

Untitled Car Feature

Written by

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INT. 1998 BURGUNDY GRAND MARQUIS - AFTERNOON

The interior of a 1998 Grand Marquis, very spacious with the old fashioned connecting front seats, no cup holders. The car is very well kept, hiding it's age but for the design, and the bubbles of fabric hanging from the ceiling.

The Marquis is making it's way down along a winding back road in a nondescript wooded area in Upstate New York.

Driving the car is Janus (36), a man who was obviously once all muscle but now has a slight layer of padding coating them. He drives with purpose and gives off a aura of discomfort and intensity while trying to seem calm.

In the front passenger seat is Isabella (32), a tall woman with a David Bowie a la Labyrinth style of dress, black leather pants with a glittering black iridescent top. Her short hair slicked back only on the sides with the center puffed up. Despite her best attempt to give off an air of confidence, she constantly fidgets with a piece of white cloth in her hands while staring out the window.

In the back seat is May (32), almost the exact opposite look from Isabella, May has a Disney princess vibe with long curly hair half up with a soft white dress on, with a patch ripped off of it. May is a wide eyed nervous woman almost hiding behind the front drivers seat.

On the car radio is an overtly cheery Christmas song offsetting the incredibly tense vibe in the car. After a few moments the song begins to fade.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

That was, "The Merriest of the Merry" by Cindy Q Corky. A beautiful message about loss and giving during the Christmas season. If you too have left your makeup bag on a train and find yourself unable to afford another one, go to CindyQCorkygives.com To find out how you can get in the runnings for a free shirt.

Isabella lets out an audible groan and goes to change the channel, Janus angrily reaches forward, past Isabella's hand and shuts off the radio. Isabella pulls back her hand in frustration and glares out the window holding her hand close to her chest.

After a few moments of tense silence, Janus looks into the rearview mirror and begins to stare uncomfortably long at May.

At first May tries to ignore him, but his constant vigilance makes her squirm. Finally Isabella notices Janus' un-breaking stare at her friend.

ISABELLA
(to Janus, quietly)
Stop it.

Janus glares at Isabella silently, then turns his attention back to the road.

JANUS
I grew up in a really big old house, it was left to us by some old rich aunt who worked hard her whole life only to never get to spend any of the money she earned. The house was beautiful but had a lot of problems, chief among them were mice, not a lot, but a decent amount. My sisters, despite all being vegetarians, couldn't stand the mice, screaming at all hours and demanding we do something about it. My sister closest to me in age, Lyda--

Janus looks back to the rearview mirror making pointed eye contact with May when he says Lyda.

JANUS (CONT'D)
She wasn't the type to complain without doing something about it. She asked me what to do and I told her we needed mouse traps. She went out to the store and came back with 20 traps. Used all of her allowance money to buy them, only she didn't get the right ones. She bought the glue traps instead of the old school snap ones that kill the mouse instantly. The glue traps merely trap the poor animals and kills them slowly, they either starve to death or break their own legs trying to get off the trap, some mice have even eaten off their own limbs, so strong is their will to survive.

Isabella looks back to May, who leans in a little closer to the drivers seat, intensely listening.

JANUS (CONT'D)

I warned Lyda about the traps but she didn't want to go back to the store...so, she set them out all over the house, and we went to bed. In the middle of the night I woke up to a screeching sound coming from the kitchen. When I got downstairs I saw Lyda crying, staring at something on the floor. When I got closer I saw a little mouse desperately trying to get itself off of the trap. Lyda begged me to help the mouse, to set it free, but I told her that wasn't possible. Once it's been stuck, that's it. The only thing she could do to help, is decide how long it suffered.

MAY

What do you mean?

JANUS

Well, she could leave it where it was and try to sleep through the animal's cries of pain as it slowly dies, or she could do the humane thing and put it out of its misery.

MAY

Kill it?

JANUS

My method was to put it in a trash bag then hit it with a cast-iron skillet.

MAY

You did it for her?

JANUS

I didn't mind doing it the first time, she was scared and has never had to deal with something like that before, but you better believe the second time that night I heard the squeal, I stayed in bed.

Janus looks back to May again.

JANUS (CONT'D)

The only way a person can ever
fully learn something is to do it
themselves.

Isabella finally realizes what Janus has been trying to do
and stifles a reaction to herself. She slides over in her
seat to put as much room between herself and Janus as she
humanly possibly can and starts to look out the window.

JANUS (CONT'D)

When Lyda--

ISABELLA

Have you ever been to Antarctica?

JANUS

What makes you think my story was
done?

ISABELLA

I was done hearing it. You know, I
can tell long boring stories too,
if I wanted.

JANUS

It's not nice to cut people off.

ISABELLA

Deal with it.

MAY

Izzy stop.

JANUS

You should listen to your friend,
Izzy.

ISABELLA

Isabella, and I do what I want,
thank you.

Janus grabs the wheel tightly, clearly trying to control his
anger.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

(to Janus)

So, have you?

JANUS

Have I what?

ISABELLA

Been to Antarctica?

JANUS
No. I haven't.

ISABELLA
Me neither...bet it would be cool.

Beat.

May, from the back seat reaches out to touch Isabella on the shoulder.

MAY
Is anyone else hungry? Can we stop
for food?

JANUS
Is that allowed?

ISABELLA
Why are you asking us?

JANUS
I don't know where we are.

MAY
The last town we were in was called
Lowville.

ISABELLA
Can't be far from Canada.

MAY
Maybe we should get out before
then.

JANUS
(to May)
You eager to get out?

ISABELLA
(to Janus)
Will you leave her alone?

Janus clutches the wheel again in frustration, more visibly angry than before, May notices.

MAY
I don't think we ever got your
name.

JANUS
Janus.

MAY

Yawns?

ISABELLA

Is that Spanish?

JANUS

Greek.

MAY

Does it mean anything? I think my name is just a month.

JANUS

Janus is a Roman God.

ISABELLA

Of course it is--

JANUS

--Janus is the God of gateways and beginnings. My name is a month also, January.

ISABELLA

(sarcastically)

Wow you two have so much in common--

JANUS

(to Isabella)

Jealous?

ISABELLA

(to Janus)

You'd like that?

MAY

(to Isabella)

Stop.

ISABELLA

Stop what. Look at him, he's a big boy. He can handle himself.

Beat.

JANUS

May if you don't like what's going on here--

ISABELLA

Stop talking to her--

JANUS

--You can stop it. You have control--
-

ISABELLA

Stop talking to her like she's your
friend--

May begins to breath heavily. Still pressed close to the
drivers seat.

JANUS

(to May)

I can pull over the car and get rid
of Izzy. You and I can go together--

ISABELLA

--You're not taking her anywhere
without me.

May's face starts to turn red from the heavy breathing,
almost hyperventilating.

JANUS

Look at her? Does she look like she
wants to go anywhere with you--

ISABELLA

--Stop trying to make us turn on
each other--

JANUS

--I'm not *making* her do anything--

ISABELLA

--It looks like you're giving her a
seizure--

JANUS

--Maybe what May needs for us to do
is--

ISABELLA

I knew it, I had the feeling when I
first laid eyes on you--

JANUS

--Maybe what May needs us to--

MAY

(screaming)

--STOP!!!!!!

Both Isabella and Janus stop arguing, in shock by the outburst. Suddenly, the sound of a gun cocking is heard and May leans forward behind Janus, putting one hand on his face and lifting the other one to reveal a gun that she has had pointed at his back the entire time.

JANUS

You're the one with the gun May.
You make the decisions, not her.

MAY

No, we make the decisions. Izzy and I are a team.

JANUS

But you're not. I can tell you don't want to do this.

ISABELLA

How can you 'tell' that?

JANUS

(to Isabella)

Cause May is a good person. She doesn't want to be wrapped up in your schemes. I have a niece and she watches your show incessantly--

ISABELLA

Stop.

JANUS

--May, help me untie my legs and together we can go to the cops and tell them what happened. You don't have to escalate things because she's obsessed with murder!

ISABELLA

I'm not!

JANUS

I can't get out of here by myself May--

Still clutching Janus' face in her hand, May sweetly licks the side of his face while firmly holding the gun close to his temple.

MAY

(to Janus)

Do you really think that I am an unwilling participant?

May kisses Janus' neck while digging the gun painfully into his temple. (Despite the seductiveness of the gesture, everything that May does has an air of innocence to it.)

MAY (CONT'D)

Izzy and I both have our parts...my part just hasn't started yet.

Janus struggles to drive as May still has a firm grip on him.

ISABELLA

(to May)

You were right.

MAY

I told you.

Beat.

ISABELLA

(to Janus)

You've made a big mistake rushing my part.

JANUS

Your part?

Isabella looks over to May who finally loosens her grip on Janus. Isabella leans forward and turns on the radio. More obnoxious Christmas music is playing.

ISABELLA

(to May)

Are you still hungry?

MAY

We can't look well fed when they find us.

JANUS

Find us? Did you call the police?

ISABELLA

(sarcasm)

Yes, we called the police on ourselves cause we're bad bad girls.

JANUS

I don't know what you think you're going to get out of this. Once the truth comes out you're probably going to jail.

MAY

Sure.

Beat.

JANUS

Your show is stupid by the way.

ISABELLA

(deadpan)

Ouch.

JANUS

Who wants to watch two idiots talk murder and put on makeup.

MAY

Apparently a lot of people.

ISABELLA

1.1 Million to be exact.

MAY

And it's not just makeup and murder.

ISABELLA

Don't forget cookie corner.

JANUS

I watched one with my niece that was 30 minutes of you putting on makeup while eating breakfast.

MAY

The modern woman multitasks.

JANUS

30 minutes before either of you spoke.

ISABELLA

People now a days are too afraid of silence--

JANUS

Stop trying to make what you do sound intelligent.

MAY

Just because you don't get it doesn't diminish the value of it. Art is up to the interpreter.

JANUS
What you do, is not art.

MAY
(pointedly)
What makes you the arbiter of what
is or isn't art.

JANUS
(scoffing)
The arbiter--

MAY
(to Janus, leading)
Only saw episode, huh?

ISABELLA
How is what we do any different
than performance art?

MAY
Because it isn't live?

ISABELLA
Because we're not suffering?

MAY
I think it's because we're too
pretty?

ISABELLA
Pretty people can be intelligent
too...

MAY
Maybe it's because we're on the
internet?

ISABELLA
Nothing wrong with embracing
technology.

JANUS
What you do is trash. Everything
about people like you is garbage. I
think the kinda stuff you do is
what's wrong with western
civilization.

ISABELLA
We're what's wrong with
western civilization?

MAY
You're definitely more
familiar with us than one
episode.

ISABELLA

Like he's written a dissertation on
us--

JANUS

I don't waste my time on people
like you.

MAY

Like what?

JANUS

Talentless fame seekers who feel
the need to document the entirety
of their pointless, meaningless
lives on twitter.

Beat.

MAY

(to Janus)

--It seems to me, from our limited
interactions with one another, that
you are the kind of person who
loves to hear himself speak.

ISABELLA

My guess...he's a teacher!

MAY

Agreed, but he's too verbose to
teach younger kids.

ISABELLA

High school?

MAY

College. Some sort of subject where
he gets to give long boring
lectures about mice on glue traps.

ISABELLA

Maybe ones about social media and
it's impact on the modern world.

MAY

"The Power of Social Media".

May's last phrase makes Janus pause with concern.

ISABELLA

(to Janus)

So how bout it? Are we close?

A new Christmas song comes on.

MAY

We must be close, look at how
touchy he's being.

ISABELLA

I betcha you're the kind of teacher
that flirts with his students.

MAY

I'm sure you "justify" it to
yourself by thinking, "It hasn't
been that long since I was in
college, I bet I still look the
same." Well, you don't.

ISABELLA

You bet wrong.

JANUS

We're probably the same age.

ISABELLA

Not spiritually--

JANUS

Jesus. You two coat yourselves in
20 pounds of makeup everyday and
make cookies for a living on an
internet show, then have the nerve
to come at me for hypothetically
flirting with my students who
would, at most, be 16 years younger
than me?

ISABELLA

(disgusted)
16 years?

MAY

Probably how old your niece is.

JANUS

Fuck you.

MAY

Don't be mad at us, be mad at your
freudian weak brain that's forcing
an elektra complex with your niece.

JANUS
Stop saying things like that about
my 11 year old niece. It's really
disgusting.

Beat.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Now what?

Beat.

JANUS (CONT'D)
What?

ISABELLA
...we'd have to be as stupid as you
think we are not to notice.

JANUS
Notice what?

ISABELLA
You know us.

MAY
Like, really know us.

JANUS
No. I told you-

Isabella smiles at Janus like the cat that caught the canary.
The girls begin to taunt him.

ISABELLA
My question is, what do we do with
him now?

MAY
You mean, how do we kill him?

May lifts gun to Janus' temple. Janus, panic-stricken, looks
to both women.

JANUS
(complete tone shift)
Oh my God, please don't kill me--

ISABELLA
We have to make it big and
dramatic.

MAY

Display him where a lot of people
can see him.

JANUS

Please, please--

MAY

(sarcastic)

Well now I don't know. Maybe we
shouldn't.

ISABELLA

He did say please.

MAY

I love a man with manners.

ISABELLA

Maybe we just play it by ear.

MAY

We could flip a coin?

ISABELLA

Heads we kill him, tails we don't?

MAY

It has to be more interesting than
that. (To Janus) Do you have a
coin?

Janus begins to sweat profusely from the stress of the
converstation. The current Christmas song on the radio fades
out.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Here's one for those last minute
shoppers who's amazon orders won't
be in in time for Christmas and
they are quickly driving from
Walmart to Walmart to find a gift
for little Timmy. Here's Rocking
Christmas eve!

The extremely upbeat song begins to play.

ISABELLA

Here's one on the floor.

MAY

(indicating the gun)

You can do it.

Isabella flips the coin in the car and catches it. She looks at it in silence.

ISABELLA

Tails. (To May) Emotionally or physically?

MAY

Why limit ourselves?

JANUS

So, is this what you do? You just murder innocent people?

ISABELLA

I think you're playing fast and loose with the word innocent.

JANUS

When it comes to you two I am. I've never done anything to either of you, ever in my life.

MAY

Lying again--

ISABELLA

I'm sure you've hurt people.

JANUS

I've never physically *harmed* anyone--
-

MAY

(exacerbated)

--You know, my instant dislike of you, Janus isn't just the fact that you delude yourself into thinking that you are better than us, it's the fact that even after we've presented you with unimpeachable evidence of your own mediocrity, you still feel, deep down inside, superior.

Beat.

JANUS

Maybe I do, but why do you care? Why me, when I'm sure there's plenty of people who actively hate you.

(MORE)

JANUS (CONT'D)
People who troll your comment
boards and write nasty think pieces
about you in 23 characters or less
on twitter. I nothing you. If it
weren't for my niece, I wouldn't
even know you exist.

MAY
(to Janus)
You on Twitter Janus?

JANUS
...for my job, yes.

MAY
It's interesting to me that a man
who abhors social media as much as
you would be on it.

JANUS
We all have to make a living.

MAY
(pointedly)
That's right, we do.

Beat.

ISABELLA
I wanna get back to the student
fucking for a moment.

JANUS
I've never fucked my students--

ISABELLA
Sure, sure, sure, but let's say,
big huge Janus over here starts to
hit on little 5 foot nothing
Kimberly--

MAY
Your typical pocket blonde--

ISABELLA
Maybe a hundred pounds soaking wet,
just moved here from Oklahoma or
some stupid Midwest place like
that.

MAY
You know she wants to be a dancer
one day--

ISABELLA

Or a contestant on The Bachelor,
anyway she's failing your class and
she comes to you begging for some
sort of extra credit so that way
she doesn't get kicked out of
school and have to move home to
Omaha--

MAY

Oklahoma--

ISABELLA

Whatever, and instead of extra
credit you try to work out another
sort of deal.

MAY

Some sort of sexual quid pro quo.

ISABELLA

And our little Kimberly really
doesn't want to do a thing like
that with an ape like you.

MAY

But she's in your office, after
hours--

ISABELLA

You're a big intimidating man and
she's an itty bitty wittle girl.

MAY

I'm sure you'd say to yourself,
"She could have left if she was
uncomfortable"

ISABELLA

"I didn't force her to do
anything!"

JANUS

Do you think I'm someone else---??

MAY

Well you did! You put that woman in
a position where she couldn't say
no and couldn't get away. If that's
not rape then I don't know what is.

JANUS

I never raped anyone!

ISABELLA

You seem very defensive for someone who's completely innocent.

JANUS

You're both fucking crazy!

ISABELLA

Calling woman crazy--

MAY

Next he's gonna ask if we're on our periods--

JANUS

Stop!

ISABELLA

Stop what?

MAY

Being hysterical women?!

ISABELLA

(to Janus)

You're not dealing with pocket blonde Kimberly! May and I aren't tiny little women who are scared of you!

JANUS

You have me all wrong! I don't intimidate people! I don't want women to be scared of me.

ISABELLA

Oh, cause you're super woke, huh?

MAY

Janny thinks of himself as a "ally".

ISABELLA

Probably has one of those frames on his facebook profile that says, "I stand with women".

Beat.

The current song on the radio fades out into a slower more dreamy Christmas song.

JANUS

I need to get home.

ISABELLA
Now you're in a rush...

JANUS
My girlfriend is waiting for me!

MAY
You don't have a girlfriend.

JANUS
(defensively)
Yes I do.

ISABELLA
One blow job from Kimberly does not
make her your girlfriend.

JANUS
Stop saying that!

MAY
Why were you so eager to offer two
absolute strangers a ride at that
diner, if you had a girlfriend to
get home to?

JANUS
Being a nice human being--??

ISABELLA
Was it because we were two pretty
girls.

MAY
We're no Kimberly but I think we're
cute--

ISABELLA
Who smiled and flirted with you.

JANUS
I did it because I recognized you
and I wanted to be nice.

MAY
You wanted to get into our panties.

JANUS
I actually, was hoping you'd sign
something for my niece--

ISABELLA
My money's on you May.

MAY

Cause I remind him of Lyda?

JANUS

Jesus--

ISABELLA

--Just a feeling. Maybe it was the way he tried to buddy up to you before we flipped the switch.

MAY

Not a bad point but an arrogant man like this, I bet he thought he could get us both. I think he "buddied" up to me because he, erroneously assumed I was the easier to manipulate out of the two, much like one of his students!

ISABELLA

Yeah he was definitely hoping to bang us--

JANUS

Even if I did think that I could still have a girlfriend, and she could still be waiting and wondering where I am.

Beat.

MAY

Izzy?

ISABELLA

Yes?

MAY

How long would you wait for me to come home before you, decide something was wrong, panic, and call the police?

ISABELLA

Not sure? The diner we were at was in--???

MAY

Lyons Falls.

ISABELLA

That's right.

MAY

And we just past Lowville about 20 minutes ago?

ISABELLA

Also right.

MAY

And Janny over here said he was going to Fort Drum, but offered to take us to Chaumont, an extra 30 minutes out of the way.

JANUS

How do you know so much about this area, are you from here?

MAY

(sarcastically)

Maybe, or maybe I just love cartography.

ISABELLA

I gotta tell you Janus, it's looking more and more unlikely that you have a girlfriend--

MAY

Well that aside, you were already planning to be home in about an hour and a half?

ISABELLA

And let's say this, totally real and not made up girlfriend, is the world's most nervous woman. Even she wouldn't start worrying until a half hour after you were supposed to arrive.

MAY

So, I don't think anyone's, "sounding the alarm" for you until you're at least multiple hours late.

JANUS

What about my sisters? It's almost Christmas, They'll probably be worried about me too.

MAY

If they had any clue that they needed to be.

ISABELLA

You probably go there for Christmas dinner.

MAY

Brunch, probably wants to see his niece open her presents.

ISABELLA

That's practically 24 hours away.

JANUS

If you look at my phone you'll probably see a bunch of texts from her--

ISABELLA

You're embarrassing yourself.

Beat.

MAY

People saw us leave the diner together.

ISABELLA

This is the age of the internet, nothing stays quiet for too long.

MAY

It's only a matter of time till...

JANUS

Till what?

MAY

You'll just have to wait and see.

JANUS

Fuck you. Fuck you both.

MAY

Correct me if I'm wrong Izzy, but do they make a lot of lifetime movies about strange women who kidnap men?

ISABELLA

I'm pretty sure it's the other way around.

MAY

Ah, you're right, it is the other way around. Janny-

JANUS

Janus--

MAY

Do you think you're the one who's gonna look good once the police catch up to us?

JANUS

The police aren't stupid, the facts aren't gonna line up.

MAY

Fact, two women got into the car of a strange man.

ISABELLA

Fact, we've already been reported as missing.

MAY

Fact, the waitress at the diner already got my note asking for help.

JANUS

What!?

MAY

Oh yeah, I didn't tell you. I was nervous about getting into a car with a strange man but my best friend Izzy thought we would be okay, so I left a note to the waitress detailing both you and your car to her, just in case, smiley face.

JANUS

Jesus Christ.

ISABELLA

(to Janus)

The odds are against you.

JANUS

You bitches.

Janus, in a fit of rage, steps on the gas and begins to floor it. Isabella panics while May is completely unfazed.

MAY

Yes Bitch, the word used by all woke men--

JANUS

Maybe I'll just kill us all.

ISABELLA

Will you slow down.

MAY

Do you really wanna scare someone
who's holding a gun to your back?

ISABELLA

Slow down!!

JANUS

I've got about 30 pounds on you
bitches, I'll probably survive with
minor injuries.

ISABELLA

Not if May shoots you!

May leans back over the seat and grips his face tightly and presses the gun to his temple. Janus looks at the review mirror to see his reflection with the gun pressing to his head. He reluctantly begins to slow the car down. Isabella looks relieved. May, very covertly, reaches out a hand and quickly squeezes her shoulder before retracting it back.

MAY

(slightly turned on)

I gotta tell you Janny, that was
exciting. This is our first time
taking our act on the road and I
had no idea how much more thrilling
the car would make things.

The car falls into another silence, the Christmas song that was playing begins to fade out and the announcer comes back on.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

We've got more Christmas cheer
after a brief word from our
sponsors.

Isabella leans forward and turns the ad down so that it's softly playing in the background.

ISABELLA

(to Janus)

I haven't heard any pleas for your
safe return.

MAY

It's almost as if no one knows, or
cares that you're missing.

JANUS

Oh, they care.

Both women burst into hysterical laughter as Janus looks more
and more nervous and sweating from the stress of the
situation. May notices.

MAY

Come on Janus, lighten up.

ISABELLA

Can't take a joke this guy.

Janus slows the car down and starts pulling over to the
shoulder.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

(to Janus)

What are you doing?

JANUS

I need a minute, I can't drive
anymore.

ISABELLA

Did I say you could pull over--

JANUS

My ankles are killing me--

ISABELLA

Such a pussy--

MAY

It's okay. This is as good a place
as any to stop.

Janus stops the car, visibly shaken by the last events.

JANUS

I have a family. I have 5 older
sisters, my father passed away two
years ago but my mother is still
alive--

ISABELLA

Here he goes again.

May hands Isabella a phone and a bag from the back. Isabella reaches into the bag and pulls out a black box and presses a button on it, a little green light goes on. She puts it back into the bag and slings it over her shoulder.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

(to May)

--I'm gonna pee. Wanna shut him up?

May smiles from ear to ear, eager to get to play. She tosses the gun to Isabella as she gets out of the car. May climbs to the front seat with something plastic in her hands and sits on top of Janus, all the while the Christmas music has begun to play again softly in the background.

MAY

Look at you. My little mouse on the glue trap.

ISABELLA

(over her shoulder walking away)

Don't maim him too much.

Janus tries to reach up to May's face with his free arm to attack her, but she quickly takes the plastic in her hands, another zip tie, and loops it to the tie on his left wrist. She then takes another one and quickly ties both of his hands to another zip tie around his waist. Janus struggles again to break free while May grabs another one to reenforce it.

MAY

Big strong man like yourself, bested by two young women.

JANUS

Not exactly young, what are you, pushing 40?

MAY

I'm 32.

JANUS

Sorry, it's my first time seeing your face without a filter--

MAY

Again with the belittlement. First you try mansplaining to me with that condescending little Aesop's fable about Lyda and the mouse, then when that doesn't work you try driving a wedge between me and Izzy, because, obviously you're arrogant enough to think that one or two pointed comments from you could end a lifetime of trust and friendship. Let's not forget Kimberly and your little speed racer routine, but finally you saved the best for last, you try the hostage negation tactic with us, telling us about your family and your super dead Dad and your probably soon to be dead Mom and five million sisters, you're imaginary girlfriend, your darling little niece, and you know what? We just don't fucking care.

May reaches down off screen and grabs Janus by the balls. Janus screams out in pain. While this is happening the radio is still playing in the background and another Christmas song starts.

JANUS

Stop!

MAY

Because, at the end of the day Janus, the roman God of gateways and fucking January--

JANUS

(pleading in pain)
Stop, please!

MAY

No matter how your ego helps you cope with the events of today, I just want you to remember this unfiltered face that's holding you captive by your balls right now.

May, still holding him, leans forward and kisses Janus, she then bites down hard on his lip. Janus jerks his head back with a little bit of blood on his mouth. May let's go of Janus' balls and reaches her hands up to his face and holds it tightly. She then bites her own lip until it bleeds then kisses him again.

May pulls back from the kiss and Janus spits blood on to her face, May laughs.

MAY (CONT'D)

Now is the time where you decide
whither or not you're going to just
accept your fate, or chew off one
of your limbs to survive.

She gets off of Janus and turns off the car. She then walks outside of the car to find Isabella, leaving the drivers seat door open.

Janus sits in the car alone, defeated.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS NEAR THE CAR - CONTINUOUS

Isabella is buttoning up her pants in front of a tree as May approaches her. May takes one of the napkins Isabella has in her hands and begins to wipe the blood off of her face.

Isabella reaches into May's pocket on her dress and takes the keys out. She then puts them into her own pocket and pulls out a small bottle of hand sanitizer. She begins to silently clean May's face.

May grabs the bottle from her and cleans off her hands carefully and meticulously, inspecting her perfectly manicured nails, she then hands the bottle to Isabella for her to do the same.

ISABELLA

So is that your blood or his?

MAY

Both.

Isabella holds up the phone for May to see it.

MAY (CONT'D)

You ready?

Isabella nods and gives May the piece of cloth that she was playing with in the car earlier, then they begin to make their way back.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE GRAND MARQUIS -
CONTINUOUS

As Isabella and May approach the car, Janus is visible,
(through the front door that was left open) desperately
trying to rip his hands free from the zip ties.

The closer the women get it becomes clear that he was able to
rip through one layer of them and is making his way through
the next.

The two women stand there and watch him as he escalates his
attempts at the sight of them.

May then goes to the back seat of the car and grabs a cloth
and a bottle of something out of her bag. Isabella leans over
Janus and turns the car back on. An ad begins playing on the
radio. May begins to dump the contents of the bottle onto the
cloth and then holds it away from her face. She then gets
into the back seat of the car as Isabella leans forward and
grabs Janus to try to hold him still.

JANUS

Stop! Stop! Don't!

The ad stops playing on the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Startling new updates on the May
Marigold and Isabella Laningham
kidnapping case.

May, from the backseat, takes Janus' face in one of her
hands, then takes the cloth in the other hand and holds it
over his mouth.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Police have now identified Janus
Balaskas as the man driving the car
the women got into.

Janus bucks and moans wildly trying to break himself free
from the women.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Balaskas is a professor of media
studies at Montclair University.
There is no known connection
between he and the victims at this
time. If anyone has any information
on the whereabouts of Balaskas or
has seen his car, the
aforementioned Burgundy Grand
Marquis please call our hotline.

Janus begins to slow down his movements.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
That number is 1-800-367-5678.

Janus begins to succumb to unconsciousness.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Now for some holiday cheer, here's
Cardi B's rendition of Jingle
Bells.

The music starts playing.

Once they're sure he is unconscious, Isabella begins cutting him out of the zip ties that were holding him in place in the driver's seat. May grabs a bag of supplies from the back of the car.

Once Isabella has cut him loose she pulls him out of the car and onto the ground. Janus moans going in and out of consciousness. May starts coughing.

ISABELLA
You okay?

May nods and sits on the ground next to Janus. Isabella begins to clean up all of the excess of zip ties that were used to hold him. She then cuts the top of her wrist like a bracelet, takes one of the ties that held Janus and digs into her new cut. She then smears the blood on the inside and outside car door handles as well as her seat. She hands another one of the ties to May, who does the same. May then gets up and smears her blood in the back seat.

May gets up and pops the trunk to the car. What she sees makes her smile.

MAY
(to Isabella)
Check this out.

Isabella walks over and joins May, inside the trunk are shovels, hoes, and various other gardening tools.

Isabella smiles and raises her eyebrows at May who chuckles and unloads the shovels, one large and one small, from the trunk then shuts it.

Isabella gets into the car and drives it further into the woods so it isn't visible to the road. She walks back to May who's still holding the shovels. May keeps the small one then hands the other to Isabella.

May throws the bag of supplies onto her shoulder as she and Isabella each grab one of Janus' arms and drag him further into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS NEAR THE CAR - AN HOUR LATER

Janus is tied to a tree looking very pale and sickly, just starting to really come to.

Isabella and May are busy digging a huge whole in the ground near Janus, they're about waist deep.

Both May and Isabella have new cuts and bruises on their bodies.

Janus begins to make a gurgling sound and starts to throw up. The women get out of the their hole and make their way over to him.

JANUS

What the fuck did you do to me?

They stare down at him in blank faced silence.

JANUS (CONT'D)

You're a bunch of psychopaths you know that!

May scoffs and crouches down to Janus' level. Isabella hands her down the phone.

JANUS (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing with that?

May holds the phone up to Janus' face. He looks at it puzzled till he realizes what she's doing. By the time he turns his face away the phone screen is already unlocked. May scrolls through until she finds what she's looking for. She presses play on something then holds up the phone for him to see.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS REPORT ON THE IPHONE - CONTINUOUS

On the phone is a news anchor (possibly 2?) reporting.

NEWS ANCHOR

The following has just been obtained from the facebook of the man suspected of kidnapping May Marigold and Isabella Laningham. A warning, the following images are disturbing.

The news report cuts to a video shot in the woods of May on the ground crying hysterically. As she speaks, it sounds as if she's reading what she's saying off camera.

MAY

I'm....a dirty whore. All I care about is....how many followers I have. Human beings mean nothing to me....

May stops looking off camera and turns her gaze directly to it, no longer "reading" what she's saying.

MAY (CONT'D)

Please, don't hurt her! Let us go!

Suddenly the camera moves closer to her face and she is hit with it. May begins to cry as the video goes blank. The news report cuts back in.

NEWS ANCHOR

That was May Marigold obviously being forced to say something by the suspected kidnapper Janus Balaskas. While his motives are still unclear, police have been trying to ping his cell phone in an attempt to locate the victims before it's too late. This is the latest drama for the YouTube stars after the mysterious death two months ago of Derek--

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS NEAR THE CAR - CONTINUOUS

May still kneeling in front of him with the phone in hand, shuts it off and stands. She puts the phone into the pocket of her dress.

JANUS

You two are sick mother fuckers, you know that? What is wrong with you?

Both May and Isabella sit on the ground on either side of Janus.

JANUS (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

MAY
We can't take a breather?

ISABELLA
We're working hard.

MAY
And I'm still hungry.

JANUS
Do you just get off on destroying
people's lives?

ISABELLA
(deadpan)
Yes, I'm cumming as we speak.

JANUS
Why? Why me?

MAY
I don't have it in me for another
why you why this person debate.

JANUS
Yeah right, you clearly love to
talk.

MAY
I do, but I accomplish a lot so
I've earned my right to speak as
much or as little as I fucking want
to.....I don't know Izzy. Maybe we
should flip the coin again. I don't
know if he deserves to live.

ISABELLA
We usually do best out of three.

JANUS
Wait--

MAY
--Of course. Do you still have the
coin?

Isabella reaches into her pocket and pulls out the coin. She hands it to May, who squats down in front of Janus.

MAY (CONT'D)
You wanna kiss it for good luck?

JANUS
(panicking)
Please, please don't--

May flips the coin but she flips it too high and it lands behind her, closer to the hole they dug.

MAY
Opps! I was way off with that!

ISABELLA
Do you see it?

MAY
I think I heard it land somewhere behind us?

Janus starts breathing heavily again panic rising in his eyes. The women notice and decide to taunt him a little more.

ISABELLA
Hmmm, where could it be, where could it be?

MAY
Oh, here it is!

Janus gasps.

MAY (CONT'D)
Oh, just kidding, it was just the top of an acorn.

JANUS
Fuck.

MAY
Hang in there little Janny, we'll find it.

May and Isabella continue to search until May spots something on the ground and stares down at it. She gestures over to Isabella and who stands next to her and does the same.

MAY (CONT'D)
(to Isabella)
Doesn't look good, does it?

ISABELLA
Sure doesn't.

MAY
Should we flip it again?

ISABELLA
That's good for now.

Both May and Isabella walk over to Janus and stand in front of him. Isabella takes May's hand and squeezes it.

May let's go of Isabella's hand, cups her face, and kisses her lovingly. The two women hold each other like that for a long moment. Janus stares on in complete confusion.

May then calmly walks over to the smaller of the two shovels, picks it up, then hits Isabella in the face with it.

JANUS
Holy shit!

May begins to hit Isabella over and over again until she falls to the ground. May straddles her and hits her again.

JANUS (CONT'D)
What the fuck are you doing?!

May drops the shovel and leans down and hugs Isabella who she's still straddling. May leans up to check if she's okay, then gets to her feet.

JANUS (CONT'D)
What the hell is wrong with you!

May takes the piece of white cloth that Isabella gave her out of her pocket and ties it around Janus's mouth to gag him.

May then takes out the phone in her pocket and starts to record Isabella on the ground.

Isabella lays moaning in pain on the cold ground of the woods.

May stops the video then uploads it onto Janus' Facebook. May helps Isabella onto her feet.

Isabella can barely open one of her eyes from the beating but otherwise is ready to go.

The two of them walk over to Janus and begin removing his pants. Janus, still gagged, screams and kicks his feet at them.

May grabs more ties and quickly ties his legs together. She then stands up and takes off her underwear and straddles Janus.

MAY
(to Isabella)
Why don't you go to the car and
rest up. I'll come get you when I'm
done.

Isabella reaches down a hand to May and squeezes her
shoulder. Then exits.

May reaches a hand down under her dress while on top of
Janus.

MAY (CONT'D)
I'm sure you'd like to think this
is something you can avoid.

She begins moving her arm indicating she's doing something to
Janus. Janus grunts and groans in angry distress.

MAY (CONT'D)
That you can somehow will yourself
not to get hard.

She stops moving her arm and pulls it out, successfully.

MAY (CONT'D)
At the end of the day, friction, is
friction.

CUT TO:

INT. 1998 BURGUNDY GRAND MARQUIS - 30 MINUTES LATER - DUSK

Isabella is in the car sleeping with the radio on. Another
cheery mindless Christmas song is playing. After a moment or
two, May walks over to the window and knocks on it. Isabella
wakes up and rolls the window down.

ISABELLA
It's done?

MAY
Yeah.

ISABELLA
You okay?

May walks around to the passenger side and points at the
lock, Isabella unlocks the car. May climbs in and sits
staring into space with an unreadable expression on her face.

May grabs some hand sanitizer and begins to clean off her
hands when she notices one of her fake nails is missing.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
Are you still hungry?

May stares angrily at her missing nail, as if she's unaware that Isabella is even there.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
May?

May begins to roughly, almost obsessively pull off all of the other fake nails on her hand nearly ripping her own nails off in the process.

Isabella stares at her not sure what to say or do to help her.

Once all of the fake nails are off May begins to calm down again, almost cheery. She looks to Isabella as if noticing her presents for the first time.

MAY
How's your face?

Isabella shrugs, unsure of how to react to her. May's expression changes again and she crosses her arms and leans back into her seat heavy in thought. Isabella stares at her with the panic of a little kid who's in trouble with her parents.

ISABELLA
I'm really--

May holds up a hand to her and continues to stare, her expression is blank and pensive, as if she's doing a math equation in her head. She then takes out Janus' phone and scrolls through the news, something she sees makes her smile.

May holds up the phone for Isabella to see.

Isabella nods at the screen while May smiles with tears in her eyes. May gently caresses Isabella's cheek, she immediately pulls her face away from May's touch.

MAY
Trust me.

Isabella doesn't look convinced but tries to smile and nod anyway. May takes her hand and squeezes it reassuringly.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS NEAR THE CAR - DUSK

May and Isabella make their way back to where Janus is. He is still tied up to the tree, without his pants on, shivering in the cold.

ISABELLA

(to May)

You didn't cover him up?

MAY

Why would I?

ISABELLA

What if he freezes to death?

May ignores her and Isabella takes the blanket out of her bag and puts it over Janus. She then pulls down the gag in his mouth.

JANUS

(weakly)

Thank you.

Isabella glares at May, Janus notices.

JANUS (CONT'D)

Trouble in paradise?

MAY

You'd like that?

JANUS

Izzy--

Isabella glares at him for using her nickname. Her expression softens when she sees how bad he looks.

JANUS (CONT'D)

Do you have any water?

ISABELLA

(trying to hide her
concern for him)

Why are you asking me?

MAY

Oh Janny, are you back to trying to
drive a wedge between us?

ISABELLA

(with less enthusiasm than
before)

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
Maybe cause it went so well for you
the first time.

JANUS
May?

MAY
Yes?

JANUS
Do you have any water?

MAY
Yes, there's some in the bag.

JANUS
Can I have some.

May ignores him and continues doing what she's doing.
Isabella walks over to the bag and grabs out the bottle of
water. She walks over to Janus, opens the bottle, and gently
pours some into his mouth.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Thank you.

ISABELLA
(to Janus)
Would you like some more?

JANUS
No, thank you.

Isabella puts the lid on and places it back into the duffle
bag. She and May stare at each other heatedly.

Beat.

MAY
I guess it's grand finale time.

JANUS
(fearful)
What does that mean? What does that
mean?!

MAY
Time for the final coin flip.

Isabella shakes her head and pulls the coin out of her
pocket.

MAY (CONT'D)
Before I flip this coin again. I
think it's time you confessed.

JANUS
Confess what?

May straddles him again as Isabella undoes his hands. His fingers are purple from the loss of circulation and he can barely move them.

ISABELLA
(to May quietly)
I told you it was too tight.

JANUS
(hearing Izzy and playing
it up)
I can't feel my hands.

MAY
You don't need to.

Isabella sits down next to them and holds Janus' arms. Janus can't bring himself to look at May.

MAY (CONT'D)
I think you know us Janus. I think
you know us very well... so well in
fact, I think you taught an entire
semester about us.

JANUS
(weakly, still looking
away)
So what if I've mentioned you in my
classes. I talk about all kinds of
online personalities.

ISABELLA
Don't you mean, "influencers?"

MAY
Especially "influencers" that are
causing the fall of western
society? Ones that could, quote,
"Tell teenage girls to put tide
pods in their cookie batter and the
young impressionable women will
dutifully tweet back, "how many?"

Janus recognizes the last thing May said and meets her gaze.

JANUS
Is that what this is about?

MAY
There are consequences to the
things we say Professor Balaskas.

JANUS
That account is private.

MAY
Nothing's private on the internet,
you of all people should know that.

JANUS
(incredulous)
So this is it? This is really what
all of this is about?!! I've
tweeted about you twice, maybe 3
times.

MAY
Sticks and stones Janus.

JANUS
You two are pathetic. Just flip the
coin, I don't give a fuck anymore.

May tosses the coin, takes Janus' hands, and puts them around
her own neck. She begins to press down hard.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Stop! Stop!!!

May's face starts to turn red from the effort.

MAY
(to Isabella choking out
the words)
I need your help.

ISABELLA
I don't want to hurt you.

MAY
Do it!

Isabella kneels behind May and puts her hands around her
throat as well. May's face goes from dark red to purple.
May's own hands begin to fall limp as Isabella keeps
strangling her. Finally May's eyes roll back into their
sockets and her head falls limp.

Isabella lets go and May falls back into her arms. Isabella gently lays her down and reties a stunned Janus' hands back together.

Beat.

JANUS

Did you just kill her?

ISABELLA

Actually I think you did.

Isabella goes into the duffle bag and pulls out a blanket, she puts it over May. She then sits on the ground next to May and faces Janus.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Are you cold?

JANUS

(in total shock)

What just happened?

ISABELLA

I asked you if you're cold, cause if you are, I could help you put your pants back on.

JANUS

(traumatized)

Yes...I am cold.

Isabella gets up quietly and grabs his pants from off the ground. She hits them with her hand in an attempt to get all of the dirt and leaves off.

She then pulls them on, one leg at a time, onto Janus. She struggles to pull them up past his knees.

JANUS (CONT'D)

You know, It'd probably be easier if I could help you.

ISABELLA

(mockingly)

So I should untie you, right?

Despite the struggle, Isabella manages to pull his pants all the way up and button them. She takes a zip tie out of her pocket and loops it around his ankles. She then walks over to the bag with their supplies in it, she grabs out the little black box with a green light on the front. She presses a button and the light goes off.

She then sits back down, exhausted, next to May.

JANUS
My fly is down.

ISABELLA
(done helping)
Whoops.

Janus begins to gesture with his arms, forgetting that he's tied up, and screams out in pain.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
What? What's wrong?

JANUS
It's my hands, I think I really messed them up when I was trying to escape.

Isabella stares at him suspiciously.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Where am I gonna go? My legs are tied together and I'm so fucking cold I can barely move. Do I look like I pose any sort of threat to you?

Isabella gets up and walks behind the tree to look. Her eyes widen with horror when she sees his hands. She and Janus lock eyes and Isabella tries to shake it off.

ISABELLA
Yeah, they are a little gnarly looking.

JANUS
Are they purple?

Isabella nods.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Oh Jesus.

Janus stares at the ground in a moment of genuine concern for himself. Isabella watches on in empathy until he locks eyes with her again.

ISABELLA
Don't be a drama queen, it's not like you're gonna lose them.

Isabella walks back to where May is and sits down next to her. Janus, trying to suppress his frustration, tries to appeal to her.

JANUS
It could damage my mobility.

ISABELLA
(scoffing)
You're such a pussy.

Beat.

JANUS
(cannot help himself)
I don't see how you saying pussy
and me saying bitch are any
different.

ISABELLA
It is.

JANUS
So it's not okay for me to bring
your sex down by using derogatory
terms but it's totally fine for you
to? Isn't it worse for women to
tear down other women? Betraying
the sisterhood or some shit like
that?

ISABELLA
Janus.

JANUS
Yes?

ISABELLA
Shut the fuck up.

Beat.

Isabella stares at May's lifeless body and gently starts stroking her leg with the white sheet on it. Janus watches.

JANUS
So, you two fucking?

ISABELLA
What is wrong with you?

JANUS
Seems like it.

ISABELLA

I know in your depraved mind two females who love each other have to be having nightly pillow fights and wrestle in jello, but real love and friendship knows no physical bounds.

JANUS

I've seen you kiss.

ISABELLA

You don't kiss your friends?

JANUS

No, I don't.

ISABELLA

You're missing out.

Beat.

JANUS

(changing tactics)

Did I really kill her?

ISABELLA

You're concerned?

JANUS

Not for her.

ISABELLA

For yourself?

JANUS

Of course I am, with her alive I at least still had a chance--

ISABELLA

At what?

JANUS

I don't know, proving my innocence?

ISABELLA

You'll be fine.

JANUS

How? How will I ever be again? You know, I wish my hands weren't so numb so I could have felt that bitches throat snap in my fingers.

Isabella stares at him with an expression that's half horror, half disgust.

JANUS (CONT'D)

(exploding)

Oh, did that scandalize you? Did that upset your delicate disposition? You put me through hell and I'm supposed to feel...anything for you? You've probably just ruined my career, I could go to jail. I don't understand why this is happening to me.

ISABELLA

Why would you--

JANUS

(emotion rising)

Don't give me anymore of that arrogant bullshit. You don't know fuck all about me, you chose me at random. You could have gone after any one of your trolls, but for some god forsaken reason, you picked me. You know, maybe I'm not a perfect person, but I definitely don't deserve this.

ISABELLA

You're right, you're not a perfect person.

JANUS

That doesn't mean you and tweedle psycho over there get to jigsaw me! I'm just a normal dude, no worse no better than anyone else.

Beat.

ISABELLA

Why not you?

JANUS

What do you mean?

ISABELLA

If we're following your logic, then, why not you? You're no better, no worse than anyone, why would anyone else deserve *this* to happen to *them*?

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Why do some people get cancer and others get to live till 90? We don't live in a fair or just world so why should May and I treat you fairly or justly? Shit happens, we just happen to be the ones creating it.

JANUS

(pleading)

But this is how I'm going to be remembered! I'm gonna die tied to this tree and my family are gonna remember me as nice Uncle Janus who snapped one day and kidnapped two Z list celebrities.

ISABELLA

You act like that's something bad?

JANUS

It is bad you fucking lunatic!

ISABELLA

May and I have given you the chance to be remembered. Most people live and die and are never thought about again, maybe the checkout guy at the 7-11 may waywardly ask, "What ever happened to such and such?" Everyone remembers John Hinckley Jr.

JANUS

Everyone 30 and older does. The average gen z hasn't the faintest fucking clue!

ISABELLA

They ate the story up when we talked about it on the show--

JANUS

--That's because he tried to kill a sitting president!

ISABELLA

And he was obsessed with Jodie Foster.

JANUS

Another person they wouldn't know, and new flash, you're no Jodie Foster.

ISABELLA

May and I are still in our infancy,
you have no idea what we'll become.

JANUS

(near explosion)

And I really don't fucking care,
but you've taken that choice from
me. I'm now forced to be the
narrative you've created. I should
be allowed to control that, I--

Janus suddenly begins to sob uncontrollably. Isabella looks
on with disgust.

ISABELLA

Seriously?

She begins to laugh at what a pathetic sight he's allowed
himself to turn into.

JANUS

(no dignity left)

Just kill me, okay? I have nothing
to live for at this point and my
hands are in so much pain. You win.

Isabella's smile slowly fades as she realizes he's serious.
She begins to look at him like she's never actually seen him
before.

Beat.

In a moment of mercy, Isabella walks over to behind the tree
and unclips Janus. He immediately brings both of his hands to
his chest, almost cradling them.

JANUS (CONT'D)

Ohhhhhh fuck,

ISABELLA

Feel better?

Janus stares despondently at his purple hands.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

(in an awkward attempt to
relate to him)

Kinda like that feeling of being on
your feet all day then finally
sitting.

Janus nods silently still cradling his hands.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Can I see?

He holds up his hands to her and they look very swollen and purple.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Can you move them?

Janus tries but they look almost like ken doll hands. The right hand has slight movement.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Give it a little time, they'll probably come back.

Beat.

Isabella takes out Janus' phone and starts scrolling through his Facebook account.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Is this you?

Isabella holds up a video of Janus playing the piano. Janus nods and she brings the phone screen back to her face and watches.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

You're not bad. Is your niece the little girl?

Janus just glares at her.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

She's pretty. Did you teach her how to play?

Janus just stares at his swollen hands and starts rubbing them together to stimulate circulation.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Oh what? You're finally done talking?

Beat.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

I assumed with your last breath you'd still be crying about what *bitches* we are and how we did you wrong.

Isabella looks for a reaction from him, but he continues to ignore her. She goes back to his phone and starts scrolling through his pictures.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
Why do you have so many selfies at
the gym? Has that ever turned a
woman on?

Still no reaction, his silence is starting to make Isabella uncomfortable.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
(trying to bait him)
Gonna check your recently deleted
to see if there's any dick picks,
I've already seen it, but still.

Beat.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
(angry)
What do I fucking have to do to get
a reaction from you? Want me to tie
your hands back up? Cause I will.

JANUS
(quietly)
What do you want from me?

ISABELLA
I want you to pay attention to me!

Janus scoffs and shakes his head.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
She isn't dead you know. I'd never
do that to her.

JANUS
...yay.

Beat.

ISABELLA
I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry your
hands got all fucked up. That
wasn't part of the plan.

JANUS
(curious, renewed energy)
No?

ISABELLA
No. May just...

JANUS
May what?

Isabella looks at him with panic, and stands up.

JANUS (CONT'D)
May what?

Isabella begins pacing and looking at his phone. Janus stares at her with hope beginning to creep back into his eyes.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Did May go too far this time for you?

Beat.

JANUS (CONT'D)
There's still time to fix things, we can--

ISABELLA
(Holding his phone out towards him)
--is this the "supposed" girl friend?

Janus stares at the phone blankly.

JANUS
Ex.

ISABELLA
Ah, so you lied, huh?

JANUS
Yeah, I did.

ISABELLA
She looks, tiny. Gymnast?

JANUS
No.

ISABELLA
Former student?

Beat.

JANUS

We didn't start seeing each other
until after she graduated.

ISABELLA

(smiling)

Of course you didn't.

JANUS

I don't want to do this again.

ISABELLA

Do what?

JANUS

This insufferable back and forth
where I have to defend everything I
say and do.

ISABELLA

She looks young.

Janus sighs.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Can she vote?

JANUS

She's legal, okay?

ISABELLA

Boy, that fills me with confidence.

JANUS

I'm not a pedophile. I just like
being with someone who looks up to
me and women my own age tend not
to.

ISABELLA

(deadpan)

That's shocking to hear Janus.

JANUS

There's nothing wrong with dating
someone younger than you. Stop
trying to make everything I do
problematic. I'm not gonna let you
feel better about ruining my life.

Isabella's smile melts off of her face.

Beat.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Did May fuck up the plan by messing
up my hands? Does she sometimes
take things too far?

Beat.

ISABELLA
Your little niece has been tweeting
about you.

That last sentence breaks Janus' newfound confidence.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
Don't worry, she's defending you
Uncle Janus.

Janus smiles and rubs his hands together trying to warm them
back up.

Isabella watches him with more sympathy than she ever has
before. She takes the blanket off of May and puts it around
Janus' shoulders.

JANUS
(shocked)
Thank you.

ISABELLA
She's not using it.

She then goes into the bag and pulls out a takeout container.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
You want some cold fries?

Janus nods and Isabella takes him the container and a bottle
of water. She silently begins to feed him and pour water into
his mouth like his a child.

Beat.

Isabella looks back down at the phone and scoffs.

JANUS
What?

ISABELLA
This kid's definitely related to
you.

JANUS
What'd she say?

ISABELLA

She just tweeted, "It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable."

JANUS

Moliere?

ISABELLA

Yep.

JANUS

Jesus.

ISABELLA

I know, she's almost as pretentious as you. What 11 year old talks like this?

Janus laughs, despite himself.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

She not only @'d you, but me and Isabella. She still loves us by the way.

JANUS

Whelp, no one's perfect.

ISABELLA

I lot of people are coming at her.

JANUS

What do you mean?

ISABELLA

(reading off the phone)

"How can you defend him? He's a monster! Obviously the apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

JANUS

Who's writing these things to her.

ISABELLA

All kinds of people.

JANUS

But she's a child.

ISABELLA

People don't care.

JANUS
They really should.

ISABELLA
Also, who let's a child that young
have a twitter account?

JANUS
I told my sister the same thing.
She doesn't care.

ISABELLA
Humanity must be extinguished.

Janus grunts in agreement with her.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
(reading off the phone)
"This situation is much larger than
any of us. You shouldn't be posting
about this."

JANUS
Who said that?

ISABELLA
Lyda.

JANUS
God forbid she parent in person--

Beat.

ISABELLA
"People don't think about the big
picture, or the greater good;
they're all myopic. All anyone
cares about is the instant
gratification of their needs."

Janus perks up.

JANUS
Who wrote that?

ISABELLA
No one, I'm just saying it.

JANUS
...how many of my lectures have you
listened to?

ISABELLA
All of the ones that were available
online.

JANUS
(melancholy)
I always loved having *me* quoted
back to *me*.

Beat.

ISABELLA
...you know, May means more to me
that anyone or anything in the
world.

JANUS
(genuine curiosity)
Then why did you hurt her?

Isabella shakes her head, then stands and begins to take off
May's dress.

JANUS (CONT'D)
(baffled)
That's kind of you but I don't
think it'll fit.

Isabella takes her dress and throws it into the woods, she
then takes off her slip and stockings to reveal bruises and
cuts all over May's body.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Holy shit, what happened to her?

Isabella then drags a naked May to the lip of the hole she
just dug.

JANUS (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

ISABELLA
Things haven't been going as
planned.

Beat.

JANUS
(last ditch attempt)
I wouldn't say anything...if you
just let me go.

Isabella stares at him in shock.

JANUS (CONT'D)

(carefully)

I just want my life back. I would just drive away, and you'd never hear from me.

ISABELLA

You're already all over the news.

JANUS

You could say it was a stunt or something like that...for your show. A War of the Worlds type of thing for the internet age.

ISABELLA

Will you stop talking about us in your class?

JANUS

I'll never mention either of your names ever again in my fucking life. I'll do or say whatever you want me to if you just let me leave before the cops get here. I won't even teach anymore. I'll retire early and take up knitting, whatever you want me to do.

May begins to move, slowly starting to wake up. Isabella starts to zip tie May's hands and feet together.

JANUS (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Isabella gently, but forcefully, pushes May into the hole.

Beat.

ISABELLA

Run.

JANUS

What do you mean?

ISABELLA

You need to go now.

JANUS

Go where? I can't go home.

ISABELLA

A friend you trust? Or Canada?
We/re not far, just lay low for a
few days while I try to sort things
out with the police. They'll put
you in jail if they find you now.

JANUS

(thinking)
Okay, okay.

ISABELLA

There isn't time for this.

JANUS

(springing to action)
Oh my God, thank you thank you! I
knew it. I knew you didn't have the
stomach for this sort of thing.

ISABELLA

Just go!

Janus begins running into the woods, Isabella calls after
him.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Wait!

JANUS

What?

Isabella grabs the keys to the car out of May's pocket.

ISABELLA

Come back, these will help.

Janus makes his way back cautiously. Isabella holds the keys
up for Janus to grab. He takes them hesitantly. Isabella then
gestures to the bag with the supplies in it.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Some food and hand warmers.

JANUS

Won't you need that?

ISABELLA

We'll be fine, the cops will be
here any minute.

Isabella picks up the bag and reaches her hand in like she's
putting the phone in there for him.

Janus turns and runs back to where the car is parked.

CUT TO:

INT. 1998 BURGUNDY GRAND MARQUE - CONTINUOUS

Janus runs and gets into the car. He starts it and the music immediately starts playing. He slams the radio repeatedly with his hand until it shuts off, re-injuring himself in the process. He attempts to steady his breath as puts the car in reverse and speeds back.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS NEAR THE CAR - CONTINUOUS

Isabella stands and waits until she hears the car start, then pull away.

After a few seconds Isabella picks up a shovel, and starts to partially cover May with dirt. She covers her up to her neck then stops.

She reaches into her pocket and takes out Janus' phone and places it near May's head at the ground near the hole. Isabella then begins to strip off all of her clothes and gets into the hole. She puts a zip tie around her ankles and one around her left wrist. She begins to pull with all of her might on it until it snaps. She then covers her whole body and face with dirt and snuggles down close to May. Isabella grabs Janus' phone from the lip of the hole and opens it. First she dials 911 repeatedly but hangs up as soon as it connects. Then she opens up the facebook app.

Isabella starts a live feed.

ISABELLA
(into the phone screaming)
Help! Help!! We're in the woods
somewhere near Copenhagen! He tried
to--

Isabella shuts off the phone.

Suddenly May's eyes flutter open and she looks at Isabella lovingly.

Isabella holds the phone up so May can see it and first opens their Twitter. She goes to the @officalwakeytime page, it says 10 million followers. May and Isabella stare at the number in disbelief. Then Isabella goes to @MayMarigold and she has 8 million followers.

May begins to sob with joy as Isabella dutifully opens their Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and youtube pages, never checking her own individual one.

Isabella then searches, "May Marigold kidnapping" and they begin scrolling all of the stories that have been written about themselves.

May forces out her hands from the dirt and takes the phone from Isabella. Everything she reads makes her face beam with joy and pride.

Isabella gently kisses May on her forehead as the faint sounds of sirens are heard in the distance.

End of film.