

Skeletons

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**FADE IN:**

**INT./EXT. GARAGE-MORNING**

FAITH, 34. An artist and mother of two. Light brown hair, brown eyes.

Faith grabs a box full of books -- and sets it down on the ground -- She picks up a book with a bullet through the cover --

FAITH  
The Lion, the Witch, and the  
Wardrobe.

Faith grabs a **journal** from the bottom of the box -- She flips through it like a deck of cards -- She looks at the front of the cover -- It says, "Lola's Journal."

SIERRA (V.O.)  
Everyone has skeletons in their closet, but no matter how many times we try to cover it up. It always comes back to haunt us.

**INT. OFFICE-MORNING**

Faith sits at her desk -- and opens the journal to the first page -- She reads.

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

LOLA (V.O.)  
What's done in the dark comes to the light. That's what my dad told us girls before we went to bed. Truth is, that is what us parents tell our kids to make sure their good. It was never hard to suspect that if Barry was staying faithful to me. I could see it in his eyes when he looked at Nicola the way he did.

In a dark bedroom, the lights dim from the **red cloths** covering the overhead of the **bedroom lamps**. BARRY, 21. A police detective. Dark hair, brown eyes. He lifts his shirt over his head -- and tosses it to the floor --

NICOLA, 24. Taskforce and narcotics officer. Dark wavy hair and brown eyes. She sits on the bed -- She watches Barry as he drops his pants to the floor.

Barry steps towards her --

NICOLA  
-- We better get this started fast  
--

-- Barry lifts Nicola onto the bed -- and climbs over her --  
He kisses her --

LOLA (V.O.)  
Where do I even start. Yeah, Barry  
and I are now living in our own  
place. Nicola is coming over this  
evening to have dinner.

#### **INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING-FLASHBACK**

Nicola sits at the end of the table. She eats her food with quickness.

LOLA, 21. A police detective. Light brown hair, and brown eyes. Three months pregnant. She carries the cartons of food to the table -- and sets them in the center --

Barry sits at the other end of the table -- and watches Nicola as she eats --

BARRY  
-- Does she have a tape worm or something?

LOLA  
I hope not.

Nicola stops eating -- and takes a sip of water from her glass -- She slams the glass down -- and wipes her mouth with her sleeve --

NICOLA  
You got any dessert?

Lola sits at the middle of the table --

LOLA  
-- Cheesecake --

-- Nicola gets up -- and rushes towards the kitchen --

BARRY  
She's going to clean us out before  
we even get to the good stuff.

LOLA  
Shh!

**INT. KITCHEN-EVENING**

Nicola opens the *refrigerator* -- and grabs the *cheesecake* --

**INT. DINING ROOM-CONTINUOUS**

She walks back to the table -- and sets the cheesecake down  
in front of her -- She cuts into it -- and slides a piece  
onto a big plate -- Nicola sits --

BARRY  
-- I hope you're going to save us  
some.

LOLA  
Shh! Why are you so hungry?

NICOLA  
I'm just hungry --

-- Nicola shovels the cheesecake into her mouth --

LOLA  
-- You definitely should go to the  
doctors and get checked out.

NICOLA  
I'll think about it.

Barry eats his food -- and watches Nicola -- Nicola looks  
back at Barry.

LOLA (V.O.)  
The true detective in me was  
starting to come out.

**INT. NICOLA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT**

BARRY lays in bed with Nicola. An *alarm clock* goes off --

Barry opens his eyes -- and shuts it off -- He turns to  
Nicola -- and kisses her on the cheek --

BARRY  
I got to go.

Barry sits up -- Nicola sits up -- and wraps her arms around Barry's neck --

NICOLA  
-- I got news.

BARRY  
Yeah. What?

NICOLA  
Remember the tapeworm?

BARRY  
Yeah.

NICOLA  
It's not a tapeworm. I'm pregnant.

BARRY  
What?

NICOLA  
I went to the doctor, and he gave me an ultrasound.

Barry puts his pants on over his feet -- and stands up -- He pulls up his pants -- and turns around --

BARRY  
-- You didn't tell anyone, did you?

NICOLA  
Just you.

BARRY  
What are you going to do?

NICOLA  
I want to have it.

BARRY  
Let's not get too attached here.

NICOLA  
Attached? It's my body.

Barry grabs his collared shirt -- and puts it on -- He slides his feet into his shoes -- and grabs his jacket --

BARRY  
Don't tell anyone, okay?

NICOLA  
What, that you knocked me up!

BARRY  
Yeah.

NICOLA  
The truth is going to come out one day. I just hope that Lola sees it.

Barry walks out of the bedroom --

**EXT. NICOLA'S HOUSE-NIGHT**

Barry rushes towards his car -- and gets into the driver side  
--

**INT. LOLA'S CAR-NIGHT**

Lola watches Barry's car drive away. Her eyes fill with tears  
--

LOLA  
(sob)

**INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON**

BRENDA, 43. A public defender. Streetwise, and cunning. She sits on the sofa. Lola watches her mother while she watches television.

LOLA (V.O.)  
My mom was an expert with men. She was married to my father for thirteen years before he died. If anyone knew how to take control of one, she sure did.

LOLA  
Mom?

BRENDA  
What?

LOLA  
Did dad ever cheat on you?

BRENDA  
That would be impossible.

LOLA  
Why?

BRENDA  
Because I would cut off his thing.

LOLA  
Ouch!

BRENDA  
Seriously.

LOLA  
How'd you know he wouldn't?

BRENDA  
Because he loved being around me.  
It sucked to him when he had to go  
to work but it was worth it when he  
came home --

-- Brenda looks at Lola --

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
What, is Barry cheating on you?

LOLA  
I don't know how answer that.

BRENDA  
Do you want to borrow a pair of  
sharp scissors?

LOLA  
Things don't have to get that  
violent.

BRENDA  
They do when your husband is too  
busy playing doctor with another  
woman.

Lola looks at the television --

LOLA  
-- It's probably nothing. I may be  
overreacting.

BRENDA  
Don't be anyone's doormat.

**INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT**

Barry walks into the dining room -- Candles lit in the middle of the table. A surprised look on his face. Lola walks into the dining room --

LOLA  
Surprise!

BARRY  
What's the occasion?

LOLA  
What, a wife can't cook for her husband?

BARRY  
No, you can --

-- Lola pulls out his chair at the end of the table -- and taps on the chair --

LOLA  
-- Come, sit?

Barry rushes towards the chair -- and sits -- Lola digs a **serving spoon** into the **cheese potatoes** -- She grabs a piece of **garlic and parmesan chicken**. Lola sets it down on his plate --

BARRY  
-- Is your sister coming over?

LOLA  
No. It's just us. Nicola is in Mexico for the next nine months. Something about a big heist.

BARRY  
When did she tell you this?

LOLA  
She told my mom.

Barry looks away --

LOLA (CONT'D)  
-- Is everything alright?

BARRY  
Yeah.



LOLA (V.O.)  
Truth is, Nicola didn't go to Mexico. She went to a friend's house to house sit for that time period. She would check in from time to time.

**INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT**

Lola stands in front of the mirror. She wipes the mirror clear with a **washcloth** -- Blood runs down Lola's leg -- Lola looks down -- and sees the red stain of blood has spread into the **white bath towel** --

LOLA  
(scream)

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-NIGHT**

Lola lays in the bed -- She hugs Brenda --

LOLA  
(sob) (cry)

Barry rushes into the room -- Brenda steps back -- Lola hugs Barry with all the strength she has --

BARRY  
I'm sorry babe.

**INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

Barry steps outside of the patients' room -- He sits in the chair next to Brenda -- Brenda watches the way that Barry looks away from her --

BRENDA  
How long have you been sleeping with Nicola?

BARRY  
What?

BRENDA  
Do I look like a dumbass to you!

BARRY  
No.

BRENDA

Funny thing is, Nicola is away for nine months. That gives her time to have your child. You cause your wife. The only one you should be sleeping with. A miscarriage!

BARRY

What do I do?

BRENDA

You're going to make it right --

-- Brenda grabs her purse -- and slaps Barry across the face  
--

BRENDA (CONT'D)

-- I'm going to the gift shop --

-- Brenda walks away.

LOLA (V.O.)

Those months passed us by, and Barry had managed to slip out of my grasp. I had something up my own sleeves. I hired my own private investigator. It may have costed me a pretty penny but still. I was no idiot, and I was not going to play the ditsy housewife.

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

A knock at the front door. Nicola gets up from the sofa --

She walks towards it -- and opens it -- Barry leans his head in --

BARRY

Hello!

NICOLA

What are doing here?

BARRY

Can I come in?

Nicola opens the door -- Barry steps in -- and Nicola closes the front door --

BARRY (CONT'D)

-- Nice place.

NICOLA  
Yeah, well, that's what rich people  
have these days.

BARRY  
Mind if I sit?

NICOLA  
Go ahead.

Barry sits --

NICOLA (CONT'D)  
-- What do you want?

BARRY  
I just want to know what you're  
going to do about the baby.

NICOLA  
I plan to keep it. Like I told you  
last time when we were together.

BARRY  
See, I understand how you must feel  
about this. Lola had a miscarriage,  
and it will fill that gap in her  
heart if you give the baby to her.

NICOLA  
What!

BARRY  
She needs this.

NICOLA  
No.

BARRY  
It's my baby too. I'll take care of  
everything --

-- Nicola looks away --

NICOLA  
-- Fine.

A smile stretches across Barry's face --

BARRY  
Fine?

NICOLA  
 Okay. I'll do it. For Lola. Not for  
 you.

Barry stands up -- Nicola kicks Barry in the groin -- Barry  
 falls to his knees --

NICOLA (CONT'D)  
 -- My sister deserves better --

-- Nicola steps towards the front door -- and opens it wide --  
 -

NICOLA (CONT'D)  
 Now, get out!!

LOLA (V.O.)  
 Sometimes I wish I saw that in  
 person, but I managed to get the  
 picture worth more than a thousand  
 words.

#### **EXT. PARKING LOT-AFTERNOON**

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, early 20s. A private investigator for  
 two years.

The Private Investigator hands Lola a photograph of Barry  
 kneeled down on the floor. A smile on Lola's face --

LOLA  
 Best sight I ever saw --

-- Lola hands the photograph back to the Private Investigator  
 --

LOLA (CONT'D)  
 -- Mail it to me --

-- Lola reaches into her pocket -- and hands the Private  
 Investigator four hundred dollars -- He takes it --

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR  
 -- Pleasure doing business with  
 you, ma'am --

LOLA  
 -- Same here --

-- The Private Investigator walks away from Lola --

#### **INT. DELIVERY ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING**

SUPER: NINE MONTHS LATER

DOCTOR, early 40s. A doctor for twenty years.

NURSE, early 20s. A nurse for three years.

Nicola looks away from the newborn -- The Doctor holds the newborn close to Nicola's face --

DOCTOR  
Nicola?

NICOLA  
Leave me alone --

-- The Nurse takes the newborn from the Doctor -- and walks out of the delivery room --

**INT. NURSERY-HOSPITAL-EVENING**

The newborn lays asleep.

Barry and Lola look in from the outside of the nursery.

**INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-EVENING**

LOLA  
He's so beautiful.

BARRY  
He is. Do you have a name for him?

LOLA  
Nicholas.

BARRY  
After your father?

LOLA  
Yeah.

**INT. OFFICE-BACK TO PRESENT**

Faith closes the journal -- and gets up --

**INT. NURSERY-AFTERNOON**

SIERRA, 24. A successful book author. Dark hair, brown eyes.

A smile that can melt your heart. She sits in a rocking chair, holding her infant son in her arms -- The doorbell rings -- and the infant starts crying --

SIERRA

-- Shit! Whoever this is, better have a good reason for waking my kid up --

-- Sierra stands up -- and steps towards the baby crib -- She lays the infant down --

# **INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Sierra steps towards the door -- and turns the doorknob --  
She pulls it open --

SIERRA

Yes --

-- Faith steps in -- and shuts the door -- Faith hands Sierra the journal --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

What's this?

FAITH

It's grandma's journal. Only there's one note in here that makes it too intense for words --

-- Faith opens to the page she left off -- Sierra steps towards the **recliner** -- and sits --

FAITH (CONT'D)

-- I'm going to go see the little man!

SIERRA

Try not to disturb him.

Faith walks up the stairs --

FAITH

I'll try to keep him calm.

Sierra looks at the journal and reads --

LOLA (V.O.)

-- We took him home the day after. Barry said the mother had given him up for adoption. I knew better.

(MORE)

LOLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I went along with it for his sake  
because that's what a good mother  
does. A couple of months later,  
Barry decided he wanted to take me  
on vacation. So, we left Nicholas  
with Nicola.

**INT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK**

On the front lawn, Nicola sits on a *lounge chair* -- She holds  
the infant Nicholas in her arms -- She rocks him gently --

Nicola kisses him the forehead --

NICOLA  
(sob)

**INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING**

Brenda and Lola sit on the sofa. Nicola stands in front of  
them.

LOLA (V.O.)  
Two months later, Nicola had given  
us some news.

BRENDA  
What do you mean pregnant?

LOLA  
She means she let a stranger knock  
her up.

BRENDA  
I get it, Lola.

LOLA  
Who is the father?

NICOLA  
I can't tell you.

LOLA  
Why, is he ugly?

NICOLA  
No.

LOLA  
So, he's a pretty boy.

NICOLA

Yes, okay. He's a handsome man.

LOLA

When do we get to meet him?

NICOLA

I don't know. Maybe when things  
calm down. Don't get your hopes up.

Nicola sits between Lola and Brenda -- Brenda touches  
Nicola's stomach --

LOLA (V.O.)

That was the happiest time of her  
life.

LOLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Something that was hers and not a  
man to tell her what he wanted her  
to do with it. She managed to make  
it past those nine months. By the  
time we got to the hospital, she  
had already given birth to a girl.

#### INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Nicola lays in bed -- and nurses the newborn. Lola walks into  
the room -- Nicola covers herself with a **baby blanket** --

Lola's hands are filled with **balloons** and a boutique of  
**flowers**. Barry steps in. He looks at Nicola. Nicola looks at  
him. Lola steps towards the bed -- She kisses Nicola on the  
cheek -- and brushes her hand over the newborn's head --

LOLA

-- She's so beautiful.

Nicola hands the newborn to Lola -- Lola rocks her gently --

LOLA (CONT'D)

She looks at peace.

Brenda steps into the patients' room --

BRENDA

-- How's my baby girl!

LOLA

Shh! She's chill!

Brenda walks towards Lola --



BRENDA  
-- Do you have a name yet?

NICOLA  
Angelica.

BRENDA  
After the angel messenger?

NICOLA  
Exactly.

BRENDA  
Beautiful name.

Brenda brushes her fingers against the newborn's head.

LOLA (V.O.)  
Not long after that, Nicola had an  
announcement, and she wanted  
someone to look after Angelica  
while she was away.

**EXT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON**

Brenda lays back on a lounge chair. Sunglasses on. Nicola  
steps towards Brenda -- She holds her newborn daughter in her  
arms -- and sits on the lounge chair beside her --

NICOLA  
Mom?

BRENDA  
Nope.

NICOLA  
I have to go away for a while --

-- Brenda takes off the sunglasses --

BRENDA  
-- What's a while?

NICOLA  
A month.

BRENDA  
What are you taking down, a cartel?

NICOLA  
Something like that.

BRENDA  
Why don't you ask Lola?

NICOLA  
She already said she can't. It only  
has to be at evening until morning.  
You can drop off the baby at the  
daycare.

BRENDA  
I guess I can take her to the  
daycare at work --

-- Nicola kisses the newborn on the head -- and hands her to  
Brenda -- Brenda rests her on her chest --

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Be safe out there.

NICOLA  
I will --

-- Nicola leans down -- and kisses Brenda on the cheek --  
Nicola stands up -- and steps back -- Sadness in her eyes --  
She kisses her hand -- and waves it -- She walks away.

LOLA (V.O.)  
That was the last time we saw her  
alive. It took a toll on mom and  
me. Angelica had no mother now. All  
she had was us. To make things more  
complicated, mom had gotten sick,  
and after the last gasp of energy  
she had left. My mom was gone too.

#### INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

Lola sits on the edge of the bathtub. An **egg timer** goes off -  
- She gets up and looks at the **pregnancy test strip** set down  
on the counter. A positive sign on the test strip. Lola picks  
it up -- Her hands jitter from the unexpected result -- She  
looks up at the ceiling --

LOLA  
-- Shit!

LOLA (V.O.)  
That wasn't my best response, I  
know but who would be thrilled  
about letting a man like Barry  
climb on top of her.  
(MORE)

LOLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Especially when it comes to barring  
his child. Thanks to this result, I  
had a family friend take care of  
Angelica.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON**

SHELLY OWENS, 32. A successful book author. Blonde hair,  
blue-gray eyes. Thin and muscular built.

Shelly holds the infant baby girl against her chest. She  
walks into the room -- Lola looks at Shelly --

LOLA  
Hey --

-- Shelly kisses Lola on the cheek -- She sits on the bed --

SHELLY  
Look at her. She's beautiful.

LOLA  
How's the angel doing?

SHELLY  
She's doing good --

-- Shelly lifts the baby girl onto her lap -- and sits her  
down --

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
-- She's happy. I never have one  
ounce of trouble.

LOLA  
Thank you. I know you didn't ask  
for this, but I appreciate it.

SHELLY  
I remember a time that your mom and  
you took me in. We're family.

LOLA (V.O.)  
She was right. We are family. If  
she wasn't there, I probably  
wouldn't have made it to that  
delivery room. I probably would  
have ended up in prison for killing  
Barry. I guess there's nothing  
wrong with imagining someone else  
doing it for you.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Barry sits on the sofa. He watches television. The doorbell rings. Barry gets up -- and steps towards the door -- He opens it --

NICK VALENS, 38. A custodian. Dark hair, brown eyes. Blue coveralls, and black boots. A six foot and an inch tall.

BARRY

-- You --

-- Nick punches Barry across the face -- Barry falls down to his butt -- Nick slams the door shut -- He grabs a **baseball bat** from the floor -- He swings it around --

NICK

Batter up --

-- Nick swings the bat towards Barry's head -- Barry ducks -- and rolls himself -- He crawls towards the coffee table --

Nick steps towards the coffee table -- and lifts it -- The coffee table falls on top of Barry -- Nick drives his foot into the table --

BARRY

-- Stop --

NICK

-- Pussy --

-- Nick pulls the table away from Barry -- He raises the bat over his head --

NICK (CONT'D)

-- Time to take your medicine --

-- Nick swings the bat down towards Barry --

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Barry bursts up from under the covers -- His head drenched in sweat -- Lola sits up -- and touches his face --

LOLA

-- It was just a dream babe --

BARRY

-- I -- He --

-- Barry lays down --

**INT. BATHROOM-MORNING**

Lola sits on the toilet -- Her underpants down to her ankles  
--

LOLA  
(giggle)

Barry steps into the bathroom -- He looks at Lola --

BARRY  
-- What's so funny?

LOLA  
Nothing.

BARRY  
You obviously are laughing about  
something over there.

LOLA  
You wouldn't get it.

BARRY  
Fine. Are you almost done? I got to  
take a shower.

LOLA  
It's all yours --

-- Lola pulls up her underpants -- and stands up -- She steps  
out of the bathroom --

**INT. KITCHEN-MORNING**

Lola stands in front of the **stove** -- and cooks **scrambled eggs**  
and **bacon**. Barry walks into the kitchen. He grabs a coffee  
mug -- and grabs the **coffee pot** -- He pours coffee into the  
mug -- Barry puts the coffee pot down on the burner-- He  
takes a sip from the mug -- and looks at Lola -- He lowers  
the mug from his mouth --

BARRY  
-- What was funny earlier?

LOLA  
Like I said. You wouldn't get it.

BARRY  
I mean, humor me. I did have a  
nightmare. It had something to do  
with your father.

LOLA

Oh, you dreamed about dad --

-- A wicked smile stretches across her face -- and she takes a sip from her coffee mug --

BARRY

Don't laugh at me --

-- Lola tosses the mug at Barry -- and it crashes into the wall as he backs away --

LOLA

-- Screw you --

-- Barry tosses his mug at Lola -- Lola ducks her head down -  
- and the mug hits the refrigerator --

BARRY

-- I can throw too!

Lola turns off the **burners** -- and grabs the **two cast-iron skillets** --

BARRY (CONT'D)

-- Come on. Let's not get rowdy here --

LOLA

-- You got my sister pregnant and took her child!! All to cover your own tracks --

-- Barry rushes towards the front door -- Lola runs after him --

#### **EXT. FRONT YARD-MORNING**

Barry rolls onto the grass -- and gets behind the tree --

Lola looks at Barry's car -- She grins --

LOLA

-- Look! Your precious car --

-- She throws a skillet right through the windshield of the car --

LOLA (CONT'D)

-- How's this --

Lola throws the second skillet -- and it shatters the driver side window -- Lola turns -- and walks into the house -- She slams the door shut --

LOLA (V.O.)

Unlike any other woman he's ever dealt with. He could tell I wasn't screwing around no more. After that, I took the kids and went to go stay at Shelly's house. Somehow, he managed to find a way to get me to take him back.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-OWENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON**

The front door opens -- Shelly holds on to the doorknob -- A ***boutique of roses*** in Barry's hand. Shelly looks at Lola --

BARRY

-- Can I come in?

SHELLY

Sure.

Barry steps in -- Shelly shuts the door -- and takes the boutique of roses from Barry --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Don't destroy my house --

-- Shelly walks out of the living room -- Barry walks towards Lola -- Lola raises her hand -- Signaling for him to not come any closer --

BARRY

-- Okay. What can I do to get you to come home to me?

LOLA

The damage is done.

Barry steps closer -- He kneels down -- and grabs Lola's hand -- He kisses it gently --

BARRY

-- I promise to never do anything again to hurt you.

LOLA

(laugh)

Get up! You look pathetic --

-- Barry stands up --

BARRY

-- Will you come home?

LOLA

It's going to cost you.

BARRY

I suppose a nice romantic dinner is something to consider --

-- Lola hugs Barry -- and kisses him -- Shelly steps into the living room --

SHELLY

-- EWW! Not in my living room --

-- Lola looks at Shelly --

LOLA

(laugh)

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT**

Sierra closes the journal -- She stands up -- and walks towards the stairs --

#### **INT. NURSERY-AFTERNOON**

Sierra walks into the nursery -- Faith sits in the rocking chair -- and rocks the infant to sleep -- Sierra watches --

Faith looks at Sierra --

FAITH

(whisper)

Did you read it?

SIERRA

(whisper)

Part of it.

FAITH

Go ahead and finish it. I got him.

SIERRA

I'll be down the hall.

FAITH

Okay.



Sierra steps out of the nursery -- She shuts the door at a crack -- and walks into her bedroom -- Sierra sits on the bed -- and leans back against the headboard -- She opens the journal -- and starts reading --

LOLA (V.O.)  
I returned home with him. He did everything he had promised. Why shouldn't he. For now, the kids needed their father.

**INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK**

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS. A fourth-grade student. Dark brown hair, brown eyes. He sits across from Barry. Playing with **Legos** --

BARRY  
-- Got it --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
-- You got the frog together?

BARRY  
Yeah.

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
You beat me!

BARRY  
Patience son.

Lola steps into the bedroom -- A **report card** in her hand --

LOLA  
-- Guess what came today --

BARRY  
-- What?

LOLA  
-- Our son got his report card --

-- Lola kneels down next to 10-Year-Old Nicholas --

BARRY  
-- What did it say?

Lola hands Barry the report card -- Barry looks at it.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
You got straight A's!

Lola kisses 10-Year-Old Nicholas on the cheek --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
Oh, mom --

-- 10-Year-Old Nicholas wipes his cheek --

BARRY  
What do you say we go out to eat  
and celebrate?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
Yes --

LOLA  
-- Go get changed.

10-Year-Old Nicholas rushes out of the bedroom --

LOLA (V.O.)  
Believe it or not, he was an  
awesome father to Nicholas when he  
was young.

LOLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
That I can't take away from him. A  
husband, eighty percent.

#### INT. PIZZA PARLOR-EVENING

10-Year-Old Nicholas sits at the end of the table. Lola reaches down under -- and lifts a **gift bag** up from the floor -- She sets it down in front of 10-Year-Old Nicholas -- His eyes are filled with excitement --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
-- What is it!

LOLA  
Open it and find out!

10-Year-Old Nicholas reaches his hands into the bag -- and pulls out a **laptop** --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
-- You got me a laptop!

Barry looks at Lola -- Lola looks at Barry --

LOLA  
-- What! The kid got straight A's.  
Sue me!

BARRY

We promised we weren't going to  
overdo it.

LOLA

I didn't promise anything.

LOLA (V.O.)

I guess he wanted me to be the bad  
cop. Almost like we were at war  
with our own children. In reality,  
there was only room for one bad  
cop.

**INT. NICHOLAS'S BEDROOM-NIGHT**

10-Year-Old Nicholas sits on his bed -- and plays with the  
keys on the laptop -- Lola walks into the bedroom -- She  
grabs the laptop from him -- and sets it down on his desk --

LOLA

-- No time for that. It's bedtime  
now --

-- Lola hugs 10-Year-Old Nicholas -- and kisses him on the  
cheek --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Are you going to come to school for  
Heroes Day?

LOLA

When is it?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Next Friday.

LOLA

I'll be there. I'm a woman of my  
word --

-- Lola sticks out her pinky -- 10-Year-Old Nicholas grabs  
her pinky with his -- and pulls --

LOLA (CONT'D)

-- Ouch --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

-- Sorry --

LOLA

-- I'm kidding. Good night, kiddo -

-

-- Lola gets up -- and steps out of the bedroom -- She turns off the light -- and shuts the door --

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Lola sits on her side of the bed -- She takes off her **earrings** -- Barry stands in front of a mirror -- He takes off his t-shirt -- and pants --

BARRY

-- You should have told me you were going to buy him that laptop.

LOLA

It was a surprise.

BARRY

Wish you would have told me.

LOLA

The kid did good.

BARRY

No doubt about it but I like to be a part of your little plan --

-- Lola stands up -- and walks towards the edge of the bed --

Barry steps towards her -- and slaps her across the face --

He pushes her onto the bed -- He climbs on top of her -- and yanks her panties down -- Barry pulls his boxers down -- and proceeds to brush himself against her --

LOLA

(pant) (moan)

**INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT**

10-Year-Old Nicholas looks through the crack of the door --

**INT. BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Barry goes back -- and then forth --

LOLA

(moan)

Lola looks at the crack of the door --

LOLA (CONT'D)  
 -- You forgot to shut the door all  
 the way!

**INT. HALLWAY-CONTINUOUS**

10-Year-Old Nicholas rushes to his bedroom -- and shuts the  
 door -- Barry opens the door -- and looks out in the hallway  
 -- He slams it shut --

LOLA (O.S.)  
 You can't even shut the door!!

BARRY (O.S.)  
 Shut up!!

**INT. CLASSROOM-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-MORNING**

At his desk, 10-Year-Old Nicholas draws a picture with  
**coloring crayons**. GIRL STUDENT, 9-Years-Old. A Fourth-grade  
 student. The Girl Student leans towards 10-Year-Old  
 Nicholas's desk --

GIRL STUDENT  
 -- Who's that?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
 My mom and dad.

GIRL STUDENT  
 What are they doing?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
 I don't know. Kissing.

Lola steps into the classroom --

TEACHER, early 30s. A teacher for ten years.

The Teacher steps alongside of Lola --

TEACHER  
 Nicholas! Do you mind coming up  
 here and announcing your hero?

10-Year-Old Nicholas puts his drawing and crayons into his  
 desk -- He steps in front of his classmates -- Lola stands  
 alongside of him --

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
 This is my mom. She is an LAPD  
 Detective.  
 (MORE)

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
 She risks her life every day to  
 keep people safe. At night, she  
 comes home to tuck me and my sister  
 in. She is my hero --

-- The Teacher hands 10-Year-Old Nicholas an **award medal** --  
 He holds the **strap** to the medal -- Lola's eyes water with  
 emotion -- She fights back the tears -- and wipes her eyes --

Lola leans down -- 10-Year-Old Nicholas puts the strap down  
 around her neck -- Lola touches him on the cheek --

LOLA  
 -- Thank you.

#### INT. HALLWAY-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

PRINCIPAL, early 30s. The principal for five years.

Lola walks past Principal --

PRINCIPAL  
 Mrs. Smith?

Lola looks back at Principal --

LOLA  
 Yes?

PRINCIPAL  
 May I see you for a little bit?

LOLA  
 Yes. No problem --

-- Lola walks into the principal's office -- Principal steps  
 into the office -- and shuts the door --

#### INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE-AFTERNOON

Lola sits. Principal sits behind her desk -- and hands Lola a  
 drawing -- Lola looks at the drawing -- She fights back the  
 laughter --

LOLA  
 (giggle)

PRINCIPAL  
 -- I'm sorry I had to call you in  
 here for this but --

LOLA

-- What?

PRINCIPAL

A girl and your son went into a  
bathroom together and let's just  
say --

-- Lola covers her mouth -- She stops herself from laughing -  
-

LOLA

-- Oh. They didn't do anything, did  
they?

PRINCIPAL

No. They just showed each other  
their privates.

LOLA

Oh.

PRINCIPAL

He felt that was what people do  
when they like each other. Like you  
and your husband.

LOLA

(laugh)  
I'll talk to him.

PRINCIPAL

Please do because he's already  
getting more request from other  
girls.

LOLA

Okay.

**EXT. PARKING LOT-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AFTERNOON**

Lola and 10-Year-Old Nicholas walk towards Lola's car. Lola  
looks at him --

LOLA

-- About what you saw last night?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Am I in trouble?

LOLA

No.

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
Why was dad on top of you?

LOLA  
That's just how a mom and dad show  
their feelings towards each other.

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS  
So, is that where babies come from?

LOLA  
That's how it starts.

LOLA (V.O.)  
I have to give the kid a lot of  
credit. Some kids are so innocent,  
but he was the brightest boy at  
home and at school. The world  
wouldn't know what hit them!

#### **INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

10-Year-Old Nicholas lays in his bed, asleep. Lola leans in -  
- and shuts the door -- She flips the light switch off --

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT**

PAUL, 26. A contractor. A tall man. Sandy blonde hair, blue  
eyes.

PAUL  
Sierra --

#### **INT. BEDROOM-EVENING**

-- Sierra closes the journal --

SIERRA  
-- Babe!

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Sierra steps down the stairs -- Paul holds his arms out -- A  
worried look on his face --

PAUL  
I was wondering where you were --  
-- Sierra hugs Paul -- and kisses him --



SIERRA

-- Promise me that we'll never  
fight --

PAUL

-- Did you read another sad book --

SIERRA

-- Just promise me.

PAUL

Okay. I promise.

He kisses her on the cheek --

SIERRA

-- I missed you.

#### INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Paul sits at the end of the table -- He eats his **potstickers**  
with **chopsticks** -- Faith sits at the middle of the table --

and rocks the infant boy to sleep --

PAUL

-- So, what did you two do today?

SIERRA

-- I --

FAITH

-- She's helping me organize a  
fundraiser at an art show. I came  
over to pick her brain for an idea  
--

-- Paul looks at Sierra --

PAUL

-- You are?

SIERRA

-- Yeah. I'm giving her ideas of  
what to paint too. You know how  
creative people come together.

PAUL

Okay.

FAITH

I promise to have her home early.

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Sierra sits up against the headboard. Paul lays asleep in the bed. She looks at the journal and reads.

LOLA (V.O.)

Where was I? I must apologize. I haven't written in this journal for seventeen years. Anyway, I was in a car accident. I got hurt when Shelly hit the gas by accident. I had to stay off my feet. I was forced into taking disability. I made up with Shelly. Had dinner and talked about the good old days when my mom was still here. Nicola too. Oh, how I miss them both so much. Now that I'm getting older, Nicholas has entered the academy and graduated. I suppose he has it in his heart to do what I did. He was shot by a drug dealer. He made it through the surgery. Good thing the bullet didn't hit his heart. What mother wouldn't worry after getting that devastating news. Worst part of all, another woman has come into his life.

LOLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The hard part came when the two announced that she's pregnant. Barry and I made a bet that she's pregnant or their engaged. We were both right on the money!

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK**

Lola sits in bed. Her lap covered with the comforter. Barry walks into the bedroom -- and sits on the edge of the bed --

BARRY

-- Can I have my money back?

Lola looks at Barry --

LOLA

-- It'll cost you.

BARRY

What?

LOLA  
A good foot massage.

BARRY  
I'm on it.

LOLA (V.O.)  
By that time, I had made a lot of  
enemies, and some of them weren't  
going to go down without a fight.

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

The doorbell rings. Lola steps towards the door -- and opens  
it --

MICHELLE, 21. Raven colored hair, brown eyes. Black  
sunglasses over her eyes.

Lola looks at Michelle. A confused look on Lola's face --

LOLA  
-- Hi --

-- Michelle points a gun at Lola -- and fires off a shot --

Lola flies back -- She hits the floor. Lola lies on the floor  
-- and covers the bullet wound -- Barry rushes down the steps  
-- and kneels down -- He puts pressure on the wound --

LOLA (V.O.)  
She shot me at my own front door.  
The best day of my son's life and  
the worst night of my life!

#### **INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

"Toy Soldiers" by Martika plays.

Barry sits -- He comforts himself by rocking himself back and  
forth --

SURGEON, early 30s. A surgeon for ten years.

The Surgeon steps outside of the Operating Room --

SURGEON  
Mr. Smith --

-- Barry stands up -- He steps towards the Surgeon --

**INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

BARRY  
How is she?

SURGEON  
There was too much damage on the  
spine. I'm sorry.

BARRY  
She's paralyzed.

SURGEON  
I'm sorry --

-- The Surgeon reaches his hand out -- Barry pulls away --  
and leans up against the wall --

BARRY  
(sob)

LOLA (V.O.)  
That night, I got a visit from an  
unexpected visitor. Let's just say,  
it was something I needed at that  
very moment.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Lola lays in bed. She opens her eyes -- and sits up --

LOLA  
Where am I?

NICK  
Hello --

-- Lola looks at Nick

LOLA  
-- Dad?

NICK  
Yes.

LOLA  
Am I dead?

NICK  
No.

LOLA  
Why are you here then?

NICK  
To show you something. Come on --

-- Nick steps towards the door -- He looks back --

NICK (CONT'D)  
Are you coming or not?

Lola gets off the bed -- Nick pushes the door open --

**INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT**

Nick walks around a dinner table -- and sits across from Brenda. NICOLA, 13. A seventh grade student. Shy and sweet.

He touches Nicola on the cheek --

NICOLA  
(giggle)  
Stop!

LOLA, 10-Years-Old. A fourth-grade student. Energetic, and a fun little girl.

Nick looks back at the older Lola --

NICK  
-- You were never left out. I want you to know that. Your sister did what I couldn't. She taught you everything I couldn't.

NICK (CONT'D)  
She gave you a son. He's a good boy. A boy I'm honored to have named after me.

LOLA  
Can I ask you a question?

NICK  
Yes.

LOLA  
Why'd you have to die? And why did you have to help everyone?

Nick points at Brenda --

NICK

-- She became the heart I thought I  
lost. I made a lot of bad choices  
before I met her. She helped me get  
back my soul and made me believe  
again --

-- Nick gets up -- and steps towards Brenda -- He kisses her  
on the cheek --

BRENDA

-- What was that for?

NICK

For being my light --

-- Nick steps towards Lola --

LOLA

That was our last dinner together.

NICK

Yes.

LOLA

Why'd you have to help her? You  
never answered?

Nick points down to the other end of the table -- Lola looks  
--

MARY JANE, 17. A senior student. Dark hair, hazel eyes. Very  
attractive girl. Nick steps towards Mary Jane --

Mary Jane looks down at her infant son -- She holds him close  
-- and rocks him gently -- The infant looks Lola in the eyes  
--

NICK (V.O.)

-- She was only seventeen. She  
didn't question her choice, she  
just did it.

LOLA

What does this have to do with you  
helping that little bitch that  
killed you --

-- Nick steps towards Lola --

NICK

I was very gullible. I can't say I picked the wrong girl because otherwise I'm saying your sister was a mistake. Almost like I'm saying I was. It was a surprise attack that I should have saw coming. How do you think Nicola came into the picture? Why did you choose Barry?

LOLA

(sob)

I love him.

NICK

I love your mom, but I could never love Rachel. She was bad for me.

LOLA

What about Suzie.

NICK

She was innocent, and pure. Someone I could never make happy.

LOLA

What do I do?

NICK

You still got a lot of fight kiddo.  
I see it --

-- Nick touches Lola's cheek -- Lola kisses his hand --

LOLA

Does it have to stop here?

NICK

It never will.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Lola's eyes open wide -- She yanks and pulls at the **breathing tube** --

**INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON**

SUPER: TWO MONTHS LATER

Lola sits in a wheelchair while Barry pushes her through the exit doors --

BARRY  
Ready to go home?

LOLA  
More than ever. I hate hospitals.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

The door opens -- Barry pushes the wheelchair in -- PARTY GOERS surround the living room --

PARTY GOERS  
(Yell)  
-- Surprise!!!

Lola covers her face --

LOLA  
(cries) (giggle)  
You prick!

NICHOLAS, 28. A police detective. Dark hair, brown eyes.

LOLA (V.O.)  
Little did I know of what was about to happen. Nicholas had grown up right before my very eyes. He had his father's face but his mother's heart. Everything I wish I had. My father was right. He was a good kid. And I could tell by the look on his face, he wasn't going to go down without telling Barry how he felt.

Barry pushes the wheelchair towards Nicholas --

LOLA  
Kiddo --

-- Nicholas leans down -- and hugs Lola -- He looks at Barry --

NICHOLAS  
-- Can I talk to you outside?

BARRY  
You want to talk to me outside?



NICHOLAS

Yeah, you!

Barry walks towards the sliding glass doors -- and opens it  
He steps out -- Nicholas steps out on the patio -- and slams  
the door shut --

Lola listens -- and rolls the wheelchair closer towards the  
door --

**EXT. PATIO-AFTERNOON**

Nicholas balls up his fists -- Barry looks at Nicholas's fist  
-- and his eyes --

BARRY

-- From the look in your eyes, you  
look like you want to hit me.

NICHOLAS

Where were you when she got shot?

BARRY

I was running her bath water.

NICHOLAS

I find that hard to believe. It  
took her a minute to get shot and  
your too busy running water. Sounds  
a little suspicious to me.

BARRY

You think I set it up?

NICHOLAS

I think mom should come and live  
with me for a little bit. At least  
to feel safe until you can be a man  
or act like one --

-- Barry raises his fist into Nicholas's face --

BARRY

-- Boy! Don't go there with me!

NICHOLAS

What are you going to do about it  
pussy?

Barry pushes Nicholas -- Nicholas pushes Barry -- Barry falls  
into the glass door -- The glass shatters --

**INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Barry lays on the floor, surrounded by pieces of glass. He looks at Nicholas -- Nicholas walks away -- Barry looks at Lola --

LOLA (V.O.)

That was the first time that anyone stood up for me. I hated to see him like that, but I understood how he felt.

**EXT. PATIO-CONTINUOUS**

Barry sits on a lounge chair. Lola wheels herself towards him --

BARRY

He's right. I am a pussy. I wasn't there. I'll understand if you want to go live with him.

LOLA

It wasn't your fault. Bad things happen all the time.

BARRY

They do.

LOLA

I'm not going anywhere. We're in this together.

LOLA (V.O.)

I couldn't leave him. He was like a lost puppy without me.

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-MORNING**

Sierra drives her car into Faith's driveway. She puts the AUTOMATIC in PARK --

**INT. GARAGE-MORNING**

Sierra ducks under the garage door -- and steps into the garage --

SIERRA

-- Faith!

FAITH (O.S.)  
In here!

**INT. OFFICE-MORNING**

Faith sits in front of a painted canvas. Sierra looks at the painting with amazement in her eyes --

FAITH  
-- I started it last night. I just finished it. Do you think he will like it?

SIERRA  
He'll love it.

Faith gets up --

FAITH  
Why don't you take it to your house and keep it until dad comes home?

SIERRA  
Okay --

-- Faith steps out of the office -- Sierra wipes away the tears in her eyes --

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON**

"Faith" By George Michaels plays.

Sierra drives the car -- Her eyes water with tears -- She turns the steering wheel to the right -- and parks the car on the side of the road -- She rests her head against the steering wheel --

SIERRA  
(sob) (cries)

**INT. FAITH'S CAR-AFTERNOON (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

SUPER: TWO MONTHS EARLIER

Faith drives her car -- Nicholas lays in the back seat. A blanket wrapped around him. Faith looks back at him --

FAITH  
Hang on, dad!!

The car swerves into the left side of the road -- Faith hits the **brake pedal** -- The car runs into a **tree** -- Faith hits her head on the steering wheel -- and flies back. Blood streams down her cheek from the wound on her head.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Faith sits up on the bed and looks around the room. She looks at Sierra --

FAITH  
-- Sierra! Did you call dad and  
tell him I'm okay?

Sierra looks at Faith --

SIERRA  
-- Faith?

FAITH  
What is it?

SIERRA  
Dad's -- waiting for you back at  
the house. He says to get better --

-- Sierra hugs Faith -- Her eyes fill with tears --

SIERRA (V.O.)  
Faith had an accident after dad  
passed away. She had fallen asleep  
at the wheel and thought she was  
driving him to the hospital. Some  
part of her brain had imagined it.  
Traumatic experience they say, or  
she couldn't accept him being gone.

**INT. FAITH'S CAR-NIGHT-FLASHBACK**

Faith sits in the driver seat and drives her car. Her eyes are tired. She drifts to sleep --

**INT. BATHROOM-BACK TO PRESENT**

Sierra lays in the bathtub. Her head rests on the edge. Paul kneels down -- He massages her neck --

SIERRA  
-- Thanks, baby.

PAUL  
Anytime --

-- He kisses her on the forehead --

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Are you going to be alright here by  
yourself?

SIERRA  
I'll be fine.

PAUL  
If you need anything, don't  
hesitate?

SIERRA  
I won't.

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING**

Sierra sits on the sofa -- She opens the journal -- and reads  
--

LOLA (V.O.)  
I haven't written in this thing for  
a while now. What do you say about  
someone that lived his life on  
drugs before he met you, and slept  
with your sister? I ask myself that  
every time I closed my eyes and  
wanted to believe that Barry's car  
didn't blow up. I lost my best  
friend today. Although, he wasn't  
perfect. Nicholas hadn't spoken to  
him since he had that argument with  
him. Michelle made her last move.

#### **INT. BARRY'S CAR-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK**

"Skeletons" by MAD FVN plays.

Barry sits in the driver seat. His music blasting.

Flames ignite around Barry and spread through the entire car.

BARRY  
(scream)

**EXT. PARKING LOT-AFTERNOON**

The car explodes.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Lola sits in her wheelchair and looks outside the window.

LOLA (V.O.)

All I had left were the kids now  
but how long did I have. Angelica  
and Nicholas had tried countless  
times to talk me into living with  
them. I can't bring myself to go.  
This will be my last entry. I have  
nothing more to say except that  
whoever reads this, live your best  
life. Whether it's a grandchild or  
a relative reading. Do not settle.  
I love you and have a good life.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT**

SIERRA

Angelica?

Sierra looks in between the middle of the journal and sees  
it's missing a couple of pages -- She closes the journal. She  
sets it down on the coffee table. Sierra gets up from the  
sofa -- and steps towards the stairs --

**INT. NURSERY-EVENING**

Sierra sits in the rocking chair. She rocks the infant to  
sleep --

SIERRA

Shh! I got you now. Mamas got you.  
Field trip tomorrow.

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON**

Sierra drives the car towards a SECURITY GATE.

SECURITY GUARD, early 30s. A security guard for ten years.

The Security Guard steps towards Sierra's car. He leans his  
head towards Sierra's --

SECURITY GUARD  
Can I help you?

SIERRA  
Mrs. Ramos is expecting me.

SECURITY GUARD  
Go ahead and drive thru.

Sierra presses her foot on the gas pedal.

#### **EXT. RAMOS ESTATE-AFTERNOON**

Sierra gets out of her car -- She grabs the baby carrier from the back seat of the car -- Sierra looks up at the mansion --

SIERRA  
-- Wow!

Sierra steps towards the steps.

BUTLER, early 40s. A butler for twenty years.

The Butler stands near the front door. Tall, and bald.

BUTLER  
Sierra?

SIERRA  
Yes, sir!

The Butler grabs the doorknob, turns it -- and opens the door wide --

#### **INT. LOBBY-MANSION-AFTERNOON**

Sierra steps into the lobby -- She looks around --

SIERRA  
-- This place is amazing!

A woman in a long red dress steps down the stairs. ANGELICA, 60. A widowed orange orchard owner.

ANGELICA  
Glad you like it.

Sierra looks at Angelica --

SIERRA  
-- We never officially met --

ANGELICA  
-- You're Nicholas's daughter. And  
who's this?

SIERRA  
My son, Nicholas. Can I?

ANGELICA  
Yes, please?

Sierra sets the baby carrier down -- She lifts the infant up  
-- and holds him in her arms -- Angelica touches his cheeks -  
-

ANGELICA (CONT'D)  
He's so precious! Please, come into  
the living room with me --

-- Angelica leads the way -- and walks into the living room -  
-

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-AFTERNOON**

The Butler pours *iced tea* into a glass for Sierra while she  
sits on a sofa --

SIERRA  
-- Thank you.

The Butler smiles at Sierra -- and walks out of the living  
room --

ANGELICA  
So, what did you want to ask me?

SIERRA  
I got so many questions; I just  
don't know where to start. Maybe I  
don't want to offend you.

ANGELICA  
You won't offend me.

SIERRA  
Did you Lola ever tell you a  
secret? About your mother?

ANGELICA  
My mother died when I was a baby. I  
never knew her. I was raised by  
Shelly.



SIERRA  
How did you feel about Barry?

ANGELICA  
Not to sound cruel but I hated him.

SIERRA  
May I ask why?

ANGELICA  
Everyone had their reasons, but my reasons are kind of personal.

SIERRA  
Fair enough.

ANGELICA  
May I ask why you're here, asking me all these questions?

SIERRA  
I read Lola's journal.

ANGELICA  
What did she say?

SIERRA  
This and that. She lived a very rough life.

ANGELICA  
She did.

Sierra gets up from the sofa --

SIERRA  
-- I better get going then.

Sierra grabs the baby carrier -- and steps towards the archway --

ANGELICA  
-- Sierra --

-- Sierra looks back at Angelica --

ANGELICA (CONT'D)  
-- Nicholas was a good man. Sucks the way things went but I guess the best way is to bury them.

SIERRA  
Thank you --

-- Sierra steps out of the living room --

**EXT. BALCONY-MANSION-AFTERNOON**

Angelica looks down from the balcony. She watches Sierra's car leave her estate. Angelica lifts a photograph of her with her mother, Nicola.

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON**

Sierra drives the car. She puts on her sunglasses --

Sierra's cell phone rings. Sierra answers -- and puts it to her ear --

SIERRA  
Hello?

**INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-AFTERNOON**

Sierra walks through the hallway -- She carries the baby carrier in her left hand --

MICHAEL, 36. A bartender. Tall, muscular. Blonde hair, blue eyes.

Sierra steps towards Michael --

SIERRA  
-- What happened!

MICHAEL  
I walked into the house, and she  
attacked me!

SIERRA  
What did you say to her?

MICHAEL  
I just walked in and said hi --

-- Sierra walks into the patients' room --

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-AFTERNOON**

SECURITY GUARD #1 and #2. In their early 20s. Security Guards for one and two years.

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR, early 50s. A mental health doctor for twenty years.

Security Guard #1 lifts Faith onto the **gurney** -- The Mental Health Doctor pulls out a **syringe** -- and sticks the needle into Faith's arm --

FAITH  
(breath)

Faith calms down and becomes unconscious -- Sierra steps into the room --

SIERRA  
What did you give her!

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR  
A sedative to calm her down for the night.

SIERRA  
She doesn't need that shit! What the hell is wrong with you people!

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR  
We're doing our job!

SIERRA  
Your job sucks!!

Sierra sits beside the gurney -- and sets the baby carrier down on the floor -- She brushes her hands through Faith's hair --

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
How long does she have to stay here?

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR  
Until tomorrow morning.

SIERRA  
I'll be back in the morning to pick her up.

#### **INT. GARAGE-EVENING**

Sierra walks into the garage. She looks down at the ground and sees stuff is scattered everywhere.

#### **INT. OFFICE-EVENING**

Sierra walks into the office -- She looks around -- and sees ripped canvases.

The torn book journal pages lay on the floor. Sierra grabs the pages -- and rushes out of the office.

**INT. BEDROOM-EVENING**

Sierra grabs a duffle bag from the closet -- and grabs some clothes from the dresser -- She tosses socks, underwear, a sweater and pants into the duffle bag -- Sierra grabs the duffle bag -- and rushes out of the bedroom --

**INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT**

Sierra lays on the sofa -- She holds the torn pages in her hands -- and reads --

LOLA (V.O.)

Today was a good day, and then everything turned to shit. Nicholas picked me up because he didn't want me to be at the house by myself. Barry shows up and like I said, it turned into a chaotic night.

**EXT. PATIO-EVENING-FLASHBACK**

At the table, Nicholas and Lola sit, eating their food. Barry steps into the patio. He looks at Nicholas --

BARRY

-- Am I missing something here! Are we not talking anymore? Why wasn't I invited?

NICHOLAS

I don't invite pussies to my house.

Barry steps towards Nicholas -- Barry pushes his hand into Nicholas's face --

BARRY

Who the hell do you think you're talking to like that you little shit --

LOLA

-- Stop --

BARRY

-- Shut up!!

NICHOLAS  
If you talk to my mother like that  
again --

-- Barry pushes Nicholas's shoulder --

BARRY  
-- What are you going to do!!

NICHOLAS  
Keep pushing me and you'll find  
out.

BARRY  
I should have told your mother to  
abort your ass when I had the  
chance --

-- Nicholas looks at Lola --

NICHOLAS  
-- Don't talk about my mother like  
that!

BARRY  
She's not even your real mother!!  
You were a mistake --

-- Nicholas rushes towards Barry -- and punches Barry across  
the face -- Barry falls onto the **barbeque grill** -- He hits  
the ground -- Nicholas looks at Lola. Lola looks at Nicholas  
--

NICHOLAS  
-- Is it true!!

Lola looks away --

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
-- Is it true!!!

LOLA  
Yes.

NICHOLAS  
What happened to my mother!

LOLA  
(sob)  
She died!

NICHOLAS  
Who was she!

Tears stream down her cheeks --

LOLA  
-- Nicola!!

Nicholas's eyes grow with shock -- He grabs his head --

NICHOLAS  
-- Both of you get off my property  
now!!

Nicholas steps into the house -- and slams the sliding glass door shut -- Barry gets up -- and steps towards Lola -- Lola backs away from him --

LOLA  
-- Don't touch me --

-- Lola wheels herself away --

LOLA (V.O.)  
That was the last time they saw  
each other. Somethings aren't meant  
to be kept a secret. I didn't like  
lying to him about being his  
mother. It was heartbreaking.

**EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON**

Lola sits on a bench -- and tosses **breadcrumbs** into the **duck pond** --

NICHOLAS  
-- Is this spot taken --

-- Lola looks at Nicholas --

LOLA  
-- No.

Nicholas sits. He looks at Lola --

NICHOLAS  
Can I ask you a question?

LOLA  
Sure.

NICHOLAS  
What was she like?

LOLA  
She was a lot like you. She had a  
good heart.

NICHOLAS  
Was she like you?

LOLA  
Yeah.

NICHOLAS  
(sob)  
Can I still call you mom?

LOLA  
(sob)  
I would like that --

-- She hugs Nicholas -- He hugs her with all his might --

LOLA (V.O.)  
A son's love never goes away. I  
knew that by the way he hugged me  
with his arms. It is the best  
feeling you will ever have.

# **INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT**

Sierra wipes her eyes -- Paul steps behind Sierra as he walks  
past the sofa --

PAUL  
-- Are you alright?

Sierra jumps out of her own skin -- Feeling scared from the  
sudden outburst of hearing Paul's voice out of nowhere --

SIERRA  
-- You scared me!

PAUL  
I'm sorry --

-- Paul sits on the sofa -- and kisses Sierra on the cheek --

PAUL (CONT'D)  
-- How's the little man doing?

SIERRA  
Sleeping.

Paul grabs the torn pages from Sierra's fingertips --

PAUL  
What's this?

Sierra snatches the pages from Paul's hand --

SIERRA  
-- Nothing. Just something I was  
reading for a friend --

-- Sierra gets up from the sofa --

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
-- Are you hungry?

PAUL  
I could eat.

**EXT. MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-MORNING**

Faith walks towards Sierra's car with Sierra --

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-MORNING**

Faith lays in the backseat, asleep.

**INT. SPARE BEDROOM-MORNING**

Faith lays in bed. Sierra steps out of the spare bedroom --  
and shuts the door --

**INT. LIVING ROOM-MORNING**

Sierra walks into the living room. Paul sits on the sofa. He  
holds the infant --

PAUL  
How is she?

SIERRA  
She's sleeping. I got to go meet  
Michael --

Sierra walks towards the door -- She puts on her boots --

PAUL  
Are you really going to leave me  
alone with her?



SIERRA  
She's fine, babe.

**INT. SPARE BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS**

PAUL (O.S.)  
What do I do if she wakes up?

SIERRA (O.S.)  
If she asks about dad, just tell  
her that he's out fishing.

Faith's head rests against the pillow.

**INT. RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

Sierra sits in a booth. Two young boys sip on their milkshakes across from her. Sierra digs a plastic spoon into the cup. AIDEN, 11 years old. PATRICK, 9 years old.

AIDEN  
How's mom doing?

SIERRA  
She's sleeping.

PATRICK  
Will she ever get better?

SIERRA  
I don't have all the answers honey.  
She relives the same event every  
day.

AIDEN  
It has something to do with  
grandpa, right?

SIERRA  
Yeah. She just misses him.

PATRICK  
We miss her.

SIERRA  
I know you do sweetie. That's why  
we're going to figure out a way to  
bring you guys back together.

Sierra's cell phone rings. She answers it -- and puts it to her ear --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

-- Hello?

PAUL (V.O.)

Faith came out of the room after  
you left. She grabbed the baby and  
locked herself in the bathroom!

SIERRA

I'm coming home! Don't do anything  
--

-- Sierra ends the call --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

-- Come on boys!!

#### **INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON**

Paul stands outside the bathroom. Sierra steps towards him --

SIERRA

-- Anything happen?

PAUL

No.

SIERRA

Go downstairs and keep the boy's  
company.

PAUL

Will you be alright?

SIERRA

I'll be fine.

#### **INT. BATHROOM-AFTERNOON**

Faith sits in the bathtub -- and holds the infant boy in her  
arms --

FAITH

You're beautiful!

Sierra steps into the bathroom -- and shuts the door --

Faith looks at Sierra -- She stands up -- and gets out of the  
bathtub --

FAITH (CONT'D)

I didn't hurt him.

SIERRA

I know.

FAITH

I just wanted to hold him. I wanted  
to make sure dad saw him.

SIERRA

I know.

Faith leans against the tiled wall -- and slides down -- Her  
butt hits the floor -- Sierra kneels down --

FAITH

He looks so much like dad. Don't  
you think?

SIERRA

Yeah, he does --

-- Sierra takes the infant from Faith --

FAITH

Is dad going to be alright? Driving  
all the way here from home?

SIERRA

He'll be fine. He's dad.

FAITH

Yeah.

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Sierra walks Faith into the living room. Her arm around her  
shoulder. Faith looks at Aiden and Patrick.

Aiden runs towards Faith --

AIDEN

-- Mom --

-- Aiden hugs onto Faith's waist -- Faith kisses him on the  
top of his head -- Patrick rushes towards Faith and hugs her  
-- Faith kisses Patrick on the cheek --

FAITH

-- My handsome boys!

Paul looks at Sierra. Sierra looks at Paul.

**EXT. FIELD-AFTERNOON**

Faith stands with Aiden and Patrick. A roll of **string** attached to a **blue kite**. The kite flies in the sky. Sierra stands back and watches. Faith looks at Sierra.

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Sierra lays in bed asleep.

SIERRA (V.O.)

That night, after everything had happened with Faith. I myself, had a little encounter with someone.

**INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Sierra's lays her head on the table. She opens her eyes -- and raises her head --

SIERRA

Where am I?

NICK

Surprise!!

Sierra looks at Nick --

SIERRA

Why are you here?

NICK

I always been here. We just never had the honor of meeting. I get to meet the anchor that's going to pull this family back together. The jagged mountain chain that is going to put it back together.

Nick stands up -- and walks towards Sierra --

SIERRA

Why are you talking to me? You have been dead for decades.

NICK

Dead but not forgotten. Why does everyone keep using my name? How many Nicks does it take to get it right?

SIERRA

Are you saying my father was a mistake?

NICK

No. I'm proud of that boy. He took a girl, you, and gave her everything. He lived the Amish lifestyle, but he did it like a pro. He got it right!

Nick leans down --

SIERRA

So, if I say your name three times, are you going to come back from the dead and cause mischief?

NICK

No. I don't do that.

SIERRA

Why am I here then?

NICK

Why don't you take a walk with me?

Sierra gets up -- Nick walks -- and leads Sierra towards a bedroom --

#### INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sierra walks into the bedroom -- and stands beside Nicholas -  
-

Nicholas lays in bed with an empty **vodka bottle** in his hand.

An empty spot next to him.

SIERRA

Why are you showing me this? I don't want to see him like this.

NICK

I know how you feel. You see your parents in the most disturbing way. Makes you wish you were blind.

SIERRA

Can I go now?

NICK

Not just yet --

-- Nick turns -- and points his finger --

**INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

Nick walks into the living room -- He slams the door shut --

Mary Jane wakes up from the slam --

MARY JANE  
Kiddo! You startled me.

Nick looks back at Sierra --

NICK  
It sucked to see her this way. The  
same goes for your dad. Now you  
know what makes me cringe!

Mary Jane leans her head down -- and takes a big whiff of the  
cocaine on a small mirror --

MARY JANE  
(sniff)

Nick squints his eyes -- Sierra closes her eyes --

**INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT**

Sierra opens her eyes -- Nick walks up behind her -- and  
leads her to the empty chair at the end of the table -- She  
sits --

SIERRA  
-- What now --

-- Nick hands Sierra a **Green Tootsie Roll Pop** -- Sierra takes  
it --

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
Candy?

NICK  
Yeah.

SIERRA  
Why candy?

NICK  
Because life can a lot sweeter if  
you let it. As long as you are  
living it the best way you can --

-- Nick steps towards the front door --

SIERRA

-- Where are you going?

NICK

I believe you have it from here.

SIERRA

Wait! Aren't you going to say  
anything about my son?

NICK

Keep doing what you are doing. He's  
living his best life. Thanks to  
you, he'll make wonders.

SIERRA

Thank you.

NICK

Anytime --

-- Nick opens the door -- and steps out of the room -- The  
door shuts --

**INT. BEDROOM-MORNING (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Her head rests against the pillow. Sierra's eyes open -- She  
looks at the **green wrapper** on the Tootsie Roll Pop --

PAUL

-- Babe --

-- Sierra grabs the Tootsie Roll Pop --

SIERRA

Did you give me this?

PAUL

No.

The infant lays across from her. Sierra leans over -- and  
kisses him on the head --

SIERRA

My beautiful boy.

PAUL

Will you be alright here? By  
yourself I mean.

SIERRA

Yeah.

PAUL

You know the drill.

SIERRA

Yeah, yeah. I know! Call you if I need anything. I'll be fine. Faith's gone with the boys at their cabin. I'm going to live my best life because it's sweet.

PAUL

I love you --

-- Paul kisses Sierra on her cheek -- and walks out of the bedroom --

SIERRA

-- Love you too.

#### INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

Sierra stands over the counter -- She opens a can of **coffee** -  
- and sees the can is empty --

SIERRA

-- Shit!

#### INT. COFFEE SHOP-AFTERNOON

Sierra stands in front of the counter of the register.

BARISTA, early 20s. A barista for three years.

The Barista hands Sierra her **caramel mocha** --

SIERRA

-- Thank you.

Sierra steps towards a table -- and sits in front of the baby while he sits in his carrier --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Don't judge me kiddo!

#### INT. GROCERY STORE-AFTERNOON

Sierra pushes the **grocery cart** down the **coffee aisle** -- She grabs the store brand of **Columbian** --



SIERRA  
Coffee! Coffee! Coffee!!

**INT. KITCHEN-EVENING**

Sierra cuts up **carrots** and **celery** -- The infant sleeps in his rocker. Her cell phone rings. She answers -- and puts it on speaker --

SIERRA  
Hello?

ANGELICA (V.O.)  
Hi? Sierra?

SIERRA  
Yeah?

ANGELICA (V.O.)  
This is Angelica. Can you come over tomorrow?

SIERRA  
Sure.

ANGELICA (V.O.)  
Good.

SIERRA  
Alright.

ANGELICA (V.O.)  
And Sierra?

SIERRA  
Yeah?

ANGELICA (V.O.)  
Bring the journal.

SIERRA  
Okay.

The call ends --

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON**

Sierra parks the car in front of the mansion. She gets out of the car --

**EXT. RAMOS ESTATE-AFTERNOON**

The Butler steps towards Sierra --

BUTLER  
-- Sierra? Mrs. Ramos is waiting  
for you by the rose garden.

SIERRA  
Thank you.

BUTLER  
Did you bring the journal?

SIERRA  
Yes.

BUTLER  
Mrs. Ramos wants me to hold onto it  
while you both talk.

Sierra reaches into her purse -- and pulls out the journal --  
She hands him the journal -- The Butler takes the journal --  
and leads the way --

BUTLER (CONT'D)  
-- Thank you. Follow me.

**EXT. PICNIC AREA-RAMOS ESTATE-AFTERNOON**

Angelica sits at a **stone table** -- She sips from a **teacup** --

Sierra steps towards the empty chair -- and sits across from  
Angelica --

ANGELICA  
-- Thank you for coming.

SIERRA  
I was surprised but happy that  
after everything that happened.  
That you would want to talk to me.

ANGELICA  
Journal --

-- The Butler hands the journal to Angelica -- Angelica opens  
it -- and looks through it --

ANGELICA (CONT'D)  
-- Lola had a lot to say, didn't  
she?

SIERRA  
She sure did.

The Butler removes the lid to the barbeque grill -- and takes  
the journal from Angelica -- He sets the journal down on the  
**fire** of the grill -- Sierra watches it burn --

ANGELICA  
What you don't know is that night  
of Nicholas's wedding. It was  
supposed to be Barry that took the  
bullet. Not Lola. That same  
assassin was assigned to kill me,  
but I caught her. She didn't expect  
me to defend myself the way I did.

#### INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Michelle sneaks into a foggy bathroom -- and steps towards  
the shower -- Angelica wraps her arm around the throat of  
Michelle --

ANGELICA  
Got you bitch!!

MICHELLE  
(choke)

ANGELICA  
Who sent you --

-- Angelica loosens her grip --

MICHELLE  
-- Mila --

-- Angelica lets go -- She takes the gun from Michelle -- and  
takes out the **clip** -- Angelica takes the **bullet** out the  
**chamber** --

ANGELICA  
I got a better idea --

-- Angelica grabs a stack of cash -- and tosses it to  
Michelle --

MICHELLE  
What's this for?

ANGELICA  
Spare me and Lola. Kill Barry  
Smith!

MICHELLE  
And if I don't spare you?

ANGELICA  
What if I double it? A million.

MICHELLE  
Very well.

ANGELICA  
Now, get out of my house!

Michelle gets up -- and walks towards the bathroom door --

ANGELICA (V.O.)  
Unfortunately, she shot Lola in  
spite of what I asked. So, I paid  
her again, and she finally went  
through with it.

#### **INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT**

Angelica sits in the dining room -- Her cell phone rings --  
She answers --

ANGELICA  
-- Hello?

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
It's done.

ANGELICA  
How will I know?

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
Be on your yacht if you want to see  
it for yourself. At one o'clock.  
Santa Monica Pier. It's where he is  
supposed to take his wife.

ANGELICA  
I'll be there.

#### **EXT. YACHT-AFTERNOON**

Angelica lays back on a lounge chair.

SERVANT, early 20s. A servant for two years.

Angelica looks at the Servant --

ANGELICA  
What time is it?

SERVANT  
A minute before one.

Angelica gets up and grabs her **binoculars** -- She presses them over her eyes -- and looks through --

ANGELICA  
-- Watch for the little fireworks!

**EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON**

Barry's car explodes --

**EXT. YACHT-CONTINUOUS**

ANGELICA  
Yes!!  
(laugh)

SERVANT  
(laugh)

ANGELICA  
Got him!!

**EXT. ROSE GARDEN-RAMOS ESTATE-BACK TO PRESENT**

ANGELICA  
I did what I did for my mother. I suppose I did it for Nicholas and Lola. They suffered for his poor choices. Wouldn't you do the same for your son if you had the chance?

SIERRA  
I guess I would.

ANGELICA  
I trust you won't tell anyone else about what I told you.

SIERRA

Hey, all I have is a husband at home, a sister that has a short-term memory and a baby boy at home that needs me around. Who am I going to tell?

ANGELICA

I'm glad I could count on you.

Sierra steps away -- She looks back at Angelica -- and waves her hand -- Angelica waves back --

**INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON**

Sierra sits in her car -- and shuts the driver door -- She puts the key into the ignition -- and turns the key -- Sierra looks at the time on her watch --

SIERRA

(breath)  
-- Oh man!

**EXT. PORCH-AFTERNOON**

Faith sits on the porch -- Michael steps outside --

MICHAEL

Are the boys running you ragged?

FAITH

No. They were helping me remember.  
I'm sorry if I punched you in the mouth.

MICHAEL

It's not the first time you did that. It just hurts to see my wife in so much pain. It's especially hard for me to separate myself from you --

-- Michael leans down and hugs Faith --

FAITH

-- I love you --

**INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING**

Sierra steps into the living room -- and shuts the front door -- She looks around -- and gets a good aroma from the kitchen --

SIERRA  
(sniff)  
Something smells good in here!

**INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING**

Sierra walks into the dining room. Paul sets platters of vegetables -- and rice in the center of the table -- Sierra looks at him with a smirk --

SIERRA  
You always manage to surprise me --

PAUL  
-- Come here, babe.

-- Sierra reaches her arms up -- and wraps her fingers around the back of Paul's head -- She kisses him --

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Sierra lays on her stomach at the end of the bed. Paul massages the lower part of her back --

SIERRA  
-- Oh! That's the spot. Right there, baby!!

PAUL  
When are you going to be done with that project?

SIERRA  
Soon. Maybe in a couple of days. Are you working tomorrow?

PAUL  
Believe it or not, I'm free from work for the next month. Maybe I can help you get a building for it.

SIERRA  
You would do that?

PAUL  
Yes.

Sierra sits up -- and pulls Paul down to the bed -- He kisses her -- and hugs her --

**INT. WAREHOUSE-AFTERNOON**

Faith walks into the warehouse blindfolded --

FAITH  
-- I hope this is not where you  
kill me.

SIERRA  
Shut up!

Michael walks Faith to the wall -- and faces her towards the wall on the right -- Michael takes off the blindfold --

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
Open them --

-- Faith opens her eyes -- Her eyes water with emotion -- She covers her mouth -- and looks at Sierra --

FAITH  
How'd you do this?

SIERRA  
You painted them. I just got you  
the place to display them. Well,  
Paul did that part --

-- Faith kisses Sierra on the cheek -- and hugs her --

FAITH  
-- Thank you --

-- Sierra wraps her arm around the back of Faith's neck --

SIERRA  
-- Your welcome.

**INT. PAUL'S CAR-EVENING**

Paul drives the car. He looks at Sierra --

PAUL  
-- Come on, babe. Rest your head --

-- Sierra leans her head down -- Paul slides a small **pillow** underneath her head --



SIERRA

-- Thank you --

-- Sierra closes her eyes.

SIERRA (V.O.)

From that moment on, things changed. I never heard from Angelica again. She did what her mother and father planned. She sailed for Spain and never looked back.

#### **INT. YACHT-EVENING**

Angelica sits on a lounge chair. She looks back at the city.

SIERRA (V.O.)

Faith and Michael finally moved back in together and are raising their boys. Her memory may never return to normal, but she still has a chance to live the life she always wanted.

#### **EXT. CABIN-MORNING**

Faith leans against the banister of the front deck. A mug in her hand. Michael steps behind her -- and kisses her on the cheek --

SIERRA (V.O.)

As for me and Paul. We left Los Angeles and moved to the countryside. As for Nicholas. He is doing what makes him happy and living his life.

#### **EXT. UNIVERSITY-MORNING**

SUPER: EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER

NICHOLAS, 18. A freshman college student. Tall and thin built. Dark hair, brown eyes. A handsome young man with a baby face.

Nicholas's cell phone rings -- Nicholas reaches into his pocket -- and grabs his phone -- He answers --

NICHOLAS  
Hello?

SIERRA (V.O.)  
Hey Nicky?

NICHOLAS  
Hey mom?

SIERRA (V.O.)  
Just called to check on you. See  
how things are.

NICHOLAS  
Their fine. I'm on way to class  
right now.

SIERRA  
Okay. I guess I'll call you later  
then.

NICHOLAS  
I'll talk to you later.

SIERRA  
I love you.

NICHOLAS  
Love you too mom.

The call ends. Nicholas puts his cell phone in his jacket pocket -- He rushes to the entrance door -- and grabs the door -- STUDENT #1, #2 and #3 rush in -- Nicholas runs in --

#### **INT. COFFEE SHOP-MORNING**

Nicholas steps up to the counter.

AVA, 18. Dark brown hair, blue eyes. A thin built young woman with porcelain skin.

AVA  
Hi? What can I get for you?

NICHOLAS  
I would like an espresso coffee.

AVA  
And what size do you want that in?

NICHOLAS  
A venti.

AVA

That comes to \$4.29 --

-- Nicholas pulls out his **debit card** and hands it to Ava --

AVA (CONT'D)

-- Thank you --

She slides the card -- and hands it back to Nicholas --

Nicholas takes his debit card --

NICHOLAS

I've seen you around in one of my  
classes. I believe we take English  
together.

AVA

Yeah. I see you from time to time.  
You're the quiet one.

NICHOLAS

The names Nicholas, Ava.

AVA

How'd you know my name?

NICHOLAS

Name tag --

-- Ava looks down --

AVA

(laugh)

So, it is. Your coffee's up.

Nicholas grabs his cup of coffee --

NICHOLAS

Maybe sometime, if you're not too  
busy. You and I can go out and get  
dinner.

AVA

I don't really go out.

NICHOLAS

Maybe a movie. Doesn't have to be  
out.

AVA

Sounds good --

-- Nicholas turns -- and starts to walk towards the exit door  
--

AVA (CONT'D)

Wait! Don't you want my number --

-- Nicholas rushes back towards the counter -- Ava writes  
down her phone number on a piece of paper -- She hands it to  
him -- Nicholas takes it --

NICHOLAS

-- Sorry. Still tired --

AVA

(laugh)

-- It's cool --

-- Nicholas walks towards the exit door -- and pushes the  
door open with his shoulder -- He looks back at Ava -- and  
gives her a smile --

SIERRA (V.O.)

Ava comes from a different  
background than us. She worked her  
way through school and earned a  
scholarship.

#### **INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK**

BILLY, 12 years old. A sixth-grade student. Sandy blonde  
hair, green eyes.

DALLAS, late 40s. A construction worker. Dark brown hair,  
brown eyes. Medium built.

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2. Early 30s.

Dallas lays on a gurney. Paramedic #1 pushes the gurney  
through the doorway --

BILLY

Is he going to be, okay?

PARAMEDIC #1

I sure hope so kid.

Ava steps behind Billy -- and turns Billy around -- She hugs  
him --

SIERRA (V.O.)

Her father didn't make it that  
night. She had more than herself to  
think about now.

**INT. COFFEE SHOP-NIGHT**

Ava sits at a table -- She types on her laptop -- Billy lies asleep on the bench across the room.

SIERRA (V.O.)  
 Sometimes she couldn't afford a  
 sitter, so she took him to work  
 with her. Times were tough but she  
 always managed to pull through.

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Ava carries Billy into the bedroom -- and lays him in his bed  
 --

SIERRA (V.O.)  
 She was his mother and father but  
 most of all. She was his big  
 sister.

**INT. COFFEE SHOP-BACK TO PRESENT**

Ava leans over the counter -- She watches Nicholas walk away  
 from the coffee shop.

**INT. LIBRARY-AFTERNOON**

Nicholas sits at a table. Stacks of books sit in front of  
 him. Across from the library, Ava sits by herself at her own  
 table. She watches Nicholas.

**EXT. PARK-UNIVERSITY-EVENING**

Nicholas walks towards his apartment building. Ava walks  
 towards him --

AVA  
 -- Hi --

-- Nicholas looks around -- and finally sees Ava --

NICHOLAS  
 -- Hey!

AVA  
 You must be tired.

NICHOLAS  
 Yeah. It's been a long busy day.

AVA  
Are you free tomorrow?

NICHOLAS  
Yeah.

AVA  
Do you want to watch a movie with me?

NICHOLAS  
Sure.

AVA  
Text me tonight --

-- Ava walks past Nicholas -- and walks fast towards the end of the sidewalk --

**INT. BEDROOM-NICHOLAS'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

Nicholas lays in bed -- He holds his cell phone in his hands -- The cell phone vibrates --

AVA (TEXT)  
I live in the apartments two blocks down.

NICHOLAS (TEXT)  
What apartment number?

AVA (TEXT)  
Sixteen.

NICHOLAS (TEXT)  
See you at five then.

AVA (TEXT)  
Good night.

NICHOLAS (TEXT)  
Good night.

Nicholas sets his cell phone down on the nightstand -- and rests his head down on the pillow.

**EXT. PORCH-APARTMENT COMPLEX-EVENING**

Nicholas steps towards the door -- He holds a bouquet of flowers in his hand -- and knocks gently on the door -- The door opens -- Billy looks at Nicholas --

BILLY  
Hey A? We got the teenage virgin  
out here!

AVA (O.S.)  
Don't be rude! Let him in --

-- Nicholas sets the flowers down on the ground --

BILLY  
-- Come on in --

-- Billy walks into the apartment -- Nicholas steps in -- and  
shuts the door --

**INT. LIVING ROOM-AVA'S APARTMENT-EVENING**

Billy sits on the couch -- and sets his feet down on the  
coffee table --

NICHOLAS  
So --

BILLY  
-- So --

Ava walks into the living room --

AVA  
Sorry, I was just getting something  
ready. Did you at least offer him a  
drink?

-- Billy looks at Nicholas --

BILLY  
-- I'm sorry. Do you want something  
to drink?

AVA  
You know what, go to your room.  
Your all set.

Billy gets up -- and walks towards his bedroom -- He walks in  
-- and slams the door shut --

AVA (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry.

NICHOLAS  
It's fine.

AVA

I'll understand if you want to leave and never want to call me again.

NICHOLAS

What movies do you have?

AVA

How's Beetlejuice sound?

NICHOLAS

Sounds like something I wouldn't drink.

AVA

No, it's a movie. One of my favorites. Michael Keaton did a phenomenal job.

Nicholas and Ava sit on the couch -- and watch the movie --

AVA (CONT'D)

How do you like it so far?

NICHOLAS

You are right.

AVA

Did you ever watch movies like this back home?

NICHOLAS

Not really. No.

AVA

What do your parents do?

NICHOLAS

My mom's a writer. Dad's a contractor.

AVA

Sounds interesting.

NICHOLAS

What about your parents?

AVA

My mom died when I was twelve. Dad died last year.

NICHOLAS

I'm sorry.



AVA  
It's fine. He didn't take good care  
of himself.

AVA (CONT'D)  
So, I was rewarded custody of that  
little dweeb back there. Now, we're  
living our best life. Do you feel  
like running?

NICHOLAS  
No.

Nicholas reaches for Ava's hand -- and holds it --

#### **EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON**

Nicholas and Ava walk through the park. Billy walks behind  
them -- Ava looks back at Billy -- Billy makes kissy faces at  
Ava -- Ava gives him a fist --

SIERRA (V.O.)  
From that moment on, they became a  
family. She became his world, and  
he became her heart. There were no  
bad feelings surrounding their  
relationship. Then came  
Thanksgiving, and that's where they  
knew their lives were about to  
change.

#### **INT. NICHOLAS'S CAR-MORNING**

The car pulls into the driveway. Billy looks at the house --

BILLY  
This is it?

NICHOLAS  
This is it.

BILLY  
Wow!

NICHOLAS  
Come on --

-- Nicholas opens the door -- and gets out of the car --

Sierra rushes towards the driveway --

SIERRA

-- Nicky --

-- Sierra rushes towards Nicholas -- and hugs him -- He hugs her -- She kisses him on the cheek --

Ava opens the passenger door -- and gets out --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

You must be Ava. Oh! You are pretty

--

-- Ava looks at Nicholas --

AVA

Nick!

SIERRA

That's what my son said!

Billy opens his door -- and gets out -- Sierra looks at Billy --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

You must be Billy. He didn't tell me you were so handsome --

-- Billy smiles -- and hides his face --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

I made him blush. Come on, let's go get some breakfast!

#### **INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Billy sits on the sofa, and watches television.

#### **INT. KITCHEN-AFTERNOON**

Nicholas and Ava sit on stools at the counter. Sierra stands -- and cleans -- Nicholas looks around --

NICHOLAS

Is Aunt Faith coming?

SIERRA

She can't. Michael doesn't want her flying on an airplane and to have her panic. So, they're going to try to come at Christmas time.

NICHOLAS  
Makes sense.

SIERRA  
So, how's school?

NICHOLAS  
Good.

SIERRA  
What about you two? Are you going  
out a lot?

AVA  
We can't really. I can't afford a  
sitter and if I do leave him alone,  
he'll get into trouble while I'm  
gone.

Sierra looks at Billy and then looks at Ava --

SIERRA  
Why don't you two go for a ride.  
I'll look after him --

AVA  
-- Thank you. Your awesome --

-- Ava and Nicholas get off the stools -- and walk towards  
the living room --

#### INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Ava steps towards the front door -- Nicholas follows her --

BILLY  
-- Where are you going?

NICHOLAS  
We'll be back. Have fun --

-- Nicholas opens the door for Ava -- Ava steps out --

Nicholas steps out -- and shuts the door -- Sierra walks in  
front of the television -- and shows him the display of **board  
games**. Along with **video game consoles** --

SIERRA  
So, Billy? Do you like board games  
or video games. My husband has a  
wide selection --

-- Billy grins --

**EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON**

Near a duck pond, Nicholas and Ava walk around.

AVA  
This was good idea. I got to thank  
your mom.

NICHOLAS  
She works miracles.

AVA  
How come you wanted to leave this  
place? California is so dry.

NICHOLAS  
My mom used to live there back when  
I was a baby. I only went back  
there for school. My mom felt the  
same way you did. Too much was  
going on. My dad got a bigger offer  
as a contractor. Now, I have my own  
life.

AVA  
Am I in it --

-- Ava stops -- Nicholas stops -- and looks at her --

NICHOLAS  
-- I want you to be. Only if you  
want to?

AVA  
I do --

-- Nicholas leans towards Ava -- and kisses her --

**INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING**

Nicholas sits at the edge of the table. Ava sits next to him.

Her hand rests on his. The turkey and all the platters of  
food sits in the middle of the table.

SIERRA (V.O.)  
There are moments that are meant to  
be remembered. These are one of  
those moments.

**INT. BALCONY-MOVIE THEATER-EVENING**

Holding hands, Nicholas and Ava sit in the balcony.

**EXT. PARK-NIGHT**

Nicholas and Ava walk through the park. Nicholas holds Ava's hand close to his heart -- He kisses it --

A man in a black trench coat follows them from a distance.

Ava looks back --

AVA

Come on! Let's get out of here!

GUNMAN, early 20s.

The Gunman walks around the pathway -- and points the gun at Nicholas --

GUNMAN

Give me all your money!!

NICHOLAS

Alright. Just be calm.

GUNMAN

Money, now!

The Gunman points the gun at Ava --

NICHOLAS

Don't point the gun at her!

GUNMAN

Then give me the money!

Nicholas reaches into his jacket pocket -- and hands the Gunman his cash -- The Gunman looks at the **ring** on Ava's ring finger --

GUNMAN (CONT'D)

Give me the ring!

Nicholas steps in front of Ava --

NICHOLAS

That's not going to happen --

-- The Gunman shoots Nicholas once in the chest --

AVA  
(scream)

The Gunman runs away from the scene -- Nicholas falls to the ground -- Ava kneels down over Nicholas --

AVA (CONT'D)  
-- Nicholas, honey!

**INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

Nicholas lays on a gurney.

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2. Early 20s.

Paramedic #1 pushes the gurney down the hallway -- Ava runs alongside them -- Nicholas reaches his arm out for Ava --

NICHOLAS  
-- Ava --

AVA  
(sob)  
I'm here, baby --

-- Ava places her right hand over her heart --

**INT. OPERATING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

SURGEON, early 30s. A surgeon for five years.

NURSE #1 and #2. Early 20s.

Nurse #2 puts a mask over Nicholas's face --

SURGEON  
Let's get this young man ready for surgery!

**INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

Ava sits -- and rocks herself -- She wraps her arms around her shoulders --

AVA  
(sob)  
Please be okay.

**INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

At the dinner table. Nick sits across the way -- He eats a steak -- and puts each piece in his mouth -- Nicholas opens his eyes and raises his head -- He looks at Nick --

NICHOLAS  
Where am I?

NICK  
Someplace.

NICHOLAS  
Who are you?

NICK  
Someone that died.

NICHOLAS  
How'd you die?

NICK  
I got stabbed --

Nick grabs a glass of iced tea -- and takes a big gulp -- He slams the glass down --

NICHOLAS  
-- Why were you stabbed?

NICK  
For a girl. I took someone's girl.

**EXT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-FLASHBACK**

Nick stands at the barbeque grill.

JOY, 18. An assassin. Blonde hair, and blue eyes.

Joy stabs Nick from behind in the back.

**INT. DINING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT**

Nick thinks to himself --

NICK  
-- Funny thing is, I could never  
accept that reason. Now I do.

NICHOLAS  
Am I dying?

**INT. OPERATING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

The Surgeon pulls out the bullet -- and blood starts to gush out -- Nurse #1 puts pressure on the wound --

The *life support monitor* goes rapid --

SURGEON  
Come on kid! Come back!!

**INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Nick steps towards Nicholas -- and leans down -- He hands Nicholas a Tootsie Roll Pop --

NICK  
Start living, kid. It's a lot  
sweeter --

-- Nicholas takes the Tootsie Roll Pop --

**INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Ava sits in the chair -- Her hands wrapped around the back of her neck --

The Surgeon steps outside of the operating room -- and walks towards Ava -- Sierra and Paul step towards the waiting room -- and Surgeon -- Ava gets up -- and steps towards the Surgeon --

SURGEON  
He's going to make it.

Sierra eyes fill with tears -- She turns to Paul -- and hugs him -- Ava looks away --

**INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

Sierra leans down -- and brushes her fingers through Nicholas's hair -- Nicholas opens his eyes -- He looks at Sierra --

NICHOLAS  
Hey.

SIERRA  
Hi. You gave me a big scare.



Nicholas reaches his hand up -- Sierra looks at the Tootsie Roll Pop -- She takes it from him -- She twirls it around in her hand -- and looks up at the ceiling --

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
-- Nick, you crazy ass man!

**INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-AFTERNOON (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

The auditorium is covered in **white roses**. Sierra sits with Paul -- She looks around -- Nick walks down the aisle -- and sits beside her -- A lollipop in his mouth. Nick pulls it out of his mouth --

NICK  
Sup!

SIERRA  
Why do you keep giving us candy?

NICK  
I don't do that. The hospital does.

SIERRA  
So, it's a coincidence?

NICK  
No. I don't believe in those.

SIERRA  
Thank you.

NICK  
I didn't do anything.

SIERRA  
You reminded me there is so much to live for.

NICK  
You learned how to do that for yourself.

SIERRA  
Your mother would have been proud of you.

NICK  
Yeah. I hope so. Thank you.

SIERRA  
Your welcome.

NICK  
I got to go --

-- Nick gets up --

SIERRA  
-- Nick --

-- Nick looks at Sierra --

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
-- Take care.

NICK  
You too.

Nick walks towards the **altar** -- and turns into a **light spirit**  
-- The light disappears into the window --

SIERRA  
(sob)

**INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-AFTERNOON (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Paul puts his hand on Sierra's back --

PAUL  
-- Sierra!

-- Sierra opens her eyes -- and looks at Paul --

SIERRA  
What?

PAUL  
It's almost over.

Nicholas and Ava stand at the altar.

PASTOR, early 40s. A pastor for ten years --

PASTOR  
You may now kiss the bride!

Nicholas kisses Ava -- She wraps her hands around his back --

Billy stands to his feet -- and claps --

Sierra claps her hands --

SIERRA (V.O.)

I never saw Nick Valens again after that. His mission was complete. He lived his life the best way he could. Even after death, he lived on through his daughter's. This wasn't a sad story about what secrets that were kept. This is a story about living.

**FADE OUT**

**THE END**