

"THEN"

written by

Jovan K Silgold

silgoldjovanks@aol.com
silgoldjovan@gmail.com

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - PARIS - DAY

It's a brilliant day. A black coffin lies next to it's grave. A few dozen people are attending this ceremony.

JENNY YEARS (17), beautiful, stands next to ALISON. Alison is Jenny's aunt. Jenny can't help the tears running out of her eyes.

The minister starts with his speech. We're at Jenny's mum's burial.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

CAMERA follows two male bodies from above walking down the roadside in silence.

It's LIAM MCDANIEL (22), way handsome, with a hard to miss embitterment on his face walking alongside lifetime best friend RODNEY PHELPS. Rodney is down to earth. The kind left only to live for the good of Liam and other few individuals. Rodney's hair is a maze in a way that makes him so eye-catching.

They stop on reaching a derelict building. It's the OLD YEARS' MANSION. It doesn't look too good even in the night. Liam heaves a cold sigh. His eyes full of a certain sadness that all comes back to this building.

LIAM

654 nights...I have walked down
this same road, half a mile from
home, hoping to forget or maybe
fall into her.

(beat)

Wait 5 minutes, think. Remember.
Turn, then just head back home.

RODNEY

654 nights! I think I lost my
count.

Liam turns, walking back.

LIAM

You lost your count on 120
Rodney.

Rodney holds back for sometime before he turns.

RODNEY

And you just head right back
home.

(CONTINUED)

They walk in silence for a moment.

LIAM
People think am crazy.

Pause. It's like Rodney is filling sorry for him. But soon that's contradicted by his next statement...

RODNEY
(despondently)
They think am mad.

They continue walking in silence. No IPODS or other music players typical of youths their age.

EXT. TENNESSEE - EARLY SUMMER - FLASHBACK (10 YEARS AGO)

CAMERA follows a shanty Tennessee town. To a rather more lively suburb. Then to the City of Nashville. Through a boulevard to find a rich country elementary school...

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CONTINUOUS) - DAY

A beautiful green school yard. It's deserted. FX SCHOOL BELL RINGS. Pupils flood into the once silent school yard. They're of all ages. Most carry result slips. Some happy. Others frustrated. Not bothered are YOUNG LIAM and best friend RODNEY PHELPS, 12.

YOUNG RODNEY
It's gonna be a long holiday. Any plans?

YOUNG LIAM
Definitely. Am gonna kick your arse in G4s all the way into next year.
(swanning)
All the way.

YOUNG RODNEY
Things change, William. Tides don't always head the same direction, you witnessed that in baseball.

Liam spins around. He strolls backwards. Swanning...

YOUNG LIAM
Rodney PHELPS, in G4s, am king.

Rodney frowns. Liam casts his eyes on YOUNG JENNY (7) getting past them. She did not see them. Her face wears a small worry. Rodney shoots Liam a look. Liam turns. He can't believe she just did that.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG LIAM

Hey Jenny.

She stops. Happens to know that voice. She turns. Embarrassed. She smiles at Liam. A genuine baby's smile.

YOUNG LIAM

Not planning on saying goodbye
Miss Years?

YOUNG JENNY

(flipping her result slip)
It's the grades.

YOUNG LIAM

(laughs, heartily)
What would you know about
grades?! Guess I'll be seeing you
around with Andrew then.

With an amiable smile, she hides her embarrassment. Jenny stomps off toward home. Rodney laughs sarcastically. He sighs. Then mocks Liam who has been drawn into the young girl's fairy-moment all along.

GEOFFREY (12), CATCHES UP WITH THEM. His heart-beat unrest due to excessive running as only can be judged by his weight.

YOUNG GEOFFREY

You could have just waited.

They don't mind him.

YOUNG GEOFFREY CONT'D

So what's it gonna be?

YOUNG RODNEY

LOVE...

YOUNG GEOFFREY

Love! Who?

YOUNG RODNEY

Younglings.

YOUNG LIAM

(pissed)
Don't mind him, Geoff. It's gonna
be G4's.

Geoffrey squeals. Then notices everyone around is looking at him. He looks at a girl on his left. Scared by his manners she is. It's AMANDA PICKETT (11).

GEOFFREY
(embarrassed)
G4s...my best game.

She frowns at him. Then smiles wildly at Rodney revealing her braces. She heads off.

GEOFFREY
(to himself)
That's what I thought.
(to Rodney)
She's pretty.

He means it. Liam and Rodney smirk at each other. "He could not have worse taste."

GEOFFREY
What???

RODNEY
Trust me dude, that Pickett girl
is nowhere next to being pretty.

EXT. MCDANIEL HOUSE - MORNING (PRESENT)

A GRACEFUL house in a moderately rich neighborhood. GARY MCDANIEL, Liam's dad and his wife SUSIE stand by their driveway waiting onto the end of the road where a new black DODGE CALIBER comes from.

GARY has a look and wears a hat typical of country musicians. Susie is the country girl in jeans. "Not the so mum type."

The Dodge drives into their driveway.

Liam emerges out the house door. HAROLD hops out the Dodge.

LIAM
You guys started driving your own
stock now?

HAROLD
How I wish that was the case.
(to Gary)
Hello superstar.

The sound of this thrills Gary.

HAROLD
(saluting)
Susie.

SUSIE

How is it goin' Harold?

HAROLD

(handing the keys to Gary)
Can't complain with guys like him
all over this town. Tips come
huge.

GARY

(handing the keys to him)
Liam.

Liam's face couldn't be more indifferent. Like something is not right.

GARY

Oh, yes. SUV it is.

HAROLD

(in mock-flippancy)
You can't drive?

LIAM

As I can remember, it's only one
of us who can't swim. No more.
(to Gary)
Is this some kind of punishment?

HAROLD

(retaliating)
You know the last time I checked
your YOUNG PROTEGEE hadn't logged
on to Pheed either.

Susie focuses on this. Gary too. Liam ignores Harold though picks the point. Climbs into the Dodge. Engine starts. He lowers the glass.

SUSIE

Nothing above 30miles per hour.

LIAM

You got it mum.

He slowly drives out the driveway as if he is actually doing it. Then drifts off.

EXT. DODGE - DAY

Liam watches the road ahead of him. Beautiful mansions line the entire street with expensive sports cars in the parking lots. A community typical of people of more or so the same status.

EXT. DOWNTOWN APARTMENT - DAY

CLAIRE (22) strikingly hot, emerges out of the apartment building. Liam stands by his new Dodge like a waiting professional driver. Claire gapes on seeing the Dodge.

CLAIRE

Wow. A CUV!

LIAM

Miss Claire Jensen...

Liam opens the car door for her. He does it well. Claire takes the honor while hoping in. Liam shuts the door. Moves and hurdles into the driver's seat.

CLAIRE

So you get new wheels, and the first thing you think about is like giving me a ride...!

He smiles. Something like that.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Am flattered. And when did you start driving SUVs?

LIAM

It's some kind of punishment for crashing the Mustang. Or maybe manning up.

CLAIRE

Hmm, I like it. It's got more space.

Claire makes herself comfortable. Liam grips the wheel. Starts the engine. Then looks at her.

LIAM

And where shall we be heading today Mistress?

CLAIRE

Wherever you may please, my humble steward.

LIAM

Okay then.

He steps on the fire. They keep staring at each other as he drives out the town ghetto.

EXT. OLD YEARS' MANSION - NEXT MORNING

Liam's Dodge pulls over. The mansion must have been caught by a fire like some 6years back but it's strong concrete keeps it standing. He hops out the dodge. Moves to the back, opens the trunk. In the trunk is a pitchfork, a spade, a gardener's trowel and a long broom. He picks the pitchfork.

He looks around. Over grown grass. Many small rocks. It's like no one has given the place a makeover over the age. He elevates his head to focus the derelict building. It doesn't look too good. Almost half of it covered in dark soot. He looks at the cob-webs that now shell the windows and deflates.

He moves to the house steps. They have been weathered by the harsh climate. The double door still stands. He pushes the door and moves in.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION

Liam enters. We see the reception is immense though the whole place is cuddled in dust now.

BATS RUSH OUT. He dodges them. Then looks up at the staircase. HIS SADNESS REAPPEARS. This time even deeper.

FX: AN ARRIVING TRUCK.

Liam goes to see the arrival...

EXT. OLD YEARS' MANSION

Liam emerges out. His eyes fall on Rodney moving to the back of his truck. Rodney picks out the spade. Liam is surprised to see him. He moves down the steps to meet Rodney.

LIAM

Thought you weren't coming?

RODNEY

Changed my mind. Truth always hurts. We're in the same boat though yours is perched.

LIAM

Then we're both gonna sink.

RODNEY

Didn't say I was lending a hand.

Rodney flips a coin. HEADS SHOWS ON TOP. It's an unusual COIN-HEAD. Liam's anxious to hear what Rodney's about to say.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

So what's to start with?

Liam chuckles.

LIAM

It's really a mess inside, but
lets not forget yo mama is so
fat. And that when she goes to
clean the park, she starts
anywhere.

Rodney laughs. He has heard him use these at least more than once.

INT. GARY'S BENZ - NIGHT

Gary handles the wheel. Susie is all looking gorgeous for the evening.

GARY

You look beautiful.

SUSIE

It's actually the third time you
telling me that!

GARY

(off the road to steal a
kiss)
Because you do tonight.

SUSIE

Well, who wouldn't in a 1500
dollar dress. The night is
special.

EXT. RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Gary pulls up in the parking lot. Distinct are the luxury cars filling up the lot. Gary moves out as Susie waits on him to hold the door. Holding her hand, she slips out the lady's leg purposely and reverently with quite some exaggeration.

She kisses him, breathes in, he watches her. Trying to give comfort. There is a story. These two then stride towards the restaurant.

GARY

Ready to stand by my side for 20
minutes as I give my speech?

(CONTINUED)

SUSIE
It's that long?

GARY
Just a little bit longer.

SUSIE
You'll get yourself a waitress.
Am sure she could do just that.

GARY
You won't get jealous?!

SUSIE
I'll kill her in the next second
after that speech.

She falls into him. Both giggle as they move up the steps to the entrance.

INT. RESTAURANT

It's decor is exquisitely tasteful. Different families have got together for this important event. Noticeable are the proud country artists.

ANGLE THE PHELPS striding through to meet the McDaniels who have just walked in.

b.g. Rodney holds behind. He picks a glass of champagne from a waitress getting by.

JOHN
Gary, welcome. It's good to see you.

GARY
Tour is almost over. So how has work been in the D.A's office?

JOHN PHELPS moves over to Susie. He grips her hand between his hands passionately.

JOHN
(to Gary)
I won't say it's been any easy.
Our brats enjoy havoc.

GARY
(re: RAQUEL)
And this lovely woman?

RAQUEL PHELPS exchanges a peck with Gary. The two families are close. John leads Susie to their table. Gary and Raquel follow.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
(to Susie. low toned)
Have you been okay?

Raquel eyes John. Gary not much concerned. He's throwing Hi(s) to the crowd.

SUSIE
Why?

John pulls out a seat for her on the table. It's decorations are different from those of the other tables we've seen. John moves and sits in the seat directly facing Susie. Gary gently holds a seat for Raquel who's grateful then moves and sits himself in the remaining seat.

ON TABLE. JOHN TAKES STARES AT SUSIE. It's weird. Raquel seems to be the only person on the table worried about this. Susie trying hard to ignore John.

TRACY , another waitress arrives. Giving them refills...

TRACY
Good evening?

GARY
(to Tracy)
How's your grand-ma doing now,
Tracy?

TRACY
The doctors say she'll be better soon. We just have to keep our faith in them.

Gary nods. Comforting.

SUSIE
Ah, when was the last time Liam dropped by this place?

TRACY
It's been like two months now. I think he's finally trying to let go Mrs McDaniel. Excuse me.

The assurance looks like good news to Susie. Tracy heads off back to her work.

FIND RODNEY IN THE B.G. FLEEING THE PARTY EARLY. He takes one last look at his parents table. He's not seen. He empties his glass. Places it on a table and he's out the door.

RAQUEL

Speaking about Liam. He's really serious about staying back!

SUSIE

Am afraid so, Raquel. I think he's going nowhere from Nashville and no less from the Years'. He's certain she'll return.

JOHN

California, long way from home.
(looking around)
Where's Rodney?

RAQUEL

(covering)

I can't believe it. Here we are again as we were 4yrs back, talking about our children's future. I like this.

John is still looking through for Rodney, Gary notices Raquel's unsettledness.

GARY

Then lets make a toss to our families' friendship...

All rise their glasses after him.

GARY (CONT'D)

May it be like this even for generations to come. May our grand children and their grand children share the same relations their fore-fathers have. Cheers.

ALL

Cheers

Their glasses clatter. All sip their champagne. John finally distracted.

Then Gary stands up. Makes a looking at his wife.

GARY

Get up. Gotta give ma speech.

SUSIE

Go on. I trust ya. You can do it without me.

He keeps looking at her. Making an implication that it's not an option. She sighs as she gets up. Eyes follow them as they move up the platform.

(CONTINUED)

Gary positions the microphone. He clears his throat meaningfully. Laughter from the crowd.

GARY

On this day. On this day, as we have done for a decade now, when the families of our great community get together, to give thanks to most honorable men and women who have served us well, welcome in new families and also say farewell to those that might as well be leaving us both eternally or just migratory.

Speech is taking control. Gary stares at his wife. Her face wears a sadness.

GARY (CONT'D)

This is the fifth year am honored to give this speech. Making me the longest serving and I hope to do it next year, the year after and maybe for forever...

(laughter from the crowd)

...But sadly that's not gonna happen. To claim this position, I lost my young son. Great loss to pay by the way, and for his memory, I hope to retain this position like a politician who never wants to leave power.

(more laughter)

This has been my first term people, I need a second term...

He poses as the crowd cheers.

GARY (CONT'D)

...This is when I come to the point that if you've been planning on losing someone, don't bother. Stay with that someone a little bit longer. Maybe in 100years you may get the chance. Maybe by then he would be worth it...

CUT TO:

EXT. LANE/INT. LIAM'S DODGE - SAME NIGHT

Rodney still in his suit as he was for the ceremony swings on the wheel slowly held in thought. He emotionally starts following a track that is starting to play on the radio. It's "THE HOUSE THAT BUILT ME" by MIRANDA LAMBERT.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

(singing)

I know they say, you can't go home again. I just had to come back one last time. Mum I know you don't know me for matter. But these hand prints on the front door are mine. Up those stairs, in that little...

Along the roadside is a girl whose build is that of one in her twenties. Judging from the dressing and timing, we would mistake her for a stripper or hawker. Rodney's truck is getting closer.

RODNEY

(singing)

...mama cut out pictures of houses for years. From better homes and garden magazines. Plans were drawn; concrete poured; nail by nail and board by board; dad gave life to mama's dream.

Rodney stops singing as he pulls over at her. Song continues playing on the radio. She hops in. It's Claire! We hardly believe this. She manages to keep a facade of her appearance. "Herself not a disguise". Rodney reduces the volume on the player.

RODNEY

Off work early today?

CLAIRE

I didn't go to work today. I had to take care of some college stuff.

RODNEY

College stuff?!

CLAIRE

Yeah, it will be hard with my kind of job but I need the money.

Rodney starts the engine.

RODNEY

Are you so exhausted?

CLAIRE

Why?

RODNEY

It's a Friday night.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE
Am definitely not exhausted.

RODNEY
That's good.

Rodney drives and turns by the next corner. She makes a smiling at him. They drive in silence as they listen to the fading song.

CLAIRE
Aren't you supposed to be at the
'Nashville Farewell' or whatever
you may call it?

RODNEY
The memorial. I ran off.

CLAIRE
It's still that boring?

RODNEY
Tell me about it. Crazy people
saying farewell to everything
from rats to planes in the sky.
Though Gary gives pretty nice
speeches which is the only other
part I enjoy besides the drinks.

Both giggle.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Cheers from the crowd are fading out. Gary and Susie move down the platform to their seats where John and Raquel wait. John looks at Susie with eyes all full of desire.

Before they can sit, MARTIN, a fallen once great country musician rushes in on them. All surprised to see him around.

MARTIN
Great speech you had there, Gary.

GARY
Thanks for joining us this year,
Martin.

MARTIN
Sure. Susie, I hope you don't
mind me stealing him for a
second?

(CONTINUED)

SUSIE
Go right ahead.

Martin salutes John and Raquel quite decently and heads away with Gary.

RAQUEL
(to Susie)
I thought he detested the whole
memorial-to-farewell thing?

SUSIE
So did I.

INT. GARY'S BENZ (CONTINUOUS) - LATER THAT SAME NIGHT

Gary pulls over in their parking lot. Susie hunches over and removes her heels.

SUSIE
So I've been doing some
thinking...

GARY
(absent minded)
Yeah... what about?

SUSIE
Liam. I think we should help him
with the Year's. Like really help
him.

GARY
Meaning buying it?

SUSIE
Yeah. You should talk to John
about letting him have it.

GARY
I'll let you do that.

SUSIE
(pleased)
Okay.
(beat)
Is anything the matter? You seem
not to be here.

GARY
Oh no. Everything is just fine.

INT. MCDANIEL HOUSE - GARY AND SUSIE'S BEDROOM.

The shower is running. Susie straightens her night wear. She moves to the mirror.

The shower stops running giving Susie a chance to air out what's been on her mind.

SUSIE

Martin suddenly shows up. What did he want?

GARY O.S

He wants to start giving the opening speech.

SUSIE

He didn't want any part of it then. What makes him think he could just walk in and claim a thing?

Gary moves out the bathroom in his robe. Moves and picks cream by the mirror.

GARY

It's okay, honey. I'll talk to Rufus and see how we can help Martin. It's him supposed to be up there. Not us. Not anymore.

(beat)

We're living.

SUSIE

This is our hometown. It will always be.

GARY

And Martin is just a part of it.

Gary kisses her good night.

EXT. THEATER - LATE NIGHT

Rodney and Claire move out the theater building. They must have been the last ones to leave yet non seems to have enjoyed the night. Claire leaks on some ice cream. They move to the parking lot. It's empty apart from the Dodge and some other sedan where two teens are making out from. Rodney laughs. It's not sincere. Claire realizes. She hunches over the SUV.

CLAIRE

Next time you wanna go out and watch a love story on a Friday night, you should probably pick

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE (cont'd)
on someone who's no way next to
being your cousin.

RODNEY
I gotcha.

They enter the truck. Car engine starts and he is out the parking lot.

INT. LIAM'S DODGE - LATE NIGHT

Claire's thrown back in the seat the same way she was after he had picked her up.

CLAIRE
I can't believe ya cried in there.

RODNEY
Movie brought back sad memories.

A moment. Claire is silent.

RODNEY
The macho also cry.

CLAIRE
Was it HER?

Rodney nods. ALWAYS.

CLAIRE
Boy you gotta let go.

RODNEY
I can't believe this. Seriously?!
No -- you think me loving her is cynical and Liam loving her is okay?!

CLAIRE
No Rod, you -- you can't ask him of that. It would kill him. Dude has lost a lot Rodney and your life is next to perfect if you would just let it.

RODNEY
(doesn't mean it)
You supposed to side with me.

CLAIRE
Not in murder.

RODNEY

No. Never when it's against
McDaniel.

CLAIRE

Am here for you Rod, but let's be
realistic here.

Rodney sighs.

RODNEY

Unfortunately I can't put your
availability to good use.

CLAIRE

You're sick.

Rodney laughs. Accepting being sick.

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (ANOTHER DAY)

The room is dark only lit by the light from the laptop.
Liam is hunched over typing.

LIAM V.O

Could Jenny feel the same, I
could not know. Was I insane to
fall for a girl out of my league,
most people would judge. But who
sets the rules? Who says what's
right or wrong? It had been a
long time since then. Five years
had passed and not a word had
been exchanged...

EXT. PARK - EARLY MORNING

John and Susie are having a morning jog challenge between
themselves. Susie is quite an athlete. They come to a halt
in the park, Susie merging as winner. Both breathing
deeply and uneasily. Revitalizing...

JOHN

You still got some leg.

SUSIE

Um-hmm. So you sell my son that
house.

JOHN

Ha... Am really gonna miss ya.

Susie then sits on the park bench besides. John too takes
a rest.

(CONTINUED)

SUSIE

Am gonna miss you too, John. Am gonna miss kickin' yo arse in this sport.

John smirks. Susie too. John catches her gaze. She fakes a smile and looks away. He simmers it off.

CUT TO:

INT. MCDANIEL HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Liam dashes down the stairs. He enters the kitchen and finds his dad kissing his mum good-bye. Susie's all cleaned up and she stands by the table peeling tomatoes.

Liam heads to the refrigerator. Looks through it. Choice is hard on the variety in there. He slips out a tin of juice.

Gary starts out. But then holds by the door...

GARY

Liam, you should contact a utility company about the electricity and water. And are you gonna rebuild it?

LIAM

The Years'?!

SUSIE

I talked to John.

LIAM

(overwhelmed)

Really? It must have been a hell lot expensive.

Gary brags. He got the money.

LIAM

(to Gary who's already out)

Thank you...

Gary sneaks back a look through the door. Surprised his son would thank.

LIAM (CONT'D)

...But I'll -- pay back.

Gary gestures disdainfully at this. Susie laughs. Liam not pleased...

(CONTINUED)

LIAM
Thanks Susie.

SUSIE
(whispers to him)
You're welcome son.

A lovely rare mother and son relationship. Then back to Gary as he gleefully spins off the house porch. Liam and Susie catch this through the door.

BOTH
Fifty goin' on ten.

Then both react.

TIME CUT.

SUSIE
-- Are you gonna rebuild it?

LIAM
No. I just want it the way it is.

SUSIE
And I guess I won't be seeing you
around much. Only semester
breaks.

LIAM
And Christmas.

SUSIE
(hopeful)
You're not doing this back thing
because of a girl, are you?

Susie's face awaits a yes.

LIAM
I wish I was mum. But I don't
know where she is and apparently
she's not presenting herself.

SUSIE
Am sorry I had to bring that
up...

LIAM
Am not.

SUSIE
--Really?

LIAM
(sincerely happy)
Yep. I like remembering her.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LIAM (cont'd)
Missing her. Imagining how she
looks at 17.

SUSIE
Won't it remind you... of the
accident?

LIAM
(poetic)
Andrew's gone mum. He's never
coming back.

Liam smiles. Susie eased. She's happy he maybe finally
trying to let go. She moves and hugs him.

LIAM
(uncomfortable)
Mum...

She slowly retreats from his chest. Liam feels weird. Too
big for motherly love now.

EXT. CEMETERY ROAD - DAY

Liam crosses over from the other side to the cemetery
gate. He pushes it and strides in amiably.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Clean graveyard. Organized marble graves. Town takes care
of it's dead. Liam moves through looking at the
inscriptions on the graves. Mothers, fathers, daughters
sharing that pain. He stops by a smaller grave.

It's inscriptions read: ANDREW MCDANIEL; 1995-2009.
BELOVED SON AND BROTHER.

Liam smiles then frowns like a frosty smell has just
filled the air. He then sits on the grave.

A moment.

LIAM
Mum and dad are moving to
California.

Liam heaves a sigh. Looks at the grave despairingly as if
he thought for a moment that it would respond. He gets up
and as he moves away, he stops. Turns back and moves to
the grave.

LIAM
(outrageous)
You know you should never have
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LIAM (cont'd)
been fooling by those stairs.
Never.

His eyes are now tearful. He's hurt by his own words.

LIAM
Just look where your young
obsession got you...

Liam paces around. All furious, giving the advice he should have given back then. Blaming himself.

LIAM
Were you crazy?

He starts sobbing. He rests back on the grave. Now sorry.

LIAM
I loved her too Andrew. I know I
shouldn't have but I did. I love
her so much.
(pause, Liam thinks)
Next year we were supposed to be
living for Paris.
(he laughs)
You were stupid then. You never
considered France's being a big
State... and that even when you
had saved up all the money that
could get you anywhere in the
world, you would probably spend a
life time searching through each
single neighborhood.

Liam gets up from the grave.

LIAM
It breaks me to tell you WE won't
be going to Paris.

He looks back at the Andrew's grave before he starts off.

LIAM
I miss ya, Andrew.
(beat)
Happy eighteenth birthday.
(beat)
Good-bye, little brother.

He finds Claire waiting by the cemetery gate. We barely recognize her. She holds a cupcake in which is a lit blue candle. Liam holds. He's happy to see her.

LIAM
You didn't forget!

CLAIRE
How could I?

Liam blows the candle.

CLAIRE
So how has he been?

LIAM
Holding in I guess.

CLAIRE
Like fighting maggots so he don't
rot fast.

LIAM
Something like that.

He strides out the gate. Holds her and the two head
away...

EXT. CEMETERY ROAD - ON CLAIRE'S FACE - DAY

Claire walks on one side of the street and Liam on the
other.

CLAIRE
...Am gonna charge you.

LIAM
I meant to pay you... and good by
the way.

CLAIRE
How much?

LIAM
Much.

She looks at him. She needs an amount. He shows her four
fingers. She stops, faces him.

CLAIRE
(excited)
400!

Claire needs a yes. He lets her suffer his non
absoluteness.

CLAIRE
Liam?

LIAM
4000.

Claire is insane. She crosses over. But then her delight
fades.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE
Are you sure?

LIAM
If I can afford it?

CLAIRE
You know what I mean.

Liam nods. 'No I don't'.

CLAIRE
Won't moving in remind you of him every time you look at those stairs?

LIAM
That's why I want to move in. So I can look at them everyday. That not a day goes by without me thinking of him and what I did to him.

CLAIRE
It wasn't you.

LIAM
It's what y'all say.

CLAIRE
I was there.

LIAM
I know that. But him tripping off those stairs and in that house doesn't make it any easier.

CLAIRE
He didn't mean it. Kid had issues.

LIAM
Which only makes me feel less guilty, but never completely innocent.

He laughs. She hits him. There is a connection between these two. Claire stops. Eyes him.

CLAIRE
Am sorry. Seriously, I am sorry.

Liam looks at her as she pulls off that act. He cuddles her.

LIAM
Enough with the sad history.
(concerned)
How are you?

She gives him those eyes that would ask the same question.

CLAIRE
Not bad.

LIAM
And that your job?

CLAIRE
It puts money in my pocket.

LIAM
(serious)
I would put money in your pocket
if you did quit.

CLAIRE
If by money you mean savings your
little brother made for an entire
year just to get you two an air
ticket to Paris!... Your help is
the last thing I would need.

LIAM
I got my own money Claire.

CLAIRE
Earned from where exactly?

LIAM
(lots of attitude)
You can't keep working there.

CLAIRE
(losing it)
Yeah. Why not?

LIAM
It's not the place for you...

CLAIRE
And where's the place for me Liam
McDaniel.

He has no answer.

CLAIRE
God, who are you?

As she walks away, he holds her.

LIAM

I saw him... The other night I was over there, I saw Ethan spike your ass.

Claire is silent studying Liam get emotional.

CLAIRE

I dated Ethan for a full year.

LIAM

It does not give him the right to go around feeling your ass any time he goddamn pleases.

Claire laughs.

LIAM

And now you think that's funny?

CLAIRE

No. Am surprised you didn't pick a fight.

LIAM

I guess we just got tired of juvenile detention all the time.

CLAIRE

You past 18. It would be prison. With John as the D.A, I don't think you two should worry about that anymore.

Both coming around.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Let's go see what I'll do about those interiors.

EXT. OLD YEARS' MANSION

Liam and Claire have reached the Years' mansion. Claire looks around. Pretty impressed by the place. It's all clean and looking good. Yard is in order.

Liam and Claire are moving up the renovated doorsteps. The door still the same.

CLAIRE

Not changing the door too?

LIAM

No. I just what it the way it is. Preserve the antiqueness.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE

Outside is impressive. Let me
make the interiors better.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION/HALLWAY

Place looks amazing. It's beauty exposed. Claire's face
couldn't be more impressed. She moves to the staircase. It
has aged a whole bit.

CLAIRE

So this is it's true potential!
White house.

Liam's face saddens on looking at Claire's hand holding
the stair rim. She notices. Removes her hand and moves to
him. She gives him an asking eye. " now what?"

LIAM

Am gonna live here. In this great
mansion.

CLAIRE

Okay.

She moves to the center of the room.

CLAIRE

So here, we're gonna have
Scandinavian furniture.

LIAM

That's too old.

CLAIRE

So is the house. Furniture should
meet the house.

LIAM

Who said that?

CLAIRE

Check out the Buckingham palace.
Old castle and so is everything
in there. Even the Queen/Guards.
The Sandringham; Chateau of
Fontaine Beau...

She's looking for another example...

LIAM

That's Europe. This is America,
center of renaissance.

CLAIRE
...the White House. Everything is
classical old style.

LIAM
Really?

CLAIRE
Believe me. I would know. And so
will be the curtains.

Liam mocks her. She smiles.

CLAIRE
Up to see what we'll offer the
bedroom that will make it
irresistible to Jenny Years.

It sounds good. Liam likes it. They move up the stairs.

Claire pushes the door in to unveil a huge master bedroom.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION - JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER

It's enormous. Jenny must have felt a princess in that
town or neighborhood.

CLAIRE
Wow, gotta have great plans for
this place. My whole house fits
in here.

LIAM
You don't have a house Claire.
You rent a room.

CLAIRE
I meant the one I'll have. Like
later. When am thirty. Maybe
somewhere on the outskirts of
town.

It's sad. Claire's a realist. A runaway girl with not much
privileges anymore.

LIAM
You gonna be big time rich
Jensen. An international
ballerina. You'll have a mansion
in the Hills and drive a
Maserati.

Claire smiles.

LIAM (CONT'D)

And sooner or later you gonna
have to go back home.

Claire's smile fades. She's thinking about what he has
just said.

LIAM (CONT'D)

You gonna have to stop hating
your dad.

CLAIRE

(changing the subject)

And where are you gonna get the
money to furnish up this whole
thing?

LIAM

Won't 35000 dollars work?

CLAIRE

(shocked)

You got that kind of money?!

LIAM

Your little deceased brother's
savings for a full year would
actually earn you a lot more than
half that kind of money if kept
in a bank for four years.

CLAIRE

He's earned more?

LIAM

A lot more. Like more. With help
of course and adjustments for
inflation there and then.

Claire wonders. Liam moves to the spacious bathroom.

CLAIRE

I think I'll need my five dollars
back... adjusted for inflation
with in the last four years.

Liam sneaks a look back at Claire.

LIAM

Do you wanna get jailed? Money
donated to a foundation ain't
redeemable my lady.

Claire gets to him. She makes him smile.

CLAIRE
Buy me an Island Liam.

LIAM O.S
(heart-felt)
I miss you Claire.

Pause. Claire takes it in. Liam returns.

CLAIRE
You miss her more.

LIAM
(blithe)
I don't have too.

CLAIRE
Drop it.

Claire gets sad. She has certainly been down this road many times. She moves out of the house.

EXT. OLD YEARS' MANSION - MOMENTS LATER

Claire sits by the steps held in thought. Liam has followed her out. He sits next to her.

LIAM
It's like Andrew's death made me
love her more.
(hurting)
But I entered that fire for him.
He would never have forgiven me
if I had let her die.

CLAIRE
You did love her.

LIAM
That's not why I did it.

CLAIRE
It doesn't matter. And like you
said, he's dead.

Beat.

LIAM
Do you know... Do you know how it
feels LOVING SOMEONE WAY YOUNGER,
when you very well know she may
have another life. Maybe with
someone else. In love... With a
French guy.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE

I guess that's a chance you'll
just have to take.
(affirming)
She'll choose you.

LIAM

What makes you so sure?

CLAIRE

You walked into that fire. She
has something to hold on to. Your
memory. One can't just forget
that. At least not Jenny.

A pang of sadness fills her brilliant eyes. Now there is
what Claire isn't ready to compete with.

INT. PHELPS' HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

It's a great bedroom. John and Raquel move in. The two
seem to have been held in an argument. Raquel moves to the
bathroom. John watches her as she branches out of view. He
throws his coat on the bed and deflates.

RAQUEL O.S

I saw the way you were looking at
her.

JOHN

Really, that again. When are you
gonna stop with your Susie
obsession.

Raquel comes out. She's calm.

RAQUEL

Now it has become the my Susie
obsession. Whoa.

She moves back into the bathroom.

JOHN O.S

There's nothing going on.

RAQUEL

Yeah right, 'cause the chick
won't open pussy for you.

ON JOHN'S FACE, he is now mad, infuriated. Her words have
hurt him.

JOHN

What do you mean? What are you
trying to say?

ON RAQUEL'S FACE, she's silent but not frightened.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

You know I fucked her more than once in high school. And you know what?... That's the best sex I've ever had. And I hold onto those moments like I have never held onto anything with you...

A hand slaps him across the face. John is silent. Wishing he could take it all back.

INT. RODNEY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Rodney has held onto every word that has been said by his parents. His eyes are tearful. He reaches for his phone by the desk.

RAQUEL V.O

(some walls away)

I want a divorce.

Raquel's words crash Rodney.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Liam's asleep. His I-phone rings by the desk. He wakes. Picks it up. It's Rodney. He answers despondently.

LIAM

(on phone)

Dude, it's midnight.

RODNEY

(on the other side)

I know, kinda having a rough time. Wanna catch some drinks or something?

LIAM

Does it have to be now?

RODNEY

My parents are getting divorced.

(Liam's silent)

Let me pick you up.

He hangs up. Liam exhales as he lazily hops out of bed quite disappointed.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - A MOMENT LATER

A small modest lounge for the upper-middle class Nashville youths. Few adults hang around. Geoffrey, one time good friend now a punk sits with MIKE and JERA, his two lounge-lizards on a table, drinks in front of them. All look like cocky rich college kids with nothing else to do but arise anarchy. Geoffrey is way much smaller than he ought to have been.

Liam and Rodney stride in. Their eyes fall on Geoffrey and gang. Both Liam and Rodney get intense.

Claire over at the counter table watches the situation. Waiting for it to blow. She knows it has too. She works here.

Geoffrey stops Rodney by hand as they get past him.

GEOFFREY
(extremely calm)
I got a message for the D.A.

Rodney obliges to listen.

GEOFFREY
Next time, you tell him to just
shit my arse instead of bursting
it.

Rodney sets to hit Geoffrey but held back by Liam.

GEOFFREY
(calm in an annoying way)
Honestly, I think it would taste
better.

Liam pulls Rodney away. Geoffrey's gang laughs. Not Geoffrey. He's stonefaced, not pleased with himself. He misses his old friends. Liam looks back at Geoffrey. Geoffrey turns away, grabs his jacket and heads out.

ON COUNTER TABLE:

Liam and Rodney sit by the counter. Claire joins them. She fills a glass and pushes it over to Rodney.

LIAM
'could use one too.

CLAIRE
Ain't gonna drive two drunkards,
working late, sorry.

(CONTINUED)

Rodney takes the glass in all at once. All frustrated and crashed. He then lays his glass. Claire fills it. All at once, it's done. He lays it. Claire's stunned. She fills it. Then puts the whole bottle of whiskey in front of Rodney.

CLAIRE

He drinks, and you tell me what
ever the hell is wrong with him.

Looking over at Rodney, he's now drinking from the bottle.

CLAIRE

So...?

LIAM

Parents. Getting divorced.

Claire gives Liam that look that more or so says 'not good enough a reason'

LIAM

He drinks to Raquel's
unhappiness.

Claire exhales. She glances over at Rodney who's defeating the bottle.

TIME CUT:

DARTS CORNER

Rodney and Liam are up the game of darts. Liam's taking his shots. He's really awful at the game. He's done. Rodney goes and picks up the shots.

RODNEY

You know I still don't even
understand why I should be hurt
that my mum is divorcing this
guy. John is a pig.

LIAM

She loves him. He may be lots of
things but he still got some good
qualities. He sold me the Years'!

Rodney takes his first shot. It's an excellent shot.

RODNEY

You're really awful at this game.
(beat)
He did it to please your mum.

His words don't come as a shock to Liam. Rodney makes one hell of another shot.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

He's still that into her? Dude,
that was way back. High School.

Rodney takes his third shot.

RODNEY

Well, I guess some broken hearts
never mend.

He glances back at Liam, trying to imply something. Liam
gets it.

RODNEY

(hitting him)

Some people just find it hard to
move on.

It worked. Liam's hurt.

RODNEY

Am sorry.

LIAM

It's okay. I kinda think you're
right.

RODNEY

Yeah?

LIAM

No seriously, dude, we're aging.
Jenny's just 17. And if she never
wants to return back to this
town, I'll never know where to
find her. Besides, I don't wanna
end up like your dad, sorry about
that... but I think we should go
out there and get lives.

Rodney looks at him. Liam glances around the lounge. He
sees Claire picking up some glasses. Smiles. She smiles
back. Rodney sees this.

In the b.g, Liam spots AMANDA PICKETT, pretty OLD GIRL
back in town.

RODNEY

(re: Claire)

You should.

LIAM

(re: Amanda)

No, you should.

RODNEY
(getting mad)
Dude, seriously! She's my cousin.

Rodney has not yet seen the girl in the background.

LIAM
She can't be.

Rodney follows Liam's eyes and they lead him to Amanda.
He's eyes spark.

RODNEY
You gotta be kidding me.

LIAM
Yep. Movin' no.

Liam looks over at Claire stretching her sexy body while
picking up a bottle from the selves.

RODNEY
No way.

LIAM
Get movin' Rod.

Liam matches to meet Claire. Rodney straightens up.
Gathers all the confidence he may need, then strides over
to Amanda's table.

AMANDA'S TABLE:

Rodney approaches...

Amanda's eyes are those of a young lass who has found
success quite early in life. 'That Independent girl.'

Rodney crouches over. Amanda has her eyes sharp on him. A
show OF challenge.

RODNEY
(nervous)
Um. Hey... Hi...

AMANDA
(laughs)
Rodney PHELPS.

Rodney's relieved yet also left in awe.

AMANDA
Am Amanda. Amanda Pickett.

RODNEY
(astonished)
Amanda Pickett, is this really
you?!

(CONTINUED)

With a shine in her eyes, she nods.

RODNEY

God, look at you, it's been years. When did you get back in town?

AMANDA

A few days ago. I came by to visit gra'ams.

RODNEY

Um -- it's nice seeing you again, Amanda. May I sit down?

Amanda offers him a seat.

RODNEY

Actually, he states it as... Am Pickett. Amanda Pickett.

AMANDA

Well, that's the male version. I was giving you the female version.

RODNEY

Woo woo. MI-6. There's never gonna be a female 007.

ANGLE Claire and Liam hunched over the counter table watching these two fanatically.

BACK TO AMANDA AND RODNEY.

AMANDA

Maybe not in England. But one can NEVER SAY NEVER in Hollywood. NOT AGAIN.

RODNEY

And what would that movie be called?

AMANDA

'Sorority breach'.

Rodney laughs. Amanda too.

COUNTER TABLE:

Claire looks at Liam.

CLAIRE

What have you done to him?

LIAM

Why?

She eyes him.

LIAM

He's moving in. Ain't that a good thing?

CLAIRE

Moving in! That's what you call it these days?

LIAM

Yup. Something we agreed upon. If am moving on, he's jumpin' in.

CLAIRE

With a Movie Star!

Liam gestures at this.

CLAIRE

Gosh, I wish him luck.

Claire looks over at Rodney and Amanda. Both in the moment.

LIAM

Am I too late?

Claire moves away. Quite mad now.

LIAM

Claire.

She stops. Turns back, giving him a sharp glare as she moves back to confront him.

CLAIRE

Liam, you can't keep doing this. I broke up with you.

LIAM

I know.

CLAIRE

People don't say they're moving on. They do something to show that they're really moving on -- or in...

She takes a seat.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Am gonna help you find Jenny.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM
Am not flying to Paris.

CLAIRE
(sincere)
You should.

LIAM
Claire, SHE'S 17.

Claire shoots him a look.

LIAM
I got no heading. Nowhere to
start from.

CLAIRE
How about we start from hospital
records, call registers,...
criminal records...

Both giggle. He looks at her. She looks back. It's pretty.
She offers him her hand. He shakes it.

Amanda and Rodney could not be more taken by each other.

The night fades.

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - FALL MORNING (TWO MONTHS LATER)

Liam's on the phone. He grabs his car keys. And rushes out
the room.

LIAM
...It's been three weeks already
Rod. You didn't even remember her
name...

Liam now rushes down the stairs.

RODNEY
(on the other side)
Face. Face --I didn't remember
her face. I guess she had grown
more beautiful -- that's why.

Liam has reached the door.

LIAM
Dude, she's a star now, in
Hollywood, not the girl with
braces...

He pushes open the door and moves out...

EXT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE

Liam emerges out the door. The weather outside is getting blistery. A heavy rain cloud covers the sky. A cab pulls over in their driveway.

LIAM

Listen man, I gotta go. A cab just pulled over by my drive way and I don't have her phone number. And that's because you showed no interest in getting it then. So I suggest you go down to Hollywood -- and look for your long gone love.

RODNEY

Like you'd do that. Who's it?

LIAM

Yet to know.

A profusely dressed young lady strides out the cab. Liam's anxious. She lifts her head to unveil her face from the eclectic hat. It's JENNY YEARS, very 17 and exceptionally pretty. Worth waiting for. Even when it takes eternity.

LIAM

(still on phone)

Rodney, she's back.

RODNEY

Amanda?

LIAM

Jenny.

TO RODNEY:

Rodney in his bedroom. He falls back in his bed. Mixed feelings. "WHAT IS THE STORY?"

TO LIAM:

Liam hangs up. Jenny makes a smiling at him. He can't do the same. He's angry. Cab driver pulls out her suitcase and brings it next to her. Liam approaches. Looks at her. She's beautiful. He holds the suitcase. She smiles again. Not a word from Liam. He doesn't want to speak. She gets it or maybe we think she does. The two head to the house.

He holds the door for her.

INT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/RECEPTION

Jenny strides in. She gazes around. Liam rests her suitcase by the couch. Then moves to her. He looks at her. She waits, anxiously to hear what he may have to say.

LIAM
May I take a hug?

She puts on a glassy smile. Such a lame opening remark, she's straight. SHE KISSES HIM. A tear runs down his cheek. She rubs it away.

LIAM
I missed you Jenny.

JENNY
I missed you more Liam.

LIAM
God!

JENNY
What?

LIAM
Look at you. You're pretty.

JENNY
Thank you. You do look cute too.
And so does everything. The town,
the people and the boulevard.

LIAM
Welcome home, Jenny. It's really
good seeing you again. This
you...big, now a near woman...
Miss Years.

She smiles.

LIAM
You may sit yourself down.
(beat)
Can I get you something...
anything?

JENNY
It's cold. Coffee would be nice.

He looks at her. She means it. He can't believe her.

JENNY
Really! You gonna deny your
protegee the first thing she asks
you in like five years!

(CONTINUED)

He moves, hunches over intending to kiss her yet hesitant. He doesn't.

LIAM
(obliging)
I'll make you coffee, Miss Years.

The pleasure is all hers. She watches him as he moves to the kitchen.

A moment. SFX COFFEE MAKER STARTS RUNNING.

Jenny gazes through the room. The coffee maker is turned off. Silence.

JENNY
(to Liam in the kitchen)
Nothing has changed much.

A moment. Liam then emerges out the kitchen with a cup of coffee. He moves and hands it over to Jenny who receives it gratefully.

JENNY
Thank you.

She quaffs on the hot cup. He watches.

LIAM
You sure?

JENNY
That nothing has changed, yep.
Show me what has.

He gives her his hand. She rests the coffee down and takes it. He leads her upstairs.

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM

Door opens. Liam strides in while still holding her hand. She hesitates. He lets go off her hand. He moves to the desk. He picks up a photo frame. Jenny gazes at the whole place. Surprised and drawn. She has been here. She made memories here.

JENNY
This place...
(analyzing)
...nothing is changed. It's just
the way I left it.

Liam turns. She notices the photo frame. It's flipped over to the backside. He moves to her. Hands over the photo frame. She hesitates. Then takes it. She looks at him. Some what scared of what the frame holds. She flips it. It's her, 12yrs old. Astonished.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

She has changed. The other part
of this place that has changed.

A moment. She looks at him, then back at the photo. Then
him. She hands back the frame.

JENNY

That's where you're wrong. Not
even time has been able to change
a thing about her.

Liam takes the frame. Trying to make meaning out of her
words. He encroaches for a kiss but her glare is sharp and
discouraging. He's now frightened that he may have miss
interpreted. She realizes. Then lets him suffer the
silence. He leans in. He has her lips but her face is
still not promising. He just goes for it. He kisses her.
She does not kiss him back. She looks at him with quite
some disappointed. He slowly moves away.

She then kisses him massively. It's a beautiful kiss.
Heart-felt. She cries softly.

JENNY

I love you Liam. I've always
done.

LIAM

(amazed)

So I've and will I Jenny Years.

He kisses her again. Overwhelmed. Both smile. Then laugh.
She bites her lip seductively. It kills Liam.

LIAM

Don't do that.

JENNY

Why?

LIAM

Am your senior. I'll end up
kissing you all over again.

JENNY

(electrified)

Then it would have worked.

(speaking French)

*I would be a young high school
teenager dating a handsome
college guy.*

He readies himself as those OLD GENTLEMEN OF EUROPE in the
EIGHTEENS. Leans forward.

LIAM
May I kiss you again,
Mademoiselle.

JENNY
(French, subtitled)
Of course you may, Master
McDaniel.

He kisses her. She then notices ANDREW'S photo back on the desk where he picked hers from.

JENNY
Now tell me...
(pointing to the photo)
...where's that young man who so
loved me?

Liam's face fills with that sadness that wears his face whenever is at the Years' mansion but this time more intense. Jenny notices.

JENNY
Liam, he didn't.

He nods. Her face drops.

LIAM
4 years back.

She sobs.

JENNY
He hated me.

LIAM
A lot. Everyday.

JENNY
Am sorry.

He cuddles her. She falls into his chest. A moment. Then she rubs her tears.

JENNY
I should go see him. Take me.
Now.

LIAM
There's a storm coming.

She looks around. Rests her eyes in his closet. Picks out two jackets.

JENNY
(handing over one)
Shall we?

He dons the jacket then follows. Holds, picks a cowboy hat by the wall, clips it on in style, nods and he's out of sight.

EXT. CEMETERY ROAD

The clouds are getting darker. The wind howls. Leaves are falling off the trees. Liam's SUV pulls up by the small cemetery gate. They move out of the car. Liam holds the small gate as Jenny strides in. He's such a gent.

EXT. CEMETERY

Another gust of wind blows. Leaves are off the ground. Jenny's dress blown up. She doesn't mind it. Liam's knocked for six.

She looks through the graves. Then focuses on a particular one. It was a father. She shares that pain.

Then notices Liam over at ANDREW'S grave. She goes to meet him.

JENNY
How did he die?

LIAM
He fell off the stairs and broke his neck.

Jenny's eyes are watery.

LIAM
We were gonna come to France this year. After his high school.
(he chuckles)
He hoped by then he would have saved up all the money we would need. But he didn't live to make it.

Jenny sits on Andrew's grave.

JENNY
Where were you gonna start your search from?

LIAM
(he laughs)
He had mapped Paris.

Liam watches her as she sweeps away the leaves on the grave with her hand.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Some weight taken off him.

Liam's amused. She smiles. Jenny looks up. The clouds are now really saturated. The storm is coming.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

The Lounge bar is dark. Candles and lanterns light the place. It continues to rain heavily outside. People await in windows on the storm to calm.

Rodney sits by the counter, drinking. Claire's hunched over looking through ledgers and watching him drink away his sorrows.

CLAIRE

So, what are you gonna do?

RODNEY

Stay out of it. Let them be.

CLAIRE

But then you have to go say Hi.
At least see how she looks.

RODNEY

Be a good friend?

CLAIRE

Something like that.

Rodney laughs. Claire laughs because he's laughing. He sips his beer. A customer knocks in. Claire puts back the ledgers and retires back to her work.

A moment, Rodney slowly flips a coin on the table for sometime. It's the same coin he flipped back then at the Years'.

WE NOTICE THE COIN IS HEADS ON BOTH SIDES.

Then, Geoffrey approaches.

GEOFFREY

Drinking alone, junior D.A?

Rodney just sips his beer. This is before a thought races through his mind...

Geoffrey seems to be focused on the coin lit by the candle light.

RODNEY

You know what, sit down Geoff.

Geoffrey looks at him suspiciously.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

(sincere)

Come on, take a seat. Grab a beer. Just like old times.

(beat, Geoffrey pulls a seat)

Claire, a beer for my old friend.

Claire's staggered. Geoffrey sits. Claire hands him a beer and nods at Rodney intently. Rodney cheers to himself and Geoffrey. Both sip their beers. Then Geoff gives him a look...

RODNEY

(clumsy but sincere)

Am sorry... am the reason you well versed with all corners of juvenile detention...

GEOFFREY

Now that's a start. There is a start.

Geoffrey sips his beer.

RODNEY

...And I hope that one day you'll find it in your heart to forgive me and... maybe, we could be friends again.

Geoffrey looks at him intently.

GEOFFREY

Where's all this coming from D.A.

Rodney's caught. Geoffrey sips his drink.

RODNEY

(revealing his intentions)

There's people -- I wouldn't want us to involve in our...misunderstandings.

GEOFFREY

Woow...

(laughs softly)

Who may those be?

A moment.

RODNEY

Jenny.

Geoffrey's surprised.

GEOFFREY
She's back in town?!

Geoffrey's caught off guard. Rodney nods.

GEOFFREY
And you're worried that I may
make young Jenny's visit
unpleasant.
(scoffs)
Some paternal!

Rodney submits. Mortified.

GEOFFREY
(sincere)
Am not that mean my friend. I
think I can stay low for a while.

Geoffrey sips his beer empty. Stands up. He taps on
Rodney's shoulder. A sign of peace.

GEOFFREY
I'll be leaving town in a week or
two. Just in case you need to
escape for sometime.

Geoffrey heads off. Rodney's surprised. He sips his beer
empty.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION

The huge old door slams open. Jenny and Liam rush in
laughing away. They are all dirty and soaked like they
have been playing in mud. Liam moves to her and kisses
her. She leaks her lips.

JENNY
(looking around)
Home again in five years. This
place hasn't -- who takes care of
this place?

She looks critically. Place looks really okay. Stunned.

JENNY
Someone leaves here?

LIAM
I got something to show you.

Liam starts up the stairs. He stops on realizing she's not
coming. She gazes at him. Her face disappointed.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY
By breaking into someone's home?

LIAM
(anxiously)
I leave here or about to.

Jenny's stunned. She smiles. He's relieved "she's not mad". Then follows him up the stairs. He opens the bedroom door.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION - JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER

Reveal a very spacious and FANCY PINK bedroom. All furniture is fancy and the closet absolute. Jenny is mesmerized.

JENNY
It's pink!

LIAM
Someone said you would like it.

JENNY
Claire?!

LIAM
And added that she would make it irresistible to Jenny.

JENNY
And she nailed it. How did you know I was coming?

LIAM
I didn't. But I have always waited.

JENNY
It's...I dunno know what to say. This place must have cost a fortune.

She looks over at the closet.

JENNY
Just look at that closet...

She turns and moves to the bathroom.

JENNY
...and then this second room. Gotch.

LIAM

She did design the whole thing.

JENNY

Really! Wow.

(saps out of the surprise
moment)

How is she? And Rodney, Geoffrey?
All the guys?

LIAM

They are doing great.

Jenny touches her clothes. All clung on her body.

JENNY

Am getting real cold.

LIAM'S POV. Through the window, the storm is calming.

LIAM

I'll go pick up your stuff. Do
you think you'll be okay alone in
here?

JENNY

I'll be fine.

(pointing to the bathroom)

I'll just look around and then go
take a warm bath.

As Liam moves out.

JENNY

Hey Liam, thank you.

She's sincere. He nods, "You're welcome".

LIAM

You know on the internet, there
are sites they call social
networks.

She's glad he noticed that.

JENNY

I wanted the next time we met and
spoke to be worth it. Like this.

(beat)

And I love your blogs.

LIAM

You read my blogs?!

JENNY

Every single blog you've posted
in the last 2 years.

Liam smiles. Then disappears. Jenny stays quit drowned in the moment. Looking through the window. Thinking to herself. Then the rains stop gradually. She draws from the window. The sensation still hangs.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION - JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER - MOMENTS LATER.

WATER SPLASHES IN THE SHOWER. Liam moves in and rests Jenny's suitcase on the bed.

ON JENNY IN THE SHOWER. Jenny reaches for the towel. Rinses herself then raps it around her thin body and moves out.

ON LIAM'S FACE, getting tense -- ALL HE HAS EVER DESIRED right in front of him but still young for the taking. She smiles. Killing him in that sexy short towel and even worse she knows it's killing him.

JENNY

Thank you.

She opens her suitcase. He watches. Her towel slides up as she bends a bit. He looks away. She notices, laughs.

LIAM

What?

JENNY

Nothing Liam.

She picks out a sexy short transparent night wear. She lines it on her body as if she's just bought it and trying it on for the fast time.

JENNY

(calling on his attention)

Liam?

He turns. The night wear would really look sexy on her.

LIAM

Sexy. I'll let you try it on.

Liam twitches. Some what scared of how she would look in the SEE-THROUGH night wear or maybe how he would react.

JENNY

I can move to the bathroom.

LIAM

No, by all means. Your bedroom, feel free. I wouldn't want you slipping in bathrooms.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Whoa. Shy!

LIAM

Believe me. Not shy.

She nods in argument. He shuts the door behind him, "think whatever you want".

STAY ON LIAM as he leans against the bedroom door -- happy.

SFX HUGE DOOR OPENS. Liam moves to the hallway to see the entrant.

LIAM

(to the entrant)

Fuck ya.

ON JENNY. The night wear reveals her sexy body. Tits poke out. She practices that slutty -- "WANNA FUCK ME?" pose.

JENNY

Liam.

Door opens.

Liam and Rodney stand outside. Rodney's eyes catch Jenny's intended fuck me look. Liam's too. Both dudes go wow. Her dress has left nothing to the imagination. Even with Rodney present, she's still not at all embarrassed but confident.

Rodney strides to her. Hugs her like the minor she ought to be. It's a massive hug. She deflates.

Liam waves, good-bye. One full of emotions. She mouths the words "be back". He nods, "I will".

RODNEY

Jenny Years, the girl who ain't on Facebook!

JENNY

Rodney PHELPS, the boy who promised to be my father after my dad died and trashed me just a week later!

RODNEY

Now that -- that right there my friend was a 'Gentleman's lie'.

They laugh. Then both look awkwardly at each other..

RODNEY

You have grown beautiful.

JENNY

Thank you.

Rodney sighs.

RODNEY

What can you tell me about yourself?

Rodney takes a seat on the bed. Makes himself comfortable while keeping his eyes on her. She poses. Getting ready to narrate.

JENNY

Uh, let me see... I've been leaving in the northern part of Paris... and it gets really, really cold.

Rodney thinks.

RODNEY

Well, not as cold as you Jenny.
Never as cold as you.

She picks the point. There may be a history with these two.

RODNEY

Did he tell you?

JENNY

That he missed me for five years?
Check. That you and him did all this, Tick.

(mocking)

That you were so sure I would return, yes. Yes Rodney he filled me in on the entire history of the lives of two Nashville youths.

RODNEY

And missed out just one little bit.

JENNY

Really?

Rodney gets up from the bed.

RODNEY

Mmm-hmm..

JENNY
(curious)
What's that?

RODNEY
(clumsily, imitating her)
That he has loved you for all
those years. That his love for
you kept growing each passing
day. And...
(getting serious)
... That you should never break
his heart.

He means it. She sees that. But he regrets saying that.

JENNY
Rodney PHELPS, this is you saying
all that?! God, I remember the
Jack Sparrow emotionless you.
What happened to you, man?

RODNEY
Well, as years fly passed, people
change Miss Years.
(clumsily, emotions getting
the best of him)
I guess tides don't always head
the same direction. Though the
coin flips in one.

She has probably heard this before. And not once.

JENNY
(laughs)
So you would know Rodney. And let
me tell you, I love this grown up
you... and... whatever happened,
I pray it don't ever change.

She hugs him. He doesn't look like one who enjoys
emotional stuff a lot. He's grateful it's done.

RODNEY
You love this grown up me?

JENNY
(sincere)
I do.

RODNEY
Then I must be a lucky guy.

It means a lot to him.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

This town missed you Years.

JENNY

I missed this town too, Rodney.

He smiles clumsily. He's alive around her, not usual but definitely good. Though he does not want to show, she completes him.

RODNEY

(serious)

Are you married?

She laughs at this. He doesn't. He needs to know.

JENNY

Are you proposing?

He's still silent. She figures he's serious. She's fast at sensing. An expert at love things and interpretation. "This is because she knows she's too pretty".

She moves next to him. KISSES HIM ON THE LIPS, no feelings.

JENNY

No. But am taken. I have always been.

He nods, okay.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

The lounge bar is empty and silent except for the humming of a sweet female voice. Seats are hunched over the tables.

It's Claire humming. Caught up in her thoughts. Sad thoughts. She hangs up the whiskey bottle in the rack with the others.

The sound of a door opening.

CLAIRE

(softly)

We're closed.

LIAM O.S

(a calm voice)

Even to happy old friends who are in love young teenage girls?

Claire turns. Liam stands by the door frame. Gazing at her.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE

Yes, even to happy old friends
who are in love with young
teenage girls. But not to family.

She speaks it intently. Affirming him of his now position.

Liam saunters to the counter taking a seat right in front
of her. She sits down. Directly facing him. They have a
situation on their hands.

CLAIRE

You're supposed to be
overwhelmed. Like happy...

LIAM

If I told you I was -- would you
believe me?

CLAIRE

Not only if you explained that
face. She flew all the way from
Europe and here you are!

LIAM

This is the face that cares about
what Claire Jensen is thinking
right now.

Claire looks at Liam in sorry stunned amusement.

CLAIRE

You really loved Claire Jensen,
didn't you?

Liam looks at her in skepticism. "I did, but it's a little
too late now for you to realize that".

LIAM

I still do...

CLAIRE

(tentatively)

No, Liam and Claire -- were like
this thing. A feeling so strong,
stronger than friendship but not
love. Some kind of attraction
that Liam started.

(she laughs, yet hurting)

Something that may go on up to
God knows when. What you feel for
young Jenny, is something I
admire.

(holding back tears)

And people in love do things that
you and I could never have done
-- they fight -- argue, people in
love don't agree on everything.

(CONTINUED)

Finally the tears start falling out of her eyes. Liam has taken in all she said. He grips her jaws. Her face wetted by tears. He kisses her tenderly. Then watches her cry. It's becoming uncomfortable for her.

CLAIRE

What?

LIAM

I have always wanted to fight you.

CLAIRE

Like...

Claire makes fists. It's awkward. She laughs. Liam joins her.

A moment.

LIAM

(exhales deeply)

She would have been two years now.

CLAIRE

I was not yet ready to have a baby Liam.

LIAM

I know.

CLAIRE

There you go again, agreeing with me.

(pause)

What made you think it would have been a girl?

Liam hesitates. Then...

LIAM

(joking)

I thought that maybe we could have agreed and named...

He stops. Claire lets out a gust of wind. Shakes her head. Then chuckles.

LIAM

(shying)

Is it that bad?

CLAIRE

I haven't said nothing.

LIAM

Spill.

CLAIRE

What sparked off your undying love for a 12yr old?

LIAM

11th grade. Jenny was in seventh grade and we were playing tennis in this court then your name came into the conversation. You can't imagine what happened!

CLAIRE

She didn't speak to you for like a month.

LIAM

...Yeah, and when I went to apologise, she ended up slapping me. I could not believe her. I wanted to confront her but she had this... God she looked so angry.

Judging from his expression, it seems Jenny must be something when she gets angry.

CLAIRE

I never wanna see that face.

Both laugh. Claire gets up, moves around the counter to meet Liam on the other side. He watches her come.

He figures. Gets up. They hug. A sensational hug. One full of attachment yet with a lot of good-bye.

CLAIRE

Am sorry, Liam.

LIAM

Don't be, I love you. My way.

CLAIRE

I love you too. Usual way.

A moment as Claire feels the last of the hug. The pain running through Liam too. It's that pain of having to let go of an old love that ended so well.

Then done...

CLAIRE

Tell Jenny am dying to see those blue eyes of hers.

He nods, "I will".

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

Thanks for the bedroom. She liked it.

CLAIRE

(arrogantly)

Sure. No problem. Any time.

Liam laughs at her incredulously. She laughs at herself too.

CLAIRE

(loving)

You're welcome. And Liam, Jenny wouldn't have been a lovely name. Raquel would.

He slowly strolls backwards to the exit of the Lounge bar. She watches him. He waves. She grins. He exits the Lounge bar.

STAY ON CLAIRE as she slowly breaks and starts sobbing. The more she breaks, the harder she sobs.

EXT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

Liam moves into his Dodge with hard force...

INT. DODGE - NIGHT

...Liam grips the wheel hard. He can't fight it anymore. He breaks and tears start flowing out of his eyes.

EXT. WOODS - SUNSET (A FEW DAYS LATER)

The sharp spectrum penetrates the canopy creating such a beautiful scenery beneath. Jenny strolls through clearing the leaves with her feet. She stops, closes her eyes, spins around in order to relish in the environment and maybe pick up some memories.

Rodney takes all the shots of her he can with his professional's camera...

EXT. RIVERSIDE - MORNING (ANOTHER DAY)

The riverbanks are flooded with smooth huge rocks. Jenny balances on the rocks, jumping from one to another. Rodney still occupied taking all the shots he can. Jenny is getting bored. She stops, stares at him. He does not mind her. He just keeps taking snaps of her.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

You've already taken like a thousand.

RODNEY

Just a few more.

She gazes at him weirdly with her angry Jenny look.

Then gives him that SEDUCTIVE BREATHTAKING SUPERMODEL POSE. 'Just what he was looking for'. He does not let it get past him. He ceases it. She gives him another pose. And another... She's good. He is a professional. He is contented. He stops.

RODNEY

Who are you Jenny Years?!

JENNY

Playboy playmate of the year 2012.

She hops off the rocks. He lowers his camera and glides to her.

RODNEY

If it had been me who had gone up there that day, would things have been different?

Jenny does not get him. Rodney sounds hurt. He can't help but ask - Regretful.

RODNEY

If it had been me who had saved you from the fire five years ago, would things have been any different?

He's got this pain in his eyes.

JENNY

No Rodney... Don't do this. Don't go there...

RODNEY

I just wanna know. That's all.

JENNY

(earnest)

...I don't know. I don't know Rod but what I know is, I did love him even before.

He nods, believing her. She stares at him. Figuring that he loves her. She gets worried.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Liam and Jenny walk out a boutique holding hands. In the other hand, Jenny carries shopping bags. The two love birds cross the road playful to the other side. They laugh.

A huge billboard of LADY ANTEBELLUM lies up ahead.

JENNY
What's your favorite band?

LIAM
Eli Young Band.

JENNY
Why?

LIAM
I don't know. Maybe because they
got a song for my crazy girl.

She laughs as she falls into him seductively. She punches him. It's romantic.

JENNY
Am not crazy.

Liam laughs as he spins himself a meter away from her.

LIAM
Or yes you're.

JENNY
Am gonna kick your arse.

LIAM
Why else would your favorite band
be Lady Antebellum?

JENNY
They have nice songs.

LIAM
(pointing to the billboard)
Look at them. They're confused.
And crazy. Like you.

She runs after him... He stroll backwards... Then, he hits someone. It's a man. This man is in his 30's.

Jenny stops, bursting into laughter.

LIAM
Am so sorry... Sir. I...

(CONTINUED)

JENNY
(to the man)
Hit the crap outta him.

The man is amused by giggly Jenny.

MAN
Is she your girlfriend?!

LIAM
You can't imagine.

MAN
(laughs)
What did you do to her?!

LIAM
It's what am gonna do to her.

Man laughs as he continues with his journey. Liam keeps his eyes on Jenny who can't help but just keep laughing...

LIAM
Am gonna kill you.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The park is all fun. Teens moving from this to that. Roller-coaster rides, drinks to the end of it all.

Rodney and Jenny have their eyes on Liam and Claire who are catching up on new times by the bridge. Rodney and Jenny stroll slowly toward them.

Jenny hands her ice cream to Rodney and she takes his drink. He reacts but soon gives in.

JENNY
(sipping on the alcohol)
They look happish.

Rodney shoots her a look. She's getting drunk.

JENNY
-- I say that with the most
sincere amity.
(beat)
Was it passion? Amour?

RODNEY
Am not going there with you.

JENNY
Rodney, I just wanna know what am
up against.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY
Undying love.

JENNY
What?!

RODNEY
Undying love is what you're up
against...

Liam and Claire turn to face approaching Rodney and Jenny. Liam meets her with loving sorry eyes. She smiles as she drinks the alcohol down.

CLAIRE
You wanna get her drunk?

EXT. PARK - DODGE - NIGHT (LATER THAT NIGHT)

Jenny and Claire are seated in the grass leaning against the Dodge. Claire is nearly buzzed but Jenny is. It's actually nice because she seems to be having fun.

CLAIRE
(in mockery)
...and there he could abruptly
scream in agony. You look him in
the eyes, and he tells you "my
brother is not coming back. He's
never coming back." And with
that, you also had to cry.

Claire and Jenny bust into laugh.

Liam and Rodney are seated up on top of the Dodge each facing in either direction. It's quite a beautiful setting. Unlike the girls, these two are sober.

RODNEY
So you're really doin' seventeen?

JENNY
I heard that Rod.

Jenny's offended. Claire laughs. Liam too.

RODNEY
I meant for you to.

LIAM
(mocking)
Yeah. I think am gonna try
seventeen.

JENNY

Am seated right here love.

CLAIRE

Me too.

RODNEY

Did you know that Years wore
diapers until she was at least
eight?

Jenny lets this one go. Claire holding back laughter.

LIAM

Yeah, I kinda heard. 2004 right?

RODNEY

Hmm Hm. And she was not off the
feeding bottle until she was
six...

JENNY

Another slight remark and your
arse off that hood, Rod.

(Liam laughs)

That goes for you too. Not
kidding.

CUT TO:

INT. MCDANIEL HOUSE - DINING ROOM - ANOTHER NIGHT

On a beautifully set dining table, Gary and Susie face
Liam and Jenny. Jenny is free with no awkwardness. Gary
and Susie trying to keep it going. They have a nice silent
dinner.

SUSIE

So Jenny, how do you like your
house?

JENNY

He took good care of it. It's
beautiful.

SUSIE

He shares great memories in that
place.

(her face ashen now)

Some very sad.

Susie gets distraught, tearful. Jenny notices. She looks
over at Gary, she figures he knows something. Then to Liam
who looks down.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY
Mrs McDaniel, is anything the
matter?

SUSIE
(re:Liam)
He hasn't told you?

Jenny looks back at Liam. His face sad.

GARY
Andrew tripped off those stairs
and broke his neck.

Jenny shrinks in her seat.

GARY (CONT'D)
He was rushed to the hospital but
it was too late. He did not make
it.

A dead sadness wears Jenny's face.

JENNY
(to Liam)
You never said that.

LIAM
I did not want to see you like
this.

He reaches for her fingers but she pulls her hand away
from the table. Susie and Gary notice this.

INT. DODGE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Liam drives. He turns to look at Jenny. She's crestfallen
-- folded in the passenger seat with her head on the
window. She's not talking to him.

Liam keeps on the road. Understanding her antagonism. He
intertwines his fingers with hers. She holds him tight
this time round. She looks at him with comforting eyes.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER - MOMENTS LATER.

Jenny, her face still sad looks through the window. It's a
starry night out there. Liam approaches in on her.
Romantically slips his hands in her hair. He aims for her
lips but she recoils with a breezy indifference.

He instead kisses her hair.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

Guess I'll see you tomorrow.

As he turns away, she grips his fingers...She turns from the window to catch his gaze.

JENNY

Tell me about it. How he died.
Tell me.

LIAM

Some other time.

Liam's sad. He turns to walk out but again held back by Jenny.

JENNY

Don't go.

She encroaches and kisses him. As she slips off her jacket...

JENNY

Spend the night. I really need
this.

Her jacket is off. She's now on to his shirt. Her hands feel his packs. They slide down to the buckle of his belt. Liam hesitates. Then grips her jaws. He stares at her - concerned.

LIAM

Are you sure about this?

He cares. She can tell.

JENNY

(worried)

About us?!

She nods, NO. It's sincere. She does not know whether they will even last. He realizes. He kisses her more intimately than ever before.

LIAM

This isn't gonna earn me any
points back in Paris.

JENNY

Not if mummy doesn't know.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER - CONTINUOUS

Liam slowly takes off Jenny's dress to unveil her very sexy body in beautiful lingerie. She really is hot and better yet got a sense of style. She strolls behind and falls on the bed, he follows.

He's on top. Kissing her whole body tenderly. She moans. He lets loose her bra...

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER - CONTINUOUS

Jenny and Liam are now in a deep session of good intercourse...

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION/HALLWAY

...Faint moans from the bedroom feel the lobby. SFX DOOR OPENS. Rodney moves in minding his camera. As he moves up the stairs, he becomes aware of the moans. He concentrates. It's what he thinks it is. He doesn't show much concern.

He moves down to the kitchen. SFX FALLING METALLIC PLATE. Rodney's eyes meet JERA, one of Geoffrey's lounge lizards. Fury instantly gets the best of him. Rodney's anger maybe irrational or just transmuted.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER - SAME TIME

The faint clang of the metallic plate makes Jenny and Liam who have been in the moment press pause. Liam looks straight into Jenny's content-filled eyes.

LIAM

I think the rats don't like what
am taking.

Jenny laughs heartily. As Liam gets back to business, A MORE MASSIVE SOUND OF A CRASHING SOMETHING scares these two. Jenny's eyes have now been conquered by fright.

LIAM

Stay here. Don't move.

Liam hops out of bed. He grabs his pants. Hurriedly slides them on. Picks a baseball butt by the doorway. He quietly opens the door and slowly moves down to face the intruder.

Jenny straightens her lingerie. She won't be left behind.

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION/HALLWAY

Jenny startles tiptoeing Liam from the back. He recoils then calms on realizing it's her. As they reach the stairway, their eyes meet an angrily exiting Rodney.

JENNY
(worried)
Rodney! No.

Rodney looks up to find Jenny in her lingerie. His eyes well with greatly intense desire. Rodney turns and exits the door.

Liam is all freaked for if what he is thinking were to be true. He lowers his butt. As he heads for the exit...

JENNY
(off his look)
Liam. Don't.

He realizes she knows.

LIAM
Am not okay with my best friend
being in love with the only girl
I have thought about all the time
for the past five years.
(beat)
Am gonna find him, and we gonna
end this, our way.

He kisses her on the forehead. He turns to move out...

JENNY
(disappointed with him)
He didn't choose to.

Liam holds, making meaning out of her words. Jenny starts up the stairs. Liam watches her. She turns to look at him one last time then heads into the bedroom quite disappointed in him. Liam thinks. Then lets in, letting it go.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER

Jenny lies in the bed. Her eyes full of sadness and worry. Liam emerges by the doorway. He looks at her.

LIAM
Am sorry.

She turns over to make eye contact.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

So you're not gonna kill him,
your way?

He nods, NO. She rolls to a side of the bed creating space for him.

He gets in. She then lays on-over him. He wraps his arms around her. It's romantic.

A moment.

JENNY

He told me when we were in the woods.

LIAM

Do you still play?

JENNY

Tennis? No.

Pause.

LIAM

He climbed to the hanging side of the stairs and threatened to throw himself down if I failed to promise I would not take you away from him.

(beat)

I gave him my word. But as he was getting back on the other side, he tripped and fell...

Jenny lifts her head to look into his guilt-welled eyes. He smiles. So not sincere.

LIAM (CONT'D)

...The tragic story of little Andrew McDaniel.

Jenny folds more into his embrace. He plays in her long hair. It's romantic yet sad.

JENNY

You broke your word.

INT. RODNEY'S CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

A track from TAYLOR SWIFT "OH MY MY MY (Mary's song)" is playing on Rodney's CD tuner. He tanks down a huge bottle of whiskey as he tries hard to hurt more than it really should. The song seems to be adding deeper emotions.

He is driving fast yet he is losing it to the bottle.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A man, 35 massive, a druggie, with a bottle in his hand slaps a tiny indecently dressed young WOMAN. She cries but still holding onto him. Pleading to him for drugs. He pushes her away. She chases after him. Holds his hand. He turns. Then kisses her massively. This man is called MATT.

Rodney's car is seen in a distance.

The man then tosses the young woman on the ground. He sips on his bottle and then heads right into the road.

ANGLE RODNEY IN HIS CAR as he is suddenly startled by Matt. He tries to stop but it's too late.

ANGLE MATT as he sees the car driving into him.

ANGLE WOMAN as she sees Rodney's car driving into her boyfriend.

WOMAN
(screaming)
Matt No.

Matt is hit off the ground. The woman screams. Rodney's truck then finally brakes...

The woman then rushes to her boyfriend. Rodney looks out the window. He's face pale, full of shock. For a moment it's like this man is dead.

WOMAN
Matt, are you okay?

Undying Matt then coughs out some blood. Rodney deflates, relieved that the man is not dead. Rodney then hops out his car.

RODNEY
Am so sorry...

Matt is getting up from the ground. He is all startled.

RODNEY
Am really really sorry. I was driving...

MATT
It's okay son. Am fine. It was my bad, I fuckin' entered the road without watching.

The woman hugs him. All the drugs are off him due to the shock. Matt is sober instantly.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM/FORMER - BATHROOM - MORNING.

Liam and Jenny are brushing their teeth.

LIAM

Am gonna run to the supermarket
and pick us some supplies...

JENNY

Are we leaving together?

LIAM

(joking)
Am not the marriage type.

JENNY

Good. Me neither. Just a few
years and we move on. Go our
separate ways. No strings
attached. How goddamn lucky I am
to have ya.

Liam is scared by her words. She sounded way goddamn serious.

LIAM

You're kidding -- right?

Jenny's done. She turns, giving him a serious look.

JENNY

Am I?

He looks at her.

JENNY

You have market duty to do Sir.

She moves out the bath. He is left wondering.

JENNY O.S

Am 17. I might make an exception
on turning 20.

Liam's relieved...

EXT. SUPERMARKET - MORNING

Liam's Dodge pulls up in the parking lot. He hops out joyfully and trots to the supermarket. His morning has been brightened by Jenny's assurance.

INT. SUPERMARKET - MORNING

Liam enters. The door shuts behind him. It's a heavy store. Liam makes his way to the carriers and pulls out one.

Next we see him by the freezer area picking out packets of milk. He pulls out 2 gallon packets and places them nicely in the carrier where some other groceries lie. He is enjoying the shopping. He rides off to the counter and gets in line.

Geoffrey then surfaces behind him carrying an unwrapped sachet of crackles from which he is feeding before even checking it out. Liam nods in disbelief. Geoffrey offers some crackles but Liam turns him down.

LIAM

You know you have to first clear
that before unwrapping?

Geoffrey looks at the sachet of crackles. He sarcastically searches for any instructions that may say so or maybe justify Liam's statement but finds non.

GEOFFREY

Nope, not indicated.

Liam is now on. He starts offloading his goods from the carrier. The COUNTER LADY scans them.

GEOFFREY

I haven't had the chance to meet
Jenny. How is she?

LIAM

She's doing fine. You can come by
the Old Years and maybe say hi.

GEOFFREY

Nope. I think I'll pass.

LIAM

It doesn't always have to be that
way.

A moment. Geoffrey is considering. Liam's done. He is moving out.

LIAM

See you around Geoff.

Liam heads out. Geoffrey hands his half empty sachet of crackles to the counter lady. She looks at him in with quite some skepticism. He's like "what are you gonna do about that?"

EXT. SUPERMARKET - MORNING

Geoffrey emerges out the door and finds Liam waiting on him on the outside.

LIAM
I heard you're leaving town.

GEOFFREY
Today. 10:00am.

LIAM
I never got what made you mad.

GEOFFREY
After all these years you're asking now.
(sighs)
There's just so much you don't know McDaniel.

Liam nods...Acknowledging. Then heads to his Dodge.

GEOFFREY
Rodney is a good friend. But I still believed he should have told you.

Liam holds, noticing the earnest in Geoffrey's voice.

GEOFFREY
Jera was there yesterday. He saw him. He nearly killed a man on the highway last night. D.U.I

Geoffrey leaves. Not pleased with the misfortune that could have befallen Rodney. LIAM IS CRASHED.

EXT. PHELPS' HOUSE -DAY

Rodney emerges out the house in his pajamas. His head pounding due to excessive drinking last night. The morning sun hurts his eyes.

Liam's Dodge pulls in at high speed. Liam brakes and hops out furiously.

RODNEY
Come on, dude. My head is pounding.

Liam smacks Rodney down with a heavy punch. Rodney takes it in. He thinks he deserves it. He looks sorry. He gets up. Liam swings him another punch. Rodney's bleeding.

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE JOHN IN THE WINDOW as he watches the whole situation like it's nothing to worry about or maybe got his own problems to waste his time on.

Liam looks at his wretched bleeding friend. Even in sympathy, he throws him another punch. Then he moves and sits by the house steps. Rodney follows him and sits next to him.

LIAM

(angry)

What's wrong with you? You wanna spend your entire life in prison? It's fifteen years, Rod. Minimum.

Liam calms.

LIAM (CONT'D)

We could have talked about it. You should have told me...

Rodney feels his wounds.

RODNEY

That I made out with a twelve year old who had just lost her father and ended up falling...?

LIAM

What?!

RODNEY

You -- Jenny. Jenny didn't tell you?!

LIAM

No. Not the making out.

RODNEY

(pointing at his bruised face)

Then what was this about?

LIAM

-- What was last night about?

RODNEY

I hated myself for taking it out on Jera.

LIAM

Man, you should have told me.

RODNEY

That am in love with her?

(CONTINUED)

LIAM
Get over that.

Liam gets up.

LIAM (CONT'D)
You still should have told me.
YOU ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE SHOULD
KNOW WHY.
(beat)
Am sorry about that.

Rodney rubs the blood away with his fingers.

RODNEY
I'll be okay.

Liam moves to his car. Before he opens the door,

RODNEY
Hey Liam,

LIAM
Yap.

RODNEY
I aint givin' up without a fight.

LIAM
I had a feeling you would say
that.

Rodney reaches for his ever present coin from his pajamas.
He flips.

CLOSE UP ON COIN: HEADS IS UP.

RODNEY
You lost.

Liam laughs softly as he climbs into his Dodge. Rodney
watches him drive away.

Rodney picks up his phone and dials.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. OLD YEARS' MANSION/HALLWAY - DAY

Jenny is moving down the stairs when her phone rings. IT'S
RODNEY... She picks up.

RODNEY
...and now he knows.

Rodney has entered inside. He moves to his bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

(standing in the reception)
You crashed your camera on the
wall. I think that pretty much
covered everything.

...Rodney picks a piece of cloth and moves to the
bathroom...

RODNEY

About that. Am sorry, it wasn't
my intention.

JENNY

Yep. You just felt like crashing
something.

IN BATHROOM.

Rodney soaks the piece of cloth.

RODNEY

(nursing his wounds)
He kinda thinks you came back
because of me.

JENNY

Rodney, no way...!

RODNEY

Kidding.

JENNY

What???

RODNEY

But he's mad. At something --
himself. I don't know why.

JENNY

Where's he?

RODNEY

He left.

JENNY

We need to find him.

RODNEY

Yea, you need to.

JENNY

(infuriated)
Pick me up.

Jenny hangs up.

EXT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE (CONTINUOUS)- DAY

Liam pulls over in their parking lot. He hops out the car all sad and upset. He looks over at their beautiful house then moves inside...

INT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/RECEPTION - DAY

-- Liam strides to the kitchen. He opens one of the drawers. It contains keys. He picks out some particular car keys and starts out...

EXT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE - DAY

...He moves to the garage. SFX:GARAGE GATE OPENING. It's a five car garage. Reveal a very nice CHEVY. The Mercedes is packed at the far end. Liam gets into the Chevy and drives out.

EXT. OLD YEARS' MANSION - SAME TIME

Rodney pulls over by the roadside. Jenny's seated on the house steps - depressed. She's trying Liam's phone but it's going directly through to voice mail. She gets up and hops into Rodney's truck.

JENNY

His phone is just goin' through
to voice mail.

Jenny looks at his beaten face.

JENNY

Your way?

Rodney gestures, then starts the truck and he is off.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Liam pulls over at Geoffrey who had just started walking down his driveway with his baggage. He's also still holding his crackles. Geoffrey stops.

LIAM

Mind hitting the road instead?

GEOFFREY

Am heading to Forks, Washington.
I don't think cross country can
do.

Liam throws him the car keys. He catches them.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM
You driving.

Geoffrey's surprised. Liam moves over to the passenger side.

GEOFFREY
You leaving town?

LIAM
Need sometime.

Geoffrey seems used to this. "A running Liam." Stay on Geoffrey as he moves in... In a peace agreement, Geoffrey again offers the crackles. This time round, Liam accepts his offer. Off these two.

EXT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Rodney pulls up. Liam's dodge is seen in the driveway. Jenny hops out fast. Rodney moves out too as he finds Jenny running to the house.

INT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/RECEPTION - DAY

She enters. Peers around the room...

JENNY
Liam...?

Moves and peers in the kitchen.

JENNY
Liam...?

No Liam. She heads up the stairs.

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

She deflates on finding the bedroom empty. She then notices a novel over at the desk. She reaches for it. It's HUNGER GAMES. *Stay on it for sometime, there is a story.* She puts it back and starts out...

EXT. MCDANIEL'S YARD - DAY

Rodney notices the garage open. He moves to it.

Jenny comes into view a few steps behind Rodney.

JENNY
He's not in.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

That maybe because he has left town.

JENNY

What? How do you know?

RODNEY

The Chevy, it's gone.

(beat)

Come on. I think I know where he is heading.

As Rodney is about to get into the car, he notices Jenny not coming.

JENNY

When is he coming back?

RODNEY

I don't know. He has gone cross country. Maybe two to three weeks. We must hurry.

JENNY

He always does cross country?

RODNEY

Whenever he wants to clear his head. He used to do it with Geoffrey. Hit the road and let the winds take control.

Jenny makes a laughing at this. Then moves back to the house.

JENNY

(contemplating)

Three weeks?

RODNEY

Yeah.

A moment. Rodney follows her. He notices another worry on her face. She sits on the porch.

JENNY

When I came here, I was from Rehab.

RODNEY

(worried yet concerned)

Drugs?

Jenny nods, Yes. Rodney sighs. He takes a seat beside her on the porch.

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

Why?

JENNY

Lost my dad. Mum sold the house. Then had to leave town, the country, Liam. Mean high school. It's was too much for a thirteen year old.

RODNEY

Twelve. A twelve year old. Are you gonna be okay?

JENNY

Yeah. But my mum doesn't know where I am.

RODNEY

She must be freaked.

JENNY

I don't think so.

There is a tenseness in Jenny's voice. One full of REGRET/REMORSE. He wants to know why.

JENNY

I wasn't a good daughter, Rodney.

She starts to crash. Her eyes getting watery. Rodney taps her leg - comforting.

JENNY

My mum had given up on me.

Rodney doesn't know what to say. Jenny rubs her tears. Trying to stay strong.

TIME CUT:

RODNEY

...Liam is not mad because you didn't tell him.

JENNY

Then why has he left me?

RODNEY

My dad dated his mum before he's dad did. And now my mum left because my dad is still in love with his mum.

Jenny scoffs.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY
He drinks because of her?

RODNEY
Pretty much. Women rivalry is in blood.

JENNY
What do we do now?

RODNEY
You, are going back to Paris to be the good daughter you were meant to be... And I, will get myself together and patch things with my lost friend. I'll mail him to you in one piece.

JENNY
(crying)
Promise?

RODNEY
Promise.

Jenny hugs Rodney passionately. He is a good friend.

EXT. SOFT WOOD FOREST ROAD/INT. CHEVY - AFTERNOON

Geoffrey drives. Liam is laid-back in the seat. He is all relaxed letting all thoughts get through his mind unevaluated.

GEOFFREY
If you do love her that much then why leave?

LIAM
I need to know she's not with me out of gratitude.

GEOFFREY
'cause you led her out that fire that took her dad?

LIAM
Yes.

GEOFFREY
How do you expect to know that answer when you're running away from the source?

LIAM
I'll let her make the choice. If she decides to be with him, then I'll know where I stand.

(CONTINUED)

GEOFFREY

It looks to me like you're making that choice for her.

Pause.

GEOFFREY (CONT'D)

-- She won't.

LIAM

Assurance coming from the guy who told me that the girl I've loved all my life would have been with my best friend.

GEOFFREY

I didn't say that.

LIAM

You implied it.

GEOFFREY

I messed us. I wanted to do something good.

(beat)

Jenny and Rodney were never together. Which of course you know. And as I can remember, you were obsessed with Claire during the time she needed you the most. Her father's death.

Liam surprised by Geoffrey's earnest.

LIAM

Am not mad.

GEOFFREY

Then why are you leaving?

LIAM

I told you. I don't want her to feel obligated.

GEOFFREY

I'll never understand you man.

A moment as they drive in silence. Then.

LIAM

We don't choose who we fall in love with.

GEOFFREY

You didn't love Jenny?

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

She was young. And no matter what, I still see her as that young girl I cared about.

(beat)

I want her to feel free. Free to move on. Not obligated or indebted.

(beat)

Four years is a long time and Rodney's a great guy.

GEOFFREY

(scoffs)

And what, you're giving up Jenny for him?!

LIAM

No. I want him to give up on Jenny in a sane way.

GEOFFREY

What makes you so confident?

Liam tilts to look over at Geoffrey.

LIAM

I loved her ever since she was six.

Geoffrey looks at him - reconsidering. Liam reaches for his phone on the dashboard...

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. MCDANIEL'S HOUSE - PORCH.

Jenny's Blackberry rings. It's Liam...

JENNY

You realize this is the second time you're not saying goodbye to me.

LIAM

I didn't?

JENNY

No.

Pause.

LIAM

How did you wait all this long?

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Well, I didn't just wait. I was busy -- doing drugs.

Liam snickers.

JENNY

You gave me something Liam. But what have I done for you?

LIAM

You flew all the way from Paris to come visit.

JENNY

Does that count?

LIAM

How about we find out in three week's time?

Jenny's silent as she takes in these words. Liam waits on her for the next statement...

JENNY

-- Three weeks?

LIAM

Three weeks and am in Paris with you. Forever.

JENNY

That's heavy!

LIAM

And a little bit too much?

JENNY

No. I think I could use forever for once.

STAY ON JENNY as she hangs up. Conceited by his words. Then, she looks up over at Rodney who has had his empathetic eyes on her all along.

JENNY

You were wrong.

RODNEY

He still gambled you.

JENNY

A biased coin doesn't count.

Rodney smiles.

RODNEY
So, airport.

Jenny slowly breaks and starts grieving. Rodney realizes.

RODNEY
(in awe)
Jenny!

He crouches over her.

JENNY
(crying)
My mum passed away.

RODNEY
What?! J...

JENNY
(crying increasing)
She died two months ago. In a car
crash. She was from dropping me
in rehab.

RODNEY
Jenny, am -- am sorry...

Rodney sits beside her.

RODNEY (CONT'D)
Why... Why didn't you say
anything?

JENNY
I love him, Rod. I did not want
him to be with me out of pity...

CUT TO:

INT. RODNEY'S CAR

Next, we see Rodney angrily start his car. Jenny is still
crying on the porch.

EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNSET

The red sun up in the West, beyond the mountains. Move
back to the Chevy speeding through the bureau forest which
extends for miles...

WE HEAR LIAM'S PHONE RINGING.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - TWILIGHT

The sky is getting darker. The forest fading until it is no more. We reach the outskirts of another State. Then reach the big city at night.

LIAM'S PHONE CONTINUES TO VIBRATE BY THE DASH BOARD. IT'S RODNEY.

Geoffrey minds the road. Liam's relaxed with his head hinged over the seat's headrest and eyes shut -- Thinking... Not answering...

GEOFFREY

What got me mad...

LIAM

What?

GEOFFREY

You wanted to know what got me mad.

(beat)

You got Claire pregnant.

Liam's perplexed. He opens his eyes and lifts his head from the headrest.

LIAM

You -- you loved Claire?!

GEOFFREY

Since the eighth grade.

LIAM

(now unnerved)

I thought you loved Amanda.

GEOFFREY

Like I said, there's so much you don't know McDaniel. You just never cared to.

LIAM

(remorseful)

Let me take the wheel.

INT. RODNEY'S CAR - TWILIGHT

Rodney disappointedly hangs up. Then he dials another number. It's Claire's.

EXT. PARIS - MORNING

It's early winter in Paris. The green bureau forest runs for miles. A huge fog covers the ends of the forest to the highlands.

Find a cab driving on the highway. It's a two lane highway and it's wet.

Jenny looks through the window. STAY ON JENNY -- until we reach the outskirts of a rich countryside. Relatively few homes with very huge gardens.

EXT. PARIS - YEARS' COUNTRY HOUSE - MORNING

The cab pulls up to the fine country house. A double door garage building is at the end of the driveway.

ALISON, moves out the front door holding a bin. She stops on noticing the cab.

Jenny moves out of the cab. Her gaze meets her aunt's cold eyes.

A moment. Then, Alison continues over to the dust bin. Her reaction best describes a strained guardian - daughter relationship which any of the two parties would give up anything to resolve yet too proud to.

Then as Alison strides back to the house,

JENNY
Aunt Allie...

Alison turns to find a torn niece.

JENNY
-- Am sorry.

Tears would flow out of Jenny's eyes if she would just let them. Alison moves and hugs her torn apart niece. Both sob...

ALISON
Never do that to me again.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Alison sits on the bed next to Jenny -- listening with all the interest.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

...I really love him aunt Allie.

ALISON

Do you believe -- he really feels
the same?

JENNY

Yes, Allie. I could feel it. He
missed me.

Alison could not be more pleased with this new Jenny.

ALISON

So, three weeks?

Jenny nods. Alison sighs.

ALISON

I missed you too.

She hugs Jenny and then...

ALISON

I'll let you rest. We'll talk
over lunch. Love you.

JENNY

I love you.

This happens to surprise Alison. But she soon lets it go
and starts out.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - BATHROOM (CONTINUOUS) - NEXT DAY.

Jenny's standing over at the sink. She's holding a small
yellow plastic tin containing drugs - considering.

Then, she opens the tin and pours the drugs in the sink.
She flushes the sink and starts out...

EXT. YEARS' COUNTRY HOUSE (CONTINUOUS)- DAY

-- Jenny emerges out and hops into a convertible Jaguar
in the parking lot. She drives off --

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

-- Jenny looks through the bookshelves. She smiles on
finding what she has been looking for. A novel - THE
HUNGER GAMES.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - DAY (DAYS LATER)

Jenny lies on her bed halfway the novel. It's boring. Then, a thought runs through her mind. She gets-up from the bed and peers below it.

She pulls out a box. She opens it. HER Tennis Racket lies inside, all old and dusty.

She touches it with such emotions. Then -- removes it from the box.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BALLET STUDIO - NIGHT (TWO YRS LATER)

Then we see a hot ballerina with her head bowed down posing on stage. She looks sexy in her costume. She raises her head. It's Claire.

She breathes in. Gathers all the confidence she can accumulate from within.

She stretches, readies. This is all behind closed curtains. Then, they spring open to unveil the large audience.

Claire attacks, spins around. She spins again. And again and attacking... Dancing ballet with great talent...

We see Rodney and Liam seated in the audience. They watch her with loving eyes. She smiles on seeing them. Rodney is hands rapped with Amanda. All gently dressed. Big people now.

WHEN SHE'S DONE, All clap - impressed. She can't smile. Something is missing.

Then, a large team of ballerinas drives in. A great show is then put up. The audience never expected this.

At the end of it, all the audience can do is applaud.

DISSOLVE OUT:

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

It's a cold morning. Alison stands next to the window. Jenny is coiled up in her bed. She must have stayed up the whole night. Maybe crying.

Jenny wears a wedding ring on her finger.

EXT. LANE - MORNING

Liam in his Maserati drives through. He too wears a wedding ring.

He pulls over on the opposite side of the road directly facing the Year's country house.

CLOSE UP ON LIAM'S FACE -- He has indeed aged a bit. A more responsible man now.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Alison has caught this. She smiles as she draws the curtain wide.

ALISON
(calling on her)
Jenny...

Jenny gets up from her bed. She moves to the window then -- sees Liam over the other side in his Maserati.

ALISON
Will he ever be forgiven?

Jenny shakes her head, 'NOT IN THE WORLD'. Then starts crying - again...

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

-- Jenny's still in her window watching waitie Liam. All lonely and cold.

IT STARTS SNOWING...

EXT. YEARS' COUNTRY HOUSE - A MOMENT LATER

-- It's now snowing heavily. Jenny moves out the front door wearing some heavy gear. She carries another heavy jacket in her hands. She makes her way to the Maserati...

Liam watches her approach. His hair is all snowcapped. He looks miserable. She shoots him a sharp look with her red wet eyes.

LIAM
Am sorry I missed your twentieth
birthday.

She doesn't look like the person who wants to know. She hands him the jacket. Then moves and sits besides him in the car. The snowfall is getting heavier and all coming down on them.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Am sorry I had to send you away.

Liam looks at her. She stares back. Stay on this.

Then suddenly -- BOTH GIGGLE.

RODNEY V.O

Then it was probably happily like
never before in Paris.

CUT TO BLACK.