

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 boy runs into the middle of the road. Cody (9)

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 him.

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

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

He gets off the hood and steps onto the ground, running as
fast as he can.

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

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

A zombie woman runs towards Cody, reaching her hands out,
trying to grab him. 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 he can. A scared but relieved look upon his face as he runs away from the past in his 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.

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

He looks at him.

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, a handsome young man sits at the **kiddie's table**, playing with handmade puppets. A **frog puppet** on his right hand and a **dog puppet** on his 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 his hands.

NURSE (O.C.)
Cody Bridges!

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

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

CODY (O.S.)
I know.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY

CODY
(breath)

Cody turns to his side. He 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!

He 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 his tongue. He hands it back to the FAN WOMAN (30's)

The Fan Woman steps away from him.

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.

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

It depends on the kind. 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. He runs towards the other fence, climbing his way over.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS-DAY

Cody drops to the ground, twisting her ankle.

CODY

(yell)

Ah!!!

Police Officer #1 pushes him to the ground.

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

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 returns her attention to Cody.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Times up.

Cody stands up.

CODY
Same time, next week?

OLIVIA
Sure.

CODY
Okay.

He 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

Cody walks towards the front doors, making his exit.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY

CODY
Paper or plastic?

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

He 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!!

He 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 him 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 his fingers.

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

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT

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

CODY (V.O.)
I come home.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Cody switches off a *lamp*. He lies his head down on a *pillow*.

CODY
(yawn)
CODY (V.O.)
I sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY

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

Across the street he runs.

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

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY-DAY

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

Fan #1 rushes into the alley, looks to her left and spots Cody.

FAN #1
(yell)
He'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!!

He opens his eyes.

CODY
What!

GUARD
You made bail!

Cody sits up.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTY JAIL-DAY

Cody steps outside.

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

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 him 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 he's --

BRENDA
Difficult.

OLIVIA
Yeah.

BRENDA
And you're coming to me.

OLIVIA
Yeah.

Brenda looks away.

BRENDA
What's his 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 his back and the sadness in his 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. He looks at Olivia and then at Brenda.

CODY
Good morning!

OLIVIA
Good morning.

BRENDA
Good morning.

Cody pulls out a cigarette, sticks it into his 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. His right foot rests on his left leg.

Brenda steps towards him.

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.

He looks away.

CODY
(roll eyes)

Cody puts the cigarette out on the bottom of his shoe. He 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!!!

He 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 his slice of **pepperoni pizza**.

BRENDA
What was it like being on TV?

He looks her in the eyes, then returns his 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**. He takes a sip of water.

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

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

DAD CASTMATE
 Yeah!
 (laugh)

Sadness fills his 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?

He 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 my normal
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 him.

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 his mouth.

CODY
That's life with Catherine the
great!

Cody looks around. He looks at his watch.

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

BRENDA
See you then.

He 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 him, keeping him 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 him out of trouble. Listen to his stories, you know.

BRENDA

Be his 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 he 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.

His 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 at Cody.

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 his eyes. He sits up. His eyes look across the living room and see's Catherine staring back at him.

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 him in the face as Cody does everything he can to not look at his 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 NEIGHBOOD-DAY

Cody runs down the sidewalk. He looks back.

CODY
(breath)

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

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY-DAY

BRENDA
Yeah, sure.

Cody wipes her eyes. He pulls out a cigarette and puts it
close to his 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.

He 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 he 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 (O.S.)
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 him. He 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 him
get to the bottom of his 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 him sent off
to be someone else's problem.

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

OLIVIA
He'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!

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

CODY
(roll eyes)
Here we go again.

His 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 him and follows him 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. He 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 his feet and punches Fan #1 across the face.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-DAY

Cody sits. He 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
(yell)
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.

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 he fights the urge to burst out with one thing on his 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.

He rushes towards the shore.

CODY (CONT'D)
Come on!

Brenda rushes after him. 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.

BREND
Thank you. This was a good idea.

CODY
The only ones I get.

BREND
(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)

BREND
(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 him.

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 getting a massage
from him.

BRENDA
(moan)
That feels good.

His hands resting in the middle of her back, gently caressing
it. He turns Brenda.

Her eyes on his.

Cody kisses Brenda.

Brenda's hands grip onto Cody's butt and kisses him 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.

He 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 his ear, Cody listens for the tone to change to hearing Brenda's voice. He 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 he can. His eyes in a daze as he
thumps his fingers against the door.

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. He stares at the painting of Catherine. Tears stream down his face as he 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 and grabs at his head.

VICKI (V.O.)
She left you!

He shuts his 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. He 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. He grabs a **bag** of **potatoes**. His 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; he can't hear his voice.

He grabs a hold of his shoulder.

He slowly turns his head and looks back at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. GROCERY STORE-DAY

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

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 his face, caressing his 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 him?

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

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-CONTINUOUS

Vicki leans over Cody, caressing his face.

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

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

ARIEL
Sleep now. Shh!!

Cody closes his 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 him.

OLIVIA
No, we haven't.

Olivia looks back at the window.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
His mother failed him.

Olivia gets an idea.

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)

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 goes back to 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 returns to 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 him.

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

WORD PAD

Don't let him 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 his 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 Fredrick'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
Fredrick!

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!

He snatches the word pad from her hand and tosses 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** and 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 of 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. He 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!!

He smiles.

CODY (CONT'D)

You're honor, may I present my
case?

Cody stares.

BRENDA

You may!

Cody clamps his 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.

His eyes on hers -- Cody gives Brenda a chance to object.

BRENDA

Objection!

CODY

Sustained!

Cody steps towards Olivia. He 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!

He 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!

He slaps Olivia.

Olivia looks at him.

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 his 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!

He aims it at Catherine and fires six shot. The bullets pierce through her, killing her instantly.

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 him 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 his hands around Brenda's neck.

She pushes him 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.

BREND
No! Don't!!

CLAIRE
Sweetheart!

Brenda opens her eyes and looks at Claire.

BREND
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 woman sits across from the empty chairs, becoming concerned for who it is that is supposed to occupy the chairs. JOSIE (23) She looks to her right, seeing a girl with **dolls** in her hands. KATIE (21)

JOSIE
Excuse me?

KATIE
Why, did you fart!

JOSIE
What! No. Where's the others?

KATIE

They come when they want to.

JOSIE

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**.

Josie stands up and steps towards a pile of **paper** and **pencils**, grabbing one of each. She sits. Her 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. He sticks his 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 his dog and frog puppets.

CUT TO:

INT. GROUP ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY

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

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

Her eyes memorized by his interacting with the puppets. She starts drawing Cody, capturing every single little detail of him.

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

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

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

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

Josie sets the drawing by the window.

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

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

ORIANA (CONT'D)
(snatch)
Let's see what's on Josie'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 he's not running.

Oriana shows it to Cody.

Cody looks at it and smiles.

She tears it into pieces.

Josie looks in horror, shocked and in disbelief.

To the floor, the torn pieces of paper 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.

Josie looks at Cody.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOWER ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-NIGHT

The water hits the top of her head; Josie rinses out the rest
of the shampoo. She switches off the water.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-NIGHT

Josie steps out of the shower room. She starts to turn the
corner and runs into Cody.

Cody drops his towel to the floor.

Josie picks the towel up and hands it to him.

JOSIE
I'm sorry about that.

She comes face to face with Cody.

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

JOSIE
Hey --

-- She raises her hands up --

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

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

JOSIE
Good night.

She leans his mouth towards his ear.

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

Larry grabs Josie by his arm and pushes her 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. He smiles at
the beautiful blue sky and knowing there's someone fond of
him.

CUT TO:

INT. GROUP ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY

Josie sits, draws another picture of Cody.

Cody steps into the room and sits beside her.

CODY
Is that another drawing of me?

She shows it to him.

He 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.

JOSIE

Hey!!

Josie 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!!

Josie steps away.

ORIANA (CONT'D)

Josie!!!

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

He looks back at her.

JOSIE

Let go of me!!

ORIANA

No!

She turns to her and grips her hands around her throat.

ORIANA (CONT'D)

(choke)
(gasp)

JOSIE

(grunt)

He lets go of Oriana and lets her fall to the floor. No
breath and no life left in her.

CODY

(gasp)

Cody looks at her with shock.

Josie looks at him.

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.

Josie reaches her hand out for his.

JOSIE

Come on!

Cody reaches his hand out for hers and grabs a hold. He pulls her down the hallway and runs.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-MENTAL HEALTH CENTER-DAY

JOSIE

We got to get a car!

CODY

We can take her car!

JOSIE

Cool.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-DAY

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

CODY

(point)

Right there!!

JOSIE

Come on!

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

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Wait!

CODY

What?

JOSIE

The guard is going to spot you.

CODY
Good point.

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

CODY (CONT'D)
Put this on!

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

CUT TO:

INT. RED CORVETTE-DAY

Josie pushes her foot on the gas pedal.

The red corvette stops at the gate.

A GUARD steps towards the driver side door.

Josie rolls the window down.

GUARD
Doc? Headed out so soon?

JOSIE
I just forgot something.

He steps back.

GUARD
Okay.
(wave)

She pushes her foot on the gas pedal.

Josie looks in the **rear-view mirror**.

CODY (O.C.)
Are we alright?

Josie smiles.

JOSIE
Yes.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-FAMILY LAW FIRM-NIGHT

Brenda sits. She flips through paperwork.

The phone rings.

BREND
Who could this be?

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

BREND (CONT'D)
Hello?

A smile stretches across her face.

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

Brenda's eyes wander.

BREND (CONT'D)
That good, huh?

She stands up.

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

Brenda sits.

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

Mike steps into the office. He looks at Brenda.

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

Her eyes on his.

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

She hangs up the receiver.

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

BREND (CONT'D)
What?

MIKE
You're former client?

BRENDA
Yeah.

MIKE
He escaped.

BRENDA
What?

MIKE
He got away with one of the
patients.

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

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

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

JOSIE
Fuck!

Josie turns away. She steps towards the bathrooms.

CUT TO:

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM-DAY

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

CODY
(sob)

He stands up and opens the door, slowly stepping towards the sink. Cody looks at himself in the mirror.

JOSIE (O.S.)
Cody!

CODY
Yes!

JOSIE (O.S.)
Time to go!

CODY
Just one minute, please.

JOSIE
Move that ass now!!

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUCK STOP-DAY

Josie and Cody stop.

A STATE TROOPER stands, pointing a gun at Josie.

STATE TROOPER
Don't make one more move!

Josie steps closer.

STATE TROOPER (CONT'D)
Stop!

She eyes Cody.

JOSIE
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.

Josie looks back at Cody.

JOSIE
Okay.

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

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Too bad.

She looks back at Cody.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Get the gun!

Cody picks up the revolver.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Give it to me!

He cocks it.

Her eyes on his.

CODY
Surprise!

JOSIE
What are you doing?

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

She rushes towards him.

Cody fires a shot.

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

Josie raises his hands up.

JOSIE
Okay!

She 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

Josie unlocks her hand from the handcuffs. She 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

Josie's eyes in full view of rage.

JOSIE
I'm coming!!!

CUT TO:

INT. RED CORVETTE-DAY

Cody puts sunglasses on. He looks at himself in the rear-view mirror.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-GAS STATION-DAY

The red corvette parks.

Cody opens the driver door.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-DAY

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

He hands the Cashier the hat.

JOSIE (O.C.)
(breath)

CODY
That didn't take long!

JOSIE
(breath)

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

Josie rushes at her.

JOSIE
(swing)

Cody ducks down and rolls onto the counter. He hits the
floor.

The Cashier looks at him.

CODY
Do you have a weapon?

The Cashier tosses him a pistol.

CASHIER
Here!!!

Cody catches it.

CODY
Thanks.

The Cashier crawls away.

JOSIE (O.C.)
Come on, babe! Come out. I just
want to talk. You know!

He leans his back against the counter.

CODY
(breath)

Josie grips her hands onto the counter.

Cody presses the pistol against it and fires a shot.

JOSIE (O.C.)
(moan)

Josie drops to the floor. She backs herself away on her butt.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
(moan)

CODY (O.C.)
(laugh)

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

CODY (CONT'D)
One bullet for one life.

A **postcard rack** in his eyesight. He takes a postcard and shoves it into his back pocket.

JOSIE
I'm sorry, okay!

He steps over her.

CODY
Turn and look at me!

She hides her face.

CODY (CONT'D)
Now!

Josie turns and looks him in the eyes.

CODY (CONT'D)
Look at the real monster!

His eyes in rage as he fires the shot.

Blood splatters on his face.

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

The State Trooper fires a shot.

Cody takes a shot to his side. He drops to his knees.

CODY (CONT'D)
Alright! I surrender!

The State Trooper steps towards him.

Cody grabs the **nightstick**.

STATE TROOPER
Hands!!

CODY
See!

Cody drives the nightstick to his groin.

STATE TROOPER
(grunt)

He drops to his knees.

Cody pushes himself up.

CODY
(swing)

He smacks the back of the State Trooper's head with the nightstick.

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 he 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)
You're in good hands.

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 him down.

CODY (SUBTITLE)
(In Spanish)
Mexico --

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

He sits him 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 (SUBTITLE)
(In Spanish)
Just me.

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

BORDER GUARD (SUBTITLE)
(In Spanish)
What's that?

PIG FARMER (SUBTITLE)
(In Spanish)
Just a blanket.

BORDER GUARD (SUBTITLE)
(In Spanish)
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 and crosses over the border.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE-DAY

CODY
 (gasp)

He sits up and feels the **gauze** wrapped around his waist.

CODY (CONT'D)
 What the --

-- Cody stands up, feeling a little wobbly. He 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! He'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 his face. He grabs at his head.

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

He 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!

Cody rushes towards him and hands him the postcard.

MAILMAN (SUBTITLE)
 (In Spanish)
 Have a good day, sir!

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** is parked in the back yard.

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

FEMALE CODY kisses Brenda on the lips. She unfastens her belt.

Female Cody kisses her.

BRENDA
(moan)

FEMAL CODY
How's that feel?

BRENDA
It feels good.

Brenda kisses Female Cody.

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

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Come here!

She leans over her, pressing herself against her.

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

Female Cody kisses her while she 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.

BREND
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 the shoebox. She drops it to the floor and pushes it underneath the bed with her ankle.

NICK (O.S.)
Babe!

BREND
Yeah!

NICK (V.O.)
I made your plate!

BREND
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. OLDSMOBILE-DAY

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.

FADE OUT:

THE END