

FRAGMENTATIONS

Written by

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EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

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It's a hot day in sunny, tropical Tela, Honduras. Everyone is outside.

*

*

JASMINE (10) kicks the ball towards RICKY (10). Ricky scared, doesn't know what to do. His teammates yell at him. Frantically he picks the ball and it flies up in the air.

*

The crowds groans. They've ran out of time.

The referee blows the whistle. The game stops. Jasmine stomps her foot in defeat. She jogs towards Ricky.

JASMINE

Really Ricky?

Ricky shrugs. He walks off the field. Jasmine follows behind. They sit on the bench and drink water.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

You should've passed it to me.

*

Jasmine looks at her nails. She begins to remove the dirt from them.

RICKY

Sorry.

JASMINE

Do you even want to play soccer anymore?

*

*

RICKY

Yes, why?

*

JASMINE

You don't even like soccer.

Jasmine begins to fix her curls.

RICKY

Fine, I won't play next game. Or the next one after that.

*

JASMINE

Good.

RICKY

I think I'll just quit.

Jasmine turns to him shocked.

JASMINE

Ricky, come on. You'll get better.

RICKY

Like you said I don't even like soccer.

JASMINE

I signed us up so we can have fun together Ricky.

*

Ricky mocks her. Jasmine playfully shoves him. She pulls out some candy and hands Ricky some.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Guess we'll have to find something else we can both do.

Ricky laughs. Jasmine changes her shoes. Ricky looks ahead and sees three figures in the distance.

RICKY

The stooges are here.

Jasmine doesn't look up.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Jasmine hurry, they'll see us.

JASMINE

Do you think after last time they'll do something to us?

RICKY

I don't want to find out.

JASMINE

They probably didn't even spot us.

Ricky looks up and The three boys have spotted them.

RICKY

They've already seen us.

Jasmine looks up and sees three boys walking towards them. MILO (11) in front and JACK (11) and Willam (11) behind. Jasmine begins to grab her stuff and shove it in her bag.

JASMINE

Who cares? We can take them.

Ricky scared, changes from his uniform into his regular clothes. He turns around to face the crowd as people begin to empty the stands.

RICKY
(to himself)
Oh no.

The boys finally reach them. Ricky remains stuck and Jasmine gets up and faces Milo.

JASMINE
What do you want?

MILO
Let me think.

Milo pretends to think hard and then suddenly he grabs her bag and shakes it. Her things come flying out.

JASMINE
What's wrong with you?

Ricky goes to help her. Jack and William hold him back. Jasmine bends down and grabs her things quickly.

MILO
I didn't say you could pick up your things.

Milo puts his foot on her hand. Jasmine doesn't move. She spots her keys. Without anyone noticing, Jasmine puts the keys between her fingers.

Milo moves on to tease Ricky. Jasmine gets up.

JASMINE
Hey Milo.

Milo turns around. Jasmine sucker punches him. Jack and William let go of Ricky in shock. Milo falls to the ground.

Jasmine begins to laugh. She grabs Ricky and they run.

RICKY
(Between breaths)
I can't believe you.

Jasmine laughs an evil shriek. Ricky laughs. They continue running.

*
*

Milo sits holding his face.

WILLIAM
You okay Milo?

William offers him a hand. Milo shoves it.

MILO

What are you waiting for?

William and Jack look at each other.

MILO (CONT'D)

Go after them.

William and Jack run following the direction Jasmine and Ricky took.

Milo wipes his blood off his shirt, looks around and runs after them. *

EXT. ALLEY- MOMENTS LATER-

Jasmine and Ricky run ahead, turning their heads every couple of seconds. They pause and run into the alley dumpster. *

RICKY

I... saw... them...

JASMINE

Me too. Let's stay here till they leave.

Ricky nods. He peeks at the side of the dump and sees the boys standing at the entrance of the alley. *

RICKY

(whispering)

They know we're here.

Jasmine breathes in and out. She grabs garbage and signals for Ricky to do the same. He does. She holds her hand up. *

Milo points at the dumpster where Jasmine and Ricky are hiding.

MILO

You're gonna regret you did that Jasmine.

RICKY

Fuck you!

Jasmine shocked begins to laugh.

JASMINE

Yeah fuck you Milo! *

Milo looks around to see where the voices are coming from.

MILO

Come out!

*

Milo stands there waiting for them. Ricky and Jasmine don't move. An OLDER MAN walks by and stops.

*

*

OLDER MAN

Hey, you boys can't be here.

*

*

Milo stomps his feet and runs off in defeat. Jasmine hears and motions for Ricky to follow her.

*

*

EXT. VILLAGE SQAURE- MOMENTS LATER-

Jasmine and Ricky run past the street vendors, some wave at them. Ricky starts to slow down, his face red and out of breath.

JASMINE

You okay?

Ricky doesn't answer. She grabs his arm and takes him behind a large vendors stand.

Ricky pants as he tries to speak.

RICKY

I.. need... a... break...

Jasmine nods. She looks up and it's cleared from the boys.

JASMINE

I'll keep look out.

Ricky catches his breath.

RICKY

(laughing)

Did you see their faces when we both screamed "Fuck you"?

Jasmine nods in excitement.

*

Jasmine lifts her head up enough to see. The boys aren't there. She turns to look at the woods before her. She turns again and sees William.

JASMINE

Do you need more time?

RICKY
I think I'm good.

Jasmine looks up again and sees all three of them searching through the crowd.

JASMINE
What's our new plan?

RICKY
Umm Run?

JASMINE
We're almost home, but mami can't see them. She'll get mad at me.

Ricky scratches his head. *

RICKY
We run to my house?

JASMINE
It's getting late.

RICKY
I'll run to my place and then...

JASMINE
I'll go through the woods, it's a shortcut anyways. *

Ricky nods. They stand up. Jasmine signals for Ricky to run first. He hugs her tightly. Jasmine lets him and then pushes him off.

He waves at her and begins to run. *

Jasmine looks for the boys but they aren't looking at her.

She runs straight into the opening path of the woods.

EXT. WOODS- CONTINUOUS-

Jasmine runs quickly through the open path of the woods. *

She takes the turns swiftly, a regular route.

As she reaches the end of the woods she looks down at herself. She's covered in twigs, leaves and dirt.

The clearing is near and we see the small village of houses Jasmine lives in. *

EXT. JASMINE'S HOUSE FRONTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The palm trees move slightly as the evening approaches with slight winds. *

The house is orange with many large plants covering the front windows. The tiles are old and broken. The fence is an off white color. *

As Jasmine gets closer her huge 4 black dogs begin to bark. They run up to her with excitement.

She pets each one of them and hugs them.

JASMINE

Hi Max, Hi Annie, Hi Willow, Hi Dex.

They respond back to her by barking.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Let's go inside.

She leads them to the door and opens it.

INT. JASMINE'S HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

The dogs come running in. Jasmine tries to quietly go upstairs but her mother EMILIA (33) hears her. *

EMILIA (O.S.)

Come here mihija.

Jasmine makes a sour face and walks into the kitchen. *

INT. KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER-

Emilia wears her apron, as she goes back and forth from the stove to feeding her toddler, GISELLE (2). *

EMILIA

You weren't going to say hi Jasmine? *

Jasmine stands by the entrance hiding herself behind the wall. Her head peeks into the kitchen. *

JASMINE

Hi mami.

Emilia feeds Giselle, and looks up at Jasmine.

EMILIA
You're a little late.

Jasmine looks down.

JASMINE
I know sorry, Ricky took forever.

EMILIA
Uh huh.

Emilia puts down the food.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Come here.

Jasmine takes a baby step into the kitchen.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
(stern)
Come here Jasmine.

Jasmine sighs and stomps her way into the kitchen. The dirt dragging on the floor.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Again Jasmine? You know what your father will say?

Jasmine just looks down.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
You can't be hanging out with those boys. They're too tough.

JASMINE
So am I. And I wasn't hanging out with them. They were chasing Ricky and I.

EMILIA
Why? What did you do? *

Jasmine grabs some food from the table and shoves it down. *

JASMINE
(muffled)
Well he took my backpack... so I punched him. *

Emilia stops what she's doing.

EMILIA

Jasmine, if that boys mother comes
yelling for me one more time...

She points a finger at her. Jasmine tries to hold back her
laugh.

JASMINE

Sorry mami. But he deserved it. *

Emilia grabs a wash cloth from the sink and begins to wipe
down Jasmine's dirty face.

EMILIA

Yes, but you can't go around
hitting others okay?

Jasmine shrugs as Emilia continues to clean her. *

JASMINE

He bothers us all the time. And his
two other friends bully us too.

EMILIA

I think I should tell your father
to go talk to the boy's father. *
*

Jasmine backs away and nods her head frantically.

JASMINE

No, I won't do it again. I promise.

Emilia touches Jasmine's face and smiles.

EMILIA

Go finish cleaning up.

JASMINE

Is papi coming home today?

Emilia looks at the clock on the wall.

EMILIA

Maybe. I'll not sure when he docks. *

JASMINE

Okay.

Jasmine walks away.

Emilia stands there looking at the phone, expecting a call.
But the phone does not ring. *

She goes back to feeding Giselle.

INT. KITCHEN- THE NEXT DAY

The sun lights up the kitchen as Emilia sits at the table eating alone.

Jasmine comes in with her school uniform, sleepy she sits down and starts eating her breakfast.

EMILIA
How'd you sleep Jas?

Jasmine looks up, her face is red and sweaty.

JASMINE
Mami it's too hot up there. Can't I just sleep outside for a bit? *

EMILIA
No, When Papi comes back from his work I will tell him to get a fan for your room.

Jasmine whines and gets her school bag from the floor.

JASMINE
But my friend has an A.C. Can I get one?

EMILIA
You know we can't.

JASMINE
Why not?

EMILIA
Please don't start this again.

JASMINE
But I'm hot.

Crying is heard from another room. Emilia looks up and quickly packs Jasmine's lunch. *

JASMINE (CONT'D)
I don't want that today.

EMILIA
Jasmine please take the food and go.

JASMINE
Fine. What time will everyone get here tomorrow? *

Emilia leaves the kitchen and Jasmine follows.

INT. EMILIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emilia picks up Giselle. She rocks her. Jasmine watches.

JASMINE

Huh?

EMILIA

What did you say? *

JASMINE

I said what time will everyone get here tomorrow? *

Emilia looks up at her confused.

EMILIA

For what?

Jasmine looks at her, they stare at each other in silence for a second. Jasmine puts her hand on her hip, waiting for her mother to understand. *

JASMINE

Mami it's my party tomorrow. Duh. *

Emilia sits down with Giselle and begins to change her. She takes a couple of moments before she responds.

EMILIA

Oh.

Emilia looks down at her feet. Her toe nails are filled with dirt, there are scratches all over her feet. *

Jasmine examines her mother. Emilia notices and quickly covers her feet with Giselle's dirty clothes. *

Emilia changes her confused face.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Right. I know... tell Ricky to get here around 3 the party ends at 7 okay Jasmine? *

Jasmine quickly forgets about her mother acting weird and starts jumping up and down with excitement.

A knock on the door sends Jasmine running to it. Her mother yells after her.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine sprints towards the door. Emilia appears by the doorway behind her with Giselle.

EMILIA
Don't be late today.

JASMINE
I won't.

EXT. STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Ricky and Jasmine walk in the middle of the streets with her dogs trailing behind them.

The hot sun beams above them as they constantly put their hands up to shield from it. *
*

Jasmine picks up a stick and throws it far. The dogs run after it.

RICKY
So you know that my mom said I can sleep over?

Jasmine stops and jumps up. She hugs him and forces him to jump with her.

RICKY (CONT'D)
(laughs)
Jassy stop.

JASMINE
(screams)
I'm gonna have the best birthday ever!

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

The classroom is small and yellow. The blackboard is filled with Math equations. Jasmine sits half asleep on her desk. Ricky sits next to her writing down every note.

Another angle:

Milo pops up with his friends and makes bad gestures at Ricky. Ricky scared shoves Jasmine so she can look. Jasmine wakes up quickly, she films them of.

The teacher looks up at them in time to see what Jasmine did. Jasmine sighs and goes back to doing her work.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - LATER

Emilia rushes from stand to stand with her huge shopping bag.
Giselle follows behind her only a step away.

INT. HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Emilia sits on the couch. She stares at the tv without
turning it on. Giselle sits on the floor with her rattle
toys.

Emilia's husband MATEO (33) walks in. He's covered in fishing
gear. He puts down his things. Giselle looks up and runs to
him.

He picks her up. Emilia doesn't look up. He notices a smell
coming from Giselle.

MATEO

Emilia change her clothes, she
needs a bath.

Emilia finally looks up. Her lips cracked and her face pale.
She smiles at him.

EMILIA

I was going to. Hi.

Emilia gets up and takes Giselle from him. She walks off.

MATEO

Hi, Where is Jasmine?

From the other room Emilia answers.

EMILIA (O.S.)

She should be home any minute.

MATEO

I want to tell her Happy Birthday
before I go.

Beat.

MATEO (CONT'D)

How are you?

Mateo sits on the couch and turns on the tv.

EMILIA (O.S.)

Fine. You're leaving again?

MATEO

Yes, I have a week trip, near the coast of Panama this time. I'll be back.

*
*

EMILIA (O.S.)

Okay how long will this one be?

*
*

MATEO

Just a week.

*
*

Emilia walks back in.

*

EMILIA

Just a week huh?

*
*

Mateo nods as he sits down on the chair.

*

MATEO

Yes.

*
*

EMILIA

I forgot to get Jasmine's decorations yesterday. I had to rush everywhere.

*
*
*
*

Mateo zoned out, looks at the window.

*

MATEO

Really?

*
*

Emilia notices he is not in the mood to talk.

*

EMILIA

Maybe you should go take a nap?

*
*

Mateo snaps out and agrees, He gets up and leaves.

*

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

The kitchen is decorated in Flintstones party theme. Kids of all ages are running around and playing games.

The parents sit and drink their beers as they talk.

*

Emilia in her apron finishes the last touches on Jasmine's cake.

Jasmine in her blue puffy dress sits with Ricky and other friends in a circle on the floor. They play hot potato.

RICKY
(singing)
If you have the hot potato!

The kids pass around the potato faster and faster. *

JASMINE
You are it.

Jasmine shoves the potato onto Ricky's lap. She cheers. Ricky gets up and they close the circle.

Emilia walks to the table with the cake.

EMILIA
Okay it's time to sing Happy
Birthday.

Emilia's friend holds up the Polaroid camera and takes pictures of Emilia and Jasmine as everyone gathers around and sings to her.

Jasmine blows out her candles. She claps and hugs her mother.

Emilia smiles down at her.

JASMINE
Thank you.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ricky and Jasmine laugh as they finish a mad libs. Ricky flashes the light onto Jasmine's face, she takes it from him.

Suddenly they hear a loud bang coming from the hall and Giselle starts crying. They both get scared.

JASMINE
Mom?

No respond. Jasmine gets up. She goes near the doorway. There's no one down the hall.

Jasmine walks to her mom's room. It's open. *

INT. EMILIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Giselle cries from her crib. Jasmine picks her up. Giselle quiets down. Ricky comes in. *

RICKY
Uh Jasmine, where is your mom. *

Jasmine turns around quickly. They all walk out the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

*

Jasmine walks to the open door. She turns back around to Ricky.

JASMINE

I don't know where my mom is.

*

She begins to pace.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

(nervously)

Can you hold her?

She hands Giselle to Ricky.

RICKY

Where's your dad?

At that moment Jasmine spots a figure in a nightgown walking towards the woods.

JASMINE

Do you see that?

Ricky nods.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

I think it's my mom.

The night is empty. Fog lays before the ground. Jasmine walks off without warning.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Stay with Giselle. I'll be right back.

Ricky nods. He hurriedly closes the door and sits Giselle down on the floor.

*

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE OF THE WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Emilia barefoot walks with determination into the woods. Jasmine runs behind her.

Emilia turns around and spots her. She begins to walk even faster.

EMILIA
Leave me alone!

Jasmine races after her. Deeper into the woods they go.

The fog begins rising. Jasmine squints as she looks around. Her hands shaking from the cold. *

JASMINE
It's me mami! Where are you going?

EMILIA
Leave me alone.

Jasmine out of breath, slows down. *

She waves her hands to clear the air around her as the fog seems to consume her.

She catches her breath but when she looks up her mother isn't there.

Jasmine's breathing picks up. She looks around, only huge trees surround her.

Between the trees Jasmine spots the flash of her mother's white nightgown.

She goes to it.

ANOTHER ANGLE: *

Emilia paces back and forth whispering to herself.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
He's following me... he's following me.

Jasmine comes into the clearing. Slowly she approaches her mother. The branches creak and crack as she steps on them.

JASMINE
Mom, what are you doing?

Emilia only paces and whispers to herself. She shivers from the wind picking up.

EMILIA
It's gonna be okay. *

Emilia begins to walk forward deeper into the woods. Jasmine follows her.

Emilia stops and starts talking to herself. She faces a tree.

JASMINE

I'm scared mom. Can you tell me
what's wrong?

Emilia continues to talk to herself. Jasmine shivers.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

It's cold can we go back?

Jasmine grabs her hand. Emilia pushes her off. Jasmine falls to the ground.

Emilia looks down at her. She stops talking. Her face changes as she realizes what she's done.

She picks up Jasmine.

EMILIA

Oh my god! Jasmine are you okay?

Jasmine nods unable to speak.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

Emilia looks around. She recognizes where she is. She begins panting in shock.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm so so so sorry
Jasmine.

Jasmine looks at her scared.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's go home. I'll make
you something to eat okay?

Jasmine agrees and begins to walk with her.

*

Emilia goes to hold her hand but Jasmine folds her hands behind her as they walk away.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER.

Ricky and Jasmine sit in silence as they watch Emilia cook for them. She hands them their hot chocolate and continues to make herself busy. *

Emilia is unable to look at Jasmine. Her hands shake from the cold but she steadies them with the pot she holds.

She doesn't look at the kids as they drink their chocolate. Her eyes swollen filled with tears. She turns off the gas and sits with them.

They all drink in silence.

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

Emilia sits up in her bright yellow dress as Jasmine walks into the kitchen.

EMILIA
Good morning honey.

JASMINE
Good morning. Where's Giselle?

EMILIA
She's still sleeping. Is Ricky in the shower still?

Jasmine nods. She hesitantly sits down next to her.

JASMINE
Are you okay?

Emilia looks at her daughter, she hold her hand.

EMILIA
I'm fine. I promise. Okay?

Jasmine looks at her for a while before nodding.

JASMINE
You really scared me.

EMILIA
I know and I'm sorry. It shouldn't happen again.

Ricky comes in with the same soccer uniform Jasmine is wearing. They both look up at him. He smiles and grabs some bread from the table.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Don't tell your father please.

Jasmine looks at her confused, before she can answer Emilia gets up.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Have fun at the game today.

Ricky muffles something with his mouth full and Jasmine forces a smiles for her mom.

EXT. FIELD - DUSK

Jasmine sits with Ricky on the bench. The game continues in front of them. They cheer them on every now and then.

JASMINE
Guess what my dad is doing for me?

RICKY
What?

JASMINE
He's bringing me a necklace from Panama. And it has pearls. Real ones from the water. And guess what else it has... shark teeth. Ahhhh

*

Jasmine mimics a shark bite.

RICKY
No way. That's so not fair I wish I could get cool things.

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE
I'll give you a tooth if it has extra ones.

RICKY
Really thanks.

They stare at the game for a while. Ricky side eyes Jasmine before he speaks.

RICKY (CONT'D)
Is your mommy okay?

*

JASMINE
Oh.

RICKY
Why did she leave yesterday?

JASMINE
I'm not sure. *

RICKY
But didn't you follow her?

JASMINE
Yes but she was being weird. *

RICKY
Oh okay. Do you want to go to the
market later.

Jasmine sighs and gets up.

JASMINE
I can't I have to go clean the
yard. Tomorrow okay?

RICKY
Okay.

Later:

Jasmine hugs Ricky goodbye. Jasmine walks the rest of the way
home alone.

EXT. FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine puts her bag down and picks up a rake. She begins to
clean the yard. Her dogs run around her.

Tired she sits down. Her dog Dex comes to her and sits on her
lap. She pets him.

Emilia watches her through the window.

EMILIA
Jas, come inside. Dinner is ready.

Jasmine pats Dex one more time before walking in.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine kisses Giselle on the head. She sits next to her.

GISELLE
1...2...3

Jasmine cheers her on. Giselle claps along.

JASMINE
What's next? 4...5...

GISELLE
6!

Emilia laughs along with them.

JASMINE
Mom, can I go with Ricky to the
market tomorrow?

EMILIA
Yes, that's...fine.

Emilia rubs her head. She puts down the plates.

JASMINE
Is everything okay?

Emilia nods, she walks to the doorway.

EMILIA
I'm going to lay down for a bit
okay? Can you make sure she eats?

Jasmine grabs the plate and starts serving Giselle. Emilia
walks off.

Jasmine helps Giselle eat her food.

JASMINE
Come on Giselle, you gotta eat.

Giselle laughs and picks up the food with her hand. Jasmine
looks at the doorway but there's nothing there.

INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine is asleep in her class. The teacher MS. GOMEZ (25)
goes around handing out books. She gets to Jasmine and pats
her shoulder.

MS. GOMEZ
Jasmine wake up honey.

*

Jasmine slowly awakens and looks around the classroom.

JASMINE
Sorry.

Ms. Gomez gives her a book and continues to walk away. Ricky looks at her.

RICKY
(whispering)
Are you okay?

EXT. SCHOOL GROUND - MOMENTS LATER

*

All the kids sit on the tables eating their lunch. Ricky pulls out a sandwich from his lunch box. Jasmine drinks her water.

RICKY
Where's your food Jassy?

JASMINE
My mom forget to make it for me today.

Ricky splits his sandwich into two pieces and gives her one. She takes it.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Thanks.

RICKY
(mouth full)
You're welcome.

Milo, William and Jack come to their table and sit down next to them.

JASMINE
What do you want now?

William mocks her.

MILO
You should be nicer to me.

*

JASMINE
And why should I do that?

Milo gets closer to her.

MILO
Because I know your secret.

JASMINE
What secret?

*

MILO

That your mom is crazy.

*

Jasmine gets up and pushes him to the ground.

JASMINE

Take that back.

Milo gets up and dust his clothes off.

MILO

You better watch yourself Jasmine
or I'll tell everyone.

Tears threaten to fall as Jasmine blinks them away.

JASMINE

Shut up Milo.

Jasmine grabs her things and walks off. Ricky follows after her. Milo smiles and crosses his arms.

Another angle:

Ricky grabs Jasmine's hand. She stops and lets out a breath.

RICKY

Don't listen to him. He's just
being mean.

JASMINE

I know. I know. What is he even
talking about?

*

*

Ricky starts to get nervous.

RICKY

Um I think I know.

JASMINE

What do you mean?

*

RICKY

I heard them talking during gym
time. His mom said your mom is
crazy.

*

JASMINE

Why would they say that?

RICKY

Your mom runs around the village
market sometimes at night.

(MORE)

RICKY (CONT'D)

Jassy Everybody sees her but nobody
knows where she is going.

Jasmine sits down.

JASMINE

Oh.

Ricky sits with her.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

I've never seen her do that.

*

*

RICKY

Didn't you?

*

*

Jasmine scratches her arm. She looks away.

*

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jasmine sits by herself on the kitchen table doing her
homework.

Emilia walks in. She goes straight to the dishes and washes
them.

EMILIA

Your dad's trip is extended.

*

Jasmine looks up only for a moment.

JASMINE

Okay.

Emilia throws the plate on the ground. Jasmine gets up
quickly with her book against her chest.

Emilia quickly picks up the glass with her hands. The sharp
glass cuts her hand.

EMILIA

(whispers)

Fuck.

Jasmine gets closer.

JASMINE

Your hand.

Jasmine runs to the paper towels and gives it to her.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Mom are you alright? Should I call
someone?

*

Jasmine helps wrap the towels around Emilia's hand.

EMILIA

I'm fine.

JASMINE

But do you need help? I'm not sure
what to do.

*

Jasmine points at her hand that won't stop bleeding.

EMILIA

Jasmine I said I'm fine.

Emilia snatches her hand away and washes it on the sink.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Just go to sleep.

JASMINE

I need to finish my homework.

*

EMILIA

I said go to sleep. Jasmine can't
you listen for once. GO!

Jasmine listens and backs away from the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. JASMINE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine's room is dark. The moonlight shines on her face.

She lays in her bed looking at the ceiling. She tosses and
turns as she tries to force herself to sleep.

She hears her mother move around things from the other room.
There's a loud bang and her mother curses loud.

Jasmine gets up but second guesses and lays back down.

She turns to face the wall. The noises don't stop. Jasmine
puts the pillow on her head.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine lays on her desk asleep. The sun shines on her face. Ms. Gomez watches her as she goes on with her lesson.

Ricky taps her and she turns the other way.

Later:

Class is over. Everyone gets up and leaves. Ricky tries to wake Jasmine up, Ms. Gomez comes to help him. *

MS. GOMEZ

It's okay Ricky, go to lunch. I'll wake her up.

Ricky nods and leaves.

MS. GOMEZ (CONT'D)

Jasmine, wake up. Hey wake up.

Jasmine slowly wakes up. So tired it takes Ms. Gomez a couple of tries for her to fully get up.

JASMINE

Sorry.

MS. GOMEZ

No honey, It's alright are you okay? *

JASMINE

Yes I'm fine.

MS. GOMEZ

You've been sleeping a lot in class. Do you get enough sleep at home?

Jasmine looks down as she answers this.

JASMINE

Yes I do.

MS. GOMEZ

Okay that's good. So what is it?

JASMINE

I don't know.

MS. GOMEZ

I'm gonna let you go this time. But if you need someone to talk to I'm here okay? *

JASMINE

Okay.

EXT. FRONT YARD

Jasmine walks to her yard and spots her mother and sister in bathing suits.

EMILIA

Jas go get your bathing suit. We're going to the beach.

JASMINE

Really?

EMILIA

Yes! Hurry!

Jasmine runs into the house.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Emilia sets the blanket down. Jasmine carries the umbrella to the other side and helps set it up. Giselle sits on the sand playing.

No one else is at the beach. Emilia grabs a juice from her bag and gives it to Jasmine then she rubs sunscreen on her face.

EMILIA

Stay still Jas, I'm almost done.

Emilia finishes. She watches Jasmine lay down.

JASMINE

This is nice.

GISELLE

This is nice.

Emilia laughs at Giselle mocking Jasmine.

JASMINE

Stop that Giselle.

Giselle laughs.

EMILIA

You want to go for a swim in a bit?

Jasmine nods.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Jas, honey.

JASMINE
Yes?

EMILIA
Your dad is finally coming back home.

Jasmine sits up with excitement.

JASMINE
Today?

EMILIA
No tomorrow so make sure you clean your room okay?

JASMINE
Okay mom. Can we bake something for dad?

EMILIA
Yes, as soon as we all shower after this.

They all three walk to the shore. Emilia holds Giselle's hand as she dips her feet in.

JASMINE
I'm going in.

EMILIA
Go ahead.

Jasmine walks into the water and then goes under. She swims farther away from the shore.

Under the water Jasmine opens her eyes. She comes back up. A big wave gets closer and she goes under it again.

Jasmine comes back up.

JASMINE
Mom! Look mom!

EMILIA
I know you're a great swimmer Jas.

Emilia smiles at her. Jasmine watches her mom from the water. Moving with the water Jasmine slowly goes under but not before watching her mother's smile quickly fade away to the same look of disoriented and confusion.

Jasmine stays under the water for a while and then swims back to the shore.

JASMINE
Giselle should come in with me.

EMILIA
Next time honey. She's still learning.

JASMINE
Can you come in with me for a bit?

Emilia sits Giselle down on the sand. Giselle easily distracted resumes playing. Emilia walks into the water. She floats with Jasmine.

Jasmine grabs her hand. They float together and move with the soft current.

INT. JASMINE'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine wakes up. There's loud shouting coming from the kitchen. She quickly changes into her school uniform. *

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

She opens her door and walks to her mom's bedroom, Giselle is asleep. Jasmine closes the door. She stands before the kitchen.

Emilia walks around pacing. Mateo sits on the chair. Jasmine silently watches them. *

EMILIA
They're liars! Okay? Do you understand. They are lying!

Emilia in distress cannot stop moving.

MATEO
Why would my sister lie to me? The whole village has seen you Emilia.

Emilia looks away.

EMILIA
It was one time. I'm getting better each day.

MATEO
I don't believe you.

EMILIA
But I am. I just need time. *

MATEO
How much time?

EMILIA
I don't know. That's the thing. I'm always taking care of them. I do everything. *

MATEO
So now I don't care for my kids?

EMILIA
Our kids need us both, not just me. And I need you to help me.

Mateo looks at her in disbelief. He shakes his head.

MATEO
You aren't trying.

Mateo gets up but Emilia hold his arms.

EMILIA
Please. I'm better.

MATEO
Are you going to be able to care for them? *
*

EMILIA
I take care of them. Those are my girls. *
*
*

MATEO
Emilia come on. *

EMILIA
Those are my girls. I will never forgive you if you took them away. *
*

Jasmine starts to get closer.

MATEO
You think it's safe for them to see you like this? *

EMILIA
Can we just work something out? *

MATEO
Like what? *

EMILIA

Like we take turns looking after them. I'll get better once I have my own time.

MATEO

I don't know Emilia.

EMILIA

What don't you know? (pause) I mean of course you don't know anything, you're never here.

MATEO

Clearly I should be here more often since you're running around like a fool.

EMILIA

Get out!

Mateo looks shocked.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Get Out!

MATEO

No. I own this house. And I'm taking the kids with me.

Mateo turns around and Emilia grabs a plate and throws it at him, she misses and hits the wall. Jasmine runs into the kitchen.

JASMINE

Stop it. You'll wake up Giselle.

Mateo turns around. He hugs Jasmine

JASMINE (CONT'D)

I'm not leaving mom. Okay dad?

Jasmine pushes him off.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Okay?

Mateo looks at Emilia. He sits down.

MATEO

Okay, no one is leaving.

Jasmine sits down.

JASMINE

We baked you a cake.

Emilia wipes her tears and pulls out the cake from the fridge. Mateo changes his face and starts talking to Emilia as if nothing happened.

MATEO

Thank you girls. I love it.

JASMINE

Are you leaving again?

MATEO

In a couple of days yes. I have another job.

Mateo pulls out a necklace from his pocket. The necklace he promised her.

JASMINE

Those are huge shark teeth.

She sits on his lap and hugs him.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

What did you get Giselle?

Emilia leaves the kitchen. Mateo watches her every move.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

*

They both watch Jasmine leave with Ricky. She waves goodbye at them one last time before racing off.

Mateo shuts the door.

MATEO

If you are not better by the time I come back, I'm taking the girls with me, understood?

Mateo doesn't wait for her response as he walks away. Emilia follows him.

EXT. LUNCH AREA - LATER

Jasmine and Ricky arm wrestle. Jasmine beats him easily.

JASMINE
You want to try again?

RICKY
No I'm done.

JASMINE
Loser!

Ricky shrugs and starts to eat his lunch. Jasmine brings hers out too.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Let's go get some candy later.

RICKY
Okay I want the gummy frogs.

JASMINE
Me too. Those are sooo good.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia sits counting money. She has only a couple of bills and some coins. Frustrated she rubs her head. She recounts it.

GISELLE
Mommy.

Giselle comes in. Emilia looks up quickly. Giselle is covered in food.

EMILIA
Oh No. Let's take you a bath.

Emilia carries Giselle out the kitchen.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Giselle sits in the small bath tub filled with bubbles, the water still running, she plays around as Emilia sits on the ledge and watches her.

A small thud alarms Emilia. She gets up. Giselle unbothered continues to play in the tub.

Emilia looks out the hallway.

Another Angle:

The hallway is empty. Another thud comes from the direction where Emilia isn't looking. She snaps her head in that direction.

GISELLE

Mommy!

Emilia ignores the call. She closes her eyes and counts to three. She opens them and complete silence emerges. She walks out.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Mom?

Emilia walks into the hallway. She opens every door. Inspects the room quickly and keeps walking.

She goes into her room. She opens every drawer, looks under her bed. She opens her closet.

EMILIA

I know where you are.

She begins to bite her nails, not being able to find anything.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

I know.

The water splashing grows louder.

GISELLE (O.S.)

Mommy!

Emilia snaps out of it. She races towards the bathroom.

Another Angle:

Giselle stands crying in the tub as the water overflows and covers the floor.

Emilia rushes in and slips.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Mommy are you okay?

Emilia sits there for moment. She nods.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I tried to turn of.

Emilia gets up. She grabs the towel and covers Giselle with it.

EMILIA

It's not your fault. Oh you're cold.

Giselle nods. Emilia rubs her hands on Giselle's shoulder to warm her up. She carries her out holding her tightly and watching for the puddles.

EXT. SHIP DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Mateo, in his fisherman uniform drags the net of fish from one end of the ship to the other. *

He does this a couple of times. Mateo finishes his job and sits on the edge of a crate.

Next to him VICTOR and JORDY take a seat.

Mateo greets them and then eats his sandwich quietly.

VICTOR

Yeah man, it's real crazy people out there. *

JORDY

(laughs)

My lady was telling me about her but I didn't pay no mind. You know women.

They both nod in agreement. Mateo side eyes them intrigued.

VICTOR

They aren't sure who it is. But everyday there's a new story out.

JORDY

At least we have that to keep us entertained.

VICTOR

Yeah, once I go home. There's nothing to do.

Jordy looks at Mateo for a second and realizes something. *

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Oh man. I mean everybody needs help sometimes right?

Mateo looks up. He throws his sandwich on the floor.

Victor and Jordy look up shocked.

JORDY

You okay man?

Mateo's clenches his jaw. Trying to restrain his anger.

MATEO

I'm good. Hands shake a lot.

Victor and Jordy look at each other and let it go.

VICTOR

You want some of mine?

Mateo looks away.

MATEO

What else have you heard?

VICTOR

About the crazy lady in our
village?

Mateo nods.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Listen man, A crazy women is
something not to mess with.

*

Jordy laughs again and hits Victor on the shoulder. Mateo
fakes a laugh.

MATEO

Yeah I know.

JORDY

She walks around at night scaring
the neighbors.

*

Mateo looks down, zones out the conversation.

*

Mateo gets up and looks down at the water. The waves hit the
ship harder and harder each time.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

The water runs down Jasmine's hands as she washes the dishes.
She stands on a tiny chair to the dishes away as she dries
them with a cloth.

She finishes and dries her hands on the oversized apron she wears. She takes it off and walks over to Giselle who sits on the table playing.

JASMINE
Come on, bedtime.

Giselle whines. Jasmine ignores her and walks away, she turns off the light and Giselle cries and runs after her.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine and Giselle walk into the hallway, passing the entrance of the living room where Emilia lays in the dark.

Jasmine stops and Giselle hides behind her.

JASMINE
Mom?

Emilia barely moves.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Are you coming to bed tonight?

Emilia looks up quickly.

EMILIA
Get out.

Jasmine tries to enter the living room.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
I said get out!

Jasmine sighs. Her eyes filled with tears but she doesn't cry. Giselle holds on to Jasmine's pants and yanks them.

GISELLE
I'm sleepy.

JASMINE
Okay let's go upstairs.

They both turn around.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Goodnight Mom.

GISELLE
Goodnight Mommy.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine tucks in Giselle. She falls asleep fast.

Jasmine looks out the window for a bit. The night is dark and lonely. No one is outside.

Jasmine closes her eyes and lets the sounds take over. The crickets and the endless crashing of the waves.

Hours later.

It is morning. The sun awakes Jasmine. She looks to her side and there lays Giselle sound asleep. She quietly gets out of bed.

Making her way around the room Jasmine grabs some clothes and leaves the room.

Once out the shower Jasmine walks downstairs. The front door is wide open. Her dogs come running in.

Jasmine runs to the living room, her mother isn't there. She runs to the kitchen and it's empty.

Jasmine goes into the backyard, nobody is there.

Frustrated Jasmine begins to cry and scream.

She throws things unable to control her anger.

Jasmine sits at the entrance of the door crying, unable to move.

Time passes by. Her mother still isn't home.

Jasmine looks at the time, it is the afternoon now. Giselle comes down, she sees Jasmine on the floor crying and hugs her.

Giselle sits with her. The dogs run back and forth behind them playing.

GISELLE

What's wrong?

JASMINE

I don't know if Mommy is coming home anymore. I think I upset her.

*

Jasmine trembles, scared she is all alone. They sit there for a bit more.

GISELLE

I hungry.

Jasmine snaps out of it. She nods. Jasmine gets up.

JASMINE

Go put your shoes on.

Giselle gets up and puts her shoes on. Jasmine grabs a flashlight and they walk out with the dogs.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine holds Giselle's hand as they walk through the streets. The dogs not that far behind them.

JASMINE

We're almost there okay?

Giselle nods.

They reach a house. Jasmine knocks on the door. No one answers.

She knocks again. Ricky opens the door.

RICKY

Jassy, what are you doing here?

Ricky's mother, MARISA (40) comes to the door. She looks at the girls and lets them.

INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Giselle and Jasmine eat their food without speaking. Ricky and Marisa look at them.

MARISA

Where is your mother?

Jasmine keeps eating.

MARISA (CONT'D)

What about your daddy?

Jasmine shrugs. Jasmine finishes the plate and Ricky brings her another one.

MARISA (CONT'D)

Jasmine look at me.

Jasmine stops eating and looks up.

MARISA (CONT'D)

Did your mommy leave you?

JASMINE

I think so.

MARISA

Okay, and your dad is still working right?

JASMINE

Yeah he doesn't come back till the end of the month.

MARISA

Same with Victor. You can come eat here whenever you want okay?

JASMINE

Okay. Thank you.

MARISA

Of course. I'm gonna check with the neighbors to see if they've seen your mom okay?

Jasmine nods and goes back to eating.

Marisa walks out.

RICKY

Jassy you okay?

JASMINE

(sighs)

No. Everyday it gets worse and worse.

RICKY

Do you want to move in with us?

JASMINE

I don't know, she might come back. *

RICKY

You can bring your dogs too, and your sister. We can play all the time.

JASMINE

That would be fun. *

RICKY

Okay. Mom can Jassy move in with us?

*
*

Marisa enters with a plate of cookies in her hands. Her eyes widen from the question but she composes herself quickly.

*
*

MARISA

Ummm Ricky, let's talk about that later.

*
*
*

RICKY

Okay.

*
*

Ricky's eyes widen. He goes back to eating his food. Jasmine looks down aware of her presence in their home.

*
*

JASMINE

And my dad is still at sea. When he gets back everything will be better.

RICKY

That's true.

JASMINE

Do you want some more of my chicken Giselle?

Giselle nods and gives her plate to Jasmine.

GISELLE

Thank you.

JASMINE

Do you have juice?

Ricky gets up and brings her juice.

Jasmine rubs Giselle's head as she eats.

*

INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Ricky sits by himself during class. Jasmine isn't there. Ricky looks at the door hoping she walks in.

When class is over Ricky walks up to Ms. Gomez.

MS. GOMEZ

What's wrong honey?

RICKY

Um, Jassy, I mean Jasmine didn't come to class today.

MS. GOMEZ

I noticed. Is she not feeling well?

RICKY

Her mommy left her. She came to my house the past two nights to eat.

MS. GOMEZ

What? Where is her dad? Or any other family?

RICKY

I think she only has her sister now. Her daddy works all the time, like my dad.

MS. GOMEZ

(sighs)

This is not okay.

Ricky nods.

RICKY

Yes and I thought she was going to be here today because she told me she was but she didn't come.

MS. GOMEZ

Okay. Well let's go visit her after school is done to make sure she is fine okay?

RICKY

Okay.

MS. GOMEZ

Go on to your next class. I'll see you in bit.

Ricky walks out.

EXT. JASMINE'S FRONTDOOR - LATER

The dogs follow Ms. Gomez and Ricky as they walk up the entrance path.

Ms. Gomez inspects the outside of the house before knocking.

They wait a little bit and Jasmine answers. She looks flushed and sweaty. She doesn't open the door all the way.

JASMINE

Hi.

MS. GOMEZ

Hi Jasmine. How are you feeling?

JASMINE

I'm okay. Hi Ricky.

RICKY

Is your mom home yet?

JASMINE

Mhmm.

Jasmine looks back as something falls inside. Ms. Gomez tries to look inside.

MS. GOMEZ

Can we come in?

JASMINE

No.

Jasmine coughs.

MS. GOMEZ

Why not?

JASMINE

She isn't feeling well.

EMILIA (O.S.)

It's okay Jasmine let them in.

Jasmine looks confused. She hesitantly opens the door.

Ms. Gomez and Ricky walk in.

INT. KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER-

Emilia prepares food. Ms. Gomez walks in and smiles. Ricky looks confused. Emilia looks perfect. Nothing is wrong with her.

EMILIA

Hi. Ms?

MS. GOMEZ

Ms. Gomez

She reaches out to shake her hand.

EMILIA
Please have a seat.

Ms. Gomez complies and sits down. Jasmine and Ricky sit down too.

MS. GOMEZ
I don't mean to be intrusive.

*

EMILIA
No worries at all.

Emilia brings fresh baked bread to the table.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Please have some.

MS. GOMEZ
Thank you.

Jasmine and Ricky grab the bread and start eating.

MS. GOMEZ (CONT'D)
I hope you're well?

Emilia walks back and forth pretending to be busy.

EMILIA
I'm alright.

MS. GOMEZ
Jasmine didn't go to school today
and I heard she's been eating at
Ricky's house lately. Is everything
okay with you?

Emilia stops what she's doing.

EMILIA
I did leave to go to my sister's
house. I left Jasmine a note but
she didn't find it. Right Jas?

Jasmine looks up and nods.

Ms. Gomez looks at her confused.

MS. GOMEZ
Something could've happened to
them. Did you think about that?

EMILIA

I know. It won't happen again
because I'm better now. So thank
you for coming to visit but you can
leave now.

Emilia gestures to the door.

MS. GOMEZ

Okay, I'll go. Jasmine if you need
anything I live in the next barrio
near the square okay?

JASMINE

Okay.

EMILIA

She won't need anything.

MS. GOMEZ

Are you staying Ricky?

RICKY

No I should go home too.

Jasmine gets up and walks them out. Emilia sits down and puts
her head down. Jasmine runs up to her and hugs. Emilia hugs
her back.

JASMINE

Why did you lie?

EMILIA

Because Jas, people already know
and if I tell the truth it'll go
straight to your father.

JASMINE

But he wants to help.

EMILIA

No he wants to separate us.

JASMINE

He can't, we're a family.

Emilia hugs Jasmine hard.

EMILIA

I wish I was better for you.

JASMINE

What?

EMILIA

Nothing. When he comes back we have to pretend okay? We have to stay together always Jasmine.

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE

I'll never leave you.

INT. LIBRARY - NEXT DAY

The old battered bookshelves barely hold the books in place. A couple of kids hang around the corner player checkers. Ricky sits on a little wooden stool. He reads a book.

Milo and his friends, William and Jack enter. They walk around the library making the other the little flinch and look away.

MILO

What?

One little girl looks away.

MILO (CONT'D)

I thought so.

Jack spot Ricky and points to him. Milo smiles and rubs his hands. They advance towards him.

Milo hits Ricky in the back of the head. Ricky cries in pain. He looks around for the librarian. She isn'y anywhere. Jack rips pages from Ricky's book.

RICKY

No my book!

Ricky picks up the crumbled pages. Jack takes it from his hands again and stomps them.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Please I have to pay for it.

The other kids start looking but no one helps.

MILO

Too bad. Jack rip some more pages.

Ricky is flushed with anger.

RICKY

Why are you guys so cruel?

Jasmine walks in the library, she looks around for Ricky.

Milo brags his bag and starts to empty it out.

Jasmine spots them and quietly walks behind him. She watches for a moment.

Without thinking she grabs a big book and hits Milo in the back of the head.

Milo cries.

JASMINE
Ricky are you okay?

Ricky shakes his head no.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Leave him alone.

Jack and William check to see if Milo is okay.

JACK
What is wrong with you?

WILLIAM
You psycho.

Milo slowly gets back up.

MILO
You're crazy.

Jasmine helps Ricky pick up his things.

JACK
Just like your psycho mother.

Jasmine stops. Ricky keeps picking up his things.

MILO
You both need to be locked away.

She slowly turns around. Tears start to form.

JASMINE
(whispering)
What?

MILO
You heard me, you're crazy just like your mother. That's why she left you and your sister. That's why your dad left you too.

Jasmine starts breathing heavily, her vision goes in and out. She tries to calm herself down. Tears begin to fall. Then she's looking at the ceiling.

BLACK OUT:

INT. NURSE OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine lays asleep in the bench. She slowly wakes up. The NURSE walks to her.

NURSE
How you feeling Jasmine?

She squints. Coughs a little. The Nurse grabs her a water. Jasmine drinks it very fast.

JASMINE
I was thirsty.

NURSE
(laughs)
I can tell.

Jasmine looks around.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Do you know why you're here?

JASMINE
I was in the library and then I just didn't feel well.

NURSE
Yeah, you're dehydrated. Have you been eating well.

JASMINE
Not really.

NURSE
Why's that?

JASMINE
I forgot to cook last night, I was too tired.

NURSE
What about your mommy?

JASMINE
She was also too tired.

NURSE

Okay I have some snacks here.

She grabs some chips and hands them to Jasmine.

JASMINE

Thanks.

NURSE

Of course.

JASMINE

These are good.

NURSE

My father makes them. They're best in the summer with a nice cold cola.

JASMINE

My father cooks us fish. Whenever he comes back from sea, he makes us his favorite fish meal.

NURSE

Is your father at sea now?

JASMINE

Yes. He should be coming back next week. I miss him.

The Nurse looks at her watch and then the door.

NURSE

What do you miss about him?

JASMINE

I miss us fishing. I once caught the biggest trout known to mankind.

The Nurse laughs.

NURSE

That's great.

A Random lady knocks on the doorway. The Nurse nods.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Your mom is here.

JASMINE

Why?

Jasmine gets up and follows the Nurse.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Emilia sits on the chair with Giselle on her lap.

She frantically shakes her leg. The PRINCIPAL sits on the other side.

Jasmine enters with the Nurse. Emilia turns around, Jasmine quietly takes the seat next to her.

EMILIA
Why am I here?

PRINCIPAL
Well Jasmine had an altercation with another student.

EMILIA
What?

PRINCIPAL
Yes, she hit another student with a book.

JASMINE
He deserved it!

Jas, please.

Jasmine sits back in defeat.

PRINCIPAL
His parents are on their way here. This is something we all need to discuss.

EMILIA
Okay that's fine.

PRINCIPAL
Jasmine is everything okay at home?

Jasmine looks at her mother. She doesn't answer.

EMILIA
Excuse me?

PRINCIPAL
No kid can learn this on their own right?

EMILIA
I mean no. I guess not.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

PRINCIPAL

Whatever happens at home keep it
behind closed doors. Just make sure
your kid doesn't bring it to
school.

*
*
*

Emilia moves forward in her chair.

EMILIA

What are you trying to say?
I don't hit my kids.

*

NURSE

Maybe we should get the kids out.

EMILIA

They don't have to leave. I have
never hurt my kids.

*

Emilia gets up with Giselle and Jasmine.

*

PRINCIPAL

We're not finished with the
meeting.

*
*

EMILIA

I am.

*

Emilia clearly upset puts Giselle down and starts walking
back and forth.

*

They all watch her. Emilia breathes fast and tries to catch
her breath.

Jasmine goes to grab her hand.

JASMINE

It's okay mom.

EMILIA

I know.

NURSE

Would you like to sit down?

EMILIA

No that won't help.

NURSE

Okay well do whatever helps you.

EMILIA

I'm okay.

Emilia picks her bag up and grabs Giselle.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Thank you. We'll be leaving now.

NURSE

If you need anything please don't
hesitate to call me.

Emilia nods as The Nurse hands her a small paper.

Jasmine waves at the Nurse as she leaves.

EXT. BEACH - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine sits at the beach with Ricky. They sit on a small
ripped up blanket as they eat their gummy frogs.

Jasmine sighs and grabs the ball next to her.

JASMINE

Okay, lets see who can throw the
farthest.

Ricky nods. He gets up and grabs the ball.

RICKY

I'm gonna win.

Jasmine gets up and takes the ball from him.

JASMINE

I am. Look at these muscles.

Jasmine flexes her skinny arm. Ricky squeezes it.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Ouch. That hurts.

RICKY

(laughing)

If you actually had muscles it
wouldn't hurt.

Ricky flexes his arm.

RICKY (CONT'D)

See, these are real guns.

Ricky kisses his skinny arms. Jasmine makes a grossed out
face and laughs. She throws the ball.

The ball goes far and they both run towards it. They push each other to see who gets the ball first.

*
*

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Jasmine helps her mom cut up the vegetables.

She cuts the carrots slowly, making sure her finger aren't in the way.

*
*

Jasmine adds the vegetables into the huge boiling pot.

*

They finish preparing the food. They all sit down and eat quietly.

JASMINE

Mom?

EMILIA

Yes?

JASMINE

Why does everyone think you need help?

Emilia stops eating. She sighs.

EMILIA

Because I do.

Jasmine doesn't look up at her.

JASMINE

But you're okay right?

EMILIA

No. I left you girls. I didn't mean to. I don't know what's happening.

JASMINE

Oh.

EMILIA

Now everyone is watching what I do? I'm afraid.

*

JASMINE

Aren't they just trying to help?

EMILIA

No, not everyone.

JASMINE

What can I do to help you?

Emilia's eyes soften, she grabs Jasmine's hand.

EMILIA

Baby you can enjoy your life for me
okay?

Jasmine nods although she looks confused.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Don't you worry about me. I got
this. Your dad is coming to help me
tomorrow morning. We'll be fine.

Jasmine goes back to eating.

JASMINE

I think I'm finished.

Emilia nods. Jasmine gets up and hugs her.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Giselle is in the tub, while Jasmine washes her hair. She
plays around with Jasmine until Emilia comes.

EMILIA

Jasmine?

Jasmine turns around and grabs the towel. She wraps Giselle
around it.

JASMINE

Yes?

EMILIA

I'm going out quickly.

JASMINE

Right now?

Jasmine looks at the small window above the shower head. It
is dark outside.

Jasmine carries Giselle in her arms.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

EMILIA

I need some fresh air.

Jasmine begins to breath harder.

JASMINE
(between breaths)
Okay, can I come with you?

EMILIA
You don't need to go. I'll be right
back.

Emilia starts to walk out. Jasmine races after her with
Giselle in her arms.

JASMINE
Wait. Wait. Please mom.

Emilia turns around but she isn't there anymore. Her face
becomes distant.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
We can come along, okay?

EMILIA
(stern)
No.

Jasmine rushes ahead of her and outs Giselle down.

JASMINE
Wait I'm gonna dress her. Just give
me a minute.

Jasmine runs into the run. She flings out the clothing on the *
floor. Emilia starts pacing. *

JASMINE (CONT'D)
I'm almost ready okay?

Jasmine looks up to her mother.

Emilia talks to herself and frantically moves her hands as if
she is acting out a story.

Jasmine stares at her without moving. Giselle sits on the
floor grabbing her clothes.

Jasmine sits down with Giselle. Tired she helps Giselle put
her shirt on.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Mom?

EMILIA
Hm?

JASMINE

It's cold outside. Maybe you should
put your coat on okay?

Emilia starts biting her nails.

Jasmine gets up and brings back her coat. She tries to put it *
on Emilia but she snatches it from her.

Jasmine backs away.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

You'll come back?

Emilia struggles with her coat and finally puts it on. She
walks away.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Right? *

Jasmine almost in a trance watches as she leaves them again.
She breaths out and grabs Giselle bringing her into the room.

LATER: *

Giselle and Jasmine sleep in the bed. The house is peacefully
quiet. Then we hear a loud bang coming from downstairs.

Jasmine slowly wakes up and checks the clock on the wall. It
is 6:57 am.

The banging increases. Jasmine jumps out of bed. Giselle
wakes up and starts crying.

Jasmine goes to her and comforts her.

EMILIA

Jasmine! Jasmine!

Jasmine gets nearer to the door.

GISELLE

Mommy?

Jasmine walks back to her.

JASMINE

Yeah it's mommy. I'm gonna go see
if she's okay.

Giselle nods.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

You stay here. And I'll come back
for you.

Jasmine tucks her back into bed. She kisses her forehead and
then walks away.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

Jasmine leaves. Giselle stares at the door for sometime.
Another bang makes Giselle retreat under the covers.

INT. KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER-

Emilia is trashing the kitchen.

Pots and pans lay all over the floor.

She stops for a moment and pulls out a jar from under the
sink. *

Jasmine enters the kitchen. She's shocked. She starts to pick
up things from the floor.

Emilia drops the glass. jar and glass flies everywhere. *

Money comes pouring out. Coin hit the ground. The floor is
covered in money. *

EMILIA

I knew it.

JASMINE

Mommy stop. Please.

Emilia picks up the money.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Why do you have all this money?

EMILIA

I need it. *

JASMINE

Why? *

Emilia walks around the kitchen picking up money and Jasmine
trails behind her.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Emilia finally has all the cash in her hands.

EMILIA

Listen to me. I need to give this
to him okay?

*

Jasmine confused shakes her head.

JASMINE

What are you talking about?

The door unlocks but no one hears it.

Emilia moves around a lot so Jasmine grabs her wrists.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Can you stop for one second?

Emilia looks down at Jasmine's little hands wrapped around
her.

EMILIA

Are you trying to take my money?

JASMINE

What? No. I'm just trying to talk.

Emilia tries to shake Jasmine off.

*

Jasmine stumbles and holds on the money instead. Emilia yanks
and Jasmine yanks back ripping the bills.

As Mateo enters the kitchen, Jasmine falls back and hits her
head on the cabinets. The money flies around as Emilia tries
to grab Jasmine.

*

A loud bang. Giselle watches from the kitchen entrance.

*

Jasmine's POV:

Her vision blurs but she sees her father push Emilia off of
her. He picks her up. She can hear yelling but can't make out
the words. She watches the ceiling as he puts her down on the
couch.

EMILIA

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Jasmine's vision goes in and out. Her father puts an ice pack
on her head and she knocks out.

Later on:

The doctor finishes his check up on Jasmine. She lays asleep on the couch.

Mateo thanks him and walks him out. Emilia sits on the other couch with Giselle.

Mateo walks back in. Emilia puts Giselle down. She begins to play with her toys.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Do you think that maybe we can talk?

*
*

MATEO

You need to stop. You've done enough Emilia. Please for your daughters get help.

*
*

Mateo sits on the couch and lifts Jasmine's feet on his lap.

EMILIA

I will. It's just so hard.

*

Emilia puts her head down.

*

EMILIA (CONT'D)

God, I just want to sleep all the time. Whenever I'm awake it's all just too much

*
*
*
*

MATEO

Listen to yourself. You are not able to take care of the girls.

*
*

EMILIA

And you are?

*

Mateo gives her a confused look.

*

MATEO

What?

*
*

EMILIA

When was the last time you truly cared for the girls?

*
*
*

She looks up at him.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

You've been avoiding me, us. All you do is work now. You don't spend time with us anymore.

*
*

MATEO

So it's my fault?

EMILIA

No. But if you were here, maybe I could have the time to get help. Maybe I could for once worry about myself.

MATEO

I work for you! I bring the money here! Do you think I want to be away for weeks? Do you think I want to be stuck in a ship with a bunch of men all the time?

*
*
*
*

EMILIA

You're not a father to them. They don't even ask about you anymore.

*

MATEO

Well good for you, you'll have enough time to worry about yourself now.

EMILIA

What do you mean?

MATEO

I'm taking the girls with me.

Emilia gets up.

EMILIA

No.

MATEO

Look at you. A mess. You destroyed the house and you're destroying yourself and you'll bring down our kids with you.

EMILIA

You can't do that. I won't allow you.

*
*
*

MATEO

Emilia look at yourself. You can't care for yourself. I come in and the dishes are in the sink. Jasmine walks by herself to school. So please tell me what you are actually doing.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Emilia's eyes water. She swallows hard.

MATEO (CONT'D)

They need peace. Please Emilia
grant them peace. They will be
okay.

*
*
*

Mateo gets up and approaches Emilia. He hugs her. She gives
in to the hug and closes her eyes.

*
*

She sits back down. Shaking her head, she talks to herself.

*

MATEO (CONT'D)

I have to do what's best for them.

EMILIA

No. You're taking them away. They
need a family. I'll come with you
guys.

MATEO

You are not getting near them
anymore. Or for now. You have to
understand why Em. You hurt
Jasmine.

*
*
*

Emilia breaths heavily. She nods.

*

EMILIA

Jasmine likes her eggs scrambled
and Giselle likes them sunny side
up.

*
*
*
*

MATEO

Okay.

*
*

EMILIA

But you didn't know that.

*
*

MATEO

That's not so hard to remember.

*
*

EMILIA

Don't forget that Jasmine is
allergic to dairy, so only give her
soy. She'll have almond here and
there but it isn't her favorite.

*
*
*
*
*

Mateo nods.

*

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Giselle likes to have her back
rubbed now before she falls asleep.

*
*
*

MATEO

Fine.

EMILIA

I can't do it. I can't be by
myself. I didn't mean too hurt her.
You know that.

MATEO

Go live with your sister for a
while. Clear your mind.

EMILIA

She doesn't want me there. I don't
want to be alone Mateo. You're
supposed to be here for me.

MATEO

I tried.

EMILIA

No, you gave up. I know I'm not
okay but you shouldn't quit on me.

Mateo's eyes soften, torn between his choices.

MATEO

I'm sorry.

EMILIA

Stay.

MATEO

As soon as Jasmine wakes up we're
leaving.

Emilia begins to cry but she doesn't move from her spot on
the couch.

Mateo gets up and begins to pack away Giselle's toys on the
floor.

Emilia picks up a toy and hands it to him. He takes it
without looking at her.

EXT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Giselle sits in the back of Mateo's truck. She's asleep.
Jasmine sits in the passenger with her soccer ball in her
lap.

JASMINE

So she's coming down right?

Mateo stares at the road ahead.

MATEO

Yes. But not any time soon okay?

JASMINE

Will we have our own rooms?

MATEO

Yes, this is my old house when I was a kid.

Jasmine looks out the window, passing broken down houses and kids playing on the roads. *
*

JASMINE

I'll miss my home. *

MATEO

You'll like this part even more okay. It's a lot of space there for you to run around.

JASMINE

How will I get to school? *

MATEO

I'm gonna have to drive you now.

JASMINE

Oh.

Mateo looks at her worried.

MATEO

You'll be okay.

JASMINE

When can we bring the dogs?

MATEO

I'll pick them up as soon as we settle down.

JASMINE

And you won't leave this time?

Mateo looks down ashamed.

MATEO

No. I won't work for a while.

Jasmine nods.

Mateo makes a turn and they stop in front of a big yellow house. The big palm trees surround the house and a huge swing set sway softly behind the rushing wind. *

Jasmine gets out the car. Mateo grabs Giselle and they walk forward into the house.

INT. MATEO'S HOUSE - DAYS LATER

Jasmine watches a macaw perch itself on the tree branch closes to her. She smiles at it. The Bird flaps it's red and green wings. *

The Macaw croaks and taps it's white beak on the branch. *

Another Macaw perches next to it. Jasmine smiles as they sit with each other. *

Jasmine turns around and looks at the very old design of the living room. She looks through her father's old records.

Mateo walks in with Giselle. He brings a tray of snacks for them and sets them on the glass table.

MATEO

You gotta eat something Jasmine.

Still looking at the records she doesn't turn around.

JASMINE

I'm not hungry.

He goes up to her and pulls out an old record of "The Five Satins"

MATEO

I'll play this for you.

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE

You like music?

MATEO

Oh I love it. My mother's sister used to send us all these records from America.

The record starts playing a slow song. Mateo bobs his head to it. Jasmine smiles.

MATEO (CONT'D)

She used to make us dance with her hours. My feet would kill me.

JASMINE

Why did she make you dance?

MATEO

Because that's what she loved to do, in the square she would always perform.

JASMINE

I wish I could see that.

MATEO

I actually met your mother at one of performances at the square.

JASMINE

Really.

MATEO

We danced all night long.

Mateo laughs at himself.

JASMINE

Why don't you dance anymore?

MATEO

I'm old. My bones hurt.

Jasmine laughs.

JASMINE

You're not old. Grandpa G is old.

MATEO

Do you want to see some of my moves.

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE

Yes.

Mateo extends his hand to Jasmine. She smiles and grabs it. He leads her and swings her around. She laughs hard.

Giselle looks and gets up. Mateo grabs Giselle and dances with both girls.

Jasmine begins to dance on her own. She closes her eyes and lets the sound of laughter and feet stomping consume her.

She opens her eyes and watches her dad dance with Giselle. Jasmine is happy.

The song stops and Jasmine falls to the ground tired. Mateo and Giselle keep dancing. Jasmine picks up the sandwich her father left her and eats away.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

We should have a dance party
everyday dad.

MATEO

Of course. Everyday.

Mateo watches her finally eat. He smiles.

Jasmine bobs her head as the songs change.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Jasmine's bedroom is small and empty. She closes her eyes but opens them every couple of minutes.

Her window wide open she hears all the country sounds. An owl's song and crickets playing in the fields.

Jasmine pulls out a small Polaroid from under her pillow. It's of her and her mother at the beach. They sit on the sand while Giselle plays in front of them.

She holds the picture tight against her chest before slowly falling asleep.

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine and Giselle sit at the kitchen table waiting for their breakfast. Mateo brings out two plates and sits down. The girls don't eat.

Mateo sips his coffee and notices they aren't eating.

JASMINE

She doesn't eat scrambled eggs. *

MATEO

Oh.

Mateo sighs. *

JASMINE

And I don't like my eggs like this.
Mommy always makes them scrambled
for me.

*
*

Mateo grabs their plates and switches them. He sits back
down.

*
*

MATEO

Is there anything else you guys
need?

JASMINE

Umm. Usually mommy gives us a fruit
bowl and juice.

MATEO

Well all I have is coffee.

JASMINE

Ok.

Jasmine looks at the coffee cup in front of her. She smells
it before taking a small sip. She makes a face as it burns
her tongue.

MATEO

It's hot. Be careful.

Mateo finishes remaking their breakfast. He sets it down and
this time they both eat it.

He goes back to his crossword puzzle.

JASMINE

Thank you.

MATEO

Mhmm.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mateo sits watching tv. Jasmine walks in with her soccer
ball.

*
*

She kicks it around, swinging it between her feet.

*

JASMINE

Dad I'm bored.

MATEO

Go talk to your sister.

JASMINE
Giselle doesn't talk.

MATEO
Make yourself busy and clean.

JASMINE
But I want to go out and play.

MATEO
Why can't you do that?

Jasmine gestures to the window.

JASMINE
There is no one here. I don't like
it here.

MATEO
We have no where else to go.

JASMINE
I want to go home.

Mateo finally stops looking at the tv screen.

MATEO
No.

JASMINE
I miss mommy. And my friends.

MATEO
You have everything you need right
here.

JASMINE
You said you would pick up my dogs.

MATEO
And I will.

JASMINE
When?

MATEO
Soon.

JASMINE
You keep saying soon.

Mateo sighs.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
It's always soon. Soon, soon soon.
Why not right now.

She stomps the ground.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
I want to leave.

Mateo gets up and pulls out the dad voice.

MATEO
Jasmine stop.

JASMINE
I don't want to be here.

MATEO
Well you have no choice.

JASMINE
I hate you!

Jasmine throws her soccer ball. *

MATEO
Jasmine stop it.

JASMINE
I want to go home right now.

MATEO
Not even your sister is acting like
this.

Mateo holds her arms gently but Jasmine flinches.

MATEO (CONT'D)
(softly)
Hey, look at me. I'm here for you
okay?

Jasmine stops fighting.

MATEO (CONT'D)
I'll go bring your dogs, I promise.
Just give me sometime okay? *

Jasmine pulls away from him. *

JASMINE
You should just leave.

MATEO

What?

JASMINE

Leave! We don't need you guys.
Giselle and I are fine alone.

MATEO

I'm not gonna leave you.

JASMINE

Whatever.

Angry Jasmine stomps away. Mateo sits there in shock.

INT. HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

The house is dark with only sunlight seeping through.

There are papers all over the floor and food and glass.
Emilia lays halfway on the couch and the other half on the floor.

Her alarm goes off. She wakes up. Her face is ghostly. She sits on the couch and watches the corner.

She shakes her head.

EMILIA

Leave. leave.

She looks up again. There is nothing there.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Please, leave me alone.

She gets up and starts to look under the couch and then looks under the carpet.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

I lost it. Okay I lost it.

She keeps looking for something.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

I will find it. I'll... give it back.

*

A light knock startles her. She walks to the doorway but doesn't open the door.

Another knock. Someone drops something on the floor. Through the small glass frame Emilia watches the person walk away.

Emilia goes to the door. She slowly opens it. There is no one there. She looks down. A plate of food sits there.

Emilia picks it up and quickly slams the door. She sits on the floor against the door and eats the food.

She finishes the food and walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER-

Emilia washes the dishes. She puts everything away. She sits down on the table looking at nothing.

She moves on to open the fridge and sees there's no food there.

She gets up and puts her slippers on. She walks out the house in her nightgown.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE- MOMENTS LATER-

Emilia walks into the square looking messy. People watch her and whisper about her once she passes them.

She stops before a lady selling fruit.

Emilia grabs an apple.

EMILIA

How much?

The lady watches as Emilia takes a bite. Emilia drops some coins in the lady's basket and walks along.

She passes Ricky's bullies Milo and Jack and they stare at her for a while. Milo shakes his head

*
*

MILO

Maybe that's why Jasmine hasn't
been to school.

*
*

Emilia's hands begin to shake. She looks down at them. She holds one hand in place.

The woods near the village seem to call her. Emilia walks towards it dropping the half eaten apple.

EXT. WOODS- CONTINUOUS-

The woods are still. Then we hear footsteps approaching. It's Emilia and she starts running.

Emilia looks up at the trees and the moment she does they change into creepy, spiked trees.

She turns around to make sure no one is chasing her but the trees transform into a barricade and she can't leave.

She suddenly stops.

EMILIA

Shut up!

The wind begins to pick up and whistle. Emilia drops on her knees and covers her ears.

Her slippers are covered in dirt so takes one off. There are scratches on her knees, her hair is unkept and tangled with twigs.

She then gets up slowly and suddenly starts to here a voice.

JASMINE (O.S.)

Come back!

She snaps her head in the direction of the voice.

JASMINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Come back!

She follows the voice and goes deeper into the woods. Daytime slowly turns to dusk. The trees shape changes they now look as if they are trying to grab her.

Suddenly fog begins just beneath her and wraps around her as she tries to run away.

JASMINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Please come back!

Emilia tries to fight the fog.

EMILIA

I'm here.

Close up: Emilia's face is dirty, eyes watery.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emilia stands looking at herself in the mirror. She silently cries as she grabs water and washes the dirt of her face.

She removes each twig and starts to comb out her hair.

She looks down at her feet. She grabs a wet rag and cleans them off.

JASMINE (O.S.)
(whisper)
Come back!

Emilia snaps up and looks at herself in the mirror again.

CUT TO:

INT. MATEO'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine is looking at herself in the mirror. She angrily combs her hair.

MATEO (O.S.)
Hurry up!

She mocks him. She finishes braiding her hair and rushes out the bathroom.

EXT. PICNIC AREA - MOMENTS LATER

*

In a huge picnic area, Mateo and the girls find an empty table. The place is crowded with many families.

Mateo sets down the basket and puts all the food down. Giselle begins eating the fruit.

GISELLE
Thank you.

Mateo smiles at her and ruffles her hair. Jasmine sits on the bench but faces the water instead of him.

MATEO
Jasmine.

She shrugs her shoulders.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Jas, please look at me.

Slowly she turns around.

JASMINE
What?

MATEO
You still mad?

Jasmine crosses her arms.

*

MATEO (CONT'D)

What can I do to make everything better?

JASMINE

Take me home.

Mateo sighs.

MATEO

I wish I could.

JASMINE

You can.

MATEO

No. You weren't safe there.

JASMINE

(whispers)

Because of mommy?

Mateo grabs her hand.

MATEO

Yeah. Mommy needs help and you guys can't be around while she isn't okay.

JASMINE

Of course she needs help. You always leave us.

MATEO

Don't say that.

JASMINE

It's the truth. You leave and we watch you go away.

MATEO

Honey, I leave because I need to work. I need for you guys to be straight. If I stay home who will feed you.

JASMINE

I don't know.

MATEO

I don't want to leave you but we
all do things we wished we didn't.

JASMINE

Can't you take days off like now?

MATEO

Yes but the more days I take off
the more days I'll be gone when
they call for me.

JASMINE

Oh.

MATEO

But I promise from now on I will
try my hardest to spend more days
with you girls.

Jasmine smiles.

JASMINE

I would love that.

MATEO

Me too. I'm sorry that I haven't
been there for you girls. I really
am.

JASMINE

It's okay.

MATEO

It's not. But I will right this.
Okay?

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE

How is she going to get that help?

MATEO

Well...

JASMINE

We're here and she's there.

MATEO

I know. We can try our best to just
let her help herself.

JASMINE

But she my mom and I need to be
with her.

Mateo nods.

MATEO

Okay, I will check up on her
tomorrow and I'll let you know how
she is. Okay?

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE

Thank you.

MATEO

You're a stubborn girl. Just like
your mother.

Jasmine laughs.

JASMINE

Are we gonna go fishing?

MATEO

You want to?

JASMINE

Yes.

EXT. FISHING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The fishing area is empty besides Mateo and the girls.

Mateo prepare the fishing rod for Giselle and lures it into
the water for her. Giselle jumps up and down.

He then does the same thing for Jasmine.

JASMINE

Do you think I'll catch one?

MATEO

Of course.

JASMINE

I think I felt a pull.

He moves next to her and checks the rod.

MATEO

Could be a fish or the current.

The rod moves again, Jasmine smiles.

EXT. BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine runs around chasing Giselle. A car pulls up in the front so they run towards the car.

Mateo's friend CARL, jumps out the truck.

Jasmine stops running and Giselle stands behind her.

JASMINE

Dad!

Mateo comes out.

Carl opens the door and out come Jasmine's three dogs.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Max!

Jasmine runs up to them and they jump on her excited.

Giselle falls as one of them lands on top of her and licks her face.

MATEO

Thank you so much Carl.

CARL

No problem.

Mateo pulls Carl to the side. Jasmine notices and keeps her eyes on the dogs while listening.

MATEO

How much I owe you?

CARL

Don't worry about.

Mateo pats Carl's shoulder.

MATEO

Did you see her?

CARL

She wasn't there.

MATEO

Really?

CARL

The dogs were crying, I fed them before coming here. The door was unlocked and I called her name she didn't respond. The house an absolute mess.

MATEO

Okay thank you. I'll check it out. Thank you again Carl.

Carl nods.

CARL

Bye girls.

The girls wave him goodbye.

JASMINE

You want to come inside?

The dogs bark back in response. Jasmine leads the way and they follow.

Mateo stands there for a while before coming in.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

They all sit down for dinner. They eat in silence. Max sits right next to Jasmine and she secretly feeds him every now and then.

MATEO

I can see that.

Jasmine drops another piece of meat and laughs.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Stop it.

Jasmine rolls her eyes.

JASMINE

Can we play soccer later?

MATEO

It's late and you're not eating your food Jasmine.

JASMINE

I'm not hungry.

Jasmine slams her fork on the plate

GISELLE
(mocking)
Not hungry.

Giselle also slams her fork on the plate. Jasmine laughs and Giselle returns the smile.

Mateo looks between them and goes back to eating. Jasmine grabs a small bean and throws it a Giselle.

Giselle's face changes and she begins crying. Jasmine goes back to eating.

MATEO
You see what you did.

JASMINE
Sorry.

Jasmine tries to hold back her laughter. This makes Giselle cry more.

MATEO
It's not funny.

JASMINE
Okay, I'm done laughing.

Jasmine holds her stomach. She gets up and gives Giselle a big hug.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Stop crying. I'm sorry.

Giselle sniffles.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
You want me to read you a book
later?

Giselle nods.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Okay I will, but you have to stop
crying.

Giselle stops crying, Jasmine gets back in her seat and keeps dropping food for the dogs. *

Jasmine stops.

MATEO

You have to go to sleep early
anyways cause you got school
tomorrow.

Jasmine jumps in excitement.

JASMINE

Really?

MATEO

Yes, I'm dropping you off early. I
need to do somethings in the
square.

JASMINE

Okay. Can I stay after school and
play soccer with Ricky?

MATEO

Did your mom let you do that?

Jasmine shakes her head yes.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Okay then it's fine. But I'm
picking you so you better be ready
when I get there.

JASMINE

I will.

MATEO

Finish your food.

Jasmine finishes her food quickly.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jasmine lays in her bed by herself. A soft knock startles her
and she opens the door.

Giselle stands in the doorway with a book. She gives the book
to Jasmine and walks in.

Giselle makes herself comfortable in her bed. Jasmine lays
next to her and opens the door.

JASMINE

Which story do you want?

GISELLE

Umm the bears.

Jasmine flips the pages to "Goldilocks and The Three Bears"
Giselle cuddles in closer to Jasmine as she begins to read.

JASMINE

Once upon a time, there was a
youngster named Goldilocks who
lived at the edge of the forest.

EXT. SCHOOL - THE NEXT DAY

Jasmine sits in the front seat of Mateo's car. She is about
to walk out when Mateo locks the door.

MATEO

Aren't you going to say goodbye?

JASMINE

Bye.

Jasmine goes to open the door.

MATEO

Wait.

Jasmine sits back down.

MATEO (CONT'D)

I'll be at the soccer field at 6
exactly, so you have 3 hours to
play okay?

Jasmine nods.

MATEO (CONT'D)

You should know that the school
knows about mom, okay?

Jasmine turns to him.

JASMINE

Okay?

MATEO

I just want to prepare you incase
you hear anything.

Jasmine's energy changes and she looks sad.

JASMINE

Okay... bye.

MATEO

Jaz I just want to protect you.

She nods without turning around. She opens the door.

MATEO (CONT'D)

I love you.

INT. SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Jasmine walks quietly to her classroom. She opens the door and everyone is in class already.

She spots Ricky sitting next to her empty seat.

MS. GOMEZ

Come in Jasmine. Glad to see you
back!

*
*

Jasmine walks in and sits in her old seat. She smiles at Ms. Gomez

*
*

Ms. Gomez hands out papers, Ricky smiles at her and she returns the smile.

He grabs her hand and squeezes it.

MS. GOMEZ (CONT'D)

Okay so now that everyone has the
spelling quiz in front of them we
can start.

Jasmine sighs and rolls her eyes. Ricky laughs. Ms. Gomez shush them.

Jasmine begins tapping her pencil on the desk. She starts to make a beat and shoves Ricky softly. Ricky tries to ignore her.

*
*
*

Jasmine looks down at her paper and writes her name on the top.

She makes another beat and starts moving in her desk.

*

JASMINE

(whsipers)

Wanna play soccer later?

Ricky nods.

Jasmine mouths the words "I'm Bored"

Ricky just laughs at her. He looks down at his paper then at her again and smiles.

Jasmine writes down some of the answers she knows and then gets up and submits the quiz.

MS. GOMEZ

Thank you Jasmine. Is everything okay?

JASMINE

Yeah. My mom doesn't live with us anymore.

MS. GOMEZ

Oh no I'm sorry to hear that.

Jasmine nods and walks back to her seat.

EXT. LUNCH AREA

Jasmine pulls out her lunch bag and begins to eat. Ricky sips his juice while he stares at her.

RICKY

I missed you so much Jassy.

JASMINE

Eww.

Ricky laughs.

RICKY

I did. I had no one to talk to. I was by myself for these past two weeks.

JASMINE

Well I guess I missed you too.

Jasmine opens her fruit cup and eats it.

RICKY

We won three times.

JASMINE

Wow that's great.

*

RICKY

Everybody missed you. All we did was talk about how you're the best player in the team.

Jasmine gets red from embarrassment.

JASMINE
I'm not the best. Maybe.

RICKY
How is your mommy?

Jasmine stops what she's doing and leans on Ricky's shoulder.

JASMINE
Not sure.

RICKY
Um my mom has been dropping of food
for her.

JASMINE
Your mom is very kind.

Milo, Jack and William enter the lunch area.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Ugh. I forgot they existed.

RICKY
They actually haven't bothered me
in a while.

JASMINE
I think they only do it to get me
mad.

The boys sit at the table across from them and make vulgar
gestures.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Really?

Jasmine gives them the finger and they laugh.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Who are we playing against today?

RICKY
I think Luther and his team.
They're really good I heard.

JASMINE
Finally some competition.

RICKY
Oh before I forget...

Ricky pulls out a stack of papers and gives them to Jasmine.

RICKY (CONT'D)
These are yours.

JASMINE
What is it?

RICKY
All the homework you missed.

Jasmine drops her head on the papers and makes a sound.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER

Jasmine passes a player and then another. She has the ball and passes it to Ricky. Ricky gets it and kicks.

Jasmine watches with anticipation. The ball goes in. They score a goal.

Jasmine and her teammates huddle together celebrating.

The game finishes and she stays in her soccer uniform.

JASMINE
I need to wait for my dad here.

Ricky and Jasmine walk to the benches.

RICKY
What time is he supposed to get here?

JASMINE
Six.

RICKY
Okay, I'll wait with you.

Ricky rocks back and forth.

JASMINE
What are you doing?

RICKY
I'm just so happy I scored a goal.

JASMINE
Yeah that was awesome.

RICKY
It's cause of you Jassy.

JASMINE

You did that on your way.

Jasmine pats his back. Behind them walk Milo, Jack and William.

MILO

Well well well. If it isn't the two love birds.

Jasmine turns around slowly.

JASMINE

What do you want now Milo?

MILO

I guess I just missed seeing you two together.

Jack and William laugh behind them.

MILO (CONT'D)

But also I wanted to tell you something.

*
*

Jasmine gets up, ready to defend herself.

MILO (CONT'D)

I saw your mom.

*

Jasmine gets worried.

*

MILO (CONT'D)

Your mom was in the square in her pajamas acting weird.

*
*

JASMINE

Oh.

*

MILO

I think maybe you should check on her?

*
*
*

JASMINE

Okay... yeah I will thank you. Milo. For telling me.

*
*
*

Jasmine gets her things and starts to walk away. Ricky follows after her.

*

RICKY

Where are you going?

*
*

JASMINE
My mom needs me Ricky.

RICKY
I'll come with you.

JASMINE
No. Stay and tell my dad where I'm
at okay?

Ricky nods and stops walking.

Ext. CONTINUOUS-

Inside the woods Jasmine begins to walk faster She runs the
branches and falls quickly but gets herself back up.

It gets darker and now harder for her to see. But she makes
it to the clearing. She can see her house.

Jasmine turns around not wanting to go forward. She thinks
for a moment and keeps walking towards her house.

Scared Jasmine holds her hands. Her breathing picks up the
closer she gets to it.

She sees the door and makes her way to the porch.

The door pushes open and she enters.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

All the lights are off. Jasmine stumbles on a plate of food.
She walks into the kitchen, it is empty. Nothing is there.
She keeps walking into the living room.

The tv is on the floor. The rug upside down and the couches
flipped.

JASMINE
Mom?

She walks back into the hallway and makes her way upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

The hallway is also empty. Jasmine grabs a towel from the
floor and dries herself.

JASMINE
Mom? Are you here?

Jasmine opens the door to her mother's room.

INT. EMILIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine enters the room and stands still. Shocked she can't move.

Emilia lays on her bed. The white sheets stained with blood. No escape as the blood seems to be everywhere near her. Jasmine swallows hard.

*
*
*

JASMINE

Mommy?

Emilia doesn't move. Jasmine can't move. Jasmine looks around and there is no one else there.

Jasmine walks slowly towards her mother.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

No response. She gets closer and closer.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - FLASHBACK

They are back on the beach playing on the sand.

CUT TO:

INT. EMILIA'S ROOM

Jasmine touches her mother hair. Emilia doesn't move.

Jasmine closes her eyes.

She turns her mother's face slightly. Emilia is white, no color. No sign of life.

*
*

Jasmine gulps.

JASMINE

Oh no.

Jasmine looks down the blood is coming from Emilia's wrist.

A small knife lays just under the bed.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Mom. It's me.

Jasmine shakes her.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - FLASHBACK

Jasmine and her mom float on the water laughing.

CUT TO:

PRESENT

Jasmine shakes her.

JASMINE
Wake up. Wake up!

Jasmine begins to cry. She gently puts her mother down. She grabs the blanket and cleans the fresh wounds.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
Please. Please. Wake up.

Jasmine's hand shakes.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - FLASHBACK

Floating on the ocean Emilia grabs Jasmine's hand. Jasmine smiles staring at the sky.

CUT TO:

PRESENT

Jasmine grabs her hand.

JASMINE
Don't leave me.

Jasmine lays her down again. She runs out the room.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jasmine bangs on the door. Her NEIGHBOR opens.

Jasmine crying barely gets the words out.

JASMINE

Mom... she's hurt. Please help
me... please.

The neighbor goes back in for a second and comes out running.
Jasmine follows him into her house.

INT. EMILIA'S ROOM

Jasmine stands in the corner as she watches the neighbor help
Emilia. She cries and cries.

The wailing of sirens snaps Jasmine out her trance. She
rushes to her mom and kisses her head. She sits there as the
paramedics come in.

They check her mother and bring the gurney. They gently lay
her on it and Push her out.

Jasmine sits on the same spot not moving covered in her
mother's blood.

Mateo rushes in.

He talks to her but she doesn't hear anything. Mateo carries
her out.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

Emilia closes the book and kisses Jasmine on the forehead.

EMILIA

Are you excited for tomorrow?

JASMINE

Yes I can't wait!

EMILIA

You're such a big girl now. I can't
believe you're starting secondary
school.

JASMINE

I know. Can you read me another
one?

Emilia nods her head.

EMILIA

You got to go to sleep early. It's a big day.

JASMINE

Okay fine.

EMILIA

You're my sunshine.

Emilia kisses Jasmine one last time before turning of the lights.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - PRESENT

Jasmine sits on the chair with uneaten food in her hands. Mateo sleeps next to her. *

Jasmine puts the food down slowly gets up. She walks into a room. *

Emilia is connected to the life support machines. A tube in her mouth. She isn't the same. *

Jasmine looks at her and sits on the chair next to her.

Jasmine takes her mothers hand and lays her head on the bed. Jasmine focuses on the beeping of the machine before shutting her eyes.

THE END. *

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