

Monster

Screenplay by

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***"Murderers are not monsters, they're men. And that's the most frightening thing about them." - Alice Sebold***

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. BEVERLY HILLS NEIGHHOOD-DAY**

SUPER: 1992 LOS ANGELES

A young girl runs in the middle of the road. Cody (9) Child star. A traumatically, scarred and mentally damaged young girl.

CODY (V.O.)  
They say the brightest minds start off somewhere. Here I am, running away. In Hollywood. I never wanted to be famous; my mother pushed me into it.

A **Police cruiser** drive in front of her.

Cody jumps onto the hood, rolling herself over the police cruiser.

CODY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
This is me running --

She gets off the hood and steps onto the ground, running as fast as she can.

CODY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
-- Running from my childhood.

A **broken bottle** of **wine** in her hand.

A zombie woman runs towards Cody, reaching her hands out, trying to grab her. CATHERINE (34)

CODY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Here I am, running from monsters --  
or the monster -- my monster  
mother.

CODY  
(swing)

The end of the broken bottle slices through Catherine neck.

Blood flows out.

Catherine drops to her knees. She goes from a zombie to human.

Cody runs faster, getting away as fast as she can. A scared but relieved look upon her face as she runs away from the past in her life.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROUP ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

The sun shines through the window of the group room.

TEENAGERS #1, #2, #3 and #4.

Cody sits in between Teenagers #1 and #3.

Teenager #1 shoves **M&M's** into his mouth.

She looks at him, wondering how he can eat that many.

He looks at her.

THERAPIST (O.C.)

Good morning! My name is Dr. Em.

TEENAGER #1

Hi, my name is --

TEENAGER #2

Hi, my name is --

CODY

Hi, my name is --

TITLE CARD: MONSTER

CUT TO:

**INT. WAITING ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

SUPER: TEN YEARS LATER

A MOTHER (30's) and her LITTLE GIRL (6) walk into the waiting room.

The Little Girl sits down.

The Mother sets her **purse** down on the Little Girls lap.

MOTHER

Stay put!

LITTLE GIRL

Yes mommy.

The Mother steps into the women's bathroom.

Across the waiting room, an attractive young woman sits at the **kiddie's table**, playing with handmade puppets. A **frog puppet** on her right hand and a **dog puppet** on her left. CODY BRIDGES (19)

The Little Girl gets up from the chair and gets closer to the kiddie table.

DOG PUPPET  
Look, there's a little girl  
watching us! What do we do?

LITTLE GIRL  
(laugh)

FROG PUPPET  
Invite her to lunch of course!!

LITTLE GIRL  
(giggle)  
(laugh)

Cody faces the dog puppet towards her.

DOG PUPPET  
Do you want to join us for lunch?

LITTLE GIRL  
Yes!

The Mother pulls the Little Girl back.

MOTHER  
Get away from her!!!

CODY  
It's fine! We were just talking!

The Mother lifts the Little Girl up and sets her down on the chair.

Cody's face drops down with sadness, taking the puppets off her hands.

NURSE (O.C.)  
Cody Bridges!

CODY (V.O.)  
People still look at me the same.  
It hasn't changed.

OLIVIA (V.O.)  
Not everyone is going to look at  
you the same way.

CODY (V.O.)

I know.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

CODY  
(breath)

Cody turns to her side. She looks at a woman sitting in a chair, a **note pad** on her lap. OLIVIA (40)

CODY (CONT'D)  
I been trying to interact with  
people --

-- A **calico cat** jumps onto the couch with Cody.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Hello kitty!

She pets the cat.

OLIVIA  
That's Mr. Kittles.

CODY  
Hello, Mr. Kittles! Such a good boy  
you are!

OLIVIA  
Tell me, how do these people  
approach you?

CODY  
I'm at the grocery store, working  
and one woman comes up to me --  
asking me for a picture but she  
says --

FAN WOMAN (V.O.)  
-- I want to take a picture with a  
has been.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY-FLASHBACK**

CODY  
 (snatch camera)  
 (stick out tongue)  
 Here you go!! Ahh!!!

Cody hits the button on the camera and takes a picture of her tongue. She hands it back to the FAN WOMAN (30's)

The Fan Woman steps away from her.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-BACK TO PRESENT**

OLIVIA  
 How do you think you handled that?

CODY  
 Not the best.

Olivia looks at notes in front of her on her lap.

OLIVIA  
 What about the incident at the elementary school?

CODY  
 Oh!

CUT TO:

**EXT. PLAYGROUND-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-DAY-FLASHBACK**

A group full of children are playing, running up to the slide.

KID #1, #2, #3 and #4 stop, their eyes drawn to a **puppet theater**. A **cat puppet** appears.

Kid #1 and #2 toss a **basketball** to each other.

CAT PUPPET (O.C.)  
 Hello boys and girls!!!

Kid #1 and #2 stop tossing the basketball.

KID #1  
 Who are you!!

CAT PUPPET

My name is Javi the cat! Can you spare a sandwich for a hungry cat?

KID #2

Cats eat sandwiches.

CAT PUPPET

What kind of sandwich is it?

KID #2

**Tuna.**

CAT PUPPET

Mmhmm! Tuna! Yummy!

Kid #2 grabs her sandwich from inside her **lunchbox**. She hands it to the cat puppet.

The cat puppet takes the sandwich.

CAT PUPPET (CONT'D)

Thank you, little girl!!

A police cruiser pulls up to the curb outside of the fence.

POLICE OFFICER #1 and #2 (30's)

The passenger door opens.

Police Officer #2 steps towards the fence.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Hey!!! Come here!!

Cody stands up from behind the puppet theater. She runs towards the other fence, climbing her way over.

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREETS-DAY**

Cody drops to the ground, twisting her ankle.

CODY

(yell)

Ah!!!

Police Officer #1 pushes her to the ground.

Police Officer #2 puts **handcuffs** on her.

POLICE OFFICER #2  
 You have the right to remain silent  
 --

CODY  
 -- Great going cop!  
 (scream)

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-BACK TO PRESENT**

OLIVIA  
 What brought that on?

CODY  
 A social experiment.

OLIVIA  
 Okay.

The last bit of sand runs out in the *hourglass*.

Olivia looks at it and then back at Cody.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 Times up.

Cody stands up.

CODY  
 Same time, next week.

OLIVIA  
 Sure.

CODY  
 Okay.

She steps towards the door.

CUT TO:

**INT. WAITING ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Cody walks past the Little Girl.

The Little Girl looks back, watching Cody step towards the exit doors.

Cody pushes the exit doors open.

CODY (V.O.)  
 Someone has to look out for the  
 next generation.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

She looks back while she walks towards the front doors.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

CODY  
 Paper or plastic?

Cody prepares the **plastic bag** and unfolds a **paper bag**.

She looks at the WOMAN CUSTOMER (30's)

CODY (CONT'D)  
 Paper or plastic?

WOMAN CUSTOMER  
 Plastic.

Cody drops the can goods into the bag with force.

WOMAN CUSTOMER (CONT'D)  
 Easy with those!!

She drops more into the bag without a care.

The Woman Customer takes her receipt.

Cody drops the plastic bags into the **grocery cart**.

CODY  
 Have a good day.

The Woman Customer pushes the grocery cart away.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 Bite me!

She looks at her with shock.

WOMAN CUSTOMER  
 Ah!!

The Woman Customer continues to push the grocery cart out of the doors.

CUT TO:

**EXT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

A *cigarette* in the tips of her fingers.

CODY (V.O.)  
I go to work.

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT**

A *plate* in the tips of her fingers under the running water.

CODY (V.O.)  
I come home.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Cody switches off a *lamp*. She lies her head down on a *pillow*.

CODY  
(yawn)

CODY (V.O.)  
I sleep.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

Her hand underneath her chin, watching and waiting for another high maintenance customer to be helped with bagging their groceries, doing what her job requires her to do.

CODY (V.O.)  
All over again it starts.

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREETS-DAY**

Cody steps down the sidewalk.

FANS #1, #2 and #3 step behind her, holding up cameras in their hands.

FAN #1  
Smile for us!!

FAN #3  
Say the line!!

CODY  
(roll eyes)

CODY (V.O.)  
I run.

Cody runs down the sidewalk.

Fans #1, #2 and #3 run after her.

Across the street she runs.

FAN #1  
Hurry up!! She's getting away!!

CUT TO:

**EXT. ALLEY-DAY**

Cody rushes into an alley. She leans back against a wall.

Fan #1 rushes into the alley, looks to her left, looking Cody in the eyes.

FAN #1  
(yell)  
She's over here!!!

Cody sucker punches Fan #1.

She falls to the ground.

Fan #1 looks at Cody with surprise in her eyes.

CUT TO:

**INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-DAY**

Cody lies asleep on a **cot**.

The sound of the cell door opens.

GUARD (O.C.)  
Bridges!!

She opens her eyes.

CODY  
What!

GUARD  
You made bail!

Cody sits up.

CUT TO:

**EXT. COUNTY JAIL-DAY**

Cody steps outside.

Olivia stands in front of her, holding a **cup** of **coffee**. She hands it to her.

CODY  
Thanks.

Cody takes it.

Olivia steps away.

OLIVIA  
Come on, let's go.

CUT TO:

**INT. OLIVIA'S OLDSMOBILE-DAY**

CODY  
(sip)

Olivia looks at Cody and then back at the road.

CODY (CONT'D)  
What did the judge say?

OLIVIA  
We made a deal.

Cody looks at Olivia.

CODY  
What kind of deal?

Olivia looks at her with a smile and returns her attention to the road.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

A young man and woman sit on a *sofa*, open *law books* sitting in the middle seat between them. BRENDA (20) Law school student. A driven and straight forward young woman. PETE (22) Law school student. A dishonest and secretive man.

A knock at the door.

PETE

Are you expecting somebody?

BRENDA

No.

A pound to the door.

Brenda steps towards the door.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Hopefully someone ordered us some pizza.

PETE

That does sound good right about now.

She unlocks the *DEADBOLT* and pulls the door open.

Eyes on each other.

BRENDA

Olivia?

OLIVIA

Brenda. Can I come in?

BRENDA

Sure.

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

Brenda pours hot water into a *teacup* with a *tea bag* swirling around inside as the water hits it. Olivia touches it gently with the ends of her fingers.

OLIVIA

Thanks.

BRENDA

So, what is it that you needed to talk to me about?

OLIVIA

How are you doing in your classes?

BRENDA

Doing well. All I need is help with my psychology class.

OLIVIA

That's what I wanted to help with. See, I got a patient and she's --

BRENDA

Difficult.

OLIVIA

Yeah.

BRENDA

And you're coming to me.

OLIVIA

Yeah.

Brenda looks away.

BRENDA

What's her name?

Olivia reaches into her **briefcase** and pulls out a **folder**. She hands it to Brenda.

Brenda takes it.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

I'll check it out.

OLIVIA

I'll talk to you soon.

Olivia steps out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

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

Brenda sits up in bed, turns through the pages of paperwork in the folder.

She looks at the photographs of Cody, going from a child to a teenager. Mugshots and exam photographs. She looks at belt marks on her back and the sadness in her eyes.

A written-out report behind the photograph.

BRENDA  
(read)  
Child exhibits hostility towards  
her mother.

Brenda flips through the photographs, finding each one troubling to look at. She gently closes the folder and sets it down on the **nightstand**. Her mind in disbelief in what she read and the photographs she saw.

CUT TO:

**INT. WAITING ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Olivia sits across from Brenda, tapping a **pen** against her leg while waiting patiently for Cody's arrival.

The sound of a door opens.

OLIVIA  
If you get shaky, I'll understand.

Cody steps into the waiting room. She looks at Olivia and then at Brenda.

CODY  
Good morning!

OLIVIA  
Good morning.

BRENDA  
Good morning.

Cody pulls out a cigarette, sticks it into her mouth.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
No smoking, please.

CODY  
Why? There's no one in here.

Cody looks at Brenda again.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Who's the fancy pants?

BRENDA  
I beg your pardon!

CODY  
(Imitates Brenda)  
I beg your pardon!

Brenda stands up.

Olivia stands up.

OLIVIA  
Could you give us a moment alone,  
Cody?

Cody turns around and steps out of the waiting room.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Like I said --

BRENDA  
-- I believe I got this, okay. Go  
home and I'll call you later.

OLIVIA  
Okay.

Brenda steps out of the waiting room.

CUT TO:

**EXT. MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Cody sits on a **wooden bench** in front of the building. Her right foot resting on her left leg.

Brenda steps towards her.

Cody looks at Brenda.

CODY  
Is Olivia joining us?

BRENDA  
No.

Cody looks up and down at Brenda's clothes, at the way she carries herself like a school vice principal.

CODY  
And you are?

BRENDA  
Brenda.

She looks away.

CODY  
(roll eyes)

Cody puts the cigarette out on the bottom of her shoe. She stands up.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Do you care to hear some show tunes?

BRENDA  
Not at all.

CODY  
Good!

Cody starts to skip.

A disbelief in Brenda's face.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Come on! Let's eat!!

Down the sidewalk, Cody skips.

BRENDA  
(shake head)

CODY  
*Maybe the world is blind or just a little unkind.*

Brenda grabs at her head in frustration.

BRENDA  
Ugh!!!

CODY  
*Don't know, seems you can't be sure of anything anymore.*

BRENDA  
Let's eat!!

CODY  
Yes!!!

She continues to skip around her once again.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
Oh my gosh!! Lord, take me now!

CUT TO:

**INT. FOOD COURT-MALL-DAY**

Brenda sits across from Cody, eating her plate of **Chinese food**.

Cody takes a bite from her slice of **pepperoni pizza**.

BRENDA  
What was it like being on TV?

She looks her in the eyes, then returns her attention to eating.

CODY  
Like the whole world is watching  
you your whole life.

BRENDA  
(sip)

CUT TO:

**INT. STAGE-STUDIO-DAY-FLASHBACK**

SUPER: 1988

Cody stands in front of the rest of her castmates.

CODY  
*Patty cakes, patty cakes, come on  
home, come on home!*

CUT TO:

**INT. DRESSING ROOM-STUDIO-DAY**

Cody sits in front of a **vanity**. She takes a sip of water.

DAD CASTMATE (O.S.)  
Can you believe that!! That Bridges  
girl is making more money than us a  
single episode.

MOM CASTMATE (O.S.)  
 Yeah, but by the time Hollywood is  
 done with her, she'll be another  
 has been!  
 (laugh)

DAD CASTMATE  
 Yeah!  
 (laugh)

Sadness fills her eyes.

CUT TO:

**INT. DINING ROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

A *quail* sits on a plate in front of Cody.

Cody stares at it like it's still alive.

CATHERINE (O.C.)  
 Cody?

She looks at Catherine, startled by her voice.

CODY  
 Yes?

CATHERINE  
 Aren't you going to eat?

CODY  
 Can I be excused?

CATHERINE  
 Sure.

Cody stands up and walks out of the dining room.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
 Was she calm when she was sober?

CODY (V.O.)  
 No. That was just me exaggerating  
 because I wish she was like that  
 all the time.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

Cody hides underneath the bed.

Catherine tosses a **porcelain doll**. The head shatters as it hits the floor.

CATHERINE  
You have to come out sometime to use the bathroom.

CODY (O.C.)  
(cry)  
(sob)

She steps out of the bedroom, grabbing a bottle of **vodka** from the top of the vanity.

CATHERINE (O.S.)  
I'll be right out here waiting.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
Was there any humiliating thing that she made you do?

CODY (V.O.)  
Yes.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
What was that?

CUT TO:

**INT. AUDITORIUM-THEATRE-NIGHT**

Cody and Catherine step into the auditorium, wearing **flower dresses**.

CODY (V.O.)  
It was the most uncomfortable feeling I had.

BRENDA  
And after?

CODY  
She made me switch into boy's clothes to avoid getting the dresses dirty.

CUT TO:

**INT. DRESSING ROOM-THEATRE-NIGHT**

Cody buttons up a **collared shirt**.

The curtain opens fast.

Cody turns to Catherine, feeling scared.

CATHERINE  
(snatch)

CODY (V.O.)  
Sometimes they got dirt on them.

CATHERINE  
Can't you be a little more  
considerate!!

She slaps her.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
The many times that you ran away,  
what was going through your mind?

CODY (V.O.)  
That she was going to kill me.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-DAY**

Step after step, Cody makes it to the bottom of the stairs.

Catherine lays face down, unconscious from her drinking.

CODY (V.O.)  
She hardly got her hands on me  
during her heavy drinking.

CUT TO:

**INT. FOOD COURT-MALL-BACK TO PRESENT**

Cody wipes her mouth.

CODY  
That's life with Catherine the  
great!

Cody looks around. She looks at her watch.

CODY (CONT'D)  
I better get to work. I'll see you  
next week.

BRENDA

See you then.

She stands up and walks away.

Brenda reaches into her briefcase, pulls out a notebook and writes down all the information she heard from Cody.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

OLIVIA (V.O.)

How did it go?

Brenda sits up, holding a **receiver** in her hand, pressing it against her ear.

BRENDA

It went well. Better than I expected.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

See, you can listen and maybe you both can get an understanding from each other.

BRENDA

This was your plan.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

What?

BRENDA

I mean I'm basically watching her, keeping her out of trouble.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

I don't know anyone better.

BRENDA

I -- I got a lot studying to do for my exam.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

Don't worry!

BRENDA

I'm sorry but --

OLIVIA (V.O.)

I already got you an extension on your bar exam.

BRENDA  
You did?

OLIVIA (V.O.)  
Plus, this will be you doing a public service. Keep her out of trouble. Listen to her stories, you know.

BRENDA  
Be her best friend.

OLIVIA (V.O.)  
Yeah.

BRENDA  
Okay.

OLIVIA (V.O.)  
Good night.

BRENDA  
Good night.

OLIVIA (V.O.)  
Love you.

BRENDA  
Love you too.

Brenda ends the call and sets the receiver down on the coffee table. She lays back on the sofa.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
(breath)

Brenda closes her eyes.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Give me a freaking brownie button please!

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Brenda steps towards the counter and stops in front of a CASHIER (20's)

CASHIER  
Paper or plastic?

BRENDA

What?

Cody wraps a plastic bag around her head, yanks it as tight as she can.

CODY

Plastic!!!  
(laugh)

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-DAY (BACK TO REALITY)**

BRENDA

(scream)

Brenda sits up. She looks around, making sure it was all a dream.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Thank God!!

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY-DAY**

At a table, all to herself, waiting for Cody to arrive. Brenda sits, gripping her hand onto a law book.

CODY (O.C.)

Sorry I'm late!

Brenda jumps out of her skin, frightened. She holds her chest as if she's having an early heart attack.

Cody sits.

CODY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, did I scare you?

BRENDA

It's fine.

Her eyes go up and down, looking at Brenda's wardrobe.

CODY

May I ask one question?

BRENDA

Sure.

CODY  
 Why do you dress like a substitute  
 teacher?

Brenda looks at the jacket and skirt.

BRENDA  
 You don't like it?

CODY  
 If I were in my sixties!

Cody looks around.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 You must get the eyes.

BRENDA  
 What eyes?

CODY  
 (motion a square)  
 You know!

BRENDA  
 I'm not a square!

LIBRARIAN (O.C.)  
 Shh!!

BRENDA  
 Sorry!

LIBRARIAN (O.C.)  
 Shh!!

BRENDA  
 When I was in the study hall, I got  
 laughed at.

CUT TO:

**INT. STUDY HALL-DAY-FLASHBACK**

Brenda steps towards an unattended table.

LAW STUDENTS #1, #2 and #3 (20's)

She sits and drops her books to the table.

LAW STUDENT #2  
 (laugh)

Law Student #1 tosses a **balled-up piece** of **paper**, hitting Brenda on the back of the head.

She touches her head, looks back at Law Students #1, #2 and #3.

BRENDA  
Who threw that!

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY-BACK TO PRESENT**

CODY  
Anyways, why are we here?

BRENDA  
I believe that under the laws of a minor that you're entitled to gain access to the funds that you have earned from being a child actor.

CODY  
Really?

BRENDA  
Yes.

CODY  
What was the percentage?

BRENDA  
Fifteen percent.

CODY  
That works.

BRENDA  
Your mother never told you, did she?

CODY  
No.

BRENDA  
So, tell me, after you left the house, where did you go?

CODY  
I went to stay with one of my castmates.

CUT TO:

**INT. CASTMATES HOUSE-DAY-FLASHBACK**

The door opens.

Mom Castmate looks

MOM CASTMATE  
Cody? What are you doing here?

CODY  
I ran away.

MOM CASTMATE  
Come in!

Cody steps in.

Mom Castmate shuts the door.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-CASTMATES HOUSE-DAY**

Cody opens her eyes. She sits up. Her eyes look across the living room and see's Catherine staring back at her.

CATHERINE  
Hello Cody.

Cody looks at Mom Castmate and then at Catherine.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIMOUSINE-DAY**

Cody looks outside the window.

Catherine sits, looks in Cody's direction, staring her in the face as Cody does everything she can to not look at her mother.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

Cody's right hand is handcuffed to the **bed post**.

Catherine switches off the light.

CATHERINE  
Good night!!

She shuts the door.

CODY  
 (sob)  
 Mommy! Please!!  
 (cry)

CODY (V.O.)  
 After that, I did everything and  
 broke that chain.

Night turns to-day.

The bedroom door opens.

Catherine steps in with a **tray** of **scrambled eggs**, and **toast**.

CATHERINE  
 Rise and shine sweetheart!

She looks at the broken chain to the handcuff left on the  
 best post.

The tray slips out of her hands.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BEVERLY HILLS NEIGHHOOD-DAY**

Cody runs down the sidewalk. She looks back.

CODY  
 (breath)

CODY (V.O.)  
 (sob)  
 Can we stop?

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY-DAY**

BRENDA  
 Yeah, sure.

Cody wipes her eyes. She pulls out a cigarette, puts it to  
 her mouth.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 You can't smoke in here.

CODY  
I got to go.

Brenda looks at her watch.

BRENDA  
Okay.

Cody stands up.

CODY  
Let's meet someplace else next  
week, okay?

BRENDA  
Okay.

CODY  
It's too quiet.

She steps away from the table.

BRENDA  
Bye.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT-FLASHBACK**

A young girl steps towards the bathroom door; her hand pressed against it. She knocks gently. BRENDA (14) She pushes the door open. A shadow of a man hanging appears in front of her. Her hands touch her face, in horror of what she's seeing.

LIBRARIAN (V.O.)  
Miss!!!

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY-BACK TO PRESENT**

BRENDA  
What!

Brenda looks at the LIBRAIAN standing in front of her.

LIBRARIAN  
We're closing the library.

BRENDA  
Oh! Sorry.

She grabs her briefcase and stands up.

CUT TO:

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

Brenda lies her head against the pillows, looks at the framed photograph of her mother and father. She takes it off the nightstand and kisses it.

BRENDA  
Good night.

Gently putting the framed photograph back on the nightstand and switching off the lamp, Brenda closes her eyes.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
I love you.

CUT TO:

**EXT. RODEO DRIVE-DAY**

A quick glance at her watch, and a look around the Beverly Hills shopping stores, Brenda looks around for Cody.

BRENDA  
Where are you!

CODY (O.C.)  
Right here!

Brenda looks back at Cody.

BRENDA  
Why are we here?

Cody grabs her hand and walks her towards the front doors of a **beauty salon**.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEAUTY SALON-DAY**

A man spins Brenda around, turning her towards the mirror. RICO (20's) Stylist.

RICO  
So -- What are we turning you into?

CODY  
 Something that says I'm single but  
 I'm going to stay that way.

Brenda looks at Cody with confusion.

BRENDA  
 What!

RICO  
 I know what you're getting at.

She looks at Rico.

BRENDA  
 What is she getting at!

RICO  
 Don't worry sweetie, Uncle Rico has  
 your back.

BRENDA  
 But --

Rico rinses out her hair.

#### MONTAGE

-- Rico shampoos Brenda's hair.

-- Rico rinses Brenda's hair.

-- Rico cuts the ends of Brenda's hair.

#### BACK TO SCENE

Rico turns Brenda towards the mirror.

Brenda looks at herself, stands up and gets a closer look.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 It's me. Is that my hair?

RICO  
 Yes, sweetie.

BRENDA  
 I -- look --

CODY  
 -- Beautiful.

Brenda looks back at Cody, smiles and looks back at herself in the mirror.

BRENDA

Thank you.

CUT TO:

**INT. BATHROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

Brenda looks at herself in the mirror, smiling at the sight of her new hairdo. She fluffs up her curly locks, treating them delicately.

CODY (V.O.)

Turn around?

CUT TO:

**INT. DRESSING ROOM-CLOTHING STORE-DAY**

Brenda turns around and looks at the **black blazer** and skirt she's wearing. She looks down at the skirt; along with the **brown stockings** and the way her legs look.

BRENDA

Wow!

CODY

You look pretty hot.

She looks at herself in shock.

BRENDA

I do.

CODY

Every time you walk into a room, you're going to knock everyone off their feet.

BRENDA

You think?

Cody leans her chin against Brenda's shoulder.

CODY

I don't think, I know.

She looks at herself and smiles.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Olivia sits at her desk, typing on the **desktop computer**.

A knock on the door.

OLIVIA

Come in!

Brenda steps into the office.

Olivia looks at her, surprised at the way she looks.

BRENDA

Surprise!

From head to toe, Olivia looks at her.

OLIVIA

What the hell was in that tea?

BRENDA

What?

OLIVIA

You just look --

BRENDA

Different?

OLIVIA

Yes.

Brenda sits down on the couch.

BRENDA

Thanks.

Her eyes in disbelief still.

OLIVIA

What brought this look to be?

BRENDA

I had a little help.

OLIVIA

Cody?

BRENDA

Yes. It's been great with her. She helped me with a stylist and finding the perfect suit!

Olivia stands up.

OLIVIA  
Brenda, sweetie --

-- She steps towards her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
I had hopes you were helping her  
get to the bottom of her mental  
state. Not --  
(wave)  
This!

BRENDA  
I like it.

OLIVIA  
I do too.

Brenda stands up.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Look, you're this close to taking  
your exam and getting her sent off  
to be someone else's problem.

BRENDA  
Is that why you introduced me to  
her, to get her out of your hair!

OLIVIA  
She's never going to change.

BRENDA  
I can't --

-- Brenda rushes towards the door, pulls it open and walks  
out of the office.

OLIVIA  
Brenda!!!

CUT TO:

**EXT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

Cody is leaned up against a pole, smoking a cigarette.

FAN #1 (O.C.)  
Isn't this a surprise!

She looks at Fan #1, drops the cigarette to the ground and stomps it out with the bottom of her shoe.

CODY  
(roll eyes)  
Here we go again.

Her eyes on Fan #1's nose.

FAN #1  
(point)  
See what you did?

CODY  
Yeah. Sorry about that. I should have killed you.

FAN #1  
(laugh)

CODY  
Well, I wish I could chat, but I got to get back to work.

Cody steps towards the entrance doors.

Fan #1 walks behind her, following her into the grocery store.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

Cody steps into the grocery store and approaches the bagging section.

Fan #1 pushes Cody.

Cody falls to the floor.

The Cashier steps towards Cody. She looks at Fan #1.

CASHIER  
Hey!! Back off!!

Fan #1 leans towards Cody.

FAN #1  
What are you going to do now!!

Cody stands up to her feet and punches Fan #1 across the face.

CUT TO:

**INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-DAY**

Cody sits. She looks at the food sitting on the tray across from her.

The door opens.

A man steps towards the cell door. GUARD (30's)

GUARD  
Bridges!

CODY  
What!

GUARD  
You have a visitor!

He looks back.

Brenda steps in.

Cody looks at Brenda.

The Guard steps out.

Brenda steps towards the door.

CODY  
Are you here to tell me the same thing that everyone has said?

BRENDA  
I think you had enough reruns.

CODY  
Thanks.

BRENDA  
I like to hear your side of the story.

CODY  
A crazed fan came for revenge, pushed me and now I'm here. No job, no money. Just poor pathetic me.

BRENDA  
Don't say that.

CODY  
It's what everyone thinks.

BRENDA  
The hell with what everyone thinks!

CODY  
(laugh)

BRENDA  
I got to go.

Brenda turns around and walks towards the exit door.

CODY  
Wait! When am I going to get out of here!!

BRENDA (O.C.)  
I posted your bail five minutes ago!

CODY  
Thank you!!!

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

The front door opens.

Brenda flips the light switch on. A group of PARTYGOERS stand up from behind the sofa.

PARTYGOERS  
(yell)  
Surprise!!!

Brenda grabs at her chest.

A woman steps towards her, carrying a *white frosted cake*. The *candles* flaming over the cake, along with the *pink wax* melting. CLAIRE (43)

CLAIRE  
Happy birthday sweetheart!

Her eyes on her mother's smile.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Make a big wish!

Brenda blows out the candles.

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

Brenda sits across from Claire.

BRENDA  
Glad you're here.

CLAIRE  
I'm not going to miss your special day.

BRENDA  
Thank you.

CLAIRE  
How's school going? Are you going to take your bar exam tomorrow.

BRENDA  
Yeah.

CLAIRE  
That's really good. I'm proud of you. Your father is too.

BRENDA  
How is he?

CLAIRE  
He's mobile but he's getting used to it. You should come see him soon.

Brenda looks down.

BRENDA  
I will.

Taking a sip from a *margarita glass*.

CUT TO:

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

BRENDA  
(cry)  
(sob)

Brenda wipes the tears from her eyes.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-DAY**

The television on.

Brenda lies on the sofa, her eyes staring at the screen, watching a soap opera.

A loud knock on the door sounds.

She sits up.

BRENDA  
Who is it!!

OLIVIA (O.S.)  
It's me!

BRENDA  
Come in!

The front door opens.

Olivia steps in and shuts the door.

Brenda looks away.

OLIVIA  
What are you doing? You're supposed to be taking the exam.

BRENDA  
I know.

OLIVIA  
So, let's go!

Brenda looks at Olivia.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Come on!! Let's go!! Today!!

She stands up and walks into the bedroom.

CUT TO:

**INT. CLASSROOM-DAY**

Brenda sits. She keeps her eyes on her paper, not hesitating to answer any questions with the **pencil** in the tip of her fingers.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Two **wine glasses** touch each other, making a cling sound.

OLIVIA

To you!

BRENDA

To us. To you for making me get up  
and take that exam.

OLIVIA

Someday you'll thank yourself.

Brenda looks away and thinks to herself of where she goes next.

Olivia sets her wine glass down on her desk.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I got something for you.

BRENDA

Really? What?

Olivia opens the bottom drawer and pulls out a **yellow envelope**.

OLIVIA

This.

She hands it to Brenda.

Brenda sets her glass down and takes the envelope from her.

BRENDA

What is it?

OLIVIA

It's fifty thousand dollars.

BRENDA  
I can't take this.

OLIVIA  
Yes, you can.

BRENDA  
What about you?

OLIVIA  
I'm alright. Take it. I want you to have it.

BRENDA  
Thanks.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY-DAY**

Brenda sits across from Cody, flipping through the pages of a law book.

Boredom fills Cody's face as she fights the urge to burst out with one thing on her mind.

CODY  
Can we get out of here. I'm bored.

BRENDA  
What do you want to do?

CODY  
I don't know but anywhere is better than here.

BRENDA  
Okay.

Cody stands up and pulls her away from the table.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Wait!

CUT TO:

**EXT. BEACH-DAY**

Brenda steps out onto the sand with her bare feet.

BRENDA  
I can't believe I'm doing this.

Cody hands her a **surfboard**.

CODY  
Believe it.

She rushes towards the shore.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Come on!

Brenda rushes after her. She drops onto the surfboard, going headfirst into the water.

MONTAGE

- Cody dives headfirst into the water.
- Cody takes the surfboard from Brenda.
- Cody swims towards Brenda.

BACK TO SCENE

CODY (CONT'D)  
(sip)

A **paper bowl** of **nachos** in Brenda's hand, taking bite after bite.

BRENDA  
Thank you. This was a good idea.

CODY  
The only ones I get.

BRENDA  
(laugh)

Cody takes a chip from the paper bowl and takes a bite.

CUT TO:

**EXT. FAIRGROUNDS-NIGHT**

Cody runs through the fairgrounds, pulling Brenda by her arm.

CODY  
(laugh)

BRENDA  
(laugh)

## MONTAGE

- Cody feeds Brenda an ice cream cone.
- Cody and Brenda sit in a photo booth.
- Cody and Brenda ride on a rollercoaster.

## BACK TO SCENE

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
(scream)

CODY  
(laugh)

Brenda looks at her.

BRENDA  
(laugh)

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

The phone rings and rings.

No Brenda to answer it.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-NIGHT**

The receiver pressed against her ear as she gets incredibly frustrated. Olivia hangs it up with force.

OLIVIA  
Where the hell is she!!

CUT TO:

**EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT**

BRENDA  
I had fun.

CODY  
Me too. Maybe we can do it again.

Brenda unlocks the door.

BRENDA  
It's a little early. Do you want to  
come in?

CODY  
Okay.

BRENDA  
Great!

Brenda pushes the door open and steps in.

CUT TO:

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

Brenda lies underneath Cody while she is being massaged.

BRENDA  
(moan)  
That feels good.

Her hands resting in the middle of her back, gently caressing  
it. She turns Brenda.

Her eyes on hers.

Cody kisses Brenda.

Brenda's hands grip onto Cody's butt and kisses her back.

CUT TO:

**EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY**

Olivia steps up the stairs to the second floor of the  
apartment complex.

OLIVIA  
God, you better be here!

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-DAY (LATER)**

A loud knock comes to the front door.

Brenda sits up.

Cody's looks at the front door and rushes to the bathroom.

BRENDA  
Toss me my robe please!!

Cody's hand reaches in and tosses Brenda a **robe**.

Brenda covers herself, ties the strap and walks into the living room.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-DAY**

The loud knocking comes again.

Brenda unlocks the door and pulls it open.

Olivia rushes in.

BRENDA  
Come in.

She shuts the door.

Olivia paces and looks back at Brenda.

OLIVIA  
Where have you been?

BRENDA  
What do you mean?

OLIVIA  
I've called you and not once did you answer. So, where the hell have you been for the past three days!

CODY (O.S.)  
With me!

Cody steps out of the bedroom and approaches Brenda.

CODY (CONT'D)  
I'll see you later.

She kisses her.

OLIVIA  
(shock)

Cody steps away.

The door opens and closes.

Olivia looks at Brenda and then at the door.

BRENDA  
What?

OLIVIA  
Seriously? You're going to say that  
to me.  
(roll eyes)

Olivia turns away, grabs at her head in frustration.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
What would your father think?

BRENDA  
How dare you!

Brenda steps towards the bedroom.

BRENDA (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
You can let yourself out.

Olivia looks up.

OLIVIA  
Really!

Olivia steps towards the door, pulls it open and steps out.

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PAYPHONE-NIGHT**

The receiver an inch from her ear, Cody listens for the tone to change to hearing Brenda's voice. She hangs it up in frustration.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-FAMILY LAW FIRM-NIGHT**

Brenda sits at a desk, writes on a notepad and looks through a law book.

A man leans into the doorway, watches her study for her first case. MIKE (25)

MIKE  
How's the case going?

Brenda looks at him.

BRENDA  
I'm trying to get the right answers  
for her.

MIKE  
It takes time. Take a breather.  
Good night.

He turns around and walks away.

BRENDA  
Good night.

MIKE (O.C.)  
There's a fresh pot of coffee for  
you.

BRENDA  
Thanks.

MIKE (O.C.)  
Anytime.

CUT TO:

**EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT**

Cody knocks as hard as she can. Her eyes in a daze as she pounds.

CUT TO:

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

An empty room with no furniture, just empty.

CUT TO:

**EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-CONTINUOUS**

CODY  
(yell)  
Brenda!!!

CUT TO:

**INT. BREAK ROOM-FAMILY LAW FIRM-NIGHT**

Brenda pours coffee into her favorite mug.

BRENDA  
(yawn)

She steps towards the hallway.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Cody sits on the floor. She stares at the painting of her and her mother, Catherine. Tears stream down her face as she grinds her teeth in anger.

Back and forth, the painting and Cody look back at each other as if the painting is alive.

Cody sits up, she grabs at her head.

VICKI (V.O.)  
She left you!

She shuts her eyes.

CODY  
Go away!!

ARIEL (V.O.)  
We're your only friends.

CODY  
Shut up!!!

Cody grabs the empty pill bottle from the floor and throws it at the window.

The bottle breaks through the window.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PARKING LOT-DAY**

The pill bottle hits the pavement of the parking lot.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

Cody pushes a cart down an aisle, heading towards the meat department. She grabs racks of **steaks** and tosses them into the cart.

MEAT CLERK (30's)

A Meat Clerk watches Cody step away, leaving the meat department, leading towards the produce aisle. She grabs a **bag** of **potatoes**. Her fingernails tearing into the bag. A potato drops to the floor, rolling towards a PRODUCE CLERK (40's)

The Produce Clerk picks up the potato and approaches Cody.

PRODUCE CLERK

Excuse me?

Cody doesn't react; she can't hear his voice.

He grabs a hold of her shoulder.

She slowly turns her head and looks back at him.

CUT TO:

**EXT. GROCERY STORE-DAY**

Belts fastened over her chest and legs, Cody fights to get them off of her.

VICKI (V.O.)

Cody!!

Cody looks up at the sky.

CODY

Where are you!

VICKI (V.O.)

Everywhere!

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2 push the gurney into the ambulance.

The doors slam shut.

CUT TO:

**INT. AMBULANCE-DAY**

Cody looks to her right and then to her left.

CODY  
Where are you?

A hand touches her face, caressing her cheeks. VICKI (8)  
She looks at Vicki.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Where have you been?

VICKI  
(point)  
Right here.

She smiles.

Cody smiles.

CUT TO:

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

Cody's eyes wander.

CODY  
Where are you?

CUT TO:

**INT. OBSERVATION ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

Brenda and Olivia watch Cody interacting with herself.

BRENDA  
Why didn't anyone notice this  
before?

OLIVIA  
Because she fooled us by hiding it.

Olivia gets closer to the window.

BRENDA  
What can we do for her?

OLIVIA  
We're here for her. That's all that  
matters.

CUT TO:

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

Vicki leans over Cody, caressing her face.

VICKI  
Relax friend. We're all here for  
you.

Another little girl steps out of the shadows and touches her  
on the arm. ARIEL (6)

ARIEL  
Sleep now. Shh!!

Cody closes her eyes.

CODY  
(breath)

CUT TO:

**INT. OBSERVATION ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-CONTINUOUS**

Brenda closes her eyes.

BRENDA  
(sob)

A tear streams down her cheek.

Olivia turns to her.

OLIVIA  
Are you alright?

BRENDA  
We failed her.

OLIVIA  
No, we haven't.

Olivia looks back at the window.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Her mother failed her.

An idea goes through Olivia's mind.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Do you have her address on file?

BRENDA  
Yeah, why?

CUT TO:

**INT. BRENDA'S CAR-DAY**

Brenda drives into a driveway. She puts the AUTOMATIC in PARK and turns the key in the *ignition*.

BRENDA  
Here we go!

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-DAY**

A man walks Brenda into the living room. FREDRICK (52) Servant. Smug and shallow. He turns to Brenda.

FREDRICK  
Can I bring you anything to drink?

BRENDA  
No thank you.

FREDRICK  
The madam shall be with you shortly.

Fredrick steps out of the living room.

Brenda sits on the sofa.

A *wheelchair* is wheeled in by Fredrick.

Catherine's eyes in a daze, as she can't communicate verbally anymore due to her throat being slashed.

Fredrick puts the brakes on the wheelchair.

BRENDA  
Is she aware that I'm here?

FREDRICK  
Yes.

Fredrick grabs a *word pad* from her lap and sets it up in front of her.

FREDRICK (CONT'D)  
 You can talk to her; you might have  
 to talk slow for her to understand.

Brenda leans towards Catherine.

BRENDA  
 Mrs. Bridges?

FREDRICK  
 Ms. Bridges.

She looks at Fredick.

BRENDA  
 What?

FREDRICK  
 Ms. Bridges is her maiden name.

BRENDA  
 Okay.

Her focus back on Catherine.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 Ms. Bridges, your daughter, Cody --

FREDRICK  
 -- No longer with us.

Brenda looks at Fredrick.

BRENDA  
 Do you mind if I ask her, please?

FREDRICK  
 Go ahead.

BRENDA  
 Thank you.

Her attention back on Catherine.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 Catherine?

Catherine's eyes look into Brenda's.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 Cody is in the hospital and being  
 evaluated. She's safe.

Catherine blinks.

FREDRICK  
What about everyone else?

BRENDA  
Well, that depends on how much  
everyone upsets her.

Catherine presses on the buttons to the word pad, spelling out every word she had to say to Brenda.

WORD PAD  
Don't let her out!!

Brenda looks her in the eyes.

BRENDA  
We're not.

CUT TO:

**EXT. FRONT YARD-MANSION-DAY**

Brenda steps towards the driveway.

FREDRICK  
Ms. Michaels!!

She looks back at Fredrick.

FREDRICK (CONT'D)  
Please, take what she requested  
seriously!

BRENDA  
I am.

FREDRICK  
Have a good day.

BRENDA  
You as well.

Brenda steps towards the driveway.

CUT TO:

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

Vicki leans her mouth towards Cody's ear.

VICKI  
 (whisper)  
 Here comes the nurse.

Cody smiles.

A woman walks into the room; she carries a tray in and sets it down.

Ariel leans her mouth towards her other ear.

ARIEL  
 (whisper)  
 Do you want me to show you a neat trick?

CODY  
 Sure.

The Nurse looks down at the empty bed.

NURSE  
 Where'd you go!

Cody stands behind her.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Olivia opens a drawer and slides a folder inside. She closes it.

A thud comes from the hallway.

OLIVIA  
 Hello?

She steps out of the office.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

Olivia walks down the hallway.

OLIVIA  
 Hello? Is there anyone there?

She looks down and sees a *broken flowerpot*.

The calico cat jumps onto the small table in the hallway.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Oh Mr. Kittles!

A bump to the back of the head, Olivia falls to the floor, unconscious.

Cody steps over her and leans down towards the cat.

CODY  
Such a good kitty!

She pets the cat.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

Fredrick steps up the stairs.

A sound of glass shatters.

He looks back.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

Catherine sits up in bed, staring at the doorway. Her hands clutched to the word pad. She taps her fingers on buttons, spelling out Fredick's name.

WORD PAD  
Fredrick.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-MANSION-NIGHT**

FREDRICK  
Coming!!

Out of the shadows, Cody appears behind Fredrick.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-MANSION-CONTINUOUS**

Catherine stares at the doorway.

WORD PAD

Fredick!

Cody steps into the bedroom.

CODY

Hello!!!

Her finger type on the buttons to the word pad.

WORD PAD

Cody.

CODY

Surprise!!

Her fingers clutch onto the word pad, feeling scared.

WORD PAD

Cody!

CODY

That's the name! Mommy!

She snatches the word pad from her hand, tossing it to the floor.

CODY (CONT'D)

Time to have some fun. Huh, mommy!!

Her eyes grow, becoming scared of what is coming next.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S HOUSE-NIGHT**

The front door opens.

Brenda steps in. She shuts the door and rushes down the hallway, making her way into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

**INT. BATHROOM-BRENDA'S HOUSE-NIGHT**

BRENDA

(breath)

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-BRENDA'S HOUSE-NIGHT**

Brenda steps into the kitchen. She opens the refrigerator.  
The lights go out.

BRENDA  
What the hell!

She steps towards the circuit braker, opens it to look at switches.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S HOUSE-NIGHT**

Brenda steps towards the front door.

A hand reaches behind her, pressing a **rag** against her mouth.  
Cody lifts her off her feet.

BRENDA  
(muffle)

CODY  
It's nighty nighty time. Shh!!

Brenda's eyes close.

Cody catches her before she can fall to the floor. She pulls the door open.

CUT TO:

**INT. POOL ROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

BRENDA'S POV:

A blurry vision of two people hanging from both ends of a **rope**. A clear vision comes. Olivia and Catherine hang from the rope.

CODY (O.C.)  
Isn't it cool!!

BRENDA  
What is this!

Cody steps towards Olivia. She touches her face.

CODY  
 This is a game I like to call  
 guilty and not guilty! Guess what,  
 you get to be the judge!

BACK TO SCENE

Brenda tries pulling her arms out of the ropes.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 Eh Uh!

Cody yanks at the rope on Olivia's end.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 If you want your aunt to live,  
 you'll stop that right now!!

She smiles.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 You're honor, may I present my  
 case?

Cody stares.

BRENDA  
 You may!

She clamps her hands together.

CODY  
 Thank you.  
 (points to Catherine)  
 Many years ago, I starred in  
 eighty-eight episodes of Patty  
 Cakes, been in two made for TV  
 movies and not once did that woman  
 --

-- Cody looks at Catherine --

CODY (CONT'D)  
 -- Has given me what I deserve.

Her eyes on hers -- Cody giving her a chance to object.

BRENDA  
 Objection!

CODY  
 Sustained!

Cody steps towards Olivia. She touches her face.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 Olivia, sweet Olivia. If you would  
 have let me and your beautiful  
 niece, be, you wouldn't be hanging  
 around. Would you!

Brenda pulls her hand through the rope slowly.

OLIVIA  
 (muffle)

CODY  
 I'm sorry, I don't speak mumble!

She rips the **duct tape** from over her mouth.

OLIVIA  
 (breath)  
 You need help, Cody!

Cody smiles.

CODY  
 You and every doctor have been  
 telling me that since I was ten  
 years old!

She slaps Olivia.

Olivia looks at her.

OLIVIA  
 Stop it!

Another slap across her face.

CODY  
 Does that feel good!

A slap after another.

OLIVIA  
 Stop!!!

CODY  
 Huh, big shot!!

She turns to Catherine.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 Then, there's mother --

-- Cody reaches behind her back and pulls out a gun.

Brenda looks at the gun. She rushes to get her other arm free from the rope.

CODY (CONT'D)  
I find you guilty, Catherine!  
Guilty of cruelty and abuse!

She aims it at Catherine and fires six shot. The bullets pierce through her.

CATHERINE  
(gurgle)

Brenda yanks her arm free.

Cody points the gun in Olivia's direction.

CODY  
You! You I find guilty of being a  
liar.

Brenda runs towards Cody. She pushes her off the ledge and into the pool, falling ten feet down.

CUT TO:

**INT. UNDERWATER-NIGHT**

Brenda and Cody sink down to the bottom of the pool.

Cody grips her hands around Brenda's neck.

She pushes her off, lifting her legs and swims further to the bottom.

Flashlights shine on Brenda's face.

Brenda looks away, closing her eyes. She loses oxygen.

CUT TO:

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-DAY**

A hand gently caresses her head.

BRENDA  
No! Don't!!

CLAIRE  
Sweetheart!

Brenda opens her eyes and looks at Claire.

BRENDA  
Mama?

CLAIRE  
Yes, sweetheart, it's me.

BRENDA  
What happened?

CLAIRE  
It's not important right now. Get some rest, okay?

BRENDA  
Okay.

CLAIRE  
I'll be here when you wake up.

Brenda closes her eyes.

BRENDA  
Okay.

CUT TO:

**INT. COURTROOM-COURTHOUSE-DAY**

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

Brenda stands in the midst of the courtroom.

BRENDA  
From examining this case your honor, there's a right and a wrong. Here, in this courtroom, justice is blind until we bring light to it. Let's not punish this man for wanting his daughter to have what he is trying to give her. A stable environment and most importantly, love. Thank you, your honor.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-BRENDA'S HOUSE-DAY**

Brenda looks at Claire.

BRENDA  
How was that?

CLAIRE  
It was great.

BRENDA  
You're just saying that because  
you're my mom.

CLAIRE  
No. I'm saying it because I mean  
it.

Claire folds *washcloths* and sets them down on the *coffee table*.

BRENDA  
Thank you.

Brenda smiles.

CUT TO:

**EXT. FRONT YARD-BRENDA'S HOUSE-DAY**

Brenda reaches into the *mailbox*, pulls out some envelopes and looks through them. She comes across one with handwritten letters. Cody's name sticks out to her.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-BRENDA'S HOUSE-DAY**

Brenda sits on the bed, opens a shoebox and sets the envelope in. She looks across the room at the mirror, staring at herself.

BRENDA  
(breath)

CUT TO:

**INT. GROUP ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

Formed in a circle, a group of chairs sit with only two young adults occupying them. A young man sits across from the empty chairs, becoming concerned for who it is that is supposed to occupy the chairs. JOSIAH (23) He looks to his right, seeing a girl with *dolls* in her hands. KATIE (21)

JOSIAH  
Excuse me?

KATIE  
Why did you fart!

JOSIAH  
What! No. Where's the others?

KATIE  
They come when they want to.

JOSIAH  
So, we can sit here and do whatever  
we want?

KATIE  
Yes!! Shh! I got to put Daisy to  
sleep!

Katie stands up and steps towards the small **doll bed**.

Josiah stands up and steps towards a pile of **paper** and **pencils**, grabbing one of each. He sits. His eyes wander, looking for something to draw.

CUT TO:

**INT. DORM ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

Cody sits at a desk, spreading **glue** onto a paper bag.

The door opens.

A man steps into the room. LARRY (48) Orderly.

CODY  
Hi.

LARRY  
Hey.

Cody sticks a colored drawing of a **monarch butterfly** onto the paper bag. She sticks her hand in and makes it fly towards Larry.

CODY  
See! It's my very own butterfly!

LARRY  
I see. Come out to the group room,  
please.

Cody grabs her dog and frog puppets.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROUP ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

Josiah looks around the room, still trying to find something to draw.

Cody rushes into the room, sits on the floor. She slides the dog puppet onto her right hand and the frog on the left hand.

His eyes memorized by her interacting with the puppets. He starts drawing Cody, capturing every single little detail of her.

A woman steps into the room, looks at Josiah and Cody. ORIANA (56) Psychologist. Cruel and overbearing. She sits.

ORIANA  
(snap fingers)  
You there! The puppet girl.

Cody turns her head slowly, looking Oriana dead in the eyes. She steps towards the chair, not taking her eyes off of Oriana.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
Josiah! It's therapy time! No more drawing!

Josiah sets the drawing by the window.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
(wave)  
Let me see that!

He hesitates to hand it to her, standing up out of the chair, reaching his hand to hers.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
(snatch)  
Let's see what's on Josiah's mind today.

She looks at the drawing and then at Cody.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
Oh! Looks like I know what's going through your mind -- and she's not running.

Oriana shows it to Cody.

Cody looks at it and smiles.

She tears it into pieces.

Josiah looks in horror, shocked and in disbelief.

To the floor they go.

ORIANA (CONT'D)

Now, let's get to it. Katie, could  
you maybe grow up a little bit.

Katie looks at her with sadness filling her face.

KATIE

(sob)  
(cry)

ORIANA

Oh no. Here comes the crying!

Katie stands up and runs out of the room.

ORIANA (CONT'D)

It's crybaby time!

Cody looks at her.

Josiah looks at Cody.

Her eyes meet his.

CODY

(blush)

CUT TO:

**INT. SHOWER ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-NIGHT**

The water hits the top of his head; Josiah rinses out the rest of the shampoo. He switches off the water.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-NIGHT**

Josiah steps out of the shower room. He starts to turn the corner and runs into Cody.

Cody drops her towel to the floor.

Josiah picks the towel up and hands it to her.

JOSIAH  
I'm sorry about that.

He comes face to face with Cody.

LARRY  
Josiah! What are you doing here at  
this time of night?

JOSIAH  
Hey --

-- He raises his hands up --

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
The guard escorted me here and told  
me to make it quick.

LARRY  
Okay -- It's time to go now!

JOSIAH  
Good night.

He leans his mouth towards her ear.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
(whisper)  
See you tomorrow.

Larry grabs Josiah by his arm and pushes him towards the  
doors.

Cody pulls the door open to the shower room.

CUT TO:

**INT. DORM ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-NIGHT**

Cody lies in bed, staring up at the night sky. She smiles at  
the beautiful blue sky and knowing there's someone fond of  
her.

CUT TO:

**INT. GROUP ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

Josiah sits, draws another picture of Cody.

Cody steps into the room and sits beside him.

CODY  
Is that another drawing of me?

He shows it to her.

She looks at it, feeling impressed and flattered.

CODY (CONT'D)  
You have a good eye.

ORIANA  
(snatch)

Oriana steps away with the drawing. She tears it to pieces.

JOSIAH  
Hey!!

Josiah stands up.

ORIANA  
Enough with this fantasy land!  
You're both losers! Now, I'm in  
charge of your life now. Me!!  
(point)

She sits.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
Sit down!!

Josiah steps away.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
Josiah!!!

Oriana stands up and steps towards him. She grabs his arm.

He looks back at her.

JOSIAH  
Let go of me!!

ORIANA  
No!

He turns to her, grips his hands around her throat and grips tighter.

ORIANA (CONT'D)  
(choke)  
(gasp)

JOSIAH  
(grunt)

He let's go of Oriana, letting her fall to the floor. No breath and no life left in her.

CODY  
(gasp)

Cody looks at him with shock.

Josiah looks at her.

Katie walks into the room. She looks at Oriana's DEAD BODY. She smiles.

KATIE  
Hello?

No reaction, Katie steps out of the room.

Cody smiles.

Josiah reaches his hand out for hers.

JOSIAH  
Come on.

Cody reaches her hand out for his, grabs a hold.

He pulls her down the hallway and runs.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY**

JOSIAH  
We got to get a car!

CODY  
We can take her car!

JOSIAH  
Cool.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PARKING LOT-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY**

Cody looks around and spots Oriana's *red corvette*.

CODY  
 (point)  
 Right there!!

JOSIAH  
 Come on!

He runs towards the car and pulls the driver door open.

CODY  
 Wait!

JOSIAH  
 What?

CODY  
 The guard is going to spot you.

JOSIAH  
 Good point.

Josiah reaches into the back passenger seat and pulls out a white coat.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
 Put this on!

Cody covers herself with the coat, sliding her arms through the sleeves.

CUT TO:

**INT/EXT. RED CORVETTE-DAY**

Cody's foot presses onto the gas pedal.

JOSIAH  
 You're gonna need these.

Josiah puts **sunglasses** over her eyes.

CUT TO:

**EXT. GATE-DAY**

A GATE GUARD stands in front of the red corvette.

GATE GUARD  
 (wave)

CUT TO:

**INT/EXT. RED CORVETTE-CONTINUOUS**

The Gate Guard leans down and looks Cody in the eyes.

GATE GUARD  
You're looking good there, Oriana!

CODY  
Thank you.

Cody smiles.

GATE GUARD  
You're leaving kind of early,  
aren't you?

CODY  
I forgot my bag.

GATE GUARD  
Oh. Okay.

He steps back.

GATE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Later doc!

She presses her foot onto the gas pedal, driving without looking suspicious.

CUT TO:

**EXT. GATE-CONTINUOUS**

The red corvette drives out of the parking lot, making it all the way down the street.

CUT TO:

**INT. RED CORVETTE-DAY**

Josiah sits up. He looks out of the back window.

JOSIAH  
We made it!

He looks at Cody.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
We made it!!

CODY  
Yes, we did.

Josiah kisses her on the lips.

She looks at him and smiles.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Can you do that slower?

He kisses her again, slowly.

Cody kisses him back.

Josiah sits down in the passenger seat. He fastens his **seatbelt**.

CUT TO:

**INT. OFFICE-FAMILY LAW FIRM-NIGHT**

Brenda sits. She flips through paperwork.

The phone rings.

BRENDA  
Who could this be?

Her hand on the receiver, taking the time to answer. She picks it up and presses it to her ear.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

A smile stretches across her face.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Hi, baby. How's work?

Brenda's eyes wander.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
That good, huh?

She stands up.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Yeah, he's fine. He is.

Brenda sits.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
How do you even know it's a girl?

Mike steps into the office. He looks at Brenda.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
I got to go. I'll call you before I  
leave, okay?

Her eyes on his.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
I love you too. Bye.

She hangs up the receiver.

He sits, looks Brenda in the eyes and stares at her.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
What?

MIKE  
You're former client?

BRENDA  
Yeah.

MIKE  
She escaped.

BRENDA  
What?

MIKE  
She pretended to be her  
psychiatrist and drove her car out.

BRENDA  
What!

MIKE  
Yeah.

BRENDA  
(breath)

MIKE  
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have told  
you.

BRENDA  
I'm a big girl. I can handle it.

MIKE  
Come on, I'll buy you lunch.

Brenda stands up.

BRENDA

You're gonna buy me lunch?

She walks around her desk and steps towards Mike.

MIKE

Don't worry, this is not a date.

BRENDA

Of course not.

Mike and Brenda step out of the office.

MIKE (O.S.)

How tall is your husband?

BRENDA (O.S.)

Six feet.

MIKE (O.S.)

Not a date then.

BRENDA (O.S.)

(laugh)

CUT TO:

**EXT. TRUCK STOP-DAY**

He taps his shoes on the sidewalk, looking around the truck stop. Josiah sticks a piece of **bubble gum** into his mouth.

A **Highway patrol cruiser** drives towards the parking lot.

JOSIAH

Fuck!

Josiah turns away. He steps towards the bathrooms.

CUT TO:

**INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM-DAY**

Cody sits in the stall, she looks through paperwork, flipping through page after page. It reads: schizophrenia.

CODY

(sob)

She stands up and opens the door, slowly stepping towards the sink. Cody looks at herself in the mirror. She digs through a purse.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 What else do you have in here?

A **tube** of **lip-gloss** in her sight.

CODY (CONT'D)  
 Lip-gloss! I wouldn't take you for  
 the lip-gloss type. Being a bitch  
 and all!

She spreads it over her lips.

JOSIAH (O.S.)  
 Cody!

CODY  
 Yes!

JOSIAH (O.S.)  
 Time to go!

CODY  
 Just one minute, please.

JOSIAH  
 Move that ass now!!

Cody grabs the purse and rushes out of the women's bathroom.

CUT TO:

**EXT. TRUCK STOP-DAY**

Josiah and Cody stop.

A STATE TROOPER stands, pointing a gun at Josiah.

STATE TROOPER  
 Don't make one more move!

Josiah steps closer.

STATE TROOPER (CONT'D)  
 Stop!

He eyes Cody.

JOSIAH  
 We all know how this is going to  
 end. I knock you to the ground,  
 take your gun and shoot.

STATE TROOPER  
Try it and find out the real  
ending.

Josiah looks back at Cody.

JOSIAH  
Okay.

A kick to the State Trooper's hand, knocking the gun to the  
ground. Josiah knees the State Trooper to the stomach.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
Too bad.

He looks back at Cody.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
Get the gun!

Cody picks up the revolver.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)  
Give it to me!

She cocks it.

His eyes on hers.

CODY  
Surprise!

JOSIAH  
What are you doing?

CODY  
Take his handcuffs and put them on  
the both of you.

He rushes towards her.

Cody fires a shot.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Don't! Don't even try it!!

Josiah raises his hands up.

JOSIAH  
Okay!

He grabs the handcuffs from the State Trooper's belt.

CUT TO:

**INT. RED CORVETTE-DAY**

Cody smiles.

CODY  
(blow bubble)  
(smack gum)  
(laugh)

CUT TO:

**EXT. TRUCK STOP-DAY**

Josiah unlocks his hand from the handcuffs. He takes the keys from the belt and rushes away.

CUT TO:

**EXT. HIGHWAY-DAY**

The highway patrol cruiser speeds on the highway.

CUT TO:

**INT. HIGHWAY PATROL CRUISER-DAY**

Josiah's eyes in full view of rage.

JOSIAH  
I'm coming bitch!!

CUT TO:

**INT. RED CORVETTE-DAY**

Cody puts sunglasses on. She looks at herself in the rear-view mirror.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PARKING LOT-GAS STATION-DAY**

The red corvette parks into a parking spot.

Cody opens the driver door, gets out and shuts it.

CUT TO:

**INT. GAS STATION-DAY**

In front of a mirror, setting a **baseball cap** over her head.

A CASHIER keeps her eye on Cody.

CODY  
(smack gum)  
This works.

Cody steps towards the counter.

CASHIER  
I need to scan that cap.

CODY  
Right. Sorry.

She hands the Cashier the hat.

JOSIAH (O.C.)  
(breath)

CODY  
That didn't take long!

Josiah grips his hand onto the nightstick in his hand.

JOSIAH  
(breath)

CODY  
Are you going to stand there like a  
little bitch or are you going to  
make a move!!

Josiah rushes at her.

JOSIAH  
(swing)

Cody ducks down, rolling onto the counter. She hits the floor.

The Cashier looks at her.

CODY  
Do you have a weapon?

The Cashier tosses her a pistol.

CASHIER  
Here!!!

Cody catches it.

CODY

Thanks.

The Cashier crawls away.

JOSIAH (O.C.)

Come on, babe! Come out. I just  
want to talk. You know!

She leans her back against the counter.

CODY

(breath)

Josiah grips his hands onto the counter.

Cody presses the pistol against it and fires a shot.

JOSIAH (O.C.)

(scream)

Josiah drops to the floor.

He backs himself away on his butt.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

(moan)

CODY (O.C.)

That's nine!

JOSIAH

You bitch!!

He turns onto his stomach, crawling his way to the  
refrigerator.

Cody rolls over the counter. She looks in the revolver,  
seeing there's one bullet left.

CODY

One bullet for one life.

A **postcard rack** in her eyesight. She takes one.

JOSIAH

I'm sorry, okay!

She steps over him.

CODY

Turn and look at me!

He hides his face.

CODY (CONT'D)

Now!

Josiah turns and looks her in the eyes.

CODY (CONT'D)

Look at the real monster!

Her eyes in rage as she fires the shot.

Blood splatters on her face.

Cody turns around. She looks and sees the State Trooper.

The State Trooper fires a shot.

Cody takes a shot to her side. She drops to her knees.

CODY (CONT'D)

Alright! I surrender!

The State Trooper steps towards her.

Cody grabs the night stick.

STATE TROOPER

Hands!!

CODY

See!

She drives the nightstick to his groin.

STATE TROOPER

(grunt)

He drops to his knees.

Cody pushes herself up.

CODY

(swing)

A hit across the back of the State Trooper's head.

CODY (CONT'D)

Thanks for the gun dumbass!

Cody steps towards the exit doors.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PARKING LOT-GAS STATION-DAY**

To the ground she falls. Cody looks at the red corvette.

CODY  
(breath)  
(grunt)

CODY'S POV:

A man steps towards the doors. PIG FARMER (40's)

He crouches down.

PIG FARMER (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Are you alright?

CODY (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Help? Mexico?

BACK TO SCENE

The Pig Farmer lifts Cody over his shoulder.

CUT TO:

**EXT/INT. PICK-UP TRUCK-DAY**

The Pig Farmer opens the driver door. He sets her down.

CODY (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Mexico --

PIG FARMER (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Shh! Save your strength.

He sits her up in the passenger seat.

CUT TO:

**EXT. HIGHWAY-DAY**

The pick-up truck drives across the highway, coming close to the border.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BORDER-DAY**

A BORDER GUARD (30's) steps towards the pick-up truck.

CUT TO:

**EXT/INT. PICK-UP TRUCK-DAY**

The Pig Farmer rolls down the window.

BORDER GUARD (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
How many are with you?

PIG FARMER  
Just me.

The Border Guard looks at the blanket on the passenger seat.

BORDER GUARD  
What's that?

PIG FARMER  
Just a blanket.

BORDER GUARD  
Lift it!

He lifts it up.

The Border Guard sees nothing.

Cody lies behind the front seats.

BORDER GUARD (SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)  
(In Spanish)  
Go ahead!

The pick-up truck starts to move, crossing into the border.

CUT TO:

**INT. GARAGE-DAY**

CODY  
(gasp)

She sits up and feels the **gauze** wrapped around her waist.

CODY (CONT'D)  
What the --

Cody stands up, feeling a little wobbly. She grabs a hold of the wall.

CODY (CONT'D)  
(breath)

CUT TO:

**EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY**

Cody steps into the front yard.

LITTLE BOYS #1 and #2.

LITTLE BOY #1 (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Dad! She's awake!!

The Pig Farmer steps towards Cody.

Cody looks at him.

PIG FARMER(SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
How do you feel?

CODY (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Like I got shot in the side. How much?

PIG FARMER (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
No charge.

CODY (SUBTITLE)  
(In Spanish)  
Thank you.

Cody looks around. A smile forms across her face. She grabs at her head.

CODY (CONT'D)  
I'm in Mexico!!!

She looks back at the Pig Farmer.

CODY (SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)  
(In Spanish)  
Do you have a **stamp**?

A man steps towards the mailbox. MAILMAN (30's)

CODY (CONT'D)

Hey!

She rushes towards him and hands him the postcard.

MAILMAN (SUBTITLE)

(In Spanish)

Have a good day, miss.

CODY (SUBTITLE)

(In Spanish)

You too.

(wave)

Cody turns around and steps towards the Pig Farmer.

CODY (SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)

(In Spanish)

Do you have a spare car?

CUT TO:

**EXT. BACK YARD-DAY**

An old beat-up Oldsmobile sits.

Cody walks around it.

PIG FARMER (SUBTITLE)

(In Spanish)

It's beat up but it runs like a  
beast.

She smiles.

CODY (SUBTITLE)

(In Spanish)

Good.

CUT TO:

**INT. FRONT YARD-DAY (LATER)**

The Oldsmobile drives out of the driveway.

PIG FARMER (SUBTITLE)

(wave)

(In Spanish)

Goodbye!

CUT TO:

**EXT. BACK YARD-DAY**

Olivia and Brenda sit.

Brenda holds her newborn daughter.

Olivia looks at the newborn.

OLIVIA  
She doesn't cry.

Brenda glances at Olivia.

BRENDA  
(giggle)  
No, she's pretty chill.

Olivia looks at Brenda, noticing she's quiet and distant.

OLIVIA  
What is it?

BRENDA  
What's what?

OLIVIA  
Something's on your mind. What is  
it?

BRENDA  
It's nothing.

Olivia looks off into space for a few seconds.

OLIVIA  
I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I got you  
involved.

BRENDA  
What! No. Don't apologize.

She looks away.

OLIVIA  
Do you want to get it off your  
chest?

BRENDA  
Like a session?

OLIVIA  
Yes.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY**

Brenda lies back on the sofa.

Olivia sits in the chair right across from her.

OLIVIA  
Where would you like to start?

BRENDA  
The day we went to the beach.

OLIVIA  
What are you doing at the beach?

BRENDA  
Eating nachos.

OLIVIA  
After?

BRENDA  
We went on the roller coaster.

OLIVIA  
Then you went home.

BRENDA  
Yes.

OLIVIA  
Did you want it to continue?

BRENDA  
Yes.

OLIVIA  
That's when you went inside.

BRENDA  
Yes.

OLIVIA  
Any secret fantasies?

BRENDA  
What?

OLIVIA  
Did you imagine yourself with  
someone else?

She turns her head to look at Olivia.

BRENDA  
This doesn't leave this room,  
right?

OLIVIA  
Right.

Brenda's eyes tear up, watering. She wipes her eyes.

BRENDA  
I imagined him as a woman.

OLIVIA  
So, you thought he was a woman the  
whole time.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-BRENDA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT-FLASHBACK**

MALE CODY kisses Brenda on the lips. He unfastens his belt.  
Cody kisses her.

BRENDA  
(moan)

CODY  
How's that feel?

BRENDA  
It feels good.

Brenda kisses Cody.

Cody rubs his hands underneath her shirt, caressing her  
breasts at a fast motion.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Come here!

He leans over her, pressing himself against her.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
(grunt)  
(moan)

Cody kisses her while he goes back and forth.

CUT TO:

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

Brenda looks at Olivia.

BRENDA  
I know it was all in my head, but  
it happened.

She sits up.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
(breath)

OLIVIA  
How do you feel?

BRENDA  
Better.

Brenda stands up.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Now, what do I do?

OLIVIA  
Go home and be with your family.

CUT TO:

**EXT. FRONT YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-DAY**

Brenda opens the mailbox, grabs a postcard from inside. She looks at it, seeing dry blood all over it.

BRENDA  
Blood.

To the other side, she flips it over. The words stick out to her. It reads: Love U.

She presses it to her chest.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-DAY**

Brenda sets the postcard into a **shoebox**. She drops it to the floor and pushes it underneath the bed with her ankle.

NICK (O.S.)  
Babe!

BRENDA

Yeah!

NICK (V.O.)

I made your plate!

BRENDA

Thank you!

Brenda stands up and steps out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

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

Brenda sits at a *wooden picnic table*.

A man sits across from her, cutting into a *London broil steak* with a carving knife. He sticks a fork into it. NICK (29) Custodian. Kind, caring and protective.

Her eyes look at the *lemon tree* right behind him.

NICK

Babe?

Brenda looks at him.

BRENDA

What?

NICK

(swing fork)

She takes it from him.

BRENDA

Thank you.

Brenda bites the piece of steak off the fork.

NICK

Is your dad on your mind?

BRENDA

(sob)

He grabs her hand.

NICK

You can say what's on your mind.

Nick wipes the tear from her eyes.

BRENDA  
 (laugh)  
 Thanks.

She looks around and back at him.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 I found him, you know --

NICK  
 When?

BRENDA  
 When I was young. He hung himself.

CUT TO:

**INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT-FLASHBACK**

Brenda stands onto the edge of the bathtub. She cuts the rope from the top of the light.

BRENDA'S FATHER drops to the floor.

She drops to her knees.

BRENDA  
 (sob)  
 (cry)

Brenda presses her lips onto his.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 (breath)

BRENDA (V.O.)  
 I saved him but he was never the same after that.

CUT TO:

**EXT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-BACK TO PRESENT**

BRENDA  
 I should have given him what he wanted.

Brenda looks away.

Nick grabs her hands.

She looks at him.

NICK  
You did. You gave him your best.

Her eyes water with emotion.

BRENDA  
I love you.

Nick smiles. He stands up and steps around the table. His arm wraps around her, hugging her.

CUT TO:

**INT. GAS STATION-DAY-FLASHBACK**

Cody steps over a woman, points a pistol at her. Josiah flashes and turns into JOSIE (23)

He fires a shot, killing her instantly.

CODY (V.O.)  
The faces and people I've seen,  
doesn't compare to yours, Brenda.

CUT TO:

**INT. OLDSMOBILE-BACK TO PRESENT**

Cody turns the steering wheel and parks.

He looks at the photograph of him and Brenda. A smile stretches across his face.

CODY (V.O.)  
I didn't have nothing to live for.  
Now I do. A memory of you.

He presses his foot on the gas. A wide smile on his face.

CUT TO BLACK.

**THE END**