

FADE IN:

EXT. A LONG EMPTY DESERT HIGHWAY - EARLY AFTERNOON

A beat up old VW bus cruises down a highway flanked on either side by endless desert. The bus passes a sign advertising "LOST OASIS DATE FARM". Then the bus passes another one a couple miles down the road. Then another, all with cheesy date-related sayings.

CUT TO:

INT. VW BUS - CONTINUING

Jackson Browne's "Running on Empty" plays over the radio. CHARLIE MALONE (31) sits in the driver's seat. She has short hair, messy from the wind from the open window and wears a plaid shirt, sunglasses, worn jeans and dusty hiking boots. In the passenger seat is RIPLEY, a medium-sized mutt dog happily sticking her head out of the window. The dashboard is covered in road atlases, trail maps, and national park newspapers. In the back of the bus is a small bed, a cooler, and camping gear. There's plaid curtains on the windows. The bus is worn but comfortable.

Charlie adjusts the visor against the bright summer sun as they pass a sign that reads "WELCOME TO GREEN VALLEY POPULATION 1085". A pair of strange looking bats swoop down past the sign and then fly off into the distance.

CHARLIE
Green Valley. That's optimistic
thinking out here.

They pass another sign this one reading "LOST OASIS DATE FARM HOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DATE AND WORLD FAMOUS DATE SHAKES." The sign looks like it hasn't been updated since the Nixon administration. Charlie wipes sweat from her head.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
What do you say, Ripley? Want to
see the world's largest date?

Ripley wags her tail enthusiastically.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Another one for roadside Americana
bingo.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOST OASIS DATE FARM - AFTERNOON

Charlie pulls the VW bus into a dirt parking lot, passing under a sign that reads "WORLD FAMOUS LOST OASIS DATE FARM". To the left of the parking lot is a snack bar with signs advertising the varying varieties of date shakes. Just past the parking lot is a huge farm house with a gift shop occupying the first story. Signs for tours and date picking line the porch. Past the house is a path that leads to the date groves that surround it and a huge date statue with a "WORLD'S LARGEST DATE" sign next to it.

There's a few other vehicles in the parking lot. A couple of vans, a few RVs, and a few regular car, all road trip dusty. The people that belong to them are milling about, taking selfies, exploring the gift shop or lining up for tours.

Charlie parks the bus and gets out. She walks around to the other side and lets Ripley out. Ripley shakes and sits down at Charlie's side expectantly.

CHARLIE

C'mon girl, let's go see what these
dates are all about.

Charlie follows the path to the world's largest date. She takes a few pictures with her phone. Someone takes a picture for her of her with Ripley. She wanders around for a few minutes, looking at the date grove and then heads to the snack bar.

The snack bar is a shack with a counter. There's a menu featuring all kinds of date shakes and frozen, chocolate covered dates on a stick. A rack of chips sit on the counter next to a display of Lost Oasis souvenir cups. The radio plays a steady stream of yacht rock.

Behind the counter is MARIAN SCHAFFER (30). She has a friendly smile and wears shorts and a tank top. Her bobbed hair is tucked up under a backwards purple baseball cap with the Lost Oasis logo on it. She gives Charlie a big smile as she walks up.

MARIAN

(Cheerfully)

Howdy! What can I get for you?

CHARLIE

How about one of those famous date
shakes I keep hearing about?

MARIAN

You got it!

Marian turns around and makes the shake. She turns back around and hands it to Charlie who takes a sip.

CHARLIE

Not bad. I'm not sure if it's the world's best but I don't really have anything to compare it to.

MARIAN

I think that's what sells them. Are you here with your family?

CHARLIE

The only family that still talks to me.

Charlie gestures down to Ripley. Marian leans over the counter to look.

MARIAN

Awww, she's so cute. What's her name?

CHARLIE

Ripley.

MARIAN

As in Ellen Ripley?

CHARLIE

(Surprised)

Exactly! Not many people get that.

MARIAN

People don't appreciate the classics anymore. I used to have a cat named Starbuck.

CHARLIE

So say we all.

MARIAN

(Laughing)

Aways nice to meet a fellow sci-fi nerd. I'm Marian, by the way.

She holds out her hand and Charlie shakes it.

CHARLIE

Charlie Malone.

MARIAN

So what are you doing all the way out here, Charlie Malone?

Charlie takes a long sip of her date shake to give herself time to think. She glances down at Ripley who is no help.

CHARLIE

Would it be too cliché to say that
I'm trying to find myself?

Marian considers this for a long moment, as if trying to make a decision. Finally, she smiles and refills Charlie's shake.

MARIAN

I'll accept it...if you tell me the
real reason later. Maybe tonight?

Marian smiles and Charlie chokes on her shake. She was not expecting this. She takes a moment to recover.

Meanwhile, over on the porch, we notice that CARLOS is watching the interaction between Charlie and Marian. He's sitting on the porch with a bowl of dates and solitaire game laid out on the table in front of him. He looks to be maybe in his mid-60s but it's impossible to pinpoint his exact age. He wears a white linen suit and looks the part of a southern gentleman. He watches them wistfully, with a sad sort of smile.

By now Charlie has regained some of her composure.

CHARLIE

Sure.

MARIAN

Great! Meet me at Hannigan's around
eight. You can't miss it. It's the
only bar in town.

CHARLIE

Sounds good. In the meantime, can
you tell me where the nearest
campground is?

MARIAN

Down the road about a quarter mile.
it's part of the Lost Oasis too.
Just head into the gift shop and
they'll set you up.

CHARLIE

Great! Thanks! See you tonight.

Charlie walks back across the parking lot with Ripley to the gift shop. She walks inside and we focus on Carlos. He watches Charlie walk by and into the gift shop.

Then he glances back over at Marian who is wiping down the counter at the snack bar and smiling to herself. She looks up in the direction Charlie went and smiles wider. Carlos notices. He looks back down at the card table but doesn't really see what's in front of him. He's a million miles away.

FADE TO:

EXT. CAFE - EVENING

Flashback to the 1800s. YOUNG CARLOS (20) sits outside a small cafe in a picturesque Spanish village. He has a sketchbook open in front of him and watches the people around him as he sips his coffee. He's handsome and thoughtful looking.

He notices YOUNG MARGUERITE (21) sitting on a bench by a fountain in the square. He's immediately enamored with her. He sets down his coffee and starts to sketch her, capturing every small detail.

After awhile, she notices. She smiles and comes over to him, looking down at his drawing.

YOUNG MARGUERITE
It's beautiful.

Young Carlos is shy and takes a moment.

YOUNG CARLOS
Thank you.

She runs a finger down the page.

YOUNG MARGUERITE
Care to join me for a drink?

YOUNG CARLOS
I...I would.

He packs up his sketchbook and stands up. She takes his hand and leads him away.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Young Carlos and Young Marguerite share a drink. Marguerite is vivacious and vibrant. Carlos is shy but very taken with her. As they sip their first drink. We can see he's already falling for her.

Then we see a montage of the rest of the night. Marguerite leading Carlos to the dance floor. More drinks. The two of them stumbling through the streets of the quiet town. Carlos picking a rose from a garden and presenting it to Marguerite. Marguerite placing a kiss on his cheek before he stumbles, love struck towards his front door.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. LOST OASIS DATE GROVE - AFTERNOON

Carlos sits on the porch, lost in the memory. He looks up when Charlie and Ripley walks out of the gift shop and back towards the VW bus. He notices her look over at the snack bar and smile as she watches Marian handing hot dogs to a family. He smiles and looks back at his card games as Charlie drives off.

A moment later though, he pulls his eyes away from the cards to watch a large bat flutter across the sky. His eyes follow it as it turns towards the back of the house. He sighs and gets up. He follows the porch around to back of the house, pulling a date off a nearby tree as he goes. At the back of the house he climbs a set of stairs to a balcony. He finds the bat again. It shoots up into the sky and then dives down directly towards the balcony. Just before it hits the floor, there's a poof and standing in its place is MARGUERITE. Like Carlos, it's impossible to pinpoint her exact age. She's beautiful with dark hair and dark eyes.

MARGUERITE

Hello, dear.

CARLOS

I really wish you wouldn't do that in broad daylight, darling.

MARGUERITE

Oh, Carlos. Will you ever get over the old superstitions? You know the sunlight isn't a threat to us.

CARLOS

I know, but that doesn't mean we need to go parading around in front of the mortals. Do you want to get run out of another small town?

MARGUERITE

Would it really be so bad? I'm starting to tire of this place, Carlos.

CARLOS

At least we've got a steady supply
of dates to stave off the hunger.

He hands her the date. She sighs and regards it with
disappointment. As she opens her mouth, we see her fangs
before she takes a bite.

MARGUERITE

A blessing and a curse.

She takes another unenthusiastic bite.

MARGUERITE (CONT'D)

I need to feed again for real. It's
been too long.

CARLOS

(Shaking his head)

We cannot risk it, my love. Not
now. Not since we sensed a slayer
so close by.

MARGUERITE

Ah yes, the slayer. I was out
searching for them but this one is
proving difficult to locate. They
must be masking their location
somehow. Clever.

CARLOS

All the more reason for us to lay
low, my dear Marguerite.

She waves him off.

MARGUERITE

Clever or not, I will find them and
dispose of them. I've triumphed
over every slayer that's come after
us for two hundred years and this
one will be no different.

CUT TO:

INT. HANNIGAN'S BAR - EVENING

Hannigan's is a friendly dive bar, the exact kind of place
you'd expect to find in a small town in the middle of
nowhere. There's an eclectic collection of things on the
wall, from hub caps to Air Force memorabilia to a Magnum PI
poster. The bar is filled with mostly locals, blue collar and
ranch hand types, with a few road trippers sprinkled in.

The jukebox plays a mix of Bruce Springsteen, Fleetwood Mac, and The Steve Miller Band.

Charlie sits at a table a table looking nervous. Marian is at the bar collecting two beers. She takes them over to the table and sits down, handing one to Charlie. There's an awkward silence for a moment.

MARIAN

So Charlie...cute name.

CHARLIE

(Awkward and nervous)

It's short for Charlotte. My dad told me that when I was born my mom wanted my nickname to be Lottie but he thought it sounded like a stripper so he insisted on Charlie.

MARIAN

(Laughing)

You got lucky. I couldn't see you as a Lottie.

CHARLIE

You and me both. How about you? Is there a story behind your name? You're the only Marian I've ever met.

MARIAN

It's a family name. Not sure I'll ever be able to live up to it.

She looks sad. Charlie doesn't know what to say. A beat later, though, Marian seems to cheer up.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

But enough about me. Yow owe me your real story. What are you doing out here?

Charlies stares down at her beer.

CHARLIE

Running away, I guess.

MARIAN

From what?

Charlie shrugs.

CHARLIE

Everything.

She takes a long sip of beer.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I was a cable news producer and a couple of months ago I had to go to New Hampshire to cover the primaries. While I was gone, my fiancé, Bridget, decided to take a trip to Italy. I got an email a week later saying she had fallen in love with the Italian countryside and was staying. According to her Instagram, though, it wasn't the countryside she was in love with.

MARIAN

Another woman?

Charlie shakes her head.

CHARLIE

Nope. Some Italian hunk named Bruno. How am I supposed to compete with that?

Marian reaches across the table and puts her hand on Charlie's arm.

MARIAN

For what it's worth, I'd choose you over some hunk named Bruno.

Charlie looks down at Marian's hand and then up at her. She smiles.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

MARIAN

So what happened after she left you?

Marian moves her hand from Charlie's arm and Charlie looks a little disappointed until Marian holds her hand instead.

CHARLIE

When I got home I sold our condo and my car, threw most of my junk in storage and bought the VW bus. I packed up my camping gear and Ripley and took off. I've been driving around aimlessly for the last month. Like some kind of lesbian Jack Kerouac.

MARIAN
What about your job?

CHARLIE
I quit.

She shrugs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I liked the work but if I'm honest,
I wasn't going anywhere. It's a
competitive field and I'm not the
type of go fight for a promotion.

MARIAN
I get it. Your a lover, not a
fighter.

CHARLIE
Something like that.

She looks up at Marian and gives her a smile. Marian returns
it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Your turn. How did you end up out
here slinging date shakes?

Marian pauses for a beat.

MARIAN
My story is not quite so dramatic.
I did the corporate life thing in
Chicago for years and finally got
burnt out. I decided to take the
summer off and get away from it
all. I ended up here. Lost Oasis
had a job open and a camper to stay
in. I can think of worst ways to
spend a summer.

CHARLIE
Well, you do make a pretty mean
date shake.

MARIAN
Thanks. I think I could blend dates
with my eyes closed.

CHARLIE
A highly desirable skill in today's
ever changing job market.

Marian bursts into laughter. Charlie joins her. It's a nice, easy moment.

MARIAN

Oh man, I haven't laughed that hard in a long time. You're as funny as you are cute.

CHARLIE

Another highly desirable skill.

MARIAN

(Laughing)

You're also ridiculous.

CHARLIE

(Grinning)

Guilty as charged.

They both smile, enjoying the moment and each other.

MARIAN

So what's the future hold, Kerouac? Just going to drive around with your dog forever?

CHARLIE

No idea. My only plan was to run. I've got all the money I'd saved up for the wedding and honeymoon so I'm set for awhile. After that...I guess I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.

MARIAN

What do you want to do? What would you do if you could do anything?

CHARLIE

I don't know. I mean, a couple of months ago my life was on this path. Career, marriage, the works. I had everything all figured out and now it's gone.

MARIAN

But were you happy on that path?

CHARLIE

I thought I was. I thought if I did everything I was supposed to I'd be happy.

MARIAN

There's a big difference between doing what makes you happy and doing what you think you're supposed to do.

CHARLIE

Yeah, that's pretty obvious now.

She sighs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

If I'm honest it's been a long time since I've really been happy. the only thing that's really made me happy in the last couple of years is Ripley. I'm not even sure who I am anymore.

Marian squeezes Charlie's hand.

MARIAN

I know I've only known you a few hours but I can tell you're a good person, Charlie Malone and I really hope you can find what makes you happy. And I hope I can get to know you better.

Charlie smiles and looks down at their hands.

CHARLIE

Thanks, Marian. I think I'm on my way to figuring out what makes me happy.

MARIAN

I'm glad.

Marian looks like she's debating something in her head for a long moment.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

You know, you could always-

She's suddenly interrupted by an alarm going off on her smart watch. She jumps and lets go of Charlie's hand. She looks down at the watch and frantically jabs at it to turn it off.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

Hey, I, uh, hate to cut this short but I gotta go.

CHARLIE
(Nervously laughing)
What, do you turn into a pumpkin at
midnight or something?

MARIAN
No, I just...I have to go take of
something...just this thing.

Marian jumps up.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
Sorry.

CHARLIE
It's okay. Sorry if I bored you. I
guess I haven't done this first
date thing in awhile.

MARIAN
No, no, you're cute and funny and
amazing. This was wonderful. And
I'd really like to see you again.

CHARLIE
(Skeptically)
Sure.

MARIAN
I mean it. Here. Put your number.
I'll call you.

She hands Charlie her phone. Charlie puts in her number and
hands it back, still looking skeptical.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
See you later?

CHARLIE
Yeah.

Marian turns to leave but turns back. She leans down and
kisses Charlie on the cheek.

MARIAN
Promise.

She gives her another smile and then turns and leaves.
Charlies watches her go, looking a little lovestruck.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPGROUND - LATER THAT NIGHT

Charlie sits in a camp chair outside the VW bus. There's a campfire going in the fire ring and six pack of beer next to the chair, minus the one that's in her hand. Charlie scratches Ripley behind the ears and stares up at the stars.

CHARLIE

I don't know, Rip. I think she likes me and I like spending time with her but am I ready to put myself out there again? Bridget really messed me up but with Marian...it just feels different. It feels so easy. And for the first time in a long time I think I might be happy.

Ripley cocks her head at her.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You're useless, you know that?

A large, strange looking bat appears, fluttering across the sky towards the date farm. Ripley starts whimpering and looks scared. Charlie reaches down and hugs her.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Whoa, hey, it's okay. It's just a bat. You've seen bats before.

Ripley doesn't look convinced.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Maybe it's time for bed.

Charlie downs the last of her beer, puts out the campfire, and climbs into the bus. Ripley follows but still looks concerned.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Carlos sits in the study of the farm house at big, old desk surrounded by bookshelves. On the desk is a lamp, a ledger, and stacks of paperwork. An Andrew Sisters record plays on vintage record player next to the desk. Carlos has a thick scrapbook open on the desk in front of him. He looks down sadly at an old picture of a beautiful Spanish village. On the opposite page is a clipping from a Spanish newspaper with headline stating that villagers drove away a pair of vampires who had been living in their midst.

Carlos catches his reflection in the shiny metal of the lamp. He looks tired. He touches the picture in longing.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

In a flashback to the Spanish village, Young Carlos sits in the library of a beautiful, quaint home. He's sitting in a comfortable armchair, reading and sipping a glass of dark red wine. Suddenly, there's a ruckus outside. He gets up and goes to the front door to investigate. Outside he sees a mob, complete with torches, confronting Marguerite who bares her fangs at them in a challenge. One of the villagers spots Carlos in the doorway.

VILLAGER

There's the other one!

Part of the mob turns to advance on Carlos. He looks terrified.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. STUDY - NIGHT

There's a poof from outside and Marguerite walks in. She notices what Carlos is looking at and walks over to him.

MARGUERITE

Reliving the glory days?

CARLOS

(Sadly)

Just missing the old country.

Marguerite waves a hand dismissively.

MARGUERITE

You said it yourself. It was the old country. All the old superstitions meant to keep our kind locked away. You'd still be rotting in that old house thinking you couldn't go out during the day or eat garlic if I hadn't found you and freed you.

CARLOS

Maybe, but it was a peaceful life.

He looks down at the picture again and sighs sadly.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

Don't you ever tire of running,
dear? We could have a nice life
here.

MARGUERITE

If by nice you mean boring. You
know how I get restless after a few
decades.

CARLOS

I know. I just thought maybe this
time was different. It's so nice
here. It's the first time I've felt
at home since we left Spain.

MARGUERITE

We'll find another home. And then
another and another for the rest of
time.

Carlos is clearly dismayed by this idea but Marguerite
steamrolls over his feelings. It's easy to see this isn't the
first time this has happened. Carlos has the looks of someone
who has been trampled on for a long time. He decides to
change the subject.

CARLOS

Were you able to locate the slayer?

MARGUERITE

(Annoyed)

No. They are still evading me
somehow.

CARLOS

Strong magic?

MARGUERITE

Maybe, but there's something else
as well. I know a slayer's magic
when I feel it. This is something
else...something new. No matter,
I'll find them soon enough. And
after I do, I can finally feed
properly. The hunger is strong
tonight.

Carlos gets up and goes to her and puts his hands on her
shoulders.

CARLOS

You must fight it, my darling. I've kept mine under control and you can too.

MARGUERITE

But you never enjoyed the hunt and the kill. I yearn to use my powers.

Carlos lets go of her and takes her hand. He's tired of having this argument again.

CARLOS

We can't be reckless right now.
Come, let's go to bed. Some rest will do you good.

Marguerite lets him lead her away but there's still a glint in her eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPGROUND - AFTERNOON

Charlie is playing fetch with Riley and snacking on a bag of trail mix. Her phone buzzes in her pocket. She pulls it out and answers.

CHARLIE

Hello?

MARIAN

(On the phone)
Hey. I told you I'd call.

CHARLIE

(Smiling)
I'm glad you did.

MARIAN

(On the phone)
I'd like to see you tonight if you're not busy.

CHARLIE

Hang on, let me check my calendar.

Charlie holds the phone away from her face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey! Ripley! We got any plans tonight?

She waits a moment and brings the phone back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
It looks like I'm free.

MARIAN
(Laughing)
You're such a dork.

CHARLIE
It's all part of my charm.

MARIAN
Indeed. So tonight around 7? My
place?

CHARLIE
Yeah, sounds great.

MARIAN
It's a date then. I'll text you the
directions. See you then.

The call ends and Charlie puts her phone back in her pocket.
She looks down at Ripley with a big smile.

CHARLIE
I guess she does like me! I got a
second date! Come on, I'd better go
get ready.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPER - EVENING

Charlie walks up to a camper that's parked in the date grove behind the farmhouse. It's small, just enough for one person, but looks inviting. The awning is open and trimmed with a string of lights. Underneath is a rug, a couple of mismatched camp chairs, and a table with vase of cheerful flowers. A hammock hangs between two trees nearby next to a fire pit.

Charlie is wearing a slightly cleaner pair of jeans and a button down shirt with the sleeves rolled up. She's managed to comb her hair. She carries a six pack of beer and is nervously humming to herself as she walks up to the camper.

She gets to the door and takes a deep breath before knocking. Marian opens the door and steps out, closing it behind her.

MARIAN
(Smiling)
Hey.

CHARLIE
Hi. I brought this. I didn't know
what else to bring.

She holds up the beer.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Have I mentioned it's been awhile
since I've done this?

MARIAN
(Laughing)
You're cute. Beer is always
welcome. Come on, sit down.

They sit and Charlie opens two beers using the edge of the
table.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
Wow. I'm impressed.

CHARLIE
Another highly marketable skill.

MARIAN
You're a woman of many talents,
Charlie Malone.

They both takes sips of their beer.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
Did you enjoy your day in the
exciting metropolis of Green
Valley?

CHARLIE
Oh yeah. I think I managed to see
the whole town. Took me a good ten
minutes.

MARIAN
Sounds about right.

They fall into a comfortable silence for a few moments,
sipping their beers.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
Can I tell you something?

CHARLIE

Sure.

MARIAN

I really want to kiss you.

Charlie nearly chokes on her beer.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

MARIAN

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Cool.

Charlie doesn't do anything. Marian rolls her eyes and sets her beer down.

MARIAN

You're kind of an idiot, you know that?

Marian leans over and kisses her. Charlie kisses her back. When they pull apart Charlie is in a bit of a daze.

CHARLIE

Well, that didn't suck.

MARIAN

(Laughing)

That might be the most romantic thing anyone has ever said to me.

Charlie just smiles and leans over and kisses her again. They kiss for longer this time, both clearly very into it.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

You want to take this inside?

CHARLIE

Yes. Very much.

Marian smiles. Charlie quickly downs the rest of her beer and gets up to follow her.

Meanwhile, up on the balcony of the farmhouse, Marguerite looks down at the camper and watches Marian lead Charlie inside, focusing on Marian. She licks her lips and her fangs glint in the moonlight.

Carlos comes out and stands next to her, following her gaze and sees Marian just she closes the door to the camper.

CARLOS

Darling, you mustn't. We'd be caught for sure.

MARGUERITE

But she's right there and that neck is...so perfect...

CARLOS

You can't. Besides, just look at them. They're just starting to fall in love. They remind me of us when we were younger.

MARGUERITE

You always were too much of a hopeless romantic.

CARLOS

Nothing wrong with a little romance. I think they could have a great love story, given the chance.

MARGUERITE

(Rolling her eyes)

Fine. You win this time. I'm going out for some air. Care to join me?

CARLOS

If only to keep you out of trouble.

There's a poof and they both turn into bats and fly off over the date grove.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPER - CONTINUING

The interior of the camper is nothing special. A small kitchen, a small table, and a bed in the back. The front section where the driver's seat is is curtained off. Like Charlie's bus, the camper is worn but comfortable.

Marian and Charlie are standing in the middle, making out. Marian unbuttons the first few buttons on Charlie's shirt...and then the alarm goes off on her watch. Charlie pulls back.

CHARLIE

(Sadly)

Does that mean you have to run off again?

Marian looks down at her watch and then back up at Charlies. She shakes her head.

MARIAN

Nope. I'll deal with it tomorrow.

She takes the watch off and tosses it on the counter. She resumes kissing Charlie and unbuttoning her shirt as she backs her towards the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPER - THE NEXT MORNING

Charlie wakes up in the bed as sunlight streams through the window. She rolls over and discovers she's alone in bed. She sits up and and looks around. The curtains that had been covering the front of the camper have been pulled back, revealing that the dashboard is full of tech with screens and computers all connected together with a maze of cables. Marian sits in the driver's seat, furiously typing away on a keyboard.

CHARLIE

Marian?

Marian doesn't hear her. Charlie gets up and pulls on her jeans and shirt as she makes her way to the front.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Marian?

Marian jumps and turns around.

MARIAN

Oh, Charlie. Hi. You're up. Sorry, I was hoping to have all this wrapped up before you woke up.

CHARLIE

What, exactly, is all this?

MARIAN

It's...uh...well...it's hard to explain.

CHARLIE

Are you like a spy or something?

MARIAN

No. Well, not really. Kind of maybe?

CHARLIE
I'm so confused.

Marian sighs.

MARIAN
Why don't you go make some coffee
while I wrap up and then I'll try
to explain?

Charlie nods. She goes to the kitchen and bumbles around making coffee as Marian continues to work, occasionally muttering to herself. Finally, Marian finishes and comes over to the kitchen area. She pulls a carton of half & half out of the small fridge as Charlie pours two mugs of coffee. They sit down across from each other at the table.

Marian takes a sip of her coffee.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
Good coffee.

CHARLIE
Sorry if it's too strong. Force of
habit. Years of working TV news
builds up a tolerance.

MARIAN
No, it's fine.

She takes another sip.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
So...where do I start? I guess I kind
of lied to you the other night at
the bar.

CHARLIE
About what?

MARIAN
About why I'm here. I'm not really
a corporate burnout. I work for my
family.

CHARLIE
What does your family do?

MARIAN
Vampire hunting.

Marian winces as if she expects Charlie to start laughing. Instead, Charlie freezes with her coffee halfway to her mouth.

CHARLIE

You're a vampire hunter? Like Buffy?

MARIAN

Sort of. It's not so dramatic and really, not that exciting most of the time.

CHARLIE

And your whole family does this?

Marian nods.

MARIAN

Yeah. For generations dating back to the Renaissance. Everyone in my family is born with certain abilities and trained from a young age. It's our sworn duty to keep vampires in check.

Charlie looks like she wants to ask a million questions at once.

CHARLIE

So what are you doing here?

MARIAN

Keeping an eye on two very old, very powerful, very boring vampires.

CHARLIE

Here? In the middle of nowhere?

MARIAN

Yup. My perfect sister got to go to Italy for the summer and my dashing brother is off in the wilds of Tibet and I'm here.

CHARLIE

Tough break.

MARIAN

Yeah, middle child problems, I guess. Hopefully, though, if this assignment goes well I'll be off to bigger and better things.

Charlie looks around at all the equipment.

CHARLIE

So you've been tracking these
vampires?

MARIAN

Sort of. I know where they are. I
just use all this to keep track of
their powers.

CHARLIE

Where are they?

MARIAN

Right here at the date farm. It's
Marguerite and Carlos, the older
couple who run the place.

CHARLIE

If you know who they are why don't
you just go out there and slay them
or whatever?

MARIAN

It's not quite that simple. If
vampires aren't dangerous or out
killing people, we leave them
alone. It's when they start using
their powers that we have to
investigate. If they become a
threat, then we take them out.

Charlie stares down at her coffee cup.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

CHARLIE

It's just...a lot to take in.

She looks up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You're not messing with me, are
you?

MARIAN

No, I promise.

Charlies looks back down.

CHARLIE

Vampires...

MARIAN

You could stick around and help me.
I could always use a sidekick. Plus
it gets lonely out here.

Charlie looks up suddenly, looking terrified.

CHARLIE

You want me to fight vampires?!

MARIAN

Sure. Why not?

CHARLIE

No. No way. I can't. I've never
fought anything in my life.

She gets up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I, uh, gotta go. Thanks for the
coffee. And last night. I just...I
have to process all this.

MARIAN

(Sadly)

Okay. I'll call you later?

CHARLIE

Yeah. Maybe.

Charlie stumbles out of the door. Marian watches her go
sadly.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPGROUND - AFTERNOON

Charlie is pacing outside of the VW bus. She has a tennis
ball in one hand and a beer in the other. Ripley watches the
tennis ball intently.

CHARLIE

Vampires. Vampires?! That can't be
real. But what if it is? And what
if I just blew it with her? I
really liked her.

She finally throws the ball for Ripley. She chugs her beer
and opens another one before Ripley brings it back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
On one hand, she's crazy and having delusions about vampires. On the other, she's telling the truth...which is terrifying.

She looks down at Ripley.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Either way, I think it just got too complicated. Let's get out of here.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPER - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Marian sits at the table drinking coffee and staring out the window. She picks up her phone and dials Charlie. It rings and goes to voicemail.

MARIAN
(Into the phone)
Hey, it's Marian. I'm sorry about how everything went down this morning. I'd really like to talk so call me back when you have a chance? Hope you're doing okay.
Bye.

She hangs up and looks down at the phone sadly.

CUT TO:

INT. PARLOR - AFTERNOON

A flashback to Marian's childhood. MRS. SCHAFER (45) sits in the parlor of a fancy manor house. The decor looks like it hasn't been updated since the Victorian era. Mrs. Schafer is elegant and flips through a magazine. She looks up when YOUNG MARIAN (15) tries to sneak past the open door.

MRS. SCHAFER
Marian! You're late.

Marian comes into the room. She's dressed in a school uniform and has a duffel bag slung over one shoulder and a soccer ball under the other arm.

YOUNG MARIAN
Sorry, Mother. Practice ran long.

MRS. SCHAFER

You were with her again, weren't you? That Parvati girl.

YOUNG MARIAN

What? No! I mean, she's on the team with me and I stuck around a few minutes so she could loan me this engineering book but I-

MRS. SCHAFER

You can't let yourself get distracted like this. You have to focus on your training.

YOUNG MARIAN

Mother, I'm fifteen. I'm in high school. It's normal to have a girlfriend when you're my age.

Mrs. Schafer gets up and gets in her face.

MRS. SCHAFER

You are not a normal fifteen year old. You have a sworn duty and a legacy to uphold. No time for girlfriends or boyfriends or any kind of distraction. Now hurry yup and get changed. Your father is waiting for you in the training room.

Mrs. Schafer turns and goes back to sit down, clearly done with the conversation. Young Marian turns in a huff. She runs up to her bedroom and throws her bag on the floor. She picks up a photograph from the dresser. It's a picture of her smiling at the camera. PARVATI is next to her with her arms around her, kissing her on the cheek. They're both in soccer uniforms. Young Marian looks down at it, a sad smile on her face.

MRS. SCHAFER (O.S.)

Marian! Training!

Young Marian sighs and set the picture down, looking sad.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CAMPER - LATE AFTERNOON

Marian looks down sadly at her phone. When nothing happens, she sighs and gets up and goes to the front of the camper. She sits down in the driver's seat. She flips down the visor.

Stuck there is the same picture of teenaged Marian and Parvati, a little faded now. Marian takes a deep breath and exhales slowly, as if trying not to cry. She picks up her phone and dials Charlie again.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - EARLY EVENING

Charlie's VW bus rolls down the highway and out of town. She passes a sign that reads "LEAVING GREEN VALLEY HAPPY TRAILS COME BACK SOON". Soon the bus the back to driving past vast fields.

CUT TO:

INT. VW BUS - CONTINUING

Charlie is driving but clearly can't focus. A Melissa Etheridge song blasts from the radio and she sips from an energy drink as she drives. Her phone buzzes. It's Marian calling. She ignores it.

CHARLIE

I'm doing the right thing here,
right, Rip? I don't want to get
involved in all that.

She's trying to convince herself. Ripley just wags her tail.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

But...I really liked her. It's the
first time I've felt a spark like
that in a really long time...since
before Bridget even. Am I stupid
for giving that up so easily?

Charlie pulls over to a turnout next to a field.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

With Bridget I felt like I was
doing what I was supposed to do but
with Marian...it just felt so good
and right. I think we had a real
connection.

She punches the steering wheel in frustration. Marian calls again. Charlie ignores it again.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I don't know what to do, Ripley.

Charlie stares out at the field. She watches a few cows milling about. Suddenly, a bat appears. Ripley starts to whisper and curls up in the passenger seat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
What is it with you and bats recently?

She pets Ripley and watches the bat. It flies over around the field and then suddenly dives. There's a poof and Marguerite is standing there. Charlie jumps in her seat causing Ripley to startle and start whining again.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
What the hell just happened?!

She watches as Marguerite steps up next to a cow and then bites its neck.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Holy crap!

Charlie fumbles to restart the bus and gun it out of the turnout. She does a high speed U-turn and drives back towards town, tearing down the highway. She speeds to the date farm, parks, jumps out and runs to the camper, Ripley jogging along next to her. She pounds on the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(To herself)
Come on, please be in there.

Marian finally opens the door.

MARIAN
Charlie? What's going on?

CHARLIE
I don't know. Can I come in?

MARIAN
Sure.

She lets Charlie and Ripley in.

MARIAN (CONT'D)
Are you okay? I tried to call you and when you didn't answer I thought you were gone.

CHARLIE
I was. I mean, I was trying to leave but then I saw something.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And now I know you were telling the truth about everything.

MARIAN

What did you see?

CHARLIE

There was this bat and then it turned into a woman and then she just bit a cow. Right there on its neck.

MARIAN

And then what did she do?

CHARLIE

I don't know. That's when I took off. I was scared. I didn't want to stick around in case she was still hungry.

MARIAN

What did she look like?

CHARLIE

It was kind of dark but she had dark hair and fangs and a kind of flowing dress?

MARIAN

Marguerite.

Charlie slumps down at the table. Marian pulls out two beers and hands one to her. She digs out a piece of jerky and gives it to Ripley before sitting down herself.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

What were you doing out there anyway?

Charlie takes a long swig of the beer.

CHARLIE

Running away again.

MARIAN

From me.

CHARLIE

I got scared and convinced myself it was the right thing to do.

MARIAN

Was it?

Charlie looks up at her.

CHARLIE

No. Maybe seeing that vampire was a sign. I should be here.

MARIAN

So you're staying?

CHARLIE

Now that I know that vampires are real I figure it's safer to be here with you.

MARIAN

That's the only reason?

CHARLIE

And...I want to see where this goes...with us.

Marian is quiet for a moment.

MARIAN

I do too...if you promise not run away again.

CHARLIE

Promise.

Marian smiles at her and then quickly shifts gears.

MARIAN

Come on, we've got work to do.

She gets up and goes to the front, pulling back the curtains. She sits in the driver's seat and starts up the equipment. Charlie follows her.

CHARLIE

Work?

MARIAN

Yeah. From what you told me, it seems like Marguerite is becoming more active. If she fed on a cow it could mean she's close to chasing human prey again.

Charlie sits down in the passenger's seat.

CHARLIE

So what is all this stuff? Vampire radar?

MARIAN

It's a little more complicated than that but yeah, basically.

She pulls out a keyboard.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

(Excitedly)

Vampires hunters are born with a little bit of magic that helps them track vampire and stuff. I've figure out a way to combine that magic with modern technology to really amp it up.

Marian smiles. No one has ever asked her about this before and she's clearly excited to share.

CHARLIE

Whoa! THAT's so cool!

MARIAN

(Sadly)

My family doesn't think so. They're all stuck in their traditions. They practically disowned me for studying engineering and computer science. I just want to prove to them that a little change can be good. We don't have to do things the way we've been doing them for hundreds of years.

CHARLIE

For what it's worth, I think it's pretty rad.

MARIAN

Thanks.

CHARLIE

What do we do now?

MARIAN

(Excitedly)

Now we come up with a plan. Marguerite is getting bolder and she's bound to do something reckless soon. That's when we catch her.

CHARLIE

So we're going after an old and
powerful vampire? Cool, cool, cool.
I'm totally cool with thins.

She's not. Marian doesn't notice, too caught up in her
excitement.

MARIAN

Finally some action! This is my
chance to really prove myself.

She types away, watching the screens around her. Charlie
watches her, unsure. Ripley comes up and puts her head in
Charlie's lap. Charlie pets her.

CHARLIE

What have we gotten ourselves into
here, Rip?