

Swan

Screenplay by

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"There's a profound emptiness, a sense of loss and despair, that nearly destroys me from the inside. I become acutely aware of the space within my body, the hollow that longs to be made whole by his power. My body is primed, and painfully ravenous. The need, the angry ache, demands to be sated. I long for my sorcerer."

— L.B. Alexander, *Swan Lake*

FADE IN:

EXT. GARDEN-NIGHT

A man lies asleep on the grass of the garden. Underneath the **swamp tree**. NICK VALENS, 40. Custodian. A dead man stuck in the garden until the rapture. Humble and generous.

A **swan** swims in a pond five feet away from Nick.

A woman in a **black cloak** appears from behind the swamp tree. DEVIL, early 20s. A subtle and chaotic woman destroying who she wants when she wants. She steps towards Nick and crouches down to her knees.

NICK (V.O.)
Here she comes again -- to torment
me some more --

The Devil leans her mouth towards his ear. She licks his face with her snake tongue.

The swan flies towards the Devil -- The Devil backs away --

Nick opens his eyes --

NICK
Where'd you come from!

The swan returns to the pond.

NICK (CONT'D)
(blink eyes)

A girl dances around the garden. BRITTNEY, 18. A ballerina. Feeling rebellious against her strict parents.

NICK (V.O.)
It always comes back to her. The
girl that got away.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR AREA-THE DERBY-NIGHT

SUPER: 1991 LOS ANGELES

A young man sits on a stool, across from the bar table. NICK, 16, a high school dropout. A troubled but smart teenager living with his drug addicted mother. Nick grips his fingers onto an **ID card**.

Brittney sits on a stool across from Nick. He glances at her and looks away.

BRITTNEY
Hi?

NICK
Hi.

BARTENDER, early 40s.

BARTENDER
ID, please?

Nick holds his ID card up to the Bartender's face.

The Bartender snatches it away and takes a closer look --

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Okay.

The Bartender hands it back to Nick --

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
-- And you miss?

Brittney reaches into her purse -- and hands the Bartender her ID card -- He takes a closer look --

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Alright. What can I get for you?

BRITTNEY
A shot of whiskey.

The Bartender looks at Nick.

BARTENDER
You?

NICK
A bottle of beer.

BRITTNEY
He'll have a shot too.

BARTENDER
Cool.

The Bartender slams two shot glasses down on the bar table and pours the whiskey.

Brittney drops two twenty-dollar bills down. He takes the money off the bar table.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
She's a keeper.

The Bartender steps away.

Nick leans towards her.

NICK
Why?

BRITTNEY
You sounded like an amateur. You're
welcome!

Brittney grabs a shot glass and takes the shot. She slams it
down --

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
-- Ahh!!

Nick grabs the other shot glass. He looks at Brittney --

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
-- What are you waiting for,
Christmas!

Nick takes the shot --

NICK
(gag)

BRITTNEY
Shh!

NICK
Why?

BRITTNEY
It's my birthday.

NICK
And you come to a bar?

BRITTNEY
Of course. Only squares go to
Disneyland.

Nick smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI-NIGHT

Nick's face lays against Brittney's chest.

TAXI DRIVER, mid 20s.

The taxi stops.

The Taxi Driver looks back at Brittney.

TAXI DRIVER

Twenty.

BRITTNEY

Right.

CUT TO:

EXT. PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Brittney taps Nick on the cheek.

BRITTNEY

Snap out of it!

Nick opens his eyes. He looks at Brittney, mesmerized by her eyes.

NICK

You're pretty.

Brittney smiles.

BRITTNEY

Come on.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Nick lies asleep.

Brittney sits across from him. She touches his face.

Nick grabs a hold of her hand. He opens his eyes.

NICK

Good night.

Nick kisses her hand. He closes his eyes and turns to his right side.

BRITTNEY
Good night.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Nick walks into the kitchen. He holds his throbbing head from the hangover.

Brittney stands in front of the stove, scrapping **scrambled eggs** onto a **plate**.

Nick looks at Brittney.

NICK
Hey.

Brittney looks at Nick.

BRITTNEY
Good morning.

Nick steps towards the counter.

Brittney slides the plate of scrambled eggs to Nick.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
Scrambled eggs!

Nick looks away.

NICK
I -- can't.

BRITTNEY
I made them myself.

Nick looks around.

NICK
Nice place you have here.

BRITTNEY
Thanks.

NICK
Where are your parents?

BRITTNEY
Vacation.

NICK
On your birthday?

BRITTNEY
I'm used to it.

NICK
Can we take a walk?

BRITTNEY
Sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH-DAY

Brittney walks.

Nick walks. He looks at her.

BRITTNEY
(laugh)
What?

NICK
Nothing.

BRITTNEY
You never told me about your
parents.

NICK
My mom's a waitress.

BRITTNEY
And your dad?

NICK
Never met him. He left before I was
born.

BRITTNEY
I'm sorry.

NICK
It's fine.

BRITTNEY
She must be worried about you.

NICK
Don't hold your breath.

Nick looks around.

BRITTNEY
Are you ready to head back?

NICK
Sure.

Brittney starts walking.

Nick starts walking.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN-DAY

A hand reaches over Nick's shoulder. The Devil leans her mouth towards his ear.

DEVIL
Was it worth it?

NICK
Every second.

Nick looks down at the pond.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Nick sits back on the sofa. He looks around.

Brittney steps into the living room.

Nick looks at her.

Brittney looks at Nick.

BRITTNEY
What?

NICK
It's been a while since I've seen
beauty.

Brittney smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

Brittney looks around the limousine and then at Nick.

BRITTNEY

I can have the driver take you home.

NICK

Sure.

Brittney grabs her duffle bag and opens the passenger door. She gets out and shuts the door.

Nick looks outside the window.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER, early 30s.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER

Where do you want me to take you, sir?

NICK

Can I have five minutes outside, please?

LIMOUSINE DRIVER

Sure.

Nick opens the passenger door, and steps out.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANCE STUDIO-DAY

Nick steps towards the window. He looks inside the dance studio.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO-DAY

BALLERINA #1, #2 and #3. 16, 17 and 18.

Ballerina #1 looks at Nick.

BALLERINA #1

Ugh! Look!

BALLERINA #2

Someone needs to alert the police.

Brittney looks at Nick. A saddened look on her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANCE STUDIO-CONTINUOUS

Nick steps towards the limousine. He opens the door.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO-CONTINUOUS

DANCE INSTRUCTOR, early 40s.

DANCE INSTRUCTOR
Silence!

The Dance Instructor hits the **play button** on the **CD player**.

"Vogue" by Madonna plays.

Ballerinas #1 and #2 jump in the air with the Dance Instructor.

Brittney looks down at her feet. She stares outside the window.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

The limousine stops.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER
Have a good day, sir.

NICK
Thank you.

Nick opens the passenger door and steps out.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Nick steps into the kitchen. MARY JANE, 34. A waitress and stripper. A humble woman living with an addiction for drugs and a man's attention.

"My Baby" by Janis Joplin plays.

Mary Jane moves her butt to the beat of the music.

NICK

Mom!!

Mary Jane looks back at Nick.

MARY JANE

What! I can have fun too.

Mary Jane steps towards Nick. She touches his face and looks at his eyes.

NICK

Can we watch a movie tonight?

MARY JANE

Wish we could baby, but I got to work tonight.

NICK

Okay.

Mary Jane reaches into her pocket and pulls out a twenty-dollar bill. She hands it to Nick.

Nick takes the money.

MARY JANE

Go rent some movies. We can watch them tomorrow.

NICK

Thanks.

Nick turns around and takes two steps.

MARY JANE

Nicholas?

Nick looks back at Mary Jane.

Mary Jane steps towards Nick. She hugs him and kisses him on the cheek.

NICK'S POV:

Nick sees himself as an infant. The infant lays against her chest.

BACK TO SCENE

Nick kisses Mary Jane on the cheek. She backs away.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Go have fun!

Nick steps out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO STORE-NIGHT

Looking at the newest selection of **VHS tapes**. Nick grabs a copy of **Predator 2**.

NICK
This looks good.

Nick glances at a copy of **Ghost**.

NICK (CONT'D)
Perfect.

A VHS tape of **Total Recall** catches his eye. Nick grabs it and steps towards the counter.

Stephanie, 17. Video store clerk. Hardworking and straight forward person

Stephanie looks at the selections.

STEPHANIE
Great selection.

NICK
Thanks.

STEPHANIE
They kind of tell what you like.

NICK
What's that?

STEPHANIE
You like a lot of action and drama.

NICK
Is that bad?

STEPHANIE
No. It actually makes a girl want to know you more.
(MORE)

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
I get off in ten minutes. We can
watch these together.

NICK
You mean like a date?

STEPHANIE
Sure.

NICK
How much?

STEPHANIE
Five.

Nick hands Stephanie the money. Stephanie takes it and counts
out his change. She hands it to him.

Nick grabs the money from her hand.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Their eyes on the television screen.

Stephanie looks at Nick.

STEPHANIE
Why have I never seen you in
school?

NICK
I'm a dropout.

STEPHANIE
What happened?

NICK
Got tired. Do you like school?

STEPHANIE
Kind of.

NICK
What do you want to do?

STEPHANIE
Psychology.

NICK
Really. Is that what you did back
in the video store?

STEPHANIE

Sort of.

NICK

Can you guess what I want to do now?

STEPHANIE

From the looks of it, your heart is racing because you have a girl in your house and your mother's not home. It says you're still a virgin.

NICK

Shh! Not so loud.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Stephanie steps into the bedroom.

Nick steps in behind her.

Stephanie turns around. She lifts her shirt over her head and tosses it to the floor.

STEPHANIE

Come here.

Nick steps towards her.

Stephanie grabs his hand. She places it on her chest.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Bet you never got to touch these before.

NICK

Nope.

Stephanie leans towards Nick and kisses him.

She steps back towards the bed. Nick leans his forehead to hers. He kisses her.

STEPHANIE

That a boy.

Nick grabs a hold of the comforter and covers himself.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Brittney steps into the bedroom. She sits on the edge of the bed. A glass of water in her hand. She takes a sip.

Brittney glances at a ***folded-up piece*** of ***paper***. She leans down and picks it up.

BRITTNEY
(read)
Nicholas Valens.

Brittney smiles. Her eyes wander around the room.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Asleep in bed with Stephanie.

MARY JANE
Nicholas!!

NICK
Hmm --

MARY JANE
Good morning! Get up!

Nick moves the blanket off.

Mary Jane looks at Stephanie's bare back. She looks away.

NICK
Mom!

MARY JANE
Sorry but she's got to go.

NICK
I'll inform her.

MARY JANE
(point)
There's a girl waiting for you in
our living room. You might want to
talk to her. She's a beauty.

NICK
Thanks mom.

Mary Jane closes the door as she steps out.

Nick pushes Stephanie.

NICK (CONT'D)
Get up!

STEPHANIE
(grunt)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Mary Jane steps into the living room.

MARY JANE
Can I get you something to drink?

BRITTNEY
No thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

Stephanie slides her shirt down, covering her bare breast.

STEPHANIE
What's the rush!!

NICK
You got to go!

Stephanie climbs out of the open window.

NICK (CONT'D)
I'll call you!

STEPHANIE
Lies!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Nick steps into the living room. He looks at Brittney.

NICK
Hi!

BRITTNEY
Hello.
(wave)

Brittney stands up.

NICK
What brings you to my neck of the woods?

BRITTNEY
I wanted to talk to you. I guess I felt bad.

Mary Jane steps out of the living room.

Nick looks back at Mary Jane. He looks at Brittney.

NICK
How did you get here?

BRITTNEY
The bus.

NICK
You took the bus?

BRITTNEY
Yes. Why?

NICK
The bus sucks.

Nick looks at the clothes she has on.

NICK (CONT'D)
Are you going back to dance practice?

BRITTNEY
No. I'm going to perform at the theatre? Do you want to come?

Nick looks back at Mary Jane.

MARY JANE
(wave)
Go!

Brittney steps towards the front door.

BRITTNEY
It was nice meeting you.

MARY JANE
Please come back and visit.

BRITTNEY
I promise.

Nick grabs the doorknob. He looks at Mary Jane.

NICK
Movie night.

The door closes.

Mary Jane smiles.

MARY JANE
(laugh)

CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER-DAY

Nick looks at the entrance to the theatre. He looks at Brittney and smiles.

Brittney reaches her hand out for his.

BRITTNEY
Come on.

Nick grabs a hold of her hand.

Brittney walks him into the theatre.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-LOS ANGELES THEATRE-DAY

Nick sits down in the middle section.

NICK
(breath)

SNOBBY LADY, mid-50s.

A Snobby Lady looks at Nick. Nick looks at her.

NICK (CONT'D)
A good day in the theatre, you
know.
(clap)
Woohoo!!

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM-LOS ANGELES THEATRE-DAY

Brittney stands up from her stool. She looks at herself in the mirror.

Ballerina #1 steps towards Brittney.

BALLERINA #1
Why would you invite that loser to
this?

BRITTNEY
I like him.

BALLERINA #1
What do you like about him?

BRITTNEY
One, he doesn't care what people
think of him.

BALLERINA #1
Are you coming down with something?

Ballerina #1 feels Brittney's forehead. Brittney pushes her hand away.

BRITTNEY
It's showtime.

Brittney steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-LOS ANGELES THEATRE-CONTINUOUS

The curtains open. The ballerina's dance on the stage. They gather around, surrounding Brittney. She spins herself around.

Nick stands to his feet.

NICK
(clap)
Woohoo!!

SNOBBY LADY
Shh!!

NICK
You shh!!

Brittney smiles as she spins into the male lead's arms.
EDWARD, 18. Dancer. A down to earth man feeling pressure to be perfect.

Nick looks at Edward, and the way he has his hands all over Brittney.

Nick looks away.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-LOS ANGELES THEATRE-DAY

Nick stands. He looks around.

Brittney steps towards him.

BRITTNEY
Hi.

NICK
Hello.

BRITTNEY
How'd you like it?

NICK
You dance well.

BRITTNEY
Thanks. I like you to meet someone.

Edward steps towards Brittney and Nick.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
Edward, this is Nick. Nick, this is Edward.

Edward reaches his hand out.

Nick shakes his hand.

NICK
Nice to meet you.

EDWARD
Same.

BRITTNEY
All of us were just going out for
pizza. Would you like to join us?

NICK
I got to get home. Sorry.

Nick turns around and walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER-DAY

Nick steps away from the exit doors.

BRITTNEY
Hey!

Nick stops and looks back at Brittney.

NICK
Yes!

Brittney steps towards Nick.

BRITTNEY
Did I do something?

NICK
I really got to get home.

BRITTNEY
Do you think Edward is my
boyfriend?

NICK
He was kind of handsy.

BRITTNEY
He was but not anymore.

NICK
I better go.

Nick turns around and walks away from her.

BRITTNEY
I'll call you later.

Nick looks back at Brittney.

NICK
Sure.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Nick walks into the living room.

MARY JANE (O.C.)
Hey!

NICK
Yeah?

Mary Jane looks at Nick with a surprised look on her face.

MARY JANE
Did you have fun?

NICK
Yeah.

MARY JANE
Where's your girlfriend?

NICK
She's not my girlfriend.

MARY JANE
Yes, she is.

NICK
No.

MARY JANE
You didn't see how that girl was looking.

NICK
What look?

MARY JANE
I was in love once too.

NICK
Then my father got you pregnant.

MARY JANE
Sometimes we love the wrong one but
you -- she loves you.

NICK
Okay -- I'm going to go read
something now.

MARY JANE
I'll see you in the morning baby.

Mary Jane stands up from the couch and steps towards Nick.
She kisses Nick on the cheek.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Good night.

NICK
Night mom.

MARY JANE
Love you sweetie.

Mary Jane opens the front door and steps outside. The door
shuts.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-PIZZA PARLOR-NIGHT

Brittney sits.

Ballerinas #1 and #2 sit on her right side.

Edward sits on her left.

Brittney looks at the remaining slices set on the tray.

WAITER, early 30s.

A Waiter steps towards the table. He grabs the tray.

BRITTNEY
Wait!

WAITER
Yes?

BRITTNEY
Can I take the rest of that to go?

WAITER
Sure.

Brittney stands up.

BRITTNEY
If you would excuse me.

Brittney rolls over the table.

BALLERINA #1
Where are you going!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Nick sits up on the bed, looking through a book.

A knock on the window.

Nick gets up and steps towards the window. He looks at Brittney. Nick pulls the window up.

NICK
What are you doing here?

BRITTNEY
I had to see you.

NICK
For?

BRITTNEY
Can I come in?

Nick opens the window wider. Brittney reaches her hand out to his. Nick pulls her in.

Brittney drops to the floor.

NICK
Sorry.

Nick crouches down and grabs her from her waist. He stands her up to her feet.

BRITTNEY
Thank you.

NICK
No problem.

Nick steps towards his bed. He sits.

BRITTNEY
Is your mom home?

NICK
Working.

Brittney sits on the edge of the bed. She reaches into her purse and pulls out a **foil wrapped plate**.

BRITTNEY
I brought you some pizza.

NICK
Thanks.

Nick takes it and unwraps it. He grabs a slice and takes a bite. Nick chews. He looks at Brittney.

NICK (CONT'D)
Sorry, was I chewing too loud?

BRITTNEY
No, you're fine.

Nick sets the pizza down.

NICK
Why are you here?

BRITTNEY
I told you, I wanted to see you.

Brittney leans towards Nick. She kisses him.

Nick looks at her. He smiles and kisses her back.

Brittney falls back to the pillow.

Nick gets on top of her. He kisses her with authority.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

The front door opens.

Mary Jane steps into the living room. She drops down to the couch and leans back.

MARY JANE
(breath)

Mary Jane closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN-NIGHT

Nick sits and leans his back against the swamp tree.

A serpent crawls its way down the tree.

NICK
Don't even think about it.

The Devil steps out from behind the swamp tree.

DEVIL
Sometimes, being a little naughty
can get you the girl of your
dreams.

NICK
I made the right choice.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Nick stops.

Brittney opens her eyes. She looks at Nick with a surprised
look on her face.

BRITTNEY
What's the matter?

NICK
This doesn't seem right.

BRITTNEY
What?

NICK
Us, this.

BRITTNEY
Sex?

NICK
Yes.

BRITTNEY
What, you don't want to?

CUT TO:

INT. TRAVEL BUS-NIGHT

Nick sits in the back of the travel bus with Brittney.

Brittney looks at Nick. She smiles.

Nick reaches his hand out for hers.

Brittney grabs a hold of his hand.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-WEDDING CHAPEL-NIGHT

Nick and Brittney stand across from each other. A man in front of them. REVEREND, early 50s.

REVEREND
Are you ready?

Nick reaches for her hand.

Brittney grabs a hold of his hand. She smiles.

NICK
Are you ready?

BRITTNEY
(breath)
Ready.

REVEREND
Alright -- We are gathered together
to celebrate the very special love
between Nicholas and Brittney, by
joining them in marriage.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #124-MOTEL-NIGHT

"You've Got It (The Right Stuff)" by New Kids On the Block
plays.

Brittney drops down to the bed. Nick climbs on top of her, kissing her. Brittney wraps her arms around Nick's back.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Mary Jane paces back and forth. A cigarette in between her fingers.

MARY JANE
Where are you baby.

Mary Jane steps towards the window and opens the curtains.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #124-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Brittney lays underneath the covers. She looks at Nick. Brittney moves closer to Nick and kisses him on the cheek. She closes her eyes.

BRITTNEY
(breath)

NICK (V.O.)
Whoa! The thought was not even in
our minds. This is how it happened!

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM-WEDDING CHAPEL-NIGHT

Brittney stands in front of a mirror. She brushes her hand through her hair.

MONTAGE

- Brittney puts on mascara.
- Brittney puts on blush.
- Brittney puts on pink lipstick.

BACK TO SCENE

Brittney looks at herself in the mirror and admires the **white dress** she is wearing.

She grabs the **veil** from the top of the **vanity**.

BRITTNEY
You got this.

Brittney steps towards the door and pulls it open.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-WEDDING CHAPEL-NIGHT

Nick and Brittney stand in front of the Reverend.

Brittney looks at Nick and admires how handsome he is.

BRITTNEY
You look great.

NICK
You look beautiful.

BRITTNEY
Thank you.

Nick kisses her hand.

REVEREND
Hey! Save that until after I'm
finished, please.

NICK
Sorry.

REVEREND
You may now kiss the bride!

Nick kisses Brittney.

He lifts her up from the floor.

BRITTNEY
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-BUFFET RESTAURANT-NIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHER, early 20s.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Can I get a picture of the
newlyweds?

Nick looks at Brittney and then looks back at the Photographer.

NICK
How could you tell?

PHOTOGRAPHER
Look at her! She's happy.

NICK
Okay.

The Photographer steps back.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Say cheese!

NICK
Cheese!!

BRITTNEY
Cheese!!

The **light** flashes on the **camera**.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM #244-HOTEL-NIGHT

Brittney sits on the bed. She looks at the **photograph** of her and Nick.

BRITTNEY
I see what he was talking about.

Nick steps towards Brittney. He takes the photograph out of her hands and sets it down on the **nightstand**. Nick leans his head towards hers. He kisses her nose.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
How are we going to explain this?

NICK
Let me worry about that, okay?

BRITTNEY
Okay.

Nick climbs onto the bed and rests his head on the pillow.

NICK
Come here!

Brittney lays next to him. Face to face. Brittney smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)
Tomorrow, we go have a little fun.

Brittney kisses him and closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. CASINO-DAY

Nick and Brittney step towards a **blackjack table**.

BRITTNEY
That's the last bit of our money,
Nick.

NICK
We got this.

Nick drops his hand down with three-hundred-dollars' worth of twenties.

DEALER, early 20s.

The Dealer looks at Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)
Give me three-hundred dollars'
worth of chips, please?

DEALER
It's a hundred-dollar game, sir.

NICK
That's why I'm here.

DEALER
Have a seat, sir.

The Dealer slides the three-hundred-dollar chips towards him.

NICK
Let's play.

The Dealer lays two **playing cards** down on the table. A ten and a six.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hit me again!

Brittney leans herself onto Nick's side. She bites onto her nails, feeling nervous.

The Dealer hits the other cards with a five.

BRITTNEY
(breath)

NICK
Stay!

MONTAGE

-- Dealer hits a five card.
-- Dealer hits a six card.
-- Dealer hits a five card.

BACK TO SCENE

The Dealer hits the other cards with a five card.
Brittney stands to her feet.

BRITTNEY
Woohoo!!

The Dealer looks at Brittney.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
I'm going to the buffet bar.

Brittney steps away from the table.

DEALER
Your girlfriend seems excited.

NICK
That's my wife.

DEALER
Congratulations.

NICK
Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFET-CASINO-DAY

Brittney digs through a plateful of *salad*.
Nick steps towards the table.
Brittney looks at Nick.

BRITTNEY
How'd we do?

Nick sits down with a disappointed look on his face. He drops his head down on the table.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
That bad huh?

Nick raises his arms up to the table. His hands full of cash. Nick looks at Brittney with a smile on his face.

NICK
I had you going!
(laugh)

Brittney throws a *napkin* at Nick.

BRITTNEY
Not funny!

NICK
Now we can do whatever we want.

BRITTNEY
Are we going back to LA?

NICK
Yes.

BRITTNEY
What are we going to do?

NICK
We are married. We'll figure it out later. Come on?

Brittney stands up.

Nick stands up. He wraps his arms around her and walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAVEL BUS-NIGHT

Brittney has her head leaned on Nick's shoulder.

Nick wraps his arm around her. He leans his head against hers. Nick closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

SUPER: TWO DAYS LATER

Nick stands in the middle of the living room.

Brittney walks around, admiring their new apartment. She looks at Nick.

BRITTNEY

I love it!

Brittney runs and hugs Nick. She kisses him.

NICK

(laugh)

Nick drops to the floor with Brittney underneath him. He lays on top of her. Face to face.

Brittney smiles.

Nick kisses her.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

The bedroom window goes up. Nick climbs in. He drops to the floor and stands to his feet.

Nick looks at Mary Jane, laying on his bed. A framed photograph in her arms, pressed against her chest.

He steps towards his mother and crouches down. He kisses her on the forehead. Nick stands to his feet and steps out of the bedroom.

Mary Jane opens her eyes. She sits up and looks around the bedroom.

MARY JANE

Nicholas!!

Mary Jane rushes out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Mary Jane opens the door.

MARY JANE
Nicholas!!!

Mary Jane shuts the door. She leans herself against the door.
Mary Jane slides down to the floor. She covers her face.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
(sob)

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO STORE-NIGHT

Stephanie sits behind the desk. She flips through a magazine.

Nick walks in.

Stephanie looks at him.

STEPHANIE
Well, look what the cat dragged in.

Nick looks at the shelves of movie boxes.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
What brings you in?

NICK
Do you sell VCR's?

STEPHANIE
Maybe. Who's asking?

Nick looks at Stephanie.

NICK
Me.

STEPHANIE
We have the state of the art.

NICK
How much?

STEPHANIE
A hundred bucks.

Nick thinks to himself.

NICK
You wouldn't by any chance have a
camera recorder, would you?

STEPHANIE
Why? Are you trying to make your
own movies?

NICK
Yeah. I got to start sometime.

STEPHANIE
You're looking at three hundred.

NICK
Deal.

Stephanie steps towards the door to the storage room.

STEPHANIE
I'll be right back.

Nick steps towards the front desk.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Brittney opens her eyes. She sits up.

NICK
Good morning!

Brittney looks at the *camera recorder* and Nick.

BRITTNEY
(laugh)
Where did you get that thing?

NICK
I bought it.

BRITTNEY
Babe, we're married now. We have to
be more responsible with our
finances.

Nick lowers the camera recorder.

NICK
(laugh)
What?

BRITTNEY
I'm sorry. I sounded real lame.

Brittney stands up.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
I have to go to my parents' house.
I got more stuff to pick up.

Brittney steps into the bathroom.

NICK
Do you want me to go with you?

BRITTNEY (O.S.)
I'll be fine.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

Brittney looks out the window.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER
I can wait for you.

BRITTNEY
It's fine. Come back in an hour.

Brittney opens the passenger door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney steps into the living room. She sets a box down of all her **nicknacks**. Brittney looks around the living room. A woman stands across the room. LAUREN, 40. A married woman recently separated. Self-centered and selfish.

BRITTNEY
Hi, mom.

LAUREN
Brittney!

BRITTNEY
When did you get home?

Lauren steps towards Brittney.

LAUREN
Where have you been?

Lauren touches Brittney's cheek.

BRITTNEY

Out.

LAUREN

For two days.

BRITTNEY

Where's dad?

LAUREN

He's taking a long vacation.

Lauren steps away from her.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

We're getting a divorce.

BRITTNEY

Why?

LAUREN

It's marriage business, honey. Let mom take care of it. On the bright side, we get to keep the penthouse. Got to go! Tootles!

Lauren blows Brittney a kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-CONTINUOUS

The limousine stops.

Brittney's eyes wander.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER

We're here miss.

Brittney looks at the Limousine Driver.

BRITTNEY

Thanks.

Brittney opens the passenger door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

The door closes. Brittney walks into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Brittney looks around the kitchen.

Nick stands up. A pot in his hand. He looks at Brittney.

NICK

Hey!

BRITTNEY

Hi.

Nick leans down.

NICK

I hope you're hungry.

BRITTNEY

Starved! I could eat a horse.

Brittney sits on a stool.

NICK

I'm sorry, I don't cook Mr. Ed's.

BRITTNEY

It was a figure of speech.

Nick lifts a hot pan from the oven, onto the counter.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

(sniff)

Smells great.

Nick walks around the counter and lifts Brittney off the stool.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Nick lifts her up into his arms.

NICK

We never got to do it properly.

Nick walks her into the bedroom. He shuts the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Nick and Brittney lie in bed, asleep.

An alarm sounds off.

Nick opens his eyes.

Brittney looks at Nick.

NICK
Good morning.

Nick kisses her on the forehead.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

Brittney sits in the bathtub, soaking.

Nick steps into the bathroom. He crouches down.

NICK
I'll be back.

BRITTNEY
Where are you going?

NICK
I have to go see someone. I'll meet
you at your dance practice.

Nick kisses Brittney. He stands up and walks out of the
bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-DAY

Mary Jane walks around the bar table.

Nick steps into the dining area. He sits at the bar table.

NICK
Is it alright if I play the
jukebox?

MARY JANE
I don't --

-- Mary Jane looks at Nick.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
-- Uh!

NICK
I can --

MARY JANE
Shh!

Mary Jane steps around the bar table -- and walks up to Nick.
She kisses him on the cheek and hugs him with all her
strength. She looks him in the eyes.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
You're grounded.

NICK
But --

MARY JANE
Shut up!

Mary Jane steps back.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Let's go have a talk, okay?

NICK
Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY-DAY

Nick sits while Mary Jane stands and looks at him.

MARY JANE
Where have you been for the past
two weeks?

NICK
Remember the girl that came by to
see me?

MARY JANE
Yes.

NICK
We went to Vegas and got married.

MARY JANE
Ugh!

Mary Jane turns away from Nick.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
(sob)

Nick stands up.

NICK
Say something?

MARY JANE
Do you love her?

NICK
Of course.

MARY JANE
That's all that matters.

Mary Jane steps towards Nick. She lays her hand on his cheek.
He kisses her hand.

NICK
Are you off soon?

MARY JANE
In ten minutes. Why?

NICK
I want you to see something.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO-DAY

Brittney stands and leans herself on a *fitness beam*.

DANCE INSTRUCTOR
Again ladies!

Brittney lifts her foot onto the fitness beam.

NICK (O.C.)
That looks like it hurts.

Brittney lowers her leg. She runs to Nick.

Nick lowers the camera recorder.

Brittney kisses him on the cheek.

BRITTNEY
I missed you.

NICK
I brought someone.

Nick steps away.

Brittney looks at Mary Jane. She looks at Nick.

BRITTNEY
He told you.

MARY JANE
He did.

Mary Jane wraps her arms around Brittney.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Welcome to the family.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Brittney steps into the bedroom. She sits on the bed.

Nick lays in bed, asleep.

BRITTNEY
I love you.

She climbs onto the bed and rests her head on the pillows.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
(breath)

She looks at Nick.

Brittney smiles.

Her eyes close.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Nick sits on the floor of the living room.

NICK
(sob)

Mary Jane steps in. A saddened look on her face, watching her son in pain and unable to contain it.

Nick looks at her. He wraps his arms around her, hugging her.

Mary Jane crouches down. She hugs him.

NICK (CONT'D)
She's -- gone!

MARY JANE
Shh!!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

SUPER: 4 HOURS EARLIER

Nick sits on the couch while he puts on work boots.

Brittney steps towards him and hands him a *coffee mug*.

Nick takes it.

NICK
Thanks.

BRITTNEY
Good luck.

NICK
Thank you. What are you going to do today?

BRITTNEY
I don't know, maybe I'll come see you, bring you lunch.

NICK
How about I take you out for dinner.

BRITTNEY
That would be nice.

Nick stands to his feet. He kisses Brittney on the cheek.
Nick steps towards the door.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

Nick?

NICK

Yes?

BRITTNEY

I love you.

Nick looks at Brittney.

NICK

I love you too.

Nick opens the door and steps out.

Brittney watches the door close.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS-DAY

Brittney stands at a crosswalk. She patiently waits for the walk signal to come. The signal comes. Brittney steps between the two white lines. A car swerves and drives straight for Brittney.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-DAY

DOCTOR, early 30s.

Lauren stands in front of the Doctor.

LAUREN

Remember, stick to the script.

Nick rushes down the hallway. He steps towards the Doctor.

NICK

How is she?

The Doctor's face shows no sign of relief for Nick. Nick's eyes drop to the ground.

Lauren touches Nick's shoulder.

LAUREN

I'm sorry.

Lauren hugs Nick. She looks at the Doctor and smirks. A frown forms on her face.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Go home. I'll be in touch shortly.

Nick turns around and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Brittney lays in bed. She opens her eyes.

Lauren stands over Brittney.

Brittney looks at Lauren.

BRITTNEY
Mom?

LAUREN
How are you feeling?

Lauren leans down and hugs Brittney.

BRITTNEY
When can I go home?

Lauren backs up.

LAUREN
Soon.

Lauren touches Brittney's cheek with the palm of her hand.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Get some rest. I'll be back to
check on you in a bit.

BRITTNEY
Okay.

Lauren steps out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-CONTINUOUS

Lauren counts out cash and hands it to the Doctor.

LAUREN

Thanks, Doctor. It worked like a charm.

The Doctor takes the cash.

DOCTOR

Thanks, but I'm actually a good doctor. Don't you want to know the results?

LAUREN

What results?

DOCTOR

Your daughter is pregnant.

LAUREN

What?

DOCTOR

A week now.

LAUREN

That man --

DOCTOR

I'm not a psychiatrist, or a mind reader but from what you did to that man. Taking the woman, he loves -- away. That's cold.

The Doctor steps away.

Lauren thinks to herself.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Nick sits on his knees.

TV SCREEN

Brittney dances around.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary Jane steps towards Nick.

MARY JANE
Nicholas?

NICK
I just want to watch it one more
time.

Mary Jane grabs the remote from Nick's hand. She switches off the television.

MARY JANE
Let's go to bed.

Mary Jane drops the remote to the couch. Nick stands to his feet. Mary Jane walks him to his bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney stands in the middle of the living room. An empty space of her former home.

Lauren walks in.

LAUREN
Are you ready?

BRITTNEY
Yeah.

CUT TO:

EXT. PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney looks up at the penthouse.

Lauren steps towards the limousine.

LAUREN
Come on sweetie.

Brittney steps towards the limousine and climbs in.

Lauren sits down in the passenger seat and shuts the door. Her eyes on the Limousine Driver. The Limousine Driver looks back at Lauren.

LAUREN (V.O.)
Who is this guy she's with all the
time?

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-PENTHOUSE-DAY

SUPER: ONE WEEK EARLIER

LIMOUSINE DRIVER
He's --

LAUREN
Remember, your job hangs in the
balance.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER
He's, her husband.

LAUREN
She married him!
(laugh)

Lauren steps away. She turns back to him.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
The marriage is over. Starting now!

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

Brittney feels her stomach.

LAUREN
How do you feel?

BRITTNEY
Alright. I can feel her kicking me.

LAUREN
Her.

BRITTNEY
It feels like a girl. What do you
think?

LAUREN
Yeah. Whatever you say, honey.

BRITTNEY
I just wish I knew who the father
is.

Lauren looks out the window.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO STORE-NIGHT

Nick stands in front of the shelves of the VHS tapes.

"Wildwood Flower" by June Carter plays.

Stephanie steps alongside of him.

STEPHANIE
Hey.

NICK
Hi.

STEPHANIE
It's been a while.

NICK
Yeah.

STEPHANIE
We got new movies yesterday. Do you
care to have a look?

NICK
Sure.

STEPHANIE
Come with me.

Stephanie grabs a hold of Nick's hand. She walks him towards
the storage room.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRST CLASS-AIRPLANE-NIGHT

Brittney sits by the window.

Lauren takes a sip of her **cup** of **scotch**. She looks at
Brittney.

LAUREN
Goodbye LA. Hello New York!

BRITTNEY
I hope it's calmer.

LAUREN
It will be.

Lauren touches Brittney's hand.

Brittney leans her head back.

BRITTNEY
I love you mom.

LAUREN
Love you too.

Brittney closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. STORAGE ROOM-VIDEO STORE-NIGHT

Stephanie sits on the *copy machine*.

Nick kisses her neck.

She pulls down her *panties*.

Nick unbuckles his belt and let's his pants drop to the floor. He presses himself against her.

STEPHANIE
(moan)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Mary Jane sits on the couch, reading a romance novel.

Nick steps into the living room with Stephanie.

Mary Jane looks at Nick and then at Stephanie.

STEPHANIE
Hi.

MARY JANE
Hello.

NICK
I rented some movies for us to
watch.

MARY JANE
Cool. Nicholas, can I talk to you
in the kitchen for a minute?

NICK
Sure.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Mary Jane steps towards the counter. Nick folds his arms.

NICK
What is it?

MARY JANE
Don't you think you're moving too
fast?

NICK
What do you mean?

MARY JANE
You just lost your wife.

NICK
What am I supposed to do, wait for
her to come back.

MARY JANE
Honey, she died. You're not
grieving.

NICK
People grieve differently, mom.
I'll be in my room with my company.

Nick steps out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Brittney stands in front of a mirror.

MONTAGE

-- Brittney at three months.

-- Brittney at six months.

-- Brittney at nine months.

BACK TO SCENE

Brittney feels around her stomach.

CUT TO:

INT. DELIVERY ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Brittney lies in bed.

BRITTNEY
(pant)

DOCTOR, early 40s.

DOCTOR
Just one more push, Brittney!

Brittney pushes with all her strength.

BRITTNEY
Ahh!!

DOCTOR
Here she is!

NURSE, early 30s.

The Doctor hands the newborn to the Nurse. The Nurse takes the newborn to the clean-up station.

Brittney turns her back to the Doctor.

The Nurse wraps the newborn into a blanket. She walks her over to Brittney.

Brittney hides her face.

BRITTNEY
Get it away!

The Nurse steps away.

DOCTOR
Take her out of here!

The Nurse walks out of the delivery room.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

The Nurse steps towards Lauren. Lauren stands up. She looks down at the newborn.

LAUREN
What is it?

NURSE
A girl.

LAUREN
And my daughter?

NURSE
She doesn't want it.

LAUREN
Good. Can I hold her?

NURSE
Sure.

The Nurse hands Lauren the newborn and steps away.

Lauren rocks the newborn.

LAUREN
We're going to find you a home, far
away. Yes!

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

The newborn sleeps in the carrier.

Lauren looks at the newborn. She smiles and then looks away.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Lauren sits on the sofa, The newborn rest in the carrier.
MAGGIE OWENS, 20. A waitress. A sweet woman, wanting nothing more than to be a mother. Maggie rushes out.

MAGGIE

Hi.

LAUREN

You must be Maggie. I heard a lot about you.

MAGGIE

(laugh)

Really? Hope it was all good.

Maggie reaches her hand out.

Lauren shakes Maggie's hand.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Can I?

LAUREN

She's all yours.

Maggie crouches down to her knees. She lifts the newborn out of the carrier. She lays her against her chest. Maggie rocks her.

MAGGIE

You're a pretty little girl, aren't you? Yes, you are.

Lauren steps towards the front door.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Tell your daughter that I hope it gets better. She can see her anytime.

LAUREN

I'll let her know.

Lauren opens the door. She steps out. The door shuts.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT-COMPLEX-DAY

Lauren stands across from a man. The man hands Lauren five-thousand-dollars. RICH OWENS, 28. A construction worker. A dishonest and deceitful man trying to please his wife.

RICH
What kind of woman sells her own
grandchild?

LAUREN
The one that wants her daughter to
live a life of happiness and not
have a little brat sucking the life
out of her.

Lauren slides the cash into her purse.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Pleasure doing business with you.

RICH
Have a good life.

Lauren steps towards the limousine.

RICH (CONT'D)
What a cold woman.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Maggie rocks the newborn gently.

Rich steps into the living room. He shuts the door behind him.

Rich steps towards Maggie.

RICH
How is it going?

MAGGIE
She's happy.

RICH
What are we going to name her?

MAGGIE
Shelly.

RICH
Shelly Owens. I like the sound of
that.

Maggie lifts the newborn over her head.

MAGGIE
Beautiful Shelly.

Maggie lowers the newborn down to her chest.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Thank you. She's so beautiful.

Maggie kisses Rich on the cheek.

Rich stands up.

RICH
It's a good day to celebrate!

MAGGIE
What are you going to do?

RICH
Order some pizza.

Rich steps into the kitchen.

MAGGIE
Pizza?

RICH (O.S.)
Pizza!

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN-DAY

Nick opens his eyes. He sits up. A snake crawls onto his lap. He grabs a hold of its head. The snakes' fangs come out and hiss at him.

NICK
Didn't I tell you to go back to
hell!

Nick squeezes the snake's head. He tosses it to the ground.

DEVIL
That wasn't very nice.

NICK

Like you know how to be nice.

The Devil walks up to him.

DEVIL

I know more than you can imagine.

The Devil closes the hood of her cloak. She drops the cloak to the ground, revealing herself in the form of Brittney. Nick backs away from the nude Brittney. The Devil crouches down and crawls towards Nick.

Nick trips over his own foot. He covers his face and then his eyes.

NICK

Please God! Please God!! Please
God!!!

The Devil crawls up the tree.

DEVIL

(hiss)

Nick stands up. He looks up at the sky.

NICK

Please watch over me while I rest
once again. Just give me one more
vision of her. That's all I ask!

The sun shines brighter.

Nick looks at the Devil.

DEVIL

(hiss)

Nick closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO-DAY

Brittney twirls herself around the dance studio. She falls to the floor, hitting her head.

BRITTNEY

Ahh!

A woman rushes towards Brittney. CAROL, 30. Dance Instructor. Kind and smart.

CARL
Are you alright?

BRITTNEY
I'll be fine.

CARL
Are you sure because you're
bleeding on your head.

Brittney touches her head and looks at the blood on her fingertip.

CARL (CONT'D)
Come on.

CUT TO:

INT. EXAM ROOM-HOSPITAL-DAY

NURSE, early 30s.

The Nurse puts a **bandage** on the wound of Brittney's head.

BRITTNEY
Are the stitches going to leave a
nasty scar?

NURSE
Only if you mess with it.

The Nurse steps out of the exam room.

Brittney looks at Carol.

BRITTNEY
Thanks for bringing me here.

CAROL
Well, I can't have parents suing
me.

BRITTNEY
You won't get sued.

CAROL
Have you meant your mother.

BRITTNEY
You got a point.

CAROL
Come on, I'll take you home.

BRITTNEY
Can I just go back to the dance
studio?

CAROL
Are you nuts!

BRITTNEY
No. I only fell once.

Carol looks away.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
Please!

CAROL
Okay! Please, don't make me regret
this. If you fall again, you're
taking a taxi.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO-DAY

Brittney twirls around on the floor. She lands on her feet.

BRITTNEY'S POV:

Nick stands across from her. A camera recorder in his hands.

NICK
Come on, babe! Give it another
shot!

BACK TO SCENE

Brittney stares off into space.

Carol steps towards Brittney.

BRITTNEY
Did you see that?

CAROL
See what?

BRITTNEY
That man. He was talking to me.

Carol wraps her arm around Brittney's shoulder.

CAROL
Time to go home.

BRITTNEY
He was right there. I swear.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney steps towards the **center table** in the living room.

BRITTNEY'S POV:

A baby's wailing echoes through her ears.

BACK TO SCENE

HOUSEKEEPER, early 50s.

The Housekeeper grabs Brittney's shoulder.

HOUSEKEEPER
Miss!

Brittney covers her ears.

HOUSEKEEPER (CONT'D)
Are you alright?

Brittney lowers her hands down.

BRITTNEY
Yeah. I just need to take some
aspirin and lie down for a while.

HOUSEKEEPER
I'll bring it to you.

Brittney steps towards the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney lies asleep on her bed. Her eyes closed.

NICK (V.O.)
I love you.

BRITTNEY
I love you too.

Brittney opens her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney steps into the kitchen.

The Housekeeper is slicing **potatoes**.

Brittney leans her arms on the counter.

BRITTNEY
Where is my mother?

HOUSEKEEPER
I don't know miss. Why?

Brittney walks away.

BRITTNEY
Just tell her to stay put!

Brittney walks down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-PENTHOUSE-DAY

Brittney opens the closet door. She crouches down to a cardboard box. She opens it. Stacks of photographs at the top of the pile of paperwork. Photos of her and Nick.

BRITTNEY
(gasp)

Brittney grabs the photo. She looks at Nick's face.

NICK (V.O.)
I love you.

Her eyes filled with tears. Brittney wipes away the tears from her cheek. Brittney stands up. She looks at herself in the mirror.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS-DAY-FLASHBACK

A car drives straight towards Brittney.

BRITTNEY

Ahh!!

Brittney turns and runs into a **pole**. She falls to the ground.
In a daze, Brittney stares off into space.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-PENTHOUSE-BACK TO PRESENT

Brittney looks at herself in the mirror.

BRITTNEY

It wasn't a car accident. She
lied!!

Thunder sounds.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Lauren leans back against the wall of the elevator.

The doors open.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Lauren steps towards the center table. She sets her purse
down. She walks down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Lauren looks at herself in the mirror.

The bathroom light goes out.

Lauren looks up at the light.

LAUREN

Great!

The light comes on.

Lauren looks in the mirror and sees Brittney's face.

BRITTNEY

Hello.

Lauren turns around, feeling frightened.

LAUREN

Brittney, honey! What are you doing here?

Brittney lifts the photo of her and Nick.

BRITTNEY

You lied to me!

Lauren back away into the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-PENTHOUSE-NIGHT

Lauren backs away.

LAUREN

Calm down, please.

BRITTNEY

Admit it!

Lauren backs up towards the elevator doors.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

Admit it!!

LAUREN

Alright! I lied! I took what I felt was mine. I lied to your husband about you dying in a car accident!

The elevator doors open. Lauren falls down the elevator hole.

Brittney looks down.

BRITTNEY

Sorry.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-DAY

In the back yard, Mary Jane sits at the **picnic table**. Her eyes set on Nick.

Nick stands five feet away from Stephanie. He holds his **paper cup** close to his mouth.

NICK
Try not to drink too much.

STEPHANIE
Maybe you should worry about yourself.

NICK
Maybe you should just leave.

Stephanie tosses her paper cup to the ground.

STEPHANIE
Fine!

Nick watches Stephanie leave.

NICK
Good riddance!

MARY JANE
Nicholas!!

Nick looks at Mary Jane.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Come here!!

NICK
(roll eyes)

Nick steps towards Mary Jane.

NICK (CONT'D)
What!!

MARY JANE
Don't what me! Sit down!

Nick sits.

NICK
Yes, mother!

MARY JANE

(point)

Don't give me attitude. I don't deserve that from you. I've done nothing but give you everything you ever wanted.

Nick's face frowns with sadness. He looks down.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)

I know you're hurting -- I hurt the same way --

NICK

-- When Bob died.

MARY JANE

Yeah.

NICK

Did it hurt this much?

MARY JANE

Yes.

NICK

How do you deal with it?

MARY JANE

I think about the good times we had together. The same you're remembering. Memories never die, Nicholas. Just remember them.

Nick's eyes water.

Mary Jane stands up. She steps towards Nick and wraps her arms around him.

NICK

(sob)

Mary Jane kisses him on the forehead.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Lauren lies in a bed. A **ventilator** keeping her breathing.

Brittney sits across from her. She watches the air pushing from the ventilator, into Lauren's lungs.

Brittney stands up. She steps towards the plugs above Lauren's head.

BRITTNEY
 If I really wanted to, I could pull these plugs and let you flatline. That's what you took away from me -
 - But you're not worth going to hell for. Dad's taking me in. I'll be in Beverly Hills. We'll discuss what to do with you.

Brittney steps towards the door. She looks back at Lauren.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
 Goodbye.

Brittney walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS BOULEVARD-DAY

SUPER: NINE YEARS LATER

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
 My mother's dead -- Finally! What can I say, she took a lot from me. Now, I get to live my life.

A limousine drives through Beverly Hills. It turns into a driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-DAY

A woman walks into the living room. A **derby hat** over her head. BRITTNEY, 31. A ballet dancer. Ruthless, determined but compassionate at times.

MAID, early 30s.

The Maid stands in front of Brittney.

BRITTNEY
 Where's my father?

MAID
 He's on a business trip miss.

Brittney steps towards the stairsteps.

BRITTNEY
Did he leave a message?

MAID
He wants you to make yourself at home.

BRITTNEY
Anything else?

MAID
He left you your allowance.

BRITTNEY
How much?

MAID
No limit.

BRITTNEY
Thank you, dad!

Brittney looks up at the ceiling. She looks at the Maid.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
I'm going to go get out of these clothes. Could you have the limousine come back to pick me up in thirty minutes?

MAID
Yes, miss.

Brittney steps up the steps.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MANSION-DAY

Brittney steps towards the mirror. She looks at herself.

BRITTNEY
You can do this. Just remember, he still loves you.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

The limousine stops.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER
I'll be right here if you need me.

BRITTNEY
Thank you.

Brittney opens the passenger door. She stands up out of the back seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

Brittney steps towards the porch. She looks at the boarded-up windows and door.

NEIGHBOR, early 30s.

NEIGHBOR
Their gone!

Brittney looks at the Neighbor.

BRITTNEY
What happened to them?

NEIGHBOR
Mary Jane died years ago.

BRITTNEY
What about her son?

NEIGHBOR
He lives in a North Los Angeles suburban neighborhood.

BRITTNEY
Thanks.

Brittney turns around.

NEIGHBOR
Wait! Don't you want the address?

Brittney looks at the Neighbor.

BRITTNEY
You, have it?

NEIGHBOR
Of course, our mothers were friends. I'll go get it.

The Neighbor rushes into his house.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTH HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD-DAY

Brittney steps towards the door. She raises her hand to knock.

NICOLA (O.S.)
(laugh)
Very funny daddy!

She drops her arm. Brittney walks around to the open side fence.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-DAY

Brittney steps towards the back yard. She stops and looks at the corner of the wall.

Nick lays on the grass. A little girl in his arms. NICOLA, 4 years old.

Nick tickles Nicola.

NICOLA
Stop!!

Brittney experiences pain in her head. Hearing a baby wailing.

BRITTNEY
Ahh!

The baby wailing starts again.

NICK
(laugh)
What do you want for lunch?

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
Get it away!

BRITTNEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I can feel her kicking me.

NICOLA
Macaroni and Cheese.

NICK
Go make it!

NICOLA
(laugh)

Brittney turns away.

BRITTNEY
(sob)

She covers her mouth.

Nick looks in Brittney's direction.

NICK
Go inside baby.

NICOLA
But daddy?

NICK
Go!

Brittney rushes out of the back yard.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

Brittney opens the door, sits down in the back seat and slams the door shut.

BRITTNEY
Go!
(sob)

The Limousine Driver presses his foot down on the gas pedal.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTH HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD-DAY

Nick steps towards the curb of the driveway. He looks at the limousine.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-NIGHT

Brittney sits on the floor of her bedroom. She goes through her mother's old paperwork. Brittney finds a piece of lined paper. It reads: Maggie & Rich Owens, Las Vegas.

BRITTNEY

Internet!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-MANSION-NIGHT

Brittney sits in front of the **desktop computer**. Her fingers type on the **keyboard**.

COMPUTER SCREEN

The CURSOR goes to the SEARCH ENGINE. MAGGIE OWENS typed. The Cursor hits Search.

BACK TO SCENE

Brittney stands to her feet. She covers her mouth.

BRITTNEY

(sob)

Brittney sits down. She looks at the computer screen.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

(read)

Rich Owens left with his daughter,
Shelly on the morning of May 20.
Taking her, his girlfriend. Last
seen at a gas station.

Brittney looks up and thinks to herself.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

Shelly!

COMPUTER SCREEN

The name SHELLY OWENS is typed out. The Cursor clicks on the Search Engine button.

BACK TO SCENE

Brittney leans closer to the computer screen.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

(read)

Shelly Owens, last seen in the
parking lot of a motel. Man paid
for motel room, then left.
Whereabouts of Shelly could be
somewhere in East LA.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

Brittney looks outside the window.

The Limousine Driver looks at Brittney.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER

Do you want me to go with you?

BRITTNEY

I'll be fine.

Brittney opens the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

Brittney guides her eyes, protecting them from the bright
shining sun. She looks around the park.

SHELLY (O.S.)

Step right up people! Come at your
own risk and take on the champ!

Brittney looks at the girl shuffling poker cards on a torn up
cardboard box. SHELLY, 12 years old. A street-smart homeless
girl living off every dollar she hustles from gullible
tourist.

Brittney smiles. She steps closer.

Shelly looks at Brittney.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Do you want to play?

BRITTNEY

Sure.

Brittney lays a hundred-dollar bill down on the cardboard box.

Shelly shuffles the cards around.

SHELLY

Which one lady!

BRITTNEY

Middle.

SHELLY

Are you sure?

BRITTNEY

Yes.

Shelly flips it over.

SHELLY

Ugh! You got it!

Shelly reaches into her pocket. She tosses five twenty-dollar bills onto the box.

BRITTNEY

One more?

SHELLY

All I got is two twenty-dollar bills left.

Brittney reaches into her purse and tosses two twenty-dollar-bills down.

BRITTNEY

I'll match it.

SHELLY

What do I get if I win.

BRITTNEY

You can keep all the money and you can eat at my house.

SHELLY

This isn't stranger danger stuff, is it?

BRITTNEY

No.

SHELLY
You're on!

Shelly shuffles the cards around and stops.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
Which one?

BRITTNEY
(point)
That one.

Brittney points to the one on the right.

Shelly flips the card and it's a 6 of clubs.

SHELLY
Too bad, so sad!

Shelly grabs all the cash and shoves it into her pants. She steps towards the limousine. Shelly looks at Brittney.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
A deal's a deal lady! Time to pay up!

BRITTNEY
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-DAY

Shelly steps into the living room. She looks around.

SHELLY
You live here alone?

BRITTNEY
No. My dad does too.

SHELLY
Where is he?

BRITTNEY
Business trip.

SHELLY
If I were you, I would have a party.

BRITTNEY
Tempting but no. We can do
something else.

SHELLY
Like what?

BRITTNEY
Eat! Watch movies. What do you say?

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-DAY

Shelly sits on the floor while Brittney sits on the sofa.
BOYZ IN THA HOOD plays on the television.

Brittney looks at Shelly with worrisome of what she's
interested in.

BRITTNEY
How many times have you watched
this?

SHELLY
Hundreds of times.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-MANSION-NIGHT

Brittney drinks water from a glass cup. She sets it down.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-CONTINUOUS

Brittney steps towards Shelly. She leans down and lifts
Shelly up from the floor.

Shelly wraps her arms around Brittney's back.

Brittney walks up the steps.

SHELLY
Mom.

Brittney's eyes water with tears.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-NIGHT

Brittney takes the **boots** off of Shelly's feet. She pulls the blanket over her. She presses it gently down and leans over her. She kisses Shelly on the cheek.

SHELLY

Good night mommy. I love you.

Brittney steps back.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MANSION-NIGHT

Brittney stands in front of the mirror.

BRITTNEY

(sob)

(cry)

Brittney covers her face.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-CONTINUOUS

Brittney lies asleep.

The television blasting. Shelly sits on the floor, eating **cereal**. She shovels it down with a spoon.

BRITTNEY

Hey!

SHELLY

Shh!

BRITTNEY

Can you turn that down! I'm trying to sleep!

SHELLY

In a minute!

Brittney stands to her feet and steps towards the television. She grabs the remote from Shelly's hand and turns off the television.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

It was getting to the good part!

BRITTNEY

Don't you have any consideration
for others!

SHELLY

What crawled up your ass.

BRITTNEY

Don't talk to me like that.

SHELLY

Someone hasn't gotten any in a
while.

Brittney slaps Shelly across the face.

Shelly looks at Brittney with a stunned look.

BRITTNEY

I'm sorry!

Brittney steps towards Shelly.

SHELLY

Don't touch me!

Shelly stands up and backs away. She grabs her boots from the
floor. Shelly flips her off and pushes the door open.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Kiss my ass!

CUT TO:

EXT. MANSION-DAY

Shelly puts on her boots. She struggles getting her foot in
the right one.

Brittney rushes towards Shelly.

SHELLY

I'll scream.

BRITTNEY

I'm sorry, okay. Come back inside.

SHELLY

Leave me alone!

Shelly runs.

CUT TO:

EXT. MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
I found my daughter. I just don't
know how to tell her the truth.

"I Wanna Be Sedated" by The Ramones plays.

PYSCHIATRIST (V.O.)
How is she with you?

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
She's great. A bit rough around the
edges but she reminds me of him.

PYSCHIATRIST (V.O.)
Was it good having her around?

BRITTNEY
It was fun actually.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY

PSYCHIATRIST, early 50s.

The Psychiatrist writes down Brittney's thoughts.

PYSCHIATRIST
How were things the next day?

BRITTNEY
Not good.

PYSCHIATRIST
How so?

BRITTNEY
I got irritated with her. It wasn't
the way I wanted things between us.

PYSCHIATRIST
What do you think you should do?

BRITTNEY
Aren't you supposed to tell me what
to do?

PYSCHIATRIST
Yes, but I want you to tell me what
you should do.

BRITTNEY
I should try again.

PYSCHIATRIST
I would consider it.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

Shelly shuffles poker cards.

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
Shelly!

Shelly's eyes wander around, feeling worried.

SHELLY
I got a piece!

Brittney steps towards Shelly.

Shelly pulls out a **switchblade**. She turns to Brittney.

Brittney puts her arms up and backs away.

BRITTNEY
I just want to make peace.

Brittney pulls out a hundred-dollar bill.

SHELLY
I don't want your money.

BRITTNEY
Okay.

Brittney drops the money to the ground.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
Hear me out!

SHELLY
Why do you care about a street kid
like me?

BRITTNEY
You look like you could use a
friend. I can use a friend.

SHELLY
One rule.

BRITTNEY
What's that?

SHELLY
Don't try to buy me.

BRITTNEY
Deal.

Shelly puts the switchblade into her pocket. She steps past Brittney.

SHELLY
What's for dinner?

BRITTNEY
Anything you want.

SHELLY
Pizza.

BRITTNEY
Let's go.

Shelly runs towards the limousine.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-MANSION-DAY

SUPER: SEVEN YEARS LATER

Brittney sits at the table. She looks through the newspaper. Her eyes look at the bold small written headline. It reads: Nick Valens dead! Man was found by his wife in his own backyard.

Brittney stands up.

BRITTNEY
(sob)

Brittney's eyes fill with tears.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)
No!

CUT TO:

INT. MORGUE-HOSPITAL-DAY

Brittney stands at the front desk. Her hand hits the **bell**.

BRITTNEY

Hello?

MEDICAL EXAMINER, early 30s.

A Medical Examiner steps towards the front desk.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Can I help you?

BRITTNEY

I'm here to see the body of Nick Valens.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Are you related to him?

BRITTNEY

I'm his wife.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Wrong! Please leave before I call the police.

BRITTNEY

Please! I have to see him.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

(breath)

You got five minutes.

Brittney steps past the Medical Examiner.

A body lies on an **exam table**.

Brittney looks at the lifeless body that used to be filled with so much life. Nothing left but a shell.

BRITTNEY

(sob)

(cry)

Brittney lifts the **cloth** from over his face. She caresses his cheeks one last time.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

I love you.

(cry)

I always have!

Brittney kisses his lips.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

Goodbye!
(sob)

Brittney covers his face with the cloth. She turns around and steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-DAY

The living room is filled with **boxes**.

Brittney sits on the floor. A photo of her and Nick sits on her lap. She tosses it into the box in front of her.

She presses the **record button** on the camera recorder.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

Brittney stands in the middle of the park. She looks around.

BRITTNEY

Shelly!

HOMELESS MAN, early 60s.

HOMELESS MAN

She's in juvenile hall.

Brittney reaches into her pocket and pulls out a folded-up piece of paper.

BRITTNEY

Can you give this to her for me?

HOMELESS MAN

Sure.

He takes the note from Brittney.

BRITTNEY

Bye.

Brittney steps away.

The Homeless Man unfolds the paper. It reads: From Brittney, I'm your mother.

The Homeless Man tosses the paper to the ground.

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
By the time you watch this, I'll
already be gone. I left you a note,
but I guess you didn't get it.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY

Brittney looks out the window.

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
I didn't want to leave you with a
sour note. I wanted you to know
this from my own mouth. I met your
father when I was seventeen. He had
no idea about you -- for that I'm
sorry.
(sob)
I'm your mother.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-NIGHT

A young woman sits on the floor of the living room. Her eyes
on Brittney's face. SHELLY, 18. A crap's game hustler. A
street wise lady. She is courageous and does not put up with
non-sense.

Shelly stands to her feet. She kicks the television screen
in. She steps out of the living room.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

Shelly sits on a picnic table. She shuffles cards from hand
to hand.

BRITTNEY (O.S.)
Hey.

SHELLY
I thought you left.

BRITTNEY
I sold the mansion. I never said I
was leaving.

SHELLY

What do you want, a mother of the year award?

BRITTNEY

No. I just want to be in your life.

SHELLY

You have been in it. Okay.

Brittney turns away.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Tell me one thing!

Brittney looks back at Shelly.

BRITTNEY

What's that?

SHELLY

Did you love him?

BRITTNEY

Yes.

SHELLY

What made him so different from other men?

BRITTNEY

His presence.

Brittney steps away.

SHELLY

Where are you going?

BRITTNEY

I got a house to paint. Do you care to help?

Shelly stands up on the table. She jumps off and runs past Brittney.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Paint on her face and all over her clothes. Brittney paints over the last of the blue paint.

BRITTNEY (V.O.)
Love you, always. Brittney.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN-NIGHT

12-year-old Shelly rest in Nick's arms as he carries her towards the light.

SHELLY
Love you daddy.

NICK
Love you too.

NICK (V.O.)
Nothing could stop this love, not even the devil. This one's for you mom.

FADE OUT:

THE END