

The mysterious visitor

Heading home

Emily is really excited today, overflowing with happiness and with good reason as she hasn't been home for three years. This brilliant medical student finished her semester and is packing for home. Although she hasn't been back to the farm for some time she keeps in contact with her family.

Here on campus everyone is seen walking around with backpacks or a travelling suitcase. The packing needs to occur rather quickly because of the bus that Emily needs to get onto for her journey.

She grabs some of her essential things to pack as well as a few pieces of clothing. It is neatly placed in the travelling suitcase. She is ready to go and in the meantime feeling butterflies in her stomach. Her longtime boyfriend will be giving her a lift to the bus terminal. She met Mark on campus in her first year of university.

Emily walks with a fast pace from the building where she stays and greets some students passing by. She knows a lot of students here and for her it is like a second home away from home. Walking through the luscious trees and passing green lawns she notices Mark sitting in his yellow Jeep with a smile on his face.

As she approaches he jumps out to open the back door of the vehicle. She runs into his arms and he hugs her tight kissing her on the cheek.

Mark: "Well are you prepared for the long journey back home Em?"

He knows she has been talking about it forever but needs to ask.

Emily "Yes sure can't wait to see my family again" She is very close to her family and an only child. Because of that she is very fond of animals and the farm where she grew up. After loading her bags both get into the jeep and speed off.

Travelling a short distance Mark wants to know: "Are you going to miss me?"

Emily: "Of course Mark you know that you are very special to me"

Mark: "It's good to hear; just making sure" having a friendly expression on his face. He knows that they are just playing with words. Both of them are really fond of each other.

Driving from the campus grounds they pass over a river that divides the university from the highways that lead to the city. Mark steps on the gas pedal and Emily can feel the fresh air blowing through her red hair. She closes her eyes and experiences the sun slightly burning her tanned skin.

They have been travelling for twenty minutes now and the city is starting to come into view; skyscrapers filling the skyline ahead. Emily hasn't told her parents that she is on her way to visit. She would like to surprise them. Driving into the city the reality of traffic, people and noise awakens Emily's relaxed state of mind. It is just a few blocks to the bus terminal and Emily looks with a slight twist of her head towards Mark that is busy driving. She knows that she is going to miss him more than she's leading on.

The yellow jeep is approaching the last road that leads to the terminal. Mark makes a quick right turn and parks. There is a silence and both stare in front of them.

Mark: "Well Em this is it"

Emily has never been good with goodbyes.

She flips her head away from Mark and gets teary eyed. They get out of the jeep. Mark opens the back door and unloads the baggage. They start walking towards the bus that is boarded by some passengers. Emily grabs Mark's hand and squeezes it tightly. After the bus operator has loaded all the passengers' bags and cases it is time for the final goodbye.

Emily turns towards Mark and lunges forward and grabs him around the neck. He pulls her near, hugs her and kisses her passionately for a while. They look deep into each other's eyes and Emily starts walking to the door of the bus, and slowly let go of his hand.

Emily makes her way into the bus and takes her seat that is at the window. She looks down at Mark and puts her hand on the window to act as a goodbye gesture. The bus slowly pulls away and Mark thinks to himself that Emily is the best thing that has ever happened to him.

The bus is slowly disappearing between all the cars and trucks that are around. Mark walks to his jeep jumps in and starts the vehicle. Making a U-turn he is heading back to the varsity to pack his own stuff before leaving in a few days. He will be heading to the coast a few thousand miles from where Emily is going,

The journey

The bus has left the city behind and Emily settled in by leaning her head against the window. The interstate bus is not fully occupied with passengers so Emily is sitting next to an open seat. There is no one to speak to. While looking outside she can see the beautiful landscape passing by; green valleys and rolling hills in the distance. It's a bright blue-sky day. The landscape that the bus is heading towards is nothing like the area that she is traveling to.

Her home is made up of miles of patches of cornfields as far as the eye can see. She will be travelling through the night to reach her destination.

As the night sky starts to grow darker Emily reaches for a sandwich in her backpack. Finished eating and drinking some water she makes herself as comfortable as possible. By closing her eyes, she can hear the bus motor running at a constant speed. There is no movement on the bus at this time and everyone wants to sleep a bit. Mark comes into her thoughts and she thinks of everything that has happened during the day. She drifts away and falls asleep. The bus is travelling in darkness up and down through passes and valleys.

Emily is awakened by the sound of the bus coming to a halt at a filling station. The bus operator is refueling the bus. The sun is slowly emerging behind a huge nearby mountain. Considering the sleeping conditions on the bus Emily is well rested. She knows from now on the valleys and trees will become a distant memory as the bus is on its way to the countryside. Although the journey will continue into the afternoon, Emily is wide awake and looks around to see what the others are up to. Some people are still asleep or in a slumber. It is still a long way to travel, but Emily can feel the excitement building up in her. The bus is not destined to pass by Emily's farm but is going straight to the terminal in town which is situated approximately thirty miles from the farm.

After some hours travelling one can finally see the town that Emily knows so well, approaching. Through the years not much has really changed back here. Emily almost knows the whole community that lives in the town. The bus approaches the terminal and slowly parks. The engine is switched off and a silence is felt by everyone. Slowly the passengers slowly gather their hand luggage. Emily also gets her belongings and falls into a queue and waits to exit the bus. When stepping off the bus a sudden heat wave hits Emily from the front. It certainly is summer in this part of the world.

Emily doesn't really have a plan to get to the farm yet. She is counting on a ride along with someone she knows from town. After collecting the bigger pieces of her baggage from the bus she starts walking towards some of the shops in town. She is happy to not have made this journey on a Sunday; one would be entering a ghost town.

Arriving home

The long journey has by now slightly tired her. She walks to Jim Doyle's general wholesale shop that supplies the local farming community with most of their needs. She enters the shop and walks to the counter. Jim is nowhere to be seen and she is met by an assistant.

Assistant: "Hi can I help you?"

Emily: "Yes is Jim here?"

Assistant: "Sure I will go and call him for you"

Emily:" Thank you"

After a few minutes an old man that struggles to walk appears around the corner. When he sees Emily, Jims face lit up.

Jim: "My goodness Em is that you?"

Emily: "Yes Jim it's me Emily"

Jim: "Good to see you after all this time"

Emily: "Yes it has been a while, I came back to visit my parents"

Jim:" They are going to be very surprised"

Emily: "That is the idea"

Jim: "How are you going to get to the farm?"

Emily: "Well I was hoping to..."

Jim: "Wait dear I might be able help you"

Emily "Okay"

Jim: "Bill came to town to buy some logs for the extra barn he is building. I think he is going to leave sometime soon. You can catch a ride with him"

Emily:" That will be great Jim"

Jim reaches for the old style telephone on the counter. He makes a call to Bill, asks him for the favor and ends the conversation.

Jim:" All done, Bill will be leaving in 10 minutes."

Bill is a good friend of Emily's parents and a neighboring farmer.

He also knows Emily very well.

Jim:" Are you sure you don't want to buy some chickens before leaving" slightly laughing

Emily knows why he is asking this question. When she was little Jim gave her some chickens to raise. The chicken raising didn't go to well because of the family cat that

intervened in the process.

Emily just laughs "No thanks I am not good with chickens"

Jim: "Em I am just fooling around"

Emily:" Yes I know Jim" Emily blushed a bit.

Jim: "Well dear you need to meet Bill to catch that lift"

Emily "Thanks Jim for everything I will be seeing you"

Jim: "Take care Em"

Emily turns around and walks out of the shop.

Jim is an old man being in his eighties he still runs his own business. His wife, Molly passed a few years ago. Jim decided not to sell the shop but to stay busy instead. Most, if not all of the farmers in the area knows Jim.

Emily recognizes Bill standing near his pickup loading the logs. Bill sees her and approaches Emily.

Bill: "Hi, Em glad to see you"

Emily:" Hallo Bill long time since I have been here"

Bill: "Yes you are like a stranger"

Emily: "Yes varsity is far off"

Bill: "Well we have to get going, you can put your bags in the cab"

They both get into the truck and head to the farm. On the way Bill tells Emily everything that has been going on in the farming community while she was absent. Finally, they reach the farm gate that is a few yards from the road that passes the farm.

Emily thanks Bill gets her belongings. She gets out waves at Bill and he drives off.

Emily walks to the large heavy gate and slowly opens it. After closing it she starts walking towards the farm house that is 700 yards away. She is finally home a place that she knows very well. Many days have she stood at the gate waiting for the school bus to pick her up. That was back in the day and feels like a far off memory.

On both sides of the path large trees form a kind of a channel to the property.

While carrying her bags and suitcase a slight breeze moves through the trees and the sky is partly cloudy.

Walking she thinks back to all the games she played by herself her on the farm. She had a wonderful childhood while growing up.

Her father was part of her first driving lesson using this long driveway. Continuing on she knows that her parents might not be at home.

Her father travels a lot for business purposes. He usually lets her mother join him on those business trips. Emily's father Eric doesn't need to live from the land like in the past. The family just live here on the farm because they love the lifestyle and the city just won't do. Half way up the driveway on the right hand side a neighboring farmer's cornfield starts. This huge patch of cornfield is almost due for harvest. The corn plants are standing exceedingly tall. You are not able to see the neighboring farmer's house that is about two miles away.

Emily reaches the porch of the house that is elevated by three steps. She stands in front of the large wooden front door. The door is in the middle of two even larger windows.

Emily rings the bell to find out if someone is home. After five minutes of waiting and ringing the bell numerous times it is evident that nobody's home.

Emily steps off the porch and moves to the front garden. She feels underneath a particular stone for the spare keys of the house. She finds the keys, unlocks the door and walks inside. She puts down all her belongings on the wooden floor closes and locks the door.

The visitor

There is an overwhelming silence that follows while standing still staring past the two rooms. If one passes the two large rooms a huge open plan TV entertainment area open up and behind it an oak style kitchen. Situated next to the kitchen entrance a stairway with wooden floor boards are located. It is a bit dark in the house because some of the curtains are closed. After briefly pausing and looking at her surroundings Emily walks to the kitchen. There she opens the fridge pours herself a glass of bottled water. While drinking the water she walks up the stairs. On the second floor there are four bedrooms. The second room on the left from the stairs was her bedroom. She looks down the passage seeing the main bedroom at the end far from the staircase.

On the right side a full large bathroom is situated and another bedroom further down the

passage. Emily walks down the passage and with a sharp left turn enters her bedroom.

She notices that everything in the room is neatly packed away and in place. There is a door in her bedroom that leads to a small balcony. She unlocks the door and goes outside - Emily's room is the only room in the house with a balcony. She can clearly see the roof of the neighboring farmer's home in the distance, far on the other side of the cornfield.

She stares over the large patch of cornfield for a few minutes. The cornfield also covers a large part way past Emily's house to the back. To the back of the farmland there are approximately thirty large trees on a small hill a mile away.

It is between the trees where her dad used to keep bees for honey. Emily doesn't know if there are any bees still buzzing around their man-made hives anymore.

Emily closes the balcony door and locks it. She visits every room on the level to make sure all the windows are properly closed.

The windows are closed because when she stood on the balcony she saw that the weather was changing. Dark clouds were building up in the direction of the trees on the hill. Usually when this happens a storm is on the way. The family has experienced numerous thunder storms throughout the years.

Emily returns to the staircase and proceeds to the top floor of the house. This area is just one large open space with no ceiling giving the impression that the room is bigger than it actually is. The room is furnished with entertainment equipment and couches that provides ample seating. The room is purposely arranged in this way to provide accommodation for when extended family would come and visit for a few days.

After her tour through the property Emily fetches her belongings and packs it away. She goes and sits in the TV room on one of the leather couches. It's becoming even darker outside as the storm is approaching. It is also late afternoon and dusk is starting to set in. Emily switches on the television and flips through the channels. After finding a channel that is about wild live in Alaska, she gets up and walks to the kitchen. In the freezer she finds a ready meal and microwave's it. Returning to the couch with a bowl and a glass of water she starts her dinner. While eating, she intently watches the program on the TV and finds it very interesting. Finished eating, she lies her head on the arm support of the couch. She feels totally relaxed and tired from traveling.

She suddenly remembered to text Mark to let him know that she is safe and sound. There are no lights on in the house just the TV images flashing in the dark room. The storm is really in full swing now. The small trees and plants outside the room scratches and sway from side to side in the rain driven by the strong wind.

Emily is lying still on the couch and drifts away. She is fast asleep and unaware of the severity of the weather outside. A few hours have passed by and Emily is still in dreamland. With a loud thumping sound Emily is awakened. She sits up on the couch and is still sleepy but alert. She cannot figure out what she just heard. After a while she imagined it must have come from the front door. She takes a look at her phone and it is 1:36am. She has also realized that the TV is switched off. 'The weather could have tripped the power' she thinks to herself.

She slowly leans to her left while sitting on the couch. She looks passed the wall that blocks the view of the front door. The door is fitted with multiple small windows. Faint light passes through it and is reflected on the wooden floor. The front door is far from where Emily is sitting. Her eyes are fixed on the door and trying to see if something is out of place. Maybe it's just one of the pot plants that fell over onto the porch blown over by the wind. Emily stares at the front door and is about to lean right to her sitting position when the faint light shining through the windows disappears and a split second later the faint light reappears through the small windows.

Someone or something has passed by the door. Is she dreaming or is this reality? She feels terrified and a cold feeling passes through her body. Emily is thinking a thousand things at once. For totally blocking the light of the windows of the front door that someone must be huge. No one is supposed to be here at this hour.

Who could it be...?

What is she going to do...?

The thoughts just keep bombarding her mind.

She thinks quickly and glides fast and silently off the couch towards the kitchen. She crawls on her stomach and listens for any other unfamiliar sounds. All she can hear is the wind and rain against the windows surrounding her. She reaches the kitchen and opens the top drawer next to the fridge. It's almost totally dark but the faint light that is

emitted through the windows in the house makes it slightly easier to find ones way. She finds a large knife that her mother always uses to cut the turkey with. She slowly returns to the couch watching the front door with all of her attention.

After a while she decides to crawl to the door for further investigation. She is about 5 yards from the door. With a sudden loud breaking sound one of the small windows is broken and shattered. A large hand covered with a glove appears. The glass splinters and falls next to her head.

Emily is totally beside herself at this moment. The forearm is now visible and the hand is searching for the key in the door. Throughout Emily's whole live she has never hurt anything or anyone. Also being a medical student she is committed to help and save people. With everything going on in front of her she realizes that she has to do something and quickly. Her athletic ability is going to be tested. Without hesitation Emily jumps up and runs to the door with the knife in her hand. With one brief movement Emily lifts the sharp object and stabs as hard as she can the intruder in the forearm.

Emily is now in total shock drops the knife and starts running towards the kitchen. Never in her wildest dreams has she imagined that she would do something like this. Meanwhile the intruder has retracted his arm from the window. Emily's adrenaline is pumping and she can feel her heart beating in her chest. She is now at the bottom of the staircase and slowly climbing step by step while watching the front door.

Escape plan

Emily is expecting something to happen now that the intruder has been wounded. In her mind the intruder may try to enter the house somewhere else. Half way up the stairs she is hidden from anyone who would be at the front door. The light at the door is suddenly blocked. Her worst nightmare has come true. The intruder is back there. After the light is no more visible it is followed by a loud crashing sound. Something heavily breaks through the door where the lock is situated. In a blink of an eye the door swings open.

Em is now frantic but still in her current position on the stairs. She can make out the porch that is extended from the house. Like a movie almost happening in slow motion a large figure steps into the house past the door opening. Em is trying to see more detail

of the stranger. The stranger is estimated to be about 7 feet tall. Standing there with a long jacket, pointy shoes and a gangster style hat. In his right hand a large axe. His face is covered with a material like a mask. The man isn't properly visible because of the faint light reflecting from the outside to the inside causing a darkened image.

The intruder slowly bends and picks up the knife. Em decides not to hang around any longer and continues to move up the stairs as silently as possible. The only problem with these farm houses is that most wooden floors squeak and moan when walking on them. Emily reaches the first floor and the dimmed light coming from the rooms barely displays the passage. But Emily knows every nook and cranny of the house. A plan to escape from this monster needs to be formulated quickly. She starts to crawl quickly and carefully towards her room.

To hide in a room or cupboard is not an option. Unfortunately, the house isn't equipped with a secret basement of some sort. In this extreme tense situation Emily thinks of her parents and Mark. If only they were here to help her. But the outcome of this ordeal rests wholly and solely on her decision-making ability.

To go to the top floor of the property is also not a good idea and a dead end in these extreme circumstances. Emily reaches her room and swings her body left towards her room while crawling on her belly. She has decided to crawl to her room to spread her body weight evenly not to make a noise. Her head is now inside the room and her body in the passage. She stops and listens if she can hear anything. She hears the intruder walking around with heavy footsteps in the vicinity of the TV room.

With a sudden movement Em jumps up putting most of her weight on her lower body that is technically still outside her room. A loud cracking sound is generated from where she is located. Her heart sank suddenly when she realized what has just happened. The stranger might now have a good idea where she is. She dashed past her bed to the balcony door. Her whole body is so tense that she struggles to unlock it. Finally gets a grip on the handle and key. With one movement the key is turned and handle forced down to open the door.

The intruder can appear at any moment. The door isn't opened all the way to prevent the wind and rain from making a noise to attract unnecessary attention. Before she opened the door she removed the key from the door. Therefore, Emily has the key in

hand. She slips out, closes the door and locks it from the outside. This all happened in a matter of a few seconds and silently as possible. By exiting the house, she hopes that she would not be found.

She is almost soaking wet of the pouring rain driven by strong howling winds. Emily crawls from the balcony door in the direction of the front of the house. She lies on her side with her face towards the wall underneath the window sill. If the intruder comes this way she hopes that she is not spotted. The water slams wave after wave against her body and back of her head. She is on the cement floor of the balcony in a puddle of water. Emily is only waiting and wondering what may happen.

The stranger climbs the staircase to the first floor. He proceeds slowly down the dark passage with caution. He looks into every room swiftly and ends up in the main bedroom at the end of the passage. He turns around and walks back to the stairs. By passing Emily's room the white balcony door catches his eye. There are also windows in the door but it is much smaller than those at the front door. Emily is hoping that the intruder went to the top floor.

The large figure enters Emily's room and walks around the bed to the balcony door. He forces the handle down but the door is locked. She hears the noise of the handle and lies dead still. The man moves to the window and looks out. He doesn't notice Emily who is lying just outside. He stares into the darkness for a few seconds and returns to the passage that leads to the staircase. The intruder figures that the person that stabbed him should be on the next floor. He slowly moves up the stairs carefully not knowing what to expect. For he knows he might be met by a shot gun. He reaches the large room and enters. Meanwhile Em has gathered the courage to lift herself up to look into the window of her room. There is nobody there and she feels a little relieved. After having a peek Em climbs over the railing lower herself and hangs from the balcony. She has to let go soon and luckily there is a piece of lawn beneath her surrounded by a large variety of plants.

The stranger has covered approximately half of the room's length passing a pool table and couches. He is moving towards the end of the room where there are two cabinets. One of the cabinets is stacked with certificates and awards that Emily has achieved throughout the years. This include academic as well as sports achievements. A large window faces the gate and channeled trees. Some light falling on the cabinet makes it slightly visible and tells of Emily's records that she broke whilst at school. She was the fastest girl in her school in her final year.

Emily lets go of the balcony and lands with her feet first and is thrown to the ground landing on her back. She can feel the pain running through her feet towards her legs. By laying there for a moment she assesses if she hasn't broken or sprained anything. After getting up she determines that she is not really hurt.

The weather is still bad but the moonlight is breaking through the high floating clouds. This helps to distinguish where everything outside is positioned. She now moves with her body against the wall towards the front of the house. Quite a distance has to be covered before reaching the outside wall of the large front room. Eventually the corner is reached and Emily looks around it and sees the porch. She is also amazed to notice a huge black vehicle with long tail lights parked in front of the house.

How could she have missed a vehicle driving onto the property? It must have been the storm dampened any other sound and also the fact that she was fast asleep and unaware of anything happening outside.

Emily decides to dash towards the cornfield on her left. She doesn't run straight into it but parallel with the outer border of the field at first. The reason being that their neighbors' farm house is more in that direction. Busy running Emily looks back to the house. At that moment the clouds broke and the moonlight shines on the front elevation on the house. She sees the stranger standing on the second floor in the large room at the window. She thinks that he may have seen her running. The man did see her and her assumption is correct.

The intruder pauses for a while to determine where Emily could enter the cornfield. Just as she is about to enter the cornfield, the man turns around and starts running as fast as he can. Emily makes way through the corn by stretching her arms in front of her and brushing away the corn plants. She runs as fast as she possibly can, assuming that the man might follow. The man exits the house and runs towards his vehicle. He thinks that he can drive through the cornfield but quickly realizes that the car will go nowhere because of all the mud. He breaks away from the car and runs directly into the cornfield. He isn't running parallel like Emily did. He enters the field from directly left of the house. His tactic is to run until he crosses Emily's path and then try to follow her.

In the meantime, the weather has cleared and there is more visibility in the cornfield. Emily knows that it is still a long way to the edge of the field. Emily has been running for an hour now. She runs with all her strength to get help. While on her way some corn

leaves latches onto her foot and she flies through the air; falling with her face first into the mud. She lies still and listens for any noises. All she hears is the top leaves swaying in the light breeze. She thinks of her family and the mess that she is in. But she needs to keep going to try and reach safety.

The man following her is alternating running and walking. When he is walking he listens for any sounds nearby and far. Emily thinks that she is close to the clearing of the cornfield where the farm house is situated. She is not there yet. While finding her way through the field she is suddenly alarmed by a crackling sound of corn braking. She immediately halts and lowers herself to the ground. The sound comes from ten yards to her left. The sound becomes louder as the corn plants break.

She holds her breath as the sound is edging even closer in her direction. She can only hope and pray that she is not discovered. With no warning a large silhouette appears about 5 yards in front of her. She is terrified and puts her hand over her mouth not to scream or make a sound. The man hasn't seen her but she can see him standing with his back towards her. She is frozen on the spot and he is standing still to listen for anything that moves. Surprisingly he doesn't turn around continuously swinging the axe forwards and backwards.

If Emily would have travelled ten yards further he would have crossed her path in the cornfield. That could have been disastrous for Em.

The paused situation feels like an eternity for her waiting on her hind heels for something to happen. She is unaware that the edge of the field is only forty yards away. Past the edge of the field a clearing opens up that would reveal the farmers home which is a hundred yards from the field.

The stranger suddenly moves forward with a giant leap continuing in his set direction. Passing in front of Emily and moving to her right hand side. The man disappears in the tall cornfield. Emily listens intently for a while. The sound of corn plants breaking becomes distant and after a while nothing can be heard. She slowly gets up and moves forward. Not really knowing where she is heading, she moves on. Eventually the edge of the cornfield is reached revealing the open clearing. The moon light paints the structure far off in the distance. It is dark but visible. She made it; or did she?

Emily slowly goes down on her belly and carefully slips her head out of the cornfield. On her right about two hundred and fifty yards away she spots the stranger. He is smoking. The small almost invisible red and orange light brightens and dims after fading totally. Is she going to wait it out for the man to return to the cornfield or is she going to make a run for it? She makes her mind up. It's now or never. With all the energy left in her body she leaps from the field and starts running. She wasn't the fastest girl in her school for nothing in her final year.

With a quick glance she looks back in the direction of the stranger. He has started running and is heading towards her. She is almost at the neighbor's house and leaps onto the porch. The man is approximately a hundred and fifty yards away at this moment. She bangs on the door with extreme urgency and shouts. "Please help me, somebody please help me!"

The man is approaching fast and only 50 yards from the porch. Suddenly the outside light goes on. Someone stares past the curtain through the window. Meanwhile the man has stopped running and is waiting to see what is happening. The stranger is only twenty yards from the red haired student at this point in time. The door is opened by an elderly lady. Emily lunges her forward almost knocking Mrs. Sally of her feet at the same time slamming the door behind her and locking it. She has found refuge.

Telling her story

Emily is experiencing great emotion at this stage and starts to cry. She apologizes to Mrs. Sally for almost knocking her over. At the same time her husband Mr. Flint has also appeared in the room with a shot gun. They recognize Emily and want to know what is going on. Emily catches her breath and explains everything to them. After learning about her ordeal Mr. Flint flings the front door open and goes outside. He shouts with a loud voice "Your scoundrel show yourself and I will shoot you to pieces!"

Fortunately the family knows Emily well as she actually grew up in front of them. After Emily cleaned herself up, had a warm glass of milk, Mrs. Sally shows her to a guest room with a bed. Em is wondering where the man went and if he is not lurking around the house. Mr. Flint has found a strategic place in the house where he sits with the gun. He is listening for any strange activity. Emily calmed down and woke up in the late morning. The sky has cleared and it is a beautiful clear day.

Mr. Flint has already phoned the local sheriff's department in town. They are on their way to Emily's home. Emily wants to meet the police there to explain everything that took place.

Fortunately, through the whole nightmare Emily has kept her cell phone with her. While Mr. Flint and Emily drive to the farm she phones her parents and Mark. Her parents are shocked and promises to get on the first plane back from Europe. Em is still emotional but assures them that she is fine and in good hands. Mark also wants to travel to Emily but she convinces him not to make the long journey. After meeting the cops at the house they start to do a full investigation. Forensic specialists are also on the scene to try and find DNA of the intruder. They find the knife in the kitchen and blood droplets from the front door throughout the house. The knife is put in a plastic bag for further investigation. A blood sample is also obtained from the scene. The authorities hope that the intruder has left some finger prints on the knife because the knife has a metal handle. The house is also filthy of all the muddy foot prints that the invader left inside the house.

After all was said and done, the police left and promised to do everything to catch the man. Emily stayed behind and started to clean the house. Mr. Flint went back to the farm to fetch some timber to nail the front door shut. A few days passed and Em's parents arrived back home. Her parents expressed their gratitude to their neighbors for helping Em.

As the days passed everything on the farm returned to normal. Em's father bought three dogs to roam around the farm. He also installed a security system to alert the family when someone is at the gate. A few weeks passed and Emily went back to the university to further her studies and her relationship with Mark. She decided to put the nightmare behind her but would like to know the invader was and why he visited her home.

Emily the doctor

For Emily the medical field is her passion. She has always been interested in helping

people. Mark on the other hand is a practical minded person. He is studying civil engineering. Both of them have two to three years left to finish their education. After this time both of them graduated; Emily as a doctor and Mark achieved a degree in engineering. For practical reasons they moved to the city to find jobs and to further their careers in their different fields.

Emily loco med at the general hospital not far from the bus terminal where Mark dropped her of years earlier. Another two years went by and Mark and Emily wed.

Em has now become a total suburbanite after growing used to the lifestyle in the city. But her heart will always be in the farm. Nothing strange on the farm happened since the incident that night. Her parents have been given caring support from the farming community and they still help them in any way.

Because of Emily's demanding job she works long hours and is not at home much. For that reason, Mark is the one who has to keep the household going. He knew beforehand what life would be before marrying Emily. By working with emergency casualties she treated a varied number of sick and injured people. This has given her tremendous experience in making the correct decision in an emergency situation. She can't imagine working in any other environment.

Emily sometimes wonders why the criminal got away. There were finger prints obtained after examining the knife. A mix-up in the finger prints database led the police in arresting the wrong person a few months after the incident on the farm. Emily was called to the police station to identify the person. It was not to be; the man was nothing like the man Em saw that night. The man in captivity was short and small in stature. Time passed and the case grew stale. A blood DNA sample can also be used to identify the true criminal but he first need to be in custody for it to happen.

But Em doesn't have time to ponder about the past. Today her shift ends early for a change and Mark is taking her to dinner tonight. Em packs up and says goodbye to the nurses and leaves the building. It is already late afternoon. She gets to her vehicle and drives from the third level of the parking garage to the lower levels. She finally exits the garage and is met by traffic noise and people all heading home.

The couple bought a house just outside of the city in a quiet neighborhood. The radio is

on while Em is driving. She loves music and some tunes remind her of her childhood and campus days. Sounds of yester year are regularly played on the station. If a rock song is played with drums and bass Emily looks like a crazy person behind the wheel. She taps her hand on the steering wheel and swings her head in all directions. One would imagine that it is a way for Emily to relax and to think about nothing.

To reach her home she still needs to travel about 15 minutes. Suddenly a vehicle changes lanes and passes right before her car almost crashing into her. Luckily she noticed the car in time and swirled left to avoid an accident. She is enraged throwing her hands in the air and uttering some harsh words at the other driver. The driver hasn't observed Emily's behavior and continues to drive in front of her. The radio is switched off for better concentration. As the vehicles continue to pass her on the highway she glances at them. All the mirrors are watched to be extra careful on the road. It's almost dusk. In her rearview mirror someone is driving with the headlights on bright.

For Emily it is irritating. She purposely drives slower so that the driver will be forced to drive past her. Determination and persistence pays off and the driver disappears from the rear view mirror. The vehicle is going to pass by her from the left. She glances at the vehicle that slowly moves passed her. It's a large black vehicle with long tails lights. She spots the car but doesn't give much attention to it. Still flowing in the same direction as the other vehicles it suddenly hits her. The vehicle triggered a flash back memory in her mind. The vehicle looks much the same if not identical to the stranger's vehicle of way back then. By accelerating she advances past a few cars. She wants to catch up with the large black vehicle. She catches sight of the vehicle on her left. It's the black huge car. Emily drives faster to have a glimpse at the driver in the vehicle. To her amazement the person has the same gangster type hat on that she remembered from long ago. Em is shocked and appalled by what she is seeing. The driver of the huge black car didn't look at Emily. In an instant the big car accelerates and switches lanes and then takes the next off-ramp from the highway, Em wanted to follow the car but her reactions were not quick enough to do so.

She arrives home and it is already dark. An hour has passed and the couple drives to Em's favorite restaurant. They discuss work and life like regular married people would while they eat.

Emily: "Mark I saw something weird on the highway today"

Mark asks Em what she has seen.

Emily: "I saw a vehicle that resembled the same one that were there on the farm that night"

Mark "Are you sure? Maybe it's just coincidence"

Emily: "No Mark, I am convinced"

Mark: "Why are you so sure?"

Emily: "Because I had a clear look at the driver"

Mark: "That won't help because you have told me that the man wore a material type covering or mask"

Emily: "True but I saw the same gangster type hat that he wore then"

Mark: "You mean he was wearing it?"

Emily: "Yes Mark that's what I am saying"

Mark: "That is unbelievable"

Emily: "I tried following him but he was too quick for me"

Mark: "I am glad because it could have been dangerous"

Emily says nothing and continues eating. Mark knows that she would like to have closure regarding the matter. In the past she has expressed her feelings and thoughts towards Mark about the nightmare. In Em's mind it is a bit of a worrying thought. If it was the criminal that she saw today what is he doing in the city area? Mark reassured her that she shouldn't be worried and forget about the whole thing. He thinks that chances are slim that it could be the same person that troubles Emily's mind.

The truth revealed

Weeks have since gone by and for Emily and Mark is working day by day as usual. Mark has been busy with a huge project that involves a building in town. In Emily's line of work short relationships sometimes meant keeping up with the progress of patients. Then again other doctors in the hospital will get involved knowing a bit more about a certain condition and taking over the treating of the patients. This causes Em not to really see some patients again.

After she had a lunch break one day she was called to the operation theatre. There has been a vehicle accident and both parties have been injured. As she arrives a woman is being treated for a broken leg and a bruised body. She is unconscious but out of danger. The medical team stabilized her and needs to operate on her leg. Emily is part of the team that works for hours on the woman to put some pins in her leg.

The other person involved in the crash has been taken care of by the other doctors and nurses. The injuries are not so severe. After the successful operation Em is exhausted and cleans herself up. She goes home and returns early the next day to check on the condition and progress of the woman. She has regained consciousness and her condition is under control. Apart from her leg she is suffering from a slight concussion. While busy assessing the woman's progress by filling in a report, hanging at the bed's end, Emily is called to assist elsewhere.

Doctor Jones needs Emily's expert advice about a diagnosis he has made regarding the other patient that was involved in the crash the previous day. Both doctors walk from hallway to hallway busy discussing the medical situation of the injured patients. They enter the room where the patient is. As they enter the ward Em is met by a man that is not very talkative. He just lies there and stares at the ceiling.

Emily: "HI I am Doctor Willowmore". The man says nothing. He slowly moves his head to the one side to glance at Emily. In the accident the patient has injured his back and some ribs are broken. He has a drip in his arm and Emily doesn't mind the man refusing to say anything. She is used to the fact that some patient reacts in this way. The doctor asks Em what she thinks about the current condition and what she would recommend at this stage. She gives her opinion and both doctors agree on the prognoses.

An announcement is heard on the intercom in the room. "Could Doctor Jones please report to ward 10 on floor six" The message is repeated again and the doctor responds by saying something to Em and then leaving the room. Meanwhile Em has requested a nurse to replace the drip. The nurse arrives and greets Emily. The nurse removes the band aid that keeps the needle in place. She slowly flips his arm around to remove the needle. A huge scar on his forearm is revealed.

Emily notices the scar and her demeanor changes suddenly. She is agitated and feeling numb. The nurse turned to her and can see that she doesn't look well. Her cheerful upbeat attitude has disappeared. The man can sense Emily's reaction but he doesn't know what is happening. He hasn't realized yet that Emily has seen the large heeled wound from years ago. Doctor Willowmore tells the nurse just to give her a moment and leaves the room. Emily is feeling sick to her stomach. Her head is spinning and she feels like fainting. The man lying there fits the image exactly from what she remembered. The man is big and tall just like back then.

She fortunately finds a chair in the hallway where families usually sit. She holds her head with her hands. One of the nurses passing by sees her and asks her if anything is the matter. Emily responds by requesting a soda to stabilize her blood sugar. The nurse quickly disappears and returns with a plastic cup filled with soda. Emily thanks the nurse and drinks the soda. After a while she feels better but is still shocked by what she saw. She has connected the man directly to the events of years ago. The ball is now in her court.

She has to work on a plan to reveal the identity of the patient. While thinking of everything Em, is suddenly engulfed with anger and thoughts of revenge. Like a movie trailer playing in her head she sees what she is about to do. She would get the criminal into a wheelchair first. Then push him with high speed down the hallway through the doors where the stairway is, let him fall and tumble down the stairs to add some more injuries and worsen his current situation.

But fortunately she snaps out of the current state of mind and focuses on what needs to be done. She has to pull herself together and get her emotions under control before reentering the room. She realizes that she can handle this situation. The reason being that she has dealt with so many extreme situations through the years by working here, her experience would kick in. But she has doubt in her mind because this time it is personal and directly affects her.

Eventually she is calm and enters the room. If confronted in any way she would think of an everyday excuse. After entering the room, the nurse has already left. Emily or better known as doctor E. Willowmore walks to the bed where the man is laying. She

desperately tries to keep a straight face and a kind of a friendliness that she previously expressed the first time. She looks at the man and the drip fixed in his arm and apologizes for her sudden disappearance. She tells him that she thinks that it may have been something that she ate that made her feel bad.

While attending to the man she wonders if she isn't by any chance over reacting. Maybe this isn't the person at all responsible for the trauma she endured. She is careful not to look at his arm at all. By doing so the man might get suspicious if she gives any attention to the scar in any way. The man hasn't said a word and lies there expressionless. He does now and then look at Emily without moving, thinking that Emily doesn't realize it. But Emily does see it happening. At the end of the bed the progress and details report of the patient is laying. Em picks it up to write in a detailed medical report. She determines that the patients name is Alfonso Brown. She puts down the report on a small table and turns around to walk away. A deep voice from the bed calls her.

Alfonso:" Doctor Willowmore"

She is astonished to hear his voice for the first time.

She swings herself around and Emily answers: "Yes Mr. Brown

Alfonso: "Am I going to be okay?"

Emily:" Yes I believe so it's just going to take some time"

Alfonso: "I need to get out of here"

Emily: "Why?"

Alfonso changes the topic by asking her something totally different.

Alfonso: "Doctor what does the E on your badge stands for" Emily thinks quickly.

Emily: "For Eva"

Emily almost feels like she is interrogated but plays along to find out what the man is thinking.

Alfonso: "Are you from these parts?"

Emily: "Yes I grew up in this very city; why are you asking Mr. Brown?"

Alfonso: "Just making conversation"

Emily knows he wants to find out if she grew up on the farm.

Emily: "I have to go, excuse me, but call the nurse if you need any assistance"

She feels she needs to get out of the room because mixed feelings are building up inside of her. She walks out and into the hallway she walks with a fast pace to the nearest reception counter.

Emily: "Mary, can you please get hold of the authorities that filed the accident report regarding Mr. Brown, the patient in ward 50.

Mary:" Sure Doctor Willowmore, I will get the officer on the line"

After Alfonso has been left alone for a while he is thinking about Dr. Willowmore. Is he may be mistaken by thinking that she is the girl that was on the farm that night. He didn't really have a good look at her because of the darkness and weather conditions. The only resemblance is her red hair and the letter E on her name badge that might link her to that event. He saw all her achievements and the name Emily on the certificates back then.

She told him that her name is Eva. Just to make sure and not to get paranoid, he will ask the next nurse that comes to attend to him.

He doesn't know that Dr. Willowmore has a plan to keep him in the hospital a bit longer. Alfonso is contemplating an escape plan if the doctor's name is by any chance Emily. For a criminal like himself, running from the authorities and evading from being pushed in a corner, is a way of life.

Emily is now totally convinced that Alfonso is the guilty person in the whole ordeal.

Catching a criminal

Mary passes the telephone onto Em. She is speaking to Officer Alex about Mr. Brown.

There is something that she wants to find out about the accident. The officer explains everything to her. She thanked him and gives the phone back to Mary. She found out what she needs to know. The information that she just received makes it much more difficult for her to think Alfonso is the guilty party.

There is only one way to find out and would bring closure to the whole thing. Dr. Willowmore is afraid that Mr. Brown is contemplating a way to escape from hospital.

He indirectly said so by saying that he needs to get out of here. Technically he can't properly walk with his injuries he sustained from the accident. But will be able to make a run for it in a wheel chair. After all he has a criminal mind and most criminals are intelligent people.

Emily instructs the nurses on duty to regularly check on Mr. Brown. She wants them to do so to prevent him from taking any chances of trying to leave. She walks to another part of the hospital where she can get access to a computer. After doing a quick search she retrieves the phone number of the police department in the town near the family farm. They were the department on the scene that handled the case back then. They have access to evidence that was found on the crime scene.

She again goes back to the information desk and makes a call to the sheriff's office. The sheriff does remember Emily, the event and listens to what Emily is explaining to him. The sheriff sounds excited about the turn of events after so many years. He promises to explain to the authorities in the city the current situation.

A detective would then come around to take Mr. Brown's finger prints. An hour has passed and the sheriff informs Emily that Detective Rodriguez would handle the case further. She is also given his cell number if she needs to call him.

Emily has not yet informed Mark about anything that is developing at the general hospital. It's better not to tell him because she is afraid that he may arrive here with a baseball bat. She knows her husband very well and knows he will without thinking take the law into his own hands. The second last year on campus Mark defended Emily from two thugs by beating them badly. She knows what he is capable of.

A few hours have passed and a nurse is on her way to check on Alfonso. Emily is busy help treating a patient on another floor in the hospital. The nurse leaves and Mr. Brown is now in a spin. He can't stop thinking about what he has heard. His worst nightmare has come true. Her real name is Emily and she openly lied to him. He was thoughtless enough by asking Dr. Willowmore directly what her name was. He now regrets it and rather should have asked a nurse instead without Dr. Willowmore being in the vicinity. He is now determined to escape. If the doctor could read between the lines, he is in trouble he thinks. His assumption is correct and he is already in trouble.

Dr. Willowmore feels hesitant to leave the hospital. She thinks if she leaves, Alfonso may get away. That would be very ironic given the chance to finally catch the baddy and such an opportunity slips away.

Before leaving the hospital to go home Emily purposely goes to the floor where ward 50 is located. She thinks that if Alfonso needs to escape he will try to do so at night. That is when activities in the hospital die down a bit.

The information regarding the accident revealed that the long black vehicle wasn't involved in the crash. Alfonso rented a vehicle and it has since been impounded. Emily passes by a lot of people moving through the hallway where Alfonso's room is located. Nurses, injured people and doctors are abundantly present. She reaches his room and slowly walks through the doorway. Her heart sinks in to her shoes. There is nobody in the room. Her worst nightmare has become reality.

She quickly exits the room and looks down the hallway to determine if someone resembles Alfonso. She also stares in the other direction to see if Alfonso hasn't escaped into that direction of the hallway. She doesn't recognize anybody that looks like Alfonso. She remembers that Detective Rodriguez is in charge of the case and phones him as quick as possible. She gets hold of him and he promises her that he will do he can to get to the hospital as quick as possible. Meanwhile Emily is in a panic and gets into a lift nearby. She wants to get to the ground floor but her mission to get there is interrupted several times. People in the lift with her get out on different floors and others get in all the time. Emily knows that precious time is running out quickly. If Alfonso manages to exit the building he can disappear. The question being did he have enough time to have done so? Finally, after several stops the lift is going down. On the control panel the lights change from 3. 2.1 and stop. Emily is now on floor one. But she needs to go down one more level. Four more people enter the lift and lastly an old woman that walks with crutches also steps inside. Emily is forced to move to the back of the lift. The lift doors are slowly closing. She is focused and looks straight in front of her. Suddenly she sees a wheel chair going past the lift and no one is accompanying the person in the wheel chair. Before she could make out who sits in the wheel chair the doors close. The lift moves down and a ping sound is heard to indicate the lift is on ground level. Emily's thought process is stuck for that moment. Should she go back up to search for the wheel chair that she saw or...She decided to keep with her search plan and that is to stay on the ground floor. The doors open and most people move out and Emily is blocked by the old lady with the crutches. Emily is very frustrated at this point in time. After the old woman finally exits the lift Emily stands still in the hallway. So much time has been wasted in the lift. She acknowledges that there is a possibility that the wheel chair she saw may not be Alfonso's, but she continues as fast as she can to get to the entrance of the hospital. She is met by hordes of people entering and exiting the building. She finally gets outside and it is late afternoon already. The sun has not yet set

and everything is still visible outside. In front of her is a huge parking lot. Rows and rows of cars parked from left to right. She is intensely examining each row with her eyes for any movement of any sort. Being elevated because of ten stairs or so leading down to the parking lot gives Em a clear view. She scans the lot again. To her surprise in the corner of her eye she spots a wheel chair disappearing into a certain row of cars in the distance. Emily starts to run as fast as she can in that direction where she last saw the wheel chair. After getting to the area where she thinks that she last saw the wheel chair she begins to walk.

As she walks around a car that leads to an open space sure enough she spots Alfonso. He is slowly moving forward away from Emily with his back to Dr. Willowmore.

Emily: " Mr. Brown are you going somewhere?"

Alfonso stops the chair and wheels it around to face Emily. He looks at her and freezes. Emily: "Running from your past I guess!"

Alfonso: "Emily you should better leave if you don't want to get hurt."

The deep voice of Alfonso unnerves her a bit but she is going nowhere.

Emily "How do you know my name your scoundrel"

Rage is building up in Emily and she is not afraid anymore but cautions of the man.

Alfonso: " Figure it out, I thought doctors are supposed to be clever people"

Emily: "I have already, and you are not leaving, this is my domain!"

After all these years it is quite exhilarating for Emily to finally confront a person that she has wondered about for so long. A mysterious and evil expression is present on his face.

Alfonso: "And Emily how do you think you are going to stop me; you don't have the guts!"

Alfonso: " I didn't get hold of you back then but will get my chance soon"

Alfonso is trying to break Emily down with words to take her back to the past, to that scary night. Emily becomes teary eyed with mixed feelings going around in her mind. Most of it is anger and she feels that she is about to attack Alfonso in some way. Just before being on the verge of lunging forward to do so, she is suddenly stopped. A blue and white police vehicle approaches them with high speed followed by another black vehicle with a red light on its roof. Alfonso sees what's happening and tries to get away.

The police vehicle stops and two police officers jump out. They have drawn their weapons.

Officer: "Alfonso, stop where you are and slowly turn around!"

Emily suddenly shouts "Officer he is not armed!"

Officer: "Doctor we can't be too careful"

Alfonso wheels the chair around and faces the cops that are pointing their guns towards him.

Meanwhile detective Rodrigues also jumps out of his vehicle and quickly hurries to Emily. The detective notices that Emily is upset and she starts to cry. He quickly comforts her by holding her and tells her that everything is going to work out from here.

Detective Rodrigues:" Officers cuff this garbage and put him in the vehicle."

Emily is not worried about Alfonso's injuries anymore. The detective asks Emily if Alfonso will be able to take a ride to the station.

Emily: "Well if he is determined and capable enough to try and escape I can't see any reason why not"

Alfonso moans and groans as the two police officers help him from the wheel chair into the police vehicle. Detective Rodrigues informs Emily that they are going to question him and take his finger prints. If it matches the prints on the knife they would have substantial evidence against Alfonso. If he is the guilty party Alfonso will be brought back to the hospital to recover under police supervision. That would prevent him from trying to escape again. The detective assures Emily to keep her up to date about the findings regarding Alfonso. After all was said and done the two cars disappeared between the vehicles in the parking lot.

The true story

Later in the afternoon the next day Emily receives a call from the detective. The finger prints are a match and Alfonso is under arrest. It is also discovered that Alfonso's real name is in fact Vincent Clements. All this time he was able to evade police trails by using a false identity. That evening Vincent was brought back to the hospital and cuffed to his bed where he lies. Police officers will be working shifts to guard Vincent.

Emily is very pleased with the outcome. It is also arranged that other doctors will from

now on attend to Vincent's health. Dr. Willowmore will have nothing further to do with the captive in any way. Mark was shocked to hear about the ordeal that took place at the hospital. He joked with Emily that he would visit Vincent to extend his recovery process. Mark knows that the matter is totally in the hands of the law and things will work out for the best at the end.

A few weeks have gone by and Vincent recovered well enough for further questioning. After Vincent was escorted back to the station the police learned the truth. Vincent has spilled the beans regarding his role of being involved in organized crime. It was no coincidence that Vincent went to the farm house that night. It all began years ago with Emily's father, Eric. Her father, while Emily was still small, saw an opportunity in investing. Back then the scope for investing opportunities were endless. Eric was introduced to this new life by an old friend that he knew from school days.

The friend had all the knowledge but Eric had marketing skills. They became business partners and started a company. After a few years the company became large with thirty employees working there. Eric's role in the firm has changed from marketing to travelling all over the world to meet investors. The one year the company was part of a convention in one of the USA's biggest cities. Eric helped at the convention and spoke to hordes of potential clients that were eager to invest. That day he was introduced to Tony Calpaso a mob boss. Eric didn't know anything about the crook at the time. Eric used his marketing skills and convinced Tony to invest in certain financial investing structures.

A few months have gone by and Calpaso made an investment of five million dollars. With any investment Eric always explains to their clients that there is always risk involved in financial instruments. An economic recession or collapse can occur unexpected and at any time. Tony Calpaso's investment grew slowly but surely for three years. Then the economic recession of 2008 hit markets hard and investors across the world lost billions in the weeks and months that followed. Tony unfortunately was one of the victims of the financial crisis. Tony isn't a rational man and held Eric directly accountable for his huge losses. Calpaso threatened Eric after losing the money. He wanted all his money back. Eric did not have the money that he has lost in the process. Tony was furious. It is logical that no company would cover any investors' losses being company policy.

Vincent on the other hand was always used as the muscle and to do Tony's dirty work. If Eric knew from the start that Tony had been this notorious crook, he would have done things differently. Vincent confessed to the police that Tony's mob squad was involved in different types of criminal activities. He confessed to money laundering racketeering and extortion. The five million dollars that Tony used for the investment were obtained through the named fraudulent methods.

Vincent told the police that he was given direct orders by Calpaso to intimidate and scare Eric on his farm. And if Eric wasn't home to snoop around and try to find out more about Eric's whereabouts. Vincent further revealed that his plans changed when he realized that only Emily was home. He wanted to kidnap Emily so that Calpaso could use her as ransom to get back even more money from Eric.

After Vincent's confession the city police decided to involve the FBI into the matter for further investigation. The investigation would take months to build a case against Calpaso. The FBI first needs to trace all dealings and corruption methods that Calpaso used to obtain large sums of money. Not even taking into account all the other crimes that he may have been involved with, Vincent in the meantime will become the informer to contribute to the fall of Calpaso and his crime gang.

Three years has since passed and enough evidence against Calpaso and his crew lead to multiple arrests by the FBI. Vincent was sentenced to fifty years for his involvement in organized crime and dealings with Calpaso. The mob boss and the other criminals each received life behind bars.

Emily and her family had taken great interest during the trial and conviction process of the gangsters. All of them sat there in court after the judge found them guilty of crimes committed. They were sentenced one after the other. Emily saw Vincent when he and the rest were led out of court to be locked up. Calpaso joked around even in cuffs but Vincent was expressionless.

Eric's company policy regarding investors changed dramatically after the fiasco. They would verify all investors with background checks or police clearance in the future. The family celebrated that evening after court proceeding.

Emily and Mark continued on with their lives but promised to visit the farm more often.