

OUR LAST DAYS AS CHILDREN

Written By
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EXT. PLAYGROUND — EARLY MORNING

The sun hasn't risen yet. A light musty blue covers the morning sky of an empty playground.

The playground is on top of a lookout, overlooking a worn schoolyard and a small town scattered with houses and farmland.

A young girl ARIA (17), with long brown hair walks over to another girl, LAUREN (17) a young girl with blonde curly hair laying in the grass with an empty champagne bottle toppled over beside her. Lauren fiddles her fingers in the long grass and looks up to Aria smiling.

LAUREN

When's your brother coming
to pick us up?

Aria paces around aimlessly, lost in thought.

ARIA

It feels like Halloween...

LAUREN

What do you mean?

ARIA

I don't know, but you know
that feeling on Halloween...
for some reason it's never
sunny and there's that wind
that's cold but it's still
warm out. It feels like it's
about to rain and you've got
this random excitement but
your not sure why...

LAUREN

Yeah... kind of

ARIA

It's weird.

LAUREN
(Sarcastically)
That it's all ending?

ARIA
Yeah...

Lauren starts pulling out some grass.

ARIA
But really, when I look back
at my childhood it feels
like a movie. Like I watched
it on fast-forward or
something. It's almost
dream-like.

Lauren smiles and holds up a small weed in both hands
playfully.

LAUREN
Tree or bush?

Aria laughs and collapses beside Lauren. Aria smiles and
plays along.

ARIA
Uhm, tree?

Lauren pulls on the weed making the ends all come together.
She covers the results.

ARIA
(Laughing)
What is it?

Lauren hesitates as she shields the weeds and then with a
burst of excitement she throws the pieces of grass in the
air.

LAUREN
FIREWORKS!!

The two burst into laughter and fall on their backs
watching the pieces fall. They stare blankly at the sky.

Lauren turns to Aria, her playful excitement gone.

LAUREN
Aria...

ARIA
Yeah?

LAUREN
Are you excited?

ARIA
Yeah...

Aria thinks about this for a moment, and then shakes her head in reassurance.

ARIA
Yeah, I am... I mean we've
been talking about getting
out of this town since...
since well, forever.

LAUREN
Yeah, I know.

ARIA
Why? Aren't you excited?

LAUREN
Yeah...

Lauren looks back to Aria.

LAUREN
I'm just, really scared..

The girls lay still for a moment. Aria brushes the grass off of her dress and sits up, looking back at the view of the town.

Suddenly, the sounds of screeching tires are heard followed by an ear-covering crash jolting both girls to turn towards the sound.

CUTS TO:

Black Screen.

TITLE APPEARS:

OUR LAST DAYS AS CHILDREN

CUTS TO:

EXT. AIRPORT — RUNWAY — AFTERNOON

A noisy airplane lands steadily along the runway of a small airport.

Title Overlaps: 8 Months Later

INT. TOWN BUS — SEATS — MOMENTS LATER

Aria sits in the middle of a fairly deserted city bus. She leans her head against the glass window observing the desolate landscape, which soon turns into a quaint suburb.

Her face seems torn between emotions, but lacks any sense of excitement.

The bus makes a heavy turn onto a street she recognizes and pulls the stop string.

EXT. STREET — BUS STOP

The bus comes to a loud stop. Aria walks off as the bus driver helps her with her suitcases. She nods to say thank you.

The bus moves on by creating a whirlwind of dust. Aria stands with her bags and looks around the street, hit with a sense of nostalgia.

She looks down to a small ceremonial tribute, a small cross wedged in the ground that reads "Brendan" decorated with wilted flowers.

She takes a breath and starts walking down the street.

EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE — FRONT YARD

The house is an average suburban home, looking strikingly similar to the ones that surround it. A small porch, gated fences and a fairly sized patch of grass siding the driveway.

Aria's mother DEBBIE (46), sits with a few other neighbors on the front lawn in lawn chairs having drinks.

Aria walks closer to the house and Debbie gets up in utter excitement as she sees her.

DEBBIE
MY BABY'S HOME!!

Aria smiles. She lets go of her bags to embrace her mother's hug. Her mom has a permanent smile, looking her up and down, stroking her hair.

DEBBIE
You look so much older! Have
you been eating okay?

ARIA
Yes Mom! It's only been
eight months.

DEBBIE
Well that's a long time when
you haven't come home for
holidays or barely call!

ARIA
I was busy! But you have me
for a full four months
again!

DEBBIE
Well, come say hi to the
neighbors, we've all missed
you! We all want to hear
about Paris!

ARIA
Can I just unpack first a
little? I've been in transit
for far too long..

DEBBIE
Yes of course!

Debbie takes one more look at her and sighs in happiness.

Aria smiles again and then walks into the house.

INT. ARIA'S HOUSE – MAIN ROOM

Aria walks into the house and looks around at all that hasn't changed. She takes a moment before wheeling her stuff down the hall and into her bedroom.

INT. ARIA'S HOUSE – ARIA'S BEDROOM

Aria throws her stuff aside and walks into her room that is unrecognizable now as it's a guest room. She takes a moment walking around and observing everything and then walks to the closet.

Opening the closet, there's a box with all the stuff she had left behind. She looks through some pictures of her and a bunch of friends and various memorabilia. She eventually puts it aside and walks to her window, which overlooks the backyard.

DEBBIE (O.S.)
You like it?

Aria breaks out of her daze looking back to her mom.

ARIA
Yeah, it's really nice!

Debbie senses some disapproval and attempts to defend herself.

DEBBIE
You said you didn't care if
I redecorated!

Aria smiles.

ARIA
I know! It's really nice;
it's just weird I guess.

Aria's mother puts her hand on her shoulder.

DEBBIE
You're brother's room is
still the same... I didn't
touch it.

Aria shies away from the comment.

ARIA
The backyard looks
different...

DEBBIE
You know you can talk about
it... you never really did
before you left... it's been
hard here all alone.

Aria turns back to her mother.

ARIA
I just got home mom... Can
this wait?

DEBBIE
I know, I know... Have you
talked to Lauren? Her mom
told me she got home a few
days ago; you guys must be
really excited to see each
other!

ARIA
Actually, I haven't talked
to her really! I've just
been so -

DEBBIE

(Interrupting)

Busy, I know! Regardless,
I'm sure she'd be ecstatic
to see you. What about Gabe?
Isaac?

ARIA

I really just didn't keep
that in contact with
everyone.

DEBBIE

Well I'm sure it will all be
back to normal before you
know it!

Aria gives an insincere smile.

The two begin to exit Aria's room.

DEBBIE

Can you stay outside with
the neighbors, I've got to
make a quick run to the
grocery store.

ARIA

I'll go, I don't mind!

DEBBIE

Really! Okay, I'll just grab
some money for you!

Debbie walks off. Aria begins to close her room but takes
one more look at it.

CUTS TO:

INT. CANDACE'S HOUSE — BEDROOM

A light pink bedroom, which looks as if it could be one of a
young girl. A few college pamphlets lie on a desk beside
some framed awards.

CANDACE (18), a pretty but shy looking young girl stands in her full-length mirror wearing a tiara. A sash hung on her mirror reads "Miss. Glenley 2009".

She looks at herself with a blank stare and then puts the tiara down on a shelf. She takes another look at herself in an almost melancholic manner. She grabs a work uniform and apron and puts on with an unflattering visor to top it all off. She can no longer bear to look at her self and walks out of her room.

INT. CANDACE'S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

Candace walks and grabs a prepared lunch of the counter. She looks over to the couch where her mom lies in rough condition. Beer cans surround her and a broken vase is shattered along the floor.

Candace takes a moment in observance and then grabs a dustpan and begins to clean the mess.

CUTS TO:

INT. HOUSE – BASEMENT

A group of guys, GABE (19), ERIC (19) and LEWIS (21) all sit on a couch in a smoke filled basement in front of a TV. They smoke cigarettes and drink cans of beer in mid conversation.

GABE

There's no way I'm going to a grade 10 party... That's where I cross the line and you should too.

ERIC

Yeah, yeah... well what else is there to do in this shit town?

GABE

I don't know...

ERIC
Aren't Lauren and Aria home
now for the summer?

GABE
Yeah... I mean, I think
anyway.

ERIC
What do you mean you think?
It's not going to be all
awkward now is it?

GABE
We just haven't talked
really since she left.

Eric sighs heavily.

LEWIS
And the epic melodrama that
is Gabe and Aria starts for
season two...

ERIC
I thought that series ended
when you fucked that senior
Rebecca?

Gabe taps the bottom of Eric's beer making it foam all over
his shirt.

ERIC
Oh fuck you man!

Gabe and Lewis laugh.

Eric gets up to go change his shirt. Gabe turns to Lewis.

GABE
Isn't your brother home now?

LEWIS
Yeah, I think he comes home
today or something...

GABE

I haven't seen Isaac in
forever! You should invite
him out!

LEWIS

I don't know, we never
really partied together,
that'd be kind of weird.

GABE

Yeah, I guess you guys were
never that close. I wish I
had a brother though... to
take half the blame.

Lewis laughs.

LEWIS

Have you talked to Aria?
Since... that night?

GABE

Briefly... it's just I've
never really known how to be
comforting.

LEWIS

Yeah... it's hard.

GABE

You were close with Brendan
weren't you?

LEWIS

Yeah...

Lewis and Gabe both look in opposite directions of the room,
both unsure what to say.

Eric comes back into the room with a new shirt and some
money.

ERIC

The day's a'wasting kids!
Let's hit up the beer store!

LEWIS

We're going to have to stop
by my place to grab my ID.

GABE

What are we even doing
tonight?

ERIC

It's Friday! People are home
from school! No more
wheeling the underage...
something has got to go on,
it always does!

Gabe sighs and gets up.

CUTS TO:

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

A smaller, nerdier looking guy, ISAAC (18), walks into his
house with his dad, CRAIG (51).

CRAIG

Guess who's home?

Some dishes are heard being put down in the kitchen as
Isaac's mother, MEREDITH (48) comes walking into the front
room hugging Isaac.

MEREDITH

Hey! How are you!

ISAAC

I'm good! I'm good! Just
happy to be done!

MEREDITH

Oh it's good to have you
home!

CRAIG

And it turns out he made the
dean's list once again!

Isaac forces a smile at his over enthusiastically proud parents.

MEREDITH
That's amazing! We knew
you'd do so well.

CRAIG
We're so proud of you!

ISAAC
I know, thanks.

MEREDITH
And you heard about your
brother right? He leaves at
the end of the month.

ISAAC
Yeah, just from dad in the
car.

MEREDITH
Oh, well I told Lewis to
give you a call; he's been
busy though.

Meredith takes another look at Isaac.

MEREDITH
At least I'll have one of my
boys home!

Isaac nods and walks past his parents into the:

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE — HALLWAY

Isaac walks down the hallway with his bags. He's about to open his door when he notices his brother's bedroom door beside his slightly open.

He quietly walks over to the door and pushes it open.

He stares from the hallway to see a neatly organized room with a military uniform folded on his bed and some half packed bags.

Isaac takes a deep breath and dry swallow, taking it all in and then closes the door.

CUTS TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE – DELI COUNTER

Aria walks a little lost around the grocery store and walks up to the empty deli counter for assistance.

ARIA
Hello?

From the back, Candace walks out to the counter. Candace and Aria's eyes meet and Candace is immediately flooded with embarrassment.

ARIA
Candace?

CANDACE
Hi Aria...

ARIA
I didn't know you worked here! You really jumped on the job wagon fast... I still need to do that. How was Harvard?

CANDACE
Uh, it was great!

ARIA
Awesome! Uh, I was just looking for the juice section? When did they change this grocery store?

CANDICE
It's in the back corner. Yeah, they just did it recently.

ARIA

And here I was thinking
nothing ever changed in this
town.

Candice smiles but her embarrassment overpowers it.

CANDICE

Hey Aria... I'm really sorry
about your brother...

Aria looks down as if she was hoping it wouldn't be brought
up.

ARIA

Thanks...

Candice looks away and starts getting back to work.

ARIA

Hey, are you doing anything
tonight?

CANDICE

No. I don't have any plans...

ARIA

Well I never used to see you
out!

Candace shrugs and looks away.

ARIA

You should come out; I'll
probably be seeing Lauren or
something. Maybe we can all
have drinks and catch up?

CANDICE

Yeah, sure! That'd be great!

Aria smiles and then walks off. Candice's smile becomes
legitimate, it is clear this invitation meant something to
her.

CUTS TO:

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE — FRONT

Eric's pick up truck comes to a halting stop in front of Isaac's house. Lewis jumps out of the back and runs up to the house.

INT. ISAAC'S HOUSE — FRONT FOYER

Isaac grabs another one of his bags from the foyer as Lewis comes barging in the front door.

The two turn to each other and awkwardly glance away.

ISAAC
Hey!

LEWIS
Hey, how was school?

ISAAC
Good...

LEWIS
Cool...

The conversation is stiff and Lewis walks on by down the hallway. Isaac looks off in thought, in a "what did I do?" confusion.

CUTS TO:

EXT. ARIAS'S HOUSE — FRONT — DAY

Aria walks up to her house, she sees her mom and her neighbors out front but walks to the side of the house and sits on a ledge.

She pulls a cigarette out of her purse and lights it. She sits there in thought.

Lauren starts walking up to the house in the distance; she walks to the front door but then spots Aria. She stops for a moment as if not knowing what to say but then continues towards her.

LAUREN
Aria Barbarian!

Aria turns and sees Lauren, she's speechless for a moment and then gets up and smiles.

ARIA
Borin' Lauren!

Lauren walks in and they hug.

LAUREN
God I've missed you!

ARIA
I know! I've missed you too!
I'm so sorry I kind of lost
touch!

LAUREN
It's a two way street. I
really should have called
you...

ARIA
It's okay...

LAUREN
But Paris, I want to hear
all about it! The
internship, the French boys
and that school thing!

Aria smiles.

ARIA
You will, you will! We have
all summer now!

LAUREN
Come over to my house, we'll
have a drink!

ARIA
It's like four p.m.?

LAUREN
Like that's ever stopped us
before!

Aria laughs as Lauren grabs her hand and walks with her
across the street to Lauren's house.

INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE – KITCHEN – MOMENTS LATER

Lauren and Aria walk into the kitchen where Lauren's mom
JANINE is packaging up some food.

LAUREN
Look who's home Mom!

Janine turns excitedly and gives Aria a hug and kiss on the
cheek.

JANINE
Oh, finally! Now you girls
aren't ever leaving me
again! I missed you with
all your gossip and boy
talk.

Aria smiles.

JANINE
You're mom has really missed
you..

ARIA
I know.

Janine's energetic tone turns serious.

JANINE
How are you doing?

ARIA
I'm good..

Janine looks unconvinced.

ARIA
Seriously... I'm okay.

Janine smiles and rubs Aria's shoulder. Aria turns to Lauren, quickly changing the tone.

ARIA
Oh by the way Lauren, I invited Candice to hang out tonight! I saw her working at the grocery store... I guess she just started. Anyways, I felt kind of bad because I never used to see her at parties...

LAUREN
Yeah, that's cool!

JANINE
Candice didn't just start... She's been working at the grocery store all year!

ARIA
I thought she went away to Harvard? Didn't she get all those scholarships from her pageant stuff?

JANINE
No, she never went! Word on the street is her mother used the money or something... I always feel bad for that girl when I go in there.

ARIA
Oh...

Aria looks down in thought.

LAUREN
Mom could you pour us a celebratory drink!

Janine smiles and grabs a bottle of liquor and makes them a drink.

JANINE

This feels weird; I still
like to pretend you girls
aren't drinking! Although
you've made that unbearably
hard to do over the years!

Aria and Lauren laugh as Janine slides them over drinks. The girls hold it up, ready to cheers.

ARIA

What are we cheers-ing to?

LAUREN

To the summer?

JANINE

To entering adulthood! You
girls made it past year one,
congratulations!!

The girls smile and sip their drinks.

JANINE

I'm going to go head over to
your mom's now, Aria! Stay
out of trouble girls!

They both smile to her as Janine walks out to the front door. Janine leaves the screen door open giving view to Aria's house across the street.

Aria looks out in thought and then turns back to Lauren.

ARIA

Remember how after like
every party... whenever we'd
get home, even if we'd split
up... we'd always go to our
front windows and turn the
lights on at four a.m. to
wave to each other.

LAUREN
...to make sure each other was
all right!

Lauren begins to laugh.

LAUREN
God, every time we'd just
burst into laughter...

ARIA
I don't even know what was
so funny about it.

LAUREN
Me either... but I don't try
to make sense of anything
we've ever did...

ARIA
Ha, me either... it's all such
a blur. I just remember
laughing, always.

LAUREN
Same.

A knock is heard at the door and the girls turn to see
Candice at the screen door. She looks a little overly
dressed for a simple night out.

LAUREN
Come in!

ARIA
Hey Candice! Want a drink?

CANDICE
Hi guys! Uh, yeah sure!

Candice seems very timid around the girls.

Lauren receives a text message and laughs as she reads it.

LAUREN

Well are you ready for some
high school nostalgia?

ARIA

What scares me is I already
think I know what you're
going to say...

LAUREN

Eric and the guys are all
going to do the usual pre-
drink behind the school in
the football field while we
wait for "something" to go
on.

ARIA

This is a sad, sad, sad
town...

CANDICE

Is that what you guys always
did?

LAUREN

We sure did... pretty pathetic
isn't it?

CANDICE

Doesn't sound all that bad...
no one would mind if I went
right?

ARIA

No, not at all!

LAUREN

Hey Aria, you know Gabe is
going to be there right?

Aria rolls her eyes.

ARIA

(Sarcastically)
I figured as much...

LAUREN

Come on, you can't tell me
you haven't talked to him
since you left?

ARIA

I did... a bit... I don't know...

Lauren gives Aria sad eyes.

ARIA

It just wasn't going to
work...

LAUREN

Gabe's been hanging out with
Lewis... so he's probably
going to be there too...

Candice looks confused.

CANDICE

What happened with Lew-?

Lauren gives Candice a look that makes her stop mid-
sentence.

Aria takes a deep breath and gets up breaking the tension.

ARIA

It's okay... Lewis was in the
accident with Brendan.

Candice looks down at her drink, regretting her question.

ARIA

Guys, seriously... I don't
want you guys to feel like
you need to tip toe around
me. I just want things to go
back to normal.

Lauren smiles.

LAUREN

Well in that case... I learned
this drinking game at school
that will speed things up.

Aria smiles.

CUTS TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL – BACK – DAWN

The blue sky begins to darken. The school is in rough
condition, the playground is rusted and the football field
is very worn.

Gabe, Eric and Lewis walk across the pavement towards the
football field, all with clanging backpacks of beer.

Eric runs ahead and tries to jump and grab a basketball net
but misses.

Gabe and Lewis laugh at him.

ERIC

Ah, whatever! Basketball was
never my sport anyways...

GABE

You're not going to tell me
football was are you?

ERIC

That was the teams fault not
mine!

GABE

I don't think we ever won a
single game.

Lewis laughs.

LEWIS

Yeah you guys really ruined
the reputation we built for
it.

Eric runs onto the field and throws his backpack aside.

ERIC
Ah the glory days!!

GABE
(Sarcastically)
Yeah... glory days...

Lewis and Gabe walk over to a bench and watch Eric goof off. They light a smoke and open a beer.

ERIC
(Yelling)
I'm going to break the seal!!

Eric walks off into the bushes.

Lewis ashes his smoke and turns to Gabe.

LEWIS
Isaac's home now...

GABE
Yeah? Is he coming out?

LEWIS
I don't know, I didn't really get to talk to him... I kind of wanted to avoid the whole parents going on and on about how proud they are of him. For actually doing something with his life, you know?

GABE
Yeah... but you are about to do something with your life... and it's pretty big.

LEWIS
Sometimes I feel like I'm just taking this easy way out...

GABE

You should be proud of yourself man... Look at me and Eric... no plans and our future is looking that of the Glenley rejects.

Lewis laughs.

LEWIS

One day... we'll all get out of this town.

Eric comes out of the bush waving a baseball bat in the air.

ERIC

Guys! I FOUND A BASEBALL BAT!

Lewis and Gabe look at each other.

LEWIS

Well... maybe not Eric.

They both laugh.

GABE

Yeah!

CUTS TO:

EXT. STREET – MOMENTS LATER

The sky has become darker. Aria, Lauren and Candice walk down the street with water bottles and juice boxes in their hands.

LAUREN

All right power hour, let me see you swig it back like old school Aria!

Aria laughs and takes a sip, making a sour face.

ARIA

God, nothing changes does it? I feel like I'm grade ten and we just told our parents we were going to the movies...

LAUREN

And all it took was a little bottle of peach schnapps... God we were so stupid! The things we did..

They both laugh.

ARIA

Ah, we were kids...

LAUREN

We're still kids...

They smile to each other. Lauren turns to Candice.

LAUREN

Okay Candice, you have a high school experience of drinking to fit into tonight! I want to see you break from that shell...

Candice smiles.

CANDICE

I'll try...

The girls eventually get to see the high school in the distance. They stand at it for a moment.

LAUREN

Ready?

ARIA

(Sarcastically)
This should only be trivially awkward..

LAUREN
Just like old times...

Lauren grabs Aria and they all begin to walk towards the school.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL – BACK – MOMENTS LATER

The football field lights come flickering on, making no real effect, as the sky still hasn't completely darkened.

The guys play around on the field.

GABE
One, two, three...

Gabe finishes a beer with a chug and then crushes the can. He whips the can at Eric who is ready with a baseball bat in position.

Eric hits the can and sprits of beer go flying.

ERIC
WAHOO!!!

The guys watch the can fall bringing their attention to Candice, Aria and Lauren walking towards the field.

LAUREN
Hello Boys!

ERIC
Well if it isn't my favorite
drinking partner!

Eric walks over picking up Lauren and swinging her around.

Gabe and Aria make eye contact and Gabe awkwardly looks away and fiddles with his bag, grabbing another beer.

ERIC
(Drunkenly)
And Candice, what a pleasant
surprise to see you out on
this glorious little
evening!

Candice smiles but it's clear she feels uncomfortable.

Lewis walks over to Aria. They both look to each other with
unease.

LEWIS
Hey Aria, it's good to see
you!

Aria seems emotional just in sight of Lewis.

ARIA
Hey! Yeah, how are you?

LEWIS
I'm good!

Eric stumbles over to Aria.

ERIC
And if it isn't the
beautiful young Aria
herself!

Aria smiles giving Eric a hug.

ARIA
Hi Eric!

LAUREN
Are these the lines you've
been feeding to the high
school girls while we were
gone?

ERIC
Oh please, I've been waiting
alone in my room for your
return!

Lauren laughs and rolls her eyes. Gabe chugs back another beer and holds it up to Eric.

GABE

Another round?

Eric gets up excitedly grabbing the bat. Lauren and Aria sit on a bench watching. Candice stands awkwardly near them.

LAUREN

Beer can baseball eh? Can I take a swing at it?

Eric holds out the bat invitingly and Lauren jumps up. Eric keeps pulling the bat away from her as she grabs it flirtingly.

Aria sits and laughs to herself.

Gabe sips at his beer and then walks off to the bushes to go to the washroom. Aria watches him leave for a moment then looks back to Eric and Lauren.

Eric throws a can for Lauren and she misses it by large. Eric holds back a laugh.

LAUREN

I was just getting warmed up!

ERIC

What, they don't play beer can in the city?

LAUREN

No surprisingly not... I think it might be more of an agrarian thing.

ERIC

Agrarian? Well look at you Lauren, using all your college smarts already?

LAUREN

Please... college didn't teach me anything. It's just an expensive way to raise your kill count.

Eric chokes on his beer laughing. He throws another can for her and she sends it swinging into the forest.

ERIC

Now the only real problem with this game, is we have a limited amount of balls..

Aria laughs.

ARIA

I'll get it..

Eric begins clapping.

ERIC

Can I get a round of applause for Aria Matthews everyone!

Eric, Lauren and Candice all clap jokingly. Aria gives a sarcastic curtsy and then starts walking towards the forest.

Aria grabs a can off the ground and spots another one a little into the bushes.

EXT. HIGHSCOOL – FOREST

She starts to enter the wooded area and grabs another.

Gabe comes walking from in the bush, zipping up his pants.

They spot each other, not talking creating an awkward tension.

GABE

So you were made the can fetcher?

Aria laughs.

ARIA
Naturally...

She looks down and then back up at him. Another awkward silence follows.

ARIA
Well this is just as awkward
as I imagined it would be...

The two laugh.

GABE
Why is it though? Should it
be?

ARIA
I don't know... I guess it was
kind of inevitable?

GABE
Yeah... Do you want to maybe
go talk?

Aria looks back through the trees at the gang all preoccupied and then back at Gabe.

ARIA
Uh, yeah... sure, where?

GABE
The old kissing tree?

ARIA
That's presumptuous...

GABE
You know I didn't mean it
that way...

Aria smiles and starts walking.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL – BACK – MOMENTS LATER

Candice sits on the bench watching Eric and Lauren. Lewis watches her in her observance and then sits down beside on her.

LEWIS
Do you want a beer?

CANDICE
Uh, yeah sure!

Lewis grabs her a beer from his bag.

CANDICE
Thanks!

LEWIS
Are you having fun?

CANDICE
Yeah!

She smiles sincerely but Lewis looks skeptical.

CANDICE
No, I really am! I ... I just don't really get out that often. I just feel a little awkward.

LEWIS
Don't worry about it. I'm Lewis by the way; I know I've seen you around...

CANDICE
I'm Candice.

LEWIS
Glenley's very own pageant queen, am I right?

CANDICE
Yeah... it's kind of embarrassing.

Lewis smiles.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL – FOREST

Gabe and Aria sit on a long tree that droops over a little stream. They sip their beers.

ARIA

So...

GABE

So...

Gabe looks out into the distance and Aria taps her feet about dealing with the awkwardness.

GABE

(Jokingly)

Come here often?

Aria laughs.

GABE

But seriously... I don't really know what to say. But I am sorry.

ARIA

Why are you sorry?

GABE

Well I mean everything with your brother... I really should have been there for you... I just really didn't know what to say... it was all so scary.

ARIA

Yeah... it's weird. It feels weird to even talk about it now. I mean I kind of escaped it all by going to school... but coming home was

(MORE)

ARIA (CONT'D)
a reality check... It just
still felt like he was going
to be there.

GABE
I really am sorry.

ARIA
Don't be... I was just as
scared. I didn't want to see
anyone.

GABE
Well I am here if you want
to ever talk about it...

ARIA
People always say that...
because it's an expression
no one ever really wants to
go through with.

GABE
Yeah... well it was probably
good to get away from this
town...

ARIA
It was. But right now it
already feels like last
summer... like I didn't leave...

GABE
I know what you mean...

Aria starts picking off pieces of bark and throwing them
into the water below in thought.

ARIA
I pictured this conversation
going so much differently in
my mind. I had this idea of
a more mature me in my head
I guess... but as soon as I'm
(MORE)

ARIA (CONT'D)
back here... it's like
everyone goes back to
exactly who they were in
high school.

GABE
I guess that's just
something we'll never be
able to escape...

ARIA
Sometimes I wonder if I even
really want to...

GABE
Mature?

ARIA
Escape... I know I've always
put this town down... My whole
life I've been against it
but I see how comfortable my
mom is, having beers on the
front lawn with neighbors...
falling into every possible
stereotype that consumes
this town.

GABE
Kind of becomes more
appealing with time, doesn't
it?

ARIA
Why is that? All our
childhood dreams, just
slowly diminishing.

GABE
Well I guess that's
adulthood... My dad sold my
bike the other day... I feel
like that was sort of a rite
of passage.

ARIA

Not the rust wagon! You used
to get everywhere on that
thing...

Gabe laughs.

ARIA

It's funny... I feel like
"adulthood" is like riding a
bike... I mean it's a concept
we've been told about our
whole lives... told only
really basic things like to
sit there and peddle. Then
all of the sudden, we're
just placed on this bike
being pushed down this steep
hill...

Gabe smiles.

GABE

Just got to keep peddling I
guess...

ARIA

I'm just trying not to fall
over.

A firework cracks in the distance.

GABE

We should really get back...
Eric and fireworks really is
never a good idea.

Aria laughs and they both get up.

GABE

Do you remember that time we
bought those ceramic masks
and painted them?

ARIA

Yeah! It was for that
costume party thing.

GABE

That we never ended up going
to... I just remember us
running around the streets,
I don't even know what we
were doing exactly but when
I think back to that moment...
it feels like there was
really no worries.

ARIA

I don't think we ever
questioned a single thing we
did that summer...

GABE

I still have those masks...

Aria smiles.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL – BACK – MOMENTS LATER

Eric, Lewis, Candice and Lauren all sit on the rusty old
bleachers sharing a joint.

Eric lights another firework.

Aria and Gabe come from around the corner.

GABE

Are you trying to get the
cops called?

ERIC

My brother's a cop; no one
is going to do anything.

Aria goes and sits with Candice and Lauren.

ERIC

Okay, is everyone ready?
This one's going to be a big
one!

Eric pulls out a large firework from his backpack and props it a little away from the bleachers and begins lighting it.

LAUREN

Where did you even get
these?

ERIC

The dumpster behind Carl's
convenience store...

Lauren shakes her head laughing at him.

Eric successfully lights the fuse and runs back to the rest of the gang.

The girls all cringe and cover their ears in the suspense. The fuse gets close to the end and then fizzes out.

Everyone sighs and gives a sarcastic applause.

LEWIS

That was huge Eric!

LAUREN

It's just like Eric to be
all talk and no action...

Everyone laughs.

Suddenly, the firework goes off with a big bang. They all jump and then burst into laughter.

Candice keeps laughing hysterically after the crowd begins to stop.

Aria looks to her and smiles taking the joint from her fingers.

ARIA
I think that's enough for
you...

ERIC
Leave it to Aria to be the
responsible one...

ARIA
(Sarcastically)
I'm so responsible...

Candice, clearly more under the influence than everyone else
turns to Aria, holding her shoulder.

CANDICE
Aria! I have a confession...

Aria turns to her confused, passing on the joint.

ARIA
Yeah?

CANDICE
I told you I went to
Harvard... truth is I never
actually went...

Aria smiles at her.

ARIA
I know...

Candice sighs with a sense of relief.

ERIC
Don't worry Candice; we're
all fuck ups here.

Eric and Gabe cheers as everyone laughs.

GABE
I can tell you now... I'll
never be happy if I'm stuck
in an office, or a cubical...

LEWIS

Where would you be happy?

GABE

Here? I don't know... but isn't that what this phase of our life is all about anyways? Confusion?

ARIA

Do you think our parents felt this way at our age?

CANDICE

My parents were already married at this age... I think my dad was even working at the job he continued at for the rest of his life...

ARIA

I guess it's just a different generation...

GABE

Yeah... and each generation is just takes longer and longer to grow up

LAUREN

I kind of like that idea... that maybe in a thousand years or something... after we are all gone and forgotten about... people just won't grow up.

Gabe takes the joint from Lauren and finishes it.

LAUREN

Hey I wasn't done with that!

Eric ignores her looking at his phone.

ERIC

319 Basker Street it is!

LEWIS
What's there?

ERIC
Katrina Lowster is having
"people over".

ARIA
I really don't feel like
crashing some random younger
girls party... Besides doesn't
she live out in the boonies?

ERIC
Moved while you were gone,
she's just around the
street! She's not going to
care if we come... I've never
seen Aria being the one to
question a party.

Aria rolls her eyes.

LAUREN
Come on Aria, you can't hate
on the younger girls... they
used to be us...

Aria laughs and the group gets up collecting all their
stuff.

They all start walking across the football field back
towards the school.

The Arcade Fire's "The Suburbs" plays.

EXT. STREET – MOMENTS LATER

The group all walks down the street, spread out in their own
conversations.

The houses surrounding are freshly built. For sale signs and
partially paved roads cover the area.

Eric runs up to a tractor and starts climbing it.

ERIC

My parents are thinking of moving into this area!

LAUREN

When did this street even get here? I knew they were talking about building a new subdivision since I was like five...

LEWIS

They just started building pretty rapidly... With the new highway coming in down by the old high school, they are finally making something of this town.

GABE

They're finally building that Wal-Mart just a street over.

LAUREN

What? They can't do that!

ERIC

And get this! You know death corner? They put up an actual working stoplight...

LAUREN

What fun is that?

They all laugh.

The party becomes visible in the distance. Kids parade the front lawn and muffled music is heard.

Eric, Gabe and Lewis go ahead. Lauren, Aria and Candice walk a little behind.

ARIA

Everything in this town is finally changing...

LAUREN

My mom renovated my room.
It's now a personal gym..
because you know my parents
work out all the time.

Aria laughs.

ARIA

My room is now a guest room.
It feels like a hotel room..
just being in it, didn't
really make it feel like
home.

LAUREN

I don't really know what
home is anymore...

The girls all walk up the steps to the party.

INT. HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

The party is in full swing. Kids crowd the living room, all
with drinks in hand. A hazy smoke covers the room.

Eric and Gabe are already about socializing with people.
Aria and Lauren walk in and start hugging acquaintances.

Candice walks about and smiles to different people. She
looks up to Lewis who's pouring his beer in a cup.

They exchange a glance and smile to each other.

LEWIS

Want some survival tips?

CANDICE

Please!

LEWIS

If you feel unwanted, just
go to the host of the party,
have a shot with her... for
(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)
some reason with girls
that's just a way to create
a bond... secondly, see that
guy over on the couch?

Lewis points to a large guy smoking a bong talking endlessly
to a girl who looks bored out of her mind.

LEWIS
If he starts talking to you,
use absolutely any excuse to
get out of it... he will never
stop and once you get into a
science versus religion
discussion, it's all over
for you...

Candice laughs.

CANDICE
Good to know! What about
you?

LEWIS
Me? My strategy is to be the
older mysterious guy...

Candice smiles. Lewis pours another beer and hands it to
her.

CANDICE
Well thanks for the tips... do
you know where the washroom
is?

LEWIS
I'm assuming... near that line
of girls...

Lewis points over to the washroom. Candice smiles to him and
then sighs walking over.

Aria spots Isaac waking in the door with some friends. She
walks over and gives him a hug.

ARIA
Isaac!!

Isaac looks excited to see her.

ISAAC
Aria! How have you been!
It's been forever!

ARIA
I've been good, how about
you? And school? I heard
your doing really good!

ISAAC
School is ... school.

ARIA
Fair enough... hey, you're
brother came with us, he's
around here somewhere.

Isaac nods.

ARIA
Is everything cool with you
guys?

ISAAC
Honestly, I don't know... we
never really talked when I
was away and now with him
leaving soon... it's just
awkward.

ARIA
He's leaving?

ISAAC
Well... he's going into the
military...

Aria's smile fades, her emotions are stirred.

ARIA
I had no idea...

Aria looks over to Lewis who's looking around at the party. He looks melancholic.

ISAAC

Don't mention anything... to Eric or Gabe or Lauren... I don't know who he's told... I really don't think he wants to do it.

ARIA

Then why? When does he leave?

ISAAC

I almost feel like it's my fault... like he's trying to prove himself or something to our parents... But he leaves next week.

Aria looks at Lewis once again and then back down at her cup, lost in thought.

ISAAC

But I'm going to go grab another drink.

Aria nods.

ISAAC

But Aria, seriously... it was good to see you. You're one of the few people I cared about seeing tonight.

Aria smiles as Isaac walks away.

Lauren walks over Eric who's sitting on the couch having a smoke. She sits up cross-legged beside him.

LAUREN

Do you think you'll ever get bored of this?

ERIC
Of this?

LAUREN
You know what I'm talking
about... the same parties, the
same people sleeping with
the same people... the same
shitty drugs and
conversations about things
that no one is ever going to
actually do or remember..

ERIC
Why? Are you?

Lauren takes a sip of her drink and then looks him dead in
the eye in a serious tone but then bursts into laughter.

LAUREN
No... not at all.

Eric laughs.

ERIC
Good... me either.

LAUREN
Are we those creepy older
kids now at the high school
party?

ERIC
Ha no! I think we have a few
more years on us.

LAUREN
I can deal with a few more
years.

Aria comes and sits beside the two.

LAUREN
How are you doing?

ARIA

Good, I feel like I need to just start soaking it in.

ERIC

What are we soaking in?

ARIA

I don't know... this!

Aria flails her arms, signifying the party around her.

ERIC

How much have you had to drink?

Aria laughs.

ARIA

No it's not that... It's just kind of all hitting me... When you think about it, I know I'm not coming back here next summer. I'm staying in Paris.

LAUREN

Yeah... I'm going to have a full year lease next year so I'm staying at school too.

ARIA

That's my point; this is kind of the last summer. We will always be home for the holidays, but from this point on... when will we ever all be home again for four months?

LAUREN

If everything goes according to plan, then I guess we never would.

The group sits in thought.

Gabe comes walking in from the kitchen carrying some shot glasses and a bottle of booze.

GABE

I thought I would liven the party up a bit!

LAUREN

Where'd you get the booze?

GABE

Courtesy of Brianna's father's liquor cabinet!

ARIA

Oh god...

Gabe hands them all a shot glass and begins pouring them. He seals the bottle and puts on a table behind him.

GABE

All right... just like old times!

They hold their shot glasses up to cheers.

ERIC

To old times!

LAUREN

To... the last summer.

They all look at each other for a moment and Gabe nods.

GABE

To the last summer.

They cheers and gulp it down.

Aria wipes her mouth and looks over to Lewis and Candice who are walking to the back porch and sitting outside on the deck.

Aria nudges Lauren.

ARIA

Well isn't that cute..

LAUREN

It's weird how everyone is just friends after high school. All these different groups... imagine how much more fun high school would have been if everyone just would have been friends.

GABE

Well luckily, you girls chose to hang out with us dorks in high school.

ERIC

Speak for yourself, you guys held me back.

Lauren hits Eric jokingly.

LAUREN

Oh yeah, you with your indie scream band had all the girls' knees shaking.

ARIA

What ever happened to that band anyways?

GABE

Well... we came to the harsh realization that we were a really shitty band.

ERIC

Yeah... it was a big falling out... you know how it is when bands fall apart after their glory days.

LAUREN

Glory days?

ARIA
Sounds tragic.

Lauren starts play fighting with Eric.

Aria and Gabe watch them and then look at each other laughing.

ARIA
And some things don't
change...

GABE
Well... thanks for always
being my exclusive groupie.

Aria smiles.

EXT. HOUSE – BACKYARD

The house party is visible but muted through the closed glass doors.

Lewis and Candice sit on the porch steps looking out at the sky.

CANDICE
What time is it?

LEWIS
Why? Do you have a curfew?

Candice laughs.

CANDICE
No... my mom probably doesn't
even know I'm gone...

LEWIS
It's three something...

Lewis takes a sip of his beer.

CANDICE

I figured it was around then... I just live around the corner from here and around four there's the night plane that goes out from the airport...

LEWIS

Yeah I know the one you're talking about.

CANDICE

When I was younger, I used to sneak out of the house and lay on the grass just before four a.m. and I'd watch the plane. I used to imagine the people on it and I'd pretend I was them, just going... somewhere.

LEWIS

What about now?

CANDICE

Now, I'm just... here.

Candice smiles to Lewis.

LEWIS

Here's not so bad.

CANDICE

I really don't mind here...

Candice looks back at the party inside.

LEWIS

It's just later we've got to worry about.

CANDICE

Yeah... how do we get rid of later?

LEWIS
I wish I knew.

CANDICE
I wanted to thank you
though... tonight I've been
able to just get so many
worries off my mind...

Lewis smiles.

CANDICE
Thanks for being my escape.
It's good to be around
people who have it all
together.

LEWIS
You may think you're the
only one with these worries...
but we all have them.
Everyone has their own
problems, it's what makes us
who we are... the things we
don't tell anyone... no matter
how happy you present
yourself, there is something
deep down that horrifies
you.

CANDICE
I guess you're right...

LEWIS
You'll get out of this town
Candice.

CANDICE
I used to think all I needed
to get out of this town was
a stupid tiara... it was my
ticket out... but now look at
me.

Lewis smiles at her.

LEWIS
I'm going to go grab my case
of beer around front! I'll
be right back.

Candice nods.

INT. HOUSE – WASHROOM

Aria fixes her hair in the washroom mirror.

She leans against the wall for a moment looking at the door.
She hears Lauren yelling something playfully in the other
room and she smiles to herself.

She looks back into the mirror, takes a breath and then
walks out back to the party.

INT. HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

Aria walks into the living room. She walks over to a table
and grabs an empty cup and makes a drink. As she sips it she
turns around and observes the party taking it all in.

She looks over to see Lauren and Eric now passionately
making out in a corner. She laughs to herself and then looks
around the room in search of someone.

She walks over to Lauren and Eric and Lauren pulls away to
talk to Aria.

ARIA
Hey, have you seen Gabe?

LAUREN
Yeah, he said to tell you
he's in the backroom!

ARIA
The backroom?

LAUREN
I don't know! I'm just the
messenger...

Aria smiles as Lauren and Eric continue kissing.

Aria walks through the people to an empty room at the back of the house.

INT. HOUSE – BACKROOM

Aria creeks open the door looking in. She turns on the light and looks around. She then spots a mask lying on the bed with a note. The mask is a half-face painted dollar store craft she had made.

She laughs at the sight of it. She picks it up looking at it and then the note that reads: "Meet me out front".

She looks around in suspicion and then heads out back to the party.

EXT. HOUSE – FRONT – MOMENTS LATER

Aria walks out the front and slowly down the steps, carrying the mask.

"Dead Hearts" by Stars begins to play.

She looks around, brushing her hair back from the wind.

Suddenly, Gabe grabs her arm and pulls her to the side of the house.

EXT. HOUSE – SIDE

Aria, not getting a clear look at Gabe yet flips around and sees him standing there in his mask.

She laughs and Gabe smiles. She leans against the brick wall and puts her mask on.

Gabe moves closer and then they begin to kiss.

EXT. HOUSE – BACKYARD

Candice sits on the porch looking off into the sky aimlessly, sipping on a drink.

Lewis comes from around the corner of the house and sits back beside her.

CANDICE

I was starting to think you ran off.

LEWIS

I got a little distracted.

Lewis holds out a poorly constructed daisy/flower crown.

Candice laughs. They both lock eyes and Lewis carefully places it on her head.

She feels it for a moment. She smiles at him and then looks down, flustered.

Suddenly, the sounds of a plane become louder and louder.

Candice looks up at the sky in excitement and then to Lewis. She takes a huge sip of her drink and then runs into the middle of the lawn looking above the house waiting for the plane.

CANDICE

(Excitedly)

Come on!!

She waves her hands for him to join her.

Lewis just sits and smiles at her.

The plane finally ascends over the house, fairly lowly. The tree branches shake and the sound reaches an ultimate loud.

Candice watches and spins around joyfully as the plane passes over her.

She turns and watches it leave into the air.

Lewis walks up to her and she turns back to him. He moves some of the hair from her face and after a moment they share an innocent kiss.

INT. HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

Lauren is in the center of the room dancing amongst some girls.

Eric sits on the couch with Isaac and a few other guys.

Lauren keeps signaling for him to come up and join her but he just shakes his head smiling.

ISAAC

And we're right back into old patterns already, huh?

ERIC

Yeah... but I already can tell, I'm going to blink and it's going to be august... and it's all going to be over.

ISAAC

I know what you mean... I'm not looking forward to that at all.

ERIC

But hey, it is the longest summer we've ever had.

ISAAC

Let's hope it feels that way!

Eric laughs.

A young guy comes frantically running into the living room.

GUY

Everyone, COPS ARE HERE!!

Everyone rushes to get their stuff together and many head running out through the backyard.

The blue and red lights flash through the curtains.

Lauren casually walks over to Isaac and Eric.

LAUREN
Sounds like the parties
over!

A few cops come in through the door, getting people to leave.

ERIC
Yep, parties over...

EXT. HOUSE – BACKYARD

Candice and Lewis stand in the center of the lawn and look at the people leaving through the back.

LEWIS
Party must have got busted...

CANDICE
Yeah... so when will we see
each other again?

LEWIS
I guess the next party?

CANDICE
Okay, well I work a lot this
upcoming weekend but next
weekend... let's do this
again...

Hearing the words "Next Weekend", a sudden realization and overwhelming depression comes over him.

CANDICE
Are you okay?

LEWIS
Yeah... yeah...

CANDICE
That didn't sound very
convincing...

LEWIS
Listen... I've got to go home
right now... but seriously I
had a really good time with
you tonight.

Candice smiles at him as he takes a deep breath and walks off. She stands in the middle of the lawn and turns, watching him leave.

EXT. HOUSE – SIDE

Aria and Gabe stand against the bricks laughing to each other and kissing.

A flashlight fills their masks and they turn shielding their eyes to a young COP. They take off their masks.

COP
Aria and Gabe...

The two smile.

COP
I should have known...

ERIC
Hey Duncan.

DUNCAN
Eric's inside isn't he?

GABE
Yeah...

Duncan sighs and then turns to the house but spots Aria's red plastic cup.

DUNCAN

Listen, we're supposed to clear everyone out now, but I'll let you guys stay here until we're done clearing the house... but by the time I get back you guys better be gone and same with that drink Aria!

Duncan smiles and walks away.

Aria and Gabe turn to each other laughing, they begin to kiss again and Aria lets go of her drink letting it splash onto the grass.

The two look at each other for a moment. Lewis jogs by them to the front of the house. Gabe spots him.

GABE

(Yelling)

HEY LEWIS!!!

Lewis ignores the call and keeps going.

The two look at each other quizzically.

ARIA

I guess we should find the others...

Gabe nods and they walk to the front of the house.

EXT. HOUSE — FRONT

Gabe and Aria walk around and look at the people walking the streets and calling cabs.

Eric, Lauren, Isaac and Candice come walking out the front door.

LAUREN

Hey you two!

They spin around to the group.

ARIA
Hey, we were just looking
for you guys!

ERIC
This is so lame!

Eric puts his hands to his mouth and shouts to the kids
roaming the street.

ERIC
(SHOUTING)
WHERE'S THE AFERPARTY?

They all laugh and Lauren walks over to Aria linking her
arm.

LAUREN
I think I'm ready to call it
a night! Ready for the walk
home Aria?

ARIA
Yeah, sure!

ERIC
Boo!

LAUREN
Want to come Candice?

CANDICE
I'm the opposite way!

LAUREN
Okay, well you boys make
sure she gets home!

ISAAC
I'm taking the shortcut
through the park, so I'll
see you guys later! Did
Lewis already leave?

GABE

Yeah we saw him jet a few
minutes ago...

ISAAC

All right I'll see you guys
later!

They all wave off Isaac as he walks along.

LAUREN

As will we! Bye guys!

They all greet each other off and Lauren and Aria walk down
the street.

Aria looks back once more at the group, she subtly smiles to
Gabe and then turns back.

Gabe watches Aria leave into the distance and then looks
back at the party and all the drunken teenagers laughing and
finding their ways home. He turns to Eric and Candice.

GABE

There's something beautiful
about all of this..

The group takes a moment standing there.

ERIC

Something..

Candice smiles to them. Eric spots a bike lying in the grass
across the street. He pats Gabe on the back and runs over
and grabs the bike riding it down the street.

ERIC

Come on!!

Gabe shakes his head and then him and Candice follow.

EXT. STREET – MOMENTS LATER

Aria and Lauren walk down a dusty deserted street. They both walk barefoot with their heels in hand.

LAUREN

I think my favorite part of every night used to be the walk home.

ARIA

I know what you mean... talking about everything, getting into random little misadventures. Why can't we just freeze time?

Lauren stops walking and turns to Aria. Lauren grabs Aria holding her still.

ARIA

What are you doing?

LAUREN

Just wait!

Aria looks confused.

LAUREN

I'm trying to freeze time.

Aria starts laughing.

ARIA

You're such a goof.

The two start laughing harder. After they come to silence, Aria looks up past her to see her brother's roadside cross. A sudden seriousness overcomes her.

LAUREN

What is it?

Lauren turns and sees the cross and looks back at her and leans on her shoulder hugging her. Lauren walks over to the cross and Aria stands alone watching her.

Lauren goes and sits in the grass beside the cross. Aria takes a hard gulp and slowly walks over. She sits down beside Lauren.

Lauren pulls out a pack of smokes from her purse and hands Aria a cigarette. The girls both light a cigarette sitting in silence.

Lauren turns to Aria.

LAUREN
I still think about him..
every day.

Tears stream down Arias cheek and Lauren grabs her hand.

ARIA
It finally feels like people
are getting past it... moving
on and that horrifies me
because it hasn't sunk in
yet. The whole time I was at
school I pictured him at
home with my mom... and it's
just going to get worse from
here on...

LAUREN
No ones forgotten...

Aria stares at the grass for a moment and then turns and looks Lauren in the eye.

ARIA
I really miss him...

More tears fill her.

LAUREN
We all do... how is your mom
doing? I still haven't seen
her... I feel like such an ass
hole but it's too hard.

ARIA

She puts on a good act but
it kills her... it's gotten
better though. That first
week before I went to school
was rough... I wasn't going to
go but then I heard her
laugh for the first time.

Aria wipes the tears from her cheeks.

Lauren smiles.

LAUREN

Yeah?

ARIA

Yeah... it was when she was
really drinking... she was a
wreck. Then, she was going
for liquor cabinet and she
grabbed a bottle of grey
goose. She took a huge gulp
but the bottle was pure
water... from us.

A tear streams down Lauren's face as she laughs.

ARIA

I was expecting this
breakdown but she just
started laughing
hysterically, we both just
couldn't stop... for the first
time I felt things might
just be okay.

LAUREN

You know what I hear?

ARIA

What?

LAUREN

It always gets better from
here on out...

ARIA
Who says that?

LAUREN
I do...

Aria laughs while wiping her tears. Lauren looks up at the stars.

LAUREN
Maybe when we die we become stars...

Aria looks up at the sky.

ARIA
You think?

LAUREN
I just feel like... this can't be it...

ARIA
I know what you mean.

Lauren leans on Aria's shoulder and the two stare off into the distance.

CUTS TO:

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE — FRONT

Isaac walks towards his house looking at the ground. He looks up to his driveway to see a car in the driveway with the engine running. He looks up distraught.

Suddenly, the car goes speeding in reverse but hits a bunch of recycling bins and stops as the wheels just leave the curb.

Isaac runs to the car and starts banging on the passenger window.

ISAAC
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

Isaac opens the door and sits in the passenger seat.

INT. CAR – FRONT SEATS

Lewis sits crying in the front seat with a bottle of half finished hard liquor in his hand. Isaac is shocked at the sight and turns off the engine taking the keys.

ISAAC

What were you thinking?!

LEWIS

I don't know...

ISAAC

What do you mean you don't know? How could you even think of doing this after Brendan?

Lewis cries harder starring at the wheel.

LEWIS

I just don't know what I'm going to do... nothing was supposed to be like this.

ISAAC

Do you think any of us are happy?

LEWIS

What are you talking about? You're the perfect one...

ISAAC

What are you talking about? If you ever even took the time to ask me how things were you'd know I absolutely hate it at school... I hate that I have to end up exactly like Dad...

LEWIS
I'm just so scared...

ISAAC
We all are...

LEWIS
For the first time tonight,
things felt okay... but now
it's all about to end...

ISAAC
It doesn't have to end...

LEWIS
I don't have a choice
anymore Isaac...

ISAAC
We're going to get through
this...

The two sit there for a moment and then Lewis leans over and they hug. Tears stream down Isaac's face and Lewis breaks down.

LEWIS
I'm sorry Isaac... I hate the
way I've been lately... I
really did miss you... I was
just so angry about Brendan...
about you leaving me alone
in that house... I just lost
it.

ISAAC
I really missed you... I felt
like you hated me...

LEWIS
I could never hate you...

ISAAC
Remember when we were kids
and we just rode our bikes
everywhere?

LEWIS
Yeah...

ISAAC
I wish things were just that
easy now...

Lewis leans back in his seat.

LEWIS
Yeah...

The two stare out the windshield in their own thoughts.
Lewis closes his eyes for a moment, slowly passing out.
Isaac turns and looks out his window.

CUTS TO:

EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE - FRONT

Aria and Lauren make it to the front of their houses. They
stop in the middle and turn to each other.

LAUREN
Well... we got through night
one...

ARIA
Yeah... you know... I've always
been so jealous of you. How
you can just be so carefree
all of the time.

LAUREN
Who me?

The two laugh.

ARIA
Seriously... I saw pictures of
you off at school, you can
just adapt anywhere... you can
make everything a good time.

LAUREN
Want to know my secret?

ARIA
Yeah...

LAUREN
It's all an act.

Aria smiles.

LAUREN
Goodnight Aria Barbarian!

ARIA
Later Borin' Lauren!

The two smile and then head towards their houses.

Aria walks up the front door and pulls the key out of her purse. She struggles with the door and then walks in.

INT. ARIA'S HOUSE — LIVING ROOM

Aria walks around the dark empty, silent house. She goes around the house looking at pictures. She stands in the center of the house and just looks around with her arms crossed.

She sees her mother's bedroom door open. She quietly walks over and stands at the door. She looks at her mom sleeping peacefully. She takes a moment and then turns to the wall and breaks down crying.

She slides to the ground, crouching and trying to be quiet as she finally lets all her emotion out.

Benjamin Francis Leftwich's "Box of Stones" begins to play.

She finally controls herself, wiping off her face and taking deep breaths.

She looks up and notices a flickering out the living room front window.

She slowly gets up and walks to the window; she looks across to Lauren's house but doesn't see anything. She turns on the room light.

Within seconds, Lauren turns on her light and they both look to each other and burst into laughter.

Lauren in the distance points to outside and Aria nods.

EXT. ARIA'S HOUSE — FRONT — MOMENTS LATER

Aria and Lauren both walk out of their houses and meet in the middle of the street again.

LAUREN
Just checking if you're all
right.

Aria smiles and they hug.

The streetlights turn off, as the sky grows lighter. The two notice the lights and then look to each other.

ARIA
I guess there's no real
point of sleeping now...

LAUREN
Come on...

The two stumble down the street once again.

CUTS TO:

INT. CAR — FRONT SEATS — MOMENTS LATER

Lewis sleeps with his head against the window. Isaac wakes from a brief sleep and looks out the window at the sky becoming brighter.

He looks at Lewis and smirks. He stretches and gets out of the car.

EXT. ISAAC'S HOUSE — FRONT

Isaac quietly closes the door and walks to the end of his driveway and picks up the fallen recycling bins and fixes them back up.

VOICE (O.S.)
Isaac!!!

Isaac looks up the street to see Eric, Gabe and Candice walking down the street as the sun rises.

Isaac smiles. Eric speeds over on his bike.

ERIC
What are you doing? Come
with us we've still got a
few fireworks!

Isaac laughs

ISAAC
Fireworks? It's light
outside!

ERIC
Ah, we're young; the noises
will piss people off! Why
not cause some havoc?

ISAAC
I'll grab Lewis!

ERIC
You guys have any more beer?

ISAAC
Yeah probably in the garage!

ERIC
Suh-weeeet!

Eric jumps off his bike and runs over to the garage as Candice and Gabe come up to the driveway.

Isaac knocks on the car window and Lewis gets out groggily.

LEWIS
Where are we going?

GABE
The highway that's under
construction...

LEWIS
Why?

GABE
Why not?

Lewis laughs. He looks over seeing Candice and they exchange a smile.

Eric walks out of the garage carrying a six-pack and the group starts on walking down the street.

CUTS TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND — MOMENTS EARLIER

Aria and Lauren sit on the swings having a smoke.

LAUREN
I'm barely even tired...

ARIA
The funny thing is how we're
going to sleep all day and
do this all over again.

LAUREN
And repeat...

ARIA
It's kind of funny how all
we wanted when we were
younger was to grow up and
now were not really kids but
were not really adults... and
all we want is to go back.

LAUREN
I know we're like stuck in
this stage that doesn't
really feel like it could
(MORE)

LAUREN (CONT'D)
end. Makes me wonder if it
ever does... or do our parents
just pretend like everything
is okay.

ARIA
I really hope not.

LAUREN
I think what made childhood
so great... is that we never
actually thought about it.
There really were not any
worries.

ARIA
Are biggest concerns were
how we'd get a ride
somewhere or if a boy liked
you.

LAUREN
Yeah... what happened to
innocence?

ARIA
Your innocence died a little
faster than mine did...

LAUREN
Hey! You corrupted me! I
blame you.

Lauren nudges Aria on the swing and Aria laughs.

ARIA
Oh well... we have this entire
summer of carelessness ahead
of us!

LAUREN
We have this entire life of
carelessness ahead of us!

Aria smiles.

The sound of a firework goes off in the distance. The sparks of the flare are barely visible.

Aria and Lauren look at each other and sigh.

LAUREN

I guess we weren't the only ones who couldn't sleep...

ARIA

Should we go?

LAUREN

What else do we have to do!

They both jump off the swings and grab their bags off the ground.

They walk up the field and Aria stops and looks back at the overlook of the town for a moment and then continues following Lauren.

They enter a forest-like area that leads to the road.

EXT. HIGHWAY

The sun is almost up leaving the sky a bright orange. The highway is half constructed, but mainly just dirt and signs scattering the street.

Aria and Lauren walk to the road and look over to see Eric, Gabe, Candice and Lewis walking down the street.

The group sees Aria and Lauren and laugh.

Lauren sticks her thumb out to Eric and Eric stops on his bike in front of her.

ERIC

I assume you girls didn't just wake up for an early morning jog?

LAUREN

Shut up Eric!

"Soco Amaretto Lime" by Brand New begins to play.

Lauren jumps on the back of Eric's bike and holds on to him. Eric slowly drives his bike with the walking group.

Aria waits for Gabe and the two smile to each other.

Gabe puts his arm around her and she leans her head on his shoulder.

Candice Lewis and Isaac all walk in conversation.

Eric drives by and grabs the flower crown off of Candice's head and puts it in his own head.

The group laughs and all walk slowly down the half-built highway.

FADE TO BLACK.