

KNITTING BALLOONS

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FADE IN:

EXT. AN OPEN FIELD -- DAY

A breeze dances across the tall green grass like an ocean wave. We can see the mountains in the back. Directly in front of us is a road sign. It reads: Stiller Rd.

The field is lined by trees on three sides and by road on the fourth. There are two CARS parked on the shoulders of the road facing in opposite directions.

We see a man hunched over in the first car. His head is resting on the steering wheel.

This is JOE LINCOLN. Joe is your average twenty year old male. Close cropped hair, jeans and a t-shirt.

BANG BANG

BECKY FOSTER is banging on the window. Becky is a twenty one year old woman who embodies natural beauty. Joe doesn't move. She opens the door and shakes him. Nothing. She hesitantly checks his pulse. A smile, he's alive.

BECKY
(loudly)
HEY!

HIS EYES POP OPEN. She jumps back.

He leans back in his seat and looks at her.

JOE
Hi.

BECKY
Hi.

He gets out of the car and looks around. Confused, he looks at his car and then back at her.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

He steps towards her, arm extended.

JOE
Yeah, I think so. I'm Joe Lincoln.

They shake hands.

BECKY

Oh good. I'm Becky Foster. Nice to meet you.

They stand with their hands still clasped for a moment looking at each other. She shakes her head and breaks the moment.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Why were you sitting like that?

JOE

I don't know really. I was hoping you knew.

Surprised, she shrugs her shoulders.

BECKY

I don't know! I was driving and then

(beat)

I saw you in your car.

JOE

Was I in an accident?

BECKY

I didn't notice any damage to your car and there's no one else around.

She swings her arm around.

BECKY (CONT'D)

So I came running over, thinking you were injured or dead or something but

(beat)

you're not...I guess.

Joe touches his chest and head to check for wounds.

JOE

Nope, I feel fine.

BECKY

Well, why were you sitting here?

JOE

I have no idea. I was driving

(beat)

and then you woke me up.

He leans against his car and gestures to her to do the same. She doesn't notice. She's just staring off.

BECKY

Huh.

JOE

What?

She snaps out of it.

BECKY

Sorry, I must have been in shock
thinking that I came up on an
accident, you know.

She makes a slight turn like she's going to her car.

Joe stands away from his car quickly.

JOE

Well it was very nice meeting you
Becky and thanks for trying to save
my life.

They both have a good laugh.

BECKY

Goodbye Joe. Maybe I'll fake save
you again some time.

He smiles at her as she turns to go to her car. He gets in
his car and starts it up. He does a u-turn and as he passes
her and waves one last time.

She waves back and stands there watching his car get further
away. After a moment she gets into her car.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S CAR

As Joe is driving away he notices his rearview mirror is
pointing down so he adjusts it to see Becky. He watches as
she gets into her car and drives in the same direction as
him.

He's fighting with himself to pull over and ask her out.

He pulls his car over and rolls down his window. After a
moment, he sticks his head out to see how far away she is.

SHE'S GONE!

He squints his eyes but can't see her anywhere in the
distance so he rolls up his window and goes on.

JOE

Huh.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE

Joe pulls into the driveway of his house. A typical one family house, white, with a nice yard and small porch on front. As he heads for the house, he opens the PICKET FENCE slowly.

He follows the fence with his eyes like he has never seen it before.

He closes the gate and goes inside.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DINING ROOM -- EVENING

Sitting at the table are Joe, his mother JANICE (50's) and his father KEVIN (50's). Their plates are pretty much empty and pushed aside.

JOE

I swear, she was like my dream girl. I even pulled over to ask her if she wanted to go to dinner or have coffee or whatever but she was gone.

JOE'S MOTHER

Now wait a minute honey, you really have no idea why you were passed out in your car?

Joe shakes his head.

JOE'S FATHER

You don't remember anything about how you ended up like that?

Joe shakes his head.

JOE'S FATHER (CONT'D)

(sternly)

Were you high or something?

Joe stands up from the table.

JOE
Dad, I'm twenty one. I'm an adult.
I got that stuff out of my system
by the time I was sixteen.

JOE'S FATHER
Adults have their own place to
live.

Joe starts for the door.

JOE
I'll move out soon Dad, don't
worry.

JOE'S MOTHER
Joe.

Joe stops and turns to her.

JOE
Yeah?

JOE'S MOTHER
Don't listen to your father. You
can stay as long as you need to.

He turns to leave the room.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
AND

He turns back to her, frustrated.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
I want you to see a doctor.

As he's leaving the room.

JOE (O.S.)
We'll see, by the way Dad, nice
fence.

His father looks at his wife, confused.

JOE'S FATHER
Fence?

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- MORNING

It's a beautiful morning, the birds are chirping and the sun is shining.

Joe comes out of his front door, dressed casually, and heads for the car.

As he nears the driveway, he notices

THE FENCE IS GONE!

He stands there for a moment, freaked out. He heads for the front door but stops just before it. Shaking his head, he gets in his car, adjusts the rearview mirror again and pulls away.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING

Joe is running up the stairs and stops in front of a door at the top of the flight.

Knock...Knock...Nothing.

JOE
(loudly)
Matt! Come on I know you're in there. It's Saturday, you don't ever do anything on Saturday.

KNOCK KNOCK!

He finally gives up and turns away. On his way down, he passes Matt's neighbor.

JOE (CONT'D)
Have you seen Matt today?

NEIGHBOR
Matt?

JOE
You know, Matt, your neighbor Matt.

NEIGHBOR
Oh, didn't Matt...

There is a moments pause.

JOE
What? Didn't Matt what?

The neighbor has a stunned look on his face.

MATT'S NEIGHBOR
Dude, what are you talking about? I
said that I haven't seen Matt.

The neighbor continues up the stairs.

Joe takes a moment, confused and a little freaked out.

JOE
(to himself)
What's going on?

He finishes the stairs and goes out the door.

EXT. STREET

As soon as he comes out the door, he almost runs her over.

JOE
Sorry, sorry, I didn't see you
there.

He looks at her and realizes it's Becky.

BECKY
Hey Joe.

They look at each other for a brief moment.

JOE
I want some coffee. Would you like
some coffee?

BECKY
Are you asking me on a date?

JOE
If you'll go then, yes, I am asking
you on a date. If you won't go,
then I definitely am not asking you
on a date, just coffee.

BECKY
Coffee then.

JOE
Coffee it is.
(sarcastically)
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)
Kind of a weird first date but
okay.

BECKY
No, a weird first date is finding
some guy pretending to be dead in a
car.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -- DAY

They sit across from each other, both having a great time.
Smiling and laughing back and forth. It seems like nothing
else exists for them. Just being there makes them both so
happy.

JOE
So let me guess, you have a
boyfriend.

BECKY
Nope.

JOE
Ha! I knew it. You see I've got a
gift.

BECKY
(laughing)
You did not. You guessed I had a
boyfriend.

JOE
Well that's neither here nor there.
The point is that I'm usually
right.

He laughs with her.

BECKY
So tell me Joe, pass out often?

JOE
Well you see, I do it to try and
lure in young, attractive, single
women.

BECKY
It seems to work well.

JOE
I've had no complaints. So what
about you?

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)
Do you pull over for any young,
attractive man you find hunched
over in a car.

BECKY
First time actually.

JOE
(fake stunned)
Really? You seemed like such a pro.

They laugh and both take a drink of their coffee.

JOE (CONT'D)
Excuse me a moment.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP BATHROOM

Joe is washing his hands and looking into the mirror.

JOE
(to himself)
She is perfect, don't screw this
up.
(staring at himself)
Keep her laughing. Laughing is
good. You got this.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Joe comes out of the restroom door smiling, dying to get back
to the table.

He stops, his smile disappears and is replaced with dismay.
He walks up to the table but it's empty. Becky is nowhere in
sight. Even the cups are gone.

He goes to the desk. No one is there so he rings the bell.
Nothing.

JOE
Hello!

Nothing. He pulls out his wallet and puts a couple bucks on
the counter and leaves the shop.

Through the window we see him looking up and down the street
trying to find Becky. He gives up and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DINING ROOM -- EVENING

Joe is sitting at the table with his parents again. They have all finished dinner and are sitting and talking.

JOE
God, she is perfect. I mean
(beat)
perfect!

JOE'S MOTHER
It's just too bad.

JOE
What's too bad?

JOE'S MOTHER
That you met her now, like that.

JOE
Like what, what are you talking
about?

JOE'S FATHER
Is she pretty?

Joe stops for a moment, remembering Becky. A smile comes across his face.

JOE
She's beautiful Dad. I don't just
mean physically, even though she is
physically beautiful. I mean
everything about her is beautiful.
Her voice, her personality, even
her walk. I've never seen anyone
like her.

JOE'S MOTHER
Where does she live?

JOE
I have no idea. She disappeared
before I found out. I have to see
her again! We connected like...like
you read about in books or see on
tv. It was so perfect.

Joe's Mother reaches over and squeezes her husband's hand.
They share a happy moment as if what he was saying reminded
her of when they met.

JOE (CONT'D)
Anyway, what's up with the fence?

JOE'S FATHER
What fence?

JOE
The fence, yesterday. I came home
and there was a picket fence around
the house. I leave today and it's
gone.

His parents look perplexed. His father sits forward.

JOE'S FATHER
You feeling okay Joe?

JOE
Yeah...what?

JOE'S FATHER
There was never a fence around the
house. We've been talking about it
for years but we still haven't done
it.

JOE
(taken aback)
That's weird. Yesterday was a weird
day.
(blowing it off)
Well I am gonna get some sleep.
I'll see you guys tomorrow.

He gets up and leaves the room.

JOE'S MOTHER
Joe, I really want you to see a
doctor. First the car and now this
fence.

JOE (O.S.)
We'll see mom. We can talk about it
later.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Joe's bedroom looks like a mix of a teenagers room and an
adults room. There are band posters on the wall and some
clothes on the floor but the bed is made and he has some nice
bedroom furniture.

Lying in his bed, he reaches over and picks up the phone on
the night stand and dials a number.

Ring...Ring...Ring...

JOE
C'mon Matt. Pick up.

Matt's voicemail picks up.

MATT'S VOICEMAIL
Hey, this is Matt. Leave a message.

Beep.

JOE
Matt, where are you? Call me back.
I met this amazing girl. Her name's
Becky. Call me.

He hangs up the phone and turns off the light.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe. Joe can you hear me?

He reaches over and turns on the light.

JOE
Mom, is that you?

No response.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe.

He gets out of bed and tries to locate where the voice is coming from. He looks at the wall across the room. He creeps towards it while listening.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe. Joe.

He starts to put his ear against the wall..

NOTHING.

He listens for a moment. Nothing. He steps back still trying to listen.

Nothing.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DAY

As Joe leaves his house, he checks the front yard. Still no fence. He gets into his car and buckles in.

INT. JOE'S CAR

As he adjusts the rearview mirror again, he sees Becky's car go by. His head whips around.

JOE
There you are.

He backs out quickly and follows her. They come to a red light and he sticks his head out of the window.

JOE (CONT'D)
Becky!

He sees her in her side mirror and she smiles as she recognizes him. Her window rolls down.

BECKY
Follow me!

The traffic light changes and they start moving. Joe is so excited.

JOE
(to himself)
You're not getting away today.

He can see her looking at him through her rearview mirror. He waves. She waves back. Eventually she pulls into a walk-up burgers and ice cream stand. They both get out.

EXT. ICE CREAM STAND

There are several outside tables with umbrellas around the ice cream stand.

Becky stands at her car and waits for Joe to come to her.

JOE
Hey.

BECKY
Hey, I'm glad you found me again.

JOE
Me too. What happened yesterday?

BECKY
Yesterday?

JOE
Yeah...The coffee shop, you, me and
a good time....yesterday.

BECKY
Oh right, that's when you ditched
me in a coffee shop.

JOE
No, I couldn't find you.

Becky takes a step forward and puts on a flirting smile.

BECKY
You'll just have to keep a closer
eye on me today.

JOE
I can do that.

They stare at each other for a moment. She turns around and goes towards the ice cream stand. He follows.

They eye each other as they order. Joe pulls out his wallet to pay.

BECKY
No wait. I'll pay.

She reaches for her purse.

JOE
No, I insist.

BECKY
You paid yesterday so I'll pay
today.

He puts his wallet back.

JOE
How did you know I paid yesterday?

BECKY
I didn't.

The woman hands them their ice cream through the window before he can respond. They take their ice cream to one of the round tables and sit down.

BECKY (CONT'D)
So Joe, how old are you?

JOE
Twenty. You?

BECKY
Twenty one. So you're just a young pup.

JOE
That's right old lady.

They laugh.

BECKY
So, would your girlfriend approve of you chasing me down like this?

JOE
Well of course not... That's why we're not going to tell her.

They laugh again.

BECKY
Your secrets safe with me.

JOE
I guess I made a mistake. I thought you were better than that.

BECKY
You were joking right?

JOE
Yes!, I thought I was winning you over with my undeniable wit and charm. Isn't THAT why you're here with me?

BECKY
Someone's got a big head.

He touches his head.

JOE
I know, I was hoping you wouldn't notice. You should try to find a hat to fit this thing.

They laugh and then both go quiet for a moment, picking at their ice cream. Joe is watching her.

JOE (CONT'D)

So..

(beat)

I like you.

She smiles and takes a bite of her ice cream. They stare at each other until she's finished.

BECKY

I think I like you too.

We watch from a distance as they talk and laugh.

EXT. ICE CREAM STAND -- LATER

They are still at the same table but now they are eating hotdogs and fries.

The space between them has gotten noticeably smaller. Happiness is written all over them and it seems like nothing could break the spell between them. They are so focused on each other that they don't realize that it has started to lightly rain. The umbrella is covering them so they aren't getting wet.

Becky has finished her food and pushed her garbage out of the way. As Joe is talking to her, his hands are moving around and he accidentally puts his hand into some ketchup but doesn't realize it.

JOE

You see what I mean?

Becky picks up a napkin and grabs his hand.

She's looking into his eyes as she cleans his hand off...

BECKY

Yes Joe, I see what you mean.

They sit, holding hands for a moment, quietly. Becky finally breaks the moment and turns away, letting go of his hand. Joe turns to the table and begins to pile up all of the garbage.

Garbage in hand, he steps out from under the umbrella. He feels the rain and looks up.

JOE

It's raining. I didn't even realize.

Becky sticks her hand out from the umbrella to feel the rain.

BECKY

Wow, I didn't realize either.
Weird.

JOE

Well I think we've sat at this ice
cream stand long enough, wanna go?

BECKY

Well I guess this is goodbye again.

JOE

Wait, can I take you for a ride and
show you something?

BECKY

(joking)

How do I know you aren't some
psycho that's gonna kill me with an
axe and bury me in the woods?

They start to walk towards their cars.

JOE

(sarcastically)

Oh please, I wouldn't bury you,
that's way too much work.

Becky reaches out and grabs his hand as they continue the
walk to their cars.

BECKY

Okay, I'll go but how about I
drive?

He agrees and they split hands as they go to their sides of
the car. As he heads to the passenger side, he checks himself
out in the rear window. He notices that he can see Becky
through the window. She's stopped and leaning over checking
herself out in her side mirror. He smiles.

INT. BECKY'S CAR

The car is standing still. Becky is looking at Joe and he's
looking out the window the other way.

BECKY

Where to?

Joe turns to her.

JOE

Oh uhhh...left.

Becky pulls out onto the road.

BECKY

So where are we going? What is this thing that you wanted to show me?

Joe scratches his head and looks like he is trying to stall and make something up.

JOE

Uhh, well I actually am not sure where we're going and I'll tell you why. See,

(beat)

I actually don't have anything to show you.

BECKY

What? Then why did you..

JOE

(interrupting)

Because, I didn't want to say goodbye yet so I figured that I would buy some time and that I would think of something. But..I couldn't think of anything, so...

Becky giggles and raises an eyebrow at him.

BECKY

Oh, I see. You wanted to show me what an ass you are.

JOE

(jokingly)

Clearly. That's something you should know from the start. It's okay though, people seem to be okay with it.

BECKY

Oh yeah?

JOE

(raised eyebrow)

Yeah, some people even think it's cute.

EXT. OUTSIDE BECKY'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

We watch from outside the moving car as the wind blows her hair around and Joe is talking to her, smiling. They couldn't be happier.

As the car moves away, we turn and see we are in front of Matt's apartment building. We move through the front door and up the stairs.

As we move through Matt's door, we see the apartment is completely

EMPTY. NOTHING. ALL WHITE.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS -- DUSK

Going through the trees, we come upon Joe and Becky. Hand in hand they are walking down a path, talking. They come to an opening. It's beautiful. The rain has stopped.

They can see the whole town from here. They sit down, close to each other. They are a couple feet back from the edge of a big, sheer drop-off.

BECKY

So you saw a fence that was never there?

JOE

Yeah, I know it's weird.

BECKY

(joking)

So you are a psycho.

Joe reaches around patting himself.

JOE

Where did I put that axe?

She laughs.

BECKY

So my dog ran away.

JOE

Oh yeah, what kind of dog?

BECKY

He's a little brown mutt. Fanny.

JOE
He? You named a boy dog Fanny?

BECKY
Yeah you know, he's like a little..

She makes a ball gesture with her hand.

BECKY (CONT'D)
cute fanny.

JOE
So why did he run away?

BECKY
I don't know, he is just gone. I
went all over the place looking for
him, you know, all the spots he
usually goes but he's not anywhere.

JOE
Well, I'll keep an eye out for him.

BECKY
I doubt you'd find him around here.

JOE
Why not? We're only a town apart.
Speaking of which, how is it that
we never met before?

BECKY
I don't know, I guess a few miles
is really far sometimes.

JOE
(looking at Becky)
Well I'm glad we found each other.

She takes a deep breath and leans on him as the SUN is going
down.

BECKY
Me too.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

Joe and his mother are sitting at the table talking. His
mother looks excited as she listens to her son.

JOE

Mom, I'm telling you, we had the best time. I have never felt like this before. I mean I think I could be falling for her.

JOE'S MOTHER

Listen honey, I know it seems like that right now.

(beat)

Young love. Oh I miss that feeling. Just take it easy and see how things go. Try not to get too attached.

JOE

Why?

JOE'S MOTHER

Because it will end badly and you will get hurt.

JOE

How do you know it WILL end badly?

JOE'S MOTHER

(confused)

I didn't say WILL.

JOE

You said it WILL end badly.

She reaches out to touch her sons face.

JOE'S MOTHER

(concerned)

Honey, I didn't say that.

JOE

Yes you did.

JOE'S MOTHER

No, I didn't. I said, because relationships CAN end badly sometimes and I don't want you to get hurt.

JOE

I won't get hurt. But you said....

(beat)

Nevermind, I'm going to bed. Good-night.

As he leaves, his mother watches him with eyes only a worried mother can have. She gets up and pulls a phonebook out of a drawer. She sits back down and flips through it.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The phone is in Joe's hand. Ring, Ring, Ring...

MATT'S VOICEMAIL
Hey, this is Matt. Leave a message.

Beep.

JOE
Dude, it's Sunday. Where the hell
are you? I wanna tell you
something. Friggen call me back!

Click. Joe pulls his blankets back and gets in bed. He lays there, his eyes wide open.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

He's shifted around but still can't keep his eyes closed.

JOE
(to himself)
Stop thinking about her. Go to
sleep you idiot!

He pulls the covers over his face.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Can you hear me?

He throws the covers off and gets up. He turns the light on and looks around.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe. Joe.

He moves to the wall across the room. He puts his EAR up to the wall. He pulls back and looks at the wall.

There's a window a few feet away. He opens it and sticks his head out. No one out there. He puts his ear back on the wall.

Nothing.

He checks the wall with his ear a couple more times. Nothing. He crawls back in bed, puts his hands behind his head and stares at the ceiling.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Joe's mother is working on the flowers in front of the house as Joe comes out of the front door.

JOE'S MOTHER
You going to look for a job today?

JOE
Umm yeah. Yup. Today is the day I think.

His mother stands up and takes off her garden gloves. She moves close to him and touches his cheek.

JOE'S MOTHER
Are you feeling alright today?

He pushes her hand away.

JOE
I'm fine Mom.

She looks into his eyes for a moment.

JOE'S MOTHER
Okay, well I have the name of a doctor..

JOE
(interrupting)
Later mom. I have to go.

He moves around her and gets into his car.

INT. JOE'S CAR

He starts up his car, turns around, and pulls out. When he puts it into drive to take off, he notices his rearview mirror is pointing down again.

JOE
(frustrated)
What the hell!

As he straightens it, he sees the FENCE in the reflection. His eyes widen and he turns around quickly. NO FENCE. Back to the mirror. No fence. He pulls away, speechless.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- LATER

Joe is standing in front of Matt's door.

BANG...BANG...BANG

He turns around and leans against the door. He knocks a few more times while he slides down the door to sit. A couple of people walk by.

JOE
Have you seen Matt?

The people just nod their heads and keep moving. He gets up and heads quickly down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

He is sitting in the passenger seat writing a note. The rearview mirror is pointing down. He doesn't notice.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

He sticks the note to the door and walks away.

THE NOTE is written on the back of a receipt. There is a partial shoeprint on part of the paper from being on the floor of his car.

IT READS: MATT, CALL ME!! -JOE

EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS

Joe exits the apartment building and starts walking down the street.

He seems to see something ahead. He sticks his neck up to get a better look.

We see Becky in the mix of people. She does not see him. She turns into one of the stores.

Joe smiles, excited to see her. He speeds up to get to her and goes through the same door she went into.

INT. CLOTHING STORE

Joe is standing inside the door looking around. It's a women's clothing store and several women are browsing.

He can't seem to spot her. He begins to walk around, his head turning in every direction.

At one point he is approached by a sales woman.

SALES WOMAN

May I help you find something sir?

JOE

No, I'm okay.

The woman begins to walk away.

JOE (CONT'D)

Actually, I am looking for a woman who came in here right before I did.

SALES WOMAN

Hmm. I was at the front when you came in and I don't remember anyone coming in right before you.

JOE

Yeah, it was like fifteen seconds before I came in. Becky. Her name is Becky.

SALES WOMAN

Like I said sir, I didn't see anyone come in for about ten minutes before you came in. Maybe you saw her go into a different store.

His EYES grow large. He seems freaked out. He looks around one more time and then heads quickly toward the door.

EXT. STREET

Joe bursts out of the door. He seems lost. Breathing heavy.

There is a bench across from him. He sits, his head in his hands.

JOE
(to himself)
What's going on?

BECKY(O.S.)
Nothing, you?

His head comes up. Becky is standing in front of him, a cup of coffee in her hand. A smile creeps across his face.

He points to the clothing store.

JOE
Hey, were you in there?

She looks.

BECKY
No, I was in there.

She points to a coffee shop right next door.

BECKY (CONT'D)
I needed my coffee.

Joe laughs.

JOE
I thought I saw you go in there so
I went in looking for you. I think
I freaked the sales lady out.

She sits down next to him and they smile at each other.

BECKY
So, stalking me huh?

JOE
Well I'm between jobs so I have
nothing better to do.

BECKY
Nothing better?

She takes a sip from her cup.

JOE
Yeah, but in a good...

BECKY
(interrupting)
Eww, not enough sugar. Excuse me a
sec while I go add more.

She gets up and goes into the coffee shop. Joe waits quietly
on the bench.

DAVE
Joe. Hey man, what's up?

Joe stands up and shakes DAVE'S hand. Dave is about Joe's age
but dressed in a nice suit.

JOE
Hey Dave, how are you?

DAVE
Good man. You?

JOE
Good, I'm good. Hey listen, have
you seen Matt?

DAVE
No, not in awhile.
(thinking)
Not since we all went out like a
month ago.

JOE
Oh, huh. I haven't been able to get
a hold of him for a couple of days.
So what have you been up to?

DAVE
Nadda. Workin, that's about it.

JOE
Hey I have someone I want you to
meet. She just went to add sugar to
her coffee.

DAVE
She...

JOE
Yeah, she's great. I think we're
kind of seeing each other.

Dave squints his eyes to try and get a look at her through
the window. He can't see anything so he gets closer to the
window.

DAVE

I don't see anyone in there. You
sure she went in here?

Joe walks past him and into the shop. Dave watches through the window. Joe looks all around the small shop and stops to talk to the cashier. The cashier shrugs and Joe turns around and walks out.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Hey listen man, I gotta go. I'll
meet her next time.

Joe is looking down, confused. Dave looks a bit worried.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You okay man?

JOE

(not really paying
attention)

Yeah, yeah, I'm fine.

DAVE

Hey call me sometime, we'll go out
again or something.

Joe nods and waves him on. He sits back on the bench, looking around, she is nowhere in sight. His FACE goes blank as he thinks.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- LATER

Joe is climbing the stairs to Matt's door again. He looks desperate.

He nears the top and sees that his note is still there. He goes to the door anyway and knocks.

Bang, Bang, Bang..

He stops suddenly. His FACE is pale. He's staring at his note. Freaked out, he grabs the note and throws it on the ground. He stands there for a second then runs down the stairs.

THE NOTE has the same footprint as before so we know it's the same note but..

It reads: Matt, I'm sorry!! -Joe

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S CAR -- LATER

Dusk is taking over as Joe drives around, looking at everyone he passes. He's looking for Becky.

JOE
(to himself)
Where the hell are you?

He has a large cup of coffee in one hand. He looks stressed out. He finishes off his coffee and throws the empty cup on the floor. It lands on a small pile of empty coffee cups.

JOE (CONT'D)
Well if I'm a stalker, I'm a bad one.

He laughs to himself.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Joe has the phone to his ear.

MATT'S VOICEMAIL
Hey, this is Matt. Leave a message.

Beep.

JOE
Dude!

He hangs up. He sits there on his bed, looking at the WALL where the voice usually comes from.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

The room is dark. No lights. Joe is sleeping in his bed. The clock on the stand reads 3:54 AM.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe. Hello? Joe.

Joe sits up, shocked.

He just sits there looking around until the voice stops. He lets out a big sigh as he falls back onto his pillow.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

The sun is shining, filling his room with light. He wakes up. He sits up slowly.

Knock..Knock on his door.

JOE

Yeah.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Hey honey, are you getting up?

JOE

I don't feel very well so maybe
I'll be down in a little while.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Are you okay? Do you want anything?

JOE

No, I'm good. I'll see you in a
bit.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Okay, just yell if you need
something.

He gets up, stretches, and looks out the window. He pulls back quickly, surprised. He looks again.

The FENCE is back.

JOE

(loudly)

Mom!

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Yes honey?

JOE

Why is there a fence around the
house?

There is a pause as she finds her way to a window.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)
I don't see a fence honey.

He looks back out the window. The fence is still there.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Are you okay in there? Can I come
in?

JOE
No Mom, I'm not dressed. I'm fine,
really. I'm just really tired,
that's all.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)
Let me take you to the doctor
today.

JOE
No Mom, I'm fine. I am gonna try
and get some more sleep.

He sits down on his bed, head hanging in his hands, quiet.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - JOE'S ROOM - DAY

-Joe is sitting on his bed writing into a notepad. He gets up
and looks out the window. The fence is still there.

-He comes into his bedroom, towel around himself. He walks to
the window and looks out. He shakes his head and walks to his
dresser.

-He's dressed now, laying on his bed with headphones on. He
gets up quickly and looks out the window. FENCE! He lays back
down.

END MONTAGE

Now he is just sitting on the edge of his bed with his
headphones on..

RING...RING...RING...over the music.

It's the house phone. He doesn't pick it up. It continues to
ring.

JOE
(yelling)
Mom!

He gets no response. Hesitantly, he picks up the phone.

JOE (CONT'D)
Hello.

BECKY (O.S.)
Joe.

He smiles.

JOE
Becky?

BECKY (O.S.)
Yeah. What are you up to?

JOE
Nothin, just sitting here. You?

BECKY (O.S.)
Same. So where did you go
yesterday?

JOE
Yeah right, where did you go?

BECKY (O.S.)
I was looking for you.

JOE
Me too.

BECKY (O.S.)
Huh, well what are you doing
tomorrow?

We watch as they talk. He seems so happy...as if everything were okay. He gets up and starts pacing while on the phone.

He looks out the window.

NO FENCE!

JOE
This is gonna sound weird but you
seem to make everything better when
you're around.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
I know you can hear me.

JOE JUMPS out of bed, turns on the light and runs to the wall. He puts his ear to it. He runs to his bed and pulls out a box from below it.

Digging through it, he comes up with a trophy. He goes back to the wall.

SMASH!

He starts putting holes in the wall. He gets a good start and peeks through the hole. It's not big enough.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe?

He's pulling at the wall, making the hole bigger and bigger.

He stops and steps back. There is nothing in the wall.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Come on Joe. Joe. Joe.

His head whips around and he's focused on the wall on the other side of the room.

He runs over and smashes the wall putting a hole in it.

JOE
Who are you?

He goes back and sits on his bed looking around and listening.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- MORNING

We see Joe's mother walk through the kitchen with a basket of clothes. We follow her through the house and up the stairs.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Knock..Knock..

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)
Are you decent sweetie?

Joe rolls over and as he stretches, he lets out a growl. The door opens and his mother comes in with the basket.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
You should get up sweetie. Time to look for a job.

As she's talking, she walks over and puts the basket down across the room.

She jumps back.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
What the...Why is there a hole in the wall?

As she turns towards him she notices the hole on the other wall. Her hand covers her mouth. She is stunned.

Joe sits up abruptly. He points to the wall where the hole is.

JOE
Okay I heard a voice in the wall right there.

His mother looks at the wall and back at him.

JOE'S MOTHER
A voice? What are you talking about honey?

Joe gets out of bed and nears the wall.

JOE
A voice! A ladies voice. Right there!

He turns and points to the other hole.

JOE (CONT'D)
And then right there.

She grabs his hands and leads him back to the bed. They sit next to each other, facing one another.

JOE'S MOTHER
(softly)
Are you okay? I mean really.
(MORE)

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

You seem to be going through some weird stuff and I'm not sure that everything you see or hear is

(beat)

well, really there.

JOE

You think I'm crazy mom?

JOE'S MOTHER

No, no, you're not crazy. Maybe you just need to talk with someone.

JOE

I'm not crazy mom.

She hugs him and strokes his hair.

JOE'S MOTHER

I know honey. I do.

She gets up and starts to put his clothes away.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

I know this guy who might be able to talk with you. I went to school with him. He just moved back about a year ago and opened his office. He's a psychiatrist. I looked up his number the other day.

JOE

(sarcastically)

Great, a shrink.

JOE'S MOTHER

I called him and told him what was going on. He said he would really like to see you. Come on, what do you say? For me?

Joe sighs loudly.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Just once okay, just go once and if you want to keep going then that's your decision.

They look at each other. She looks so worried that he crushes under her guilt.

JOE

Okay, once. After that I'm done.

She finishes putting the clothes away and heads for the door.

JOE'S MOTHER

Thank you sweetie. I will go call him right now and try to set it up for this afternoon.

JOE

I have a date at five thirty today.

JOE'S MOTHER

Oooo, a date huh? I'll make sure you're out of there in time.

CUT TO:

EXT. DR. SMITHS OFFICE -- DAY

Joe is standing in front of a small building, hesitant on going in.

The door reads: Dr. J. Smith, M.D. - Psychiatrist.

Joe opens the door and goes in.

INT. DR. SMITHS WAITING ROOM

Joe is sitting in the waiting room. It's what you'd expect, a bunch of peach colored chairs lining the small room. At each corner is a small table covered with magazines.

There is a man sitting across from him that keeps hitting himself in the side of his head about every ten seconds. He's not hitting himself really hard, but enough to hurt. Joe just stares at him, doing all he can to not burst into laughter.

THE DOOR OPENS and gives Joe a bit of a jump.

DR. SMITH

Joe I presume?

Joe stands up and shakes his hand. DR. SMITH is a fifty something man with graying hair and glasses. Very distinguished and successful.

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)

I'm doctor Smith. It's nice to meet you. Come on in.

INT. DR. SMITHS OFFICE

Dr. Smith sits in a leather chair and invites Joe to sit across from him.

DR. SMITH

Okay Joe, I'll start. I like to keep my conversations with my patients very personal. What I mean is that I want you to think of me as someone you can trust and feel safe around, a friend, and not just a doctor.

JOE

But not just a friend?

DR. SMITH

Well it's important that you still think of me as a doctor too. That way you can talk to me like a friend but will still respect my advice and diagnosis as a professional. That being said, I want you to call me John and I will continue to call you Joe.

JOE

John? Your name is John Smith?

DR. SMITH

Yeah I know. When I was in college my frat name was Generic.

The ice is broken a bit and Joe settles deep into his chair.

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)

So your mother says that you have been seeing things that aren't real. Is that true?

JOE

I don't know, I see them so they're real to me. They just keep disappearing before anyone else can see them.

DR. SMITH

Why don't you just start from when you noticed weird things starting to happen.

THE CLOCK on the wall reads 1:04.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE CLOCK on the wall reads 1:51.

Joe is sitting forward in his chair as the doctor takes notes.

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)
What trophy was it?

JOE
What do you mean?

DR. SMITH
The trophy you used to break the wall, what kind of trophy was it?

JOE
Oh, it was the only trophy I ever won. Me and my friend Matt, the one I can't find, won it in fourth grade. I remember they had a triathlon type thing and you had to complete these stupid events with a partner. That was the first time Matt and I ever met. We've been best friends since.

DR. SMITH
Did Matt get a trophy too?

JOE
No, he said he could tell that I really wanted it. It's funny because even to this day, if he wants something and I refuse, he says "Hey remember when I let you have that trophy?".

Dr. Smith looks at his watch.

DR. SMITH
Okay Joe, I think we have a good start here. Now this is what I want you to do. If you see something that you think should not be there, try and get someone else to look. If they don't see it, take note of it.

JOE
In a notebook or something?

DR. SMITH

A notebook is a great idea. Just write down what it was that you saw or heard. Write down where you are, what time it is, is there anything going on at that time that might be relevant, any particular feelings or emotions. Anything you can think of. It's very important to know all of these things so we can try and pinpoint what is causing you to see or hear things that aren't real.

JOE

So am I crazy John?

DR. SMITH

I'll be honest, there are a couple of possibilities. The worst being schizophrenia.

JOE

Oh my god!

DR. SMITH

Now don't be alarmed yet, I'm not saying that is what's going on, just that it's a possibility. Of course the mind is an amazing tool. It could just be that there is something that is triggering your mind, like a switch, and causing these hallucinations.

JOE

That sounds crazy too.

Doctor Smith hands Joe a clipboard and a pen.

DR. SMITH

This is a form that allows me to discuss this matter with whomever you write down. I have a feeling your mother will call me so if you want me to discuss this with her then add her to the list.

Joe writes on the form.

JOE

Just her. This way she won't hound me.

Dr. Smith stands up and leads Joe towards the door.

JOE (CONT'D)
So I'm okay right now right? I mean
you're not admitting me or
anything.

DR. SMITH
It actually takes a lot to get
someone admitted. I had a guy once
who would take off his shoes and
lick the bottom of them every time
he came in.

JOE
Why?

DR. SMITH
He said it was the only taste of
sanity he could ever get.

Joe opens the door.

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)
Joe, I would like to see you again
in two days okay. Same time.

Joe agrees and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT -- LATER

Joe and Becky are sitting across from each other at a table.
Joe is done eating and Becky is just finishing.

JOE
So I'm crazy. Did I tell you I was
crazy?

BECKY
(laughing)
No.

JOE
Yeah, I'm crazy. Found out for sure
today actually.

BECKY
Crazy huh? Like what kind? Crazy
like serial killer crazy or crazy
like you sit around all day and
knit balloons that can't fly?

They both laugh for a moment.

JOE

Somewhere in between I think.
Seriously, I went to see a
psychiatrist today. He said there
is something that is triggering my
mind and causing me to see things
that aren't real.

BECKY

You're serious. Like the fence?

JOE

Yeah the fence that's not really
there or I'll hear a voice that
doesn't exist. Nothing big really.

Becky smiles and reaches across and grabs his hand.

BECKY

Am I real?

JOE

Oh yes, my mind isn't clever enough
to make someone like you up.

BECKY

What's that supposed to mean?

JOE

Just
(beat)
perfect.

BECKY

I'm not perfect.
(beat)
Close, but I have faults just like
everyone else.

He leans in.

JOE

I know, that's what makes you
perfect.
(beat)
It doesn't seem to phase you that I
just told you I was crazy.

BECKY

It doesn't sound like you're crazy,
just a few issues. What guy doesn't
have a few issues?

He gives her an agreeing nod and they both take a drink.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Let's go somewhere.

JOE
Where?

BECKY
A car dealership.

JOE
A dealership? Looking for a new car?

BECKY
Yeah, I am.

JOE
What's wrong with your car?

BECKY
Lately I've felt like I needed a new car.

He leans in close, squinting his eyes.

JOE
I think you need a new silver spoon too. That one's looking a little...

She interrupts by giving him a little push.

BECKY
Oh please, I actually buy my own cars
(beat)
with my parents money.

They laugh.

JOE
Ha, see. I knew it.

BECKY
Anyway, by now the dealerships are closed so we won't be hounded by salesmen.

JOE
Okay, I'm in. Lets go.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP -- EVENING

The parking lot of the dealership is lit by large, tall lights. Joe and Becky are walking around looking into the different cars. It's pretty obvious that their attention mostly lies on one another.

JOE

Now see, you have to be careful.
These cars will look different in
daylight. These lights give off a
bluish light that makes the cars
paint look different.

BECKY

I'll keep that in mind Captain
Obvious.

She salutes him. He makes a superhero stance.

JOE

And don't forget kids, it hurts
when you punch yourself in the head
so be careful.

BECKY

(laughing)
What?

He drops the superhero stance.

JOE

Well it's pretty obvious that it
hurts to punch yourself in the head
so...

BECKY

Maybe you are crazy.

JOE

Yeah, I'm not the one that came up
with...what was it...sitting around
knitting balloons that won't fly?

Becky bursts into laughter. Joe follows.

BECKY

My grandmother used to do that.

JOE

Ahh, it's all starting to make
sense now.

She flirty punches him in the arm.

BECKY

Hey, I loved my grandmother.

JOE

I'm sure you did, I mean who wouldn't. Every time you saw her she had pretty yarn balloons she knitted for you.

BECKY

(joking)

You're such a jerk. That was after her mind started slipping. Now come on, I need to find a car.

She takes his hand and they walk off into the darkness.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

Joe and his mother are sitting at the table talking.

JOE'S MOTHER

So did you get a notebook?

JOE

Not yet, I have one upstairs though.

JOE'S MOTHER

Don't forget. That could really help.

JOE

I won't. Does Dad know about all of this?

JOE'S MOTHER

No, I chose not to tell him, at least not until we know what's going on.

JOE

What do you think he would say?

JOE'S MOTHER

Probably something like, "Tell him to be a man and figure it out." You know your father, he means well but he just has trouble showing it properly.

Joe puts his head down. He's on the brink of crying. His mother comes around the table and hugs him.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
Everything will be okay honey.
Trust me, you're not going crazy.

He starts crying as she holds him.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

As Joe is getting into bed, he reaches under and pulls out the box. He finds the trophy and puts it on the night stand, within easy reach. He shuts off the light.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- MORNING

THE FENCE is back and we follow it around the house until we come up on Joe. He's standing next to the fence, writing in his notebook.

Finished writing, he closes the notebook and reaches out and touches the fence. His hand moves up and down it. It must be real.

He goes quickly to the door and opens it.

JOE
Mom, could you come here for a sec?

His mother appears in the doorway.

JOE'S MOTHER
What do you need dear?

JOE
Do you see a fence around the house.

JOE'S MOTHER
No dear. Do you?

JOE
Oh yeah, it looks nice too. You guys should definitely put one up. You'll love it.

She tries to hide the fact that she is worried.

JOE'S MOTHER
Did you write it down?

JOE
Yup, hey, I gotta go so I'll see
you later.

His mother watches as he opens and closes a fence that's not there.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING

BANG...BANG...

Joe is banging on Matt's door again. Nothing. He tries to look under the door. Nothing. Just before he walks away he tries the door.

IT OPENS.

He's standing in the doorway as the door slowly swings open. The apartment is EMPTY. No furniture, no pictures, nothing.

He hurries through the place. Every room is blank. He checks the refrigerator. It's empty.

He leans against the counter, staring off for a moment.

He opens the notebook and frantically starts writing. As he's writing, he hears.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Hey Joe.

He slowly lowers the paper and looks around.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Listen Joe, you're gonna get
through this.

JOE
Hello!

He runs into the empty living room.

JOE (CONT'D)
Who are you? Why do I keep hearing
you?

He runs out of the apartment.

EXT. STREET

He is moving quickly down the sidewalk, almost running. Breathing heavily, he stops to rest and leans against a wall.

SMASH!

Joe almost falls from the disturbing sound.

He looks up quickly.

NOTHING but sky!

Everyone around him is acting like nothing happened. A few of them are looking at him like he's crazy.

He hurries into an alley. He leans up against the wall and pulls out his notebook.

As he's writing..

JOE

Voices.

(beat)

Loud crashing sound.

(beat)

No one else heard it.

(beat)

What is happening to me?

He puts the pad away and slides down the wall into a seated position.

A BRIGHT LIGHT shines from the other end of the alley. So bright he has to squint.

He uses his hand to try and block some of the light to see where it's coming from. He slowly steps closer.

BARK BARK

He turns around and finds a small brown dog looking at him. He turns back and the light is gone. He turns back to the dog.

JOE (CONT'D)

Hey buddy.

The dog licks his hand.

JOE (CONT'D)
Good boy. Let's see who you belong to.

He reaches under and pulls the tags up.

It reads: Hello, my name is Fanny. Flip over for my address.

JOE (CONT'D)
Fanny? You're fanny? I know who you belong to.

He picks up the dog and heads back to the street.

JOE (CONT'D)
Okay Fanny, we gotta find a store that sells a leash. Your mommy is gonna be so happy when she sees you.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Joe is leaving a store and the dog is following on his new leash.

JOE
That's better, my arm was getting tired.

He and the dog start walking.

JOES FATHER (O.S.)
Joe, hey Joe. Joe!

Joe just keeps walking with the dog.

JOES FATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Joe, would you stop.

A look of recognition comes across his face. He stops and turns around.

JOE
Hey Dad.

JOES FATHER
Hell, I didn't think I'd catch ya.

JOE
What are you doing here?

JOES FATHER
Just getting some shopping done.
What's that?

He points to the dog.

JOE
This is Fanny.

JOES FATHER
You're not bringing that into my
house are you?

JOE
No, this is Becky's dog.

JOES FATHER
Why don't you put that mangy thing
in your car and we'll get some
lunch.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT

Joe and his father are sitting at a table in front of a big
window. Joe's notebook is sitting on the table next to him.

JOES FATHER
So how'd you get that thing.

He points to the dog.

JOE
Weird story actually. Her dog ran
away a couple of days ago and she
hasn't been able to find him. Well
today I'm at Matt's, or at least
what used to be Matt's and..

JOES FATHER
(interrupting)
What do you mean...used to be
Matt's?

JOE
I mean that he must have moved
without telling anyone. His
apartment is completely empty.
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

Anyway, so I leave his place and I'm walking and then all of a sudden this dog is standing in front of me. I read the tag, it's her dog.

JOE'S FATHER

Huh. So when do I get to meet this pretty girl you're seeing?

JOE

Soon. I gotta use the bathroom.
Excuse me.

Joe gets up and goes to the bathroom. His father reaches across the table to get some sugar for his coffee. As he does, the container falls over on top of Joe's notebook, spilling sugar all over it.

His father picks up the book to wipe it off. He looks at the book curiously and opens it up. His face looks confused. He flips the page, still confused.

JOE RIPS the book out of his hands.

JOE (CONT'D)

That's private Dad. What the hell are you doing?

JOE'S FATHER

What is that Joe huh, what's going on?

Joe sits quickly and leans across the table.

JOE

None of your business!

JOE'S FATHER

You going crazy son?

JOE

Real nice Dad! Yeah! I am going crazy. So what!

Joe gets up and heads for the door.

JOE'S FATHER

What about lunch?

JOE

You eat it!

He leaves. As he gets into his car, he adjusts the rearview mirror. He gives his father a mean look. His father just sits. His head falls in his hands and he lets out a big sigh.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK -- EVENING

It's dusk and Joe is sitting on a park bench holding onto the dogs leash.

The dog is running back and forth.

A figure starts to approach from the back. Joe doesn't notice.

BECKY

Joe.

He nearly jumps off of the bench.

BECKY (CONT'D)

(laughing)

I didn't mean to scare you.

Joe stands up and faces her. We can see that his notebook is in his back pocket.

JOE

Hey.

BECKY

What's up?

JOE

Just waiting for this girl I know.
She's running late though.

BECKY

Oh yeah, maybe she's letting you
fill with anticipation.

JOE

Well it's more like apprehension
with this girl.

She slaps his shoulder.

BECKY

What's that?

She points to the dog. He leads the dog around the bench.

JOE

What do you mean? You should know
your own dog.

She bends down and pets the dog.

BECKY

That's not my dog.

JOE

What? Are you serious? His name is
Fanny and he's a small brown dog.

Becky looks at the dogs tag.

It reads: Hello, my name is Ronald. Flip over for my address.

She looks up at Joe.

BECKY

The dogs name is Ronald.

Joe bends down to look for himself.

JOE

Oh shit, I stole someone's dog!

They both stand up, laughing.

JOE (CONT'D)

I swear that tag said Fanny. I
better take him back.

BECKY

Where did you get him?

JOE

I found him near my friends
apartment building.

BECKY

You just picked up a dog on the
street thinking he was my dog?

JOE

Yeah, I even bought him a leash.
Wanna walk with me?

BECKY

Let's go.

They start walking down the street. She grabs his arm as they walk.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET -- LATER

They are standing in front of the alley where Joe found the dog. He reaches down to undo the leash.

BECKY
You're just gonna let him loose?

JOE
Yeah, dogs are good at finding
their way home. What else am I
gonna do with him?

BECKY
My dog didn't find his way home
yet.

Joe lets the dog loose and the dog takes off down the alley.

JOE
Well he looks like he knows where
he's going.

They start walking again.

BECKY
So I can't believe you stole a dog
for me.

JOE
Yeah, the things a guy will do to
try and impress a pretty girl.

BECKY
So you think I'm pretty?

JOE
(joking)
Yeah, you're alright. Hey there's
my best friends apartment building.

He points to Matt's building.

BECKY
Why don't we stop and you can
introduce us?

JOE
He doesn't live there anymore.

BECKY
You just said he did.

JOE
I know because I didn't know that
he didn't live there until a couple
hours ago.

BECKY
Is he a good friend?

JOE
Best. That's why it's so weird that
he just up and left like that. Not
a word to me at all. We usually
talk at least once a day but I
haven't been able to get a hold of
him for days now.

BECKY
You think he's okay?

JOE
I'm sure I would have heard if
something bad happened to him. Just
strange.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE -- VARIOUS SHOPS -- EVENING

-We see them through the window of a candy shop. They are
looking around at all of the candy. They're having fun.

-We see them through the window of a coffee shop. They are
sitting at a table, both drinking coffee and talking.

-We see them walking down the street, holding hands.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PARK -- LATER

We find them sitting on the edge of a fountain, talking. They
both have lollipops in their mouths.

A Porsche drives by..

BECKY

Oooo, I like that. Why don't you go steal that for me?

JOE

Sorry, I only steal dogs.

BECKY

Oh yeah?

JOE

Yeah, I feel that nothing shows my affection for someone like small, stolen animals.

BECKY

Geez, I'd hate to get a gift from you on Valentines Day.

JOE

Do you like imported reptiles?

They laugh.

BECKY

So I guess I'll ask since you haven't brought it up.

JOE

Ask what?

She points to the notebook.

BECKY

What's with the notepad sticking out of your back pocket?

JOE

Oh, that's just my list of stolen goods.

BECKY

(laughing)

No really, come on.

JOE

Remember how I said I was going crazy?

She nods.

JOE (CONT'D)

Well this is for me to keep record of weird things that I see or hear.

BECKY
Can I see?

JOE
I'd rather you didn't. It's kind of private.

BECKY
Okay, I understand. Are things getting worse?

JOE
I don't know, sometimes it seems like they are and then sometimes, like tonight, things seem fine.

She gets close to him.

BECKY
I guess things ARE better when I'm around.

JOE
You have no idea.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Joe is sitting up in his bed writing in his notebook.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Can you hear me?

He slams the notebook closed.

JOE
YES!

He throws the notebook down in frustration.

He lays down. Before he shuts the light out, he looks at the trophy that is still sitting on his night stand.

JOE (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Where are you?

CUT TO:

JOE'S DREAM

INT. JOE'S HOUSE

Joe is standing at the front door, looking at it.

KNOCK...KNOCK

He opens the door.

MATT is standing there with a big smile.

JOE

Matt!

MATT

Dude, where have you been? I've been looking all over for you?

JOE

Yeah right, I've been looking all over for you!

RUFF RUFF...we hear a dog barking in the background.

Joe tries to look around Matt to see where the sound is coming from.

JOE (CONT'D)

Why did you move without telling me? Why won't you answer your phone?

Matt's smile turns into a look of confusion and fear.

THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT by itself.

END DREAM

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

JOE JUMPS AWAKE in his bed. Sweat is pouring down his face. He reaches over and picks up the phone and dials.

MATT'S VOICEMAIL

Hey, this is Matt. Leave a message.

Beep.

JOE

Come on man, you move without telling me and then you don't return my phone calls. Real cool! Are you mad at me or something?

Click. He lays back in bed. His EYES are wide open.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Joe comes down the stairs and heads for the kitchen. He stops when he hears his mother on the phone.

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)
Schizophrenia? Oh my god.
(beat)
Well how bad can..
(beat)
Okay
(beat)
Oh today, good.
(beat)
I'll call you back on Monday then.
Thank you John.

He hears her hang up.

As he enters the kitchen his mother is sitting at the table. She is pretty shook up.

JOE
You okay mom?

JOE'S MOTHER
Yeah, yeah. So what are you doing today?

Joe sits down with her.

JOE
I see the doctor again today.

JOE'S MOTHER
(acting surprised)
Oh good, what time?

JOE
One. So what did Dad say?

His mother gets uneasy in her chair.

JOE'S MOTHER
Look, your father has trouble understanding things that aren't cut and dry. Plus he was mad that we kept this from him.

JOE
Well that's because he's a freak!

JOE'S MOTHER
I know, but he will come around. I think he's just scared.

Joe gets up and heads for the door.

JOE
Alright, I'm gonna go. I'll talk to you later.

JOE'S MOTHER
So do you like Doctor Smith?

JOE
Yeah, he's alright. We'll see how today goes.

He leaves. She sits there staring off looking distressed.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. SMITHS OFFICE -- DAY

Joe and Dr. Smith are sitting in their chairs across from each other. Dr. Smith is thumbing through Joe's notebook. Joe is watching as the doctor makes different facial expressions as he reads.

Dr. Smith closes the notebook and hands it back to Joe.

DR. SMITH
Well, you kept a real good record of the things that happened. Good job.

JOE
Thanks. So what does it mean?

DR. SMITH
Well, I'm not sure yet. I have some ideas but I need to talk some more with you and see a couple more days of that book.

JOE
So do you think I'm going crazy?

DR. SMITH
Like I said before, I am not sure what exactly is going on yet.

(MORE)

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)
I will say that it's very possible
that you are schizophrenic. Your
symptoms are progressing faster
than normal though.

Joe's eyes go big.

JOE
I'm gonna lose my mind.

DR. SMITH
Well now calm down. I haven't
diagnosed you yet. Let's just stay
on track.

JOE
Yeah that's great. Okay on track,
lets go.

DR. SMITH
Now, tell me about the dream.

THE CLOCK on the wall reads 1:22.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE CLOCK on the wall reads 1:59.

They are still sitting in their chairs talking.

JOE
No, I don't recognize the voice at
all. It's a girl but that's it.

DR. SMITH
What do you think she is trying to
tell you?

JOE
She sounds nice. Kind of concerned
but I have no idea what she's
trying to tell me.

DR. SMITH
She's never responded directly to
you though right?

JOE
Nope.

Joe looks at the clock.

JOE (CONT'D)
I think our time is up.

Dr. Smith looks at his watch.

DR. SMITH
Yes, it does appear that way.

They stand up and shake hands.

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)
Okay, this is what I want you to do. Keep writing in the notebook. Especially take note of anything that may happen when Becky is around.

JOE
Why?

DR. SMITH
Well, the only time that you don't have anything written down is when you're with her. If you don't want to write while you're with her, make sure you remember the details and write it later. Okay?

JOE
Yeah but things don't really seem to happen when she's around.

Dr. Smith looks puzzled.

DR. SMITH
Huh.

JOE
So two days again?

DR. SMITH
No, that would be Sunday. Come back on Monday, same time.

JOE
Alright John, see you then.

DR. SMITH
Hey Joe, I want you to try something else too. When you see something, like the fence for instance, try and make it go away.

JOE
Make it go away?

DR. SMITH
Yeah, just try to convince yourself
that it's not really there. See if
it goes away.

JOE
Okay.

Joe leaves the office.

INT. DR. SMITHS WAITING ROOM

As Joe is leaving, he notices the same guy that was there
before. He is still hitting himself in the head.

He doesn't laugh this time. A look of compassion comes over
his face and you can see that he actually feels sorry for the
guy.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- LATER

Joe is standing in front of his house. The fence is in front
of him.

He waves his hand over the fence like a magician. It's still
there. He squeezes his eyes shut as hard as he can and then
opens them. It's still there.

He closes his eyes...

JOE
You're not there. You're not there.

He opens his eyes. Still fence. He leans down to the fence.

JOE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I know you're not real, go away. Go
away.
(yelling)
Go away! You're not real!

JOE'S FATHER(O.S.)
What the hell are you doing?

Joe straightens up and sees his father outside the front
door.

JOE
Nothing.

His father sits on the front steps.

JOE'S FATHER
Come here for a second. Sit down.

Joe reluctantly goes and sits next to his dad. The fence is gone. There is a moments silence.

His father seems apprehensive about starting the conversation.

JOE'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm not very good with this sort of stuff. You know that.

JOE
I know Dad, so why try?

JOE'S FATHER
Because I give a damn. Believe it or not, I do! So tell me, what's this stuff that's going on?

JOE
Dad, thanks for trying but I don't really want to talk to you about it.

JOE'S FATHER
Well I'll tell you what, when you do want to talk to me about it, I'll be waiting. Okay?

JOE
Yeah Dad, okay.

His father slaps his back.

JOE'S FATHER
Now how about that girl you're seeing? Can you talk about that?

Joe instantly gets excited. He turns to his father and they begin to talk.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- LATER

It is starting to get dark out, Joe and his father are still sitting and talking on the steps.

The front door opens and Joe's mother is standing there.

JOE'S MOTHER
Okay boys, time for dinner.

JOE'S FATHER
We'll be right in honey.

She closes the door.

JOE
Thanks Dad. I don't think we've
ever sat and talked like this.

JOE'S FATHER
Yeah, that's too bad. I had a good
time.

JOE
Me too.

They both get up and go inside.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Joe is sitting on the edge of his bed talking on the phone.

JOE
So tomorrow is Saturday, do you
wanna do something?
(beat)
I don't know, whatever you want.
(beat)
Well what is..

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Come on Joe!

Joe jumps from the sound.

JOE
Hold on a sec okay.

He covers the phone with his hand.

JOE (CONT'D)
Not now. Stop talking to me!

He goes back to the phone.

JOE (CONT'D)
Sorry
(beat)
It was just my mom.
(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Huh, well did you decide what we're doing tomorrow?

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)

(whispering)

Joe. Joe. Joe.

He is trying his best to ignore the voice. His voice gets louder to talk over it.

JOE

Yeah well maybe..

(beat)

Oh sorry, I don't mean to yell into the phone. I think we have a bad connection.

(beat)

Okay, that's fine. Just call me tomorrow.

(beat)

Bye.

He hangs up the phone, lays back on his bed, and shuts out the light.

CUT TO:

EXT. ICE CREAM STAND -- DAY

We find Joe and Becky back at the ice cream stand having lunch.

JOE

If you did win, what is the first thing you would buy?

BECKY

Well, if I did win, the first thing I would do is build my dream house. No wait, the first thing I would do is probably buy a really nice car like that porsche we saw.

JOE

Yeah, me too.

BEEP BEEP.

They look to the road. Joe's MOTHER is driving by and waving. They both wave back.

BECKY
Who's that?

JOE
That's my Mom.

She leans back and looks at Joe with one eye closed.

BECKY
I can kinda see the resemblance.

JOE
I wish she'd of stopped so I could
introduce you two.

BECKY
Well maybe later. Right now I have
to go and meet my mom.

JOE
Alright, so I'll see you later?

BECKY
Yeah, I'll call you.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- LATER

Joe pulls in the driveway and gets out of his car. As he's walking to the house..

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)
Joe, is that you honey?

He goes around the house and finds his mother sitting on the back porch reading. He joins her.

JOE
Hey Mom.

JOE'S MOTHER
Hey honey. How are you today?

JOE
Good. So where were you coming from
earlier?

JOE'S MOTHER
The book store. See.

She holds up the book. It's titled: WHERE ARE YOU?

JOE
Well, what do you think?

JOE'S MOTHER
It's a good read so far.

JOE
Not the book, Becky. She's pretty
huh?

JOE'S MOTHER
Is she here?

She looks around.

JOE
No, you saw her earlier.

JOE'S MOTHER
When?

JOE
That was her sitting with me
earlier at the ice cream stand.

JOE'S MOTHER
Oh...well I didn't see anyone with
you.

JOE
She waved. She was right next to
me.

JOE'S MOTHER
I'm sorry honey, I didn't see her.
I thought you were eating by
yourself.

He gets anxious.

JOE
Okay, anyway where's Dad?

JOE'S MOTHER
He's fishing today. He's always
fishing. You should go with him
sometime.

JOE
I don't really care to fish. I'm
gonna go upstairs for a bit, I'll
talk to you later.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Joe enters his room and immediately sits down and opens his notebook. He's skimming through it, looking for something.

He stops and throws his notebook on the floor. He closes his eyes.

JOE
You have to be real.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- LATER

Joe's mother is cutting vegetables on the counter. The PHONE in the kitchen..

RING...RING...

JOE(O.S.)
I got it!

Joe runs from the other room and grabs the phone.

JOE (CONT'D)
Hello.

His mother walks by.

JOE'S MOTHER
Oh, I didn't even hear it ring.

JOE
(into phone)
Okay, I'll see you in a bit.

He hangs up the phone. His mother walks back by and starts cutting veggies again. He leans against the counter next to her.

She stops cutting and turns to him.

JOE'S MOTHER
Everything okay?

There is a moment of silence as Joe hesitates answering.

JOE
Yeah, yeah everything is fine. I
have to go, I have a date.

JOE'S MOTHER

Ooooo, when do I get to meet this mystery girl? You seem to be spending a lot of time with her.

JOE

I'll see if I can get her to come by tonight or maybe tomorrow.

JOE'S MOTHER

That's a good idea. Tell her that I invited her to dinner tomorrow night. I'll make eggplant parmesan.

JOE

Mmmm, that sounds great. I'll ask her tonight.

JOE'S MOTHER

So where are you two going tonight?

JOE

I don't really know, I was thinking maybe a movie.

JOE'S MOTHER

No, no movie. That's boring. Take a blanket and lay under the stars. That's romantic. She'll like that.

JOE

That's a good idea. Thanks mom.

Joe leaves the room and his mother goes back to chopping veggies.

He returns with a folded blanket in his arms.

JOE (CONT'D)

Bye Mom, see you later.

JOE'S MOTHER

Bye honey, I love you.

JOE

Love you too.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Joe and Becky are sitting in a booth. Their food is already eaten and they are talking.

Joe notices someone across the room.

JOE
(to Becky)
Excuse me one sec.

Joe gets up and catches the guy before he leaves.

JOE (CONT'D)
Hey Steve.

They shake hands.

STEVE
Hey Joe, What's up?

JOE
Nothing, just having dinner.

STEVE
Is Matt here?

JOE
No. Hey, let me introduce you to
someone.

He turns and leads his friend back to the booth.

SHE'S NOT THERE!

JOE (CONT'D)
Huh, she was just here.

He looks around. Nothing.

JOE (CONT'D)
Maybe she's in the bathroom.

STEVE
Hey listen Joe, I gotta go but you
can introduce me some other time.

JOE
Alright man, I'll see ya later.

They shake hands and Steve leaves. Joe sits down. He's uneasy. Her PLATE is still there. He puts his head in his hands.

When he pulls his head up, SHE'S SITTING ACROSS FROM HIM!

He jumps a little.

JOE (CONT'D)
I didn't see you sit down.

BECKY
Yeah, I just had to powder my nose.

JOE
Oh, I was gonna introduce you to a
guy I know.

Becky looks around.

JOE (CONT'D)
He had to leave so next time I
guess.

Joe looks like he is in thought.

BECKY
Are you okay?

He snaps out of it.

JOE
Yeah, I'm fine. Let's go, I have
something planned.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD -- NIGHT

Joe and Becky are lying on a blanket, looking at the sky.

BECKY
This was your big plan?

JOE
Yeah, pretty lame huh? I actually
got the idea from my Mom.

She laughs.

BECKY
Do you let your mommy plan all of
your romantic engagements?

JOE
You're just lucky I didn't bring
her along.

BECKY

Oh that'd be fun. Maybe she could lay between us, and relay secret messages back and forth.

JOE

Maybe she could..

Becky points to the sky.

BECKY

(interrupting)

Look at that star. See it? It's beautiful.

Joe follows her pointing finger. He sees a star that stands out from the rest. It's really bright and looks a bit larger than the rest.

JOE

The north star.

BECKY

That's not the north star. That's in the other direction.

JOE

Huh, well what star is it?

BECKY

I don't know, but it's beautiful.

She turns to Joe and finds that he's just staring at her.

JOE

Yes, it is beautiful. That can be our star.

They gaze at each other for a moment. She begins to giggle.

BECKY

I'm sorry, I know you're just trying to be romantic. I shouldn't laugh.

He giggles.

JOE

Too cheesy? Did I go over the line there?

BECKY

Oh you ignored the line completely.

She sits up and wraps her arms around her legs.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Let's be serious for a minute.

Joe sits up.

JOE
Okay.

BECKY
I want to tell you something.

Joe puts his hand on her back.

JOE
What is it? You can tell me
anything.

She looks at him.

BECKY
I'm worried about you. I'm really
worried about you.

Joe pulls his hand back and looks down.

JOE
I'm fine.

She leans towards him until he looks back at her.

BECKY
It's okay, I just want you to know
that I care about you and I want to
help if I can.

He puts his hand on her back.

JOE
You already do. When you're around,
everything's fine.

BECKY
I feel the same way. When I'm with
you, the whole world could
disappear and I wouldn't notice.

JOE
Well if I'm okay when you're around
and everything is okay with you
when I'm around, then we should see
each other as much as possible.

BECKY

As long as I'm not making it worse
for you.

JOE

What do you mean? You couldn't
possibly make it worse.

BECKY

I don't know. I just wanted to be
sure.

JOE

In that case, I'm right. If nothing
else in the world makes sense, this
does. This right here. Me and you.

BECKY

You're right.

He pulls her tight and she rests her head on his shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD -- MORNING

The sun is rising over JOE AND BECKY. They lay sleeping on
the blanket.

He's on his back and her head is on his chest.

His EYES open and he smiles. He reaches up and strokes her
hair. Her EYES open and she smiles.

BECKY

I have to go.

They both get up and Joe folds the blanket.

JOE

Before I forget, my mother invited
you over for dinner tonight. She
makes great eggplant parmesan.

BECKY

I'll be there. What time?

JOE

Six. Now take me to my car, I need
to get home to a dryer.

BECKY

A dryer?

JOE
Yeah, you drooled all over me.

She laughs and slaps his arm.

BECKY
I did not.

JOE
Like a dog.

She chases him. He jumps into the front seat of her car before she gets to him.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

Joe enters the kitchen to find his mother making breakfast. He goes to the cupboard and pulls out a mug.

JOE'S MOTHER
You were out all night huh?

JOE
Yeah but it's not what you think.
We fell asleep on the blanket that
you suggested.

He pours himself some coffee.

JOE'S MOTHER
Uh huh. I was your age once don't
forget.

JOE
Mom, I'm an adult. It's not like I
have to hide anything from you.

JOE'S MOTHER
Well good, I'm glad you're not
rushing things.

JOE
So she'll be here at six for
dinner.

JOE'S MOTHER
Oh, I almost forgot. Good thing you
said that. I have to go to the
store.

JOE
Where's Dad?

JOE'S MOTHER
He's sitting out on the back porch
drinking his coffee. Why don't you
go join him.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- BACK PORCH

Joe swings the door open and goes out onto the porch. His
father looks to see who it is.

JOE'S FATHER
There he is. Come on, sit down.

Joe sits in the chair next to him.

JOE
How's it going pops?

JOE'S FATHER
Good. How are you?

JOE
Good.

JOE'S FATHER
I mean, how are you? You know, with
all that stuff.

JOE
I'm fine Dad. I see the doctor
tomorrow and hopefully he can fix
me.

JOE'S FATHER
Maybe it's not you who needs the
fixin.

JOE
What do you mean?

JOE'S FATHER
Oh who the hell knows what I mean.
I'm just tryin to make you feel
better.

JOE
I feel fine Dad. Listen, I invited
Becky over for dinner tonight so
she can meet you guys.

JOE'S FATHER

Oh wonderful. I've been wanting to meet this girl that's taking up so much of your time. Does your mother know?

JOE

Yeah, she said she's making eggplant parm.

JOE'S FATHER

Well we should have guests over more often. She never makes that just for us.

JOE

So I want you to be on your best behavior tonight and try not to embarrass me.

JOE'S FATHER

How would I do that?

JOE

Just don't okay. As a matter of fact, don't say anything about me while she's here.

JOE'S FATHER

So you really like this girl huh?

JOE

Yeah I do. I really do.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE -- VARIOUS ROOMS -- DAY

-Joe's mother is vacuuming the living room while Joe is straightening the couches.

-Joe is frantically stuffing things into his bedroom closet, trying to hide the mess.

-Joe is moving his posters around trying to cover the holes in the walls.

-Joe's mother is doing the dishes while Joe is cleaning the table. Through the window we see Joe's father mowing the lawn.

END MONTAGE

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN

THE CLOCK on the wall reads 5:30. Joe is standing in the kitchen talking with his mother as she cooks. He looks at the clock.

JOE
Well I better go get ready.

We follow him up to his room.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Joe takes off his shirt and picks up the one that is already laid out on his bed and puts it on. He takes one final look around and turns to leave his room.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Can you hear me?

HE FREEZES.

JOE
Not now!

He waits for the voice. Nothing.

He smiles and leaves the room.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

Joe looks out the window and sees Becky's car in the driveway. He gets excited.

JOE
(loudly)
She's here!

He hurries to the front door and waits. No one knocks. His mother goes to the window.

JOE'S MOTHER
No one's out there honey.

She steps back from the window. Joe goes over to the window.

JOE
Yeah, that's her car.

He steps back and his mother looks out. She slowly looks at Joe.

JOE'S MOTHER

Honey, there's no one out there.

Fear fills his face. He looks out the window.

NO CAR. NO BECKY.

He moves to the couch. He can't even talk. His mother tries to soothe him.

He won't have it. He pushes her hand away and heads for the door.

JOE

(crying)

She has to be real! She has to be!

He leaves. His mother is sitting on the couch crying. His father goes to her.

JOE'S FATHER

What's going on?

JOE'S MOTHER

I'm not sure, I think Joe's girlfriend might not be real.

JOE'S FATHER

Where is he?

JOE'S MOTHER

He just took off. I don't know where.

He sits next to his wife and gives her a hug.

INT. JOE'S CAR

Joe is driving, tears rolling down his face. He notices the mirror is pointing down. His face gets mean and he grabs the mirror and starts tugging as hard as he can. The mirror breaks off and he throws it in the back.

JOE

Where are you?

He pulls over. He's lost in his thoughts.

KNOCK..KNOCK on the window. His face brightens as he sees Becky. He unlocks the doors and she gets in.

BECKY

What are you doing?

JOE
Looking for you.

BECKY
I said I'd be there at six. That's now. I was on my way and I saw you sitting in your car...again. At least you are conscious this time.

Joe looks at her, looking at every feature on her face.

JOE
You're real right?

BECKY
Yes Joe, as real as anything you know.

JOE
How do I know?

BECKY
You have to trust me. Believe me, sometimes I think you're too good to be real too.

She grabs his hand between both of hers.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Feel that? That's real. We're real.

JOE
I thought I saw you pull up to my house a little while ago. Then you disappeared. I thought I was imagining you.

BECKY
Well you were then, but you're not right now. Come on, you wanna go to dinner?

JOE
No. I just wanna sit here with you.

Becky looks at the windshield where the mirror used to be.

BECKY
Where's your mirror?

He laughs.

EXT. JOE'S CAR

We watch through the back window. They sit, facing each other, talking and laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Joe is sleeping in his bed.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe? Can you hear me Joe?

He jumps awake, turns on the light and gets up.

JOE
What! What do you want?

Nothing.

JOE (CONT'D)
Hello!

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
You'll be okay.

JOE
What the hell does that mean?
(beat)
Talk to me!

Joe sits on his bed and closes his eyes.

JOE (CONT'D)
I know this isn't real, now go
away. Please, just leave me alone.

He opens his notebook and starts writing.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM -- EARLY MORNING

Joe's father is standing next to Joe's bed kicking it.

JOE'S FATHER
Wake up.

Joe moans and rolls over.

JOE
What?

JOE'S FATHER
Come on, I'm goin fishing and I
want you to go.

JOE
What time is it?

JOE'S FATHER
It's time to get up. Let's go.

Joe sits up and rubs his face.

JOE
I can't go Dad. I have an
appointment at one.

JOE'S FATHER
That's okay, we'll be back in
plenty of time for that.

His father leaves the room. Joe lays back down.

JOE'S FATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'll meet you down stairs in five.

Joe sits back up.

JOE
Make it ten.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

Joe's heading for the kitchen when he hears...

JOE'S MOTHER (O.S.)
Hey John.
(beat)
Oh my god
(beat)
What can we do?
(beat)
There has got to be something

Joe enters the kitchen. His mother is surprised and stands up
straight with the phone in her hand.

JOE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

(to phone)

Oh okay, well I have to go but I'll talk to you later.

(beat)

Okay, bye bye.

JOE

So who was that?

JOE'S MOTHER

Oh, just Kelly. So you're going fishing with your father?

JOE

Yeah, where is he?

His father comes into the kitchen and grabs his tackle box.

JOE (CONT'D)

(to father)

Let's go then.

JOE'S MOTHER

You boys have a good time and be careful.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE -- DAY

They pull up in his fathers car and get out. His father opens the trunk and pulls out two lawn chairs and sets them down.

He goes back to the trunk and pulls out a cooler and sets it between the chairs and sits down.

JOE'S FATHER

Have a seat son.

JOE

Aren't we gonna fish?

JOE'S FATHER

(laughing)

I haven't fished in years. The truth is I can't stand fishing.

Joe sits down in the other chair.

JOE

But you go fishing like twice a month.

JOE'S FATHER
Yeah, that's what your mother
thinks.

JOE
Then what do you do?

JOE'S FATHER
What we're doin now. I come out
here and sit, have a couple of
beers and relax. Get my head clear.

He reaches down and opens the cooler and pulls out a beer.

JOE'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Want one?

Joe looks at him, surprised.

JOE
Yeah.

Joe grabs one.

JOE (CONT'D)
So why lie about fishing?

JOE'S FATHER
Your mother would kill me if she
knew I was just sitting here having
a couple beers.

JOE
(joking)
I didn't realize you were such a
liar. Are you really my father?

JOE'S FATHER
Little lies, they don't hurt
anyone. As a matter of fact, they
help me keep my sanity.

JOE
Wow, I can't believe I never knew.

JOE'S FATHER
Anyway son, is this girl, Becky, is
she real?

Joe sits back in his chair.

JOE
Right to it then huh?

JOE'S FATHER

You know me, I don't like to beat around the bush so...

JOE

Yeah, she's real. I think.

(beat)

I don't know. Sometimes it feels like she's real and then if I stop and add everything up, it seems like I might be imagining her.

JOE'S FATHER

Well that's damn weird.

Joe turns quickly to him.

JOE

What!

JOE'S FATHER

Sorry, I just mean that

(beat)

Listen son, I can't pretend that I understand what you're going through but I do want you to know that I will help however possible.

JOE

Dad? Dad, is that you? I must be dreaming.

JOE'S FATHER

What's that supposed to mean?

JOE

It just means that I thought you would have a completely different reaction to finding out that your son is crazy.

His father reaches back into the cooler and pulls out a couple sandwiches.

He tosses one to Joe.

JOE'S FATHER

Eat that before you get dead drunk on one beer.

JOE

So what do you think Dad? Do you think I'm making her up?

JOE'S FATHER

I don't know. She never showed up yesterday.

JOE

Actually, I saw her after I left and we spent the evening together. She said she was on her way when she saw me parked on the street.

JOE'S FATHER

Maybe she is real then.

JOE

Maybe. I want her to be.

JOE'S FATHER

Well what doesn't add up?

JOE

Sometimes she will just disappear and I won't be able to find her.

His father sits uneasily.

JOE'S FATHER

Even if she is real, you should probably stay away from her. Your troubles are enough without her adding to them.

JOE

I can't do that Dad, I think I love her.

JOE'S FATHER

Whoa, let's slow down, we don't even know if she's real and you love her?

JOE

I do. I just realized it, but I do. I love everything about her...

FLASHBACK TO:

MONTAGE -- VARIOUS SCENES

Joe and Becky's HANDS come together.

She wipes ketchup off his arm.

She SMILES.

We see her from behind as she walks and she looks back.

BACK TO PRESENT

His father snaps his fingers in front of Joe's face.

JOE'S FATHER

I think I lost you for a minute
there.

JOE

Sorry.

JOE'S FATHER

I'm gonna ask you the tough
question.

(beat)

What if she isn't real?

Joe thinks for a minute.

JOE

I can't answer that. She is the
only thing that's right. Everything
else seems detached, like it's not
real. But she, she seems more real
than anything in my life.

His father reaches over and grabs his sons shoulder.

JOE'S FATHER

Son, from what you've told me,
there is a good chance that you are
imagining her.

Joe's eyes well up. A tear falls.

JOE

I know...I know inside that she
isn't real. She couldn't be. I
don't deserve someone like her
anyway.

His head falls.

JOE'S FATHER

That's not true son, you will find
a real girl someday who will make
you just as happy as Becky. Happier
even.

Joe stands up and walks forward a little.

JOE
(frustrated)
It's not just about being happy!
She makes me feel...real!
(beat...crying)
I don't know what to do Dad. If she
is not real, then what?! She's all
I care about.

His father gets up and goes to him. He grabs his son in a big hug.

JOE'S FATHER
Just do what you know is right.
Everything will be okay.

They sit back down. Joe is wiping his eyes.

JOE
Maybe the doctor will know what to
do.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. SMITHS WAITING ROOM

Joe is sitting in a chair waiting. Across from him is the
same guy hitting himself in the head.

Joe is staring at him with sympathy. He gets up and sits next
to the guy.

JOE
Are you alright?

GUY
What do you think?

JOE
I don't know.

GUY
I'm hitting myself in the head.
Does that seem alright?

JOE
I guess not. Why are you doing
that?

GUY
You tell me.

JOE
How?

GUY
What do you mean how? You...

DR. SMITH(O.S.)
(interrupting)
Joe, come on in.

Joe turns to find the doctor in the doorway of his office. He gets up and heads that way.

As he nears the door, he turns back to the man.

JOE
(whispering)
You can stop now.

The guy smiles and his hand rests at his side. He gets up and nods to Joe as he leaves. Joe smiles and goes into the room.

INT. DR. SMITHS OFFICE

They sit in their chairs and the doctor starts looking over his notes.

DR. SMITH
So Joe, how's it going?

JOE
Well, I figured a couple things out.

The doctor stops reading his notes and looks at him.

DR. SMITH
Like what?

JOE
Well, I have been able to make certain things go away or stop. But they always come back later.

DR. SMITH
How?

JOE
I just have to convince myself they're not real.

DR. SMITH
Interesting. So any new
hallucinations?

JOE
Well, kind of. There has been a guy
in your waiting room every time
I've come here. I thought he was a
patient. He kept hitting himself in
the head over and over.

He looks at the doctor.

DR. SMITH
Go on.

JOE
Well just now, when I was waiting,
I started talking to him and told
him he could stop, and he did. Then
he got up and left.

Dr. Smith sits forward eagerly.

DR. SMITH
Now see, what that was, was your
mind projecting a hallucination of
what you think a crazy person is.

JOE
Yeah, well my mind is pretty good
at making people up.

DR. SMITH
Who else?

Joe stares off for a moment.

JOE
As far as I can tell...everyone. As
a matter of fact, everyone and
everything seems made up. It all
feels basic...false...not real. I
mean look at you. DOCTOR SMITH.
They used to call you Generic.
C'mon! You are exactly what my mind
would make up if I imagined a
shrink.

DR. SMITH
I assure you, I am real.

JOE

Sure. You know what, there is only one person who I need to be real. If she's not real then I don't know if I can go on.

The doctor looks concerned.

DR. SMITH

You mean Becky. You think she's an hallucination?

Joe sits quietly for a moment.

JOE

Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

DR. SMITH

What makes you think that?

JOE

It just doesn't add up. Sometimes she just disappears. And really, why would a girl like her like a guy like me? I mean she's my dreamgirl. Literally! AND nothing crazy happens when she's around.

The doctor thinks for a moment.

DR. SMITH

Well if she is an hallucination, the fact that nothing crazy happens when she's around, that's probably because she would be such a complex hallucination that your mind can't manifest anything else at the same time.

Tears begin to roll down Joe's face.

JOE

Why? Why is my mind doing this? Why can't she be mine?

DR. SMITH

I don't know. It's possible that this is the result of something traumatic. Has there been anything in your life recently that had a huge effect on you? Emotional breakdowns, accidents or life changing events?

JOE
Not that I know of.

DR. SMITH
Did anyone close to you die?

JOE
No. Listen Doc, I gotta go.

DR. SMITH
Wait, Joe things are progressing very fast. You need medical and psychiatric attention right away.

JOE
Can't you give me a drug or something to make all this stuff go away?

DR. SMITH
It's not that easy. This is something that you will live with for the rest of your life. We can treat it but there is no cure and it will never completely go away.

Joe stands up and paces around.

JOE
Why me? Why her?

DR. SMITH
Joe calm down.

Joe is sobbing now.

JOE
No! I don't care! Nothing matters!

DR. SMITH
Joe please calm down.

JOE
I love her!

DR. SMITH
What if she's not real?! You can never have a real relationship with someone who doesn't exist. You need to realize that.

Joe kicks over his chair and heads for the door. Dr. Smith stands up and tries to stop him.

Joe turns around and pushes him. The doctor puts his hands up and backs away.

Joe leaves. As soon as he's out the door Dr. Smith picks up the phone and dials.

DR. SMITH (CONT'D)
Hello, it's John Smith.
(beat)
He just left. He got really mad and stormed out.
(beat)
Yeah, he's progressing very quickly. I'm afraid he could turn violent and hurt himself or someone else.
(beat)
I don't know, he just left. Maybe he's heading there.
(beat)
Okay, call me and let me know.

EXT. DR. SMITHS OFFICE -- PARKING LOT

Joe bursts through the door crying. He walks across the parking lot and sits on the curb. He tries to control his crying and wipes his eyes. He's just staring off.

His EYES seem to catch something in the sky and he looks up. His eyes squint.

It's their star. It's day time but he can still see it.

It's getting brighter. He uses his hand to shield his eyes.

Brighter. It's almost blinding.

He closes his eyes and puts his head down. He reluctantly looks up again. No star!

He gets up and walks away.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- LATER

Joe pulls into his driveway and gets out. As he walks towards the house he sees the FENCE is there. He kicks it until it falls over.

By the time he gets to the front door, the fence is GONE. He walks inside.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE

Joe walks through the front door and passes his parents in the living room.

They get up and run after him frantically.

JOE'S MOTHER

Joe.

He doesn't even acknowledge them. He starts up the stairs.

JOE'S FATHER

Joe, wait..

Joe stops and turns around with his hand up in a stop gesture. His parents stop. Joe turns back around and goes up the stairs.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Joe sits on his bed and looks at the trophy on his stand. He picks up the phone and dials.

MATT'S VOICEMAIL

Hey, this is Matt. Leave a message.

Beep.

JOE

Matt, I don't know where you are or what's going on but this is the last time I am going to call you. My whole world is crashing down around me and I could use a friend right now. I just want you to know that you are my best friend and I miss you.

He hangs up and lays back, staring at the ceiling. His EYES well up and he closes them.

RING..RING..He picks up the phone on his night stand.

JOE (CONT'D)

Hello.

BECKY (O.S.)

Hey, what are you doing?

JOE

Hey Becky, I'm a little busy right now but I was hoping to see you later.

BECKY (O.S.)

Okay, when?

JOE

Remember the woods we went to on our second date?

BECKY (O.S.)

Yeah.

JOE

Meet me there in about two hours. Right where we sat and could see the whole city. Remember?

BECKY (O.S.)

Yeah okay. Is everything alright?

JOE

Yeah, it just feels like everything that keeps me together is falling apart.

BECKY (O.S.)

What?

JOE

Nothin. I'm fine, I'm just in the middle of something.

BECKY (O.S.)

Okay, so I'll see you in two hours then.

JOE

Yup, bye.

BECKY (O.S.)

Bye.

He hangs up and grabs the trophy and throws it against the wall.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS -- EVENING

We can see the whole city lit up from here. The sun is in view above the mountains in the distance.

Joe is sitting, looking out on everything.

BECKY

Hey.

Joe stands up and smiles at her.

JOE

Hey.

She stops and looks out over the city.

BECKY

It's so beautiful up here.

Joe sits back down and invites her to sit. She does.

BECKY (CONT'D)

So why are we out here?

JOE

I just wanted to talk where we wouldn't be disturbed.

BECKY

What do you want to talk about?

JOE

The going crazy stuff, us, what's really going on.

BECKY

What do you mean?

JOE

I went to the doctors today.

BECKY

Do they know what's going on with you?

Joe looks at her for a moment, taking her in.

JOE

Yeah.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

BECKY
What is it?

JOE
Schizophrenia.

BECKY
Oh my god. What are they gonna do?

JOE
Nothing they can do really. I'm
going crazy. That's it.

BECKY
There's gotta be something we can
do.

JOE
(angry)
There's not!

He gets up and steps forward.

JOE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to yell at
you.

She stands up and moves next to him. She wraps an arm around
him.

BECKY
It's okay, we'll get through this.

He looks at her quickly and turns away.

JOE
That's not all.

BECKY
What?

JOE
It turns out that I've been having
more hallucinations than I thought.

BECKY
Like what?

JOE
People.

BECKY
Who?

Joe turns face to face with her. He's staring into her eyes. His eyes begin to well up.

Becky's looking back at him, searching his eyes. Denial races across her face. She steps back.

BECKY (CONT'D)
No. Joe I'm real.

Tears are streaming down his face. He steps towards her and touches her face.

JOE
I wish you were. You're everything
I could ever want.

She knocks his hand away. She's almost seems angry.

BECKY
I am real!

JOE
No you're not.

He stretches his arms towards the sky.

JOE (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Ahhhh!

BECKY
Joe, you're not thinking right.
Your mind is playing tricks on you.
Look at me. I'm here. I'm real. I'm
as real as these trees or the sky.

She looks up and notices their star. She points to it.

BECKY (CONT'D)
See, look. There's our star.
Remember? That's as real as me, as
real as we are.

Joe looks at the star and smiles through his tears. He looks back at her calmly.

JOE
I love you! God I love you.

They look at each other for a moment.

He begins to back up slowly towards the edge. His eyes are locked on hers.

BECKY
What are you doing?

He keeps moving. She runs close to him.

BECKY (CONT'D)
What are you doing? Joe listen to me, things aren't as bad as you think. We can straighten this out. We CAN be together.

He stops right on the edge.

JOE
You're the only person I have ever loved and you don't even exist.

BECKY
Joe I..

JOE
(interrupting)
I love you. I love you so much. I don't want to live without you. I can't live without you.

He begins to step back, off the edge. She lunges forward to try and grab him. She gets his arm but he's too heavy.

They both go over.

THEIR STAR is still in the sky. After a moment it shoots across the sky.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

BECKY'S EYES slowly begin to open.

Becky abruptly sits up. Her face has several scrapes and there is a big bruise on her forehead.

She looks at her arms and sees all of the different things plugged into her. She looks around.

Her bed is the only one in the room. Flowers and balloons are across the room on a table.

A couple of nurses and doctors go running by the door to her room. One of the nurses notices her through the large window.

NURSE

She's awake! One twelve is awake.

She quickly enters the room.

BECKY

What's going on?

The nurse grabs her arms and lays her back down.

NURSE

Stay calm dear, you just woke up
from a coma.

Becky seems disoriented and out of it. She passes out.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- LATER

As her EYES slowly open again, she is welcomed by her
parent's faces. Her parents are both in their fifties and
it's obvious that they've done well for themselves.

They are so happy to see her open her eyes. Her mother is
standing next to her bed, holding her hand.

BECKY

Mom.

BECKY'S MOTHER

Hi honey. How do you feel?

BECKY

Out of it. How long was I in a coma
for?

Her father comes up on the other side of the bed.

BECKY'S FATHER

Eleven days. We were so worried.

He kisses her hand.

BECKY

How's Joe?

Her parents look at each other. A doctor comes into the room
and waits near the door.

BECKY'S MOTHER

Don't worry about him right now
honey.

(MORE)

BECKY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

I am just so happy that you are awake. The doctors want to run some tests on you to make sure that you're alright. We'll see you again afterward.

They both kiss her cheeks and leave.

CUT TO:

INT.HOSPITAL ROOM -- LATER

Becky's sister CINDY is sitting on the bed with her. Cindy is a twenty something independent type.

Becky looks much better.

BECKY

So where's Mom and Dad?

CINDY

They went to get something to eat. So the doctors say you're going to be okay.

BECKY

Yeah, they want me here for at least a couple more days just for precautionary measures but they think I'm fine.

CINDY

So

(beat)

You ready to go home?

BECKY

That's not what you were going to ask me. Go ahead, ask me whatever you want.

CINDY

What was it like? You know, was it like a dream or was there nothing.

Becky sits quietly for a moment.

BECKY

I don't know. Nothing I guess. All I remember is hitting and then I woke up here so..

CINDY
Well you don't look too bad.

BECKY
How's Joe?

CINDY
How do you know him?

BECKY
(stern)
Is he okay?

CINDY
Yeah, he's a couple rooms down. How do you know him?

BECKY
Well if you would come around more often you would know that I've been seeing him for awhile.

Cindy sits back stunned.

CINDY
Weird.

Becky's eyes fill up.

BECKY
I know, I really like him too. He just has some issues to figure out. I was just trying to stop him.

CINDY
What are you talking about?

Their parents enter the room and hurry over to hug Becky.

BECKY'S MOTHER
(to Becky)
You look upset.
(to Cindy)
Did you upset her? God Cindy, she just went through something very traumatic. Can't you just back off sometimes.

Cindy rolls her eyes, gets off the bed and gathers her things.

CINDY

Look sis, if you need anything call me. Otherwise I will see you later after mom and dad leave.

Cindy leaves. Her mother sits next to her on the bed.

BECKY'S MOTHER

You shouldn't let her get you upset all the time. Just tell her to leave you alone.

BECKY

Believe it or not Mom, she wasn't upsetting me.

BECKY'S MOTHER

Well it looked like you had been crying.

BECKY

I almost did but not because of her.

BECKY'S FATHER

How ya feelin kiddo?

BECKY

Dad listen to me, it was an accident. He didn't do this on purpose. He needs help.

BECKY'S FATHER

Okay just relax.

Her mother straightens out the sheets and blankets around Becky..

BECKY'S MOTHER

Listen, I think we should discuss this later when we're out of here and you feel better.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- LATER

Becky and Cindy are sitting on the bed talking.

CINDY

So I passed mom and dad on my way up here and mom warned me not to upset you.

They laugh.

BECKY
She is such a whack job.

CINDY
So what's he like?

Becky smiles as she remembers Joe.

BECKY
He's kind, sweet, handsome, just a
good guy you know.

CINDY
Did you know his friend Matt?

BECKY
No, I never met him. I wanna go see
Joe. Will you help me?

CINDY
I don't think we should.

Becky pulls the blankets off of herself and puts her feet on
the floor.

BECKY
C'mon, pull me up and hold onto me.

Cindy helps her up and holds onto her.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Now help me get some real clothes
on.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

They come out of Becky's room and head down the hallway.

BECKY
How do you know Matt anyway?

CINDY
I didn't.

BECKY
Oh, did he come to visit Joe and
you met him?

CINDY

What?

BECKY

Well his best friend should come to visit him in the hospital.

They are in front of a room. Cindy leads Becky through the door.

CINDY

(quietly)

Matt's dead.

INT. JOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Becky's eyes are wide and begin to tear. The bed is empty. Joe's parents are collecting all of the flowers and pictures around the room. His mother is sobbing.

BECKY

Oh my god.

She covers her mouth as tears stream down her face.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

A couple of nurses and doctors go running by Becky's room. One of the nurses notices her through the large window.

NURSE

She's awake! One twelve is awake.

She quickly enters the room.

This time we follow the other doctors and nurses down the hall. They turn into Joe's room.

A loud flatline sound pierces through the room. One doctor is trying to resuscitate Joe. After a couple of tries, he stops.

DOCTOR

He's gone.

One of the nurses shuts off the machines and the flatline sound stops. She covers his FACE with the sheet.

BACK TO PRESENT

Joe's father looks at Becky as she slowly walks over to a table and picks up a picture.

The picture is of Joe smiling. Behind him is the view of the city that Becky knows well.

Joe's father approaches her.

JOE'S FATHER
Did you know him?

BECKY
I'm Becky.

His father thinks for a moment.

JOE'S FATHER
Well Becky, he passed away this morning.

Joe's mother joins in.

JOE'S MOTHER
How did you know him?

BECKY
I'm Becky.

Joe's mother shakes her head.

JOE'S FATHER
Oh, you're the girl from down the hall.

Joe's mother touches her arm.

JOE'S MOTHER
Well we're happy that you're okay at least.

BECKY
I want you guys to know that he didn't know what he was doing. With all of the crazy things going on in his head he didn't even think I was real. He thought the only way out was to take his life. I tried to stop him.

Joe's mother bursts into tears. Her husband embraces her and looks at Becky.

JOE'S FATHER

What the hell are you talking about? It was an accident. He didn't kill himself. He's been in a coma for eleven days.

BECKY

But..

JOE'S FATHER

Excuse us please.

He leads his wife over to some chairs and sits.

Cindy grabs Becky by the arm and leads her into the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

CINDY

What the hell is going on?

BECKY

I just..

Becky is staring off.

Cindy stands face to face trying to get Becky to snap out of it.

CINDY

BECKY!

She snaps out of it.

BECKY

We fell off a cliff right?

Cindy's head cocks back.

CINDY

What? What are you talking about?

BECKY

Where's Fanny?

CINDY

Fanny died in the accident.

(beat)

What do you think happened?

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Joe and Matt get into Joe's car in the driveway. Matt is wearing a baseball cap.

There are four posts in each corner of the yard. Joe's father is tying a string around them.

Joe rolls down his window as he begins to back out.

JOE

Alright dad, we'll be back in a couple hours to help you put up the fence.

JOE'S FATHER

Okay, see you in a bit.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

We see Joe's car coming down a long stretch of road. There are no other cars in sight.

INT. JOE'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Joe and Matt are in the car. Joe is driving.

MATT

I'm not helping you guys with that fence.

JOE

Yeah you are.

INT. BECKY'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Becky's driving. Fanny is sitting in the passenger seat.

BECKY

You wanna go to the park, huh? Run around and play.

INT. JOE'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

JOE

Come on man, it'll go so much faster with three of us.

MATT
I can't, I have stuff to do.

JOE
Bullshit. Seriously, we could use the help.

MATT
(sarcastically)
First you want the trophy and now this.

JOE
We were in fourth grade! I think it's time for another favor.

MATT
Sorry man but..

Joe interrupts him by reaching over and grabbing his hat off of his head.

JOE
You're helping or bye bye hat.

Joe sticks the hat out the window, threatening to let go of it.

MATT
Dude! Okay, okay, we'll see.

JOE
That's not good enough.

MATT
Don't drop that hat, that's my favorite hat.

JOE
It's all up to you.

MATT
Fine, I'll help now give it to me.

Joe reaches over and hangs the hat on the rearview mirror. Matt reaches over and grabs it. As he takes the hat off of the mirror, the mirror points down.

JOE
(sarcastically)
Thanks buddy.

As Joe reaches up to adjust the mirror, he drifts into the other lane.

MATT
(yelling)
Joe!

Joe looks back toward the road and slams on the brakes.

BACK TO PRESENT

BECKY
I was in the car with Fanny. We hit
another car on Stiller Road.

CINDY
Yes!

BECKY
That's how I went into a coma?

CINDY
Yes! Come on lets get back to your
room.

Becky collapses to the floor.

BECKY
He said he couldn't live without
me.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BECKY'S CAR

Fanny jumps up and licks her face. She pushes the dog away
and looks back at the road.

JOE'S CAR is SCREECHING towards her.

She screams and takes her hands off of the steering wheel and
covers her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. STILLER ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

Becky's car is askew on the side of the road. The front is
smashed up and we find Becky hanging out of the broken driver
side window. Blood is dripping from her mouth.

Joe's car is next to Becky's. Smoke is rising from both cars.
Matt is slumped over in his seat, his head is resting against
the broken window. He's covered in blood. Dead.

JOE is hunched over the steering wheel, covered in blood. The mirror is still pointing down.

FLASH

Joe is hunched over in his car. His head is resting on the steering wheel. No blood.

KNOCK KNOCK

Becky is banging on the window. Joe doesn't move. She opens the door and shakes him. Nothing. She hesitantly checks his pulse. A smile, he's alive.

BECKY
(loudly)
HEY!

HIS EYES POP OPEN. Becky jumps back.

He leans back in his seat and looks at her.

JOE
Hi.

BECKY
Hi.

Joe gets out of the car and looks around. Confused, he looks at his car and then back at her.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

He steps toward her, arm extended.

JOE
Yeah, I think so. I'm Joe Lincoln.

They shake hands.

BECKY
Oh, I'm Becky Foster. Nice to meet you.

They stand with their hands still clasped for a moment looking at each other. She shakes her head and breaks the moment.

BACK TO PRESENT

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY -- DAY

SUPER: Two months later

Becky is kneeling down in front of a headstone. She puts down a bundle of flowers and sighs loudly.

BECKY

It took me awhile to get enough
courage to come here.

Her eyes well up and her voice gets shaky.

BECKY (CONT'D)

You should've listened to me. We
could be together, here
(beat)
now.

She sits down on the grass.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Why do they say it's better to of
loved and lost than never to have
loved at all?

She sobs into her hands for a moment.

BECKY (CONT'D)

I dream about you. I dream about
you a lot. But even in my dreams I
know it's not really you.

She stands up and touches the headstone.

BECKY (CONT'D)

How did we find each other? It
doesn't seem possible. But it was
real.

(beat)

You were wrong, it was real.

She turns and starts walking across the cemetery. She wipes her tears and forces a smile.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. JOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Joe is lying still in his bed. A doctor enters the room and grabs the clipboard off of the end of the bed.

He flips through the papers and puts the clipboard back.

He walks up to the top of the bed and pulls a small flashlight out of his pocket. He leans over and uses one hand to open Joe's eye and the other hand to shine the flashlight into it, checking for pupil dilation.

CUT TO:

EXT. DR. SMITHS OFFICE -- PARKING LOT

Joe is sitting on the curb. He tries to control his crying and wipes his eyes. He's just staring off.

His EYES seem to catch something in the sky and he looks up. His eyes squint.

It's their star. It's day time but he can still see it.

It's getting brighter. He uses his hand to shield his eyes. Brighter. It's almost blinding.

He closes his eyes and puts his head down.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. JOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

The doctor puts the flashlight away and goes and picks up the clipboard again and writes something down. When he's done he puts the clipboard back and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM -- EVENING

Joe is still lying in his bed. A nurse enters the room and grabs the clipboard off the end of the bed. She checks the machines and writes on the clipboard and then sets it on the bed.

She leans over Joe, close to his face.

JOE'S NURSE
Joe. Joe. Can you hear me?

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S APARTMENT

Joe's leaning against the counter in the empty kitchen, staring off for a moment.

He opens the notebook and frantically starts writing. As he's writing, he hears.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Hey Joe.

He slowly lowers the paper and looks around.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Listen Joe, you're gonna get
through this.

JOE
Hello!

CUT TO:

BLACK

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
(whispering)
Joe. I know you can hear me.

FADE OUT:

THE END