Jules 1

JULES

Yeah right.

WILLA

I'm serious. You need it.
But not the bird stuff. –I mean honestly, who cares?

JULES

Ouch.

WILLA

Make something with me as your audience.

JULES

...
Yeah. Duh. Fine. If you want.

WILLA's phone rings.

WILLA

That's probably Mom. It's in the diaper bag.

JULES finds it and gives it to her.

WILLA

Mommy? Hi. Yeah, she's here.

(to JULES)

Can you...?

JULES

Oh right, yeah I'll take her.

— Start

WILLA gives the baby to JULES and goes into the house.

JULES holds the baby a little stiffly but relaxes after a moment. She pulls down her mask and speaks to the audience.

JULES

I am holding my sister's baby. Her whole tiny body is covered in fine dark hair that I hope for her sake falls off. She is squirming and drooling and grabbing at my hair, my boobs, sticking her fingers in my nose. A wild, animal, thing. And she is looking up at me and I am looking down at her and we are both thinking like, "Who are you? Who are you gonna be to me?"

Will you call me crying one night outside a Circle K because your date left you there when you wouldn't get back in the car with him? And will I come rushing over to pick you up and wrap you in my bathrobe and tease you in my kitchen until you laugh so hard your mascara drips into

your bowl of multigrain cheerios and I say, "You should try to get some sleep." And you will nod and stand up and you will catch me in a hug that is one of those tight hugs that lingers in your bones after it's over. And I'll say don't worry, I already texted your mom. She knows you're safe."

I think all of this as I stare into her dark wonder-filled eyes and I cannot stop smiling at her this big stupid smile, because she looks really smart. I think she's gonna be a genius. She's gonna be the one who figures it all out.

End

PANDA approaches JULES and the baby cautiously. She sniffs her. She talks to the baby, unheard by JULES.

PANDA

Hello Small One.
A question for you.
Do you know what these films have in common?
Apocalypse Now, Apocalypto, L.A. Apocalypse, Apocalypse Earth...

...

PANDA listens to the baby for a moment.

Don't over think it. It's the apocalypse.
They're all about the end of the world.
Very stressful, don't you think?
I've never understood the appeal of clawing that particular hornets' nest. But people love to.
People love to watch the world end.
I have a theory, if you want to hear it.
...
I think you people watch these movies not because they are good, but because of what they make you think about after the credits roll and you're still here.
They make you ask yourself...
"Who do you want to be with at the end of the world?"
And you know what?
It feels good to know the answer.

PANDA curls up on the steps near JULES and the baby.

WILLA comes back onto the porch. She runs her fingers through JULES' hair, the way she did at the beginning.

And you just get this feeling like, this is a good family of cats.

End of play.