

Skeletons

Screenplay By

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FADE IN:

INT./EXT. GARAGE-MORNING

A woman steps towards a **canvas**. She looks at the **boxes** set on the left side of the garage. FAITH (34)

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

FAITH

**The Lion, the Witch, and the
Wardrobe.**

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

SIERRA (V.O.)

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

INT. OFFICE-MORNING

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

LOLA (V.O.)

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

In a dark bedroom, the lights dim from the **red cloths** covering the overhead of the **bedroom lamps**. A young man stands. BARRY (21) He lifts his shirt over his head and tosses it to the floor.

A woman lies on a bed right in front of him. Her eyes on him. NICOLA (24)

Barry steps towards her.

NICOLA
We better get this over with fast.

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

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

INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING

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

A woman sits across from Nicola, watching her with a cringe look on her face. LOLA (21)

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

BARRY
Does she have a tape worm or something?

LOLA
I hope not.

She grabs her **glass** of **water**.

NICOLA
(sip)

She slams the glass down and wipes her mouth with her sleeve.

NICOLA (CONT'D)
You got any dessert?

LOLA
Cheesecake.

Nicola gets up and rushes towards the kitchen.

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

LOLA
Shh!

INT. KITCHEN-EVENING

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

INT. DINING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

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

BARRY

I hope you're going to save us
some.

LOLA

Shh! Why are you so hungry?

NICOLA

I'm just hungry.

Nicola shovels the cheesecake into her mouth.

LOLA

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

NICOLA

I'll think about it.

Barry eats his food and watches Nicola.

Nicola looks back at Barry.

LOLA (V.O.)

The true detective in me was
starting to come out.

INT. NICOLA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Barry lays in bed with Nicola.

An *alarm clock* goes off.

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

BARRY

I got to go.

Barry sits up.

Nicola sits up and wraps her arms around Barry's back.

NICOLA
I got news.

BARRY
Yeah. What?

NICOLA
Remember the tapeworm?

BARRY
Yeah.

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

BARRY
What?

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

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

BARRY
You didn't tell anyone, did you?

NICOLA
Just you.

BARRY
What are you going to do?

NICOLA
I want to have it.

BARRY
Let's not get too attached here.

NICOLA
Attached? It's my body.

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

BARRY
Don't tell anyone, okay?

NICOLA
What, that you knocked me up!

BARRY
Yeah.

NICOLA

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

Barry walks out of the bedroom.

EXT. NICOLA'S HOUSE-NIGHT

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

INT. LOLA'S CAR-NIGHT

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

LOLA

(sob)

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

A woman sits on a sofa, looking through paperwork. BRENDA (43)

Lola steps into the living room and sits beside Brenda.

LOLA (V.O.)

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

LOLA

Mom?

BRENDA

What?

LOLA

Did dad ever cheat on you?

BRENDA

That would be impossible.

LOLA

Why?

BRENDA

Because I would cut off his thing.

LOLA

Ouch!

BRENDA

Seriously.

LOLA

How'd you know he wouldn't?

BRENDA

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

Brenda looks at Lola.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

What, is Barry cheating on you?

LOLA

I don't know how to answer that.

BRENDA

Do you want to borrow a pair of
sharp scissors?

LOLA

Things don't have to get that
violent.

BRENDA

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

Lola looks away.

LOLA

It's probably nothing. I may be
overreacting.

BRENDA

Don't be anyone's doormat.

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

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

LOLA

Surprise!

BARRY
What's the occasion?

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

BARRY
No, you can.

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

LOLA
Come, sit?

Barry rushes towards the chair and sits.

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

BARRY
Is your sister coming over?

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

BARRY
When did she tell you this?

LOLA
She told my mom -- then my mom told me.

Barry looks away.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Is everything alright?

BARRY
Yeah.

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

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

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

LOLA
(scream)

INT. PATIENT ROOM-NIGHT

Lola lays in the bed. She hugs Brenda.

LOLA
(sob)
(cry)

Barry rushes into the room.

Brenda steps back.

Lola hugs Barry with all the strength she has.

BARRY
I'm sorry babe.

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Barry steps outside of the patients' room. He sits in the chair next to Brenda.

Brenda watches the way that Barry looks away from her.

BRENDA
How long have you been sleeping
with Nicola?

BARRY
What?

BRENDA
Do I look like a dumbass to you!

BARRY
No.

BRENDA
Funny thing is, Nicola is away for
nine months. That gives her time to
have your child.
(MORE)

BRENDA (CONT'D)
You cause your wife. The only one
you should be sleeping with. A
miscarriage!

BARRY
What do I do?

BRENDA
You're going to make it right.

Brenda grabs her purse and slaps Barry across the face.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
I'm going to the gift shop.

She walks away.

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

A knock at the front door.

Nicola gets up from the sofa. She walks towards it and opens
it.

Barry leans his head in.

BARRY
Hello!

NICOLA
What are you doing here?

BARRY
Can I come in?

Nicola opens the door.

Barry steps in and Nicola closes the front door.

BARRY (CONT'D)
Nice place.

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

BARRY
Mind if I sit?

NICOLA
Go ahead.

Barry sits.

NICOLA (CONT'D)
What do you want?

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

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

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

NICOLA
What!

BARRY
She needs this.

NICOLA
No!!

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

Nicola looks away.

NICOLA
Fine.

A smile stretches across Barry's face.

BARRY
Fine?

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

Barry stands up.

Nicola kicks Barry in the groin.

Barry falls to his knees.

NICOLA (CONT'D)
My sister deserves better.

Nicola steps towards the front door and opens it wide.

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

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

EXT. PARKING LOT-AFTERNOON

A man steps towards Lola. PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR (30's) The
Private Investigator hands Lola a photograph of Barry kneeled
down on the floor. A smile on Lola's face.

LOLA
Best sight I ever saw.

Lola hands the photograph back to the Private Investigator.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Mail it to me.

Lola reaches into her pocket and hands the Private
Investigator four hundred dollars.

He takes it.

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

LOLA
Same here.

The Private Investigator walks away from Lola.

INT. DELIVERY ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

SUPER: NINE MONTHS LATER

A man stands, holding a newborn up over Nicola. DOCTOR (40's)

A woman wraps the newborn and holds him close. NURSE (20's)

Nicola looks away from the newborn.

The Doctor holds the newborn close to Nicola's face.

DOCTOR
Nicola?

NICOLA
Leave me alone!

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

INT. NURSERY-HOSPITAL-EVENING

The newborn lays asleep.

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

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-EVENING

LOLA
He's so beautiful.

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

LOLA
Nicholas.

BARRY
After your father?

LOLA
Yeah.

INT. OFFICE-BACK TO PRESENT

Faith closes the journal and gets up.

INT. NURSERY-AFTERNOON

A woman sits in a **rocking chair**. SIERRA (24)

The doorbell rings and the infant starts crying.

SIERRA

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

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

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

SIERRA

Yes.

Faith steps in and shuts the door. She hands Sierra the
journal.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

What's this?

FAITH

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

Faith opens to the page she left off at.

Sierra steps towards the **recliner** and sits.

FAITH (CONT'D)

I'm going to go see the little man!

SIERRA

Try not to disturb him.

Faith walks up the stairs.

FAITH

I'll try to keep him calm.

Sierra looks at the journal and reads.

LOLA (V.O.)

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

(MORE)

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

INT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

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

NICOLA
(sob)

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Brenda and Lola sit on the sofa.

Nicola stands in front of them.

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

BRENDA
What do you mean pregnant?

LOLA
She means she let a stranger knock
her up.

BRENDA
I get it, Lola.

LOLA
Who is the father?

NICOLA
I can't tell you.

LOLA
Why, is he ugly?

NICOLA
No.

LOLA
So, he's a pretty boy.

NICOLA
Yes, okay. He's a handsome man.

LOLA
When do we get to meet him?

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

Nicola sits between Lola and Brenda.

Brenda touches Nicola's stomach.

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

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Nicola lays in bed and nurses the newborn.

Lola walks into the room.

Nicola covers herself with a **baby blanket**.

Lola's hands are filled with **balloons** and a boutique of
flowers.

Barry steps in. He looks at Nicola.

Nicola looks at him.

Lola steps towards the bed. She kisses Nicola on the cheek
and brushes her hand over the newborn's head.

LOLA
She's so beautiful.

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

LOLA (CONT'D)
She looks at peace.

Brenda steps into the patients' room.

BRENDA
How's my baby girl!

LOLA
Shh! She's chill!

Brenda walks towards Lola.

BRENDA
Do you have a name yet?

NICOLA
Angelica.

BRENDA
After the angel messenger?

NICOLA
Exactly.

BRENDA
Beautiful name.

Brenda brushes her fingers against the newborn's head.

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

BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda lays back on a lounge chair. **Sunglasses** on.

Nicola steps towards Brenda. She holds her newborn daughter
in her arms and sits on the lounge chair beside her.

NICOLA
Mom?

BRENDA
Nope.

NICOLA
I have to go away for a while.

Brenda takes off the sunglasses.

BRENDA
What's a while?

NICOLA
A month.

BRENDA
What are you taking down, a cartel?

NICOLA
Something like that.

BRENDA
Why don't you ask Lola?

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

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

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

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Be safe out there.

NICOLA
I will.

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

NICOLA (CONT'D)
(wave)

She walks away.

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

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

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

LOLA

Shit!

LOLA (V.O.)

That wasn't my best response, I know but who would be thrilled about letting a man like Barry climb on top of her. Especially when it comes to barring his child. Thanks to this result, I had a family friend take care of Angelica.

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

A woman steps into the room, holding the infant baby girl in her arms. SHELLY OWENS (35) She holds the infant baby girl against her chest.

Lola looks at Shelly.

LOLA

Hey.

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

Lola holds her newborn daughter close.

SHELLY

Look at her. She's beautiful.

LOLA

How's the angel doing?

SHELLY

She's doing good.

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

SHELLY (CONT'D)

She's happy. I never have one ounce of trouble.

LOLA

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

SHELLY

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

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

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

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

A man steps towards Barry. NICK VALENS (40)

BARRY
You!

Nick punches Barry across the face.

Barry falls down to his butt.

Nick slams the door shut. He grabs a **baseball bat** from the
floor. He swings it around.

NICK
Batter up!!

Nick swings the bat towards Barry's head.

Barry ducks and rolls himself. He crawls towards the **coffee
table**.

Nick steps towards the coffee table and lifts it.

The coffee table falls on top of Barry.

Nick drives his foot into the table.

BARRY
Stop!!

NICK
Pussy!!

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

NICK (CONT'D)
Time to take your medicine!!

Nick swings the bat down towards Barry.

BARRY
(scream)

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

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

LOLA
It was just a dream babe.

BARRY
I -- He --

Barry lays down.

LOLA
Shh!!

INT. BATHROOM-MORNING

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

LOLA
(giggle)

She covers the smile on her face.

Barry steps into the bathroom. He looks at Lola.

BARRY
What's so funny?

LOLA
Nothing.

BARRY
You obviously are laughing about something over there.

LOLA
You wouldn't get it.

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

LOLA
It's all yours.

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

INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

Lola stands in front of the **stove** and cooks **scrambled eggs** and **bacon**.

Barry walks into the kitchen. He grabs a **coffee mug** and grabs the **coffee pot**. He pours coffee into the mug. Barry puts the coffee pot down on the burner.

BARRY
(sip)

He looks at Lola. Barry lowers the mug from his mouth.

BARRY (CONT'D)
What was funny earlier?

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

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

LOLA
Oh, you dreamed about dad.

A wicked smile stretches across her face.

BARRY
Don't laugh at me!!

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

LOLA
Screw you!

Barry tosses his mug at Lola.

Lola ducks her head down and the mug hits the refrigerator.

BARRY
I can throw too!

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

BARRY (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's not get rowdy here.

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

Barry rushes towards the front door.

Lola runs after him.

EXT. FRONT YARD-MORNING

Barry rolls onto the grass and gets behind the tree.

Lola looks at Barry's car. She grins.

LOLA
Look! Your precious car.

She throws a skillet right through the windshield.

LOLA (CONT'D)
How's this!

Lola throws the second skillet and it shatters the driver
side window.

Lola turns and walks into the house. She slams the door shut.

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-OWENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

The front door opens.

Shelly holds on to the doorknob.

A *boutique of roses* in Barry's hand.

Shelly looks at Lola.

BARRY
Can I come in?

SHELLY

Sure.

Barry steps in.

Shelly shuts the door and takes the boutique of roses from him.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Don't destroy my house.

Shelly walks out of the living room.

Barry walks towards Lola.

Lola raises her hand, signaling for him to not come any closer.

BARRY

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

LOLA

The damage is done.

Barry steps closer. He kneels down and grabs Lola's hand, kissing it.

BARRY

I promise to never do anything again to hurt you.

LOLA

(laugh)

Get up! You look pathetic!

Barry stands up.

BARRY

Will you come home?

LOLA

It's going to cost you.

BARRY

I suppose a nice romantic dinner is something to consider.

Lola hugs Barry and kisses him.

Shelly steps into the living room.

LOLA

EW! Not in my living room!

Lola looks at Shelly.

LOLA (CONT'D)
(laugh)

INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

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

INT. NURSERY-AFTERNOON

Sierra walks into the nursery.

Faith sits in the rocking chair and rocks the infant to sleep.

Sierra watches.

Faith looks at Sierra.

FAITH
(whisper)
Did you read it?

SIERRA
(whisper)
Part of it.

FAITH
Go ahead and finish it. I got him.

SIERRA
I'll be down the hall.

FAITH
Okay.

Sierra steps out of the nursery. She shuts the door at a crack and walks into her bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Sierra sits on the bed and leans back against the **headboard**. She opens the journal and starts reading.

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

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

A young boy sits across from Barry, putting **Legos** together.
10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS.

BARRY
Got it!

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

BARRY
Yeah.

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
You beat me!

BARRY
Patience son.

Lola steps into the bedroom.

A **report card** in her hand.

LOLA
Guess what came today?

BARRY
What?

LOLA
Our son got his report card.

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

BARRY
What did it say?

Lola hands Barry the report card.

Barry looks at it.

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

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

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Oh, mom!

10-Year-Old Nicholas wipes his cheek.

BARRY

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

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Yes.

LOLA

Go get changed.

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

LOLA (V.O.)

Believe it or not, he was an
awesome father to Nicholas when he
was young. That I can't take away
from him. A husband, eighty
percent.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR-EVENING

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

His eyes are filled with excitement/

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

What is it!

LOLA

Open it and find out!

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

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

You got me a **laptop**!

Barry looks at Lola.

Lola looks at Barry.

LOLA

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

BARRY

We promised we weren't going to
overdo it.

LOLA

I didn't promise anything.

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

INT. NICHOLAS'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

10-Year-Old Nicholas sits on his bed and plays with the keys
on the laptop.

Lola walks into the bedroom.

She grabs the laptop from him and sets it down on his desk.

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

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

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Are you going to come to school for
Heroes Day?

LOLA
When is it?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Next Friday.

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

Lola sticks out her pinky.

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

LOLA (CONT'D)
Ouch!

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Sorry.

LOLA
I'm kidding. Good night, kiddo.

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Lola sits on her side of the bed. She takes off her **earrings**.

Barry stands in front of a mirror. He takes off his t-shirt and pants.

BARRY

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

LOLA

It was a surprise.

BARRY

I still wish you would have told me.

LOLA

The kid did good.

BARRY

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

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

Barry steps towards her and slaps her across the face. He pushes her onto the bed. Barry climbs on top of her and yanks her panties down. He pulls his boxers down and proceeds to brush himself against her.

LOLA

(pant)
(moan)

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

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

INT. BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

Barry goes back and then forth.

LOLA

(moan)

Lola looks at the crack of the door.

LOLA (CONT'D)

You forgot to shut the door all the way!

INT. HALLWAY-CONTINUOUS

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

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

BARRY (O.S.)
Shut up!!

INT. CLASSROOM-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-MORNING

At his desk, 10-Year-Old Nicholas draws a picture with **coloring crayons**. A young girl steps past his desk. GIRL STUDENT (10) The Girl Student leans towards 10-Year-Old Nicholas's desk.

GIRL STUDENT
Who's that?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
My mom and dad.

GIRL STUDENT
What are they doing?

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

Lola steps into the classroom.

A woman sits at a desk. TEACHER (30's)

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

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

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
This is my mom. She is an LAPD Detective. She risks her life every day to keep people safe. At night, she comes home to tuck me and my sister in. She is my hero.

The Teacher hands 10-Year-Old Nicholas an **award medal**.

He holds the **strap** to the medal.

Lola's eyes water with emotion. She fights back the tears and wipes her eyes. Lola leans down.

10-Year-Old Nicholas puts the strap down around her neck.

Lola touches him on the cheek.

LOLA
Thank you.

INT. HALLWAY-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

PRINCIPAL, early 30s.

Lola walks past the Principal.

PRINCIPAL
Mrs. Smith?

Lola looks back at the Principal.

LOLA
Yes?

PRINCIPAL
May I see you for a little bit?

LOLA
Yes. No problem.

Lola walks into the principal's office.

Principal steps into the office and shuts the door.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE-AFTERNOON

Lola sits.

Principal sits behind her desk and hands Lola a drawing.

Lola looks at the drawing. She fights back the laughter.

LOLA
(giggle)

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

LOLA
-- What?

PRINCIPAL

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

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

LOLA

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

PRINCIPAL

No. They just showed each other
their privates.

LOLA

Oh.

PRINCIPAL

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

LOLA

(laugh)
I'll talk to him.

PRINCIPAL

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

LOLA

Okay.

EXT. PARKING LOT-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

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

LOLA

About what you saw last night?

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Am I in trouble?

LOLA

No.

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Why was dad on top of you?

LOLA

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

10-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

So, is that where babies come from?

LOLA

That's how it starts.

LOLA (V.O.)

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

10-Year-Old Nicholas lays in his bed, asleep.

Lola leans in and shuts the door. She flips the light switch
off.

INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

The front door opens and a man steps in. PAUL, 26. He shuts
the door, arming the alarm after dialing in the security
code.

PAUL

Sierra!!

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

Sierra closes the journal.

SIERRA

Babe!

INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Sierra steps down the stairs.

Paul holds his arms out. A worried look on his face.

PAUL

I was wondering where you were!

Sierra hugs Paul and kisses him.

SIERRA
Promise me that we'll never fight.

PAUL
Did you read another sad book?

SIERRA
Just promise me.

PAUL
Okay. I promise.

He kisses her on the cheek.

SIERRA
I missed you.

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Paul sits at the end of the table. He eats his **potstickers** with **chopsticks**.

Faith sits at the middle of the table and rocks the infant boy to sleep.

PAUL
So, what did you two do today?

SIERRA
-- I --

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

Paul looks at Sierra.

PAUL
You are?

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

PAUL
Okay.

FAITH
I promise to have her home early.

He takes a bite of a potsticker.

PAUL

Okay.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sierra sits up against the headboard.

Paul lays asleep in the bed.

She looks at the journal and reads.

LOLA (V.O.)

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Lola sits in bed. Her lap covered with the comforter.

Barry walks into the bedroom and sits on the edge of the bed.

BARRY

Can I have my money back?

Lola looks at Barry.

LOLA
It'll cost you.

BARRY
What?

LOLA
A good foot massage.

BARRY
I'm on it.

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

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

A Raven-haired woman stands in front of Lola. MICHELLE (21)

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

LOLA
Hi.

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

Lola flies back. She hits the floor. Lola lies on the floor
and covers the bullet wound.

Barry rushes down the steps and kneels down. He puts pressure
on the wound.

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

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

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

SURGEON (30's)

The Surgeon steps into the waiting room.

SURGEON
Mr. Smith?

Barry stands up. He steps towards the Surgeon.

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

BARRY
How is she?

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

BARRY
She's paralyzed.

SURGEON
I'm sorry.

The Surgeon reaches his hand out.

Barry pulls away and leans up against the wall.

BARRY
(sob)

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

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

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

LOLA
Where am I?

NICK
Hello.

Lola looks at Nick

LOLA
Dad?

NICK
Yes.

LOLA
Am I dead?

NICK

No.

LOLA

Why are you here then?

NICK

To show you something. Come on.

Nick steps towards the door. He looks back.

NICK (CONT'D)

Are you coming or not?

Lola gets off the bed.

Nick pushes the door open.

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Nick walks around a dinner table -- and sits across from Brenda. NICOLA (13)

NICOLA

(giggle)

Stop!

A young girl sits across from Nicola. LOLA (10)

Nick looks back at the older Lola.

NICK

You were never left out. I want you to know that. Your sister did what I couldn't. She taught you everything I couldn't. She gave you a son. He's a good boy. A boy I'm honored to have named after me.

LOLA

Can I ask you a question?

NICK

Yes.

LOLA

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

NICK

(point)

She became the heart I thought I lost.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)
I made a lot of bad choices before
I met her. She helped me get back
my soul and made me believe again.

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

BRENDA
What was that for?

NICK
For being my light.

Nick steps towards Lola.

LOLA
That was our last dinner together.

NICK
Yes.

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

NICK
(point)

Lola looks.

A young mother sits at the end of the table, breastfeeding her newborn son. MARY JANE (17) Nick steps towards Mary Jane.

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

NICK (V.O.)
She was only seventeen. She didn't
question her choice; she just made
it.

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

Nick steps towards Lola.

NICK
I was very gullible. I can't say I
picked the wrong girl because
otherwise I'm saying your sister
was a mistake. Almost like I'm
saying I was.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

It was a surprise attack that I should have saw coming. How do you think Nicola came into the picture? Why did you choose Barry?

LOLA

(sob)

I love him.

NICK

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

LOLA

What about Suzie.

NICK

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

LOLA

What do I do?

NICK

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

Nick touches Lola's cheek.

Lola kisses his hand.

LOLA

Does it have to stop here?

NICK

It never will.

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

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

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

SUPER: TWO MONTHS LATER

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

BARRY

Ready to go home?

LOLA
More than ever. I hate hospitals.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

The door opens.

Barry pushes the wheelchair in.

PARTY GOERS surround the living room.

PARTY GOERS
(Yell)
Surprise!!!

Lola covers her face.

LOLA
(cries)
(giggle)
You prick!

A young man stands in front of Barry and Lola. NICHOLAS (28)

LOLA (CONT'D)
Nicholas!

He leans down and hugs Lola.

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

Nicholas looks at Barry.

NICHOLAS
Can I talk to you outside?

BARRY
You want to talk to me outside?

NICHOLAS
Yeah, you!

Barry walks towards the sliding glass doors and opens it. He steps out.

Nicholas steps out on the patio and slams the door shut.

Lola listens and pushes herself closer to the door.

EXT. PATIO-AFTERNOON

Nicholas balls up his fists.

Barry looks at Nicholas's fist and his eyes.

BARRY

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

NICHOLAS

Where were you when she got shot?

BARRY

I was running her bath water.

NICHOLAS

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

BARRY

You think I set it up?

NICHOLAS

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

Barry raises his fist into Nicholas's face.

BARRY

Boy! Don't go there with me!

NICHOLAS

What are you going to do about it
pussy?

Barry pushes Nicholas.

Nicholas pushes Barry.

Barry falls into the glass door.

The glass shatters.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

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

Nicholas walks away.

Barry looks at Lola.

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

EXT. PATIO-CONTINUOUS

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

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

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

BARRY
They do.

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

LOLA (V.O.)
I couldn't leave him. He was like a
lost puppy without me.

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-BACK TO PRESENT

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

INT. GARAGE-MORNING

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

SIERRA

Faith!

FAITH (O.S.)

In here!

INT. OFFICE-MORNING

Faith sits in front of a painted **canvas**.

Sierra looks at the painting with amazement in her eyes.

FAITH

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

SIERRA

He'll love it.

Faith gets up.

FAITH

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

SIERRA

Okay.

Faith steps out of the office.

Sierra wipes away the tears in her eyes.

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON

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

SIERRA

(sob)
(cries)

INT. FAITH'S CAR-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

SUPER: TWO MONTHS EARLIER

Faith drives her car.

Nicholas lays in the back seat. A blanket wrapped around him.

Faith looks back at him.

FAITH
Hang on, dad!!

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

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-BACK TO PRESENT

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

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

Sierra looks at Faith --

SIERRA
Faith?

FAITH
What is it?

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

Sierra hugs Faith. Her eyes fill with tears.

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

INT. FAITH'S CAR-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

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

INT. BATHROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

Sierra lays in the bathtub. Her head rests on the edge.

Paul kneels down. He massages her neck.

SIERRA
Thanks, baby.

PAUL
Anytime.

He kisses her on the forehead.

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

SIERRA
I'll be fine.

PAUL
If you need anything, don't
hesitate?

SIERRA
I won't.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

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

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

INT. BARRY'S CAR-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

Music blasts. Almost loud enough to blow out someone's ear
drums.

Barry sits in the driver seat.

Flames ignite around Barry and spread through the entire car.

BARRY
(scream)

EXT. PARKING LOT-AFTERNOON

The car explodes.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Lola sits in her wheelchair and looks outside the window.

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

SIERRA
Angelica?

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

INT. NURSERY-EVENING

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

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

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON

Sierra drives the car towards a SECURITY GATE. A man stands
in front of the car. SECURITY GUARD (30's)

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

SECURITY GUARD
Can I help you?

SIERRA
Mrs. Ramos is expecting me.

SECURITY GUARD
Go ahead and drive thru.

Sierra presses her foot on the gas pedal.

EXT. RAMOS ESTATE-AFTERNOON

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

SIERRA
Wow!

Sierra steps towards the steps.

BUTLER (40's) The Butler stands near the front door.

BUTLER
Sierra?

SIERRA
Yes, sir!

The Butler grabs the doorknob, turns it and opens the door for her.

INT. LOBBY-MANSION-AFTERNOON

Sierra steps into the lobby. She looks around.

SIERRA
This place is amazing!

A woman in a long red dress steps down the stairs. ANGELICA (60)

ANGELICA
Glad you like it.

Sierra looks at Angelica.

SIERRA
We never officially met.

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

SIERRA
My son, Nicholas. Can I?

ANGELICA
Yes, please?

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

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

Angelica leads the way and walks into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-AFTERNOON

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

SIERRA
Thank you.

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

ANGELICA
So, what did you want to ask me?

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

ANGELICA
You won't offend me.

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

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

SIERRA
How did you feel about Barry?

ANGELICA
Not to sound cruel but I hated him.

SIERRA
May I ask why?

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

SIERRA
Fair enough.

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

SIERRA
I read Lola's journal.

ANGELICA
What did she say?

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

ANGELICA
She did.

Sierra gets up from the sofa.

SIERRA
I better get going then.

Sierra grabs the baby carrier and steps towards the archway.

ANGELICA
Sierra?

Sierra looks back at Angelica.

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

SIERRA
Thank you.

Sierra steps out of the living room.

EXT. BALCONY-MANSION-AFTERNOON

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

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON

Sierra drives the car. She puts on her sunglasses.

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

SIERRA

Hello?

INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-AFTERNOON

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

A man walks alongside of Sierra. MICHAEL (36)

SIERRA

What happened?

MICHAEL

I walked into the house, and she attacked me!

SIERRA

What did you say to her?

MICHAEL

I just walked in and said hi!

Sierra walks into the patients' room.

INT. PATIENT ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-AFTERNOON

Two men rush towards Faith. SECURITY GUARD #1 and #2 (20's)

A man rushes in after, going as fast as he can. MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR (50's)

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

FAITH

(breath)

Faith calms down and becomes unconscious.

Sierra steps into the room.

SIERRA

What did you give her!

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR

A sedative to calm her down for the night.

SIERRA

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

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR

We're doing our job!

SIERRA

Your job sucks!!

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

SIERRA (CONT'D)

How long does she have to stay here?

MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR

Until tomorrow morning.

SIERRA

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

INT. GARAGE-EVENING

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

INT. OFFICE-EVENING

Sierra walks into the office. She looks around and sees ripped canvases. The torn-out journal pages lay on the floor. Sierra grabs the pages and rushes out of the office.

INT. BEDROOM-EVENING

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

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

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

LOLA (V.O.)

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

EXT. PATIO-EVENING-FLASHBACK

At the table, Nicholas and Lola sit, eating their food.

Barry steps onto the patio. He looks at Nicholas.

BARRY

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

NICHOLAS

I don't invite pussies to my house.

Barry steps towards Nicholas. He pushes his hand into Nicholas's face.

BARRY

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

LOLA

Stop!

BARRY

Shut up!!

NICHOLAS

If you talk to my mother like that again --

-- Barry pushes Nicholas's shoulder --

BARRY

-- What are you going to do!!

NICHOLAS

Keep pushing me and you'll find out.

BARRY

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

-- Nicholas looks at Lola --

NICHOLAS

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

BARRY

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

Nicholas rushes towards Barry and punches Barry across the face.

Barry falls onto the **barbeque grill**. He hits the ground.
Nicholas looks at Lola.

Lola looks at Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Is it true!!

Lola looks away.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Is it true!!!

LOLA

Yes.

NICHOLAS

What happened to my mother!

LOLA

(sob)
She died!

NICHOLAS

Who was she!

Tears stream down her cheeks.

LOLA

Nicola!!

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

NICHOLAS

Both of you get off my property
now!!

Nicholas steps into the house and slams the sliding glass door shut.

Barry gets up and steps towards Lola.

Lola backs away from him.

LOLA

Don't touch me!

Lola wheels herself away.

LOLA (V.O.)

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

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

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

NICHOLAS

Is this spot taken?

Lola looks at Nicholas.

LOLA

No.

Nicholas sits. He looks at Lola.

NICHOLAS

Can I ask you a question?

LOLA

Sure.

NICHOLAS

What was she like?

LOLA
She had a good heart.

NICHOLAS
Was she like you?

LOLA
Yeah.

NICHOLAS
(sob)
Can I still call you mom?

LOLA
(sob)
I would love that.

She hugs Nicholas.

He hugs her with all his might.

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

Sierra wipes her eyes.

Paul steps behind Sierra as he walks past the sofa.

PAUL
Are you alright?

Sierra jumps out of her own skin, feeling scared from the
sudden outburst of hearing Paul's voice out of nowhere.

SIERRA
You scared me!

PAUL
I'm sorry.

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

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

SIERRA
Sleeping.

Paul grabs the torn pages from Sierra's fingertips.

PAUL
What's this?

Sierra snatches the pages from Paul's hand.

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

Sierra gets up from the sofa.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Are you hungry?

PAUL
I could eat.

EXT. MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-MORNING

Faith walks towards Sierra's car with Sierra.

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-MORNING

Faith lays in the backseat, asleep.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM-MORNING

Faith lays in bed.

Sierra steps out of the spare bedroom and shuts the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM-MORNING

Sierra walks into the living room.

Paul sits on the sofa. He holds the infant.

PAUL
How is she?

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

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

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

SIERRA
She's fine, babe.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

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

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

Faith's head rests against the pillow.

INT. RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

Sierra sits in a booth. She digs a **plastic spoon** into her **glass cup** while two young boys sit with their hands clamped onto their cups. AIDEN (11) PATRICK (9)

AIDEN
(sip)
How's mom doing?

SIERRA
She's sleeping.

PATRICK
Will she ever get better?

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

AIDEN
It has something to do with
grandpa, right?

SIERRA
Yeah. She just misses him.

PATRICK
We miss her.

SIERRA

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

Sierra's cell phone rings.

She answers it and puts it to her ear.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Hello?

PAUL (V.O.)

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

SIERRA

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

Sierra ends the call.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Come on boys!!

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Paul stands outside the bathroom. Sierra steps towards him.

SIERRA

Anything happen?

PAUL

No.

SIERRA

Go downstairs and keep the boy's
company.

PAUL

Will you be alright?

SIERRA

I'll be fine.

INT. BATHROOM-AFTERNOON

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

FAITH

You're beautiful!

Sierra steps into the bathroom and shuts the door.

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

FAITH (CONT'D)
I didn't hurt him.

SIERRA
I know.

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

SIERRA
I know.

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

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

SIERRA
Yeah, he does.

Sierra takes the infant from Faith.

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

SIERRA
He'll be fine. He's dad.

FAITH
Yeah.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Sierra walks Faith into the living room. Her arm around her shoulder.

Faith looks at Aiden and Patrick.

Aiden runs towards Faith.

AIDEN
Mom!

Aiden hugs onto Faith's waist.

Faith kisses him on the top of his head.

Patrick rushes towards Faith and hugs her.

Faith kisses Patrick on the cheek.

FAITH
My handsome boys!

Paul looks at Sierra.

Sierra looks at Paul.

EXT. FIELD-AFTERNOON

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

Sierra stands back and watches.

Faith looks at Sierra.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sierra lays in bed asleep.

SIERRA (V.O.)
That night, after everything had happened with Faith. I myself, had a little encounter with someone.

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sierra's lays her head on the table. She opens her eyes and looks up.

SIERRA
Where am I?

NICK
Surprise!!

Sierra looks at Nick.

SIERRA
Why are you here?

NICK
I always been here. We just never had the honor of meeting.
(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

I get to meet the anchor that's going to pull this family back together. The jagged mountain chain that is going to put it back together.

Nick stands up and walks towards Sierra.

SIERRA

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

NICK

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

SIERRA

Are you saying my father was a mistake?

NICK

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

Nick leans down.

SIERRA

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

NICK

No. I don't do that.

SIERRA

Why am I here then?

NICK

Why don't you take a walk with me?

Sierra gets up.

Nick leads Sierra towards a bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sierra walks into the bedroom and stands beside Nick.

Nicholas lays in bed with an empty **vodka bottle** in his hand.
An empty spot next to him.

SIERRA

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

NICK

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

SIERRA

Can I go now?

NICK

(point)
Not just yet.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

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

Mary Jane wakes up from the slam.

MARY JANE

Kiddo! You startled me.

Nick looks back at Sierra.

NICK

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

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

MARY JANE

(sniff)

Nick squints his eyes.

Sierra closes her eyes.

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra opens her eyes.

Nick walks up behind her and leads her to the empty chair at
the end of the table. She sits.

SIERRA

What now?

Nick hands Sierra a **Green Tootsie Roll Pop**.

Sierra takes it.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Candy?

NICK

Yeah.

SIERRA

Why candy?

NICK

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

Nick steps towards the front door.

SIERRA

Where are you going?

NICK

I believe you have it from here.

SIERRA

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

NICK

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

SIERRA

Thank you.

NICK

Anytime.

Nick opens the door and steps out of the room.

The door shuts.

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

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

PAUL

Babe?

Sierra grabs the Tootsie Roll Pop.

SIERRA

Did you give me this?

PAUL

No.

The infant lays across from her.

Sierra leans over and kisses him the head.

SIERRA

My beautiful boy.

PAUL

Will you be alright here? By yourself I mean.

SIERRA

Yeah.

PAUL

You know the drill.

SIERRA

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

PAUL

I love you.

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

SIERRA

Love you too.

INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

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

SIERRA

Shit!

INT. COFFEE SHOP-AFTERNOON

Sierra stands in front of the counter of the register. A woman finishes Sierra's order. BARISTA (20's)

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

SIERRA

Thank you.

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

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Don't judge me kiddo!

INT. GROCERY STORE-AFTERNOON

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

SIERRA

Coffee! Coffee! Coffee!!

INT. KITCHEN-EVENING

Sierra cuts up **carrots** and **celery**.

The infant sleeps in his rocker.

Her cell phone rings. She answers and puts it on speaker.

SIERRA

Hello?

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Hi? Sierra?

SIERRA

Yeah?

ANGELICA (V.O.)

This is Angelica. Can you come over tomorrow?

SIERRA

Sure.

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Good.

SIERRA
Alright.

ANGELICA (V.O.)
And Sierra?

SIERRA
Yeah?

ANGELICA (V.O.)
Bring the journal.

SIERRA
Okay.

The call ends.

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON

Sierra parks the car in front of the mansion.

EXT. RAMOS ESTATE-AFTERNOON

The Butler steps towards Sierra.

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

SIERRA
Thank you.

BUTLER
Did you bring the journal?

SIERRA
Yes.

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

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

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

EXT. PICNIC AREA-RAMOS ESTATE-AFTERNOON

Angelica sits at a **stone table**.

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

ANGELICA
Thank you for coming.

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

ANGELICA
Journal?

The Butler hands the journal to Angelica.

Angelica opens it and looks through it.

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

SIERRA
She did.

The Butler removes the lid to the barbeque grill and takes the journal from Angelica. He sets the journal down on the **fire** of the grill.

Sierra watches it burn.

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

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Michelle sneaks into a foggy bathroom and steps towards the shower.

Angelica wraps her arm around the throat of Michelle.

ANGELICA
Got you bitch!!

MICHELLE
(choke)

ANGELICA
Who sent you!

Angelica loosens her grip --

MICHELLE
-- Mila --

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

ANGELICA
I got a better idea.

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

MICHELLE
What's this for?

ANGELICA
Spare me and Lola. Kill Barry Smith!

MICHELLE
And if I don't spare you?

ANGELICA
What if I double it? A million.

MICHELLE
Very well.

ANGELICA
Now, get out of my house!

Michelle gets up and walks towards the bathroom door.

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

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

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

ANGELICA

Hello?

MICHELLE (V.O.)

It's done.

ANGELICA

How will I know?

MICHELLE (V.O.)

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

ANGELICA

I'll be there.

EXT. YACHT-AFTERNOON

Angelica lays back on a lounge chair.

A man hands her a glass. SERVANT (20's)

Angelica looks at the Servant.

ANGELICA

Thank you. What time is it?

SERVANT

A minute before one.

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

ANGELICA

Watch for the little fireworks!

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

Barry's car explodes.

EXT. YACHT-CONTINUOUS

ANGELICA

Yes!!

(laugh)

SERVANT

(laugh)

ANGELICA
Got him!!

EXT. ROSE GARDEN-RAMOS ESTATE-BACK TO PRESENT

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

SIERRA
I guess I would.

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

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

ANGELICA
I'm glad I can count on you.

Sierra steps away.

INT. SIERRA'S CAR-AFTERNOON

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

SIERRA
(breath)
Oh man!

EXT. PORCH-AFTERNOON

Faith sits on the porch.

Michael steps outside.

MICHAEL
Are the boys running you ragged?

FAITH
No. They were helping me remember.

MICHAEL
Good boys.

Michael leans down and hugs Faith.

FAITH
I love you.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

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

SIERRA
(sniff)
Something smells good in here!

INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING

Sierra walks into the dining room.

Paul sets platters of **vegetables** and **rice** in the center of the table.

Sierra looks at him with a smirk.

SIERRA
You always manage to surprise me.

PAUL
Come here, babe.

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sierra lays on her stomach at the end of the bed.

Paul massages the lower part of her back.

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

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

SIERRA

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

PAUL

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

SIERRA

You would do that?

PAUL

Yes.

Sierra sits up and pulls Paul down to the bed.

He kisses her.

INT. WAREHOUSE-AFTERNOON

Faith walks into the warehouse blindfolded.

FAITH

I hope this is not where you kill
me.

SIERRA

Shut up!

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

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Open them.

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

FAITH

How'd you do this?

SIERRA

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

Faith kisses Sierra on the cheek and hugs her.

FAITH

Thank you.

Sierra wraps her arm around her back.

SIERRA
Your welcome.

INT. PAUL'S CAR-EVENING

Paul drives the car. He looks at Sierra.

PAUL
Come on, babe. Rest your head.

Sierra leans her head down.

Paul slides a small **pillow** underneath her head.

SIERRA
Thank you.

Sierra closes her eyes.

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

INT. YACHT-EVENING

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

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

EXT. CABIN-MORNING

Faith leans against the banister of the front deck. A mug in
her hand.

Michael steps behind her and kisses her on the cheek.

SIERRA (V.O.)
As for Paul and I. We left Los
Angeles and moved to the
countryside. As for Nicholas.
(MORE)

SIERRA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He is doing what makes him happy
and living his life.

EXT. UNIVERSITY-MORNING

SUPER: EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER

A young man steps towards the crosswalk. NICHOLAS (18)

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

NICHOLAS
Hello?

SIERRA (V.O.)
Hey Nicky?

NICHOLAS
Hey mom.

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

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

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

NICHOLAS
I'll talk to you later.

SIERRA
I love you.

NICHOLAS
I love you too mom.

The call ends.

Nicholas puts his cell phone in his jacket pocket. He rushes to the entrance door and grabs the door.

STUDENT #1, #2 and #3 rush in.

Nicholas runs in.

INT. COFFEE SHOP-MORNING

Nicholas steps up to the counter.

A young, repressed girl pours coffee into a cup. AVA (18)

AVA
Hi? What can I get for you?

NICHOLAS
I would like an espresso coffee.

AVA
And what size do you want that in?

NICHOLAS
A venti.

AVA
That comes to \$4.29.

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

AVA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She slides the card and hands it back to Nicholas.

Nicholas takes his debit card.

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

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

NICHOLAS
The name is Nicholas, Ava.

AVA
How'd you know my name?

NICHOLAS
Name tag.

Ava looks down.

AVA
(laugh)
So, it is. Your espresso's up.

Nicholas grabs his cup of espresso.

NICHOLAS

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

AVA

I don't really go out.

NICHOLAS

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

AVA

Sounds good.

Nicholas turns and starts to walk towards the exit door.

AVA (CONT'D)

Wait! Don't you want my number!

Nicholas rushes back towards the counter.

Ava writes down her phone number on a piece of paper.

She hands it to him.

Nicholas takes it.

NICHOLAS

Sorry. Still tired.

AVA

(laugh)

It's cool.

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

SIERRA (V.O.)

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

A young boy sits on a sofa, tears in his eyes. BILLY (12)

A man is wheeled out on a gurney. DALLAS (40's)

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2 (30's)

Paramedic #1 pushes the gurney through the doorway.

BILLY
Is he going to be, okay?

PARAMEDIC #1
I sure hope so kid.

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

SIERRA (V.O.)
Her father didn't make it that
night. She had more than herself to
think about now.

INT. COFFEE SHOP-NIGHT

Ava sits at a table. She types on her laptop.

Billy lies asleep on the bench across the room.

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

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

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

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

INT. COFFEE SHOP-BACK TO PRESENT

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

INT. LIBRARY-AFTERNOON

Nicholas sits at a table. Stacks of books sit in front of
him.

Across from the library, Ava sits by herself at her own
table. She watches Nicholas.

EXT. PARK-UNIVERSITY-EVENING

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

AVA
Hi.

Nicholas looks around and finally sees Ava.

NICHOLAS
Hey!

AVA
You must be tired.

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

AVA
Are you free tomorrow?

NICHOLAS
Yeah.

AVA
Do you want to watch a movie with me?

NICHOLAS
Sure.

AVA
Text me tonight.

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

INT. BEDROOM-NICHOLAS'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Nicholas lays in bed. He holds his cell phone in his hands.

The cell phone vibrates.

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

NICHOLAS (TEXT)
What apartment number?

AVA (TEXT)
Sixteen.

NICHOLAS (TEXT)
See you at five then.

AVA (TEXT)
Good night.

NICHOLAS (TEXT)
Good night.

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

EXT. PORCH-APARTMENT COMPLEX-EVENING

Nicholas steps towards the door. He holds a boutique of flowers in his hand and knocks gently on the door.

The door opens.

Billy looks at Nicholas.

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

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

Nicholas sets the flowers down on the ground.

BILLY
Come on in.

Billy walks into the apartment.

Nicholas steps in and shuts the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AVA'S APARTMENT-EVENING

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

NICHOLAS
So --

BILLY
-- So --

Ava walks into the living room.

AVA

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

Billy looks at Nicholas.

BILLY

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

AVA

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

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

AVA (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

NICHOLAS

It's fine.

AVA

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

NICHOLAS

What movies do you have?

AVA

How's **Beetlejuice** sound?

NICHOLAS

Sounds like something I wouldn't drink.

AVA

(laugh)

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

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

AVA (CONT'D)

How do you like it so far?

NICHOLAS

You are right.

AVA

Did you ever watch movies like this
back home?

NICHOLAS

Not really. No.

AVA

What do your parents do?

NICHOLAS

My mom's a writer and my dad's a
contractor.

AVA

Sounds interesting.

NICHOLAS

What about your parents?

AVA

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

NICHOLAS

I'm sorry.

AVA

It's fine. He didn't take good care
of himself. So, I was rewarded
custody of that little dweeb back
there. Now, we're living our best
life. Do you feel like running?

NICHOLAS

No.

Nicholas reaches for Ava's hand and holds it.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Nicholas and Ava walk through the park.

Billy walks behind them.

Ava looks back at Billy.

Billy makes kissy faces at Ava.

Ava gives him a fist.

SIERRA (V.O.)

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

INT. NICHOLAS'S CAR-MORNING

The car pulls into the driveway.

Billy looks at the house.

BILLY

This is it?

NICHOLAS

This is it.

BILLY

Wow!

NICHOLAS

Come on.

Nicholas opens the door and gets out of the car.

Sierra rushes towards the driveway.

SIERRA

Nicky!

Sierra rushes towards Nicholas and hugs him.

He hugs her.

She kisses him on the cheek.

Ava opens the passenger door and gets out.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

You must be Ava. Oh! You are pretty!

Ava looks at Nicholas.

AVA

Nick!

SIERRA
That's what my son said!

Billy opens his door and gets out.

Sierra looks at Billy.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
You must be Billy. He didn't tell
me you were so handsome.

Billy smiles and hides his face.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
I made him blush. Come on, let's go
get some breakfast!

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Billy sits on the sofa, and watches television.

INT. KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Nicholas and Ava sit on stools at the counter.

Sierra stands and cleans.

Nicholas looks around.

NICHOLAS
Is Aunt Faith coming?

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

NICHOLAS
Makes sense.

SIERRA
So, how's school?

NICHOLAS
Good.

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

AVA

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

Sierra looks at Billy and then looks at Ava.

SIERRA

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

AVA

Thank you. Your awesome.

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

INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Ava steps towards the front door.

Nicholas follows her.

BILLY

Where are you going?

NICHOLAS

We'll be back. Have fun.

Nicholas opens the door for Ava.

Ava steps out.

Nicholas steps out and shuts the door.

Sierra walks in front of the television and shows him the
display of **board games**. Along with **video game consoles**.

SIERRA

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

Billy smiles.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Near a duck pond, Nicholas and Ava walk around.

AVA

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

NICHOLAS

She works miracles.

AVA

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

NICHOLAS

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

AVA

Am I in it?

Ava stops.

Nicholas stops and looks at her.

NICHOLAS

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

AVA

I do.

Nicholas leans towards Ava and kisses her.

INT. DINING ROOM-EVENING

Nicholas sits at the edge of the table.

Ava sits next to him. Her hand rests on his.

The **turkey** and all the platters of food sits in the middle of
the table.

SIERRA (V.O.)

There are moments that are meant to
be remembered. These are one of
those moments.

INT. BALCONY-MOVIE THEATER-EVENING

Holding hands, Nicholas and Ava sit in the balcony.

EXT. PARK-NIGHT

Nicholas and Ava walk through the park.

Nicholas holds Ava's hand close to his heart. He kisses it.

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

GUNMAN (20's)

Ava looks back.

AVA

Come on! Let's get out of here!

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

GUNMAN

Give me all your money!!

NICHOLAS

Alright. Just be calm.

GUNMAN

Money, now!

The Gunman points the gun at Ava.

NICHOLAS

Don't point the gun at her!

GUNMAN

Then give me the money!

Nicholas reaches into his jacket pocket and hands the Gunman his cash.

The Gunman looks at the **ring** on Ava's ring finger.

GUNMAN (CONT'D)

Give me the ring!

Nicholas steps in front of Ava.

NICHOLAS

That's not going to happen!

The Gunman shoots Nicholas once in the chest.

AVA
(scream)

The Gunman runs away from the scene.

Nicholas falls to the ground.

Ava kneels down over Nicholas.

AVA (CONT'D)
Nicholas, honey!

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Nicholas lays on a gurney.

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2 (20's)

Paramedic #1 pushes the gurney down the hallway.

Ava runs alongside them.

Nicholas reaches his arm out for Ava.

NICHOLAS
Ava!

AVA
(sob)
I'm here, baby.

Ava places her right hand over her heart.

INT. OPERATING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

A man is prepped for surgery. SURGEON (30's)

NURSE #1 and #2 (20's)

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

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

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

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

AVA
(sob)
Please be okay.

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

At the dinner table, Nick sits across the way. He eats a steak and puts each piece in his mouth.

Nicholas opens his eyes and raises his head. He looks at Nick.

NICHOLAS
Where am I?

NICK
Someplace.

NICHOLAS
Who are you?

NICK
Someone that died.

NICHOLAS
How'd you die?

NICK
I got stabbed.

Nick grabs a glass of iced tea.

NICK (CONT'D)
(gulp)

He slams the glass down.

NICHOLAS
Why were you stabbed?

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

EXT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-FLASHBACK

Nick stands at the barbeque grill.

A girl steps behind Nick. JOY (18) Joy stabs Nick from behind in the back.

INT. DINING ROOM-BACK TO PRESENT

Nick thinks to himself.

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

NICHOLAS
Am I dying?

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

The Surgeon pulls out the bullet and blood starts to gush out.

Nurse #1 puts pressure on the wound.

The *life support monitor* goes rapid.

SURGEON
Come on kid! Come back!!

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

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

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

Nicholas takes the Tootsie Roll Pop.

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

Ava sits in the chair, rocking herself to calm down.

The Surgeon steps outside of the operating room and walks towards Ava.

Sierra and Paul step towards the waiting room and the Surgeon.

Ava gets up and steps towards the Surgeon.

SURGEON
He's going to make it.

Sierra eyes fill with tears. She turns to Paul and hugs him.

Ava looks away, feeling overwhelmed.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Sierra leans down and brushes her fingers through Nicholas's hair.

Nicholas opens his eyes. He looks at Sierra.

NICHOLAS

Hey.

SIERRA

Hi. You gave me a big scare.

Nicholas reaches his hand up.

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

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Nick, you crazy ass man!

INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-AFTERNOON (DREAM SEQUENCE)

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

The auditorium is covered in **white roses**.

Sierra sits with Paul. She looks around.

Nick walks down the aisle and sits beside her. A **lollipop** in his mouth.

Nick pulls it out.

NICK

Sup!

SIERRA

Why do you keep giving us candy?

NICK

I don't do that. The hospital does.

SIERRA

So, it's a coincidence?

NICK

No. I don't believe in those.

SIERRA

Thank you.

NICK

I didn't do anything.

SIERRA

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

NICK

You learned how to do that for yourself.

SIERRA

Your mother would have been proud of you.

NICK

Yeah. I hope so. Thank you.

SIERRA

Your welcome.

NICK

I got to go.

Nick gets up.

SIERRA

Nick?

Nick looks at Sierra.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Take care.

NICK

You too.

Nick walks towards the **altar** and turns into a **light spirit**.

The light disappears into the window.

SIERRA

(sob)

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

Paul puts his hand on Sierra's back.

PAUL

Sierra!

Sierra opens her eyes and looks at Paul.

SIERRA

What?

PAUL

It's almost over.

Nicholas and Ava stand at the altar.

A man stands in front of Nicholas and Ava. PASTOR (40's)

PASTOR

You may now kiss the bride!

Nicholas kisses Ava.

She kisses him.

BILLY

(clap)

SIERRA

(clap)

SIERRA (V.O.)

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

FADE OUT

THE END