

DESERT SCENARIO

EXT. THE DESERT - DAY - **THE PRESENT**

Maggie and Daylen have just woken up and are still disoriented. The desert is enormous.

Near them is the following: a red cooler, an old car, a pile of explosives, lighter fluid, a spool of fireworks fuse, several easels, a stand-up mirror, an equal number of white cardboard rectangles, several TVs, two large fireworks, a package of balloons, and a crude diagram on white poster board (taped to a wooden pole, staked in the ground).

The two immediately consult the diagram.

The diagram shows the same desert landscape that we see, but it's hand-drawn in colored markers with the skills of a first-grader. On the landscape it shows the following: A car burning to the right, a cracked mirror, fireworks, white balloons, and broken TVs in the center, and burning easels (holding canvases) to the left.

Maggie opens the envelope below the diagram on the post.

Daylen walks to the cooler and takes out two water bottles. He takes a swig of one and throws Maggie another.

DAYLEN

What is it this time? That drawing is terrible.

He walks to the car and kicks the wheel.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

Think it works?

MAGGIE

It's like a list of stuff this time... First we put those white things - which I guess are supposed to be canvases? - on these easels and take them way over there (points left). Then we put this mirror way over there it looks like (points center).

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

And somehow these TVs, balloons,
and fireworks over too? Then take
this car over there (points right) -
not sure how - put all these
dangerous looking things in it.
Then we run all the way back over
there and light the canvases on
fire, then break the mirror,
then...(laughs) blow up the car.

DAYLEN

Why?

MAGGIE

Has anything made any sense?

Daylen half-laughs.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

But we gotta do it before dark.

Daylen pounds on the car.

DAYLEN

Ready to push?

CUT TO:

A LITTLE LATER

They're pushing the car; they've almost made it far enough.
They're both having a tough time and are out of breath.

MAGGIE

This is pitiful. People go to the
gym for a reason.

DAYLEN

No kidding... I think this is good.

One final push.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)

There we go.

They lean against the car hood.

MAGGIE

(relieved)
Ahhh.

They soak in the rest.

Daylen reaches over and playfully slaps Maggie's hair. He runs away. Maggie gets off the hood, chases and tackles him.

They look each other right in the eye and **almost kiss**. Maggie slaps both hands on his chest, stands up, and pulls him up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Come on.

They walk towards the supplies.

MUSIC START (TENSION SLOWLY BUILDS. **CUE 18**).

CUT TO:

A LITTLE LATER

The car, TVs, balloons, fireworks, and mirror are in place.

They set up the easels and place the cardboard rectangles on them. Maggie and Daylen are far apart.

DAYLEN

Does this look right?

MAGGIE

Yeah!

CUT TO:

A LITTLE LATER

They're sitting by the cooler, now most supplies are gone.

They eat.

MAGGIE

Think it's actually going to explode?

DAYLEN

(laughs)
I doubt it.

MAGGIE

What'd's he think we know how to use this stuff?

DAYLEN

I don't know, but this is one long-ass fuse.

MAGGIE
Te-he-he-he-he, you said ass fuse.
What's an ass fuse?

Daylen stares at her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(laughs)
...Sorry... That was terrible.

Maggie looks down, ashamed.

They laugh.

DAYLEN
How do you want to do this?

MAGGIE
I guess we'll just light this thing
which looks like it takes a while.

Maggie reads the fuse package.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
36 seconds per foot... And then
we'll go light the art stuff on
fire, then you can go break the
mirror and TVs and start the
fireworks.

DAYLEN
Sounds like a plan. Ready?

She takes a bite of food.

MAGGIE
(full mouth)
Yeah.

They stand up, and she puts the leftover food in the cooler.

Daylen picks up the lighter and the end of the fuse.

DAYLEN
Ready?

Maggie jumps and lands in a goalie stance.

MAGGIE
Ready!

Maggie stands up normally.

Daylen lights the fuse.

DAYLEN

Go!

Daylen grabs the can of lighter fluid, and Maggie grabs the lighter. They run together towards the easels.

Daylen soaks each easel with fluid and runs to the next one.

Maggie follows behind him, lighting each one on fire.

All but one are lit.

Daylen continues running right, takes his shirt off, wraps it around his hand, and smashes the mirror and TVs. He ignites the fireworks. They shoot huge columns of sparks into the air. He looks at Maggie.

The ground EXPLODES far camera left (a small explosion).

Maggie is startled, but tries to stay focused and lights the final one.

A second EXPLOSION, now closer. Daylen looks over, scared.

A third, and fourth, fifth, sixth... **the EXPLOSIONS are chasing her.**

Daylen runs towards her.

Maggie runs towards him.

MAGGIE

Wrong way!!

Maggie throws her arms over her head and points towards camera right.

Daylen stops and waits for her to catch up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

GO!

They run together towards the hill in the distance.

DAYLEN

Oh my God!

Maggie looks back at the car.

MAGGIE

Shit, the car's gonna explode!

DAYLEN

Almost there!

They reach the hill.

BOOM! The car explodes.

They jump over the hill and peak back at the bizarre scene.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

MAGGIE
That was NOT in the plan!

Daylen rolls over on the ground and inhales. Maggie still looks at the scene.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Here he comes- limey bastard.

Maggie has revenge in her eyes.

A Masked Figure (camera on shoulder) walks through the scene, he's far away.

Daylen rolls over and looks at him over the hill.

DAYLEN
What is that in his hand?

MAGGIE
Maybe it controls these things.

She waves her arm.

DAYLEN
Maybe. Does he see us?

MAGGIE
I don't know how he could have not seen where we went.

DAYLEN
(laughs)
Yeah.

MAGGIE
Should we stand up?

DAYLEN
Why?

MAGGIE
We could run from him or something.

They stand up.

DAYLEN
Let's run *towards* him.

Maggie looks at him (stupid idea).

MAGGIE
We do that every time.

Daylen takes the opportunity to act out his explanation.

DAYLEN
No, no. We'll run- fake knocked out-
and he'll think we're out- he'll
come over all thinkin' he's got us-
BU-BOW!- Take him clean out.

MAGGIE
He's still going to mess with the
thing in his hand, and what if that
doesn't even control it?

DAYLEN
Better idea?

Maggie looks at the desert wasteland.

MAGGIE
Race you.

They run down the hill towards David.

DAYLEN
(ventriloquist)
Fall NOW!

They pretend to be knocked out. They slow down and fall over.

A Masked Figure approaches confidently. It's a long walk.

Daylen peaks at Maggie, and she peaks back.

The Figure is close.

Daylen opens his eyes all the way.

DAYLEN (CONT'D)
(whisper)
NOW!

They jump up and attack the Figure.

They didn't wait long enough. The Figure reaches for a GUN in his pocket.

Both Maggie and Daylen get some good hits in, but David fights back harder. He knocks them on the ground, finally manages to retrieve his gun, and he shoots them. It was a TRANQUILIZER GUN, and darts stick out of them.

The Figure catches his breath.