

Sleeping Well

By

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## Cast of Characters

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>Annelise Roberts:</u>       | Mid-twenties. Emotionally compromised and dissatisfied. Always dressed in her work uniform which, despite her job, should have a professional appearance consisting of jet black pants, a buttoned up shirt and vest, and black flats. |
| <u>Douglas (Doug) Roberts:</u> | Dead. Dressed in a suit that has been tattered by time.  |
| <u>Carter Cagstone:</u>        | Mid-twenties. Currently living on top of the world, having a stable job, income and apartment outside of his hometown. Longs to reunite with his friends who he hasn't seen in a while.  |
| <u>Martin Fisher:</u>          | Early twenties. Easily anxious and lacking in confidence.  |
| <u>Gregory Musk:</u>           | Late sixties. Retired and has a generally relaxed nature to him. His clothing should reflect that.   |

## Scene

A small town known as Mooresburg in downstate New York. The town has decayed due to neglect and lack of care. Every building and house should look aged. Dead leaves scatter the streets, sidewalk, the graveyard, and even the inside of the diner.

## Prologue

*(Lights up. Graveyard. Late afternoon. Amongst the numerous dead leaves that litter the ground, sits a lone headstone. The headstone is worn down with tiny cracks and small cobwebs across it's lettering. Next to it is a dried up bundle of flowers. Behind the head stone stands a withered tree and hanging on it's outstretched limb is an old wooden wind chime. The wind chime looks rotted and the paint faded to near obscurity.)*

*(ANNELISE enters and approaches the headstone, carrying a fresh bundle of flowers. She kneels down beside the grave and replaces the old bundle with the new one.)*

ANNELISE

*(speaking to Doug's grave)*

Figured you might like something new.

*(wipes the cobwebs from the grave)*

What a mess. No matter how many times I clean, it's always a mess.

*(A chilly breeze makes the wind chimes ring and sing.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Speaking of new, did I tell you, Martin's actually thinking about adding some stuff to the apartment. Make it less depressing, you know? I wanna get to it sooner rather than later but if it's not missing the bus, it's us not feeling up to it. Only thing worse than shopping for groceries is shopping while depressed. We can afford something nice like a new area rug or a table that doesn't smell. All we need now is to actually do it. If I'm gonna be here for the rest of my life, might as well make it look nice. Maybe take the initiative and go by myself. Lord knows Mooresburg won't change for the better. Still the same old shops, brick buildings, unpaved roads, still the same old heap of crap town. If I haven't gagged on the stench already, I must be invincible.

*(smiles sadly)*

I miss you.

*(Beat.)*

*(She stands up, doing her best to maintain her composure while taking a good long look at the grave.)*

(CONTINUED)

*(She touches the headstone and keeps her hand there for a solid minute.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Get some rest, Doug. Didn't mean to wake you. I'll be sure to smile more next time, promise.

*(She leaves the graveyard. Another chilly breeze makes the wind chimes ring and sing, then, they stop. The lights begin to fade until there's only a single light focusing on the tree. Without warning the wind chimes fall to the ground and become buried in the leaves.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 1

*(That evening, lights up. Diner. MARTIN is piling dirty plates and glasses into an empty bin. A bell tied to the door rings, Annelise enters the diner.)*

MARTIN

Hey, Annelise.

*(Annelise doesn't respond. Instead, she takes off her jacket and hangs it on a coat hanger.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Boss said he wants you to sweep the entrance.

ANNELISE

*(sits down)*

What else is new.

MARTIN

Time won't go by faster if you keep staring at the clock.

*(Beat.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

You went to his grave, right? How's he doing?

ANNELISE

Same as always.

MARTIN

Sorry.

*(The bell rings again as GREGORY enters.)*

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

Howdy do!

*(Annelise leaves the vacant booth and guides Gregory to where she was sitting at.)*

*(Martin carefully grabs the bin full of plates and glasses, leaving the dining area.)*

*(Annelise takes out her pen and pad.)*

ANNELISE

What it'll be?

GREGORY

Coffee'll do.

ANNELISE

Wanna pair it with the cheesecake? Melts right in your mouth.

GREGORY

No thank you. I'll be wired throughout the night. Wouldn't wanna waste the day, especially during retirement.

ANNELISE

Must be exciting.

GREGORY

It's incredible! You see so much of the world you didn't even know was there.

ANNELISE

You'll have to tell me all about it.

GREGORY

It would be my pleasure! Got a few minutes?

ANNELISE

That coffee won't brew itself. Hold onto that thought til then?

GREGORY

Take your time.

*(She puts on a fake smile and retreats to the kitchen.)*

*(Just as she leaves, Martin heads back into the dining area and starts wiping down tables.)*

*(The bell on the door rings again. CARTER arrives.)*

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

(grabs a menu)  
Table, sir?

*(Martin escorts Carter to the same booth he just cleaned.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(hands Carter the menu)  
Our waitress will be right with you.

CARTER

(sits down)  
Thank you but I'm not hungry.

MARTIN

Anything to drink?

CARTER

I'll pass, thanks. Had water on the bus ride over here.

MARTIN

Can I get you anything?

CARTER

I'm only visiting before I see a couple friends of mine.

MARTIN

Oh, nice. They live close by?

CARTER

I hear they live in an apartment not too far from here.

MARTIN

They must be in the same building as me. Maybe I know them.

CARTER

Would you happen to know a woman named Annelise?

MARTIN

She's my roommate.

CARTER

That so?

MARTIN

Yeah, how'd you meet?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

I grew up here. Me, her, and her brother, Doug.

MARTIN

You know Doug?

CARTER

Of course! The three of us are practically family.

MARTIN

Any fond memories?

CARTER

Oh, plenty. This spot here was the place to be back then! Carmine still work here? Head chef? He can tell you all about the crazy times we had in here.

MARTIN

I don't know any chef named Carmine, but our new head chef, Flynn, isn't all that bad.

CARTER

Carmine quit?!

MARTIN

I guess.

CARTER

Man, Doug must've been devastated.

MARTIN

So, wait, you must be..?

CARTER

Carter, nice to meet ya!

MARTIN

Doug mentioned you a couple times. Nice to finally have a face to match the name.

CARTER

Doug works here, right? Finally get see him after so long.

*(Martin slowly shakes his head.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Seriously?

MARTIN

He doesn't work here. But Annelise does. I'll go and get her.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Annelise works here now?

MARTIN

We don't live too far from here.

CARTER

I see.

MARTIN

(calling to Annelise)

Annelise! Annelise, someone wants to see you!

*(Annelise reenters the dining area holding a pot of coffee. She sees Carter who, in turn, sees her and smiles.)*

ANNELISE

Hi.

CARTER

(stands up)

Hey.

*(Martin takes the coffee pot out of her hands and delivers it to Gregory.)*

*(Martin then moves back into the kitchen.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Long time no see.

(moves in for a hug)

Seriously, how've you been?

ANNELISE

(quickly backs away)

Don't.

*(Annelise catches herself as Carter backs away. She takes a deep breath.)*

CARTER

Everything alright? Shocking to see me I know, but if you're busy, I can come back later. Where's Doug living these days?

ANNELISE

It's not that busy. What have you been up to?

*(The two sit across from each other.)*

(CONTINUED)



CARTER

Well, you'll be happy to know I'm finally a computer technician!

ANNELISE

That's...good to hear.

CARTER

Not something you'd use to break the ice at a bar, but it pays the rent.

ANNELISE

That's great. I'm happy for you.

CARTER

Yeah, how does it feel having your own place?

ANNELISE

Different.

CARTER

Not the same as what we're used to but we're steering our own ship now.

ANNELISE

Yep.

CARTER

And you're close to work. Can't get much better than that.

ANNELISE

(pointing to Martin in the kitchen)  
You've met Martin.

CARTER

Interesting choice in roommate.

ANNELISE

He wasn't a first choice, but he means well.

CARTER

I live alone. Can't handle roommates.

ANNELISE

It's been awhile.

CARTER

Six years! How we haven't hung out in that time is both a mystery and a crime.

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE  
Yeah.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Where the hell's Doug by the way? We're missing a vital piece here! How about when you finish your shift, we grab him and buy a few drinks? On me.

ANNELISE  
Maybe another time. Doug's away.

CARTER  
Where's he at? Liquor store, his place, town park, where?

ANNELISE  
He's away!

(Beat.)

CARTER  
He wouldn't leave without telling me.

ANNELISE  
People change. You haven't reached out in six years.

GREGORY  
(from his booth)  
Miss, hate to bother ya, but I don't have a mug.

ANNELISE  
(to Gregory)  
One second.  
(stands up)  
I appreciate the visit but there's a customer, so you'll have to excuse me. I'll be sure to let Doug know you stopped by.

CARTER  
We're still friends. That hasn't changed, right?

(She stops in her tracks.)

CARTER (CONT'D)  
I know I've never been the best at keeping in touch - I'm sorry, that's my fault - but, we've been friends for as long as I can remember.

ANNELISE  
What's your point?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

That we don't keep secrets unless something really bad happened.

ANNELISE

Nothing happened. He's away. When he comes back-

CARTER

Where's he coming from? How long until he comes back?

ANNELISE

(walks away)

Martin! What's taking so long with the mug?

CARTER

(to himself)

Something happened.

ANNELISE

Martin! The mug!

*(Martin rushes in from the kitchen, carrying an empty mug.)*

MARTIN

Sorry, it's a big mess back there.

ANNELISE

I bet!

*(Annelise gives the mug to Gregory. She turns and Carter is standing in front of her.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

He's away! What more do you want?

CARTER

You expect me to believe that?

ANNELISE

Nothing happened! Just leave him be! And stop looking at me like that!

CARTER

Why are you making this so difficult? Don't I deserve to know?

ANNELISE

Who the hell do you think you are? I don't owe you anything! He's **my** family! What's your last name again? Cagstone! Look at you! Coming in here with your fancy job and a brand spanking new life to boot! You left us to rot in this dismal town! Now you come back

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE (cont'd)

expecting everything to be the way you left it? You wanna know where Doug is? News flash, Doug is gone! D-E-A-D! Dead! As in no longer apart of this earth! There? Happy?!

*(The words hit Carter like a sledge hammer.)*

*(For a moment, her attention is fixed on Carter's face. She's unyielding. Then she breaks away and all eyes in the diner are on her including Gregory and Martin. She runs out of the diner, tears swelling in her eyes. The bell on the door rings as she exits. Carter stands there, helpless.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 2

*(Later that evening, lights up. Graveyard. Night. Carter approaches Doug's grave.)*

*(Leaves pile on top of the flowers that Annelise left. A gust of wind whisks through the graveyard.)*

CARTER

*(to Doug's grave)*

Sorry for the late arrival. Suppose you're wondering where I've been all this time. I've got a job - the best I could hope for - and a nice apartment to tie it all together. Funny, looking back we dreaded this kind of lifestyle. We did it though. I'm still doing it. I wish...I wish you could've been there to see it all. You would've loved it.

*(Carter squeezes his hands until his knuckles turn white. He kicks some leaves in the opposite direction.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Talk about mind blowing, am I right? Waking up and hanging out one day, talking about life after high school, just to wind up here. You never know, not even given the luxury of seeing it coming.

*(A moment to compose himself. Inhale, then exhale.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

You'd be surprised, it's not as bad once you move out. The pressure, expectations, it all fizzles out the longer you're on your own. Don't get me wrong, the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (CONT'D) (cont'd)

first step is always scary - you were there when I left for college and saw just how much of a mess I was - but that's what friends and family are for. You're never alone, so long as you got that.

You wanna know something really weird? No one ever told me. Not Annelise, neighbors, no one in this god forsaken town. Who the hell does she think she is? We're all each others business, family or not! She has some fucking nerve!

*(Wind picks up as the leaves on the ground scatter.)*

*(From the grave, we hear the voice of DOUG.)*

DOUGLAS (V.O.)

(faint)

Doug...Doug...

*(Carter looks around as if he heard something but can't figure out where it's coming from.)*

CARTER

(slightly agitated)

You should've heard how she told me, yelling at me like I'm some kind of bum who stole her purse. Why should I care if she's still grieving? She's had plenty of time!

DOUGLAS (V.O.)

Doug...Doug...

*(Carter starts backing up, feeling agitated about what he thinks he's hearing.)*

CARTER

Am I going crazy? Christ! What the hell is her problem? Did I really piss her off that much? Am I not supposed to have a life? Sure, Annelise, let me stay and rot inside this town with you!

God damn it! Fuck!

*(Lights begin to flicker. Suddenly, there's a loud rumble beneath his feet as DOUGLAS emerges from the ground.)*

*(His head is down. He remains rooted. He begins to cry in the voice of Annelise.)*

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (CONT'D)

Doug?!

*(Is this real? This can't be happening.)*

DOUGLAS

*(senses carter but can't see him)*

I'm sorry...I'm sorry...

*(Carter hears Annelise's distant cry.)*

CARTER

Annelise? No, that's not right. That can't be, she's nowhere near here!

*(None of this makes sense. Is this real? Can it be real? Carter, like Douglas, remains rooted where he's standing.)*

DOUGLAS

In a better place...nothing will ever change.

CARTER

You're not Doug. What are you?

*(Beat.)*

*(Against his better judgment, Carter moves closer to Doug.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Do you recognize me? Doug, is it really you?

*(Douglas raises his head and Carter jumps back. Douglas slowly moves toward him.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

It's Carter. It's me, Carter!

DOUGLAS

I'm sorry...I'm sorry...

CARTER

Why are you sorry?

DOUGLAS

I'm sorry...Shouldn't have pushed...Pushed you too much...

CARTER

*(backs away)*

What? What the hell are you talking about, Doug?

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

*(moves closer)*

Doug...Doug...

CARTER

*(hysterical)*

Get away from me! I don't know you!

*(Douglas stops moving even though Carter still begs for him to not come any closer.)*

DOUGLAS

Promise to smile more...Smile more...Get some rest...rest...

CARTER

You're not real. You're not real!

DOUGLAS

I'm sorry...I'm sorry.

CARTER

Stop talking!

DOUGLAS

Not the same without you...Not the same...

*(Beat.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Wish you were here...here...with me...

CARTER

This can't be happening. This is...this is...Someone else needs to see this!

*(Carter rushes out of the graveyard and into the night.)**(Douglas lowers his head again. He slowly moves out of the graveyard.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 3*(Night time, lights up. Inside Annelise's apartment. The apartment is mostly empty, save for a couch with patches of foam coming through the flimsy stitching and a coffee table in the middle of the room. Annelise sits alone.)**(A knock at the door, aggressive and loud.)*

(CONTINUED)

*(Beat.)*

*(Another knock at the door, still aggressive and loud.)*

CARTER (O.S)  
Annelise!

*(Beat.)*

CARTER (O.S)  
Annelise, open up!

*(She sighs and gets up. She approaches the door and leaves her hand on the knob, firm and motionless.)*

CARTER (O.S)  
Please! It's urgent! There's something you need to see, right away!

*(Beat.)*

CARTER (O.S)  
It...it's Doug.

*(Annelise flings the door open and pulls Carter inside before shutting it. She turns to face him with fierceness in her eyes.)*

ANNELISE  
Did something happen?!

CARTER  
Something of a sort, yeah.

ANNELISE  
What is it, tell me!

CARTER  
I saw him.

ANNELISE  
Who'd you see?

CARTER  
HIM, Annelise! I saw Doug!

ANNELISE  
What?

(CONTINUED)



CARTER

(frantic)

I swear! He rose up and looked like a ghost or spirit I guess and I heard you crying. You were calling out to him and you were crying and apologizing and-

ANNELISE

He's dead.

CARTER

No, he's not!

ANNELISE

I saw the casket shut and it buried! I was there! Unless you did something...did you?

CARTER

What? No, of course not. I didn't do anything to his grave. What would I do?

ANNELISE

Better fess up!

CARTER

I didn't touch his grave, Annelise!

ANNELISE

I swear, if you did...

CARTER

Drop it, okay? I didn't touch his grave!

ANNELISE

(sighs)

Fine. What's this about a spirit? You said it sounded like me?

CARTER

Yeah.

ANNELISE

That's ridiculous.

CARTER

It's not!

ANNELISE

I bet.

CARTER

You're right next to the graveyard, I'm sure you'll see him if you look outside, let me show you.

(CONTINUED)

*(He looks out the window and points to the graveyard in the distance.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

*(to himself)*

Good, he hasn't left.

*(to Annelise)*

He's right outside. Come on!

ANNELISE

Maybe you should sit down.

CARTER

He's outside, come here!

ANNELISE

Why don't you sit down? Collect yourself.

CARTER

Just trust me and hurry over here! I don't know how long he's gonna stand there.

*(Beat.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Annelise, come on!

ANNELISE

Are you sure you're not just seeing things? Making stuff up?

CARTER

Why would I make this up?

ANNELISE

You tell me.

CARTER

This isn't a joke! I'm not trying to be funny, I saw him!

ANNELISE

I bet you did.

CARTER

Annelise, I'm not lying!

ANNELISE

You really should sit down. Take a breather.

*(Carter grabs Annelise by the arm and drags her to the window.)*

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
Let go of me!

CARTER  
(points to the graveyard's entrance)  
Look! Right there! Standing in the middle of the  
graveyard!

*(She looks.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Believe me now?!

*(Beat.)*

*(She squints her eyes.)*

ANNELISE  
Who made that mess? There's dirt and leaves everywhere.

CARTER  
Focus on Doug!

ANNELISE  
You mean his headstone?

CARTER  
What?!

ANNELISE  
His headstone. There's a big mess there.

*(Carter looks out the window. Douglas is gone.  
Annelise looks at Carter.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
Did you do that?

*(Carter steps back from the window, speechless.  
He's now at the mercy of Annelise's cold stare.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
You're shaking.

*(Carter begins to leave the apartment.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
Carter, wait! Where are you going? Sit down, take a few  
minutes-

CARTER  
(turns to her)  
No!

(CONTINUED)

*(Beat.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)  
He must've moved.

ANNELISE  
I'm not kicking you out. Stay for your own sake.

CARTER  
No, I know what I saw and I'm gonna prove it!

ANNELISE  
*(steps forward)*  
You're chasing something that doesn't exist!

CARTER  
He's out there!

*(Carter turns back to face the door and opens it,  
ready to leave.)*

ANNELISE  
Look, I'm sorry! Alright? I'm sorry. Back at the diner,  
I said something I should've told you before.

*(Carter stands completely still, hand firmly on  
the door. Annelise takes a deep and shaken  
breath.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
These past few years have been...difficult.

*(He slowly turns to face her.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
Just stay for a bit. You can tell me about your job if  
that'll help take the edge off.

*(Beat.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
Honestly, going out like that, you look like a mess.

*(He closes the door and sighs deeply.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
How about some cheesecake?

*(He nods.)*

*(Annelise leaves and heads into the kitchen.)*

*(Carter moves toward the window and looks outside  
again.)*

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE (O.S)

I'm gonna brew some coffee first. Want any? Or do you prefer milk?

(Beat.)

ANNELISE (O.S)

Carter?

BLACKOUT.

Scene 4

*(Later that night, lights up. Diner. Night. Gregory is sitting in the booth drinking his coffee. The rest of the diner is empty. Martin enters from the kitchen and approaches him.)*

GREGORY

Don't tell me, closing time?

MARTIN

I'm afraid so.

GREGORY

Seems time has slipped away from me again.

MARTIN

I'll bring the check.

GREGORY

Say, can I ask you somethin? What's the deal with that waitress?

MARTIN

It's not my place-

GREGORY

She wasn't bein very friendly to that other guy. Didn't he say they were friends?

MARTIN

Asking the wrong guy. I don't know much about Carter but...I've never heard Annelise talk like that before. I hope she's okay.

GREGORY

(sips his coffee)

Just give her some space. Sorry for your loss.

MARTIN

Life won't be the same without Doug. He never did anything wrong - always so welcoming and friendly - to see him go...

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

It sucks.

MARTIN

Yeah.

GREGORY

Sounds like he flew the coupe pretty recently.

MARTIN

No, he passed away a while ago. I'm worried about Annelise.

GREGORY

Shows you care.

MARTIN

No, Annelise...She's nice and all, but she hasn't been the same since. Of course, I'm not saying she needs to get better right away but, I don't know.

(sits down across from Gregory)

Is it harsh to say that after a while, you expect some kind of change from a person?

GREGORY

You can't put a time limit on grief.

MARTIN

Of course not but after six years-

GREGORY

Have you ever lost a family member?

MARTIN

No, I haven't.

GREGORY

Arguin with raw emotion is a losin battle. Lose someone close to you - and if they're a family member - you're lookin at a mighty steep hill to climb.

MARTIN

How does someone hope to recover then?

GREGORY

Things eventually work out. Great thing about loss, we all experience it in some form or fashion. Bad thing about loss, who knows when things will be okay again.

MARTIN

What if things never work out?

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

(shrugs)  
Then you're stuck.

MARTIN

Thanks for the advice.

*(Gregory drinks the rest of his coffee.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Have you...y'know, ever lost anyone?

GREGORY

Now that's a dumb question.

MARTIN

Sorry.

GREGORY

How much do I owe?

MARTIN

I'll bring the check.

GREGORY

Can you also bring me whatever's left in the pot in a to-go cup? I'll feel bad if I waste it.

*(Martin nods and exits to the kitchen.)*

*(Gregory exits the booth, back turned to the entrance. Just then, Douglas enters the diner but the bell doesn't ring like it should. He takes in the diner inch by inch, getting lost in it all. Gregory, unaware of Douglas' presence, takes out a couple bills. Martin, who fails to notice Douglas at first, enters from the kitchen holding a to-go cup as well as the check. He hands the check to Gregory who looks at the total.)*

*(Gregory hands Martin the money he owes him.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Take care now.

*(He hands Martin a few extra bills.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Give my regards to that woman, Annelise.

*(As Martin pockets the tip, Douglas makes his way to the booth. Martin sees Douglas and is taken by surprise.)*

(CONTINUED)

*(Douglas inches his way closer and closer to the booth. Gregory turns around, see's nothing then turns back around to Martin.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

You feelin alright there?

*(Gregory waves his hand in front of Martin's face. As Doug gets closer, Martin backs away towards the kitchen.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

You seein somethin?

MARTIN

He...He's...

GREGORY

What, what is it?

MARTIN

I don't believe it.

GREGORY

What, what don't you believe? Is everything alright?

MARTIN

Doug. Doug! He's right in front of you! Right at the booth!

*(Gregory turns around, sees nothing, and turns back to Martin.)*

GREGORY

Think yer losin it, bud.

MARTIN

He's right there!!

*(Gregory turns around again and sees nothing. Douglas sits down in the booth.)*

GREGORY

This is gettin old real fast.

DOUGLAS

*(sensing Martin but not seeing him)*  
C'mon, the sooner we sit down, the sooner we get our food.

*(Martin huddles near the kitchen door.)*

(CONTINUED)



DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

What're you in the mood for? I can go for just about anything.

GREGORY

(to Martin)  
You're losin it, man.

DOUGLAS

Come on, pop a squat.

MARTIN

(to Gregory)  
How can you not hear him? I hear him loud and clear!

GREGORY

There's no one there. There was no one when I turned around the last three times and there isn't anyone now.

MARTIN

You're blind!

GREGORY

(fed up)  
Thanks for the coffee.

MARTIN

No! Wait!

*(Martin rushes toward Gregory and attempts to pull him back, spilling coffee on the floor. Some of it splashing on the bottom of Gregory's pants.)*

GREGORY

What the hell?!

MARTIN

Please, don't leave! I'm begging you!

*(Martin clings to Gregory but Gregory tries his best to pull away from him.)*

DOUGLAS

He'll be here any minute. You know how anxious he gets.

*(Martin falls to the floor unconscious as the lights dim. Gregory kneels down next to him.)*

GREGORY

The hell? You alright? C'mon, wake up now! Stop playin around.

*(Beat.)*

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY (CONT'D)

You win, I'll forgive you for the coffee. Now wake up!

*(Beat.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Call an ambulance! Hello?! Somebody?!

*(Lights shift again and Gregory is frozen in place. Martin stirs semi-conscious, and sees Doug casually sitting in the booth.)*

*(Douglas reads through the menu, thinking about what to order.)*

DOUGLAS

What do you want? I hear there's a new special today. Gotta try that. Always maintain constant curiosity, especially if you wanna be a chef. I don't think it'll be that bad, I only struck out a couple times. You and What's His Face always order the same thing. A cheese burger - usually medium to well done, hold the onions and tomato, with a nice heap of fries and two pickles - that's you. Then What's His Face, might as well nickname him red meat guy with how many times he ordered steak. I like a good steak, but not every time I go out. I should call you the queen of burgers, how'd you like that?

*(dignified)*

Why hello there, I am the queen of burgers. You dare assault my fine fields of french fries with ketchup?! How dare you! To the brig with you! Yes, you'll be held in your icy cell of lettuce where you shall be tormented by the stench of freshly cut onions!

*(Doug cackles, laughing himself silly. Martin slowly stands up.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

God, remember when we spent five hours in here? Was it five? Could've been longer.

MARTIN

*(moves closer to Doug)*

It was longer. When we weren't working.

DOUGLAS

One thing just lead to another. Do you even remember the topics? We went to some really weird places, no thanks to What's His Face.

*(Martin approaches the booth and sits on the edge of the seat across from Doug.)*

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

So you're changing it up? Has the queen of burgers officially resigned? You're getting the steak?!

MARTIN

I don't eat meat. I remember getting a BLT without the bacon. You always chuckled at that.

DOUGLAS

*(continuing to sense someone near him)*

I don't believe it, the queen of burgers hasn't resigned from duty. No, far worse. She's taken up with the enemy. She's now the queen of the meats!

*(Martin smiles.)*

*(Douglas extends his arm over to Martin, thinking he's Annelise. Martin shifts to the side.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Whatever happens, we always have this place, Annelise.

*(Lights out.)*

*(Beat.)*

*(Lights back on Martin whose in the same spot where he fainted. Doug is no longer sitting at his booth. He's gone. Martin sits up in a cold sweat.)*

GREGORY

Finally, you're awake! Had me a little worried.

*(Martin turns to Gregory with a loss for words.)*

MARTIN

You froze!

GREGORY

Must've hit your head pretty hard.

MARTIN

Doug walked over to that booth! He was sitting and talking to somebody! Annelise! He was talking to Annelise!

GREGORY

You spilled my coffee then took a fall.

MARTIN

No, that...that doesn't make any sense!

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

From where I'm standin, you sound like you're the one not makin sense.

MARTIN

Oh god! Oh god! What am I gonna tell her? She won't believe us! She'll look at me like I'm a crazy person!

GREGORY

Don't lump me in with your craziness.

*(Martin's starts breathing irrationally.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Alright, look, calm down.

*(Martin is in full on panic mode.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

We ain't gonna get anywhere like this! You gotta calm down!

*(Gregory grabs Martin by the shoulders.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Listen!

*(Martin is staring at Gregory, still terrified.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Calm. Down.

*(Gregory looks at the booth Douglas was sitting at then back to Martin.)*

GREGORY (CONT'D)

He's gone. Okay? Whoever you saw, they're gone and they'll stay that way.

*(aside whispering)*

God, I hope so.

*(Martin looks over to the booth and sees nothing. He nods slowly. Gregory releases Martin and backs away.)*

*(Beat.)*

MARTIN

Carter.

GREGORY

What about him?

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

(standing up)

He might have seen this too. I gotta find him and tell him!

GREGORY

Do you even know where he is?

MARTIN

He has to be at our apartment!

GREGORY

Why would he go there?

MARTIN

They're friends!

GREGORY

Are your ears clogged or somethin?

*(Martin makes his way to the door and stops.)*

*(Beat.)*

MARTIN

What if...what if he's still out there?

GREGORY

Would you give it a rest, he's not real.

MARTIN

I don't wanna go alone.

GREGORY

Better look somewhere else.

MARTIN

Please.

*(Martin pulls out the money Gregory gave him.)*

GREGORY

What is this? Put that away.

MARTIN

Please.

*(Reluctantly, Gregory gets up and assures Martin with a pat on the back keeping his arm around him. Martin puts the money away and exits the diner with Gregory. The bell rings as the lights fade.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 5

*(Later, lights up. Inside Annelise's Apartment. Annelise is sitting on one end of the couch while Carter sits on the other end. They're both eating slices of cheesecake. The box containing the whole cake is placed in the middle of the table.)*

ANNELISE

How's the cake?

CARTER

Sorry?

ANNELISE

The cake, how is it?

*(He goes back to eating his slice of cake, feigning enjoyment.)*

CARTER

Good. Almost forgot what it tasted like.

ANNELISE

Good to know the diner never changes.

CARTER

Yeah.

*(Beat.)*

ANNELISE

How's work been?

CARTER

Same old same old. Computers and stuff.

ANNELISE

Hear that kind of knowledge is vital for your line of work.

*(clears throat)*

So, have you met anyone interesting at your job?

CARTER

A few, not a whole lot.

ANNELISE

Oh, nice.

*(Carter scarfs down the rest of his slice and puts down his plate. Annelise slides over a glass of milk towards him.)*

(CONTINUED)

*(He drinks some of the the milk and places the cup down on the table.)*

CARTER

Thanks.

ANNELISE

How are you feeling?

CARTER

Like shit.

ANNELISE

Sorry.

CARTER

Life sucks.

ANNELISE

Yeah.

CARTER

Back then, we took our lives for granted.

ANNELISE

What do you mean?

CARTER

We could do whatever we wanted, whenever we wanted. No bills or worrying about the roof falling because we didn't have the funds to keep it up. We didn't have to worry about our next meal, a job, none of that. Just stay in school, do your homework and occasionally help around the house.

ANNELISE

We were ignorant.

CARTER

We were **free**, Annelise. Now we gotta worry about keeping that roof up, we gotta get a job that pays well, we gotta do so much to stay afloat because the world won't care if we can sink or swim. It'll just keep going. Haven't you ever looked back on those days?

ANNELISE

Can't say that I have.

CARTER

You don't miss it?

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE

I never said that. Just, why embellish it?

CARTER

Didn't you have fun?

ANNELISE

Of course, but those days are long past us. We're in the now.

CARTER

(snickers)

Sometimes, I wish we could relive it, if only for a day.

*(She stops eating and her eyes remain fixated on the plate.)*

ANNELISE

Want another slice?

CARTER

No thanks, I had my fill.

ANNELISE

(begins cutting another slice)

I think I can go for another one.

CARTER

But, you still have some on your plate.

ANNELISE

I haven't eaten that much today.

CARTER

That slice looks too good to throw away.

ANNELISE

It doesn't taste right. You want it?

CARTER

I'm full.

ANNELISE

Then quit pestering me and let me grab another slice.

CARTER

Alright.

ANNELISE

The diner gives this stuff away all the time.

(CONTINUED)



CARTER

I know.

*(She stops cutting and turns to him.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

You don't have to justify anything to me.

*(She nods slowly before sitting back down and finishing her slice.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Listen, I didn't-

ANNELISE

It's fine.

*(Annelise continues picking away at the remaining slice of cheesecake on her plate.)*

*(A loud knock at the door. Annelise remains seated.)*

CARTER

Aren't you gonna answer it?

ANNELISE

Martin has a key.

CARTER

You sure it's him?

ANNELISE

Who else would it be?

*(More loud knocks in rapid succession.)*

CARTER

Obviously, someone other than Martin.

GREGORY (O.S)

Anyone home?

*(Annelise groans as she gets up and answers the door, only to be greeted by Martin dragging Gregory into the apartment and closing the door in a hurry.)*

ANNELISE

Martin? The hell is going on?

*(to Gregory)*

Who are you? What happened to your pants?

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

Little coffee accident at the diner. Apologies for  
bargin in like this, miss, but you can thank your  
roommate for that. He insisted on having an escort.  
Name's Gregory by the way.

ANNELISE

(to Gregory)

Pleasure.

(to Martin)

The hell's wrong with you?

GREGORY

He's not right in the head if you ask me.

ANNELISE

Martin, what happened?

MARTIN

We saw a ghost!

GREGORY

Leave me out of this.

ANNELISE

What do you mean you saw a ghost? What did you do to  
him?

GREGORY

I'm just as confused as you are, miss.

ANNELISE

Annelise.

CARTER

What did it look like?

ANNELISE

Stay out of this! I've got it handled.

MARTIN

It's true! Annelise, he spoke and sounded like exactly  
like him!

ANNELISE

Was it Doug?

DOUGLAS

You know?!

ANNELISE

(looking to Carter)

I've heard.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Where was he?

ANNELISE

Carter!

MARTIN

At the diner.

GREGORY

You certainly saw him.

CARTER

And you didn't?

GREGORY

Hell no. I'm only here because he was too scared to walk by himself.

CARTER

That's...weird.

GREGORY

Weirder than a couple of wackos thinkin they seen a ghost? Sounds more like crazy talk.

ANNELISE

Couldn't agree more.

MARTIN

He was talking an-and moving around the diner.

CARTER

Did he sound like Annelise?

MARTIN

No, he sounded like himself.

CARTER

I kept hearing Annelise.

MARTIN

I heard Doug. He was talking to Annelise, but she wasn't there.

ANNELISE

What?

CARTER

Anything else?

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

You fainted.

MARTIN

I didn't faint! You froze!

GREGORY

Not what I saw.

MARTIN

Doug was...reminiscing. He remembered how I get anxious, but not my name. He knew Annelise and what she always ordered but not my name.

CARTER

He must've forgot you.

MARTIN

He probably forgot you too. He probably forgot everyone except Annelise!

*(Martin plops down on the opposite end of the couch.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do?

ANNELISE

Do you even hear yourselves?! How insane the both of you sound!

CARTER

By the sound of it-

ANNELISE

Enough!

MARTIN

He said your name.

ANNELISE

Don't you start.

MARTIN

He was talking to you/

ANNELISE

/You need to stop talking.

CARTER

Hear the man out.

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE

I don't want to hear anything from you!

GREGORY

(to himself)

Don't even know why I bothered comin here.

MARTIN

We can't have him roam the streets.

GREGORY

If you're the only ones that "see him," what's the issue?

CARTER

Why is he even here?

MARTIN

How did he come back?

ANNELISE

Shut up!

CARTER

Annelise-

ANNELISE

Get out.

CARTER

Don't you care?

ANNELISE

Get. Out! I've had it up to here with the both of you! You were so eager to leave this place, what sort of epiphany did you have that coming here seemed like a good idea? Is the real world too much to handle? You seem to be staying afloat just fine without me or Doug. Though I wouldn't know because you never called afterward or asked to visit once you left! Do me a favor and let the past stay in the past and leave me alone, just like you've done for the past six years!

DOUGLAS (O.S)

In a minute, Annelise.

*(The room falls silent. Annelise shifts her attention to the door.)*

*(Suddenly, the lights flicker as Douglas walks through. His presence causes Gregory to freeze in place. Annelise and Carter don't know what to make of what they're seeing.)*

(CONTINUED)

*(Martin becomes overwhelmed at the sight of Douglas and leaves the apartment in a panic.)*

*(Douglas moves around the apartment. He's in his own little world. He eventually sits down on the couch staring straight ahead.)*

*(Annelise shakes her head in disbelief. This can't be real. She slowly moves closer to Doug.)*

ANNELISE

You were buried. I saw you...You're not real. What is this?

(looking to carter)

What is this?!

CARTER

(to himself)

He sounded just like you before.

ANNELISE

Carter!

CARTER

(to Annelise)

I don't know.

DOUGLAS

(senses her but doesn't see her)

Annelise, I'm tired. Just let me sleep.

*(Annelise cups her quivering hands around her mouth.)*

ANNELISE

(to herself)

He was always tired.

*(Douglas leans further back on the couch.)*

DOUGLAS

How was work...Big surprise there. I keep telling you there's no rush but you keep insisting-

ANNELISE

Stop it.

DOUGLAS

Tell you what, how about we go over there for dinner tonight? The burger queen must return to the land of burgers.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Burger queen?

ANNELISE

Shut up.

DOUGLAS

Are you gonna order a steak this time? You gonna copy  
What's His Face and betray your land in their time of  
need?

CARTER

(approaches Doug)

It's Carter. Carter.

ANNELISE

No, Carter. Don't-

DOUGLAS

Lay off, a little. It's always, work work work with  
you. Are you really **that** disappointed in yourself if  
your bones don't ache at the end of the day?

*(Carter looks to Annelise.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

You've been doing this for weeks. Relax. I'll go ask,  
Who Was It Now. I'm sure he'd love to join us.

*(Douglas gets up from the couch. Carter pulls  
Annelise toward him.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

(walks into Martin's room)

Hey, Who Was It Now, how you feeling? In the mood for a  
trek to the diner?

*(Carter and Annelise stand silent. Carter looks  
over to the now frozen Gregory and is shocked out  
of the trance he's in. He grabs Annelise.)*

ANNELISE

(looks to Carter)

Carter, I-

CARTER

Don't argue with me, just listen. We gotta leave.

DOUGLAS

(from inside Martin's room)

Come on now, why would you wanna be alone? You know,  
the diner's hiring, this could be a good chance for you  
to make an impression. Get to know everyone there.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Come on!

ANNELISE

Where would we go?

CARTER

Anywhere! I can't stay here and neither should you.

ANNELISE

He's my brother.

*(The lights flicker again.)*

CARTER

It's now or never, Annelise!

*(With a heavy heart, Annelise nods and leaves the apartment with Carter.)**(Doug reenters the living room.)*

DOUGLAS

*(softly)*

Guess it's just you and me tonight. I don't get him sometimes. How does one person manage that much isolation?

*(Douglas sits back on the couch, smiling.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm not complaining. We'll always have each other's back! It's how we found this place. I'm just worried. You should be too, we could've wound up with anyone. We're just as lucky to have Who Was It Now like we did What's His Face.

*(yawns)*

We should call What's His Face. I wonder how he's doing. He might pick up the phone this time, you never know.

*(He stands up, crosses to the door and leaves.)**(With Douglas gone, Gregory becomes conscious of his surroundings. He's all alone. Confused, he leaves the apartment.)*

BLACKOUT.



Scene 6

*(Lights up. Galloway Street, Mooresburg. Wind gently brushes through the leaves. A thin layer of fog blankets the street.)*

*(Carter walks along the sidewalk ahead of Annelise and on high alert.)*

CARTER

Keep up.

*(He moves further up the street before stopping and turning to face the left side.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

He's bound to catch up if we don't get further away from the apartment!

*(pause)*

Annelise?

*(Beat.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Don't make me drag you!

*(Annelise catches up. She's shivering.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Stop wasting time, he could be anywhere.

*(She sits on the curb and buries her head in her legs.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

*(unamused)*

Get up.

*(She shakes her head.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Were you even listening? You heard how he talked to you.

*(She grips her arms tight and shakes her head furiously.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Either you get up or I drag you. Which is it?

*(She looks at him with a cold, unapologetic stare.)*

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (CONT'D)

Fine. Whatever, I'll have better luck on my own.

*(Carter turns and moves further to the right side of the street, just about ready to leave her for good. Annelise goes back to burying her head in her knees.)*

*(Just before Carter leaves, he stops.)*

*(He returns to her and grabs her by the arm. She struggles until he finally lets go of her.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

What is your deal?! That last visit wasn't enough?!

*(She looks away from him.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Fine.

*(sits on the curb)*

Let him catch us. What have we got to lose.

*(Carter looks at the leaves on the road and kicks some of them away.)*

*(He takes a deep breath in, deep breath out.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Better watch it, we'll end up forgetting we ever knew each other if you keep it up. Is that what you want?

*(Annelise keeps her eyes on the street.)*

*(Beat.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

When I left, I was terrified. Who's to say where I was going would pan out or lead me to someplace worse. Worse than Mooresburg. Top it all off, I was leaving my closest friends who seemed way more confident about growing up than I ever could.

*(She wearily turns to him.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

But I was doing it. The world began opening up to me for the first time - for the first time - I was excited. Making new friends, going to new places, it's like I had finally cracked out of my shell and began living. Living the way I wanted to. Yeah, I was fairing pretty well - still am - but a comfortable living isn't everything. I still missed the both of you.

(CONTINUED)

*(She turns away and looks at the street.)*

*(A drop of rain falls on Annelise, followed by a few more. It starts raining. Subtle sounds of thunder. Carter gets up.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Come on.

ANNELISE  
What?

CARTER  
We need to move.

ANNELISE  
Scared of a little rain?

*(Sounds of thunder can be heard in the distance.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
*(gets up)*  
I guess I don't like thunder. Any ideas?

CARTER  
Some where with a roof.

ANNELISE  
There's an abandoned house not too far from here.

CARTER  
Something less sketchy.

ANNELISE  
I don't have keys to the diner.

CARTER  
There's gotta be something else.

ANNELISE  
No store is open at this hour.

CARTER  
Is an abandoned house really our only option?

ANNELISE  
There's the park. The pavilion is still there.

*(Beat.)*

CARTER  
Doug might follow us.

(CONTINUED)

ANNEЛИSE

Why would he follow us?

CARTER

He went to the diner, he came by to your apartment.

ANNEЛИSE

He'll probably go somewhere else. Maybe our old house or he could go to yours.

CARTER

What if he doesn't?

ANNEЛИSE

Look, you wanted some place with a roof that wasn't sketchy, this is the best I got.

*(Beat.)*

ANNEЛИSE (CONT'D)

We're only gonna get wetter the longer we stay out here.

CARTER

Sure, whatever.

ANNEЛИSE

You know where it is?

CARTER

Of course. I didn't forget.

*(The rain starts falling down harder. Carter continues walking on ahead as Annelise walks close behind him. The sound of thunder rattles through the space as the lights fade.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 7

*(Later that night, Lights up. Pavilion. A thicket of lifeless shrubs leads to the aging, unkempt building. Carter and Annelise sit on the bench keeping watch outside the pavilion. The rain continues to pelt the roof while thunder roars.)*

*(Annelise rubs her arms.)*

CARTER

Great spot.

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE

Glad you like it.

CARTER

Thought they would've torn this down by now.

ANNELISE

If I had a nickle for every time I heard that...

CARTER

You'd still be here.

ANNELISE

Funny.

CARTER

Thanks.

ANNELISE

That was sarcasm.

CARTER

I know.

ANNELISE

You ever wonder what the town would look like if someone bothered to fix it?

CARTER

Or what it looked like back then? When it was in it's prime.

ANNELISE

Pictures wouldn't cut it.

CARTER

Are there pictures of this place?

ANNELISE

No idea.

CARTER

You never checked?

ANNELISE

No.

*(Beat.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

How about I take watch?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER  
No.

ANNELISE  
Why not?

CARTER  
Because I said so.

ANNELISE  
What are you so paranoid about? I'm not going anywhere.

CARTER  
Then sleep. You look like you need it more than I do.

ANNELISE  
Because I'm in the mood to sleep.

CARTER  
And I am?

ANNELISE  
Could've fooled me, you don't look your Sunday best.

CARTER  
Just go to sleep.

ANNELISE  
He's not gonna show.

CARTER  
You don't know that.

ANNELISE  
My house is nowhere near here!

CARTER  
Yeah, well, my house isn't that far off from here.

ANNELISE  
Then he'll go there.

CARTER  
What if he doesn't?

ANNELISE  
I don't know.

CARTER  
Exactly. Go to sleep.

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE

I'm just trying to look out for you.

CARTER

Thanks but no thanks. I'm fine.

ANNELISE

I bet.

*(He doesn't respond.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Just a few minutes. Half an hour at most.

CARTER

No.

ANNELISE

Carter!

CARTER

Keep your voice down!

*(pause)*

You'll freeze if he shows up. Maybe - I don't know - something worse than that.

ANNELISE

Why would I freeze? I wouldn't leave you.

CARTER

You already forgot about me before.

ANNELISE

You forgot the both of us!

CARTER

No, **you** forgot about me when you shouldn't have.

ANNELISE

Where would I even start? How could I tell you what happened when saying it is like having that day on repeat.

CARTER

You've had time.

ANNELISE

That doesn't mean anything! He was family!

CARTER

*(looking straight at her)*

He was my family too! You both were! Don't sit there and play victim! Why should I trust someone who refuses

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)

to talk? You can't put a time limit on grief, but you can't shut out the people who care! You've had time, Annelise, which is more than I ever got!

ANNELISE

Shut up! You don't know anything! You don't know a single damn thing about what went on between the two of us after you left! You never called! We tried to reach you, but you never called back. We struggled to achieve something beyond this stupid town! Now, all of that is meaningless because...because he's gone.

CARTER

Couldn't agree more. I don't know anything. And I blame myself for that. I should've called back, I should've visited more. But you, I feel sorry for you.

ANNELISE

Why's that?

CARTER

Because you're carrying far more of the blame than me! You never reached out to me after what happened, all you did was isolate yourself. What you did, you're responsible for, not me.

*(Annelise remains silent.)*

*(Carter readjusts himself on the bench.)*

*(Beat.)*

ANNELISE

*(facing Carter)*

Carter.

*(pause)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Carter, I haven't forgotten. I do look back on those days, the days we could run around the park, go down the slides, swing on the swings, talk about life at school...

*(He scoffs at her.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Truth is, I've missed it all. Back when everything was simple and we didn't have much to worry about. When it was the three of us all hanging out together. I miss it. I want it back. More than anything.

*(Beat.)*

(CONTINUED)



*(He looks straight into her eyes. For the first time, in a long time, she's made herself vulnerable.)*

CARTER

Back at the cemetery, Doug - you - you said you were sorry.

*(The rain begins to slow down.)*

ANNELISE

What are you talking about? I never apologized.

CARTER

I heard you through Doug. You also over worked yourself. What's that about?

ANNELISE

I have no idea what you're talking about.

CARTER

Annelise?

ANNELISE

You should get some sleep. You've had a rough day.

CARTER

What are you not telling me?

ANNELISE

Nothing. You're losing it. Get some rest.

CARTER

Annelise.

ANNELISE

I didn't apologize to him!

CARTER

Tell me.

*(The two share a bitter silence. He shakes his head.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

I don't believe you, again with the secrets? Why can't you just tell me the damn truth?

ANNELISE

*(shakily)*

No! I...I...Listen-

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Tell me!

ANNELISE

Please, I-I can't-

*(Carter hastily gets up. His face turning from disappointment to frustration.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Carter, please!

DOUGLAS (O.S)

*(yelling)*

Annelise? Annelise, come on. Quit hiding.

*(Carter's attention shifts from Doug then back to Annelise.)*

CARTER

I told you!

*(He shakes Annelise and gets her attention.)*

CARTER

Why did you apologize?

ANNELISE

I can't.

DOUGLAS (O.S)

I know you're here. Very few places to hide!

*(Carter grabs Annelise by the arm and lifts her to her feet as fast as he can.)*

ANNELISE

*(to herself)*

Why? Why'd you come back?

CARTER

Annelise!

*(Her expression shifts to pain as she shakes her head.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

I'm not leaving you here!

ANNELISE

This is a nightmare! A never ending nightmare! I'm gonna wake up! Wake up! Wake up!

(CONTINUED)

*(Tears form in her eyes.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Wake up! Wake up!

DOUGLAS (O.S)

Man, how long has it been since we came here? Feels like forever ago. Remember when What's His Name tried climbing up the pavilion? Nearly broke his arm.

*(The lights start flickering and shifting again.)*

*(Carter huddles behind one of the many dead shrubs with Annelise. Douglas arrives and makes his way to the bench and sits.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

There you are! Thought I lost you!

*(Annelise is ready to jump out from their hiding spot but Carter stops her and holds her back.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

How did I know that you'd be here? This place won't be the same without What's His Name. That's for sure...Don't be like that, let him live his life. We can always call and he can always come down for a visit. Sometimes, things don't happen the way we plan them, Anne.

*(Annelise breaks free and emerge from her hiding spot. Carter gets up and tries pulling her back.)*

*(She looks to the pavilion.)*

ANNELISE

Doug! I'm here, Doug! I'm here!

*(Carter keeps pulling but Annelise still lingers. She struggles as hard as she can but it's futile.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

I'm...I'm sorry! Doug, I'm sorry!

*(With one last pull from Carter, the two run away.)*

DOUGLAS

Whatever happens, we'll always have each other. If you think about it, we got off easy. What's His Face has deal with all the noise in the city while we get the nicer quiet country life.

*(pause)*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS (cont'd)

We've got a good life ahead of us, Anne. I hear the apartments around here are pretty cheap. Mom and dad'll be happy for sure.

*(Dead leaves brush up against him as he sits there, smiling softly.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 8

*(Lights up. Bus stop. The rain has cleared up. Martin paces back and forth while Gregory sits on the bench slouching.)*

GREGORY

(to himself)

I wish this bus would get here already.

(to Martin)

Ain't no sense in worryin. Once the bus gets here, you'll be free of your little ghost friend or whatever you call it. Lord knows I'll be free of the whole lot of you.

MARTIN

He's real!

GREGORY

Whatever you say.

MARTIN

He's real and he's out there! You'd believe me if you saw him!

GREGORY

You sure about that?

MARTIN

You wouldn't freeze.

GREGORY

You mean I would faint just like you did? No thanks.

MARTIN

Shut up! How can you sit there so relaxed?! Help me find them!

GREGORY

This ain't mine.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

You're unbelievable.

GREGORY

How about you quit belly achin and leave me be? Wait for the next bus and save me the headache.

MARTIN

What about Annelise and Carter? We should be out there looking for them!

GREGORY

Stop lumping me in with you. I'm not your friend and I'm sure as hell not their friend either. Not after they left me in that apartment.

MARTIN

I'm sure they didn't mean to.

GREGORY

Why, cause they're scared? Whose to say they didn't do the same with you?

MARTIN

She wouldn't leave and I don't think Carter would leave her either. Not if Doug is still walking around.

GREGORY

Whatever helps you cope.

MARTIN

I'm not abandoning them!

GREGORY

Too late for that.

MARTIN

I was scared.

GREGORY

Whatever helps you cope.

MARTIN

What could I do? Seeing him again...

GREGORY

So then what are you still doin here?

MARTIN

I can't leave you alone.

*(Gregory chuckles to himself.)*

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

What?

GREGORY

I got no stake in this! What the hell is your ghost friend gonna do to me? I had no idea who you people were until a few hours ago. Only reason I'm as mad as I am, is because you dragged me to your place just to leave me behind. Say if I did see your little ghost friend, what then? Would you even care?

MARTIN

Of course I would. I...I...

*(Gregory scoffs at Martin.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I would!

GREGORY

Could've fooled me.

MARTIN

So you're leaving? That's it?

GREGORY

What do you think?

*(Martin pulls out the tip Gregory gave him and plants it in his hand. Gregory looks at the money then back at Martin.)*

MARTIN

Keep it.

*(Gregory puts the money back in his pocket. Martin nods and turns away from him.)*

ANNELISE (O.S)

Martin!

*(Annelise rushes over to Martin and hugs him tightly. A truly happy moment, if Carter wasn't close behind.)*

MARTIN

Where have you been?

ANNELISE

*(looking to carter)*

We were waiting out the storm...at the pavilion.

*(Carter scoffs as he sits on the curb.)*

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Did you see Doug?

ANNELISE

Yeah. He showed up.

CARTER

We got away.

MARTIN

How did he find you?

CARTER

Because that was our spot!

ANNELISE

We didn't have many options. Would you prefer we went to your house?

CARTER

I'd prefer you telling me the truth.

ANNELISE

Look, Carter-

CARTER

No. You - you - don't get to say anything.

MARTIN

Is everything alright?

CARTER

Things haven't been alright since I stepped off the damn bus. I thought they were but that was all a lie now wasn't it?

*(Annelise remains silent.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

What was that back there?!

MARTIN

What happened?

ANNELISE

I-I panicked.

CARTER

You were about to get an earful!

ANNELISE

He's my brother!

(CONTINUED)

*(Carter dismisses her.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

He's also your best friend!

CARTER

Really?! Then why don't you tell me what happened to my best friend?! You've kept his death a secret from me and you won't even tell me how he died!

ANNELISE

Why are you doing this? Why now?

MARTIN

We should be focusing on getting out of here.

CARTER

Screw that! We've always been honest with each other! But I guess that's changed too. My best friend is a ghost and my other best friend won't even tell me the truth.

ANNELISE

You don't even know what the truth is!

CARTER

You've made sure of that.

*(Long enough beat that it almost seems like Annelise is about to run away and take the truth with her.)*

*(She turns to Carter.)*

ANNELISE

I pushed him too hard. I wanted out and I pushed him too hard. After you left, we wanted to follow suit. We worked, taking any extra hours our jobs were willing to give but it wasn't enough so I took another job on top of that. He did too. Each night, we'd come home exhausted - he was always tempted to call out sick - but I never gave in nor would I let him. We had a road map for our future and I refused to wait. Time waits for no one and you end up wanting something so bad, you ignore your health and the moments that make life worth living no matter where you are. You said it yourself, we have to do what we can to stay afloat. The world won't toss out life preservers or handouts. But what can you do when you're desperate? You've stayed in the same spot long enough - you've seen every inch, every restaurant, house, roadway, all decay and get worse - and you're so sick of it! If you stop now, you risk being swallowed whole.

(CONTINUED)



MARTIN

(approaches her)  
Annelise.

ANNELISE

(pushes martin aside)  
No. He kept wanting to take it easy but I was relentless. I wasn't gonna stop for no one, not even my own brother. And because I didn't, I got the call. Are you a relative of Douglas Roberts? Yes, I am. Has something happened? We found his car...smacked...right into a poll. Must've fallen asleep behind the wheel. He did, and he never woke up. I knew why, but I didn't tell. That secret stayed with me and my parents. Looking back, I should be thankful he went without ever seeing his gruesome end. Without suffering. He might've slept through it but he suffered when he was awake. Because of me. Because I wanted what you had...and it cost me everything.

*(Carter stands speechless.)*

*(Beat.)*

*(He stares at her. He's done. He turns and storms off.)*

*(Annelise moves to where Carter was standing and falls to her knees.)*

*(Martin consoles her.)*

*(Beat.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

I'm going...I'm going back. I'm going back to the graveyard, Martin.

MARTIN

Stop it.

ANNELISE

I'm serious.

MARTIN

Doug could be there. There's no telling what he'll do if you're by yourself.

ANNELISE

I need to go.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

No way! We need to leave!

ANNELISE

Doug will still be here. Bring Carter with you if you're that worried. He's got a life outside of here and so will you without me dragging you down.

*(Annelise stands back up and gets ready to leave but Martin stops her.)*

MARTIN

Think about this. I'll...I'll go with you! You don't have to do this alone!

*(She hugs him.)*

ANNELISE

*(whisper)*

Thank you, for everything.

*(Annelise leaves and ventures into the unknown.)*

*(Martin approaches Gregory.)*

MARTIN

You're just gonna let her leave?! Do something!

*(Gregory scoffs at Martin.)*

*(Martin backs away from Gregory and looks to both sides of the road.)*

*(Beat.)*

*(Martin heads in the same direction as Carter, leaving Gregory all by himself. Lights fade.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 9

*(Lights up to reveal the graveyard covered in a blanket of fog. Annelise walks into the graveyard.)*

*(She kneels down at Doug's grave next to a pile of dirt and dead leaves. She uncovers the flowers she placed and holds them close to her heart.)*

ANNELISE

*(to Doug's grave)*

I did it. I came clean. Pretty sure Carter will hate me forever, but, it's fine. It was only a matter of time

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE (cont'd)

before the skeletons found the key to the closet.  
Martin hides it, but I'm sure he wants nothing more to  
do with me. Way to go idiot, you blew it.

*(She squeezes the roots of the flowers, sapping  
the life away.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

Every time I close my eyes and dream, I see you're eyes  
but...they're not open. Can you hear me? Probably, but  
that's all you can do. Once that casket shuts, my eyes  
open.

*(She loosens her grip on the flowers only to see  
the roots now shriveled and weak. She drops them  
into the sea of dead leaves and stares at them.)*

DOUGLAS (O.S)

I'm sorry...I'm sorry.

*(Leaves are tossed aside and the lights flicker as  
Douglas arrives. Annelise lifts her head to see  
her brother but can't make out his face with his  
head down. She doesn't move as if rooted to the  
ground.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

In a better place...Better place...Pushed you too  
far...I pushed too far...Now, you're gone.

*(He stops at the foot of his grave.)*

*(She moves to the opposite side of the grave.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

So lost without you. All my fault...because of  
me...because of me...me

*(Annelise tries to cover her ears.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Made a mess of everything...Because of me...Because of  
me...Because of me.

*(She turns to him.)*

ANNELISE

(shaking)

Stop it!

DOUGLAS

Nothing...Nothing...Nothing left for me...

ANNELEISE

Doug, please!

DOUGLAS

I'm sorry...Sorry...Sorry...

ANNELEISE

Listen to me!

*(Doug lifts his head to face her but she can't  
bare to look him in the eyes.)*

*(Beat.)*

DOUGLAS

Smile more...

ANNELEISE

What?

DOUGLAS

Smile...Smile more...

ANNELEISE

That was before-

DOUGLAS

Promise...to smile more...

ANNELEISE

I know what I said.

DOUGLAS

Smile...

ANNELEISE

Doug...

DOUGLAS

Smile...

ANNELEISE

I can't.

DOUGLAS

Smile...

*(She tries to force a smile but can't.)*

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)  
Smile...

ANNELISE  
I can't.

DOUGLAS  
Promise...

ANNELISE  
I know what I promised, but I can't!

DOUGLAS  
Promise to smile...

ANNELISE  
Stop saying that!

DOUGLAS  
Fault...Fault...All my fault...

ANNELISE  
Stop saying that!

DOUGLAS  
Love...I love...

*(She walks closer toward him before stepping on something buried in the leaves.)*

*(She digs and finds the old wind chime.)*

ANNELISE  
Is this..?

*(Annelise holds up the wind chime.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
This...

*(She looks to Douglas, cups the wind chime in her hand and stands up.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)  
You remember this right, Doug? Listen.

*(She dangles them in front of Douglas. They collide into one another, producing a soothing melody.)*

DOUGLAS  
Meant...Not Meant for here...

(CONTINUED)

*(Beat.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Safe...Keep you safe...

*(She keeps the wind chimes colliding as she starts getting misty eyed.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Never too quiet...Never alone...

*(The wind chimes are colliding harder than before.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Love...I love...

*(Suddenly, one of the sticks that make up the wind chime breaks after colliding into the others. The wind chime is no longer whole.)*

*(Annelise looks to the broken wind chime and tries to attach them together to make them whole again but it's no use. Douglas is completely silent.)*

*(She's disappointed in herself as Doug falls to the bed of leaves and looks at his own grave. He can't see Annelise.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Free...Free...I want to be free...

ANNELISE

I can fix it, just give me a minute, I'll fix it!

*(Try as she might, the wind chime can't be fixed.)*

ANNELISE (CONT'D)

*(to herself)*

Come on, come on. Work you stupid...

*(turns to Doug)*

I'm sorry.

DOUGLAS

I want...to be free...

*(A sudden flash of light envelops the two.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 10

*(Lights up. Outside Diner. The diner is closed with no lights on through the transparent windows. The only source of light comes from the nearby lamp posts. Carter sits alone on the steps leading to the diner's entrance.)*

*(Beat.)*

*(Martin arrives and proceeds with caution.)*

MARTIN

You came here?

CARTER

Where else am I gonna go?

MARTIN

You're more than welcome at our place. The cold can be a bit...

*(Carter stares coldly at Martin.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I just thought you'd be more afraid sitting here by yourself.

CARTER

Aren't you? Certainly took a big risk coming here.

MARTIN

Everyone's gone so it's a risk I have to deal with.

CARTER

Come, sit. You still got me for a little while longer.

MARTIN

Thanks.

*(Martin sits next to Carter.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

*(lightly chuckles)*

I wasn't sure you wanted company.

CARTER

You don't keep secrets.

*(Long enough silence. They look for something to talk about.)*

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

She never told me the details about the accident.

CARTER

There's a shocker.

MARTIN

Is it right to call it an accident?

CARTER

I wouldn't. She doesn't look at it like that.

MARTIN

Doug wasn't a bad driver so it seemed a little weird at first that he...you know, but, I-I don't know. I guess even if you're good at things, there's still room to screw up.

CARTER

He didn't screw up! She did and now, she's paying for it. Don't forget she lied to you too.

MARTIN

Do you think that's why Doug came back? Because of her?

CARTER

Wouldn't surprise me.

MARTIN

But why now?

CARTER

Maybe her guilt finally caught up with her.

MARTIN

After six years? All that time spent carrying the truth, there's no way she wasn't blaming herself and feeling guilty.

CARTER

(stands up)

She can blame herself all she wants, it doesn't change anything!

MARTIN

So...what now? That's it?

CARTER

Once morning comes, I'm gone and I suggest you do the same.

(CONTINUED)



MARTIN

I...I don't know if I can.

CARTER

You can go anywhere, Martin! Anywhere! Just get away from her.

MARTIN

You really hate her.

CARTER

You don't?

MARTIN

I can't.

*(Carter scoffs.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Not without remembering all the good she's done for me. I'd be disrespecting Doug.

CARTER

Don't use him as an excuse!

MARTIN

Sorry.

CARTER

You don't owe her anything! She ran Doug into the ground so she could experience the world. As far as I'm concerned, she can rot in this dumpster fire of a town!

MARTIN

Doug never saw it that way.

CARTER

Not if tonight's anything to go by.

MARTIN

No, even before all this. Doug never felt any urgency to leave.

CARTER

Always taking things in stride.

MARTIN

He must've done that a lot growing up.

*(Pause.)*

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(sits down)

Did he ever tell you about the first time he ever cooked something? It was right here believe it or not. He had a thing where every time we came here, it was always something different until he tried everything on the menu. Well, one night we both ordered steaks - Mine came medium and he wanted his well done - it was the first time I could recall us ordering the same thing. The moment we cut into our steaks, mine's just the way I like it but I could tell something was up with Doug's. Next thing I know, he leaps out of the booth with his plate and heads toward the kitchen. Carmine was there - I told you about him - so he tries again. Brings the steak and it's still not well done. Doug get's up again and asks what the big deal is. Turns out Carmine was going through a rough patch and it threw his cooking off. So Doug decided to help him out.

(laughs to himself)

He took so long by the time he finally ate, I was already done and waiting for the check. Best part was even though they cooked together, it still wasn't well done but at that point, it didn't matter. That's how he first developed his culinary skills.

*(Martin chuckles to himself.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

What?

MARTIN

You're right. This was the place to be.

*(Carter's smile returns to the same painful expression he had before.)*

CARTER

I'm not so sure anymore.

*(In the distance, another white flash ruptures the sky. Both men ensnared by their collective shock and awe.)*

MARTIN

(stands up)

You don't think...

CARTER

It's not.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Bu-but what if-

CARTER

(stands up)

The town's not on fire, Martin! Where do you think that came from?

MARTIN

You know where that came from! Do you think anyone else saw it?

CARTER

The graveyard.

MARTIN

Annelise!

*(Carter shakes his head and moves in the opposite direction contemplating.)*

CARTER

She might not even be there!

MARTIN

She's at the graveyard, she told me!

CARTER

The same way she told you the truth about Doug?!

*(His words sink in and cut deep. Carter looks away from Martin, shaking his head.)*

MARTIN

Doug wouldn't want this.

*(Martin presses onward, leaving Carter behind.)*

*(Carter is back to being alone.)*

*(It looks like he's staying behind until...)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 11

*(Flashback, six years ago. Lights up on Annelise and Douglas' old apartment. Annelise lays face down on a table, fast asleep. Next to her are a pair of short stocky sticks, each painted a primary color of red, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Covering the table's surface are old newspapers that have been blanketed in different splotches of paint.)*

(CONTINUED)

*(Douglas enters, alive and well, and approaches the sleeping Annelise. He's holding a bowl of cereal and a quart of milk.)*

*(He wakes her up.)*

DOUGLAS

Rise and shine.

*(She raises her head off the table and sees the paint stained newspapers. She feels her face for dry paint.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

You missed a spot.

ANNELISE

Where?

DOUGLAS

Everywhere.

*(She gives him stern look.)*

*(He motions for her to clear the table and she does so by sloppily pushing the paints off the table.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Anne!

ANNELISE

The paints are capped, relax. What time is it?

DOUGLAS

*(puts the bowl and milk down)*  
Too late to be sleeping in.

ANNELISE

I can already feel the bags under my eyes.

DOUGLAS

It's what you get for staying up so late.

*(Annelise lets out a hearty yawn as she starts wiping the sleepiness from her eyes. Douglas pours milk into the bowl then slides it over to her.)*

ANNELISE

Did the diner call?

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

Don't worry about that.

ANNELISE

I have work today.

DOUGLAS

You're gonna skip the most important meal of the day?  
Not on my watch.

ANNELISE

Relax, I'll grab some coffee at the diner.

DOUGLAS

Coffee isn't fulfilling.

ANNELISE

Then I'll have leftovers. They always have more food  
than they know what to do with.

DOUGLAS

But they don't make french toast as good as mine.

ANNELISE

Seriously, I'm fine.

DOUGLAS

Your cereal's getting soggy.

ANNELISE

Will you stop! I'm not doing anything here.

DOUGLAS

You won't be doing anything over there either. Take a  
few minutes and eat.

*(The two stare intensely at each other for a solid  
minute. Annelise gives in and starts eating her  
cereal less than pleased)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Told you.

ANNELISE

Shut up.

*(He smirks at her but she dismisses his smugness  
and continues to eat her cereal.)*

*(He looks at one of the painted sticks and picks  
it up but she's quick to grab it and put it down.)*

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

If you're going for a rainbow theme, you're missing orange.

ANNELISE

Orange is ugly.

DOUGLAS

It's not a rainbow if you don't have orange.

ANNELISE

If you really want it, then you can paint your own.

DOUGLAS

You sure?

ANNELISE

Why not.

DOUGLAS

Isn't there another color that's like orange but isn't?

ANNELISE

Scarlet.

DOUGLAS

Yeah, yeah. Go for that.

ANNELISE

Too scared to paint.

DOUGLAS

I don't wanna mess up your hard work.

ANNELISE

You won't if I teach you. After I get out of work-

DOUGLAS

After you get out of work, you're going to sleep.

ANNELISE

Doug-

DOUGLAS

Anne, please?

(Beat.)

ANNELISE

(sighs)

Fine. Hopefully the store has scarlet.

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

I'm sure it will.

ANNELISE

If not, then you'll have to deal with orange.

DOUGLAS

Unlike you, I like orange. A rainbow isn't a rainbow without it.

*(He starts fooling around with the string next to the sticks.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

What's the project?

ANNELISE

It's a surprise.

DOUGLAS

For who?

ANNELISE

Who do you think?

DOUGLAS

For here?

ANNELISE

Please.

DOUGLAS

Come on, what is it? Is it a necklace?

ANNELISE

What?

DOUGLAS

*(picks up one of the sticks)*

The string and the sticks, it looks like a necklace.

*(He puts the string through a hole in the stick and starts fooling around with the mock up necklace.)*

ANNELISE

Now who's the weirdo?

DOUGLAS

Please, I look stylish.

(CONTINUED)

ANNEЛИSE

Will you stop.

*(He hands her the stick and string and she puts it back down on the table.)*

*(She eats more of her cereal.)*

DOUGLAS

What is it?

ANNEЛИSE

You're being nosy.

DOUGLAS

Because you're being secretive.

ANNEЛИSE

*(to herself)*

Such a pain.

DOUGLAS

What was that?

ANNEЛИSE

*(to Douglas)*

SUCH A PAIN.

DOUGLAS

Come on, what is it? I won't laugh, scouts honor.

*(Beat.)*

ANNEЛИSE

Wind chimes, for our new place.

DOUGLAS

It took you that many hours to paint?

ANNEЛИSE

They wouldn't look right if I rushed it. Finding the right kind of sticks was a nightmare.

DOUGLAS

I bet they'll sound real nice when you tie them together.

ANNEЛИSE

I hope so.

DOUGLAS

Why not make them for here?

(CONTINUED)



ANNELISE

They're not meant for here. Everything's too dismal.

DOUGLAS

Why not give the town some color then?

ANNELISE

Because this town eats up color. Out there everything shines with opportunity, it'd be a crime to let them stay here.

DOUGLAS

We'll be outta here soon, Anne.

ANNELISE

When do you go back?

DOUGLAS

Not until next week.

ANNELISE

Why don't you come in? We could have a dinner rush today.

DOUGLAS

On my day off?

ANNELISE

Are you doing anything on your day off?

DOUGLAS

I planned on not going into work.

ANNELISE

We could get out of here faster if you came in.

DOUGLAS

What's the rush?

ANNELISE

We've lived here long enough.

DOUGLAS

And we'll keep living here until it's time to go. We can't all be workaholics like you, Anne.

ANNELISE

I'm taking it easy.

DOUGLAS

You haven't taken any days off since you got the second job. You're running yourself into the ground.

(CONTINUED)

ANNELISE

Stop worrying about me, I'm fine.

DOUGLAS

Are you?

ANNELISE

Yes. Have you gotten another job yet?

DOUGLAS

Working on it.

ANNELISE

No excuses, Doug. I want to be out of here, I can't take it anymore.

DOUGLAS

And we will be. But not through breaking our backs.

*(Annelise sighs and eats one last spoonful of her cereal.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

It's okay to take it easy.

ANNELISE

Really, I'm fine. Drop it.

DOUGLAS

*(stands up)*

Opportunity never goes away.

*(Beat.)*

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Love you, Anne.

*(He leaves as she stares at the bowl.)*

BLACKOUT.

Scene 12

*(Lights up. Graveyard. Early morning. The sun rises and casts away the night that preceded it. Annelise lays unconscious near Doug's headstone. She's still holding the broken wind chime.)*

*(Next to her is Martin who kneels beside her while Carter is investigating Doug's grave which has no sign of disruption.)*

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(to himself)  
This doesn't make any sense.

MARTIN

Come on Annelise, wake up! Wake up!

*(No response.)*

MARTIN (CONT'D)

There's gotta be something we can do! Call an ambulance!

CARTER

(turns to martin)  
What are we gonna tell them?

MARTIN

She could be dead! How do you check for a pulse, use two fingers right?

*(Martin attempts to check her pulse despite failing to do it properly.)*

CARTER

She's not dead.  
(moves Martin away from her)  
Stop panicking.

MARTIN

Help me save her!

CARTER

She's not dead!

MARTIN

You checked her pulse?

CARTER

Is that what you were doing?

MARTIN

Help me save her!

*(Carter plays along and checks her pulse.)*

CARTER

(lightly shakes her)  
Enough playing around. Wake up.

*(No response.)*

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (CONT'D)

We both know you're joking.

*(No response.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

I'll slap you before I kiss you.

*(No response.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Annelise! Wake up!

*(No response.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

WAKE UP!

*(No response. Carter starts choking on his own words. He shakes her more aggressively.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Wake up!

*(Still no response.)*

CARTER (CONT'D)

Come on, don't...don't do this.

*(No response.)*

*(Beat.)*

*(Annelise starts coming too as she coughs and wheezes to regain her composure.)*

MARTIN

Annelise!

*(She's fully awake as Martin embraces her. Carter is relieved but lightly hits her in the shoulder.)*

ANNELISE

I'm sorry.

CARTER

Is Doug around?

ANNELISE

No. No, he's...

*(She looks over to the restored headstone.)*

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Are you alright? You don't look hurt - thank god.

ANNELISE

I'm fine.

CARTER

Is he gone?

ANNELISE

(looking at the wind chime)  
I think so.

CARTER

You made that?

ANNELISE

A long time ago, before he died.

*(Beat.)*

CARTER

At least you made peace with him.

*(Carter begins taking his leave. Annelise turns to him.)*

ANNELISE

Carter, wait! Please!

*(He stops and faces her. She gets up with the help of Martin.)*

CARTER

You're fine so let's leave it at that.

ANNELISE

I don't want this to be it.

CARTER

(turns around to face her)  
Should've thought about that before you weren't happy with your lot in life.

MARTIN

She was scared.

CARTER

That's no excuse, damn it! This isn't something you can put a band aid on and everything will be okay! This goes beyond you not telling me, you caused this! So many dreams in my head of the three of us...I'll never see him or hear his voice!

(CONTINUED)

ANNEЛИSE

I was wrong. I...I hurt my family.

CARTER

Is that it? Nothing else?

ANNEЛИSE

Me saying sorry won't fix what I've done. I've known that for six years. Ever since you left, my life...it's felt like a disgusting routine. Wake up and you think, wow, nothing's changed. It'll remain this way so long as I'm here.

(looks at carter)

To move on - truly live - I thought meant leaving and forging a new, better life for ourselves. What does this stinking town have to offer once you've seen it all? Plenty, because there's always something we haven't seen yet. I'll stay here until it's time to go.

(Beat.)

ANNEЛИSE (CONT'D)

Curse my name, yell at me, hate me until the end of time. I hope you see plenty...and I hope, one day you'll tell me all about it.

*(Reluctantly, Carter leaves the graveyard for good. Annelise stands, feeling fulfilled. Something she's feeling for the first time in a long time.)*

MARTIN

You sure about that?

ANNEЛИSE

However long it takes, I'm sure we'll see each other again. Maybe as friends, but, after last night, definitely not strangers.

*(Despite the uncertainty, Annelise smiles as the lights fade.)*

*(Curtains fall.)*

*(END.)*