

Hazards (undated)

(Unfinished script)

FROM BLACK CUT TO:

INT. CAR — NIGHT

As the car that Madison and Charlotte are in is racing down the highway at night, we don't see either of the ladies yet, just the highway out the front window, but we do hear their voices:

CHARLOTTE

Is there a reason why we're driving so fast?

MADISON

We don't want to be late.

CHARLOTTE

Where are we going?

MADISON

I don't know. But we don't want to be late.

Madison turns her attention back toward driving very fast down the highway.

Opening credits roll.

DISSOLVE TO:

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

The living room is dark. The lights are very low. But we can still see out the large front window that faces the street. The blinds are open, so there is a little light pouring in from the streetlights. The camera pulls back slightly to reveal The Countess, who is an attractive brunette, about 30-35 years old. The Countess has a thick Italian accent. The camera angle shows her from behind, looking out the front window. Suddenly, a nondescript silver car stops directly across the street, apparently stalled. A moment later the car's hazard lights are turned on. The Countess looks down.

THE COUNTESS

Some car just stopped across the street.

Suddenly, Dom pops into the frame. He was apparently on the floor. Dom is older, in his 60s, but in pretty good shape for his age. He stands next to the Countess, staring at the car.

DOM

Only their hazards are on.

THE COUNTESS

That sounds dangerous.

DOM

Sitting out in the middle of that road is dangerous. What are we going to do if they come over here?

THE COUNTESS

We're going to be neighborly.

DOM

I don't know if we should do this. Maybe not yet.

THE COUNTESS

I'm so glad this is a democracy.

The Countess leans closer to Dom, and says quietly into his ear...

THE COUNTESS

It's not a space shuttle launch. If they come over here we proceed as planned. Got it?

DOM

Okay. Whatever you want.

They both turn their attention back toward the street, but the car is still just sitting there.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR — NIGHT

Inside the car we are quickly introduced to Madison sitting in the driver's seat, and Charlotte who is seated in the passenger's seat. Charlotte is younger, early 20s; Madison is in her 30s. Charlotte is looking at Madison, who is staring at the house where the Countess and Dom are watching them from.

CHARLOTTE

I can't freaking believe your car broke down.

MADISON

It's been running a little weird lately. Sorry. It looks like tonight is going to be full of surprises. Charlotte is now focused on her cell phone, but isn't having any luck with it.

CHARLOTTE

What are we going to do now? Call an Uber? A tow truck?

MADISON

Probably both if we can. Do you have any bars?

A close up of her phone reveals that the signal status on her cell phone is flickering on and off.

CHARLOTTE

I've got like half a bar. How the freaking hell can you have a half a bar in America?

MADISON

Right now I'd settle for half a bar if it served decent tequila.

CHARLOTTE

What about your phone? Have you checked it?

MADISON

Sweetie, if you only have half a bar then my shitty phone will have none. Why don't you try to call someone?

Charlotte opens the contact list on her phone, chooses a contact named Ashleigh, and attempts to call her. We hear a busy signal. Charlotte moves the phone away from her right ear as if she has not ever heard a busy signal.

CHARLOTTE

What does that mean?

MADISON

It means that half a bar isn't enough. It looks like our options are thinning quickly.

CHARLOTTE

And now what do we do?

Madison looks back toward the house and says:

MADISON

We pray that house has a landline.

CHARLOTTE

You want to go knock on the door of some creepy looking shack in the country? What if it's a bunch of serial killers?

MADISON

Well look at it this way — if they are, hopefully they'll kill us quickly.

Madison opens her door and gets out of the car. Charlotte opens the door and does the same.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

Back in the living room, we still can't see very much, but we can tell as Dom stares out the window that The Countess has reentered the room holding a tray with four wine glasses in it in her right hand, the wine bottle is in her left hand. She places the tray on stool sitting next to Dom, and then places the wine bottle on the tray. Then she turns to Dom. Outside the living

room window we can see that Madison and Charlotte have exited the car, and are about to walk across the street to the house.

THE COUNTESS

Well, it's showtime.

DOM

I still think we should reconsider.

The Countess lifts her left hand and points toward the front door.

THE COUNTESS

GET OUT!

Dom reluctantly turns toward the door, opens it, and walks outside. The Countess follow.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD/DRIVEWAY/PORCH — NIGHT

After they have exited the car, Charlotte steps into the moonlight and stares over at the cross on top of the church across the street from the house. She crosses herself while saying —

CHARLOTTE

Jesus, please protect me.

MADISON

Jesus, please save me — from throwing up.

Madison steps next to Charlotte and looks at the darkened church. There is not even one car in the parking lot.

MADISON (CONT'D)

That place looks closed. Maybe Jesus is across the street.

CHARLOTTE

I hope so.

As Madison and Charlotte begin the walk across the street, a semi-shaky handheld camera follows them. Madison leads the way.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You're very brave. You act like you've been to this house before.

MADISON

You never know. Maybe I have.

CHARLOTTE

I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I don't know why I'm here.

Madison acts as if she doesn't hear Charlotte. When Charlotte continues to talk, Madison stops in the middle of the street and turns to Charlotte.

MADISON

What the fuck do you want from me? We need help, we're knocking on this door, and they're going to help us. Or not. Those are the options.

CHARLOTTE

I just don't know what I'm supposed to do.

MADISON

Pretend. That's how you get through this. That's it. Got it?

Charlotte nervously nods yes. Madison turns away and starts walking toward the house once again. The camera follows them from behind as they begin walking up the driveway. Around the time they reach the end of the driveway, the front door opens and The Countess and Dom emerge from the dimly lit house, but the porch light is on. The Countess waves her hand to greet the ladies, waving them toward the house at the same time. Just before they reach the front porch she says:

THE COUNTESS

Good evening, ladies. Welcome. It looks like you're having car trouble?

MADISON

Thank you, yes. The engine just died. I think it's serious.

THE COUNTESS

I hope not. Unfortunately, sudden death is not uncommon around here.

The Countess looks at Dom, who begins laughing, and then she joins him. They look toward the two strangers with a smile.

DOM

She was kidding.

THE COUNTESS

Sorry. It's been one of those nights.

MADISON

I'm sure it has. Anyway, we were hoping you guys had a landline. We don't seem to be able to get a signal out here.

THE COUNTESS

Of course we do. And my husband has already called a tow truck for you. How long did they say it would be?

The Countess looks toward Dom. He shoots back:

DOM

They said fifteen, maybe twenty minutes.

THE COUNTESS

See? You'll be on your way in no time. Until then would you ladies like a glass of wine? Looks like you won't be driving for a while.

Madison looks at Charlotte who sheepishly nods yes. They both look back at Dom and The Countess.

MADISON

That's very nice of you.

Madison and Charlotte walk onto the porch, but Charlotte notices how dark it is inside and says:

CHARLOTTE

Why aren't the lights on?

The Countess quickly shoots back:

THE COUNTESS

Oh we were just taking a nap.

She turns to Dom and orders:

THE COUNTESS (CONT'D)

Turn the lights on.

Dom takes out his smart phone, opens an app to turn on the lights, presses one button, and every room in the house lights up. The Countess turns to Madison and Charlotte:

THE COUNTESS (CONT'D)

There we go!

The Countess enters first, and Dom stands back so that Madison and Charlotte can follow. Finally, Dom walks to the door, but before he goes in, he looks back at the road, then walks inside and closes the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

Dom and The Countess enter first, followed by Madison and Charlotte. Now with lights on we see that the entire living room is covered in drop cloths. The TV and the couch are covered as well. There are two heavy wooden chairs in the middle of the room that are not covered. And there is red paint or blood covering most of the walls. Madison and Charlotte take a long look around the room. The hazard lights from the car continue flashing, the light coming in through the uncovered front window.

CHARLOTTE

What are you guys doing in here?

THE COUNTESS

We're painting.

CHARLOTTE

What are you using? A toothbrush?

The Countess takes a step toward Charlotte, but Dom says something and she stops.

DOM

We're playing with different colors. We're not in a rush.

THE COUNTESS

Maybe we should all introduce ourselves. As our guests you should go first.

MADISON

Okay, good idea. I'm Madison. This is Charlotte.

Charlotte has gone back to trying to text someone with her phone. She looks up for a moment to say:

CHARLOTTE

Yeah. Thanks so much for inviting us into your home. This is great. Is this an escape room or something?

MADISON

Sorry. She's a little nervous.

THE COUNTESS

That's okay.

The Countess turns to Dom to do the introductions.

DOM

So, my name is Dom. And this is The Countess.

CHARLOTTE

Ummmm, what?

DOM

The Countess is from renowned Italian ancestry.

THE COUNTESS

I'm sorry. I know it's a little pretentious. But when I go home to Italy that's all anybody calls me.

MADISON

Well, it's very nice to meet both of you. But maybe we should go and wait in the car.

DOM

I wouldn't recommend it. That road is dangerous. Especially at night. How about some wine?

CHARLOTTE

Could I use your bathroom first?

THE COUNTESS

Of course. Let me take you. Madison, how about you?

MADISON

No, I'm good, thank you.

The Countess leads Charlotte out of the room.

INT. BATHROOM — NIGHT

CUT TO:

The Countess opens the door to the bathroom, and stands back so that Charlotte can enter.
The Countess checks out Charlotte as she crosses by.

THE COUNTESS

Let me know if you need anything.

CHARLOTTE

Thanks, I will.

The Countess doesn't leave the bathroom. Charlotte turns to her.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

THE COUNTESS

No, but I could sure help you.

The Countess still doesn't leave.

CHARLOTTE

I know this is your house and I'm supposed to be polite and all that — but you're freaking
creepy, lady.

THE COUNTESS

You have no idea.

The Countess turns and walks out of the bathroom, closing the door behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

Back in the living room, Madison and Dom are talking.

MADISON

I love what you've done with the place.

DOM

It's a work in progress.

MADISON

It looked different the last time I was here.

DOM

I'm sorry — do we know each other?

MADISON

You don't remember me? I must not have made much of an impression.

DOM

My memory has been failing a little bit lately.

MADISON

I guess so. Maybe The Countess has been keeping you too busy.

DOM

She does keep me hopping.

MADISON

I'm sure.

The Countess enters the room. She picks up the bottle of wine and a glass, and begins pouring.

THE COUNTESS

I think it's time for some wine.

MADISON

It's time for something.

The Countess hands Madison the wine, then starts pouring another glass.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Madison looks out the front window, the hazard lights still blinking, covering her face. She looks at the three houses surrounding the one she is in. They are all dark, with no signs of occupancy. Dom steps behind her.

MADISON (CONT'D)

I guess you don't have a neighborhood watch around here.

DOM

It's every man for himself.

The Countess chimes in:

THE COUNTESS

And woman.

MADISON

You two get along now. Not in front of the company.

Dom looks at The Countess.

DOM

This one's funny.

THE COUNTESS

What are we going to do with her?

MADISON

What happened to all the neighbors? Let me guess — you killed them, right?

Dom steps next to Madison, and points at the houses with his left hand as he explains:

DOM

Let's see — that house has been abandoned for years, that family is on vacation, and that guy, he's a drunk. He's probably passed out.

MADISON

Mr. Rogers' neighborhood it ain't.

Charlotte enters the room. The Countess offers her a glass of wine, and she takes it.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you. Sorry if I was rude before.

THE COUNTESS

That's okay. We all get grumpy when we have to go.

Madison and Charlotte drink their wine, and The Countess fills two more glasses for Dom and herself. She hands Dom his glass. Dom asks:

DOM

So what brings you ladies out this late at night?

MADISON

I was taking her home. I drive for Uber.

DOM

That was my next question. How do you like it?

MADISON

I love helping people.

DOM

And you, sweet Charlotte? What do you do?

CHARLOTTE

I go to night school. And I'm a server at Denny's.

MADISON

How about you?

DOM

Well, I serve The Countess.

MADISON

So you're a no income family.

THE COUNTESS

We manage to survive without working.

MADISON

Great work if you can get it.

Bored, Charlotte finishes her wine and asks:

CHARLOTTE

Shouldn't that truck thing be here by now? You said fifteen minutes. It feels like an hour or something.

DOM

I can call them if you like.

Dom stares out the front window, the hazard lights illuminating his face. Behind him, we hear Madison and Charlotte fall to the floor. He turns around. The Countess is standing over Madison and Charlotte who have both passed out simultaneously. The Countess looks up at DOM.

THE COUNTESS

Get them ready.

Dom doesn't say anything.

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

While in black, over the next two minutes, we hear Dom struggling as he is moving Madison and Charlotte, who are still unconscious. When we do cut from black, we see that both Madison and Charlotte are now wearing matching tan coveralls. Dom zips up Charlotte's coveralls, and then

picks up a pair of handcuffs from the floor. He handcuffs Charlotte behind the back of the chair. Madison has already been placed in the other chair, and handcuffed as well. The Countess is standing in the corner of the room. Madison and Charlotte begin to wake up, but are groggy from the drug they ingested. Madison is the first to speak, angry but unable to scream yet.

MADISON

What the fuck are you two weirdos doing to us?

CHARLOTTE

What's going on? What are you doing?

Dom steps away from Madison and Charlotte now that they are awake.

DOM

We just want to play a game.

MADISON

And what fucking game is that?

DOM

It's called — convince us not to kill you. Want to hear the rules?

CHARLOTTE

I don't have any money! I paid for the Uber with my credit card!

THE COUNTESS

We don't want money.

MADISON

Then what do you want?

THE COUNTESS

We want your blood on our hands.

Dom produces a knife, holding it in his right hand.

DOM

Maybe your blood will be the right shade of red for our walls.

CHARLOTTE

Go fuck yourself, psycho!

Dom walks behind Charlotte, raises his knife, and cuts off a lock of her hair. She resists as much as she can.

DOM

Just a little souvenir.

MADISON

What do you really want from us?

THE COUNTESS

Just an hour of your time.

DOM

Really. There are big prizes for those who play.

CHARLOTTE

What about the fucking tow truck? When is it getting here?

MADISON

There is no tow truck, you millennial idiot! There was never a tow truck.

DOM

Sadly she's right. None of the garages come out this far.

Charlotte tries to free herself from the handcuffs, but quickly fails.

CHARLOTTE

Let me out, you motherfuckers!

THE COUNTESS

Don't worry. We're not going to kill you. Yet.

Dom picks up Charlotte's cell phone, which has fallen onto the floor. He presses the home key, but it requires a password. He looks at Charlotte.

DOM

What's the passcode?

CHARLOTTE

Go fuck yourself, dickless!

Dom looks at The Countess and says:

DOM

She turned bitchy pretty quickly. Good thing she's never going to get married.

CHARLOTTE

I might not get married, but you're going to get ass fucked in jail!

DOM

Don't be ugly. It doesn't look good on you.

Charlotte looks at Madison, who has been relatively quiet.

CHARLOTTE

Why don't you do anything? You're in handcuffs too!

MADISON

I've been considering the situation we're in.

CHARLOTTE

What is there to consider? We're handcuffed in this death house with two serial killers!

MADISON

I'm not so sure. If they were serial killers I think we'd be dead by now. If they were really going to take "souvenirs" from us I think we would be missing a lot more than a lock of hair by now. Now, I don't know what these people want from us, but my initial thought is that they're probably not going to kill us.

Dom looks at Madison.

DOM

You're pretty smart. Too bad that very soon you're going to pretty dead.

Dom looks at The Countess and asks her:

DOM (CONT'D)

Can we have a word outside?

The Countess doesn't say anything as she walks past Madison and Charlotte, opens the front door, and walks outside. Dom looks at Madison and Charlotte.

DOM (CONT'D)

You two stay here, okay?

Dom walks outside, closing the door behind him.

The end.