

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The car heads through the curvy roads, deeper into the wilderness. Pulling back reveals a massive forest spread out with mountain after mountain ahead of them.

EXT. TRAIL ENTRY - CONTINUOUS

They drive into a small, tucked away parking area just at the foot of a trail. The back of the car flips open as they girls pile out and start to gather their things. They power down their phones and toss them in the car.

KERRY

What if we need GPS or something?

EVELYN

No reception out there.

KERRY

Can't connect to satellite at all?

Ricki is tossing her phone into the car, grabs Kerry's and does the same.

RICKI

Because that... would be cheating.

All of them but Kerry are doing last minute checks. Madison walks up to Kerry.

MADISON

Here's our in-point. The trail tapers off after a few hours, then it's just this guy getting us there and getting us back.

Madison holds up her compass. She walks on, heading up the pack. Jada walks by and looks at Kerry dramatically.

JADA

And it begins!

Evelyn walks up and puts her arm around Kerry to usher her into walking while Ricki takes up the rear of their little caravan.

EVELYN

Ready to be one with nature?

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The trail moves into grand, gorgeous scenery. The forest is filled with insects and lush wildlife. Ricki spots a stream.

RICKI  
Guys! Water fill up.

They stop and look where Ricki is referencing.

JADA  
Sweetness.

They all meander over to the stream and break out their various water purifiers. Madison looks over and sees Kerry figuring out her new device.

MADISON  
Hey, just drop that lower hose in the water, put the upper one in your bottle and start pumping. Guaranteed better than Evian.

Kerry smiles and starts pumping.

KERRY  
Simple. I like this thing.

Evelyn finishes and stands while she takes a massive gulp of water.

EVELYN  
Ooooooh! So good. I miss mountain water!

Madison looks back at the trail.

MADISON  
I think the trail is gonna end soon. After that, we can try to find the source of this stream for some fishing. That should keep us fed for the rest of our time out here.

JADA  
What if we don't find it?

RICKI  
I don't know of any high altitude lakes around here.

Madison glances at Kerry.

MADISON  
Then we go hungry.

KERRY  
What about the M.R.E.'s?

RICKI

Nope.

JADA

They wouldn't even let me get jerky this morning. They're serious about this shit.

KERRY

Ok... moving on, then.

Kerry starts back towards the trail. Madison smiles.

MADISON

I like it.

A POV watches the group walk back toward the trail. Breathing.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Evelyn is up near the front with Madison who is just putting her compass away. Evelyn looks near the base of a tree.

EVELYN

We might have something here.

Evelyn pulls out a sack and starts picking some mushrooms to fill it up.

MADISON

What is it?

EVELYN

Morels.

KERRY

Those are edible?

EVELYN

Of course. Only sprout up during the spring time, too.

Jada and Ricki walk up behind Kerry.

JADA

Someone say morels?

Evelyn holds one up.

JADA

Awwwwwww, yeah!

RICKI

Why are you taking so much dirt?

EVELYN

They'll last longer if we only  
clean them as we eat.

RICKI

Good thinking.

Madison holds her hand up, she hears something.

MADISON

Ears open, guys.

The group quiets down as Madison squats and tries to peer through the thick forest. Tension starts to build as everyone focuses on light crackling sounds in the distance.

KERRY

What is -

Madison briefly turns her head with her fist still in the air and shakes it aggressively for "be quiet". Kerry looks over at Ricki who has her finger to her mouth. She points at her own eyes, then straight ahead. Madison turns her head back around, but the sound is much closer. Closer than anticipated. She searches for where the creature might be. A twig snaps just to her left and she falls backwards with a mild yelp. A skunk starts to rear up.

MADISON

Run!

The groups eyes follow suit at what Madison sees and they all high tail it out of there as the skunk sprays.

EXT. WILDERNESS CLEARING - EVENING

The sun is starting to set as they put finishing touches on their campsite. A nice fire is going and a pot has some soup brewing. Kerry, Evelyn and Jada make their way over and settle around the fire while Ricki stirs. Madison comes up with extra firewood and drops it near the pit. She whiffs the air with disgust, then around her clothing.

MADISON

I swear that little bastard got  
some on me.

JADA

(laughing) Oh my god, you yelped so  
loud.

MADISON

I didn't yelp, I was... mildy startled.

JADA

If that's what a startle sounds like, I'd hate to hear your interpretation of a yelp.

EVELYN

Probably sounds like this, "aaaaaah"

Evelyn does her best little girl scream. Everyone gets a chuckle.

KERRY

This is really cool. You girls used to do this all the time?

RICKI

As often as we could get out.

EVELYN

Well, some of us. I mean, I've only done one trip with you, Maddy.

JADA

Yeah, and I've only done a couple with Ricki. Other than that, I used to go out with a group of friends back home.

MADISON

Me too. So... wow, this is our first time all together at once?

RICKI

Huh, that's right. We've never really coordinated a trip with all of us.

KERRY

Well, I'd say it's about time. Thanks for finally having me along and showing me the ropes.

EVELYN

Here, here! Good to have you.

They raise their camping cups for a cheer. Ricki sniffs the air.

RICKI

Yep. You definitely got hit. Go.  
Gotta toss them.

Madison sniffs again, she smells it too.

MADISON

Crap. I only brought one change.

JADA

Looks like you'll be doing your  
laundry buck ass naked. Just like  
nature intended.

MADISON

Damn it.

Madison starts stripping down as she walks to her tent.

JADA

(R.E. Ricki) See? She's fine. Chick  
is solid as a rock.

Evelyn looks back at Madison getting into her tent.

EVELYN

Yeah, I guess so. She was so  
excited though, nursery was half  
finished.

KERRY

Hold up, she lost a kid?

RICKI

About six months ago now. We  
planned a girls night out, happened  
a few days before, but I coaxed her  
into coming anyway. Her husband,  
Raymond, was being kinda  
overbearing too. She needed to get  
away.

JADA

She wanted to leave him before she  
found out she was preggers.

EVELYN

We don't know that for sure.

JADA

I'm telling you. I was getting  
freaky with that guy that turned  
out to be Raymond's cousin... um -  
Michael. Matthew.

RICKI

Mark.

JADA

Yeah, that one! He said Raymond was plotting with his mom and stuff about getting out while Maddy was away on a trip.

KERRY

And she would just come home to an empty house?

EVELYN

Or so Jada says.

JADA

Fine. Don't believe me.

Evelyn seems slightly down and annoyed with the conversation.

EVELYN

They're still together now, aren't they?

KERRY

Wait, have any of you guys told her about this?

They look to one another.

RICKI

No.

JADA

Nope.

EVELYN

Not me. It's a rumor as far as I'm concerned.

RICKI

So anyway, she comes out for drinks and was silent most of the night. Just as we're all leaving the bar she tells Evelyn and I what happened with the baby.

EVELYN

Got weak at the knees and broke down. I've never seen Maddy lose it that bad.

KERRY

And you guys haven't gotten together much since then?

RICKI

Only a few times.

KERRY

Even if it is a rumor, she should probably know about her husband.

JADA

That's what I said!

EVELYN

He's a good guy. I mean, everyone's got their issues, but I just can't believe it, it's not our business anyway. I'm surprised it didn't come out of your drunken mouth last night, Jada.

JADA

Give it time. I don't even have to be drunk for that shit.

RICKI

At least keep quiet about the baby and let the woman enjoy herself?

JADA

I'm doing good so far, ain't I?

INT. MADISONS TENT - CONTINUOUS

Although slightly muffled now, you can tell that Madison was able to overhear everything. She swallows hard as she holds back her tears.

