

Who? What? Why? When? & How?

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FRONT YARD-NIGHT

SUPER: LOS ANGELES, 2003

A house engulfed in flames.

The roof collapses.

A man runs towards the house. JON (27)

JON
(yell)
Emma!!!

POLICE OFFICERS #1 and #2 (20's)

Police Officer #1 pushes him back.

JON (CONT'D)
My wife!! My daughter!

Police Officer #2 looks at Jon with surprise.

POLICE OFFICER #2
(point)
There's a little girl right over
there!

Jon looks at a little girl, sitting on the back of an
ambulance. NICA (5)

EXT. HIGHWAY-NIGHT

SUPER: TWO YEARS LATER

A **red Toyota corolla** merges onto the highway.

ARYA (O.S.)
Yes, mom!

CUT TO:

INT. TOYOTA COROLLA-NIGHT

ARYA (22) A socially awkward young woman and journalist with
no main responsibilities. She holds a **cigarette** in between
her fingers.

ARYA
No, I'm not smoking while driving!

Arya drops her **cell phone** from her hand. Her eyes look down and she reaches down with the tips of her fingers while her left hand holds onto the **steering wheel**.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Got you!!!

She raises her head up.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY-CONTINUOUS

The red Toyota corolla flies into the air and flips over a **tow truck**. It crashes and rolls onto the road, landing on its roof.

CUT TO:

INT. TOYOTA COROLLA-CONTINUOUS

Arya sits upside down from the driver seat.
The door opens.

Jon reaches in and cuts the **seat belt** with a **Swiss army knife**. He pulls her down from the seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY-CONTINUOUS

Jon steps through the parked and damaged cars, carrying Arya to safety.

ARYA
(moan)

She looks at him, fighting to keep her focus on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-DAY

Laid asleep in a bed, Arya's leg is raised up in a **cast** and her arm in a **sling**. Her eyes open.

ARYA'S POV:

From left to right, the focus looks up at the ceiling and the right leg in a cast.

ARYA
What is this!

BACK TO SCENE

Arya tries to sit up.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Hello!

A woman rushes into the room. She rubs her hand across Arya's face. LOUISE (48)

LOUISE
Shh!!

ARYA
What happened?

LOUISE
You were in a car accident.

ARYA
I was?

LOUISE
Yes.

ARYA
How'd I get here?

LOUISE
Let's just say that you are
blessed.

Arya looks away.

A man steps into the room. DOCTOR (30's)

DOCTOR
Hello? And how are we feeling?

ARYA
Like I just woke up in pain. How
would you feel?

He leans down, shines a **flashlight** in her eyes.

DOCTOR
Are you experiencing any headaches?

ARYA
Only when you shine that light in
my eyes.

The Doctor backs away.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry.

He sits on the bed.

ARYA
How long do you think it'll take
for me to walk?

DOCTOR
What's the rush?

ARYA
I got to work. I can't stay in bed
forever.

DOCTOR
Question, do you remember anything
after being out of the car?

Her eyes wander, thinking about what happened after she was
pulled out of the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY-NIGHT-FLASHBACK

Jon presses his mouth against Arya's, performing **CPR**. He
presses his hands onto her chest.

ARYA
(cough)
(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-BACK TO PRESENT

Arya looks at the Doctor.

ARYA
He gave me CPR.

DOCTOR
Are you sure?

She looks at him with seriousness.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Okay, okay. Dumb question.

ARYA
Yeah!

He stands up.

DOCTOR
Take it under advisement. Take one
day at a time. No big movements
yet.

Arya looks at Louise.

Louise smiles.

She looks away, feeling shut in, being supervised by her
mother once again.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-DAY

Louise pushes Arya in a *wheelchair* and stops in front of an
elevator.

CUT TO:

INT. CARAVAN-DAY

Arya looks at the driveway, leading to her childhood home.

ARYA
Why can't I just stay in my
apartment?

LOUISE
Because you need observation.

ARYA
I'm grown.

Louise turns the key and shuts off the ignition.

LOUISE
That's what you used to say to me
when you were little.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Louise pushes Arya into the living room and parks the wheelchair in front of the television.

LOUISE
Lunchtime!

She steps towards the kitchen.

Arya looks around.

A **stack** full of **photographs** are set on a **coffee table**. She grabs them.

Louise steps towards Arya with a **glass** of **water**.

Her eyes on the sight of the wreckage.

LOUISE (CONT'D)
Give me those!

She snatches the photographs out of her hands and hands her the glass.

ARYA
Where did those come from?

LOUISE
Don't worry about it.

ARYA
(yell)
Mom!!

Louise looks back at her.

LOUISE
(yell)
Arya!!

Arya pounds her hands on the arm rests of the wheelchair.

ARYA
(scream)

CUT TO:

INT. GYM-HOSPITAL-DAY

Arya steps slowly towards a PHYSICAL THERAPIST.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST
Come on, you're almost there!

She pushes forward, taking five more steps.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (CONT'D)
You got it!!

Another two more steps.

ARYA
(breath)

PHYSICAL THERAPIST
Good job. Now, back to the other side.

ARYA
What!

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-DAY

Jon sits. He stares at the *mug* of *coffee* right underneath his chin.

A woman stands in front of him, making sure he's alright.
HOLLY (22)

HOLLY
Jon?

He looks at her.

JON
Yeah?

HOLLY
Are you alright?

JON
Yeah.

HOLLY
You better drink your coffee before it gets cold.

A man steps towards the stool next to Jon. He takes off the **red baseball cap** from his head. His eyes on Jon. ARNIE (25)

ARNIE
I thought I told you not to talk to
my girl?

Jon looks at Arnie in the corner of his eye.

JON
I'm just sitting here.

ARNIE
Do you have any money?

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a **dollar bill**.

HOLLY
No, sweetie, it's on the house.

ARNIE
No!!

Jon hands it to her.

JON
It's fine.

Holly steps towards the **cash register**.

Arnie leans towards Jon's ear.

JON (CONT'D)
(whisper)
You better get out of here!

HOLLY
Arnie!

Arnie looks at Holly.

ARNIE
Yes?

HOLLY
Are you going to order something?

He looks at her.

ARNIE
You look great.

HOLLY
Is that a yes?

ARNIE
Coffee, please?
(point)
Pie.

HOLLY
What kind?

ARNIE
Apple.

Holly steps towards the **pie display case.**

Arnie leans towards Jon.

ARNIE (CONT'D)
(whisper)
I hope you burn in hell you baby
killer!

Jon grabs the mug.

JON
(gulp)

He stands up and steps towards the door.

JON (CONT'D)
I'll see you later, Holly.

HOLLY
See you, Jon.

Arnie looks in the corner of his eye.

ARNIE
More like never!
(laugh)

Jon looks back at Arnie. He steps out of the diner.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya steps towards her desk.

JOURNALISTS #1 and #2 (20's)

JOURNALIST #1 (O.C.)
Arya! You're back!

Arya sits in the **desk chair.**

ARYA
Nothing is going to keep me away
that long.

JOURNALIST #2 (O.C.)
Coffee?

ARYA
Yes, please!

Arya looks at the *missing persons flier* on her desk and the
name sticks out to her.

ARYA (CONT'D)
What's with this Shelly girl?

A man steps towards Arya. ADAM (35)

ADAM
Someone actually gives a shit,
Arya.

Arya looks at Adam.

ARYA
I didn't mean anything by it.

ADAM
I know. Can we talk in my office?

ARYA
Sure.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Adam steps towards his desk chair. He sits.

ADAM
Please, have a seat.

Arya sits.

ARYA
Am I fired?

ADAM
No! I'm just a little surprised to
see you back so soon.

ARYA
I can't go a day without doing my
job.

ADAM
Can I do anything for you? Car,
lunch?

ARYA
No thanks. I'm going to look at a
car tomorrow.

ADAM
Have you considered a car service?

ARYA
No. I don't want a poor sap hauling
me around town.

ADAM
Okay. Nothing I can do to talk you
out of it. Have you thought about
the person that saved you?

ARYA
Every day.

ADAM
Good. Remember why you're still
here.

She smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR LOT-DAY

Arya goes from car to car.

A man follows her down the lot. CAR DEALER (30's)

CAR DEALER
I can give you a good deal, miss?

ARYA
Uh huh. Hmm --

She looks at the **black Mercedes Benz**.

ARYA (CONT'D)
I like the black Mercedes.

CAR DEALER
Great choice. Let's step into my
office!

He leads her towards the dealership.

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-DAY

Arya drives the Mercedes Benz onto the same highway. She turns the steering wheel to the right side. Her eyes are on the wall.

ARYA
Where'd you come from?

Honking sounds.

She looks in the rear-view mirror.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Yeah, yeah!!

She pushes her foot onto the **gas pedal**. The Mercedes Benz starts to drive.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY-NIGHT

Arya shuts the driver door to the Mercedes Benz. She steps past **tents, grocery carts** and rows of **sleeping bags**. HOMELESS MAN #1 and #2 (40's)

HOMELESS MAN #2
Got some cash lady?

Arya steps towards the end of the alley. She peeks her eyes into the tent in front of her.

HOMELESS MAN #1 (O.C.)
Can we help you with something
lady?

Arya turns to him.

ARYA
No. I'll be on my way.

She steps away.

Homeless Man #1 grabs her by the arm.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Let me go, please!

He pulls her close to him.

HOMELESS MAN #1
Grab her purse!!

Homeless Man #2 steps towards Arya. He touches her face, runs his fingers down to her chest.

HOMELESS MAN #2
Let's have a little fun first!

His hand reaches out and touches her chest.

A hand grabs a hold of Homeless Man #2's hand, snapping it and breaking his wrists.

HOMELESS MAN #2 (CONT'D)
(scream)

Jon pushes him into the tent.

Homeless Man #1 pulls out a **knife**. He pushes Arya towards Jon.

Jon grabs her, holds her up from the ground.

Homeless Man #1 runs off.

He looks at Arya.

JON
Are you okay?

She looks at Jon.

JON (CONT'D)
You shouldn't be here. Come on.

Arya steps towards the Mercedes Benz.

JON (CONT'D)
Thank you.

He turns around.

JON (CONT'D)
Drive safe.

Jon steps away.

Arya looks back at Jon.

ARYA
Are you hungry?

He stops.

Jon thinks about the offer, finding it enticing and unable to deny a meal. He licks his lips.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Jon takes a bite from a **rack** of **ribs**, pulling the meat off with his teeth. He tosses the rib bone to the table.

Arya's eyes follow the rib bones as they drop to the plate. She looks at the **drumsticks** on her plate. The thought that she feels like a rookie with food.

ARYA
I see you are hungry.

JON
What makes you say that?

He drops another bone.

ARYA
-- I --

She looks at him --

ARYA (CONT'D)
I'm just --

JON
-- Talking.

Arya takes a bite from a drumstick.

JON (CONT'D)
What brings you to my neck of the woods?

ARYA
Do you remember that car crash three months back?

JON
Yeah.

ARYA
Woman survived with a broken leg.

JON
Yeah?

ARYA
I'm her.

He scoops up a spoonful of *macaroni & cheese* and eats off the *spoon*.

JON
Oh, I'm sorry.

ARYA
Don't be.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-RESTAURANT-NIGHT

ARYA
Can I give you a ride?

Jon steps towards the crosswalk.

JON
No thanks.

ARYA
Are you sure you want to go back to
that alley?

He looks back at her.

JON
I don't sleep there.

ARYA
You don't?

JON
No. It's not smart to sleep wide in
the open.
(wave)
Have a good night.

ARYA
You as well.

She turns to the driver door, glancing back at Jon.

ARYA (CONT'D)
What if I want to talk to you
again?

JON
I'll find you.

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-NIGHT

Her foot on the gas pedal and her hands on the steering wheel. She looks at the people on the streets.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-NIGHT

Jon sits on a sofa. He lies back.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya brushes her hair. She looks at herself in the **vanity mirror**.

ARYA
What can I do?

Her eyes look away.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya steps towards her desk.

A **post it** left on the **monitor**. It reads: Meeting in office.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya knocks on the door.

Adam looks back at her. A receiver pressed against his ear.

ADAM

Come in!

She steps in.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Close the door!!

Arya shuts the door.

Adam turns his back.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I know -- I'm working on it --
okay.

He sits on the desk.

Her eyes on the printout of the new headline. It reads: Who
is the Cinderella rescue man?

Adam hangs up the receiver. He turns to Arya.

ADAM (CONT'D)

So --

ARYA

-- Cinderella rescue man?

ADAM

Yeah -- I know how it sounds.

ARYA

And you want me to go along with
it?

ADAM

Yes.

ARYA

I can do it without the attention.

ADAM

I just got off the phone with the
morning show.

ARYA

And?

ADAM
It's all over the news. People want
to know right with you who the
Cinderella man is.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS-DAY

A newspaper in the grips of his hands. Jon looks at the
headline. It reads: Who is the Cinderella Man?

JON
Wouldn't you like to know.

He smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya wipes the mirror with a towel. Her eyes on her face.

ARYA
Good night.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya tosses and turns in bed, trying her best to get
comfortable. She looks at the ceiling.

ARYA
(breath)
Can't sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

A bell rings.

Arya steps in.

HOLLY (O.C.)
Sit where you want!

She sits at the bar table.

Holly steps towards her and pours coffee into her mug.

ARYA
Thank you.

HOLLY
What can I get for you?

She looks at the pies in the display case.

ARYA
A slice of apple pie, please.

HOLLY
Coming right up.

Holly steps away.

ARYA (V.O.)
Can I ask you a question?

HOLLY (V.O.)
Sure.

ARYA (V.O.)
Have you seen anything or anyone
unusual?

HOLLY (V.O.)
Unusual?

Holly sets a plate in front of Arya.

HOLLY
I don't get what you mean?

ARYA
The car crash on the highway -- the
woman that survived the crash --
she wants to know who saved her.

HOLLY
I'm sorry sweetheart -- all that
comes through here is --

Arnie steps in.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
(point)
Is him -- the average joe --

ARNIE
-- I'm the average joe.

Arya looks at Arnie.

He sits.

HOLLY

See!

Arnie smiles.

ARYA

(sip)

HOLLY

Can I top that off for you?

ARYA

No thanks.

She slices into the pie and takes a bite.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-DINER-NIGHT

Arya steps towards the Mercedes Benz.

ARNIE (O.C.)

Hey!!

Arya looks back at Arnie.

Arnie steps towards her.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

Let me help you with that.

He opens the driver door.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-NIGHT

ARYA

Thank you.

Arnie looks at her as he is about to close the door.

ARNIE

What are you looking for?

ARYA

Not what -- who.

ARNIE

There are no heroes here, miss.
Just wannabes. If you're smart,
you'll just go home to mommy and
daddy and write it in your diary
before you come across the wrong
person.

ARYA

Is that a threat?

ARNIE

No. An observation.

He shuts the door and steps away.

She looks in the rear-view mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya sits. She looks down at newspaper **clippings** resting on
her desk.

ARYA

What the --

ADAM (O.C.)

-- How's the story going?

She opens the **drawer** in front of her and pushes them in. A
brush to her hair, trying not to look suspicious.

ARYA

I'm looking for a needle and a
haystack.

ADAM

So, you look again.

ARYA

Yeah, but the locals are right.
There are no heroes.

ADAM

Don't tell me the determined Arya
is giving up so easily.

Arya turns away to her desk.

ARYA

Ahh!!

She returns her attention to the monitor screen.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Something's got to give!!

ADAM
Yeah, it's called perseverance.

ARYA
Maybe I should get a puppy.

ADAM
(laugh)

ARYA
What?

ADAM
You got ideas -- use them -- get
out there and get the guy, okay.

Her eyes in disbelief but she is getting the message.

ARYA
Okay.

Adam steps away.

She smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-DAY

Arya holds her cell phone up and snaps pictures of the highway.

The Mercedes Benz stops.

Arya takes two more pictures.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

The newspaper clippings are set on the coffee table.

Arya looks at them.

ARYA
(read)
Local woman dies in hit and run.

She goes to the second one.

ARYA (CONT'D)
(read)
Man dies in freak accident in
boxing gym.

She looks at the two headlines in the year 1995.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Rough year.

Arya falls back, leaning her back on the **cushions**.

ARYA (CONT'D)
(breath)

She covers her face, not getting anywhere.

ARYA (CONT'D)
(yell)

Arya looks at her watch, seeing it's after midnight. She sits up.

ARYA (CONT'D)
I need coffee!

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

Holly steps towards the bar table.

HOLLY
What can I --

-- She looks at Arya --

ARYA
-- Coffee.

HOLLY
Back again.

Holly pours coffee into her mug. She sets the **coffee pot** on the **burner**.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Are you here to ask more questions?

ARYA
I just want coffee.

HOLLY
Any pie?

ARYA
Coffee.

Holly steps towards Arya.

HOLLY
Look, I don't exactly agree with
Arnie on everything. All I do know
is there's someone that cares for
people. Some of the people that
never got the chance to reach their
goals became bitter or angry.

Arya lifts the coffee mug up to her mouth.

ARYA
(sip)
Let me guess -- Arnie.

HOLLY
Yes. Piece of advice -- don't egg
him on.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-DINER-NIGHT

Jon steps towards the front doors to the diner.

ARNIE (O.C.)
And where do you think you're
going?

Jon looks back at Arnie.

JON
To get some coffee. Do you want
some?

Arnie steps close.

ARNIE
You obviously want something more
than coffee. Don't you?

JON
No.

He steps closer to Jon.

ARNIE
Is that what you told your wife
before you started that fire.

JON
You should really watch your mouth.

ARNIE
I should?

JON
Yeah.

ARNIE
Watch this!
(mouths)
Kiss my ass, baby killer!!

Jon balls up his hands into fists.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-CONTINUOUS

A man rushes into the dining area. CUSTOMER (30's)

CUSTOMER
Holly!!

HOLLY
Yes?

CUSTOMER
Arnie and Jon are fighting in the
parking lot!!

HOLLY
What!!

Holly rushes out.

Arya stands up and steps towards the exit door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-DINER-CONTINUOUS

Arnie swings his fist at Jon.

Jon ducks.

ARNIE
You son of a bitch!!

Arnie swings again.

Jon catches his fist. He pushes him back.

JON
Stop!!

He steps towards him.

Holly steps between Arnie and Jon.

HOLLY
Go!!!

She pushes Arnie back.

Arya steps towards Jon.

Jon looks at her.

JON
What are you doing here?

ARYA
I couldn't sleep.

She looks at Holly and then at Arnie.

ARYA (CONT'D)
What's the story?

JON
Let's just say we don't like each other.

ARYA
Oh! Who does like each other these days.

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-NIGHT

Jon looks out of the window. He looks at Arya.

JON
Thank you.

ARYA
For what?

JON
Being here and getting me away from
there.

ARYA
I'm sure you would do the same
thing.

He smiles.

JON
Probably.

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya lays a **pillow** down on the **sofa**.

ARYA
There you go.

He looks at her.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Good night.

JON
Good night.

Jon lays back on the sofa. He looks at the ceiling.

Night turns into day.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-ARYA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Arya steps towards the dinner table with a **skillet**, scrapes the **scrambled eggs** onto a plate. She steps towards the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

ARYA
Breakfast is --

-- Arya looks around but does not see Jon.

ARYA (CONT'D)
-- Served.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS-DAY

Jon steps down the sidewalk. He stops. His eyes are drawn to the second floor window.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Arya looks out the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS-CONTINUOUS

Jon looks at her.

JON
(wink)

He turns around and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Arya smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM-DAY

Jon sits. He looks at the *suit* he's wearing.

JON
Please, let this be it!

A man steps into the waiting room. SERVICE MANAGER (30's)

SERVICE MANAGER
Summers?

Jon stands up.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-DAY

Jon sits across from the Service Manager.

SERVICE MANAGER
It says here that you been out of
work for a year?

JON
Yes.

SERVICE MANAGER
Are you able to be at the job sight
assigned to you?

JON
Yes.

He hands him a paper with the address on it.

SERVICE MANAGER
Welcome aboard!

Jon shakes his hand.

SERVICE MANAGER (CONT'D)
One of my workers is waiting for
you in the hallway. Go ahead and
meet him.

JON
Okay. Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-DAY

Jon steps into the hallway.

A man stands outside the custodian's office. He looks at Jon
and then at his **watch**. NICK (28)

NICK
Right on time!

JON
That's me! Right on time.

Nick extends his arm out and shakes Jon's hand.

NICK
Nice to meet you right on time!

Nick pushes the door open to the custodian's office.

NICK (CONT'D)
(laugh)
I get my wife with that one every
time!

He steps in and grabs a pair of **coveralls**.

Jon looks in.

Nick steps out. He hands the coveralls to Jon.

NICK (CONT'D)
I'll see you tomorrow.

JON
Okay.

Jon turns around and walks away. He looks back at Nick.

A woman rushes towards Nick. BRENDA (22)

NICK
Babe!

Jon stops. He can't help but watch the man with Brenda.

He hugs her, and feels on her pregnant belly.

Brenda looks back at Jon.

BRENDA
Is that the new guy?

NICK
Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya steps into the lobby. She looks at the line of men.

ARYA
What?

ADAM (O.C.)
Today is a good day.

Adam steps around her.

She follows him to the table set for one person.

ARYA
What is this?

ADAM
It's for you.

ARYA
Me? Why?

Adam can't look her in the eyes, as he has to tell her the truth.

ADAM
Okay, I called the doctor for information about the night you were found on the side of the highway.

ARYA
You what!

ADAM
I had to advertise this idea. It's one way for you to know who saved you.

She looks at the men in the line.

CONTESTANT #1 (20's)

Contestant #1 spreads **ChapStick** over his lips.

Arya's face fills with disgust.

ARYA
Eh!

She looks at Adam and does not feel comfortable of having all the men in line touching her with their mouths.

ARYA (CONT'D)
I don't know.

He grips his hands onto hers.

ADAM
For me, please!

Arya looks at Contestant #1 and the other men. Her attention returns to Adam.

ARYA
Okay! I'll do it!

He hugs her and lifts her up from the floor.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Okay! Put me down now, please!!

Adam lowers her down.

Arya looks at the table. She climbs on top, sits down and lies back.

Adam looks at Contestant #1.

ADAM
(wave finger)
First contestant!

He steps towards Arya.

Arya closes her eyes.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Go!

Contestant #1 locks his lips onto Arya's.

Arya kicks her feet. She pushes him back.

ARYA
(breath)

ADAM
Is it him?

ARYA
(shake head)
No!!

Adam walks Contestant #1 away, directing him to the exit door.

Arya gets off the table.

Adam looks at Arya.

ADAM
What are you doing?

ARYA
We're going to do it like a kissing booth.

ADAM
Okay.

Adam turns to the Contestants.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(wave finger)
Right this way, please?

MONTAGE

-- Arya kisses Contestant #2.
-- Arya kisses Contestant #3.
-- Arya kisses Contestant #4.

BACK TO SCENE

Jon steps past the table, pushing a **gurney**.

Nick walks alongside of him.

Jon looks at Arya.

ARYA
I got to go wash my mouth out!

ADAM
Shh!!

Arya rushes out of the lobby and heads to the woman's bathroom.

Adam looks at Jon and Nick.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Nick?

NICK
Yes?

ADAM
Do you want to be a contestant?

NICK
I'm married.

ADAM
What about you?

Jon looks at Arya and then back at Adam.

JON
Maybe later.

Jon and Nick steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. WOMAN'S BATHROOM-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya leans her down under the *faucet*.

ARYA
(gulp)
(spit)

She wipes her face with the palms of her hands.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Jon drops the *mop* to the *tiled floor*.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-CONTINUOUS

Arya steps to the table.

Adam hands her a *bottle* of water.

ARYA
(sip)

She looks back at Jon.

ARYA (CONT'D)
We have a new custodian?

ADAM
Yes.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-CONTINUOUS

Jon looks at Arya. He smiles at the idea of twelve more Contestants are waiting for their turns to kiss Arya.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-CONTINUOUS

Contestant #12 kisses Arya. He reaches behind her head.

She pushes his hand away.

He steps away.

ARYA
How many was that today?

ADAM
Twelve.

ARYA
I'm going home.

She grabs her **purse** and steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-NIGHT

Jon sits up. His eyes are drawn to a photograph in the tips of his fingers.

JON
I miss you -- both of you.

He kisses the photograph and puts it into his pants pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya stands in front of the mirror and brushes her teeth. She rinses her mouth out.

ARYA
Ahh!! Finally!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya lays down in bed. She looks at the newspaper on the *nightstand*.

ARYA

Ahh!!

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya sits at the table. She takes a drink from a bottle of water.

Jon steps in, drops a mop to the floor and pushes it around.

Adam steps towards Jon.

ADAM

Hey!

Jon looks back at Adam.

JON

Yes?

ADAM

Are you going to come on over and
get a kiss?

He looks at Arya. His attention returns to Adam.

JON

No thanks.

ADAM

Come on, she doesn't bite.

JON

Maybe later.

ADAM

Okay.

Adam steps away.

Jon looks at Arya. His thoughts of kissing her are sensitive and he can't bring himself to approach, not now.

Contestant #20 kisses Arya.

Arya's eyes wander.

ARYA
(muffle)

She pushes him back.

CONTESTANT #20
(breath)

ARYA
(breath)

CONTESTANT #20
How was that?

ARYA
No!!
(point)

Contestant #20 turns around and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya sits.

She sticks a toothbrush in her mouth while digging through her purse for the **toothpaste**.

Adam steps towards her desk.

ADAM
Well?

ARYA
Well, none of them were him.

ADAM
Really?

ARYA
Don't worry, every contestant is telling their buddies that they locked lips with the newspaper journalist.

ADAM
True.

Jon steps past and makes his way to the men's bathroom.

Adam looks back at Jon

Jon looks at Adam.

JON
Good day, sir.

Adam looks back at Arya.

ADAM
What about the custodian?

Arya looks at Jon.

ARYA
No. He probably has a wife.

ADAM
He doesn't.

ARYA
How can you be so sure?

ADAM
Because he told me. We're having a
costume party at the hotel ballroom
next Monday. You should invite him.

ARYA
Me!

ADAM
Yes.

She looks down the hallway.

ARYA
Maybe he's just shy.

ADAM
Probably.

Adam steps past, making his way to his office.

ARYA
Go for it!

Arya thinks about the encouragement and the thought of asking
the custodian for a kiss and it starts to get to her.

CUT TO:

INT. WOMAN'S BATHROOM-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya brushes her teeth, looks at herself in the mirror and looks in the doorway.

Jon backs up into the bathroom while his back is to Arya.

JON

I'm here to clear out the trash?

She looks at him, admiring his height and his physique in the coveralls.

ARYA

Oh! Go ahead?

Jon smiles.

ARYA (CONT'D)

(spit)

Arya rinses her mouth out, scooping water into her mouth.

ARYA (CONT'D)

(spit)

Why are you so shy?

JON

No reason.

ARYA

(laugh)

Adam is setting up a costume party next week. You should come. Ditch the coveralls.

He looks at her in the corner of his eye.

JON

Are you sure you want that?

ARYA

What?

JON

To be seen with me?

ARYA

Come on! You can't look that bad.

Jon smiles.

She grabs her toothbrush and toothpaste.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Well, I'll see you Monday, okay.

He circles himself around as she walks past him.

JON
Have a good weekend.

Arya looks back at him.

ARYA
You as well.

She turns around and steps out.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANTIQUE STORE-DAY

Jon steps towards the window to an antique store.

A *music box* in his sight.

He smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya steps into the living room. She locks the door.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

The light turns on.

Arya looks at Louise, standing in front of her with a
homemade birthday cake. Candles lit, lighting up Lousie's
face.

LOUISE
Happy birthday baby.

ARYA
Thank you.

LOUISE
Make a wish!

Arya blows out the candles.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Arya sits in front of the vanity mirror.

MONTAGE

-- Arya applies blush.

-- Arya applies mascara.

-- Arya applies lip-gloss.

BACK TO SCENE

She stands up, admiring the *violet formal dress*.

ARYA
You look great!

Arya turns away from the vanity.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya sits at her desk. She opens the drawer in front of her and finds a music box.

ARYA
Hmm --

The music box plays as Arya opens it.

She smiles at the sight of a *purple glittered mask* resting in the drawer.

CUT TO:

INT. BALLROOM-HOTEL-NIGHT

PARTYGOERS surround the dance floor.

Arya steps down the steps. She looks around, trying to spot Jon.

Jon stands in the midst of the dance floor.

She steps closer.

At arm's reach from her, Jon reaches out for her hand.

ARYA
Shall we?

She grabs a hold.

He places his hands around her waist.

Arya wraps her arms around his neck.

Jon looks her in the eyes while moving in circles around the dance floor.

ARYA (CONT'D)
You know how to move!

He smiles.

JON
And you look beautiful.

ARYA
Thank you. You look very handsome.

JON
Thanks.

She looks at his eyes.

ARYA
Your eyes.

JON
What about them?

ARYA
I feel like I've seen them before.

JON
Maybe you've seen them on someone else.

ARYA
No, that's not it.

Arya rests her head on his chest. She closes her eyes.

He looks down at her and holds her close.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Don't let me go.

Jon closes his eyes.

JON
I won't.

Her eyes open and she look at him.

He looks at her and kisses her.

She kisses him back.

Jon backs away.

JON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

ARYA
You!

He turns away and rushes through the Partygoers.

Arya pushes her way through.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Come back!!

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-HOTEL-NIGHT

Jon yanks the mask from over his face. He rushes to the exit doors.

Arya steps towards the doors. She looks at the mask on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya sits on her bed. She looks at the gold mask in the palm of her hands.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Jon stands, pushing the mop head around on the floor.

ARYA (O.C.)

Hello?

He takes a step forward.

Arya takes a step closer.

ARYA (CONT'D)

Please, stop! Don't run away. Just talk to me, please?

JON

Okay.

ARYA

What made you save me?

Jon's eyes wander.

JON

It was the right thing to do.

She smiles.

ARYA

Will you ever let me see your face?

JON

Yes.

ARYA

Now?

JON

No!

ARYA

Okay. I'll let you get back to work then.

Arya turns around.

JON

Hey!

She looks back at him.

ARYA

Yes?

JON

You danced beautifully.

Arya smiles.

ARYA
Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya sits. She looks around.

ARYA
Here we go again.

She grabs the headline off of her desk and crumbles it into a ball.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

Holly steps towards Arnie. She pours coffee into his coffee mug.

The door opens.

Arya steps in. She sits.

ARNIE
Look who came back!

HOLLY
Coffee?

ARYA
Yes, please.

HOLLY
What brings you in?

ARYA
Has Jon come in recently?

HOLLY
No.

ARNIE
(heckle)

Arya looks at him.

ARYA
What do you have against him?

ARNIE
Aren't you supposed to be a
journalist?

ARYA
I am.

ARNIE
It goes to show that you don't read
the newspapers very much.

ARYA
Not much.

ARNIE
Do you have time?

ARYA
I got all night.

ARNIE
Good.

He smiles. His thought of dragging Jon's name through the mud
and painting him as a bad guy.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-DAY

An alarm goes off.

Arya sleeps soundly. Not a disturbance can make her budge,
especially the time being six in the morning.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

The receiver in the grip of his hand, patiently waiting for
the voice of Arya to echo through the speaker, Adam looks at
his watch.

ADAM
Come on!!

He hangs up the receiver.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Shit!! Where the hell are you!!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Arya opens her eyes. She looks at the digital clock in arms reach of her.

Her eyes grow wide after noticing the time.

ARYA

Shit!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

ARYA

I'm here!! Don't fire me!!

Arya rushes in and sits at her desk.

Adam steps towards her.

ADAM

Dang, Arya! Did you forget to set your alarm or something!!

ARYA

No!!

He sits on her desk.

ADAM

Do you have anything for me today?

ARYA

I have something.

ADAM

What is it?

Arya smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-DAY

Jon sits up.

JON

(yawn)

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-DAY

Jon sits down at the bar table.

Holly steps towards him. She flips the coffee mug over and pours coffee into it.

JON

Thank you.

Arnie steps in. He looks at Jon.

ARNIE

Jon.

JON

Arnie.

Arnie sits at the end of the bar table. He grabs the newspaper in front of him and flips to the second page.

JON (CONT'D)

Do you have another one of those papers, Holly?

She leans down behind the bar table and sets one down in front of him.

JON (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Arnie pulls the newspaper in his hands close to his face, frustration building in his eyes.

ARNIE

That little bitch!!

Holly looks at Arnie.

HOLLY

What!

ARNIE

That little bitch went around what I told her and wrote this lie!!

Jon grabs the newspaper and opens it to the second page. He looks at the paragraph under the title. It reads: My daddy, the hero!

JON

(read)

It was two years ago, a man, his daughter and wife went to sleep.

(MORE)

JON (CONT'D)

The house they were living in had unkept conditions. The water heater was on the verge of breaking and the landlord's repair man hadn't been in to replace a thing.

ARYA (V.O.)

On the morning of October 19, Jon, went to the store and came to his house in flames. His wife died but his daughter managed to get out. When I went to talk to the only child of Jon, she said that her daddy tried but the flames were too high. My daddy is a hero. Not because he tried but because he stays in the basement of the house that I used to live in.

Jon smiles.

Arnie crumbles up the newspaper into a ball and tosses it to the floor. He rushes out of the dining area and steps out of the diner.

He covers his face.

JON

(sob)

Holly steps towards him.

HOLLY

Jon, are you alright?

JON

Yes!

HOLLY

Why are you crying?

JON

I'm not.

A crash comes from outside.

Holly looks outside.

HOLLY

Arnie!!!

Jon grabs his coffee mug.

JON
(sip)

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER-DAY

Jon steps out of the diner. He steps away. A wide smile on his face.

ARNIE (O.C.)
Shit!!! I'm gonna get that little
bitch!!

HOLLY (O.C.)
(scream)
Stop!!!

Arnie opens the driver door to his truck.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

Jon knocks on a **Halloween** decorated door.

The door opens.

A woman stands in front of him, his fingers tapping on the frame on the inside of the house. PATTY (22)

PATTY
Jon? We weren't expecting you until
tomorrow.

Jon hugs her with all the strength and lifts her up.

JON
Thank you.

He kisses her on the cheek.

PATTY
You're welcome.

Jon turns around and steps away.

PATTY (CONT'D)
(wave)
Bye!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya looks at the flier on her desk.

ARYA
Now, where can I find you?

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Jon spreads the mop around the floor.

Arya steps out. She looks at Jon.

ARYA
Hi.

JON
Hi.

ARYA
How are you?

JON
Good. What about you?

ARYA
Good too. Are you doing anything today?

JON
No.

ARYA
I'm having take-out, if you want to stop by.

She hands him a piece of **paper**.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Here's my address.

Jon steps back towards her and grabs the paper.

ARYA (CONT'D)
I'll see you later then.

JON
Yes.

Arya turns around and steps away.

He smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya sets plates down on the coffee table.

A knock at the door sounds.

She steps towards the door and pulls it open.

Jon stands in front of her, a **rose** in his hand. With sincerity in his eyes.

JON

I --

ARYA

-- Shh!!

Arya grabs his hand and walks him into the living room.

The door closes.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT

A **blue truck** parks in front of the apartment complex.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE TRUCK-NIGHT

Arnie stares deeply with a blank expression, his eyes on the entrance to the apartment complex.

ARYA (V.O.)

I felt like I always knew it was
you.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Her back to him as Jon lies in bed with her.

Jon kisses her on the neck.

She looks at him.

JON
What now?

ARYA
We take it one day at a time. Okay?

JON
Okay.

Arya kisses him.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT

Jon steps past the blue truck.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE TRUCK-NIGHT

Arnie ducks down. His eyes follow Jon as he steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Arya steps underneath the *showerhead*. She shuts the *shower curtain*.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

A knock at the door sounds.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Arya looks towards the door.

ARYA
I'm coming!!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

ARYA
What did --

-- Arya pulls the door open. She looks at Arnie.

Arnie presses a **rag** over her mouth.

ARYA (CONT'D)
(muffle)

She fights as much as she can, pushing her nails into his face. She drops to her knees. Her eyes close.

Arnie lifts her up over his shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. BLUE TRUCK-NIGHT

Arnie sets Arya down on the front seat. He tosses a **blanket** over her.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-CABIN-NIGHT

Arms tied to the back of a **wooden recliner**; Arya sits forward.

A young girl dips a spoon into a bowl of chicken noodle soup.
SHELLY (13)

SHELLY
Come on?

Arya opens her eyes. She looks at her.

ARYA
Who are you? Where am I!

SHELLY
I'm Shelly. Who are you?

ARYA
Arya.

SHELLY
Pretty name.

ARYA

Thanks.

She pulls at the rope.

ARYA (CONT'D)

(grunt)

Can you cut me loose?

Shelly looks at the door.

The doorknob jiggles from being unlocked.

The door opens.

Arnie steps in. He shuts the door.

ARNIE

Hello?

ARYA

Arnie?

ARNIE

Yes?

ARYA

Let me go. I promise I won't report you.

ARNIE

I'm sorry, I can't do that.

ARYA

You can't keep me here!

ARNIE

Oh yeah, who is the one tied to the chair. It's not me!

ARYA

It was you, the repairman.

ARNIE

What does it matter. People die every day. What made her so special?

His words can't make her respond, just in disbelief of how important human life is to him.

Arnie looks at Shelly.

ARNIE (CONT'D)
Eat your soup and go to bed!

He turns around and steps towards the door.

ARYA
Arnie?

Arnie looks at her.

ARYA (CONT'D)
You can't run for ever.

ARNIE
I'm not running.

He opens the door and steps out.

ARYA
(yell)
Arnie!!!

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE TRUCK-NIGHT

The engine roars.

Arnie smiles. He pushes his foot on the gas pedal.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT

Jon steps towards the apartment complex.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Jon peeks his head in.

JON
Arya!

He pushes the door open.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Jon rushes into the bedroom. He looks around.

JON

Arya!!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-ARYA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Jon sits on the sofa. He looks around. Not one thing stands out to him, as he knows that Arya is a pretty organized person.

A drop of **chewing tobacco** sits on the floor.

Jon crouches down.

JON

What the --

He picks it up with the tip of his finger.

JON (CONT'D)

(sniff)

Wintergreen.

His mystery solved.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-NIGHT

Arnie sits, slicing into the slice of pie in front of him.

Holly pours coffee into his coffee mug.

ARNIE

(laugh)

The door flies open.

Jon steps towards Arnie with authority.

Arnie looks at him.

Holly looks at Jon with concern.

HOLLY

Jon?

He stops, stares at Arnie deeply.

JON
Get up!

ARNIE
What?

JON
You heard me! Get your ass up!

HOLLY
Jon!

JON
(point)
Shut up! Okay!

Jon kicks the bottom of the stool he's sitting on.

JON (CONT'D)
(yell)
Get up!!!

Arnie stands up.

Jon pushes him towards the door.

JON (CONT'D)
Call the police in five minutes,
Holly!

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-DINER-NIGHT

Arnie stops and turns to Jon.

ARNIE
What! Are you playing hero now!

Jon punches him across the face. He grabs him by the back of his jacket and pushes him towards the blue truck.

JON
Move your ass!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-CABIN-NIGHT

Shelly opens a *can* of *soap*.

Arya looks in the corner of her eye. An idea goes through her mind, feeling she could get through to the young girl.

ARYA

Shelly!

Shelly looks at her.

SHELLY

What?

ARYA

You're Shelly, right?

She steps closer to her.

SHELLY

How did you know my name?

ARYA

Everyone's looking for you?

SHELLY

Really? He told me that no one cared.

ARYA

That's not true.

Shelly looks around, feeling taken advantage of. She steps around the back of the chair and yanks at the rope.

ARYA (CONT'D)

Can you get it?

SHELLY

I'm trying.

ARYA

Pull it!!

Shelly pulls the rope.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE TRUCK-NIGHT

Arnie drives the truck while Jon sits in the passenger seat.

ARNIE

So --

JON

So!

ARNIE

What's your plan after? Take me to the authority's, clear your name and become the hero to your little girl.

JON

Not even close.

Arnie smiles at the corner of his mouth.

ARNIE

Humor me.

JON

I wouldn't be smiling if I were you.

ARNIE

Whatever you say.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN-NIGHT

Jon pushes Arnie.

Arnie drops to his knee.

JON

Hurry up!

He pushes himself up, stepping towards the door.

JON (CONT'D)

Open it!

ARNIE

Okay.

Arnie pushes the door open.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-CABIN-CONTINUOUS

SHELLY

Got it!

ARYA

Good.

She unties the rope.

Arya pulls the rope from her wrists.

ARYA (CONT'D)

Come on, sweetie! Let's get out of here.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-CABIN-NIGHT

Arnie steps towards the bedroom door.

Jon steps behind him.

JON

Hurry up!

Arnie pushes a key into the lock and unlocks the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-CABIN-CONTINUOUS

Arya lifts Shelly out of the window, gripping her hands while looking back at the bedroom door.

Arnie pushes the door open. His eyes in disbelief of seeing Shelly hanging out of the window.

ARNIE

What are you doing!!

ARYA

(yell)

Run!!

She lets go of Shelly's hands.

SHELLY (O.C.)

(scream)

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN-NIGHT

Shelly rolls onto the ground. She rushes around the cabin.

The blue truck in her sight.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-CABIN-CONTINUOUS

 ARNIE
You little --

-- Arnie rushes towards Arya.

Jon grabs him and punches him across the face.

Arnie punches Jon back. He pushes him onto the floor, slugs him over and over.

Arya grabs the rope and wraps it around Arnie's neck.

 ARNIE (CONT'D)
(choke)

He looks back at her.

 ARNIE (CONT'D)
(laugh)

Arnie turns to her and slaps her across the face.

Arya falls to the floor, feeling dazed.

The roar of the truck engine echoes from outside of the bedroom.

 ARNIE (CONT'D)
No!!

Arnie rushes past Jon.

Jon reaches out for his legs.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN-CONTINUOUS

Arnie steps out, feeling off balance. He steps towards the blue truck.

Jon rushes into him, knocking him to the ground.

Arnie turns Jon to the ground. He begins to strangle him.

JON
(choke)

ARNIE
Yeah! Not so tough now, are you,
Jon! Huh!!

The blue truck starts to drive, heading straight forward.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE TRUCK-NIGHT

Shelly pushes her foot onto the gas pedal.

At full speed, the truck heads straight towards Arnie.

Arnie's eyes grow in shock, but he is aware of what is about to happen to him.

The truck knocks Arnie off of Jon, sending him into the cabin wall.

Arya crawls out of the cabin. She looks at the truck and Arnie's DEAD BODY.

Jon sits up. He looks around and sees Arya.

She stands to her feet and walks towards Jon. A drop to her knees, Arya hugs him.

Jon grabs a hold of her and hugs her with all of the strength he has.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. AMBULANCE-NIGHT

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2 (30's)

Paramedic #1 wraps Arya's hand with **gauze**.

Paramedic #2 holds a flashlight in front of Jon's eyes.

PARAMEDIC #2
How's the light?

JON
Annoying!

She turns it off.

PARAMEDIC #2

Good.

A man steps towards Jon and Arya. DETECTIVE (30's)

DETECTIVE

You two are very lucky. This guy was picking up hitchhikers for quite some time.

JON

What about the girl?

DETECTIVE

What girl?

ARYA

The missing girl from the poster!

DETECTIVE

We didn't find any girl.

JON

She drove the truck into the wall of the cabin.

The Detective steps towards the truck. He pulls the passenger door open. No sign of anyone, not even Shelly.

DETECTIVE

Nothing.

Jon looks at Arya.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

At the top of his desk, the receiver in his hand, pressed against his ear.

ADAM

I know how it sounds, but we're going to get to the bottom of it. Yes, we're taking extra precautions to keep an eye out in case we spot her.

He looks outside the window.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I admire her courage. She's
remembered for being the girl that
took out her kidnapper. That and
one of my journalists has yet to
give us a statement. What's your
first name Mrs. Owens?

He writes down the name on a post it. It reads: Maggie.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Well, it was nice talking to you.
I'll let you know if we see or hear
anything. Okay, bye.

He hangs up the receiver.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I guess only time will tell.

His eyes look at the blue sky.

CUT TO:

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-DAY

The school bell rings.

Nica runs towards Jon, arms stretched out. She hugs him.

He lifts her up from the ground.

NICA
Daddy.

Jon sets her down on her feet.

JON
Are you ready?

NICA
Yes.

He grabs her hand.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-DAY

The bell sounds as the door opens.

Arya steps in. She looks around.

A hand pops up from a booth.

She steps towards the booth.

Shelly lowers her arm.

Arya sits.

ARYA

Is it a bit much with the baggy
jacket and sunglasses, don't you
think?

SHELLY

Did you tell anyone you were coming
here?

ARYA

No.

SHELLY

Good.

WAITRESS (20's)

A Waitress steps towards the booth.

WAITRESS

What can I get you sweetheart?

ARYA

Water.

WAITRESS

And you?

SHELLY

I'm good.

WAITRESS

Okay. One water coming right up.

ARYA

Thank you.

The Waitress steps away.

Arya looks around.

ARYA (CONT'D)

She's not here.

SHELLY

Who?

ARYA
The waitress that is usually
waiting on me.

Shelly leans her head down, grabs the glass of orange juice.

SHELLY
(sip)

Arya looks at her.

ARYA
What happened?

SHELLY
You found me there, but I never
told you who is responsible for
taking me.

ARYA
Are you telling me --

SHELLY
-- Yes.

ARYA
Tell me?

SHELLY
After my dad left me at a gas
station, there she was.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION-DAY-FLASHBACK

Shelly sits on a curb, taking a bite from a **Butterfinger**.

HOLLY (O.C.)
Hey!

She looks at Holly.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
(wave)
Hi!!

Shelly stands up.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Come on!

Unable to resist, Shelly steps closer.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Do you need help?

SHELLY
Yes.

HOLLY
Get in.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-BACK TO PRESENT

A puzzled look on Arya's face.

ARYA
Well, that is some story.

SHELLY
It wasn't a story. It happened.

The Waitress steps towards the table.

WAITRESS
Is there anything else I can get
for you?

ARYA
I'll just take the check, please.

WAITRESS
Okay.

She steps away.

Arya reaches into her purse and pulls out a **twenty-dollar bill**. She slides it towards Shelly.

ARYA
I don't suppose you'll be going
back with me?

SHELLY
What for?

ARYA
You're mother.

SHELLY
I'm good right where I'm at.

ARYA
It's a lonesome life.

Arya stands up.

ARYA (CONT'D)
Take care of yourself, okay.

SHELLY
I got this. Okay?

ARYA
Okay.

Arya turns around and walks away.

ARYA (CONT'D)
(sob)

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-DINER-DAY

Arya steps towards the Mercedes Benz. She looks back at the diner.

ARYA
(wave)

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-CONTINUOUS

Shelly looks outside the window.

SHELLY
(wave)

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-DAY

Arya turns the steering wheel. The diner not in her eyesight anymore.

ARYA
(sniffle)

She wipes the tear from her eye.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

Jon and Nica sit on a bench.

An *ice cream cone* in the grip of Nica's hand.

NICA
Daddy?

JON
Yeah?

NICA
When can I go home with you?

JON
Soon, baby.

He wraps his arm around her, hugs her from the side and kisses her on the top of the head.

Patty steps towards Nica.

PATTY
Hey!

Nica stands up. She hugs Patty from the side of her leg.

Patty looks at Jon.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Can we talk?

JON
Sure.

Jon steps away from the bench.

PATTY
(point)
Go sit down for a bit, Nica.

Nica sits on the bench and keeps her eyes on Patty and Jon.

PATTY (CONT'D)
How are things?

JON
Going well. And you?

PATTY
She keeps asking me when she can go home and be with you.

JON
What do you tell her?

PATTY
Soon.

Jon looks away.

JON
I'm going as fast as I can.

PATTY
Well, your little girl there wants
to be with you that bad.

JON
(breath)

PATTY
Yeah!

Patty looks back at Nica.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Come on Nica!

Nica rushes towards Jon and hugs his leg.

NICA
Love you daddy.

JON
Love you too.

Jon leans down and kisses her cheek.

JON (CONT'D)
I'll see you soon, okay.

Patty grabs Nica's hand.

PATTY
Come on baby.

She walks her towards the curb.

Nica looks back at Jon.

NICA
(wave)

JON
(wave)

Jon smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-DAY

Jon hammers a *nail* into a two by four.

MONTAGE

-- Jon builds the second floor.

-- Jon places the floor boards.

-- Jon sets the dry wall.

BACK TO SCENE

Jon looks up at the ceiling, now with the second floor of the house completed.

CUT TO:

INT. HARDWARE STORE-DAY

Jon sets two *cans* of *paint* on the belt.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Jon paints the dry wall.

Arya steps in. She looks at the near finished living room.

ARYA

Nice work!

He looks back at her.

JON

It's a work in progress still.

ARYA

I like it!

JON

Really?

She smiles.

Jon steps towards her.

Arya wraps her hands around the back of his neck, gripping her hands together.

ARYA

Yes.

She kisses him.

He kisses her back.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya writes on a notepad.

Adam steps towards her.

ADAM

What are you working on?

ARYA

Just fixing my notes.

ADAM

I got something else for you to work on.

She sets her pen down, turns her chair to him and looks at him with seriousness.

ARYA

What?

ADAM

That waitress, you know. The one that kidnapped that girl.

ARYA

You want me to go to talk to the kidnapper?

ADAM

She requested your presence.

ARYA

I don't know.

ADAM
She's serving a life sentence. We
could at least hear her side of the
story.

Adam steps away.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Get it done!

ARYA
(roll eyes)

ADAM (O.C.)
And don't roll your eyes at me!

She turns to her desk.

CUT TO:

INT. VISITING AREA-STATE PRISON-DAY

Arya sits, flipping a pen around in her hand.

The door opens.

Holly steps into the visiting area and makes her way to Arya.
She stops and stands in front of her.

HOLLY
Glad you came.

Holly sits.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Cigarette?

Arya reaches into her purse and pulls out a **pack** of
cigarettes. She hands them to her.

Holly takes one.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Light?

Arya pulls out a **lighter** and lights the cigarette.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Thanks.

Holly sticks it into her mouth.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
(inhale)
(blow)

Arya gets the pen ready.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I know you're asking why I
requested to see you, why I went
along with what he did. I did it
because I loved him. Shelly was
supposed to be a surprise for him.

Arya writes down what she's saying.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
That's all he ever wanted.

ARYA
A family?

HOLLY
Yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

Jon sprays the house with a *paint sprayer*.

ARYA (V.O.)
And Jon?

HOLLY (V.O.)
I never meant to hurt Jon, but
Arnie wanted to ruin his life.

CUT TO:

INT. VISITING AREA-STATE PRISON-CONTINUOUS

ARYA
If you had a message for Jon, what
would you want to say?

HOLLY
I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

Jon smiles. He looks at the finished house he has restored from the ground up.

JON
It's beautiful.

His eyes on the blue sky.

JON (CONT'D)
You would love it.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY-DAY

Shelly is crouched down, dice in her hand.

SHELLY
Is it a deal or not!

HUSTLER (20's)

The Hustler lays a **stack** of one-dollar bills down on the ground.

HUSTLER
Twelve!!

ARYA (V.O.)
And Shelly?

HOLLY (V.O.)
Tell her that my intentions were good.

The dice lands on fourteen.

SHELLY
Haha!!

She grabs the dice and cash.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
Pleasure doing business with you, sir!!

HUSTLER
Cheater!

Shelly looks at him with a surprised look on her face.

SHELLY
What?

HUSTLER
No girl is that lucky.

SHELLY
I am.

Shelly turns away from him, counting the cash one at a time.

HUSTLER
Do you want to test that theory?
She looks back at him.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-LOS ANGELES TIMES-DAY

Arya sits.

She looks down at a post it. It reads: Diner! Two o'clock!

Arya looks at her watch, realizing she has five minutes. She gets up.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-DINER-DAY

Arya sits, waits patiently and taps her fingers on the table.

Nick sits.

NICK
Hello?

ARYA
Nick?

NICK
I'm glad you came.

ARYA
What are you doing here?

NICK
I bet you wondered who left you all those newspaper clippings and the missing person flier, don't you?

ARYA

You?

He looks at his watch.

NICK

Can we make this quick? My wife needs me to go to lamas' class with her, and I hate to disappoint her.

ARYA

First --

NICK

-- Can I go first?

ARYA

Sure.

NICK

Question? Were they accidents?

ARYA

No.

NICK

Right.

ARYA

The lady in the hit and run?

NICK

Mom trusted everyone. Including Tom.

ARYA

Tom?

She digs through her purse and pulls out the clipping. Her eyes on the name --

ARYA (CONT'D)

-- The same Tom in the dumbbell accident?

NICK

It wasn't an accident.

ARYA

You meant to do it?

NICK

He killed my mother and I gave him one last shot.

Arya thinks about the next question.

ARYA
The fire?

NICK
No one was doing anything about it.
I was walking by. The window was
wide open, and I helped her the
best I could.

Arya reaches her hand out.

Nick grabs a hold.

NICK (CONT'D)
Don't tell anyone.

ARYA
I won't.

He stands up and steps away.

Her eyes follow him. Arya smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Jon steps into the living room. He holds the door open.

Nica steps in. She looks around.

NICA
Wow!

Her eyes light up from the brand-new *chandelier*.

The top of the stairs catches her eye.

NICA (CONT'D)
(point)
Can I?

JON
(wave)
Go ahead?

Nica runs up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM-DAY

Nica peeks her head into the bedroom.

NICA
It's cool!

She rushes into the bedroom across.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Nica steps into the second bedroom. She stops in the middle and crouches herself down.

Jon steps into the bedroom.

Nica lays on the floor and looks up at the ceiling.

Jon lies beside her.

JON
It's going to be great baby. A
whole new start.

She grabs his hand.

JON (CONT'D)
Let's go tell Aunt Patty.

Nica smiles.

Jon sits up. He stands and pulls her up.

CUT TO:

INT. NICA'S BEDROOM-DAY

Jon closes a **suitcase**. He grabs a **garbage bag** from the floor.

JON
Are you ready?

Nica looks around the bedroom and returns her attention to Jon.

NICA
Yes.

He grabs her hand and walks her out.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Nica steps out into the living room.

Patty steps in front of her. She crouches down and hugs Nica.

PATTY
I love you baby!

NICA
I love you too.

PATTY
Take care of daddy.

NICA
I will.

Patty kisses her on the cheek.

Nica steps past.

Jon grabs her hand. He looks at Patty.

JON
(nod head)

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-DAY

Arya parks the Mercedes Benz in front of the front yard.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

Jon steps towards the Mercedes Benz.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. MERCEDEZ BENZ-NIGHT

Arya steps around to the passenger door.

Nica looks at Arya.

NICA
Hi.

ARYA
Hi.

NICA
I remember you.

Arya looks at Jon and returns her attention to Nica.

ARYA
Are you ready to go home?

Nica looks at Jon.

NICA
Yes.

Arya opens the passenger door.

Nica hugs Arya by her waist.

NICA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Arya steps aside.

Nica sits in the passenger seat.

Jon shuts the door.

ARYA
Do you think she figured it out?

JON
Let's tell her later.

Arya steps around to the driver door.

Jon opens the front passenger door and sits.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-CONTINUOUS

The Mercedes Benz drives away from the front yard.

CUT TO:

EXT. GROCERY STORE-DAY

SUPER: TWELVE YEARS LATER

NICA (O.C.)
I got everything I need daddy.
Thank you!

A young woman pushes a **grocery cart** towards an **Escalade**. NICA (19) She hold the cell phone to her ear.

NICA (CONT'D)
I'll call you when I get home,
okay.

DAD (V.O.)
Okay.

Nica ends the call and slides the cell phone into her pants pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. ESCALADE-DAY

Nica drives the Escalade. She turns the radio on.

Music plays.

NICA
*Don't let me down, don't let me
down.*

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD-DAY

A thumb in the air. A woman stands by the curb. SUNNY (25)

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. ESCALADE-DAY

Nica turns the steering wheel to the right.

The window rolls down.

NICA
Hello?

SUNNY

Hi.

NICA

Can I give you a ride?

Sunny steps towards the passenger door, leans down and looks Nica in the eyes.

SUNNY

How far are you going?

NICA

San Fernando.

SUNNY

Sure.

NICA

(wave)

Get in!

Sunny opens the door sits and slams the door shut.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

The Escalade parks in the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

The door opens.

Nica steps in with a bag of groceries.

Sunny steps in.

SUNNY

Nice place!

She shuts the door and locks it.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Where's the rest room?

NICA

Down the hall to the right.

Sunny steps towards the hallway.

SUNNY

Thanks.

Nica steps into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Nica sets the grocery bag down on the counter. She grabs the **carton** of **milk** from inside the bag.

Sunny steps into the kitchen.

NICA

Can I get you something to drink?

SUNNY

Yes, please.

NICA

How about some lemonade?

SUNNY

Sure.

Nica steps to the refrigerator and pulls out a jug of lemonade. She pours her some into a **tall glass**.

Sunny takes it.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(gulp)

Nica looks in amazement.

She sets the glass down in front of her.

NICA

Holy shit.

SUNNY

Is it alright for me to take a shower?

NICA

Sure. The bath towels are under the sink.

SUNNY

Thanks.

Sunny steps into the hallway.

Nica's eyes follow her, as if she can see her enter the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

Under the showerhead, Sunny soaks up the water while she lathers up her body with a bar of soap.

The door opens.

NICA'S POV:

A **kitchen knife** pointed at the curtain of the shower. A hand pulls the curtain open. The knife is driven towards Sunny.

SUNNY
(scream)

DIRECTOR
(yell)
Cut!! Cut!!!

BACK TO SCENE

Nica looks around.

NICA
How was that?

A man sits; he lowers his **sunglasses**. DIRECTOR (40's) He stands up and steps towards her.

DIRECTOR
That was excellent!

The Director squeezes her cheek. He looks around.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
That's it for today.

He steps past her.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
I'll see you tomorrow.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-FILM STUDIO-DAY

Nica steps towards a *red jeep*.

CUT TO:

INT. JEEP-DAY

Nica sits in the driver seat. She looks at herself in the rear-view mirror.

NICA
You are the best and daddy was
right. You can do anything you put
your mind to.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD-DAY

A thumb goes up into the air. A young and striking woman stand at the curb. JOY (18)

CUT TO:

INT. JEEP-CONTINUOUS

Nica looks up ahead and sees Joy. She turns the steering wheel to the right.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD-CONTINUOUS

JOY
Hello?

NICA
Hello? Do you need a ride?

JOY
Yes.

NICA
Where to?

JOY
My friend lives in the San Fernando
Valley.

NICA

Get in.

Joy pulls the door open. She gets in.

CUT TO:

INT. JEEP-CONTINUOUS

Joy looks at the houses as the jeep drives past.

Nica looks in the corner of her eye.

NICA

Are you alright?

Joy looks at her.

JOY

Yeah, why?

NICA

You look like you have a lot on
your mind.

JOY

I'm sorry. It's been a long week.

NICA

I hope it gets better for you.

JOY

Thanks. What part do you live in?

NICA

The same place.

JOY

The San Fernando Valley must be
popular.

NICA

Yeah!

(laugh)

JOY

(laugh)

Nica turns to the left side and parks in a driveway. She
looks at Joy.

JOY (CONT'D)

Thank you for the ride.

NICA
Your welcome.

Joy gets out of the jeep.

NICA (CONT'D)
I hope it gets better for you.

JOY
Thanks.

NICA
Take care of yourself.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-DAY

Joy steps away from the jeep. She looks back at Nica.

JOY
(wave)

CUT TO:

INT. JEEP-CONTINUOUS

NICA
(wave)

Nica puts the jeep in REVERSE. She turns it to the right and drives away.

NICA (V.O.)
Like my dad told me, you never know
what people are going through. Life
has its way of kicking you in the
face. Be kind, be wise and live
your best life.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE OUT: