

THE MOTHER/HOOD

Written by

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OVER BLACK

A HOWLING WIND BLOWS leaves and SWAYS tree branches.

THUNDER RUMBLES softly.

FADE IN TO:

Unconscious FBI Agent JADEN STALWART's (45) almond-shaped eyes flutter open, then squint.

Mouth covered with tape, she's tied to a chair.

ALLY (O.S.)
Mmmmmmmhhh!

Jaden's world is a blur.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DUSK

Jaden turns to FBI Agent ALLY (30), beside her, also tied to a chair and mouth taped shut.

Footsteps grow louder walking through leaves as a blurry dark figure draws closer.

Jaden's vision clears to see the Gothic presence of KATARINA VARAYEV (40), her dark sagacious eyes command attention.

JADEN
Mmmmmmmhhh!!!

KATARINA
When I was a little girl in Grozny,
my brothers and I played - what do
you call it here - hide-and-go-seek
amongst the bombed-out buildings.
No one could ever find me, and you
are no different. No one. It is
that immutable fact I want etched
into your brains when I kill you.

As Ally's eyes tear up, Jaden's bulge out in rage.

KATARINA (CONT'D)
Hiding is what I'm BEST at. Have
done it all my life.
(laughs)
Just like I did at your office
today in plain sight.

Katarina moves in closer, towering over them.

KATARINA (CONT'D)
I accessed my case file and deleted
all of it. You want to know how?

Katarina instantly transforms into Ally.

Ally quivers in fear. Jaden whips her head back looking up
for divine guidance.

Katarina resumes her original form and then RIPS the tape
from Ally and Jaden's mouths.

JADEN
Sadistic bitch! You killed those
physicists for what? So your time
travel obsession can solve all your
problems?... It's a myth! A
fantasy people harboring regret
like yourself stay up all night
yearning for.

KATARINA
(laughs)
For someone who's made it her
career to prosecute crimes of
science, you disappoint me. When I
killed them, I connected their keys
and, like a jigsaw puzzle, saw the
big beautiful picture. The
possibilities. It unlocked my
salvation.

Katarina circles behind Jaden and Ally and returns holding a
silver brief case, which she rests on the ground and opens.

She unpacks and assembles a matrix of stainless steel bars as
she speaks.

KATARINA (CONT'D)
Those men robbed me of my freedom.
My whole life. Now all responsible
are dead.

A metallic-framed doorway pops up, a glowing pink trim.

JADEN
All? People with your profile
always seem to create more
deserving victims.

KATARINA
(laughs in agreement)
And here we are.

Work completed, Katarina stands, looking at the seemingly innocuous door frame. She grabs a remote device from her pocket and presses a button.

The doorway GLOWS PINK and emits a low HUM.

Katarina grins.

JADEN

Even if we all pretend for a moment that thing actually works - which it doesn't - why would you want it?

KATARINA

It will add a new dimension to what I do. The power of knowing where my assignments will be before they know it.

JADEN

Right, so now you get to hide within the fabric of time. Wouldn't that take the thrill out of the hunt for you?

KATARINA

It's professional.

JADEN

It's not real!

Katarina grabs a knife from her belt, walks up to Jaden, and then bends over close to her face.

Grinning, Katarina waves the knife lovingly near Jaden's neck.

KATARINA

(whispering)

I've taken a few tours myself, so do not tell me it's not.

ALLY

(desperate)

What about friends and family? Don't they mean something to you?

Suddenly distracted, Katarina stands straight, staring off into the distance.

JADEN

(sensing an opening)

What those men did to you and your family was unforgivable.

(MORE)

JADEN (CONT'D)
 Believe me when I tell you that
 I've also experienced the worst of
 men. I joined raid missions all
 over the world that broke up human
 trafficking operations.

Katarina turns away, recalling,,, what?

EXT. FARMOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

SWAT TEAM MEMBERS swarm a sprawling farm house. One SWAT Team Member is a Young Jaden who FIRES at three RUSKIES (20s) with guns, who drop instantly.

JADEN (V.O.)
 I had no problem taking those
 fuckers out one by one.

Young Jaden's COMMANDER motions her to check the inside of the farm house.

JADEN (V.O.)
 What sickened me most was when they
 used girls as a human shield.

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Young Jaden enters machine gun raised, to see a BEARDED RUSKIE (40s) brandish a pistol and with the other hand cover the mouth of a very pregnant YOUNG KATARINA (17), with long flowing hair that covers her face.

YOUNG JADEN
 (in Russian)
Drop your weapon or I'll shoot!

The Bearded Ruskie FIRES at Young Jaden square in her chest, then pulls Young Katarina toward a rear doorway.

Brushing off her damaged Kevlar vest, Young Jaden RETURNS FIRE with two shots as WOOD SPLINTERS FLY: one reducing the Ruskie's head to a RED MIST, the other PIERCING Young Katarina's lower left back.

Young Katarina falls, but crawls through the rear doorway.

YOUNG JADEN (CONT'D)
Miss!

Back to English as Jaden activates her Com-link.

JADEN
I'm hit, but can travel.

COMMANDER (O.S.)
(filter)
Stalwart! All subjects neutralized.
Report to exfil location now.

As Young Katarina disappears from view, a dazed Young Jaden hesitates a moment, but then exits through the front door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

As helicopters FLUTTER overhead, Young Katarina SCREAMS as she sees a growing pool of blood on her dress.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Katarina glares at Jaden, then shuts her eyes, as if to pray.

KATARINA
It was you...

Katarina's knife hand trembles, dark eyes a deep void.

JADEN
What?
(beat)
If you're going to kill us, then
fucking do it already!

KATARINA
(almost serene)
I've changed my mind.

Jaden and Ally exchange glances.

ALLY
So you'll let us go then, right?

A hyper-focused Katarina presses some buttons on the remote, then reaches back to put it in her jeans pocket. When her hand reappears, she holds a Taser Gun aimed at Jaden.

KATARINA
No, I'm going to TORCHURE YOU!

Katarina FIRES at Jaden, who SCREAMS and then goes limp.

Ally SCREAMS.

Katarina cuts Jaden's restraints. Jaden falls to the ground writhing, and then looks up to see - herself!

Katarina, now in Jaden's form, lifts up Jaden and whispers in her ear.

KATARINA/JADEN

Think you know pain? When I come
back for you, you'll suffer pain
every moment for the rest of your
life.

Katarina/Jaden pushes a helpless Jaden toward the portal.

KATARINA/JADEN (CONT'D)

ENJOY YOUR TOUR!!!

JADEN

Nooooo!!!!!!

Ally CRIES out as Jaden disappears through the portal threshold.

ALLY

W-what did you do to her?

KATARINA/JADEN

When.

Ally shakes uncontrollably.

ALLY

Please let me go.

Katarina/Jaden stoops down to meet Ally's face.

KATARINA/JADEN

You have children?

ALLY

N-No...

KATARINA/JADEN

That's too bad.

A loud THUNDER CLAP as Katarina/Jaden STABS Ally clean through the neck, kicks her chair over, and then casually walks away, laughing.

CUT TO BLACK.