



DANIELLE HOPE SELF TAPE SCENES

Synopsis:

Danielle thought she was going to have a quiet night teasing her big sister Evie, and listening to music. But instead, she wakes bound and gagged in the boot of a car with her sister. They are separated, Danielle held captive by the killer Paul, who uses her as leverage to force Evie to play the game, with the rules:

Rule 1: Play a move every 5 minutes

Rule 2: Miss a move, an innocent dies.

Rule 3: Each piece taken dies.

It all makes horrible sense when a chess board appears on the screen, each piece has one of their names on it.

While Danielle is forced to watch her sister make decisions that could kill them all, she has to fight for her own life with the killer threatening to kill her whenever Evie doesn't do what she's told. But she is more than a match for the killer, as she uses her brain to negotiate for her life when all looks lost, leading to a clash when she has to literally fight for her life as the game comes to an end.

Character:

Danielle is chronically ill with only a few years left to live unless she gets a lung transplant. She is constantly on oxygen through nasal cannula, without which, she would die within 5 minutes. Despite this death sentence hanging over her, she enjoys the life she has, has a wicked sense of humour, and believes all things can be negotiated. She has survived this long against rapidly insurmountable odds, and she won't go down without a fight.

Deadline for Self Tapes:

Mid February

Callback Dates:

Early March

Shoot Dates:

Mid / Late July in Sydney



SELF TAPE SCENE 1

Evie and Danielle are watching movie trailers together, parents are out for the night.

INT. APARTMENT, LOWER LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On the TV, a trailer for a film plays. Someone screams in pain.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

I am not watching that with you!

EVIE

Why not?

DANIELLE

You'll spend half the film refusing to watch while asking me what's going on.

EVIE

I haven't done that... in a while.

DANIELLE

What about the film we saw last week? Devil's Grove?

EVIE

I don't like blood. It had someone's head getting all chopped up.

DANIELLE

It was awesome! The way the blood spurted from the guys neck -

Danielle enjoys teasing her.

DANIELLE

Then there was the chainsaw scene, and the guy with the shotgun and the balls...

EVIE

Oh look, bedtime for you, promised the parents I'd make sure you got sleep.

DANIELLE

Do I look like I need a babysitter Evelyn?



EVIE

Call me that and die -

Evie catches herself and is instantly sorry.

EVIE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Didn't mean that.

DANIELLE

We all gotta go sometime. I'm just sprinting for the line.

EVIE

Don't say that. And I have to take care of you.

DANIELLE

We take care of each other.

Danielle hugs her sister, clearly affectionate.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)

Now... about this bedtime thing.

EVIE

I didn't realize this was a negotiation.

DANIELLE

Everything is a negotiation.

EVIE

Like trying to persuade the parents not to confiscate your phone because you're always on it?

DANIELLE

And I'll get it back when they get home tomorrow. But for now, I feel that if you don't worry about *when* I go to sleep, I don't tell them the girlfriend is coming over tonight after I'm 'asleep'...



SELF TAPE SCENE 2

Except Evie, the captives don't believe it's real, and time is running out to play the first move of the game, so the killer decides to force them to play by threatening Danielle's life.

INT. KILLER'S LAIR - NIGHT

Danielle can't escape, her wrists tied behind her and her mouth covered with tape, he pleas ineffective as Paul pulls down on the cannula, and the tubes slip from her nose. Danielle gasps and wheezes through her nose as she slowly starts to asphyxiate, fear of dying like this overtaking her.

On the screens, she watches Evie trying to play a move that would save her, but the other captives keep stopping her.

Danielle slowly runs out of air, her lungs heaving painfully, she's going to die... She struggles less, she attempts to breath fading as she slowly loses the fight...

EVIE

Pawn E6 to F6.

An electronically distorted voice of the killer intones...

PAUL

Move played. Timer reset.

EVIE

Put the cannula back in. Please!

Paul does, and Danielle is still barely moving.

EVIE

Take the tape off her mouth, she can't breath properly, please! Please.

He studies them, then nods, tears the tape away. Danielle struggles, dragging in air, slowly recovering.

PAUL

She's smart your sister, not great under pressure, but a worthy opponent.

DANIELLE

She's more than a match for you, you pathetic piece of shit.



Paul hooks his fingers round the cannula...

PAUL

Very brave, or very dumb.

DANIELLE

Go screw yourself, cause no one else will.

PAUL

Cute. It'd be a shame to kill you.

DANIELLE

Yeah. Except one thing...

PAUL

Really? This is not a negotiation.

His fingers pull on the cannula slightly.

DANIELLE

Everything is a negotiation, and I know something about you... you won't break your own rules. With so much money involved, you won't risk it. You're not going to kill me.

She stares defiantly at him. Annoyed, he pulls his fingers away.

PAUL

You really don't give up do you.

DANIELLE

I've fought against death my entire life, I don't plan to lose to you. My first memories are blood tests, massive injections, daily scans, drips shoved into my little arms. I've nearly died a dozen times and I'm still here. This is not over.



SELF TAPE SCENE 3

The game has run its course, and they captives haven't played a move in time.

INT. KILLER'S LAIR - NIGHT

Paul holds Danielle close to the screens, so she can see her sister hiding from Sarah.

PAUL
Say goodbye.

Danielle looks frantically around, from screen to screen, and suddenly she sees a way out.

DANIELLE
No, you can't.

He presses the blade against her neck.

PAUL
No negotiation.

DANIELLE
Stop... you don't want to do this -

PAUL
Why don't I?

A little blood drips from a small cut under the blade.

DANIELLE
The bets, the viewers, look at the numbers.

He pauses. On the middle screen is the gambling portal to the dark web site, and the numbers are shooting up.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
It's new, exciting, different, they love it. If you kill me and end the game, you lose a whole lot of money like last game.

Still he doesn't kill her, and she knows she's not going to die yet as Paul watches the numbers go up.