

STARBRIGHT

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TEASER

INT. NORELAND HOUSE-NORA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

NORA NORELAND, 17, African-American, curly hair, insecure, chats with her girlfriend, KIARA MANSION, 17, bi-racial, over FaceTime. It's getting late.

NORA

...and I was just standing there in the main hallway and I was talking to Jackie...

KIARA

and...

NORA

He walked by me and his jersey sleeve brushed my shirt.

KIARA

Whaaaaat!

NORA

Yes! I could even smell the shampoo in his hair.

KIARA

Oh-my-gosh!

NORA

I can't wait for our first date.

KIARA

Maybe in a million years.

NORA

I have my sleeping bag ready.

The two girls share a laugh.

NORA (CONT'D)

He's way out of my league.

KIARA

He's way out of anyone's league.

A pause.

MADDY

Nora! Dinner's ready.

Nora's mother, MADELINE "MADDY" NORELAND, 40's, Caucasian, single, widowed mother, calls Nora from downstairs.

NORA
(to Kara)
Hey gotta go.

KIARA
O.K.. Cool. Cool.

The two throw up "peace signs" then sign-off.

DINING ROOM

Nora and Maddy have dinner.

It's a very quiet and eerie atmosphere.

MADDY
Anything you want to talk about?

NORA
Umm, no.

MADDY
Are you sure?

NORA
Yeah.

MADDY
You know Nora you can talk to me
about anything...

NORA
--Mom, nothing's wrong, o.k..

MADDY
You know since your father passed--

NORA
--I haven't been the same. I know.
It's bad enough I'm an adopted kid
and the whole world knows about it
but--

MADDY
Who cares about the other kids...

NORA
--But now I'm a fatherless, adopted
kid.

MADDY
We're going to make it through this
together.

NORA
It just doesn't matter.

Nora gets up and starts to walk away from the dinner table.

MADDY
Nora, get back here!

Nora pauses, returns to the table.

NORA
O.K..

MADDY
(deep breath)
Thank you.

NORA
So, how was your day?

MADDY
It was fine.

NORA
Anything you want to talk
about? --No.

MADDY (CONT'D)

NORA (CONT'D)
Mom. --Nora.

MADDY (CONT'D)

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The door knocks.

MADDY (CONT'D)
I'll get that.

Maddy leaves.

Nora's PHONE RINGS.

NORA
Hello.

A man, STARK, 30's, mysterious voice is on the phone.

STARK (O.S.)
Nora.

NORA
I thought I told you not to call
me.

STARK (O.S.)
Nora we need you.

NORA
Why?

STARK (O.S.)
I have another job for you Nora,
another mission.

NORA
I can't use my abilities like that
anymore.

STARK (O.S.)
You owe me; you owe us.

NORA
O.K..

STARK (O.S.)
Meet me at our usual location.

Stark hangs up the phone.

Nora hangs up.

A troubled look covers Nora's face as she takes another
stressed bite of her food, a final drink from her glass and
exits the dining room.

GARAGE

She enters the garage, lifts her hands and transforms into a
transcendent beam of light.

Nora transposes through the garage door and in one huge
thrust perishes into the night sky as a blast.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. NORELAND HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Maddy answers the door. Three people--dressed in all black, looking more like mobsters-- are at the door.

They are: AGENT MARK DECKER, 40's, F.B.I.; AGENT MICHAEL HOUSTON, 40's, SPECIAL PERSONS AGENCY, and MS. LORIE THOMAS, 40's, CHILD CARE SERVICES. The agents are deadpan.

MADDY

Can I help you with something?

AGENT DECKER

Ms. Madeline Noreland?

MADDY

Yes, that's me.

AGENT HOUSTON

We need to speak to you about an issue concerning your daughter, Nora.

The trio flash their respective badges.

MADDY

Wait a minute, I'll get Nora for you.

(yelling into the other room)

Nora...Nora...

(then)

Hmmm. Maybe she stepped out somewhere.

MS. THOMAS

Ms. Noreland, we believe that your daughter may be in trouble.

AGENT DECKER

Do you have a moment to speak?

MADDY

Yeah...um...sure.

Maddy lets the agents into the house.

MADDY (CONT'D)

How can I help you?

The agents and Maddy sit in the living room area.

AGENT DECKER

Ms. Noreland, there has been a wave of mysterious incidents involving burglary throughout the area and we may believe that Nora is being coerced into a crime ring.

MADDY

I know Nora. She would never--

AGENT HOUSTON

--Are you aware of her special abilities.

MADDY

What abilities?

Agent Houston pulls out an iPad from his brief case to show a video to Maddy.

INSERT - VIDEO OF NORA, which shows:

--Nora in a mall using her powers. She shoots blasts from her hands after throwing a temper at another shopper.

--Another recording shows her freezing time in the high school cafeteria.

--Another recording shows her shoplifting in a local supermarket.

MS. THOMAS

Ms. Noreland, your daughter could be in a lot of trouble that could force us to put her in a special home, unless you help us.

MADDY

I never knew she could do these things.

AGENT HOUSTON

Nora is what we call a special person. The federal government and state of California have set up organizations designed to target and find help for people like this. With your help, we can get your daughter the services she needs. Without the proper attention, she will only hurt herself and others.

MADDY
This can't be Nora.

AGENT DECKER
Ms. Noreland...

MADDY
--I can't help you.

MS. THOMAS
Ms. Noreland, you're not the first person who has a child that is abused by someone. It happens to a lot of families throughout the country.

AGENT HOUSTON
We really need you to work with us Ms. Noreland, before people get hurt.

A pause.

AGENT DECKER
If Nora continues, and people are hurt, you both risk prosecution.

MADDY
What do you need me to do?

AGENT DECKER
We need you to help us in getting Nora to cooperate. We need to catch whoever is making her commit these crimes.

MS. THOMAS
We need your help to get through to Nora, Ms. Noreland.

MADDY
I'll do it.

AGENT DECKER
Thank you Ms. Noreland.

AGENT HOUSTON
We appreciate your help.

MS. THOMAS
We'll keep in touch.

The agents stand-up and give Maddy their business cards, then leave.

INT. WAREHOUSE - STARK'S HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Nora meets with Stark. He's a rugged, petty crook who wants to climb the corporate ladder of crime and plans to use Nora as his intern.

Stark is in the warehouse with four other men dressed in black planning the robbery of a jewelry store.

A beam of light enters the warehouse from the ceiling followed by a thunderous boom.

The light fades and Nora appears dressed in an all black hooded sweatshirt.

STARK

Nora, how's my baby girl doin'?

Nora is quiet and still.

No response.

STARK (CONT'D)

Hey, baby. Ready to roll?

Still no answer from Nora.

One of the henchman approaches Stark.

HENCHMAN #1

Hey, we gotta go. The store is only going to be open for another hour. We want to move while the owner is still there.

STARK

(to the henchman)

Alright. I'm comin'.

(to Nora)

You may not want to speak to me now, but you will later. The payout tonight is gonna provide for your mommy and you so that mommy doesn't have to work at that crappy nine-to-five sweatshop.

NORA

I want to go home.

Stark sharply grabs Nora in an intimidating fashion and looks her in the eyes.

STARK

(in an intimidating
manner)

You listen to me! You're gonna go
over there with us and help us do
this. If not...if not...you and
mommy might not be living so
happily ever after.

(screaming)

You got that!

Nora is frozen with fear.

NORA

Yes.

STARK

Good. 'Cause if I don't get what I
want, I have people stalking your
house 24/7 and all I have to do is
make that call and your mommy's
gone. Is that understood?

Nora nods in agreement.

NORA

Yes.

STARK

We're a team, Nora. You need me as
much as I need you.

(beat)

I love you baby girl.

The two make eye contact.

STARK (CONT'D)

(to his henchman)

Hey fellas!

HENCHMEN

What?

STARK

'We ready to roll?

HENCHMEN

Yeah.

STARK

Well, let's roll. Let's make some
money.

Stark, and the Henchmen hop into big, BLACK SUVs.

STARK (CONT'D)
 (to Nora--waving his hand)
 Nora, baby.

Nora reluctantly gets into the SUV.

The SUVs pull off like a diplomatic convoy.

EXT. LIQUOR MART - NIGHT

Stark and his men convene outside the vehicle moments before the heist.

The liquor mart is huge and extremely profitable--a great choice for an aspiring petty thief.

Stark and the Henchmen are huddled outside of the store a few yards away.

One of the Henchmen looks at the store through BINOCULARS.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS

The henchman scans the store.

HENCHMAN #2 (O.C.)
 We got him. He's there. The owner
 is there--

STARK
 Alright, we ready?

HENCHMEN
 We're ready.

STARK
 O.K. Lets do this Hollywood style.
 (to Nora--hooded
 sweatshirt draped over
 her eyes)
 And you're going to be our star,
 baby girl.

Nora gets out of the car, approaches Stark.

STARK (CONT'D)
 Now remember, just how we rehearsed
 it.

Nora nods yes.

Nora backs away from Stark and his men, turns into a beam of light and flies over to the liquor store entrance.

She stands at the entrance. Still.

Nora enters the mart.

She engages the store owner.

STORE OWNER
May I help you.

Nora raise her hands.

The store owner, customers and everything else is in a "frozen" lifeless state.

A SERIES OF SHOTS - THE STORE

--A bum grabbing a 40 ounce beer bottle from the refrigerator--frozen.

--A couple picking up a bottle of cabernet sauvignon--frozen.

--A sports fan carrying a 12 pack of beer--frozen.

--Two teenagers plotting to by booze using a fake i.d.--frozen.

The store owner, frozen, gives a lifeless stare.

Stark and his men storm into the store like a pack of hungry wolves.

STARK
O.K. Gang let's move. Get the money get the booze, get everything you can.

The Henchmen are ferocious.

STARK (CONT'D)
(to the two Henchmen)
You and you, hit the registers...hard.

The Henchmen bust open the registers with their weapons, bust open the cabinet holding the expensive scotch, raid the expensive champagne cabinet.

They rob the store customers, dip into their wallets and purses and take everything they can get their hands on.

STARK (CONT'D)
Get only the good stuff, please.

Stark stands in the middle of the store as if he owns the place.

The Henchmen pack their OVER-SIZED BAGS with all the cash and booze that they can.

HENCHMEN #1

I think we got everything.

STARK

Let's get the hell out of here.

Stark and the Henchmen evacuate the store like scared rodents.

STARK (O.C.) (CONT'D)

(calling behind him)

Nora! Let's go.

Nora exits.

The store remains frozen.

Stark, Nora and the Henchmen return to the vehicles, get in and circle out of the parking lot.

Nora leans out of the window, raises her hands and restores the liquor store to present time.

The store owner and the customers are in shock and awe as to what just happened.

They check their wallets and purses to discover they were just robbed.

The store is completely wrecked.

There's only one thing, the SECURITY CAMERAS weren't frozen in time and they were able to catch footage of Nora, Stark and the Henchmen.

A portion of Nora's face is captured on camera.

INT. WAREHOUSE-STARK'S HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Stark and his Henchmen are in the warehouse celebrating.

STARK

Yeah! We did it!

The Henchmen cheer while popping the expensive champagne and drinking the best booze.

Rap music is plays by a sound system in the warehouse.

STARK (CONT'D)
Nora! We did it girl.
(hugging Nora)
We did it.

Stark prepares a cup of booze for Nora, gives it to her.

Nora sips it, then spits it out.

STARK (CONT'D)
Easy. You have to sip it.

Nora sips the liquor.

STARK (CONT'D)
That a girl.

Stark shares the drink with Nora.

They both take sips together.

Stark leaves Nora to go hang with his men and some girls they brought in from the neighborhood.

Stark taps one of his Henchmen to follow him.

STARK (CONT'D)
(to his Henchmen)
Come on lets go.
(to Nora)
Nora!

The two leave the others, Nora follows.

HENCHMAN #2
What is it?

Stark takes them to a room in the back of the warehouse.

They go into a dark room.

Stark flips the light switch.

As the lights come on, a MAN beaten and tied up pleads for his life.

STARK
(to the henchmen and Nora)
This is what happens to my enemies.
(then, to the tied up man)
You doin' alright there fella?

Stark laughs.

HENCHMAN #2

What the hell happened here?

STARK

An old friend of mine who decided that my services were no longer needed, that he could be better off without me.

(to the tied-up man)

I guess we know who services aren't needed now. Don't we!

FLASHBACK

Some time ago the business where the guy is surrounded by a bunch of shady looking characters.

--Stark and Nora bust into the room.

--The guys all reach for their guns.

--Nora raises her hand and freezes time.

--Stark ties the guy up and blindfolds him.

--They put the tied-up man in the car and drive off.

IN THE CAR

--Stark pulls out a pistol, points it to the man.

NORA

Stark, don't! Please.

STARK

I guess we all reap what we sow, don't we?

Silence.

Extreme close up on Stark's eyes.

Shock fills Nora's face.

--Stark walks out of the room.

Nora and the Henchmen just stand there looking at the tied-up man.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

Nora and her school friends chat: Kiara, 17; RICKY JAMES, 17, sit at a table in the library.

KIARA

(re: a television show)
...the episode ended with Dave,
dying and Tanya having to pull the
plug on him.

NORA

I almost cried.

RICKY

Come on guys, this is not for real.
It's just a t.v. show with actors.

KIARA

This show is a slice of life. Our
life!

NORA

You are so insensitive.

RICKY

I'm not being insensitive. You're
insensitive.

NORA

How am I insensitive.

RICKY

When Captain Zocor in "Revenge of
the Planets" died trying to save
the world, there were no tears,
none. But when Dr. O'Connor dies,
it's a big deal.

KIARA

Captain Zocor is not a real person;
Dr. O'Connor is a real person. He
has a family and a loving wife.

NORA

A newborn kid.

RICKY

But Captain Zocor was more like us.
He was different.

KIARA

I know.

NORA

Just because we're different
doesn't make us worse than the
others.

RICKY

Yes it does.

KIARA

I mean, when was the last time any
of us were invited to a party? Or
any kind of party?

NORA

Or graduation party?

RICKY

Or anything?

(beat)

The point is why bother breaking
our neck trying to be a part of
society when it never cared about
people like us and never will care
about people like us. We're
rejects!

NORA

Ricky, stop.

RICKY

No.

NORA

Ricky!

RICKY

I just want to blast them all to
oblivion.

NORA

Ricky, easy now. It's not their
fault. We act a little bit
different so they treat us that
way.

KIARA

We have each other which is all we
need.

Then.

KIARA (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh, Nora!

Nora's secret crush, JOSH NEWMAN, 17, football player, crosses the library with his entourage.

NORA
Oh my gosh!

KIARA
He can't be real.

RICKY
He's overrated.

Josh and his crew passes Nora, Kiara and Rick. It's almost as if he's looking at them.

KIARA
Come on, now. We're not the only mixed kids in school.

Silence. Ricky and Nora just stare at Kiara.

KIARA (CONT'D)
Come on!

RICKY
I found out about this website that lets you track down your ancestors. Nora, you can find out who your biological parents are.

NORA
I don't believe in those sites. They seem like a scam.

RICKY
They're not. I saw the testimonials on t.v..

KIARA
It's worth a try, Nora.

NORA
I don't even know if I'm ready to meet them.

RICKY
Nora, you've been sulking over them for the past year. You have to do something.

Nora pauses to think.

NORA
O.K., I'll do it. I'll do it.

Ricky writes down the website address and gives it to Nora.

RICKY

Here.

The school bell rings.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Gotta go.

KIARA

Talk to you later.

NORA

Later guys.

Nora looks at the website address and ponders.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. NORELAND HOUSE - NORA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Its the weekend. Nora sits at the computer browsing the website designed to look up ancestors and family trees.

Nora types in the names of her adopted parents.

Nora digs into her drawer, pulls out a notebook with old pictures of her birth parents.

Their first and last names are scribbled in the notebook.

Pictures show them in their military uniforms.

She enters their names.

Nothing comes up.

Nora tries to alter the spelling of their names.

Nothing comes up.

Nora's frustrated.

Out of nowhere.

WHISPERING VOICE

Nora...Nora...Nora!

Nora looks around again.

Nothing.

Nora switches focus, looks at the picture of her parents.

KITCHEN

Nora and Maddy work together performing house chores.

Nora is cleaning the kitchen while Maddy packs things away.

NORA

Did you ever meet my parents?

MADDY

I never met your parents. Why do you ask?

NORA

I have been hearing these voices over the past few months and I think it is one of my parents calling me.

MADDY

Have you been speaking with your school therapist?

NORA

I met with her but she can't help me.

MADDY

Nora, she's there to help you.

NORA

How many sessions does it take to figure out that an adopted kid is not feeling accepted at school, or anywhere.

MADDY

I arranged for you to see her because the school counselors recommended that...

(beat)

You are seeing her aren't you?

Silence.

MADDY (CONT'D)

Aren't you?

NORA

I haven't for two months. We just didn't connect. I mean--

MADDY

Nora you need this. I begged the principal to get you help.

NORA

O.K., I'll go. It's just that nothing is going to help until I know who my biological parents are so that I know who I am.

MADDY

You are a beautiful angel.

NORA

I feel like a reject. I just need to know where I come from and what is my purpose here.

MADDY

The agency told me that your parents were proud Soldiers in the U.S. Army who made the decision to do what's best for you. That's why you're here.

NORA

Well, I tried looking them up online and could not find them on the ancestry website.

Maddy grabs a pad and writes something down.

MADDY

(handing over the pad)
Here. Its the name of the agency that I worked with to get you.

NORA

What?

MADDY

Take it. Go find them.

NORA

Thank you, mom.

Nora hugs Maddy.

EXT. NORELAND HOUSE-OUTSIDE PORCH - DAY

Nora sits outside on her porch, daydreaming.

BEGIN DAYDREAM

--Nora visits the gravesite of her adopted father. She reminisces about her father.

DAYDREAM FLASHBACK

--Nora's adopted father, JIM NORELAND, 30's teaches her how to dance at age 6.

--Nora learns to ride a bike from Jim at age 8.

--Nora experiences her first birthday party at age 5.

END DAYDREAM FLASHBACK

--Nora stands at the grave with a somber look on her face.

END DAYDREAM

Maddy enters the porch.

MADDY
Everything o.k.?

NORA
Yeah.

MADDY
Are you sure?

NORA
Just daydreaming.

MADDY
I need you to mail these envelopes
for me.

NORA
O.K. I'll do it now.

Nora takes the envelopes and leaves the porch.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Nora walks to the Post Office to mail the envelopes.

On the way to the grocery store, Nora sees a homeless family at a bus stop with a "HELP US BUY FOOD FOR OUR FAMILY" sign handprinted.

The family is the husband, the wife, a small child and a dog.

Nora notices a supermarket behind them.

Nora crosses the street, approaches the sidewalk of the supermarket.

Nora holds up her hands, freezes time, and grabs a bag and some groceries.

Nora takes the groceries and transposes back outside.

Nora walks the groceries over to the family.

The homeless woman looks up as the family is sleeping.

HOMELESS WOMAN

Thank you so much.

Nora smiles at the woman and walks away.

Nora arrives at the Post Office, drops the envelopes in the mailbox and heads back home.

As Nora walks down the street, she sees a BOYFRIEND, 30's, having an argument with his GIRLFRIEND.

BOYFRIEND

Come here!

GIRLFRIEND

What?

BOYFRIEND

I said get your ass over here.

GIRLFRIEND

I don't answer to you.

The boyfriend chases after his girlfriend.

BOYFRIEND

Get your ass over here.

GIRLFRIEND

No.

The man grabs his girlfriend.

He hits his girlfriend in broad daylight.

Nora watches. Frightened.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT**

Stark, Nora and the Henchmen are planning to rob a jewelry store.

STARK

O.K., like we always do. We move fast like a bunch of crazy, hungry piranhas.

HENCHMAN #1

Just like last time.

HENCHMAN #2

Lets do this.

STARK

(looking through binoculars)

The owner's there. O.K., lets move.

Nora gets ready and puts the hood over her face.

STARK (CONT'D)

O.K., are you ready?

NORA

Yes.

STARK

(waving his hand like a film director)

Aaannndddd Action!

Nora beams over to the entrance of the jewelry store.

Nora enters the jewelry store, hooded.

The STORE OWNER reaches beneath the counter, for the alarm button.

Nora raises her hands, freezes time.

The owner is suspended in mid-time, FINGERS just a hair away from pressing the alarm.

Stark and his Henchmen enter the jewelry store like a pack of professionally trained Special Forces operatives.

STARK (CONT'D)
O.K. Let's get the dough, let's go!

HENCHMAN #1
I got you, boss.

The store owner remains frozen in time; his eyes are gazing out into the space.

STARK
Oh, one more thing.

Stark walks over to the store owner.

He WHISPERS in his ear.

STARK (CONT'D)
The code to the safe.

STORE OWNER
(whispering)
One-Five-Five-Two-Zero

STARK
Thank you.

Stark makes his way to the SAFE in the rear of the store opens it using the code, and there-we-are--a jewelry jackpot.

In the safe are DIAMONDS, NECKLACES, RINGS, BRACELETS and anything your precious stones heart desires.

STARK (CONT'D)
Come to daddy!

A Henchmen enters the back room.

HENCHMAN #2
We gotta go, the police are gonna be pulling their patrol here any second.

STARK
I'm comin'.

HENCHMAN #2
Let's go, go, go. Now!

STARK
Alright.

Stark grabs his bag filled with the jewels.

Starks walks past the store owner; he comes back to the store owner still in mid-gaze; KISSES him on the cheek, then leaves the store.

STARK (CONT'D)
 (talking to the store
 owner behind him)
 Deuces, bitch.

Stark throws the store owner a MIDDLE FINGER as he walks out of the store.

Moments later the store owner and time have been restored to real time.

INT. WAREHOUSE - STARK'S HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Stark, Nora and the Henchmen are in the warehouse partying to another crime victory.

The crew parties to a hip-hop song.

Stark grabs the microphone to the speaker system.

STARK
 (into the microphone)
 To my killa peeps. Lets get rich.

One of the Henchmen grabs the mic from Stark.

HENCHMAN #1
 Put yo' freakin' hands up! Put
 your hands up.

The Henchmen throw their hands up as if they were at a concert.

Stark puts the mic down and heads over to Nora who is a little tipsy.

Stark hugs Nora and kisses her on the forehead.

STARK
 Nora. You remember what I told
 you, right?

NORA
 (nodding)
 Yeah.

Stark runs out of the room.

Nora raises her hands.

Everyone in the room freezes

The music continues to play.

Stark reenters.

STARK
(raising his hands)
Sorry guys. Gotta go!

Stark pulls out his pistol.

He kills each of his Henchmen and their girlfriends, one by one and drags them outside to a pit to place their bodies.

Stark approaches the Henchmen that had the microphone.

STARK (CONT'D)
I'm gonna miss you buddy.

Stark butts heads with his colleague, kisses him on the forehead, then shoots him in the chest.

The Henchmen falls like a brick.

Stark looks at his body, with just a touch of sorrow.

Nora looks at Stark.

Stark looks at Nora.

STARK (CONT'D)
It's just you and me now.

INT. NORELAND HOUSE - NORA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nora lies on her bed looking at the ceiling, daydreaming.

Nora thinks of her high school crush, Josh.

DAYDREAM

--Nora thinks about having a nice, long kiss with her love Josh.

--Nora dreams of a picnic with Josh.

--Nora dreams of making love to her beau, Josh.

Then.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

END DAYDREAM

It's Maddy.

MADDY
Nora, dinner's ready.

NORA (O.C.)
(through the door)
Coming.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Nora and Maddy sit at the dining room table eating dinner.

NORA
I got an "A" on my paper today.

MADDY
That's wonderful, Nora.

NORA
My teacher likes my writing.

MADDY
You could be the next star
television writer/producer.

NORA
I'm not that good.

MADDY
I think so.

They both giggle.

MADDY (CONT'D)
So how are things with Josh.

Silence.

NORA
What are you talking about?

MADDY
You know, Josh, your crush.

NORA
Mom!

MADDY
Yes.

NORA
You were eavesdropping.

MADDY
I was just passing by your room a few times and heard you giggling his name.

NORA
That's called eavesdropping, also called spying.

MADDY
(jokingly)
I do it because I care.

NORA
Sure.

MADDY
Hey.

NORA
Sorry.

MADDY
Look, things are going to get a little tight around here.

NORA
What do you mean?

MADDY
I mean things are a little tight right now and we have to--

NORA
--You got laid off!

MADDY
Nora, Stop! Now is not the time.

NORA
You're still the best, mom.
(beat)
Wait a minute.

Nora stops eating and runs up the stairs, she comes back downstairs with a a stack o \$100 bills.

NORA (CONT'D)
(handing the stack of bills to Maddy)
Here.

MADDY
Where did you get this?

NORA
I did some saving. Recycling. Odd
jobs.
(beat)
Take it.

Maddy is reluctant.

MADDY
Nora. Thank you.
(beat)
Come here.

Maddy gives Nora a hug and a kiss.

They make eye contact.

NORA
I'm here for you mom.

MADDY
Thank You.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The front door knocks.

NORA
I'll get it!

Nora beats Maddy to the door this time.

Maddy follows her.

Nora opens the door.

It's Agent Decker, Agent Houston and Ms. Thomas at the door.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. NORELAND HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Agent Decker, Agent Houston and Ms. Thomas are at the door.

AGENT DECKER

Hi, Nora.

NORA

Who are you?

Maddy comes to the door.

Nora steps away.

MADDY

Can I help you?

AGENT HOUSTON

Yes you can.

MS. THOMAS

Can we come in?

MADDY

Um...yeah...sure.

Everyone sits in the living room.

NORA

Mom?

MADDY

Nora, these are the people I spoke to a while ago. They have some questions to ask you.

MS. THOMAS

Hi Nora, how are you? My name is Ms. Thomas. I'm the representative for the State Child Services agency. We just want to ask you some questions, O.K.?

NORA

O.K.

MADDY

They're here to help you.

AGENT DECKER

Nora, we are concerned about a relationship that you may have with an older male, a criminal who goes by the name of Stark. Are you familiar with this man?

NORA

(hesitatingly nodding)

Yes.

AGENT HOUSTON

Nora, we're aware that you have special abilities. Powers.

NORA

Yes.

MS. THOMAS

Are you in any kind of relationship with Stark?

NORA

Yes.

MS. THOMAS

Has he touched you or made any advances towards you in any sexual way?

NORA

Yes.

Maddy is shocked and stunned to tears.

MADDY

Oh my God.

MS. THOMAS

Nora, how did you meet him?

NORA

I met him through a dating website. I was pretending to be older and... Kiara and I were on the site and we met up with him at a club.

AGENT HOUSTON

Then what?

NORA

Kiara left me alone with him. I got drunk and ended up at his place.

MS. THOMAS
Did you have sex with him?

NORA
Yes.

AGENT DECKER
Then he forced you to commit the
crimes with him.

NORA
Yes.

AGENT HOUSTON
How did he discover your powers?

NORA
I was at his place, it was a while
after the death of my father, my
emotions triggered my powers.

AGENT HOUSTON
Is this the first time you became
aware of your powers?

NORA
Yes.

AGENT HOUSTON
Please tell me what happened.

NORA
I was at his place. We were making
out. He touched me--

MS. THOMAS
--Where.

NORA
(circling her chest)
Here.

MS. THOMAS
Is this the first time you did this
with him?

NORA
No.

The room is silent.

AGENT DECKER
Nora, we need to stop this from
happening.

AGENT HOUSTON

What was it like when you first used your powers?

NORA

When Stark and I were making out, I felt a sensation in my legs; it rushed through my whole body then my hands lit up and I threw Stark across the room.

MS. THOMAS

Then what happened?

NORA

At first, he got up and charged me; I threw up my hands in fear...and...

AGENT DECKER

Go ahead.

NORA

He was just there...frozen. I didn't know what to do. Everything in the room was just there, still. It took about an hour for me to make things normal.

AGENT DECKER

Nora, Stark is a criminal, a bad person. Are you aware of that?

NORA

Yes, I am.

AGENT DECKER

You do also know that we will have to arrest him too and that this will affect your relationship?

NORA

Yes.

MS. THOMAS

Does he say or do bad things to you?

NORA

Sometimes, when he starts drinking too much he gets aggressive.

MS. THOMAS

How?

NORA
He may grab me hard and say some
things to me...

AGENT HOUSTON
Like?

NORA
Like if I try to leave him, he is
going to tell all of my friends and
family what we do and even post it
online.

AGENT DECKER
So you are afraid of him? He
forces you to do these crimes with
him?

NORA
Yes.

MS. THOMAS
What else has he forced you to do.

NORA
He makes me use my powers to go
across town with him and his
friends to do burglaries.

Ms. Thomas motions to Maddy to speak to her in private.

MS. THOMAS
Maddy, can I speak to you in
private?

MADDY
Yeah, sure.

The two leave and enter the dining room to speak to each
other.

MS. THOMAS
Maddy, I'm so sorry.

MADDY
(sobbing)
It's o.k.. I should've kept a
closer eye on her.

MS. THOMAS
This happens to hundreds of victims
across the country.

MADDY

I don't know what to do.

MS. THOMAS

First, we need to get Nora into a safe environment, away from Stark. Then, we need to deal with her special abilities.

MADDY

I don't want to loose Nora.

MS. THOMAS

You may not have to. Nora is a victim and if she is not a culprit, she can stay here as long as it is safe.

MADDY

What about Agent Houston? He wants to take Nora from me.

MS. THOMAS

If this home provides Nora with a safe and "normal" upbringing the State will allow Nora to stay here, under certain provisions.

MADDY

Provisions?

MS. THOMAS

Nora will have to see a counselor, periodically, to make sure she's adapting to her powers and environment properly.

MADDY

Alright.

MS. THOMAS

Can I count on your full cooperation.

MADDY

Yes.

MS. THOMAS

If you help us, you won't lose Nora.

MADDY

Thank you.

The two return to the living room where Nora is still being questioned by Agent Decker and Agent Houston.

MS. THOMAS

(to Nora)

How are you, Nora?

NORA

I'm O.K.

AGENT HOUSTON

Nora, we will be working with you to help develop and control your powers so that you or anybody doesn't get hurt, O.K.?

Nora nods yes.

AGENT DECKER

But, before we can help you, you need to help us. We need to know everything about your relationship with Stark to bring him to justice.

MADDY

Nora, we all care about your safety. These people will not hurt you.

A pause.

Nora starts to cry and runs into her mother's arms.

NORA

I'm sorry mom.

MADDY

(in a soft voice)

It's O.K., baby. It's not your fault.

INT. NORELAND HOUSE - NORA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nora browses the internet.

She visits the Texas state adoption site for adopted children.

All of a sudden, Nora hears the voice again.

WHISPERING VOICE

Nora, Nora, Nora!

NORA

Who is it?

Nora gets up from her desk.

She opens the door and looks around in the hallway.

Nothing's there.

Nora closes the door; she looks around the room.

Nothing is there.

All is silent.

WHISPERING VOICE

Nora, Nora, Nora!

NORA

What do you want?

WHISPERING VOICE

Nora, Nora, Nora.

The voice fades.

Nora sits back down at her computer.

She pulls out the piece of paper that Maddy gave her earlier.

She types the name of the adoption agency into the search engine.

NORA

Closed?

The adoption agency has mysteriously closed down.

Nora is in a fog.

Hopeless.

Nora begins to sob, face in hands.

INT. NORELAND HOUSE - NORA'S BEDROOM. DAY

Nora is asleep in her room.

DREAM

--Nora is running through the woods; something is chasing her.

This thing, that we can't see, is GRUNTING...like a monster.

--Nora is running for her life.

She can see the monster, what he looks like, but we can't.

--Nora keeps running.

Not being able to see ahead, Nora falls off of a very STEEP CLIFF.

--She keeps falling and falling and...

Black Screen.

END DREAM

Nora wakes up in a sweat.

She looks around expecting someone to be over her.

Nora goes back to sleep.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. CHECK CASHING DEPOT - NIGHT**

Stark, Nora and a set of new Henchmen are robbing a CHECK CASHING DEPOT that doubles as a jewelry store.

The store is frozen in time.

However, something is different, very different.

Nora's hands are trembling.

Nora is breaking out into a COLD SWEAT but nobody notices.

STARK

Lets go people. Lets get the money
and the jewels, lets move!

HENCHMEN #1

(to the clerk)

I'm moving, but I don't like the
way that clerk is looking at me. I
want to waste the bitch.

STARK

Easy, easy, I don't want to be on
the hook for another one.

HENCHMEN #1

We can just dump her out back
nobody will care.

STARK

No bodies!

HENCHMEN #1

Geeez!

STARK

(to the Henchmen,
jokingly)

Oh, and gentlemen...let's remember
to have a little fun.

Stark breaks out his smartphone and plays the track "Can't Stop Believing by Journey

The Henchmen start laughing.

Everyone is partying while robbing the store.

Stark hits the safe room.

This time its THREE LARGE SAFES instead of just one like at the last store.

Stark forgets something, goes back in the main room, approaches the owner and whispers into his ear.

STARK (CONT'D)
(whispering)
The codes to the safe.

The owner puts his hands in his pocket and pulls out a slip of paper and hands it to Stark in a spooked-like manner.

STARK (CONT'D)
Gracias, gorgeous.

Stark gives the owner a LONG, PASSIONATE KISS on the lips.

STARK (CONT'D)
(walking away)
Yeeessss!

Stark goes to the room with the safes.

He cracks open the safe, mysteriously, music plays.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE DISPATCH STATION - NIGHT

A police dispatcher responds to the silent alarm from the check cashing depot.

POLICE DISPATCHER
(to squad cars)
All available units, all available units...

A team of policeman on patrol listen to the dispatcher provide information.

POLICE DISPATCHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We have a burglary alarm triggered in the south district between Main and Pine Streets...

The policemen respond to the dispatch and head to the direction of the jewelry store.

POLICE OFFICER
...headed to the direction of the
alarm, over.

CUT TO:

INT. CHECK CASHING DEPOT - NIGHT

Stark, his henchmen and Nora are still robbing the check cashing depot.

STARK
Alright fellas, its about that
time.

Nora's hands are still shaking, it looks as if she is about to pass out, then...

The room returns to normal time.

The Store Owner is revived to normal state.

STORE OWNER
What the hell is going on here?

Stark takes notice, pulls out his pistol and shoots the store owner.

NORA
Stark, no!

The owner is shot dead.

A woman, a CLERK, who probably stayed overtime enters the room.

She is shocked at what she sees: Nora, a bunch of Henchmen in all black and her boss...shot dead.

CLERK
What?

Stark turns, points the gun towards the clerk, is about to pull the trigger, then...

Nora puts her hands up and freezes the room again.

Stark puts the gun back down.

STARK
(to his men)
Lets get out of here.

Stark, Nora and the Henchmen exit the jewelry store.

All of a sudden.

The PATROL CAR we saw earlier, along with another car pulls up.

POLICEMAN
Freeze! Hands in the air.

Stark, Nora and the Henchmen slowly put their hands in the air.

Nora makes two fists, she lights up, aims her fists at the policemen.

Two blasts come from Nora's fists.

The blasts hit the policeman and knock them out cold.

Stark, Nora and the Henchmen head towards the vehicles.

Nora looks back at the downed policemen.

She forms two more fists, aims back at the policemen, shoots bright colored beams at the policemen and revives them.

Everyone hops into the vehicles and they pull away.

INT. WAREHOUSE - STARK'S HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Stark, Nora and the henchmen are at the headquarters drinking liquor and champagne.

Stark dances intimately with Nora.

They both drink liquor.

STARK
Come on. Come here.

Nora starts to fight a little bit more.

STARK (CONT'D)
(more aggressively)
Get over here!

Stark grabs Nora.

STARK (CONT'D)
(in a soft voice)
Now, as we did it before, you got it?

Nora is silent.

STARK (CONT'D)
What the hell is wrong with you,
huh?

He grabs Nora by her chin and lifts her head to make eye contact.

STARK (CONT'D)
Are you trying to quit on me? On
us?

Nora is scared.

She is starting to tear up.

Nora starts to give in.

Then she starts to resist again.

NORA
No! I can't.

Stark is now angry.

STARK
Look you little bitch, you will do
as I say.

Nora gives in.

STARK (CONT'D)
Now, just as we did it before.

Nora is quiet.

Stark takes Nora to the main hall where the Henchmen and their girlfriends are.

Stark grabs the microphone to the sound system again.

STARK (CONT'D)
(into the mic)
What's up party people?

The Henchmen cheer on Stark.

STARK (CONT'D)
Where my dogs at?

Stark signals to Nora to raise her hands to freeze the room so that he can kill his Henchmen...just as before.

Nora raises her hands.

Boom!

A GROUP OF AGENTS dressed in F.B.I. Jackets, Special Persons Jackets and Child Services jackets along with POLICE OFFICERS burst into the warehouse.

AGENT DECKER
Alright, everybody freeze!

Stark and the Henchmen are taken by surprise.

Stark looks to Nora.

STARK
You did this, didn't you?

Nora looks at Stark quiet.

STARK (CONT'D)
You did this to me! To us!

Nora is still quiet.

The police put HANDCUFFS on Stark.

STARK (CONT'D)
(to Nora)
You did this to us!

A CHILD SERVICES AGENT walks over to Nora, hugs and consoles her.

CHILD SERVICES AGENT
It's going to be O.K.. You did a good job.

Agent Decker and Agent Houston walk over to Nora.

AGENT DECKER
Good job, Nora. Everything is going to be alright.

AGENT HOUSTON
We're going to take you home now, for good.

Nora looks at them with relief.

EXT. NORELAND HOUSE - NIGHT

Nora returns home, safe and sound.

A CAR pulls outside of the Noreland house.

It has two Special Agents in the front and one agent in the back with Nora.

Nora walks slowly to the front of the house.

Maddy, anxious for Nora's arrival is both concerned and scared as she bursts out of the front door to greet Nora.

Maddy runs to Nora on the walkway to the house.

She grabs Nora and hugs her.

Nora buries her head into Maddy's chest and starts to cry.

EXT. SKYLINE - NIGHT

Nora FLIES across the night sky above the clouds.

Nora has a huge smile on her face with deep joy that she has a chance to live a brand new life.

Nora looks down and sees the CITY SKYLINE and the hope and promise of a new life as a new person.

Nora beams down and lands on a tree outside the room of her high school crush, Josh.

She gazes for a moment, aimlessly at Josh.

Then.

Nora, with enhanced bearing, hears A VOICE from far away--

MADDY

Nora, Nora, dinner's ready!

Nora turns into a beam of light and pulses back home.

INT. NORELAND HOUSE - NIGHT

Maddy opens the door to Nora's bedroom to call her for dinner.

As she opens the door...

Nora is seen browsing the internet--home in the nick of time.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW