

THE ATOCHA CREW

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FADE IN:

EXT. FLORIDA BACKWOODS - DAY

...birds CALLING, the low HUM of cicadas. Middle of nowhere.  
A murky swamp. The water on the surface shifts. Beneath --

EXT. SWAMP/UNDERWATER - DAY

Three DIVERS. One of them signals to the other two: I found something!

The divers clear away the debris together revealing...

...a cylindrical container! Looks very old. They brush off the mud. It glints in the murky water.

EXT. FLORIDA BACKWOODS/CAMP - DAY

From the looks of the camp, these are underwater archaeologists.

NICK, the head, pops the cap off the edge of the container with some effort. It's surprisingly water tight.

Nick reaches in and pulls out an ancient scroll of paper. He gingerly unrolls it on a folding table. A map!

Nick surveys the map with immense enthusiasm when --

BAM! Someone wallops the poor archaeologist across the back of the head. He goes down cold.

Two sets of hands unceremoniously drag Nick's limp body off to the side. Some companions.

The other two divers strip off their gear (we don't see their faces).

A scarred hand sweeps the case with the map off the table.

The two divers approach a muddy pickup truck.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

The doors shut. Scarred hand turns the key in the ignition.

EXT. FLORIDA BACKWOODS/CAMP - DAY

The truck ROARS to life. The attackers drive off.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

CRACKKK! A baseball flies out of the park. A little league game in progress.

The batter: SASHA (12).

RIKER  
WOOO! Way to go, Sasha!

LEROY "RIKER" JENKINS (13) hyper, overconfident, middle school boy cheers from the dugout. He waves a water bottle around accidentally spraying JACKSON "POLLOCK" PRIETO (13) seated next to him.

Pollock flinches as one of water droplets strikes him in the eye.

POLLOCK  
Ow! Watch it!

Sasha smiles. She looks expectantly over to the stands hoping to see someone...

....but they're not there. Her smile fades and her head hangs a little lower as she runs the bases.

EXT. SUBURBIA - DAY

Hot, sticky Florida summer. Sasha walks home, passing green lawns kept so by the TSK-TSK-TSK of sprinklers.

She passes a couple of TEENAGE GIRLS. Their low cut jeans give away the time period: early 2000s.

Sasha turns into the driveway of a ranch-style house --

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sasha opens the door. The silence is deafening. This is a house in mourning. There seems to be no life except for --

Sasha hears shuffling. Moves toward the direction of the noise.

SASHA  
Mom?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Sasha sees the back of her mother, AMY RUIZ (early 40s) emerge from the bathroom.

SASHA

Mom?

Amy turns around. My God, this woman looks like she's been through hell. Tousled hair, bags under her eyes, bathrobe looks like it's been on for days.

AMY

What is it, Sasha?

Notices Sasha's uniform.

AMY (cont'd)

Oh crap. Did you have a game today?

Sasha looks at her feet.

SASHA

Yeah, it was a playoff.

AMY

Did you win?

SASHA

Yeah, I...I hit a home run.

AMY

That's nice.

Amy starts to move towards the bedroom.

SASHA

Mom, is it okay if we get pizza for dinner to celebrate? Like we usually do?

AMY

Sure. My wallet is on the kitchen counter.

She retreats into her room leaving Sasha standing alone in the hallway.

Sasha looks over at the wall where hangs a framed photo.

The photo: Three girls. One of them Sasha, a little younger, in between two other teen-aged GIRLS.

INT. ELENA'S ROOM - DAY

ELENA (16) who we recognize as one of the girls in the photo, types away at her computer.

There's a KNOCK.

ELENA

Come in.

Sasha peeks in the door.

SASHA

What do you want on your pizza?

ELENA

I don't care. Just get whatever.

Sasha wonders in. Sits on Elena's bed.

SASHA

Mom looks very upset.

ELENA

(without looking up)

She misses Alicia.

SASHA

Have you seen Dad?

ELENA

Not since he left two days ago.

Was that resentment in her voice?

Sasha nods sadly. SIGHS dramatically. Elena stops typing. Covers her face with one hand.

ELENA (cont'd)

Do you want anything else?

SASHA

No.

ELENA

Then can you please leave?

SASHA

(stung)

Okay.

She leaves. Elena resumes typing.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Elena, Sasha, and Amy eat dinner. Amy's pizza lies untouched on her plate.

Two dining chairs stand out conspicuously empty.

SASHA  
When's Dad coming back?

AMY  
Soon, sweetie. Soon.

ELENA  
Like hell.

AMY  
Elena, I know it's hard for you to believe, but your father cares a lot about us -

ELENA  
Yeah, well, where is he then?

Silence.

AMY  
It's been very hard for him.

ELENA  
Why do you always take his side?

Sasha's eyes follow the bickering like a ping pong match.

ELENA (cont'd)  
It's his fault all this happened. You know that! If he wasn't so self involved -

AMY  
Elena!

ELENA  
Alicia would still be here!

AMY  
He's your father!

ELENA  
Well, he's not acting like one!

AMY  
(harshly)  
That's enough!

Elena retracts. Amy bursts into tears.

AMY (cont'd)  
I'm sorry. I'm gonna go...sleep.

Leaves the table. Elena gives Sasha a pitying glance before leaving too.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sasha finishes her pizza alone on the couch, mindlessly channel surfing.

She lands on a channel showing an adventure movie (e.g. The Goonies). Puts the remote down. Sasha quietly mouths the dialogue to herself.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Sasha gets up. Plucks a photo album off the bookshelf. Sits back on the couch and flips through it.

Comes to a photo from a family vacation to Key West. The family stands posing together, happy, a sign behind them says 'Mallory Square.'

CLOSE ON the picture, particularly Alicia's expression. She looks like she's laughing hysterically about something.

Sasha looks back at the movie -- it's at a particularly heroic, inspirational part.

Sasha thinks deeply. Time for action.

INT. ELENA'S ROOM - MORNING

Sasha opens the door.

SASHA  
I'm going to Key West.

ELENA  
(not taking her  
seriously)  
Okay, sure.

SASHA  
Can you please drive me?

ELENA  
Can't you see I'm busy?

Sasha shrugs. Shuts the door.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Amy lays curled up on the bed in the same robe as the night before, her face buried in a pillow.

SASHA  
Mom, where are the car keys?

AMY  
(not looking up)  
Why do you need them?

Sasha thinks fast.

SASHA  
I left my glove in the car.

Amy sniffs.

AMY  
They're in the kitchen in the little  
drawer.

SASHA  
Thanks.

Before withdrawing, Sasha gives her mother one last sad glance.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Sasha sits in the driver's seat, not quite sure what to do.

Sticks the key in the ignition. Remembers that much. But now what?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sasha on the phone.

SASHA  
Riker, can you guys be here in 5  
minutes?

INT. CAR - DAY

Sasha sits in the passenger seat. Beside her, Riker feels the steering wheel. Gives it a slap.



RIKER  
Your parents have a nice ass car.

Sits up straight, bounces in his seat. In his mind, Riker is a professional race car driver.

SASHA  
Can you drive it?

RIKER  
Totally. I've seen my older brother drive like a 100 times.

In the backseat, Pollock, eyes Riker skeptically.

POLLOCK  
You know what, Riker, I don't believe you.

RIKER  
Well, you better believe it. And get your feet off my bat!

POLLOCK  
Why did you even bring it?

RIKER  
Why did you bring your nerd backpack?

He points at a knapsack on Pollock's lap.

POLLOCK  
It's *not* a nerd backpack! It's a knapsack, I got it in Scouts.

RIKER  
Whatever.

He turns the key in the ignition. VROOM!!

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Mom has fallen asleep and is snoring loudly.

INT. ELENA'S ROOM - DAY

Elena hears the ENGINE STARTING. Doesn't think much of it, goes back to typing.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

The garage seems to vibrate from the sound of the engine.

INT. CAR - DAY

Pollock points at the dashboard.

POLLOCK  
What the hell does that mean?  
(reading)  
'Check engine.' I don't think that's  
good.

RIKER  
Pollock, can you shut up for a  
minute? I can't focus.

POLLOCK  
But that's not good.

Riker huffs loudly. Gets out of the car.

A moment later, Riker returns with some duct tape. Sits down, rips off a piece and places it over the 'Check engine' sign so it's no longer visible.

Pollock mouths wordlessly at Riker.

RIKER  
There. Now shut up.

Looks at the pedals on the floor. Lightly taps them with his feet.

RIKER (cont'd)  
Okay, so that's the brake and that's  
the accelerator...I think.

SASHA  
Be careful! This is my mom's car.

RIKER  
Relax! I know what I'm doing.

With confidence, he shifts the car into reverse -- or so he thinks -- and steps on the accelerator --

CRASH! The car lurches forward and knocks over a stack of paint cans!

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Mom continues to SNORE, completely oblivious.

INT. ELENA'S ROOM - DAY

Elena stands up from her computer, now suspicious.

INT. CAR - DAY

Like lightning, Riker takes his foot off the accelerator.

POLLOCK  
What the hell, Riker!?

RIKER  
Meant to make it go backwards.  
Whoops!

Sasha's starting to think this may have been a bad idea.

ELENA (O.S)  
What the hell are you guys doing?

The kids jump as they realize Elena is standing in front of them! The kids SCREAM!

SASHA  
Riker, go!!

Riker shifts into reverse and steps on the accelerator.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

The car zooms out of the garage!

ELENA  
Come back!

She chases after them --

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

But Riker keeps going! Manages to back out into the road.  
Surprisingly good for a 13 year old.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Riker is high on adrenaline now. This is peak excitement for a middle school boy.

RIKER  
Whooo!! Hell yeah!

Tries to shift into drive -- but the clutch is stuck.

RIKER (cont'd)  
Damn it!

BAM! Elena slams the driver's side window.

KIDS  
AAAH!

Elena gestures: roll down the window!

Reluctantly, Riker rolls down the window. Elena sticks her head in.

ELENA  
Are you people insane?!

Grabs Riker's ear.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Get the hell out of there, Riker!

Riker slaps her hand away.

RIKER  
Hey, give me a chance! I know what I'm doing.

ELENA  
Really? The parking brake is still on!

RIKER  
Oh.

ELENA  
(to Sasha)  
What's the big idea?

SASHA  
You said you didn't want to drive.

ELENA  
I did not realize you were actually serious.

SASHA  
I need to go to Key West.

ELENA  
Why?

Sasha takes a deep breath. Pulls out a photo and hands it to Elena. It's the photo from earlier of the family.

SASHA  
I want to get Mom a souvenir from Mallory Square. So she remembers when it was better...before everything happened...and snaps out of it.

Elena regards Sasha, impressed by her thoughtfulness.

ELENA  
Sasha, that's really sweet.

She hands back the photo, now stern again.

ELENA (cont'd)  
But driving to Key West is out of the question. Mom and Dad would kill us.

Sasha's ready to retort but Riker cuts her off --

RIKER  
Rick's in Key West.

Elena's face changes. Is she going slightly red?

ELENA  
Rick?

Riker smiles. He knows what he's doing.

RIKER  
Yeah, he's down there fishing with my dad.

ELENA  
Why aren't you there?

RIKER  
They didn't invite me because apparently I'm "annoying" and "not mature." Anyway, he was supposed to go to this concert with this girl -

ELENA  
Alexis Garcia?

Riker has no idea who that is but plays along.

RIKER  
Yeah, her. Anyway, she bailed last second.

ELENA  
Bitch. Go on.

RIKER  
But imagine if you roll up to Key West and surprise him so he doesn't have to go alone. Wouldn't that be sick?

Elena mulls it over.

RIKER (cont'd)  
He'd think you were so cool.

Sasha and Pollock watch Riker proudly.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Elena leaves a note on the bedside table.

INT. CAR - DAY

Elena takes her rightful place in the driver's seat.

ELENA  
One night, no longer! That's all we can reasonably get away with if we don't want Mom and Dad to absolutely kill us. First, we need to drop you two off.

Riker and Pollock both start LOUDLY PROTESTING. Elena makes a 'shut-it' gesture.

ELENA (cont'd)  
I don't want to hear it!

RIKER  
Fine. We'll tell your Mom then.

Elena glares at Riker. Sasha looks mad too: what are you doing?

RIKER (cont'd)  
Or you could take us. Your choice.

ELENA  
If you think I'm going to drive with  
three kids in this car for 8 hours,  
you are sorely mistaken!

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Elena looks resigned to her fate.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Elena pulls into a parking lot.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Elena gets out.

ELENA  
I'll be right back.

Slams the door.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Elena grabs a 24-pack of bottled water.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Pollock thumbs through a newspaper. CLOSE ON the headline of the front page: 'Underwater archaeologist assaulted, two companions main suspects.' Slightly below, a smaller headline: 'Florida Man Sighted Again.'

RIKER  
(judgemental)  
You're the only person I know that  
reads the news that isn't old.

POLLOCK  
(defensive)  
Just the sports section!

Then Pollock sees, in the distance, ANNIE SCHUMER (16) jogging towards him in sexy slo-mo.

POLLOCK'S POV: ANNIE slows down in front of him, dream-like.

ANNIE  
(sounds far-away)  
Hey!

Pollock's voice doesn't seem to work. Then, like a record scratch --

ELENA  
Hey!

Elena stands outside the store holding the bottled waters.

ELENA (cont'd)  
What are you doing?

ANNIE  
Conditioning. What are you doing?

Elena throws the bottled waters into the trunk.

SASHA  
We're going to Key West!

Annie looks over the group, confused.

ANNIE  
With this crew?

Riker strikes a cool pose.

RIKER  
'Sup.

ANNIE  
Why?

ELENA  
I have been coerced and emotionally manipulated. Wanna come?

Annie thinks for a moment. Shrugs.

ANNIE  
Sure. Got nothing better to do.

She opens the passenger door --

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Annie sits beside Elena.



ANNIE

Can we stop at my house real quick so I can change?

RIKER

Hey, why does she get to sit in the front?

ELENA

Because I need someone to help me keep my sanity among you children.

RIKER

We are not children. I will have you know, my balls dropped a long time ago.

ELENA/ANNIE

Oh my God! TMI, Riker!

ANIMATION: The state of Florida. An animated version of the car appears just slightly north of Orlando.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

All five kids pore over a large road map of Florida spread out on the hood of the car. Elena points on the map.

ELENA

Okay, so if we take the turnpike, we can cut about half an hour of driving time. We need to make it there and back by tomorrow evening so every minute counts.

ANNIE

Aw, but US-1 is so much more scenic!

ELENA

Annie! Work with me here!

ANNIE

I just think if we're going, might as well go in style.

ELENA

Ugh, fine! We'll take the turnpike until we get to about Port St. Lucie and then we'll stick to the coast from then on out. Happy?

(folds the map)

How much money does everyone have?

Annie reaches in her wallet.

ANNIE  
I have \$150 left from my babysitting money.

ELENA  
I have \$75.

ANNIE  
Do you think that'll be enough for gas?

ELENA  
Should be. And a few cheap meals. Does everyone have what they need?

SASHA  
Yeah.

ELENA  
Okay, let's just get this over with.

She folds the map.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Empty truck. No sight of the two divers.

The glove compartment pops open revealing the container with the map.

A hand reaches in and steals the container.

Rapid FOOTSTEPS against gravel as the thief runs away.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

SUPER: 462 MILES AND 8.5 HOURS TO KEY WEST

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

The windows are rolled down but it does little to alleviate the suffocating, Florida heat. Everyone's clothes are sticky with sweat.

Annie fans herself with a magazine.

ANNIE  
Holy shit. Can't you turn the A/C up?

ELENA  
Can't. It's broken.

ANNIE  
What the hell.

She fans herself even more wildly, trying to generate greater gusts, glowing despite her sweat.

In the backseat, Pollock watches her, mouth slightly open.

Riker reaches down and grabs his baseball bat that has been laying at his feet. He turns it over in his hand, admiring it. Starts to poke Pollock with it. Pollock comes out of his trance.

POLLOCK  
Cut it out!

ELENA  
Really? You brought a baseball bat?  
Why?

RIKER  
You never know! I might need it!

Elena shakes her head.

RIKER (cont'd)  
I'm hungry.

SASHA  
I'm hungry too.

ELENA  
Jesus Christ, why didn't you guys eat  
at home?

Annie notices the gas level. It's low.

ANNIE  
We need gas, to be fair.

Elena looks around. Sees a massive billboard, one of those with baby gators and oranges, advertising a rest stop.

ELENA  
We'll just pull over here.

ANNIE  
Yeah, that looks like a nice place!

Elena maneuvers the car towards an exit lane --

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Elena looks around as she pumps gas.

It's a ratty, old gas station that looks like it hasn't been renovated since the 1970s. A couple of muddy pickup trucks parked out front. Confederate flags. Redneck-landia.

Elena finishes pumping.

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Elena and the kids enter. At the counter is a middle-aged woman CASHIER (40s) and in the deepest redneck drawl --

CASHIER  
How can I help y'all?

ELENA  
Hi. We just gotta pay for this gas.

Hands her the receipt. Elena looks at the kids.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Each of you get one thing only.  
(looks at Riker)  
One. Thing.

The kids disperse. Elena rests her head against the counter. Annie pats her on the neck.

ANNIE  
Is your dad still gone?

Elena lifts her head.

ELENA  
Yeah.

CASHIER  
So where are y'all headed?

ANNIE  
Key West.

CASHIER  
Well, y'all are fancy, aren't ya?  
Where are your parents, if you don't  
mind me asking?

ELENA  
(quickly)  
We're meeting them down there.

CASHIER  
Y'all met Dexter yet?

ANNIE  
Dexter?

CASHIER  
Dexter is our resident gator. Usually  
keeps to himself but occasionally,  
he's a little bit naughty.  
(guffaws)  
He done ate a tourist's dog once.

Elena and Annie both look alarmed. Best not to stay in this  
place much longer.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

A truck pulls into the parking lot. Its tires and fenders  
are flecked with mud.

The DRIVER steps out. CLOSE ON on his scarred, right hand.

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The kids pick themselves snacks in the aisle.

Pollock's eyes fall on one those portable, mini-mist fans.  
He picks it up and looks thoughtfully in Annie's direction.

Riker notices.

RIKER  
You like her -

POLLOCK  
Shut up, Riker.

RIKER  
You know you have like no chance.  
She's 16.

Pollock squirts the fan in Riker's face before moving away.

RIKER (cont'd)  
(to Sasha)  
Do you really think a bracelet is  
gonna make your mom feel better?

SASHA  
It has to.

Someone enters the store. Pollock looks up --

The driver, LUIS (early 40s). Someone you definitely wouldn't want to meet in a dark alley. He's the scarred hand.

Closely followed by MAX (late 30s) also tough looking, but clearly number two.

Elena and Annie don't pay the two men much attention.

CASHIER  
Can I help y'all?

Pollock can't help staring at the two men. There's something very familiar about them --

Luis returns Pollock's gaze. Unsettled, Pollock looks away.

Luis approaches the counter.

LUIS  
We're looking for someone.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Elena steps out of the gas station. What she sees makes her stop dead in her tracks. Throws out a hand to stop Annie.

ANNIE  
What - ?

Then Annie sees it -- a massive GATOR, sitting directly between them and the car. She SCREAMS which makes Elena SCREAM.

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Luis and Max react to the gator.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The other kids run out. They gape at the gator.

RIKER  
Whoa! Is that real?

The gator emits a low GROWL.

CASHIER (O.S)  
Dexter, is that you? Dammit, don't  
make me call animal control again!

INT. AMY'S ROOM - DAY

Amy lays in bed, her face buried in her pillow. A soft KNOCK  
on the door.

AMY  
(muffled)  
Who is it?

The door opens revealing JOHN RUIZ (late 40s).

JOHN  
It's me.

Amy rolls her head slightly to look at him.

AMY  
You're back.

A beat.

JOHN  
How are you?

AMY  
What does it look like?

Fair.

JOHN  
Where are the kids?

She thinks for a minute before answering.

AMY  
I don't know. Why?

JOHN sees Elena's note on the nightstand. He picks it up and  
gives it a quick read.

JOHN  
Looks like they went to the lake. You  
let Elena take the car?

AMY  
I don't remember...did I?  
(starts sobbing)  
Oh my God...

JOHN

Amy.

He sits on the bed beside her, unsure how to comfort his wife.

AMY

Elena just started driving! And there's so many crazy people out there, what if she gets in an accident? With Sasha in the car?

JOHN

Amy, Amy, calm down. Just relax and think about it. They're just going to the lake. They don't even have to get on the highway. I'm sure the kids are fine.

Meanwhile --

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The kids stand frozen in fear as the gator stares them down, still blocking their way to the car.

ELENA

Stay calm.

ANNIE

What if we try to go around it?

POLLOCK

I wouldn't. They're fast.

ANNIE

Don't they say to zig-zag run with them or something?

ELENA

You're supposed to zig-zag run away from a gator, not at a gator!

The gator SNARLS. Everyone SCREAMS again.

Annie and Elena throw up their hands to shield the other kids. Everyone cowers as the gator advances towards them menacingly. Then suddenly out of nowhere --

The FLORIDA MAN (early 40s) tackles the gator and starts wrestling with it!



INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Luis recognizes Florida Man. Max does too. Eyes widen with fury.

MAX

It's him!

Both men struggle to push the door open --

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

But the kids are blocking the way out.

LUIS

Get the hell out of there!

The kids stare at the fight, frozen in shock.

Florida Man gets on top of the gator and starts riding it. The gator whips its tail around, the end of it almost grazing the kids' shoes.

He whips out a rope and lassos the gator around its jaws, shutting them momentarily.

Sasha notices something GLINT in Florida Man's pocket -- the cylinder we saw earlier!

Florida Man raises his head. Sees Luis and Max.

FLORIDA MAN

Shit!

(to the kids)

What the hell are y'all standing around for? Get the hell out of here!!

The kids book it to the car, taking care to make a wide circle around Florida Man and the gator.

Luis and Max burst out of the gas station and stare Florida Man down.

Everyone yanks the car doors open.

With his free hand, Florida Man extracts the cylinder from his pocket and throws it!

The cylinder boomerangs into the car just before Sasha shuts the door. Like magic.

LUIS

NO!!

INT. CAR - DAY

Elena turns the key desperately. The engine stalls.

ELENA

Shit, shit, shit...

She turns the key again. And again.

ANNIE

What the hell are you doing?

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The cashier steps out.

CASHIER

Oh my lord, Jesus! Dexter!

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

In the BACKSEAT --

SASHA

Hurry up, Elena!

The cylinder lays unnoticed at her feet.

ELENA

Would everyone shut up?! I'm trying!

She tries one more time. The engine ROARS to life!

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Florida Man jumps off the gator and takes off!

Luis points a gun and fires multiple SHOTS. Each one misses.

LUIS

Shit!

Luis goes to reload. Looks again --

But Florida Man has vanished into thin air!

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Elena looks behind her --

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

And reverses the fuck out of that gas station!

The cashier looks at Dexter who now lies immobile on the ground, his jaws sealed shut with duct tape.

CASHIER  
That's what you get.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Everyone starts to calm down a little. That was too stressful.

ELENA  
Is everyone okay?

Multiple "yeahs."

Annie starts fanning herself with the magazine again. Pollock works up the courage and taps her gently on the shoulder.

POLLOCK  
Hey.

She turns around.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
I got you this if you want it.

He hands her the mini-mist fan. Annie gives a surprised but grateful grin.

ANNIE  
Oh my God, that's so sweet. Thank you.

She smiles at him. Pollock goes red. Riker snickers a little too loudly. Pollock elbows him hard in the ribs.

Annie turns on the fan and points it at her face. Pollock looks pleased with himself.

Annie points the fan at Elena next. Elena closes her eyes, enjoying the cool spray.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The muddy truck flies down the highway.

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - DAY

Luis is fuming.

LUIS  
That son of a -

He punctuates the last word by giving the accelerator a generous thrust.

MAX  
Slow down. Do you wanna get pulled over?

LUIS  
Those damn kids have the map now! Do you want them to beat us to it?

MAX  
Do you know where we're going?

LUIS  
Yeah, I memorized the first stop on the map. We'll nab them as long as we get there first.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Annie enjoys the effects of the fan.

ANNIE  
So Alexis Garcia bailed on him?

ELENA  
Yeah!

ANNIE  
Bitch.

ELENA  
What does he even see in her?

RIKER  
It's probably because she's got a huge rack.

Elena and Annie both cringe.

ANNIE

Really?

Uninterested, Sasha looks down and for the first time, notices the cylinder at her feet.

RIKER

What? It's true! Listen, I know my brother.

ELENA

Riker, do you have any sort of filter?

RIKER

No.

Sasha picks up the cylinder and examines it. Goes to unscrew it.

ELENA

Oh shit!

ANNIE

What?

ELENA

I think I took a wrong turn.

Sasha drops the cylinder.

SASHA

What do you mean a wrong turn?

ELENA

I don't...first, the gator...and Riker won't shut up!

RIKER

Elena, at some point, you have to take responsibility for your own actions.

ANNIE

Okay, just chill. One sec.

She opens the map.

ELENA

Where are we?

ANNIE

Okay, we are...

ANIMATION: The car is somewhere above Lake Okeechobee. Nowhere near the Eastern coastline where they're supposed to be.

EXT. SWAMPLAND - DAY

SUPER: 7 HOURS TO FLORIDA, SEVERAL MILES OUT OF THE WAY

Elena stares out hopelessly at the expanse of swampland. Nothing but saw grass as far as the eye can see.

RIKER  
Nice going.

Elena rounds on Riker and the other kids.

ELENA  
This is all your fault! You three,  
conniving, little --

She can't even finish the sentence, she's so angry.

ELENA (cont'd)  
That's it! We're turning back!

SASHA  
We can't turn back now, we're almost  
there! What's there, like 6 hours  
left?

ELENA  
And then 8 hours back!

SASHA  
What about mom's bracelet?

ELENA  
One stupid bracelet is not gonna make  
mom feel better! We're turning back  
now!

SASHA  
No, we're not!

ELENA  
I'm older, I make the rules.

RIKER  
(low)  
I hate it when my brother says that.

ELENA  
Riker, I swear to God, you're on thin  
ice right now.

RIKER  
I'm not the one who drove the wrong  
way!

Annie grabs Elena to stop her from charging at Riker.

ANNIE  
Okay, I think we all need a timeout!

She leads Elena away. Upset, Sasha runs into the thicket,  
still holding the cylinder.

RIKER  
Where are you going?

He and Pollock run after her.

POLLOCK  
Oh crap!

Annie turns Elena around and looks her dead in the eye.

ANNIE  
Dude, you need to chill. Like big  
time.

But Elena's distracted again --

ELENA  
Where's Sasha?

IN THE THICKET, Pollock winces as alternating leaves and saw  
grass slap him in the face.

Riker dodges a banana spider web. Shudders.

POLLOCK  
Guys...there....are....snakes out  
here!!

Sasha stops dead in her tracks. Becomes hyper aware to where  
she's standing.

Pollock and Riker collide with her and the trio almost fall  
over.

RUSTLING.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
Shit, what was that?

SASHA  
Is it a rattlesnake?

POLLOCK  
There's no rattling!

RIKER  
What if its one of those red, black,  
and yellow ones Miss Spivak was  
talking about?

POLLOCK  
What did she say, what did she say...  
(struggles to  
remember)  
Uh, red touches...red touches yellow  
could kill a fellow. Red touches  
black, its okay, Jack. Okay, guys,  
see if the red stripes are touching  
yellow!

RIKER  
Are you shitting me?

The RUSTLING gets closer and closer --

A red-and-yellow, striped SNAKE raises its head out of the  
underbrush. Smells the air.

Fuck.

SASHA  
(low)  
What do we do?

The snake slithers in their direction --

THWACK! A machete comes down over the snake's head sending  
it to the next world.

Florida Man stands proudly over his kill, wielding the  
bloody machete.

FLORIDA MAN  
That was a close one.

The kids SCREAM.

BY THE ROADSIDE, Elena and Annie hear the screams.

ELENA  
(worried)  
Sasha?



She and Annie run towards the source of the noise.

IN THE THICKET, the kids keep screaming.

POLLOCK

Pedo! Pedo!

FLORIDA MAN

I'm not a pedo, you little shit!

SASHA

How did you find us?

FLORIDA MAN

I followed you.

He plucks the cylinder out of Sasha's hand.

FLORIDA MAN (cont'd)

Thank you for looking after that for me!

SASHA

Wait, how did you - ?

Florida Man slings the machete over his shoulder.

FLORIDA MAN

Well, I guess I'll be on my way now.

SASHA

(re: cylinder)

What is that?

Florida Man smiles knowingly.

FLORIDA MAN

Why do you wanna know?

SASHA

Those two guys wanted it, that's why you threw it to us, right?

FLORIDA MAN

Duh, of course it's important. Well, since you asked, I'll tell you. It's a tale concerning --

(dramatic gesture)

Magic!

The kids look at each other. This guy is clearly cuckoo.

RIKER

Are you homeless?

Florida Man gives Riker a withering look.

POLLOCK

Why were those two guys really after  
you?

Florida Man waves him off.

FLORIDA MAN

Have you ever heard of the legend of  
the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Senora de  
Atocha*?

The kids shake their heads.

FLORIDA MAN (cont'd)

Well, back in the day....

The sound of WAVES crashing against the hull of a ship.  
We're transported back in time to....

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A Spanish galleon, the *Atocha*, being pounded by a hurricane.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O)

...in 1622, 28 Spanish ships carrying  
treasure left Havana, Cuba bound for  
the Gulf via the Keys.

EXT. SHIP DECK - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

SAILORS struggle to man the ship in the rain and howling  
wind.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O)

But they got hit by a hurricane. Most  
of the ships managed to get across  
into the Gulf. But 8 were unlucky....

The water becomes ever more violent. More waves flood the  
deck, sweeping sailors off and into the dark ocean to their  
deaths.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O.)

Of the 8 ships that went down over  
the dangerous reefs of the Keys, the  
*Atocha* was carrying the most  
treasure.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The hurricane finally overwhelms the *Atocha* and she succumbs to the sea.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O.)  
But five men survived.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Five dehydrated, shaken, Spanish SAILORS, struggle out of the water onto dry land. Between them, they're lugging a chest.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O.)  
They managed to get the most important treasure off the ship before it sank and they swam with it to Key West.

The sailors dig a hole in the sand.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O) (cont'd)  
Not wanting to fall prey to pirates, the sailors buried the treasure in Key West hoping to come back to it at a later time.

The sailors bury the treasure and leave.

FLORIDA MAN (V.O) (cont'd)  
But they never did.

SASHA (V.O)  
What kind of treasure was it?

EXT. SWAMPLAND - DAY

And we're back in the present day. The kids stare at Florida Man, completely enthralled by his story, especially Sasha.

FLORIDA MAN  
Some gold, emeralds -

POLLOCK  
Hang on a minute! Didn't they recover that treasure a few years back?

RIKER  
What?

POLLOCK

Yeah, in the 90s. Some guy found the treasure and there was this big legal court battle with the state but he got to keep it eventually.

Florida Man rolls his eyes. Sasha and Riker look skeptical.

FLORIDA MAN

Yeah, but he didn't find *all* the treasure! The Spanish used to speak of a mythical wishing chest, a chest that would grant one wish to any man who found it. And some believe that chest was among the treasure rescued from the *Atocha*.

RIKER

That sounds like bullshit.

Florida Man frowns at Riker.

FLORIDA MAN

Not bullshit. I have the evidence right here.

He unscrews the cylinder and pulls out the map.

FLORIDA MAN (cont'd)

Got the map to it right here.

Sasha is intrigued.

SASHA

Any wish?

FLORIDA MAN

Any one wish. Not one wish per person. One wish, period, for all eternity.

RIKER

I know what Pollock's gonna wish for. For Annie to fall in love with him.

POLLOCK

That's messed up! I wouldn't do that.

SASHA

I know what I would wish for.

In the distance, they hear --

ELENA  
Sasha! Where are you guys?

ANNIE (O.S.)  
Sasha! Riker! Pollock!

The girls' voices are getting closer.

Florida Man offers Sasha the map.

FLORIDA MAN  
Take it!

Sasha looks at him skeptically.

Why? SASHA

POLLOCK  
Don't take it! There's a catch,  
there's always a catch.

FLORIDA MAN  
Will you shut up?

Sasha! ELENA (O.S)

Sasha thinks, trying to be mature as a kid can be about this.

SASHA  
What do you want for it?

FLORIDA MAN  
Nothing! Kid, I'm giving you a free  
map. Just take the damn thing!

POLLOCK  
Don't do it...

SASHA  
We can use it to bring Alicea back!  
It's worth a try!

Pollock has no response. Sasha takes the map.

FLORIDA MAN  
Smart choice.

Elena and Annie come rushing out of the thicket.

ELENA  
Oh my God, you guys are okay!

She pulls Sasha to her and hugs her. Annie pulls Pollock and Riker in for a hug too. Pollock melts in Annie's arms but Riker squirms out.

                  ELENA  
Don't ever run away like that again!  
What the hell is wrong with you? And  
where did you get this?

She takes the map from Sasha. Turns it over.

                  SASHA  
He gave it to us!

                  ANNIE  
Who?

Sasha goes to point at Florida Man -- but he's gone!

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - DAY

Luis's pocket vibrates. He takes one look at his phone and throws it in the backseat.

                  MAX  
Aren't you gonna pick it up?

                  LUIS  
No.

Max takes the phone and looks at it.

                  MAX  
She's gonna keep calling.

Luis SIGHS. Max answers.

                  MAX (cont'd)  
Hey, Mom.

                  LAURA (O.S)  
Maxwell, why isn't your brother  
picking up?

                  MAX  
He's driving.

                  LAURA (O.S)  
That's no excuse. Tell him to get on  
the phone.

Max hands Luis the phone.

LAURA (O.S) (cont'd)  
What the hell's wrong with you? You  
don't pick up anymore.

LUIS  
Mamá, I'm driving.

LAURA (O.S)  
I just saw you and your brother on  
the front page of the Herald. What  
the hell is going on?

LUIS  
Nothing, Mamá. It's nothing. There's  
been a mix up and Max and I are on  
it.

LAURA (O.S)  
Well, anyway, I need you to pick me  
up now.

LUIS  
What? We can't do that now, we're in  
a rush --

LAURA (O.S)  
What could possibly be more important  
than your own mother?

Luis grimaces.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The muddy truck rolls up to a small, little grandma house.  
LAURA (60s) spirited, stands outside waiting impatiently  
with a tote bag.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Luis rolls down the window.

LAURA  
What took you so long?

Max gets out and gives Laura a hug.

MAX  
Hi, Mom.

Helps her into the car.

LAURA  
Honestly. At least one of you two has  
manners.

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - DAY

Laura sits in the backseat.

LAURA  
....and so they evicted me.

MAX  
Why didn't you tell us you were  
behind on rent, ma? We could have  
helped.

LAURA  
What, you two, with your salaries  
that you earn....what is it that you  
do?

LUIS  
Underwater archaeology.

LAURA  
Yeah, that. You can't afford to help  
anyone, let alone yourselves.  
Speaking of which, since when do you  
have a new truck?

(feels the upholstery)  
Anyway, I knew I could count on my  
two boys to take me in until I can  
find a new place although you made me  
beg.

LUIS  
I told you we were in a hurry!

LAURA  
Now Luke...there was a good boy.  
Would have come straight, no  
questions asked.

Luis and Max both roll their eyes en rote.

MAX  
Mamá, enough about Luke.

LAURA  
(sadly)  
If only not for that damn motorcycle.

Laura spots a large duffel bag in the backseat.



LAURA (cont'd)  
Ooh, what's this?

MAX  
Nothing!

He pulls the duffel bag out of her reach. Suspicious  
METALLIC SCRAPING from within.

LAURA  
Nothing, huh? So what are we after?

LUIS  
None of your business.

LAURA  
(sharply)  
Excuse me?

MAX  
We're going after a map.

LAURA  
Is it one of your historical  
artifacts?

MAX  
Yeah, something like that.

Laura looks at Luis's scarred hand.

LAURA  
What happened to your hand?

LUIS  
Nothing. Accident.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Annie examines the map.

ANNIE  
So he just gave it to you and left?

SASHA  
Yeah.

There's a lot of Spanish writing on the map.

ANNIE  
I can't read this.

She hands the map to Sasha.

SASHA  
Just like he said. The Wishing Chest.

ANNIE  
The Wishing Chest?

SASHA  
It's what the map leads to.  
(reading)  
Antes de buscar, ten en cuenta, algo  
precioso tendras que sacrificar, para  
conseguir un deseo de el cofre de los  
suenos.

RIKER  
Translation?

SASHA  
Before you look, keep in mind,  
something precious you will have to  
sacrifice, to get a wish from the  
chest of dreams.

Annie nods. Not a bad deal.

SASHA (cont'd)  
Can we go look for it?

Elena bursts out laughing.

ELENA  
Good one.

Looks in the rear view mirror. Sasha is dead serious.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Oh, you're serious? We're already  
pushing it as it is and you want to  
go on some wild goose chase over a  
map given to you by some crackhead -

POLLOCK  
She has a point.

Sasha and Riker glare at Pollock. Who's side are you on?

SASHA  
What's the worst that could happen?  
We dig and don't find anything?

ELENA  
The worst that could happen is it  
could be a trap or a set up! What if  
it's a drug stash or something?

RIKER  
(patronizing)  
Why would someone give us the  
location of their drug stash, Elena?  
Think about it.

ELENA  
Riker, I swear to God.

But Pollock's not happy. Something's fishy. He retreats into his newspaper.

Pollock stares at the front page: the head shots of Luis and Max. Why do those guys seem so familiar?

Realizes. Gives a start.

SASHA  
Hey, what's up?

Pollock looks up to see everyone staring at him.

ANNIE  
You good, dude?

Pollock forces a smile.

POLLOCK  
Yeah, just thought I saw a spider.

Riker stiffens. Pollock seizes the opportunity.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
Wow! Are you afraid of spiders?

RIKER  
Shut up!

Pollock's eyes widen in mock terror.

POLLOCK  
Oh my God! There it is!!

Riker jumps up in his seat in terror. Pollock's dying of laughter.

RIKER  
That's not funny!

He and Pollock start shoving each other.

SASHA  
Cut it out!

ELENA  
Hey, you two, stop it!!

She reaches back and slaps the boys. They stop fighting.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Where's the chest supposed to be?

SASHA  
Key West.

Annie and Elena exchange a look.

ANNIE  
Could be fun. Besides, we're going  
there anyway.

Elena grimaces. She's outnumbered here.

ELENA  
Fine.

Sasha reads the map. The arrow points to a spot in the  
southeast.

SASHA  
We need a key.

ELENA  
Please don't tell me we have to look  
for the key separately.

SASHA  
Yeah, we do.

ELENA  
Of course we do. Where is it?

With her finger on the map, Sasha traces the arrow to --

SASHA  
Fort Lauderdale.

ANIMATION: The car stops in Southeast Florida, Fort  
Lauderdale.

EXT. FORT LAUDERDALE/PARKING LOT - DAY

The car is parked facing the sea.

Everyone looks out over the dashboard at the ocean. In the  
distance, there is a tiny island, discernible by a few small  
trees.

ANNIE  
So that's where the key is?

SASHA  
Yeah.  
(reading)  
La Isla Maní. Peanut Island.

Elena stares at the island incredulously.

ELENA  
Why couldn't the key be in a Walmart  
parking lot or something?

Suddenly, Riker opens the door and bounds out of the car.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Riker, where are you...ugh!

POLLOCK  
How are we gonna get out there?

THONK! Pollock jumps as Riker thumps the car window with a  
paddle. He points --

A few yards away, a sign: "Paddleboard Rental."

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The kids paddle to Peanut Island.

Sasha sits on one paddleboard while Elena rows. Pollock and  
Annie occupy a second. Riker a third.

Riker extends his paddle like a jousting stick and starts nudging  
Pollock.

RIKER  
I bet I could knock you off that  
easy.

POLLOCK  
Bet you couldn't.

ELENA  
Cut it out, Riker.

Riker switches from Pollock to Sasha and Elena.

RIKER  
I could definitely knock you off.

ELENA  
Don't you dare!

SASHA  
Wanna bet?

She grabs the end of Pollock's paddle and tries to pull him off his board.

Elena starts to wobble.

ELENA  
Sasha, don't - !

Sasha gives a massive tug and pulls the paddle away from Riker. But the paddleboard tips and both girls end up in the ocean.

EXT. FORT LAUDERDALE/PARKING LOT - DAY

The muddy truck sits parked.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Luis and Max watch the kids paddling in the distance. Luis pounds the dashboard with his fist.

LUIS  
Damn it!

Laura jumps.

LAURA  
Christ!

MAX  
What do we do now?

Luis thinks for a minute.

LUIS  
Let them do the dirty work. We'll be waiting right here for them when they get back.

LAURA  
Why are we waiting here?

MAX  
Mom, can you please be quiet?

Max gives Luis a look.

LUIS

What?

MAX

(low)

I feel bad about Nick.

LUIS

What did you say?

MAX

(loudly)

I said I feel bad about Nick!

LAURA

Is that the guy in the paper you guys clobbered? Did you guys fight over money or something?

LUIS

He would never have let us look for it. You know he didn't believe in that stuff. Or he would have just donated it to some museum.

(pause)

I want that chest, Max, I want it!

MAX

And what about these kids? When we get them, what are we gonna do?

LAURA

Kids?

Max bites his tongue.

LUIS

Nothing. Max doesn't know what he's saying.

LAURA

You know, you still haven't told me what happened to your hand.

LUIS

I told you, it was an accident!

LAURA

If it was an accident, then why won't you tell me?

LUIS

Drop it, ma!

MAX

I don't want things to turn ugly.

Luis takes out his switchblade and plays with it, flipping it in the air.

LUIS

Things don't have to turn ugly....

He catches the knife and switches the blade on.

LUIS (cont'd)

...if they cooperate.

Max stares at the switchblade warily.

MAX

Do you think it's true? The legend?

LUIS

It has to be.

LAURA

I don't think you should flip that knife like that. You might cut yourself.

EXT. ISLA DE MANI - DAY

Sasha, soaked to the bone, looks at the map. The paddle boards lay on their sides against a tree.

Elena stands behind her, looking like a wet rat.

ELENA

So what's next?

SASHA'S POV: There's no clear "X" marking a spot. Just words --

SASHA

(reading)

Encuentre el centro exacto de la isla.

ANNIE

What does that mean?

SASHA

We have to find the exact center of the island.



ANNIE  
And that's where the key will be?

Sasha nods.

ELENA  
How are we gonna do that?

POLLOCK  
Easy.

Everyone looks at Pollock. He looks a little uncomfortable under everyone's gaze.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
We just have to find the Northern,  
Southern, Eastern, and Western-most  
points and find the point equidistant  
from those three.

RIKER  
(annoyed)  
English, please.

Pollock looks around. Sees a branch. Picks it up and uses it to draw in the sand --

POLLOCK  
This is the island, right?

Draws a circle.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
If we figure out how far the island  
goes East, South, and West....

He marks these points on the edge of the circle.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
We can roughly judge the center of  
the island.

Makes a point in the center of the circle.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
The guys who buried this treasure, it  
was in the 1600s, right? They  
wouldn't have any equipment to be too  
accurate so I don't think we'd be too  
far off either.

Everyone regards Pollock, impressed.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
So all we need to do, once we've  
found North, South, East, and West,  
is draw lines...

He draws line perpendicular lines on the circle.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
....and where they meet, that's our  
center.

ELENA  
Don't we need a compass, though?

Pollock reaches into his backpack. Pulls out a compass.

POLLOCK  
(reciting)  
Be prepared.

Riker rolls his eyes.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
We'll need two teams; one team draws  
the North-South line and one draws  
the East-West line.

ANNIE  
Okay, you and I can do North-South.  
And Elena, you can take Sasha and do  
the other one.

RIKER  
What about me?

ELENA  
You stay here and guard the paddle  
boards.

RIKER  
Why me?

ELENA  
Because otherwise I will kill you.

SASHA  
We don't have a compass.

Pollock reaches into his bag again. Pulls out a second  
compass and tosses it to Sasha.

RIKER  
Nerd.

EXT. ISLA DE MANI - DAY (LATER)

ON THE NORTH SIDE, Annie walks ahead, dragging a long branch along the ground creating a line in the sand. Pollock walks a few paces behind her, holding the compass, but scared to walk next to her.

ANNIE  
You good, buddy?

Buddy. Ouch.

POLLOCK  
Yeah.

ANNIE  
Are we going the right way?

POLLOCK  
Um....

He looks at the compass. They've been walking slightly West of North.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
Uh, no, move a little to the left.

Annie moves left. They walk a few yards.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
You're off center again. Move right a bit.

Annie looks back at Pollock.

ANNIE  
Maybe you should lead the way?

POLLOCK  
Yeah, that's a good idea!

He takes his place in front of her. As they walk, Annie looks over Pollock's shoulder. Pollock is very conscious of her breath against the back of his neck.

ON THE EAST SIDE, Sasha holds the compass while Elena walks beside her tracing a line in the sand behind them.

ELENA  
Are we walking in a straight line?

SASHA  
(annoyed)  
Yes.

ELENA  
Are you sure?

SASHA  
Do you wanna lead?

ELENA  
No. You do it.

SASHA  
Why are you always so...

ELENA  
What?

SASHA  
You.

ELENA  
You don't get it. Mom and Dad babied  
you.

SASHA  
Do you hate them?

ELENA  
Who?

SASHA  
Mom and Dad.

Her directness startles Elena. Before she can answer --

RIKER (O.S.)  
OH MY GOD, I'm so bored!

ON THE BEACH, Riker lies on his back on the paddleboard in  
the water.

RIKER  
Are you guys done yet?

ELENA (O.S.)  
Not yet!

Annie perks up at the sound of Elena's voice.

ANNIE  
We're getting closer.

RIKER  
You know guys, I think we need a cool  
team name.

SASHA  
Cool name?

RIKER  
Yeah, to tell the press when we find  
the treasure.

POLLOCK  
Like a mascot? Like maybe we can be  
the manatees?

RIKER  
Jesus, that's lame. What about the  
Rikemen?

ELENA  
I am NOT calling myself a Rikeman!

Pollock starts to get excited.

POLLOCK  
Just a bit more...

Sasha's getting excited too. Her hands start trembling.

SASHA  
Almost...

Both parties' paths converge.

Pollock bends down and draws an 'X' where the lines cross.

POLLOCK  
There!

ON THE BEACH...

RIKER  
Did you find it?

POLLOCK (O.S)  
Almost!

Riker slides off the board into the shallow water and  
splashes ashore.

IN THE CENTER...

ANNIE  
What are we digging with?

Sasha starts digging with her hands. A moment later, Riker  
bounds over and starts helping.

ELENA  
Who's guarding the boards?

RIKER  
They'll be fine.

Pollock joins in and helps with the digging. Bit by bit, they sweep sand away until --

Sasha's hand strikes something hard. She digs more ferociously until finally revealing a wooden box, like one of those used for cigars.

She pulls out the box and examines it. There's a small, rusty lock over the latch.

Sasha jiggles the lock. Frowns. It's not budging.

RIKER (cont'd)  
Let me try.

Sasha hands him the box. Riker drops it on the floor and like lightning, brings his bat down on the lock with all his strength SHATTERING the lock!

RIKER (cont'd)  
(to Elena)  
Told you it'd come in handy.

Sasha opens box revealing a small, brass key.

ELENA  
Wow. I did not think there was actually going to be anything in there.

SASHA  
We need to put it in a safe place.

POLLOCK  
Put it in my knapsack.

He takes the key and puts it inside of a small pocket.

The sun is not as bright anymore, more of a glow. Evening is setting in.

ELENA  
Guys, we need to get back to the car.  
The meter's probably about to expire.

RIKER  
(remembering)  
Oh, crap!

He runs towards the beach ---

The paddle board Riker was lying on has drifted further offshore. Not lost, but it's gonna be annoying to get back.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Riker paddles his board, soaking wet. Elena glances at him and stifles a snort of laughter. Riker sticks his tongue out at her.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Laura naps in the backseat.

Luis nudges Max.

LUIS

Look.

THEIR POV: The kids paddling towards shore in the distance.

Luis unzips the duffel. Inside is a handgun. Max's eyes widen slightly.

LUIS (cont'd)

(off Max)

Just to scare them a little. It's not loaded.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Elena looks ahead and sees --

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

A METER MAID. Just pulled into the parking lot.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Elena freaks out.

ELENA

Guys! Paddle faster!

Annie sees the meter maid.

ANNIE

Oh shit!

They paddle double-time.

EXT. PARKING LOT - EVENING

The parking meter shows one minute remaining. The meter maid is getting closer --

EXT. OCEAN - EVENING

Everyone looks exhausted but paddling with all the speed they can muster.

ELENA  
PADDLE, PEOPLE! PADDLE!

EXT. PARKING LOT - EVENING

Elena's board is the first to reach shore. She throws away the paddle.

ELENA  
(to Sasha)  
Get the board!

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Luis starts to get out.

MAX  
Hold on.

They see the meter maid.

LUIS  
Shit.

He gets back in. Starts the car and backs out of the spot.

EXT. FORT LAUDERDALE/PARKING LOT

The meter maid watches them drive away suspiciously.

Elena sprints and reaches the car just as the meter maid is about to inspect the meter. She tries to say something but can't for being out of breath.

The meter maid rolls her eyes.



METER MAID

You're lucky I'm in a good mood today.

She moves on.

Elena collapses beside the car in a fit of exhaustion. Unawares to her, Max and Luis are watching the whole scene closely in the distance.

Annie and the others approach her.

ELENA

(out of breath)

We...need...to...return...the boards so we can get going.

She struggles to pick herself up the ground.

ANNIE

Absolutely not.

She gently but firmly pushes Elena back down.

ANNIE (cont'd)

You need some rest. We need some rest. And I need a shower.

INT. MOTEL 6/LOBBY - NIGHT

A musty, tiny lobby. Pot of stale coffee on the counter. The CONCIERGE, a middle-aged woman, looks over the group skeptically.

CONCIERGE

Just one night?

ANNIE

Yeah, just one.

CONCIERGE

You're gonna have to get two rooms. Only four guests per room.

Elena looks in her wallet: not much money left. Exchanges a look with Annie.

CONCIERGE (cont'd)

(off their looks)

Sorry, hotel policy.

Then Riker does his thing --

RIKER

Please, m'am. I haven't seen my cousins in ages and it'd be so awesome if we could all be the same room and hangout. We live so far away and barely see each other.

CONCIERGE

Is this a family reunion of some sort?

RIKER

Yeah, well...

(eyes water)

We've recently had a death in the family. And it made everyone really think about what's important, you know? So we're taking this trip down to Key West to make up for lost time because, you never know what can happen, you know?

And the concierge buys it.

CONCIERGE

Fine. Is at least one member of your party aged 21?

Elena grimaces. Fuck.

ANNIE

Yeah, me.

She confidently hands the concierge an ID. The concierge studies the ID for a long beat. Hands it back with two key cards.

CONCIERGE

Room 316. Take the stairs outside and follow the balcony. No smoking, no drinking, no guests.

ANNIE

Sure thing.

EXT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

Elena looks at Riker.

ELENA

Thanks for that, Riker.

Riker looks uncomfortable from the praise.

RIKER  
Yeah, whatever.

ELENA  
(to Annie)  
Since when do you have a fake ID?

They approach room 316.

EXT. MOTEL 6/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Max and Luis wait patiently in their truck.

LAURA  
Are we staying here?

MAX  
No, Mom. You wait here in the car,  
we'll be right back.

They exit the truck and head for the lobby.

INT. MOTEL 6/ROOM 316 - NIGHT

Elena and Annie occupy one queen bed. Sasha and the two boys lay squished together in the other.

Sasha stares at the ceiling, sleepless.

SASHA  
Are you guys awake?

RIKER/POLLOCK  
Yeah.

SASHA  
I'm starving.

POLLOCK  
I saw vending machines downstairs.

The kids slip out of bed as quietly as they can and sneak out the door.

In the other bed, Elena opens her eyes and rolls over.

Now it's Elena's turn to stare at the ceiling. Annie senses something's off --

ANNIE  
(half-asleep)  
What's wrong?

ELENA  
Sasha asked me today if I hate our  
parents.

ANNIE  
Oh...do you?

ELENA  
Yeah, kinda. Especially my dad. I  
hate that they didn't see the  
signs...that he didn't want to see  
what was happening to Alicea.

Silence.

ELENA (cont'd)  
And then he just left. When it  
happened with Alicea. Because he  
"couldn't take it."

ANNIE  
Yeah.

Elena's eyes reflect a complicated mixture of anger and deep  
hurt.

ELENA  
I always thought he was this...big  
strong guy. That I could count on him  
for anything. But when it came down  
to it...  
(tears up)  
And then my mom just...it's so  
unfair. Parents are not supposed to  
be so...unreliable.

Annie gives Elena's hand a squeeze.

ELENA (cont'd)  
I hate this. I don't want Sasha to  
know.

ANNIE  
It's not your job to fix this.  
Everyone hates their parents  
sometimes.

INT. MOTEL 6/VENDING MACHINES - NIGHT

Sasha, Riker, and Pollock watch a Cheetos bag fall down.

Pollock tears the bag open and hungrily inhales a Cheeto.  
Offers the bag to the others. Only Sasha takes a Cheeto.

POLLOCK  
(to Riker)  
What's wrong with you?

Riker actually looks, believe or not, guilty.

RIKER  
I have to tell you something.

SASHA  
What?

Riker hems and haws for a moment.

RIKER  
Rick's not actually in Key West. He's  
in Boca.

Sasha and Pollock both stare at Riker.

SASHA  
Are you serious?

Pollock hears a DOORBELL. He peers next door into the --

INT. MOTEL 6/LOBBY - NIGHT

Luis and Max approach the desk.

CONCIERGE  
(without looking up)  
Yes?

LUIS  
We're looking for our niece. She's in  
a group of five kids. Ring a bell?

INT. MOTEL 6/VENDING MACHINES - NIGHT

ON Pollock. Those guys seem really familiar --

SASHA  
(to Riker)  
Elena's gonna go ballistic!

POLLOCK  
(low; urgent)  
Guys, shut up for a minute!

INT. MOTEL 6/LOBBY - NIGHT

The concierge looks the two men up and down. Doesn't like what she sees.

CONCIERGE

May I see some identification,  
please?

LUIS

Uh, don't have any on me. Sorry.

CONCIERGE

I'm sorry, sir, I'm not allowed to  
just give out information on clients.

LUIS

Please, it's my niece.

CONCIERGE

No ID, no business. Unless you want  
me to call the police.

Luis drops the nice act. Whips his switchblade out.

INT. MOTEL 6/VENDING MACHINES - NIGHT

Pollock's eyes go wide. A memory rushes back -- front page,  
two guys, assault, gas station. Realizes. Shit.

INT. MOTEL 6/VENDING MACHINES - NIGHT

Luis raises the switchblade in front of the concierge's  
face.

LUIS

I wasn't asking.

The concierge eyes the switchblade warily.

INT. MOTEL 6/VENDING MACHINES - NIGHT

Pollock stumbles backwards.

SASHA

What's wrong?

Pollock sprints for the stairs. The others rush to catch up.

EXT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

Riker and Sasha both grab onto Pollock to stop him running.

RIKER  
What is it *with* you?

POLLOCK  
The murderers...those two guys...from  
the newspaper!

SASHA  
Pollock, slow down!

Pollock GASPS. Runs his fingers through his hair as one realization comes after another.

POLLOCK  
The guy who gave us the map! He was  
at the station, and the two guys were  
there...and my GOD, it all makes  
sense! I should have said something  
earlier...

RIKER  
What are you talking about?

POLLOCK  
They must be after the map!  
(gasps)  
They're after *us*!

EXT. MOTEL 6/STAIRS - NIGHT

Luis and Max ascend the stairs.

EXT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

The kids hear the FOOTSTEPS on the stairs.

POLLOCK  
We have to get out of here!

INT. MOTEL 6/ROOM 316 - NIGHT

The kids BURST into the room and start shaking Elena and Annie awake.

SASHA  
Wake up! Wake up!

EXT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

Max and Luis check the numbers on the doors, struggling to see them in the dark.

MAX  
302, 303....

INT. MOTEL 6/ROOM 316 - NIGHT

Elena stirs.

ELENA  
Ugh, what is it, Sasha?

SASHA  
Uhh, uhh...  
(thinks fast)  
Hotel security is here!

ELENA  
Hotel security?

SASHA  
I think they found out Annie's not  
21! Maybe the concierge ran the fake  
ID or something.

ELENA  
Crap! Annie, wake up!

Urgently shakes Annie awake.

EXT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

Max and Luis are a few doors away.

MAX  
311, 312...

LUIS  
Why the hell are you reading them out  
loud?

INT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

Annie opens her eyes groggily.

ANNIE  
What?



Elena looks around quickly. Grabs the lamp off the coffee table.

ELENA  
We have to go now!

EXT. MOTEL 6/BALCONY - NIGHT

The kids burst out of the room and come face to face with --

LUIS  
(pointing)  
Whoa, there! Hey, you kids, stop!

The kids break into a run. Max and Luis sprint after them.

MAX  
We're not gonna hurt ya!

Elena throws a lamp at them striking Luis in the hand. Luis YELLS in pain and drops the switchblade over the edge of the balcony.

ELENA  
Oh my GOD! Since when do Motel 6's  
hire bodyguards like *that*?

The kids round a corner and head down the stairs to the --

EXT. MOTEL 6/GROUND FLOOR - NIGHT

Elena sees one of the cleaners left the closet ajar. She pulls Sasha and Riker along with her into the closet.

She gestures to Annie: come on!

Annie takes a quick look at the closet. Not enough room. Looks around. She and Pollock duck behind some recycling bins.

Max and Luis reach the ground floor. Luis is seething.

LUIS  
Those little shits are gonna pay!  
Where's my knife?!

MAX  
Shhh, Luis!

INSIDE THE CLOSET, Sasha closes her eyes, breathing a little too fast. Tries to slow down her breathing.

BEHIND THE BINS, Annie crouches as low to the ground as she can, holding Pollock close to her. Then she spots on the ground, not too far away from her, Luis's knife.

Elena dares open the closet door just a crack. Sees Max and Luis looking around fruitlessly. They move on to a different area.

She opens the door a slight bit more so she can see the recycling bins.

Annie gathers the courage and peeks around the side of the bins in Elena's direction.

ELENA  
(mouthing)  
Let's go now.

She points in the direction of the car, parked twenty yards away from them. It seems like such a long way to go.

Elena carefully opens the door and they scurry out of the closet. Unfortunately, a broomstick HITS the ground with them.

Max and Luis whirl around.

MAX  
There!

The kids break into a run again. Riker sees Luis's knife and scoops it off the floor mid-run.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The kids sprint to the car like their lives depend on it.

Laura watches Max and Luis chase the kids in shock and confusion.

LAURA  
What the - ?

Ahead of passing the truck, Riker whips out the switchblade.

POLLOCK  
What are you doing!?

Riker takes Luis's knife and digs it into the front left tire before ripping it back out.

RIKER  
So they can't follow us!

POLLOCK

Shit!

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Everyone throws themselves into the car.

ANNIE

Damn, they're really pissed about the  
fake ID!

Elena tries to start the car. The engine SPUTTERS.

ELENA

Oh my God, not now!

She keeps turning the key. No good. Max and Luis reach the  
car.

LUIS

Get out of there!

He POUNDS the passenger window with his fist.

Laura gets out of the truck.

LAURA

What are you doing scaring those poor  
kids for? I didn't raise you this  
way!

Elena tries one more time --

The engine ROARS to life!

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Luis and Max dodge Elena as she reverses. All they can do is  
watch the kids' car book it out of the lot.

MAX

Shit!

LUIS

Come on!

They jump into the truck.

LAURA

What are you doing?

MAX  
Get in, Mom!

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - NIGHT

Luis and Max chase the kids down the main road, burning rubber.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Elena looks in the rear view mirror.

ELENA  
Oh my God, they're following us!

Speeds up.

ANNIE  
I can't get my fake taken again! My  
parents will kill me!

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - NIGHT

Luis remembers something. Check his pockets.

LUIS  
Where's my knife?

As if in response, the truck starts to slow down.

MAX  
What the --

EXT. TRUCK - NIGHT

The truck comes to a rolling stop. Luis and Max jump out and start surveying all the tires, eventually reaching the bad one.

LUIS  
Those little shits!!

Max waits for a moment before --

MAX  
Do we actually need the map? You knew  
we needed to come here -

Luis rounds on Max.

LUIS  
I don't remember what the last part  
of the map says!

He gives an angry YELL like an animal. Laura steps out of  
the truck holding the duffel.

LUIS (cont'd)  
We're going to Key West and when I  
find those kids, they're gonna be so  
DEAD!

Sees Laura holding the duffel. Crap.

MAX  
Ma, put that down, please.

Laura slowly unzips the duffel. Looks inside -- then drops  
the duffel like it's infected!

LAURA  
Is that a gun!?

MAX  
Ma, it's Florida, everyone has a gun.

Laura crosses herself before pulling out a cell phone.

LUIS  
What are you doing?

LAURA  
I am calling the cops!

Starts dialing.

MAX  
What!?

LAURA  
That's right! I'm turning you in! My  
own sons!

In a flash, Luis takes the phone from Laura, throws it on  
the floor, and steps on it.

LAURA (cont'd)  
How dare you! Luis Miguel - !

LUIS  
Don't Luis Miguel me! You keep quiet,  
you hear me? Quiet!

LAURA

Don't talk to your mother like that!  
I don't know what you two have gotten  
yourselves into, all these guns,  
wanting people dead, that hand of  
yours -

LUIS

You wanna know what happened to my  
hand? You really wanna know?

He holds his scarred hand up in front of Laura's face.

LUIS (cont'd)

Max burned it with a blowtorch!  
Because I wasn't watching where I was  
putting my hand and I didn't tell you  
because it was my fault and it's  
embarrassing and I'm sick of you  
always being such a know-it-all!

Laura stares at Max.

LAURA

You burned your brother with a blow-  
torch?

LUIS

I'm getting my hands on that chest if  
it's the last thing I do! And no one  
is getting in my way!

INT. CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Elena looks again. Max and Luis are out of sight. Slows  
down.

IN THE BACKSEAT, Pollock whispers to Sasha urgently --

POLLOCK

(re: older girls)

We have to tell them.

Sasha shakes her head desperately.

SASHA

No, Elena will turn the car around!

POLLOCK

They're gonna find us! We have to  
call the police!

Sasha looks torn.

RIKER  
We can't do that! If we call the  
police, they're gonna ask questions.  
Like, what are a bunch of under-18s  
doing driving alone to Key West?  
We're gonna be in such deep shit.

Pollock opens his mouth to argue.

SASHA  
(pleading)  
Please.

Riker's gives Pollock a firm look: this is not really about  
the police.

Pollock relents.

POLLOCK  
Okay.

EXT. PARKING LOT SOMEWHERE - EARLY MORNING

Sunlight streams into the car waking Sasha. She rubs her  
eyes. Looks around her.

Pollock lies next to her in deep slumber. Riker SNORES from  
the trunk.

Elena is fast asleep in the driver's seat; Annie is curled  
up next to her in the passenger's seat.

Sasha smiles fondly at Elena, appreciating her big sister  
very much in that moment.

EXT. OVERSEAS HIGHWAY - DAY

A series of driving shots. What to say, it's gorgeous!

Nothing ahead of them except open road and crystal, blue  
water on either side.

Elena rolls down the windows, filling the car with luscious,  
sea breeze and messing with everyone's hair. Sasha sticks  
her head out the window, breathing in the salty air.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Annie CRACKS open a can of beer. Offers it to Elena who  
takes a quick swig before handing it back. You can  
practically hear Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville."

Elena looks at Sasha in the rear-view mirror. Sees Sasha staring intently at the map, completely in her own world. Elena watches her concernedly.

ANIMATION: The car finally reaches Key West.

EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

SUPER: 0 MILES TO KEY WEST

Everyone has a cone. Elena leans against the car, licking hers.

ELENA  
So what's our next move?

Sasha takes out the map. Lays it on the hood of the car.

SASHA  
The trail stops here. It doesn't tell  
us where to go next.

She points on the map: there's no arrow pointing them to their next destination.

ELENA  
Okay, let's think. There has to be a  
clue or something.

ANNIE  
What about that?

She points at some worn out words on the bottom of the map:  
"La playa donde todo ocurrio, entre la arboleda de uvas de  
mar..."

SASHA  
(translating)  
The beach where it all happened,  
among the grove of sea grape trees.

RIKER  
We need to find a beach. Well, that  
narrows it down.

ICE CREAM VENDOR (O.S)  
Actually -

Everyone turns around to look at the ICE CREAM VENDOR (20).  
She smiles sheepishly.



ICE CREAM VENDOR  
Sorry, couldn't help overhearing. If  
you guys are looking for a beach,  
there's only one here.

SASHA  
Which one?

ICE CREAM VENDOR  
Fort Zachary Taylor. South end of the  
island, 'bout 10 minute drive.

POLLOCK  
We're gonna need shovels.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A shovel sweeps away sand. PULL BACK to reveal everyone  
digging with shovels from a cheap, sandcastle set in a sandy  
area on the beach surrounded by sea grape trees.

Sasha wipes the sweat of her brow but doesn't slow down.

EXT. DOWNTOWN KEY WEST/COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The muddy pickup truck sits parked outside a coffee shop.

EXT. TRUCK - DAY

Luis leans against the truck looking murderous. Max  
approaches carrying two cups of coffee.

MAX  
Here.

Hands Luis the cup.

Luis takes the coffee and throws it against the windshield.  
A few hot flecks of coffee scald Max's arm. He flinches.

MAX  
Cut it out!

LUIS  
Don't tell me to cut it out! I tell  
you to cut it out!

MAX  
We're never gonna find them like  
this!

Luis breathes hard, trying to get a hold on his anger.

MAX (cont'd)  
You've been obsessed with this  
treasure ever since I can remember  
and you've never told me why.

LUIS  
Luke.

MAX  
What about Luke?

LUIS  
You know Mom and Dad always loved  
Luke more. Maybe if he hadn't died,  
things would be different.

Max realizes.

MAX  
You want to bring him back?

Luis looks down.

LUIS  
Where's Mom?

MAX  
She went to pee.

EXT. PARKING LOT/PAYPHONE - DAY

Laura dials. Waits.

LAURA  
Hello, police?

EXT. BEACH - DAY

By now, the kids have managed to clear a foot of sand.  
Everyone looks ready to pass out from the heat.

Elena stops digging.

ELENA  
Sasha, I don't think there's anything  
here.

SASHA  
Maybe it's deeper. We just need to  
keep going.

ELENA

Sasha.

Everyone else has stopped digging now. Elena indicates the many other sea grape trees on the beach. The treasure could be anywhere, if it's there at all.

ELENA (cont'd)

We need to get home.

Sasha finally stops digging. She rests her head against her knees.

SASHA

Okay. I just thought...

She trails off. Elena can feel her heartbreak.

ELENA

Why does this matter so much to you?  
You've never been into treasure  
hunting.

SASHA

I just thought it'd be fun. It's no  
big deal.

She gets up.

SASHA (cont'd)

Can we please do one last thing  
before we go?

INT. MALLORY SQUARE MARKET - DAY

They enter the market. It's full of TOURISTS.

ELENA

Okay, pick something Mom would like.

But Sasha already knows exactly what she's looking for. In fact, she's known since the beginning --

She bounds over to a rotating display of souvenir bracelets, searches for a moment, then plucks off a leather bracelet with a turtle on it.

SASHA

This one.

ELENA

I've never seen Mom wear a bracelet.

SASHA  
(low)  
It's not for Mom.

Elena looks confused.

SASHA (cont'd)  
Alicia wanted this bracelet last  
time. Remember? Mom and Dad wouldn't  
buy it for her because they always  
say souvenirs are overpriced...and I  
remember she really wanted it.

And then Elena realizes.

ELENA  
That's not gonna make her better.

SASHA  
Maybe it'll make her happy again,  
maybe it will make her remember us -

ELENA  
(harshly)  
That's not how schizophrenia works,  
Sasha!

Sasha's eyes well up.

SASHA  
You don't know that, Elena!!

People are looking now. Elena looks taken aback by Sasha's  
tone. Everyone else watches them, intruders on this family  
tragedy.

With resolve, Sasha walks right past Elena to the counter.  
She hands the bracelet to the SALESWOMAN.

SALESWOMAN  
Six-ninety-five, please.

Sasha pulls out a Ziploc bag of change and starts counting  
the appropriate amount.

SASHA  
(embarrassed)  
Sorry.

SALESWOMAN  
It's okay.

Elena starts putting two and two together.

ELENA

The treasure! This whole wild goose chase...is that why you wanted the chest? Did you actually believe the whole thing, about the wish?

Sasha hands the saleswoman the appropriate change.

ELENA (cont'd)

Sasha, it's not real. None of this is real!

SASHA

It could be real! You don't know anything! People in history have done amazing things and no one believed them!

ELENA

It's not realistic -

SASHA

Why do you always have to be realistic?

Sasha runs off.

Elena rubs her eyes, trying to conceal the tears, embarrassed that this family drama is out in the open. The others can only look on helplessly.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sasha runs as far as she can to get away from everyone.

She slows down to a walking pace to catch her breath. A sign advertising a bus tour catches her attention: "Discover the Old Key West."

Sasha's mental gears start turning --

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Sasha approaches the counter.

SASHA

Do you have any books on local shipwrecks?

The CASHIER nods.

CASHIER  
Yeah, right on that carousel.

She points behind them. Sasha plucks a book off titled "Key West and Shipwrecks: A History" and flips through it urgently.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Max and Luis's car stops at a light. Right in front of the bookstore.

Max casually looks in the direction of the bookstore. Sees Sasha through the window. He nudges Luis.

MAX  
Look, there's the girl!

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Sasha finally lands on a page describing the *Atocha* shipwreck.

SASHA  
(reads to herself)  
Survivors of the *Atocha* were believed  
to have washed up on the beach of  
what is now the modern-day  
neighborhood of....

Her finger moves across the map in the book to the right spot -- bingo!

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sasha runs out of the store with an urgency. Unknown to her, Max and Luis follow discreetly in their truck.

INT. CAR - DAY

Elena turns the key. The engine doesn't start.

ELENA  
Oh, shit, not again.

Turns the key again. And again.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Shit, shit, shit.

Then Elena notices -- the piece of duct tape. What the hell is that doing there? She slowly peels it off revealing the 'Check engine' sign.

RIKER!!!!

EXT. MALLORY SQUARE MARKET - DAY

ON Riker. Crap.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Elena has stuck her head inside the hood and is surveying the damage. She stares at the engine, wrench in hand, with no clue how to proceed.

Elena accidentally bangs her head against the hood. Drops the wrench on the ground.

Ow! Shit!

ELENA

She looks around on the ground for the wrench. She sees an abandoned newspaper and starts wiping her greasy hands on it. But the headline catches her attention --

She takes a closer look. The photo. It's Max and Luis. Elena realizes --

Annie approaches with Riker and Pollock.

ANNIE  
You okay, homie?

Elena holds up the newspaper.

ELENA  
Those were the guys chasing us at the  
motel!

Annie stares at the newspaper for a moment. Her eyes go wide.

ANNIE  
Holy shit. You're right!

Riker and Pollock can't hide their facial expressions fast enough.

ELENA  
Did you two know about this?

RIKER  
No! Absolutely not!

POLLOCK  
Yes.

Riker glares at Pollock. Elena throws the newspaper at the boys.

ELENA  
Bodyguards?! That's it. We have to call the police.

ANNIE  
Shit, Elena. Our parents are gonna kill us when they find out.

RIKER  
But what about the treasure?

ELENA  
There is no treasure! We are going home!

Annie notices the car hood is up.

ANNIE  
What happened to the car?

Elena looks like she's about to cry.

ELENA  
(voice breaking)  
Shit, the car!

ANNIE  
Wait, don't start! What about Rick?

ELENA  
What about Rick?

ANNIE  
He's here, isn't he? We can find him and maybe he can give us a ride back up!

Riker summons the courage. Time to come clean --

RIKER  
Elena, I have to tell you something -

There's a loud BEEP behind Elena. She turns around. The driver takes off his shades revealing --

ELENA  
Rick?

RIKER  
Rick!?



Rick (18) grins at Elena. He looks like he just came off the flats.

RIKER (cont'd)  
Hey, Elena.

ELENA  
(breathless)  
Hey.

Rick looks at Riker.

RICK  
What are *you* doing here?

RIKER  
(terrible acting)  
What's up, bro? Just thought we'd drop by and surprise you.

RICK  
How'd you know we were here? We only decided to leave Boca this morning. I haven't even told Mom yet.

Elena glares at Riker, as she pieces it together.

RIKER  
Yeah, well...brotherly intuition.

Even he can't save this. Elena angrily SMACKS Riker on the shoulder.

RIKER (cont'd)  
OW!

ELENA  
(to Rick)  
Sorry.

RICK  
Don't blame ya. You guys stuck?

ANNIE  
Yeah, our car broke down.

RICK  
(to Elena)  
Damn, your parents let you borrow the car?

Elena laughs nervously.

ELENA  
Yeah, sort of.

RICK  
Do y'all need a ride home?

ELENA  
I'm sorry, I don't want to -

RICK  
It's no problem.  
(grins)  
I'll see if my buddy can call a tow  
truck for you guys.

ELENA  
Thank you so much.

RICK  
Anything for you.

Elena goes red. Then remembers.

ELENA  
Sasha!?

On cue, Sasha comes bounding up.

SASHA  
I figured it out!

POLLOCK  
Figured what out?

SASHA  
I know where the treasure is!

She pauses for a moment to collect herself.

SASHA (cont'd)  
You know how the girl told us there's  
only one beach in Key West?

Everyone nods.

SASHA (cont'd)  
Now, yeah! But back in the day, this  
used to be all beaches. There was no  
buildings. And when the *Atocha* sank,  
the survivors washed up right....

She pulls up the map and points to a spot west of the  
island.

SASHA (cont'd)

There.

Looks at Elena.

SASHA (cont'd)

I'm going whether you -

ELENA

Let's go.

A moment of understanding passes between them.

Elena looks at Rick.

ELENA (cont'd)

Rick, can you, please --

RICK

Hop in.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rick drives, the whole group crammed into his truck.

Max, Luis, and Laura follow not too far behind.

INT. RICK'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Rick slows down.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Everyone gets out of the car, Riker with his baseball bat.

ELENA

Thanks, Rick.

RICK

No prob. Just give me a ring when to pick you up.

He winks at her before driving off.

RIKER

What's next?

SASHA

We need a vantage point.

Pollock points to a lighthouse.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

The kids climb up, high on adrenaline.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE/TOP - DAY

Sasha looks far and wide among the landscape of rich houses before her eyes settle on the target.

SASHA

There it is!

And true enough, the grove of sea grape trees a few hundred yards away! The only section of the beach that hasn't been developed.

EXT. SEA GRAPE GROVE - DAY

The group runs towards the grove, shovels in hand. They reach a patch of sand serenaded by a circle of sea grape trees. It's like out of an adventure story.

SASHA

It has to be here.

Annie SHRIEKS.

Out of nowhere, Max comes up behind Annie and muffles her. Points a gun at the kids.

MAX

Don't move.

Riker raises his bat but Luis grabs him by the scruff of the neck.

LAURA

Careful with the boy!

Luis wrenches the bat away from Riker and throws it aside. Then reaches into Riker's pocket and extracts the switchblade. Roughly shakes him.

LUIS

Didn't your mom ever teach you not to take what's not yours?

He lets Riker go.

LUIS (cont'd)

Dig.

Luis brandishes the switchblade menacingly.

Reluctantly, the kids start digging with their sandcastle shovels. Max and Luis stare blankly. Really?

LUIS (cont'd)  
(to Max)  
Get the shovels out of the car.

EXT. WEST BEACH - DAY (LATER)

The kids dig, now with proper shovels, while the men and Laura watch. Max looks very uncomfortable with the gun in his hand.

Laura shakes her head with disapproval.

LAURA  
Shame on you two.

LUIS  
You just wait, Ma. This is all for a  
very good reason.

They dig and dig --

PING! Sasha's shovel strikes something hard.

SASHA  
I found something!

She and the others rush to clear the sand away by hand, revealing an old-fashioned, proper, treasure chest with a rusty lock.

RIKER  
Wow.

POLLOCK  
Wow.

LUIS  
Where's the key?

Pollock takes it out of his knapsack.

LUIS (cont'd)  
Open it.

Pollock hands Sasha the key.

POLLOCK  
You do it.

Sasha inserts the key into the lock, hands trembling. The latch on the chest starts to rattle as if something inside is bursting to get out when --

The sand gives out underneath them!

INT. CAVERN - DAY

IN THE AIR, Sasha feels herself falling and falling -- the ground getting closer -- and stops falling inches from the ground, as if by some magical force.

Everyone hovers in midair for a moment before dropping down simultaneously. Everyone gets up slowly, shaking off the sand --

ANNIE

Where are we?

It's a cavern, like one of those that would house an underground spring.

ELENA

I think we're underground...but that's not possible...we'd hit ground water...right?

LUIS

Where's the chest!?

FLORIDA MAN (O.S)

Oh, it's not that easy.

On cue, there's Florida Man, casually eating a banana.

POLLOCK

What are you? Where did you even come from?

LUIS

You!

FLORIDA MAN

Don't worry, I never liked you either.

(takes a bite)

You see, magical items are like anything else, they wanna protect themselves cause they don't want just anyone to get to them. You've got three trials ahead of you.

Laura looks ready to faint.

LAURA  
Who is that man?

FLORIDA MAN  
Just keep walking forward. Be ready  
for anything.

He points to a large tunnel at the end of the cavern.  
Everyone moves warily in the direction of the tunnel.

INT. SMALLER CAVERN - DAY

The ceiling gets lower the further they go forcing everyone  
to crouch.

LAURA  
Oh my God, my knees....

MAX  
Here.

With his free hand, Max pulls his mother.

Annie's breathing gets shallower. She slows down. Luis gives  
her a harsh shove.

LUIS  
Hurry up!

Pollock jumps to the rescue.

POLLOCK  
Leave her alone!

LUIS  
Shut up!

Max motions at Pollock with the gun. Pollock walks next to  
Annie and takes her hand in his.

ANNIE  
(low)  
Thanks.

POLLOCK  
You're welcome.

Spiders crawl on the ceiling. Riker averts his eyes. Runs  
forward but trips over a wire!

Bars spring up from the ground behind Riker trapping the  
rest of the crew.

MAX  
What the hell - ?

CRUNCHING. Everyone looks up --  
The ceiling is caving in gradually.

ELENA  
Shit! Shit!

Luis rattles the bars on the cage to no avail.

POLLOCK  
Look for a trigger mechanism!

RIKER  
What!?

POLLOCK  
A handle! Lever! Anything!

Riker looks around wildly. Sees an old looking lever on the wall. That wasn't there before. Goes to pull on it but, oh shit -- there's a massive banana spider resting over the handle.

LUIS  
What are you doing, kid? Pull it!

Riker stands frozen in fear watching the ceiling cave in on his friends. Everyone's voices ECHO over one another in the small space.

LAURA  
It's okay, sweetheart, just breathe easy.

SASHA  
Riker!

ANNIE  
Riker, just do it!

RIKER  
I can't!

POLLOCK  
Just do it, you pussy! Do you want us all to die!?

Everyone crouches as the ceiling gets closer --

Riker looks at the lever. The banana spider hasn't moved. In fact, it's taken a resolute position over the entire handle.



Riker shuts his eyes, blocking everything out, except for --

                  ELENA  
                  (far away; dreamy)  
Riker!

Riker opens his eyes. His eyes meet with Elena's.

                  ELENA (cont'd)  
You got this!

Riker steels himself -- swats the banana spider away and pulls down hard on the handle!

The ceiling stops moving downwards. Everyone scurries out from underneath.

Elena pulls Riker into a tight hug.

                  ELENA (cont'd)  
Thank you.

A moment later, Riker is engulfed by the rest of the kids.

                  LUIS  
Enough of this sappy shit! Let's move  
on!

They pass into a --

INT. LARGER CAVERN- DAY

Before them, lies a huge underground spring.

                  LAURA  
Goodness. Now what?

Luis squints as he sees something in the water. Taps Max.

                  LUIS  
                  (pointing)  
Look.

Max looks where Luis points -- through the clear water he sees the chest lying at the bottom of the spring.

                  MAX  
That looks about -

                  LUIS  
Twenty feet or so. Hold this.

He shoves Riker's baseball bat in Laura's hand. Starts to strip off his clothes. Elena and Annie look away awkwardly.

LAURA  
What are you doing?

LUIS  
I'm going down there.

LAURA  
You can't do that by yourself! What if you drown?

MAX  
He's not going alone.

He gives his gun to Laura and starts to strip off too.

LAURA  
Are you two insane?

LUIS  
This is what we do, mama. Watch the kids.

Luis and Max have both stripped down to their boxers now.

LUIS (cont'd)  
(low)  
Just another day at the office.

He and Max take deep breaths. They dive in --

INT. UNDERGROUND SPRING/UNDERWATER - DAY

Max and Luis swim down expertly, the chest seeming bigger and bigger as they near it --

Luis reaches the chest first. He tries to lift it off the bottom but it doesn't move. He gestures to Max and they both try to lift together but it's almost as if the chest is glued to the bottom --

INT. LARGER CAVERN - DAY

Laura watches worriedly, not paying attention to the kids at all. Riker eyes the handgun in Laura's hand. He inches his way toward it --

Elena puts a hand on his shoulder. Shakes her head. Not yet.

The surface suddenly breaks as Max and Luis come up.

MAX  
It's stuck to the bottom.

LAURA  
What do you mean?

LUIS  
It's literally glued to the bottom.  
We can't move it.

He slaps the water in anger.

SASHA  
Hang on, this is a test, isn't it?

Luis realizes.

LUIS  
If there was some way to make the  
water level drop --

SASHA  
-- some mechanism or something.

Luis looks at Max.

LUIS  
You search that half.

They split up to search opposite ends of the spring.

INT. UNDERGROUND SPRING/UNDERWATER - DAY

Max swims around. Doesn't see anything.

Luis looks around. Something at the bottom catches his eye.  
He dives down for a closer look --

It's some sort of ancient looking mechanism (to be decided).  
He swims up --

Max and Luis surface at the same time.

LUIS  
Over here!

Max swims over and both men dive down together. They reach  
the mechanism. Activate it --

INT. LARGER CAVERN - DAY

Riker starts to inch his way toward Laura again, but then --

The water in the spring starts to rise slowly. Water sloshes around Laura and the kids' shoes.

ANNIE  
Um, what's happening?

Luis and Max come up to the surface.

MAX  
Did it work?

The water is rising more rapidly now, up to everyone's hips --

LUIS  
Shit!

LAURA  
What did you two do?

LUIS  
I don't know!

POLLOCK  
Find the reverse mechanism! There's always one!

Max and Luis dive down again --

INT. UNDERGROUND SPRING/UNDERWATER - DAY

It's a deeper dive down now. Max and Luis swim with an urgency. Reach the chest.

They fiddle around with the mechanism, trying to figure out how to reverse the action --

INT. LARGER CAVERN - DAY

Everyone is treading water now. The water keeps rising, threatening to fill the cave --

INT. UNDERGROUND SPRING/UNDERWATER - DAY

Luis and Max finally figure it out. Lungs bursting, they activate the appropriate setting --

INT. LARGER CAVERN - DAY

The water stops rising. Everyone breathes sighs of relief.

The water level drops and drops as the cavern completely empties of any water --

The water flows out of the cavern, leaving the bottom of the spring bare and the chest exposed, key still in the lock.

Everyone approaches the chest --

LUIS  
(to Max)  
Hold everyone back.

Luis approaches the treasure with a hungry look. Turns the key.

The chest BURSTS open as if by some magical force. A shimmering, intoxicating light emanates from within. Everyone stares at it, entranced. Sasha stares at it, drawn to its power.

Laura drops Riker's bat in shock.

LUIS (cont'd)  
How do I do this?

MAX  
Just make the wish!

There's a moment of anticipatory silence --

Riker takes this opportunity to make a sliding dive for the baseball bat.

Luis whips out his switchblade. Riker takes a swing, striking Luis in the arm!

Luis YELLS and drops the switchblade.

LAURA  
Oh my God!!

Sasha grabs the switchblade.

SASHA  
Pollock, catch!

She tosses it to him.

She throws the blade like a baseball pitcher. It flies through the air toward Pollock as if in slow-mo --

Pollock expertly catches the switchblade.

Max grabs the gun out of Laura's hand and points it at Pollock. Annie pulls Pollock down out of the line of fire and swiftly kicks Max in the kneecap.

Max drops the gun. Luis takes it and points it at Sasha.

Elena jumps in front of Sasha just as Luis pulls the trigger --

CLICK.

Luis stares the gun.

LUIS

Shit!

He rounds on Max.

LUIS (cont'd)

You didn't load it?!

Max stares at Luis, horrified.

MAX

They're kids!

Luis looks crazy. He sees Pollock holding the switchblade and lunges at him --

Max grabs Luis. The two men start fighting --

LAURA

Stop it! Stop it!

Luis gets the better of Max. Pushes him into the sand. Doesn't notice --

Riker. Behind him. Swings the bat and WHACKS Luis across the side of the head, knocking him out cold.

LAURA (cont'd)

Luis Miguel!

Riker brandishes the bat menacingly as does Pollock with Luis's switchblade.

Max and Laura carefully back away from the kids.

MAX

Hey, easy.

RIKER

Up against the wall.

Max and Laura obey.

FLORIDA MAN (O.S)

Yo.

Everyone turns -- there's Florida Man! The group stares incredulously at him.

FLORIDA MAN

That ceiling caving in. Then the water rising.

(tuts)

Not its most original traps. But oh well.

Florida Man looks at the unconscious Luis.

FLORIDA MAN (cont'd)

Nice job there. Was really rooting for you kids all the way.

Stunned silence.

FLORIDA MAN (cont'd)

Well, aren't you guys gonna make your wish?

Sasha nods. Takes a deep breath. Approaches the chest --

POLLOCK

Hang on! What about the third trial? You said there were three!

Luis's body stirs. GROANS. Laura and Max breathe a sigh of relief.

FLORIDA MAN

Oh yeah, shit, forgot to tell you something. What kind of wish were you planning on making?

SASHA

I want to bring my sister back. So she's normal again.

FLORIDA MAN

Ah, crap, you're in a pickle there. When you're dealing with people's lives, there's a catch.

Luis raises his head groggily, listening.

POLLOCK

I knew it! I knew there was a catch!

FLORIDA MAN

Tit for tat. You gotta give something  
to get something.

(off everyone's  
confused looks)

A life for a life.

Then from memory --

SASHA

(reciting)

Algo precioso -

LUIS

(groggily)

- tendras que sacrificar.

Florida Man nods.

ELENA

Hang on! Alicea's not dead!

FLORIDA MAN

Yeah, but some part of her soul is  
not there anymore. And it needs to  
come from someone else. Lives don't  
grow from trees, honey.

Sasha thinks. Elena watches her fearfully.

ELENA

Don't do it, Sasha.

SASHA

What?

ELENA

Your life isn't worth any less than  
hers.

SASHA

No, I wasn't thinking that! I was  
just thinking....this wasn't what I  
was expecting.

FLORIDA MAN

What were you expecting, kid? Free  
wishes with no consequences?

SASHA

Actually, yeah. I thought after  
everything we've been through, there  
would be some reward.



ELENA  
We can't help Alicea now. But you're  
still here. I'm still here. And  
that's what matters!

Luis slowly gets up off the floor. Sasha looks at him.

SASHA  
You can have it.

Luis regards her, stunned. Sasha steps aside. Luis staggers  
toward the chest.

LAURA  
What are you doing?

LUIS  
What do you think I'm doing? I'm  
wishing for Luke to come back!

MAX  
But you'll have to die!  
(looks at Florida Man)  
Right?

Florida Man nods gravely.

LUIS  
Yeah, well it'll make her happy,  
right?

LAURA  
Oh for Christ's sake, stop this shit!  
Is that was this is all about?

LUIS  
What, Mom? Isn't this what you always  
wanted?

LAURA  
No, it's not what I want! To lose  
another son?

LUIS  
So? You never loved me or Max as much  
as you did Luke! It was always about  
Luke!

LAURA  
Is that what you think?

Takes a moment to compose herself.

LAURA (cont'd)  
Luke and I were very close. We had a lot in common. And when he died, I'm sorry if I made you feel like I would have rather it had been you than him. But that couldn't be further from the truth.

Luis gives the chest a long hard look. Takes a step back.

FLORIDA MAN  
So no-one wants the treasure?

Silence.

FLORIDA MAN (cont'd)  
Okay.

He CLAPS his hands --

RIKER  
On second thought --

WHOOSH! The cavern disappears and everyone rises through the surface --

EXT. WEST BEACH - DAY

And they're back on the surface! The chest is gone, lost to the sands.

The sound of POLICE SIRENS.

FLORIDA MAN  
Shit, the Feds! Can't let them get me again!

He disappears.

ELENA  
Come on, let's go!

The kids take off. Before running off, Pollock throws Luis the switchblade. Luis catches it and looks at it tenderly.

CLOSE ON the handle where engraved are the words "To lil b. Love, Luke."

COPS storm the area. Luis and Max are quickly handcuffed. Luis drops the switchblade. Laura picks it up and hides it in her pocket.

A furious Nick marches up to the brothers.

NICK  
I'm suing you two! For theft and  
assault!

He gingerly rubs the lump on the back of his head.

LAURA  
I'm sorry, boys. I called them.

LUIS  
(smiling)  
It's okay, Mama.

MAX  
We'll be out in no time.

LAURA  
I'll pay your bail!

LUIS  
Ma, you can't even afford your rent.

LAURA  
I'll call friends to pay your bail!  
My friend's son is a lawyer! I'll get  
you out in no time!

Luis and Max are led into a cop car.

AWAY FROM COPS, the kids stop running to catch their breath  
for a second.

ANNIE  
That was something.

ELENA  
Yeah. What a crew.

She ruffles Sasha's hair.

SASHA  
The Atocha Crew.

ANNIE  
What?

SASHA  
That's our name.

RIKER  
I like it.

POLLOCK  
Me too.

Elena smiles.

ANIMATION: Rick's car and a tow truck pulling Elena's car make their way back North.

INT. RICK'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Rick drives. Elena sits in the front, her eyes on the rear view mirror.

In the backseat, Sasha stares out the window, squeezed between Riker, Pollock, and Annie.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Rick parks in the Ruiz's driveway.

INT. RICK'S CAR - DAY

Rick looks at Elena.

RICK  
This is your stop.

ELENA  
Thanks for everything.

His fingers brush over her hand.

RIKER  
Get a room!

Moment ruined.

ELENA  
Bye.

She gets out.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Annie, Riker and Pollock all get out to let Sasha out. Annie hugs Elena.

ANNIE  
You think your parents will be alright about the car?

ELENA  
I don't know.

She laughs gently.

ELENA (cont'd)  
I don't know anything anymore.

Riker and Pollock both give Sasha fist bumps.

RIKER  
That was sick, dude, let's do it  
again.

POLLOCK  
Yeah.

Riker makes eye contact with Elena.

ELENA  
What?

RIKER  
Nothing.

Beat.

ELENA  
You're welcome. Come here.

She gives him a hug. Suddenly, she breaks away from him.

ELENA (cont'd)  
Spider!

Riker jumps around like a maniac trying to shake it off. A plastic spider falls on the ground.

Elena doubles over with LAUGHTER.

RIKER  
You...you...asshole!

He tries to be angry but can't. Elena finally stops laughing.

ELENA  
See ya around, Riker.

Riker watches her leave with mixed annoyance and admiration.

Pollock looks at Annie.

POLLOCK  
Hey...

He can't say it. The words are caught in his throat.

ANNIE  
Pollock.....I know.

He takes a deep breath. Summons the courage.

POLLOCK  
You're really beautiful.

Annie barely suppresses a grin.

POLLOCK (cont'd)  
You're laughing at me.

ANNIE  
No, I'm not!

POLLOCK  
I know you're three years older. But  
I just wanted you to know that.

Annie regards Pollock, taking in what he's said.

ANNIE  
I never say never.

She playfully tips his baseball cap.

ANNIE (cont'd)  
And in a couple years, who knows?

She gives him a mischievous wink before getting back in.  
Pollock can't believe it.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Not a second after shutting the front door, Elena and Sasha  
are both swept up into a big hug by Amy.

AMY  
Oh my God! Where have you been?

SASHA  
Mom, it's okay. We're okay.

John comes up.

JOHN  
Hey, where's the car?

Elena gently removes herself from her mother's hug. She  
walks right past her dad, ignoring him.

JOHN (cont'd)  
Whoa, hey!

He gently stops her.

JOHN (cont'd)  
What's wrong?

ELENA  
You left.

JOHN  
I know. I needed to get away.

Elena can't believe his nonchalance. Starts walking away again.

JOHN (cont'd)  
I'm sorry, Elena!

She stops.

JOHN (cont'd)  
But when you have kids, you'll make mistakes too.

Elena turns to look at him. Her resentment unsettles him.

ELENA  
Don't even.

She goes into her room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (LATER)

Sasha looks at the Mallory Square family photo. Elena stands behind her.

SASHA  
Do you think she was ever really happy? Do you think she was faking it the whole time?

Elena waits a bit before answering.

ELENA  
I don't think so. I think there were many times...she was really very happy.

And Sasha cries. Cries it all out. Elena holds her.

EXT. RESIDENCE HOME - DAY

Sasha looks at the front entrance. Elena stands behind her. Both are experiencing a whirlwind of emotions.

Before they go in, Elena pulls Sasha back.

ELENA  
Sasha, you know it's not going to -

SASHA  
I know.

Elena nods. This is hard.

ELENA  
Just don't be too disappointed.

SASHA  
I won't.

INT. RESIDENCE HOME - DAY

ALICIA (15) sits by herself at the table eating a bowl of cereal.

The nurse approaches.

NURSE  
Alicia?

Alicia ignores her.

NURSE (cont'd)  
Alicia, someone's here to see you.

Behind the nurse, Sasha gives Alicia a furtive look.

Alicia barely looks at her sisters. Her eyes, empty and soulless, briefly flit over the two of them before returning to looking at the bottom of her cereal bowl.

SASHA  
We brought you something.

She cautiously approaches the table. Waits a moment. She opens her hand to reveal the bracelet, showing it to Alicia.

Alicia stops eating and looks at the bracelet.



SASHA (cont'd)  
We got this for you. Me and Elena.  
It's the one you wanted from Mallory  
Square in Key West. Do you remember?

A long beat as Alicia stares intently at the bracelet.

Sasha looks on hopefully. Elena holds her breath.

Then, with a dismissive look, Alicia returns to her cereal.

Sasha's eyes water. Goes back to Elena who's struggling to hold back tears as well. No heartbreak like mourning the loss of someone who is still alive.

ELENA  
(to the nurse)  
I think we'll go for now.

The nurse nods sympathetically. Sasha leaves the bracelet on the table. The girls turn to leave. Sasha takes one last look back at Alicia --

SASHA  
(urgent whisper)  
Wait!

She stops Elena from walking anymore. Elena looks back --

Alicia puts on the bracelet. For a brief moment, her eyes seem to regain some sense of humanity, as if the old Alicia is still in there somewhere...

Sasha smiles in a bittersweet sort of away. Baby steps. They turn back around and keep walking. Alicia takes her eyes off her cereal just long enough to see them leave --

EXT. RESIDENCE HOME - DAY

Sasha and Elena walk out hand in hand.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: 'Florida Man wrestles gator and claims found mythical wishing chest - now missing.'

FADE OUT