

Touched

By Alyn Heritage

Time: Modern Day. Any time after 2016.

Setting(s):

The Park-- *The action takes place primarily in an old and rundown playground in the park ; nobody really plays on it anymore. A swing set is the only well-kept piece of equipment. The town around the park is greyed and blurry, fading into the background like static.*

Moira's Bedroom-- *The room is painted with greys and dark blues. There are unopened textbooks on the floor, spilled nail polish and smeared lipstick on the dresser, and a box of condoms sticking out from under the bed*

Character List

Wini*--*a soft girl with observant eyes and a quiet disposition*

↑ (played by the same actor) ↓

Fred*--*a lost boy with a witty personality and no confidence*

--*Must be wearing a beanie to stuff his long hair into*

James--*the prince charming of the group, if prince charming was also depressed*

Caleb--*silver-tongued, loyal only to those he considers family*

Moira--*the glue of the group, the one with the most to lose*

***Note about Wini and Fred:** They are one character who present as two separate characters/identities. The idea being about how one person is psychologically working through the issues of losing a sibling they should've grown up with and how they dealt with the way their family handled this issue.

Emotion Characters:

Alacris

Irascor

Solus

Ruo

Vivus

Note about staging:

Emotion characters entrances and exits should be indicated by a quick light {FLASH} that switches on and then off.

Act 1 Scene 1

[The Park: Day]

[Wini, James, and Caleb wander into the playground.]

[They stand around the swing set as if unsure of what to do despite being close friends.]

CALEB

I'm so sick of being here.

JAMES

Last year, then we're out, right Wini

WINI

(unphased)

Yeah right, as if either of you are going to college.

CALEB

You really think there's a college out there that's going to accept us?

WINI

It's not like you tried to apply anywhere.

JAMES

I did.

CALEB

Kiss ass/

WINI

(mom voice)

Language.

[Caleb looks at her in dismay.]

[Wini doesn't usually care, but today, she does.]

JAMES

I still haven't decided where I'm going from here.

CALEB

There's nowhere to go.

WINI

Sure there is. Let's start with going to get some food.

JAMES

Any word from Moira yet?

CALEB

Nah, still sick or something.

WINI

(under breath)

Chlamydia.

JAMES

You say something Win?

WINI

(shaking head)

Nope.

CALEB

It's not like you're speaking to her on a regular basis.

JAMES

We don't have much to talk about.

CALEB

I thought you two were best friends.

JAMES

(shrugs)

I thought so too.

WINI

Anyways...

CALEB

I can't get food with you guys because I have to go to detention.

[Wini raises an eyebrow and crosses her arms.]

JAMES

Isn't that like the third time this week?

CALEB

It's not my fault that kid called me a//

WINI

//What did I just say?

CALEB

(backing down)

Sorry.

JAMES

What's the plan then?

WINI

If it's only the two of us, there's no point in going out. Plus, we have that math test we need to study for.

CALEB

(groans)

Don't remind me.

JAMES

I'm already set for it.

[Caleb pulls out a carton of cigarettes from his pocket, lights one, and takes a drag.]

WINI
Hand me one.

[Caleb tosses one to Wini.]

JAMES
(coughing, sarcastic)
Don't mind the asthmatic, I'm fine.

CALEB
Yeah, you're fine.

[Wini takes a water bottle from her backpack and hands it to James.]

WINI
I really hope this isn't what the rest of our lives are going to be like.

CALEB
What's that supposed to mean?

JAMES
(still choking)
I think what she means is that this is the year we as teens begin questioning the inevitable dark time of growing up and figuring out who we are as people.
(takes a drink of water)
Or something like that. I don't know what I'm talking about.

WINI
No...okay, maybe, yes.

[Wini pulls out her phone and starts texting.]

*[ALL TEXTS will be PROJECTED
on a screen above the stage. Texts
are in BOLD.]*

JAMES

What are you doing?

WINI

Texting Moira.

CALEB

What for? You know she won't come out of her room.

WINI

That's exactly why I'm texting her.

WINI

Up for girls night tonight?

Sent Today 2:27 pm

MOIRA

...typing

JAMES

What are you enticing her with this time?

WINI

Possibly having a girl's night, no boys allowed.

CALEB

Gross.

*[Caleb throws down the cigarette
butt and stomps it out.]*

MOIRA

I can't. Sick.

Read Today 2:28 pm

WINI

Come to the park instead, James is here.

Sent Today 2:29 pm

MOIRA

...typing

JAMES

(to Caleb)

Why don't we ever do guys nights?

CALEB

Because I'm not lame.

WINI

If Moira comes, you two better be on your best behaviors.

JAMES

We'll be the perfect pair of gentlemen.

CALEB

Speak for yourself.

[Caleb picks up a stone and throws it at the swing set.]

[It bounces off.]

MOIRA

Sorry.

Sent Today 2:32 pm

WINI

(sighs)

Never mind. I have to go pick up my brother. See ya.

[Wini exits.]

Act 1 Scene 2

[The Park: Same Day]

[As soon as Wini leaves, James drops his smile.]

[James sits in the swing.]

JAMES

Can you skip detention today?

[Caleb sits and leans against the pole of the swing set. He cracks his knuckles and side-eyes James.]

CALEB

What's with the sudden urge to be a bad influence?

JAMES

It's not like you had any intention of going.

CALEB

(scoffs)

Don't act like you know everything about me.

JAMES

I'm not. I'm basing my judgements off of your previous actions such as being known to skip out on more than just detention.

CALEB

Is there a reason you're trying to bust my fucking balls?

[James curls the edges of his mouth back into a smile.]

JAMES

I never need a reason. You're too gullible.

CALEB

Christ you're all going to put me into an early grave.

JAMES

Cigarettes will do that first.

CALEB

(lightly punching James' knee)

Dumbass.

[Beat.]

CALEB

So, what's eating away at you this time?

JAMES

...I think you know.

CALEB

Moira?

JAMES

(nods)

Yeah.

CALEB

We're all worried, three months is a long time to drop off the face of the Earth.

JAMES

It doesn't make any sense.

CALEB

(shrugs)

Women are weird. I've stopped trying to figure them out.

JAMES

(half joking)

Right, you only get as far as their names so you know what to moan out during sex.

CALEB

(chuckles)

What can I say, I'm adverse to commitment.

JAMES

Sure, something like that.

CALEB

Have you tried calling her?

JAMES

It always goes straight to voicemail. She also doesn't respond to my texts.

CALEB

Maybe Wini will get through to her. They were always close.

JAMES

But we were always...

CALEB

Closer?

JAMES

No, more like...connected? We were able to understand what the other wanted.

CALEB

Well her message is coming in loud and clear, she wants to be left alone.

JAMES

I suppose that's true.

[The two get up and switch places.]

JAMES

What about you and Wini?

CALEB

There is no me and Wini.

JAMES

Have you tried talking to her?

[Caleb shoots him a look like "what do you think?"]

JAMES

Do you remember the first time we came to this park together?

CALEB

Yeah, we rode our bikes like we were a badass gang.

JAMES

But you fell and hurt your knee.

CALEB

(sarcastic)

I'm so glad that was the key takeaway of that moment for you.

JAMES

It's relevant to the story. Wini held your hand and Moira put on the bandages. I went back home and got my red wagon so we could pull you around.

CALEB

And your point of retelling something we lived is?

JAMES

Don't you ever wish we could go back in time to those days?

CALEB

No. I'm not really interested in the past. I want to focus on the future and better myself as I continue to grow.

JAMES

But we were happier, a group of carefree kids unphased by the world around us.

CALEB

You can be happy now. Sure, we've got a lot of shit on our plates right now, but we have each other.

JAMES

Do we? Ever since Moira disappeared I feel like our group has fallen apart.

CALEB

You put too much stock in her. It's not her job to take care of us.

[James blinks, once, twice.]

JAMES

No...it isn't.

CALEB

(gives James a clap on the back)

I think I hear detention calling my name now. But don't get too bogged down in what was 'kay?

[Caleb gets up and leaves.]

[James watches him leave, forcing a smile.]

JAMES

Okay.

Act 1 Scene 3

[Moir's Bedroom]

[Moir lays on her bed, scrolling through her phone.]

CALEB

Are you free?

Read Today 5:41 pm

JUSTIN

Are you free?

Read Today 5:32 pm

NOAH

Are you free?

Read Today 4:58 pm

DEAN

Are you free?

Read Today 4:22 pm

MITCH

Are you free?

Read Today 3:39 pm

[Moirira clicks on one name in particular.]

JAMES

Here's another video of kittens learning to walk for the first time. Sorry for the spam..

Read Today 3:30 pm

CALEB

Can we talk, I'm really sorry about the way we left things off. I never meant to...

read more

Sent Today 5:45 pm

[Throwing her phone down in defeat, she sighs.]

[She gets up and sits at the vanity in her room. The mirror reflects her own face back at her and through the mirror we see her breakdown.]

[Moirira begins to sob uncontrollably, deep in her eyes a look of overwhelming pain.]

[She sets her head down in her arms as she continues to cry.]

[The vanity set piece will rotate as we see Moirira's back to the audience and the mirror elongates, filling up most of the space.]

{THE LIGHTS START TO FLICKER.}

{FLASH: Solus appears, a ghastly outline with each flash.}

{Solus is the spitting image of Moira. Her image should appear as though she is reflected in the mirror but can also be contained in the space acting around Moira at the dresser.}

{FLASH: Solus is screaming, violently shaking across the stage..}

[Moira's hand reaches up, slowly.]

{FLASH: Solus flails her arms, thrashing against the invisible monsters around her.}

[Moira's hand struggles to rise.]

{FLASH: Solus grips her hair tightly like she's about to rip it out, beating her head into the walls.}

[Moira's hand grips her own hair, mimicking Solus but not as intense.]

{FLASH: Solus weeps harder as blood pours from her eyes.}

[Moira's cries and Solus' wails become one.]

{The flickering lights come to a halt as a spotlight illuminates Moira, leaving Solus in the shadows.}

[Moira's hand falls, a clenched fist banging the top of the vanity.]

[The mirror shatters and Solus fades away.]

[Blackout]

[Curtain raises and scene resets: unshattered mirror, no signs of blood, etc.]

[Moira gets up from the dresser, wiping her tears from her eyes, and slumps back into bed.]

[Her phone dings multiple times with notifications.]

MITCH

Attachment: 1 Image

Sent Today 5:46 pm

DEAN

Attachment: 1 Image

Sent Today 5:46 pm

NOAH

Attachment: 1 Image

Sent Today 5:49 pm

JUSTIN

Attachment: 1 Image

Sent Today 5:49 pm

[Moira sighs and goes back to James' number.]

MOIRA

Typing to James...

I have something I need to tell you.

[She deletes the text before sending.]

Act 1 Scene 4

[The Park: New Day]

[Enter Fred]

*[Fred stands by the swing set,
checking his watch impatiently.]*

*[James runs over from the school,
out of breath.]*

FRED
You're late.

JAMES
(panting)
My bad.

*[James smiles and gives Fred a
thumbs up to show he's okay.]*

FRED
Where's Caleb?

JAMES
I don't know. That's why I was late. I ran around all the classrooms seeing if he was in one of the detentions.

[James' phone dings.]

[He pulls it out and reads the text.]

CALEB
Not coming, don't bother waiting for me.
Read Today 3:18 pm

[James hesitates before responding.]

JAMES

K.

Sent Today 3:20 pm

FRED

What's his excuse this time?

JAMES

Probably selling to middle schoolers again.

FRED

(eye roll)

Of course. The money always comes first.

JAMES

They do say money buys happiness.

FRED

The saying is that it *can't*. No matter, we'll get along fine without him.

JAMES

Mm...been awhile since I've seen you Fred. How've you been?

FRED

Good enough. Things have been harder at home for Wini and I. I'm not exactly the brother our parents wanted.

JAMES

How do you get on with it?

FRED

Not really sure I do.

JAMES

I'm sorry to hear that.

FRED

It's adequate. I like to think my place in the world is composing myself, biding my time and gathering pieces so I may place them together into the mosaic that has become my life.

(beat)

The longer I wait, the grander the entrance. But, maybe I'm just inflating my own ego.

JAMES
Eloquently put.

FRED
I do fancy myself a bit of a linguist.

[Fred sits on the swing.]

[James walks over to him.]

JAMES
Can I ask you something?

FRED
Go on.

JAMES
Do you like anyone?

FRED
(dodging)
Ooo does someone have a crush?

JAMES
N-no. I was just wondering.

FRED
(changing the subject)
It doesn't matter if you do or don't. You're allowed to have feelings and talk about them when you're ready. Now, tell me why Moira still hasn't shown up to school yet.

JAMES
I'm not entirely sure to be honest.

FRED
Has anyone gone to check on her?

[James shakes his head.]

FRED

We'll have to change that then.

JAMES

I'm sure she wants to be alone.

FRED

For three whole months? Boy, that's not wanting to be alone, that's a cry for help.

JAMES

You notice more than you let on.

FRED

It's practically my duty to since you all like to bury your heads in the sand so much.

JAMES

(feigned confusion)

What's that supposed to mean?

[Caleb enters.]

FRED

(to Caleb)

Don't you look absolutely gorgeous.

JAMES

I thought you weren't coming.

[Caleb is disheveled. His hair is a mess, he's rolling his shirt back down. His left cheek a warm shade of red.]

[Fred stands up and lets Caleb sit in the swing while he finishes fixing himself up.]

CALEB

Before any of you ask, I don't want to talk about it.

FRED

I think you do or you wouldn't be in the sharing seat.

[Caleb jumps out of the swing, grinning from landing on his feet without stumbling. The still moving swing hits him from behind, knocking him forward.]

CALEB

Fuck off.

FRED

(wink)

With pleasure.

JAMES

Hey uh why don't we all go for some food. McDonalds sound good?

CALEB

Count me out

FRED

I suppose I'll settle for subpar food just this once, if you really are paying.

[Fred and James exit.]

Act 1 Scene 5

[The Park: Same Day]

[Caleb watches the two go. The minute they disappear, he sinks into the swing, hands in his face.]

[He cries.]

{FLASH: Irascor appears, angry and vengeful. Irascor is a red devil. He hangs over Caleb's shoulders, like a

thousand pound weight bringing him down.}

{FLASH: Irascor lets out a roar specifically aimed to hurt anyone who hears it. It is primal, guttural, unnatural.}

[Caleb continues to cry, his face covered by his hands.]

{FLASH: Irascor whispers words (not meant to be heard aloud) into Caleb's ears and coaxes him out of the swing.}

[Caleb pulls his hands away, revealing a black side to his face and a white. In the middle, it smears grey.]

{Irascor and Caleb dance around one another and with each other.}

{Each movement is like that of a battle and each strike meant to kill.}

{By the end of the dance, Caleb is on the ground bloody and bruised.}

{Irascor looks unharmed.}

{Irascor then extends his hand to Caleb. Caleb refuses, slapping the hand away.}

{Irascor shrugs, he'll come back and try again another day.}

{FLASH: Scene reset, Caleb sits in the swing. Irascor fades from behind him in a puff of smoke. No blood, no paint on Caleb's face.}

[Caleb stands up, wipes his tears and exits.]

Act 1 Scene 6

[The Park: New Day]

[Wini sits on the swing by herself.]

[She holds a beanie in her lap.]

WINI
I'm sorry...

[Caleb walks up to Wini.]

CALEB
Hope I'm not interrupting. Were you uh, talking to yourself?

WINI
Er□ sort of.

[Wini shoves the beanie into her pocket.]

CALEB
Oh. That's cool.

WINI
(awkwardly)
Uh where's James?

CALEB
Not sure.

WINI

(pales)

It's only us then.

CALEB

Yeah...

(beat)

We don't really hang out much, do we?

WINI

Sure we do.

CALEB

Name one instance in the last year.

[Wini is silent.]

CALEB

Yeah.

WINI

Fair, but just because we don't hang out doesn't mean we aren't friends.

CALEB

(thoughtful)

We used to be though...why'd we stop?

WINI

I don't know. Commonalities change. We grew up and found we don't click?

CALEB

I don't accept that. I think you're hiding from me.

WINI

(accusatory)

And you're not? You've been way more out of control, detentions left and right.

(hushed)

I heard you even went to jail.

[Beat.]

CALEB

(shrugs)

Shit happens.

WINI

So you can give me bullshit answers, but I'm not allowed to have secrets.

CALEB

Secrets being the operative word there.

WINI

A private life! Is that better?

CALEB

Privacy is all well and good. But I'm here for you Wini. I always have been and I...

(shyly looks away)

I don't want you to forget that.

[Another beat.]

*[The two look at each other, then
look at their hands.]*

*[The spaces between their fingers
look like they would fit so perfectly.]*

WINI

I should go.

CALEB

Come on Win, it's me. What are you so afraid of sharing? Nothing you say would ever push me away.

WINI

(mumbled)

The truth would.

CALEB

What was that?

WINI

I/

{FLASH: A blue light falls over Wini. She freezes. In her place appears Ruo-- a beautiful girl, the culmination of everything Wini wishes she could be. She is dressed all in red.}

{Ruo walks up to Caleb who is also frozen in place. Her hands reach out and gently touch Caleb, lightly kissing his cheek.}

RUO

/I love you.

{FLASH: Ruo steps back, almost melting into Wini, she disappears. The blue light is gone and time starts up again.}

WINI

I really need to go.

CALEB

(taking Wini's hand)

Wait, please.

[Wini flinches and pulls her hand back.]

WINI

Don't touch me!

[Caleb's face falls, then he hides his pain with a numbed apathy.]

WINI

I'm sorry, that's not what I meant.

CALEB

Don't worry, I get it.

(gets up)

Later Win.

[Caleb exits leaving Wini alone on stage.]

Act 1 Scene 7

[Moira's Bedroom: New Day]

[Moira is dabbing her eyes with a tissue. She reapplies mascara and wipes away any leftover black smudges.]

[Her phone dings.]

WINI

I'm coming over.

Read Today 12:22 pm

MOIRA

No, you're not.

Sent Today 12:24 pm

WINI

**I don't care if there's an orgy
in the room. I'm coming.**

Read Today 12:25 pm

MOIRA

I'm sick. You'll get sick too.

Sent Today 12:25 pm

WINI

I'm already sick. Open your door.

Read Today 12:36 pm

[A knock.]

[Moirra jumps off the bed and rummages through the closet to throw on some baggy clothes.]

[Wini stands at the door holding a poorly made fruit basket.]

WINI

You gonna invite me inside already? I promise I'm not a vampire.

MOIRA

(calls out)

Door's open.

WINI

(walks inside)

Wow, not breaking out the Victoria Secret for me? I feel so special.

MOIRA

Why are you here?

WINI

(hands basket over)

I brought a fruit basket. That's something you do for sick people.

MOIRA

(takes it from Wini)

Thanks.

[Moirra sets the basket on her desk.]

WINI

So...

MOIRA

So...

WINI

Will you do my nails? With the sparkles please.

MOIRA

Oh, sure.

[Moira gets the nail stuff and sits on the bed.]

[Wini sits next to her.]

MOIRA

Thank you.

WINI

The fruit's not great, just so you know. No need to thank me for it.

MOIRA

I'm not.

WINI

Then what for?

MOIRA

I know what people say about me. I thought you'd given up too.

WINI

So you like to suck dick for cash? There's no shame in that. And you're obviously not pregnant.

MOIRA

(half-hearted laugh)

Pregnant.

WINI

Crazy, I know.

[Beat.]

MOIRA

What's everyone been up to lately?

WINI

The usual. James is being a little bitch. Caleb is being an actual bitch. And you've been in your room for three months. Happy three-month room anniversary by the way.

MOIRA

Three months already?

(sighs)

What about you?

WINI

What about me? You missed a spot also.

[Moira looks at Wini's nails and sees the finger she missed. She huffs but it's obvious she's not upset. She continues painting.]

MOIRA

WiniFred Jones, how are *you*?

[Wini blinks. Once. Twice. Her eyes water and she rubs them.]

WINI

...I think Caleb hates me.

MOIRA

He doesn't hate you. He/

WINI

Loves me? I don't even get to *be* me.

MOIRA

I get what it's like to be introverted.

WINI

It's more than that. I'm a freak with someone else's thoughts and feelings trapped inside me. Some days I wonder if I'm a shitty imitation and not really Fred's sister.

MOIRA

There are parts of ourselves we all wish would go away. But Fred is family. He's not going to leave you. But he's not overshadowing you either.

WINI

(throws hands up frustrated)

This is all so hard without you.

MOIRA

You don't need me.

WINI

James does.

[Moirra stops doing Wini's nails and starts putting the items away. Her back is to Wini.]

WINI

Admit you have the same problem as me. You love James.

MOIRA

I put that dream to bed a long time ago.

WINI

Keep telling yourself that, doesn't make it any less true.

MOIRA

You don't know what happened between us.

WINI

Yeah I do, nothing. Zero. Zilch. Nada.

[Moirra whirls around, pointing a nail file at Wini accusingly.]

MOIRA

Isn't that the point? He can't love a whore and I can't keep degrading my self-worth over a man who can't bring himself to notice me.

WINI

That's not true. James is insecure about a lot of things and you're this hot, sexy woman who knows what she wants. He probably feels like he doesn't measure up.

MOIRA

You speak from experience.

WINI

This isn't about me right now.

MOIRA

Hypocrite. James isn't insecure, you are. You're afraid you aren't woman enough for Caleb.

WINI

That's just it. I'm not a woman, I'm broken.

MOIRA

(deep sigh)

Oh, honey.

(puts her arms around Wini)

You're not broken. We're going through a lot in our lives right now. Caleb doesn't see you for anything less than what you are: a force to be reckoned with.

WINI

Easy for you to say. You sleep with whoever you want without any consequence.

MOIRA

There are very real consequences.

WINI

(breaking away from Moira)

If you know that, then why do you let yourself be used by all the guys you bring around?

MOIRA

(cringes)

I know it's wrong but, how else should I cope? James, he'll never love me but all these guys act like they do. It's easier to pretend.

WINI

Why keep pretending when you could go have the real thing?

MOIRA

Why not try being honest with Caleb about how you feel?

[A long silence.]

MOIRA & WINI

Yeah...

MOIRA

You know how sometimes you feel like you're imitating Fred?

(Wini nods)

Deep down, you know you're not. Yet you can't let yourself think anything but. Otherwise, you have hope. And where there's hope, there's disappointment. And I don't want to risk disappointing James.

WINI

I get it. It's sad.

MOIRA

I can live with being sad.

WINI

Okay. Sorry for the judgement.

MOIRA

It's okay. I judge myself all the time.

[Beat.]

[Blackout]

Act 1 Scene 8

[The Park: New Day]

[Enter Caleb]

KID

(from off-stage)
Your prices are bull!

[Caleb lights up a cigarette.]

CALEB
Pleasure doing business with ya.

[Caleb takes a very long drag.]

[James enters.]

JAMES
It's a little early for your afternoon smoke.

CALEB
Bad day.

JAMES
Those things will give you cancer.

CALEB
What do you care?

JAMES
I care a lot. I may not be as empathetic as Wini or great at giving advice like Moira. But I care about you Caleb.

CALEB
Fuck off. That's some real pretentious bullshit right there.

JAMES
Roll us a joint. Weed makes people wise and if I say the same thing high, you'll know I'm not lying.

CALEB
Uh, okay.

[Caleb rolls the joint and passes it to James along with a lighter.]

*[James stares at it for a moment.
Flick. No light. Flick. No light.
Flick—]*

CALEB

Just give it to me.

(he lights the joint for James)

Is this your first time?

JAMES

(coughs)

N-no.

*[He hacks for a little while, trying to
calm his asthma.]*

*[Caleb waits patiently, it doesn't take
too long.]*

CALEB

(slowly grins)

It's really not, is it? Never woulda pegged you for a stoner.

JAMES

Helps me sleep at night. But I usually take edibles.

CALEB

So this is nothing for you. Wow. We should do this more often.

JAMES

I don't know. It's not like I want to. I've seen people develop...dependencies.

CALEB

You talk like you have experience.

JAMES

(pause)

I do.

*[The joint has burned halfway.
James still hasn't handed it over to
Caleb.]*

CALEB
Puff puff pass man. Don't be a hog.

JAMES
(hands it over)
Sorry.

*[Caleb takes it and finishes off the
other half of the joint. He pulls out
some papers and a grinder then
starts rolling a second.]*

JAMES
Can't, don't have any cash on me.

CALEB
It's cool, I'll spot you.

JAMES
Oh, thanks.

CALEB
No problem.

[Beat]

JAMES
You ever wonder what made Moira decide to leave?

*[Caleb spills his weed everywhere.
He curses and tries to pick it all up,
re-rolling the joint.]*

CALEB
Sure, sometimes. But it's not my problem or *yours*.

JAMES

I hope she's okay.

CALEB

I'm sure she is or we'd have seen a news headline by now.

JAMES

That's fucked up.

CALEB

So is life.

JAMES

You wanna talk about what happened to you yesterday?

CALEB

Nope.

JAMES

Was it a girl? Are you seeing someone?

CALEB

What part of no do you not understand?

JAMES

Sorry...it's the weed.

[James is barely high. He's simply curious.]

[Caleb finishes rolling the joint and tosses it to James. He starts doing push ups on the ground.]

[James lights and puffs for quite some time, watching Caleb intently.]

{FLASH: Irascor appears over Caleb, whispering into his ear again as he works out.}

[Caleb's routine increasingly becomes more intense as he struggles with the voice in the back of his head.]

{FLASH: Alacris appears behind James, a shadow of himself. Alacris is frail, sickly, dying. He barely manages a pained smile across his face.}

[James pulls out his phone, going onto Instagram.]

[James's phone will be PROJECTED on a screen. We see him on Instagram.]

[Caleb moves onto sit ups now.]

{Irascor screams at him like a gym coach.}

[James pulls up Caleb's Instagram page. Many of the pictures follow a similar aesthetic and Caleb looks well groomed.]

{Alacris looks over at Caleb, not so subtly comparing him and James. }

[Caleb is sweating now. He takes off his shirt, rippling muscles in full view.]

{Alacris stares and gulps.}

[James looks at his own Instagram page. It's empty.]

[Caleb is doing pull ups at the monkey bars now.]

{Irascor cheers for him to fall.}

[James takes a selfie when he thinks Caleb isn't looking.]

[James opens another app on his phone, FaceTune.]

{Alacris keeps staring at Caleb and whispering to James.}

[James changes the photo more and more until he looks exactly like Caleb does. But he's still not satisfied.]

[James goes back to Instagram, comparing his picture to Caleb's.]

[There's something off.]

[He continues to compare the pictures, zooming in on every little detail.]

[Then he sees it: the smile. Caleb is smiling and James is not.]

[And no amount of FaceTune can fix that.]

[Caleb takes a break from working out, grabbing a water bottle from his backpack. He uses his own shirt to towel off his face.]

{FLASH: Alacris and Irascor are gone.}

CALEB
Feel better now?

JAMES
(gaze lingers on Caleb)
Not really. You?

CALEB
Yeah, same...Look can I be real with you?

JAMES
Always.

CALEB
Do you ever feel like you're at war with yourself? Like you have a bunch of goals set but you can't seem to accomplish anything because you're the one getting in your own way.

JAMES
(erupting into a fit of laughter)
Oh jeez, that's not funny. But I really thought it was only me.

CALEB
(relieved)
Good to know I'm not though.

JAMES
(sigh)
I get it. That's why I can't face Moira right now. I want to be this happy person all the time and I'm not. I'd only make things worse for her.

CALEB
It's part of being human. We're fucking flawed.

[There's a long silence.]

JAMES
...You still high?

CALEB
Nah. You?

JAMES
No.

CALEB
I wonder if forgiveness is also part of being human.

[Blackout]

Act 1 Scene 9

*[THREE MONTHS AGO will be
Projected on a screen.]*

[Moiras Bedroom]

*[Moiras sits on a stool in front of her
dresser mirror. She brushes her hair;
applies red lipstick, and puts on
matching lingerie.]*

MOIRA
Are you still coming?
Sent Today 2:46 pm

CALEB
I'm on my way.
Read Today 2:52 pm

*[“Good Feelings” by The Violent
Femmes plays in the background.]*

*[Moiras dances around her room
feeling like a bad bitch.]*

[A knock on the door.]

MOIRA

Be right there!
Alexa, dim the lights and play my Hit it or Quit it playlist.

*[A black circle lights up blue and
“3AM” by Matchbox Twenty plays in
the background.]*

[Another knock, more urgent.]

MOIRA
I said I was coming!

[She flings the door open.]

[Caleb stands there.]

*{FLASH: Irascor briefly appears
behind Caleb but does not stay,
darkness pouring from both of them.}*

*{FLASH: Solus appears behind
Moira, a shaking, frightened little
girl.}*

CALEB
Are you going to invite me in?

MOIRA
Oh right, come in.

[She steps out of the doorway.]

*[Caleb enters the room, closing the
door behind them.]*

MOIRA
I’m surprised you asked to meet like this.

CALEB

You're attractive Moira, I'm surprised there aren't many others that have taken you up on all you have to offer.

[A faint blush washes over her cheeks. Her nerves calm a bit.]

[He takes Moira's waist, pulling her close.]

MOIRA

(sultry)

Starting right away are we?

CALEB

(smirks)

Don't talk, you'll ruin the moment.

[They start to make out, making their way over to the bed.]

[LIGHTS BLACKOUT.]

[We hear moans and then suddenly coughing, choking.]

[Moira lets out a strangled scream.]

MOIRA

Caleb! Caleb stop! Stop!

[Her voice fades out.]

[Caleb's grunts echo throughout the room.]

[The Curtain is drawn.]

{FLASH: Solus and Irascor walk out from either side. Solus appears as the child version of Moira now.}

*{The red devil and the little girl
stand side-by-side in front of two
headstones.}*

*{They each place a flower over their
respective graves.}*

[Blackout]

Act 1 Scene 10

[The Park: Not in real time]

*[Everyone is lined up in a row:
Moir, James, Caleb, Wini/Fred.]*

*[Someone walks across the stage
holding a sign that says DON'T
CLAP.]*

[They take a bow together.]

*[Behind them in similar order: Solus,
Alacris, Irascor, Ruo, and Vivus.]*

*[After the second bow, they switch
places.]*

*[Instead of bowing, Solus, Alacris,
Irascor, Ruo, and Vivus proclaim
themselves.]*

[Step forward. Speak the truth.]

SOLUS
Loneliness.

ALACRIS
Happiness.

IRASCOR

Rage.

RUO

Vulnerability.

VIVUS

Life.

[The Emotions then fall back into line, standing side-by-side with their counterparts.]

[Another bow and exit.]

[Blackout]

[End of Act 1]

Act 2 Scene 1

[The Park: New Day]

[Wini stands, waiting with arms crossed, impatient.]

[James comes running over.]

JAMES

I came as fast as I could. You said it was important?

WINI

I went to visit Moira.

[James' face falls.]

JAMES

Can we not do this?

{Flash: Alacris appears like a storm cloud hanging over James. He hangs

*onto James' body forming chains
and weights to pull him down.}*

WINI

Why do you want to avoid her so badly? From where I'm standing, nothing ever happened between you two to warrant this.

JAMES

Because...I can't face her.

WINI

Can't or won't?

JAMES

(angry, deflecting)

Like it's really any of your business?

WINI

Someone has to fix this, *us*.

JAMES

What's the point?

WINI

Everything seems to have changed. Three months ago, we were all the best of friends. Something happened and I'm going to get to the bottom of this.

JAMES

Maybe we're not meant to be friends anymore.

[Wini raises an eye at this.]

WINI

I knew you hit rock bottom, but when did you decide to completely give up?

JAMES

I'm just tired.

*{Alacris keeps adding more weights
to the chains.}*

[James sinks to the floor.]

WINI

Yeah and now you're sitting around on your lazy ass not doing anything about it.

JAMES

Why should it fall on me? I'm so done, Win. Done with the bullshit, the secrets, the lies--*from everyone.*

WINI

Now what's that supposed to mean?

JAMES

Don't act like you're not guilty too.

WINI

I seriously have no idea what you're talking about.

JAMES

You're hiding something too Win. We all know it, but you're still deluding yourself.

[A beat.]

[Wini tries to look like she's not about to cry.]

WINI

I-I'm not though.

JAMES

You are. You're up on your high horse and you can't see you're just as fucked up as the rest of us.

WINI

I never claimed to be something I'm not.

[James snorts, laughing.]

JAMES

That's really funny coming from you.

WINI

The fuck is wrong with you today?

{Alacris sits on James chest, keeping him from pulling himself out of 'the pits'.}

JAMES

I can't pretend I'm happy anymore when I'm so not. And you can't keep pretending like you're a real wo-...like you're a real friend.

WINI

I *am* your friend.

JAMES

Stop it already. You can't fix something none of us want fixed, accept it, none of us are friends anymore.

WINI

Fine. Then I guess if I'm not your friend, I'll just leave.

JAMES

Come on, that's not what I meant.

[James reaches out to Wini, trying to lighten the mood.]

{Alacris begins building a wall of weights, separating James from Wini.}

WINI

It never is. But you can't keep pushing us away, one of these days, we really might leave.

JAMES

(swallows dryly)

I'm sorry. I...

(beat)

I don't know what else to say.

WINI

(sigh)

I'm gonna go, enjoy your little pity party.

[Wini runs off, leaving James on his own.]

{Alacris leans James against the wall, leaving the weights and chains hanging all over him.}

{Alacris fades away as the rain of his storm cloud releases and falls, drenching James.}

[Blackout]

Act 2 Scene 2

[The Park: New Day]

[James is sitting on the swing.]

[Caleb is on the phone off to the side, in a heated argument. We can't hear what he says.]

[He finishes the call and just stands there for a few minutes, stunned.]

[James gives him a couple of glances, trying not to stare but is clearly curious.]

[Caleb clenches and unclenches his fists a few times. Then he screams into the wind.]

[The song "Lobby Boy" by Curtis Waters ft. Harm Franklin plays over until it fades when Caleb walks back over to James.]

CALEB

Sorry about that.

JAMES

Is that your...dad again?

CALEB

He's a real prick.

JAMES

What'd he say?

CALEB

Not important. Anything new with you?

JAMES

My life sucks cuz I'm a simp so...

CALEB

You are a simp, but your life doesn't suck.

JAMES

It really kinda does.

CALEB

Give me one good reason.

JAMES

I...

(long pause)

It just does.

CALEB

Sounds like you're depressed.

JAMES

I am n-...I am...

CALEB

I do believe I am wise beyond my years.

JAMES

(eyeroll)

Sure.

CALEB

Aside from typical teen depression, what's up, Simp?

JAMES

Still hung up on Moira... If there was anything in the world you could say to her, what would it be?

[Beat]

CALEB

(whisper)

Sorry.

JAMES

Come again?

CALEB

I-I mean like sorry we didn't do more for her, ya know? She probably feels...abandoned.

JAMES

...Are you speaking for her or yourself?

CALEB

Don't be stupid.

JAMES

Do you feel lonely Caleb?

CALEB

(snaps)

Shut up! I don't feel anything. *You're* the one who's so fucking hung up on a whor--

[James is upset, it's written clearly on his face. Caleb shuts up.]

CALEB
My bad...

JAMES
(looks away)
I forgive you.

CALEB
I don't need your forgiveness.

JAMES
What did you and your dad talk about?

CALEB
...He's remarrying.

JAMES
(surprised)
Really? To who?

CALEB
His boss.

JAMES
Isn't your dad's boss/

CALEB
A man.

JAMES
Yeah.

[Caleb nods.]

JAMES
Oh.

CALEB

I don't care. He can do whatever he wants.

JAMES

But how do you feel about it?

CALEB

I said I/

JAMES

How about you say what you want to say for once instead of acting like you're too cool for everything.

CALEB

(shocked)

What?

JAMES

You heard me.

CALEB

Who the fuck do you think you are? You want to get up on a high horse and act like a fuckin' hypocrite be my guest, but don't act like your shit don't stink either.

JAMES

Don't you *fucking* bring her into this.

[Caleb tackles James. They wrestle on the ground, kicking and punching.]

[Caleb eventually pins James, grabbing him by the shirt collar.]

{FLASH: Alacris and Irascor appear by the monkey bars.}

{Alacris and Irascor both are holding up a mirror, facing each other.}

{Irascor screams at his own reflection.}

{Alacris screams at his own reflection.}

CALEB

You make me so goddamn sick!

JAMES

Why can't you be honest with yourself!

CALEB

Stop being so self-righteous!

JAMES

Get over yourself you narcissist!

CALEB

I hate you!

JAMES

I hate you!

[Caleb gets up off of James and lays on the ground, breathing heavily beside James.]

[James is also panting. They lay side-by-side for a moment.]

{Irascor and Alacris stop screaming. They slowly lower their mirrors and exit.}

CALEB

Why do you make everything about Moira?

JAMES

Why can't you be more straightforward with your emotions?

CALEB

My opinion doesn't matter. Your turn.

JAMES

Not my turn. Your opinion does matter, you have to stand up for yourself more.

CALEB

I am *not* a pussy.

JAMES

You're also not being real when you put on a show pretending to be this punk ass.

CALEB

You have no right to judge when you're the same way. You can't pretend like you're not hurt by her leaving.

JAMES

I don't act like I'm not, cuz I am...that made sense.

[A beat.]

[A small smile breaks on Caleb's face.]

CALEB

(snickers)

Yeah...I got it. You're such a friggin' dork.

JAMES

And you're an ass.

[This time James punches Caleb's arm.]

CALEB

I am upset about my Dad, you know. It's weird he's remarrying...it's weirder that he never let on he was...different.

JAMES

I'm sorry. But I don't think he's not gonna be your Dad still because of it.

CALEB

It's not *that* that's making me upset. It's the fact he always acted like being gay was a bad thing and now he...

JAMES

It's not uncommon. Some people internalize things and express themselves in the wrong ways.

CALEB

It's just...that's a version of him I've known for so long and to see him act any other way, it's too weird to handle.

JAMES

And you have every right to feel that way, but you shouldn't let your anger and resentment consume you.

[Beat.]

CALEB

So why Moira?

JAMES

(looking up towards the sky)

To me, she's the chosen one.

CALEB

You know I hate all that destiny, rising star sign bullcrap.

JAMES

It's not even. I genuinely believe we are meant to be. But I'm too scared to make that dream a reality.

CALEB

Don't you want to be happy?

JAMES

I'm scared I'll be so happy that when the moment something goes wrong and I lose her, I'll never be able to recover.

CALEB

Fuck dude.

JAMES

Yeah.

CALEB

You should talk to Fred about this. He'd know what to do.

JAMES

Already did.

CALEB

And?

JAMES

He said talk to Moira.

CALEB

But you don't want to do that.

JAMES

I can't.

CALEB

Why? Nothing's physically stopping you.

JAMES

Existential dread.

CALEB

Can't argue with that.

[Beat.]

[The two finally get up and dust themselves off.]

CALEB

What are we to do with ourselves?

JAMES

I don't think any of us know.

[Blackout]

Act 2 Scene 3

[The Park: At Night]

WINI

What's all this?

[There's a blanket on the ground spread out for a picnic. Plastic champagne flutes, a bottle of sparkling grape juice, and 2 McDonald's happy meals are placed between Caleb and the empty space next to him.]

[He pats the blanket.]

CALEB

Sit with me?

[Wini hesitates, but then sits.]

WINI

Explain.

CALEB

I wanted to make up for the way we left things.

WINI

Okay, but, you could've called or texted. You didn't have to

(gestures at the picnic)
All this.

CALEB
It's no trouble at all.

[Beat.]

[Wini looks around and the lengths of effort Caleb went through sinks in.]

WINI
Thank you.

[She takes one of the happy meals, peeking inside. She pulls out the toy and smiles.]

WINI
Really?

CALEB
I thought they were your favorite.

[He runs a hand through his hair, a little embarrassed but grinning.]

WINI
Yeah when I was like five.

CALEB
Isn't it supposed to be the thought that counts?

WINI
(sets the toy aside)
Yeah. But I still think you're up to something here.

CALEB

(frustrated)

Why do you have to be like that?

WINI

Like what?

CALEB

It feels like you don't trust me anymore.

[Wini turns away.]

WINI

...I don't Caleb.

[Beat]

CALEB

Why though?

WINI

You're not acting like yourself and I don't understand what changed.

CALEB

(pleading)

I lost my way, that's all.

WINI

I don't want to invest in someone who I can't rely on because he's been imprisoned or worse.

CALEB

That's why I'm trying to show you I can change, I *will* change.

WINI

I don't want you to change solely for me though. You should want to get better for you too.

CALEB

I know.

WINI

(sigh)

I'm sorry, I ruined the moment didn't I?

CALEB

No, we should be able to have these kinds of talks.

WINI

You're not mad at me?

CALEB

Never. I know I have flaws and I want to improve. You're the only one who's ever given me the chance to.

(smiles sweetly at her)

How could I be mad at that?

WINI

(jokingly)

I'd be pissed if someone pointed out all my worst qualities to my face.

CALEB

Yeah but it's different when it's...you know.

WINI

(pause)

I think I do.

[They open their happy meals and start to eat.]

[Caleb pours Wini a glass of the sparkling grape juice. He also pulls out a couple travel size bottles of alcohol.]

WINI

Wouldn't it have been easier to just get a bottle of champagne?

CALEB

It's less fun that way.

[He pours one of the baby bottles into his own glass. He offers the other to Wini.]

[She accepts.]

[A couple drinks later...]

CALEB

Okay, okay but hear me out. All you would need is a pair of rusty scissors and a pack of Hubba Bubba.

WINI

What in god's name would you use any of that for?

CALEB

(winks)

You have to see it to believe it.

[Wini nods to herself, staring into the empty glass. Her head shoots up as she becomes quite serious.]

WINI

Caleb...do you like Moira?

[Caleb nearly spits his drink across the park.]

CALEB

(coughing)

How do you mean?

WINI

Like is she attractive to you?

CALEB

I think she's pretty, yeah.

WINI

Enough to date?

CALEB

Uh...no. She's...

(withdrawing)

Not really my type.

[Beat.]

WINI

What is your type?

CALEB

I-I don't know...

(with great thought)

I like people who are kind hearted. They aren't fake and they don't judge.

WINI

Moira fits all those things.

CALEB

I guess.

WINI

So, why don't you like her like that?

CALEB

(stares at Wini)

She's just not the one for me.

WINI

You're so thick headed.

CALEB

(getting angry)

Now what's *that* supposed to mean?

WINI

(quiet)

Just forget it.

CALEB

(pissed)

I fucking hate it when you're like that.

WINI

(baffled)

Excuse me?

CALEB

You act like I offended you then won't even give me the courtesy to explain to me how.

WINI

It's not like you'd understand if I did explain it to you.

CALEB

You won't even try to.

[Beat.]

WINI

I should go.

CALEB

Running away too, how pathetic.

WINI

Fuck you.

[Wini gets up and storms off.]

[Caleb watches her go, then balls his hand into a fist, slamming it into the ground.]

CALEB

Dammit.

[Blackout]

Act 2 Scene 4

[The Park: Day, not real time]

[Fred stands by himself at the swing set.]

FRED

I had this epiphany, you know, that night I talked to James. And I swear to God while I might sound crazy--actually scratch that--I definitely am crazy.

It was like a dream you know, it really hit me. There I was, talking to Wini like I usually do...

{FLASH: Vivus appears, like a shadow. He stands where Fred is standing so Fred can continue the monologue while moving around the stage.}

{FLASH: Ruo appears, the ghost of Wini.}

{Ruo will act as a stand in for Wini so Fred can act like he's talking to Wini, but in actuality it's him speaking to himself.}

{Ruo should lip sync all of Wini's lines.}

FRED

This whole time I always thought you were the one who should've lived. You were the better twin.

WINI

I did get to live, through you.

FRED

I know, I understand that now. It's like the world shifted and I could see it all more clearly.

[Beat]

FRED

The day--...The day *I* was born, it changed both our lives forever. Mom was 42 when she had us, the risks were already explained by the doctors. But no one ever thinks bad things will happen to them, until they do.

They thought they did everything right, took all the necessary precautions and had check ups regularly. Despite the hard work they put in, you were stillborn.

At first I thought it was postpartum, I read that can happen after having kids. But it wasn't just Mom who withdrew, they both did. She quit her job, Dad poured himself into his work. They stopped having social lives and never talked about you.

(beat)

They left the room the same however. Never took away the second crib, or the sign with your name on it, didn't even donate the baby clothes that were meant for a girl rather than a boy.

I thought that was the problem, maybe they wanted a girl more than a boy. So I changed my voice, grew out my hair.

It didn't work though, they never noticed.

Sports were never my forte so I worked my ass off in school to get the best grades and still nothing.

So then I tried being popular, which again, wasn't *my* thing. But if you had lived, I think that would've been yours.

WINI

I'm too quiet to be popular.

FRED

Not that kind of popular, that didn't work for either of us. But someone who could make friends and keep them around for a long time. You did that for us with Caleb, James, and Moira.

WINI

I don't want to take all the credit for that.

FRED

(smiling)

Right, of course. Here's where my epiphany comes in: it wasn't only you who did that. *I* did that. Because I was always you.

{FLASH: Ruo and Vivus cross over to one another and merge, becoming one. The spitting image of Fred.}

[A mirror is rolled on stage, taking Vivus' place, becoming the Wini stand in. Ruo/Vivus' merged self stands behind the mirror.]

{Ruo/Vivus will still mimic Wini's lines while Fred speaks.}

WINI

(smiles)

I'm so glad you finally see what I've always known.

FRED

I always thought it was me. *I* was the problem. *I* was the lesser twin. But that wasn't true.

As a child dealing with parents who couldn't grieve and neglected the son that did survive, I had to find my own way to express my grief and my thoughts on losing you too. I wanted to share the sibling I got to experience that the rest of the world did not.

I became me because of you and for that, I will never ever forget you Wini.

[Fred cuts his hair in front of the mirror. All the long locks scatter to the floor.]

{The version of him in the mirror does not lose his hair, representing a moment in time that will always stay with Fred throughout his life.}

FRED

But it's time for me to move forward now. Goodbye Wini.

WINI

(softly)

Goodbye Fred.

[Lights go back up, representing the flashback as over. Mirror is removed from the stage.]

[Fred stands alone once more. He sits on the swing set and takes off the beanie.]

[His hair is short and he places the beanie down under the swing.]

[He gets up and leaves.]

[The beanie is left behind.]

Act 2 Scene 5

[The Park: New Day, back to real time]

[Fred waits, sitting on the swings.]

[Caleb walks over.]

[Fred stands to meet him.]

FRED
I'm so glad you came.

CALEB
I'm glad you called. What's up?

FRED
Me. I'm me.

CALEB
Yeah...you've always been you.

FRED
No like, I'm actually *me* now.

CALEB
I still don't understand.

FRED
Let me show you.

[Fred kisses Caleb, it's deep and passionate.]

{“Good Feeling” by the Violent Femmes plays softly in the background.}

{FLASH: Vivus and Irascor appear in front of Fred and Caleb.}

{Vivus, dressed in a tux and resembling Fred, extends a hand to the Red Devil.}

{Hesitantly, Irascor takes it.}

{Irascor's angry, dark appearance melts away.}

{Soon he becomes just a man--also the spitting image of Caleb--only happier and also dressed in a suit.}

{They begin to waltz across the stage, happy and in love.}

{They will dance around Caleb and Fred but never truly interact.}

[Caleb and Fred break the kiss, gasping for air.]

FRED
Whoa...

CALEB
That was...

FRED
Amazing.

CALEB
I was going to say surprising.

*[A loud record scratch noise is made
as the music abruptly stops.]*

*{FLASH: Vivus and Irascor dance
their way off stage.}*

[Fred crosses his arms, upset.]

FRED
I thought you felt the same way.

CALEB
I do--I just...this is a lot.

*[Caleb runs his hands through his
hair, pacing nervously. He turns
away from Fred.]*

FRED
Look at me.

*[Caleb keeps pacing, refusing to
meet Fred's gaze.]*

FRED
Caleb, look at me!

*[Fred takes Caleb's face in his and
forces him to look.]*

[Tears well up in Caleb's eyes.]

CALEB
I can't do this.

FRED

What the hell does that mean?

CALEB

I-I thought when you were pretending to be Wini it would be okay/

FRED

I never pretended anything.

CALEB

Then why couldn't you be yourself, the you I fell in love with.

FRED

You...you fell in love with me?

CALEB

I don't know anymore.

FRED

Well I'm not asking you to rush into things. I need to know if you are willing to take a shot at this.

CALEB

At what? At being labeled a-a-//

FRED

Don't you dare call me a fag.

CALEB

No, I was going to say boyfriend.

FRED

Oh. I mean...I want to give it a go if you do.

CALEB

I want to, I really do...I'm just scared.

FRED

You're scared?

CALEB

I've never been in love before.

FRED

Then don't pressure yourself to be.

CALEB

I really don't want to let you down.

FRED

The only way you could is if we didn't try to make this work.

CALEB

Okay...Okay. Let's do this.

[This time Caleb boldly steps forward and kisses Fred.]

[Blackout]

Act 2 Scene 6

[The Park: New Day]

[Fred is on his phone, sitting on the swing.]

[Moirira races into the playground and sits down next to Fred on the swing.]

[Fred drops his phone in disbelief.]

FRED

I didn't die and become a ghost or drop into an alternate plane of existence right?

MOIRA

No, I'm really here.

[Moirra picks up Fred's phone and hands it to him.]

[Fred puts it in his pocket.]

FRED

You sure are.

(looking Moira up and down)

Isolation has not treated you well. You're looking a little like Casper the friendly ghost.

MOIRA

You think so?....The sun does kinda hurt my eyes.

FRED

I think I have some sunglasses.

MOIRA

(holds up her hand)

I'm okay.

FRED

There's a lot of words I would choose to describe you...okay isn't one of them.

MOIRA

(sarcastic)

Thanks.

[Beat]

FRED

Why did you leave the house?

[Moirra tries to speak, no sound comes out. She frowns, pauses, and tries again. Nothing.]

[Balling her fists from frustration, she tries to speak once more. Instead, she cries.]

FRED

(awkwardly trying to comfort her)

There...there....I don't want to put words in your mouth or assume anything here so I'll let you have a moment before trying to explain any of this.

[Holding Moira, Fred lets her cry for a few moments longer.]

[Moira then wipes her face, pulling herself back together.]

MOIRA

I'm sorry.

FRED

You have nothing to apologize for.

MOIRA

Something happened.

FRED

I've gathered as much.

MOIRA

Three months ago Caleb...

[Her voice fades but her mouth keeps moving.]

[Fred's eyes go wide with shock.]

FRED

(more surprise than disbelief)

I can't believe he'd really do that.

MOIRA

I didn't see it coming either.

FRED

Did you get a rape kit?

[Moira shakes her head.]

FRED
Did you get a pregnancy test?

[Moira shakes her head.]

FRED
Did you go to a clinic?

[Moira doesn't move.]

FRED
Did you...you know?

MOIRA
(quietly)
Yeah.

FRED
Ther-there's supposed to be lines, boundaries between friends that you just don't cross.

MOIRA
How do we know where the line is?

FRED
I think we fucking found it!

[This time Fred starts to cry.]

FRED
Jesus...how could I be so stupid!?

MOIRA
You can't blame yourself, I didn't tell anyone so it's not like you could've done anything.

*note for self here later

FRED

I... Yesterday I kissed Caleb.

[Moira's face falls. She takes Fred's hand, squeezing it tightly.]

MOIRA

You didn't know.

FRED

(cries harder)

Even knowing now, I can't help that I'm still in love with him.

MOIRA

It's hard to know why he did this terrible, awful thing. But you can't guilt trip yourself for falling in love with the guy we all loved as our friend.

FRED

I'm upset because I was so focused on myself, on the way I thought Caleb and everyone else viewed me, that I never once asked about you and your feelings.

MOIRA

I'm not any better at this than you are Fred. Hiding away, starting a fucking OnlyFans account. I had no clue how to process what I was going through.

FRED

I'm not surprised you were still able to hold it together. You're tenacious Moira.

MOIRA

I'm not though. Not nearly enough.

FRED

Hush girl, that's pure nonsense.

(beat)

What are you going to do now?

MOIRA

I don't know.

FRED

Are you gonna go to the police?

MOIRA

(shakes head)

I don't want to go through that. It's not worth it.

FRED

So he's just going to get away with it?

MOIRA

It's more complicated than that. Caleb was our friend. Deep down, I don't think he's a bad person. Did he do a bad thing? Yes, I was violated. But I think to hurt someone to this degree, you have to be hurting yourself.

FRED

I suppose...but I don't know if I can be friends with him anymore.

MOIRA

I don't think any of us will be. But he won't forget this, us. He's going to wear that shame for a very long time.

FRED

(quietly)

I think we all will.

MOIRA

Hm?

*[Something in Fred's mind clicks.
His back straightens and he turns on
his heels.]*

FRED

Oh my gosh, I have to go.

MOIRA

Wait, why?

FRED

I have a relationship to save!

MOIRA
With Caleb?

FRED
No, this is for you because you deserve it!

[Fred starts to run then stops and turns back.]

FRED
Wait here til I text!

[Fred exits.]

[Moirra looks up at the sky and starts to swing.]

Act 2 Scene 7

[James is walking towards the park. Fred comes running towards him.]

JAMES
I thought we were meeting at the park?

FRED
(out of breath)
No time.

JAMES
What's the rush?

FRED
You need to see Moira.

JAMES
I'm sorry about the last time we spoke, but I think it's time to drop this now.

FRED
No, you *have* to talk to her.

JAMES

I've been very tolerant of you pushing, but I really don't enjoy being pushed this hard.

[Fred whispers into James' ear.]

[James' jaw drops, eyes going wide with shock.]

[James takes off running toward Moira's house.]

[Fred watches him leave then pulls out his phone.]

FRED

Go back home right now!

Sent 5:18 pm

MOIRA

Why?

Read 5:18 pm

FRED

Just do it, I promise I'll explain later.

Sent 5:19 pm

MOIRA

Okay.

Read 5:20 pm

[Fred puts his phone away.]

FRED

I hope you get your happy ending...one of us deserves it at least.

Act 2 Scene 8

[Moira's Bedroom: Night]

[A tripod camera is set up across from her bed. Moira is draped over her bed in fancy lingerie.]

[She checks her phone.]

MOIRA

Are you coming yet?

Sent 7:48 pm

FRED

I'm on my way, I promise. Just keep waiting a little longer.

Read 8:13 pm

[Moira sighs and then goes to the camera and starts recording.]

[She keeps trying to change her position to get the best angles of her body and face.]

[Her laptop is open on the dresser.]

[The song "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell plays.]

[Her OnlyFans account will be PROJECTED the same as TEXTS.]

89 live viewers from various countries, 31 comments

Top comments

DICKDADDY1399

Damn she's got a PHAT ass.

MOMMYMILKERS420

PAWGers 🍆

ANONYMOUS5827

I want her to squirt on my face.

UWANTSUMFUK

Jerking off as we speak 🤔

[After a few more minutes Moira ends her OnlyFans session and shuts off her camera/laptop.]

[She checks her CashApp. She only made \$200 from her video.]

[Moira groans.]

MOIRA

(to herself)

It's not like I need the money so why do I need to keep doing this?

[A knock on the door.]

MOIRA

Fucking finally Fred.

[The knock is louder, more urgent.]

MOIRA

You made me wait, so can you!

[She scrambles around, frantically hiding her video set up and changing into something more appropriate.]

[Moira goes to the door and opens.]

[James stands, arm raised like he's about to knock again.]

[James' hand falls to his side.]

[Both Moira and James look like they're about to cry.]

{FLASH: Solus appears behind Moira, again her spitting image and looking more healthy.}

{FLASH: Alacris appears like a ghost behind James, paling skin, sunken eyes, dying.}

{Solus reaches out to Alacris bringing her hand towards his. He mimics the movement. But their hands DO NOT touch.}

{Solus breathes life back to Alacris. Color returns to his face, he no longer looks like he's withered away.}

{The two finally embrace.}

{We see Alacris smile genuinely for the first time.}

{FLASH: In each other's arms, the emotions fade away.}

JAMES
We need to talk.

[Blackout.]

Act 2 Scene 9

[The Park: New Day]

[Moira sits on the swing, staring at the sky while she swings.]

[Caleb saunters over.]

[Moirira leaps from the swing, landing at his feet.]

[Caleb can't look at her.]

[She looks directly at him.]

MOIRA

Hey.

CALEB

(slightly confused, mostly nervous)

You wanted to talk to me?

MOIRA

Yep. I wanted to clear the air, so to speak.

CALEB

Okay...

MOIRA

For one thing, you never apologized// to me.

CALEB

//I'm sorry.

MOIRA

Thank you, but I don't accept it.

CALEB

(grumbles)

Then what was the point of that.

MOIRA

You still owed me the apology anyways. For the shitty thing you did, for the fact that I had to go through hell and back, for it leading me to go get an abortion all by myself, ya know, just to name a few things.

[Caleb finally looks at her, face paling as she lists all the reasons he has to be sorry.]

CALEB
I-I didn't know

MOIRA
I didn't tell you, or really anyone. Except Fred now.

CALEB
(swallows dryly)
So he knows.

MOIRA
Yep. I haven't told James yet.

CALEB
(cocks head to the side)
Why not?

MOIRA
(shrugs)
I still have fears, thanks for that too by the way.

CALEB
I deserve every bit of anger you have for me.

MOIRA
I'm actually not all that angry. I'm not okay by any means. But I don't harbor any ill will against you Caleb. I never did.

[He puts his head in his hands, grimacing.]

CALEB
That's somehow worse.

*[She puts a finger to her chin,
tapping it, thinking to herself slightly
anxious.]*

MOIRA

I'll never understand why you did what you did. But I understand what it's like to feel overwhelming pain, and sorrow, and discomfort, both from external forces and from within.

CALEB

(tearing up)

...I'm so fucking sorry.

MOIRA

I know. I'm glad you are.

CALEB

I can certainly say I'll never hurt another person in that way again. I can't guarantee I won't fuck up, but not like that.

MOIRA

Good. You're on the right path to getting better. I am too. But...things do have to change.

CALEB

(puzzled)

What do you mean?

MOIRA

After this and past high school, I don't think we'll all still be friends. What the others do with you, that's their business. But you and me--the friends that we used to be--ended *that* day.

CALEB

Yeah, I figured as much. I get it.

MOIRA

I'm glad we could talk like this though. I hope you become a better person Caleb, I really do. But I can't see a future for myself with you in it.

CALEB

Likewise. I don't think I could live with myself with you *literally* haunting me for the rest of my life.

MOIRA
This is goodbye then.

[Moira extends her hand for Caleb to shake.]

[Beat.]

[Caleb shakes her hand gently.]

CALEB
Goodbye Moira.

[The two part ways, going in opposite directions.]

Act 2 Scene 10

[Moira's Bedroom: continue of the previous night]

[Moira moves aside so James can enter.]

MOIRA
Can I get you anything? Water? Tea?

JAMES
(shakes his head)
I'm fine. Mind if I sit?

MOIRA
Go ahead, the uh, the bed is
(she looks at the pile of messy clothes and junk food)
Not free.

[Moira sits on her floor, leaning against the bed. James does too.]

MOIRA

I never expected you to come here//

JAMES

(cuts off her rambling)

//Fred told me.

[The color drains from Moira's face.]

MOIRA

What?

JAMES

Fred told me about what Caleb did to you.

MOIRA

Oh.

[She pulls her knees up to her chest.]

JAMES

Were you ever going to tell me? Or were you going to carry it on your own?

MOIRA

I didn't want to...and I'm sure I would've been fine.

JAMES

I know you're strong Moira but this is a lot for anyone. Even you.

MOIRA

I said I'm fine. You don't have to start pitying me now.

JAMES

I don't pity you.

MOIRA

Then why are you really here? I'm just going to make you sad now.

JAMES

That's not true, I was sad but that's because I thought you were intentionally pushing me away. Now I know.

MOIRA

That I'm fucked up.

JAMES

That you were *hurting*. But you don't have to go through this believing you're isolated from us anymore.

MOIRA

I'm fine James, really.

JAMES

When in the history of the world has anyone actually meant it when they said "I'm fine."

MOIRA

(eye roll)

Point taken. But you're still going to treat me differently even if you don't mean to.

JAMES

No one thinks less of you because of this.

MOIRA

That's not what I said.

JAMES

We can't act like nothing happened. But you're not weak because of it.

[Moira's body slowly relaxes as she slides her legs back down to the floor.]

MOIRA

Thank you.

JAMES

You're welcome. I'm sorry I wasn't a better friend before.

MOIRA

That wasn't really it though.

(looks up to the ceiling)

I did sort of push you away. I did things I'm not proud of while trying to avoid my feelings.

JAMES

Yeah, I know.

[James reaches out, placing his hand on hers.]

[She looks at him, reassured.]

MOIRA

Does that make you ashamed?

JAMES

(looking down)

A little, but of myself, not you.

MOIRA

Oh?

[Moirra shifts, sitting legs crossed and faces James.]

JAMES

I had every opportunity to come over and ask what's wrong. I never reached out the way I should've. I sent stupid cat videos. I didn't ask if you were okay. Instead I assumed you didn't want me and I felt unworthy.

MOIRA

I know exactly how you feel. I felt dirty, like you couldn't possibly want me after this.

[James meets her gaze, determination in his eyes.]

JAMES

I do...want you I mean. I *want* to be with you. There, I finally said it. I have always wanted to be with you because you're a beautiful person and this event doesn't make you any less desirable. It

makes me really upset because I want to protect you. But you're still you, Moira. And I-I...I think I love you.

MOIRA

I like you too James. I don't know if I'm ready to love--both you or myself. But I want to learn to do that with you by my side.

JAMES

I'm here.

*[He takes her hand and squeezes.
She squeezes back.]*

MOIRA

I'm ready to move forward.

JAMES

Me too.

[Lights dim.]

Act 2 Scene 11

[Moira's Bedroom--Empty]

[Moira stands where the bed used to be, dressed all in black, prepped for a funeral.]

[A large casket standing upright is wheeled out.]

[Moira steps inside and crosses her arms over her chest.]

[The door swings shut.]

[The lights dim then come back up.]

{FLASH: The casket is flung open and out steps Solus, the spitting image of Moira again only dressed all in white.}

{She's got these huge, shimmering, iridescent butterfly wings.}

{She looks otherworldly, simply stunning.}

{As she steps from the casket, water is poured over her from above, a symbol of rebirth.}

{As she walks out, stepping toward the crowd, flowers bloom from her feet, a mysterious wind keeps her wings and hair fluttering out behind her.}

{Solus places a hand over her heart.}

{A soft red spotlight goes up on Solus.}

{On the path to healing, her heart is whole once again.}

[Blackout.]

Act 2 Scene 12

[The Park: New Day]

[Fred paces around the swings.]

[Slowly, Caleb makes his way over.]

[The tension is palpable, they stand at a distance, avoiding eye contact.]

CALEB

...I guess you know.

FRED

Yeah...I know.

CALEB

Do you hate me now?

FRED

...Yes...and no...it's complicated.

CALEB

Everything is now.

[Beat.]

FRED

Why did you do it? What in the world possessed you to do something so fucking terrible?

CALEB

The truth?

[Fred nods vigorously.]

CALEB

I honestly don't know. Do I have a problem? Obviously. In the moment, I let my emotions take over. I made a very stupid choice to hurt her because I was--*am*, hurting. It was wrong and I want to take it back so badly, but I can't.

FRED

You should feel guilty.

CALEB

I'm not asking for forgiveness I know I don't deserve.

FRED

You really *don't* deserve it...but...knowing you did the wrong thing...I think that's gotta count for something--at least in the bigger picture of things like karma.

CALEB

I'm still sorry though...I never meant to hurt you most of all.

FRED

Don't.

(forced smile)

It's not like we were ever going to be anything anyway.

CALEB

(scoff)

Oh yeah?

FRED

I get it now. You weren't ever going to be okay with your sexuality. Just like I thought I'd never get over Wini.

[Caleb is silent. He can't speak on it.]

[The silence between them makes it clear Fred is right.]

FRED

For what it's worth, I don't think I'll ever get over you, ya know, considering you were my first love and all and you've now fucked me up too.

CALEB

(softly)

Yeah...me too...Can I ask you something?

[Beat.]

FRED

Yes.

CALEB

Will you...still be my friend?

[Fred's jaw drops, but he quickly closes it.]

FRED

I'm sorry, I didn't think you'd...No, no I don't think I can. I can't hang around you and pretend to let this go like nothing happened.

[Fred starts to walk, crossing in front of Caleb.]

[Caleb turns, trying to reach out, to plead with Fred.]

CALEB

I'm not asking you to. I'm asking you to stay. To help me.

FRED

I don't know if there is any helping you. I'm sure you talked to Moira, or rather, she reached out to you. She's a very forgiving person. But this side of you...even as a friend, I can't willingly be a part of that. I'd feel too much like I'm supporting your bad behavior.

CALEB

(more quiet)

That's more than fair.

FRED

This won't be a gloomy goodbye though...you were still part of my life and that means something to me.

[Fred pauses, his back to Caleb but not quite leaving yet.]

CALEB

(sharp breath)

Later Fred.

FRED

Goodbye.

[Fred walks off stage.]

[Caleb stands alone, then goes and sits on the swing.]

[Spotlight on Caleb, the rest of the stage goes dark.]

[He throws his head back, tears running down his face. He does not make any noise as he cries silently.]

{Flash: Irascor appears in front of Caleb. He is no longer a red devil. Instead he is a just a man, weak, feeble, and broken.}

{Irascor begins to shrink, aging backwards until he becomes a little boy, frightened of his future. He continues to shrink, collapsing in on himself until he becomes smoke.}

[In one deep breath, Caleb breathes in the smoke and Irascor is gone, reduced to nothing--exactly how Caleb feels within.]

Act 2 Scene 13

[The Park: New Day]

[Caleb stands by the swings, looking around nervously.]

[James storms on stage and immediately punches Caleb in the face.]

[Caleb doesn't defend himself.]

[James wails on him, hitting him over and over until he's bruised and bleeding.]

[This goes on for some time--uncomfortably so.]

[James lifts Caleb by the collar and slams him down, shaking him violently.]

JAMES
How could you?!

[He lets Caleb go, spitting at his feet.]

[Caleb doesn't try to stand. He wipes blood from his split lip on his sleeve.]

CALEB
I have no excuse.

JAMES
You're a piece of shit.

CALEB
(shrugs)
Feel better now?

JAMES
Don't act like that. You don't get to be so fucking casual about this.

CALEB
I've said my piece already. I know I messed up.

JAMES
To Moira. To Fred. How about something better than "I messed up" to your *best friend*.

CALEB

How many times do I have to say sorry when none of you, myself included, are going to actually forgive me? What's the point of going through this stupid charade. I'm done. I'm over it.

JAMES

You don't get to be over it. Yeah it's stupid, but it's the right thing to do Caleb. And...even I believe somehow, you're still a good person. So do the right thing to make up for all the wrong.

[Beat.]

[Caleb stands up and faces James.]

CALEB

I'm sorry James. I'm sorry for lying to you for months, for hurting our friends, and our friendship.

JAMES

I accept your apology.

[Caleb blinks in surprise.]

CALEB

You're not bullshitting me right?

[Long, long beat.]

[James is thinking. He's angry at Caleb clearly, but...he's also his best friend. And he wants to leave it at that.]

JAMES

(deep sigh)

No and I'm sorry for hitting you. That was immature. And I forgive you for lying to me, only that part at least.. You did what you did to cover your own ass but, it kinda spared my feelings.

CALEB

I had it coming, besides my intentions weren't pure at all.

JAMES

Sure, but we were friends for a long time for a reason. There's got to be a good person in there fighting with the bad every day. Sometimes the bad one wins, but sometimes the good one does too.

CALEB

(sighs)

When did things become so complicated? When did right and wrong become such a grey area?

JAMES

When we had to grow up I think.

CALEB

Why? Why grow up when life is so fucking shitty.

JAMES

I don't think there's any way around it. There's only living the life you want or letting your life control you.

CALEB

So you're saying I let my life hand my ass to me and now I have to take accountability for it.

JAMES

I didn't have to say anything, you just did for me.

CALEB

So where do we stand?

[Beat.]

[James steps forward, taking some time to think. He shuffles around, moving to the other side of Caleb.]

JAMES

Truthfully, I'm not entirely sure. I don't agree with cutting you off completely. I think you're redeemable. But if I want to keep my friendship with Fred and build any sort of relationship with Moira, I can't have any connection with you.

CALEB

Majority rules I guess.

JAMES

I suppose so, in this case anyways. But I hope you really do redeem yourself.

CALEB

Thanks man...I hope I didn't completely ruin that for you, you and Moira I mean.

JAMES

I don't think you did. I think because of you, I had the courage to finally turn myself into the person who will be there for her both during this and after.

CALEB

I'm sorry it had to be because of something bad though.

JAMES

Bad things happen, we're only human. Just remember, it's up to us to pull ourselves together even when they are.

CALEB

You're definitely right about that.

[Beat.]

CALEB

I'm a little scared James.

JAMES

About?

CALEB

About what the future is going to hold for me.

JAMES

Me too. But you know what?

[Caleb looks to James, hoping he has all the answers.]

JAMES

No matter where we end up in life, it'll be because of the actions we took to get there.

CALEB

I know but...it's more than that.

[James looks at him confused.]

CALEB

I'm afraid I'm gonna be alone forever.

JAMES

Oh. Well...so what if you are?

CALEB

Sorry?

JAMES

You could be, sure. What's so bad about that?

CALEB

It's self explanatory.

JAMES

If you end up on your own then so be it. You have to be comfortable with yourself before opening up to someone else.

CALEB

When did you become so astute?

JAMES

When I realized I had to do a little growing up myself.

CALEB

This is goodbye, isn't it.

JAMES

I'm afraid so.

CALEB

I'm glad I knew you. All of you.

JAMES

Without the four of us touching each other's lives, I don't think we'd be the people we are today.

CALEB

That's for damn sure.

JAMES

Goodbye Caleb. I hope you make it out there in the real world.

CALEB

You too.

[James gives a little wave.]

[Caleb nods his head in acknowledgement.]

[Caleb leaves first.]

[James tilts his head up to the sky, the grey of the world beginning to part as the sun shines through.]

[He lets the sun bask on his skin for a moment. He takes a deep breath looking like the weight of the world has shifted.]

[Then he leaves, waving goodbye to the park.]

Act 2 Scene 14

[The Park: At Night]

[James, Fred, Moira, and Caleb stand by the swingset. Caleb stands slightly away from the group off on his own.]

[James and Fred dump gasoline on the swingset, thoroughly soaking the whole thing.]

[Caleb walks over, hands Moira a box of matches then steps back off to the side.]

[Moira opens the box, taking out a match slowly.]

[She runs it against the side, striking the flame.]

[Then she throws it onto the swingset.]

[It goes up in flames, quickly at first, then becoming a slow burn.]

[They wait until there's nothing left but ash.]

[Then they all leave: James, Fred, and Moira go left. Caleb goes right.]

[Blackout.]

[Fin.]