

A shadow lifts past the frame...

BACK ON DORA

Sensing something from the tangle of bushes.

THE FOREST

Dense and unyielding. Menacing.

Dora pulls her earphones off. Listens, very still. We HEAR only the soft groaning of trees. Like a whisper...

Turning away, she catches in the corner of her eye--

A SHRUB RUSTLING ever so slightly, but there is no breeze.

Her eyes widen for a beat, then she drops her guard. Probably nothing. She moves on...

10

EXT. PUMPKIN PATCH - LATE AFTERNOON

10

A DIRT LANE cuts through the heart of a vast PUMPKIN PATCH. In the field is

A CAIRN - a stack of rocks arranged as a crude figure. Eroded. Vines strangling it. Been there a long time.

DORA trudges on, in no hurry to get where she's going. Which is a FARM HOUSE we see in the distance. Out of nowhere--

POV

Rushing right at Dora!

Start

Bah!

JACE

JACE clamps his arms around HER ABDOMEN and lifts her off the ground. Dora yelps in fright-



Let go!

DORA

She breaks free, spins. Jace has a shit-eating grin on his face. Dora slugs him on the shoulder-

JACE

Ouch!

DORA

Grow up, you dick!

Shoves him, hard. Picks up her bike, stomps off.



JACE
Come on, I was just kidding around.

Jace catches up to her...

JACE (CONT'D)
I thought we were gonna hook up
after your appointment?

DORA
(flatly)
I guess I forgot.

JACE
You okay? I didn't give you an STD
or something, did I?

DORA
I'm disease free. Lucky you.

JACE
Cool.

Jace follows Dora and lights a cigarette. Senses the cold
shoulder but not the dismay brewing inside her...

JACE (CONT'D)
I figured we'd go score some beer
before the dance. Hang out.

DORA
I'm really not feeling up to it...

JACE
You saying no to the dance, the
beer, or hanging out?

Offers her the smoke, but she waves it off.

JACE (CONT'D)
What's with you?

DORA
Nothing.

JACE
Yeah? So why you being all bitchy
with me--

DORA
I just have stuff on my mind. Not
everything is about you, okay?

Jace pulls her arm.



JACE
Whoa whoa. Something's up.

Dora faces him, hesitates, wants to explain, the words hanging on her lips...

JACE (CONT'D)
Tell me.

A war of emotions in her eyes.

DORA
It's just... I'm--

HONK! Dora whips around--

AN ANCIENT PICKUP rolls up behind them. The side of the rust heap reads VOGEL NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE. The rear cargo area full of PUMPKINS.

DORA (CONT'D)
Shit.

JACE
She still hate me?

KATE VOGEL (36), her working-class mother. Khakis and pony tail. Beneath fatigue lines is the face of a former prom queen. A look that could peel skin.

DORA
Yup.

End

Jace helps place her bike in the flatbed with the pumpkins. He waves feebly to Kate, who does not wave back.

11 INT. TRUCK (IDLE) - CONTINUOUS

11

As Dora climbs in the passenger side...

KATE
School called.

DORA
We should be on their speed dial by now.

REMI (6), Dora's brother, sits beside her. A BIG PUMPKIN on his lap. A BEST COSTUME RIBBON pinned to his SAMURAI COSTUME.

REMI
Dora, look what I won!

