

The Xmas Hit List
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INT. A PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A nameplate on a desk. "JARED GENNARO, MD: CHILD PSYCHOLOGY". Snow falls outside the window. Fingers hit a computer keyboard. The face of JARED GENNARO, 40's, is illuminated by the computer.

JARED
How do I begin to describe the
phenomenon that is Alice Rose Faith?

EXT. A SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

Snow is gently falling. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS illuminate the newfallen flakes, casting a multicolored frenzy of a wash over the scene.

FOOTPRINTS. They lead towards one of many identical TOWNHOUSES that dot the street sides. The glow of clashing colors illuminates a FACE IN THE SHADOWS, though it quickly recedes.

EXT. A TOWNHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

A LOOPED ROPE lands around a chimney stack and pulls taut.

JARED (V.O.)
Around last Christmas, her name hit
the headlines. Some say she was an
inspiration. Others, a monster.

EXT. A SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

The SHADOWED FIGURE begins use the rope to climb up the side of the townhouse, using their feet to steady themselves as they ascend. A BULGING SACK is carried behind them, hanging from their belt.

JARED (V.O.)
But one thing was for sure, she was
easily the most psychotic and
unpredictable killer heard of in
years...that still wore a retainer and
watched Disney Channel on weekends.

INT. A DARKENED BEDROOM - SAME TIME

SNORES. Two UNSEEN FIGURES lie snug in their beds. The CLIMBER inches their way past the window, not waking up those sleeping.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The CLIMBER crumples over the side of the roof and lands in a snowy heap, BREATHING HEAVILY.

The figure detaches the SACK from their belt. She steadies herself and goes to stand over the top of the CHIMNEY.

INT. CHIMNEY - CONTINUOUS

The figure's SHADOWY FACE peers down through the hole in the top.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The figure slowly takes off a LONG, BLACK COAT to reveal a red-and-white trimmed suit. The figure turns, revealing the nerve-wracked face of ALICE ROSE FAITH, 16.

Alice digs through her SACK and pulls out a RED SKI MASK topped with a white pom-pom. She puts it on, her outfit complete. Following this a GUN emerges from within the sack.

JARED (V.O.)

Many people have argued what made her snap. What turned an average middle-schooler into the human equivalent of hair in a shower drain. I, however, don't think she suddenly snapped. I think she had been looking for a reason to, and struck when the time was right...the most wonderful time of the year.

Alicia looks out at the FESTIVE DISPLAYS illuminating the houses. She swallows, unsure of herself.

INT. PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: TWO DAYS EARLIER

Alice sits in a chair facing the desk of PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER, a kind-faced older man. Her UNCLE OLIVER and AUNT MARY sit on either side of Alice as Principal Gundacker speaks to them.

PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER

Alice's actions are inexcusable. We do not tolerate violence of any kind. I don't know what's been going on with you lately, Alice, but I'd recommend you start figuring it out.

UNCLE OLIVER

I'm very sorry about this, Principal Gundacker. It's been...very hard for her adjusting to her new home life with us. She really loved her parents.

PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER

I understand the past year has been challenging for everyone in your family, but that doesn't excuse her actions. Attacking another student because of a simple touch on the shoulder is just not appropriate behavior. It's as simple as that.

AUNT MARY

Alice has always had problems with strangers touching her since we've come to know her, Principal Gundacker. She's a cautious young lady. I'd like to think her retaliation was merely in self-defense.

PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER

True as that may be, what she did was still considered an act of violence. So, I'm sorry to have to do this, but I'm going to have to suspend you through February, Alice. It's school policy for a situation like this. Maybe in that time, you three can have a chat about how to properly handle situations you're not comfortable in.

Alice sinks in her seat. Uncle Oliver looks to her, frowning. Principal Gundacker gets up and shakes Oliver and Mary's hands.

PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER (CONT'D)

Have a Merry Christmas. And Alice?

Alice turns to face Gundacker. He leans down to her.

PRINCIPAL GUNDACKER (CONT'D)

I know you're a good kid. Maybe start showing it a little bit more, huh?

He PATS her on the shoulder and exits the office, whistling "JINGLE BELLS." Alice just stares as the door SLAMS behind Gundacker.

INT. UNCLE OLIVER'S STATION WAGON - AFTERNOON

ALICE sits in the backseat of her Aunt and Uncle's station wagon, emotionless. CHRISTMAS MUSIC plays faintly on the radio.

AUNT MARY

We're worried about you, Alice.

UNCLE OLIVER

I know your world has sort of been turned upside down lately, and I really am sorry for how much it's hurt you, but that doesn't excuse your actions at school today. Hurting another student is not okay.

ALICE

He touched me. I had to fight back.

Aunt Mary hears this and turns in her seat to face Alice, sighing.

AUNT MARY

I know that's an issue with you, but violence is never the answer, Alice.

ALICE
I did what I had to do.

UNCLE OLIVER
I don't think that's entirely true.
There are multiple ways to resolving a
disagreement. And thank God for that,
otherwise your Aunt Mary and I
would've divorced years ago.

He chuckles. Aunt Mary shoots him a warning look. She turns back to face Alice, who is staring down at her shoes.

AUNT MARY
That being said, we...don't want to
make your life any more stressful than
it is right now. So, you're not going
to be in any trouble with us, okay?

ALICE
Okay.

Uncle Oliver and Aunt Mary both smile at her comfortingly. Alicia returns the gesture, slightly weaker.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The STATION WAGON pulls up to the curb of a FESTIVELY-DECORATED TOWNHOUSE. Uncle Oliver parks the car as he, Aunt Mary, and Alice climb out of the car and head up the FRONT STEPS.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Uncle Oliver, Aunt Mary, and Alice open the FRONT DOOR to see A SEA OF RELATIVES gathering, eating, and conversing. It's a standard HOLIDAY PARTY. Christmas music, lots of FOOD, and festive LIGHTS.

ALICE'S POV: Her eyes dart to various family members. COUSIN WILL, AUNT TRINA, and the DECADENT GRANDMA MARTHA AND GRANDPA JAMES.

Alicia stares at the sight, eyes wide. She begins spiraling.

ALICE
What...are they all doing here?

AUNT MARY
Well, we thought it'd be nice to
invite the family over a little early
for some catching-up and Christmas
cheer. Hey, everyone! Look who's home!

The entire group turns to see Alice and immediately SURROUNDS HER. Alice is having none of it, ducking through the crowd's swinging arms. The horde only seems to grow, however.

She runs into COUSIN WILL, 16, a country bumpkin. She looks to him, horrified. Cousin Will smiles down at her, revealing CROOKED TEETH.

COUSIN WILL
Alice? What's wrong with you, girl?

ALICE
I...don't want any of you here.

AUNT MARY
Why not? It's the holidays! The best time for a family to get together.

ALICE
You could've at least...told me about this. I want...them out. Please, just tell them all to go. Please.

UNCLE OLIVER
That's no way to treat guests, Alice.

ALICE
It is after how they've treated me!

HUSHED MURMURS among the relatives. Grandma Martha shuffles over to Alice, pushing a WALKER along with her. Alice steps away from her.

GRANDMA MARTHA
Whatever do you mean, young lady?

ALICE
Don't talk like that. You all know the shit you did to me and my parents. Hell, I'm surprised you didn't kill them yourselves! You HATED my parents.

UNCLE OLIVER
Alice! Please apologize right now.

Aunt Mary steps in front of Alice, apologetic to Grandma Martha.

AUNT MARY
She's just a little upset today, everyone. Don't worry. She's been having some trouble at school, and it's taking a bit of a toll on her.

COUSIN WILL
Hey, Alice, calm down! It's all good! We all love you! Don't we?

Alice slaps Cousin Will's hand away, running to the STAIRCASE that leads to the SECOND FLOOR. Aunt Mary tries to follow her.

ALICE
No you don't! None of you do! You've all been against me and my family from the day I was born! You didn't care about my parents when they were alive, and you barely give a shit about them NOW! God, I'd rather YOU all have died instead of them!

She turns and STOMPS UP THE STAIRS towards her room. Everyone STARES. Uncle Oliver goes to follow her, but Aunt Mary stops him. She looks to him. He understands Alice needs to be alone.

UNCLE OLIVER
Um...is anyone up for a nice cold
glass of...delicious eggnog?

CUT TO:

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - LATER

Alice lays on her bed, slightly shaking. Her mind begins spiraling. She hears the MUFFLED VOICES OF HER FAMILY, prompting FLASHBACKS...

FLASH TO:

INT. A TACKY LIVING ROOM - YEARS AGO

AUNT TRINA, a cold-faced woman, STRIKES a sobbing Younger Alice across the face. She falls to the floor.

FLASH TO:

INT. A DARKENED BEDROOM - YEARS AGO

COUSIN WILL, 16, a country bumpkin, silences a struggling YOUNGER ALICE'S mouth. He laughs as he RIPS the HEADS off of some of her STUFFED ANIMALS. Alice tries to stop him, but he PUSHES HER OFF.

FLASH TO:

INT. ALICE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - YEARS AGO

GRANDMA MARTHA and GRANDPA JAMES, both ELABORATELY DRESSED, harshly demand MONEY from ALICE's PARENTS. Her parents both open their wallets. No cash in either of them. Younger Alice WATCHES, scared.

FLASH TO:

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Alice, seething with anger, rolls off her bed and gets on her phone. She dials a number and holds it to her ear.

SPLIT SCREEN: Her best friend, KURTIS FORD, 16, on the other end.

KURTIS
Yo, what's up? Happy Winter Break, Al!
Feliz Cumpleanos!

ALICE
That...that means "Happy Birthday."

KURTIS

Really? Shit. Then, uh, Feliz...
Christmas! How's life treatin' you?

ALICE

Perhaps the worst it's ever been. My family...everyone who made me and my parent's lives a living hell is here for Christmas. In my house. Again. I thought, living with my aunt and uncle, I'd never see them again.

KURTIS

Jesus. That's a trip, Al.

ALICE

I hate them all! What they did. They leave the worst taste in my mouth, like a Candy Cane soaked in Mountain Dew. I couldn't be in that room for more than five minutes.

KURTIS

So how did you flee their clutches?

ALICE

I said...that I'd rather they have all died than my parents.

KURTIS

Ah, a classic exit line. Sounds like you really meant that shit, too.

ALICE

What? Kurtis, don't be ridiculous.

Kurtis chuckles. He leans into the phone, grinning.

KURTIS

Considering some of the horror stories you've told me, I doubt you didn't.

ALICE

No! I don't...okay, maybe I did. So what? It was an empty threat.

KURTIS

Was it? I thought you hated them.

ALICE

I do! I just...maybe it's best I come over and stay at your house until New Year's. They honestly make me sick.

KURTIS

Well, I've got plenty of leftover barf bags I "borrowed" from a flight to Disney, but...hang on, I'm confused.

This gives Alice pause. She furrows her brows.

ALICE

Huh?

KURTIS

I just don't understand why you haven't thought of giving some of those godawful relatives a taste of the terror they've put you through.

ALICE

What's that supposed to mean?

KURTIS

I mean, I've played enough video games to know my way around a proper murder. Who says you couldn't...get a little revenge? It's certainly overdue.

Alice's jaw drops. She is repulsed by this idea.

ALICE

What are you, psycho? Murder is a serious crime, Kurtis. I just got suspended from school. Baby steps.

KURTIS

I thought you wished they were dead. Correct me if I'm wrong, Alice.

ALICE

I did. But murder's, like, top-tier Naughty-List awful. There'd be enough coal in our stockings to power a small city for a decade, maybe more!

KURTIS

But they're the reason your parents died, right? The reason you got suspended? Just...come over tomorrow. I think we can hatch a plan to help your Christmas wish come true. See ya.

KURTIS hangs up. Alice sighs, goes over to her desk and pulls out a PIECE OF PAPER. She hesitates, turning away from the PAPER.

Then, A CASCADE OF VOICES swirl in her mind. Cousin Will, Aunt Trina, Grandma Martha and Grandpa James all spouting INSULTS at Alice in her mind. "Stupid girl", "Good-for-nothing", etc.

Alice screams out into her EMPTY ROOM angrily. Her eyes CATCH a picture of HER and HER PARENTS. She narrows her eyes, turns to her desk, and begins scribbling on the paper furiously.

The names of relatives, "COUSIN WILL", "AUNT TRINA", etc. are scribbled hastily on the sheet of paper.

CUT TO:

INT. KURTIS'S HOUSE - THE NEXT NIGHT

Kurtis pulls a SHARP KNIFE from within his desk drawer. He holds it up to a stunned Alice, displaying it proudly.

ALICE
Woah! Where'd you get that thing?

KURTIS
Stole it from my kitchen and sharpened it up a bit. Easier than I thought.

ALICE
Great. I actually, last night, made a little list of all our targets.

KURTIS
Did you check it twice?

ALICE
Shut up. I got us an address, too. They're all staying at the same hotel until they fly back home. Here...

She holds up a note reading "RELATIVES CONTACT: DUTHEM INN: 420 Main Street." Kurtis takes it, NODDING. He pulls out his PHONE.

KURTIS
Well, you seem much more enthusiastic about this than yesterday. Sudden change of heart or what?

Alice sits down on the bed.

ALICE
I mean, sort of. I realized that...if I went through with this, I'm doing what my parents would've and should've done a long time ago. It's more for them than for me. Besides, having a partner two incognito modes away from a world record is only gonna help things along. You've got skills, dude.

KURTIS
And people say video games aren't educational! I sunk 8 hours into Assassin's Creed last night to get the rhythm back into my system.

ALICE
Wow. You never study for anything.

KURTIS
It wasn't studying. It was convenient fun. So, you ready for this?

Kurtis reaches out his hand. Alice puts hers in his. Kurtis retracts, shuffling his hands awkwardly.

KURTIS (CONT'D)
No, I just wanted the knife back.

ALICE
Shit. Sorry.

She hands him the KNIFE, apologetic.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Yes. I'm ready for this. I didn't get to make my parents nearly as proud as I'd wanted to when they were around. I hope they're proud of me for this.

KURTIS
They will be. I don't know how I know, but I feel like you were right in saying this is what they would want.

Alice smiles, appreciative.

ALICE
Thanks, Kurtis. Now, let's go Jingle Bell Rock my family into their graves.

They OPEN Kurtis's window and both hurriedly slip out, running off into the SNOWY NIGHT AIR.

INT. DUTHEM (DO-THEM) INN, LOBBY - NIGHT

The hotel is GARISHLY DECORATED for the Holidays. CHRISTMAS MUSIC is playing softly in the background. Alice and Kurtis walk through the doors and approach a bored CONCIERGE, wearing an elf costume.

CONCIERGE
Welcome to the Duthem Inn: "Quality Rooms To Die For." May I help you?

ALICE
Hi. We're looking for a...William Keery. Do you know what room would he be located in? It's important.

CONCIERGE
I can't just tell you that, kid.

Kurtis SLAPS a TWENTY DOLLAR BILL on the desk, grinning widely.

KURTIS
How 'bout a little Christmas bonus?

The Concierge stares at the MONEY for a second before SNATCHING IT and frantically TYPING on her COMPUTER.

CONCIERGE
Hold on just one second...He's in room 666, kids. Just take the elevators up.

KURTIS
Wonderful! You're a gem, madam. Have
the happiest of holidays!

CONCIERGE
At this job? Impossible.

Kurtis and Alice walk to a small ROW of ELEVATORS nearby. They
press the "UP" button and one IMMEDIATELY OPENS. They climb inside.

INT. ELEVATOR, DUTHEM INN - CONTINUOUS

Alice and Kurtis ride the elevator up. A MUZAK RENDITION OF "SILENT
NIGHT" is playing. They glance at each other awkwardly.

KURTIS
(Jokingly)
So, is this your first murder?

ALICE
Shut up.

The ELEVATOR DINGS. They're at the 6TH FLOOR. As the doors open,
Cousin Will steps inside, shocked to see Alice.

COUSIN WILL
Well, howdy! Sure is nice to see you.

Alice and Kurtis smile sweetly. This wasn't the plan.

ALICE
Hello, Will.

COUSIN WILL
Y'all goin' up or down?

Kurtis looks to Alice, grinning.

KURTIS
Up.

He presses a button for the TOP FLOOR. Alice whispers to Kurtis
anxiously, so much so that Cousin Will can't hear.

ALICE
What are we supposed to do now?

KURTIS
I have a plan. There was a mission
just like this in my game last night.
Except there wasn't an elevator. But
there was the historical equivalent of
one. It's practically the same thing.

Alice looks to Kurtis, uncertain, but then Cousin Will accosts her.
He gets a little too close for Alice's comfort. Alice pulls away
from Cousin Will, disgusted.

COUSIN WILL
 I gotta say, Alice. I'm surprised
 at...how much you've grown since I
 last saw you. Yer...yer gettin' pretty
 cute, I gotta say.

Kurtis walks over behind them and lifts up a CEILING TILE in the ELEVATOR. He reaches up through the CEILING TILE. He pulls out his KNIFE, grinning wildly.

KURTIS'S POV: The CABLES slowly move the elevator UPWARDS.

KURTIS
 Alice, we should get off soon.

ALICE
 Gross! Will, you're disgusting!

COUSIN WILL
 Hey now, you've got quite the mouth on
 yeh, don't yeh, Allie?

Kurtis raises his knife further through the CEILING TILES. Alice moves around the elevator, dodging Cousin Will's advances.

KURTIS
 Alice, our floor's coming up. Alice-

ALICE
 Kurtis, what are you TALKING about?

COUSIN WILL
 Ain't nothin' wrong with a little
 family love, Alice! You're mighty-

KURTIS
 Alice, step off the elevator! Now!

The DOORS OPEN, revealing the TOP FLOOR. Alice jumps out of the elevator as Kurtis SLICES AND RIPS THE ELEVATOR CORDS!

Cousin Will and the entire carriage PLUMMETS TO THE GROUND. Cousin Will looks up, SCREAMING, through the ceiling. Kurtis peeks down the ELEVATOR SHAFT, yelling down to Cousin Will.

KURTIS (CONT'D)
 It's what you deserve, you sadistic
 creep! She's your cousin!

Cousin Will frantically GRABS THE SIDES of the ELEVATOR.

COUSIN WILL
 You care that we're cousins? Back in
 Alabama, that's the #1 requirement!

The ELEVATOR continues to fall as Cousin Will FRANTICALLY BABBLES.

CUT TO:

INT. DUTHEM INN, TOP FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Kurtis steps out, wiping his hands clean. A CRASH FROM BELOW! Alice is amazed. She looks down the shaft and WINCES at what she sees.

KURTIS
Silent night.

ALICE
Holy...shit! I...I can't believe he's
actually dead. We just...killed him.

KURTIS
And? How do you feel?

Alice, slowly recovering from the shock, begins to SMILE.

ALICE
I feel...free.

She pulls out her HIT LIST, crossing "COUSIN WILL" off of it. She turns to Kurtis, who wields his knife hungrily.

INT. INDOOR POOL, DUTHEM INN - LATER

Grandma Martha and Grandpa James lay on lawn chairs.

GRANDMA MARTHA
I read on Facebook that flourescent
light is actually better for your skin
than the sun! Isn't that fascinating?

GRANDPA JAMES
I read that, too! It's amazing.

Suddenly, a DOLLAR BILL floats down from an AIR VENT, landing on Grandpa James's head. He picks it off and stares at it.

GRANDPA JAMES (CONT'D)
Martha, look at this!

As if on cue, ANOTHER BILL floats down, landing on Grandma Martha.

GRANDMA MARTHA
I just got one, too! I thought Our
Social Security wasn't supposed to
come until the New Year! Odd.

Suddenly, a STEADY STREAM OF MONEY begins to POUR THROUGH THE AIR VENTS, some of it LANDING IN THE POOL.

In the TWO VENTS, Kurtis and Alice happily funnel WADS OF BILLS into the room, filtering it through the SLOTS in the VENT COVER.

Grandma Martha and Grandpa James begin grabbing what they can greedily. Grandpa James notices the BILLS floating in the pool. He shuffles up to it and calls back to Grandma Martha.

GRANDPA JAMES
 Martha! In the pool! That's...the
 mother lode there! Hell, it's more
 than we squeezed out of Roger and
 Wanda their entire lives!

GRANDMA MARTHA
 Oh, goodness! Scoop it out of there!

The Grandparents begin to scoop cash out of the pool. Alice, fuming, extends a ROPE from within her AIR VENT. She PUSHES THE COVER off. As it CLATTERS to the floor, Alice descends to the pool floor via rope.

Alice silently walks behind the greedy Grandparents and PUSHES BOTH OF THEM in the WATER! They STRUGGLE and SPLASH, scooping up more CASH as KURTIS jumps down from his VENT. He runs for the other side of the pool, reaching a RETRACTABLE POOL COVER.

He switches it on, grinning. The RETRACTABLE COVER begins to push the struggling grandparents, who are still grabbing cash. The cover, despite the grandparents' efforts, TRAPS THEIR LEGS.

ALICE
 (Horrified)
 Jesus...

GRANDMA MARTHA
 Alice! Help!

GRANDPA JAMES
 Help us. Please!

Alice looks to Kurtis as the COVER rams into their LEGS. Kurtis shrugs, gesturing back to Alice.

KURTIS
 Your call.

Alicia turns to her struggling Grandparents. She sighs.

ALICE
 Why did you take so much money from my
 parents? Why did you let them
 struggle? They suffered 'cause of you.

GRANDPA JAMES
 You're too young to understand. They
 were in deep debt. Too deep to ever
 get out of. They needed to pay-

ALICE
 Oh, don't give me that. I heard you
 admit it yourself. You were squeezing
 everything you could out of them just
 to go on elaborate vacations and
 buy...outfits for your fucking dogs!

Alice signals to Kurtis, who grabs the POOL COVER CONTROLS.

ALICE (CONT'D)
My parent's didn't need to pay....but
you sure as Hell do. Say hey to Will.

KURTIS
Might wanna close your eyes, Al!

Kurtis SLAMS A BUTTON on the POOL COVER CONTROLS, which COVERS UP the Grandparents. Their STRUGGLING FORMS remain visible beneath the CANVAS. Alice stares.

Kurtis smiles, CROSSING both their names off the HIT LIST. He and Alice leave as the STRUGGLING UNDER THE CANVAS slowly...STOPS.

INT. HALLWAY, DUTHEM INN - LATER

Alice and Kurtis approach a SET OF DOORS reading "FITNESS CENTER". Alice peeks inside and lets out a sharp GASP. She ducks.

KURTIS
What? What did you see?

ALICE
Jesus, that scared me!

KURTIS
It scared you? Well, was it Krampus?
An evil Snowman? Shia LaBeouf? What?

ALICE
No! It's my Aunt Trina! I didn't think
she'd be here. She's not really a
fitness type, if you know what I mean.

KURTIS
Well, we're not really murder types,
and yet here we are.

ALICE
Well, I'M not really a murder type.

Kurtis pulls out the HIT LIST. He looks down the roster.

KURTIS
I'd say that's fair. I am the one
who's been doing most of the killing.

ALICE
You're certainly...killing it, Kurtis.

Kurtis turns to her, disgusted.

KURTIS
God, that was AWFUL. Leave the quips
to me, alright? I do 'em better.

Kurtis FOLDS the LIST back into his pocket. He turns to Alice, grinning invitingly.

KURTIS (CONT'D)
I think this hit belongs to you,
Alice. You should get at least one.

Alice looks down at the ground, nervous.

ALICE
I don't know, Kurtis. You're...you're
so good at them.

KURTIS
Oh, come on! It's Christmas time! The
season of giving. I feel generous.

Kurtis EXTENDS HIS KNIFE to Alice. She takes it, tentatively.

ALICE
Are you sure?

KURTIS
Course I am! You're...you're not
getting cold feet now, are you?
Because we're in way too deep now to
quit. There's no way we can just dip.

Alice sighs, looking up to Kurtis, almost...pleading?

ALICE
I still think...you should do it.

KURTIS
Come on, Al! Think about your parents!
They're who you're doing this for,
right? It'd only be right if you took
at least one of their tormentors out.

Alice GRIPS the KNIFE. She swallows, resolute.

ALICE
Fine. Let's just...do this.

They PUSH OPEN the FITNESS CENTER DOORS and CRAWL inside.

INT. FITNESS CENTER, DUTHEM INN - CONTINUOUS

Aunt Trina RUNS ON A TREADMILL, headphones in. Alice, knife in
hand, CRAWLS AROUND THE TREADMILL and gives an UPWARD STAB to the
TREADMILL CONSOLE. The machine SPUTTERS and STOPS suddenly.

Aunt Trina screams as she falls to the ground. She goes to rise,
but Alice is standing over her with a DUMBBELL.

AUNT TRINA
Alice?

Alice looks to Kurtis, who motions for her to go on. She gulps,
raises the dumbbell, and SMASHES IT into Aunt Trina's SKULL.

EXT. DUTHEM INN, PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kurtis and Alice walk away from the hotel, slightly BLOODIED. Their arms are around each other. Kurtis SCRIBBLES on a PIECE OF PAPER.

KURTIS
And just like that, victory is yours,
Alice! Bravo! So, you satisfied now?

ALICE
I mean, it's a Christmas miracle we
didn't get caught! What a rush, huh?
I...I know it's weird to say, but I
feel like my parents are looking down
at me right now, grateful that I did
this for us.

KURTIS
If ghosts have eyes, I'm sure they
are. Your hit list is almost complete!

Alice stops in her tracks, turning back to Kurtis.

ALICE
Almost? What do you mean, almost?

Kurtis hands her her HIT LIST. She reads it, eyes widening.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Aunt Mary and Uncle Oliver? I...I
didn't write their names down on this-

KURTIS
I know you didn't. I did. Think about
it. We could finish this for good!
Make your parents even prouder! I can
only imagine the things they've done
to you since you've lived with them...

Alice's mind begins to FLASH again. Uncle Oliver's voice RINGS.

UNCLE OLIVER (V.O.)
Violence is never the answer, Alice.

FLASH TO:

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, FOYER - YEARS AGO

Alicia stands in the DOORWAY, holding a few SUITCASES. Aunt Mary
and Uncle Oliver rush to embrace her. Alice, through tears, weakly
smiles, and returns the embrace.

FLASH TO:

EXT. DUTHEM INN, PARKING LOT - PRESENT DAY

Alice stands there, in shock. She looks up at Kurtis.

ALICE
No. We can't kill them.

KURTIS
Why not? You said yourself you wished
your family was dead. Why shouldn't-

ALICE
Not THEM! No! They're actually good
people! They took me in after my
parents died. They showed me how
family SHOULD treat one another. They
treated me like their own goddamn kid!
They loved my parents just as much as
I did. And I...love them, too. They're
too important to my family to die.

KURTIS
Who are you to decide who's important?
You're telling me that you don't wanna
kill these guys because you just
...love them? Hell, if this were a
video game, we'd be-

ALICE
But this isn't a video game! They're
real family to me! I don't want them
to die. This killing spree thing is
over, okay? We did what we needed to
do. Let's just go home, forget about
this shit, and Google countries with
no extradition laws.

Alice goes to leave. Kurtis calls after her.

KURTIS
Not a chance, Al! You might not wanna
do this anymore, but I wanna do this
for YOU! I'll finish what you started!
You're welcome to ride along with me.

Kurtis heads for HIS CAR, which is parked nearby. Alice rushes to
try and stop him.

ALICE
Not a chance! I won't let you do that!

She runs for the CAR DOOR and blocks Kurtis from opening it. They
struggle for a bit until Kurtis overpowers Alice. She falls to the
ground as Kurtis OPENS THE DOOR.

Alice pulls the KNIFE out to stop Kurtis, blocking his path.

KURTIS
Woah! Be careful! That thing's sharp!

ALICE
If you try to kill them, I'll have no
choice but to...kill you myself!

KURTIS

Please. You wouldn't. You barely got through bashing your aunt's head in.

ALICE

Well at least she DESERVED to die!

KURTIS

And I don't? That's sweet, Al. But don't thank me yet. I'm going to one-hundred-percent this game for the both of us. Maybe we can share some hot cocoa after the deed's done, eh?

Kurtis KICKS the KNIFE out of Alice's hand. He shuts and LOCKS the CAR DOOR. Alice jiggles the lock as Kurtis STEPS ON THE GAS and drives away, leaving Alice alone in the parking lot.

ALICE

I...I have to stop this. I have to save my family. It...it's what my parents would want me to do.

CUT TO:

INT. A DARKENED BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aunt Mary and Uncle Oliver are asleep in their bed. Uncle Oliver tosses and turns for a moment, and slowly begins to rise.

This movement STARTLES Aunt Mary, who sits up, facing him.

AUNT MARY

Oliver, are you alright?

UNCLE OLIVER

Yes, dear. Just forgot to take my pills. Everything's okay.

Oliver slowly gets out of bed and shuffles out the door. Aunt Mary recedes back into the warm covers.

INT. CHIMNEY - SAME TIME

Alicia, clad in her RED SUIT from the beginning, climbs into the chimney, clearly struggling. She slips herself into the tight brick enclosure, using her hands to push the rest of her further down.

INT. A DARK KITCHEN - LATER

The faint glow of CHRISTMAS LIGHTS shines through the window, giving it a stained-glass appearance. The silhouette of UNCLE CHAD shuffles to the refrigerator.

The door opens, revealing him. He reaches into the fridge, trying to reach for something a little further back within it, until...

A THUD! The sound of LOGS ROLLING in the OTHER ROOM.

ALICE (O.S.)

Shit!

Uncle Oliver turns and SQUINTS in the direction of the noise.

UNCLE OLIVER

Mary?? Is that you?

He wanders towards the living room, but Alicia appears to stop him.

ALICE

Uncle Oliver, it's me. It's Alice. I'm here to help you not get murdered. Where's Aunt Mary? Get her down here.

UNCLE OLIVER

Murdered? What's going on, Alice?

ALICE

I'll tell you after I save you, okay? I have a plan. Just follow my lead.

Suddenly, the KITCHEN WINDOW SMASHES. Kurtis climbs in, grinning.

KURTIS

Look who it is!

Alice and Uncle Oliver turn to see Kurtis jumping down to the floor. He stalks them, pulling out a PISTOL, as Alice pleads.

ALICE

Kurtis! Please don't do this.

KURTIS

Why shouldn't I?

ALICE

Well...because I started this. I should be the one to end it, right? It's only fair. You said it yourself.

UNCLE OLIVER

What is going on? What did you start?

KURTIS

Your niece killed every single member of her terrible family in cold blood! Now, it seems she wants to bump you off too! I knew she'd come around. Well done, Al. Take the shot.

Uncle Oliver stares at Alice. She grows panicked. Kurtis extends the PISTOL to her. She grips it tightly.

UNCLE OLIVER

Alice? You're...going to kill me? You're going to kill Aunt Mary?

Alice stares at Uncle Oliver, wheels turning in her head. She mouths "WATCH MY EYES".

Alice points the pistol at Oliver, who watches her carefully. Her eyes motion to a bottle of KETCHUP in the fridge. Oliver understands and grabs it, holding it in his hand.

Alice takes aim and SHOOTs THE BOTTLE, with KETCHUP exploding all over Uncle Oliver as he falls to the floor. Kurtis applauds.

KURTIS

Ew, that was so gross! I loved it.

ALICE

Well, it was all a part of the plan.
More or less. Guess you were right.

KURTIS

Your plan did work wonders. Congrats,
Al! You really know your way around
murder! You should consider gaming.

Alice, weary, turns to Uncle Oliver, whose eyes are OPEN. She mouths "GET UP." Uncle Oliver smiles.

ALICE

I already have, Kurtis...I played YOUR
game. And now...it's over. Have
yourself a merry little Bitch-mas.

Uncle Oliver GRABS Kurtis's NECK from behind. Alice aims the gun and SHOOTs towards Kurtis. Kurtis falls to the floor, motionless, a shocked smile on his face.

Alice stares at the carnage. She turns to Oliver, who embraces her with sadness in his eyes. Alice begins to break down.

UNCLE OLIVER

Oh, sweetie. I had no idea...had your
Aunt and I known, we wouldn't have...

ALICE

I just wanted to make them pay, Uncle
Oliver. They made me and my parents'
lives a living hell. I just...wanted
to make them feel the same way...

UNCLE OLIVER

It's okay, sweetie. It's ok. I'm here.

She continues to sob, sinking further into Uncle Oliver's arms. A SIREN grows closer as RED AND BLUE LIGHT begins to flash through the windows, illuminating the tableau.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jared types feverishly on his computer. As he finishes, he rotates his chair to face a RED LEATHER COUCH. On it...is Kurtis. He's older, more mature.

JARED

So, do you know what happened to Alice after that night?

KURTIS

Court ruled that she spend the rest of her childhood shut up in the loony bin. She was insane in the brain, man. And once she got out, she started working at a Chik-Fil-A full time. They cater to psychopaths, you see.

JARED

And...what about her accomplice that you mentioned? You said his name was...Cody, right? Was he actually confirmed dead at the scene?

KURTIS

Oh, yeah. He's long gone. Neither of them will be SLEIGH-ing anyone ever again, that's for sure...

He chuckles to himself. Jared looks up from SCRIBBLING on his NOTEPAD and Kurtis ceases his laughter, shrugging apologetically.

KURTIS (CONT'D)

What, too soon?

Kurtis stares directly INTO THE CAMERA, smirking smugly.

FADE OUT.