

If I Ever Get Around To Living

By

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A GUITAR is heard. We see a hooded figure spinning around in a chair in a dark room. The ringing of a phone is heard. The light shines on the figure's face. JACK, '30s, tall and lean, raises the phone to the side of his head.

JACK

What?

(beat)

A faint VOICE is heard from the phone.

JACK

That's what I'm trying to do, but-

(pause)

Well, if you think I'm just sitting here doing nothing.

A loud KNOCK on the door makes jack jump from his seat.

JACK

Let me call you back.

He sets the phone down on the desk.

JACK

Come in!

PHIL, '60s, weathered and stocky, walks in, turning the light on.

PHIL

Are you still sitting in the dark after all these years, eh?

JACK

yeah

(beat)

SOME THINGS don't change

Mark meets him in the middle of the room. They hug each other. Phil continues to set up while Jack sits, watching him.

JACK

How've you been, man? It's been a while

PHIL

I've been good. Nicky just turned 20.

JACK

Wow, it's been that long.

PHIL
What about you? Well, not recently,
but
(beat)
You know overall

They both share a laugh.

JACK
Hanging in there.

PHIL
Sorry, it's probably a sore subject.

Silence

Jack picks his phone back up, swiping aimlessly on it, sinking further and further into it. Phil watches him for a moment. He begins to TAP on the desk, each one growing louder.

JACK
lawyers I'm waiting for

PHIL
I can't get over this. It's like I stepped into a time machine.

JACK
Is that good or bad?

PHIL
A little bit of both.

JACK
I'm trying to think about the last time I saw you.

PHIL
whenever you last won an award

JACK
Ouch
(beat)
that was like seven years ago, around when I got married
(beat)
did you ever meet her

PHIL
I don't think so, beautiful girl.

JACK
On the outside

Silence falls over the room. Jack pulls a guitar from a stand. He sits it on his lap.

PHIL
So you don't have anything?
(pause)
no loops or anything?

JACK
Nada

PHIL
You're still writing. At the very least, tell me that.

Jack starts to squirm in the chair.

JACK
Technically no
(pause)
I have a vague idea of something

PHIL
That's a start

JACK
it's super bare bones

PHIL
Just pull it up. It's an excellent place to start.

JACK
I have to remember how it went.

JACK starts to play the chords on his guitar. Phil gently nods his head to the rhythm of it.

JACK
You can use me up, kick me down; as much as you like, we're good on time.
(pause)
Cause, guess who desperately wants you, over and over, Over and over
(pause)
that's all I got

PHIL
Track that

JACK
Really-it's not thoroughly flushed
out.

PHIL
Now!

Jack spins around in the chair. He begins to write and strum his guitar.

EXT. CITY STREET - SOMETIME LATER

Phil lights a cigarette. The lights of a car coming from a garage shine dully on them. Jack walks, puts on his hood, and lowers his head.

JACK
I knew working with you was the right
choice.

Phil exhales smoke

PHIL
What did I tell you the first time we
worked together?

He begins to mull over all the years. The lights of the car begin to get closer.

JACK
To not-

PHIL
Don't half-ass your work. That's what
I said
(pause)
I know that you're going through some
stuff but-

JACK
Well, I'm not 22 anymore and got a
life. I've done pretty well without
you.

PHIL
Don't let this girl ruin your ability
to create
(pause)

that's all I'm saying

JACK
She's already taking half
(pause)
The car stops in front of them. The
valet hops out and tosses Jack the
keys.

VALET
Here you are, Mr. Ryder

JACK
Thanks, kid

He turns his head to Phil while digging in his pocket.

JACK CONT'D
I get what you're saying, it's not
that easy for me, but I've changed
(beat)
especially since I first met you

He hands the valet some cash and gets into the car. Phill
knocks on the window. Jack rolls it down a little

PHIL
Not that you care, but you should get
out of the city for a little while.
(Pause)
Come with me to boulder. You don't
have to be in incognito mode.

He lowers his hood.

JACK
Colorado would be nice
(Pause)
let me figure it out

PHIL
Well all right
(beat)
see you in a couple of days.

Jack drives off into the night.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jack rises from the bed. He stretches his arms out. BENNY 3
and tiny runs into the room.

BENNY
Good morning DADDY!

JACK
Hey buddy, what're you doing up so early?

BENNY
I couldn't sleep, so I spent the whole night planning this surprise for you.

The CREK of a door opening is heard in the back. Jack rises to his feet. He takes Benny by the hand and walks out of the room.

INT.HALLWAY- DAY

A short ECHO from their feet is heard traveling down the hallway.

INT.LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jack peeks around the corner to see a Hooded figure slowly closing the door. BECCA MID-30S, athletic, stands in the doorway in baggy clothes.

BECCA
Happy Birthday!

Benny squirms out of Jack's hold and runs to his mom.

BENNY
Mommy's home!

She picks him up and swings him around in her arms.

BECCA
(Whispering)
Did you wish Daddy a happy birthday?

He shakes his head no.

BECCA
(Whispering)
No? Okay, on the count of 3..2...1

BENNY
(Whispering)
Happy Birthday!

She opens her arms and pulls jack in for a hug. He takes

Benny out of her arms and walks into the kitchen. Melissa grabs her bags and follows.

INT.KITCHEN

He puts him down, opens the fridge, and digs through it. Melissa drops her bags on the floor.

JACK

All right, what do you want for breakfast?

BENNY

I want Goldfish

BECCA

have you been letting him have goldfish for breakfast?

JACK

No

(pause)

JACK

How about pancakes?

Benny shakes his head.

BECCA

Sweetie

She kneels to get close to Benny. She pulls him closest to her.

BECCA

Can you help mommy cook breakfast while daddy gets ready for his trip?

Benny takes a step back from her arms crossed.

BECCA

yes, you can have some goldfish

BENNY

yay!

She picks him up and sets him on the counter. She begins to open the cabinets.

BECCA
Where does daddy keep them?
(Pause)
Jack!

JACK
Top left above the sink

INT.KITCHEN-LATER

Jack enters with a bag over his shoulder and a rolling suitcase. He leaves them by the door. Melissa sits at the table by herself.

JACK
Well, this is weird.

BECCA
No, it's not. Why do you always do that?

Jack sits down at the table.

JACK
I miss this.

She pulls herself closer

BECCA
Well, you don't have to
(pause)
you can change it

JACK
I can't do that
(Pause)
not to Benny

He slides back into his chair.

JACK
We all make mistakes, and I get that-

BECCA
If I could take it back, I would, and you know that.

JACK
What do I know? It could be another lie, for all I know.

BECCA
I don't want to fight with you.

JACK
I'm sorry
(pause)
it's just-

BECCA
Well, I don't want you to miss your
flight
(pause)
Just say bye to our son.

He pushes back out of his seat. He rises to his feet, grabs his bags his starts walking down the hallway.

INT.BEDROOM

We hear a KNOCK on a door. It slowly opens, and the light from the hallway illuminates the room. Jack slowly walks in and kneels at the side of the bed.

JACK
Hey buddy, are you up?

Benny rolls over to his side to face Jack. He nods his head.

JACK
Daddy has to go to work, okay?
(pause)
I won't see you for a little while,
but mommy is going to take good care
of you
(pause)
and you guys are going to have lots of
fun

Benny sits up and gives him a big hug.

BENNY
And when you come back, we can be a
family again.

JACK
maybe buddy, mommy, and daddy have
some things to take care of when I get
back.

Jack stands with Benny still wrapped around him. He carries him out of the room and to the house door.

JACK
Can you grab him, please

BECCA
Sweetie, you have to let go. Daddy has
to go to work. He'll be back so fast
you won't even notice.

BENNY
Promise?

JACK
Of course

Jack opens the door, pushing the bags into the garage. Becca holds Benny in the doorway, watching him put the bags into the car. He gets in the car.

We hear the mechanical sound of the garage door opening. He pulls out of the garage. It closes behind him.

EXT. AIRPLANE

Jack walks onto the plane. Phil is already sitting reading a newspaper, lowering the paper when he sees a figure.

PHIL
I was starting to think you weren't
going to show.

Jack sits across from him. He places his guitar on the floor by his feet and swings around in the chair to face Phil.

JACK
Me too. It's getting hard to leave my
little guy.

PHIL
Little guy?
(pause)
Do you have a son?

JACK
Yeah, he just tuned five last month.

Jack pulls out his phone. He passes on it a couple of times before handing it to him.

PHIL
Wow, he looks
(beat)

like you, of course

JACK
It's all right. My ego can take it. He looks like his mom.

PHIL
I was going to say he looks just like you.

JACK
Thanks, you seem to be the only one.

The sound of the ENGINES starting up is heard while the two share a laugh.

PILOT (O.S.)
All right, passengers, please fasten those seat belts
(beat)
we'll be getting ready to take off within the next few minutes

Phil hand shim back the phone. They both settle into their seats and fasten their seatbelts.

JACK
Hey, you know what I forgot to ask? Are you still scared of flying

Phil clenches his armrest as the plane begins to move. The engine noise grows louder.

JACK
well, there's my answer

We hear the ENGINES roar as the plane begins to move. Jack slumps back into his chair.

PHIL
It's still not my favorite thing. I usually take to the tour bus.

He tries to reposition himself before getting thrown back as the plane takes off. A PING noise is heard.

PILOT (O.S.)
All right, folks, keep those seat belts nice and tight because we will be experiencing for a good part of the flight.

PHIL

Oh, God!

(beat)

Here we go. It's going down!

JACK

Don't worry. I've been on thousands of flights in rickety planes, and I'm fine.

The plane begins to bounce around in the air. Phil starts to do the sign of the cross multiple times. Jack laughs in his seat.

PHIL

I knew I should've just driven.

JACK

Don't you get butterflies in your stomach?

PHIL

What are you insane?

Jack Reclines, kicking his feet up in the air.

JACK

Turbulence is fun for me.

PHIL

I think I'm going to be sick

JACK

Are you going to throw up?

The plane begins to level out. Phil slides back in his seat.

PHIL

Thank god that's over with.

JACK

Do you need a bag?

PHIL

I'll be fine

(beat)

get some sleep. We're going to hit it hard once we get to the cabin.

Phil slides a hat over his face. Within seconds we hear SNORING. Jack reaches into his bag and pulls out his laptop and some over-ear headphones. He presses and scrolls a few times. He begins to bob his head back and forth.

He lightly taps on the table. He looks over at Phil to make sure he's asleep. He digs around in his bag, pulling out a pad and pen. We hear him HUMMING along and writing. The BING sound overhead is heard once again.

PILOT (O.S)

Good evening passengers. We are getting ready to land.

(beat)

Boulder's local time is 6:30. We should be cleared for landing in 5 minutes.

Phil rises from his sleeping position to see Jack nodding his head, oblivious to the world.

EXT.AIRPORT -NIGHT

The door opens, and a male ATTENDANT in his '20s and a sturdy stand at the bottom of the steps. Jack walks off the plane with his bags in hand. He stands on the runway for a couple of moments before Phil emerges.

ATTENDANT

Your car will be pulling up momentarily.

(beat)

Would you like me to grab your bags, Mr. Ryder?

JACK

I'm fine grab his.

Jack points to Phil struggling to get down the stairs with his bags.

ATTENDANT

Right away sir

Tires SCREECHING are heard as a black s.u.v pulls up alongside the plane. The DRIVER, '40s short and stubby, comes out of the driver's seat to open the truck.

DRIVER

Let me take those for you, sir.

JACK

Sure

Jack gives the bags to the driver. He places them in the trunk while jack walks around to get in the car. The attendant hands the driver Phil's bags, and he slowly gets into the car.

PHIL

Are you up for some breakfast for dinner

JACK

What?

PHIL

Trust me. You'll like it EXT.

PARKING LOT- NIGHT

Jack and Phil get out of the car and start in front of the entrance of the Denny's. Jack turns to glare at Phil.

PHIL

Please don't give me that look. It's good food.

JACK

Denny's
(beat)
this is your breakfast-for-dinner
choice

Phil turns to jack

PHIL

Come on. It'll be good unless you don't want to be seen here

Phil starts to walk to the entrance. He holds the door open. Jack grabs the bags out of the trunk. He walks through the door.

JACK

It's not that I don't want to get in a fight with the cook.

Phil Pushes him through the doorway. A WAITRESS, 20's and petite, comes over to them.

WAITRESS

Just two?

PHIL

Yeah, just me and my boy here

He wraps his arms around Jack. He squirms out of it, straitening his jacket.

JACK

He's not
(beat)
were not

WAITRESS

This way, please

She walks off, grabbing menus from the desk. She stops in front of a booth. She places a menu on both sides of the table. They take their seats. Jack puts the bags next to the table.

WAITRESS

Can I get you all some drinks to start?

JACK

Just waters

WAITRESS

All right, I'll be back with two glasses of water.

She leaves. They begin to flip through the menu.

PHIL

I don't know about you, but I'm feeling some pancakes.

Jack checks the time on his watch.

JACK

Pancakes?
(beat)
it's like 2 in the morning back at

home

PHIL

What's your point?

Jack shakes his head. The waitress returns, placing the drinks in front of them.

WAITRESS

Have I seen you before?

(beat)

you look familiar

JACK

Well, I'm a-

PHIL

You know his wife, not him

(beat)

she's a prominent fashion designer

WAITRESS

You're Jack Ryder, aren't you?

JACK

I Like to think I am

(beat)

I don't know who he thinks I am

WAITRESS

When I was a kid, your music was
killer

JACK

Thank you, this is the producer behind
it.

Jack and Phil extend their hand to the waitress. They shake hands.

PHIL

Nice to meet you, darling-

JACK

What was your name again?

MAGGIE

Maggie, sorry

PHIL
Maggie, that's my daughter's name.

MAGGIE
that's sweet. Are you guys ready to
order?

JACK
I'll have a chicken tender and fries.

Maggie pulls out a pen and a small pad. She writes his order
down. She cocks her head and towers over Phil.

MAGGIE
And for you?

PHIL
The short stack of pancakes...
bacon...Hash-browns
(pause)
that's it. I think

She writes the order one by one.

MAGGIE
I'll put that in for you all.

She walks away. Jack leans in close.

JACK
There's no way you're going to eat all
of that

PHIL
How much do you want to bet?

JACK
I'll put

Jack puts his hand in his pockets, pulls out his wallet, and
thumbs through it.

JACK
I don't have cash

PHIL
Well, I take credit and debit too.

They both laugh. Maggie returns with the food. She places it
on the table in front of Jack and Phil. They start to eat.
Jack notices she's still standing at the end of the table.

JACK
is something wrong?

MAGGIE
Sorry, this is just crazy to me
(beat)
We don't get people like you guys
coming here
(beat)
like, what are you guys doing here?

PHIL
We're making another album.

MAGGIE
Like a comeback album because that one
was terrible-

PHIL
Exact-

JACK
I'm right here, guys

MAGGIE
Well, it's true, you know.

Jack nods his head in agreement with a smirk on his face.

PHIL
I told you, kid

JACK
In my defense, I had just gotten
married and was happy about it.

Jack hands his credit card TO Maggie. He turns his face to Phil.

JACK
Should we probably get going, right?

Phil pulls back his sleeve to look at his watch. His eyes open wide when he sees the time. Maggie walks away.

PHIL
I didn't think it was this late. Did
the driver leave?

Jack looks out the window.

JACK
Yeah

PHIL
Call an Uber

JACK
Let me see

He takes his phone out of his pants pocket. Presses on it a few times. Before placing it down on the table.

JACK
Well, we could get one in an hour.

Maggie returns to the table, handing Jack his card with the receipt and a pen.

PHIL
Sweetie, can you call us a Cab?

MAGGIE
They don't come this far up the mountain, especially at night.
(beat)
But you guys are my last table for the night. I can give all of you a ride if you want

JACK
Are you sure?

MAGGIE
Of course, consider it a welcome-to-Boulder gift.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The three of them stand in front of a beat-down car. Paint faded. Jack drops the bags by the trunk. He slowly walks around the vehicle, inspecting it.

JACK
Is this your car?

MAGGIE
Yup
(beat)
It's safe, I promise

PHIL
We'll be fine. We didn't die on the plane.

Jack walks with Phil around the car. They are on the opposite side of Maggie.

JACK
(whispering)
This is where I draw the line I'm not going to die in the mountains and my last car ride by a '97 Civic.

PHIL
(whispering)
I'm going. You can wait for that Uber.

Phil walks back to Maggie. He whispers something to her, and she laughs. They walk to the side of the car, opening the doors to the vehicle.

PHIL
Last chance kid

Jack shakes his head as he walks to the car.

JACK
I can't believe this is what I'm doing right now.

Maggie leans over the roof of the car. Phil squats over to get in the front seat.

MAGGIE
I'm a good driver. Trust me

JACK
Great, that's one of the last things I'll hear.

PHIL
Just get in the car

INT. CAR

We hear the sound of doors SLAMMING and the engine WHIRRING.

MAGGIE

Sorry for the mess back there

JACK

They better say my name before yours.

She hits the gas. Jack gets thrown back into the seat. He scrambles to put his seatbelt on. She makes a sharp right turn sending him to the left. It was followed by a quick left turn sending him back to the right. Phil types on his phone and places it on the holder on the dashboard.

SIRI(O.S)

Make a left in 200 feet

JACK

So how long have you been driving?

MAGGIE

It must be like six years now.

SIRI(O.S)

Turn left

Maggie makes another sharp turn. Jack gets sent back into the middle seat. He clutches onto the seatbelt.

PHIL

Can you stop being a baby?

JACK

I think I'm going to be sick.

SIRI(O.S)

Make a right in 50 feet

She stops at the red light. She takes a slow right turn.

SIRI(O.S)

The destination is on your left

JACK

Let me out

MAGGIE

But

JACK

Now!

Jack unbuckles his seatbelt. The CLICK is heard

simultaneously from the doors and the seatbelt. He jumps out of the car. Jack stands in front of the vehicle facing what he thinks is a wall. Phil points his phone at him.

EXT. STREET- NIGHT

JACK

What kind of driving was that?

(pause)

Who taught you how to drive Vin diesel?

INT. CAR

Jack is having a meltdown outside. Maggie and Phil share a laugh. The gate behind him opens. She unbuckles herself before turning to Phil.

MAGGIE

Is he always like this?

PHIL

I don't know. I haven't seen him in a while.

MAGGIE

What should we do?

PHIL

I'm going to let it play out, and he tires himself out.

Some time passes, and Jack sits on the curb next to the gate. Phil lowers his window. Maggie sticks her head out of the sunroof.

PHIL

All done, princess?

(pause)

Can we go in now?

Maggie lowers herself back into her seat. She hits the gas, but the car doesn't move. A sound is heard from the engine. Smoke comes out from under the hood. Jack backs up from the car. Smoke still rising, Maggie sticks out the window.

MAGGIE

I think it's dead, guys.

PHIL

We can walk the rest

(beat)
 it's a little steep, but it should be
 all right

Jack stares up the long winding road. An UNLOCKING sound for the trunk is heard. Maggie gets to hold the trunk door open. Jack walks over to grab the bags.

They begin to walk up the road. The RUSTLE of tree branches swaying in the wind grows further up the hill. Lights illuminate the path as they walk past it. The road turned into gravel as they got closer to the home.

The light on the porch illuminates the front of the house. The three huddle up, and Jack and Phil place their bags Down. Phil digs in his pockets for the keys.

MAGGIE

It was nice to meet you guys.

JACK

Where are you going? It's like 3 in the morning.

MAGGIE

Well, you guys could be murderers for all I know.

JACK

After that masterclass of driving, you would've already been dead so

MAGGIE

Hey, I'm an excellent driver. I got a perfect score.

JACK

On what
 (beat)
 your third try?

MAGGIE

Second actually

Phil continues to pat himself down, looking for keys.

PHIL

We have a problem, folks

(beat)
I can't find the keys

Phil looks under rocks by the porch. He lifts a few and presses down on one. A little door slides back. We hear the JINGLE of keys. The three of them step into the house.

INT.LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Phil walks straight through the door to a backroom. Maggie plays around on the piano. Jack sits down on a couch. He closes his eyes.

JACK
(Singing)
Save your own life to take mine...
Take all the blame, and I'll save the
day... I've been so ashamed, and I
can't deny it... I didn't stop and see
the signs...

The sound from the Piano abruptly stops. Jack opens his eyes and sits straight up. Phil walks into the room.

PHIL
Was that you?

MAGGIE
I was messing around-

JACK
Are we thinking the same thing here?

PHIL
Maybe

JACK
Do you want to make this record with
us?

She stands up, pacing back and forth in the room.

MAGGIE
Are you serious?

PHIL
Yeah, it'll be nice to have a girl
with us.

MAGGIE
Hold on

(beat)
is this I get recruited into the
Illuminati

(beat)
Oh my god, are you guys the
Illuminati?

JACK
If you join, you get a sweater.

Maggie takes a step back. Phil interjects.

PHIL
He's kidding

MAGGIE
But what about my car?

Jack stands up. He stretches in his place before walking to the middle of the room.

JACK
Tell you what, all the decision-making
can wait till tomorrow.

PHIL
No pressure kid

MAGGIE
Okay

Jack sits back down on the couch, arranging the pillows. He pulls a blanket over himself and lies on his side.

JACK
(whispering)
I've had enough for one day

PHIL
Do you want a bed or a couch?

MAGGIE
Bed, please

PHIL
Follow me

Phil walks towards the stairs. Maggie follows him a few steps behind.

INT.HALLWAY- NIGHT

Maggie stands at one end of the hallway. Phil opens and closes the door shaking his head. He opens the second to last entry. He signals for her to come to the room. They both stand in the doorway.

PHIL

This is it. I knew one of them was set up.

MAGGIE

Was this your daughter's room

PHIL

yeah... a long time ago

MAGGIE

What happened to her

PHIL

Let's say I made many mistakes when I was younger.

Phil looks at his watch. His eyes widen when he sees the time.

PHIL

You should get some rest. The sun will be out in a little while.

(beat)

Goodnight

Phil walks to the room across from hers. He opens the door slowly as if he is not trying to wake someone up.

MAGGIE

Thanks for this

PHIL

(whispering)

No problem

(beat)

Oh, and if you need clothes, there should be some.

He enters his room and closes the door. We see the glow of light under the crack of the door. Maggie walks into her room, closing the door behind her. She presses on the wall for a light switch. The room lights up.

INT.BEDROOM- NIGHT

Maggie walks around the room. She explores it, picks things up, and puts them back down. She sits on the bed and notices pictures on the nightstand beside the bed. She picks them up, flipping through them. She stops to look at one of the photos.

INSERT - PHOTO

A younger Phil with his wife and a younger Jack stand talking while a little girl plays in the background.

BACK TO SCENE

She places the photo back down on the nightstand. She opens up one of the drawers and finds a t-shirt. She takes off her pants and shirt. She stands to put on the t-shirt. Maggie walks over to the light switch turning off the lights.

Maggie uses the light on her phone to make her way back to the bed. She pulls the blanket over herself. She is scrolling on her phone for a couple of minutes before putting it down.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

We hear LAUGHTER coming from down the hallway. Maggie covers her mouth with her shirt and waves her hand, blowing away the smoke.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jack stands shirtless over the stove, stirring a pan with smoke rising. As he looks in the pan, he wears a concerned look. Phil sits at the breakfast table, still laughing. Maggie sits down in the seat across from him.

PHIL

Congratulations, you've made it to the final round of the cooking show.

MAGGIE

Good Morning-

JACK

How do you like your eggs?

MAGGIE

Scrambled I guess

JACK

Good cause. That's the only way I can make them

PHIL

How'd you sleep, kiddo?

MAGGIE

Good, the bed was comfortable.

The sound of dishes CLANGING is heard. Jack pours the eggs onto two plates. He spins around, handing one plate to Maggie. Jack stands, eating over them. He puts the plate down on the table.

JACK

(chewing)

So ... are you going to stay?

PHIL

Will you let her eat in peace? She just got down here.

MAGGIE

It's ok. I don't want to be a distraction to you guys.

PHIL

Oh, come on, we need you more than you know

(beat)

Where'd you find that?

Phil points at the t-shirt.

MAGGIE

was in one of the draws

JACK

So you are staying?

MAGGIE

Well, if you think I won't be in the way.

JACK

Perfect, and if you are, he'll kick you out because I don't want to hurt your feelings.

Jack sits down at the table next to Phil. They turn towards

one another. Maggie gets up, grabbing all the dishes from the table. Turning the faucet on, she puts them in the sink to wash them.

JACK
(whispering)
what do you think

PHIL
(whispering)
That we need to start working.

Phil stands up. Maggie stops washing

PHIL
When you're ready, I'll be downstairs
waiting

He walks out of the room. We hear a phone RINGING. Jack pulls his phone out of his pocket. Jack lowers his voice when answering the phone. Maggie turns off the water. She sits back down at the table.

JACK
Yeah, what's up?

BENNY (O.S)
Are you coming home yet, daddy?

JACK
Hey buddy

(beat)

Not yet, but soon,

A DISTORTION sound is heard from the phone. Jack pulls the phone away from his ear, glancing at Maggie. He hangs his head. Maggie sits back down at the table with him.

BECCA(O.S.)
Hello?

JACK
Becca?

BECCA(O.S.)
yeah, we just wanted to make sure

everything was going good

JACK
Since when have you ever cared?

BECCA(O.S.)
Who's the girl?

JACK
Here we go again

BECCA(O.S.)
I think it's funny-

JACK
(shouting)
you have no place to talk like ever
(beat)
let me remind you were not together

Maggie looks at Jack and mouths the words, "is everything ok." He shrugs his shoulder, nodding his head no.

BECCA(O.S.)
You don't have to say-

JACK
Put Benny back on

We hear the DISTORTION sound again.

BENNY (O.S.)
Daddy

JACK
Call me if you need me.
(beat)
okay... daddy loves you

BENNY (O.S.)
Okay, daddy, bye

JACK
Love you

BENNY (O.S.)
I know Dad

Jack lowers the phone from his ear, pressing it before setting it down. He lets out a sigh. He is holding his head in his hands.

JACK
 (muffled)
 This is why I don't go out anymore

MAGGIE
 What happened?

Jack lifts his head. He doesn't look at Maggie.

JACK
 I'll tell you later

MAGGIE
 Are you sure you don't want to talk
 about it?

JACK
 I'm good, thank you

They both stand. She hugs him. Jack freezes, not sure what to do. She lets go. He starts to walk away, stopping in the middle of the kitchen.

JACK
 Welp, we might as well join him down
 there
 (beat)
 you ready

MAGGIE
 No

JACK
 You'll be fine

She nods. Jack starts to walk again. She follows him.

INT.CONTROL ROOM

Phil sits in front of a computer off to the side. Jack sits in an office chair. They both have a guitar in their lap. They are piecing chords together. Maggie sits behind them both on a weathered couch, watching.

PHIL
 try G...C...D, then whatever this is

He demonstrates a chord on the guitar. Jack plays through it. We hear him HUMMING along to the rhythm he's playing. They both begin to write down on a piece of paper. Maggie raises her hand slowly into the air.

CONTINUED:

PHIL

You don't have to raise your hand

MAGGIE

Is it always this boring

JACK

Especially when you are forcing
yourself

PHIL

Why don't you play what you were doing
last night?

Phil points to a keyboard to the right of her.

MAGGIE

I was messing around.

JACK

You'd be doing us all a favor by
curing this painful process.

Maggie gets up. She takes the cover off of the keyboard. We hear the CLICK of a switch. She taps on one of the keys. She begins to play the same melody the night before.

PHIL

Play it straight through so you don't
have to keep playing it.

We hear a BEEP from his computer. Maggie plays the melody twice before stopping. Jack starts to write over the loop playing.

JACK

I have the first part.

PHIL

you know the rule, get in there

Jack grabs the piece of paper before getting out of the chair. He opens the door to another room.

PHIL

The switch is on the left.

We see the light go on in the other room. Jack appears in the recording room. He laces the headphones over his ears.

INT.RECRODING ROOM

JACK
Are you recording?

PHIL
Yeah

JACK
Okay, from the top

Phil presses a key on the keyboard. Jack begins to sway his body. He steps up close to the microphone.

JACK
Save your own life. Just take mine.
Save your own life, take mine... take
this pain away...I'm so ashamed I
can't go back so I won't stay... I
didn't see the signs, and I can't deny
it...
(beat)
How was that?

INT.CONTORL ROOM

Phil presses a button on the control deck. Maggie is standing over Phil.

PHIL
I think we have our beginning.

JACK
Play it back

We hear a BEEP. Phil presses the keyboard several times. Jack point's his thumb up. Maggie leans over

MAGGIE
(whispering)
Can he hear us?

PHIL
No why?

MAGGIE
Okay, good; I think he's hanging on by
a thread

PHIL
What do you mean?

MAGGIE

Like he's going to explode soon with
all the stuff from his wife or
whatever they are

PHIL

I wouldn't worry about it too much.
They were always like that, even when
they were dating.

MAGGIE

How long have you guys known each
other?

PHIL

At least 15 years by now

MAGGIE

That's a long time

PHIL

He'll be fine; this is what he needs
to focus on.

They both turn toward the control deck. We don't see Jack.

PHIL

Where'd he go?

Maggie walks up to the window. She stands on the tip of her
toes, looking into the room.

MAGGIE

He's on the floor

PHIL

(shouting)

What's he doing?

(beat)

if he's crying, don't tell me

She repeatedly stands on her toes to look through the window.

MAGGIE

I don't know what he's doing

(pause)

oh yeah, no, he's crying

Phil stands and walks over to the window. We hear the
VIBRATION from the bang on it. Jack looks up at Phil and
motions his hand to come in.

MAGGIE

Get in there. He's calling you.

PHIL

Would you get out here and stop
feeling all sorry for yourself?

We see Jack standing in front of the microphone. He leans over into it. He taps it. We hear the ECHO of it. Maggie covers her ears.

MAGGIE

(shouting)

maybe you should play something happy
for him

Phil presses a button on the control deck, and we hear a BEEP.

PHIL

You do realize you aren't trapped in
there.

JACK

I think it's a panic attack.

He grabs his chest and leans up against the wall. His GASP grows louder and faster.

MAGGIE

Breathe! Just Breathe!

PHIL

Sit here and talk to him.

Phil rushes to the room door of the recording studio. Maggie sits at the control deck, holding the button down. She scrolls through the computer. The CLICK of the mouse is heard. A Caribbean beat starts to play.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO

Phil bursts through the door. Jack is sliding down the wall back onto the floor.

PHIL

What's wrong?

JACK

I don't know. This is the first time
this is happening to me.

PHIL

Stay calm
 (beat)
 Do you need a cigarette?

Phil helps him sit down on the ground. Jack catches his breath before speaking. He looks up at Phil.

JACK

I think I'll pass
 (beat)
 Wait, what's playing?

The two sit still in the booth together.

JACK

Is this what I think it is?

Phil glances down at Jack with a twinkle in his eye.

PHIL

I kept it safe all these years.

JACK

So that's why they pay you the big bucks.

The two share a laugh. Phil helps Jack back onto his feet.

PHIL

Do you still remember how it goes?

JACK

Of course

The beat starts over. Jack starts to sway to the rhythm of the drums.

JACK

Yeah, I hope... the thought of me...
 fucks up... your whole day.

(beat)

Back of the club, back of the club

Bad girls all around me Bad girls all
 around me

INT. LIVING ROOM

We hear the Caribbean beat still playing somewhat in the background. Maggie walks into the room with a glass of water.

She hands it to Jack. He takes a few sips before placing it on the table in front of him.

Phil walks into the room. We hear the JINGLE of keys as he swings them around. He stands in front of the tv. Jack and Maggie try to see over him.

PHIL

Who wants to go food shopping?

Jack and Maggie turn to each other and hold a gaze. They then turn back to Phil.

PHIL

Let's try that again. Who's hungry?

Jack shakes his head. Maggie raises her hand. Phil lets out a sigh. He raises his hand to his head.

PHIL

you don't have to do that

MAGGIE

Sorry, it just feels right

(beat)

Jack and I think we should get food
and you should stay.

PHIL

You got that just by looking at him.

She pulls out her phone and lights the screen up.

MAGGIE

No, he texted me

PHIL

Are you ok with driving?

Phil puts his hand in his pocket. The keys CLASH as he throws them in the air. They bounce off the back of the couch. Jack picks the keys up. They both stand up and start to walk out of the room.

JACK

We'll be fine

MAGGIE

Let me change it first

Maggie runs back upstairs. We hear THUMPS of things being

moved around upstairs. Soon, she comes down wearing an all-white skirt with a tank top. Jack nods and begins to walk.

CONTINUED:

PHIL

Oh, and try not to crash it.

JACK

I'll try

Jack stops in the doorway. He puts his hand over his mouth and turns to Maggie. She bumps into him.

MAGGIE

(whispering)

What?

JACK

(whispering)

Hold on

MAGGIE

(whispering)

For?

We hear the SLAM of a door closing.

JACK

Do you want to drive?

MAGGIE

Really

JACK

You're right. What am I thinking

Jack walks down to a closed door. He holds the door open, and Maggie follows him.

MAGGIE

That wasn't nice

EXT. CAR - DAY

A white Porsche speeds through the empty country roads. We hear a mechanical sound as the roof begins to drop. The car becomes a convertible. The ROAR of the engine is heard.

INT.CAR (MOVING) DAY

Jack is looking around the car while driving. We hear the HORNS of vehicles passing by.

JACK

I think I got him this.

MAGGIE

Keep your eyes on the road!

JACK

I got it, don't worry.

We hear the SPOOLING as he passes the cars in front of him. She pulls on her seat belt.

MAGGIE

Take this next left

Maggie covers her eyes with her hands. She makes a little space between her fingers for her eyes to see. The SCREECHING of tires is heard as the car comes to a stop.

MAGGIE

I think you might be worse than me at driving.

JACK

This is my first time driving in five or so years.

A car pulls up to the side of the vehicle. MUSIC is faintly heard coming from it. The driver beeps its HORN. Jack turns his head to see. Maggie hides behind Jack.

FAN 1

It is him
(beat)
Yo, you're the man, bro!

JACK

Thank you

FAN 2

I love all your music!

JACK

Appreciate it

Jack turns back, facing the light above. The fan jumps out of

his car and runs to Jack's side.

FAN 1

(whispering)

Hey bro, this might be weird, but
you're my girl's Hall Pass, so call
her!

He drops a piece of paper into his lap. Jack looks at the amount of paper. He turns his head to see a fan blowing a kiss. He brings his head back.

JACK

I'm flattered, but I can't

FAN 1

What, you're too good for her?

JACK

Not that it's just-

Maggie sticks her head out from behind Jack. The Fan takes a step back from the car.

MAGGIE

We're busy

FAN 1

My bad, bro. I didn't see
(beat)
do your thing man

Jack nods his head. Fan 1 jogs back to his car. The light turns green. Jack makes the left turn.

JACK

Thanks for that

MAGGIE

No problem
(beat)
make a right after the second light
(beat)
Does that happen often?

JACK

When I started, yeah, but that was a first with the guy trying to set it up.

MAGGIE

The whole thing was weird.

The CLICKING of the blinker is heard. Jack makes the turn.

JACK

What'd you say?

MAGGIE

That the whole interaction was weird

JACK

I'm sure it'll be weirder for you in
an hour or so.

MAGGIE

Why?

JACK

It's not going to take long for it to
travel that I was driving around with
mystery, a girl in random Colorado.

(beat)

Where is the place?

MAGGIE

Right

JACK

Which one?

He waves his hand in front of her face. She blinks before
shaking her head. The SPOOLING of the engine grows louder.

MAGGIE

(shouting)

Turn now

The tires SCREECH as Jack makes a sharp turn. We see a cloud
of smoke behind them. He parks the car far away from the
store. We hear the mechanical sound of the roof coming back.
Maggie sinks into the seat with a puzzled look.

JACK

Do you want to go in there or should
I?

MAGGIE

I don't want to create any problems
for you.

JACK
 it'll be fine
 (beat)
 just a little bump in the road

He opens the door to the car and gets out, standing outside stretching. She sits in the car for a moment. Jack leans over and sticks half his body in the car.

JACK
 I would say stay, but I don't know
 what to get
 (beat)
 and can you pass me my hat?

MAGGIE
 (giggling)
 Sure ...you haven't been to a grocery
 store before?

JACK
 Something like that

Jack backs out of the car. He hits his head on the roof of the vehicle. Maggie laughs as she closes the door to the car. Jack rubs the back of his head.

JACK
 I'm glad you find my pain amusing.

MAGGIE
 Very

Jack playfully pushes her. The two share a laugh. He pulls the hat down, covering most of his face. She grabs an empty cart.

INT. STORE -DAY

They walk around the store, going up and down the aisles. Jack walks ahead, stopping at the top of every aisle. Maggie avoids hitting him with the cart. With each turn, the cart becomes more filled. They stop in the chip aisle.

MAGGIE
 (whispering)
 I'm surprised you haven't gotten
 swarmed yet

JACK
 there trying to figure out who you are
 (beat)
 watch this

Jack and Maggie turn around. The people behind try to look through the shelves like they have lost something.

JACK
 You'll get used to it.

MAGGIE
 Plan on keeping me around for a while?

Jack smirks. They begin to walk out of the aisle.

JACK
 Maybe...

INT. CAR (MOVING) NIGHT

Maggie is holding bags in her lap. We hear a PHONE ringing. Jack looks at the screen. He shakes his head.

MAGGIE
 Don't you want to answer it?

JACK
 I've come to realize it's best if I
 let it go to voicemail.

MAGGIE
 Can I answer it?

JACK
 probably not the best idea

MAGGIE
 She can't be that bad.

She reaches out the press the screen jack tries to stop her, putting his hand to block hers. She smacks his hand and hits the screen. A BEEP is heard. Maggie repositions herself in the seat.

MAGGIE
 Hello?

BENNY (O.S.)
 Mommy, I think you called the wrong
 number.

Jack pulls over on the side of the road.

JACK
Benny, I'm here, buddy.

BECCA(O.S.)
Jack, what the hell are you doing?
(pause)
that's our son

JACK
It wasn't-

BECCA (O.S.)
You what are a hypocrite?

MAGGIE
No, it's not his fault. I'm so sorry.

BECCA (O.S.)
So that's what it is you want to be a
show off to your new girlfriend.

JACK
It's not like that-

BECCA (O.S.)
I hope it's worth losing your kid
over.

JACK
Bec's
(pause)
Becca?
(pause)
Shit

MAGGIE
I'm so sorry I-

JACK
That was the worst thing that could've
happened.

As jack pulls the car back onto the road, the engine's ROAR is heard. Maggie is thrown back into her seat.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

We see the car speeding through the streets, cutting other vehicles off, and swerving in and out of the lanes. The car

stops at the closed gate. The CRUNCH of the tires against the gravel is heard as he pulls the car into the garage.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jack and Maggie drop the last of the bags on the counter. He sits down at the table holding his head in his hands. Maggie puts her hand on his back, moving it up and down.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have done that.

JACK

Don't worry; it isn't you

(pause)

Like, what else do I have to do?

MAGGIE

I think you already have your mind made up.

JACK

What do you mean?

MAGGIE

You don't like her.

JACK

I don't know what to do.

MAGGIE

Well, what is your heart telling you to do?

She moves her hand toward his lower back. Jack tries to move, but her hand follows.

JACK

What are you trying to do?

MAGGIE

Could you not act like you don't feel it too?

JACK

Are you sure-

He kisses her. She takes his hand, and he rises and follows.

CONTINUED:

Her. They walk out of the room and into the black hallway. We hear the THUD of the feet climbing up the steps.

INT.BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Maggie slowly opens the door to the room. We hear the CREAKING of the door. The two walk into the room, feeling the walls for the light switch. The CLICK of the light button is heard. Jack looks around the room.

She pulls him in for a kiss again. Soon they're tugging at each OTHER'S clothes. She is unbuttoning his pants when Jack pulls away. She tries to pull him back. He Un-hooks her hands from him.

JACK

We shouldn't. It's not intelligent. I shouldn't

Maggie re-hooks her arms around him. She wraps herself around him as he falls onto the wall. Jack isn't entirely resisting. She undoes his belt, hand inside his jeans.

JACK

I can't believe this is happening.

MAGGIE

Neither can I

Jack is trying too slowly, gently undressing her. With a flick of two straps, Maggie is out of her dress. She pulls him onto the bed. Jack begins to delicately, slowly kiss her. She impatiently yanks his clothes off.

JACK

Hold on, slowly

MAGGIE

Hard!

She reaches under her dress, pulling off her underwear. They begin having sex. She slowly starts writhing.

CONTINUED:

JACK

This feels so good

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Maggie, post-glow, clink glasses and swallow. They

have food in front of them. The only source of light is the screensaver on the TV.

JACK
I wasn't expecting that.

MAGGIE
(Sarcastically)
Don't women throw themselves at you?

JACK
They do
(beat)
not like you, however. It's like a
weird bucket list thing they have

Jack Smirks as he pulls her closer, wrapping his arm around her. She flips through the TV channels.

MAGGIE
Don't let it go to your head.

JACK
(Sarcastically)
Me, I would never

MAGGIE
yeah right

A KNOCK is heard from the door. Jack gets up to make his way to the door. He stops before opening it and pulls out cash from his pocket. Jack opens the door. A DELIVERY DRIVER stands with his head down, reading off a bag.

DELIVERY DRIVER
Order for Jack?

JACK
That's me.

The driver looks up.

DELIVERY DRIVER
Oh, shit, Jack Ryder, what are you
doing in Boulder?

JACK
Just hanging around

The Delivery Driver looks over at Jack. Jack tries to block his view into the house.

DELIVERY DRIVER

(whispering)

Don't worry. Secrets are safe with me.

JACK

How much?

DELIVERY DRIVER

38.79

JACK

Here take a hundred

They exchange the cash for food. Jack closes the door behind him. He sits back down on the couch. Opening the bag, he places a plate in front of Maggie and one for himself. Maggie sits up and starts to eat.

MAGGIE

(chewing)

This is amazing

He nods. They both sip from the glasses. She changes the channel on the TV. He raises his hand.

JACK

Stop

(pause)

I love his movie

Jack sits up and the edges of his seat. He looks like a kid on Christmas day. Maggie takes a picture of him.

MAGGIE

Is this the one where he falls in love with-

JACK

Please don't say it!

MAGGIE

(giggling)

Robot?

We hear Jack SIGH. He rubs his eyes before answering.

JACK
(muffled)

No
(pause)
he falls in love with the personality

MAGGIE
That belongs to a robot.

JACK
Well yeah
(pause)
Technically

MAGGIE
So technically, he fell in love with a
robot.

The sound of feet STOMPING up the stairs is heard. The door to the basement opens, and we see Phil come out.

PHIL
Where the hell have you two been?

The two separate from one another. Jack jumps off the couch.

JACK
We got you food.

He raises the empty bag.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack sits across from Maggie and Phil at the table. Maggie is finishing up her food. Phil is slowly eating Jack's food. Jack stares with each bite he takes. Phil points to the food nodding his head each time he bites into it.

PHIL
(muffled)
This is good
(beat)
Why didn't you get something for
yourself?

JACK
(sarcastically)
Oh I did
(beat)
Don't worry

MAGGIE
He just ate it fast

They both laugh. Phil sits back, pushing the food away from himself.

PHIL
Ok
(beat)
can you give us a minute, sweetheart

MAGGIE
Yeah of course

She gets up from the table and walks out of the room. Phil leans over the table.

PHIL
(whispering)
Didn't you learn the first time?

JACK
(whispering)
This is different. She's not like her.

PHIL
(whispering)
We came here to work, not for you to go on your revenge tour

JACK
(whispering)
it was your idea to keep her here

PHIL
(whispering)
To work Jack, to Work

JACK
(whispering)
It'll be fine

Jack sits up in his chair.

JACK
I have it under control

PHIL
Let me show you what I was working on

JACK
We'll be back, mags

She waves as they leave the room.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO

Phil picks up a bass before sitting in a chair. He moves up to the computer. Jack walks into the recording room. We hear a beat being played through the headphones.

JACK
Am I good to go?

Phil raises his thumb, nodding his head. We see Jack get close to the mic.

JACK
Moving on, I'm trying to do it
we hold our mistakes over our heads
trapped like rats in a maze

(beat)
Oh...
(beat)
why can't we escape this bad dream?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We hear the door CREAKING as it opens slowly. Becca creeps her way in, holding Benny in her arms. She softly closes the door behind her. She puts him down on the floor, and he roams around the room.

BECCA
Go, you find daddy

BENNY
Daddy!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

We hear the faint SHOUTING. Jack jumps out of bed. Maggie slowly starts to wake up.

MAGGIE
Good morning

JACK
There downstairs

MAGGIE
Who is

JACK
My family

Maggie snaps out of her morning fog. She sits up in bed. Jack is running around the room, piecing himself together.

BENNY (O.S)
Where are you?

MAGGIE
Is that your son?

JACK
yeah

MAGGIE
So that means-

BECCA (O.S.)
Jack!

Jack jumps up and down, putting his pants on. He leans over, kissing her on her forehead. He stops in the doorway for a moment and nods his head before he leaves.

INT. HALLWAY

Jack makes his way to the top of the steps. He tries to look out over the railing. The SOUND of footsteps is heard coming up the steps.

BENNY
Are you up here, daddy?

He waits for Benny to reach the top. He pretends like he's hiding.

BENNY
I found you!

JACK
Oh no, you found me

Becca comes up halfway up the staircase.

BECCA

What are you doing up there all alone?

JACK

It's nice to see you to

He picks Benny up and walks down the stairs. Becca extends her arms out for a hug, and he walks right past her. She stands there for a moment. She tries to look up the stairs before she follows jack.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jack puts Benny down on one side of the countertop. Becca stands on the opposite side with her hands pressed onto the

BECCA

So

(beat)

how's it been out here?

JACK

It's been fine, better now that my little man is here

Jack tickles benny, and he squirms, almost falling off the countertop

BECCA

And Lip?

He ignores her playing around with Benny.

JACK

Did you miss daddy?

BENNY

Maybe

JACK

Do you think mommy missed me?

BENNY

I don't know

(pause)

Mommy, did you?

BECCA

Where is she?

JACK
So you flew almost 6 hours
(beat)
to start another fight

She pulls Benny off the counter, putting him on the floor.

BECCA
Play in the other room, sweetie

INT. LIVING ROOM

Benny skips out of the kitchen and into the living room. He digs around in the bags pulling out toy trucks. He starts to play around on the table.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jack looks around the fridge, pulling out random items from the cabinets.

JACK
(muffled)
We aren't together anymore

BECCA
And you are no saint either, jack.

He starts pouring cereal into an empty bowl, avoiding eye contact.

JACK
We both made our choices. Becca
(beat)
right or wrong?

She straightens her body. Jack pours the milk into the bowl. He begins to look for a spoon in the drawers.

BECCA
So why am I the only one paying for
mine
(beat)
Right?

He pulls a spoon out of a drawer. Jack finally looks at her.

JACK
because you don't care about it

BECCA
finally, Mr. Perfectly fine says what
he's been wanting all along

JACK
What happened to us?
(beat)
We were never like this

The sound of FOOTSTEPS coming down the stairs is heard. Jack picks up his bowl and walks around the counter. He stands in front of the doorway to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maggie tries to sneak out of the house. She doesn't notice Benny looking up at her. He waves, and they share a look.

BENNY
Are you one of my dad's friends

MAGGIE
I guess so

She turns to see Jack blocking Becca's view into the living room.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
You must be Benny. Your dad talks
about you all the time.

BENNY
Were best friends

MAGGIE
Wow
(beat)
that must be so fun

She gets down on her knees to be on his level.

MAGGIE
Do you mind if I play with you?

He digs through the bag again, finding another toy car

BECCA (O.S.)
 Why is that so hard for you?
 (beat)
 Why is it so hard for you?

We see Jack's back as the argument starts to intensify. Maggie switches spots with Benny. With her back now facing his parents.

BENNY
 No, no, no
 (beat)
 that truck can't do that. He only goes
 to the dump

MAGGIE
 Sorry, I haven't played with trucks in
 a little while

JACK(O.S.)
 You want me to be honest!
 (beat)
 I feel like you never loved me!

A harsh slap cuts the insult short. Benny turns around. Maggie pulls him back to face her. Becca looks past Jack to see her.

BECCA
 and you
 (beat)
 Please don't touch my kid

Becca makes her way around the room, picking up the toys.

MAGGIE
 You are so rude-

BECCA
 Do you think he cares about you?
 (beat)
 your just another name on a long list

JACK(O.S.)
 It's time for you to leave.

Becca throws the bags over her shoulder. She reaches for Benny's arm. He pulls away.

BECCA
 Come on. We're leaving

BENNY

No, I want to stay with dad

In one swift motion, she grabs him by the arm. She was picking him up and heading to the door. Jack grabs her arm before she fully gets out the door.

JACK

Leave him with me

BECCA

How dare you say that!

JACK

Tell me I'm wrong

Silence. They stand there for a moment.

JACK

Exactly

She pulls her arm free from his hold. She walks out.

JACK

Please don't do this in front of him

Maggie walks to the doorway where Jack is. He walks out before she can get to him.

EXT. DRIVEWAY DAY

He follows Becca as she gets closer to the car. Becca opens the doors, throwing the bags in the car. She puts Benny into his car seat, strapping him up.

JACK

Would you stop for a second

She gently closes the door to the car.

BECCA

You caused this!

JACK

Don't-

BECCA

Not you

She points to where Maggie is.

BECCA

Her

She starts to walk toward her. Jack steps in front of her.

BECCA

You'll be lucky if you even see him
before he's 18

She opens the door to the car, slamming it once she's inside. We hear the shift of GEARS as she backs the car out. Jack moves around the car as she goes further down the driveway.

Maggie watches from the doorway. The gate slowly opens, and Jack hangs his head with his hands in his pockets. We see him pull something from his pocket and put it in his mouth. An exhale of smoke follows. Maggie walks inside.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO-LATER

Jack is asleep on the floor. Empty bottles sprinkled around him. Phil stands over him, holding a glass of water. Phil slowly pours it on his face, sitting once the glass is empty.

PHIL

Time to get up!

JACK

(gasping)
What the hell!

PHIL

Come on. We have to finish the last
couple of songs

JACK

Projects done

PHIL

No. It's not
(beat)
get off the floor. You are a grown
man.

Jack wipes his face with his shirt. He props himself up using his arms, still sitting on the floor.

PHIL

you want to drink like a sailor. You

have to deal with the consequences.

He crawls up onto the couch nearby.

PHIL

Let's put a nice bow on this album.
E.P., whatever you want to call it

JACK

How long do we have left?

PHIL

Well, we have five days till we have
to fly back to New York. Then 3 or 4
more days after. Then you HAVE to have
to perform at the morning show.

JACK

I'll do some covers

PHIL

That could work. What did you have in
mind?

He stretches out over the couch.

JACK

I haven't given it that much thought.

PHIL

I'm going, to be honest with you

Silence

PHIL

All your doing is running away from
your problems
(beat)
the both of you, but YOU'RE just
running in circles

JACK

I just thought-

PHIL

What? That the situation was going to
fix itself.

JACK

We've been heading down that road for
a while. It was only a matter of time.

Phil stands up.

PHIL
Do you remember what I used to call
you guys?

JACK
The two kites dancing in a hurricane-

PHIL
Exactly. The extreme of the extreme

Phil extends his arm, holding his hand out.

PHIL
Let's wrap this thing up. One or two
more songs, and I think we're done.

Jack takes his hand. Phil pulls him up. They pick up two
guitars, shooting riffs back at one another.

PHIL
I think it'll work out for you in the
end

JACK
I hope so.

PHIL
You somehow always figure it out.

Silence.

JACK
What if we cover a George Harrison
song?

PHIL
Sounds expensive

Jack grabs the guitar. He is playing the strings for a moment
before singing.

JACK
Let it roll across the floor

INT. GREENROOM

Jack's back is to us. We see he has long hair. He sits in a bare room, scrolling on his phone. A knock on the door is heard.

PHIL
It's showtime, kid.

He gets up, following Phil out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY

They walk side by side down the hall. Along the way, Jack gets handed his guitar. He swings the strap over his head onto his shoulder. They take a few more steps, and he gets given a cable that he plugs into the guitar.

The hum of the crowd is faint in the background. The group of people behind him stays off to the side. He takes a cigarette out of his pocket, lighting it with the curtains pulled back.

The light shines on him, and the crowd erupts.

INT. STAGE

He exhales a cloud of smoke. He takes it all in before stepping to the microphone.

JACK
How's everyone doing tonight?

The crowd shouts.

JACK
That's good to hear.

AUDIENCE 1
I love you!

JACK
I love you to random face in the crowd.

He steps back, taking another pull from the cigarette. A mixture of laughs and cheers is heard from the crowd.

JACK
(Exhaling)
Are you guys ready to hear some music?
(beat)

It's a little different

The crowd screams.

Jack strums his guitar, warming up. He stops a drum kick into the actual song. He starts to play the guitar in the Caribbean rhythm.

JACK

Back in the club, aroma all around me

The crowd stands, dancing to the beat.

JACK

I feel like Rodman the way I'm rebounding.

EXT. CITY STREET- NIGHT

The streets are crowded with people exiting the concert. Leaves fall off the tree. We see a man wearing a black hoodie. He checks his phone and then looks around the street.

MAGGIE(O.S.)

Hey!

Jack turns around. She fixes her hair as she

JACK

Hey.

MAGGIE

Well, this is awkward.

JACK

A little.

They share a laugh.

JACK

What brings you to New York?

MAGGIE

Phil pulled some strings for me. I work with him at the studio.

JACK

Good for you.

She looks around. The streets are still busy. Fewer people are walking around.

MAGGIE
Are you waiting for someone?

JACK
No. Are you hungry?

MAGGIE
Right now?

JACK
Yeah. Unless you have other plans

MAGGIE
I could eat.

JACK
Perfect, I have a spot around here.

They start walking down the block, side by side.

MAGGIE
Is this weird? I feel like this is
odd.

JACK
It's OK, we're fine.

Silence. They make a left at the end of the block.

JACK
How long have you been here?

MAGGIE
About a month. I think.

JACK
Are you enjoying it?
(beat)
Turn here.

The two make another turn. Jack walks ahead of her.

MAGGIE
It's been an adjustment.

Jack stops short, and she bumps into him.

JACK
I love this place

MAGGIE
I've never been

JACK
No way.

MAGGIE
It's my first time in New York.

JACK
Right. Sorry.

Jack opens the door, holding it. She walks through, and he follows.

INT.RESTAURANT

A dimly lit area with low tables and leather chairs is scattered around the room.

JACK
You're going to love this place.

A waiter approaches, and Jack holds up two fingers. He brings them to a table in the back. They sit across from one another. The menus are placed in front of them.

MAGGIE
How's Benny doing?

He's scanning the menu.

JACK
He's okay

Jack stops. He looks up from the menu.

JACK
Sorry about everything

MAGGIE
I should be the one apologizing. I shouldn't have gotten in between you and your family.

He grabs her hand. She looks at it, then back at him.

JACK
It was inevitable.

MAGGIE

What was?

JACK

This whole situation

The waiter returns with two glasses of water.

WAITER

Are you ready to order?

Jack points at Maggie.

MAGGIE

Can I have the cheeseburger and fries?

WAITER

Of course, and for you, sir?

JACK

Same thing

The waiter nods, and they hand him the menus. He walks away. Maggie notices jack is still holding her hand. She pulls it back.

MAGGIE

So. Here we ware

JACK

Here we are.

She shrugs he shoulders with a nervous look on her face.

JACK

Do you remember when we met?

MAGGIE

(sarcastic)

Oh, how could I forget

JACK

Good ole Dennys

MAGGIE

Great pancakes

JACK

Not sure about that. Do you miss it?

MAGGIE

Kind of. Everything moves so fast here
and there that it moves too slowly.

JACK

Welcome to the past ten years of my
life.

He leans back in his seat. Maggie leans in closer to him.

MAGGIE

(whispering)

Are you sure you're okay?

JACK

Yeah. Why?

MAGGIE

Well, when I left, you weren't doing
so well

JACK

I was much more worried about Benny.

He leans in. They are face-to-face.

JACK

And you, of course.

They kiss. He pulls back after a moment.

JACK

By the way, I'm supposed to meet some
reporter here. She's going to write a
profile for me.

She snaps out of his charm.

MAGGIE

So you want me to leave?

JACK

No, I didn't want you to be surprised.

She smiles. He checks his phone.

JACK

She'll be here in a little. Do you
want to sit next to me?

MAGGIE

Sure

She gets up and sits next to Jack. He slides over slightly. He wraps his arm around her.

MAGGIE

I saw the end of your show

JACK

What'd you think? It was my first show in a couple of years.

MAGGIE

It was good, a little sappy but good.

JACK

Well, that-

MAGGIE

I'm kidding. It was great.

The door opens, and VANESSA, 28, walks in. She looks around the room. Jack waves, and she walks over to the table.

VANESSA

I didn't know we were allowed to bring a friend. I would've got my boyfriend. He's a big fan.

She sits. Pulling out a pad, phone, and pencil from her bag

VANESSA

Can I say I am a big fan? Collateral Damage got me through a devastating breakup in my senior year of college. So thank you.

She smiles. She talks as if Maggie isn't there.

JACK

You're welcome.

VANESSA

And now I'd like to return the favor by writing the best damn profile to hit the page. So how about we get down the brass tacks and blow this thing, right out of the water?

Jack nods his head.

JACK

Sure

A waiter comes to take her order.

VANESSA

I'll have the house salad

The waiter leaves. She begins to flip through her notebook. She stops at a page filled with marks.

VANESSA

Now I know we're here to talk about the new album, but do you think your absence has strained your relationship with the band?

JACK

I'm not sure. None of us have talked since I said I wanted a break.

VANESSA

Why come back now?

JACK

I tinkered around with some new sounds and thought it was the right time-

VANESSA

You're responsible for a generation of musicians trying to be the next you. How does that make you feel?

JACK

Like I can't mess up. I have to be perfect. Which I haven't been. No one is.

The waiter returns, placing the salad in front of Vanessa. The beer in front of Jack. She takes a bite before continuing.

VANESSA

Is there any truth to this mystery girl blowing up your relationship with Becca?

He sits up in the seat, taking a sip of his beer.

JACK

All fairy tales. Something people like

you are fond of

VANESSA
People like me?

JACK
Reporters.

VANESSA
Well, who isn't?

Silence.

VANESSA
Speaking of fairy tales, are you and
Becca expecting baby number two?

JACK
No. Not that I know of.

VANESSA
Aren't you still together?

JACK
It's not that simple.

VANESSA
Will she be joining you on tour?

He takes a few more sips from his beer.

JACK
Maybe. I don't know.

She leans in closer to Jack.

VANESSA
And what's her relationship WITH Jack
Wilder?

MAGGIE
Were friends.

VANESSA
Friends don't sit that close next to
each other-

Jack looks at his phone.

JACK
Times up.

Vanessa checks her phone. Jack gets up, knocking his drink over on the table.

JACK

Sorry.

Maggie tries to clean the table. Maggie stands following Jack.

VANESSA

It's fine. It was nice to meet you.

JACK

(sarcastically)

Yeah, you too

VANESSA

I have to say. You're a puzzle.

She smiles.

VANESSA

Especially the picture you paint with those grisly lyrics on your first couple of albums. How does it feel to be a-

Jack slams his hands on the table, spilling the rest of the drinks on her lap.

VANESSA

What the hell-

JACK

The interview's over

VANESSA

I know that. Why are you freaking out on me?

JACK

Because you're nothing but a vulture!

This has fuck all to do with the new music. It's about picking me apart.

Jack throws her phone on the floor and tears up the notes left on the table. She stands up

VANESSA

What are you doing? I don't have a backup!

JACK

Good.

VANESSA

How am I supposed to write the article?

JACK

Do you call that an article?

VANESSA

Yeah, some of us have actual jobs, you prissy temperamental as-.

Maggie pulls him out of the restaurant.

EXT.CITY STREET - NIGHT

They get away from the restaurant before they stop. Jack paces back and forth. Maggie watches.

MAGGIE

What the hell was that-

JACK

(shouting)

That is why I took a break. That is why I was very content living in that little bubble in bumble fuck!

MAGGIE

Calm down. It's over.

JACK

You wouldn't-

MAGGIE

Please don't yell at me!

She looks around. People are stopped and staring. Some are taking pictures. We see the flash. She pulls up to keep

walking. He leans up against the wall. She stands in front of him.

JACK

Sorry

MAGGIE

You didn't have to explode like that

JACK

What did you want me to do? Tell the truth?

MAGGIE

It would've taken less energy to do that than your little show.

JACK

My show? I was protecting you-

MAGGIE

You don't need to! I can't deal with this.

She starts to walk away.

MAGGIE

It was nice to see you.

She gets to the end of the street; she waits to cross. Jack catches up with her.

JACK

Wait. I'm sorry.

MAGGIE

You're like a kite dancing in a hurricane.

JACK

What does that mean?

MAGGIE

You live in pure chaos.

JACK

It's what my life is. If you can't handle that, then-

MAGGIE

I'm already leaving.

She tries to walk away; he grabs her.

MAGGIE

Let me go

JACK

What do you want from me? I'm trying.

MAGGIE

I don't know. Maybe that was our problem from the start.

JACK

We both didn't know. Everything just happened.

Jack looks down at his hand, still holding her hand. he lets go,

JACK

Let me at least take you home.

MAGGIE

I can find my way.

She takes a step in the street. A car speeds past her, and she jumps back onto the sidewalk.

JACK

I'll order us a car.

She nods.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Maggie looks out the window as they drive through the busy city streets.

JACK

Do you mind if we stop at my place first?

MAGGIE

For?

JACK

It's on the way.

MAGGIE

oh, well then, yeah

The car stops.

JACK
Do you want to come up?

MAGGIE
Do you want me to come up?

JACK
No pressure.

He grabs his bag and closes the door.

She's hesitant.

Maggie grabs her bag, following Jack.

INT. APARTMENT

Jack opens the door to his apartment, throwing his bag on the floor as he walks in.

Maggie looks around, amazed at the space.

MAGGIE
There's no way you live here.

JACK
I don't. Well, I haven't yet

MAGGIE
Such a shame.

JACK
We just moved in.

MAGGIE
So your back with-

JACK
No. Me and Benny.

He sits down on the couch. She awkwardly stands by the door.

JACK
Are you hungry?

MAGGIE
Actually yeah. We never got to eat.

JACK
What are you in the mood for?

MAGGIE
Mexican.

JACK
There's a spot down the street if you
want to go.

MAGGIE
I want to go home.

He gets up, walking past her to the door. He holds it open
sarcastically, motioning for her to walk out. She grabs her
bag and walks out

INT. HALLWAY

jack closes the door behind her. They begin to walk down the
hall.

MAGGIE
I think I know what your issue is.

JACK
What issue?

MAGGIE
You don't like to be alone, do you?

JACK
Nice try. I was alone all day today.

MAGGIE
You know what I mean.

He stops. She turns around, walking backward a few steps
before stopping.

JACK
I don't.

MAGGIE
You want someone to be with you for
the little things. Go out to eat. Walk
around.

JACK
Who doesn't?

MAGGIE
So you admit it?

JACK
I can function on my own. I thought
you wanted to go home?

MAGGIE
If you think you can handle it.

They start walking again. She presses the button for the
elevator. They wait for a minute before the doors open.

EXT. SIDEWALK- NIGHT

They wait in front of the building.

MAGGIE
Why don't you have security?

JACK
What's with all the questions?

MAGGIE
I'm trying to get to know you. It's
what ordinary people do when they like
each other.

He looks past her as if she's not there.

JACK
You already know everything about me
that you could want.

MAGGIE
Which means?

JACK
What do you want me to say? That I
rather stay at home watching Star Wars
all day.

MAGGIE
It's a start.

A car comes barreling up the street; we see the lights as it
gets closer. Maggie opens the door and gets in.

JACK
When am I going to see you again?

MAGGIE
It could be tomorrow or never again.
Who knows?

He smiles.

JACK
Maybe you should've been an actress.

MAGGIE
It's never too late.

She closes the door the car starts to drive off.

EXT. CAFE SEATING

Benny and Jack sit outside. Benny holds a cone with a big scoop of ice cream. Jack drinks a milkshake.

JACK
Slow down, ben. You're going to make a mess.

BENNY
But it's dripping

JACK
Use a napkin.

Jack hands him a couple of napkins. Benny wipes the dripping ice cream off the cone.

JACK
Not for that. Your face.

Jack wipes benny's face.

BENNY
Where's your friend?

JACK, WHAT FRIEND?

BENNY
The girl's mommy was mad at her.

JACK

She-

BENNY

Is she going to be my new mom?

JACK

I don't know. But mommy will always be your mom, and I will always be your dad. No matter what.

A stranger approaches the table. He waits for jack to acknowledge him.

JACK

Can I help you?

FAN 3

Congratulations, man, I'm a big fan

JACK

Thanks. For what?

The fan takes a step back.

FAN 3

You don't know?

JACK

Look. I'm out with my kid if you want a picture-

FAN 3

You're back on top of the charts, bro.

Jack reaches into his pocket. he holds it to his ear.

BECCA (O.S.)

Hey.

JACK

What's up?

BECCA (O.S.)

I just wanted to congratulate you. I'm sure you already knew, and I'm probably late.

JACK

I just found out. I didn't know

FAN 3
(whispering)
I'll take the picture now.

The fan pulls their phone out. Jack throws up a peace sign while still on the phone. He walks away.

BECCA (O.S.)
Well, look, I don't want to take up to much of your time. If you want me to get Benny so you can celebrate, it's not a problem.

JACK
It's ok; I rather stay with him. I'll see you next week.

BECCA (O.S.)
Well, congrats, you worked hard, and you deserve it.

JACK
Thanks, Becca.

He presses the phone, putting it down on the table. He looks over at Benny. He is playing around with the ice cream on the floor.

JACK
Oh no. Let's get you cleaned up.

He picks him up, holding him in his arm. Benny points.

BENNY
I made an ice cream cake

JACK
It looks so good. Let's leave it for someone else to enjoy.

We hear the phone ring.

INT. APARTMENT- DAY

Maggie turns her phone over. We see Jack's name lit up on it. She presses it raising it to her ear.

MAGGIE
Hey.

JACK(O.S.)
Are you free tonight?

MAGGIE
I don't know, it depends. What's the occasion?

JACK(O.S.)
I'm not sure you've heard, but I'm a big deal again.

She rolls her eyes.

MAGGIE
Oh really?

JACK(O.S.)
and I don't think it would've been possible without you.

MAGGIE
So what did you have in mind?

Silence.

JACK(O.S.)
Sorry. I'm out with benny.

MAGGIE
Tell him I said hi. So...

JACK(O.S.)
Oh yeah, um, I haven't thought that far ahead.

MAGGIE
Should I just come over?

JACK(O.S.)
Probably, Well I'll see you later.

MONTAGE

She throws her phone onto the couch.

Maggie digs through her suitcase.

Clothes are being thrown up in the air.

She walks out of the room with a black dress on

She nods her head no.

She tries again: a t-shirt, jeans, and a leather jacket.

END MONTAGE

INT. LOBBY NIGHT

Jack is waiting, leaning against the front desk, scrolling on his phone. A car stops in front of the building. Maggie steps out. She stops at the door.

She tries to push. It doesn't open. She tries to pull. It doesn't open. Jack looks up to see her prying open the door. He presses the button unlocking the door.

JACK

My bad.

MAGGIE

Don't you have a buzzer in your apartment?

They hug, and he wraps his arm around her shoulder as they walk.

JACK

The movers broke it. The doorman is on strike or something because I haven't seen them since I moved in.

INT. APARTMENT

They walk into the apartment. It's pitch black.

JACK

(whispering)
I think batman is in here.

MAGGIE

(whispering)
What?

JACK

Just play along.

He holds her hand as they walk further into the room. We hear a bang.

JACK

Come out Batman

They stop. The lights turn on.

BENNY
I'm justice

MAGGIE
You'll never get us!

She runs to the other side of the room. Jack trips over himself. Benny jumps on top of him.

JACK
Ah, you got me!

MAGGIE
To slow!

BENNY
You can't beat the bat hook!

She jumps up on the couch. Benny jumps in front of her. He holds up a toy hook. He throws it at her feet. She falls. He runs up to her.

MAGGIE
You sure got us!

Jack slowly crawls over to Benny.

BENNY
Justice works swift

Jack stands up, hovering behind Benny. He hugs him from behind, lifting him in the air.

BENNY
Ah!

JACK
You forgot about the hug bandit!

Benny squirms out.

BENNY
I'll be back.

He runs out of the room. Jack sits next to Maggie. She sits up.

MAGGIE
Was that our date? Please say yes.

JACK
Well duh.

Silence.

JACK
You really should be an actress.

MAGGIE
Well, who knows. I want to finish
school.

JACK
We could make this work. Nyu is around
the corner.

MAGGIE
Is that your way of asking me out?

JACK
If you want it to be.

Benny runs into the run.

BENNY
Did you ask her already?

MAGGIE
Do you want me to stay, little one?

BENNY
Maybe. Can I be batman again?

She smiles.

MAGGIE
Okay.

JACK
Really?

MAGGIE
Yes, I'm finishing school first. That
comes first.

JACK
Of course.

They hug.

JACK

By the way, I appreciate the band tee.

MAGGIE

Please don't make fun of me. It's all
I had.

They share a laugh. Benny sits in between them.

FADE TO BLACK.