

# INFERIOR

Written by

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*Aaleyah is in the car with her parents. Her father Neal drives down Hammersmith Bridge when suddenly the tire pops. Neal parks the car dangerously at the side of the bridge as he gets out checking the tire he asked Aaleyah to help him carry the spare tire out of the boot, but she was too stubborn to do so. Rapidly another car swerves past Neal hazardously hitting their car which also turns sharply to the edge of the bridge. Neal tries to get his wife and daughter out but the car drops deep into the river. Killing both parents. Aaleyah manages to get loose as she watches both of her parents drown as they slowly disappear into the darkness.*

*FADE TO:*

*INT. outside Aaleyah's bedroom- Morning- she is having a nightmare and is moving around in her bed and mumbling to herself and she wrestles with the duvets, its 08:00am, she is late- her Aunty is yelling as she bangs the door.*

**LOUISE**

Aaleyah, wake up, it is 8:00am you're going to be late for school.  
And you don't want to be late on your first week back!

**AALEYAH**

*A drowsy voice appears from behind the door*

Louise, I will be down in a bit.

**LOUISE**

No I want you up and ready now!

**AALEYAH**

*Opens the door- the T- shirt she is wearing is on the wrong way*

Louise, just give me 5 minutes, I will be quick and I won't be late for school.

**LOUISE**

*As she makes her exit*

Well if you end up late don't call me to vouch for you I haven't got the time to earn money and lie for you as well.

**AALEYAH**

*Mimics her Aunt as she closes the door*

Yeah, yeah whatever like you ever cared?

**DINING AREA**

*Louise is sitting at the dining table with a bank statement in her hand and other open letters on the table -Aaleyah enters angrily and sits herself down opposite her Louise-trying to get attention.*

**AALEYAH**

Louise, can I talk to you? It's very important.

**LOUISE**

No not right now, can't you see I'm busy?

**AALEYAH**

But Louise, I have been having those nightmares again. I can't forget...

**LOUISE**

*Slaps letter on the table*

Aaleyah! I told you never to mention what happened. It was a...

**AALEYAH**

But Louise I'm still having the nightmares and they are getting worst!

**LOUSIE cont'd**

It was a long time ago!

Louise then walks to the sink, she is stressed and anxious, Aaleyah sits at the dining table in silence.

**LOUSIE**

*With her head held down and her hands gripping either side of the sink she yells*

And what are you still doing here, leave before you're late. I shouldn't have to be telling you this; you're old enough to not be told what to do!

*Aaleyah leaves the dining room in the awkward silence*

**FADE TO:**

*INT. Inside History Class- The class has already started-Aaleyah justwalks in- she is 50 minutes late-Mr Barnett is annoyed and has stopped teaching, the whole class also stops what they are doing and stare at Aaleyah; making her feel shy and awkward.*

**MR BARNETT**

Aaleyah! You finally thought of coming to school, is there a reason to why you are so late?

**AALEYAH**

*She replies aggressively*

I woke up late.

*Olivia and Sandra start to snigger and laugh at the back of the classroom, noticing that her skirt are the wrong way round.*

**MR BARNETT**

Not acceptable, especially on your first week back. I expected more from you. Are we going to have a repeat of last year?

**AALEYAH**

No sir...

There is a long awkward silence. MrBarnettwatchesAaleyah, nodding his head. Sandra&Oliviacontinue sniggering and whispering quietly at the back. Aaleyah notices them and they give her a sneer look.

**AALEYAHCont'd**

Can I sit down now?

*Mr Barnett motions to a table in the back with his left hand where her friend Brianna is seated. Mr Barnett then continues with only 5 minutes to spare of the rest of the lesson.*

**MR BARNETT**

Before I dismiss you, I want you all to take out your homework dairies. Over the holidays I emailed you all your History assignments of which you will be starting today and should be

finishing your first draft by the end of this term, I am expecting a sample of work in Friday's lesson so I know your progression.

***The school bell rings- Mr Barnett sent the class out row by row- leaving Aaleyah's row to last.***

**MR BARNETT**

Aaleyah! I need you to stay behind for a minute.

***Aaleyah remains seated on the table on her own. Mr Barnett pulls out a seat and sits beside Aaleyah.***

**MR BARNETT Cont'd**

Aaleyah, we spoke about this, didn't we? And you told me you promised, promised that you wouldn't be late again. What happened?

**AALEYAH**

I just woke up late; it won't happen again.

**MR BARNETT**

Is everything at home alright?

**AALEYAH**

Things are getting better.

**MR BARNETT**

Alright, new term new start! I want to see you here bright and early tomorrow and every day after that.

**AALEYAH**

Yes sir.

Aaleyah gets up- as soon as she was about to leave through the door, Mr Barnett calls her

**MR BARNETT**

Aaleyah, how have you been coping since the incident?

**AALEYAH:**

***With her head held down and gripping to the handle of the door, nervously- to turns around slowly and faces the teacher.***

It hasn't been so good, but I'm coping, my therapist has been helpful.

*Aaleyah gives a fake smile and leaves the classroom as quickly as she could.*

**CUT TO:**

**LATER**

**BRI**

**Over exaggerating**

Spain was a-ma-zing! Running on the warm sand in slow motion, like I was in a movie too bad you couldn't be there.

**AALEYAH**

**(Trembling Lips)**

Me too, I was being a slave to my Aunt, as always. She has become stricter ever since the accident. Now there isn't really anyone to talk to.

**BRI**

Soz, but your Aunty is useless she doesn't understand you. Anyways, we will be outta ere in 3 years so no worries.

**AALEYAH**

**(Lopsided Smile)**

I guess so, with everything that has been going on, I just need to escape you know.

**BRI**

Yass, Miami!

*Aaleyah and Briana burst out into laughter- Enters Olivia and Sandra- Olivia takes lead and directs her companion to stand in front of Aaleyah; while she sits in-between the two girls- pushing Aaleyah out of the way.*

**OLIVIA**

Hey Bri!

*Shoving Aaleyah further away, almost leaving her on the edge of her seat while Sandra remains standing, sneering at her. Briana slightly moves away, giving a closed smile.*

**OLIVIA Cont'd**

Anyways, do you want to come shopping this weekend? We connected a lot during the summer. So I thought, why not.

Olivia, Pursue to give an unnoticeable fake smile.

**BRI**

***Confused and annoyed***

We connected?

**OLIVIA**

Call it whatever you want. Do you want to come or not?

**BRI**

***Screwing Olivia***

Not really.

**OLIVIA**

Well if you change your mind call me.

***Before leaving- Olivia leans a little bit closer to Briana and gives a cheeky wink, she then smiles and makes her way away from Briana- directing her friend to come with her. Just about when the girls thought Olivia was gone for good, she walks back, leaving Sandra behind.***

**OLIVIA**

***Abbreviated***

BtwAaleyah you can come too, just make sure you wash.

**OLIVIA**

She smells like she hasn't had a bath in a while, like she didn't have 3 months to have one.

***Giggles Childishly***

**BRI**

But wait? What did she ever do to you?

**OLIVIA**

I only said that she stank, like fo'real using deodorant wouldn't hurt.

**BRI**

What the hell? She doesn't stink, maybe it's you.

*By this time, Aaleyah has already left; Briana gets up and follows her. From behind, Olivia yells at them.*

**OLIVIA**

Dunno why you hanging around with that clapped girl anyway!

*Behind the door, Aaleyah sits with her arms wrapped around her legs and her head held down upset. Brianna walks in, at first she didn't notice Aaleyah until she heard the crying, she follows the sound until she sees her behind the door. She kneels down beside her.*

**BRI**

Aaleyah? Aaleyah! Why you crying? Olivia is a stupid girl looking for attention, don't cry because of her.

*Aaleyah lifts her heads up and her eyes are dark red, a puddle of tears trailing down her face into her lap.*

**AALEYAH**

Why does she do this to me? She only bullies me, just me.

**BRI**

It's because you're weaker than her, she knows that you're not going to stand up for yourself but you have to be strong. Not only for you but for me, when you're upset I'm upset.

**AALEYAH**

Today is just isn't the right day for me.

*Aaleyah stands up, slightly pushing Briana away while she walks to the door alone. When she gets to the door Briana is behind her- she is also standing up. Aaleyah turns around wiping the tears from her face by the sleeve of her uniform.*

**AALEYAH**

I just need to be alone; I hope you can understand that.

**DISSOLVE TO**

*EXT- Cemetery- Evening- Aaleyah is standing in front of two freshly dug grave compared to the others around; as tears roll down her face she smiles in relief. Aaleyah kneels next to grave placing flowers on the side of it.*

**AALEYAH**

I miss you, one day I woke up forgetting how you looked like. My own parents. The car was going back so fast, then it just disappeared into the dark, there was nothing I could do! It's my entire fault, just want you both back, I miss you too much- Jordan misses you to. Living with Aunt Louise is a nightmare! . I started back at sixth form today it wasn't the best first day back. It started again, the bullying, the teasing, but I tried, I tried my best.

***Aaleyah tears start pouring from her dark red eyes; her lips begin to tremble while her tone of voice also tremors as she tries to hold the tears back.***

**AALEYAH/ Cont'd**

I love you; no one can ever replace you. But I have to go now; I wish you were still here, to comfort me, so we could be one big happy family again! I love you mum, I love you dad. See you soon.

***Aaleyah stands; bursting into tears as she blows a kiss at the gravestones. She takes a card out of her bag and places between the graves. She exits the cemetery while it slowly fades out.***

**CUT TO**

***INT. Living room Late Evening. Louise is pacing up and down the kitchen mumbling to herself and constantly checking her watch as well staring at the clock, confirming that she is right. She walks into the kitchen; phone in hand as she calls Aaleyah but there is no answer. She takes a bottle of Whiskey and a glass out of the cabinet but before she could pour the drink, the door unlocks. She takes a seat until Aaleyah appears from the darkness.***

**LOUISE**

Shouting from the top of her voice

Where the hell have you been? I have been worried sick, pacing up and down like a bloody crazy woman! I told you to come home straight from college, I specifically told you. I have work I don't have time to babysit you!

**AALEYAH**

Went to see mum and dad, I know I should have called but ...

***LOUISE/ Sits down she looks upset as the memory of losing her sister comes to mind***

You should've called! You had me worried sick! Now I'm late for work.

**AALEYAH**

I didn't know you would be mad. My mum was your sister and you act like you don't care. She's dead!

**LOUISE/ as she walks closer to Aaleyah**

How dare you.

**AALEYAH**

I'm...

*Before she could even finish the sentence Louise grips on to the glass next to her and throws it as she yells:*

**LOUISE**

Get out! I said get out!

Aaleyah shocked and scared as she storms off.

**Exit**

**CUT TO**

**AALEYAH'S BEDROOM- LATER-** *On her bed with history books surrounding her, she logs into Facebook and types:*

**AALEYAH**

Had the worst day ever!!

*As she posts her status, she receives replies instantly, but she ignores it while she packs away her History books.*

**ON FACEBOOK:**

OLIVIA

Shut up, who care bout your business please?

Sandra:

This girl aint serious? She better not come into school tomorrow she's pissing me off.

OLIVIA

Lol truss Sandra

Aaleyah

Go away! Just leave me alone!

**OFF FACEBOOK**

*Aaleyah stands back as more comments begins to flow onto her status, this starts to overwhelm her making her tear up. She runs to the bathroom, she looks into the mirror and beings to cry. Memories of her self-harm rushes through her mind as she traces the old scars on her wrist with the tip of the scissors. She is about to self-harm but refrains from it instead she sinks into a foetal position just under the sink. As she cries, Louise walks in.*

**LOUISE**

Didn't you hear me calling you for dinner? And what are you doing in here?

*Aaleyah remains with her head in-between her legs bursting into tears; as Louise sits beside Aaleyah on the floor.*

**LOUISE**

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been so hard on you. I'm so sorry.

**AALEYAH**

But it isn't just you is it? Its school, it's the nightmare it's everything! I get bullied every day for being this freak - a curse. Every time I get close to something, it screws up.

**LOUISE**

How comes you've never spoken about this?

**AALEYAH**

Because you're too busy and you can't deal with "teenage drama as well as your own"

**LOUISE**

I didn't mean that.

**AALEYAH**

But it doesn't matter it's all true! I am a freak, a curse. What happened to mum and dad was my entire fault.

**LOUISE**

You're none of those things. It wasn't your fault what happened that day. It was an accident. An accident that no one, not even you could have prevented. Don't take the blame.

**AALEYAH**

But it's true, every time I get close to someone something bad happens. Dad told me to come out and help him but I was too stubborn to help. He came out into the road.

*Bursting into tears as she cries*

**AALEYAH**

The car noticed him but it was too late. Your simple life has been complicated by me you don't need me here.

**LOUISE**

You haven't complicated anything. I love having you around.

**AALEYAH**

Well the people at my school think otherwise and so do you.

**LOUISE**

I didn't mean what I said earlier.

**Pause.**

Do you want me to come in?

**AALEYAH**

And do what Louise? Smack them on the hand and say bad girl don't do that again? You'll only make things worse. You don't care, you never did. Just get out and leave me alone.

*Louise gets up from the floor and makes her way to the door picking up her bag that she dropped. She turns around and her face is full of guilt and sadness.*

**LOUISE**

I have to go work now, but your dinner is ready in the oven if you want it.

*Aaleyah is alone with her thoughts, she starts crying again on the floor, she hears voices and rocks as the voices continue, and she reaches from under her pillow and picks up the anti-depressant pills. She holds it in her hand and she stares at them when she opens the lid, the voices stop.*

**FADE INTO:**

*INT- Library- Aaleyah is on the computer putting on the finishing touches for her presentation- Briana enters who sits next to her. Its silent for a while but Briana decides to confront Aaleyah about yesterday. Even when they spoke there was awkwardness.*

**BRI**

Hey.

**AALEYAH**

Hi.

**BRI**

Sorry, 'bout yesterday.

**AALEYAH**

It'smy fault; I shouldn't have taken out my anger on you.

**BRI/relieved**

Yass, anyways what work you doing?

**AALEYAH**

Mr Barnett's work, remember?

**BRI**

That is long for me, I don't need to do work; if it aint paying I aint doing it.

**AALEYAH**

That can't be your motto forever; you have to do work at some point

**BRI**

Lol meh! You got jokes.

*The bell rings for first lesson, Briana and Aaleyah leave the library at a snail's pace making them arrive a little late for class. Walking towards the classroom down the hallway, the girls are laughing away like no tomorrow. They enter the classroom and see no teacher; everyone is talking to one another. They both make their way in front of their seats in front of Olivia who kicks Aaleyah's seat as soon as she was about to sit. Briana helps her up as they sit at the back of the class.*

**OLIVIA/ giggling childishly**

Don't sit next to me, you could have a disease.

**SANDRA**

Dis girl stinks; we should give her a wash.

**OLIVIA**

Good idea.

*Olivia takes out a big bottle of water from her bag; she turns around and pours it all over Aaleyah. Olivia and Sandra laugh ridiculously as Aaleyah gets up from her seat and screams:*

**AALEYAH**

Shut up! Just stop it! Every day I come to school and you girls bully me; do you know how much it hurts me? I come to school every day to be told that I'm useless, that I should be dead already. Every day I go home feeling sick because of you. I've just had enough of this shit.

**OLIVIA**

Ooooocheck you out Miss I can stand up for myself!Get outta here, no one wants to be hearing your shitty sob stories.

**SANDRA/Laughing**

This isn't X-Factorso stop bawling.

*Aaleyah runs out of the classroom soaked in water. Running into Mr Barnett she stops to look up in plea, barging past him as she runs away.*

**MR BARNETT**

Aaleyah!

*Briana tries to catch up with her running past Mr Barnett but does not get far as he stops her in her tracks.*

The class settles down as he enters.

**MR BARNETT**

I'm not even going to bother asking what just happened.. I will deal with you all later. At most I would have expected more maturity from this class! I don't want to hear any excuses, just get on with your assignments, and if you need any help come to the front table and I will assist you.

*As the class continues working on their assignments, Olivia receives a text message from her boyfriend - "MEET ME OUTSIDE THE GATES NOW". Olivia raises her hand to excuse herself from the room. Mr Barnett accepts her excuse without look up from his desk. Taking all of her*

*stuff with her, Olivia quickly leaves the room before Mr Barnett comes to his senses. Once she's far away from the class Olivia calls her boyfriend who verbally assaults her telling her to come outside. Just as Olivia exits the school gates a person in dark baggy clothing yanks her round the corner.*

**OLIVIA**

What the hell Nathan!

**NATHAN**

Soz, but you know I can't be spotted by people, man needs to be ghosting, you get me.

**OLIVIA**

Could have asked to meet round the corner, what you want anyway?

**NATHAN**

Wanted to see my bae, is that a problem for you?

**OLIVIA**

*(Smiling)* Nah, *(feeling guilty)* but...I told you I was busy.

*Olivia tries to walk away but Nathan pulls her arm so hard and keeps hold of it as he aggressively shouts:*

You busy? Finna see other man yeah?

*Olivia pulling her arm away as she states*

**OLIVIA**

No, there aint no other man. Listen, Nathan what you want.

**NATHAN**

Like I said, I wanted to see you. I have a surprise for you.

**OLIVIA**

K, where is it then?

**NATHAN**

Come with me and you'll see.

**OLIVIA**

Can't this wait till after scho...?

**NATHAN/Shouts**

No!

*Pushing her against the wall with his arm across her neck, he hints:*

**NATHAN/ cont'd**

You know what happens when I get angry, you have no choice.

*He lets go of Olivia and she is gasping for air. On the opposite side of the street the bus arrives. They begin to run for the bus slowly fading out afterwards.*

**FADES INTO:**

*EXT- GREENWICH - Olivia and Nathan are wandering through the park; they reach part of the park that almost appears to look like a forest. They come to a stop and Nathan turns to face Olivia; while holding her hands he gestures with his head to the direction of the tree. But she doesn't move.*

**NATHAN**

You scared?

**OLIVIA**

Nah I aint, I just want to know what I'm walking into.

**NATHAN**

Just come, I aint gonna hurt you.

**OLIVIA/ mutters**

That aint stopped you from doing it before.

**NATHAN/ jeer laughter**

What did you say?

**OLIVIA/gives attitude**

You treat me like shit, like one of your side bitches! Expecting me to believe you are this sweetheart yeah?

*Nathan grips Olivia by the hand; pulling her powerfully behind the tree. Sitting on a bright coloured sheet was a picnic basket and a brown bear. By this point Nathan has walked closer as he kneels down on the sheet.*

**NATHAN**

Dunno what kinda man you think I am. Man like me loves you and there is no appreciation.

**OLIVIA**

I do... I'm sorry but I aint use to this, it was just unexpected,  
Coming from you anyway.

**NATHAN/ *sniggers before he yells***

Unexpected, you make me vex yakno? To the point where...

*Nathan stops yelling. For a couple of seconds there was complete silence. He stands up; facing Olivia, he has an evil look on his face. Olivia starts to move backwards slowly but carefully as she stutters:*

**OLIVIA**

Nathan let's just eat and forget bout it ok?

**NATHAN/ *confused***

Why you moving back for?

**OLIVIA**

You're scaring me.

**NATHAN/ *chuckles***

I'm scaring you?

*As he grabs her hair, with her head close to the ground he aggressively yells:*

This is your fault! You make me do this to you!

*Nathan grabs her hair tighter as she struggles to get off he throws her to the ground. He mutters under his breath "bitch". As he walks away, upset and traumatised Olivia screams for Nathan, begging him to come back, but he continues walking.*

**FADE INTO:**

**INT- Living Room- Evening**

*Louise and Aaleyah are sitting down watching deal or no deal. Louise is shouting loudly at the television.*

**LOUISE**

Deal! Say deal!

**AALEYAH**

You know they can't hear you right?

**LOUISE**

Yes I know that!

**AALEYAH**

But you're still shouting at the TV?

**LOUISE**

Don't you have work to do?

*Aaleyah smiles as she gets up, As soon as she was about to leave the door knocks. As she opens the door she screams in excitement. From the living room door enters a smart and neat shaven young man, teeth white as snow. Louise; who is oblivious to what's going on around her doesn't notice the guy as he walks in front of the TV, hypnotises her.*

**LOUISE**

Aaleyah move!

**JORDAN**

Last time I check I was a man.

*Louise's notices the person and to her surprise she realises it was Jordan, her nephew.*

**LOUISE**

Oh Jordan! It's been a while since I've seen you.

**JORDAN**

Yeah university is a lot of work.

**LOUISE**

How are you finding that?

**JORDAN**

Well I'm in my second year now and..

**LOUISE**

Shh, deal or no deal is back on.

**JORDAN/ laughs**

Same old AuntLouise I see.

*As he makes his way out of the living room he whispers:*

**JORDAN**

I've seen this already she goes home with one penny.

*As he leaves the living room Louise shouts "shut up". The scene then cuts to the INT of Aaleyah's bedroom where she is preparing for her presentation. There was a light knock on the door and Jordan enters with a big smile on his face.*

**JORDAN**

Hello sis.

**AALEYAH**

Hey, it's been forever since I've seen you.

**JORDAN**

I would have come earlier for mum and dad but I was busy.

**AALEYAH**

It's alright, you're here now.

*As he sits besides Aaleyah he says:*

**JORDAN**

So, what you working on here?

**AALEYAH**

I have a presentation tomorrow for history class; my topic is the cold war.

**JORDAN**

Ah, awesome! I remember doing that. But everything else at school is going good yeah?

**AALEYAH**

Well I guess those girls are still bullying me, been feeling more depressed lately but I guess I'm coping. Going counselling is really helping out.

**JORDAN**

You know I'm here for you Aaleyah, I can't be here all the time but you're my little sister, and if you're in trouble you know I will come straight down. The only advice I can give you right now is stay strong, don't let them girls hurt you the way they do.

**AALEYAH**

I know that.

**JORDAN**

Do you need any help practicing for tomorrow?

**AALEYAH**

Yeah, that would be great.

**JORDAN**

I'll hold it up while you stand over there and read off it.

As Aaleyah was preparing herself Jordan's phone suddenly rings...

**ON THE PHONE**

**JORDAN/ cont'd**

Hello... Yes speaking... Can't you get someone else to do it...? Fine,  
I'll come down... thank you.

**CALL END**

*As he makes his exit he says:*

**JORDAN cont'd**

I'm so sorry Aaleyah I have to go it's an emergency; I will make it  
up to you I promise.

**AALEYAH**

No problem, I'll see you next time.

**JORDAN**

Remember what I said.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. HISTORY CLASS- EARLY MORNING**

*It is presentation day in Mr Barnett's class. The class is 30 minutes in. Aaleyah is 5<sup>th</sup> to perform her presentation- the class is so silent that you can hear a pin drop. She begins her presentation confident at first until she starts to notices Sandra laughing at the back of the classroom, she ignores it and carries on. Unpredictably Olivia walks in late and walks straight pass Aaleyah screwing her as she sat down next to Sandra. Aaleyah begins to get nervous, as she attempts to continue she starts to stutter.*

**AALEYAH**

The causes however were that America and Russia were very different. America's politics was capitalist whereas Russia was communist.

*The class being to laugh, Aaleyah then notices Olivia and Sandra whispering to each other. Paranoid Aaleyah; thinking that they are talking about her, asks Mr Barnett if she could stop. But he motions her to continue.*

**AALEYAH/cont'd**

So who was to blame? The Traditionalist? Or maybe it was the revisionist? There are different Historic views to consider but I believe that it was Americas fault as they wanted to keep trading with other countries and Truman use of the Atomic bomb without telling Stalin was the cause of all this. Thank you for listening.

*There was complete silence. No one other than Brianna and Mr Barnett clapped. The class all seemed lifeless and bored. Aaleyah hangs her head in shame as she anxiously walks to her desk.*

**MR BARNETT**

Okay, Olivia you're next. Come up.

*Olivia stands in front of the class with a cheeky smile on her face as she inserts a video into the computer. As the video loads, she smiles evilly at Aaleyah and declares:*

**OLIVIA**

This is for a very special someone in the class

*The video showed Brianna, Sandra and Olivia in a bedroom mimicking and insulting images of Aaleyah on the internet. The class erupts in laughter. Aaleyah is surprised to see Brianna who she thought was her friend on the video. She gets upset and runs out of the class. Brianna attempts to stop Aaleyah in her tracks but fail.*

**BRIANNA**

Aaleyah wait!

**AALEYAH**

Leave me alone

*Brianna turns back to the class with guilt written all over her face. Mr Barnett calms the class down with a yell.*

**MR BARNETT**

Settle down everyone! Olivia I need you to stay behind after the lesson. Right, Sandra your presentation.

**CUT TO:**

**LATER**

**INT. CANTEEN- AT THE TABLE**

*The canteen is near empty, Aaleyah is sitting alone at the table picking at her lunch. Minutes after she is joined by a remorseful Brianna who tries to confess but Aaleyah doesn't want to hear it.*

**BRIANNA**

Aaleyah I'm sorry, that video was taken last year before we even were friends.

**AALEYAH**

So what? You still said them things. I don't even want your pity.

**BRIANNA**

Aaleyah listen, I didn't mean to hurt you, I never done it intentionally it was just a joke. You were never supposed to see that.

**AALEYAH**

I thought we were best friends, I guess I was wrong about that too.

*As Aaleyah attempts to walk away, Brianna grabs her arm.*

*AALEYAH/pushing Brianna away and she fall to the ground.*

Get your hands off me

*Turns to leave the canteen but is stopped by Brianna's response*

**BRIANNA/ on the ground yelling**

I hope you die you suicidal freak!

*Aaleyah stops in her tracks and turns facing Brianna with wide eyes full of anger and fear. Suddenly the girls get into a fight. Students circle the girls cheering in excitement, fuelling the fight. Two teachers appeared as fast as the fight began, pulling the girls apart. Both girls are sent to the heads office. Inside the heads office Aaleyah is seated with blood pouring from her lip and tears gushing down her eyes.*

**CUT TO:**

**HEAD MASTER**

You leave me with no choice but to exclude you for a week. I will be contacting your Aunt later on today. I would have never expected this from you.

**AALEYAH**

I'm sorry sir; I don't know what came over me. Do you have to exclude me? My aunty will be mad and I've never been excluded before, it wasn't even my fault!

**HEAD MASTER**

Aaleyah, our school has a no fighting policy. Even if you didn't start it you still participated in it. I'm sorry Aaleyah I know you are a good student but school rules are school rules.

*There was an awkward silence. Aaleyah walks out of the head masters room tears still dropping from her eyes.*

*Aaleyah is outside of the school gates. She turns around and faces the school. Her eyes are flooded with tears; she turns around and walks away.*

**FADE INTO:**

**AALEYAHS BATHROOM**

*Aaleyah is on her bed, face down into her pillow crying, she gets up and writes a suicide note, as she writes we hear her thoughts.*

**NARRATION**

**AALEYAH**

I've reached the end. My limit. I can't go on any further. I've lost everything! My family. My friends. Nothing goes right for me, it's like the whole world is against me. Why is this happening to me? It's true what everyone says. I am worthless and a curse to everyone around me. Wherever I go darkness follows. I can't seem to get ahead of it. This is it...my escape from this darkness that won't let go of me. I'm sorry Aunt Louise...Jordon, I know I promised to stay strong but you can only be strong for so long. Please don't cry I'll be safe on the other side with mum and dad. We will keep a watch over you. Stay strong. Be what I couldn't be. I love you.

*Aaleyah drops the note on the floor and rises from the toilet seat. Her arms which are full of cuts and bruises. She slowly walks towards the bathroom cupboards reaching for her medication she sets it down on the shelf and reaches for the glass of water that she got from the kitchen. She opens the bottle and drinks half of the liquid as she takes the pills. She fills her mouth with pills and swallows in one go before entering the bathtub filled with ice-cold water.*

*She sits down on leg stretched out the other tucked into her chest. She slowly disappears under the water.*

**CUT TO:**

**BRI**

I just came to apologies, I never meant to hurt her the way I did.

**LOUISE**

We all do stupid things when we are young. But she trusted you.

**BRI**

I know she did but I...

*Louise shushes Bri as she notices the sound of water running. She looks up at the top of the stairs and notices water. Yelling Aaleyah's name she runs upstairs, throwing the bathroom door opens she pauses noticing Aaleyah's innocent face floating.*

**LOUISE /whispering, tears rushing down her face**

Aaleyah! No!

*Brianna appears from behind and gasps with tears rushing down her face. Pushing aside Louise she runs to the bathtub and pulls Aaleyah's head out of the water.*

**BRI/ croaky whisper**

No! Aaleyah I'm sorry! I didn't mean what I said.

**Yelling at Louise**

Don't just stand there! You're a nurse do something!

*Brianna slides to the side as Louise kneels down beside Aaleyah's limp body. She re-positions Aaleyah's body and begins to perform CPR.*

**LOUISE**

Call the ambulance

*Just as Brianna dials the emergency number, Aaleyah coughs up the water from her lungs and comes to consciousness.*

**LOUISE/ in tears**

Don't scare me like that you could have died!

**BRI**

This is my entire fault.

*Louise and Brianna carry Aaleyah to her room as she comes in and out of consciousness Aaleyah is lying down on the bed, under blankets; with Brianna sitting around her on the bed. While Louise rushes out of the bedroom.*

**BRI**

I'm so sorry Aaleyah, for everything

**AALEYAH/ Drowsy voice**

Like you even care, you was never here for me was you?

**BRI**

It wasn't my fault, I swear!

**AALEYAH**

That's no excuse. We were close; you were supposed to always be here for me. Should have been honest at the start.

**BRI**

What happened was a mistake, it was stupid of me to say that and I didn't mean any of it.

*Louise walks in with a cup of hot chocolate; she places it on the desk as she motions Briana to come outside with her while closing the door.*

**LOUISE/ whispering**

I appreciate all the help you have given me today but I think you should leave.

**BRI**

I need to be here for Aaleyah!

**LOUISE**

For Aaleyah's sake leave! She doesn't want you, and she needs to rest.

*As Brianna exits, Louise enters Aaleyah's bedroom.*

**LOUISE/handing her a cup of hot drink**

You scared me you know, I don't know what I would do if you died. I lost my sister last year I can't lose you.

**AALEYAH**

I'm sorry; I didn't mean to upset you, I didn't even know you would care.

**LOUISE**

You're my niece, my sister's daughter...my daughter.

**AALEYAH**

I never knew you thought of me like that.

**LOUISE**

Hey, why don't I make us something to eat aye?

**AALEYAH**

Yeah, that would be great. Thanks.

*Louise gets up and stands next to the door and stares at Aaleyah sending a smile in her direction before exiting leaving Aaleyah alone.*

**LOUISE**

Aaleyah, you know that I...

**AALEYAH**

Yeah...I know.

**LOUISE**

Come down stairs and watch TV. I'll be with you when I'm done.

**CUT TO**

**IN THE KITCHEN**

**LOUISE**

I'm going to make it exactly how your mum uses to make it.

*AALEYAH/ shouting from the living room while slowly fading away*

Don't forget the salad cream!

*LOUISE/ making her way back to the living*

How could I forget!

*CUT TO*

**LOUISE**

Sleeping are we?

*As she walks over to Aaleyah, she touches her forehead. She pauses for a second. She pulls the covers over her. As she does this she kisses Aaleyah on the forehead, a teardrop drops on her forehead.*

*FADE OUT*

**THE END**