'll do it!

Ida, who is on her way out of the room, stops.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

I can crawl out and get him.

Ida shakes her head.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

Yes, it was my fault.

Beat.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

You don't need to say anything to your mom! Or mine.

Ida thinks for a second.

IDA

Okay, get him then.

Sofie nods, turns and looks out at the roof. She's having second thoughts now but it's too late to change her mind. She begins carefully crawling out of the window, all the way out onto the roof.

Sofie disappears from Ida's field of view. After a little while, Ida starts getting anxious.

IDA (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Hey, maybe we should just get my
mom. Sofie?

Ida walks slowly over to the window. She's scared now.

IDA (CONT'D)
Sofie?

No answer. Ida leans slightly out of the window; Sofie pops up in the window sill, dirty and out of breath, but with Pig safely in her grasp.

SOFIE
Here!

Ida takes Pig, holds him tight, walks into the light in the middle of the room, makes sure he's unharmed - while out on the roof, Sofie tries to stand and crawl back inside.

IDA
Poor little Pig - are you okay-

Sofie SCREAMS. Ida turns, sees Sofie losing her foothold, sliding further and further down the roof - and finally falling. A BUMP outside. Ida runs to the window.

IDA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
... Sofie?

42 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

42

Katrine and Alice are sitting in the sofa, Katrine looking shameful, as if she has lost face by requesting not sex, but intimacy, affection. She leans forward to make herself another drink. Alice glances at her.

ALICE
It's not. I'm just not-

KATRINE
A lezzie? Well, I sure as hell ain't
either.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Well, we might just call it a night
anyways-

ALICE

Sofie's dad. I wasn't always alone.
He's the reason we moved.

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

So, it's just hard for me. If someone
gets too close.

Katrine leans back, looks at Alice.

KATRINE

He was violent?

Beat.

ALICE

He was always nice to Sofie.

Katrine takes a deep breath, she's heard this story a million times, mixes a G&T and pushes it into Alice's hand, Alice tries to refuse.

KATRINE

Here, drink this. All of it. That's right, all of it.

Alice obliges and drinks, then coughs as if her drink is really strong.

ALICE

I thought I could just start over, that's why I took Sofie out of her class, moved to a new town.

(...)

He's got my new address.

Katrine looks at Alice.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Martin sent me flowers the other day. Roses.

KATRINE

You can report him to the police.

ALICE

For sending flowers?

KATRINE

We can get you a restraining order, you say he has your new address?

(MORE)

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Do you know that the most dangerous time for a woman in a violent relationship is when she leaves it? What is his full name? Martin-?

ALICE

No!

(..)

It's not like that. I can't.

Katrine looks at Alice, deflating.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I just wanted to explain to you why I reacted like I did before, why I felt that you didn't respect my boundaries-

KATRINE

(tiredly)

Oh, shut the fuck up.

Alice looks at Katrine, shocked.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

It's a rare ability you possess, to make other people feel guilt.

Katrine gets up from the couch, swaying, not caring about trying to hide how drunk she is anymore.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

You were like that in school as well. I wasn't allowed to have other friends. If I had a playdate with another girl, you got angry, punished me by not speaking to me for days.

Beat.

ALICE

You said you didn't remember.

Katrine doesn't answer.

ALICE (CONT'D)

If that's how it is, then why did you invite us over? And tell the truth this time.

KATRINE

I felt sorry for your daughter.

(MORE)

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Ida came home and told me about the day when Sofie tried to hand out the cupcakes in class.... I remember what it's like being the new girl.

Beat.

ALICE

You just moved away again. I stayed! I had to stay in a school where you made me fair game. Everyone came after me. I was an easy target after you'd humiliated me!

KATRINE

(tired)

Yeah yeah, you told us everything about that.

Alice looks at Katrine. Now it's all about winning.

ALICE

I ran to the bathroom afterwards. I had an upset stomach. I had it all the time back then. But two of the boys ran after me, kicked the door to the stall open and I didn't want them to see... me, so I just pulled my trousers up in the middle of everything. Right in the middle..

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I walked right past them, pretended there was nothing wrong. They ran after me, said I was disgusting, said I smelled like shit, pretended they were going to throw up every time I walked past, made all the other kids do the same. It went on for years, they all did it! And I pretended to ignore them, to feel nothing. I became.. Nothing.

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

When I met Martin, it felt safe, familiar. I was also nothing with him.

KATRINE

But that's not my fault.

ALICE

Yes. It is your fault.

Alice looks at Katrine, throws down her best card.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You made me a victim. You turned me into something everyone can take it out on.

Katrine stands for a moment, then suddenly lunges at Alice in the sofa, as if to attack. Katrine is far too close - and her proximity, the suddenness of her movement intimidate Alice, who freezes.

Katrine stares Alice hard in the face.

KATRINE

I know people like Martin. And it's not my fault that he found you, just like it's not my fault that those boys followed you into the bathroom.

Katrine grabs firm hold of Alice, as if she's intent on hurting her.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Some animals can smell weakness and then they attack. Because they're animals and the only thing that's up to you is whether you fight back or just lie down and let them bite.

Beat. A little whinge of pain from Alice.

Katrine looks down at her fingers, sees that her nails are buried deep into Alice's upper arms. She gasps, as if only now realizing that she's hurting Alice; then lets go. Alice runs from the room.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Alice!

43

INT. HOUSE, GUEST BATHROOM - EVENING (MOMENTS LATER)

43

Alice slams the door to the guest room shut behind her, falls to her knees in front of the toilet and tries to vomit, only a little water comes up.

Behind her someone BANGS on the door, hard.

KATRINE (O.S.)

Alice! I'm sorry!

Alice wipes her mouth with her sleeve, gets out her phone.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Alice, I just got angry when you wouldn't listen to me, I know people like your ex, for fuck's sake, I defend them! When they have killed the woman!

From sitting on the floor Alice makes a call, her eyes locked on the door.

ALICE

(small voice)

Mads, pick up... Mads, it's me, can you come? The address is-

CUT TO:

44 INT. MADS' APARTMENT - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

44

In a scruffy sofa Mads sits, snoring, in front of him several empty beers from a micro brewery.

His phone next to him lights up with a message, Alice's call gone to voice mail.

45 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY / LIVING ROOM - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

45

Katrine stands on the other side of the guest bathroom door, she leans into it, defeated. Looks down and realizes that she carried the whiskey bottle with her, is holding it in one hand. She looks around her for somewhere to place it, disoriented, walks to a side table and puts the bottle down.

Behind her Alice opens the door, carefully, Katrine turns, they look at each other.

Alice takes a step out from the bathroom.

ALICE

I'd like to go home now.

KATRINE

Yes.

ALICE

I'll go get Sofie.

KATRINE

Yes.

Alice passes Katrine and disappears up the stairs. Katrine walks into the living room, dumps herself down on the couch. Regretting. Hating herself.

She sees the gin bottle, the one filled with water, and reaches for it, unscrews the cap and is just about to take a swig from the bottle when-

ALICE (O.S.)
KATRINE! KATRINE, THE GIRLS ARE GONE!

Katrine jumps up and runs towards Alice's voice, leaving the bottle on the table.

46 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MOMENTS LATER) 46

Katrine and Alice hurry out of Ida's room and walk down the hallway. Katrine opens the doors to her bedroom, to the office; they each check the various rooms, returning quickly to the hallway, searching.

KATRINE
Ida? Are you in here?

ALICE
This isn't funny anymore, girls!

Alice spots a lowered ladder leading to the attic. Katrine follows Alice's gaze.

KATRINE
No, that was me. I was up there looking for the class photos.

ALICE
But they might be hiding up there -
NOW?

Alice sends Katrine an angry look and begins climbing the narrow ladder.

47 INT. HOUSE, ATTIC - EVENING (CONTINUED) 47

Alice appears at the top of the attic trap door, her upper body staring into the dark attic beneath the rafters. She stops as soon as she sees that the room is in complete darkness.

ALICE
(shouting to Katrine)
Is there a light up here?

KATRINE (O.S.)
Yes, if you go over to the chimney,
but they're not up there. Ida hates
the attic!

Alice ignores Katrine and crawls all the way up the ladder, fumbles her way over to the chimney and finds the light switch.

She hits the switch but nothing happens. Alice looks about the dark room.

ALICE
Girls? Are you up here?

No answer. Only the sound of the rain on the roof.

48 EXT. HOUSE, GARDEN - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

48

The garden is huge and dark, the wind is blowing the trees. We see large rhododendron bushes and other decorative plants. A bush by the house. Something inside it. Someone.

IDA (O.S.)
Shhhhhh.

SOFIE (O.S.)
(whimpering)
But it hurts?

Ida and Sofie are both crouched down under the rhododendron bush. Sofie, who is black from the dirt on the roof and the garden soil, holds one arm against her body; she has hurt herself in the fall.

IDA
My mom can't see you.

OFF - we hear their mothers shouting from Ida's open window.

KATRINE (O.S.)
IDA!

ALICE (O.S.)
SOFIE! SOFIE?

Sofie is whimpering from the pain. Ida looks at her.

IDA
We just have to wait till they're
gone then we can get in through the
garden door like I just did.

SOFIE
But my arms hurts?
(whiny)
I want my mom...

IDA
My mom will just get angry if you
tell her you were on the roof!
(MORE)

IDA (CONT'D)

(..)
If she's been drinking.

SOFIE

But-

IDA

Be quiet!

Sofie falls silent.

IDA (CONT'D)

We'll just say we were playing hide
and seek.

The wind picks up. And it starts RAINING.

49 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY / LIVING ROOM - EVENING (MEANWHILE) 49

Alice comes down from the first floor as Katrine walks out of
the dining room.

KATRINE

They weren't in there either.

ALICE

But where the hell can they be?

KATRINE

They're just playing somewhere,
laughing at us.

Katrine continues back into the living room, pours herself a
new whisky, warms herself in front of the fireplace.

Alice follows after her; sends her an incredulous look.

ALICE

Aren't you worried?

KATRINE

What? Did you never hide from your
mom? They're just playing. Relax.
They'll turn up in a minute when
they get tired of not being found.

Alice looks out at the dark garden.

ALICE

Can they have gone out into the
garden?

KATRINE

In the rain?

ALICE
I'm going out there.

Katrine shrugs.

KATRINE
Go ahead.

Alice looks at her.

ALICE
I don't understand why you don't care. She's your child.

Alice walks out of the living room. Katrine remains standing, staring into the fireplace.

50 EXT. HOUSE - EVENING (CONTINUED)

50

Alice walks out of the front door, is putting on her jacket as she skims the garden, squinting against the rain.

ALICE
(calling out)
Sofie? Ida? Are you out here?

Alice walks out into the garden, out into the all-encompassing darkness.

51 INT. HOUSE, DINING ROOM/STAIRS/LIVING ROOM - EVENING

51

Katrine is standing holding herself, looking into the fire. Behind her, a small figure appears; Ida, who has come in from the garden doors in the dining room, she waves Sofie inside too.

Both girls tiptoe out of the dining room and look in the direction of the living room. Then Ida runs up the stairs. Sofie hurries after her, still holding her injured arm close to her body - then follows Ida up the stairs.

As if she heard something Katrine turns, just in time to miss seeing the girls run up the stairs.

52 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (CONTINUED)

52

Ida and Sofie have reached Ida's room, but Sofie stops out in the hallway, her face as white as a sheet.

SOFIE
(whispering)
My arm hurts....

Ida stops in her tracks; has an idea.

IDA

Wait here.

Ida runs down the hallway and into the office; Sofie meanwhile bites her lip in pain.

SOFIE

(whispering)

Ida, come back. What are you doing....

Ida returns from the office holding a bottle of brandy.

IDA

(whispering)

My mom says this helps with everything. Come on.

Ida pulls Sofie into the room with her and closes the door.

53 EXT. HOUSE, GARDEN - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

53

Alice is carefully making her way through the garden in the dark. She approaches a large bush, crouches down, moves a branch aside, kneels and spots something lying on the ground.

It's lying further in under the bush. Alice has to crawl on all fours to reach it.

It's the unicorn bead plate that Ida gave to Sofie. Alice picks it up, looks at it, then crawls back out from the bush.

Someone takes hold of Alice. She strikes out blindly with her arms, falls to the ground with A SCREAM.

Katrine is standing over her in a big raincoat, holding out an umbrella.

KATRINE

I was just... You're getting soaked!

Katrine gestures with the umbrella.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Here.

Alice gets to her feet, takes the umbrella.

ALICE

Thanks.

KATRINE

And come inside. They're not out here.

ALICE

I found this.

Alice hands Katrine the bead plate. Katrine stops, reconsiders.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Can they have gone somewhere, some place Ida knows... Could she just walk off without saying anything?

Katrine doesn't answer her; just looks around the garden.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Katrine? Can Ida have gone somewhere and taken Sofie with her?

Alice reaches out to Katrine, tugs her impatiently on the shoulder. Katrine wobbles a little on her feet, waves Alice angrily away.

KATRINE

Yeah, alright, relax! She.. Once went over to her dad's place. But that was because she was angry with me.

ALICE

Then call him and ask if the girls are there? Does he live far away?

Katrine seems lost in her thoughts.

KATRINE

She took a bus to Frederik's. I only found out later. I was... I thought she was watching a movie.. In her room.

ALICE

Then call Frederik!?

KATRINE

I can't.

(shaking off the thought)

And anyway they're not there. They're somewhere in the house.

Katrine begins walking off. Alice tries to stop her.

ALICE

Why won't you call. We don't know where our girls are!

KATRINE

Because I can't!

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Frederik wants to have Ida live with him. There was an episode where he.. Claimed I'd drunk too much when she was here with me. I can't call him now and tell him SHE'S GONE!

Katrine turns and hurries off in the direction of the house, wobbling a bit on the wet grass. Alice runs after her.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Especially not when it was his weekend. They're in the house. Come on!

ALICE

His weekend? What are you talking about?

KATRINE

I told him how happy Ida was to have a playdate with her new best friend, that it was the ONLY evening Sofie could do it and of course he didn't want to spoil things for her, the loving father that he is. And so it became my weekend. I won.

The rain is falling on Katrine's face, causing her make-up or run in streaks, her hair to become tangled in knots, but Katrine is too drunk to be concerned. It's as if Alice is truly seeing her for the first time.

ALICE

(quietly)

So that's what you needed us for?

Alice gives Katrine a hard shove so she falls backwards onto the muddy grass. Alice begins walking towards the house. Behind her, Katrine tries to get to her feet.

KATRINE

Alice, wait!

Alice ignores Katrine, continues on into the house.

54 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - EVENING

54

Alice flings open the front door, pulls off her wet jacket as she makes her way through the house, looking frantically about for signs of the girls.

ALICE
SOFIE? IDA?! SOFIE!

55 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

55

Ida and Sofie are sitting inside the princess tent with cushions, fairy lights and night sky, the bottle of brandy between them, rosy-cheeked, taking turns to sip from the bottle - back and forth.

ALICE (O.S.)
(calling from
downstairs)
Sofie? Ida?

The girls giggle and snuggle up; the alcohol has made them silly and even younger than their age - it's become a game now.

Ida raises a finger to her lips, looks at Sofie.

IDA
Schhhhh.

Sofie giggles. Ida hands her the bottle.

56 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - EVENING (SIMULTANEOUS)

56

Alice walks through the living room and into the kitchen.

ALICE (O.S.)
SOFIE! IDA!

Alice disappears for a moment. We stay on the empty living room. Then Alice returns.

ALICE (CONT'D)
SOFIE!!

No answer. Alice looks around her, pulls out her phone to make a call. A soaked Katrine walks into the living room from the other side. Alice looks at her.

ALICE (CONT'D)
They're not here. I'm calling the
police.

Alice is about to make the call but Katrine snatches the phone from her hand. Alice reaches for it.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Give it to me. Give me my phone?

Katrine shakes her head.

ALICE (CONT'D)
(close to tears)
Give it to me so I can call them?

KATRINE
I'm in the middle of a custody battle,
you can't call the police, are you
crazy?

Alice steps quickly forward to take the phone from Katrine. At that same moment, Katrine turns and hurls the phone at the wall so it breaks into tiny pieces.

ALICE
What... did you just do...

Katrine throws out her arms in a show of magnanimity.

KATRINE
Don't worry. I'll buy you a new
one.

ALICE
... Don't you even care about our
children? How drunk ARE you?

KATRINE
Relax..

ALICE
Is winning all you care about? You
know what I think? I think I feel
sorry for Ida that you're her mother.

Katrine feels a jolt, as if she's been slapped in the face. Alice doesn't notice; she's busy scanning the room.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Where's your phone?

Katrine just stares at Alice, narrows her eyes at her.

KATRINE
....Are you suffering from bulimia
or just eating disorders in general?
Congratulations, you've managed to
pass it on to your daughter. A
completely normal little girl who
hates herself because her mother
hates herself as well.

Beat. Alice looks at Katrine.

ALICE

Sofie doesn't hate herself. She
doesn't.

SOMETHING BUMPS THE FLOOR UPSTAIRS, Alice looks up.

Alice immediately runs to the stairs to the first floor.
Katrine rolls her eyes.

KATRINE

I SAID they were here the whole time!
Dumb cunt...

Katrine plops down on the sofa.

She sees the half-empty whisky bottle on the table in front
of her, reaches for it, then stops herself and instead falls
back in the sofa.

57 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (CONTINUED) 57

Alice bursts into Ida's room.

ALICE

Sofie?

Alice looks about, walks over to the bed, pulls back the
bedspread, checks under the bed.

Suddenly, something begins to RING; Alice startles, then sees
Ida's phone lying on the bed. Alice picks it up, sees the
word "DAD" followed by a heart smiley on the screen - there
are several unanswered calls from Ida's father - Alice holds
the phone, unsure whether to answer or not.

Then, suddenly, a suppressed giggle from inside the princess
tent.

Alice walks over to the tent, pulls back the front flap and
finds Ida and Sofie inside.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Have you been in here the whole time!?
Why didn't you say anything, we've
been out of our minds looking for
you?

Ida gives Sofia a nudge in the ribs with her elbow.

SOFIE

We were hiding.

IDA

We played hide and seek?

Alice seems to sag, then lets out a sigh of relief.

ALICE

Okay. Okay.

Alice makes a face, sniffs the air.

ALICE (CONT'D)

What's that smell?

Ida and Sofie exchange looks. Behind Ida and unseen to Alice, is the brandy bottle, dropped on the floor, the bump from earlier, its contents spilled in a dark puddle.

Ida covers it with a cushion behind her.

IDA

We just borrowed some of my mom's perfume...

Alice, far from convinced, suddenly remembers the phone, which she hands to Ida.

ALICE

Here, your dad's been trying to call you. And Sofie, we have to leave now.

SOFIE

Now? No! It's a sleepover? I'm staying!

ALICE

Yes, I know that was the arrangement, but we're going home now. Come on.

Alice holds out her hand, but Sofie pulls away and becomes whiny.

SOFIE

I'm not going. You promised I could sleep here!

ALICE

Sofie, come on. I think Ida's mom would prefer to be alone just now.

Ida is immediately mindful of Alice.

IDA

Why? What's going on with my mom?

Alice tries to cover her slip of the tongue.

ALICE

Nothing. I just think she's.. Tired.
Come on, Sofie.

Sofie pulls away from Alice and shakes her head. Alice looks at her and takes charge.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I'm collecting your things NOW and
then we're leaving.

Alice leaves the room, leaving the girls alone in the tent.

IDA

Does your arm still hurt?

Sofie shakes her head.

IDA (CONT'D)

Cool that you didn't say anything.

Sofie looks at Ida, basking in her praise.

SOFIE

You mean that?

IDA

Yes. Really cool.

SOFIE

So are we best friends now?

Ida doesn't answer at first. Then she slowly nods.

Sofie lights up in a smile. Her acceptance and the brandy have made her more confident. She leans a bit clumsily towards Ida.

SOFIE (CONT'D)

D'you know what we can do to prove
it?

58 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

58

Alice returns to the living room to find Katrine still sitting on the sofa.

ALICE

The girls were up in Ida's room.
Playing hide and seek.

Katrine doesn't respond.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Yeah, so you were right all along.
You won.

KATRINE

Great.

ALICE

We're leaving now. I just need to
find Sofie's backpack. Have you
seen it-

KATRINE

(cutting her off)

No.

Alice heads for the kitchen, stops, looks back at Katrine.

ALICE

I never knew what to expect from you
back then. I never knew if you'd be
nice to me or.. If you were planning
on using me for something. And now,
it's 40 years later, and you are
still that girl.

KATRINE

I thought you were leaving?

ALICE

Yes.

Alice turns and heads for the kitchen. We rest on Katrine on
the sofa; something is happening inside her.

59

INT. HOUSE, OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

59

Ida is busy rummaging through some drawers in the office.
Sofie is standing behind her. She wobbles over and peers
over Ida's shoulder - down inside the drawer. Both girls are
tipsy, clumsy.

SOFIE

We can just go down into the kitchen
and find one?

IDA

No, then they'll see us.

SOFIE

But we have to hurry. My mom wants
to leave!

IDA

My dad forgot some tools in here.
He said I could use them... as long
as I'm careful.

Ida opens another drawer and finds a flat toolbox.

IDA (CONT'D)

Here!

Ida opens a box and takes out a Stanley knife, fully extends the blade.

Sofie looks at the knife; her eyes widen, suddenly afraid.

SOFIE

Is it very sharp?

IDA

Yes. Is it supposed to be on the arm or the hand?

Sofie doesn't know, but pretends she does.

SOFIE

The hand. That's what you do when you mix blood. If you do it properly.

IDA

Okay. Give me your hand then.

Sofie slowly holds out her hand. Then pulls it back - looks at Ida.

SOFIE

You first.

60

INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING (MEANWHILE)

60

Alice is searching for the backpack in the kitchen. Katrine appears in the doorway, leans against the kitchen counter and looks at Alice.

KATRINE

I do care about my daughter.

Alice stops searching and looks at Katrine.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

I do care about Ida, but things have been difficult since Frederik left.
I've been.. Lonely and I haven't always handled it very...

Katrine pulls herself away from the unaccustomed vulnerability.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Anyways, the way I've been tonight,
that's not how I am.

ALICE

You're using your own daughter to
get back at her dad.

Beat. Alice regrets her remark.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Maybe you should just be happy that
Ida has a father? Who loves her as
much as you do, who just wants to be
with her?

KATRINE

Didn't you just remove your own
daughter from her dad?

Alice blinks.

ALICE

That's... different. Maybe you don't
know how lucky you really are.

Katrine cocks her head to one side.

KATRINE

Sooo, now I'm supposed to feel sorry
for you again? 'The Single mother'.

ALICE

No. I can't find Sofie's backpack.

Katrine lets out a sigh of irritation and waves her hand.

KATRINE

Ida can bring it to school with her
on Monday.

Alice looks at Katrine, eyes narrowing.

ALICE

Did you take it?

KATRINE

Why on earth would I take a backpack.

ALICE

I KNOW I left it out here in the
kitchen.

(looks at Katrine)

Is this another one of your little
games?

Katrine looks at Alice.

KATRINE
I'm going to bed. Drive safely.

Katrine turns and leaves. Alice stares after her. Behind Alice, A MALE FIGURE appears at the kitchen window; big raincoat, face hidden, indiscernible in the darkness.

Alice, who doesn't notice the man outside, follows Katrine into the living room.

61 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - LATE EVENING (CONTINUED)

61

Katrine walks into the living room with Alice just a few steps behind. Katrine takes her glass from the coffee table and empties the contents.

ALICE
Katrine. You might not believe me when I say this, but I am actually really sorry that things ended this way-

OFF, a loud KNOCK at the front door. Both women freeze, then stare at each other.

Alice shakes her head. Can't believe it.

ALICE (CONT'D)
No. No. It can't be-

A second knock. A man's voice calling from outside.

FREDERIK (O.S.)
Katrine? Katrine, are you home?

Katrine is slow to react.

KATRINE
It's Frederik? What the hell's he doing here...

Katrine looks about the room with a growing sense of panic.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I told him Ida had a fucking playdate?

Katrine looks about the room, makes a clumsy attempt at clearing away the gin and whisky bottles. In her panic and haste she knocks over glasses and bottles.

A glass falls on the floor and breaks, spilling a small pool of alcohol onto the floor. Katrine looks at Alice.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Don't just stand there! Help me
clean up this mess!

Katrine slips on the puddle on the floor and nearly goes down.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
He can't see this. I have to clear
it up, help me clean it up-

ALICE
Watch out! The glass-

Alice quickly kneels down and begins picking the broken pieces
of glass off the floor, but Katrine has already stepped on a
piece and her foot is bleeding. She winces.

KATRINE
Ouch, for fuck's sake-

FREDERIK (O.S.)
Katrine?

Katrine looks down at Alice, who is kneeling in front of her.

KATRINE
You have to open the door for him.

ALICE
Me? What am I supposed to say? He
doesn't even know who I am?

KATRINE
Tell him that.. That I've already
gone to bed, that I tucked the girls
in and fell asleep?

Alice gets slowly to her feet. Katrine looks at Alice.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Tell him you're spending the night
here, that you're a friend.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Please.

Another KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR. Alice just stands there.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Alice, please. Frederik can't see
how much I've had to drink.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
He'll take Ida away from me.

A third KNOCK at the door.

FREDERIK (O.S.)
KATRINE? IDA?

Alice looks at Katrine.

ALICE
You'll call someone tomorrow and get help. Alcoholics Anonymous or whatever. You'll call them and tell them you've got a problem, that you need help.

KATRINE
Yes. Yes, I will. I promise.

Beat.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Alice...

Alice hesitates, a glimpse of something cold, calculating in her eyes, then she nods, turns and heads for the front door...

... Leaving Katrine standing in the living room in a growing pool of blood and booze.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

62 INT. HOUSE, FRONT HALLWAY - LATE EVENING (MOMENTS LATER) 62

Alice opens the front door to find FREDERIK (52), the man in the raincoat - a blond-haired man with a friendly face inside his raincoat hood.

Frederik looks up from his phone where he is frantically dialing a number. He stares at Alice.

FREDERIK
Er, I need to speak to Katrine. Who are you?

Alice forces a smile.

ALICE
You're waking up the whole house.
My name's Alice.
(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)
(re: Frederik's look
of confusion)

I'm a friend of Katrine's. My
daughter Sofie is the one Ida has a
playdate with.

Frederik nods - the penny drops.

FREDERIK

Yeah, her mother mentioned something
about that...

ALICE

Katrine put the girls to bed and
then fell asleep. I was actually on
my way to bed myself.

FREDERIK

Okay. Okay. So everything's...
fine?

Alice nods, smiles.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah, sorry for hammering on the
door like this. I'm Ida's father.
It's just that I've been calling Ida
all night and she didn't answer her
phone, so I got a bit.. Nervous.

ALICE

Okay.

FREDERIK

Yes, there have been a few times
where-

(stopping himself)

No, it doesn't matter. Ida and I
just like to write to each other and
wish each other goodnight.

Frederik smiles an apology.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

I'll be off again then. Say hello
to Ida for me when she wakes up and
give her a hug from her dad. Tell
her I miss her.

Alice struggles with something.

ALICE

Yes. I will.

Frederik smiles.

FREDERIK

Thanks. Alice.

Frederik nods at Alice and begins walking away from the house. Alice stares after him.

ALICE

Frederik?

Frederik stops, looks questioningly back at Alice. Alice hesitates.

FREDERIK

Yes?

ALICE

It's not true.

FREDERIK

What?

ALICE

I lied to you.

Frederik can't make head or tail of what she's saying.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Katrine isn't asleep. She just didn't want to open the door to you.

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

She's drunk.

Frederik seems to sag on the garden path, as if the air has been knocked out of him. Then he hurries back to the front door.

ALICE (CONT'D)

The girls are upstairs and they're fine-

Frederik walks straight past Alice in the doorway and on into the house.

Alice remains by the front door.

63 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM/HALLWAY - LATE EVENING (CONTINUED)

63

Katrine is down on all fours, cleaning the blood and spilled booze off the floor with a dish towel. She has tied another dish towel around her bleeding, injured foot.

Frederik walks in, stops, and stares at her.

KATRINE
(without looking up)
Did he fuck off?

Katrine looks up, discovers Frederik staring at her. She grinds to a halt, pushes the hair away from her face, inadvertently leaving a bloody streak on her face.

She tries to stand.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Frederik. It looks worse than it is-

Frederik does an about-turn and walks out of the living room, heading for Ida's room.

Katrine gets to her feet, limps after him.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Frederik!

Katrine comes limping after Frederik, sees Alice still standing by the door. Katrine glares at her, hisses at her as she passes:

KATRINE (CONT'D)
What the hell have you done?

64 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM - LATE EVENING (CONTINUED) 64

Ida and Sofie are standing side by side in the middle of the room, looking at Ida's hand which is bleeding heavily from a cut near the wrist.

Sofie is trying to pretend that everything's fine.

SOFIE
It's fine. Now it's my turn!

Ida looks hesitantly at Sofie, then presses the Stanley knife blade against Sofie's outstretched palm.

FREDERIK (O.S.)
(calling)
Ida?

Frederik walks into the room at the very second a startled Ida hides her hand and the knife behind her back.

IDA
Dad?

Sofie and Ida move closer together to hide the knife, guilty, scared of being found out.

IDA (CONT'D)
We haven't done anything.

Frederik walks over to them, squats in front of them, tries to smile and hide his anger.

FREDERIK
No, I know. Hi, sweetheart. Hi, Sofie. You know what, Ida, I think it's best if you come home with me now.

IDA
With you? But. Sofie's here?

We see Ida's clenching her fist behind her back. Small drops of blood are dripping down from her hand onto the pink carpet.

Katrine appears at the door. Frederik turns and sends her a look that immediately silences her.

FREDERIK
Yes, I know but your mom and I have just talked about it. You were supposed to have spent this weekend with me anyway. You and Sofie can arrange a playdate another time. Come on, sweetheart-

Frederik reaches out to Ida, who pulls away.

IDA
No!

FREDERIK
Ida-

IDA
I'm not going! I'm staying here!

Frederik looks at the girls and then at Katrine, frustrated. The girls draw back from Frederik. Sofie tries a big smile.

SOFIE
We're having a great time!

FREDERIK
Ida, please come with me-

Frederik reaches towards Ida, grabs her arm; the one she's hiding behind her back. Ida wrestles free with a scream. Frederik looks shocked.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

Ida?

KATRINE

Frederik... we promised the girls
they could spend the night together...

Katrine looks pleadingly at Frederik.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Your dad and I are going downstairs
for a little chat in the living room.
Aren't we, Frederik?

Frederik seems to crumple. Then he gets to his feet.

FREDERIK

Yes...

Frederik walks out of the room. Sofie immediately runs over
to the door and closes it behind him.

65 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY, FIRST FLOOR - LATE EVENING (CONTINUED) 65

Katrine stands guiltily in the hallway as Frederik comes out
of Ida's room. She tries to reach out to him, but he walks
right past her.

KATRINE

Frederik-

Frederik pulls away, continues down the stairs.

66 INT. HOUSE, FRONT HALLWAY - LATE EVENING (CONTINUED) 66

Frederik comes charging down the stairs towards Alice who's
waiting at the bottom. Katrine is hot on Frederik's heels.Frederik walks over to Alice, who automatically steps back.
She looks from Frederik to Katrine, feeling the pressure.

ALICE

I'm sorry. I couldn't just stand
there and lie-

FREDERIK

(pleading)

If I'm to leave my daughter in this
house tonight, then you have to stay
here. Then it's your responsibility
to look after both girls! Okay?

Alice looks silently from Frederik to Katrine, then nods.

Frederik turns to Katrine who wants to say something, but Frederik cuts her off.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

I don't want to hear a word out of you. You have no right to say anything to me right now.

Frederik walks over to Katrine, lowers his voice, stands very close to her, an intimacy Katrine almost can not bear.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

This is my fault. I should never have given you any more chances. But don't think for a moment that I'm going to let you play the loving mother for Ida anymore.

(disgusted)

You reek of booze and I'm going to use this in court.

He nods in Alice's direction.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

And this time I've got a witness.

Frederik walks past both women on his way out of the door.

FREDERIK (CONT'D)

I'll pick Ida up tomorrow and then she's staying with me.

Frederik storms out of the front door. Katrine runs after him in bare feet.

KATRINE

Frederik. Frederik, wait!

The front door slams shut behind Katrine. Silence. Alice is left standing by herself, at a loss. She looks from the front door and up to Ida's room; should she go outside and help?

OFF, we hear Katrine and Frederik embroiled in a heated argument, but Alice can't make out exactly what they are saying.

Then silence is restored.

Alice begins cautiously climbing the stairs to Ida's room.

Behind her, the front door flies open again. Alice turns to find Katrine standing in the doorway. She sends Alice a look we haven't seen before - a look of pure hatred.

CUT TO:

67 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - LATE EVENING (MEANWHILE) 67

Ida and Sofie are standing side by side. Ida presses the Stanley knife blade into Sofie's palm, far too close to the wrist.

The sharp blade cutting into the child's soft skin.

IDA

Now it's your turn.

CUT TO:

68 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY/STAIRS - LATE EVENING (MEANWHILE) 68

Katrine is standing in the doorway, looking up at Alice. She brushes her wet hair away from her face, blood and water run down her cheeks. All previous signs of civilized culture now removed.

Alice looks at her; scared.

ALICE

Katrine.

Beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I had to tell him, Katrine, you...
You need help.

Alice reverses up the stairs, away from Katrine.

KATRINE

Why? You've taken my daughter from
me because of what? Because once
upon a time you were a fat little
angry girl?

ALICE

I only did it to help you.

Katrine looks at Alice, then lets out a scream of rage and runs, lunges at Alice, Alice ducks away from her, turns to run up the stairs, but Katrine gets hold of one of her legs and pulls her down the stairs again.

The two women ends at the bottom of the stairs on the floor. Then Katrine is pinning Alice to the floor, blind with rage.

From Alice's POV Katrine sits on top of her with her hair hanging down like a curtain, blurring her features, making her look like a distorted, wild creature.

Alice tries to get Katrine off her own body, pushes her away, but Katrine pins Alice's arms with her knees, one by one, like a fight in the school yard.

Katrine pushes her hands into Alice's face, grunting with the effort, smothering her, Alice gasping for air, trying desperately to get Katrine off of her.

She gets a hand free and rakes her fingernails across Katrine's face, leaving red marks on the skin. Katrine cries out, shakes her face wildly to get Alice's hand off of it.

Alice turns her head and looks towards the stairs, from her POV two tiny foggy shadows on the top of the stairs, from the arm of one tiny shadow blood seems to be dripping, dripping, slowly, and for a moment it looks like the blood pools and then runs down the stairs, all the way down reaching the place where Alice and Katrine lie on the floor.

From the girl's perspective, Ida and Sofie, their tiny faces frozen in horror as they look at their mothers on the floor, like two animals fighting, snarling, hurting, bleeding.

POV changes to Katrine: She feels the energy in the room change, the sudden force of it like a pulse, awakening her from her blind rage, she lifts her head, looks up and sees her daughter.

Katrine and Ida lock eyes. Mother and daughter, like they see each other, really see, for the first time in forever. An electrical current seems to run through Katrine's body and she lets go of Alice, her body pulling away from her as if by magnetic force and she gets up.

In one swift movement Katrine is running to the top of the stairs, she falls to her knees in front of the girls, taking their hands and seeing their wounds, their blood mingling with her own.

KATRINE
What have you done!?

69

INT. HOUSE, MASTER BATHROOM, FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT (LATER)

69

Katrine and Alice are on their knees in front of Sofie and Ida who are also on the bathroom floor. Katrine is pressing a towel around Ida's arm. There are big lumps of bloody toilet paper on the floor everywhere, water running.

Both girls are white with shock. Katrine looks at Alice who reaches out to Sofie who won't show Alice her wound.

ALICE
Give me your hand, Sofie, so I can stop the bleeding!

Sofie just shakes her head and keeps pressing her hand into her body, looking at her mother with a sudden distrust, a space between them that was not there before.

SOFIE
What were you doing?

Alice and Katrine exchanges a look, Katrine catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror, of both of them; Alice with bruises on her neck, Katrine with red stripes down her cheeks.

Katrine turns to Alice.

KATRINE
I can't stop the bleeding. Call an ambulance.

ALICE
(robotic)
You smashed my phone.

Ida whimpers.

IDA
Mom...

Katrine looks around her, desperately.

KATRINE
I'll. I'll go find mine.

She gets to her feet, swaying.

IDA
Don't go!

KATRINE
I'll be right back, honey, I have to-

Katrine locks eyes with Alice. A prayer. A threat?

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Take care of her.

No reply from Alice. In the doorway Katrine stops as if she regrets leaving, then she tears herself away.

Ida reaches for her, desperate.

IDA
(crying)
MOMMY!

70 INT. HOUSE, KATRINE'S BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT (CONTINUED) 70

Katrine comes tearing out from the bathroom, she looks around her frantically, searches through books on the bed tables, knocking things over before realizing that her phone is not in the bedroom.

Behind her the SOUND of Ida starting to CRY.

IDA (O.S.)

Mommy....

Katrine wants to go to her but tears herself away and runs out.

71 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT (CONTINUED)

71

Katrine comes running down the stairs, tripping and sliding down the final steps, drunk, desperate, landing in a heap at the foot of the stairs.

She comes to her feet in the hallway, looks towards the dining room that lies in total darkness, then to the living room, where the dying embers of the fireplace cast a weak light on the destruction that reigns there; the broken bottles on the floor, the smeared cake on the sofa, like remnants from a whole other life.

Katrine runs through the living room and into the kitchen.

72 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT (CONTINUED)

72

The white overhead lights in the kitchen in glaring contrast to the semidarkness of the living room, Katrine blinks, adjusting to the brightness.

She moves quickly through the kitchen, searching for her phone, her eyes lands on her designer bag dropped carelessly on the kitchen table.

Katrine grabs the bag, rummaging through it's contents, then losing her last shred of patience she empties the bag on the table, keys, lip stick, wallet, tissues, with a gasp of relief she spies her phone in the mess, picks it up.

As she tries to call 911 the phone dies in her hands, the battery dead.

KATRINE

No! Nononono.....

Almost in tears Katrine looks around her, then it hits her.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

Ida's phone.

Katrine turns and runs back into the living room.

73 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUED)

73

Katrine comes running into the semidarkness of the living room heading for the hallway and she doesn't see the big hulk of A MAN before she rams directly into his big, soft body.

Katrine SCREAMS. She backs away from the man.

Mads holds his hands up in front of him trying to calm her down.

MADS

Hey! I'm sorry, I came in through the doors back there, from the garden, no one answered when I knocked! Is Alice here?

Katrine looks around her, her eyes fall on the knife they used cutting the cake, she quickly picks it up, holds it out in front of her.

MADS (CONT'D)

Hey!

KATRINE

I'm calling the police.

Katrine takes in Mads, his wrinkled clothing, stubble, the smell of beer coming from him. She makes a threatening gesture with the knife.

MADS

Wait, wait, I didn't break in, the doors were open, Alice called me, where is she?

Mads looks around him, sees the destruction, the broken glass, the blood on the floor, he starts getting scared.

MADS (CONT'D)

What happened here? Where's Alice?

KATRINE

You leave my house. Right now. Get out!

Katrine takes a couple of steps towards Mads, it is as if he finally sees the knife, he starts backing away Katrine towards the hallway.

MADS

Whoa, Alice called me-

KATRINE

(cuts him off)

Shut up! You just shut the fuck up,
I know who you are, Martin.

MADS

-Martin?

KATRINE

-And you might terrorize and beat up
Alice, but you don't frighten me,
you son of a bitch. Get out!

Katrine follows Mads pointing the knife at him, pointing it towards his big, soft belly, Mads backs away into the hallway, staring at the knife and the woman holding it, someone he now clearly thinks is insane.

MADS

I don't know what you are talking
about, my name is Mads.

KATRINE

-Shut up.

MADS

I'm Alice's brother, she called me-

KATRINE

I know who you are and you need to
get the hell out of my house NOW.

Katrine lunges at Mads with the knife, he trips and falls over, ends on the floor on his back, not daring to take his eyes off Katrine or the knife.

He tries to crawl away from her, like a big clumsy crab.

MADS

Please... I don't... I don't know
who you are talking about, I'm
Mads....

Mads is almost crying in fear and Katrine stops in her tracks, something about Mads does not match the image of the man she is expecting him to be.

KATRINE

Martin.

Mads looks up at Katrine, shaking, not understanding.

KATRINE (CONT'D)

You are Sofie's dad.

MADS

What are you talking about, Sofie
doesn't have a dad, she's a donor
child-

ALICE (O.S.)

Mads.

Katrine turns and sees that Alice is standing at the top of the stairs, looking down on them.

Mads looks up and sees his sister and almost crying with relief he gets to his feet.

MADS

Alice! Are you okay, what the fuck
is happening?

ALICE

It's just a big misunderstanding.
You know how I sometimes have anxiety?
That's why I called. But it's okay
now, I fought my way through it. We
just had a little too much to drink,
right, Katrine?

Katrine looks at Alice.

MADS

But I've got a cab waiting, don't
you wanna-

ALICE

Just go, Mads. And thank you so
much for caring, but we're fine,
we're catching up, the girls are
fine, everyone is fine.

KATRINE

Ida.

Alice looks down at Katrine.

ALICE

She's fine now. But she misses her
mom.

Katrine drops the knife and runs up the stairs towards the master bedroom, passing Alice on the way.

Alice remains standing, then she calmly goes down the stairs and envelops Mads in a hug.

74 INT. HOUSE, KATRINE'S BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT (CONTINUED) 74

Katrine stops in the door to the bedroom when she sees that both girls are in the bedroom now. Sofie is sitting on the edge of the bed with her back to Katrine.

On the bed Ida is stretched out on her back with her eyes closed.

KATRINE
(whispers)
...Ida?

75 INT. HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT (MEANWHILE)

75

Alice is holding her little brother tight. He hugs her back. She starts whispering something in his ear.

After a beat Mads nods.

MADS
Okay.

Mads turns and leaves the house through the front door. Alice watches him go, then she turns and goes back up the stairs.

76 INT. HOUSE, KATRINE'S BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT (MEANWHILE) 76

Katrine has sat down on the bed, she is pulling Ida towards her. Ida doesn't seem to react.

KATRINE
Ida? Ida, wake up.

Ida opens her eyes and looks at her mom, lethargic.

IDA
Mom...

Katrine searches Ida's body desperately, she takes hold of Ida's arm which is loosely tied in a towel, she holds up Ida's arm and the towel drops, revealing a big pool of blood on the bedspread beneath her. Has the cut on the arm gotten bigger?

Katrine looks at Sofie.

KATRINE
Sofie? What did your mom do? Did your mom do something to Ida?

Sofie turns her head slowly. Her arm is wrapped in a tight bandage, and she doesn't seem to be in pain anymore but she just looks at Katrine without answering.

There is something in her eyes, like she might want to tell
Katrine something, but can't, something is about to come out-
Katrine grabs her.

KATRINE (CONT'D)
Sofie! You have to tell me what
happened! You have to tell the truth!

ALICE (O.S.)
Let go of her.

Alice walks in.

KATRINE
What did you do? Did you hurt my
child?

Alice looks at Katrine with wonder.

ALICE
I didn't do anything?

Katrine glimpses Alice's hand slide through the pocket of the wine-colored trousers, for a moment it seems like an oblong object is hidden in the fabric, then it's gone again when Alice moves to sit with Sofie, holding her protectively. Or to stop her from talking?

Alice strokes Sofie's hair.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I took care of both girls while you
were calling an ambulance, didn't I,
Sofie.

KATRINE
Will you bandage Ida's arm too, like
Sofie's.
(..)
Please, you're a nurse, will you
take care of Ida too.

Alice just looks at Katrine as if she is not hearing her speak at all.

ALICE
And I honestly don't think that you
can ask Sofie to tell the truth.
When you can't even do that yourself.

Katrine looks at Alice as if she is first now realizing what Alice is. In one swift movement Katrine is off the bed and out of the bedroom.

77 INT. HOUSE, IDA'S ROOM, FIRST FLOOR - NIGHT (CONTINUED)

77

Katrine bursts into Ida's room and looks around her, desperately. She runs to Ida's bed, rips off pillows and fluffy toys, running her hands over the bedspread, then she surveys the rest of the room, runs to a dressing table and rummages through makeup and play jewelry, throwing it everywhere, stops to look around her, then she sees the princess tent.

Katrine goes down on her hands and knees and crawls into the tent, her hands searching between pillows and toys until she hits something hard - Ida's phone.

She picks it up the exact minute Alice enters the room.

ALICE

Katrine, I'd like to have a serious talk with you.

Through an opening in the tent Katrine can see Alice's legs, her hand gripping something in the pocket of the loose trousers, gripping it hard.

Without a sound Katrine backs further into the tent and starts making a call, then in her hand the phone SHRIEKS with a LOUD MEOWING, a text message from Molly. In a few steps Alice is by the tent, she rips the cloth aside revealing Katrine in there - then Alice gets down and crawls inside too. Katrine backs away from Alice as much as she can, clutching the phone.

The two grown women are now sitting far too close in a small pink girly world.

Alice looks around her.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Wow, this is really cosy? Ouch?

Alice has sat down on something hard, she pulls it out from under a pillow, it's the empty brandy bottle.

She looks at Katrine with disapproval.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Katrine. You can't look after her at all, can you?

KATRINE

I'm calling 911.

Alice takes hold of both Katrine's hands with the phone inside them, like both of them are praying, together.

ALICE

That is SO not okay. You have to
tell me the truth first.

KATRINE

Wh-

ALICE

Did you send the boys after me?
(...)
You did, didn't you?

Beat.

Then Katrine pushes Alice as hard as she can, Alice falls backwards and creates an opening where Katrine can crawl out, on top of her body. Katrine crawls out of the tent and is on the floor while calling 911 at the same time.

VOICE (O.S.)

911, what is your emer-

Something hits Katrine hard in the back; Alice has let herself fall down on Katrine, all air gets knocked out of her lungs and she loses her grip on the phone which slides away on the carpet.

Katrine tries desperately to get some air into her lungs again while reaching for the phone. Alice gets up and walks to the phone, she then steps so hard on it that the screen cracks and the call is interrupted.

KATRINE

N-no-

Katrine crawls to the phone only to see that it is completely broken.

Meanwhile Alice puts her hand in her pocket again.

ALICE

It's okay. I'll take Ida to the
emergency room. It's a deep wound,
it needs stitches, she might even
need a transfusion. But first you
have to tell me the truth. No more
of your games.

Katrine fights to get on her feet, reaches for a wall for something to lean onto. She looks back, sees Alice's hand playing with something in her pocket.

KATRINE

You're crazy, I'll drive her myself-

ALICE

You can barely stand, either you'll
crash and kill both of you on the
way or Ida will be taken from you
when the staff sees how drunk you
are and report you to social services!

Beat.

KATRINE

I don't care, I can do it-

ALICE

You can't take care of your own child.
I've told you SO many times. But
I'm fit to drive, I've only had water
all evening.

Katrine looks at her, dumbfounded.

KATRINE

No, you didn't, you had-

ALICE

I poured the gin out and put water
in the bottle instead. You think I
would sit and get drunk with YOU?

Alice pulls her hand out of the pocket, in it is her car keys.
Has it been the keys the whole time?

ALICE (CONT'D)

Chop-chop, we're in a hurry, I'll
take her, you just tell me the truth
first. Was it your idea?

Katrine just looks at Alice and Alice mistakes her look for
confusion.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(spelling it out)

That the boys followed me to the
bathroom? That they kept on stalking
me, bullying me every day, that you
all did? It was you.

KATRINE

You're... sick? You've never grown
up, there's this disturbed little
girl somewhere inside of you-

ALICE

Fine. You asked for it.

Alice turns to leave.

KATRINE

Fine! I bullied you! And I made the others bully you as well! You were disgusting, you were a clingy little fat bitch who smelled like shit, you made me sick, and I hated the way you clung to me and I hated that you were so weak!

Katrine slumps on her feet as if her outburst took last of her energy. Alice still stands with her back to Katrine.

Then she turns to look at her.

ALICE

It's nice that you finally admit it. This will really help me heal.

KATRINE

Help Ida.

Beat.

ALICE

And now you have to say you're sorry.

Beat.

KATRINE

I'm sorry.

ALICE

Because I didn't deserve that.

Katrine does not know whether to laugh or cry. Reality has cracked, we are finally behind the mirror.

KATRINE

And what makes that the truth? How do you know I'm not lying right now, that I'm just saying what you want to hear to make you do what I want?

ALICE

Again? Well, I'll just have to trust you, won't I? Just like you have to trust me.

Alice smiles.

Ida's head swaying against the shoulder of an adult, her eyes closed, like she is sleeping and someone is carrying her off to bed.

But instead, she is being carried by Alice who now gently puts her into the back seat of her car while Katrine is standing in the front door looking at them.

Behind her Sofie comes out with her backpack in her arms but as she goes to follow her mother, Katrine holds her back.

SOFIE

Mom!

Alice turns and looks at them, sees Katrine standing holding on to her daughter.

Something passes between Alice and Katrine. Then Alice smiles.

ALICE

It's okay, honey! You stay and hang out with Katrine, I'll pick you up later! Just stay and have fun with mommy's best friend!

Sofie can't believe it, her mother leaving her like this, in this place, her face crumples.

SOFIE

But mom-

KATRINE

It's okay. Your mom will be right back.

Alice gets in her car and starts the engine, she pulls the car out and drives away.

Katrine watches her go.

Sofie's little face with tears running down her cheeks as she sees the car drive away.

Then Katrine pulls Sofie with her into the house again and closes the door behind him.

The front of the house, like a big beast, like it just swallowed mother and daughter.

EPILOGUE

The facade of an anonymous building in midtown, a row of low windows facing the pavement, cold light streaming from them from industrial lighting.

Through the windows a circle of chairs can be seen, occupied by 8-10 people, their backs against the windows, their shoulders hunched.

80

INT. BASEMENT OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUED)

80

In a circle of people we don't see the faces of Katrine is also sitting. She is wearing her coat as if the room is cold, in her hands a paper cup, she is talking to the room, hesitantly, we don't hear what she is saying. She looks older, worn down, not wearing any makeup.

She pauses a lot, looks at her hands, the cup. Cries a little.

A hand reaches in and pats her on the back. Katrine acknowledges the small gesture of kindness with gratitude.

Then she nods to herself, takes a deep breath, as though she is emptied out from all the words.

The SOUND of other people's voice comes through now, a shared chant that Katrine takes part in, after a beat.

VOICES (O.S.)

-Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

People get up to leave, Katrine nods her thanks to someone, gather her things, gets up.

81

EXT. ONE-STORY HOUSE / INT. CAR - DAY (NY DAY)

81

A one-story house in a well-groomed neighborhood. Light streams from the windows in the large kitchen.

Katrine is sitting in her car outside the house, looking at it.

Through the big windows, in squares of warm light, she spots Frederik and a younger woman, both carrying a child of about six months in their arms. The couple is apparently cooking together in the big kitchen, laughing, playing with the kids.

Katrine looking at the scene with a face impossible to read. Like an outsider, frozen, immobile. Then suddenly, she sits up like life is suddenly rolling through her and she opens the car door and runs out.

The door to the house has been opened and from the house Ida comes running with a backpack on, mother and daughter meet in the front garden, Ida smashing into Katrine, Katrine hugging her tight, pulling her close, closing her eyes.

Love.

The two walk together back to the car, while in the front door of the house Frederik appears. He lock eyes with Katrine and she nods at him. After a beat he nods back.

Frederik waves at Ida.

FREDERIK
I'll see you tomorrow, Ida!

Ida jumps in the car and Katrine gets in too.

82 INT. CAR - DAY (CONTINUED)

82

Katrine closes the car door, Ida is already in the passenger seat. Mother and daughter turn and look at each other as if they are about to embark on an adventure only they know.

They both begin to smile.

83 INT. APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY (NEW DAY)

83

A knife cuts through a cake. A birthday cake with red icing, SOFIE 9, it says on the cake. Someone suddenly shrieks with joy.

SOFIE (O.S.)
A phone!!

Alice is holding the knife. She is cutting a piece of cake, at the table Sofie and Mads is sitting wearing party hats, there's wrapped gifts on the table, candles.

Alice serves them both a piece of cake but they don't notice her. Sofie has just unwrapped her present from Mads, looks at him filled with pure joy.

SOFIE (CONT'D)
Thank you, Uncle Mads!

MADS
I already set it up for you, Fie,
look here-

Mads and Sofie starts tinkering with the phone, their voices becoming weaker as Alice looks at them, like she is sinking into a world of her own. She tries to smile.

ALICE
Can I see?

No one reacts. Sofie glances briefly at Alice, then turns her back on her like she wants to protect her and Mads' game. Shutting Alice out.

Alice looks down at the cake. Then she cuts a big piece for herself, bigger than the others, and places it carefully on her plate.

She sits down and looks at the cake. Her hand on the fork. She picks it up.

A SUDDEN MEOWING-SOUND from the phone makes her drop the fork.

Then Alice just stays there looking at the cake.

END