Because of Us

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EXT. BEACH -DUNEGRASS - SUNSET

Within the high grass, hides an iguana resting away from the sun. ANN WILSON,18, an aspiring wildlife photographer, creeps behind waiting for the perfect shot.

ANN
(whispers to the iguana)
Just stay still buddy.

The iguana turns to the camera. SNAP. Ann captures a photo. The iguana scurries deeper into the grass.

Ann squints her eyes as she looks into her camera.

ANN (CONT'D)
(slight smile)
Not bad.

Ann's phone RINGS.

INT. ANN'S HOUSE - SAME EVENING

SYLVIA WIlSON,47, can be a very much old-school mother leaves hear a voicemail.

SYLVIA
Ann, Where are you?

EXT. BEACH - MINUTES LATER

Ann looks up from her camera. She quickly packs it away in her bag. She runs back to the house.

INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dinner is plated, Sylvia sits frustrated in her chair. JACK WILSON,20, brother to Ann, drinks his water. CHLOE WILSON, 6, her little sister, plays with the remaining food on her plate.

Ann quickly enters and takes a seat at the table. Sylvia stares with a clear upset face.

ANN
I'm sorr-

SYLVIA
I don't want to talk to you.

ANN
Mom.

SYLVIA
This isn't the first time you forget to come home...and don't even tell me where you are going.

ANN
I lost track of time-

SYLVIA
Doing what because it better not be that damn camera?

Ann tries to get up from her seat.

SYLVIA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Did I tell you to get up?

ANN
You're just trying to start something with me.

Jack turns to Ann.

JACK
Maybe if you actually showed up to dinner-

ANN
Shut up Jack.

Sylvia raises her voice.

SYLVIA
Hey!

Chloe puts her head down. She shields her face under her arms.

JACK
(about Ann)
Just leave her mom, she only cares about herself.

SYLVIA
Enough! This is between me and her.

JACK
It's the truth.

Ann abruptly gets up, face red, she leaves the dining room.

Chloe peeks from under her arms. Sylvia puts a napkin in her full plate of food.

Sylvia gets up with her plate and throws it out.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ann, annoyed, sits leaning her back on her bed frame . She scrolls through her camera. She lands on the photo of the iguana from earlier. She lets out a small smile.

There is a KNOCK on her door.

ANN
Please-

CHLOE
Annie?

Ann puts the camera on her bed and gets up. She opens the door.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Can I stay in your room?

Ann stares at Chloe and her cuteness wins her over. Ann nods her head and moves her body a bit to let her sister walk through.

Chloe sits on the corner of Ann's bed and grabs a stuffed octopus to hold. Ann turns to Chloe.

ANN
They said something about me?

CHLOE
Mommy didn't eat her food.

ANN
(under her breath)
That makes two of us.

CHLOE
Why is she always mad at you?

ANN
Because I'm nothing like Jack.

Chloe's eyes widen in terror.

CHLOE
She's gonna be mad at me too?

Ann sits next to Chloe and plays with the octupus's tentacles.

ANN
No. Me and Mom are just different. Trust me, she loves you way too much. You have nothing to worry about...okay?

CHLOE
Okay.

Chloe gets up, still holding the octopus.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Can I take this to my room?

ANN
Sure.

Chloe gives Ann a big hug. She leaves. As Ann closes the door, Sylvia forces herself in.

SYLVIA
Can I come in?

Ann lets go of the door and sits back on her bed. She tries not to look in Sylvia's direction.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
I want you to go eat.

ANN
I'm not hungry.

SYLVIA
Ann, come on.

ANN
Chloe told me you didn't.

Sylvia rubs her nose.

SYLVIA
I had a late lunch, now go downstairs.

Ann ignores Sylvia.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Hello, I'm talking to you.

ANN
(softly)
Can I just be alone.

SYLVIA
You're always alone.

Sylvia bites her tongue and SLAMS the door.

Ann jolts up from the noise. Sylvia speaks from behind the door.

SYLVIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You need to grow up, Annie.

INT. BEHIND THE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Sylvia runs her hands through her hair. She walks away from the door.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Ann waits till Sylvia is no longer near her room. She moves over to the window and slowly opens it enough to fit her body. She manages to get out and onto the grass. She walks to her "secret" night spot which is below a tree on the beach.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Ann barely sits before thunder crashes nearby. Heavy rain follows.

ANN
(to herself)
You got to be serious.

With her sweater covering her head, Ann runs out to the closest shelter.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER

The doorbell CHIMES. There's a steady flow of customers. Every few seconds a bell from the kitchen RINGS. Ann fixes her hair and walks over to an empty chair by the counter. She sits and lays her sweater on her lap.

A menu quickly drops in front of her.

JEREMY,19, a handsome waiter, and confident but not cocky smiles over at Ann.

He taps the menu where the chocolate pancakes are listed.

JEREMY
They're really good.

Ann ignores the menu.

ANN
Just a water please.

JEREMY
Not a sweet tooth. Ok, I'll give you more time.

Ann looks up at Jeremy.

ANN
I'm sorry, I'm not really here to eat.

Jeremy looks confused. Ann fixes her soaked sweater on her lap. Jeremy looks at the rain hitting the windows.

JEREMY
Ahh, caught in the storm.

Ann nods her head. Jeremy stares for a moment at Ann.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Do I know you from somewhere?

ANN
I don't think-

Jeremy snaps his fingers.

JEREMY
Yeah, yeah. I know who you are, you're Jack's little sister.

ANN
Please don't refer to me as that.

JEREMY
Well no offense, I'm not too crazy about the guy either.

RITA,55, waitress and a maternal figure to Jeremy passes through. She whispers to him .

RITA
Your dad wants you in the kitchen.

JEREMY
Tell him I'll be a second.

Rita gives Jeremy the eyes that he should go to the kitchen now. Jeremy shrugs it off.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
(to Ann)
Sorry about that. So what's it like living with Jack? He hasn't killed anyone yet, right?

ANN
how do you know him again?

JEREMY
Football. It was the only thing I was able to do so I took advantage of it.

ANN
He's never talked about you.

JEREMY
Well, there's the kicker. Your brother never really liked me much. Honestly..at all.

Ann looks at him with a confused face.

ANN
How come?

JEREMY
You sure you don't wanna try those pancakes?

Ann stares at him like "really?"

Jeremy raises his hands slightly up. He takes away the menu.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Okay, I understand. No to the pancakes.

Ann stares at him waiting for her question to be answered.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
So, you like the beach?

Ann rolls her eyes.

ANN
(dry)
Sure.

JEREMY
Yeah, our beach is pretty nice... you like to read?

ANN
Sometimes.

JEREMY
I want to get into reading but I really don't have the time these days.

Ann doesn't respond. Jeremy wipes his eyebrow.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
How about sports?

ANN
No. But my brother played football with **you.**

Jeremy sighs.

JEREMY
You're not gonna forget this, are you?

ANN
Nope.

Jeremy scratches the back of his neck.

JEREMY
Fine, I'll tell you..but I wasn't gonna say it because it's your brother-

ANN
Go ahead, I'm not his biggest fan either.

JEREMY
(joking)
Only because you are begging me.

Ann peaks over at the glasses. She points with her eyebrow.

ANN
So just a water. Thank you.

JEREMY
Oh right. Let me grab that for you.

Jeremy hurries to fill a cup with water and drops some ice cubes in the glass. He hands it to Ann with a straw.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
My bad.

ANN
So, why doesn't my brother like you?

JEREMY
I got you hooked, huh? Well, I'll keep it brief. I was better at football, took his spot as quarterback and he's hated me ever since.

ANN
Oh, I remember when that happen. He lost his scholarship because he smashed one of his teammate's window.

Jeremy grabs the rag from his apron and drapes it over his shoulder.

JEREMY
Damn that was a bitch to pay off.

ANN
Oh my God, it was you. Wow, I'm so sorry.

JEREMY
Don't be, seeing him get kicked off the team was all the compensation I needed.

Jeremy and Ann laugh. Jeremy rests his arm on the counter. The kitchen bell RINGS.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
So how many years has it been Ally?

ANN
Ally?

JEREMY
Ava? Sorry I'm bad with names, I know it started with an A or something..aleast I'm pretty sure.

The kitchen bell RINGS again. Ann looks over at CHUCK FOSTER ,45, father to Jeremy and owner of the diner.

ANN
I think he needs you?

JEREMY
Annie?

ANN
Ann.

Jeremy extends his hand to Ann.

JEREMY
It's nice to see you again Ann-

From behind, Chuck grabs Jeremy's wrist before he could shake Ann's hand.

CHUCK
How many times I got to ring that bell?

Ann looks down at her glass.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
(to Ann)
Did he take your order?

ANN
Yes sir.

CHUCK
(to Jeremy)
Now stop harassing this girl.

JEREMY
Dad.

Chuck pulls Jeremy to the kitchen.

CHUCK
She don't want no diner boy anyways.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kitchen is a mess with spilled lettuce on the floor and loose fries. The counter is filled with trays of food. The grill is full of grease.

CHUCK
So goddamn useless, I don't know why I even let you work here.

Chuck wipes his forehead with a rag.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Clean the grill. There's about fifteen more orders I need to get to.

JEREMY
(slight attitude)
Alright.

CHUCK
What?

Jeremy doesn't speak. He starts cleaning the grill.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
When your done I want you back on the floor. I don't want to see no chit chatting. Only taking orders, you got it?

Jeremy nods his head.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER.

Jeremy walks out and scans the room. He looks over to Ann's seat. It's empty.

RITA
You just missed her. She a friend?

JEREMY
Not quite.

Rita looks at Jeremy who looks a bit bummed.

RITA
Oh, I know that face.

JEREMY
What?

RITA
Look, I think you can still catch her.

JEREMY
With my dad at my throat I'll never make it past the door.

The kitchen bell RINGS.

RITA
Go. I'll cover for you.

JEREMY
Really?

Jeremy puts his arm around Rita.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Did I ever tell you how much I love you?

RITA
Go, before I change my mind.

Jeremy kisses Rita's cheek. He hurries to the door.

Jeremy looks back at Rita holding an umbrella.

JEREMY
Right.

He grabs the umbrella and exits.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Ann quickly walks with her sweater over her head. From behind Jeremy calls out.

JEREMY
Hey, wait up!

Ann turns around looking from under her sweater.

ANN
You?

JEREMY
Here, let me help.

Jeremy shares the umbrella with Ann.

ANN
Thank you, but what are you doing here?

JEREMY
I saw that you didn't have an umbrella.

ANN
You ran three blocks for an umbrella?

Jeremy stands trying to come up with a better excuse.

JEREMY
Well, also to properly introduce myself.

A beat.

ANN
Mhm...I'm waiting.

Jeremy extends his hand.

JEREMY
I'm Jeremy.

Ann shakes his hand.

ANN
Well nice to meet you Jeremy... again.

Jeremy looks around as the rain floods the corners of the street. He turns back and looks in her eyes.

JEREMY
I just wanted to know if you wanted to maybe hangout sometime?

Ann looks down smiling. She looks back up at Jeremy who waits for a response.

ANN
Goodnight.

Ann starts to walk away. She smiles again to herself.

JEREMY
Too soon. I get it, my bad.

ANN
(facing away)
Thanks for the umbrella.

Jeremy stands still. The rain drips down his face.

JEREMY
All right.
(low to himself)
Bye.

INT. ANN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ann steps inside with the facial expression of "what just happened". She quietly closes the door while her dad, MARC WILSON, 50, a short temper drunk sleeps on the couch.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - LATER

Jeremy, drenched from the storm, steps inside the busy diner. Rita walks over with a clean rag and wipes his face.

RITA
(jokingly)
We're gonna have to put you under that dusty hand dryer in the bathroom.

Jeremy lets out a small smile.

RITA (CONT'D)
So, speak to me. How it go?

JEREMY
I gave her the umbrella.

RITA
And?

JEREMY
She said "thanks for the umbrella".

RITA
That's it?

The kitchen bell RINGS.

RITA (CONT'D)
(to Jeremy)
One second dear.

Rita grabs a plate from the counter. She takes it to one of her tables. Jeremy helps her.

RITA (CONT'D)
(to Jeremy)
There has to be more to this.

Jeremy moves his head side to side.

RITA (CONT'D)
(to customers)
Enjoy! I'll be back in a bit to check on y'all.

Rita turns back to Jeremy.

RITA (CONT'D)
Oh sweetheart.

Jeremy's shoes squeak on the floor.

RITA (CONT'D)
If you go in my locker I should have an extra uniform from when Ben used to work here.

JEREMY
Thanks Rita.

Jeremy exits.

INT. ANN'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Ann stares at the umbrella in the corner of her room.

ANN
(to herself)
He was just being nice.

Ann lays her back on her bed and stares at her ceiling.

ANN (CONT'D)
(to herself)
People do nice things all the time.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - NIGHT

Harriete's is closed. Rita and Jeremy are counting their tips.

RITA
Tomorrow's a new day.

JEREMY
Heard that too many times.

Rita puts the cash down.

RITA
Why don't you get out there Jer?

Jeremy chuckles.

RITA (CONT'D)
No, I'm serious. Take off from work and go somewhere you never been.

JEREMY
Rita, you know my dad.

RITA
He can't keep you locked up forever.

Chuck steps onto the floor.

CHUCK
Jeremy.

Jeremy looks up at Chuck. He straightens up.

JEREMY
(to Rita)
Trust me. I would if I could.

CHUCK
Come over here.

Chuck walks him to a place where Rita can't see or hear.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
You loved your mother right?

JEREMY
I still do.

Chuck scratches his beard.

CHUCK
I'm having trouble believing that.

JEREMY
Dad.

CHUCK
Your mother and I worked our asses building this diner just for you to socialize and run off.

Chuck looks at Jeremy sternly.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Think I didn't notice.

JEREMY
I was barely even gone-

Chuck SLAMS the keys of the store on one of the counters.

CHUCK
Don't do that again...you understand me?

Jeremy closes his eyes bothered by the loud slam. He nods his head.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Lock up, I'm gonna be out late.

Chuck walks away from Jeremy. He walks to the door where Rita is sitting nearby.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
(to Rita)
Goodnight Rita.

RITA
Night chuck-

The door CHIMES.

RITA (CONT'D)
Drinking again?

Rita walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy is putting away clean dishes. Rita grabs some to help.

RITA
Move aside, let me help you.

JEREMY
No Rita, you done enough for me.

RITA
Oh knock it off, I barely did any-

JEREMY
Seriously, I appreciate it but I got it.

RITA
Just like your mother, never let anyone help her.

Rita kisses his head.

RITA (CONT'D)
Well, all right since you want to be a lone wolf tonight, don't be stuck here too late.

Jeremy looks at the stack of dirty dishes.

JEREMY
(chuckles)
I don't think I have a choice.

RITA
(chuckles)
I'll see you in the morning. Call me if you need anything.

Rita buttons up her coat.

JEREMY
Goodnight Rita.

Rita caresses his face and walks out.

INT. ANN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ann is sleeping on top of her already made bed. Her alarm goes off, BEEP BEEP BEEP. Ann slaps it off and tosses to the right to look at the time.

ANN
7:30. Fuck!

Ann jumps out of bed. She rushes to get ready.

INT. KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER.

Sylvia is cooking breakfast while Marc is half awake at the table.

SYLVIA
Here.

Sylvia puts a plate down for Marc.

SYLVIA.
Extra toast to soak up all that alcohol.

MARC
Don't start.

SYLVIA
Oh, I'm not starting anything.

Sylvia walks to the door to call down her kids.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Breakfast is done.

Marc gets up from his chair.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
You can't have one lousy breakfast with your kids?

Marc ignores her.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Just great, wasteful.

Sylvia grabs Marc's plate and throws it out. Jack and Chloe behind him walk into the kitchen. They sit down at the table.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Eat. Eat.

Sylvia looks over at Ann's seat.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
(talking about Ann)
She's still sleeping?

CHLOE
I can go get her-

SYLVIA
No, you stay there and eat your breakfast.

JACK
Mom stop worrying about her, just sit and eat.

Sylvia calls out for Ann.

SYLVIA
It's already getting cold.

CHLOE
Where's daddy?

Sylvia looks at her with disappointed eyes.

SYLVIA
He had to work late.

JACK
(under his breath)
Yeah, bullshit.

SYLVIA
(to Jack)
You wanna say something?

JACK
I just don't understand why we should lie to her is all.

SYLVIA
I'm not lying to her so be quiet.

Ann walks into the kitchen and sits at the table still wearing her pjs. Sylvia joins her.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Good morning.

ANN
Hi mom.

Sylvia looks Ann up and down.

SYLVIA
You not dress yet?

ANN
I will be.

SYLVIA
That's what you said about your graduation form but it's still undone.

ANN
Can we talk about this later?

Sylvia sips her coffee. She wipes her mouth with a napkin.

SYLVIA
You need to be more responsible... I can't always be on top of your things. You understand me?

ANN
Yes.

Ann takes a bite out of her toast.

JACK
Mom, I forgot to give you this.

Jack takes out a paycheck from his pocket.

SYLVIA
No. No. You keep that.

JACK
Mom, let me help you.

SYLVIA
You earned that money.

JACK
This is my house too, so take it.

Sylvia hesitates, she looks back at Jack. She accepts it.

SYLVIA
I appreciate you.

CHLOE
Mom, wait I have pennies in my piggy back.

Chloe tries to get up but Jack sits her back down.

JACK
You keep that money.

CHLOE
But I want to help mommy too.

JACK
You can help her by saving it up.

Ann gets up from her chair.

ANN
I'm going to get ready.

Ann exits.

SYLVIA
She barely ate her breakfast.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - SAME MORNING

Harriette's has not opened yet. Rita cooks Jeremy a nice big breakfast. He sits in one of the booths.

JEREMY
Rita why you going out of your way for me?

RITA
Because I know you didn't eat last night.

Jeremy softly smiles.

RITA (CONT'D)
Now eat up before your dad notices a few eggs missing.

JEREMY
Don't worry, he's not coming till after six, says he's got "business" to do.

RITA
You believe that?

JEREMY
Not at all.

Rita sits across from him. She stares at his face.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I got something?

RITA
Something to hide yes.

JEREMY
I promise, I told you everything.

RITA
So you're telling me, a boy as handsome as you did not get a kiss or even a phone number?

JEREMY
Just gave her my umbrella and told her my name.

RITA
That would have been enough for me to take him to my apartment.

Rita laughs.

JEREMY
Don't put those thoughts in my head.

RITA
Oh shush, I was young like you once.

Rita rips a piece of toast from Jeremy's plate. She takes a bite.

RITA (CONT'D)
You wanna know something? It's very easy to see if a girl likes you.

JEREMY
Yeah, how so?

RITA
It's all in the **eyes**.

JEREMY
Well, what do my eyes say?

RITA
That you should be sleeping right now.

Jeremy rubs his chest.

JEREMY
Ouch.

RITA
Quit it now.

JEREMY
Alright. Alright, tell me Great Rita.

RITA
What you need to do is look into her eyes the next time you see her.
(MORE)

RITA (CONT'D)
And not just for a second either, stay awhile. Her eyes will tell you everything.

Jeremy looks at Rita confused. Rita puts a rag on her shoulder.

JEREMY
That's not very helpful Rita.

RITA
Just try it out.

JEREMY
If she comes back here again.

RITA
She's still in school, right?

JEREMY
I believe so.

RITA
Drive her home.

JEREMY
I can't just show up to her-

RITA
Don't be a baby and trust me.

INT. MAINLAND HIGH SCHOOL - LATE AFTERNOON

The final bell rings. A crowded hallway filled with students. Ann is putting her books in her locker. SOFIA, 18, a stuck up popular girl and girlfriend to Jack stands behind her.

SOFIA
Why isn't your brother texting me?

ANN
Maybe, you should ask him instead of me.

SOFIA
Don't you think I tried that.

Ann closes her locker and walks away. Sofia tags along her.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Um we're not done. You need to tell him that-

ANN
I'm not interested.

Sofia gets physically upset.

SOFIA
Ughh, what is wrong with you?!

ANN
I'm completely fine.

SOFIA
Why are you so difficult to deal with?

ANN
Because I don't want to be involved in your relationship?

Sofia rolls her eyes.

SOFIA
Oh give me a break Ann, just tell your brother-

ANN
Can't.

Ann walks away. Sofia yells out.

SOFIA
You're just mad because I make your brother happy...and you make everyone **miserable**.

Ann turns back to face Sofia.

ANN
Excuse me?

Sofia stands tall.

ANN (CONT'D)
First of all you don't know me-

SOFIA
I know enough, you don't think your brother tells me how much of a bitch you really are.

Couple of students look up to see the commotion.

Ann stares with her mouth slightly open.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Can't speak now?

ANN
(through her teeth)
Fuck you.

Ann walks away.

EXT. MAINLAND'S MAIN ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ann, upset, is walking down the stairs. Jeremy is leaning against his truck. He calls out.

JEREMY
Ann!

Ann squints her eyes. Jeremy raises his keys and walks over to her. He notices that she is upset.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Hey, hey, what happened?

Jeremy looks her in the eyes. She's in a daze.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Ann? Is everything alright?

Sofia steps out and sees Ann with Jeremy. Ann looks past Jeremy and makes eye contact with Sofia.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Ann brings her focus to Jeremy.

ANN
(to Jeremy)
Why are you following me?

JEREMY
Oh no, it's not what it looks like
I just wanted-

ANN
I'm sorry if I gave you the wrong impression...I can't do this right now.

JEREMY
Wait-

ANN
Just please stay away.

JEREMY
Ann?

Ann walks aways. Jeremy runs his hands through his hair.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - EVENING

Ann lays down scrolling through her camera. Jack storms into her room.

JACK
What the fuck is wrong with you?

Ann puts her camera under her pillow.

ANN
Say that to your girlfriend not me.

JACK
You couldn't tell Sofia my phone is broken.

ANN
Why should I?

JACK
"Why should I" you got some nerve trying to mess up **my** relationship.

ANN
No I wasn't.

JACK
Next time you talk to my girlfriend like that I'll smash your camera against the wall.

Jack leaves and SLAMS the door.

ANN
(yells out)
What about what your girlfriend says to me, huh!

Ann gets all red and throws one of her books from her nightstand. It knocks down the umbrella Jeremy had lend her. Ann's face softens as she goes to pick it up.

ANN (CONT'D)
What did I do?

Ann gently holds the umbrella and plays with the pins that give it its shape.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - EARLY EVENING

Rita looks over at Jeremy. He is polishing the silverware for the next group of customers.

RITA
I think they're polished enough.

Rita chuckles. Jeremy fakes a smile to get by.

RITA (CONT'D)
Don't let it bother you. I'm sure she will come back.

JEREMY
I just don't want to talk about it right now. Sorry.

Rita touches his cheek. The door CHIMES.

Rita looks at the door and smiles.

RITA
(to Jeremy)
When have I ever been wrong?

Ann walks over to Jeremy.

RITA (CONT'D)
(to Jeremy)
Well, I'll leave you to it.

Rita smiles at Ann and walks into the kitchen.

ANN
Thank you for lending me this.

Ann puts the umbrella on the counter.

JEREMY
Yeah, no worries.

Ann stands awkwardly.

ANN
Well, thank again..

Ann turns around to head for the door. She stops and turns back.

ANN (CONT'D)
(to Jeremy)
Actually, you have a minute?

EXT. BACK OF THE DINER - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy takes off his apron and drapes it over a railing.

ANN
Look about today I'm really sorry-

JEREMY
Let me stop you there, you were right. I shouldn't of just sprung up on you like that.

ANN
Listen Jeremy, I had no right to treat you that way...I don't know what came over me. It's just my brother's girlfriend is a pain and she just gets me so mad that I can't-

JEREMY
You don't need to explain yourself. I get it.

ANN
I didn't mean those awful things I said to you.

JEREMY
I promise, it's all okay.

Jeremy touches her hand.

ANN
Thank you.

Ann looks at her hand being touched.

ANN (CONT'D)
Well, what are you doing after this?

JEREMY
Uhhh not sure yet, why?

ANN
Wanna take a walk over by the beach?

JEREMY
(smiles)
Now hold on, I was told to stay away.

Ann covers her eyes in embarrassment.

ANN
Oh..I'm sorry about that.

JEREMY
I'm messing. Where should I pick you up?

ANN
You don't need to, will just meet there.

JEREMY
You sure?

ANN
Mhm.

JEREMY
Okay, so 9:30?

ANN
Deal, I'll be seeing you.

Ann walks away. Jeremy's eyes are lit up, his face is slightly pink.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

RITA
What happened to you mister?

JEREMY
(smiley)
I'm seeing her tonight.

RITA
I'm always right.

A CUSTOMER flags down Rita and points at a blueberry pie. Rita nods her head.

RITA (CONT'D)
You better get out of those clothes.

Rita smells his shirt.

RITA (CONT'D)
Because right now all I'm smelling is burgers and french fries on you.

JEREMY
Yeah, I'm gonna have to run out here so I'm not late.

Rita grabs a slice of pie and sets it right in front of the customer with a folded napkin and utensils.

RITA
Is your dad gonna be okay with this?

CUSTOMER #1
Thank you dear.

Rita smiles.

JEREMY
(to Rita)
Actually, I was planning on sneaking out.

RITA
With that loud truck you have?

JEREMY
I obviously wasn't gonna drive the truck. Besides, the beach isn't too far of a walk.

RITA
Just be careful.

JEREMY
Careful? She's not gonna eat me.

RITA
You know what I mean. It's late and it gets dark out.

JEREMY
I know. I know.

CUSTOMER #2 puts his hand up.

CUSTOMER #2
Can we get some service?

Jeremy and Rita look at each other.

JEREMY
I'll be right with you sir.

RITA
(mocking under her breath)
"Can we get some service?" People man so impatient.

Jeremy covers his mouth as he laughs. He heads over to Customer #2 and pulls out his notepad.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ann is sitting in front of her mirror applying makeup. You can tell she is not very familiar or wears it often. She talks to herself.

She grabs some mascara and coats her eyelashes.

She twists back on the cap.

ANN
This is good, I'm not trying to scare him.

She looks over at a lip gloss and lipstick. She grabs the lip gloss.

She applies the lip gloss. She puckers her lips.

She gets up and walks to her closet. She rummages through her clothes. She picks up plaid overalls.

ANN (CONT'D)
I would rather die.

She moves a few hangers and pulls out a pink flowy top. She puts it to her body.

She stands in the mirror for a moment. She takes the top off the hanger.

INT. JACK'S CAR - SAME NIGHT

Music is blasting. Sofia is on top of Jack while they are making out in the back seat.

JACK
Move a bit.

In between kisses.

SOFIA
What?

JACK
You're crushing me, just move a bit.

Sofia ,offended, gets off of him .

JACK (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

SOFIA
Are you trying to tell me something?

JACK
To move a little yeah, my leg was starting to go numb.

Sofia's mouth opens.

SOFIA
I can't believe you.

Sofia turns her head away from Jack.

JACK
What?

SOFIA
(upset)
You think I'm fat.

JACK
What, I never said that.

Jack grabs her, pulling her closer to him. They look eye to eye, he moves her hair out of her face.

JACK (CONT'D)
You're hot, I promise.

SOFIA
You sure?

Jack, a bit annoyed, kisses her cheek.

JACK
I'm sure.

Sofia breaks their eye contact.

SOFIA
Sorry, I'm just upset with what happened with your sister today.

JACK
I know I already spoke to her.

Sofia leans her head on Jack's shoulder and looks out the window.

SOFIA
You know what was odd?

JACK
Tell me.

SOFIA
I saw her talking to Foster.

Jack tenses up.

JACK
Jeremy. What the fuck was he doing with my sister?

SOFIA
I don't know, I was surprised after what happened with you two.

JACK
I'm gonna kill him.

SOFIA
Easy, I didn't hear what they were saying. I just saw them together.

JACK
He's gonna use her to get back at me...I'm sure of it.

SOFIA
You think?

JACK
Foster doesn't know when to quit. He didn't quit when he took my spot on the team.

SOFIA
But that was over a year ago. You both graduated, aren't you passed that?

JACK
You don't get it. Football was my **way out**. I could have gotten a scholarship, been someone instead of working at some **stupid** gas station.

Sofia rubs the top of his hand with her thumb.

SOFIA
I know Jack.

A beat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Look, I know me and your sister aren't exactly on the best of terms but I'll keep an eye on her for you. Aleast at school if he tries to come by again.

JACK
Something's seriously wrong with that guy.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

There are lights from beach houses lighting up the sand. Ann stands waiting patiently by the water. She looks at the time on her phone.

9:40 p.m.

She looks disappointed and turns around to leave.

Jeremy stands in front of her.

JEREMY
Sorry, I'm late.

ANN
I didn't think you would show.

JEREMY
I had to stay a bit after work.

ANN
Oh, that's fine...I'm happy to see you.

JEREMY
Me too. Shall we?

Jeremy leads the way. Ann walks besides him.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
You look great by the way.

ANN
Thanks.

Ann looks up at Jeremy.

ANN (CONT'D)
Honestly, for someone who worked all day, I can't tell.

Jeremy looks confused.

ANN (CONT'D)
It's a compliment.

JEREMY
Oh thank you, I guess.

They both laugh.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Isn't it a school night for you?

ANN
You're gonna tell on me?

JEREMY
No. No. I just don't want your mom getting upset at you.

ANN
She won't find out.

Jeremy smirks.

JEREMY
So you snuck out?

ANN
What about your Dad? He seems tense.

JEREMY
He doesn't know either.

Ann crosses her arm.

ANN
Exactly, seems like we're both in the same boat.

JEREMY
No. I don't go to school.

ANN
You're not in college?

JEREMY
Can't.

ANN
Why's that?

JEREMY
I guess it's not in the books for me.

Jeremy smiles it off.

ANN
That's not true.

JEREMY
You're a senior, right?

ANN
Mhm.

JEREMY
You're going to college?

Ann nods her head.

ANN
Somewhere far far away from my family.

JEREMY
How come?

ANN
I can't stand the way they treat me. I'm thinking about going to Jacksonville, they have what I'm looking for there.

JEREMY
That's a big leap, sounds like something worth chasing then.

ANN
To me it is, to anyone who I thought would support me, **no**.

JEREMY
I'll support you.

Ann smiles.

ANN
You don't even know what it is.

JEREMY
If it makes you happy, it will always be worth it.

Jeremy looks at her with eyes of curiosity.

ANN
I take pictures.

Jeremy poses like a freak.

JEREMY
Like this?

Ann laughs at him.

ANN
Never...I love animals.
(passionate)
It's different than taking pictures of models or landscapes. There's something so beautiful about freezing time of baby turtles making their way to the ocean or lizards resting under sheets of leaves to hide from the sun. Even ants carrying tiny crumbs of food to their home...all to please their queen.

Jeremy listens to her ramble, studying every line she says.

JEREMY
A world completely different from ours.

Ann watches Jeremy lips.

ANN
Exactly.

She regains focus.

ANN (CONT'D)
Enough about me, what about you?

JEREMY
Ann, I'm not bored by you.

ANN
I just feel like I'm talking way too much.

JEREMY
I asked...I want to know **you**.

Jeremy spots a palm tree.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Follow me.

Jeremy takes her hand.

ANN
We're already sitting down?

Jeremy gently turns her face.

JEREMY
look how the moon perfectly sits in the middle of us.

Ann rolls her eyes and nudges Jeremy.

ANN
Stop that.

JEREMY
What?

ANN
You sweet-talk all your girls like this?

JEREMY
All my girls?

ANN
Well, obviously you been around other girls before me.

Jeremy rubs his eyebrow.

JEREMY
(genuine)
No.

Ann sits down next to Jeremy.

ANN
(stares at the moon)
It is pretty...I wonder what we're staring at stares back at us too.

JEREMY
Aliens, maybe.

ANN
Whatever is up there.

Jeremy chuckles.

JEREMY
As a kid my worst fear was being abducted by aliens.

ANN
That was your worst fear?

JEREMY
Hey, it's been confirmed they're out there.

Ann shakes her head with her hand over her eyes.

ANN
Oh lord.

INT. SYLVIA'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Sylvia, asleep, tosses from side to side. She opens her eyes and sees the right side of her bed empty.

The camera pans closely on her face, she continues to stare with a numb expression.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

An empty bottle of liquor sits alone by the sink. Marc sits zoned out at the table.

Chloe walks into the kitchen. She rubs her eye.

CHLOE
Daddy?

Marc trapped in his daze, doesn't react to her. Chloe walks over to the empty bottle and puts it under the sink to rinse. She tosses it out.

She walks over to hug her father. She kisses his cheek.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Goodnight, dad.

Chloe walks out of the kitchen.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Ann turns to face Jeremy. She sits criss-cross and taps on his thigh.

ANN
I know you tried to change the subject earlier but seriously why can't you go to college?

Jeremy looks down at his lap.

JEREMY
I told you.

ANN
Not really.

Jeremy plays with his bracelet as a comfort mechanism.

JEREMY
It's not because I don't want to. It's just who's gonna be there to help my dad with the diner?

ANN
A lot of people in this town are looking to work.

JEREMY
(plays it off as a joke)
Yeah, but a lot of people aren't as good looking as me.

Jeremy smiles.

ANN
I'm serious.

JEREMY
Fine. People don't know or understand my dad. The man literally put me to work at 5 years old.

ANN
What?

Jeremy nods.

ANN (CONT'D)
Wait, actually?

JEREMY
After school, He would send me straight to hand out menus.

ANN
What did your mom say?

JEREMY
My mom and Rita, the waitress you saw at the diner, would walk me back home before my dad would see. My mom didn't like me getting so caught up at the diner so young.

ANN
Where is she now?

A beat.

JEREMY
Um, she..she passed away not too long ago.

ANN
Oh, Jeremy I'm so sorry. I feel so stupid for bringing it up-

JEREMY
No it's okay, you didn't know.

ANN
It's not okay.

Jeremy stares back at the moon.

JEREMY
It's really **her** diner, **her** recipes... **her** heart. It's the only thing keeping my Dad going. I can't just leave him stranded.

ANN
But is that what you want?

Jeremy looks at Ann.

ANN (CONT'D)
Is that what your mom would of wanted?

Jeremy gets up.

JEREMY
Let's keep walking.

Ann looks at him with concerned eyes. Jeremy extends his hand.

She ignores it.

ANN
Sit.

Jeremy takes a breath and sits back down.

ANN (CONT'D)
What's your dream?

Jeremy shrugs it off.

JEREMY
I don't have one. I'm perfectly content where I am.

Ann looks at him with a face of "I'm not believing you for one second".

ANN
Everyone has a dream.

A beat.

JEREMY
Um...I think it would be pretty cool to be a pilot. This is kinda nerdy but as a kid I wouldn't shut up about planes but that's the past now, it's not like it's anything of worth-

ANN
"If it makes you happy, it's worth it".

Jeremy smiles at Ann.

JEREMY
I'm a hypocrite, I know.

ANN
A big one.

They make eye contact. It's **intense**. Jeremy goes to lean in. Ann breaks the tension with a question.

ANN (CONT'D)
So, a pilot huh?

Jeremy backs up and fixes his hair.

ANN (CONT'D)
Commercial? Or...I don't know the other ones to be honest.

JEREMY
No, you got it.

ANN
So then, you have to go school.

JEREMY
I have to take on the business, my dad already kinda laid out my future for me.

Ann crosses her arms.

ANN
But no, that's not right. I know I'm in no place to say this but you can't listen to him.

Ann touches his hand.

ANN (CONT'D)
I support you too.

INT. RITA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Rita is drinking wine as she watches a game show on tv. The phone RINGS. She gets up.

RITA
I'm coming. I'm coming. I'm coming.

Rita answers it.

RITA (CONT'D)
Hello.

Rita's tone shifts serious.

RITA (CONT'D)
No Chuck, I haven't spoken with Jeremy since I left work.

Rita sits back down.

RITA (CONT'D)
I don't know where he's off to but I can assure you he's not doing anything wrong.

Rita rolls her eyes.

RITA (CONT'D)
I think you should quit asking, my answer won't change. Now, goodnight Chuck.

Rita hangs up the phone.

RITA (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Oh Harriette, how could you ever stand such a man.

Rita grabs her wine glass and brings up the volume of the tv.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Jeremy and Ann sits amongst the same palm tree. Jeremy has his arms behind his head.

ANN
A pilot and a photographer. That's an interesting duo.

JEREMY
The two P's.

Ann looks at Jeremy funny.

ANN
(giggles)
Pp? What?

JEREMY
They both start with a "P".

ANN
You're corny.

JEREMY
Shush, you like it.

ANN
Oh, so he has a bit of an ego?

JEREMY
Yeah, stashed away somewhere.

Ann gently punches his shoulder. She looks down at her phone.

ANN
Oh shit, it's getting late. I should get back home.

Jeremy sits up.

JEREMY
Right. Right.

ANN
I had a great time talking with you, Mr. Pilot.

JEREMY
That's what you are calling me now?

ANN
Yep.

Ann tries to get up, Jeremy grabs her hand.

JEREMY
Let me walk you home.

ANN
No it's fine, I'm not too far from here anyways.

JEREMY
No really, I want to.

ANN
Another time.

Jeremy bites his tongue.

JEREMY
Alright...I'll see you later then?

ANN
Maybe.

Ann smiles.

JEREMY
Oh you can't leave me like this.

Ann fully gets up.

ANN
I just did. Goodnight.

Ann walks away with a little smile on her face.

Jeremy watches her go as he remains sitting against the tree.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. RITA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

RITA is asleep with the remote on her lap. The wine glass is empty on the coffee table.

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CHUCK sits at the couch drinking straight from a whiskey bottle. At his side sits a picture of his wife Harriette.

INT. ANN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

--SYLVIA lays awake at the edge of the bed while MARC walks over to his side of the bed.

--CHLOE sleeps holding a stuffed Octopus.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. BACK OF ANN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER.

Ann grabs a ladder that leans up against the wall. She moves it closer to her window. Before she can climb up, from behind, Jack speaks up.

JACK
You snuck out to see him?

Ann gets spooked.

ANN
Jack, what are you doing?

JACK
You tell me? You were with Foster, weren't you?

ANN
I don't know what you're talking about.

JACK
(not believing it)
Okay.

ANN
I just got back from a walk.

JACK
Yeah, at night by yourself?

ANN
(a bit defensive)
Yes, what's wrong with that?

Jack backs off a bit.

JACK
Alright fine, but just stay away from him. He's not good news-

ANN
Like you care who I hangout with.

JACK
As a matter fact I do so listen to me for once in your life.

ANN
Give me a break.

Ann begins to climb the ladder. Jack rolls his eyes.

JACK
Just go through the front door with me.

Ann sighs angrily and goes down the ladder.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Jeremy drifts into sleep with the sounds of the waves crashing.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Jeremy's phone rings in his pocket waking him up. He looks around all confused. The sun is blaring, he shields his eyes with his hand. He reaches in his pocket to grab the phone. It's Chuck.

Chuck yells into the phone.

JEREMY
Dad, I'm so sor-

Jeremy gets up.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Yes sir...ok..I'm coming now.

Jeremy hangs up. He rubs his eyes.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - MORNING

A KNOCK on the door.

SYLVIA
(off-screen)
Annie!

Ann jumps up.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
(off-screen)
Open this door!

Ann gets ups and opens the door. She jumps back into bed.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Where were you last night?

ANN
Mom-

Ann puts her pillow over her face. Sylvia grabs it and tosses it on the floor.

SYLVIA
Answer me!

ANN
No, Mom now can you please stop.

Sylvia calls Jack into Ann's room. Jack enters.

SYLVIA
Tell Ann what you told me.

Ann gets visibly angry.

JACK
Ann snuck out to see a boy.

ANN
What? Mom, he's lying!

SYLVIA
Who is this boy?

JACK
I'm only trying to protect you.

Jack exits.

SYLVIA
Tell me who this boy is?

Ann gets up.

ANN
There's no boy ok! He's making it up.

Sylvia takes a deep breath.

SYLVIA
There are more important things you need to be doing than being around a dumb boy.

Sylvia exits Ann's room. Ann grabs her pillow off her floor and silently screams into it.

ANN
(referring to Jack)
I'm gonna kill him.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - LATE MORNING

Jeremy walks into a crowded diner all sandy from the beach. Rita looks over at Jeremy and lets out a laugh, she can't hide.

Jeremy walks over to Rita.

JEREMY
(sarcastic)
So funny, right?

Jeremy puts his hand under his shirt to air the sand off of him.

RITA
Just a little...where have you been?

JEREMY
The beach.

RITA
All night?
(talking quickly)
Did you use protection because I swear if I have little Jeremys'running around calling me Grandma-

JEREMY
Slow down Rita, I just fell asleep.

RITA
You're kidding.

JEREMY
I wish, I wasn't. Is my dad around?

Rita points to the kitchen door.

RITA
In the back.

JEREMY
(sarcastic)
Great.

RITA
Do you want me to be there?

JEREMY
No, no. I'll take it.

Jeremy steps into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Chuck has his back turn to Jeremy. Jeremy washes his hands at the sink.

JEREMY
Sorry Dad-

Suddenly, Chuck hits him across the face. He pulls him by his collar. The smell of alcohol on his breath.

CHUCK
Where the fuck were you?

Jeremy with tears in his eyes from the hit.

JEREMY
(choking on his words)
I fell asleep.

CHUCK
(angry)
Where?

Jeremy's eye swells up. His face is red.

JEREMY
(anxiously)
The beach.

Chuck looks at him as if he's lying.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I swear. I swear.

He tightens the grip on Jeremy's collar.

CHUCH
With that girl, huh?

JEREMY
No sir.

Jeremy looks away to protect his face from another hit.

Chuck stares at Jeremy's swelled up eye.

A beat.

CHUCK
Ask Rita to cover that up.

He lets go of him.

INT. MAINLAND HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Ann stares at the window. MISS HANDSLEY, early 40s, a history teacher sits at her computer showing her students slides about World War 2. Sofia who is also in her class, chews her gum obnoxiously. Ann looks over at her.

Sofia gives her a dirty look. Ann looks away and down at her notebook.

Miss Handsley sees the interaction.

MISS HANDSLEY
Is everything alright, Ann?

Ann looks up at Miss Handsley. She nods.

ANN
Yes.

MISS HANDSLEY
And you Sofia?

SOFIA
(fake smile)
There's no problem.

Miss Handsley sighs and changes the slide.

MISS HANDSLEY
You all need to remember, I already went to school, I don't need to learn this, so please pay attention.

She continues her lesson.

INT. BREAK ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rita is covering up Jeremy's eye with concealer.

RITA
I'm going to call the police on his ass.

JEREMY
No, I deserved it this time.

Rita grabs Jeremy's chin. She speaks in a serious tone.

RITA
No one ever deserves **this**. You understand me?

Jeremy hesitates.

JEREMY
Yes.

RITA
I never ever want to hear that come out of you.

She lets go of his face. She puts the concealer back in her purse.

JEREMY
Rita?

Tears fall on his pants.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I miss my mom.

Rita quickly pulls Jeremy into a hug.

RITA
We all do, sweetheart.

She pulls back to wipe his tears.

RITA (CONT'D)
He's not gonna get away with this anymore. I promise.

Jeremy holds back from his emotions.

JEREMY
I think I would be lost without you.

Rita softly smiles.

RITA
Me too.

She kisses his cheek.

INT. ANN'S HOUSE - LATER

It's late in the day. Sylvia is paying her bills on the computer. She hears someone walk through the door, curious, she goes to inspect.

She walks into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SYLVIA
It's about time you come be with your family.

MARC
Shut up.

SYLVIA
You think this is healthy showing up whatever you feel like it. Today Chloe asked me "Why didn't Daddy come home?" What was I supposed to say "Daddy rather drink away his life than tuck you in at night?"

MARC
Shut your mouth. I'm not gonna say it again.

SYLVIA
No I won't because you need to **realize** these things. You're **ruining** our family-

Marc gets enraged.

MARC
Stop it!

SYLVIA
Oh grow up Marc, enough is **enough.** It's time to come back to earth and raise your kids. I can't do it all myself. When was the last time you paid a bill, huh?

MARC
Get out of my way.

SYLVIA
What? You're gonna walk out and drink some more and then act like nothing happened...I'm so done with all of this. You seriously need some help-

Marc yells, he throws a vase on the floor. It shatters into pieces.

Sylvia stands in shock. She looks Marc **dead** in his eyes.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
You're not the man I used to know!

Marc looks up at the staircase to see Chloe's face in between the bars. Chloe quickly runs off.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
I'm not cleaning that up.

Sylvia gets frustrated and exits. She goes into the kitchen.

Marc rubs his nose and plops himself on the couch. He turns on the tv.

The broken glass **remains** on the floor.

Ann walks in and sees the mess. She quietly walks behind him and into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sylvia is tearing up.

ANN
Mom?

Sylvia ignores her.

ANN (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

SYLVIA
Please, clean up that damn mess.

ANN
What happened?

SYLVIA
Ann I don't wanna talk about just do what I say.

ANN
Mom, you're crying. I just wanna know if everything is okay-

SYLVIA
(loud)
What does it look like!

ANN
I'm sorry.

Sylvia wipes her face.

SYLVIA
I'm not gonna ask you again.

Ann turns away and goes into the closet. There is a broom and dustpan. She grabs both of them.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - EVENING

Jeremy, better from earlier, is taking orders for a table when Jack and Sofia walk in. Sofia points Jack to Jeremy. Jeremy goes behind the counter to put the orders into the machine. Jack walks up to him trying to act intimating.

JEREMY
What can I do for you?

JACK
(attitude)
Came here to get food what does it look like?

JEREMY
What would you like?

JACK
A beer.

JEREMY
We don't serve alcohol here.

JACK
(under his breath)
Bunch of pussies.

JEREMY
What?

JACK
What kinda establishment doesn't serve a goddamn beer?

Jeremy ignores it.

JEREMY
Anything else?

Jack notices the poorly covered makeup around Jeremy's eye. Jack points at it.

JACK
Yeah. Mommy, did your makeup today?

Sofia pulls Jack's arm.

JEREMY
(pissed)
What's your problem, man!

SOFIA
(to Jack)
Enough.

Jack raises his attitude.

JACK
Not until this bitch serves me my food.

JEREMY
Why are you doing this?

JACK
(mocks Jeremy)
"Why are you doing this" because you don't know when to back off.

SOFIA
Alright Jack, seriously that's enough.

JACK
What, you want to fuck him or something?

Sofia makes herself small and takes a step back.

JACK (CONT'D)
(to Jeremy)
I need you to back off.

JEREMY
I haven't done nothing to you.

Jack gets in Jeremy's face.

JACK
Stay away from my sister. This is a **warning**.

Jack purposely pushes the straw box off the counter. The floor is a complete mess.

JACK (CONT'D)
(to Sofia)
Let's go.

Jack walks away with Sofia. Rita taps Jeremy on the shoulder.

RITA
Is everything alright?

Jeremy stares down Jack.

JEREMY
Yeah, just some jerk from High School.

Rita picks a couple of the straws before Jeremy takes them out of her hand. He doesn't want her to bend down.

RITA
Oh Lord-

JEREMY
He just had to be her brother.

RITA
That's too bad...I wouldn't let him intimate you though.

JEREMY
I won't.

RITA
Good.

Rita pats his shoulder. The kitchen bell CHIMES obnoxiously.

RITA (CONT'D)
(mutters)
I'm gonna make him swallow that damn bell.

She makes her way to the hot plates on the counter.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - NEXT DAY

Chloe sits on a bench watching Ann take pictures.

SNAP! Ann takes a picture of two swans cruising the pond together.

She crouches down to get a different angle. SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!

Ann spots a turtle resting on a rock, soaking in the sun. SNAP! SNAP!

Ann sits down next to Chloe and puts her arm around her.

ANN
You okay Chlo?

Chloe nods slowly. Ann rubs Chloe's back.

ANN (CONT'D)
Everything will be okay.

CHLOE
Can I see your pictures?

ANN
Thought you'd never ask.

Ann shows Chloe her camera.

ANN (CONT'D)
(softly)
One day, these pictures are gonna get me and you out of here.

Chloe hugs her tight.

CHLOE
I don't want you to go.

A beat.

ANN
I know.

CHLOE
I don't want to be at home if you are not gonna be there.

Ann holds Chloe's hands.

ANN
Just think about it like this, I'll come back for Christmas and your birthday of course..I wouldn't miss that for the world... and I will even send you all the pictures I'll take.

CHLOE
Can you take pictures of octopuses?

ANN
Not a doubt in my mind.

Ann hugs Chloe and kisses her head.

CHLOE
Okay.

Ann lays her head on Chloe's.

INT. SYLVIA'S ROOM - DAY

Sylvia sits at the end of the bed. She bites her index nail while her other hand holds her phone in her lap.

Outside her door, she can hear Marc coughing loudly.

SYLVIA
(to herself)
You can do this.

She dials the phone and puts it to her ear.

A beat.

While her phone RINGS, she listens cautiously if anyone is around.

The phone connects.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Hi...this is Sylvia Wilson...yes, we emailed a few days back and I was calling if I can come by to grab the divorce files tomorrow...Mhm. Okay thank you, I'll see you then.

She quickly hangs up and scans the gap at the bottom of the door. She takes a deep breath.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - LATER

Jeremy pulls out his notepad to a customer with their face covered completely by the menu.

JEREMY
Hi, is there anything I can start you off with today?

The menu falls flat on the counter.

ANN
(big smile)
Yes, actually.

Jeremy's eyes light up.

JEREMY
Ann!

Ann looks at his black eye. Jeremy notices this.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
It's nothing, actually a really funny story I'll tell you later about.

Jeremy quickly changes the subject.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
(excited)
So what are you doing here?

ANN
Nothing much just came to see you.
(remembers something)
(MORE)

ANN (CONT'D)
Oh and I wanted to give this to you.

Ann pulls out a Jacksonville application from her bag.

ANN (CONT'D)
(happy)
I had two and figured you can have it. And I done the research and it offers a great aviation program...I really think this would be great.

JEREMY
(speechless)
Ann, I don't know what to say.

ANN
You don't have to think about it right now but just **hold** onto it.

Chuck walks out the kitchen. Jeremy quickly hides the paper under the menu.

Ann places her hand over the menu.

ANN (CONT'D)
(genuine)
This can be your fresh start.

JEREMY
Ann, I don't know-

ANN
Just think about it and think about **you** for once.

Ann gets up from her seat.

ANN (CONT'D)
I'll see you later.

Jeremy waves bye. He looks down at the menu with the application sticking out from underneath.

He pulls it out and tucks it in his apron.

INT. JEREMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy sits at his desk with the lamp over his head. He grabs a pen from his drawer. He picks it up and reads the Jacksonville application form. He drops the pen back on his desk.

He rubs his eyes. He takes a deep breath and leans back in his chair. The lamp twitches causing the picture frame on his desk to gleam. It's a recent picture of Jeremy and his mother.

He picks it up the frame and smiles.

A beat.

He picks up the pen and begins to write.

EXT. ANN'S FRONT OF THE HOUSE - NEXT DAY - EVENING

Ann has her camera in her hand. She makes her way to her front door. THUMP! She quickly turns and walks to where she heard the noise.

At the corner, a hand grabs her. She freaks out.

JEREMY
Easy. Easy. It's just me.

ANN
Jeremy, what are you doing here?

JEREMY
You're the only one who can sneak up on people?

ANN
Aren't you supposed to be working?

JEREMY
We closed a little early today for an inspection we are having tomorrow.

Ann looks at Jeremy's eye which has worsen. She gently places her hand on his upper cheek.

ANN
(concerned)
I don't think this can be such a funny story. You need to tell me what happened?

JEREMY
I slipped and hit my face on the counter. It was real bad-

ANN
You're a terrible liar.

Jeremy sighs and confesses.

JEREMY
Me and my Dad got into it.

ANN
He hit you?

JEREMY
I promise it wasn't as bad as it looks.

Jeremy looks at the time.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
But, I'm not here to talk about this, can you stay out for a bit?

Ann looks back at her door. She bites her lip.

ANN
Where we going?

EXT. GRASSY AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ann and Jeremy lay on top of his car. Ann points out a constellation.

ANN
There's Orion's Belt.

While she looks away, Jeremy pulls out his application.

JEREMY
Ann?

Ann tilts her head to meet his. He hands her the form.

She quickly snatches it. She sits up.

ANN
You did not!

Jeremy sits up alongside her.

JEREMY
I couldn't say no to a fresh start.

Ann hugs Jeremy tightly. They slowly break away. Their eyes linger and their old tension builds again.

Jeremy leans in and **kisses** her. She grabs the back of his head pulling him closer to her. His hands rests on her lower back.

Ann breaks away but he pulls her back in. She giggles as he holds her face. They kiss and kiss and kiss.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - MORNING

Ann opens her eyes with a smile on her face. She picks up her phone from a text from Jeremy which reads. "I can't stop thinking about your lips"

Ann blushes and lays the phone on her chest.

The phone BUZZES again. Jeremy sends her a flyer of a carnival in town. She hearts the message.

EXT. CARNIVAL BOARDWALK - NIGHT

It's a crowded night on the boardwalk. Bright lights and a smell of roasted nuts in the air. Loud noises of children running around, carnival games, and nuisance teens trying to steal.

Jeremy and Ann, happy, walk together. Jeremy puts his arm around her.

JEREMY
Let's go win you one of those big bears.

ANN
A big bear?

JEREMY
Wow, don't think I can?

ANN
I didn't say that.

Jeremy spots a bottle toss.

JEREMY
I'll show you.

Jeremy hands a WORKER cash. The worker gives Jeremy three baseballs. Jeremy backs up and concentrates on the small tower of bottles.

He throw the baseball with a curve knocking down all the bottles.

Ann smiles big and the worker nods at Jeremy impressed.

WORKER
Which one would you like?

Jeremy turns to Ann. Ann looks up at the big Dalmatian.

JEREMY
(to the worker)
Let me get the dog.

Ann holds the dog, it’s as big as her. Jeremy laughs.

ANN
Do you wanna hold it then?

Jeremy puts his hands up.

JEREMY
He’s your dog.

Ann's face is covered by how big the dog is.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
You're so cute.

Jeremy and Ann kiss.

EXT. FOOD STAND - CONTINUOUS

Sofia, Jack, and his FRIENDS stand around smoking.

One of his FRIENDS, LOUIE, 20, slim build, nudges Jack on the shoulder.

FRIEND
Yo, is that Foster with your sister?

Jack blows out smoke. He flicks his cigerette on the floor and crushes it.

JACK
I literally just told this guy.

Sofia pulls Jack’s arm.

SOFIA
Don't cause a scene.

JACK
Lay off.

SOFIA
Jack, I mean it.

Jack digs in his pocket and hands Sofia his keys.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
I'm just gonna drive myself home now?

Jack walks away with his friends following him.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
(sarcastic)
Great.

Sofia stands awkwardly, she angrily walks away in the other direction.

EXT. BOARDWALK - CONTINUOUS

Ann struggles to drink her lemonade with the big dog in her hand.

JEREMY
Let me go put him in the car.

ANN
Please do, my arms are killing me. I didn't think a stuffed animal would weigh so much.

JEREMY
I told you, I would of held him.

ANN
"he's your dog" is what you actually said.

JEREMY
You know I was joking.

Jeremy messes with her hair.

Ann finishes her lemonade and tosses it in the nearby trash can. She kisses the stuffed dog's nose. She hands it to Jeremy.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Alright, the car should be straight ahead on the right.

ANN
Okay, I'm gonna use the bathroom. Will meet here?

JEREMY
Yep.

Ann and Jeremy walk separate ways.

EXT. PARKING LOT - FEW MINUTES LATER.

Jeremy is opening his car. He puts the plushed dog in the back seat. He closes the door.

From behind him, the sound of a knife flicks open. The knife is pressed lightly against his back.

Jeremy holds his hands up slightly above his stomach to show he won't do anything.

JACK
Let's go for a ride.

Louie grabs the keys from Jeremy's right hand. DEREK, 20s, beefy-looking guy pushes Jeremy into the back seat. He throws the stuffed dog out of the car.

Jack puts the keys in the ignition and the car in drive. They drive off.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ann walks into the bathroom and sees Sofia ,sniffling, and her cheeks stained with mascara. Sofia stands in front of the mirror.

Sofia looks at Ann through the mirror.

SOFIA
(sarcastically to herself)
Just great.

She blows her nose into a tissue. Ann walks into one of the stalls.

She waits awkwardly in the stall for Sofia to leave.

Sofia laughs.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
I shouldn't be telling you this but they went after your little boy toy.

Sofia turns on the faucet to its full capacity. Ann steps out of the stall. She turns the faucet off.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
What the fuck is your problem?

ANN
What are you saying to me right now?

Sofia turns the faucet back on.

SOFIA
They went to beat up Jeremy or whatever his name is.

ANN
Who?

SOFIA
Don't be stupid, who do you think?

Ann's hands begin to shake.

ANN
Why are you telling me this?

SOFIA
Because I'm mad at your idiot brother.

Ann runs her hand through her hair.

ANN
Do you know where they went?

SOFIA
If I did, wouldn't I be with them?

Ann paces the floor, trying to think.

Sofia sighs. She pulls out Jack's keys.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Look, I want you to get this straight. I'm not doing this for you...We can drive your brother's car to go see where they went

Ann looks at the keys with a slight relief. Ann nods.

ANN
Thank you.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MINUTES LATER

Ann picks up the stuffed dog that was left on the floor.

ANN
His car is gone.

They both stare at each other.

SOFIA
(concerned)
Let's hurry.

INT. JEREMY'S CAR - LATER

Jack is driving like a lunatic, blasting the radio. Louie is in the front, smoking a cigarette. Jeremy's sits, uncomfortable, while Derek has his arm around Jeremy's shoulder. Derek rests his hand with the knife slightly touching Jeremy's neck.

Jack looks through the rearview mirror.

JACK
(loud)
I warned you what would happen motherfucker!

Jack takes the cigarette out of Louie's hand. He takes a hit.

LOUIE
Hey man, I wasn't finished.

JACK
Screw off.

Jack turns right into a dead-end street.

INT. JACK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Sofia drives while Ann concentrates on finding Jeremy.

SOFIA
You see anything?

ANN
No, everything is all pitched black.

Sofia puts her high beams on.

SOFIA
Just keep looking.

EXT. DEAD-END STREET - CONTINUOUS.

Jack opens the back door and throws Jeremy out of the car. He takes the knife from Derek and gets on top of Jeremy.

He holds the knife to Jeremy's neck.

JACK
This all could have been avoided.

Jeremy trying to speak.

JEREMY
Do it.

JACK
What was that?

JEREMY
Kill me.

Jack laughs.

Jeremy spits in his face. Jack smile disappears. He takes the knife off Jeremy's neck to wipe his face.

Jeremy headbutts Jack causing him to fall on his back. Jack drops the knife. Jeremy kicks the knife away. The other guys grab him.

Jack gets up with blood dripping down his nose. He touches his nose and looks down at his blood-covered fingers.

The Louie and Derek hold Jeremy's hands behind his back.

Jack punches Jeremy in the gut. Jeremy's face falls from the pain. Jack grabs Jeremy's hair to make him look up at him.

JACK
The fuck is wrong with you?

Jack lets go and punches Jeremy again and again and again.

Jeremy can barely keep focus. Blood drips at the side of his mouth. His ears feel like they're clogged of water.

JACK (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Are you finally starting to get it!

Jack continues on. Blackout.

LOUIE
Alright, Jack I think that's enough.

Jeremy falls to the floor like a limp body.

JACK
Shut the fuck up Lou.

Jack gets on top of Jeremy once more. He's delusional.

Jeremy's half unconscious.

JACK (CONT'D)
Wake up, you can't quit now...you didn't quit when you fucked with my life, now you wanna try and fuck with my family, come on buddy-

Jack slaps Jeremy's face.

DEREK
Get up man, that's enough-

Jack turns to face Louie and Derek.

JACK
When did you both become such pussies?

LOUIE
Listen, I'm not trying to go to jail.

JACK
(laughing)
Jail? what the fuck.

A flash of lights blinds the boys. There are sounds of car doors being SLAM. Ann and Sofia step out.

Ann's eyes widened. She runs over and pushes her brother off of Jeremy.

ANN
(crying)
Get off of him!

Ann holds Jeremy.

Jack steps back. Sofia stares at Jack with fear.

Jack grabs her arm.

JACK
Let's go.

SOFIA
(stern)
I'm not going anywhere with you.

JACK
Sofia.

Jack rubs his eyes.

JACK (CONT'D)
How are you gonna get home then?

A beat.

Sofia makes herself small. She hands the keys to Jack.

JACK (CONT'D)
We're leaving.

Jack, Sofia, and his friends get into his car. They reverse back out of the street and drive off.

Ann holds Jeremy's head in her lap.

ANN
It's all my fault.

Jeremy, very weak, lifts his shaky hand to wipe her face.

Jeremy fully opens his eyes. He stares up at her with love.

JEREMY
You're so beautiful.

Jeremy lifts his upper body up.

ANN
Let's get you home.

JEREMY
No, I just want to be in your arms.

Ann runs her fingers through his hair. Jeremy relaxes his body. He softly smiles to himself.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I'm gonna marry you some day.

Ann lets out a small smile. Reality hits again.

ANN
You're definitely not thinking straight...we should really get you home. Come on.

Ann helps him up.

JEREMY
I'm sorry.

Ann walks him to the car. She opens the passenger-side door and makes him sit down.

INT. JEREMY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ann drives down a steady road. Jeremy holds his side, leaning his head against the window.

INT. RITA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The doorbell RINGS. Rita jumps out of her sleep. She looks over at the clock. It's 1:00 am. The bell RINGS again. She gets up from the couch.

RITA
(to herself)
Who the hell is at my door at this time?

Rita opens the door. Her face freezes with her mouth gaped open.

RITA (CONT'D)
(extremely concerned)
Oh my God, come inside.

INT. RITA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rita opens her cabinet and pulls out a first-aid kit.

She runs back to the living room.

INT. RITA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy is lying on the couch. Ann and Rita are looking through the first-aid kit.

Ann pulls out antiseptic spray. She lifts up his shirt.

ANN
This might sting.

Jeremy closes his eyes. Ann sprays the wounded area. Jeremy grits his teeth in pain.

Ann places guaze and medical tape over it.

Rita hands her an ice pack wrapped in a paper towel. Ann puts it on his face.

Rita's looks over at Jeremy who moans from the pain. Ann hands off the ice pack so that Jeremy can hold it on his own.

She takes a seat near him.

RITA
I need to know what the hell happened?

JEREMY
I'm okay Rita.

RITA
You quiet.
(to Ann)
Please tell me before I lose my mind.

ANN
(embarrassed)
My brother and his friends jumped him.

RITA
Oh, I should have known something was wrong when he surprised him at the diner.

ANN
(to Jeremy)
You didn't tell me my brother showed up at your job?

Jeremy moves the icepack off his face.

JEREMY
I didn't want to worry you.

ANN
(serious)
So, you just got beat up not to worry me?

JEREMY
I wasn't gonna let him ruin our night.

ANN
Well, he still did.

Rita takes a seat awkwardly.

RITA
Guys lets just be thankful, everyone is alright.

ANN
(upset)
He's hurt...he's not alright.

Ann grabs her bag.

ANN (CONT'D)
I need to go.

Ann walks out the door. Jeremy tries to get up.

RITA
(to Jeremy)
Don't move...give her space.

Jeremy lies back down and puts his arm behind his head. He stares at the ceiling, upset. He takes a deep breath.

Rita gently pats his head. She kisses his forehead.

RITA (CONT'D)
Give it time.

Rita walks out of the living room.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - LATER

Ann holds her pillow as she cries quietly.

She creates puddles of tears all over the pillow case.

She turns to lay on her back. The tears continue to fall, now hitting her brown hair.

ANN
(to herself)
It's all my fault.

Ann sniffles.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - LATE MORNING

Ann wakes up, confused, in the clothes she had on the previous night.

She gets up and looks at herself in the mirror

She looks miserable, with puffy eyes and red cheeks.

Chloe steps into her room.

CHLOE
Annie?

Chloe comes into her room.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Mommy wanted me to give these to you.

Chloe hands her papers.

ANN
Oh my God, how could I forget to fill this out.

Ann quickly walks to her desk and grabs a pen.

CHLOE
What is that?

ANN
My graduation form. I just been so distracted lately, It musta slipped my mind.

She fills it out and opens her desk to put it in her college folder.

In her folder there are all Ann's college applications. She flips through them. She flips again.

ANN (CONT'D)
Where is it?

Ann angrily walks out her door and down the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sylvia is peeling potatoes. She nicks her finger with the knife and shakes it in pain. She washes her hands at the sink.

Ann storms into the kitchen.

ANN
Where did you put it?

Sylvia dries her hands.

SYLVIA
Put what?

ANN
My application to Jacksonville.

Sylvia doesn't speak.

ANN (CONT'D)
Where did you put it?

Sylvia ignores her.

ANN (CONT'D)
Mom.

SYLVIA
Why do you want to go so far anyways? There are perfectly great schools here.

ANN
But they don't have what I'm looking for.

SYLVIA
If this is about that camera-

ANN
Mom, I want to be a wildlife photographer.

SYLVIA
Annie, pictures of animals don't pay bills here. I say this because I love you-

ANN
No you say it because you don't **believe** in me.

Sylvia struggles to find her words.

SYLVIA
Well you're never home and I can't keep up with this house all by myself.

ANN
Do you blame me?

Ann looks directly in her mother's eyes. Sylvia looks away from her.

SYLVIA
I don't understand?

ANN
I haven't seem dad without a glass in his hand in a **long** time and you constantly take it out on me because of it. Don't you think I'm fed up...don't you think anywhere else might be better than **here**?

SYLVIA
(upset)
I'm done with this conservation...if you want to leave so bad then go... if this house is so miserable for you, **leave** Ann.

ANN
Mom.

SYLVIA
Go Ann!

Ann exits. Sylvia face's shifts with instant regret.

INT. SYLVIA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sylvia walks over to her drawer where she keeps a bunch of her important papers.

She pulls out Ann's application from the drawer that is also stuck between her divorce papers.

She anxiously shakes her leg and bites her nail.

A beat.

She quickly puts the application in her bag and grabs her keys. She leaves.

EXT. BEACH - FEW DAYS LATER

Low tide with weak currents, Ann watches her feet get submerged by the waves. From behind, Jeremy walks up to her and holds her side.

JEREMY
Hey.

Ann doesn't make eye contact with him.

ANN
Hi.

JEREMY
I missed you.

Ann finally turns her face to meet Jeremy's. She caves in and hugs him.

ANN
I was so scared.

Ann buries her face in his chest.

ANN (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry-

JEREMY
Hey. Hey. You did nothing wrong.

Ann chokes on her words.

ANN
But-

JEREMY
But what, you don't think I can handle a couple of lousy punches.

Jeremy gently holds her face.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I would rather get the life beaten out of me if it meant you will always be there.

A tear falls off her face.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I love you, Ann.

Ann kisses him.

ANN
I love you too.

Jeremy holds her for awhile.

JEREMY
Soon we will be out of here?

Ann perks her head up from out of his arms.

ANN
Living our dreams.

JEREMY
I think I'm already in it.

Jeremy moves Ann's hair out of her face and kisses her passionately.

Jeremy tucks in a note into her bag while he continues to kiss her.

EXT. SOFIA'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Jack KNOCKS on Sofia's door. She answers it.

JACK
Can we talk?

SOFIA
I don't think this is a good time.

JACK
Well I'm here and I'm not moving so you might as well just come outside and talk to me.

SOFIA
There is nothing to talk about.

JACK
What? You're disgusted by me.

Sofia stays quiet.

JACK (CONT'D)
Great. Now my girlfriend hates me. What's next-

SOFIA
(quick and blunt)
Jack, I don't think we should be together anymore?

JACK
What did you just say?

SOFIA
You heard me, I'm closing the door now.

JACK
Sofia?

Sofia shuts the door.

JACK (CONT'D)
(yells)
Sofia! Fuck!

Jack punches the door.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sylvia sits at the table shaking her foot. She has papers and pens in front of her.

Marc walks in.

MARC
What's this?

Sylvia picks up the pen.

SYLVIA
(stern)
You're gonna sign this and so help me God if you start yelling and throwing things, I will call the police.

Marc stands speechless.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - SAME NIGHT

Harriette's is closed. The diner is dimly lit while Chuck is counting the register. Rita stores the left over food in the fridge as Jeremy cleans up some dirty dishes.

Chuck calls over Rita to stop what she is doing.

CHUCK
Rita you can clock out now.

RITA
I'm sorry?

CHUCK
Go home Rita.

RITA
I don't understand.

CHUCK
If I tell you to go, you do what I say.

RITA
Is something wrong?

Chuck ignores Rita. He pulls out a ripped acceptance letter. Rita looks down at the letter. She looks at Chuck with concerned eyes.

RITA (CONT'D)
Think about Harriette.

Rita grabs her jacket. Rita calls out to Jeremy.

RITA (CONT'D)
Goodnight Jeremy.

JEREMY
(off-screen)
Night Rita!

Rita looks at Chuck once more.

RITA
Please just be open-minded...think about him.

Rita exits. The door CHIMES. Jeremy steps out from the kitchen. He takes off his cleaning gloves and drops them in the trash.

JEREMY
That's weird? Rita never leaves this early.

CHUCK
I made her.

JEREMY
Uh, why?

Chuck grabs the acceptance letter.

CHUCK
When were you gonna tell me about this?

The letter reads in bold letters, "You're in".

JEREMY
Did you go in my mail?

CHUCK
Answer me damnit!

JEREMY
Dad.

CHUCK
That little bitch brainwashed you.. thinking you would have some future huh.

JEREMY
Don't speak about her that way!

Chuck grabs Jeremy's shirt.

CHUCK
You're not going you hear me!

JEREMY
Look dad, I'm sorry but it's not up to you. I already made up my mind and you're not gonna change it.

Chuck lets go of his shirt and walks a few steps away.

A beat.

Jeremy goes to touch Chuck on the shoulder.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Dad?

Chuck quickly grabs a pan hanging from the ceiling. He whacks Jeremy on the side of the head. Jeremy falls to the ground and bleeds profusely. Chuck drags him into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Jeremy opens his eyes. He sees Chuck smacking his head as he paces the floor above him.

Chuck looks down at Jeremy with tears in his eyes.

JEREMY
Please.

Chuck looks down at Jeremy and pulls him to meet him eye level.

CHUCK
You did this! You hear me, you did this!

Jeremy's eyes close.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
You're no son of mine.
(His voice keeps getting louder)
You ruined everything! Your'e nothing but an ungrateful, selfish-

INT. ANN'S ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Ann calls Jeremy multiple times but his phone goes straight to voice mail.

ANN
(to herself)
Why won't he answer?

She leaves a voicemail.

ANN (CONT'D)
Hey Jer, everything all right. I'm worried about you. Please call me as soon as you can...Alright I love you bye.

She sits down at her bed and bites her nail.

INT. RITA'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rita calls Chuck multiple times but straight to voicemail.

She holds her face in her hand. She ponders and immediately grabs her keys.

RITA
Jeremy.

Rita quickly leaves her house in a hurry. Her jacket is still on the chair.

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER

Rita opens the door of the diner and call outs to Jeremy and Chuck. No one answers.

Rita quickly walks into the kitchen to see Chuck sobbing away with his back on the wall.

RITA
(concerned)
Chuck?

Rita turns her head to see Jeremy's limp body.

She screams and falls to the floor to check on him.

RITA (CONT'D)
(terrified)
Call 911!!

INT. HARRIETTE'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER

Police cars and flashing lights crowd the diner.

Chuck, reaction-less, is handcuffed and arrested. Two POLICE MEN put him in the back of the car.

An ambulance arrives on the scene. They roll Jeremy into the car. Rita gets inside with him.

INT. BAPTIST HEALTH MARINERS HOSPITAL - EARLY MORNING

Rita slouched in a waiting room chair with a tissue crushed in between her hand. She has tear stains down her cheek. She looks exhausted as she can barely keep her eyes open.

Ann sprints in and sees Rita.

ANN
Rita.

Rita quickly gets up from her. She looks at Ann with tears in her eyes.

RITA
Oh Ann.

Rita gets up and hugs Ann. A DOCTOR walks into the waiting room.

DOCTOR
Foster?

Rita raises her hand.

RITA
That's us.

DOCTOR
Come with me.

The doctor takes Rita and Ann to a private area.

INT. PRIVATE AREA - CONTINUOUS

The doctor is hesitant to say his next words. His expression says it all. As he goes to open his mouth Ann looks as if she already knows the terrible news. Her mouth opens and tears begin to quickly form in her eyes.

ANN
No.

DOCTOR
We believe Jeremy had an untreated concussion before this incident, causing second impact syndrome that was fatal...I'm very sorry.

Everything feels like it is taking place in slow motion.

Ann drops to the floor. Rita holds her. They both cry hysterically.

The room looks as if it is spinning and slowly turning black.

A beat.

EXT. CEMENTARY - MORNING

A beautiful Sunday morning as birds sing and fly in the distance.

FAMILY and FRIENDS stand all dressed in black as they mourn the loss of Jeremy Foster. Ann and Rita hold each other's hands tightly. A PRIEST speaks a few words about Jeremy before he asks everyone to say their final goodbyes and place their flowers on Jeremy's casket. One by one everyone slowly places their flowers creating a colorful bouquet.

Ann is the last to place her flower.

ANN
Not a day will go by where I'll stop loving you.

A couple tears fall down her cheek.

ANN (CONT'D)
Goodbye Jeremy.

Rita holds her as she walks Ann away.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. ANN'S ROOM - DAY

--Ann lays in her bed still dressed in her black dress.

-- Ann cries herself to sleep.

--Sylvia brings her a plate of food and places it at Ann's night stand. Hours go by, the food remains untouched.

INT. ANN'S ROOM - NEXT DAY

--Ann sleeps again and again

--Ann looks at her photos.

--Ann throws her photos in the trash.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. CEMENTARY - ONE WEEK LATER

The ground is wet from rain. A temporary plaque is used as a headstone with flowers and pictures gathered around it.

On her knees, Ann quietly cries as she misses her lover.

She pulls out a miniature plane outta of her pocket. She buries it in the dirt.

ANN
Oh Jer, I can't do it without you.

A beat.

She feels a hand on her shoulder. She turns her head to see it's her mother. She's taken a back. Sylvia looks at her with loving eyes. Ann gets up and falls into her mother's arms.

SYVLIA
I love you.

ANN
I love you too mom.

Ann cries into her mother's hug.

A beat.

Ann lets go. She wipes her tears. Sylvia pulls out Ann's acceptance letter.

ANN (CONT'D)
You sent it out?

Sylvia nods.

SYLVIA
You got in Honey!

Ann looks down at the letter and pushes it away.

ANN
I'm not leaving anymore.

SYLVIA
No, I think you should.

ANN
Yeah but-

Ann sobs.

ANN (CONT'D)
How can I go without him...I just can't and I won't. It was **our** plan.

Sylvia takes a deep breath and she holds Ann's hands. She looks directly in her eyes.

SYLVIA
I remember what it felt like to be in love...He wouldn't want you to give up.

Ann looks away.

ANN
But, you didn't want me to go?

SYLVIA
I think we all deserve a fresh start.

Sylvia looks down in shame.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
I'm filing for a divorce.

ANN
I'm so sorry mom-

SYLVIA
No, I'm sorry Ann all this time I thought I was protecting you but really I was only hurting you.

ANN
Mom it's ok-

SYLVIA
It's not. You didn't deserve to be the punching bag when me and your father got into arguments.

ANN
Mom I mean it, it's okay.

SYLVIA
I won't feel right, unless you go.

Sylvia hands the letter to Ann. Ann holds it tightly.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)
Even if I'll be worried, I can't stand the idea of me being in the way.

A beat. Ann holds up the letter.

ANN
Thank you.

INT. AIRPORT - A FEW MONTHS LATER.

Sylvia, Chloe, and Rita say their goodbyes to Ann as she begins a new chapter of her life.

SYLVIA
Please call me when you get there.

RITA
And me too.

ANN
You guys know I will.

Ann adjusts her bags. Chloe runs and wraps herself around Ann’s leg.

ANN (CONT'D)
Chloe, I'll be back by thanksgiving.

CHLOE
That's too far.

ANN
Come here.

Ann pulls Chloe into a hug.

ANN (CONT'D)
I'll be back as soon as I can. I'll send you all the pictures I take. How does that sound?

Chloe smiles.

SYLVIA
Well you should get going I don't want you to be late.

Ann agrees.

ANN
I love you guys.

Ann blows a kiss. She walks towards her terminal with her luggage in one hand and plane ticket in the other.

INT. TERMINAL - CONTINUOUS

She sits down and notices a girl listening to music. She unzips her bag only to find a random note. She unfolds it and starts to read. Tears quickly form in her eyes.

JEREMY
(narration)
I didn't know how to say this then so I thought I would just write it out now. You gave me hope when I thought I lost it. You gave me my fresh start. You taught me what's worth fighting for even if I couldn't see the big picture just yet. You showed me love. Something I never knew could hit me so hard. I'm glad you found me Ann. **I love you** -Jeremy

Ann folds the paper back up. She softly smiles as she holds the note to her chest.

ANN
(under her breath)
Thank you.

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT speaks on the loud speaker and starts calling for people to board the plane.

Ann gently packs away the note and gets up to grabs her luggage.

Ann walks into the tunnel.

THE END.