

Hush Hush

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH BUILDING-NIGHT

SHELLY OWENS, 33. A successful book author. Blonde hair, blue grey eyes.

Shelly rushes towards the church building. A wooden basket in her hand. She stops at the porch -- and sets the basket down --

DALLAS (V.O.)
Sometimes the past can come back to
haunt us. The things we wish we
never did or the things we never
regret.

"All These Things That I've Done" by The Killers plays.

SHELLY
So long little one --

-- Shelly touches the newborn on her face. She turns and runs away from the church building --

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-NIGHT

SUPER: FORTY YEARS LATER

DALLAS TORRES, 18. A senior student. Dark brown hair, brown eyes. A tall, and muscular young man.

CRIMINAL, early 20s. Shaved head, blue eyes. A thuggish type of guy. Lanky built.

Bunk beds in the jail cell. The Criminal sits on the top bunk. Dallas sits on the bottom --

CRIMINAL
-- What did you do?

DALLAS
I stole one of my dad's cars from
his dealership.

CRIMINAL
Why?

DALLAS
To have some fun.

CRMIMINAL
Was life too boring before?

DALLAS
It sucked. Everyone thinks I'm a
social reject.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

Dallas sits at an empty table and pulls out his **ham & cheese sandwich**.

CHEERLEADER #1 and #2. 16 and 17. Beautiful but airheaded.

Cheerleader #1 steps towards Dallas -- and taps her finger on the table -- Dallas looks at her --

DALLAS
Yeah?

CHEERLEADER #1
You're sitting at the wrong table?

Dallas looks at the rest of the Cheerleaders.

CHEERLEADERS
(laugh)

Cheerleader #2 sits next to Dallas --

CHEERLEADER #2
Let him stay. He can be our school mascot!
(laugh)

Dallas stands up -- and grabs his sandwich. He rushes off --

DALLAS (V.O.)
I wanted to prove I wasn't just another face in the high school hallway. I wanted everyone to know I took chances. I felt I wanted to be better than my father. He was raised by a single mother until she married the man that gave him the last name Torres.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

9-YEAR-OLD JOHNNY. A third-grade student. Dark brown hair, brown eyes. Curious, bright but a troublemaker.

STEPFATHER, early 30s. Dark hair, hazel eyes. A mean and abusive man.

The Stepfather slaps 9-Year-Old Johnny across the face --

STEPFATHER
Stay out of my things!

CUT TO:

INT. CAR LOT-EVENING

Dallas steps towards a bus stop and his father's car lot. He eyes a **red convertible**.

LADY ESCORT, early 20s. An escort for five years.

A Lady Escort walks past Dallas. Dallas looks back at her and then at the convertible --

DALLAS
Excuse me?

Dallas follows the Lady Escort --

CUT TO:

INT. CASINO-NIGHT

The red convertible pulls into the drive thru of the casino -
-

VALET, early 20s. A valet for two years.

The Valet approaches the convertible -- and opens the passenger door --

The Lady Escort gets out of the convertible. Dallas opens the driver door -- Stands up -- and walks towards the Lady Escort --

LADY ESCORT
-- This is going to be so much fun!

The Lady Escort wraps her arm around Dallas's back --

INT. CASINO-NIGHT

Dallas and the Lady Escort step towards the **roulette table**.
Dallas sets a **hundred-dollar bill** down.

ROULETTE DEALER, early 30s. A dealer for five years.

The Roulette Dealer pushes a stack of chips towards Dallas --
Dallas grabs three **game tokens** and places them on the black
spots --

ROULETTE DEALER
-- No more bets!

The Roulette Dealer spins the **Roulette Ball** into the wheel --
The ball lands on one of the black numbers -- Dallas throws
his arms in the air --

DALLAS
--Yes!!

CASINO MANAGER, early 40s. A casino manager for ten years.

The Casino Manager watches Dallas.

PIT BOSS #1 and #2. Late 40s. Pit Bosses for ten years.

CASINO MANAGER
Do you goons see what I see?

PIT BOSS #1
What?

CASINO MANAGER
That's a kid!

The Casino Manager points at Dallas --

PIT BOSS #1
-- How can you tell?

CASINO MANAGER
He's got a nervous look on his
face, and she looks way too old for
him. I want them out now! Get
security!!

SECURITY GUARD #1 and #2. Early 20s. Security Guards for two
and three years.

Security Guard #1 grabs Dallas from behind -- and pushes him
towards the exit door -- Security Guard #2 grabs the Lady
Escort by her shoulder -- and walks her away from the
roulette table --

LADY ESCORT
Get your hands off me!!

SECURITY GUARD #2
Shut up!

EXT. CASINO-NIGHT

Dallas falls to the ground -- He sits up. Security Guard #2 pushes the Lady Escort towards Dallas. She falls on top of him --

DALLAS
I hope you don't charge me for
this.

LADY ESCORT
Double.

SIRENS SOUND.

Dallas looks at the police lights.

DALLAS
Oh, shit!

INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-BACK TO PRESENT

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

The Guard steps towards the jail cell door -- and unlocks it
--

GUARD
-- Torres!

Dallas looks at the Guard --

DALLAS
-- Yeah.

GUARD
Your mom is here to pick you up.

DALLAS
She's not my mom. She is my
stepmom.

The Guard opens the door. Dallas gets up from the bottom bunk
-- and walks out of the jail cell.

DALLAS (CONT'D)

So long.

CRIMINAL

Have a nice life.

The Criminal reaches his arm out -- and waits for a **fist bump** -- Dallas walks around to the Criminal's arm -- and bumps his fist -- Dallas walks away --

EXT. COUNTY JAIL-MORNING

Dallas steps towards the **station wagon** parked right in front of him. Dallas steps towards the passenger door -- and opens it.

INT. STATION WAGON-MORNING

He sits down. ANNIE TORRES, 39. A waitress. Brown hair, blue eyes. A nice woman with a big heart.

Annie looks at Dallas --

ANNIE

-- I was told to take you to your dad's dealership.

DALLAS

What for?

ANNIE

You're going to wash the cars, wax them and work at the diner with me.

DALLAS

What about school?

ANNIE

You'll go tomorrow. After school, you'll keep the cars spotless.

EXT. CAR LOT-AFTERNOON

Dallas steps towards the car lot. He looks back at the station wagon --

INT/EXT. STATION WAGON-CONTINUOUS

Annie leans her head towards the open window --

ANNIE
-- I'll see you at the diner
tonight, okay?!

EXT. CAR LOT-CONTINUOUS

DALLAS
Okay!

The station wagon drives off -- Dallas steps towards the cars.

JOHNNY TORRES, 41. A car salesman. Tall and muscular. Ruthless, abusive and short tempered.

Johnny steps towards Dallas --

JOHNNY
-- I hope you had fun last night
because starting this week, fun
won't exist for you.

DALLAS
I was only playing around --

-- Johnny punches Dallas in his stomach -- Dallas falls to the ground -- Johnny kicks Dallas --

JOHNNY
-- Get to work!

Johnny grabs a **bucket** and **sponge** from the ground. He tosses it to Dallas --

CAR LOT

Dallas fills the bucket up with **water**. He dips the sponge into the **soapy water** -- and gets every car soaked. He rinses the soap off --

Dallas dries his last car off. A car pulls into the car lot. Dallas looks. The passenger door opens, and a girl's **pink flip-flopped** feet step out. Sunglasses on. PATRINA, 18. A senior student. Dark brown hair, brown eyes. She takes off the sunglasses -- and looks at Dallas. She smiles -- and steps towards the **pink convertible** he's drying with a towel -
-

PATRINA
Excuse me?

Dallas looks at her with a dazed look in his eyes --

PATRINA (CONT'D)

-- Excuse me!

Dallas shakes his head --

DALLAS

Yeah.

PATRINA

Are you the owner --

-- Johnny steps in front of Patrina --

JOHNNY

-- That would be me!

Dallas steps away -- Patrina watches Dallas walk --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

-- Is this the beauty that caught
your attention?

PATRINA

Yes, it is.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-DINER-NIGHT

Dallas stands in front of the sink. He grabs a dish from the dish water -- and rubs a sponge over it -- He sets it down -- The dish falls to the floor -- and breaks --

MANAGER, early 30s. A manager for ten years.

The Manager grabs his head, feeling frustrated.

DALLAS

I'm sorry!

MANAGER

Just go clean off a table! Try not
to screw that up!

Dallas grabs a **tub** -- and steps out of the kitchen --

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

Dallas steps towards an empty table. He sets the tub down -- and grabs the **plates**. Dallas sets them down -- and grabs the **silverware**. He sets them on top of the plates -- Patrina steps behind Dallas --

PATRINA

-- Excuse me --

DALLAS

-- Alright, I'm on it --

PATRINA

-- Okay. What are you on?

Dallas looks at Patrina --

DALLAS

-- Oh! I'm sorry.

Dallas grabs the glasses from the table -- and puts them into the tub. He picks up the tub and turns --

WAITRESS, early 20s. A waitress for two years.

Dallas runs into the Waitress -- and knocks her down -- He drops the tub. The plates fall to the floor and break --

Patrina covers her mouth -- Dallas looks at Patrina -- and rushes past the Manager -- and steps outside --

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY-DINER-NIGHT

Dallas sits on the steps. He takes a sip from a **coca cola bottle** -- He sets it down next to him -- Annie steps out of the diner -- She steps towards Dallas -- and looks at him --

DALLAS

Am I fired?

ANNIE

No.

DALLAS

Okay.

ANNIE

Let me grab my purse.

Dallas stands up -- He grabs the bottle -- and guzzles the coca cola down -- He tosses the bottle into the **recycle bin** -

-

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Dallas sits at a table. He eats a ham & cheese sandwich.
Patrina steps behind Dallas --

PATRINA
-- Excuse me?

Dallas raises his hands up --

DALLAS
Look, I'm not at your table. So,
please, just cut me some slack for
once, okay!

PATRINA
Okay.

Dallas looks at Patrina --

DALLAS
-- Oh.

Patrina sits next to Dallas. She sets a **brown paper bag** down
on the table.

DALLAS (CONT'D)
We have to stop meeting like this.

Patrina reaches into the bag -- and pulls out a **cheeseburger**
-- She sets it down in front of Dallas --

PATRINA
Do you want some **French Fries?**

DALLAS
Sure.

Patrina pulls the French fries out of the bag -- and sets
them down --

PATRINA
What do you do for fun around here?

DALLAS
Want me to show you?

PATRINA
Yes.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON-AFTERNOON

Annie sits in the driver seat.

RAINE, 12 years old. A seventh-grade student. Bright, but sassy at the same time.

"Hush" by Kula Shaker plays.

Raine jumps into the front passenger seat --

RAINE
Oh! Turn this up!!

Raine turns the VOLUME NOB on the radio to the right --

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

The pink convertible drives past the station wagon.

INT/EXT. PINK CONVERTIBLE-AFTERNOON

Dallas leans over Patrina.

DALLAS
I'll meet you at the diner!

INT. STATION WAGON-CONTINUOUS

Annie looks at the pink convertible drive away.

RAINE (O.S.)
Who's the Barbie Doll?

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

The pink convertible parks.

INT/EXT. PINK CONVERTIBLE-AFTERNOON

Dallas opens the passenger door -- and rushes towards the ocean --

DALLAS
Come on!

Patrina gets out.

EXT. BEACH-CONTINUOUS

She runs after Dallas -- Dallas stops at the shore -- Patrina stops and looks --

PATRINA

Oh!

She closes her eyes -- and raises her arms in the sky -- The breeze of the ocean sprays in the air and wets her face -- Patrina looks at Dallas --

PATRINA (CONT'D)

It's so beautiful. How'd you know about this place?

DALLAS

My mom used to bring me here when I was a kid.

Dallas grabs a rock from the wet sand -- and throws it into the ocean.

PATRINA

You mean Annie?

DALLAS

Annie's my stepmom.

PATRINA

What happened to your real mom?

DALLAS

She died when I was six.

PATRINA

I'm sorry.

DALLAS

It's fine. She's not in any pain anymore.

Patrina steps towards Dallas and pats him on the shoulder. Dallas turns to her -- and touches her on the cheek -- Dallas leans in for a kiss -- Patrina steps away --

PATRINA

It's time to go.

Patrina walks towards her car. Dallas looks at the ocean.

DALLAS

(breath)

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

Dallas steps into the dining area of the diner. Johnny sits in a booth. He takes a big gulp of beer from a bottle. He slams it down -- Dallas turns to him --

JOHNNY
Where were you?

DALLAS
I was out.

JOHNNY
Out! Out when you were supposed to
be working on the cars.

DALLAS
I'm sorry, okay, dad.

Johnny grabs Dallas by his neck -- and pushes him against the wall -- He begins to strangle Dallas --

JOHNNY
It's your fault!!

Annie rushes towards Johnny -- and grabs a hold of Johnny's arm -- Johnny lets go of Dallas -- and slaps Annie across the face -- Annie falls to the floor -- Dallas slides down the wall -- His butt hits the floor -- Johnny looks at Dallas --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
It's your fault she died!!

Johnny walks towards the exit door -- and pushes it open -- He steps out -- Annie crawls towards Dallas -- She reaches her hand out -- and touches his neck --

ANNIE
It'll be alright.

DALLAS
Are you blind? You have to get away
from him before he does the same
thing to you!

ANNIE
I can't.

Annie stands up --

ANNIE (CONT'D)
-- I can't leave him.

Annie walks towards the back of the diner.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Dallas steps towards a table --

Cheerleader #1 runs into Dallas -- She falls to the floor --
and looks at Dallas --

DALLAS
-- Why don't you watch where your
walking!!

Dallas steps away -- and steps towards the exit doors -- He
pushes the doors open -- and walks out of the cafeteria --

EXT. FIELD-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Dallas sits on a bench. He stares a hole into the ground.
Patrina jogs past. She looks at Dallas and jogs towards him -
-

PATRINA
(breath)
Hey!

DALLAS
Hi.

PATRINA
I missed you at lunch time.

DALLAS
Yeah?

PATRINA
Yeah. Someone told me you freaked
out on some cheerleader.

Patrina gets closer to Dallas. She sits next to him --

DALLAS
-- You really think I care about
that airhead.

PATRINA
Hey! I care about you. I wouldn't
be here if I didn't.

Dallas stands up -- and walks towards the school --

DALLAS
I'll see you in the next period.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

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

The History Teacher holds an **Ancestry DNA Test** in her hand --

HISTORY TEACHER
Attention students!! For our last
assignment of the school year, we
will be doing a DNA test. This will
reveal our family history and where
we all come from. If you would
please, pass these down!

The History Teacher passes a total of five test to each row
of chairs. Dallas passes the rest to the student behind him -
-

The bell rings. The students scatter out of the classroom --
Dallas stands up from his desk -- and grabs his backpack.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Dallas stands at the curb.

DALLAS
What do you want?

Patrina steps towards Dallas and stands alongside of him --

PATRINA
-- I thought we could do our
assignment together.

DALLAS
Why would we?

PATRINA
Because I feel more comfortable
around you.

DALLAS
You weren't saying that when I
tried to kiss you.

PATRINA

I only pulled away because I don't want it to ruin what we have.

DALLAS

Which is?

PATRINA

I don't want to ruin our friendship if things don't work out.

DALLAS

Sure. We can do our assignment together. Tonight, at the diner.

PATRINA

Can I give you a ride?

DALLAS

Annie's picking me up.

The station wagon pulls up to the curb. Dallas looks at the station wagon. He looks at Patrina --

DALLAS (CONT'D)

I'll see you then.

Patrina leans towards Dallas -- and kisses him on the cheek -
- She rushes off -- Dallas feels his cheek -- and smiles --

INT. STATION WAGON-AFTERNOON

Annie presses her hand onto the steering wheel -- and honks the horn --

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-CONTINUOUS

Dallas rushes towards the station wagon --

DALLAS

-- I'm coming!

EXT. CAR LOT-AFTERNOON

Dallas leans over the hood of a car -- and rubs the wax on it with a **Microfiber cloth** and **sponge** --

Johnny steps up behind Dallas -- and wraps his arm around his back --

JOHNNY

-- Hey, kid! No hard feelings?

DALLAS

No, pop. None at all.

Johnny steps away --

JOHNNY

-- Good job today. Annie will be here to pick you up in five minutes.

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

Patrina picks up a **cotton swab** -- and rubs it on the inside of her mouth -- She places it into the DNA kit -- She pulls out a **sharpie pen** from her backpack -- and takes off the lid -- Patrina writes her name on the kit -- and slides the pen to Dallas --

PATRINA

-- Your turn.

Dallas opens his DNA kit -- and pulls out the cotton swab -- He puts it on the inside of his mouth -- and rubs it -- He takes it out of his mouth -- and puts it back into the kit. He closes it -- and writes his name on it. Dallas slides the pen back to Patrina --

PATRINA (CONT'D)

-- How easy was that?

DALLAS

Not as painful as I thought.

PATRINA

Are you going to prom?

DALLAS

Why would I?

PATRINA

Because I'm going to be there. I figured you might want me to save you a dance.

DALLAS

I'm not a big prom guy. I'm one of those rejects.

PATRINA

I don't see you as a reject.

DALLAS
Why? It's true.

PATRINA
No, it's not.

Annie steps towards the table -- and sets two glasses of coca cola down --

ANNIE
How's it going over here?

DALLAS
Good.

PATRINA
Real good.

Patrina grabs a glass -- and takes a big gulp -- She sets it down --

PATRINA (CONT'D)
(burp)

ANNIE
-- Wow!

Patrina looks at Annie --

PATRINA
(laugh)
Excuse me. I better get home --

-- Patrina stands up -- and pulls a five-dollar bill from her purse -- She sets it down on the table --

ANNIE
-- Thank you, sweetie.

PATRINA
No problem.

Patrina walks towards the exit door -- and pushes it open -- She walks out --

Annie steps towards the table --

ANNIE
-- I like her.

Annie grabs the five-dollar bill.

DALLAS
Yeah, she's really something.

INT. DALLAS'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Dallas sits on the bed. He looks at the photograph on the **shelf**. He kisses his hand -- and plants it on the photograph --

DALLAS
-- Good night. Love you, mom.

Dallas switches off his lamp and lays in bed.

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING-FLASHBACK

STARLA, 32. A waitress and former cheerleader. Sandy blonde hair, blue grey eyes. A sweet and beautiful smile that wins everyone's heart.

6-YEAR-OLD DALLAS sits in front of Starla. Starla lifts him up from the chair -- and kisses him on the cheek --

STARLA
Love you baby boy.

INT. DALLAS'S BEDROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

Dallas wipes the tears on his cheek away.

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

Johnny sits at the dinner table. He reads the newspaper. Dallas steps into the kitchen. He sits across from Johnny.

Raine sits at the end of the table. Her **earbuds** in her ears.

JOHNNY
Tonight's the big game.

Annie steps towards the table. She sits at the other end of the table --

ANNIE
Good morning.

JOHNNY
Are you going?

DALLAS
I don't know.

Johnny lowers the newspaper.

JOHNNY
We're going.

ANNIE
Yeah. You should come.

DALLAS
Can I get back to you?

ANNIE
Sure.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD-NIGHT

BLEACHERS

The Cheerleaders line up in front of the bleachers.

Dallas sits next to Raine. Annie hands Raine a tray of **nachos**. Raine hands Dallas the tray -- Dallas takes the tray and looks at the Cheerleaders. Patrina appears in the lineup. **Pom poms** in her hands. Patrina glances at Dallas.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

BLEACHERS

A young Johnny sits in the bleachers. He holds onto toddler Dallas. The toddler watches Starla dancing. Her pom poms in her hands. She dances and smiles at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD-NIGHT-BACK TO PRESENT

BLEACHERS

Dallas stands up -- and steps down the bleachers. He walks towards the men's bathroom. Patrina looks at him with a confused look on her face.

EXT. MEN'S BATHROOM-NIGHT

Dallas steps into the men's bathroom.

Patrina steps towards the men's bathroom --

PATRINA
-- Are you alright? I'm sorry. I
didn't mean to upset you.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM-NIGHT

Dallas stands at the sink -- and washes his hands --

PATRINA (O.S.)
I didn't know you would be that
upset.

EXT. MEN'S BATHROOM-CONTINUOUS

Dallas steps outside of the men's bathroom --

PATRINA
-- Hey --

-- Dallas grabs Patrina by her face -- and kisses her -- He
pushes her against the wall -- Dallas backs up -- and wipes
his mouth --

DALLAS
-- See you after the game.

PATRINA
Okay.

Dallas steps away.

PATRINA (CONT'D)
Wow!

INT/EXT. PATRINA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Patrina sits at her **vanity**. She brushes her hair. A knock on
the window. Patrina rushes to the window -- and opens it --

PATRINA
What are you doing here!

DALLAS
I missed you.

PATRINA
Well, that's sweet but you can see
me tomorrow.

DALLAS
I couldn't wait that long.

PATRINA
I got to go to sleep!

DALLAS
One last thing.

PATRINA
What?

Dallas leans down -- and kisses Patrina -- Patrina pushes him back --

PATRINA (CONT'D)
Okay! Good night!

DALLAS
Good night!

Patrina shuts the window --

PATRINA
(breath)
Whoa!

INT. DALLAS'S BEDROOM--TORRES RESIDENCE--MORNING

Dallas puts on his socks and shoes. Annie and Raine step into the bedroom. A **birthday cake** in Annie's hands --

ANNIE
-- Happy Birthday to you!

RAINE
Happy birthday, Dallas.

Dallas stands up -- He looks at the **lit candles**.

ANNIE
Blow out the candles!

Dallas leans down and blows out the candles --

Raine claps --

ANNIE (CONT'D)
We got a surprise for you.

DALLAS
What is it?

ANNIE
Follow us and find out!

Annie rushes out of the bedroom --

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

Annie sets the cake down on the counter --

EXT. FRONT YARD-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

Annie leads Dallas outside to the front yard -- Dallas rushes out -- He looks at a **motorcycle** sitting on the grass. Dallas steps towards it -- His eyes in amazement --

DALLAS
-- How'd you guys do this?

ANNIE
We saved up. Do you like it?

DALLAS
Are you kidding me! I love it!

Dallas steps towards Annie -- and hugs her --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
-- Thank you.

Johnny steps towards the motorcycle -- Dallas turns around -- and steps towards Johnny. Johnny hands him the **key** --

JOHNNY
-- Drive safe, okay?

Johnny reaches for the **leather jacket** covering the **handlebars** -- He grabs it -- and hands it to him --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
You can't go wrong with looking
like a real biker --

-- Dallas takes the leather jacket -- and hugs Johnny --

DALLAS
-- Love you, dad.

JOHNNY
Happy birthday, kid. Go have fun.

Dallas puts on the jacket --

DALLAS
How do I look?

JOHNNY
Like a badass!

DALLAS
Cool.

EXT. PARKING LOT-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Patrina sits on a bench. She looks at her watch. Dallas drives the motorcycle into the parking lot -- and parks -- Patrina rushes towards the motorcycle -- and looks at it --

PATRINA
-- Nice motorcycle.

DALLAS
Thanks.

PATRINA
What's the special occasion?

DALLAS
Today's my birthday.

PATRINA
Happy birthday! We have to go celebrate.

DALLAS
Hop on!

Patrina gets on the back of the motorcycle. Dallas hands her a **helmet**. Patrina puts it on -- and wraps her arms around his waist --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
-- Are you ready?

PATRINA
Ready.

Dallas turns the key -- and starts the **ignition** -- He turns the handlebars -- and drives out of the parking lot.

HIGHWAY

Down the highway -- Dallas drives the motorcycle towards the beach --

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR-BOARDWALK-BEACH-AFTERNOON

At a table, sitting across from each other. Patrina holds a **waffle cone** -- and licks the **strawberry ice cream** -- Dallas licks his ice cream from his cone --

PATRINA

-- This was such a good idea. Thank you.

DALLAS

For what?

PATRINA

For letting me tag along.

DALLAS

No problem.

PATRINA

Is there anything else you want for your birthday?

DALLAS

I feel like I have everything I want.

PATRINA

Which is?

DALLAS

You and prom.

PATRINA

You are big a sweet talker.

Patrina leans over the table -- and kisses Dallas on his lips -- Patrina sits down -- and licks her ice cream --

INT. CLASSROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Dallas sits in the front row of history class. The History Teacher stands up from her chair and desk --

HISTORY TEACHER

Students! I have your Ancestry DNA results --

The History Teacher steps towards the students -- and passes them to the five rows of students --

HISTORY TEACHER (CONT'D)

If you could pass those down.

Dallas passes the rest to the student behind him -- Dallas looks at his results. He sees his mother's name and the name above it, along with a photograph of "**Shelly Owens.**"

The bell rings. Dallas sits and looks at the name again.

Patrina steps towards Dallas --

PATRINA
What are your results?

DALLAS
I hope I'm reading this right.

PATRINA
Let me see --

-- Dallas hands Patrina the paper -- and Patrina reads the name --

PATRINA (CONT'D)
-- That's something.

DALLAS
I can't believe it.

PATRINA
Come with me.

INT. LIBRARY-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Patrina sits at the computer. She types on the **keyboard**.

COMPUTER SCREEN

The CURSOR goes to the SEARCH ENGINE and types in the name SHELLY OWENS.

The CURSOR CLICKS on the first result. A Photograph of Shelly Owens appears with a PARAGRAPH. It reads: Shelly Owens was born in Las Vegas, Nevada. Never married. One child. Author of How to Spot a Butterfly and The Trio.

BACK TO SCENE

PATRINA
Wow! This is so cool.

Dallas leans towards the computer --

DALLAS

-- I need to know more. For my mom.

PATRINA

What are you going to do?

DALLAS

Does it say where she lives?

PATRINA

She passed away years ago. All she has is a daughter.

DALLAS

Then I have to go see her.

PATRINA

I say we should both go.

DALLAS

What are you going to tell your mom?

PATRINA

That I'm going to a friend's house in Los Angeles and I'm just hitching a ride from you.

DALLAS

Cool. We leave this weekend.

EXT. TORRES RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Dallas leans against the motorcycle. Annie stands in front of him -- and hands him a hundred dollars -- Dallas takes it --

ANNIE

-- Just in case you get hungry or need to rest.

DALLAS

Thanks.

ANNIE

Call us when you get there.

DALLAS

I will.

Johnny steps towards Dallas --

JOHNNY

-- Son --

-- Johnny hugs Dallas -- and leans his mouth towards Dallas's ear --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(whisper)

-- If I find out that you are lying
to us, I will kill you --

-- Johnny backs up -- and fist bumps Dallas's fist --

DALLAS

-- Okay! Patrina! Are you ready?!

PATRINA

I'm ready.

Dallas sits on the motorcycle -- Patrina sits behind him --
Dallas hands her a helmet -- She puts it on -- and wraps her
arms around Dallas's waist -- Dallas puts on his helmet --
and waves his hand at Annie and Johnny -- He turns the key --
and starts the ignition -- The motorcycle drives off --

HIGHWAY

Down the road of the highway, the motorcycle drives at the
speed limit.

The motorcycle gets off the highway.

EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-EVENING

Dallas parks the motorcycle. Patrina gets off the motorcycle
-- and takes off the helmet -- Dallas takes off his helmet --
and turns off the motorcycle --

DALLAS

Finally!

Dallas looks at the motel --

DALLAS (CONT'D)

This place looks clean.

PATRINA

Hold your breath!

DALLAS

For how long?

PATRINA

I was being sarcastic.

DALLAS

I know --

INT. OFFICE-CAR DEALERSHIP-EVENING

Johnny sits at his desk. He looks at his computer screen.

COMPUTER SCREEN

A map along with a GPS tracking.

BACK TO SCENE

Johnny smirks.

JOHNNY

I got you right under my nose boy!

INT. MOTEL ROOM #115-MOTEL-EVENING

Dallas sits up on the bed. His back against the wall. He looks through the **residential phone book** -- He looks through the **O's** and comes to "**Owens, Sara.**" He dials the number into his cell phone and hits send.

INT. OFFICE-OWENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

APRIL, 33. An artist. Dark hair, brown eyes. A generous and welcoming woman.

April answers the house phone --

APRIL

Hello?

DALLAS (V.O.)

Hello? I'm calling for a Sara Owens.

APRIL

I'm sorry, but she can't come to phone right now. Can I ask what this is all about?

DALLAS (V.O.)

I just had some questions about her mother.

APRIL

Shelly? What do you want to know about Shelly?

DALLAS (V.O.)

She is my grandmother.

APRIL

What?

DALLAS (V.O.)

My mother's name was Starla. She was given up for adoption by Shelly. I just want to talk to whoever has information about it.

APRIL

Well, I don't know how I can help you but maybe you could stop by. Here's my address.

INT. MOTEL ROOM #115-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Dallas writes down the address on a piece of paper --

DALLAS

Thank you. I'll see you tomorrow.

APRIL (V.O.)

See you tomorrow. Good night.

Dallas ends the call.

Patrina walks into the room. A white towel wrapped around her chest. Her hair put up in a towel. Dallas gets up --

PATRINA

-- Who was that on the phone --

-- Dallas kisses her on the lips -- and backs up --

DALLAS

-- I found her!

PATRINA

That's great.

DALLAS

We get to meet her tomorrow.

PATRINA

We better get some sleep then.

DALLAS
Screw sleep --

-- Dallas grabs his jacket -- and helmet --

PATRINA
-- Where are you going?

DALLAS
I got to grab something --

-- Dallas reaches into his pocket -- and hands Patrina a twenty-dollar bill --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
-- Here! Order us a pizza. I'll be right back.

INT. GROCERY STORE-NIGHT

Dallas stands in the **book aisle** -- He looks at the books and finds the author's last name of **Owens**. He grabs "**How to Spot a Butterfly**" and "**Trio**." -- He looks at the back of Trio -- and reads --

DALLAS
(reads)
Three friends, a lawyer, a book author and police detective come together to find the one responsible for murdering one of their own.

Dallas steps out of the aisle --

INT. MOTEL ROOM #115-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Dallas sits up on the bed. He reads the last two pages of the book -- He looks at Patrina as she lies asleep. Dallas pulls the covers over her -- and kisses her on the cheek -- Dallas returns his attention to the book --

DALLAS
(reads)
After his death, and betrayal, I found out I became pregnant with his baby. My mind is made up, I'm giving the child up to the church. It's the only way she'll know how much I do love her.

Dallas closes the book --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Dang.

Dallas lays his head down -- and sets the book down on the nightstand -- He switches off the lamp --

EXT. OWENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Dallas pushes the **doorbell button** -- Patrina grabs ahold of his hand -- Dallas looks down and squeezes hers -- The door opens -- April looks at Dallas --

APRIL
You must be --

DALLAS
-- Dallas.

April looks at Patrina --

APRIL
-- And who is this lovely young lady?

DALLAS
This is my girlfriend, Patrina.

APRIL
Come in, please?

INT. LIVING ROOM-OWENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Patrina sits on the sofa. She drinks a **cup of tea** -- and looks around the living room -- April looks at Patrina --

APRIL
I hope the tea is good.

PATRINA
It's really good. Thank you.

DALLAS
The reason why I came here is to find out about Shelly.

APRIL
I never knew her. She died before I was born. What I know about her is that she was a writer. A successful one. What has your mother told you?

DALLAS
My mother's dead.

APRIL
I'm sorry.

April looks around the room and thinks --

APRIL (CONT'D)
-- Do you want to see her?

DALLAS
Sure.

April stands up -- and walks towards the dining room --
Dallas and Patrina stands up -- and follow April into the
dining room --

INT. DINING ROOM-OWENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

April steps towards the hospital bed -- She sits on the bed.

SARA OWENS, 52. A book author. A frail and ill woman.

April touches Sara's hand -- and kisses it --

APRIL
Hey, mama. I have someone here that
wants to meet you.

Dallas steps close -- and leans down towards Sara --

DALLAS
Hi?

SARA
Hi. Have you come to take me home?

DALLAS
No. My name is Dallas.

SARA
Like the football team.

DALLAS
Something like that.

SARA
Was your mom a cheerleader or
something?

DALLAS
Yes.

SARA
(cough)
Show him!

April grabs a glass of water -- and bends a straw down for Sara to drink out of -- Sara drinks -- and looks April in the eyes --

SARA (CONT'D)
Show them, please!

April sets the glass down -- and gets up. She looks at Dallas and Patrina --

APRIL
Follow me.

April walks towards the office -- Dallas looks at Patrina -- He grabs her hand -- and walks with her towards the office --

INT. OFFICE-OWENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

April stops -- and stands. She looks at Dallas -- and points to the *mural* on the wall -- Dallas's eyes are filled with amazement --

DALLAS
She's known all this time.

Newspaper clippings framed all around on the wall --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
Can I talk to her?

APRIL
Sure.

INT. DINING ROOM-OWENS RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Dallas steps towards the bed -- and sits --

Sara looks at Dallas --

DALLAS
You knew about her?

SARA
When she was born, my mother fought
with herself.
(MORE)

SARA (CONT'D)
She didn't want to give her up, but
she had to make the right choice.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Shelly steps away from the church.

12-YEAR-OLD SARA leans her face against the window of the
back door --

12-YEAR-OLD SARA
No!!

SARA (V.O.)
I cried all the way home after we
left her. I tried so many times to
run away and go find her. I found
out a couple had adopted her and
moved to Texas. When I was old
enough, I went to a football game
and saw her.

CUT TO:

INT. STADIUM-NIGHT

BLEACHERS

32-YEAR-OLD SARA. A book author and photographer. Golden
blonde hair, green eyes.

32-Year-Old Sara aims the camera towards the field -- and
snaps a picture of Starla. Starla looks in 32-Year-Old Sara's
direction -- and rushes towards her -- Starla steps slowly
towards 32-Year-Old Sara --

STARLA
Do you mind if I take a picture
with you?

32-YEAR-OLD SARA
Not at all?

COWBOY FAN, early 30s.

32-YEAR-OLD SARA (CONT'D)
Hey, sir? Can you take a picture of
us?

The Cowboy Fan takes the camera -- and aims it at Starla and 32-Year-Old Sara --

CAMERA SCREEN

32-Year-Old Sara and Starla smile for the camera --

COWBOY FAN
Say cheese!

STARLA
Cheese!

32-YEAR-OLD SARA
Cheese!

BACK TO SCENE

Starla shakes 32-Year-Old Sara's hand --

STARLA
Thank you. What's your name?

32-YEAR-OLD SARA
Sara.

STARLA
Nice to meet you. My name's Starla.

32-YEAR-OLD SARA
Nice to meet you too, Starla.

STARLA
I hope to see you again.

Starla steps down the bleachers -- and walks back to the field --

SARA (V.O.)
She was so humble and full of life.
Something I will never forget. The
sister I always wanted.

INT. DINING ROOM-OWENS RESIDENCE-BACK TO PRESENT

Sara reaches her hand up -- and rubs it against the side of Dallas's face --

SARA
Now I have her son by my side --

-- Dallas grabs ahold of Sara's hand -- and holds it --

Sara reaches for her nightstand -- and grabs a photograph --
She hands him the photo -- Dallas takes it -- and looks --

SARA (CONT'D)
You can keep that.

DALLAS
Thank you.

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-AFTERNOON

Dallas sits at a booth. Patrina sits across from him -- and takes a sip of coffee from a mug -- Dallas looks down at the photo.

PATRINA
How are you feeling?

DALLAS
Better. Way better. How about you?

PATRINA
I'm happy.

DALLAS
You never told me about your results?

PATRINA
It was stuff I already knew. I'm not related to a celebrity.

DALLAS
Can I ask, where do you see yourself in twenty years?

PATRINA
I really don't have any idea, but I hope my life is complete with you -
-

-- Patrina reaches her hand out -- Dallas reaches out -- and grabs ahold of hers--

EXT. FRONT YARD-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

The motorcycle pulls up to the curb. Dallas turns off the ignition -- and takes off his helmet -- Patrina lets go of his waist -- and gets off the motorcycle -- She takes off her helmet -- and sets it down on the back of the motorcycle --

PATRINA

-- I better call my mom. She's probably going to ask me how it went --

DALLAS

-- When am I going to meet your mom?

PATRINA

In due time.

Johnny walks towards Dallas -- and grabs him by his jacket -- He pulls him off the motorcycle -- Patrina looks -- and watches Johnny force Dallas into the house --

PATRINA (CONT'D)

What the hell!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

Johnny shuts the door -- and pushes Dallas into the **refrigerator** -- He punches him in the stomach --

JOHNNY

-- Boy, you just don't know how to stay on my good side --

DALLAS

-- What good side!

Johnny runs himself into Dallas -- and knees him in the stomach --

JOHNNY

-- Did you really think I was going to let you go somewhere without tracking your every move? Where'd you go!

DALLAS

(breath)

JOHNNY

I guess I'm going to have to go and pay your little friend a visit.

DALLAS

(breath)

No!

JOHNNY
Get out of line with me again and
I'll break you two --

-- Johnny backs up -- Dallas slides down the refrigerator --
and sits on the floor -- Johnny steps out of the kitchen --
Dallas looks at the door -- and begins to crawl towards it --

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-TORRES RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Dallas steps towards his motorcycle -- and keeps his arm up
against his fractured ribs -- Dallas leans himself against
the seat of the motorcycle -- A hand grabs onto Dallas's --
and pulls --

DALLAS
-- No more --

-- Dallas turns around -- and sees its Patrina --

PATRINA
-- Baby, it's me!

Patrina puts her head under his arm -- and walks him towards
the convertible --

EXT/INT. PINK CONVERTIBLE-MORNING

She sets him down in the passenger seat -- and shuts the door
-- Patrina rushes towards the driver side -- Opens the door --
- and sits down -- She shuts the door -- and drives the
convertible --

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

In a patient room, Dallas lays asleep. Patrina sits by his
side -- She holds his hand -- The door opens -- and Annie
walks into the room -- She rushes towards Dallas -- and
touches his face -- Annie looks at Patrina --

ANNIE
-- What happened --

-- Johnny steps into the room and looks at Patrina --

PATRINA

-- Someone beat him up with a bat
while I was talking to my mom on
the phone --

ANNIE

-- Thank you for bringing him here.

Johnny steps towards the bed --

JOHNNY

-- Yeah, thank you.

Patrina gets up -- and steps towards the door -- She opens it
-- and looks at Annie --

PATRINA

-- I'll see you guys later.

ANNIE

Bye, sweetie.

Patrina steps out into the hallway --

JOHNNY

-- I'll be right back.

Johnny steps towards the door -- and steps out into the
hallway --

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Patrina steps towards a **vending machine** -- and looks at her
choices.

Johnny steps towards Patrina --

JOHNNY

-- So, you think you were so smart
back there. No woman is as smart as
me.

Patrina looks at Johnny --

PATRINA

Don't be so sure. I would pay more
attention to my surroundings and
the paths you cross. See them --

-- Johnny looks around --

SECURITY GUARD #1 and #2. Early 30s. Security Guards for two
and three years.

PATRINA (CONT'D)
Now who needs to be schooled old
man --

Patrina steps away -- and walks down the hallway -- Johnny
steps towards the patient room door -- and pushes it open --

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY-AFTERNOON

Patrina stands alongside April -- and holds her hand --

PATRINA
(sob)

Patrina looks at Sara's **headstone** -- Patrina cell phone rests
against her chest.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

PHONE SCREEN

The headstone right in the view.

BACK TO SCENE

Dallas wipes his eyes.

EXT. CEMETERY-CONTINUOUS

April steps towards Patrina -- and hugs her --

APRIL
-- Tell Dallas that I wish he
could've been here.

PATRINA
He does too.

April back up -- and walks away -- Patrina looks at the
headstone.

INT. PATRINA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

SUPER: PROM NIGHT

Patrina lays on her bed. She looks at her prom dress.

PATRINA'S MOTHER, early 40s. A doctor. Dark hair, brown eyes.
A humble and generous woman.

Patrina's Mother steps into the bedroom -- and looks at
Patrina --

PATRINA'S MOTHER
Hey, why aren't you getting ready?

PATRINA
I'm not going.

PATRINA'S MOTHER
Are you insane! Get up!

Patrina stands up -- Patrina's Mother takes the dress off the
clothes hanger --

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. STATION WAGON-NIGHT

Dallas sits in the passenger seat. He looks at Annie --

DALLAS
Are you sure this is a good idea?

ANNIE
Hey, you earned this. Now, go and
get her.

DALLAS
How do I even know that she's in
there?

ANNIE
Because I talked to her mom.

Dallas looks at Annie --

DALLAS
You sneak.

ANNIE
(laugh)
Stop looking pathetic and go in.

Dallas opens the door -- and stands up -- He shuts the door -
- and walks towards the hotel --

INT. BALLROOM-HOTEL-NIGHT

Dallas walks into the ballroom -- He looks around -- and sees Patrina --

Patrina looks -- and sees Dallas -- She gets up -- and walks towards him -- Dallas looks at Patrina --

DALLAS

I wasn't sure if you were going to make it.

PATRINA

I felt the same.

Dallas reaches for Patrina's hand -- Patrina grabs ahold -- and gets closer -- Dallas puts his hands around her waist -- He slow dances with her -- and spins with her in the middle of the dance floor --

PATRINA (CONT'D)

You've been practicing.

DALLAS

Annie's has been teaching me.

PATRINA

I'm impressed.

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Annie steps into the kitchen -- She opens the refrigerator -- and grabs a bottle of water. Annie shuts the refrigerator door. Johnny sits at the kitchen table -- and drinks a bottle of beer -- He slams the bottle down onto the table -- Annie looks at Johnny.

JOHNNY

Where were you?

ANNIE

I took Dallas to the prom.

Johnny tosses the bottle to the floor --

JOHNNY

-- So, now you think you're in charge.

ANNIE

No, I just know how much it meant to him.

JOHNNY
Don't bullshit me woman --

-- Johnny gets up -- He steps towards her -- and pushes her into the counter -- Annie falls back -- Johnny slaps her across the face --

INT. BALLROOM-HOTEL-NIGHT

Dallas and Patrina stand at the bar table -- **Cups of fruit punch** in their hands -- Dallas's cell phone rings -- He pulls his cell phone out of his pocket -- and answers --

DALLAS
Yes!

RAINE (V.O.)
Dallas!

DALLAS
Raine, what is it?

RAINE (V.O.)
It's dad. He's downstairs. He's beating up Annie!

DALLAS
I'm on my way, okay --

-- Dallas ends the call -- and drops his cell phone into his pants pocket --

PATRINA
What is it?

DALLAS
Annie's in trouble.

PATRINA
Come on!

Patrina and Dallas rush out of the ballroom --

EXT. HOTEL-NIGHT

Patrina rushes towards her mother's car --

INT. CAR-NIGHT

She gets into the driver seat -- and shuts the door -- Dallas gets into the passenger seat -- and shuts the door --

The car reverses out of the parking spot -- and drives out onto the road --

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Her back against the **cabinets** -- Annie crawls her way to the table -- Johnny kicks her in the stomach --

JOHNNY

-- You're not going anywhere --

-- Johnny slaps her across the face --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

-- Go ahead and scream! I dare you

--

-- Johnny pulls Annie up by her hair -- and pushes her into the table -- He lays her flat on her back -- and grabs her by her mouth --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I always did hate it when you talked back to me!

EXT. FRONT YARD-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Dallas rushes towards the front door -- He steps onto the front porch -- and picks up a **sledgehammer** --

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Johnny reaches into Annie's mouth -- and proceeds to grab her tongue --

JOHNNY

-- You were just as annoying as my first wife. Always talking! Starla! All she had to do was shut up!

The back door closes behind Johnny -- Johnny turns -- and looks at Dallas -- Dallas holds the sledgehammer in his hands --

DALLAS

I always wondered what happened the night she died. Part of me made me forget.

JOHNNY

You were just a boy. A scared, piss
in your pants, little boy --

-- Johnny lets go of Annie -- and pushes her off the table --

DALLAS

Is that why you killed her?

JOHNNY

Your mama was always too busy
babying you. I wanted to man you
up. All that bitching and moaning.
I went after you, but she stepped
in.

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Johnny stands over Starla -- Starla lays on a table -- and
Johnny strangles her to death --

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-BACK TO PRESENT

Johnny waves his hands up --

JOHNNY

Are you really going to hit me with
that and think you're going to walk
away?

DALLAS

Have you ever heard of self-
defense?

JOHNNY

You don't have the balls!

Dallas swings the sledgehammer -- Johnny moves -- Dallas
smashes the kitchen table -- Johnny moves towards the stove -
- Dallas swings at him -- Johnny ducks -- Dallas swings it
into Johnny ribs --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Ahh!

Johnny grabs the sledgehammer -- and punches Dallas to the
floor -- Johnny drops to his knees -- and Dallas kicks him in
the groin --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Ahh!!

Johnny climbs over Dallas -- and begins to strangle him --
 Patrina steps into the kitchen -- and kicks Johnny in his
 head -- Johnny grabs a hold of her -- and pushes her to the
 floor -- He begins to strangle her --

PATRINA
 (breath)

Raine steps towards Johnny -- She swings the sledgehammer
 into Johnny's chest -- -- He falls to his back --

JOHNNY
 (breath)

Johnny sits up on his knees --

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 -- Baby --

-- Raine swings the sledgehammer across Johnny's face -- He
 falls to the floor, dead. Dallas rolls towards Patrina -- and
 touches her neck --

DALLAS
 Are you alright?

PATRINA
 I'm fine.

Dallas stands up -- and steps towards Raine --

DALLAS
 Let me have the sledgehammer,
 Raine?

RAINE
 He killed mama.

DALLAS
 I know. Give me the hammer, please
 --

-- Raine hands Dallas the sledgehammer -- She steps towards
 Patrina -- and helps her to her feet -- Patrina stands beside
 Dallas -- Annie steps into the kitchen -- She looks down at
 Johnny's DEAD BODY.

EXT. FRONT YARD--TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

SIRENS SOUND

Police cruisers arrive at the house.

EXT. AUDITORIUM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Annie and Dallas sit at a table. Across the auditorium, Patrina stands. She looks at Dallas. He looks at her. Annie looks at Dallas and Patrina --

ANNIE

-- Go ahead and talk to her.

Dallas steps towards Patrina -- Patrina takes six steps closer --

DALLAS

-- How are things?

PATRINA

Good. I'm heading out of town tomorrow for the summer. What about you?

DALLAS

Going well. Annie's selling the car lot. Their moving. Annie's going to be looking after Raine. I'm moving to Los Angeles.

PATRINA

That's cool. Will you keep in touch?

DALLAS

Yeah --

-- Patrina steps away -- Dallas walks towards Annie --

ANNIE

How did it go?

DALLAS

It went well.

EXT. FRONT YARD-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

A moving truck parked at the curb. Annie stands across from Dallas --

ANNIE

Be careful out there.

DALLAS

You too --

Raine steps towards Dallas -- and hugs him -- Dallas hugs her --

DALLAS (CONT'D)

-- Take care of Annie for me --

-- Annie kisses Dallas on the cheek --

ANNIE

Your mama would be proud of you. I hope you know that.

DALLAS

Thank you --

ANNIE

Take care of yourself.

Annie steps towards the moving truck -- Raine steps back -- and walks around to the passenger side -- Annie gets in -- and buckles up -- She shuts the door -- Annie looks at Patrina -- and waves -- Dallas looks back at Patrina -- The moving truck drives past --

RAINE (O.C.)

See Ya!!

DALLAS

(laugh)

Dallas approaches Patrina --

DALLAS (CONT'D)

I thought you had a plane to catch.

PATRINA

I did. I changed my mind. There will be plenty of summers to spend in Paris. A guy like you only comes into my life once. That's a window I don't want to miss.

DALLAS

What did your mom say when you told her this?

PATRINA

She understood.

DALLAS

Then where do you want to start?

PATRINA
We're both adults. Why not start by
tying the knot --

DALLAS
Is that a proposal?

PATRINA
No, this is. Will you marry me?

DALLAS
Sure.

Dallas leans down -- and kisses Patrina -- Dallas stops --
and looks down the road --

PATRINA
What?

DALLAS
We're getting married and their
already gone.

PATRINA
You can call them later. We can
wait until tomorrow.

DALLAS
Are you sure?

PATRINA
Yeah.

Dallas kisses her --

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-AFTERNOON

Dallas stands at the altar. Patrina steps towards Dallas. A
small veil over her face.

DALLAS (V.O.)
This is just the beginning.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-TORRES RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Dallas steps into the living room -- A box in his hands -- He
sets it down -- and looks at the room --

DALLAS
Patrina, you should see this!

PATRINA (O.S.)
I'm coming.

Patrina steps in -- and looks at the living room --

PATRINA (CONT'D)
I'm loving this part of the house.

Dallas steps towards Patrina -- and kisses her --

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE-CAR REPAIR SHOP-AFTERNOON

Underneath a car, Dallas stands -- and drains the old oil into an **oil drain dolly** --

MECHANIC, early 20s. A mechanic for two years.

The Mechanic steps into the garage --

MECHANIC
-- Hey, Dallas?

DALLAS
Yes?

MECHANIC
Your wife called?

DALLAS
What did she say?

MECHANIC
She's going into labor.

Dallas rushes out of the garage -- He tosses his **oil rag** to the Mechanic --

DALLAS
Finish that for me, please --

-- Dallas rushes towards his truck --

MECHANIC
-- Sure thing!

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Dallas rushes through the hallway -- He stops at the front desk --

RECEPTIONIST, early 20s. A receptionist for two years.

RECEPTIONIST
How can I help you?

DALLAS
I'm looking for Patrina Torres.

The Receptionist types in the name --

RECEPTIONIST
She's just coming out of the
delivery room --

DALLAS
Oh, man! I missed it!

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Patrina lays in bed. She holds her newborn daughter. Dallas pushes the door open -- and looks at Patrina --

DALLAS
Sorry I'm late.

PATRINA
It doesn't matter. You're here now.

Dallas steps closer -- He looks at his newborn daughter --

DALLAS
She's so beautiful.

PATRINA
She is.

DALLAS
What are we going to call her?

PATRINA
How does Ava sound?

DALLAS
I like it.

Patrina lays in bed asleep. Dallas sits with the newborn in his arms --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
Don't worry, Daddy's going to take
care of you. You're my little
princess.

CUT TO:

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Dallas sits on the bed and reads from a story book. 6-YEAR-OLD AVA. A first grader. Light brown hair, brown eyes.

Dallas closes the book --

6-YEAR-OLD AVA
Daddy?

DALLAS
Yes?

6-YEAR-OLD AVA
Will I always be your princess?

DALLAS
Always --

-- Dallas leans over Ava -- and kisses her on the forehead --

6-YEAR-OLD AVA
And mommy?

DALLAS
Mommy's my queen.

PATRINA
Definitely!

Dallas looks at Patrina -- and looks at 6-Year-Old Ava --

DALLAS
(laugh)
-- Good night.

PATRINA
Good night, sweetie.

6-YEAR-OLD AVA
Good night. Love you.

Dallas steps out of the bedroom -- and cracks the door --

INT. OFFICE-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Dallas sits at his desk -- He looks at the mural of Starla on his wall.

DALLAS
I hope I'm doing everything right.
At least in your sight, mom.

PATRINA
You are --

-- Patrina steps towards Dallas -- She sits on his lap -- and kisses him on the forehead --

DALLAS
She asked me when she is going to
get a little brother.

PATRINA
What'd you tell her?

DALLAS
I told her what's the rush, huh?
She said because I might not want
one when I'm older.

PATRINA
Smart girl.

DALLAS
She knows what she wants.

PATRINA
Who says she has to wait?

Dallas looks at Patrina --

DALLAS
-- Really?

Patrina nods her head "Yes."

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY-MORNING

12-YEAR-OLD AVA, seventh grade student. Dark hair, brown eyes. A bright and shy girl.

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY, first grade student. Sandy blonde hair, green eyes. A quiet boy with a big heart.

Dallas stands in front of the headstone.

DALLAS
I miss you.

Dallas steps away from the grave --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
-- Come on, kids.

6-Year-Old Billy steps away -- 12-Year-Old Ava looks back at the headstone --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
-- I love you mama.

12-Year-Old Ava steps away --

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-MORNING

12-Year-Old Ava sits at the dinner table. Dallas steps towards her plate -- and slides scrambled eggs on -- He steps towards 6-Year-Old Billy's plate -- and lays some eggs on his plate -- Dallas steps towards the stove -- and sets the pan down --

DALLAS
-- I got good news kids.

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
What's that?

DALLAS
Aunt Raine is coming to live with us for a while.

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
What?

DALLAS
She's going to be watching you while I'm working.

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
Dad, I don't need a babysitter.

DALLAS
Well, I can't leave you both without a responsible adult.

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
Then why would you leave us with Raine?

DALLAS
Because she deserves a chance to
redeem herself.

INT. RAINE'S CAR-AFTERNOON

RAINE, 36. Unemployed. Light brown hair, brown eyes.
Irresponsible, careless and fast tempered.

Raine pulls a **dime bag** from her pocket -- and puts it close
to her nose -- She opens it --

RAINE
(sniff)
-- Ah, baby --

-- Raine puts the bag in her pocket -- and opens the driver
door --

EXT/INT. TORRES RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Raine rings the doorbell -- and wipes her nose --

12-Year-Old Ava opens the front door --

RAINE
Ava!

12-Year-Old Ava looks at Raine --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
-- Aunt Raine? Did you knock over
another liquor store or do you
always look like this?

RAINE
You're such a kidder!

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
Who said I was kidding?

Raine steps into the living room -- and kisses 12-Year-Old
Ava on the head -- 12-Year-Old Ava closes the door --

RAINE
-- Where's your dad?

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
Getting ready for work.

Dallas steps towards Raine --

RAINE

Dally!

DALLAS

Please, don't call me that.

RAINE

Just kidding.

DALLAS

You made it just in time. There's food in the fridge. Just three rules. No cursing, no men and don't eat all my Oreo's.

RAINE

There goes my rocking Saturday night's! Eating all your cookies.

DALLAS

I'll be home by six. Until then, stay out of trouble, please?

Dallas steps towards the front door -- and opens it --

DALLAS (CONT'D)

And don't teach Billy to give everyone the bird.

RAINE

Well, you're no fun!

INT. LIVING ROOM-TORRES RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Raine sits in Dallas's recliner -- Her leg hangs over the arm of the recliner. 6-Year-Old Billy leans towards the recliner --

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY

-- Aunt Raine?

RAINE

Yeah?

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY

I'm hungry?

RAINE

I am too. Go make us something?

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY

I'm too young to cook.

RAINE

Doesn't hurt to try new things boy.

12-Year-Old Ava looks at Raine --

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY

Can we go get a pizza?

RAINE

Do you have any money?

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY

I got twelve dollars.

RAINE

That's enough.

INT. RAINE'S CAR-EVENING

6-Year-Old Billy sits in the front seat -- His hands gripped onto the **pizza box** -- Raine reaches into the **glove compartment** -- and pulls out a **pistol** -- 6-Year-Old Billy looks at the pistol -- 12-Year-Old Ava looks at Raine -- Raine shuts the glove compartment --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

-- What are you doing?

RAINE

Just stay in the car --

-- Raine opens the door -- and gets out -- She slams the door shut --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

Billy, come here!

6-Year-Old Billy gets up from the front seat -- and moves to the back --

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE-EVENING

Raine faces the door -- and puts on a **ski mask** -- She pulls out the pistol -- and walks towards the counter --

RAINE

-- Alright! Open the register and cough up the cash!

STORE OWNER, early 40s. Store Owner for twenty years.

The Store Owner points a **shotgun** at Raine -- and fires off a shot -- Raine falls to the floor --

The Store Owner steps towards Raine's DEAD BODY -- and takes the ski mask off --

INT. RAINE'S CAR-AFTERNOON

12-Year-Old Ava hugs 6-Year-Old Billy --

6-YEAR-OLD BILLY

(sob)

(cry)

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

It's alright.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Dallas carries 6-Year-Old Billy in -- and lays him on his bed -- He pulls the covers back -- and covers him -- Dallas turns to 12-Year-Old Ava standing in the doorway of the bedroom --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

(sob)

DALLAS

Shh --

-- Dallas lifts his index finger to his mouth -- He steps towards her -- and shuts the door behind -- Dallas hugs 12-Year-Old Ava --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

(sob)

(cry)

It happened so fast!

DALLAS

Shh!!

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

Why did she have to do it?

DALLAS

She was a loose cannon --

-- 12-Year-Old Ava looks at Dallas --

12-YEAR-OLD AVA

-- How do deal with them?

DALLAS
You just step out of the way --

-- Dallas wipes her tears away --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
Go get some sleep. I'll be in there
to check on you.

12-YEAR-OLD AVA
Okay --

-- 12-Year-Old Ava steps towards her bedroom door -- and
opens it -- She steps in -- and shuts the door -- Dallas
covers his face with the palm of his hand --

DALLAS
(sob)

DALLAS (V.O.)
That's how life goes for some of
our family members. They die young
but they live forever in our minds.

INT. AUDITORIUM-FUNERAL HOME-AFTERNOON

Dallas stands over Raine's casket -- He looks at her --

DALLAS
I love you baby sister. I'm sorry I
wasn't there for you more.

Dallas turns around -- He looks at 12-Year-Old Ava -- and 6-
Year-Old Billy --

DALLAS (CONT'D)
-- Let's go home, kids.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP-AFTERNOON

AVA, 18. A senior student. Dark hair, blue eyes. A beautiful
young woman with a bright future ahead of her.

Ava takes an order from WOMAN CUSTOMER, early 20s.

WOMAN CUSTOMER
Can I get an Espresso Coffee with
lots of cream and five sugars?

AVA
Sure thing. That'll be \$5.29?

The Woman Customer hands Ava six dollars in cash -- Ava hands her seventy-one cents --

WOMAN CUSTOMER
-- Thank you --

-- The Woman Customer steps away from the counter -- Ava looks around --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-TORRES RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Dallas stands in front of a mirror -- and puts on his coveralls -- He grabs a hold of his arm -- and falls to his knees --

DALLAS
Ahh!!

BILLY, 11. A fifth grade student. Sandy blonde hair and green eyes.

Billy rushes into the bedroom -- and drops to his knees -- He reaches for Dallas's cell phone --

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Dallas lies in the bed asleep. Ava sits at his bedside and holds his hand. Dallas opens his eyes -- and looks at her -- Ava looks at Dallas --

AVA
-- Dad --

DALLAS
-- Where's your brother?

AVA
He's out in the waiting room. Do you want me to get him?

DALLAS
No. I got to tell you something?

AVA
What is it?

DALLAS

It's important that you look after your brother. I neglected to look after Raine. I regret it to this day. She did better than me.

AVA

What do you mean by that?

DALLAS

Back when I was a teenager, my father beat me up, almost killed me once. He almost killed your mother. The next thing you know, Raine got a hold of a sledgehammer and killed him.

INT. KITCHEN-TORRES RESIDENCE-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Johnny lays on the floor, dead. Annie steps towards Raine -- and kisses her on the forehead --

SIRENS SOUND

ANNIE

Give me that --

-- Annie grabs the sledgehammer --

ANNIE (CONT'D)

-- Get me a rag!

Patrina grabs a **dish rag** -- and hands it to Annie -- Annie rubs the fingerprints off the handle of the sledgehammer --

ANNIE (CONT'D)

It was self-defense, everyone.

Annie drops the sledgehammer to the floor --

POLICE OFFICER #1 and #2, early 30s.

Police Officer #1 steps into the kitchen -- and pulls out his gun at the sight of the body lying on the floor --

DALLAS (V.O.)

We did tell them that it was self-defense because it was. Raine did the only thing that could be done.

INT. AUDITORIUM-FUNERAL HOME-AFTERNOON

Dallas and Raine stand over the casket. Annie lays peacefully.

DALLAS (V.O.)
Before you know it, everyone
started passing away. It felt like
a punishment for what we swore that
night. That's the beauty of life,
people come and go.

Dallas wraps his arm around Raine -- and walk away from the casket --

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-BACK TO PRESENT

Ava looks at Dallas --

AVA
You're the best dad I could've
asked for.

DALLAS
Now, go get Billy for me, okay?

Ava stands up -- and steps out of the room --

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Ava steps into the waiting room -- Billy sits -- and looks through his cell phone --

AVA
-- Hey!

Billy looks at Ava --

BILLY
-- Yeah?

AVA
Daddy wants to see you.

Billy gets up -- and walks towards the patient room -- Ava sits down -- She covers her face --

AVA (CONT'D)
(sob)

NUN, early 50s.

The Nun steps towards Ava -- and hands her a **tissue** -- The Nun hands Ava a card with the engraving image of **Saint Joseph** --

NUN

-- For all the departed --

-- The Nun walks away from Ava --

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

Ava stands in front of the water with Billy -- She crouches down -- and pours the ashes from the **urn** -- Billy crouches down -- and takes the urn from her -- He pours the rest of the ashes out --

BILLY

-- Dad would have loved being here with us right about now.

AVA

Yeah, he would have.

AVA (V.O.)

Too much has happened to us already. We can't pay the mortgage and I can't pay for the utilities. We have no other choice but to move.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-TORRES RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Billy steps into the living room -- He looks back -- Ava steps towards the front door --

AVA

-- Billy --

-- Billy looks at Ava --

AVA (CONT'D)

-- Let's go.

BILLY

This really sucks.

Billy steps out of the living room -- and goes out the front door --

INT. LIVING ROOM-APARTMENT-AFTERNOON

Ava drops her bag on the floor of the living room -- Billy steps towards the bedroom --

BILLY
-- I get the bedroom!

AVA
No! We share it.

BILLY
Fine.

Ava looks around the living room --

AVA
This is going to be good. Really good.

Billy steps towards Ava --

BILLY
How are we going to make this work?

AVA
What do you mean?

BILLY
With you going to college and with me going to school.

AVA
There's a school down the street. We'll enroll you on Monday, okay?

BILLY
But what about everyone questioning us about you being too young to look after me?

AVA
I'm legal to look after you. Stop worrying --

-- Ava hugs Billy --

AVA (CONT'D)
-- Everything's going to be fine.

AVA (V.O.)
That was something I meant.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP-AFTERNOON

Ava stands and looks.

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

AVA (V.O.)
Then I met him. The man that made
me feel like I didn't have to worry
about anything anymore.

INT. BALCONY-MOVIE THEATER-NIGHT

Ava looks at Nicholas -- He kisses her hand --

AVA (V.O.)
He's so sweet. I feel like the
luckiest woman alive. I did feel
that way until death came once
again to take him from me.

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. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Ava sits -- and rocks herself --

AVA (V.O.)

That was the first time I ever saw someone get shot. All over a ring. Now, Nicholas's life hung in the balance. Something that nun said kind of got to me. It made pray.

Ava puts her hands to together -- and grasp them together -- She shuts her eyes --

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

-- Don't take him from me too.

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Nicholas wheels himself around the room in a **wheelchair** -- Ava sits on the bed --

NICHOLAS

Look what I can do!

AVA
Stop it, please!

NICHOLAS
Babe, I'm fine.

AVA
That's not the point!

NICHOLAS
Come on, I made it --

-- Ava stands up -- and steps towards the window --

AVA
-- You just don't get it!

Nicholas turns the wheelchair around -- and rolls it towards her -- He looks at her --

NICHOLAS
-- Hey! I do. It scared me. I was
afraid of leaving you --

-- Nicholas grabs ahold of Ava's hand -- He kisses it -- Ava pulls away -- Nicholas pulls her onto his lap -- She kisses him on the lips --

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
-- Do you want to know the best
part about me being asleep?

AVA
What's that?

NICHOLAS
I was able to wake up and see your
face --

-- Ava rests her head against his chest -- Nicholas kisses her on the head --

INT. LIVING ROOM-AVA'S APARTMENT-AFTERNOON

Ava sits at her desk. She opens a box labeled "**Dad's Belongings.**" She lifts a pile of photographs up -- and sets it down on the desk -- She looks at a photograph of Starla -- Nicholas steps into the living room --

NICHOLAS
Hey!

AVA

Hey.

NICHOLAS

Do you want anything to eat?

AVA

Pizza sounds good right about now.

NICHOLAS

I'll be right back --

-- Nicholas opens the front door -- and steps outside -- He shuts the door -- Ava picks up a book from the bottom of the box -- She flips through it -- and opens it with a photograph of Shelly -- Ava looks closer at the photo -- and closes the book -- She turns the book to look on the back -- and the photo --

AVA

-- Shelly Owens.

Ava flips the photo over and looks at the back --

AVA (CONT'D)

(reads)

Brenda, Lola and Shelly.

Ava opens the book --

AVA (CONT'D)

(reads)

No one knew I had a baby. Not even my best friend Lola. I hid it very well. All I can do is hope for the best. My daughter, Sara, resents me for not allowing her to be a big sister.

Ava closes the book -- and puts all the photo's back into the box --

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-AFTERNOON

Nicholas steps outside -- He holds onto the box that belonged to Dallas -- Ava looks at it -- and pulls it back --

AVA

-- That goes in the car with us.

NICHOLAS

It might be better if it goes with
the other stuff in the moving
truck.

AVA

No. I want it in the car. It's
important to him and me.

NICHOLAS

Fine.

Nicholas hands the box to Ava --

EXT. PARKING LOT-APARTMENT COMPLEX-AFTERNOON

Ava steps towards the trunk of her car -- and opens it wide -
- She sets the box down -- and slams the trunk shut --

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Nicholas walks into the living room -- He carries a box in.
He sets it down -- Ava steps in -- and looks around --

AVA

-- This is amazing.

NICHOLAS

You like it?

AVA

I love it.

NICHOLAS

Good. The people that gave me the
job said I can start right away. As
far as the house goes, we
practically own it.

AVA

That's cool.

NICHOLAS

Let's get the stuff into this place
--

-- Nicholas steps outside --

INT. KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

SIERRA, 42. A successful book author. Dark hair, brown eyes.
A woman with a heart of gold.

Sierra picks up a stack of plates -- and sets them on the
counter --

SIERRA

How do you want to do the plates?

AVA

You can put them in the left
cupboards. We can put the glasses
in the right side.

SIERRA

That works.

Ava goes through the box full of glasses -- and walks them to
the counter --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Have you talked to Billy today?

AVA

I thought about it. I just don't
think he wants to talk to me right
now.

SIERRA

Why?

AVA

Because he feels like I moved on
without him. He got himself in
trouble.

SIERRA

He was stopping someone from
robbing us.

AVA

We never asked him to.

SIERRA

No but that's what a person does
when they are trying to do the
right thing.

Sierra steps towards the glasses -- and grabs four -- She
stacks them in the cupboards --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

-- What do you say, you and I go
pay him a visit. We can bring him
something special.

AVA

A good dose of reality.

SIERRA

I was thinking brownies.

AVA

I don't have any to bake him.

SIERRA

That's funny. Then what are these
doing in the fridge --

-- Sierra opens the refrigerator -- Ava looks at the plate of
brownies -- Nicholas walks into the kitchen -- and looks at
the brownies --

NICHOLAS

-- Oh! Are those brownies --

-- Nicholas steps towards the refrigerator -- Sierra shuts
the door to the refrigerator --

SIERRA

-- Not for you!

NICHOLAS

Well, you're a buzz kill.

SIERRA

I'll make you some another time.

Nicholas steps out of the kitchen --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

-- I think you have it from here my
son --

-- Sierra opens the refrigerator door -- and grabs the plate
of brownies -- She shuts the door -- and walks towards the
living room -- Nicholas looks at Sierra --

NICHOLAS

-- Hey! Where are you going with
those, mom!

SIERRA

We're going to go visit Billy.

NICHOLAS

Tell him if he doesn't want the brownies, I'll take them.

SIERRA

I bet you would. Come on, Ava, let's go.

Ava steps towards Nicholas -- and kisses him -- She walks towards Sierra -- She blows him a kiss -- Nicholas catches it -- and pats his chest --

INT. VISITING AREA-JUVENILE HALL-AFTERNOON

Ava sits at a table -- She looks around -- Sierra looks at Ava --

AVA

This is a quiet place.

Billy steps into the room -- He walks towards the table -- Ava stands up -- Billy looks at Ava -- and looks at Sierra -- He smiles at Sierra -- and sits -- Ava sits -- and slides the plate of brownies towards him --

AVA (CONT'D)

Sierra made them for you.

BILLY

Thank you --

-- Billy reaches for the plate -- and grabs a brownie -- He sits down -- and eats it -- Sierra looks at Ava --

SIERRA

-- I'm going to go get some fresh air and let you two talk --

-- Sierra steps towards Billy -- and hugs him -- She kisses him on the head --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

See you soon, Billy.

Sierra walks out of the visiting area -- Ava looks at Billy --

AVA

-- So, how are you doing?

BILLY

Alright. How's married life treating you?

AVA

Good. Nick treats me really good.
You know that.

BILLY

Why did you come here? To gloat?

AVA

I came here to see my little
brother. Do you have a problem with
that?

BILLY

You can do whatever you like. I'm
not stopping you.

AVA

I wish you knew how you sound right
now. How mom and dad would feel
about the way you're treating me.
Tell me what you want?

BILLY

Nothing.

AVA

What's going on in your mind right
now?

BILLY

I know dad told you to watch out
for me the day he died. I know
because I heard him say it. I was
listening.

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

Billy stands against the wall -- and peeks in at corner of
the crack of the door --

BILLY (V.O.)

-- I heard what happened to him and
mom. How his father almost killed
him. What Aunt Raine did. I guess
it's part of the reason why I did
what I did to that thief that tried
to rob Sierra.

EXT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON

KID THIEF, mid-teens. Homeless boy.

The Kid Thief sneaks past the guest -- and slowly sneaks through Sierra's purse -- Billy steps behind him --

BILLY

-- What are you doing!

KID THIEF

Nothing --

-- The Kid Thief rushes away from Billy -- Billy knocks the Kid Thief to the ground -- Billy restrains him -- The Kid Thief spits in Billy's face -- Billy punches him across the face -- and then punches him again -- Over and over again -- Billy punches him -- Sierra and Nicholas grab Billy by his arms -- Billy kicks the Kid Thief in the face --

BILLY (V.O.)

-- He spit in my face. All he had to do was ask for some food. Not steal from Sierra. I put him in a coma.

INT. VISITING AREA-JUVENILE HALL-BACK TO PRESENT

Ava reaches her hand out -- Billy grabs ahold --

AVA

-- Your new room is ready when you're out of here. I want you home with us.

BILLY

I'll be out soon enough. Tell Sierra thank you.

AVA

Take one more for the road --

-- Billy grabs a brownie -- and steps towards Ava -- Ava hugs him -- and kisses him on the forehead --

AVA (CONT'D)

Can you do me a favor?

BILLY

What?

AVA

Pray before you go to sleep.

BILLY

Okay.

AVA
I love you.

BILLY
I love you too.

Billy steps out of the visiting area -- Ava grabs her purse -
- and the plate of brownies -- She steps outside --

INT. BOY'S DORM-JUVENILE HALL-AFTERNOON

Billy steps into the boy's dorm --

OLDER BOY, late teens. Shaved head, green eyes. A violent
offender.

The Older Boy sits on his bed -- and his eyes follow Billy as
he walks to his bed -- He gets up -- and walks towards Billy
-- He grabs Billy by his mouth -- and squeezes it together --
He leans towards Billy's mouth --

OLDER BOY
(sniff)
Brownies! Where's mine --

Billy bites his nose --

OLDER BOY (CONT'D)
-- Ahh --

-- The Older Boy falls back to the floor -- and covers his
nose -- He looks at his hands --

OLDER BOY (CONT'D)
-- You're dead --

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON

Ava sits in the passenger seat -- She looks out the window.

SIERRA
You've been very quiet since we
left. How do feel now after seeing
him?

AVA
Better.

SIERRA
We should do something for him when
he gets out.

AVA
He would love that.

INT. BATHROOM-JUVENILE HALL-EVENING

Billy combs his wet hair -- and looks at himself in the mirror --

INT. BOY'S DORM-JUVENILE HALL-EVENING

Billy sits on his knees -- He closes his eyes --

BILLY
-- Father, God, please watch over
me and all my loved ones. Please
protect my sister. I thank you for
everything. Amen.

Billy gets up on his bed -- and lays on his back -- He looks
up at the ceiling -- Older Boy jumps on the bed -- and pushes
a pillow over Billy's face -- The Older Boy raises the pillow
up -- He punches Billy in the face --

OLDER BOY
-- Welcome to my world --

-- The Older Boy presses the pillow down over his face --

WARDEN #1 and #2. Early 40s. Wardens for ten and five years.

Warden #1 pulls Older Boy off the bed -- Warden #2 pushes the
pillow off Billy's face -- He feels around Billy's neck --

WARDEN #2
Get an ambulance here now!!

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING-EVENING

Ava sits on the bed. She pulls the towel from the top of her
head -- and lets her hair down -- Nicholas steps into the
bedroom -- He holds his cell phone in his hand --

NICHOLAS
-- Babe, you might want to take
this.

AVA
What is it?

NICHOLAS
It's your brother. They're rushing
him to the hospital --

AVA
-- What!

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

In the waiting room, Ava sits -- She rocks herself --
Nicholas walks towards Ava -- A cup of coffee in his hands --
Ava takes the coffee --

AVA
-- Thanks --

-- Nicholas sits next to her -- and wraps his arm around her
--

AVA (CONT'D)
-- Thank you for being her --

NICHOLAS
-- Hey, I'm always here for you.

Ava leans her head against his --

AVA
(sob)
-- It sucks.

NICHOLAS
He's going to be fine, okay?

AVA
How do you know?

NICHOLAS
Believe it or not, he's the
toughest kid I ever met.

AVA
That's true --

-- Nicholas wipes Ava's eyes with a tissue in his hand --

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

The Doctor steps into the waiting room -- Ava looks at the
Doctor -- and stands up --

AVA (CONT'D)
-- How is he doing?

DOCTOR
He received blows to the head, and
they knocked him into a coma.

AVA
But he's going to be, okay?

DOCTOR
Yes.

AVA
Thank you. Can I see him?

DOCTOR
Of course.

The Doctor steps away -- Ava looks at Nicholas --

AVA
Why don't you go home and get some
rest? I'll stay here with him.

NICHOLAS
Are you sure you're alright by
yourself?

AVA
Yes.

NICHOLAS
Okay --

-- Nicholas kisses her -- and walks down the hallway --

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Ava sits at Billy's bedside -- and holds his hand --

AVA
I'm here, little brother. If I told
you I begged mom and dad for a
little brother, would you believe
that they gave me a great one?
(sob)
The best one.

Ava wipes her eyes --

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA-HOSPITAL-MORNING

At a table, Sierra sits across from Ava --

SIERRA
Is that all you're going to eat?

AVA
I don't have much of an appetite.

SIERRA
How long have you been feeling like this?

AVA
For a couple of days.

SIERRA
Have you had your period?

AVA
No.

CUT TO:

INT. EXAM ROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING

Ava sits on the exam table --

AVA
-- No.

DOCTOR
Yes. Two weeks.

AVA
I can't be.

DOCTOR
When did you last have sex?

AVA
Two weeks ago.

DOCTOR
The test is official.

AVA
I'm pregnant.

DOCTOR
Congratulations!

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Ava opens the door -- Sierra stands in front of her --

AVA
-- You were right.

SIERRA
Right about what?

AVA
Come on. You knew I was pregnant.

SIERRA
Congratulations, mommy!

AVA
Don't tell Nick, please!

SIERRA
Okay.

AVA
Can I borrow your car?

SIERRA
Sure --

-- Sierra hands Ava her car key -- Ava takes it --

AVA
-- Do you mind staying with him? I
just want to go home and go grab
something.

SIERRA
I'll stay with him. Go ahead.

Ava walks down the hallway --

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Ava walks into the bedroom. She steps towards the closet --
Nicholas steps out of the bathroom --

NICHOLAS
-- Hey --

AVA
-- Ahh!

Ava has a scared look on her face -- and looks at Nicholas --

NICHOLAS

-- What!

AVA

I didn't know you were home.

Ava steps towards the bed -- and sits --

NICHOLAS

What's going on?

AVA

I have something to tell you.

NICHOLAS

What is it?

Ava pats her hand on the bed -- Nicholas sits --

AVA

Do you remember when I told you
that my mom died when I was twelve?

NICHOLAS

Yeah.

AVA

That wasn't true. She died when I
was six.

NICHOLAS

Why did you tell me she died when
you were twelve?

AVA

Because I didn't want you to feel
sorry for me.

NICHOLAS

How did she die?

AVA

She died in childbirth. Billy never
got to meet her.

NICHOLAS

There's more, isn't there?

AVA

I'm pregnant.

NICHOLAS

You're worried? You're worried that
something bad is going to happen.

AVA
 Nothing in my life has gone right -
 -

-- Ava lies back on the bed -- She feels on her stomach --

AVA (CONT'D)
 I just hope it turns out better.
 You know?

Nicholas falls to his back -- and looks at Ava -- He grabs
 ahold of her hand --

NICHOLAS
 -- We're in this together.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

Ava moves to her side -- and looks at herself in the mirror -
 - She feels around her stomach --

MONTAGE

-- Ava at three months.

-- Ava at six months.

-- Ava at nine months.

BACK TO SCENE

Ava touches her stomach --

AVA
 I can't wait to meet you.

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Sierra lays her head on the end of the bed. A hand reaches
 over -- and touches her on the head --

BILLY
 -- Hey --

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

SIERRA
 -- Hey!

BILLY
How long have I been asleep?

SIERRA
Nine months.

BILLY
What?

Sierra gets up -- and opens the door --

BILLY (CONT'D)
-- Where are you going?

SIERRA
I have to go tell your sister.

BILLY
Where is she?

SIERRA
Down the hall. With your newborn
niece.

Sierra rushes out of the room --

BILLY
What!

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Sierra rushes down the hallway --

SIERRA
-- He's awake!

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY-MORNING

Ava sits in a rocking chair. She nurses the newborn.

Nicholas steps into the nursery --

NICHOLAS
How are my two girls doing?

AVA
Good. She's pretty calm.

NICHOLAS
Do you need anything?

AVA
Not right now.

EXT. BACK YARD-MORNING

Billy sits on a *lounge chair*. He looks around --

AVA
-- Hey --

-- Ava steps towards Billy -- and sits next to him --

AVA (CONT'D)
-- Nick and Sierra are in the
living room watching a movie. Do
you want to go watch?

BILLY
Not right now.

AVA
Okay.

Billy looks away --

BILLY
Did I kill mom?

AVA
What! No. Why would you ask that?

BILLY
I never got to meet her. What was
she like?

AVA
She was funny, beautiful, and
smart.

BILLY
What do you think she would say if
she saw us right now?

AVA
She probably would say I'm proud of
both of you.

BILLY
Dad too?

AVA
Definitely.

Ava hesitates to ask the next question on her mind and then it comes out --

AVA (CONT'D)
What about the boy that attacked
you? Are you going to press
charges?

BILLY
No.

AVA
Why?

BILLY
Because he didn't instigate it.

AVA
Oh. Mom and dad would be so proud
of you.

Ava wraps her arm around Billy and kisses him --

AVA (CONT'D)
We did good for ourselves.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Ava sits on the sofa. She puts photographs into a **photo album**. Ava looks at the photo of her with Dallas. A photo of Starla next to his.

Sierra steps into the living room --

SIERRA
-- She finally went to sleep.

AVA
She wasn't too much trouble, was
she?

SIERRA
No.

Sierra sits down -- and leans back -- She looks at the photos. Sierra points at Starla --

SIERRA (CONT'D)
-- Who's this?

AVA
My grandmother. Starla.

SIERRA
She's beautiful.

AVA
Yes, she was.

Sierra points at the photo of her and Dallas.

SIERRA
Is this you and your dad?

AVA
Yes. I had just turned five.

Ava wipes away the tears in her eyes --

AVA (CONT'D)
How did you become so strong?

SIERRA
My dad. He wasn't my real dad, but
he taught me a lot.

AVA
Did it hurt, knowing that he
wasn't?

SIERRA
No. He saved me. I probably
wouldn't even be here if it weren't
for him.

AVA
Do you ever wonder?

SIERRA
A little. I didn't know him.
Nicholas Smith is my father. The
best father.

Ava leans her head against Sierra's shoulder --

AVA
Does this ever get better?

SIERRA
What?

AVA
Getting old? Life?

SIERRA
Eventually.

Sierra gets up --

SIERRA (CONT'D)

-- Lay down and take a nap.

AVA

I'm fine.

Sierra grabs a pillow -- and lays it on the arm of the sofa -
- Ava lays her head on the pillow -- and closes her eyes --
Sierra covers her with a comforter -- She steps out of the
living room --

DALLAS (V.O.)

Life's a big mystery. We never know
what's going to happen. I guess
it's about what we do with it that
matters. Here's to a happy life,
and to the two children I left
behind. To my beautiful
granddaughter, Starla. Take care.

FADE OUT:

THE END