

The Lies We Tell Ourselves

Written By:

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EXT. GOSHEN, JOSEPH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A two-story house burns as onlookers surround the area. Most of them are in pajamas, robes, or nightgowns.

Two Firetrucks arrive and park right outside the burning home. Their sirens blare as firefighters exit their vehicles. They rush in one after the other. One carries a hose while the other carries an ax.

Some of the onlookers then turn to JOSEPH SNYDER, who stands on the sidewalk facing the middle of his house.

Joseph is a 65-year-old white man with white hair and a bald spot on the back of his head. He wears a robe, tank top, boxers, and bunny slippers.

As Joseph watches the house in front of him burn, the firefighters attach a hose to a nearby fire hydrant. As they put out the fire, one of the firefighters approaches Joseph.

FIREFIGHTER

Are you the homeowner, sir?

Joseph continues to stare at the fire.

FIREFIGHTER

Sir? Hello?

The firefighter puts his hand in front of Joseph's face and snaps his fingers. Joseph blinks and is startled. He looks at the firefighter beside him.

JOSEPH

I-uh yes. Yes, I woke up and I smelled gas.

FIREFIGHTER

Uh-huh.

Joseph looks back at his house. The flames of the fire disappear. Firefighters exit the now destroyed home of Joseph.

FIREFIGHTER

Come back tomorrow morning and you'll be able to collect what's left of your stuff.

Joseph looks at him. Both men look numb.

FIREFIGHTER

Do you have a place to stay?

JOSEPH

Yeah.

Joseph looks back at his house as smoke pours out of it.

When he looks back at the house an elderly woman, AMY stands behind him. She is in a simple yellow sundress. She is looking at the firefighter.

AMY

Kind of a prick isn't he?

The firefighter moves through Amy. The lower part of her body is slightly transparent. She looks back at the house.

AMY

One in a million chance of this shit happening.

Joseph does not look at her.

JOSEPH

I think it's uh more common than you think. Gas leaks. They happen all the time. I'm just glad I got out in time.

AMY

Are you gonna call Sam?

JOSEPH

And say what? I haven't spoken to him for almost five years now. He still doesn't get me. I don't think he ever will.

AMY

I'm sorry Joe. I shouldn't have brought it up. I'm right here with you.

JOSEPH

I love you.

AMY

I love you too.

Amy and Joseph look at their home which still has smoke coming out of it.

INT. GOSHEN, MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Joseph lays down on a bed as he stares up at the ceiling above him. The ceiling fan spins around as Joseph stares at it. Next to him is Amy, standing perfectly still as she watches over him.

JOSEPH

I don't think I'll ever get used to you staring.

AMY

Can't help it.

She chuckles and smiles at him. Joseph gives her the same energy.

AMY

You should get up. It's time to get what's left of our stuff.

He gets up from his bed and sighs as he looks at his reflection on the television.

AMY

What's wrong?

JOSEPH

I look decrepit.

AMY

You've looked better but I still love you.

The two smile at one another.

JOSEPH

I love you too.

INT. GOSHEN, MOTEL BATHROOM

Joseph walks into the bathroom and turns on the sink. He takes his index and middle fingers and puts them under the running water.

He rubs his teeth with his fingers for about 30 seconds.

He then cups his hands together under the water and then swishes the water around his mouth.

AMY

Ya'know that won't keep your breath  
from stinking.

Joseph rolls his eyes and smiles at her.

JOSEPH

I don't exactly feel like getting  
ready the proper way.

AMY

Joseph.

JOSEPH

Fine. I'll pick up some gum on my way  
there.

He walks out of the bathroom.

EXT. GOSHEN, JOSEPH'S HOUSE - DAY

Joseph parks right outside his destroyed home in a beat-up  
grey Ford Mustang.

He steps out of his car and sighs as he looks at his home.  
Most of the home is destroyed. The roof has a gaping hole in  
it as does the front of the house.

INT. GOSHEN, JOSEPH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Joseph slowly enters through the hole of his house. He walks  
into the kitchen which is completely destroyed. Most of the  
kitchen is covered in ash.

Pieces of destroyed kitchen decor covers the ground.

INT. GOSHEN, JOSEPH'S MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph walks into the master bedroom. Like the kitchen, the  
bedroom is covered in ash. The bedsheets are torn apart with  
burn marks covering what's left of them.

Joseph walks to the right side of the bed. He moves his hand  
across the sheets.

AMY

Hey, don't get sentimental. You've  
still got me here. These are just  
fucking sheets.

Amy laughs.

AMY  
Fuckin' sheets.

She winks at him. Joseph quickly turns to her with an embarrassed look.

JOSEPH  
Jesus Christ Amy.

AMY  
Were those the same sheets we  
conceived Samuel?

Joseph covers his forehead in embarrassment.

JOSEPH  
Ohhhh my God! Are you serious?

AMY  
What? Come on. You know I always say  
what's on my mind.

JOSEPH  
I remember you not having a filter.

Amy shrugs her shoulders. Joseph laughs and Amy joins him.

Joseph picks up a destroyed picture frame from a destroyed nightstand. The picture inside is burnt away and all that remains is a small corner that has Joseph's face on it.

JOSEPH  
I was thinking about moving back to  
Williamsburg. That's where we met.

AMY  
That place? Seriously?

Joseph smiles at her.

AMY  
God, you're so sentimental. Do you  
ever move on?

Joseph chuckles as he looks at her.

JOSEPH  
I'm very capable of moving on.

AMY  
Sure ya are.

They chuckle.

EXT. WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE - DAY

Joseph is driving across the bridge in his car. He is driving toward Brooklyn, New York. As he looks outside his window he smiles. No one is in the seat next to him.

Amy appears in the seat next to him, smiling back at him.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK**

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, 1981, JOSEPH'S FIRST APARTMENT - DAY

The year is 1981. Joseph's apartment is four stories tall and painted a sickly beige color. It stands across two other apartment complexes. In between the complexes is a dumpster next to a children's playground.

People of all ages are out and about enjoying this morning.

The sound of a 1981 alarm clock plays. It plays the Rolling Stones hit song, "*Start Me Up*."

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S FIRST APARTMENT - DAY

A young 25-year-old Joseph lays down on his twin-sized bed. There are opened and unopened boxes scattered across the bedroom. Some of the labels like bedroom or kitchen.

Joseph slowly blinks then rubs his face while groaning almost as if he's in pain.

He rolls around on his bed and presses his pillow up against his ears as tight as he can.

JOSEPH

Ugh! Fuck! Turn it off, please!

The alarm continues to blare. Joseph rolls left and right vigorously.

He rolls off the bed and lands on his face. He rolls around and looks up at his nightstand to see that it is his alarm that is ringing.

There is a knocking coming from the other side of his room.

AMY(V.O)

Turn it off already!

Young Amy bangs on the wall harder. Joseph slowly lifts himself off the floor.

JOSEPH  
(Weakly)  
Alright, Alright.

He stands up on his feet. The knocking is now coming from his front door.

JOSEPH  
Give me a minute!

He slaps his hand down on his alarm and turns it off.

AMY(V.O)  
Thank you! Asshole!

JOSEPH  
Asshole?

Joseph stomps to his front door.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S FIRST APARTMENT - DAY

Joseph swings open his door and knocks on Amy's door. Joseph's door is only about only 2 feet apart. The hallway is illuminated by dim lights. There is a garbage shoot in between the two apartments.

Joseph knocks on Amy's door as loud as she knocked on his.

JOSEPH  
Hey!

Amy swings open her door and looks at Joseph confused. Joseph is startled by her appearance.

JOSEPH  
Hey.

AMY  
(Annoyed)  
What do you want?

JOSEPH  
(Whisper)  
Shit.

AMY  
Excuse me?



JOSEPH

Uh sorry I

AMY

Were you going to yell at me for asking you to politely turn off your alarm?

JOSEPH

Well uh um I um.

Amy crosses her arm and raises her eyebrow. Joseph looks at her in the eyes and turns his gaze to the floor. He rubs the back of his head.

JOSEPH

(Whisper)

I-it uh wasn't that um polite. And you called me an asshole.

AMY

Come again?

He swings his head up and looks at her.

JOSEPH

It wasn't that polite! And I didn't appreciate being called an asshole! There I said it.

He takes a deep breath. Amy folds her arms and eyes him down.

AMY

And?

Joseph looks back at the floor and moves around in place.

JOSEPH

And I would like an apology. Please.

He looks up at her and makes eye contact once again. He blushes hard.

JOSEPH

I'm Joseph.

He reaches out to shake her hand. Amy looks at his hand curiously and then reaches out to shake it.

AMY

Um, Amy. I'm sorry for calling you an

asshole.

JOSEPH

It's ok.

AMY

You're new here right?

He looks at her confused.

JOSEPH

How'd you know?

AMY

The ghost told me.

Joseph looks scared.

JOSEPH

Come again?

Amy chuckles.

AMY

Scared of ghosts huh?

Joseph rolls his eyes.

JOSEPH

Haha, mess with the new guy.

AMY

Oh, come on! You were literally about to yell and probably curse at me for politely asking you to turn off your alarm.

JOSEPH

Politely? Do you call that polite? You were screaming at me. And as I mentioned before after I had turned off the alarm clock you yelled out and called me an asshole.

AMY

I said please! And how else were you going to hear me over that bomb you call an alarm. Plus asshole is not the harshest thing I could have called you.

JOSEPH  
You definitely didn't say please.

AMY  
Guess we're at a standstill then.

She folds her arms. Joseph looks at her arms and then folds his arms. They both have the same stubborn look.

JOSEPH  
Guess so.

The two stare at each other for a few seconds and then the sound of a stomach grumbling forces the two to look at their respective stomachs.

They look back at each other and laugh.

AMY  
Want to grab some breakfast?

JOSEPH  
What?

AMY  
What?

JOSEPH  
I'm confused.

AMY  
What are you confused about? A cute girl asked you to breakfast after she politely asked you to turn off your bomb.

JOSEPH  
Ok first, I stand by the fact that you did not say please.

He pauses for a second as he ponders her statement.

JOSEPH  
Second I uh never said you were cute.

Amy chuckles and Joseph joins her.

AMY  
I'll be ready in 3 minutes.

JOSEPH  
I didn't say yes.

They smile at one another. Amy goes into her apartment still making eye contact with Joseph. Once the door closes Joseph turns to open his apartment door. He grabs onto the doorknob and tries to open it but it does not budge. He sighs and presses his head against the door.

JOSEPH  
Fuck.

Joseph runs into the hallway

JOSEPH (V.O)  
Mrs. Grimshaw! Can you open my door!?

**END FLASHBACK**

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Joseph walks around the empty living room of the new apartment. The kitchen is small and has a counter separating it from the living room. The kitchen has light brown wooden cabinets, marble countertops, and a small stove. The living room has a big window that overlooks the street. The design of the space is modern.

Joseph is in a dark brown suit. His hair is no longer in a mess and he is now wearing glasses.

Beside him is VERONICA, a woman in her late 30s with an enthusiastic demeanor. She is in a button-down shirt, bright blue skirt, matching blazer, and heels. She turns to Joseph with a smile on her face.

VERONICA  
This.

She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. Joseph looks at her confused.

VERONICA  
This is a home.

Joseph turns to look at Amy who is standing behind Veronica with her arms folded. She looks at the cabinets behind Joseph and shakes her head. She looks disgusted.

AMY  
Not with those shitty cabinets. If I

still had a stomach I'd be vomiting.

Joseph Chuckles. Veronica looks at him confused. He notices her look.

JOSEPH

Uhhhh yeah. Sure.

AMY

It's a lovely place. Come on you got this.

JOSEPH

It's...nice and small. I never liked living in a place that was too big. You're right, it does feel like a home.

Veronica smiles at him.

VERONICA

Exactly. You can always tell when a place is going to be a good home when it has good energy. I can feel the energy in this room and it's filled with pure wonder

Amy folds her arms and laughs at Veronica.

AMY

She's insufferable but she's right. It does feel like a home.

Joseph smiles at Amy.

JOSEPH

I'll take it.

VERONICA

Wonderful! I'll get the paperwork started!

Veronica exits the apartment. Joseph walks to the window and looks outside. Amy hovers behind him.

AMY

Our new home.

Joseph looks at her and smiles. He raises his hand and puts it behind Amy. He looks at his hand disappointed as it goes through Amy's body. He puts his hand back to his side and

looks outside now with a sad expression.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Two burly men in matching brown uniforms hold up a sofa. They slowly and carefully move it to the center of the room. Joseph follows behind them holding a lamp.

He places the lamp on a nightstand in the corner of the room. All the furniture still has tags on them.

The men gently and carefully lower the couch in the middle of the room.

MOVER #1

Alright, that should be the last of it.

JOSEPH

Thank you, guys. I appreciate it.

Joseph looks at the floor upset.

AMY

Hey, come on don't feel bad. You're 65 fucking years old. Just be happy you can get out of bed in the morning.

MOVER #1

Take care man.

Joseph looks up at them. He fakes a smile as he waves the men goodbye.

JOSEPH

Thank you for your help!

The two men exit through the front door. Joseph slowly sits down on the couch.

AMY

It's a shame that most of our stuff is gone. But this place is nice. I think I can get used to being here.

JOSEPH

Will you be here? Even after I'm gone?

AMY

I'm not sure. I go wherever you go remember?

JOSEPH

I know. You're always there.

He moves his hand and puts it above Amy's. He pauses for a second and then places his hand on his thigh.

AMY

You ok?

JOSEPH

Yeah. Ya know it's just I uh. I wish more people knew about...us.

He bites his lip. Amy looks disappointed.

AMY

I know but we talked about this remember? The day you first saw me like this.

She points at her transparent legs.

AMY

Other people won't understand but you can still talk to me. I'm here for you.

Joseph smiles at her.

JOSEPH

Thank you. I missed you when you were gone.

Amy smiles at him.

AMY

Like I told you the first day I came back, I'll always be there with you. You'll never have to miss me again.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph is in a light blue pajama set and laying on top of his bed. He looks outside his window.

People are screaming and honking at one another. His room is fairly small.

The only other piece of furniture is a small bookcase that is completely empty.

AMY  
Can't sleep?

Joseph looks up and sees Amy standing at the foot of his bed.

JOSEPH  
I'm not used to the noises of  
Brooklyn. It's been a really long time  
since I've been here.

Amy floats to the window and looks outside.

AMY  
I always hated the noises. Too many  
people are angry over nothing.

Joseph looks at her confused.

JOSEPH  
That's not right. I remember you used  
to love the noises. You'd put stories  
to them.

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH  
Most of them were funny.

Amy looks at him and raises her eyebrow.

AMY  
Only some hon. I knew you used to  
force yourself to laugh at some of my  
jokes.

JOSEPH  
Only some. I wanted to make you happy.

The sound of a body dropping to the floor is heard through the wall. Joseph and Amy turn their heads and look at the wall.

AMY  
What was that?

JOSEPH  
I don't know.

Joseph slowly moves his sheets off of his body. He slowly sits up and struggles to lift himself out of his bed. He stands and stumbles to the wall. He presses his ear against



the wall.

DIANA(V.O)

(Faint)

Help! Somebody fucking help me!

Joseph rushes to the door as fast as he can. He opens the door and sticks his head out.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph looks around the hallway. The hallway is very wide. Two fluorescent lights barely illuminate the hallway. There are four apartment doors, one of which is Joseph, that face one another.

DIANA(V.O)

(Faint)

Oh God somebody help!

Joseph slowly shuffles to the apartment door next to his. As he walks the floors creak. He knocks on the door.

JOSEPH

Hello!?

He knocks again.

JOSEPH

Hello!?

He waits for a second for a response. After he waits he looks down at the knob and places his hand over it. He recoils his hand and looks behind him.

Standing behind him is Amy with her arms folded. She does not look pleased.

AMY

Joseph. Just call the police. They handle this sort of stuff.

JOSEPH

What if they can't get here in time?

Joseph looks back at the door.

DIANA(V.O)

(Weakly)

Help.

Joseph knocks on Diana's door.

JOSEPH  
Hello? Hello, can you hear me?

DIANA(V.O)  
(Weakly)  
Yes. Please help.

JOSEPH  
O-ok! Give me a minute!

He slams into the door with his shoulder.

JOSEPH  
Agh fuck!

He holds his shoulder and winces in pain. He presses his head against the wall while clenching his shoulder tighter.

He looks at the door and breathes heavily before slamming into the door again.

JOSEPH  
Shit!

He falls onto the floor and rolls around clenching his shoulder.

He presses his head against the floor and once again breaths heavily.

He looks up at the door and slowly stands up groaning in pain.

He straightens his postures and once slams into the door this time breaking the lock.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, DIANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

He falls onto the floor of Diana's apartment which is similar in size to his.

DIANA(V.O)  
(Weakly)  
Who the fuck is that?!

JOSEPH  
It's me!

DIANA(V.O)  
Who the fuck is me?

Joseph gets up off the floor and slowly limps to the kitchen.

JOSEPH  
Joseph! We spoke through the door.

Joseph walks into the kitchen to see DIANA, a 65-year-old woman with short white hair and glasses around her neck on the floor in a puddle of milk.

She is dressed in a simple flannel and jeans in a pool of spilled milk.

There is a bag of groceries on the counter above her. Her fridge is open and pours light into the room. Her back is completely soaked from the milk.

JOSEPH  
Oh my god.

DIANA  
It's not as bad as it looks.

Joseph grabs some paper towels and throws them on the pool of milk. He then bends down and reaches out his hands.

JOSEPH  
Here give me your hands.

Diana grunts in pain as she grabs onto Joseph's arms. Joseph grunts as he lifts her up from the floor and on her feet. He puts her arm around her and gets her to the living room.

DIANA  
T-thank you. Thank you so much. This might not be the right time to ask but could you pay for my door?

Amy appears behind the two of them. She looks annoyed and throws her hands up in the air.

AMY  
Seriously!?

Joseph nods his head. He reaches the couch and sits her down. Once she is sitting Joseph collapses onto the floor.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, DIANA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph is laying down on Diana's leather couch. He is snoring loudly while also drooling. He snores as loud as he can and then he jolts up scared.

JOSEPH

Ah! Fuck!

He looks around rapidly and then stops and looks at Diana who is sitting on the kitchen chair sipping her wine. She now wears a different flannel and jeans.

JOSEPH

Uh, what happened?

Amy sips her wine still looking at him.

DIANA

You swept me off my feet and saved me from near-death...sorta.

Joseph smiles confidently.

JOSEPH

Really?!

Amy looks away from him and sips her wine again.

DIANA

Well sorta like I said.

Joseph looks at her confused and then grabs his head.

JOSEPH

Ow! My head! What happened?

DIANA

Uh, you fell. I mean you helped me up from my nasty fall but then you fell on the floor.

He feels the right side of his face.

JOSEPH

Ugh, my face is sticky.

DIANA

Yeah, you fell on some milk. If it makes you feel better so did I.

He slowly gets up from the couch and holds on to his back.

JOSEPH

A little.

He flinches in pain and lowers his posture so he is bending over more.

JOSEPH

Ow, christ. My fucking back.

DIANA

Um.

She points to a cross on her living room wall. Joseph looks at it and then looks back at her ashamed.

JOSEPH

(whisper)

Sorry.

Diana nods her head and smiles.

DIANA

It's ok.

Joseph moves into the kitchen and sits down on the table with Diana.

DIANA

Advil or wine?

JOSEPH

Both?

DIANA

Yeah sure if you want your liver to bleed.

Joseph uses his other hand to hold his head. He winces in pain.

DIANA

Advil it is.

He stands up and goes into the top cabinet in her kitchen. She grabs the Advil as Joseph continues to groan in pain.

She places the Advil on the table. Joseph groans clearly still in pain.

JOSEPH

Thanks.

He opens up the bottle. Diana, still standing goes into the fridge and hands him a bottle of water. Joseph takes out three pills and drinks down the first one with the water.

DIANA

So I haven't seen you before.

Joseph washes down the next pill with the water.

JOSEPH

I just moved in today.

Diana smiles at him.

DIANA

Anything else exciting happen today?

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH

Heh not really.

Joseph puts the third pill in his mouth and washes it down with water. As he is swallowing Amy appears behind him and crouches down.

AMY

Joseph!

Joseph gags on his water and begins to cough.

DIANA

Oh boy.

Diana stands up and stands behind Joseph right where Amy was. When she goes to the same spot as Amy was in.

Amy disappears. Diana pats Joseph's back as he continues to cough.

DIANA

Don't die on me now. I have dibs on dying in this place. I plan to haunt it for the rest of eternity.

Joseph continues to cough while also punching his chest. He grabs the water and drinks it.

He coughs up the water onto the table. Diana pats his back harder. Joseph's coughs get lower and less violent after a few more coughs.

DIANA

You ok?

Amy appears behind Diana.

AMY

Yeah you know he's just coughing up a lung.

JOSEPH

(In pain)

I'm ok...just need...a minute

He looks at the pool of spit and water on the table and takes his sleeve to wipe it down.

DIANA

Hey, you don't need to do that. Here

Diana goes to the kitchen counter and grabs a roll of paper towels and puts it on the table.

Joseph grabs a few paper towels from the roll and wipes down the table.

JOSEPH

Sorry about that.

Diana sits down.

DIANA

It's ok. Did I say something to upset you?

Amy looks down at Joseph

AMY

Joseph, you should leave.

Joseph remains silent and lowers his head to look at the table. Diana looks at him confused.

Joseph looks back up at her.

JOSEPH

It's nothing.

AMY  
It's something.

DIANA  
What is it?

Joseph looks back down at the table.

AMY  
I'm talking to the ghost of my dead  
wife and she's pleading with me to go  
home.

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH  
You didn't say anything wrong.

DIANA  
Then what is it? Why do you look like  
someone just kicked your dog?

AMY  
Are you going to tell her?

JOSEPH  
No!

Diana looks at him confused. Joseph looks back up at her.

JOSEPH  
I uh-

He looks down ashamed of his outburst.

DIANA  
It's ok. Maybe I should have given you  
the wine instead of the Advil.

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH  
Is it too late for some?

Diana smiles at him.

DIANA  
Sure if you want your liver to bleed.

JOSEPH  
I thought that was only if you wash



down the pill with wine.

DIANA

I don't think so. I'm willing to put money on it if you are? I was a bit of a gambler back in the day.

Joseph smiles at her.

JOSEPH

Tell me more.

She smiles back at him.

DIANA

Let's start with my birth.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, DIANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Diana and Joseph are laughing hysterically. Diana's wine glass is completely empty. The sun is rising in the background and is slowly illuminating the apartment.

JOSEPH

You punched a cop!? I can't believe that.

DIANA

Why? Am I too dainty?

JOSEPH

Not at all.

DIANA

(Sarcastic)

Wow, backhanded compliment. Nice. You have not spoken to a woman in a while I see.

JOSEPH

Um...

Amy appears behind Joseph. Amy is folding her arms in a judgmental pose.

AMY

(ANnoyed)

It's been about five years and no the realtor doesn't count.

JOSEPH

Does the realtor count? She seemed pretty enthusiastic.

AMY

She wanted you to get the house.

DIANA

Wait. Was it Veronica!? Ha! She'd laugh at whatever corny jokes you throw at her.

JOSEPH

So you've had her before?

DIANA

Unfortunately, I have not forgotten her. That has to be one of the most plastic women I have ever met.

JOSEPH

Plastic?

DIANA

Yeah plastic, you know, fake.

Joseph laughs.

JOSEPH

Is that a new slang term people are using right now?

DIANA

They might be who knows. So did you try to seduce her with your hilarious jokes?

Joseph looks down blushing. Amy appears behind him.

AMY

You know this can't last forever Joseph. It's time to go home.

Joseph looks down at the table. He is no longer smiling.

AMY

I just want you to be happy Joseph. Nothing good can come of any of this. I know what you're thinking.

Diana snaps her fingers. Joseph swings his head up and looks

at her.

DIANA  
Hey, you ok?

JOSEPH  
(Uncertain)  
Uh yeah.

Diana looks at him confused.

DIANA  
You haven't gotten in your head in a while. You were doing well up until now. Wanna talk about it?

JOSEPH  
I uh no. No, I don't. I'm sorry.

AMY  
Keep her at arm's length, Joseph. It's what's best.

Diana reaches over and places her hand on his. Joseph looks at her and sees that she is smiling at him.

DIANA  
They don't sweat it. When and if you're ready we can talk.

Joseph smiles back at her.

JOSEPH  
Thank you.

He places his hand on hers. Amy looks disgruntled but Joseph does not notice this.

JOSEPH  
I think I should head out.

He points to the open window behind them. The sunlight pours into the room.

JOSEPH  
Suns come up.

Diana looks at the window and then back at him smirking.

DIANA  
You got a busy day today?

JOSEPH

Yeah, I'm catching up on sleep.

He stands up from the chair. Diana follows him as he walks to the door.

They pause at the door and lean their shoulders against it still looking at each other.

JOSEPH

Thanks for the Advil.

DIANA

Thanks for saving my life. Sorta. Ya know you could have called an ambulance.

Amy appears behind Joseph.

AMY

Told you.

Joseph's smile fades away but then he quickly forces a fake one.

JOSEPH

Yeah uh sorry about that. I'll come back later with my tools.

DIANA

Your tools survived the fire?

JOSEPH

Oh right. Well, I'll get tools and then I'll fix your door.

DIANA

Thank you. I'll see you around.

AMY

Maybe.

Joseph nods his head then opens the door and exits her apartment.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph closes the door behind him and turns to face his door.

JOSEPH  
(Whisper)  
Shit.

Joseph walks to his door and places his hand on the doorknob. Amy appears behind him.

AMY  
What are you doing?!

Joseph moves through her and she disappears. He knocks onto Diana's door rapidly.

Diana swings open her door and looks at Joseph confused.

DIANA  
Is everything ok?

Joseph laughs and appears out of breath.

JOSEPH  
Yeah no uh I mean

Joseph pauses and takes a deep breath. Diana places her hand in front of Joseph telling him to stop. He looks flustered.

DIANA  
Wait. You're a 60 something-year-old man and you still get flustered around women?

Joseph looks at her stunned. Diana merely smiles.

JOSEPH  
Well uh not exactly.

DIANA  
Riiight.

JOSEPH  
Uh well I mean like you said it has been a while and I was just wondering

DIANA  
Have you been to the cafe across the street yet? it's a cute little trendy place that opened up last year.

JOSEPH  
Nope.

Diana smiles.

DIANA  
Perfect, I'll see you tomorrow.

Joseph smiles. He tries to hold back tears.

JOSEPH  
Tomorrow? Why not tonight?

DIANA  
Come on, you're old, I'm old. I wanna  
nap all day today and watch reruns of  
The Brady Bunch.

The two smile at one another.

JOSEPH  
Sure that sounds good.

Diana goes back into her apartment and holds the doorknob.

DIANA  
Great. Now put some ice on  
that...everything.

The two chuckle.

JOSEPH  
See you tomorrow.

DIANA  
See you tomorrow.

Diana closes her door.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph is laying down on his bed completely covered in multiple sheets. He is staring up at his ceiling. Amy is standing next to the bed with the window behind her.

Joseph looks at her and sighs. He then turns to his side to turn away from Amy. He wraps his pillow around his ears.

Amy is looking down at him with a blank expression.

AMY  
Did you forget about me, Joseph?

Amy opens up the curtains. The light from outside shines on

Joseph. Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

Please I need to sleep. I have a long day tomorrow. I need my rest.

AMY

Did you forget about me, Joseph?

Joseph sighs loudly and sits upright. He looks at her exhausted.

JOSEPH

You know I would never.

AMY

Then why are you going out with that woman tomorrow?

Joseph pauses and looks down at his sheets.

JOSEPH

I don't...it's just...we're just going to a diner. Nothing more.

AMY

Why her?

Joseph shrugs his shoulders.

JOSEPH

I just want...I just want to make a friend here.

Joseph looks up at Amy who looks down at him. He turns his eyes away from her and faces the foot of his bed.

AMY

You know it's more than just that.

JOSEPH

It's not.

AMY

It is.

Joseph bites his lip.

AMY

You want to have sex with her.

He looks appalled. She uses her powers to yank the sheets. Joseph immediately pulls them back.

JOSEPH

Jesus Amy!

AMY

I don't censor myself, Joseph. Do you remember that?

JOSEPH

Of course, I do.

AMY

Then I assume you also remember why you cannot be with anyone else.

Joseph looks down at his sheets. He holds his hands against his face.

JOSEPH

Not again. please just.. for once don't remind me.

AMY

I won't.

JOSEPH

I just...I just wanted to talk to other people.

Amy looks at him sympathetically.

AMY

You have me, Joseph. I'm here for you always. I just...I just don't want you to get your hopes up and well you know.

Joseph stops crying and lowers his hands.

JOSEPH

I know I know.

Joseph lets out a loud sigh and then looks up at her with a shamed look on his face.

JOSEPH

I promised to never be with another woman after you died.



Amy smiles at him.

AMY  
I appreciate it.

JOSEPH  
I-it was the least I could do honestly  
after.

Amy gives Joseph a sorrowful look.

AMY  
You don't have to say it, Joseph. I  
know. Just remember to keep your  
promise ok?

Joseph looks down at his sheets.

JOSEPH  
I'm-I'm sorry. I shouldn't have agreed  
to go out with her.

AMY  
Go out but let her know it is the  
first and last time, ok?

Joseph nods his head.

JOSEPH  
I will.

Joseph raises his head and looks up at her. Amy smiles  
lovingly.

JOSEPH  
I love you.

Amy is no longer there.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph wakes up and looks over to his window. Standing over  
him is Amy with the window behind her. She is smiling at him.

AMY  
Good morning Joseph.

Joseph sits upright on his bed and smiles at her. His eyes  
are crusty from crying.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BATHROOM - DAY

Joseph is brushing his teeth. Amy is standing behind him smiling over his shoulder.

He spits out his toothpaste and rinses his mouth out. Amy does not turn her eyes away from the mirror.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph is staring at the mirror that hangs over his dresser. He is buttoning up his shirt. Amy is standing behind him, smiling.

AMY

You look good.

Joseph smiles at the mirror. He smiles is very forced

**BEGIN FLASHBACK**

INT. WILLIAMSBURG PIZZERIA - NIGHT

The year is 1981. Amy and Joseph are sitting in a slightly crowded pizzeria. They have two pizza slices each. Joseph and Amy are both eating a slice. Some cheese hangs from Joseph's mouth and Amy points to it and laughs. The two are dressed in casual attire.

Joseph pulls out the cheese and puts it in his mouth. Amy laughs.

AMY

It's good to see you don't care about how you look.

JOSEPH

I do a little. I mean I'm a healthy human being after all.

Amy looks at him confused.

AMY

Healthy human beings can't care about how they look?

JOSEPH

Heh, that was not smooth at all, was it?

Amy holds up five fingers.

AMY  
Five out of ten.

The two of them laugh.

AMY  
So not that I'm complaining because I  
do enjoy free pizza

Joseph smiles and nods his head.

JOSEPH  
Uh-huh?

AMY  
But I thought you were gonna take me  
out to a more...traditional date?

JOSEPH  
Traditional?

AMY  
Well, you know like a bit classier  
restaurant?

She points underneath the table. Joseph looks at her confused  
and then bends to the side to look underneath the table.

There is a bunch of gum sticking to the table. Joseph looks  
at the bottom of the table disgusted.

He sits back upright.

JOSEPH  
If you honestly think classier  
restaurants don't have gum of all  
different sizes and colors you're  
dreaming.

The two of them laugh.

JOSEPH  
I just thought this place would be  
more memorable.

Amy smiles and raises her eyebrow.

AMY  
Memorable?

JOSEPH

Well, how many times have you gone to a genuine New York pizzeria on a first date?

Amy chuckles.

AMY

I guess I really can't. Are you sure it wasn't just you being cheap?

JOSEPH

(Jokingly)

Oh, I am offended.

AMY

(Jokingly)

I can clearly see that.

JOSEPH

Be honest. If I were to take you out to an overpriced restaurant and a Broadway show would that really be a memorable date?

AMY

It would be the first time anyone has actually done that. So technically yes.

Joseph awkwardly laughs.

AMY

But who can say no to pizza

The two smile at one another.

JOSEPH

I want to assure you I have a well-paying job and on the second date, I'll take you to Washington D.C.

AMY

I'm sensing a little ego with that sentence.

Joseph awkwardly chuckles.

JOSEPH

Did I mention I can also dress myself?

AMY

That makes one of us. I usually make my maids do everything for me.

Joseph laughs as he bites into his pizza.

JOSEPH

So you're a queen or dutchess I take it?

AMY

Oh, I'm a ruler alright. Of Hell or Monica's as New Yorkers call it. It's a boutique not too far from here. I'm the manager there.

JOSEPH

You know come to think of it a retail store is exactly how I picture hell.

AMY

And I have the privilege of being in that hell every. single. day.

She sighs.

AMY

So what is it that you do?

Joseph looks away from her and plays with his hands a bit.

JOSEPH

I'm an uh well...receptionist.

Amy laughs. Joseph looks embarrassed

AMY

Don't be embarrassed.

Joseph looks up at her and laughs with her.

JOSEPH

Yeah, it took a lot out of me to tell you that. Oh, and it's a little hard not to be embarrassed with the laughing.

Amy holds back her laughter.

AMY

Sorry, Sorry.

She laughs again and then takes a deep breath.

Joseph folds his arms and smirks. He leans back against his chair.

JOSEPH  
All finished?

Amy takes another deep breath.

AMY  
Alright, I think that's the last of it.

JOSEPH  
Uh-huh.

AMY  
You're doing a great thing for men everywhere. Usually, it's a woman who's a receptionist. You're really making a difference out there.

Joseph slowly claps.

JOSEPH  
Comedy gold really. You're doing a wonderful job.

Amy bows to her left.

AMY  
Thank you.

Amy bows to her right.

AMY  
Thank you.

She turns to look at him. Joseph is smirking.

AMY  
I should also mention that I, like many young women before me, have my hope and dreams.

Joseph leans in smiling at her.

JOSEPH  
Which are?

AMY

I uh

Amy and pauses and looks at the table

JOSEPH

Come on don't be embarrassed.

Amy chuckles.

AMY

I uh wanna be a writer.

Amy shrugs her shoulders. Joseph looks at her excitedly.

JOSEPH

I thought about being a writer too.

Amy looks up and smiles at him.

AMY

Really?

JOSEPH

Yeah in college I wrote up a couple of drafts of some ideas I had.

AMY

Really? About what?

Joseph looks at his pizza and takes another bite.

JOSEPH

Oh uh, I don't know.

AMY

You don't remember what you wrote in college?

Amy pauses.

AMY

(Whisper)

Was it erotica?

Joseph chokes on his soda.

AMY

I'll take that as a maybe.

Joseph shakes his head left to right. He pumps his chest and

takes another sip of his soda. Some patrons look at the two as Joseph continues to cough.

AMY

Need me to call an ambulance?

Joseph puts up his hand and coughs.

JOSEPH

I'm ok, I'm ok.

He coughs a little.

JOSEPH

Sorry about that but I uh didn't expect that guess.

AMY

Hey, I'm not judging. College is about finding yourself and all that good stuff.

Amy takes a sip of her soda.

JOSEPH

Well, it definitely wasn't...that but it is still embarrassing.

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

I used to write fantasy novels.

Amy looks at him surprised.

AMY

Really?

Joseph looks down at his food as he talks to her.

JOSEPH

Yeah, knights, dragons, princesses, and all that.

Amy chuckles. Joseph looks back up at her.

JOSEPH

I-it was a long time ago. It wasn't...I don't know.

Amy looks at him confused.



AMY

What do you mean?

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

I don't know. It's silly really.

Joseph forces a laugh.

AMY

What is?

JOSEPH

I don't know. The way I approached it I guess. I was way more drawn in by fantasy stories and I guess that limited my...capabilities.

AMY

Well, all those stories usually have one thing in common.

JOSEPH

Bootleg Shakespearean writing.

The two laugh.

AMY

Nooo.

She smiles at him.

AMY

The human condition.

JOSEPH

You sound like a college professor.

AMY

No, I just know things.

Joseph looks down at his plate.

JOSEPH

Well uh, it doesn't matter anymore.

Joseph bites his lip and plays with a rolled-up piece of paper.

JOSEPH

I stopped writing after my dad died.

Amy reaches out her hand.

AMY

Don't have to talk about it if you  
don't want to.

Joseph looks up at her and then at her hand. He lifts up his  
hand and puts it over Amy's.

JOSEPH

It's ok.

He shrugs his shoulders. Amy gives him a sympathetic look.

JOSEPH

It's-it's ok. It was a long time ago.  
I just brought it up because

Joseph bites his lip.

JOSEPH

After my father died I kinda, I don't  
know. Abandoned writing fantasy novels  
I guess. I figured that it was about  
time I stopped living in a fantasy  
world.

Amy looks down at her plate and then up at him.

AMY

It's never too late.

She smiles at him and Joseph smiles back.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S FIRST APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph and Amy walk to the front of their respective doors  
which are across from each other. They both have their coats  
on.

Amy looks up at Joseph with a smile. He looks back down at  
her with a smile.

AMY

I had a really good time Joseph. Going  
out to pizza is a much better  
alternative to a Broadway musical

Joseph points to her in a finger gun position.

JOSEPH

I try my best.

AMY

I bet you do.

Joseph smirks.

AMY

Well, I'll see you on our next date. I was thinking California?

JOSEPH

Sure. Let me get my magical unicorn.

AMY

Don't expect me to wear a Cinderella dress.

AMY

Never in a million years.

They pause and smile at one another.

AMY

Good night Joseph.

JOSEPH

Good night Amy.

The two of them go into their respective apartments.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S FIRST APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph enters his apartment and closes the door behind him.

He presses his back against the door and looks up at his ceiling. He then looks around his apartment and sighs.

He takes a few deep breathes and then exits his apartment.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S FIRST APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Joseph exits his apartment and closes the door behind him. He looks at Amy's door and takes a few deep breaths. After he is done he knocks on Amy's door.

AMY(V.O)

One second!

After a few seconds Amy answers. She looks up at Joseph surprised.

AMY  
Hey Joseph.

Joseph looks at her stunned.

JOSEPH  
I uh um.

Amy chuckles and pulls him in for a kiss.

Joseph kisses her back and Amy kicks open her door and drags Joseph by his collar into her apartment.

**END OF FLASHBACK**

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, TRENDY CAFE - DAY

Diana sits alone at a table dressed in a casual shirt and jeans. She has a cup of tea right in front of her.

Joseph walks into the cafe in a simple gray suit with no tie.

Diana sees him and waves him down.

Joseph forces a smile and waves back at her. He has heavy bags under his eyes.

He walks over to the table and stands next to Diana who smiles up at him.

DIANA  
Hi.

JOSEPH  
Hi.

Diana gestures to the seat.

DIANA  
Don't worry there's nothing underneath  
the seat.

Joseph looks at the seat and then sits down. Diana leans over the table excited.

DIANA  
You look nice.

Joseph looks out the window and in the reflection, Amy is standing behind. Joseph looks back at Diana faking a smile.

JOSEPH

Thank you. So do you.

Diana smiles at him.

DIANA

Thank you. This place has really good tea, but they also have really good coffee if you need a little pep.

JOSEPH

Thank you. I think I'm good for now.

Diana looks at him concerned.

DIANA

Oh, ok.

Diana pauses for a moment.

DIANA

Is everything ok?

Joseph looks at her surprised and then shakes his head.

JOSEPH

Huh?

He quickly glances at the reflection of Amy. Amy is smiling at him. He quickly turns back to Diana.

JOSEPH

Yeah, yeah.

Joseph pauses for a second.

JOSEPH

Didn't get a lot of sleep. I've had a lot on my mind but I don't want to talk about myself. Tell me. Tell me about you.

Diana nods her head.

DIANA

Ok.

She smiles at him.

DIANA

Well, I grew up in Kansas with my mom  
and dad and two brothers, Billy and  
Sal.

Joseph smiles at her and nods. His gaze is focused on Amy who  
sits behind Diana.

JOSEPH

Right.

She notices how distracted he seems.

DIANA

And uh then um.

Diana bites her lip.

DIANA

I'm sorry I just...I just feel like  
there's something wrong here.

Diana leans back against her chair. Joseph looks at her  
confused.

JOSEPH

Well like I said before I have a lot  
on my mind.

DIANA

Like?

JOSEPH

I uh rather not say.

DIANA

Joseph. Come on.

Amy leans into Joseph's ear.

AMY

(WHispering)  
She's annoying.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry I think no I need to go to  
the bathroom.

Diana looks at him confused.

DIANA

Ok.

Joseph looks up at her.

JOSEPH

T-thank you.

He gets up from his chair and rushes to the bathroom.

Diana watches him as he goes to the bathroom and then looks at the chair in front of her with a confused expression still on her face.

DIANA

(Whispers)

The fuck?

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, TRENDY CAFE BATHROOM - DAY

Joseph rushes into the completely empty bathroom. The bathroom consists of only one toilet and a single mirror above the sink.

Joseph grips the side of the sink and takes a few deep breaths. He then turns the sink on and splashes cold water in his face.

He sighs as the water drips from his face. Amy appears behind him.

AMY

Joseph, I think it's time for you to go.

JOSEPH

I can't I...I haven't told her that I can't see her again. Leaving now without an explanation would be beyond rude.

AMY

It's the right thing to do Joseph. You're allowing your anxiety to get the better of you. It's not the first time and it won't be the last.

Joseph sighs and slaps the side of the sink with his right hand.

JOSEPH  
Fucking hell.

Joseph takes a deep breath and then stares at himself in the mirror for a few seconds. He turns the sinks back on and splashes more water in his face.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, TRENDY CAFE - DAY

Diana looks outside the window of the cafe with a bored expression on her face.

Joseph slowly walks to the table and stands next to his chair. His hands are in pockets. Diana looks at him and forces a smile.

DIANA  
Hi.

Joseph sighs and smiles at her.

JOSEPH  
Hi. I'm sorry but I think we should end this.

Diana thinks about this.

DIANA  
It's ok. Don't worry about it. At least do me the courtesy of escorting me home like a gentleman.

She chuckles.

JOSEPH  
Sounds good to me.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S APARTMENT HALLWAY DAY

Joseph walks Diana to her door they stop as soon as they get to it. the two turn to face each other. Joseph's hands are in his pocket. He looks at his feet.

JOSEPH  
I'm sorry about today.

Diana smiles at him.

DIANA  
Don't worry about it.



Joseph looks up at her.

JOSEPH

I uh hope I see you around.

Diana smiles and nods her head.

DIANA

Me too Joseph.

Dian goes into her apartment. Joseph stands outside her door with his head tilted downwards.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joseph opens the door to his apartment and throws the keys on the floor.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph takes off his shoes and flops down on his bed. As soon as he hits the bed he sighs in disappointment. Amy walks to the side of the bed.

AMY

I'm sorry Joseph but it had to be done. You know you could never tell her the truth about me. You would have been keeping this secret from her and it would have ended horribly. Plus you did promise never to be with another woman after you'd died. You owe me that.

JOSEPH

I know...I know. It was just too difficult to do.

AMY

But you did and you're better off for it. We're better off for it.

Joseph turns around and lays down on his back.

JOSEPH

I know, I know.

Amy smiles down at him.

AMY

We hit it off pretty well on our first

date.

Joseph smiles up at her.

JOSEPH

Yeah, yeah we did.

AMY

Some people are meant to be together  
Joseph and some are not. You know  
that.

JOSEPH

I-I know...I'm sorry.

AMY

It's ok Joseph. I love you.

Joseph turns to stare up at the ceiling. He has a concerned  
look on his face.

JOSEPH

I love you too.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joseph is in simple sweatpants and a t-shirt. He is dusting  
off his lamp and the nightstand it sits on. In the  
background, an ad for a TV series called "Ghost Chasers".

A man in slicked black hair and a black leather jacket stands  
in front of an abandoned-looking house.

JOHN

Hi, I'm John Jackson. I'm no  
ghostbuster but I do know my way  
around a haunted house. If you need  
help with "busting" ghosts me and my  
team are up for the job.

A number appears on the screen.

JOHN

And be sure to tune in every Friday  
for more epic ghost chases.

Joseph looks at the Tv and then looks around his apartment.

He slowly moves to the landline which lies on his kitchen  
counter.

He dials the number he saw on TV. As he dials Amy appears behind him. She has a confused and hurt look on her face.

AMY

Joseph? What are you doing?

Joseph stops dialing.

JOSEPH

It's-it's nothing.

AMY

It's not nothing Joseph. Why are you calling that number?

Joseph looks up at her with tears in his eyes.

JOSEPH

Don't make this harder than it has to be. Please I need you to go away. I-I can't take it anymore.

Tears begin to form in Amy's eyes.

AMY

Joseph...why do you want to kill me again?

Joseph begins to cry.

JOSEPH

Please...please don't remind me again. I-I don't want to be reminded again.

Amy has a blank expression on her face as tears continue to fall from her eyes.

AMY

I have to Joseph. It's for your own good. To remind you of what you did to me. I'm not here because of you.

JOSEPH

Please.

AMY

No Joseph. You can't forget about me. You can't get rid of me.

JOSEPH

I need you-I need you to go.

AMY

I can't! I can't ever go away! I'm  
stuck. With. You. Forever!

Joseph cries as he drops the phone and sits down on the  
floor.

JOSEPH

It-it wasn't my fault.

He pauses and then holds his head in his hands.

JOSEPH

It wasn't my fault!

AMY

Yes, it was! You killed me! And now  
you're trying to kill me again!

JOSEPH

(Whisper)

It wasn't...It wasn't my fault.

He stops crying and composes himself.

JOSEPH

It was that drunk idiot. He killed you  
and himself. It wasn't my fault.

AMY

But you were the reason I was out  
there, Joseph.

Joseph looks up at her with tears in his eyes.

JOSEPH

I know. I know I can never take that  
back. I know I helped kill you. But I  
just can't take it anymore.

Joseph stands up and goes back to dialing the number.

AMY

Joseph! Joseph!

Joseph looks back at her.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry.

He looks back at the landline. The phone rings for a few

seconds and then a young woman answers.

WOMAN

(Enthusiastic)

Hello, thank you for calling Ghost Chasers! Do you have a hot take on some paranormal activities?!

Amy begins to cry hysterically. Joseph covers his ear and winces in pain.

WOMAN

Hello? Hello is someone there? this better not be another fucking prank call.

Amy's cries become louder.

JOSEPH

Please! I need help!

WOMAN

Oh, uh sir do you need me to call 911? Are you in immediate danger?

Amy shifts her hands in the direction of the cabinets. The cabinets open and all of the dishes inside shoot out and crash in the direction of Joseph.

JOSEPH

Oh, God!

WOMAN

Sir?

AMY

You think those fucking clowns can get rid of me!? Huh, Joseph!?

Amy opens up the knife drawer and shoots knives out of the drawer. One of the knives cuts Joseph's cheek.

JOSEPH

Amy, please!

Another knife shoots out and is lodged into the microwave and cuts the telephone cord.

Joseph holds the phone and looks at it scared for his life.

He drops the phone. His hands are shaking violently. He cries

out to Amy.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry! I'm sorry for what I did. I am. I blamed you for our problems and that was wrong. That was evil and I deserve to be punished. Just please don't hurt me.

He gets on his knees. Amy looks over him. She a cold look on her face.

AMY

Joseph

Joseph looks up at her with tears and snot dripping down his face.

JOSEPH

Yes?

AMY

I'll never forgive you.

Amy waves her hand in the direction of the microwave. the microwave is ripped off the wall and slams into Joseph's head.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK**

INT.GOSHEN, 2014, JOSEPH'S HOUSE - DAY

The year is 2014. Joseph is 60 years old and is looking over a stack of bills on his kitchen table. He is in a simple grey suit.

He grabs an envelope from the table and drops it down on the table frustrated. he sits down and sighs in annoyance.

Amy walks in with two plastic bags filled with groceries in hand. She is in casual clothing. She smiles as she looks at Joseph.

AMY

Hey, grumpy ass.

She goes up to him and kisses him on the head. He just grunts.

She sets the bags down on the kitchen counter.

AMY  
How was your day?

Joseph sighs and looks at the stack of bills.

JOSEPH  
Fine.

Amy starts to put the groceries not looking at the kitchen table or Joseph at all.

AMY  
Work was good?

JOSEPH  
Uh-huh.

AMY  
Traffic.

JOSEPH  
Shit.

AMY  
That's a dollar in the swear jar.

Joseph sighs. Amy turns around to look at Joseph.

AMY  
Alright, what's the crisis now?

She looks at the stack of bills surprised.

AMY  
Holy shit!

She walks over to the stack of bills and picks the heating and light bill.

AMY  
Joseph, what happened? All these bills are overdue.

Joseph looks at his feet and holds his hands together.

JOSEPH  
I don't know what to tell you. Our priority right now is paying for Samuel's college.

Amy looks down at Joseph confused.

AMY

I know that Joseph. You don't need to remind me.

JOSEPH

I-it feels like I do.

Amy looks at him confused.

AMY

What's that supposed to mean?

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

You can't live on unemployment forever Amy.

Amy against the kitchen counter.

AMY

Joseph, I'm looking. I haven't been sitting on my ass doing anything.

JOSEPH

Sweetheart, just listen.

He looks up at her. He looks hurt.

JOSEPH

You wrote a novel and it didn't sell enough copies. You barely broke even. I think it's time to move on.

AMY

Joseph, I am moving on. I'm moving on and I'm writing another novel. I told you that.

JOSEPH

No, I know. I know.

She walks and stands in front of Joseph. She folds her arms.

AMY

What are you trying to say, Joseph?

He looks down at his feet.

JOSEPH

I just



AMY

Joseph, please look at me.

Joseph looks up at her.

JOSEPH

We're old Amy. We have bills we need to pay. It's not just us we have to worry about. Even if it's just temporarily I think you should see if you can get your old job back.

Amy sighs and throws her hands up in the air. She takes a deep breath and sits in front of Joseph.

AMY

Joseph, I know we're hurting right now but I am going back to that boutique. I can't go back there.

JOSEPH

I just

AMY

Please. Please just let me finish.

Joseph looks down at his feet.

JOSEPH

Ok.

Amy places her hands on Joseph's knee.

AMY

Look at me, Joseph. Please.

Joseph looks back up at her.

AMY

I can't go back to that place. I worked at that dead-end for almost forty years now and each day was harder than the next. I didn't have a choice but to stay there because I was up to my eyeballs in debt. And then we got married and had Samuel and I don't regret that at all but I still needed to stay there. I still needed to go to the place that made me so miserable.

Joseph looks down at his feet.

JOSEPH

I know.

He takes a deep breath.

JOSEPH

I know.

AMY

I know you're doing everything you can right now to help us keep afloat and I appreciate that, but I can't go back. I won't go back to that boutique. I'll write another novel. And then another novel after that. Even if it's a hit or miss. I'll keep writing.

JOSEPH

(Whisper)

We'll drown.

AMY

What?

Joseph stands up.

JOSEPH

We're fucking drowning Amy. I'm drowning. you think I want to work at some stupid fucking desk job until I retire!?

AMY

I know you don't. But you can't ask me to go back there.

JOSEPH

I can't ask you to go back there, Amy. You're right. I can however to just give up this silly dream.

Amy looks up at him stunned.

AMY

Silly?

JOSEPH

Amy, you're a sixty-year-old woman. You didn't try to be a writer right out of college not because you were busy but because you just...you just

weren't cut out for it and the proof is the fact that your novel completely tanked.

Tears begin to fall from Amy's eyes.

AMY

H-how can you say that to me? How can you call my...silly? Silly?

Joseph looks away from her.

JOSEPH

Because I understand where you're coming from. I wanted to be a writer, you know that. After my father died that's...that's when I realized I need to move on and do something that would actually benefit me.

He looks back at her.

JOSEPH

I'm not asking you to go back to the boutique. But you can't stay on unemployment forever. We can't wait for you to finish another novel. And Samuel

Amy begins to cry.

AMY

What about Sam?

JOSEPH

He's following in your footsteps and I'm proud of what he's done but

AMY

But what?

JOSEPH

I just don't think it'll go anywhere.

AMY

I-I can't believe you're saying this to me. I can't believe I'm hearing this right now. Are you just trying to hurt me?

Joseph is stunned by this. He gives her a pleading look.

Amy wipes the tears from her eyes.

AMY

I'm gonna...I'm gonna head out.

Joseph looks up at her confused.

JOSEPH

What?

Amy walks to the door. Once there she grabs her coat from the coat rack.

Joseph stands up from his chair and walks towards her.

JOSEPH

Amy.

Amy opens up the door and walks out slamming the door behind her.

Joseph walks out the door as the car pulls out of the driveway.

JOSEPH

Amy! Amy!

**END FLASHBACK**

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Joseph lays on a hospital bed. His heartbeat is being monitored. His eyes slowly open up.

The walls are painted a sickly beige color. There is one chair that is pressed against the air vent which Joseph's bed is pressed up against.

JOSEPH

(Whisper)

Amy.

Next to Joseph is SAMUEL, his son. He is dressed in a casual jacket, shirt, and jeans. He looks over at Joseph.

SAM

Dad?

Joseph slowly turns his head to look at Sam.

JOSEPH

S-sam?

Sam walks over to his father and stands above his bed. He holds onto the bars. He smiles down at his father.

SAM

Hey dad, how you feeling.

Joseph slowly touches the bandages on his head. There is a blood mark on the spot where he was hit. He touches the mark and then winces in pain.

JOSEPH

Ow fuck.

Sam chuckles.

JOSEPH

I feel worse than I look. How long have I been out?

SAM

About 8 hours.

Joseph looks at the window.

JOSEPH

Oh.

SAM

The doctor says you can go back home whenever you feel up to it.

He looks back at his son.

JOSEPH

Do I have a concussion?

SAM

Not a severe one. Do you remember what happened?

Joseph looks at his sheets which are completely white.

JOSEPH

N-no.

Sam sighs.

SAM  
A woman in your apartment called the  
police. Diana.

Joseph looks up at him. He looks a bit pleased.

JOSEPH  
She called the police?

SAM  
Yeah. She said she heard shouting and  
then nothing. After like an hour she  
called the cops and then

Sam bites his lip.

SAM  
Are you in trouble?

JOSEPH  
What?

SAM  
The police. They found you laying on  
the floor and bleeding from your hand.  
The kitchen was a mess. They say that  
you may have had a manic episode.

JOSEPH  
What?

SAM  
I know. Bullshit right? But to them,  
it's case closed.

JOSEPH  
How can that be?

Sam sighs and looks away from his father.

SAM  
The um

JOSEPH  
The what!? Tell Me!?

Same looks up at his father.

SAM  
The microwave. They said you slammed  
your head into the side of the

microwave.

Joseph looks at his son. He is completely stunned.

SAM

It didn't look like it was moved.

Joseph holds back tears.

SAM

Talk to me dad. What's going on?

Joseph looks at his son and then back at his feet.

JOSEPH

Shouldn't you be in L.A Sam? How did you get here so fast?

Sam smiles at his father.

SAM

I flew in and landed last night. I-I thought I would surprise you. I know you must have had a long few days after your house burned down.

Joseph looks at Sam stunned.

JOSEPH

How? How did you find out my house burnt down?

SAM

Facebook. Mrs. Phillips sent me a message.

JOSEPH

Heh. Mrs. Phillips. I should have never told her where I was going.

Sam looks at his father confused.

SAM

What?

Joseph looks at his Son.

JOSEPH

What? No, I'm sorry I just mean she's very...invasive.

Sam looks outside for a moment and then back at his father.

SAM  
Dad. Are you um

JOSEPH  
What?

SAM  
Are you still seeing and t-talking to  
mom?

Joseph bites his lip and looks back at his feet.

JOSEPH  
I-I don't want to talk about it.

Sam places his hand on Joseph's bed.

SAM  
Dad. Please talk to me.

Joseph looks at him.

JOSEPH  
I tried that Sam. I tried to talk to  
you. Do you remember what you said to  
me?

Sam looks away from his father. He is ashamed.

SAM  
Dad.

JOSEPH  
You called me crazy. I was in pain,  
hearing voices, and you called me  
crazy.

SAM  
I know but after that, you completely  
fell off the face of the Earth. I had  
to find out your house burnt down from  
Mrs. Phillips.

Joseph looks away from his son.

JOSEPH  
You called me crazy.



SAM

My mom had died. Some drunken asshole killed her and himself. And the day after her funeral you say that you can hear her? See her? That she's there when you wake up and when you go to bed. I thought you were speaking in metaphor and then...

JOSEPH

Then I got into an argument with her right in front of you. I know.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK**

INT. GOSHEN, 2014, JOSEPH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Amy stands in the middle of the kitchen table. A young Sam and Joseph argue. Joseph and Sam are both crying.

Amy is looking at the two but pays them no real mind.

Joseph goes to hug Sam but Sam pushes Joseph and then runs out of the house.

Amy moves to Joseph who tries to grab her but his hands simply pass through her.

**END FLASHBACK**

INT. WILLIAMSBURG HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Sam and Joseph are in the exact same positions in the hospital. Sam holds back tears as does Joseph.

SAM

You wanted her to talk to me. To show herself to me. I couldn't...I couldn't accept what was happening. I knew you were hurting just as much as me. I'm sorry I called you crazy but dad. Dad, you need help.

JOSEPH

I don't need help. Just...just please take me home.

Sam sighs.

SAM

Dad, I know the name of a great

therapist in New York that can  
Joseph slams his hand down on the bed.

JOSEPH

Sam!

Sam looks at his father shocked. Tears begin to form in Joseph's eyes.

JOSEPH

Please. Please just take me home.

Sam nods his head and stands up from the chair. he walks towards the door with a disappointed look on his face.

SAM

I'll go sign you out.

Joseph turns to look at his son.

JOSEPH

Thank you.

Sam nods his head exists from the room.

Joseph turns his head away from the door and to the front of him. Standing across from the bed is Amy. She looks at Joseph disappointed. Joseph looks at her and begins to cry.

EXT.WLLIAMSBURG, HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

Joseph is wheeled out of the hospital by his son. He looks fatigued as his son walks him to the car.

EXT. WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE - DAY

Sam is driving Joseph back home. Joseph sits on the passengers seat looking out the window. He still looks fatigued.

INT.WILLAIMSBURG, JOSEPH'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph is being wheeled to his apartment by Sam. Sam opens up Joseph's door and wheels him in.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sam weels Joseph to the side of his couch. Joseph slowly lifts himself off the chair.

SAM  
Here let me.

Joseph lightly pushes Sam away.

JOSEPH  
No. No, it's ok.

Sam steps back. Joseph slowly lifts himself off the chair and onto the couch.

Sam walks to the door. He only looks at the door. Joseph looks at the T.V in front of him.

SAM  
If you...if you need anything I'll be staying in a hotel in queens.

JOSEPH  
I have your number. Thank you.

Sam exits the room. Joseph grabs the T.V remote and turns on the T.V to watch jeopardy.

MARY (V.O)  
Mom, why do you have so much crap?!

Joseph raises the volume on the T.V

DIANA  
It's not crap! This is some valuable stuff!

Joseph looks at the door.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph opens up his door and pops his head out. Diana's door is open.

A young woman in casual clothing, MARY, carries out a box. Mary is dressed in a simple flannel in jeans just like her mother. Joseph walks towards her.

JOSEPH  
Excuse me?

He stops when he is in front of her. She looks at him.

MARY  
Yes?

Diana walks out holding some sheets. She looks up at Joseph with a smile.

DIANA  
Joseph! How are you?

JOSEPH  
Oh uh hi Diana. How are you?

DIANA  
I'm doing good.

She places a hand on Mary's shoulder.

DIANA  
This is my daughter, Mary.

Mary smiles at Joseph.

MARY  
Nice to meet you.

JOSEPH  
Y-you as well.

He reaches out his hand to shake Mary's. Mary looks at the clearly heavy box she is holding.

JOSEPH  
Oh uh sorry.

The girls laugh and Joseph joins them.

JOSEPH  
Do you two need help?

Mary looks to her mother.

DIANA  
That's ok. We don't have a lot to carry.

Diana looks to Mary.

DIANA  
Mary, can you bring that box to the car, please?

Mary looks at her Joseph and then back at her mom.

MARY  
(Uncertain)  
Suuuurre.

Mary walks away as she struggles to hold the box in her arms.

DIANA  
You look good.

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH  
You don't have to lie.

Amy chuckles.

AMY  
You look better than you did when you  
are on the floor.

JOSEPH  
Thanks. I'm enjoying this new  
accessory.

Diana touches his bandages.

DIANA  
Does it hurt?

Joseph flinches in pain.

JOSEPH  
Ow.

DIANA  
I think that answers that question.  
Sorry.

Joseph smiles at her. She smiles back.

JOSEPH  
It's ok.

Diana smiles back.

JOSEPH  
What's going on? Are you moving out?

DIANA  
Yeah um I

Diana sighs.

DIANA

I spoke to my daughter and I told her about my fall and that was it for her. She doesn't trust me to live alone.

JOSEPH

You don't seem like you want to go.

DIANA

I do. I do. I'll be able to see my daughter and her boyfriend more so that will be nice.

JOSEPH

Oh, I bet he loves that.

Diana chuckles.

DIANA

I think she's right honestly. I'm too old now and I do need some help. It's not safe for me to be alone.

JOSEPH

I understand.

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry about our date and how I acted. You didn't deserve that. No one does.

DIANA

It's ok Joseph. I didn't take it personally. I could clearly tell you had a lot on your mind. I'm sorry if I was too persistent in finding out what that was.

JOSEPH

You weren't. You were just concerned about your handsome date.

Diana laughs.

DIANA

I don't remember saying handsome.

JOSEPH  
Huh, could have sworn you did.

The two laugh together.

DIANA  
I'm sorry we couldn't have gotten to  
know each other better.

JOSEPH  
Facebook?

DIANA  
Come again?

JOSEPH  
Sorry I uh mean do you have an uh  
Facebook?

DIANA  
Yes, I have a Facebook. But I'll give  
you my number instead.

JOSEPH  
That makes more sense.

DIANA  
Where's your phone?

JOSEPH  
I uh don't have one.

Diana laughs.

DIANA  
Joseph, you can't be serious? How can  
you not have a phone?

JOSEPH  
Well, I do have a phone but not an uh  
cell uh phone. Plus I think it uh may  
be broken.

Diana sighs in amusement.

DIANA  
Here.

Diana walks into her apartment and then walks out with a  
sheet of bounty and a sharpie.

JOSEPH

Don't you? Don't you have any paper?  
Or a pen?

DIANA

Eh, they're in boxes already.

She writes down her number on the bounty.

DIANA

I look forward to hearing from you.

The two smile at one another.

JOSEPH

I'm glad I got to meet you, Diana.

DIANA

You two Joseph.

The two hug each other tightly for a few seconds. When they pull away Diana plants a kiss on Joseph's cheek.

DIANA

Take care of yourself Joseph

JOSEPH

You too. Let me know if there is  
anything I can do to help.

DIANA

Thank you.

The two smile at one another. Joseph walks away and then enters his apartment.

INT.WILLAIMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph sighs as he lands on his bed. he stares at the ceiling with a look of disappointment on his face.

Amy floats towards his bed and looks do at him. She gives him a blank stare.

AMY

This is karma.

Joseph looks over at her confused.

JOSEPH

What?



He sits up on his bed.

JOSEPH  
What did you say?

AMY  
Diana leaving. That is karma. You don't deserve her. You didn't deserve me and I paid the price for your self-hatred.

Joseph covers his ears.

JOSEPH  
Shut up.

Amy begins to cry.

AMY  
You killed me, Joseph.

JOSEPH  
Not right now! Please!

AMY  
Y-you killed me. You blamed me for our problems. I'm dead because of you.

JOSEPH  
Shut up! Please!

AMY  
You asked me. No. You told me to give up on my dreams.

Joseph lowers his hands away from his ears and looks up at Amy clearly angry.

JOSEPH  
I'm Sorry!

Joseph begins to cry. He plants his face in his hands.

JOSEPH  
I'm sorry.

Amy stops crying.

AMY  
It's too late. The damage is done. I'm gone. You killed me because you hated

yourself and no apology will bring me back.

Amy stares down at Joseph as he continues to cry.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph is on his bed staring up at the ceiling. He looks as though he has been crying for a few hours. There is a bit of dry drool hanging his lips.

He is still in the same clothes as he was in before. The alarm clock blares. Amy is standing next to Joseph's bed and staring down at him.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG JOSEPHS'S BATHROOM - DAY

Joseph is still in his khakis and shirt. He is brushing his teeth while Amy stands behind him.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Joseph pours milk into a cereal bowl which is already filled with cereal.

He sits down on the kitchen table. Amy is standing beside the table.

Joseph looks up at her. She smiles at him when their eyes meet. Joseph smiles back. He eats another spoonful of cereal.

JOSEPH

I was um. I was thinking about calling Samuel today.

AMY

That's nice. He might like that.

Joseph looks down at his cereal. He takes another spoonful.

JOSEPH

I was also um. I was also thinking I could maybe grab lunch with him.

Amy looks at Joseph confused.

AMY

Oh, Joseph. You know that can't end well. It won't go the way you think it will.

JOSEPH

I don't...I don't expect it to go anywhere. I just thought I'd treat him to lunch as a way of thanking him for picking me up from the hospital and driving me home.

Amy smiles and nods her head in acceptance.

AMY

That's very sweet of you Joseph. But don't expect a lot to come out of this. he still won't understand. he'll never understand.

Joseph looks at her as he continues to eat his cereal.

JOSEPH

I know. You don't need to remind me.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, PIZZA JOINT - DAY

Samuel is sitting in a booth in a small New York Pizza joint. He only has a small paper cup filled with soda on the table. he is scrolling on his phone as he takes a sip.

Joseph is walking outside. Behind him is Amy. The two look at Sam through the window. Sam does not notice them looking.

Joseph and Amy stare for a few seconds and then Joseph walks into the pizza joint with Amy following him.

Joseph stands next to Sam's table. Sam looks up at Joseph and smiles up at him.

SAM

Hey Dad.

Joseph smiles back.

JOSEPH

Hey Sam.

Sam stands up and hugs his father. Joseph is visibly confused by this but after a second has passed he hugs his son back. Sam moves away from his father still smiling.

SAM

You look good.

The two of them both sit down.

JOSEPH

Thank you. So do you Sam.

SAM

Are you hungry?

JOSEPH

Um, a little. I uh can eat.

SAM

That's good. I mean um they have really good pizza here. A-according to google.

Sam begins to chuckle and Joseph joins him.

SAM

I'm not going to lie this is...strange.

JOSEPH

It's pretty strange for me too.

SAM

Maybe we'll feel better with some food in us. Plain cheese pizza?

JOSEPH

It's not exactly hard to remember.

SAM

True.

Sam moves away from the table and orders some pizza for him and his father. Joseph looks sadly at Sam as he orders.

AMY

keep things very surface level Joseph.

JOSEPH

I know.

AMY

You don't want to be disappointed.

JOSEPH

I know.

Sam walks back with two slices of Pizza. One filled with chicken and the other plain. He places the slices on the table as he sits down.

SAM  
Hope you like it.

The two of them take a bite of their pizzas.

SAM  
Holy shit that's really good.

JOSEPH  
Reminds me of this old pizza place  
that used to be around the corner of  
where I used to live.

Joseph takes another bit as does Sam.

SAM  
H-how have you been dad?

JOSEPH  
Well, I'm not exactly thrilled that my  
house burnt down.

Sam looks away from his father and then back to him.

SAM  
I'm sorry dad.

AMY  
Joseph, be careful. Surface level  
remember.

JOSEPH  
And then I moved to this new  
apartment.

SAM  
It looks really nice dad.

JOSEPH  
Thank you.

He pauses as he thinks about what's wants to say next.

JOSEPH  
I met someone there.

AMY  
Joseph.

Sam smiles.

SAM

Really? That's great dad. Jane and I moved in together last week. Hopefully one day you two can meet in person.

JOSEPH

That would be nice.

SAM

So tell me about her.

Joseph looks at Amy and then at his pizza. Amy has a look of disappointment on her face.

JOSEPH

We went on a date. It didn't go well. She moved out yesterday.

Sam chuckles as he eats.

SAM

It went that bad?

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH

Not the worst I've ever been on.

He looks back at his pizza. He holds his hands together.

JOSEPH

I just I just

SAM

Dad, look at me.

Joseph looks at his son. Sma smiles at him.

SAM

It's ok. If you don't want to talk about it you don't have to.

Joseph smiles at his son.

JOSEPH

Sam I

AMY

Joseph. Surface level.

Joseph begins to cry. He holds his hands against his head as

his cries become more hysterical. Sam looks at his father shocked.

Some patrons and staff look at the commotion.

JOSEPH  
Oh, God Sam!

SAM  
Dad? What is it what's wrong?

JOSEPH  
I'm sorry Sam. Oh God, I'm so sorry.

Sam leans over the table.

SAM  
Hey dad.

JOSEPH  
Oh, God.

SAM  
Dad come on look at me. Look at me.

Joseph looks up at his son.

SAM  
It's ok. It's ok. Let's not do this here ok?

Joseph, still crying nods his head.

SAM  
Come on.

The two of them stand up. Sam wraps his arms around his father and leads him out of the restaurant.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, SAM'S CAR - DAY

Sam and Joseph are stuck in traffic as they try to head home. They are stuck on the Williamsburg bridge.

Joseph is sniffing while he wipes his eyes with a napkin. Sam looks annoyed as he stares out into the traffic.

He looks over to his father with a concerned look.

SAM  
Dad.

He sighs.

SAM

I know you don't like talking about how you're feeling or whatever but that back there. That was scary. I haven't seen you cry like that since

JOSEPH

Since your mother died.

SAM

Do you...do you still see her?

Joseph looks at Sam.

JOSEPH

Why does it matter Sam? You wouldn't believe me no matter what I told you. Either way, you'll see me as crazy.

He looks back out the window.

JOSEPH

Maybe I am.

SAME

Dad, are you listening to yourself right now? You're making me sound like I'm the enemy. I'm not your enemy. I don't hate you.

JOSEPH

Why not?

SAM

What?

JOSEPH

Why don't you hate me? You have every right to. I abandoned you after your mother died and probably horribly traumatized you by going on about seeing and listening to her. And talking.

Joseph tightens his fists as they lay on his thighs.

JOSEPH

I was talking to her.



Sam looks at his father with a concerned look on his face. Joseph stares out into the cars in front of him.

JOSEPH

I still see her. I still talk to her.  
I still hear her. Everyday. And I'm  
starting to think it won't ever stop.  
I'm starting to think it's my  
punishment.

SAM

Dad.

JOSEPH

I know what you're going to say, but I  
don't want to talk to a counselor or  
shrink or whatever they're called now.  
Please, I just want to go home.

SAM

I know you blame yourself.

JOSEPH

Samuel please. For the love of God not  
now.

SAM

No, you need to hear this. You didn't  
kill her.

JOSEPH

I did Sam. I killed her.

SAM

No, you

Joseph swings his head to look at his son with an angry expression on his face. He points to himself.

JOSEPH

I Did! I Killed Her! I was the reason  
she was out there and nothing you nor  
anyone can say to make me think  
otherwise!

Sam looks at his father shocked. Joseph turns his head to look back at the traffic.

SAM

I don't hate you. I understand how  
you're feeling on some level. She was

my mother and I loved her. I don't think I'll ever really recover from it but I want to try. I need to try.

JOSEPH

Sam, please.

SAM

I don't think I will ever understand the guilt you feel. All I can do is be here for you. Even when you can't be there for me.

The traffic begins to move. Sam drives forwards back to Joseph's apartment.

Joseph looks out the window and then looks to his son as he drives.

JOSEPH

Thank you, Sam.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joseph and Sma walk into Joseph's apartment. Joseph sits on his couch as Sam sits on a chair beside the couch. Amy Stands behind Joseph looking down at him.

Joseph looks up at Sam with his hands together.

JOSEPH

So Sam, what have you been up to? I know we really weren't able to talk too much at the pizza place.

AMY

Joseph. Don't

Joseph flitches almost like he is in pain.

SAM

Well, I published a new sci-fi novel. "Battle for the soul."

Sam chuckles.

JOSEPH

What?

SAM

It's incredibly cheesy. But it is some

of my best work and now I'm working on a Sci-fi show for ABC.

Joseph raises his eyebrows and looks at his son stunned.

JOSEPH

That's incredible Sam! I'm-I'm really proud of you.

He pats his son's shoulder.

AMY

Good thing you didn't tell him to give up on his dreams. He was better off without you before.

Sam smiles at his father.

SAM

Thanks, Dad. I'm not going to lie I'm afraid to ask how you're doing.

AMY

Don't get attached, Joseph. He needs to be away from you. Look at all the good things he's done without you there.

Joseph winces in pain again.

SAM

You ok?

JOSEPH

It's nothing just a headache.

AMY

Really nice Joseph.

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH

Well, you heard a little bit about how I was doing when I started bawling my eyes out in that restaurant.

Sam looks down at his feet.

JOSEPH

I just have so many regrets, Sam.

Sam looks back up at his father.

JOSEPH

And I can't fix any of them. The  
damage is done.

Sam looks at his feet and then back up at his father.

SAM

I dedicated my last book to mom and  
you.

Joseph looks down at his legs. He holds his hands together  
tighter.

JOSEPH

I don't know what to say.

SAM

It was my way of thanking you both.  
For everything, you've done.

Joseph looks back up at his son.

JOSEPH

T-thank you Sam.

Amy looks down at Joseph clearly upset.

AMY

You don't deserve that. You don't!

Joseph winces in pain and holds his head.

SAM

Dad, do you want some Advil or  
something?

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH

I'll take the wine instead. It seems  
to do the trick.

Sam laughs as he stands up from the chair.

SAM

I'll just grab you some water and two  
pills.

Sam goes into the kitchen and grabs some water. He then grabs

two Advil pills.

AMY

You don't deserve him, Joseph. This is dangerous. Do you seriously want to lose him too?!

Sam hands his father the water and Advil. Joseph smiles up at him

JOSEPH

Thank you.

Sam sits back down. Joseph takes the two pills.

JOSEPH

I was thinking pizza for dinner since we weren't really able to enjoy it earlier. Maybe a movie?

Sam smiles.

SAM

I'd like that.

JOSEPH

I was um I was also thinking if you were comfortable that you'd maybe want to take the guest bedroom.

AMY

Damnit, Joseph!

SAM

I'd like that Dad. I have to check out of the hotel I'm staying at first and bring my bags over.

Joseph looks down at his feet.

JOSEPH

I-I'm sorry. If it's too much trouble then

Sam waves his hands around while smiling.

SAM

No! No it's no trouble at all dad. I swear. It'll take me a little bit to get there so I might as well get the pizza on my way. I'll head out now.

Sam stands up and places his hand on his father's shoulder.

Joseph looks up at his Son.

JOSEPH

Are you sure?

SAM

Yes, dad. You gonna be ok here by yourself?

Joseph nods his head.

SAM

Ok then

Joseph heads to the door.

SAM

Let me know if you need anything.

JOSEPH

I will.

Sam exits the apartment. Joseph stands up after his son leaves and heads into his bedroom. Amy follows behind him.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph lays down on the bed. His back is pressed against the bed and looks up at the ceiling.

Amy stands next to the bed looking down at Joseph with an annoyed expression on her face.

AMY

We need to talk.

JOSEPH

No.

AMY

What?

JOSEPH

I'm not going to entertain you any longer.

AMY

You can't be serious.

Amy grits her teeth.

AMY

Joseph, you cannot get rid of me.

JOSEPH

Maybe or maybe not.

AMY

Look at me Joseph.

JOSEPH

No.

AMY

Look at me!

Joseph turns his head and looks at her.

AMY

I'm staying here Joseph. For everything. For every mistake and every failure. Every time you think you've done something good I will be there. Reminding you of what you did.

JOSEPH

Maybe or maybe not.

Joseph looks up at the ceiling.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joseph is in a gray pajama set. He moves around on his bed. Standing next to him is Amy looking down at him.

Joseph looks at her and then sighs.

He stares up at the ceiling with a frustrated look on his face. He looks back at her and then back at the ceiling.

JOSEPH

Ok.

Amy looks at Joseph shocked.

AMY

What are you doing Joseph?

Joseph gets off the bed and groans. He walks as quickly as he can to the door. Amy follows behind him.

AMY  
Joseph. Joseph!

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S SPARE BEDROOM.

Sam is sleeping soundly in the guest bedroom of Joseph's spare bedroom. The only piece of furniture in the room is the bed. Light from outside pours into the room through the windows.

Joseph opens up the door into the bedroom and walks in. Amy is right behind him.

JOSEPH  
Sam.

Sam continues to snore. Joseph kneels next to Sam and places his hand on Sam's back. He shakes Sam's shoulder.

JOSEPH  
Sam! Sam!

Sam jolts up surprised. He looks like he is still half asleep.

SAM  
Dad?

AMY  
Joseph this is insane.

JOSEPH  
Yeah.

Sam chuckles.

SAM  
What's up, Dad?

Joseph smiles at his son.

JOSEPH  
I'm-i'm really glad you're here. I'm glad we're talking again.

Sam chuckles.

SAM  
Me too Dad. Mind if I go back to bed?  
I have a long day tomorrow.



Joseph nods his head and gets back up.

JOSEPH  
Right, sorry.

Joseph makes his way to the door.

SAM  
good night Dad. Love you.

Joseph gets to the door and stops. he turns his head to look at his son.

JOSEPH  
Love you too Sam.

Joseph walks out the door and closes behind him.

INT.WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joseph walks into his bedroom and lays down on his bed.

He throws the sheets over him and closes his eyes. Amy is no longer hovering over his bed.

EXT.WILLIAMSBURG SIDEWALK - DAY.

Joseph and Sam are both in casual clothing as they load up Sam's rental car. Sam helps Joseph lift Sam's suitcase.

Once they are done Sam closes up the trunk.

SAM  
Alright, that's about it.

Joseph looks down at his feet disappointed. Sam turns to his father and places his hand on his shoulder.

SAM  
Dad, what is it?

JOSEPH  
I just-I just wish we could have spent more time together.

SAM  
I know Dad. I'm not happy about it either but I have to go back to work.

JOSEPH  
I know.

SAM  
Maybe we can look at apartments in L.A  
together.

JOSEPH  
Sam, I don't want to

Joseph sighs.

JOSEPH  
I don't want to intrude on the life  
you've built for yourself.

SAM  
Well, it's not like your moving into  
my apartment I share with my  
girlfriend. You'll still have your own  
place. I just won't have to teach you  
how to use skype?

Joseph looks at Sam confused.

JOSEPH  
What's Skype?

SAM  
Uhh well it's

Joseph laughs.

JOSEPH  
Sam, I'm kidding. I know what Skype  
is.

Sam laughs.

SAM  
Really? Do you know how to use it?

Joseph looks away from his son.

JOSEPH  
Uh well

SAM  
Uh-huh. I figured. Well, hopefully,  
you change your mind. I'll text you  
when I'm back home.

He rubs the back of his head.

JOSEPH

Uhh

SAM

Right. I'll call you when I'm back home and I hope you'll get a cellphone someday soon.

JOSEPH

We'll see.

The two hug and hold each other as tight as they can.

SAM

I'm gonna miss you, dad.

Joseph looks at Amy who is standing behind Sam. She looks disappointed at Joseph.

Joseph smiles as he hugs his son.

JOSEPH

I'll miss you too Sam.

The two end their hug and Joseph steps on the steps of his apartment.

Sam pulls out for the parking spot he was in and drives away.

Joseph waves goodbye to him with a smile as Amy stands behind him with a blank expression.

Joseph walks into his apartment.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joseph is in his living room eating cereal while watching T.V. Amy is standing behind him. She looks down at him.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG, JOSEPH BATHROOM - NIGHT

Joseph is in his bathroom brushing his teeth. Amy is standing behind him with a blank expression.

INT. JOSEPH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Joseph is putting on the top for his pajama set. Amy is standing behind him as he buttons it.

He walks over to the light and Amy follows him.

He turns off the light and Samy follows him to his bed. He lays down on the bed as Amy stands over him.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK**

INT.BROOKLYN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Amy is laying down on a hospital bed. A doctor is at Amy's feet helping her. Joseph is next to Amy holding her hand. he has protection on his hair and hands. Amy is clearly in pain as she is giving birth.

AMY  
Mother of Fuck!

DOCTOR  
You're almost there Amy. One more push!

AMY  
Fucking fuck! Joseph, I'm fucking dying here!

JOSEPH  
I'm right with you hon. I'm right with you. Just one more push.

Amy screams at the top of her lungs. The sound of a baby crying can be heard.

The doctor cuts the umbilical cord and places it on a tray.

The doctor holds the newborn and looks at Amy. Joseph and Amy are crying hysterically in joy.

DOCTOR  
You have a very healthy boy here.

Amy reaches out her arms.

AMY  
Can I hold him?

DOCTOR  
Of course.

The doctor carefully hands over the newborn to Amy. Amy cries harder as she looks at her son.

AMY  
Joseph, he's beautiful.

Joseph looks at his son and cries.

AMY  
Hi there Samuel.

Joseph looks at Amy surprised.

JOSEPH  
Samuel?

Amy looks at Joseph smiling.

AMY  
After your father.

Joseph looks at her smiling.

JOSEPH  
Samuel. I like it.

he looks back at his son still smiling.

JOSEPH  
Welcome to the world, Samuel.

The baby continues to cry. Joseph and Amy look at one another and kiss.

JOSEPH  
I love you.

AMY  
I love you too.

**END FLASHBACK**

**FADE TO BLACK**