

LINGER

Written by
Andy Carpenter

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Final Draft

Andy Carpenter
Stronglandlive@gmail.com

FADE IN:

INT. NURSING HOME - OLD ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY - THE PRESENT

OLD ANDREW CARPENTER, in his 70's, sleeps in a chair next to a window in a sparsely furnished nursing home room.

BACHEM CARPENTER, Andrew's son, half his age, walks into the room holding his young son, NICHOLAS'S, hand. With his other hand Bachem holds a small BIRTHDAY CAKE with a lit "71" candle in the middle.

Nicholas clutches a cardboard box.

Andrew stirs, opens his eyes wide with surprise. Andrew gawks at Bachem.

Bachem smiles sadly and nods at Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

(singing)

Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday
to you, happy birthday to grampa,
happy birthday to you.

Bachem messes with Nicholas's hair.

BACHEM

Nicholas wanted to see you on your
birthday.

Andrew opens his arms wide for Nicholas.

Nicholas runs to Andrew and Andrew wraps him up in his arms.

OLD ANDREW

Who's got who and who's got what?

Andrew and Nicholas grins.

Bachem carries the lit cake over to Andrew. Andrew takes a deep breath and attempts to blow the candle out. He begins to cough. Nicholas takes a deep breath and blows the candle out.

Andrew grins at Nicholas.

Andrew lifts his eyebrows at the cake.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
This has got to be better than the
ground asbestos cake this place was
gonna try to finish me off with.

Nicholas looks confused.

NICHOLAS
Is asbestics a flavor?

OLD ANDREW
Oh, it's second worse after Brussels
sprouts.

Nicholas wipes his tongue with his fingers and makes a face
of disgust.

Bachem takes the cake back and sets it on a counter.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
Bachem -- I appreciate you bringing
Nicholas to see me -- I appreciate it
very much.

Bachem shrugs slightly but otherwise doesn't acknowledge the
comment as he cuts the cake with a plastic knife.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
I'd like to make this one count.

Bachem sets a slice of cake on a paper plate.

BACHEM
They've all counted, even when --

Bachem clamps his mouth closed and his eyes ask Andrew for
forgiveness.

Andrew studies Bachem. They both want to say something.
Neither can find the words.

Nicholas shoves the cardboard box on Andrew's chest.

NICHOLAS
Grampa, see this? What is it?

OLD ANDREW
It's not from you?

Nicholas's eyes are wide and he shakes his head, "no".

Andrew raises his eyebrows again.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
Let's get to the bottom of this
mystery together.

Nicholas climbs onto Old Andrew's lap as Andrew works the
on the box.

BACHEM
No return address. Nicholas wanted to
bring it yesterday but --

Old Andrew nods.

OLD ANDREW
Don't worry about it.

Old Andrew finishes opening the box and pulls out a folded
piece of paper, and unfolds it. It reads, "I know about the
money. I think it saved us all."

Old Andrew stares at the note for a moment, then refolds it.

Old Andrew slowly pulls a small wooden sailboat from the
box.

Nicholas's eyes light up.

NICHOLAS
Is it for me?

OLD ANDREW
One day, maybe soon.

Bachem frowns at Old Andrew.

NICHOLAS
Can I hold it?

Andrew examines the boat and hands it to Nicholas.

BACHEM
Do you know who it's from?

OLD ANDREW
Yes.

A tear runs down Old Andrew's face.

Nicholas points at words on the boat's hull.

NICHOLAS
What do these words say?

Old Andrew looks at Nicholas and raises his eyebrows playfully.

OLD ANDREW
Ollie ollie in come free.

Nicholas studies his grandfather, who is now crying.

NICHOLAS
What's that mean?

Old Andrew pulls Nicholas close, holding as tightly as love allows. He looks into his grandson's eyes and kisses his hair.

Old Andrew looks out the window and grins.

OLD ANDREW
Everything.

EXT. ANDREW'S STREET - DUSK - (60 YEARS IN THE PAST)

Summer has just started in Oxford, Ohio. A group of children, the NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS, play in a typical, small-town, middle-class cul-de-sac- neighborhood.

YOUNG ANDREW, about 11, just finished 6th grade, hides behind a tree, watching his neighbor, PAUL, the same age, sneak across a backyard.

SUSAN FAIRBURN, who's just finished 7th grade, but feels a lifetime older, sneaks up behind Andrew.

ANDREW
I know you're there.

SUSAN
Dang-it. How?

ANDREW
I don't know. Hush.

Susan squeezes next to him.

SUSAN
Ready?

ANDREW
Yeah.

SUSAN
Ollie ollie in come free!

Andrew and Susan run across the yard.

DAN, 15, Paul's older brother, emerges from behind a clump of tree and chases them.

Andrew and Susan laugh, and reach a manhole cover in the middle of the cul-de-sac, narrowly outpacing Dan.

Dan stands several feet from them, panting.

Andrew's mom, ALISON, calls to him --

ALISON (O.S.)
Andrew, time to come in.

DAN
Aww, time to go inside, little kid.

Andrew glares at Dan.

SUSAN
(to Dan)
Better luck next time, slowpoke.

DAN
Whatever, super-twins.

Dan sulks away.

ANDREW
Did he call us super-twins?

SUSAN
What an idiot.

Andrew and Susan crack up.

They slap hands, and step away from the man-hole cover.

Andrew walks toward his house.

Susan walks towards her house, which sits to the left of Andrew's house.

ANDREW
See you at the window.

SUSAN
See you first.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew closes his door, turns off his light and goes to his window, and opens it.

Andrew stares at the sanded hull of an upside down sailboat in the yard next to Susan's house.

The light in the room across from his turns on.

Susan appears in the window.

Andrew holds up a handmade wooden walkie talkie. Susan holds up an identical walkie talkie. They laugh.

ANDREW
Are you going to play?

SUSAN
Hold on.

Susan disappears from the window.

She returns with a flute and plays a song.

ANDREW
That was terrible.

SUSAN
Whatever dork. I'll bust it over your head.

ANDREW
Alright. It wasn't that bad.

SUSAN
You better say that.

Susan sets the flute down.

ANDREW
Wanna go to the duck-pond tomorrow when I get home from church?

SUSAN
Beat you there.

ANDREW
Doubt it. I have to go.

Andrew and Susan hold up their walkie talkies and smile.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Night.

SUSAN
Goodnight, dork.

INT. BACHEM'S CAR - DAY (THE PRESENT)

Bachem sits in the driver's seat, Old Andrew in the passenger seat, and Nicholas sits in the back seat. Andrew and Nicholas eat birthday cake off paper plates.

BACHEM
Dad, are you sure this is it?

Old Andrew gazes out the car window at the dense woods.

OLD ANDREW
There's no other place.

Andrew, Bachem and Nicholas get out of the car.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

They stand next to a curb at the edge of the woods.

BACHEM
What you're looking for, do you think it's still here?

OLD ANDREW
I can feel it.

Nicholas stares at the two men curiously.

BACHEM
How is this the first time I've ever been here?

OLD ANDREW
It's a secret place.

BACHEM
Just from me?

Andrew slowly shakes his head, "no."

OLD ANDREW
From everyone.

BACHEM
I guess today does count --

Andrew glances at Bachem.

OLD ANDREW
-- How do you mean?

BACHEM
After all these years you will
finally let me in.

Andrew puts his hand on Bachem's shoulder as they stare into
the dark woods.

OLD ANDREW
This place -- I haven't wanted to go
in -- hell, I still don't -- but it's
time.

Nicholas tugs at Andrew's arm.

Bachem glances at Nicholas.

Old Andrew kneels and takes Nicholas's hand.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
Whatever we find in there is yours to
keep. Not right away, but it will
come to you one day.

Old Andrew lets Nicholas's hand go and steps into the woods.

Bachem hesitates, then leads Nicholas over the curb.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
Let's find this girl.

BACHEM
Girl?

OLD ANDREW
The best I knew.

Bachem and Nicholas step forward and enter the woods.

Old Andrew turns around and focuses on the road at the top
of the hill. This road intersects with a road at the bottom
of the hill that runs alongside the woods.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
What's the worst that can happen?

EXT. ANDREW'S STREET - DAY (THE PAST)

Andrew rides a blue bike in circles around the cul-de-sac like a bored goldfish. He ramps over curbs.

Susan yells out her front door.

SUSAN
Wait for me, dork?

Andrew skids to a stop, showing off.

ANDREW
Come on -- summer will be over by the time you get out here.

SUSAN
Wanna switch? You can do my chores while I ride in circles?

ANDREW
Fat chance.

Andrew sets off on another circle.

LATER

Susan's garage door opens up. Susan stands next to her red bike, wearing a backpack.

SUSAN
Ready yet?

Susan hops on her red bike and rides down her driveway. She and Andrew they roll down the street.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

They ride past the "BULL RUN" street sign at the top of a hill.

ANDREW
Gonna go down it this summer?

SUSAN
No way.

MONTAGE - SUSAN AND ANDREW RIDE TOGETHER

Andrew and Susan ride on, not rushing, enjoying summer. She's bigger than he is, riding a boys bike and he loves her for it.

They ride through town and then through a college campus. They stop at an intersection; one road goes off into the distant woods.

Andrew and Susan look at each other.

SUSAN

No way.

Andrew nods and rides away in the opposite direction than distant woods. Susan rides after him.

END MONTAGE

EXT. SMALL HILL - CONTINUOUS

They stop on top of a small hill overlooking a pond.

Andrew looks back at Susan.

ANDREW

It's not steep. Just keep your eyes open.

Susan gives Andrew the ring finger, not yet at the age where they flip each other off.

Andrew races down the hill.

Susan sighs, then follows him.

EXT. POND -DAY

Susan and Andrew sit by the water.

Susan opens her backpack and they toss Wonder Bread to the ducks.

They share a bag of BUGLES, then fall asleep in the shade.

LATER

Susan and Andrew lie next to each other.

SUSAN
Want to swim at the pool later?

ANDREW
Maybe. I want to help Jason with the boat.

SUSAN
Jeez. Boys and boats. You have all summer to finish that piece of crap.

ANDREW
Fixing that thing is fun. It will be cool when we're done. I wish you'd help.

SUSAN
Jason won't let me near that tub of splinters.

ANDREW
Maybe he just doesn't want you to get hurt.

Susan rolls her eyes.

SUSAN
Whatever. Don't come crying to me when your hands are full of splinters.

ANDREW
I won't.

Andrew studies Susan.

ANDREW (cont'd)
You know what I heard?

SUSAN
Nope. What did you hear?

Andrew sits up.

ANDREW
What the older kids make you do before you start high school.

Susan eyes Andrew and a flicker of fear and intrigue flash across her face.

SUSAN
The Light?

Andrew's eyes open wide and he nods slowly.

SUSAN (cont'd)
Do you believe it?

ANDREW
I don't know -- I mean -- But, you
didn't want to ride on the road that
takes you to it.

SUSAN
-- Because it's stupid. And sad. I
won't let anybody make me go out
there to look for it.

Andrew studies Susan with amazement.

ANDREW
But what if it's real. And what if
they try and make you. You looked
scared back there.

Susan shrugs, then slowly reaches her hand out to Andrew.

SUSAN
Then you can hide me where no one
will find me.

Andrew raises his eyebrows.

ANDREW
Nobody?

SUSAN
Only you.

Andrew beams with pride.

Andrew takes Susan's hand and they shake hands.

ANDREW
Deal.

SUSAN
You don't have to say, "deal". We
shook on it, dork.

Andrew nods earnestly.

Andrew and Susan let go of each others hands.

ANDREW
Race you home?

Susan grins, then leaps up and jumps on her bike and rides away.

Andrew leaps up and pedals furiously after her.

Their faces radiate with childhood bliss.

EXT. TOP OF HILL - CONTINUOUS

Susan stops and then Andrew stops.

ANDREW

What?

Susan points down the hill to the pond.

Her backpack is on the grass.

ANDREW (cont'd)

You owe me.

Andrew races down the hill.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Andrew and Susan ride back through town, Susan's backpack on her back.

Andrew steals a piece of fruit off a tray outside a store and they haul ass, laughing.

They ride their bikes underneath a WATERTOWER and slowly circle around it and look up at NAMES spray-painted on the sides of the barrel high above them.

They glance at each other and ride away.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

Andrew and Susan ride toward Bull Run.

ANDREW

Remember what you said?

SUSAN

When?

ANDREW

At the pond. You owe me.

SUSAN
That's not what I meant.

ANDREW
It is now.

EXT. TOP OF BULL RUN - CONTINUOUS

Susan pulls off her backpack.

SUSAN
Take this.

Andrew takes the backpack.

They look down the steep hill, lined with modest homes, to the bottom curb that splits into two streets in at "T", along the edge of the woods.

ANDREW
Are you really going to do it?

Susan nods.

ANDREW (cont'd)
You don't have to.

SUSAN
I'm not about to owe you all summer.

ANDREW
It's okay. Let's just go swim.

SUSAN
Don't forget you made me do this.

ANDREW
Hey --

Susan stands on the pedals and glides down the hill, gaining speed.

Andrew watches, growing more alarmed.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Slow down!

Andrew races after her.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Susan!

Susan gathers speed and screams.

She slams straight into the curb, launches into the air and then crashes through the trees out of sight.

Andrew brakes to a halt.

The world is silent.

He races down the hill, skids to a stop, drops his bike.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Andrew leaps over the curb, gets halfway to the trees, and stops.

ANDREW

Susan?

Birds chirp. Andrew looks up at the treetops and they sway.

ANDREW (cont'd)

(whispers)

Susan?

Andrew pushes forward into the woods to a creek mostly hidden in the shadows.

Breaks of light illuminate Susan's awkwardly crumpled body, her eyes open towards the sky.

Andrew turns out of the woods and runs to his bike.

BULL RUN HILL

Andrew rides up the hill, away from the woods.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Andrew rides up his driveway.

ANDREW

Mom! Mom!

He drops his bike.

Andrew's mom, ALISON CARPENTER, still youthful with an air of dignity, opens the door.

ALISON
What on earth?

Andrew points towards Bull Run and cries.

His mom rushes to him.

ANDREW'S MOM
Andrew, what?

ANDREW
Susan.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Andrew stands with his mother, Alison. They watch emergency workers carry Susan's body out of the woods.

Several families stand around, watching the drama unfold.

Andrew's older sister, AMY, blonde and ready for summer, runs down the hill toward them.

Susan's older brother JASON, a high school student, and his Susan's parents ART and CYNDI FAIRBURN, both in their mid 30's, stand nearby and watch, desolate.

CYNDI FAIRBURN
Susan -- my baby. Why?

Art wraps his arms around Cyndi.

Jason walks away from his parents. His dad tries to hold him back but he slips out of his grasp.

Jason sits across the street, alone, watching.

Art glances at Andrew then looks away.

Amy wraps her arms around Andrew.

AMY
Andrew! I just heard. Oh, my god. Are you okay?

Andrew bawls in her arms.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Andrew stands with his mom, Alison, and his dad, TONY CARPENTER, a college professor. They watch as Susan is buried.

Andrew glances around at everyone, hoping not to get noticed.

Andrew stares at FATHER GRANT as he wraps up Susan's eulogy.

FATHER GRANT
May Susan go with God in peace. There
is no shame in her death, only
release.

Father Grant finds Andrew in the crowd, stares right at him.

FATHER GRANT (cont'd)
There is no guilt in her death --
only love.

Andrew looks away, turning red with anger and embarrassment.

LATER

People walk by Andrew and pat him on his back.

Art and Cyndi walk by Andrew without acknowledging him.
Jason glares at Andrew.

Alison steps towards them with her arms out.

Tony puts a hand on her shoulder and she stops.

Amy stands with Andrew, her arm wrapped around his
shoulder.

Andrew stares at the mound of dirt.

ANDREW
I owe you.

Andrew steps towards Susan's grave. His dad tries to stop
him, but Andrew pulls from his loose grip.

Andrew approaches the grave, and pulls out his wooden walkie
talkie and begins to set it in into the grave.

Jason shoves Andrew to the ground from behind.

Andrew looks up, stunned.

Amy rushes to Andrew and reaches for him. Andrew pushes her hand away.

He stands up.

Andrew and Jason stare at each other.

ANDREW
She'd want to have it.

JASON
She'd want to be alive.

ANDREW
I --

Andrew runs from the grave site.

Amy runs after him. Andrew slows, and they walk side by side.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

Andrew looks out his window at Paul and Dan playing in the street down below. He shuts his window, gets in bed, and covers his head with a pillow.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Alison carries a vase with beautiful flowers to the Fairburn's porch and knocks on the door.

Susan's dad Art opens the door and offers a mild smile.

ART
Thank you, I do appreciate these --

Susan's mother Cyndi appears at the doorway.

CYNDI
-- I don't. Art, tell her we don't
want her flowers.

Art turns to Cyndi.

ART
Please, Cyndi.

ALISON
I'm sorry, I --

CYNDI
-- Leave us alone.

Alison attempts to collect herself.

ART
I'm sorry. Maybe another day.

CYNDI
There are no more days.

Art smiles ever so slightly and closes the door. Alison turns and walks towards her house.

DREAM - SUSAN BIKES DOWN THE HILL

Andrew watches Susan race down the hill towards the curb.

ANDREW
Stop, Susan!

BACK TO REALITY

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew wakes up in his bed, breathing rapidly.

He gets out of bed, walks to his window and stares at Susan's house.

Andrew digs around on his floor and picks up a wooden walkie talkie.

ANDREW
Susan?

He waits for an answer and then moves away from the window.

Susan's backpack is on the floor. He picks it up, puts it on his bed, and lies down, using it as a pillow.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Art sits in the back yard drinking a beer.

He watches as Andrew moves away from his window.

ART
She'll never answer.

He tosses the empty can to the ground and opens another.

INT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cyndi watches Art drinking beer in the backyard. She closes the blinds.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

There's a knock on Andrew's door.

AMY (O.S.)
Andrew, are you alright?

ANDREW
I guess.

AMY (O.S.)
Want me to come in?

ANDREW
No.

AMY (O.S.)
Want me to play some music?

ANDREW
Yah.

Andrew gets out of bed and then leans against the wall separating his room from Amy's.

MUSIC PLAYS.

Andrew listens, returns to bed, lies down, rests his head on Susan's backpack, and closes his eyes.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Andrew watches the kids play in the street through the window.

AMY
I'm going to Libby's. Want to come?

ANDREW
No way.

Amy hugs Andrew and walks out the front door.

Andrew watches the neighborhood kids approach Amy and talk, looking back towards Andrew's house.

Andrew ducks beneath the windowsill.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

Andrew lies on his bed.

KNOCK.

ALISON (O.S.)
Will you come down and eat?

Andrew rolls over in his bed.

ALISON (O.S.) (cont'd)
Please?

Andrew closes his eyes.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew is still in bed.

KNOCK KNOCK.

TONY (O.S.)
Come on downstairs. Your Mom made
breakfast for dinner.

ANDREW
Go away. Please.

TONY (O.S.)
Are you sure?

ANDREW
Go away.

TONY (O.S.)
Okay. But you have to come out
sometime.

Andrew pulls the backpack over his head.

LATER

KNOCK KNOCK.

Andrew sits up in bed.

AMY (O.S.)
Open up. I have pancakes.

Andrew gets out of bed and unlocks his door.

Amy steps in with a plate of pancakes.

They sit by the window and Andrew eats. Amy studies him.

AMY
It's not your fault.

Andrew sets the pancake down.

ANDREW
I dared her to do it.

AMY
What?

ANDREW
Ride down Bull Run.

AMY
Come on, Andrew. She must have done
that lots of times.

ANDREW
She was scared.

AMY
Oh, Andrew.

ANDREW
I made her do it.

Outside the window, the SOUND of a door shutting.

Andrew and Amy look out the window and down into Susan's
backyard -- Art walks out to his chair and opens a beer.

ART
I know you are up there watching me.
I wish you wouldn't.

Andrew and Amy look at each other and duck against the wall.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

Andrew is in bed. He hears SANDING outside. He gets out of bed, looks out the window, and sees Jason sanding his boat in the yard.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - MINUTES LATER

Jason sands his boat.

Andrew walks up behind him.

ANDREW

Hi, Jason.

Jason keeps sanding.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Can I help?

Jason stops sanding, but does not turn no face Andrew.

JASON

Are you fucking stupid?

Andrew steps back.

ANDREW

Jason?

Jason wheels around.

JASON

Go home.

ANDREW

I --

Jason lunges and shoves Andrew to the ground. He looms above him.

JASON

Can you help? Yes. Go away!

Andrew shuffles backwards.

Jason turns and leans across his boat.

Andrew stands, and retreats to his house.

INT. ANDREW'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Andrew stands in the garage staring at his bike.

He suddenly kicks it and starts stomping on it.

Within a few moments, it is ruined.

EXT. ANDREW'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Andrew drags his bike out of the garage, across the grass, and drops it in the grass next to Jason's boat.

Andrew walks back to his house.

INTERCUT - ANDREW'S ROOM / SUSAN'S BACKYARD- DAY

Andrew is in his bedroom and hears Jason yelling.

JASON (O.S.)
I swear, Dad.

Andrew rushes to the window and sees Jason and Art standing near Andrew's bike.

ART
Don't lie!

JASON
I didn't do it!

Art slaps Jason.

ART
You're a liar. Take it back.

Andrew sees Jason look up Jason and catch sight of Andrew in the window.

Andrew ducks.

SUSAN'S BACKYARD

JASON
He did it.

Jason points to Andrew's window.

ART

Don't you come back until you've
given that boy his bike back.
Whatever it costs to fix, you'll pay.

Art walks back to his house.

Jason glares up at Andrew's window.

JASON

Whatever I have to pay, you'll pay
worse.

Jason grabs the bike and drags it towards Andrew's house.

ANDREW'S ROOM

Andrew is hunched under his window.

JASON (O.S.)

I know you can hear me. You'll look
like your bike after I catch you.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Andrew sits in the living room across from Tony and Alison,
looking down at his feet.

TONY

Did you leave it outside?

Andrew nods.

ALISON

You didn't see who did it?

Andrew shakes his head.

TONY

Do you think it was Jason?

Andrew nods.

ALISON

I am so sorry, Andrew. Your dad will
take it to get fixed.

TONY

Or, would you like a new bike? Any
kind. Any color.

Andrew doesn't look at them.

ANDREW'S MOM
What is it?

ANDREW
I don't want a bike. Ever again.

Andrew leaves the room.

His parents look at each other.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew listens to MUSIC coming from Amy's room.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

Andrew is in his room, looking through Susan's backpack.

He takes out a notebook, looks at Susan's drawings, sheets to a flute song, and some photographs.

There is a pack of bubblegum. He opens it and chews a piece.

The house doorbell RINGS.

ALISON (O.S.)
Andrew. Please come down here.

Andrew places the items back in the backpack.

ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

The neighborhood kids, including Paul, stand outside the front door.

ALISON
They all want you to play.

Andrew stares at them.

ALISON (cont'd)
Go on. You have to get outside.

She opens the door.

PAUL
We are going to play Capture the Flag. Want to be on my team?

Andrew nods and his mom puts her hand on his back.

Andrew steps outside, then follows the neighborhood kids down the driveway.

Paul leads the kids to the middle of the cul-de-sac. Paul stops and the kids form a semi-circle in front of Andrew. The kids glare at Andrew.

ANDREW

What?

The group is silent as the kids shuffle nervously.

Paul eyes his house.

PAUL

My mom made us ask you to come out to play.

Andrew bites his lower lip as he stares each kid in the eye, ending with Paul. Paul slowly raises a finger at Andrew.

PAUL (cont'd)

You killed Susan.

Andrew's face turns red with anger.

SHORT NEIGHBORHOOD KID

Murderer.

Andrew shoves the short neighborhood kid to the ground.

The kid's mouths drop in amazement.

JASON (O.S.)

Try that with me.

Andrew and the kids turn as Jason emerges from his front door. Jason walks toward Andrew and the kids.

Andrew stares Jason down, then breaks into a full sprint.

JASON

(yelling)

Forget Ollie ollie in come free.

Jason runs after him.

NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARDS

Andrew runs through backyards towards Bull Run.

EXT. BULL RUN STREET- CONTINUOUS

He reaches Bull Run and runs down the hill to the curb.

JASON (O.S.)
(calling)
Remember what I said.

Jason appears at the top of Bull Run.

Andrew moves slowly backwards into the woods.

JASON
You'll get it when I catch you.

Jason watches as Andrew runs into the Bull Run woods.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew splashes through the creek.

Jason stands at the top of Bull Run Hill.

JASON (O.S.)
You better stay down there till your
Mommy and Daddy come get you.

Andrew runs up a hill on the other side of the creek. At the top he slumps against a tree and closes his eyes.

LATER

It's getting dark and Andrew stands and looks to the top of Bull Run.

Jason is gone.

A voice suddenly sounds from somewhere in the woods.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Andrew.

Andrew stands. He spins around, looking for the voice.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Come get me.

Andrew's foot slips on the dirt and he slides down the hill into a bramble.

SUSAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Not like that, dork.

Andrew staggers backward, closer to the street, and starts to leave the woods.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Don't go.

Andrew turns back.

SUSAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Wait.

Andrew backs away.

ANDREW
Susan?

SUSAN (O.S.)
Who else would it be?

Andrew stops, then takes one step further into the woods, then he stops.

SUSAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Please.

Andrew takes several steps deeper into the woods and stops.

ANDREW
How?

SUSAN (O.S.)
I don't know. I tried the walkie talkie. But they never worked anyways.

ANDREW
But you're -- You can't just --

SUSAN (O.S.)
What do you want me to say?

ANDREW
How do I know it's you?

SUSAN (O.S.)
The last place we went was the duck pond.

Andrew comes all the way back into the woods.

ANDREW

It's you.

Andrew scans the woods.

SUSAN (O.S.)

I think I'm sorta connected to my
bike.

Andrew points at a mess of plants.

ANDREW

There?

SUSAN (O.S.)

I can't tell. Maybe.

ANDREW

Can you see?

SUSAN (O.S.)

Not like you do.

ANDREW

Are you cold?

SUSAN (O.S.)

No. I'm sad. And it's dark -- nobody
answered me.

ANDREW

Nobody?

SUSAN (O.S.)

I knew you would. Eventually.

Andrew eases towards the bushes.

ANDREW

Are you here? Really here?

SUSAN (O.S.)

I'm nowhere.

Andrew pulls overgrowth back and exposes Susan's bike.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

How long were you going to leave me
down here?

Andrew's jaw drops. Susan stands a few yards from her bike.
Her clothes are streaked with dirt and her hair is
disheveled.

Andrew backs away.

ANDREW

I can --

Susan's face gives away a look of fear and confusion.

She steps towards Andrew.

ANDREW (cont'd)

-- see you.

Susan's face gives way to relief, maybe even hope.

SUSAN

You can really? Do I look bad? I mean, dead?

Andrew steps towards Susan and slowly shakes his head.

ANDREW

No. You look the same as the last day we --

Susan fixes her hair and breathes deep. She looks at the trees and sky and then back to Andrew. She nods.

SUSAN

I don't want to look ruined.

ANDREW

You don't, I swear. Can I?

Susan steps close to Andrew and they stare at each other. Andrew reaches out -- Susan steps back -- Andrew steps forward.

Susan shakes her head, "No," and a tear rolls down her cheek.

Andrew stops.

SUSAN

I guess not. I'm not here that way.

Andrew still stares in shock.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Quit staring. I already feel weird. As if being being dead isn't bad enough.

Andrew looks away and then lifts Susan's bike up and runs a finger across the dirty metal, wiping it bare.

ANDREW

I'm sorry.

SUSAN

It's not your fault. Well, maybe a little your fault.

Andrew holds the bike and his tears drop onto the metal.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Stop. I never got to cry.

Andrew wipes away his tears.

ANDREW

Okay. I won't cry either.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

Andrew finishes wiping the bike down.

SUSAN

I can't believe you did that to your bike.

ANDREW

You saw?

SUSAN

More heard it. Jason will beat you up. It's not his fault -- he doesn't know what to be, other than mad. Just give him time.

ANDREW

Yah, like thirty years.

SUSAN

Better make it sixty.

ANDREW

Or until he finishes his boat.

Susan and Andrew laugh.

ANDREW (cont'd)

I have to go home.

SUSAN

I know.

ANDREW

Do you hate me?

SUSAN

No. I could never hate you.

ANDREW

I do.

SUSAN

What?

ANDREW

Hate myself, for what I made you do.

SUSAN

Well, stop. It was stupid. And it's over.

ANDREW

I'm sorry.

SUSAN

You can't apologize any more.

ANDREW

I'll try.

SUSAN

Are you going to hide me?

ANDREW

I don't want to leave you here.

SUSAN

You don't have a choice. If Jason sees my bike he'll take it.

Andrew looks around and then drags the bike with its bent front wheel to a stand of trees.

SUSAN

This works.

Susan sits down beside her bike.

ANDREW

I'll come back.

Andrew covers the bike with branches.

SUSAN (O.S.)
I know, Andrew.

Andrew walks away.

SUSAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Hey, dork.

ANDREW
Yah.

SUSAN (O.S.)
It was kinda funny hearing you tumble
down the hill. You owed me a laugh.

ANDREW
Whatever you say.

Andrew walks out of the woods.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

Andrew scans his backyard from a stand of trees. There is
nobody outside.

He runs for his backdoor -- and makes it.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew is in his room. He picks up his walkie-talkie.

ANDREW
Susan?

Andrew lies on the bed and puts the walkie-talkie on his
chest, and closes his eyes.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Andrew enters the kitchen. His mom, her back turned, has the
phone next to her ear.

ALISON
(into phone)
Cyndi? Please don't hang up. Cyndi?

Andrew watches as his mom puts down the phone.

He leaves the room.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew, Amy, Alison and Tony eat dinner.

ALISON
(to Tony)
I think he should know.

Tony leaves the table.

AMY
(to Alison)
What should he know?

ALISON
Susan's father.

AMY
He probably already knows.

ALISON
(to Amy)
How? Do you?

AMY
Yes, Mom.

ANDREW
What is it?

ALISON
Susan's father is in the hospital.

ANDREW
Why? He's sick?

AMY
Not the kind of sick you are
thinking.

Andrew pushes his food away.

ANDREW
Mom?

Alison nod's at Amy to leave the room.

AMY
No. Why? I'm not leaving.

Tony returns and takes a seat.

TONY
You don't have to leave.

AMY
I wasn't going to.

Tony shrugs.

TONY
What Amy means is that he's not sick,
like with the flu or something.

ANDREW
What then?

ALISON
Sometimes, when people go through
something very hard, like this --

Alison glances at Tony.

ALISON (cont'd)
-- well, their thoughts get jumbled
up wrong and things don't seem clear.
Do you know what I mean.

Andrew nods.

AMY
He went crazy.

TONY
(to Amy)
Anything else like that, and you will
leave the room.

Alison puts her hand on Andrew's shoulder.

ALISON
He is not crazy. Sometimes people get
so sad they can't be themselves for a
while.

Andrew looks around the room.

ANDREW
When is he coming home?

TONY
We don't know. It's not like a broken
arm that heals with a cast. This is
different.

ANDREW
It's my fault.

TONY
No. Listen, Andrew. None of this is
your fault. At all. Do you understand
that?

ANDREW
No.

Andrew pushes back from the table and runs out the back door.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

Andrew pushes into the woods.

He pulls the branches off the bike and holds the bike. Susan appears, crouched nearby.

SUSAN
Hey.

Andrew sits down and stares, still amazed to see her.

ANDREW
Your dad's in the hospital.

SUSAN
I knew something was wrong.

ANDREW
You did?

SUSAN
Yah, but I can't see him all that
well.

ANDREW
Amy says he went crazy.

SUSAN
He's not crazy. Don't say that.

Andrew wraps his arms around himself.

ANDREW
I won't. I'm sorry.

SUSAN
I told you to stop apologizing.

ANDREW
Are you mad at me?

SUSAN
I don't know. I don't know how I
feel.

ANDREW
Do you want me to leave?

SUSAN
No. Can you just sit with me?

ANDREW
Yah.

Andrew lets go of the bike and sits beside her.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Susan, can you see me, like when you
were alive? I mean, do your eyes work
the same?

SUSAN
Well I can tell you look like a dork.

ANDREW
Stop saying that.

SUSAN
The least you can do is let me call
you a dork, dork.

ANDREW
Okay.

SUSAN
But I'm the one that's dead, dork.

Andrew stands and grabs a branch. He smashes trees, throws
rocks, screams, and then it's over. He sits in the dirt.

He turns and looks at her, his eyes welling with guilt.

ANDREW
I know you're dead.

SUSAN
I'm sorry. I don't know what to do.

ANDREW
What do you want to do?

SUSAN
Ride.

INT. ANDREW'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Andrew roots through a toolbox.

TONY (O.S.)
What are you doing? It's late.

Andrew whips around and shoves a wrench in his pocket. Tony stands nearby, looking at him.

ANDREW
Nothing.

TONY
I thought you were in bed.

Andrew shakes his head.

TONY (cont'd)
Want some ice cream?

ANDREW
No.

TONY
Are you alright, Andrew? I want to know. I want to help.

Andrew shrugs.

Tony walks over and hugs him.

TONY (cont'd)
Come in soon. I love you, son.

Tony goes back inside.

Andrew turns off the garage light.

EXT. ANDREW'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Andrew checks the street. It is empty -- he walks down it.

INT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

From the front door window, Jason watches Andrew walk down the street. He opens the door. Cyndi walks up behind him.

CYNDI
Where are you going?

Jason turns to her.

JASON
I left something outside.

CYNDI
You need it right now?

JASON
Leave me alone.

Jason turns away.

CYNDI
Please. Wait.

Jason stops.

CYNDI
Will you come with me to see your dad
tomorrow?

Jason steps outside without answering.

The phone on the wall RINGS. Cyndi picks it up, but doesn't say a word. After a moment she hangs the phone up.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jason looks down the street but Andrew is gone.

Jason walks around the side of his house and stops in front of his sailboat. He stares at it, running his fingers over the rough and knotted surface.

INT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jason stands in front of a liquor chest. He chooses a bottle of wine.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATER

Jason sits in his dad's chair and drinks.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

Andrew unbolts the front wheel from Susan's bike.

SUSAN
Can you fix it?

ANDREW
Maybe.

Andrew walks towards the street.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Susan, do you sleep?

SUSAN
I don't think so. Sometimes, it's
just-

ANDREW
Just?

SUSAN
Quiet.

ANDREW
Can you see God?

SUSAN
No --

ANDREW
Father Grant says things happen
because they are God's plans.

Susan stops and she cocks her head and looks Andrew straight
in the eye.

SUSAN
God sucks at planning if he wanted
you to dare me to ride down that
stupid hill.

Andrew offers a sad smile.

ANDREW
Yah.

Andrew leaves the woods.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - LATER

Andrew walks up his driveway, holding the front wheel of Susan's bike.

Jason steps out of the shadows.

JASON
What the fuck are you doing with
that?

Andrew stops and starts to turn away.

JASON (cont'd)
Don't run. I swear I'll kill you.

Andrew faces him.

ANDREW
I need to fix it.

JASON
Fix it?

Jason steps towards him and grabs the wheel.

JASON (cont'd)
How the fuck are you going to fix
anything?

Andrew pulls back hard, holding the wheel.

The light above the front door turns on.

Tony opens the door.

TONY
Jason, go home.

Andrew and Jason stare at each other.

Jason lets go of the wheel and leaves.

Andrew walks towards the house and Tony looks at the wheel.

TONY (cont'd)
That's why you needed the wrench?

Andrew nods. Tony puts his hand around his shoulders.

TONY (cont'd)
Come on.

INT. BIKE SHOP - DAY

Andrew and Tony watch as a MECHANIC trues the bent wheel.

TONY

Do you want to look at any of these?

Tony points at a row of bikes for sale.

Andrew shakes his head "no".

The mechanic pulls a couple of broken spokes from the rim.

MECHANIC

I need to track down a couple spokes.

He tosses the broken spokes in the trash.

MECHANIC (cont'd)

Might take me a few.

Tony puts a hand on Andrew's shoulder.

TONY

I'm going to get an ice cream. Want one?

Andrew shrugs.

EXT. TOWN PARK - DAY

Andrew and Tony sit on a bench eating ice cream underneath the towering water tower that's the centerpiece of the town park.

Kids play nearby.

A group of older teens smoke cigarettes as a car pulls into a spot at the curb and parks. A group of teens get out.

Amy is the last one out and approaches Andrew and Tony.

AMY

(to Andrew)

Hand it over.

Andrew holds it out his ice cream, and she tastes it.

AMY (cont'd)

Thanks, little brother.

Amy returns Andrew's ice cream.

AMY (cont'd)
Dad, can I borrow a couple dollars?
Everyone is getting pizza later.

TONY
Does your mom know you won't be home
for dinner?

AMY
She will if you tell her.

Tony nods towards Andrew on the sly.

TONY
You need to be around more.

AMY
I know.

Tony hands Amy some money.

AMY (cont'd)
(to Andrew)
How about we go swimming later? Just
us.

Andrew nods, looking up at the water tower and the kids
names spray painted on the side.

AMY (cont'd)
Don't you even think about it.

Andrew keeps staring.

Amy snatches his ice cream, eats a bite, bops Andrew's nose
with it, and hands it back.

She starts back to her friends gathered around the car.

TONY
(calling after her)
I better not ever see either of your
names up there.

Amy offers a back-hand wave and rejoins her friends.

INT. BIKE SHOP - DAY

Andrew and Tony stand in front of the workshop area as the
mechanic removes the wheel from the truing stand.

MECHANIC

This will hold you for a while, but someday your rim is going to collapse. We can order a new one, have it in a couple days.

ANDREW

I only want this one.

The mechanic shrugs.

MECHANIC

When you're ready for a new one, you'll know it.

The mechanic gives him the wheel.

MECHANIC (cont'd)

Do what you gotta do, my friend.

Andrew nods.

INT. TONY'S CAR (MOVING) - LATER

Tony and Andrew drive through their town.

TONY

Whatever you are doing with that wheel is alright with me. What I don't get -- it's not from your bike, is it?

Andrew shakes his head, "no".

TONY (cont'd)

Is Jason bothering you?

ANDREW

Susan said he's just angry.

Tony studies him.

ANDREW'S DAD

Susan?

Andrew looks away. He messed up and knows it.

ANDREW

Earlier. Before. She told me he's always angry.

TONY
Will you tell me if he messes with
you?

Andrew shrugs.

TONY (cont'd)
Your mom and I are thinking about
getting a summer cabin at Lake Erie.

Andrew tenses up.

TONY (cont'd)
Good idea or --

Andrew looks at him, pleading.

TONY (cont'd)
Right. Bad idea. If you want to, I'll
have someone take over my class.
We'll leave. You could fish.

ANDREW
I need to stay here, Dad.

TONY
Why?

Andrew doesn't answer.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew struggles to fit the wheel back on the bike as Susan
watches.

ANDREW
Dang stupid thing.

SUSAN
Dork. Don't you think it's time for
you to start cussing?

Andrew gives up on the wheel.

ANDREW
Got any good ones to start with?

SUSAN
Ass, balls. Shit.

ANDREW
Ass, balls, shit? That's it?

SUSAN
No. That's just to start with.

ANDREW
What else?

SUSAN
Bitch and fucker.

ANDREW
Those already sound worse.

SUSAN
Yah, dork. Don't ever say them in front of your mom. You'll get in serious trouble.

ANDREW
You know what?

SUSAN
I'm waiting.

ANDREW
I don't ass balls care.

SUSAN
Not like that. Get angry.

Andrew picks up the wheel and tries it again.

ANDREW
This wheel is fucking me off.

Susan laughs.

Andrew gets the wheel on and looks up, triumphant.

SUSAN
Nice going, dork. Let's celebrate.

ANDREW
How?

SUSAN
Like this: Ass, balls, shit, bitch, fuck!

Andrew stands, bewildered.

ANDREW
Ass, balls, shit, bitch, fuck!

ANDREW & SUSAN

Ass, balls, shit, bitch, fuck!

Andrew collapses onto the dirt, in a heap of hysterics.

Andrew goes quiet as Susan studies him.

SUSAN

Andrew?

ANDREW

Yah.

SUSAN

I'm scared.

ANDREW

Me, too. And I miss you.

SUSAN

I miss you, too. I miss everything --
even my stupid brother.

ANDREW

I'd miss Amy.

SUSAN

Do you know how my dad is?

ANDREW

No. My mom and dad won't talk about
him around me. And your mom hates my
mom and dad.

SUSAN

I know her. She won't ever get over
this.

ANDREW

Yah.

Susan stares at Andrew.

SUSAN

Will you do something for me?

Andrew stands up and faces her.

ANDREW

Anything.

SUSAN
I miss my flute. Playing it. Hearing
it.

ANDREW
I'll get it.

SUSAN
How?

Andrew shrugs.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

Andrew watches out his window as Cyndi backs down the driveway in the car, Jason in the passenger seat.

When their car is out of view, Andrew stands and leaves the window.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Andrew opens their unlocked back door.

INT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Andrew cautiously enters Susan's house.

He looks at their family photos.

He opens their pantry, obviously familiar with their house.

He takes a box of Bugles out, pops a handful into his mouth, and then instantly spits them into the sink and washes them down the drain.

He goes up the stairs.

He goes into Susan's room.

SUSAN'S ROOM

Andrew looks around. He breathes in deeply.

Susan's bed is not made.

He kneels beside her bed then reaches underneath, pulls out a flute case, and sets it on the bed.

He lies on the bed, and puts the flute to his lips, pushing a MISERABLE SOUND from it.

ANDREW

Sucky crap.

Andrew sets the flute down. He touches her things, picks up her walkie-talkie, then sets it down. He does a double take at a single piece of paper with handwritten list that reads; "cut my hair to look older", "be nicer to Jason", "try a cigarette and one of dad's beers", "Kiss a boy", with "boy" scratched out, and followed by the word, "Andrew".

Andrew sits up suddenly as voices drift up from downstairs.

JASON (O.S.)

I don't ever want to go there again.
He's weak and crazy.

CYNDI (O.S.)

Don't say that about your father.

Andrew gets up, places Susan's list back in its place, opens Susan's closet, and hides inside.

SUSAN'S CLOSET

Andrew hides among her clothes, listening to the muffled * voices.

JASON (O.S.)

Fine. I'll tell him the only reason
I'm going there is because you make
me.

CYNDI (O.S.)

That's not fair.

JASON (O.S.)

You're not fair. Ever.

Doors SLAM.

CYNDI (O.S.)

Come back here.

Another door SLAMS and the house is silent.

Andrew exhales --

-- then Susan's bedroom door opens.

Andrew peers through the wooden slats on the closet door.
He sees the flute case on the bed.

ANDREW
(whispering)
Piss balls.

Cyndi steps into the room.
She picks up the empty flute case and looks around the room.
She looks under the bed.

CYNDI
Susan?

She lies on Susan's bed and cries.

SUSAN'S ROOM - LATER

Cyndi is asleep on the bed.

Andrew opens the closet door.

He steps out of the closet and sneaks by Cyndi, the flute
clutched in his hands.

He opens the door to get through.

Cyndi opens her eyes and reaches for Andrew -- he darts out
of her reach.

CYNDI
What are you --

Andrew is gone.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew races out the back door.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew barrels into the woods. Susan's face lights up.

SUSAN
You got it!

ANDREW
Your mom caught me inside your house.

SUSAN
That's the last thing you need.

Andrew doubles over and catches his breath.

ANDREW
Yah. My mom is going to kill me when she finds out.

SUSAN
She won't kill you. My mom might though.

ANDREW
If she does, I better not come back as a flute.

Andrew sits next to the bike and calms down.

SUSAN
Are you ready?

ANDREW
What for?

SUSAN
Play something for me.

ANDREW
This is going to suck crap.

Andrew picks up the flute and begins playing, surprising both of them with a beautiful and flawless performance.

Once done, he rests the flute on his knees.

SUSAN
How did you do that?

ANDREW
I have no idea.

SUSAN
Well, holy shit.

Andrew stares at the flute and then at Susan.

ANDREW
Yah. Holy shit.

SUSAN
You better go home.

ANDREW
Not yet. You want to ride?

Susan steps toward the bike.

SUSAN
More than anything.

EXT. QUIET STREET - DAY

Andrew pedals standing up, Susan sits on the seat behind him with her arms wrapped around his stomach. He steers the bike in lazy curves as they glide down the street. Susan grins.

A car almost nails them.

ANDREW
Ass wreck!

Susan howls with laughter.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Where else?

SUSAN
Do I need to tell you?

ANDREW
Nope.

EXT. DUCK POND - DAY

Andrew is at the top of the hill, one foot on the ground. He looks at Susan, who's next to him.

ANDREW
How fast do you want to go?

SUSAN
As fast as you can.

Andrew pedals furiously to the bottom of the hill and ramps the bike over the curb, catching air. He lands and skids to a stop.

Susan and Andrew look at each other.

SUSAN (cont'd)
You know what?

ANDREW
What?

SUSAN
I probably won't call you a dork
anymore.

ANDREW
Yah. Right.

Andrew and Susan sit at their spot and watch the water and
birds and trees swaying in the wind.

SUSAN
Just like old times. Except I'm never
going to get old.

ANDREW
I think getting old might suck.

SUSAN
Let me know sometime.

ANDREW
We'll see.

Andrew picks at the grass by his feet and looks at her.

ANDREW (cont'd)
I wish you were really here.

SUSAN
It sucks that I'm not really --

ANDREW
-- Not really what?

SUSAN
Anything.

EXT. TOWN - DUSK

Andrew rides through town and slows when he gets close to
the water tower. Susan stares up at it.

SUSAN
I always wanted to climb that.

Andrew stops.

ANDREW
The water tower?

SUSAN
Yah. Jason did. What about Amy?

ANDREW
No way.

SUSAN
Are you going to? I mean, later.

ANDREW
Fuck no. I'm as afraid of climbing up
tall things as you were going down
things.

SUSAN
If you ever do, write my name up
there.

ANDREW
I will.

SUSAN
Promise me.

Andrew nods.

ANDREW
I promise.

Andrew stares at the top of the water tower and then pedals
away.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

Andrew covers Susan's bike with sticks. Susan stands nearby.

SUSAN
Good luck.

Andrew raises his eyebrows.

ANDREW
I might need it.

Susan watches Andrew walk away.

He turns and stops.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Are you really not cold?

SUSAN
I'm lonely, not cold. I'd rather be cold.

They stare at each other.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew closes the front door, turns, and stops suddenly.

Cyndi sits in a chair across from Tony and Alison.

ANDREW
Shit.

Amy, who's sitting in another chair, laughs.

ALISON
What did you just say?

TONY
We'll deal with that later.

Andrew shifts on his feet and looks at Amy, hoping for help.

Amy shakes her head, half grinning.

TONY (cont'd)
Is it true?

ANDREW
Wha --

CYNDI
-- How can you ask him that?

Cyndi stands.

CYNDI
What were you doing in my house?

ANDREW
I --

CYNDI
-- Tell me. How could you do that?

ANDREW
I'm sorry. I had to get --

CYNDI

-- I don't want your apology. I don't want you in my house. Ever. Again. I want my Susan. I want my husband. I want my family.

TONY

Cyndi, please.

Andrew looks terrified.

ANDREW

I took it for Susan.

Cyndi glares at Andrew.

CYNDI

What did you say?

ANDREW

The flute -- She wanted it --

CYNDI

God damn you. Why would you say that?

ANDREW

She's here -- you just can't see her because --

ALISON

Andrew!

Cyndi gasps.

Cyndi shivers with rage and steps towards Andrew.

Amy steps between Cyndi and Andrew and puts her arm around Andrew's shoulder.

TONY

Andrew, apologize. You cannot say that.

ANDREW

It's true.

Cyndi looks at Tony, her eyes pleading for help.

TONY

Not ever again.

AMY

It's okay, Andrew.

CYNDI

No. People keep saying that. -- "It's okay." Someone's child dies and people have the nerve to say it's okay. When you look at my house, do you think we are okay?

Andrew stares at her.

TONY

You are scaring him.

CYNDI

I'm sorry I scared your living child.
I am so sorry.

Alison stands and takes a step towards Cyndi, reaching out for her.

CYNDI

Don't you dare touch me. And stop
calling my house.

Alison steps back and sits, dejected.

Amy holds Andrew, protecting him.

Cyndi glares at Andrew, seething.

CYNDI

Today was the last time you will ever
step foot in my house.

She turns to Tony and Alison.

CYNDI (cont'd)

And it is the last time I will ever
step foot in yours.

Cyndi rushes out, as Amy pulls Andrew out of the way.

Andrew breaks from Amy's grip and runs up the stairs.

Amy looks at Tony.

TONY

Let him go.

Amy walks up the stairs.

HALLWAY

Amy knocks on Andrew's door.

AMY
I'll play something.

ANDREW'S ROOM - LATER

Andrew leans against the wall, listening to the MUSIC.

He gets onto the bed and lies on Susan's backpack.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew wakes up, and goes to the window.

Jason is outside, standing next to his boat, holding something a can. Andrew watches as Jason pours something out of the can.

Jason lights a match.

His boat ignites in a wall of flame.

Andrew watches -- fascinated, scared.

The boat burns.

AMY (O.S.)
Dad! Susan's house is on fire!

Andrew runs out of his room.

EXT. SUSAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tony and PAUL'S DAD rush to the burning boat.

Tony uses his hose to douse the flames. Paul's dad uses the hose connected to Susan's house to do the same.

Jason stands, watching it burn.

Amy comes to Andrew's side and pulls him back from the fire.

Paul and his brother Dan watch from the street.

Cyndi appears, horrified, and screams at Jason.

CYNDI

What are you doing? And you said your father is crazy?

Jason is consumed with rage. He points at Andrew.

JASON

This is his fault! I was fixing it up for Susan -- I thought she would want it. What does it matter anymore?

Jason runs from the burning boat.

Alison approaches Cyndi -- Cyndi recoils.

CYNDI

Stop watching. Stop watching us.

Cyndi drops to her knees.

CYNDI

Please. Stop. Just stop.

The neighbors stare at the boat as it smolders.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew leans against the wall, listening to MUSIC. He knocks on the wall.

The music stops.

ANDREW

I need to see Susan's dad.

Amy's muffled voice sounds through the wall.

AMY (O.S.)

I don't think you can.

ANDREW

Why?

AMY (O.S.)

Only family can.

ANDREW

What if we sneak in? Or pretend?

AMY (O.S.)

Pretend what?

ANDREW
That we're family.

AMY (O.S.)
Trust me, it will never work.

ANDREW
Bull shit.

INT. HOSPITAL - FOYER - DAY

Andrew and Amy stand at a registration window.

A REGISTRATION NURSE looks down at them.

AMY
We are here to see our Dad.

REGISTRATION NURSE
Names?

AMY
Susan Fairburn, and this is my
brother Jason.

The registration nurse flips through documents clipped to a clipboard.

REGISTRATION NURSE
(to Amy)
I don't see your name on the list.
His is, but yours is not. Where is
your mother? She can add you to the
list.

AMY
She's on her way. Can Jason go back
first? I'll wait.

The registration nurse bites the tip of her pen.

REGISTRATION NURSE
I'm really not supposed to do that,
but --

AMY
-- She's just parking our car.

REGISTRATION NURSE
(to Andrew)
Alright, honey. Do you know where his
room is?

Andrew nods.

The registration nurse presses a button --

CLICK

REGISTRATION NURSE (cont'd)
Don't let anyone scare you. They
don't mean anything they say.

Andrew nods again and glances at Amy.

She nods at him and winks.

Andrew pushes the door open.

HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Andrew walks down a spotless, brightly lit hallway, and
peers into open doorways.

An ELDERLY PATIENT sits in a wheelchair by a drinking
fountain.

ELDERLY PATIENT
Is it time for my car-wash?

Andrew slides by.

ELDERLY PATIENT (cont'd)
You don't look like my car-wash boy.
Where's my regular car-wash boy?

A TALL PATIENT sticks their head out of a doorway.

TALL PATIENT
Will you please shut up? Of course
the kid ain't a car-wash boy.

The Elderly Patient rhythmically slaps their wheelchair
wheels.

TALL PATIENT
You old slippery-slope -- you need
your meds, not a car-wash.

Another nurse, NURSE TWO, appears from a doorway.

NURSE TWO
Whatever is going on out here, you
two?

Andrew rushes down the hallway and stops outside a doorway.

The Elderly Patient rapidly rolls their wheelchair towards Andrew.

Andrew slips into the room.

INT. ART'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Art sits in a chair, staring blankly at a newspaper.

He looks up, surprised.

ART

Now, I know you aren't on the list.

Andrew shrinks back.

Art points to a chair across the table from him.

Andrew hesitates.

ART (cont'd)

Don't worry. I won't rat you out. My own son won't come see me, so you'll have to do.

Andrew takes a seat.

ART (cont'd)

So tell me, Andrew, what in the world are you doing here?

Andrew shrugs.

ART (cont'd)

Well, that makes two of us.

ANDREW

Jason burned his boat.

ART

He did, did he?

Andrew nods.

ART (cont'd)

I hate hearing that. One day he'll regret it.

Art stares out the window, then down at the paper.

ART (cont'd)
We'll all have things we regret. I'm
sure you do. Is that right?

ANDREW
Yes.

Art studies Andrew.

ART
I can't tell you how to stop
regretting any more than I can pull
my head out of the blackness.

ANDREW
The blackness?

ART
What I call it, anyways. Heartache is
what it is.

ANDREW
Will it get light again?

ART
I don't know.

ANDREW
If it does, will you go home?

ART
Maybe. Not that I don't want to, it's
mostly that I'm terrified to go back
inside my own house. It was too
quiet. No flute. No Susan. No --

Andrew nods.

ANDREW
-- Jason didn't bust up my bike.

ART
Oh?

ANDREW
It was me.

Art nods.

ART
When I was a boy, about your age, I
stole a jar of money from my
teacher's desk.

ANDREW

You did?

ART

Of that, there is no question.

ANDREW

Did you get in trouble?

ART

Nope. But a kid in my class did. He just happened to have some coins in his book-bag. The only reason I came to know this information was that I put them there.

Andrew looks stunned.

ART (cont'd)

Then I told Ms. Goldflies I saw him take the money from the desk.

Art puts his hand up to stop the coming question.

ART (cont'd)

I don't know. Heck, I liked the kid. Funny thing was, I never spent the money, just buried it.

ANDREW

A treasure.

ART

A boy your age would think that. Now, it's just buried guilt.

ANDREW

Do you think it's still there?

Art scratches his head.

ART

Most likely. I wish the guilt was too, but it's as present in this room as you are.

ANDREW

Where'd you bury it?

ART

At my school. Well, it used to be mine, now it's yours. Behind the ball fields.

Andrew looks out the window.

ART

Now, there's something I'd like to know.

ANDREW

Okay.

ART

What happened on Bull Run?

ANDREW

She just didn't stop.

ART

That hill scared the hell out of her. Did you know she crashed there when she first learned to ride?

ANDREW

She did?

ART

I told her not to go down it. She didn't listen. I could hear her screaming all the way from our house.

ANDREW

She didn't tell me.

ART

I don't think she remembered. Not exactly anyways. But the fear hooked into her. Made her cautious.

Andrew looks around the room.

ART (cont'd)

I just don't understand why she wasn't cautious that day.

ANDREW

I -- She just didn't stop, Mr. Fairburn.

Art studies him with great sadness in his eyes.

ART

I guess for some reason that day she decided to stop being cautious.

ANDREW
Can I ask you something?

ART
Yes.

ANDREW
Do you ever hear Susan talk to you?

Art sits up, rigid, in his chair.

He reaches out and grabs Andrew's wrist, hard.

Fear flashes across Andrew's face.

ART
You want to know what the darkness
is?

Andrew shakes his head, "no".

ART
Tough shit. All I hear is my baby
girl's voice. And she's crying. And I
can't be there to do a damn thing for
her. I'm trying. I'm trying to get
there. To hold her. And that's why
I'm in this place. Some people say I
should stay here, until I don't try
to get to my Susan. But god damn
them. And god damn you, too.

He lets go of Andrew's wrist.

ART (cont'd)
Now you get the hell out and never
come back here. We'll all end up in
places like this. You don't have any
business being here now. So, get,
out.

Andrew stands, walks backwards towards the door.

ANDREW
She misses you.

Art stands.

ART
Get out!

ANDREW
I'm sorry, I --

ART

-- Nurse!

Andrew rushes out of the room.

ART (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Nurse!

FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew sails through the door.

Amy stands, startled.

ANDREW

Get the shit out of here!

Andrew runs to the exit.

AMY

(to registration
nurse)

Sorry. Rough visit.

Amy turns and follows Andrew out.

INT. AMY'S CAR (MOVING) - LATER

Amy drives them through town.

AMY

So?

ANDREW

What?

AMY

What happened in there?

ANDREW

I think he said he wants to die.

AMY

Oh, my God.

ANDREW

Yah -- I need a metal detector.

Amy side-eyes Andrew as he scans the watertower as Amy drives passed it.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew rushes into the woods.

ANDREW

Susan?

Andrew goes to Susan's bike.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Susan?

Andrew sits.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Are you here? Please answer.

Andrew gets up and paces.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Don't go.

Andrew walks around.

He looks up at the sky and the trees. He smashes a branch against a tree.

He returns to the bike and sits.

ANDREW (cont'd)

I can't hear you. Can you hear me?

He studies the woods.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

A light flashes through the trees.

Andrew sleeps with his head on the bike.

AMY (O.S.)

(calling)

Andrew? Andrew are you here? Come out. It's time to come home.

Andrew stands and covers Susan's bike with branches.

AMY (O.S.) (cont'd)

Come on, Mom and Dad are worried.

ANDREW
Susan, I'll be back, I promise. Come
back.

Andrew walks out of the woods.

EXT. BULL RUN STREET- CONTINUOUS

Andrew exits the woods.

Amy waits for him with a flashlight.

AMY
Let's go home.

Andrew walks to Amy and stands in front of her. She shines
the light on him.

AMY (cont'd)
Are you alright?

ANDREW
I miss her.

Amy hugs him.

AMY
It's going to be alright.

ANDREW
How do you know?

AMY
Because some things shouldn't hurt
this bad forever.

Andrew turns and looks back at the woods.

ANDREW
How did you know I was here?

AMY
I followed you a couple times. And
once when Jason chased you. I just
wanted to make sure you were safe.

ANDREW
You did?

AMY
I won't let anything happen to you.

ANDREW
Do Mom and Dad know?

AMY
I don't know for sure. I won't tell,
alright?

ANDREW
Amy?

AMY
Yah?

ANDREW
Will you play music tonight?

AMY
All night.

Andrew and Amy walk up the hill.

INT. ANDREW'S GARAGE - DAY

Andrew walks into the garage, hits the garage door button
and it rises.

Tony opens the door between the house and the garage.

TONY
You can't just keep leaving.

ANDREW
I have to go.

TONY
Whatever it is can wait. You're on
the schedule today.

ANDREW
I'm not doing it.

TONY
Yes, you are.

ANDREW
I don't want to go to church. Ever
again.

Tony steps into the garage. He kneels beside Andrew.

TONY
Why?

ANDREW
They don't know anything.

TONY
Who?

Andrew bites his lip and pushes away from Tony.

ANDREW
Father Grant.

Tony pulls Andrew back and nods.

TONY
Okay, Andrew, okay. Listen, you know how it messes everybody up if they are short an acolyte. After this, we can take you off the schedule. But you have to go this time. You understand?

Andrew turns and walks away.

Tony watches him go.

INT. CHURCH - NAVE - DAY

Andrew sits on a pew behind the pulpit.

He looks around the church, but there is no sound.

He looks at the stained glass. The crosses. The kids sitting with their parents. The rest of the congregation.

Cyndi sits by herself.

Andrew looks at her. She looks away.

Andrew tunes into Father Grant's sermon.

FATHER GRANT
We know we lose people -- the people we love. But we also know, it is through God's will we lose them, and it is through God's will that we find glory in their passage into his kingdom. Do not fear the loneliness, for the ones lost to us are not lonely. They are rejoicing, so we must rejoice with them!

Cyndi leaves her seat, and walks out the door.

Andrew watches as Alison starts to stand. Tony shakes his head "no", and she sits again.

Andrew glares at Father Grant with hatred.

CHURCH DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Andrew is alone. He pulls off his acolyte robe.

He pulls off his cross necklace and tosses it into a trashcan.

There is a wooden cross on a tall wooden handle. Andrew kicks the handle and it snaps.

The cross falls to the floor. Andrew stomps on it until it breaks.

He walks out of the dressing room and closes the door behind him.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew enters the woods.

He sits by the bike and looks around the woods.

ANDREW

Susan?

Andrew picks a stick up from the dirt and snaps it.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Susan? Will you answer me? Please.

SUSAN

I'm here.

Andrew turns, Susan sits a short ways from the bike.

ANDREW

I thought you were gone.

SUSAN

Well I wasn't.

ANDREW

Could you hear me?

SUSAN

I didn't want to talk to you.

ANDREW

Why?

SUSAN

It doesn't matter.

Andrew stands and walks toward her.

ANDREW

Yes, it does.

SUSAN

Nothing does anymore. Not summer. Not music. Not my house and my room. Not school. Nothing. Not my dad and mom. Jason hated me. I never got to ask him to stop hating me.

ANDREW

You matter to me.

SUSAN

You just feel guilty.

ANDREW

I don't sleep good. When I close my eyes I see you crash. Nobody on the street wants to talk to me. I'm a ghost, too.

SUSAN

You are not a ghost. You get to live. You get everything. Fuck you, Andrew.

Andrew sits beside Susan.

ANDREW

I don't even know what that means.

SUSAN

It means I'll never experience life.

ANDREW

Why didn't you just stop?

SUSAN

I couldn't. I was scared and you knew it.

ANDREW

I said you didn't have to.

SUSAN
You didn't know?

ANDREW
Know what?

SUSAN
I'd have done anything for you.

Andrew buries his head in his hands.

ANDREW
For me?

Andrew looks up cautiously.

SUSAN
You boys are so stupid sometimes.

Andrew picks up a leaf and tears it apart.

ANDREW
Why did Jason hate you?

SUSAN
I can't tell you.

ANDREW
Why?

SUSAN
Because I hate myself.

ANDREW
You don't have to any more.

SUSAN
Dying doesn't take your guilt away.
Nobody tells you that.

ANDREW
What is it?

Susan looks at her feet.

SUSAN
I told him our parents didn't want
him.

ANDREW
Why?

SUSAN

Because sometimes I was afraid they didn't want me.

ANDREW

Sometimes I feel that way, too, that they only wanted Amy.

SUSAN

You do? Are you lying?

ANDREW

No. But I don't feel that way anymore. And all your parents want is to have you back.

SUSAN

Jason knows that, too.

Andrew nods and then looks away.

ANDREW

Do you feel anything? Anything different?

Susan cups her hands in front of her mouth and blows out gently.

SUSAN

See that?

Andrew glances around, confused.

ANDREW

No.

Susan smiles sadly and slightly shrugs her shoulders.

SUSAN

It's how I feel. Like a breath of air behind a closing door.

Andrew studies her for a moment, then cups his hands in front of his mouth and blows out gently.

LATER

Andrew and Susan sit near each other.

ANDREW

There's someplace we need to go.

Susan looks up at Andrew

EXT. BULL RUN STREET- DAY

Andrew pedals up the hill with Susan on the seat. He cuts through a --

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

-- backyard then back onto --

EXT. BULL RUN STREET - CONTINUOUS

-- the street.

SUSAN
Where are we going?

Andrew pedals silently.

SUSAN (cont'd)
I'm sorry.

ANDREW
It's okay. Just please don't go quiet on me again.

SUSAN
I promise.

EXT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Andrew stops under a tree. He points to a window. Susan looks up.

ANDREW
That's your dad's room.

SUSAN
I know.

ANDREW
I'm going to save him.

SUSAN
How?

ANDREW
We have to break into the school.

SUSAN
We?

ANDREW
Yes.

SUSAN
When?

ANDREW
What are you, my English teacher?

Susan scowls at Andrew.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Tonight. I'll come get you.

SUSAN
What now?

ANDREW
I'll take you for a ride.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Andrew bombs down country roads with Susan on the back of the bike.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew covers the bike up as Susan watches.

SUSAN
Are we really going to break into the school?

ANDREW
For sure shit.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

Andrew is in his room. He puts a hammer, gloves, a folded shovel, and a flashlight into Susan's backpack.

The doorbell RINGS.

TONY (O.S.)
(calling)
Andrew, come downstairs please.

Andrew zips up the backpack and drops it out his window onto the ground.

HALLWAY

Andrew leaves his room and then walks down the stairs.

LIVING ROOM

Father Grant, wearing his white collar, sits in a chair next to Tony and Alison.

FATHER GRANT

Hello, Andrew. I can't recall ever making a house call for something like this.

Tony and Alison look at Andrew with stunned disappointment.

FATHER GRANT (cont'd)

You won't deny your actions that brought me here, will you?

Andrew squints at Father Grant

ANDREW

God's plans are stupid.

Father Grant studies Andrew with feigned compassion.

FATHER GRANT

What you did was a slap in the face to the church, your family, and to God, and to you. And do you know who it also hurts?

Andrew's squint becomes a glare.

Father Grant sweeps his eyes over Andrew's parents as he prepares to make his most important point.

FATHER GRANT (cont'd)

Susan.

Andrew cracks.

ANDREW

You are a liar! You don't know anything about being dead. ANYTHING! Fuck you and rejoice!

Father Grant's jaw drops.

Alison stands.

Andrew turns and bolts to the door, shoves it open and runs out.

TONY (O.S.)
Andrew, get back here.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Andrew runs through backyards with Susan's backpack.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

Andrew pulls a Walkman from the bag, wraps the headphones around the handlebars of Susan's bike, presses play and pedals up the hill.

EXT. BULL RUN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andrew pedals out of the woods with Susan on the seat.

SUSAN
You weren't kidding?

ANDREW
Nope.

SUSAN
Why?

ANDREW
I need a metal detector.

SUSAN
Old=Man-Mr. Science Rowell's?

ANDREW
Yah. He's going to shit his pants.

SUSAN
Why?

ANDREW
I'm giving your dad his guilt back.

SUSAN
I'm so lost.

ANDREW
No. You're dead.

Susan and Andrew grin.

SUSAN
Hardee-har-har. Nice one, dork.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

Andrew rides through town with Susan, MUSIC coming from the headphones. Susan takes in the town.

Andrew stops at the ball fields behind the school and they stare at the school.

ANDREW
After this you have to stop calling
me a dork.

SUSAN
It's a deal, dork.

ANDREW
Time to do this shit.

Susan laughs.

They start walking toward the school.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Andrew and Susan stand near one of the classroom windows. Andrew looks around as he pulls off the backpack, puts the gloves on and takes out the hammer.

SUSAN
You are going through here?

ANDREW
It's math class. Math sucks.

SUSAN
Better be ready to haul ass if
there's an alarm.

ANDREW
This place doesn't even have art
class. Besides, these are the only
windows big enough to get you
through.

Andrew smashes out a window.

They look at each other and wait for an alarm that doesn't come.

Andrew shrugs and then turns the window lock, and pushes the window open.

He picks the bike up and puts it through the window.

INT. SCHOOL - MATH ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew climbs through the window. Susan follows after him.

He turns on the flashlight and makes his way through the room to the door. He tries the door -- it's locked.

ANDREW
What kind of jerk locks his door in
the summer?

SUSAN
Math teachers.

ANDREW
What an asshole.

Andrew moves several desks out of the way, creating space.

He gets behind the teacher's desk and gives it a little test push.

Andrew's shoes SQUEAK as he pushes hard against the teacher's desk, gaining speed. The desk SMASHES the door, splintering it off the frame.

ANDREW
Holy shit.

SUSAN
And it was one summer night that
Susan realized the love of her life
was going to end up doing hard time
in juvie.

ANDREW
What?

SUSAN
I was just kidding. I'm sure your
time in juvie will be easy.

ANDREW

Not that part.

SUSAN

You better move. You get busted in here you'll be doing algebra on the chalkboard until you're forty.

HALLWAY

Andrew rides his bike down hallways with Susan, skidding around corners with the flashlight in his mouth, MUSIC playing from the Walkman.

SUSAN

Stop.

Andrew skids to a stop. Susan points at a glass case and he walks toward it.

There are several photographs of students in the glass case. One is of Susan.

SUSAN (cont'd)

I am forgetting what I looked like.

Andrew SMASHES the glass.

SUSAN (cont'd)

I didn't mean for you to do that.

He removes the photograph of her.

ANDREW

You were pretty.

He puts the photograph in the bag.

He rides down the hallway and then stops at a door.

ANDREW (cont'd)

If Berni took his metal detector home I'm going to smash every Bunsen burner in this pile of shit school.

SUSAN

Hurry.

STORAGE CLOSET

Andrew opens the door, and walks into the storage closet.

A metal detector leans against the wall.

Susan grins at Andrew.

ANDREW
Damn right, Berni!

Andrew grabs it and checks the power. It works.

SUSAN
You are losing your mind, kid.

ANDREW
Isn't that what schools are for?

SUSAN
I see a lot of visits to the
counselor's office in the future.

Suddenly a spotlight sweeps across the walls and Andrew and Susan drop to the floor

ANDREW
Pigs!

Andrew looks at Susan, stunned.

ANDREW (cont'd)
I don't think they can see you.

Susan stands and shrugs.

SUSAN
You really are going to jail.

HALLWAY

Andrew scoots across the floor, grabs the bike and jumps on. Susan gets on the bike seat and they hauls ass down the hallway, flashlight in Andrew's mouth, metal detector across the handlebars.

SUSAN
Kill the light.

Andrew turns off the flashlight.

Andrew pedals furiously, Susan laughs on the bike seat.

SUSAN (cont'd)
(singsong)
Andrews' going to jail. Andrews'
going to jail.

ANDREW
Shut up.

Andrew skids around a corner and stops and scans out the window.

A cop car is parked outside.

Just outside, a COP walks around with a flashlight, shining it through the school windows.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Someone must have seen the
flashlight.

SUSAN
Get to math class, young man.

Susan laughs.

ANDREW
Shit.

Andrew wheels the bike and darts down a hallway.

He reaches the

MATH ROOM

and picks the bike up over the broken glass.

He makes the window, tosses the metal detector out the window.

Another cop car approaches the school with its spotlight on.

ANDREW
Hell balls -- surrounded.

Andrew jumps out the window.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Susan's backpack catches on the window latch, slowing him down.

SUSAN
Leave it.

ANDREW
I can't.

Andrew yanks the bag free -- a strap breaks.
A spotlight eases down the wall towards them.

SUSAN
Ride!

Andrew pedals, Susan laughs.
The spotlight catches him.
Red and blue lights flick on.
The cop car drives toward Andrew.
Andrew hauls ass.

ANDREW
Shit, oh shit, oh shit.

Andrew ducks underneath the bleachers.
He watches as the cop car drives by them towards the road.
He slumps against the bleachers.
Susan's eyes are wide with excitement.

SUSAN
I wish I was here for this! I mean, I
can't believe that just happened.

ANDREW
That's something else I'll tell you,
coming from a dead girl.

They watch as the two cop cars drive around, sweeping their
spotlight on the school grounds.

The light slides over Andrew and keeps going.

ANDREW (cont'd)
I am a lucky ass idiot.

SUSAN
Definitely an idiot at least.

LATER

The cops drive away.

ANDREW
Boy that sucked.

SUSAN
That was outrageous fun.

ANDREW
Easy for you to say -- you wouldn't
have been the one ending up in juvie.

SUSAN
Better than ending up in nowhere.

LATER

Andrew sweeps the ground with the metal detector as Susan
watches him.

SUSAN
You thought I was pretty?

ANDREW
Shh. I'm working.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Andrew kneels.

SUSAN
This better be good.

ANDREW
That's up to your dad.

Andrew starts digging with the hand shovel.

TINK.

He tosses the shovel into Susan's backpack and starts
digging with his hands.

SUSAN
This is killing me. What is it?

Andrew exposes a glass jar and pulls it out.

ANDREW
Buried guilt.

SUSAN

What?

Andrew shakes the jar and money clanks around.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Money?

ANDREW

Your dad stole it.

SUSAN

He did not.

ANDREW

Yes he did. Then he buried it.

SUSAN

I don't get it.

ANDREW

He's crazy.

Andrew shoves the jar into the bag.

SUSAN

My dad is not crazy.

ANDREW

I didn't mean it like that -- I'm sorry.

Andrew puts the gloves in the bag.

SUSAN

A jar of money? I don't get it. Not why my dad stole it. I mean, that too. But you did all this -- for him -- why?

ANDREW

I don't know. I don't know how to help anyone. But I thought maybe he could give it back.

SUSAN

The money?

ANDREW

Yah. If he knew he could, maybe he would want to go home again.

SUSAN

Like, the money is worth more than I was?

ANDREW

Why would you say that? He'd dig the whole world up for you if he could get you back.

Andrew wipes a tear away as Susan studies him.

ANDREW (cont'd)

I can at least do this.

She takes a step toward him. Andrew takes a step away from her.

Susan lightly stomps her foot in frustration.

Car HEADLIGHTS round a corner and drive in their direction. Susan glances at them.

SUSAN

You better go.

Andrew flips the cassette over in the Walkman and then they ride off.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

Andrew rides through the empty, sleeping town with Susan.

They look up at the town water tower and they study it.

SUSAN

You ever going up there?

ANDREW

Hell, no. How you got scared about going downhill, I get scared about going up.

SUSAN

I started to climb it once.

Andrew looks at her, and raises his eyebrows.

ANDREW

No way.

SUSAN

I swear. With Jason.

ANDREW
When?

SUSAN
Last day of school.

ANDREW
You didn't go all the way to the top?

SUSAN
Jason told me to stop.

ANDREW
Why?

SUSAN
He said our parents would kill him if
I got hurt.

Andrew stares at the water tower.

A cop cruises down the street.

Andrew and Susan ride off.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - LATER

Andrew covers up the bike as Susan watches.

SUSAN
Now what?

ANDREW
Not sure yet exactly. I have to do
something.

SUSAN
When are you coming back?

ANDREW
Tomorrow.

SUSAN
You will?

ANDREW
You know I will. Don't you?

SUSAN
I need you to take me somewhere.

ANDREW
Okay. Anywhere.

Susan looks distracted.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Susan, what is it?

SUSAN
Can I tell you something?

ANDREW
Anything.

They study each other.

SUSAN
You are getting quieter. Am I?

ANDREW
I don't think so.

SUSAN
I'm scared. I haven't been scared
before.

ANDREW
Do you want me to stay?

SUSAN
Go home.

ANDREW
I wish you could come with me.

SUSAN
Me, too. More than anything.

Andrew starts to walk away and then stops.

ANDREW
I still do.

SUSAN
What?

ANDREW
Think you are pretty.

Andrew walks out of the woods carrying the metal detector.

Susan smiles and fixes her hair.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew looks out his bedroom window at Jason drinking in his dad's chair. Jason notices and calls up to him.

JASON
Quit looking at me.

Jason tosses an empty can onto the ground.

JASON (cont'd)
I'm going to find out what you are
doing in the woods.

ANDREW
No, you won't. You won't ever know.

JASON
I'll always hate you, Andrew.

Jason walks into his house.

Andrew slumps against the wall.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Andrew rides the bike along a country road with Susan.

SUSAN
Do you know what's on this road?

ANDREW
Are we at the Light?

SUSAN
Yah. Do you think Jason has seen it?

ANDREW
He would have bragged if he had.

SUSAN
He wouldn't have told me if he did.
If it's true, about how they bring
you out here before you start high
school, believe me, Jason would be
the one to do it.

Andrew stops his bike on the side of the road.

ANDREW
To scare you?

SUSAN

Yah.

ANDREW

Lame. Amy told me the Light comes this way, from the top of that hill.

SUSAN

She saw it?

ANDREW

No. She told me about it, said that it never showed up. I heard her on the phone today -- they are trying again this weekend.

SUSAN

Do you believe in it?

ANDREW

I don't know. Do you?

SUSAN

I didn't before. Now I do. I'm not afraid of it anymore.

ANDREW

It's just ghost story about a kid that died on a motorcycle out here by himself --

Andrew and Susan stare down the road into the darkness. No light appears.

SUSAN

-- Now I'm a ghost.

Andrew turns the bike back toward town and he pedals slowly away. Susan rests her head on Andrew's back as they ride away.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY

Andrew walks up his driveway.

Tony stands next to the garage.

TONY

You have to return it.

Andrew stops, busted.

ANDREW

I di-

Tony pulls the metal detector out from behind a board.

TONY

Aside from the damages, there is a very short list of what's missing from the school in today's paper. Susan's photograph doesn't belong to them. But this --

Tony points to something on the metal detector.

TONY (cont'd)

You have to know a science teacher is bound to label their equipment with their name.

ANDREW

How did you know?

TONY

Your mom and I are trying, really trying, to give you a break. But that doesn't mean we don't stop worrying, or waiting up for you to come home. You're just a kid, Andrew.

ANDREW

You saw me?

TONY

We take turns, waiting. Last night was my night. But that stops now. This whole thing with the school, whatever it was, is over.

ANDREW

Are you going to tell them?

TONY

No. But you'll have to make it right somehow.

ANDREW

I can't make anything alright.

TONY

Yes, you can. Maybe not right now, but one day you will. However, no more of this. Do you understand?

Andrew walks to the door and pulls it open.

ANDREW
I don't understand any of it.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew enters his room.

Susan's backpack has been repaired and is on the bed.

KITCHEN

Andrew goes to Alison, who is cooking.

ANDREW
Mom.

Alison turns.

ANDREW (cont'd)
You --

Andrew cries.

ALISON
Yes.

Andrew relaxes.

ANDREW'S MOM
We love you. Never forget that.

ANDREW
The money?

She holds Andrew at arm's length to get a good look at him.

ALISON
He doesn't know. But I'd like to know.

Andrew nods, then hugs her.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Andrew and Alison sit in their car outside the hospital.

The jar of money is in his lap.

ANDREW
Repeat it.

ALISON
I've got it.

ANDREW
You have to get it right. It means everything.

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

ANDREW
Please.

INT. HOSPITAL - FOYER - DAY

Alison stands in front of the registration desk, across from the registration nurse.

REGISTRATION NURSE
Now, I'm sorry but you will have to pour it all into a bag.

ALISON
But you'll tell him? Just like I said?

REGISTRATION NURSE
If you ask me that one more time I won't tell him anything at all.

ALISON
Fair enough.

ART'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The registration nurse sits at Art's desk in his room.

REGISTRATION NURSE
Your son didn't want you to know it was him.

Art looks stunned.

ART
But how did he know?

REGISTRATION NURSE

I don't know a thing about it. Just that he doesn't want you to know it was him. And this, "I'd give all the money in the world for you to come home."

Art lifts the bag and shakes his head.

ART

I wish he would come in.

REGISTRATION NURSE

Maybe he's scared. It's hard for a child to see their parent vulnerable.

ART

Well, how can I tell him?

REGISTRATION NURSE

Tell him what?

ART

I'm trying.

The nurse smiles gently at Art, then leaves the room.

Art looks at the money and then out the window and smiles.

EXT. ANDREW'S STREET - DAY

Andrew and Amy walk up their street with a bag full of swim gear. They are still wet from swimming.

Cyndi drives by, Art sits in the passenger seat.

Art winks at Andrew as they drive by.

Cyndi doesn't look at them.

AMY

Do you think she knows?

ANDREW

I don't think so. If she did, she would have tried to run us over.

Amy puts her arm around him.

AMY

I wouldn't let her.

They approach Susan's house.

Nearby, the neighborhood kids gather in a circle and gawk as Art gets out of the car.

Jason comes outside.

JASON
(to the neighborhood
kid)
What are you guys looking at?

The kids shuffle off.

Jason stomps back inside, without acknowledging Art.

Art and Cyndi go into their house and shut their front door.

Andrew stops in his tracks.

ANDREW
See you later.

AMY
Where are you going?

ANDREW
I just don't want to be home yet.

AMY
Want me to come with you?

Andrew shakes his head "no".

He turns and heads back down the street.

AMY (cont'd)
I love you, Andrew.

Andrew gives a half wave without turning back.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY

Andrew walks into the woods.

He brushes off the bike.

He brushes a rock off and sits and tosses a couple of stones into the creek.

ANDREW
Susan?

He tosses a couple more stones.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Come on. Are you messing with me? I
can't see you.

Susan doesn't appear, but her voice finally sounds.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Hi. I feel far away.

ANDREW
What can I do?

SUSAN (O.S.)
I don't think you can do anything.

ANDREW
Is it still dark?

SUSAN (O.S.)
No.

ANDREW
It's not?

SUSAN (O.S.)
There is light.

Andrew throws another stone and watches the ripples in the water.

ANDREW
Hey, you know, maybe that's good.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Maybe. I wish you could hold me.

ANDREW
I'm sorry I can't.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Don't be. Just stay with me.

Andrew lies down, rests his head on the bike. He wraps his hand around the top tube.

ANDREW
Can you feel that?

SUSAN (O.S.)
No.

ANDREW
Your dad is home.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Since when?

ANDREW
Right before I came down here.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Oh, my God. I think I felt that.

ANDREW
He looks okay.

SUSAN (O.S.)
I was just going to ask that.

ANDREW
I know.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Thanks for telling me, Andrew.

ANDREW
It's important.

SUSAN (O.S.)
Jason needs him.

ANDREW
Your dad needs Jason, too.

Andrew slowly turns around in the woods.

ANDREW (cont'd)
I still can't see you.

SUSAN (O.S.)
I'm dark inside.

ANDREW
Will you come back? Where I can see you?

SUSAN
I can't say.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

From his bedroom window Andrew watches the kids in the neighborhood play in the street.

Jason appears from the back of Susan's house and looks up at Andrew's window.

Andrew starts to kneel out of sight.

JASON
Don't hide.

Andrew puts his hands on the window sill.

JASON (cont'd)
You went to see my dad at the hospital?

ANDREW
Once.

JASON
Why?

ANDREW
I don't know.

JASON
Why don't you leave us alone?

ANDREW
I didn't mean to do anything. I --

JASON
-- He said it helped him. He's my dad. I'm supposed to help him.

ANDREW
Can I --

JASON
-- I'm not trying to hate you. But keep away from me.

Jason walks away.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - NIGHT

Andrew enters the woods and looks around.

ANDREW
Susan? Please show up.

Andrew sits by Susan's bike.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Jason talked to me.

SUSAN (O.S.)
What did he say?

Andrew turns, Susan stands close to him.

ANDREW
I can see you.

Susan smiles.

SUSAN
Please tell me what he said.

ANDREW
He knows I saw your dad. And he's
trying not to hate me.

Susan looks relieved.

SUSAN
That's it?

ANDREW
He told me to stay away from him.

Susan steps towards him.

SUSAN
He's trying. It can't be easy. But
like he said, stay away from him. He
needs more time.

ANDREW
I will.

SUSAN
I want to -- I have to ask you
something.

ANDREW
What?

SUSAN
You are going to think it's a stupid
idea.

Andrew sits up.

ANDREW
All I have is stupid ideas.

Susan shakes her head.

SUSAN
Stop that -- you aren't stupid. You
are smarter than any of us kids on
the block. You always were.

ANDREW
Thanks, I guess.

SUSAN
And you are kind. What you did for my
dad -- nobody else I know would have
done that.

ANDREW
Nobody else would have gotten you
killed.

SUSAN
You have to let it go.

ANDREW
I'm trying.

SUSAN
My dad got better. You can, too.

ANDREW
I already said I'm trying.

SUSAN
I think you have to let me go, too.

Andrew stands and steps away from Susan.

ANDREW
What do you mean?

SUSAN
I think it's close.

ANDREW
What is close?

SUSAN
Time for me to go.

ANDREW
I don't want you to go.

SUSAN

It's not up to you. But you can make it easier.

ANDREW

How?

Susan takes a step towards Andrew.

SUSAN

If I'm right, you'll see me again. I won't promise. I can't promise, but you have to listen.

ANDREW

I won't. I'll leave.

SUSAN

I know you love me. So listen.

Upset, Andrew smashes a branch.

They then look up at the sky and trees.

ANDREW

Fuck bangs.

SUSAN

Ready?

ANDREW

No.

SUSAN

Yes, you are. Me too. I just didn't know it until now.

Andrew tears up. He scans the woods. He runs his fingers over the bike. He grips the metal.

ANDREW

I won't let you go --

Andrew steps backwards away from the bike.

SUSAN

-- Andrew? Where are you going?

Andrew runs out of the woods.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew lies on his bed, head resting on Susan's backpack and rolls the wooden walkie talkie around in his hands.

He sits up, puts the walkie talkie into Susan's backpack, zips it up, and stuffs it under his bed.

He leans against his bedroom wall and stares at the backpack underneath the bed.

His mouth moves as he talks to himself.

He abruptly stands, pulls the backpack from underneath the bed and walks out the door.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - LATER

Andrew walks into the woods and sits next to Susan's bike. He looks for Susan but does not see her.

ANDREW
Susan, I'm sca --

SUSAN (O.S.)
-- I thought we were friends,
asshole. You left me. You told me you
would never leave me.

Andrew swivels around to look behind him.

Susan stands rigidly with her arms crossed. She stares at Andrew sternly.

ANDREW
I know. But I can't do it.

Susan uncrosses her arms and studies her hands.

She walks to Andrew, and kneels in front of him.

SUSAN
I'm fading. Please. Can't we just
try?

ANDREW
What if you're right? What if it
works? You'd just be gone and --

SUSAN
-- Wait.

ANDREW
I'm scared I'll lose you.

SUSAN
You won't ever lose me.

ANDREW
How can you be sure?

SUSAN
I -- I won't be here much longer. The
light is fading around me -- in me. I
need you to be there. I feel like
there's only one light left that
matters. --

They stare at each other.

ANDREW
-- Only one -- I need you to be here.

SUSAN
I will be.

Andrew walks back to the bike and grips the handlebars. His
eyes plead with her to not ask him to do this one thing.

ANDREW
Does it have to be tonight?

SUSAN
I think so. It might be our last
chance to be together, like this.

Andrew closes his eyes.

ANDREW
I don't want you to go all the way
away.

Andrew opens his eyes.

Susan has disappeared. Andrew looks around for her.

SUSAN (O.S.)
I know. But will you take me? Please.

ANDREW
If that's really what you want.

SUSAN (O.S.)
It's not what I want. It's already
happening. I just want you with me
when it happens.

Andrew pulls the bike free and pushes it towards the road.

SUSAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Bring a flashlight.

Andrew pedals up Bull Run.

INT. ANDREW'S GARAGE - LATER

Andrew opens up a cabinet and grabs a flashlight.

The overhead light turns on.

Andrew turns, Tony stands on at the end of the garage.

TONY
Why do you need that?

Andrew shrugs.

Tony looks at his watch.

TONY (cont'd)
It's later than you are old. You have
to come inside, Andrew.

ANDREW
I can't. Please, Dad. Please don't
stop me.

TONY
Stop you from what?

Andrew shifts his weight and raises his hands helplessly.

ANDREW
You won't understand.

His father's eyes plead with him.

TONY
You can try me.

ANDREW
I can't go inside.

Tony reaches for the garage door button, presses it, and the garage door begins to lower.

TONY
You have to.

Andrew hesitates, and then bolts, barely making it out of the garage before the door lowers.

TONY (cont'd)
Andrew! Get back here!

Andrew leaps on Susan's bike and pedals away, looking back as the garage door rises.

His dad steps out of the garage and raises his hands helplessly.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Andrew pedals the bike down a country road with Susan on the seat.

A car drives by and teens yell out the window at him.

Andrew veers off the road and Susan flips them off.

ANDREW
(yelling at car)
Suck it asshole!

The car skids to a stop.

It backs up several feet.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Fuck.

The engine REVS.

The driver tosses trash out the window, then peels out.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Ass bags.

Susan laughs.

SUSAN
Hey, Andrew?

ANDREW
Yah.

SUSAN
You have exceeded my expectations
with your rapid mastery of cussing.

ANDREW
You're fucking right.

Andrew pedals back into the road. Susan looks serious.

SUSAN
Ride as fast as you can.

ANDREW
Is it happening?

SUSAN
Yes. I want to feel the wind one last
time.

Andrew rides as hard as he can, their hair ruffling in the
breeze.

LATER

Andrew slows and he and Susan peer down the dark road.

SUSAN
You have a flashlight?

ANDREW
Yah.

Andrew rides around the corner.

SUSAN
You can see the hill, right?

ANDREW
It's just ahead now.

SUSAN
You have to stop on the left side of
the double yellow.

Andrew stops just to the left side of the double yellow
line. Susan nods her approval.

SUSAN (cont'd)
Are you ready?

ANDREW
No.

SUSAN
You have to do it.

Andrew takes the flashlight out of Susan's backpack.

ANDREW
What if he doesn't come?

SUSAN
He will. It's time.

ANDREW
Are we supposed to hear his
motorcycle? Or the car that hit him?

SUSAN
I don't know.

Andrew and Susan study each other, sad and terrified.

ANDREW
I don't want you to be right.

SUSAN
Flash the light -- twice.

ANDREW
-- Twice?

SUSAN
Just twice. I heard Jason say that's
how you signal the light. Then we
wait. His light is supposed to come
over the hill towards us and then
stop where he crashed.

ANDREW
And died?

SUSAN
Yah.

ANDREW
And for some reason you think he'll
take you to heaven?

SUSAN
We'll find out.

ANDREW
Shit.

SUSAN
Flash it.

Andrew turns the flashlight on then off, on, then off.

They stand side by side.

ANDREW
It's done.

SUSAN
Start pedaling when the light
appears.

ANDREW
Towards it?

SUSAN
Yah, dork.

ANDREW
You promised to never call me that.

SUSAN
I had to, just in case this works.

ANDREW
Whatever.

SUSAN
He's coming.

ANDREW
How do-

A dim light appears at the top of the hill and moves towards them.

Andrew and Susan get on the bike.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Oh, holy shit snacks.

SUSAN
You have to ride, Andrew.

ANDREW
I'm scared.

SUSAN
The light is coming for me. Go.

Andrew starts to pedal towards the oncoming light.

ANDREW

Shit.

SUSAN

It's so bright, Andrew.

ANDREW

Are you leaving?

SUSAN

Yes. Ride straight into it.

Andrew rides straight toward the light.

ANDREW

It's going to hit us!

SUSAN

It's only light.

He is close to running into the light.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Andrew, I love you!

ANDREW

I --

Andrew and the light collide -- he crashes and rolls off the bike into the field next to the road.

Susan is gone.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Holy shit.

Andrew stands and goes to the bike. He rests his head on it.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Susan?

Andrew walks into the road.

He returns to the bike.

He flashes his light twice and waits.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Andrew rides over the hill, looking for the light.

ANDREW
Ollie ollie in come free.

He looks back towards town in the distance.

ANDREW (cont'd)
I love you too, Susan.

Andrew coasts back down the hill.

EXT. ANDREW'S STREET - LATER

Andrew rides the bike up his street.

He starts up his driveway.

Jason comes out from between their houses.

Andrew stops.

JASON
Give me her bike.

Jason walks towards him.

Andrew backs up.

ANDREW
It's mine.

Jason charges Andrew and knocks him from the bike.

He gets up and swings at Jason but misses.

Jason hits Andrew in the face and he falls next to the bike.

He stands and shoves Jason to the ground.

ANDREW (cont'd)
Leave it alone!

Andrew grabs the bike. He pedals down the driveway.

Jason chases him.

Andrew turns onto Bull Run.

JASON
You're dead when I catch you.

Andrew skids to a stop and turns his head toward Jason.

Jason stops.

ANDREW
You blame me. You want me dead. Maybe
everyone wants me to be dead.
Maybe --

Andrew and Jason stare at each other. Jason edges forward.

ANDREW (cont'd)
-- Maybe I have to die.

Jason keeps coming.

EXT. BULL RUN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andrew flips him off and stomps on the pedals and races down the hill.

JASON
Andrew, wait!

Andrew smashes into the curb.

ANDREW
Shit!

Andrew sails into the woods and smashes into the branches.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Andrew is entangled in the branches, a jumble of arms and legs.

Jason rushes into the woods. He stands over Andrew and starts to cry, and then kneels.

JASON
Jesus, Andrew.

Andrew scans his twisted body in the branches.

JASON (cont'd)
I want to say you deserve this
because Susan didn't.

Andrew tries to stand.

Jason moves a branch off Andrew's leg.

JASON (cont'd)

Easy.

Andrew nods.

JASON (cont'd)

But you don't deserve it. None of us
did.

He reaches under Andrew.

JASON (cont'd)

I'll help you stand.

Jason helps Andrew up and works him out of the trees.

Andrew is cut up and bleeding.

Jason reaches for Susan's bike.

ANDREW

Leave it. It belongs here now.

JASON

Are you sure? I won't take it from
you.

ANDREW

I'm sure.

Jason leaves it in the tangled mess of dense trees.

EXT. BULL RUN STREET- LATER

Jason helps Andrew limp up the hill.

JASON

You got lucky back there.

ANDREW

Lucky as fuck.

JASON

Whoa. Where'd you learn to cuss?

ANDREW

Where the shit do you think?

JASON

Susan?

ANDREW

No shit.

Andrew and Jason laugh.

JASON

I still hate you.

ANDREW

And you're still a bag of small
dicks.

EXT. ANDREW'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

They stop at the end of Andrew's driveway and laugh lightly.

JASON

I didn't want you to die.

Andrew nods.

JASON (cont'd)

I don't think anyone would miss me if
it had been me, not Susan.

Andrew reaches his hand out to Jason. Jason takes it in his.

ANDREW

I would.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Jason helps Andrew to the front door and knocks.

Alison opens the door.

ALISON

Jason, what did you --

She steps towards them.

ANDREW

-- Mom, no. I crashed a bike.

Tony appears at the door.

TONY

Holy shit.

Andrew and Jason laugh as Tony and Alison open the door for them.

Jason helps Andrew into his mom's arms.

Andrew turns.

ANDREW
I'm sorry, Jason.

Jason nods.

JASON
See ya around.

Andrew's mom helps Andrew inside.

Andrew's dad nods at Jason.

Jason nods back, turns and walks away.

Tony shuts the door.

EXT. BULL RUN WOODS - DAY (THE PRESENT)

Old Andrew, Bachem and Nicholas continue into the woods.

NICHOLAS
Grampa, what are we looking for?

Andrew yanks at some overgrowth.

OLD ANDREW
Son of a bitch.

SACHEM
Jesus, Dad. The cussing.

OLD ANDREW
Help me with this.

Sachem helps Old Andrew pull away the dense growth, exposing dull metal.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
It's still here.

Nicholas peers into the growth.

NICHOLAS
What?

SACHEM
Looks like a bike.

Sachem wrestles Susan's bike from the growth.

SACHEM (cont'd)

Sort of.

OLD ANDREW

It's not just a bike.

Nicholas gawks at it.

NICHOLAS

Grampa, you can keep that bike. Dada,
tell Grampa he can keep this one.

Andrew brushes off a layer of dirt and pulls a vine from the wheel.

OLD ANDREW

Susan?

Nicholas and Sachem stare at Old Andrew as he looks around.

Tears well up in Old Andrew's eyes.

NICHOLAS

Grampa?

Sachem puts his arms around Nicholas's shoulder.

Andrew gets back to cleaning the bike.

NICHOLAS (cont'd)

Why did you call that bike Susan?

Andrew stops cleaning.

OLD ANDREW

Come here.

Nicholas goes to Grampa.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)

This bike used to belong to a dear
friend. Her name was Susan. I've
abandoned her bike for too long.

Nicholas touches the bike and inspects it.

Andrew smiles.

Sachem slowly sinks to the ground and sits. His face looks drained with the harshness of realization. Sachem stares at Andrew.

SACHEM

Before she died mom told me the story
wasn't true.

Andrew lowers the bike slowly to the ground.

Andrew studies Sachem, then scans the woods until his gaze
lands on Susan's bike.

OLD ANDREW

It was an accident.

Sachem slowly nods, then he looks around the woods.

SACHEM

The girl died here?

Andrew kneels in front of Sachem.

OLD ANDREW

Yes. Susan.

Andrew wipes a tear away.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)

I've spent my entire life wishing it
didn't happen. Pretending it didn't
doesn't make it go away.

Sachem slowly stands, then walks toward the road. He stops.

SACHEM

Nicholas, come out of here.

Nicholas glances at Andrew, then at Sachem.

Andrew smiles at Nicholas.

OLD ANDREW

It's okay. Do what your dad says.

SACHEM

He does what I say.

Nicholas scrambles after Sachem and they walk out of the
woods.

Andrew walks to Susan's bike and kneels beside it. His
fingers grip the handlebars. He scans the woods.

OLD ANDREW

Susan?

Andrew waits. Nothing. He smiles sadly.

INT. BIKE SHOP - LATER

Andrew, Nicholas and Sachem enter the bike shop.

A young KID MECHANIC approaches them.

The kid mechanic eyes the bike.

KID MECHANIC
Five bucks to tear down and dispose
of junk bikes.

Andrew rolls the bike towards the mechanic.

OLD ANDREW
Dispose of? Nope. I want it fixed
enough to work.

KID MECHANIC
Sir, this thing is going to take some
work.

The kid mechanic looks at Nicholas.

KID MECHANIC (cont'd)
You might want to consider buying
your grandson a new one.

OLD ANDREW
I appreciate that, but I need this
one ready to ride.

The mechanic looks at Sachem.

Sachem shrugs.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
Can you do that? I got a light to
catch.

KID MECHANIC
What's that, sir?

OLD ANDREW
Nothing. Just, I only want this one.

The kid mechanic shrugs and reaches out for the bike.

Andrew kneels down to Nicholas and gently hugs him.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
 (whispering)
 I have one last ride -- then it's all
 yours.

Nicholas squeezes Old Andrew tightly.

EXT. BIKE SHOP - LATER

Andrew, Nicholas and Sachem stand outside the bike shop.

Andrew kneels down beside Nicholas.

OLD ANDREW
 How about some ice cream?

Nicholas looks up at Sachem.

Sachem nods.

NICHOLAS
 Can I have a waffle cone and two
 scoops?

OLD ANDREW
 I'll have what my grandson is having.

Nicholas beams with pride.

EXT. TOWN PARK - DAY

Andrew, Nicholas, and Sachem sit underneath the water tower
 on a bench. They eat their ice cream.

Andrew looks around at the PEOPLE enjoying the park.

OLD ANDREW
 I'm amazed people still spend time in
 this old park.

Sachem glances at Old Andrew, then he looks away quickly.

Andrew catches the motion.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
 Everything -- everyone, seems to have
 moved on.

SACHEM
 No. You just haven't paid attention.

Andrew freezes with this reality. He hunches over slightly. His eyes close. His shoulders heave. He catches his breath.

OLD ANDREW
It's true, son. All that time is gone.

Andrew looks up at Sachem.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
Even if I wanted it all back. The time. And you.

SACHEM
You can't. Don't get me wrong, Dad, I'm grateful now --

Sachem studies Nicholas enjoying his ice cream.

SACHEM (cont'd)
-- but angry -- and jealous.

Andrew's eyes well with sorrow.

OLD ANDREW
Jealous.

Andrew reaches out for Sachem.

Sachem ignores the gesture and wipes ice cream off Nicholas's chin.

Andrew cups his hands and blows gently. A broken-hearted smile breaks across his face.

NICHOLAS
What's that for, Grampa?

Andrew smiles at Nicholas, then shifts his focus to Sachem.

OLD ANDREW
A long time ago, a friend of mine told me she felt like a breath of air you felt when a door closes. It's taken nearly my entire life to understand.

Nicholas and Sachem study Andrew as he stares at his empty hands.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
(to Sachem)
I've been the closing door since I
was a boy. Your mom knew it, right up
to the day she passed away. I've
lived one foot in this life, and one
foot in another.

Sachem shakes his head slowly. He doesn't get Andrew's
point.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
But I've loved you with a whole
heart. And by God I know its not
enough.

Nicholas glances at Sachem.

NICHOLAS
What's grampa talking about?

Sachem looks at Nicholas earnestly.

SACHEM
Your grampa is apologizing.

NICHOLAS
To who?

OLD ANDREW
To your dad.

Nicholas stares at Sachem.

NICHOLAS
You have to say okay, right?

Andrew, Sachem and Nicholas sit in silence.

OLD ANDREW
Your dad doesn't have to say okay on
this one.

Nicholas stares at Sachem, imploring him to accept the
apology.

Sachem takes a deep breath and kisses Nicholas's forehead.

SACHEM
Okay. It's okay, dad. I accept. Let
it go.

Andrew's shoulders slump and he looks down at his feet. A couple tears drop to the ground between his feet.

Nicholas worms his way onto Old Andrew's lap.

Sachem rests his hand on Nicholas's head. Andrew's hand raises and stacks on top of Bachem's hand.

LATER

Andrew, Bachem and Nicholas walk towards the edge of the park.

A row of CONSTRUCTION vehicles are parked next to the park.

Work is about to start on something.

Andrew stops and scans all the vehicles.

OLD ANDREW
What's all this? Another Starbucks?

BACHEM
The water tower is coming down.

Andrew drops his ice cream.

NICHOLAS
Grampa!

OLD ANDREW
When?

Bachem picks Old Andrew's ice cream up.

BACHEM
Next week. The city says it costs too much to maintain.

OLD ANDREW
Bullshit bags.

Andrew stares up at the water tower.

BACHEM
Did you ever climb it?

Andrew slowly shakes his head.

OLD ANDREW
I always figured I'd have more time.

BACHEM

More time? Come on, Dad. You do have plenty of time.

OLD ANDREW

I wonder how bright it is up there?

Andrew, Nicholas, and Bachem stare up at the water tower.

BACHEM

Bright?

OLD ANDREW

Nothing. Pulling it down's a mistake. But, shit, everything ends.

Andrew wraps his arm around Nicholas.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)

Promise me, every once in a while you'll climb things your aren't supposed to.

Bachem flashes a brief fake glare at Old Andrew.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)

Most of my life I've been too damn chicken shit watch people live their lives.

Andrew and Bachem look at Nicholas.

Nicholas's eyebrows raise.

NICHOLAS

Chicken shit?

Bachem sighs but smiles.

OLD ANDREW

Chicken shit. Scared. Don't live scared. Can you promise me that?

Nicholas stands straight and tall.

NICHOLAS

I promise.

Andrew reaches out for Nicholas's hand. Nicholas takes it with his and they shake hands very seriously.

Andrew and Bachem smile at each other.

INT. NURSING HOME - OLD ANDREW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Old Andrew is in his room.

Susan's bike has been cleaned and appears back in order.

Andrew tears a check made out to his elementary school off a checkbook, and puts it in an envelope along with a METAL DETECTOR SALE AD.

He seals the envelope and sets it on his bed.

Andrew opens his closet, and pulls out Susan's backpack.

A metal detector leans against the wall.

Andrew picks up a knife from his dinner tray.

He puts the backpack on and peers into an empty hallway.

HALLWAY

Andrew rides Susan's bike down the hallway.

He stops at a MAINTENANCE door.

He gets off the bike, and peers around a corner.

An old man, LEWIS, is asleep in a wheelchair.

Andrew returns to the maintenance door, and pries the lock open with the knife.

He looks around the maintenance room, grabs a can of white spray paint, and drops it in Susan's backpack.

He exits and shuts the door, returns to Susan's bike, walks it to the corner, and looks down the hallway.

He gets on the bike, wobbles, and laughs.

Lewis opens his eyes, astonished at the sight of Old Andrew riding a bike down the hallway.

OLD ANDREW
For fuck's sake Lweis, change your
diaper.

Lewis watches as Old Andrew rides down the hallway.

EXT. NURSING HOME - CONTINUOUS

Andrew rides away from the building, and flips it off.

EXT. TOWN PARK - NIGHT

Andrew looks at the empty streets.

He leans the bike against a bench, approaches the water tower, and looks up at the top.

OLD ANDREW
Just climb it, you old fucking dork.

Andrew starts to climb.

EXT. WATER TOWER WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

He reaches the walkway around the tank and catches his breath, steadying himself.

OLD ANDREW
Holy shit --

Andrew looks around the town.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
-- it's beautiful

He opens Susan's backpack and takes out the paint. He shakes the can and starts spraying.

When he's finished, he sits.

SUSAN (O.S.)
You finally made it up here, dork.

Andrew grins. He looks to his side.

Susan, who looks the same as she did 60 years ago, sits beside him.

OLD ANDREW
I've waited a long time to hear you
say that again.

They laugh. Their feet dangle over the edge.

They look over their town.

OLD ANDREW (cont'd)
The hardest thing I ever did was let
you go.

Susan nods.

SUSAN
So, how's getting old?

OLD ANDREW
Getting old sucks shit.

Susan laughs.

SUSAN
It's getting bright, isn't it?

OLD ANDREW
Coming on like the most beautiful
dawn you could ever imagine.

Susan reaches out and takes Andrew's hand.

SUSAN
I'm here for you. Just like always.

Andrew nods.

EXT. TOWN PARK - LATER

Andrew is on the bike, his feet on the ground.

Susan sits on the seat behind him.

They look up at the water tower, which now says "ANDREW AND
SUSAN WERE HERE".

They smile.

SUSAN
About time my name was up there.

OLD ANDREW
Sorry it took so long.

SUSAN
Looks perfect.

Andrew nods.

OLD ANDREW
Let's get out of here.

EXT. COUNTY ROAD - NIGHT

Andrew is on the bike, his feet on the ground, standing just left of the double yellow line. Susan sits behind him.

He holds the flashlight.

SUSAN

Ready?

Andrew flashes the light on and off, on and off.

OLD ANDREW

Fuckin' A, I am.

SUSAN

Here it comes.

The light appears over the hill.

OLD ANDREW

I'm a lot slower than I used to be,
but here goes.

Andrew pedals as hard as he can.

Susan has her arms wrapped around Old Andrew's waist.

SUSAN

Faster!

ANDREW

Ollie ollie in come free!

Andrew and the light collide in a flash of bright light.

Susan's bike rolls on its own into a field by the side of the road and comes to a stop, the back wheel rotating.

The field rustles in a gentle wind.

Over the hill, a solitary light makes its way down the road and then blinks out.

FADE OUT.