

``“GUYSS, ROUND UP!” Nyra says eagerly. We all look up from our phones expecting her usual gossip. “Yes?” we all say flatly in unison. “ Girls, we CANNOT spend our entire summer having sleepovers and staying on our phones. Am i right? ”Nyra exclaims. “I mean you are but what's your point girl. Theres nothing else to do in our boring city.” I say. “ yeah, to be frankly honest, what greaaat idea do you have today.” says Aveline. “ I agree” says Celeste.

“ Come on cheer up everybody, cause i booked us a weekend getaway!!”Nyra announces. “ not just because we’re bored, also cause i realized that you guys are having a tough time.” Nyra says quietly. “ Awww you’re so sweet” they say. “ almost too sweet.. Whats going on” I say. “ oh my god sienna are you serious right now just accept the fact that Nyra is sweet.” says Aveline in a shocked tone. Everyone nods. “ its okay Aveline calm down i mean shes right..” Nyra says heartbrokenly.” Im sorry, i didnt mean for it to come out that way please forgive me Nyra.” I say. “ its alright, forget about it , everyone pack up cause we are leaving soon!” Nyra says. They all side eye me but still go to pack up.

I drag my suitcase across my room with a sigh. Why did I even say that? My phone buzzes “You better apologize properly later.” Aveline texts.I roll my eyes but deep down I know she’s right. “Meet outside in 20. And don’t overpack this time, Sienna.” texts Nyra. I sit while dreading that moment, Nyra comes up to me and says “lets go, come on.” Whew, that was the longest 20 minutes of my life.

I take my carry-on and shove it in the Trunk. “ Guys, lets go and get some snacks before?” Aveline says. “ No need, i brought enough.” I say “oh.” Aveline says rudely. Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god, what have i done.

I go and enter the car and sit down stiffly.

Zzzzzzzzzzzzz. I doze off.

“SIENNA WAKE UP ALREADY!” i feel someone shaking me back and forth, i open my eyes only to see that we are in the middle of nowhere and there is trees literally everywhere. “ GUYS I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO AN AIRBNB? WHY ARE WE IN THE MIDDLE OF ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE????” I say panicking.

“Loosen up, this is the airbnb dumbnuts. Look to your left.” Celeste says while laughing. I leave the car and turn around only to see the most luxurious 2 story house. “ Holy macaroni, this is amazing” “I know right” Nyra says. “ alright everybody come on, hurry up and get your stuff, quickly though cause i have another surprise for you guys.” Nyra says happily. “Lets goo!” we all say.

We enter the airbnb and immediately the whiff of rich cedar wood slaps us in our face. “ gather up now girls.” we all sit down on the couches excited for whats coming. “ so you know we are all tired of everything so i brought you guys here to unplug from the real world and spend time with eachother.” says Nyra joyfully. She pulls out like a lock looking box. “ what is this” we all say. “So i brought this lockbox... for our phones!!” Nyra says with a wide smile. “But-” “ not a single word” Nyra interrupts. “Cmon surrender your phones.”

We all put our phones in one by one. “You know what, i actually love this idea” Celeste says. “I agree” Aveline claims. “Me too i guess..” i say.

Nyra puts a 12 hour timer on the box. “ this box is going to be locked for 12 hours alright?”. We all nod.

“Guys lets explore this place” Aveline suggests.

“This place is actually amazing” i say. “ Guyss look at the kitchen!!” Celeste says excitedly. “ oh my god this bathroom is luxurious” Aveline shouts. “Now now girls settle down” Nyra says. “ lets eat some snacks im a bit hungry.” I say, everyone agrees.

I open my bag and dump all the snacks i have. “Damnn, you brought the good ones” Aveline says. We all open bags of candies and chips and start munching. “ Im going to grab some water, be right back” I say. I go up the stairs enter my room and grab a water bottle from my carry-on.

Whilst im walking down the stairs i catch a glimpse of the front porch window and see a black looking figure. I drop my water bottle. And fall onto the ground. THUD. Celeste comes rushing up to me. “ What happened?? Are you okay, Sienna! ” Celeste says worriedly. I stare at the window wide-eyed and I shake my head, “There was someone outside...”. Nyra quickly locks the front door.

“What do you mean?” Aveline says worriedly. They nod in agreement.

They help walk me to the couch. “ so, what happened?” says Nyra anxiously. “ its nothing really” i say shakily. “ Tell us now.” says Aveline firmly. “ i saw a black looking figure at our front porch” i say fearfully. They all give me an uneasy look. “ oh lord.” says Celeste. “Should we call the police?” says Aveline. “Well i thought of that, but the thing is we CANT.” says Celeste. “Oh my if what Sienna said is true we are genuinely done for.” Says Aveline nervously. “ Nyra if we die im not forgiving you” says Celeste. “Calm down nows not the time for hatred and fights, save it” i say. “ lock all the doors now.” i say firmly. “ on it” Nyra says.

Aveline internally sighs, *ugh what if sienna is just being paranoid?*

“Okay nobody panic.” Nyra says while clearly panicking herself.

KNOCK. Everyone freezes.

I cant move, why does my brain feel scattered.

MOVE,MOVE,MOVE,MOVE.

KNOCK. This time more aggressive. **KNOCK.KNOCK.KNOCK**
“EVERYONE BARRICADE THE DOOR WITH THE TABLE!” i shout hurriedly. We grab the table and move together then slam it against the door. I rush and run to close the curtains. Everyones quiet, Nyla gives a hand sign to go upstairs. I grab the box with the phones and rush upstairs ,11;39;52.

Oufff, thinks Aveline in fear, *maybe sienna was right after all*

“G-Get in the bedroom” i whisper faintly. I lock the door of the bedroom and lock the windows. Silence, tick tock. The sound of the clock ticking made us even more anxious. **BANG.** We all jump. The sound of Celeste and Nyla crying while Aveline is holding herself back. “Its okay, calm down, right now staying here isnt safe we should jump out the windows..” i say. “He hasnt broken in yet we should use this chance.” Aveline says hopefully. Nyla and Celeste nod while holding eachother tightly.

Rain pouring heavily , the sound of the water pounding the street , and leaves rustling. “Everyone we have to climb, remember not jump its a bit too high.” i say. Before i get to say another word, “**NYLA OPEN THE DOOR**” the sound echoes through the house. “Nyla??? Why is it calling your name..” Aveline says shakily on the brink of tears. “I-i dont know.” Nyla cries. “**YES YOU DO, SAY WHY!**” Aveline shouts. “You exposed our location! Shut up Aveline you stupid-.” I cut myself off. Celeste starts crying even louder burying her face in my shoulder.

“I-i-i think they f-followed me” Nyla mutters under her breath. “Who.” i say firmly. “The mimic.” she stammers. “ No time to explain alright? Just say if we can escape them or not.” I furiously say. “I dont know...just try.” she mumbles. I slap her. **BANG.BANG.THUD.**

Its in the house.

We all freeze.

I get myself together and open the window. “Celeste you first dont be scared we are here with you” I say. She nods. **SLAM.** “ GO!” i shout. “Alright ill go”i climb dow carefully while Celeste tries to help me with her shaking hands. Aveline and Nyla.. alright thats all of us. “Lets go, follow me closely” i whisper under my breath. The wind rattling through the leaves, It rains even harder. “Get in the car” i instruct. We all enter. “DRIVEE!” I shout. “WAIT? WHERE’S CELESTE???” i Exclaim. I look back. My eyes widen. “Celeste....” A bloody body thats been ripped apart with a tall dark figure standing over her.

“Celeste...” My voice cracks into nothing as I stare at the scene behind us. Rain pours endlessly over the bloody ground while the tall figure stands motionless above her body. My chest tightens so hard it hurts to breathe. The thing slowly lifts its head toward the car. Then it smiles. Too wide. Too human. Not human enough.

“DRIVEEEE!” Aveline screams hysterically.

Nyra slams her foot onto the gas pedal and the car goes forward violently. Tires screeching against the wet gravel road. I twist around in my seat, unable to look away. The creature remains standing there

in the storm, watching us leave. Then slowly, it raises one long arm and waves.

...this isnt real, this cant be real. Celeste isnt dead, this is impossible.

“What is that thing?!” Aveline says her voice shaking uncontrollably.

Nobody answers. Nyra grips the steering wheel so tightly her knuckles turn pale. Rain pounds against the windshield, making it nearly impossible to see anything ahead of us except endless woods and darkness.

“WHICH WAY DO I GO!?!?” Nyra panics. “JUST DRIVEE” I shout back at her.

The road seems endless, trees everywhere, darkness trapping us. Right, left, right, right. Where do we even go. “Guys...” Nyra whispers nervously after a while. “I think we’re lost.”. “ perfect just perfect.” Aveline mutters while wiping tears streaming down her face.

“NYRA. tell us what a mimic is **NOW.**” Her lips shiver, her eyes wide. “They copy people.” she whispers shakily. “They stalk someone for days... sometimes weeks. They learn voices. Learn names. Learn habits.” She swallows hard. “Then when they’re ready... they hunt.”. “ And how are we supposed to believe that, we all lived a normal life, unlike you.” I say questioningly. “When I was younger,” Nyla says quietly, staring down at her hands, “my cousin disappeared during a camping trip. Before he vanished, he kept hearing his mom calling his name outside every night.” Her voice shakes a little. “But his mom was asleep the whole time.”.

Everyones quiet after she says that. “ After he disappeared, people started to hear him calling out from the woods. Although im sure that wasnt him. You know where this is going.” Nyra says fearfully. Everything quiet, all of us too scared to say something, except stutters.

Suddenly. “**H-help...**” the voice comes from behind the car. We all freeze. Its celestes voice. “**H-help me...**” Aveline lets out a shaky sob and covers her mouth. Nyra grips the steering wheel tighter, almost swerving off the road. “ DONT STOP THE CAR.” I screech. “ I WASNT GOING TO.” Nyra screeches back. Then the voice changes. The crying turns into laughter. Weird laughter. Twisted laughter. Like multiple people laughing at the same time. **BANG**

Something slams onto the roof of the car. All of us scream. A long scratching sound drags across the top of the vehicle. **SCRAPE** “Oh my god...” i say. “This cant be happening.”. Another bang hits the back windshield. The glass cracks. Then a long black hand presses against it from outside. Its fingers are way too long and thin. Aveline curls into herself crying.

Suddenly. “**SIENNA.....**” It grumbles. My whole body doesnt move an inch, its my voice? “**Open the door...**” Its face suddenly appears upside down next to my window. Pale skin, disgusting red eyes that don’t blink, That awful stretched smile. And... and... MY FACE?!?! IT HAS **MY** FACE.

I scream such a loud and agonizing scream it feels like my throats gonna rip apart. 11;58;02. Nyra spins the wheel hard across the road. **THUD** .The creature flies off into the darkness behind us. Smoke starts rising from the hood as the car slows down more and more until

finally, it stops. The engine keeps sputtering and wont turn on. Aveline is making prayers, Nyla is regretting every decision she made. 11;59;41

“SIENNA” a voice very far behind deep in the woods yells. 12;00;01
The box ticks loudly, i open the box. My hand shake as i grab my phone hurriedly, the light of the phone overpowers my eyes i blink- and then. **BANG.** something slams against my window. I scream and look up, only to bold right up in my bed. My heart is about to leave my chest, i gasp for air. No car, trees, woods, or darkness. Just my comfortable bed.

I stare around in confusion while my heart pounds painfully against my chest. My phone lies beside me on the bed buzzing loudly.

Incoming Call; Nyra. with shaking hands i answer. “Hello?” I whisper. “SIENNA!” Nyra shouts excitedly through the phone. “Hurry up and pack already! We’re leaving for the Airbnb in like twenty minutes!”

THE END???