

SCATT'S CRAG RIDGE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The edge of a quiet forest looms in the distance. Steep, 1,000-foot cliffs wrap around, 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, aimed toward the forest. We hear the hum of an approaching car. The Drone turns and zips away.

EXT. TEXAS BACKCOUNTRY ROAD - DAY - DRONE POV

Flying high -- following a BLACK JEEP WRANGLER. 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 smirks:

JULIA  
God gave you two eyes for a reason.

MAX  
(without looking up)  
Gave me two thumbs, too. Can you pull over? The battery's dying.

Julia smirks and pulls over.

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!

EXT. EMPTY TEXAS ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: Julia's Jeep is like an ant on the desolate road.

JULIA (O.C.)  
 (echoing)  
 I'm a pretty little thing with her  
 pussy hanging out!

EXT. JULIA'S JEEP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

JULIA  
 My boyfriend would appreciate it if  
 y'all looked away!

MAX  
 Three months in Texas and she's  
 already saying "y'all."

Julia smirks, pulls her pants down, and squats to pee. Max puts his drone on a charger in Julia's Jeep.

MAX (CONT'D)  
 Usually I'm the one that stops a  
 million times to pee.

JULIA  
 I'm just... staying hydrated. You  
 should, too.

An approaching engine fades in. Julia zips up just as a SHERIFF'S CAR appears through the heat haze.

Max and Julia watch as it slows. They can tell the silhouetted driver is grilling them.

MAX  
 We do something wrong?

Julia huffs.

JULIA  
 (re. Sheriff's Car)  
 You get a good look?!

She watches the Sheriff's car drive 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. The rest of her Jeep is equally messy. 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 playfully 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.

ON MAX'S PHONE: His SOCIAL MEDIA FEED is frozen.

Max 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. It's 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, walks around, 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.

ANGLE ON: The Chain as Julia drives away. It's quiet.

Tires approach. The Sheriff's Car rolls into frame. A MAN steps out, reaches down, and picks up the broken chain. He hocks a loogie and walks back to his car.

EXT. END OF ROAD - DAY

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

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

JULIA

You ready?

DRONE POV: It crashes into a tree.

Max hustles to grab and inspect it. He seems distant.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Is it okay?

MAX

It's fine.

Max puts the drone in her trunk. He stares at the other Paragliding Backpack.

JULIA

Hey. I'm proud of you.

MAX

I didn't even jump yet.

Julia grabs the other backpack and pushes it into his chest.

JULIA

Baby steps.

EXT. END OF ROAD - DAY

Julia helps Max into his backpack. She tightens the last few straps. She grabs a helmet from the trunk with a GOPRO attached to the top -- the kind with NO SCREEN. Julia puts it on Max's head, but realizes that the GoPro is loose.

JULIA

Ugh, stupid screw.

MAX

What? What's wrong?

JULIA

Nothing. It's fine. Here, switch with me.

Julia swaps their helmets and turns the GoPro on.

JULIA (CONT'D)

This too.

Julia attaches what looks like a 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. See?

ON MAX'S PHONE: 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. It's quiet... then... the sound of approaching tires... The Sheriff's car pulls up.

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 as Julia points toward the horizon.

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 takes a deep breath. He 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... it's a big part of my  
life and I wanted to share it with  
you. And I thought that if we're  
serious about spending the rest of  
our lives together...

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

You trust me, right?

MAX  
Of course I do.

JULIA  
Then listen. 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 child-like screams echo over the trees. Julia smiles,  
watching him from the ridge.

JULIA

I told you!

Julia gets a running start and leaps over the edge. She falls  
for a moment, 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 tree tops.

MAX

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

JULIA

KEEP GOING! GET HELP! USE THE--

Julia 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 takes several deep, calming breaths. 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 grabs the Flashlight Tracker and turns it on. A green light starts flashing. She's overcome with relief.

Her eyes widen as she sees **something** looking right at her. She swallows intense fear:

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Breathe. Stay calm. Don't move.

Whatever **IT** is, it kicks the GoPro forward as it approaches. The camera tumbles and lands right beneath Julia, 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, and **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 sprints toward the forest. He stumbles and trips and falls multiple times.

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: