

SCATT'S CRAG RIDGE

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**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

A silver TOYOTA CAMRY sits on the edge of a quiet forest.

Steep, 1,000-foot cliffs wrap around the forest, creating a mouth where the trees end and the field begins.

Not a sound. Only dense, dark, frightening, SECRETIVE,  
HAUNTING -- OMINOUS --

A DRONE floats up over the Camry, aimed toward the forest. We hear the hum of an approaching car. The Drone zips away.

**EXT. TEXAS BACKCOUNTRY ROAD - DAY - DRONE POV**

We're flying high, following a BLACK JEEP WRANGLER.

We dive down on a sign that reads *"Entering Scatt's Crag."*

**INT. JULIA'S JEEP - DAY**

JULIA (30), athletic with dark hair and sharp eyes, drives with her hand relaxed on the wheel.

Sitting shotgun is MAX (30), thin with shaggy hair and a dorky face. He's piloting the drone on his phone.

JULIA

God gave you two eyes for a reason.

MAX

Gave me two thumbs, too. Can you pull over? The battery's dying.

**EXT. JULIA'S JEEP - DAY**

Max lands the drone at his feet. Julia walks around the Jeep and unzips her pants to pee.

MAX

Really? What if someone sees?

Julia rolls her eyes then cups her hands around her mouth:

JULIA

Calling all perverts! I'm a pretty little thing with her pussy hanging out! My partner would appreciate it if y'all looked away!

MAX

Partner?

JULIA

"Boyfriend" sounds like we're still  
in college.

She smirks and squats to pee. Max puts his drone on a charger  
in Julia's Jeep. He looks away, giving her privacy.

MAX

Usually I'm the one who stops a  
million times to pee.

JULIA

I'm staying hydrated. You should,  
too.

Julia zips up as a SHERIFF'S CAR appears through the heat  
haze. They watch as it slows. They can tell the silhouetted  
driver is grilling them.

MAX

We do something wrong?

Julia huffs.

JULIA

You get a good look?!

The Sheriff's car drives away.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Asshole!

**INT. JULIA'S JEEP - DAY**

Julia driving. Her GPS starts glitching.

JULIA

Max, in the glovebox. I printed out  
directions.

Max opens the glovebox. Loose items spill onto his lap:  
wrapper scraps, packs of gum, tangled wires. He holds up a  
half-eaten lolly pop:

MAX

Did you wanna finish this or...

Julia snatches it, rolls down her window, and tosses it out.

MAX (CONT'D)

Litterbug.

She punches him and grabs the printed directions.

JULIA

Scatt's Crag doesn't show up on any apps.

Max looks out the window at the barren landscape.

MAX

Gee, I wonder why?

**INT. JULIA'S JEEP - DAY**

The road winds into the trees up ahead. Max's SOCIAL MEDIA FEED is frozen. He locks his phone and puts it away.

MAX

There's no WiFi out here.

JULIA

Did you try holding your phone up really, really high?

Max rolls his eyes.

JULIA (CONT'D)

It wouldn't kill you to look up from that thing once in a while.

MAX

I'm looking up now. You know what I see? Trees. Lots and lots of trees. Oh, oh, oh, J, look! Another--

The road bends. A rusted gate blocks the way, held together by a chain. A sign reads: **NO TRESPASSING.**

Julia slows... stops...

MAX (CONT'D)

I thought you said it was open.

She gets out and opens the trunk, revealing: TWO LARGE BACKPACKS, BOLT CUTTERS, and a HEAVY CHAIN.

Max twists and talks to her through the Jeep:

MAX (CONT'D)

J.

JULIA  
I said it *should* be open.

Julia grabs the bolt cutters and heads toward the gate.

MAX  
What are you-- You can't just--

Julia cuts the chain and pushes the gate open. She gets back in the car. Max is dumbfounded.

JULIA  
Relax. I'll replace it when we leave. Nobody'll ever know.

Julia drives away ... then ...

Tires approach. The Sheriff's Car rolls into frame. A MAN steps out, picks up the broken chain, and hocks a loogie.

**EXT. END OF ROAD - DAY**

Julia's Jeep is parked at a dead end. Max stands away from the car, flying his drone.

Julia watches him from the trunk as she straps herself into a PARACHUTE BACKPACK. She clips here, tightens there, and puts a helmet on. She looks back at Max:

JULIA  
You ready?

The drone crashes into a tree. Max hustles to grab it.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Is it okay?

MAX  
It's fine.

Max puts the drone in her trunk. He stares at the other PARACHUTE BACKPACK.

JULIA  
Hey. I'm proud of you.

MAX  
I didn't even jump yet.

Julia grabs the backpack and pushes it into his chest.

JULIA  
Baby steps.

**EXT. END OF ROAD - DAY**

Julia helps Max into his backpack.

She grabs a helmet from the trunk with a GOPRO attached to the top -- the kind with NO SCREEN. She puts it on Max's head, but realizes that the GoPro is loose.

JULIA

Ugh.

MAX

What? What's wrong?

JULIA

Nothing. Loose screw. Switch with me.

Julia swaps their helmets and turns the GoPro on.

JULIA (CONT'D)

This too.

Julia attaches a GPS FLASHLIGHT to Max's rig.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Give me your phone.

She takes it and opens an app.

MAX

I told you there's no WiFi.

JULIA

Don't need it.

She shows him a Satellite GPS of the area.

JULIA (CONT'D)

I installed the app last night. If, and I mean if, we get separated, this'll lead me right to you, okay? Just press this button.

Julia shows him how to press an EMERGENCY BUTTON on the flashlight. Max nods, understanding.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Hey, look at me...  
(off his gaze)  
...You're not gonna need it.

Julia pecks him on the lips and struts toward a path.

MAX

That's what someone who's about to  
need it would say!

Julia laughs and keeps walking. Max catches up, and they  
vanish into the dense forest.

**EXT. FOREST PATH - DAY**

Max and Julia walk by a sign loosely nailed to a tree. It  
reads: "DANGER: BEARS." Julia ignores it; Max double-takes.

MAX

Bears?!

Julia keeps walking. Max hustles to catch up.

**EXT. SCATT'S CRAG RIDGE - DAY**

Max and Julia step through the trees. Together, they walk  
toward the edge of a cliff overlooking the forest below.

Max looks down -- it's 1,000 feet to the treetops. He steps  
back, heart racing, panicking slightly.

JULIA

We fly down to your car and then  
come back for mine.

MAX

And then I never have to do this  
again?

JULIA

Never.

Max spins and paces away from the cliff:

MAX

Next time we're going to a beach.

JULIA

Would you even go in the water?

MAX

I'm afraid, alright? I'm fucking  
terrified. Is that what you want me  
to say?

JULIA

I don't want you to say anything.

Julia catches her tone, then takes a deep, calming breath.

JULIA (CONT'D)

It's just... we're getting older,  
and this was such a big part of my  
life. I wanted to share it with you  
before I can't anymore.

MAX

What's that supposed to mean?

JULIA

I'm just saying, like, if we're  
serious about getting married and  
having kids--

MAX

Hey, I *am* serious. What are you  
always calling *me*?

JULIA

The dork who's desperate to marry  
me.

MAX

So desperate, but right now I'm  
just... I'm scared, J.

Julia steps up to him:

JULIA

If you can do this... If we can do  
it together... Everything else'll  
be easy.

Max sighs.

JULIA (CONT'D)

It's just like we practiced. Run,  
jump, count to three and pull.

He nods.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Say it.

MAX

Run. Jump. Count to three and pull!

JULIA

Again! Louder!

MAX

RUN! JUMP! COUNT TO THREE AND PULL!

Julia steps aside, presenting the ridge to Max:

JULIA  
I'm right behind you.

MAX  
You're kidding.

JULIA  
I am right behind you.

Max takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and mutters:

MAX  
Run, jump, count to three and pull.  
Run, jump, count to three and pull.  
(opens his eyes)  
RUN, JUMP, COUNT TO THREE AND PULL!

Max runs toward the edge and leaps off! 3...2...1...

JULIA  
Pull!

Max pulls, jerking downward as his parachute opens. He sails over the forest. He starts giggling, laughing, wailing:

MAX  
Wha-- Wha-- ahah-- I did it! J, I  
did it! Whooooohooooooo!

His childlike screams echo over the trees. Julia smiles, watching him from the ridge.

JULIA  
I told you!

She gets a running start and leaps over the edge. She falls for a moment, then grabs her pull-string...

...It's stuck! She's falling fast, panicking now!

JULIA (CONT'D)  
No, fuck! Shit! Shit! FUCK!

With one... last... YANK! She rips it loose! Her parachute whooshes open, jolting her downward with tremendous force!

She turns and realizes she's way too low. Max is so high and far ahead that his gleeful screams are faint echoes.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
MAAAAAX! MAAAAAX!

Max looks back to see her falling toward the treetops.

MAX

J! FUCK! I don't know how to turn this thing!

JULIA

KEEP GOING! GET HELP! USE THE--

She crashes through the treetops, breaking several branches.

She's tumbling, falling fast. She JOLTS again as her chute gets caught. The force knocks her GoPro off. It lands in a clearing about 20 feet away, aiming at her.

**EXT. CLEARING - DAY - GO-PRO POV**

Julia dangles 10 feet off the ground as blood leaks down her arm. She tries tugging at her parachute, but it's stuck.

JULIA

Shit! Okay... okay. Breathe. Nothing's broken.

She checks her bleeding arm and hisses in pain.

Something stirs behind the GoPro. The camera shakes slightly. Julia doesn't notice. She's still wrestling with her straps.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Come on, you stupid thing!

Then -- a realization! She activates her FLASHLIGHT TRACKER. A green light starts flashing. She's overcome with relief.

Her eyes widen as she sees something looking right at her.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Wha-- wha-- what the fuck is that?

Whatever **IT** is, it kicks the GoPro forward as it approaches. The camera tumbles and lands right beneath her, pointed at the trees. HEAVY FOOTSTEPS approach as Julia loses her cool:

JULIA (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Get away from me! Get the fuck away from me!

Something pulls Julia down. Branches snap! Her head BOUNCES OFF THE GROUND! The blow knocks her out cold.

Something drags her away by her foot.

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

Max lands hard and tumbles on the ground. He fights out of his chute and stumbles toward the forest.

MAX  
JULIA! ... JULIA! ... JULIA!

His last "*Julia*" echoes over the trees. The forest responds with ominous silence. Max stares at it. The trees stare back.

*Pre-roll: A ringing phone fades in...*

**INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY**

Max slumps in a beat-up chair in front of an empty desk.

He stares through a nameplate: "Sheriff W. Dixx." There's a half-smoked cigar in an ashtray. A phone rings in the BG.

DEPUTY MILLER (20s), a boy-faced cop, looks at Max with pity. He answers the phone, eyes on Max:

DEPUTY MILLER (O.C.)  
Scatt's Crag County Sheriff's  
Office. Miller speaking.

Max snaps out of his trance. He looks at his phone: he's been leaving a voicemail for "Julia <3" for 10 minutes.

He sees headlights out the window. Max runs to it... a TOW TRUCK stops with Julia's Jeep. The Sheriff's car pulls in behind it.

**EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

Max bursts out and runs up to SHERIFF WAYNE DIXX, a Full-Metal-Jacket-type man in his 50s.

MAX  
Anything?!

Sheriff Dixx walks by as if Max doesn't exist.

**INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

Dixx enters with Max hot on his tail.

MAX  
Sheriff, wait a second!