

The Boy Who Forgot How To Ride A Bicycle

By

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Fourth Draft

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White.

Buzzing. Clicking. Unfamiliar noises.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Blue sky surrounds the white from before, which shrinks down into the light of the bright sun.

Two small feet move frantically in circles as they push bike pedals round and round.

The bike chain CLICKS through the gears and the tires spin fast. They emit a BUZZ.

An old-fashion red bike glides down the neighborhood street. It shines in the sunlight, looks brand new.

It's every child's dream bicycle.

The legs continue to kick at the pedals. The bike continues to CLICK and CLATTER as the chain bounces through the gears.

Steering the bike is ANDY HENDRICKS (8), with the largest smile on his face.

His eyes glimmer as tears build up and stream from his eyes. He looks up at the sky, closes his eyes, with total happiness.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - NIGHT

KITCHEN

LUCY HENDRICKS (40s) sets the table with plates and silverware. She's not the most attractive mother, but she looks great for her age. Beautiful.

She grabs bowls of food and sets them in the middle.

THOMAS HENDRICKS (40s) walks up to Lucy, hair styled professionally, nice clothes--total businessman.

He wraps his arms around her. She smiles and grabs at his hands. He leans around over her shoulder, ready to give a kiss, when--

LUCY
Andy! Eric! Dinner!

Lucy breaks free from Thomas' love grip and sits down at the table. He does the same.

Andy bounces down the stairs and to the dinner table.

Behind Andy is ERIC HENDRICKS (11) wearing a baseball cap on and summer attire.

The family sits at the table respectively: parents at the ends, children on the sides.

Lucy unfolds her napkin and lays it on her lap.

LUCY
Take your hat off at the table,
Eric.

Without hesitation, Eric pulls his hat off and sets it by his plate.

Thomas pours himself a glass of wine.

Lucy scoops mashed potatoes on Eric's plate.

ERIC
That's enough.

LUCY
You need to eat more if you want to
grow up strong.

Eric giggles.

ERIC
It's enough, Mom!

Lucy plops down one last spoonful of mashed potatoes. She scoops up another spoonful and slaps it on Andy's plate.

ANDY
That's enough.

LUCY
No sir, don't you try that on me,
buddy. I want you to get nice and
strong just like your brother.
Besides, I need you boys to finish
off what we have on the table or
else we're going to have leftovers.
And I know how much you both hate
leftovers.

Eric makes a disgusted noise. Andy follows in suit, but his expression of disgust is more exaggerated.

THOMAS

So Eric, school starts Monday. Are you excited for the fifth grade?

ERIC

Yeah! Jacob told me that we were going to have the same teacher.

LUCY

That's great! You two are going to have a lot of fun.

THOMAS

I remember my time in fifth grade. Some friends of mine and I put glue on the teacher's seat. After a while of sitting on it, it dried, and as she stood up, it ripped a hole in her dress and you could see her underwear.

The two boys laugh. Shock overcomes Lucy's face, but she attempts to hold back laughter.

LUCY

Tom!

THOMAS

What? We were having fun!

LUCY

You're going to give him ideas!

(To Eric)

I better not hear from your teacher about anything like that.

Eric pokes at his mashed potatoes and moves them around his plate. Andy watches him, and begins to do the same with his food.

THOMAS

Andy, are you excited for the third grade?

ANDY

Yeah!

THOMAS

Maybe you'll see your brother in the school every once in a while.

ERIC
The fifth grade area is on the
other side of the school, Dad.

ANDY
Yeah, the fifth grade area is on
the other side of the school, Dad.

ERIC
Copy-cat.

ANDY
Copy-cat.

ERIC
Nuh-uh!

ANDY
Nuh-uh!

Eric sticks out his tongue. Andy returns the childish move
by sticking out his tongue.

While this happens, Thomas looks at Lucy. She stares back at
him, smiling. Thomas returns the smile.

THOMAS
Hey, Eric, why don't you tell Mom
what we did today.

ERIC
We got my bike fixed!

LUCY
Oh, did you now?

THOMAS
Yep. And we replaced the brakes and
polished it all up.

LUCY
(To Andy)
You hear that? Now you and your
brother can go riding bikes
together tomorrow.

Andy gasps, overcome with excitement.

ANDY
Can we go down by the creek, too?

LUCY

No, no. After all this rain, the trail downhill is probably muddy and slippery and I don't want either of you two getting hurt.

ANDY

Please?!

ERIC

We'll be extra careful.

ANDY

Yeah, we'll be extra careful!

Lucy looks at Thomas for help. He nods to let them go. Lucy sighs, uneasy about her answer:

LUCY

Okay...But you two need to be careful, okay?

ANDY

Yes!

THOMAS

Tell your mother 'thank you,' boys...

ANDY

Thank you, Mom.

THOMAS

Thanks, Mom.

A cell phone rings and vibrates on the kitchen island counter. Thomas stands up.

LUCY

No, honey, we just started dinner!

THOMAS

I'm just checking who it is.

He looks at his phone, silences it. He returns to the table.

LUCY

Work?

THOMAS

An old friend of mine from high school. We ran into each other a while back during lunch.

LUCY
Oh yeah? Who?

Thomas creates a beat in conversation as he scoops some more salad on his plate.

THOMAS
Henry Beckham. Total jerk in high school, but he's actually not that bad now. He works in the office across the street from me. It was funny meeting up with him.

LUCY
Huh, it's a small world after all, isn't it?
(To the boys)
Your father when to this small high school somewhere in the sticks--

ERIC
"Sticks"?

LUCY
In the middle of nowhere. A one-horse town.

ANDY
"One-horse town"?

LUCY
Anyways, he's been running into some old high school friends of his. They've all moved to the big cities now, I guess, and he just has the best of luck to meet up with them again.

THOMAS
And it's much better than those dumb high school reunions where everyone is kind of awkward there.

LUCY
What was that one time when you went to prom with the most popular girl in school--oh, what was her name--Bella...Betsy...?

THOMAS
Becky Andrews. Took her to prom. We walked up to the snack table and I tripped and fell into her. She fell
(MORE)

THOMAS (cont'd)
 into the bowl of punch and got
 soaked in it.

Lucy and the boys laugh. Thomas smiles pathetically.

THOMAS
 Hey, come on, now! That was an
 embarrassing moment for me!

LUCY
 I can imagine!

THOMAS
 And it just got worse because she--

LUCY
 --Never talked to you again.

Thomas takes a drink of wine.

THOMAS
 You guys keep laughing, but you
 better watch your backs.

The family giggles as they continue eating their food.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - LATER

ANDY'S ROOM

Andy lays in the bottom bunk of a bunk bed. Lucy kneels next to him, caressing his face.

LUCY
 You know, I'm still trying to get
 water out of my ear from earlier
 today.

Andy giggles.

ANDY
 That was fun.

LUCY
 Oh, I bet you got a real laugh out
 of that. See if I ever ask you to
 help me wash the car again, ya
 little monkey.

Lucy tickles Andy. He laughs and squirms in her tickle trap.

LUCY
Are you excited to ride your bike
tomorrow?

ANDY
Yeah!

LUCY
You really like that bike, don't
you?

ANDY
Yeah!

LUCY
Would you ride it every day if you
had the chance?

ANDY
Uh huh! It's really neat. It always
feels like I'm flying when I ride
it.

LUCY
Does it now?

Andy smiles and nods. Lucy pulls the covers up to Andy's
chin and tucks him in.

LUCY
I love you.

ANDY
I love you, too.

Lucy kisses him on the forehead and heads for the door.

ANDY
I have to go to the bathroom.

Lucy smiles and walks back.

LUCY
Well, then. Let's go to the
bathroom! Up, up!

Andy sits up and Lucy helps him out of the bed.

ERIC'S ROOM

Eric lays in bed with a book in hand. Not a storybook, but
an educational one. A reading lamp shines down on him.
There's a knock on the door as Thomas looks inside the room.

ERIC

Hey, Dad.

Thomas sits down on the bed.

THOMAS

Whatch'ya reading?

He looks at the cover of the book. It's an anatomy book. And it looks like something a kid his age wouldn't read.

THOMAS

The human body?

ERIC

I'm interested in how it works.

Thomas flips through the book.

ERIC

I found it in the library. It's really cool. I don't just look at the pictures.

THOMAS

I didn't know you liked this kind of stuff.

Lucy leans against Eric's doorway.

ERIC

Of course I do. I like science and history, and math can be cool some times, too.

THOMAS

You know, you remind me of myself when I was younger. I was always interested in books like these, but I never really showed it around other people. I kind of kept it my little secret.

ERIC

Really?

THOMAS

Yeah. I found this stuff interesting and fun. It makes me glad that you've sort of followed my footsteps.

Eric smiles.

ERIC

Cool.

Lucy smiles, and turns her head to the sound of a toilet flushing.

HALLWAY

The bathroom door opens and Andy bounces out. Lucy snatches him and he screeches out laughter.

LUCY

You're not going anywhere until you wash your hands, mister!

Andy sighs happily and Lucy sets him down. He walks into the bathroom and turns on the faucet.

He washes his hands, dries them off, and walks out of the bathroom, but stops when he hears voices. Talking. Coming from Eric's room. He turns around and quietly walks to the door.

ERIC'S ROOM

Andy peeks around the doorway and sees Lucy and Thomas both sitting next to Eric. Lucy brushes his hair out of his face.

ERIC

Are we going to church tomorrow?

LUCY

I don't know, honey. I don't think we are.

ERIC

Why not?

LUCY

Well, I...Uh...

She looks over at Thomas.

THOMAS

Some times we don't think it's the right one for us, you know?

ERIC

We can look for another one...

LUCY

Oh, sweetie, there really isn't another church that close to us.

Lucy brushes Eric's hair out of his face.

LUCY
You know we love you very much,
Eric.

ERIC
Yeah, I know. You're my mom and dad
after all.

They chuckle. Lucy kisses him on the forehead.

LUCY
Time for bed, honey. We love you.

ERIC
I love you, too.

Lucy stands up.

Andy eyes grow big and he runs back to his room.

Thomas kisses Eric on the forehead as well.

THOMAS
Sleep tight, buddy.

He ruffles Eric's hair.

Lucy shuts off the reading lamp and walks to the door. She looks back at Eric one last time before she shuts the door.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

MASTER BEDROOM

A clock ticks loudly in the quiet bedroom. Thomas and Lucy lay in bed. Him on his back, her on her side. She faces away from Thomas.

Thomas sighs. Rather loudly. Lucy takes a peek over her shoulder at him. He notices.

THOMAS
Good morning.

Lucy rolls over and faces Thomas.

THOMAS
You're awake.

LUCY
Your phone woke me up.

Thomas looks over at his phone. It sits on the bedside table.

THOMAS
Oh. I'm sorry. It was on vibrate.

LUCY
Yeah. It rang twice, I think.

Thomas rolls over on his side, faces Lucy.

THOMAS
I'll get it later.

They stare at each other for a moment. Thomas leans in for a kiss. In a swift, quick movement, Lucy dodges the kiss, which lands on her cheek.

The romance suddenly gone, Thomas' eyes open, and he stays in the same position with puckered lips. Lucy stares up at the ceiling.

Thomas sighs and rolls on his back. He looks up at the ceiling too.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

It's another sunny day in the neighborhood, and the now familiar CLICKING and CLACKING of bike chains and gears come back.

Two bikes glide down the street. One of the bikes looks familiar as well, and Andy sits on top of it, decked out in safety gear.

Eric rides next to him, in the same safety attire as well, riding a mountain bike. They both smile and laugh in excitement as they continue down the street.

Andy lifts a hand off the handle bars and rides one-handed.

ANDY
Eric, look what I can do!

Eric laughs.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Eric leads the way down a slightly steep trail. He holds on to Andy's hand, who takes baby steps down the trail.

EXT. CREEK - DAY

The two boys sit next to the flowing creek. Eric throws rocks into the water, while Andy digs into the mud with a short stick.

Eric looks up at the trees that hang over them. Rays of sun squeeze between the leaves and rain light on the area.

After that rain, it has left the area green, lush, clean. Pure. It's a beautiful sight. Eric smiles, overcome with complete serenity.

Andy looks over at Eric, then up at the trees as well. He squints one eye as the sun shines down on his face.

ANDY

What's the third grade like, Eric?

ERIC

It's pretty neat. You get to learn multiplication.

ANDY

Multiplication?

ERIC

It comes after adding and subtracting.

ANDY

Is it hard?

ERIC

At first it is, but you'll get used to it. And by the time you're done with the third grade, you'll know the multiplication table like the back of your hand.

Andy looks at the back of his hand.

ERIC

You'll like it, Andy.

Andy shrugs as if uninterested.

ERIC
What's wrong?

ANDY
Jeffrey is going to be in my
classroom.

ERIC
Who's Jeffrey?

ANDY
He's a bully. He always pushes me
around when we go out for recess.
And whenever I'm swinging, he grabs
it and pushes me off. Him and his
friends.

ERIC
Really? Do you tell the teachers?

ANDY
Yeah, but they don't do anything.
They just tell him to stop, but he
never does.

ERIC
Don't bother with him, Andy. It'll
be okay.

ANDY
You should beat him up for me.

Eric laughs.

ERIC
I'm not going to beat him up.

ANDY
Why not? You're my big brother,
you're supposed to!

ERIC
You remember what Dad said last
night? About how he met up with
that bully of his? And now they're
friends.

ANDY
Yeah.

ERIC
One day, when you're all grown up,
you and Jeffrey will remember all
of this and laugh about it.

Andy pokes at the ground some more with his stick.

ANDY

I don't want to grow up. I want to stay a kid forever.

ERIC

It's not so bad being grown up. Or at least eleven, like me. Mom and Dad seem to like it.

ANDY

But I'm a kid, I can get away with anything. When you're older, you have to pay bills and drink coffee and kiss girls.

Eric chuckles. He throws another rock into the creek.

ERIC

Yeah, that does suck.

They're quiet for a moment. A frog croaks somewhere.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Lucy works in the garden in the front yard. An SUV pulls up in front of the house.

OLIVIA ANDREWS (40s) steps out of the SUV. Short hair and prettied up. She's a bit overweight, but she looks good; it suits her.

She smiles as she walks up the front yard towards Lucy.

OLIVIA

Yoo-hoo!

Lucy turns around. She smiles and stands up.

LUCY

Hey, Olivia.

OLIVIA

Good morning!

(Re: garden)

Your Carnations look great.

LUCY

Oh, thank you.

OLIVIA
Where are the boys?

LUCY
Andy and Eric went bike riding down
the creek, and I'm not sure where
Thomas is.

OLIVIA
How are they all doing?

LUCY
Everybody's doing great. The boys
start school tomorrow, they're both
really excited. Eric just got his
bike fixed yesterday and Andy's
been wanting to ride with him
lately so that's what they're doing
right now. How have you been doing?

OLIVIA
I've been great, thank you. I just
wanted to stop by and see how you
all were doing. I was thinking
about you guys and how long it's
been. Maybe you could join Dan and
me for dinner some time soon.

Lucy's smile fades slightly.

LUCY
(Unexcited)
Actually, you know, I'm sure with
school starting, things are going
to get kind of busy with Andy and
Eric, so I'm not sure if soon will
work.

OLIVIA
Oh, well hire a babysitter and how
about just you and Thomas come
over?

LUCY
He's been pretty busy with work
lately. You know, end of the month
stuff...

OLIVIA
Right, right...I just haven't seen
you all in church for a while.

Lucy's smile disappears.

She turns away from Olivia and resumes her work in the garden.

OLIVIA

Is there a reason why you haven't been going?

LUCY

Oh, you know, we just like to spend the mornings being a family and being outdoors.

Olivia looks around.

OLIVIA

I don't see the rest of your family here.

LUCY

They're Sundays, Olivia. They're our days off. We like to sleep in, you know? Relax in the mornings, take things slowly. It's peaceful.

OLIVIA

You can find a lot of peace at the church.

LUCY

Well I'm sure that God doesn't mind that we're missing out on church to be happy and relaxed, right?

OLIVIA

Well, yeah. That's true. But I'm just saying that you used to be a regular and now you barely show up at all.

Lucy stays silent and continues on her garden.

OLIVIA

Do you pray?

LUCY

When I need to.

OLIVIA

Which should be always.

Lucy sets her trowel down. She looks at Olivia unhappily.

LUCY

No, I don't think so. If I'm happy, then there's no reason to pray about anything, right?

OLIVIA

You can pray to Him thanking Him for whatever made you happy.

Lucy stares at her for a moment, then chuckles.

LUCY

I think that may be a little too much, but yeah, you're right.

OLIVIA

Just as long as you still believe--

LUCY

I haven't lost my faith if that's what you're thinking.

(Beat)

Things are fine, Olivia. My family is okay, I'm okay. I love God. Maybe not as much as you do, but that doesn't mean I should attend church every Sunday.

Olivia nods.

OLIVIA

Well, I just want you to remember that no matter how bad things get, no matter how much you've given up, don't lose faith in Him. He'll help you out. Everything happens for a reason, and that God has a plan for all of us.

LUCY

Yeah, and the plan for me is that I need to get these flowers planted before the rain comes in this afternoon.

Olivia giggles and shoos the comment away as she turns away from Lucy. Thomas walks around the house. He smiles when he sees Olivia.

THOMAS

Hey, Olivia!

OLIVIA

Thomas!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

More CLICKING and CLACKING as Andy and Eric race their bikes down the street.

SOMEWHERE ELSE

CLOSE UP: a car tire. The engine accelerates.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

THOMAS

How've you been?

OLIVIA

Pretty good. Yourself?

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The spokes of the boys' bikes are a blur. They ride down a hill towards a corner of the street.

SOMEWHERE ELSE

CLOSE UP: the grill of the car. The engine is loud, the car is going fast.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

THOMAS

Pretty good. Busy.

OLIVIA

I just stopped by to see how everyone was doing.

THOMAS

The boys went bike riding, but they should be back soon.

Lucy points and waves.

LUCY

There they are.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Eric rounds the corner, shortly followed by Andy.

They ride towards the house.

Eric reaches an intersection. He passes through as the car RUNS A STOP SIGN.

Tires SCREECH!

Eric and Andy stare at the oncoming vehicle helplessly as it SPEEDS toward them.

CRASH! The car SCREECHES to a halt (O.S.)

Eric's twisted mountain bike SCRAPES across the asphalt as it slides into view. His helmet BOUNCES across the street immediately after his bike.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

An EAR-PIERCING RING fills the air as the world slows down into slow-motion.

Thomas and Olivia slowly spring to life as they run towards the street.

They leave behind Lucy, who stares outward at the scene in shock. Her eyes wide, her mouth slowly splits open.

She drops her trowel. It slowly falls towards the ground.

Thomas slowly stomps his way towards the street. Everything is silent except for the faint ear-piercing ring, but he screams for Eric and Andy.

The trowel is closer to the ground, still falling slowly.

Olivia stops at the edge of the street and covers her mouth. Her eyes are watery, her face filled with fear.

The trowel is inches from the ground.

Lucy pushes past Olivia. She screams for Eric and Andy. Her mouth moves slowly, but nothing comes out. Everything is silent.

On the ground is Andy's red, old-fashioned bike. The front wheel is a twisted mess, as is the front of the bike. The back wheel spins in slow-motion.

A tiny tennis shoe sits on the ground, untied.

The trowel closes in, about to impact the ground--

THUMP. Normal speed. The trowel hits the ground.

Off-screen, Lucy SCREAMS. CRIES. She lets out the howls of a devastated mother.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Thomas and Lucy sit in the almost-empty waiting room. A TV is on, the news plays. It rains outside. The rain PITTER-PATTERS against the window. Thunder RUMBLES.

If it weren't for the TV and rain, the room would be completely silent.

Lucy's eyes are red and puffy, her hair a mess, she looks awful. Thomas' eyes are a bit red, but he maintains his appearance.

A NEWS ANCHOR reads off the teleprompter as she broadcasts her story:

NEWS ANCHOR

This just in, a tragic accident has occurred in the neighborhood of Hawthorne Heights where two young boys were hit by a vehicle while riding their bikes. The driver, a young woman, ran a stop sign when she hit the eight-year-old and eleven-year-old as they were crossing through the intersection. The young woman was distracted and wasn't paying attention while she was texting on the phone. No other information related to the condition of the two boys has been released, but the young woman will be charged, one of those violations for a law that has recently been passed where texting while driving has now become illegal, receiving a fine up to \$150.

Thomas walks to the television.

NEWS ANCHOR

In other news--

He turns the television off.

A door SQUEAKS open. Lucy and Thomas turn their heads. A DOCTOR walks in. Lucy jumps to her feet.

LUCY

How are they? Are they going to be okay?

DOCTOR

Both Andy and Eric have suffered major injuries when they were hit. Andy was lucky to only have his front bike tire get hit by the car. He was thrown off his bike and sustained a broken arm, a sprained wrist, and bruised ribs, along with scratches and road burn. Our biggest concern, though, was that his helmet came off. I don't know if it was too loose, or if it came undone, but he has suffered head trauma quite possibly to the point to where there will be brain damage.

LUCY

Oh my God...

THOMAS

How bad?

DOCTOR

There may be learning deficiencies, he might become slower in his motor skills and brain development. Not exactly mental retardation, but it was a close call. There might be a possibility that he will also suffer from memory loss, but we won't know for sure until he's recovered.

LUCY

And Eric? What about Eric?

The doctor sighs in distress.

DOCTOR

Eric, on the other hand, took the hit more severely. You said he was in the direct path of the car, and he sustained the worst injuries. When he came into the hospital, he broke both of his legs, had

(MORE)

DOCTOR (cont'd)
multiple broken ribs, internal
bleeding, road burn, and since his
helmet had slipped off, too, he
sustained severe head trauma.

Lucy grabs Thomas' shirt sleeve, prepares for the worst.

DOCTOR
We were told that the paramedics
had lost a pulse on their way here,
and as we were pulling him into the
ER, his pulse continued to start
and stop. We continued to perform
CPR on him, but it helped very
little.

Lucy's eyes grow watery.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry, Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks,
but Eric didn't survive the
accident.

LUCY
No...

DOCTOR
We tried everything we could.

THOMAS
There has to be something...

DOCTOR
I'm sorry...

Lucy's legs shake. Her body shakes.

LUCY
No, no, he can't be dead, there's
got to be something...

DOCTOR
There was nothing else we could do.

Lucy's face contorts. She shakes her head. She looks over at
Thomas.

DOCTOR
(Quickly)
I'll give you two a moment. I'm
sorry.

The doctor walks through the doors, back into the ER.

Lucy shakes, tears well up, she begins to cry.

LUCY
I want to see them...

THOMAS
We can't do that...

LUCY
Please...

Thomas shakes his head. He's at the point of crying himself.

Her legs give up, and she collapses to the floor. Thomas catches her, gently sets her down on the floor, holds her in his arms.

She can barely get her words out as she cries.

LUCY
I want to see my babies...Please...

Thomas' face contorts, and he cries too. He holds his face close to hers.

THOMAS
Eric's gone. He's gone, baby.

But she shakes her head "no".

Lucy and Thomas, alone in the quiet waiting room.

Thunder softly rumbles.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

It's a dark and gloomy day. Large weeping willow trees hang over the group of mourners that surround the small casket.

A priest reads from the Bible.

Lucy sobs quietly, tries to maintain her composure. Thomas holds onto her and stares blankly at the casket.

Andy stands in front of them. He wears a hat. A couple scars mark his face. He wears a full arm cast. He has a solemn look on his face.

Soon, those surrounding the casket begin to slowly dissolve away as they walk from the grave site, and leave Lucy, Thomas, and Andy alone.

They stare at the casket.

And soon, they slowly dissolve, too.

LATER

The mourners walk from the cemetery toward their cars.

Olivia walks up to Lucy, stops the family.

OLIVIA
Hey, Lucy...

LUCY
Olivia.

Olivia immediately hugs Lucy. Squeezes her.

THOMAS
I'm going to go start up the car.
You want to come with me, Andy?

Andy shakes his head.

Thomas nods and continues toward the parking lot. A woman with a small group of people looks at him. She walks up to him.

This is SANDRA (late 30s), dressed in black, hair neatly made, dark make up gives her a gothic look, but it makes her look very attractive.

She sighs and brushes his shoulder.

SANDRA
Things will get better.

Thomas doesn't say anything.

SANDRA
Everybody at work misses you.
They're wondering when you're going
to be coming back.

THOMAS
Soon.

SANDRA

And I'm speaking for them, just so you know. I miss you too, but I have no idea what it's like to have a child pass away...Or have a child, for that matter.

She looks over at Andy.

SANDRA

How's Andy doing?

THOMAS

He's, uh...He's doing fine, I guess.

Andy looks at Sandra with a blank expression. She smiles and waves to him.

SANDRA

How are his injuries? His head?

THOMAS

He gets the stitches taken out soon. This hit to the head has... It's changed him.

SANDRA

Are you sure it was the hit that's changed him, and not the fact that he's lost his older brother?

Thomas nods. He sniffs. Wipes his eyes, on the verge of crying.

THOMAS

He loved Eric a lot.

(Beat)

We all did.

SANDRA

Come here.

Sandra pulls him in and they embrace. Andy looks over at the two hugging.

Sandra's hands wrap around his back, her arms underneath his. Her hands slowly slide down his back. They get a little too close for comfort.

Andy notices this affection.

SANDRA

I just want you to remember that I am here for you. If you need to talk, I'll listen.

Sandra pulls away.

SANDRA

You have my number. Just call me if you need anything, okay? And you have my address, so just come on over whenever you want to talk.

Thomas nods.

Sandra hands him a rose. The stem is covered with thorns. Thomas takes it.

THOMAS

Do you want to go lay this by the grave?

SANDRA

It's for you. Be careful, it's sharp.

He looks at it for a moment.

Sandra takes his hand. She holds it, caresses it passionately.

Lucy walks up to the two, Andy in hand.

LUCY

Thomas.

Thomas turns to Lucy. Sandra lets go of his hand.

THOMAS

Are you ready?

LUCY

Yeah.

Thomas turns back to Sandra.

THOMAS

Thank you for being here.

SANDRA

It's the least I could do, and I'm sorry for your loss.

THOMAS
Thank you.

LUCY
Thanks.

The three walk toward the parking lot. They leave Sandra behind. She watches them as they walk away.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - NIGHT

GARAGE

It's very dark until a door opens. A crack of light widens as the door opens, and illuminates only one part of the garage.

Andy stands in the doorway. He stares at his bike. Broken. Twisted. Unusable. It sits on its side pathetically.

Andy hangs his head, slowly shuts the door. The bike disappears into complete darkness.

ANDY'S ROOM

Andy sits on his bed. He still wears the hat from earlier. He grabs the bill and slowly slides it off.

The back of his head is a mess of stitches, but the gashes are healed.

MASTER BEDROOM

One lamp is on. It barely illuminates the room.

Thomas sits on the side of the bed, legs hanging over the edge. He stares at the floor, solemn and silent.

On the darker side of the room, the moonlight spills onto Lucy, who lays in bed. She faces away from Thomas. She sobs silently. A pile of tissues sit on the floor below her.

Thomas gives one look at her, then turns away. He reaches for the lamp switch. CLICK--

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: One Month Later

MASTER BEDROOM

Lucy is in the same position. Still awake. As if she never slept. Everything is quiet except for the tick-tock of the bedroom clock. Until--

ANDY (O.S.)

Eric!

Lucy doesn't even budge.

KITCHEN

Thomas stands at the sink with a cup of coffee in hand.

He looks out the window. He stares at the spot where the accident took place.

ANDY (O.S.)

Eric!

Thomas turns his head to Andy's voice.

Andy walks through the house towards the...

MASTER BEDROOM

The door slowly opens as Andy walks in. He slowly moves towards the bed where Lucy lays.

ANDY

Mommy?

Lucy doesn't even acknowledge him.

ANDY

Where's Eric?

Lucy remains on her side. She stares at the blank wall in front of her.

Thomas peeks into the bedroom.

LUCY

Eric's gone, Andy.

ANDY

Where did he go?

Thomas kneels next to Andy and wraps his arms around him.

THOMAS

Eric's in Heaven, remember?

Andy pauses for a moment.

ANDY
(Quietly)
Oh yeah...

THOMAS
Come on. Mommy's not feeling well,
let's let her rest, okay?

ANDY
Okay...

Thomas carries Andy through the house.

THOMAS
What did you want to do with him
today?

ANDY
I wanted to ride bikes with him.

Thomas sighs and sets Andy down. He kneels down to his eye level.

THOMAS
Andy, you have to try really hard
to remember these things. You can't
ride your bike anymore. It's
broken.

ANDY
But I really want to ride it...

THOMAS
I'm sorry, buddy.

Andy frowns. His bottom lip quivers, his eyes tear up.

THOMAS
How about this: when everything
goes back to normal, and Mom is
feeling better, and everybody is
the same again, we'll fix your
bike, and we'll all go riding
through the park. Every weekend.
Rain or shine. Sound good?

Andy nods.

ANDY
Eric won't be there, though, will
he?

THOMAS

He'll be there. You may not be able to see him, but he'll always be with us.

ANDY

Am I going to see him again?

THOMAS

You will one day. But not for a very, very long time.

Andy sniffs away any remaining tears.

THOMAS

Why don't you go outside? It's a nice day. You shouldn't be spending it indoors.

ANDY

Okay.

Andy walks away. Thomas stands up and watches him leave.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

MASTER BEDROOM

Thomas walks into the room. Lucy is in the same position as before.

THOMAS

Um, I...I'm going to start clearing out Eric's room a bit. You know...Give some of his toys and clothes to a charity. I could use some help?

Lucy remains quiet.

THOMAS

Lucy?

Lucy squeezes one of her tissues. Her eyes water up.

Thomas stares awkwardly at his feet, at the door, and decides to leave.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY**ERIC'S ROOM****INSIDE THE CLOSET**

Thomas turns on the lights and walks in with a large, empty box in his arms. He sets it down on the floor.

He grabs action figures off of shelves and sets them in the box.

JUMP CUT TO:

He grabs shirts off of their hangers and sets them inside of the box.

JUMP CUT TO:

He pulls pants off of their hangers as well and sets them in the box.

JUMP CUT TO:

Thomas looks at Eric's pair of shoes. They are very small in his hands. Sadness covers his face. He sighs.

MOMENTS LATER

Thomas opens a drawer from Eric's desk. Papers and photos sit inside. He pulls them out.

He sits on the bed and looks through the things:

-- A typical childish drawing of the family--TO ERIC, FROM ANDY.

-- A rocket flying to the moon.

-- A drawing of a dog--beneath it written: FOR MY BIRTHDAY.

Thomas rubs his eyes, his emotions growing heavy.

He sets the drawings on the bed and looks at the few photos in his lap:

-- Eric blowing out candles at a birthday party.

-- Eric and Andy dressed in Halloween costumes; Eric a pirate, Andy a pumpkin.

-- Lucy, twelve years younger, holding a baby Eric. She smiles at the camera, her face a ray of sunshine.

-- Thomas and Eric together, making funny faces at the camera.

Thomas chuckles at the photo. He sets it down on the bed and looks at the last photo.

-- The whole family up close. All are smiling. They're one big happy family, something not seen anymore.

Thomas stares at the photo for a moment longer. He rubs his eyes and sets the photo down. He sighs as he looks at the room.

JUMP CUT TO:

Thomas stands at the doorway. He stares at the room, which is now absent of action figures, games, or toys. Without those, the room is almost barren. Empty. Silent.

He gives the room one last look, turns off the lights, and shuts the door--

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

BACKYARD

Andy sits on a swing and slowly rocks forward and backward. The swing next to him is empty.

He swings, forward and backward, gains speed and height. Dirt kicks up as his feet catch the ground.

He passes the empty swing next to him, it remains empty. The swing set CREAKS and SQUEAKS as he moves backward and forward. He passes the swing one more time as he swings backward--

And there sits Eric.

Andy looks over at the swing and sees him. He gasps and jams his feet into the ground. His swinging stops abruptly.

Andy stares at Eric in shock. Eric stares back, smiling.

ANDY

Eric?

ERIC
Hey, Andy.

Andy jumps from his swing.

ANDY
Eric! It's really you!

Andy pummels Eric with a hug. He quickly grabs the swing ropes to avoid falling off.

ERIC
Whoa, whoa! Are you already practicing for football there, Andy?

Tears flow from Andy's eyes.

ANDY
You're back! You're here! I've missed you so much, Eric!

ERIC
I've missed you, too.

Andy pulls away.

ANDY
Mommy said you were gone and that you weren't coming back.

ERIC
I'm here, though, aren't I?

Andy sits back on his swing.

ANDY
She said you were in Heaven.

ERIC
That's also true.

Andy slowly pushes himself forward and backward.

ANDY
I forget a lot.

ERIC
Why?

ANDY
From the accident. The doctor said I hit my head real hard, and I
(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
forget a lot of things, and forget
how to do some things, too.

(Beat)
Mommy and Daddy don't like it when
I forget.

ERIC
What for?

ANDY
They get sad when I ask where you
are. They tell me that you're gone
and that I won't be seeing you
again for a really long time.

He kicks at the dirt.

ANDY
I can't ride my bike either. Daddy
says that it's broken.

ERIC
From the accident...

ANDY
Yeah.

ERIC
Do you have stitches?

ANDY
What?

ERIC
On your head. Do you have stitches?

Andy hangs his head down to show Eric a patch of hair
shorter than the rest of the hair on his head.

Eric pushes the hair out of the way to reveal a definite
scar where hair is unable to grow anymore. He examines it
with great interest.

ANDY
I got the stitches taken out a
while ago.

ERIC
That's really cool.

ANDY
You think so?

ERIC
Yeah! I think stitches are pretty neat. I've always wanted to get some.

ANDY
Why?

ERIC
I dunno. They're cool. And they leave scars like that, too. You're going to get a lot of girls with that.

Andy makes a disgusted noise.

ANDY
Ew, cooties.

ERIC
I said the same thing. But Dad told me that when I'm older, I'm going to start liking girls. And having scars from when I fall down and stuff will make them like me back or something.

ANDY
Are you going to grow up?

Eric frowns and kicks at the dirt.

ERIC
Nah. You don't have to grow up in Heaven.

ANDY
You can't?

ERIC
Nope.

ANDY
Good. I don't want to grow up. I want to stay a kid forever.

ERIC
Well, in Heaven, you can choose to be a kid again. For as long as you want.

ANDY
Really?

ERIC
Yeah.

They sit there for a moment in silence. A bird chirps somewhere.

ANDY
Eric?

ERIC
Yeah, Andy?

ANDY
What's it like being dead?

Eric stares at his feet.

ERIC
It's not so different than being alive, I guess. I don't get sad, I can't get hurt, I won't get in trouble or anything. I'm able to go wherever I want, whenever I want.

ANDY
Well, if you're here, does that mean you're not in Heaven right now?

ERIC
No, I'm still in Heaven.

ANDY
How?

ERIC
I can feel it.

ANDY
What's it like?

ERIC
It's great. I've never been happier in my life. I always feel safe, protected...Calm. You can't feel pain, you don't need to sleep unless you want to, and you never have bad dreams.

Andy stares up at the sky, eyes sparkling, a smile growing on his face...

ERIC

It's really pretty, too. It looks just like it does here, but better. It's never too hot or cold, everything is always green, and you're never afraid of anything. Even the dark.

(Beat)

Whatever you think is going to be there, it'll be there.

ANDY

Do you know if I'm going to Heaven, Eric?

ERIC

If you're a really good person, you definitely will.

ANDY

Am I a good person?

ERIC

You are, Andy. You'll get into Heaven. And so will Mom, and Dad. And Grandma Polly and Grandpa Mark. And we'll be a family there. Forever.

ANDY

Do you know when we'll go there?

ERIC

I do.

ANDY

When?

Eric opens his mouth, ready to speak--

THOMAS (O.S.)

Andy?

Andy looks up. Thomas stands there, hands on his side. Andy sits on the swing set. Alone.

THOMAS

I made some lunch. Want some?

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY**KITCHEN**

Thomas and Andy sit at the kitchen table. Sandwiches and chips sit in front of them.

Thomas takes a bite into his sandwich. Andy snacks on his chips.

THOMAS

You shouldn't snack on your chips so much or you won't be hungry enough to eat your sandwich.

Andy eats one more chip, then takes a big bite out of his sandwich.

THOMAS

Andy, who were you talking to out on the swing set?

Andy smacks his mouth as he chews his sandwich.

THOMAS

Do you have an imaginary friend?

ANDY

No, I was talking to--

Thomas looks away--

THOMAS

Hey, honey.

Lucy walks in the kitchen. Still dressed in her PJs. Her hair is a mess, bags under her eyes; she looks miserable.

She fills up a glass of water at the sink.

THOMAS

How are you doing?

Lucy ignores him.

THOMAS

I made some lunch. Do you want something to eat?

LUCY

I'm not hungry.

THOMAS

Are you sure? I can make you a sandwich or--

LUCY

I'm not hungry, Thomas. Jesus Christ...

She walks away from the kitchen.

THOMAS

Okay, well, if you want anything to eat, just let me know...

The master bedroom door shuts (O.S.)

ANDY

Is Mom going to get better?

THOMAS

Yeah...Yeah, she will. It'll just take a while. She's just really sad right now.

ANDY

I don't like seeing Mom sad.

THOMAS

Yeah, neither do I.

Thomas' phone vibrates on the countertop. He walks to the phone and answers it.

THOMAS

Hello...? Hey...I'm doing okay... They're doing alright. Lucy's been in bed all day...

Andy looks on, listens in.

THOMAS

I don't know, I should probably stay here...I just worry about Lucy and Andy, you know? I want to make sure they know I'm there for them...Well...Okay, I guess I can talk for a little bit...Alright I'll see you soon, Sandra. Bye.

Thomas looks at the phone, sighs, and sets it back on the counter. He walks over to the table and sits down. He notices Andy stare at him.

Thomas smiles.

THOMAS
You like your sandwich?

Andy nods.

THOMAS
Good.

ANDY
Mommy says not to answer your phone
when eating.

Thomas nods, guilty as charged.

THOMAS
You're right.
(Beat)
But Mom's not at the table right
now. It's okay.

And with that, Thomas and Andy sit at the table silently. Thomas rests his head on his hands. Andy stares at his plate.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Thomas walks to his car and jumps right in. He slams the door shut, starts the car, and backs out.

In one of the windows is Andy. He watches the car leave the driveway and zoom down the street.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Andy backs away from the window and walks through the house towards the...

GARAGE

The door opens and lights up the infinite abyss now known as the garage.

The crack of light widens as the door opens more and more. Andy peaks in. The light behind him creates a silhouette of his tiny stature.

The light creeps onto his mangled bike. It still sits in the same spot. The tire bent, the front of the bike smashed.

A closer look reveals large scratches and rusted metal where shiny red paint used to be.

Andy's hangs his head and slowly shuts the door. The bike is once again hidden in the dark depths of the garage.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Andy walks out of the front door and down the yard. He looks around the neighborhood.

At the house across the street, two boys play basketball. A bike lays on the driveway, neglected.

Andy stares at the bike, then at the boys who play basketball. They stop and go inside.

Eric stands a few feet behind Andy.

ERIC
Hey, Andy.

ANDY
Hi, Eric.

Eric walks up to Andy. He looks at his cast.

ERIC
Does that hurt?

Andy examines his cast.

ANDY
Not really. It's just really itchy.
I don't like it.

ERIC
You should have people sign it.
That's what my friend did when he
broke his leg.

Andy shrugs. They're quiet for a moment.

ANDY
Do you think Dad likes Mom?

ERIC
Well, sure they do. They like each
other a lot. That's why they got
married.

ANDY
Daddy's been talking to this girl.
He always gets different when
talking to her, and she touches him

(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
like Mom touches him when they get
all gross and kissy.

Eric thinks for a moment.

ERIC
I dunno. Maybe they're just really
good friends.

ANDY
Yeah, maybe. Grown ups are weird.

ERIC
You said it.

Eric notices Andy stare at the bike across the street.

ERIC
What are you doing?

ANDY
I want to ride a bike.

ERIC
You can't do that. You have a cast.

ANDY
I can ride one-handed. You've seen
me do it.

ERIC
Are you sure you remember how to do
that? You said you've been
forgetting how to do things.

ANDY
Mom and Dad said that you never
forget how to ride a bicycle.

ERIC
Come on, Andy, your arm is broken.
This isn't safe.

Andy looks at him for a moment, then at the bike across the
street. Andy walks off.

Andy steps onto the pavement and begins his journey across
the street. He passes by Eric.

ERIC
Mom and Dad are going to find out.

Eric disappears (O.S.). He reappears as Andy passes by while he continues to cross the street.

ERIC

They're not going to like it...

Andy ignores him. Eric disappears (O.S.). Once again, he reappears as Andy passes by while he continues to cross the street.

ERIC

Come on, Andy...

Andy reaches the other side of the street and enters the driveway of the house.

He walks up to the bike and picks up the helmet next to it. He puts it on, and then picks up the bike.

He looks back at the street. Eric is nowhere in sight.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

The master bedroom door opens, and Lucy walks out. Her glass of water is in hand. She's still a mess, and looks more sick than depressed.

She looks around the house.

LUCY

Thomas?

Her voice echoes through the house.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Andy swings his leg over the bike. His hands grasp the handlebars. His fingers find a good grip. He takes a deep breath, lets it out slowly.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Lucy stares at the house. She still waits for an answer.

LUCY

Hello?

Her voice echoes through the house again.

Lucy walks towards the front door. She peeks through the curtains of one of the windows, looks at the front yard. She notices the driveway is empty.

She pans her POV across the front lawn, but stops when she notices Andy across the street. On the bike. Ready to ride with his cast fully visible.

LUCY
What is he doing?

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Andy sets his foot on the pedal. He uses his uninjured hand to use the handlebar, and pathetically holds his cast arm in the air.

He quickly sets his other foot on the other pedal and pushes the bike off down the driveway.

The bike glides down. Andy is in good balance. Everything starts off great.

The front door opens and Lucy steps out.

LUCY
Andy!?

Andy reaches the bottom of the driveway, the bottom of the small incline.

He prepares himself to hit the street.

The front tire hits the pavement and--

CRASH! The front tire swerves sideways, and Andy flies off the seat!

His body crashes to the pavement on his uninjured arm. His head hits the road, but the helmet protects him and hits the road with a CLACK!

Lucy bolts down the front lawn. She sprints across the street to Andy, who cries as he attempts to sit up from accident.

Lucy helps him up and rips the helmet off.

LUCY
(Furiously)
Andy, what the hell were you thinking?! Oh my God!

ANDY
I wanted to ride my bike!

LUCY
God damn it, Andy! Look at you!
You're wearing a cast, do you
really think you can ride a bike?!

ANDY
Mom, stop yelling! Please!

Lucy yanks him across the street.

LUCY
This is ridiculous. I can't believe
this. Where the hell did your
father go?

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

BATHROOM

Andy sits on the toilet, sniffing away his tears. He has a small scrape on his arm.

Lucy pulls out a first aid kit and a bottle of rubbing alcohol. She opens it and pulls out cotton balls.

LUCY
What were you thinking, Andy? You
know you can't do anything like
that because of your arm!

ANDY
But--!

LUCY
Do you think you can just go over
to the house across the street and
start riding somebody's bike that
you don't know? You could have
gotten more hurt than you already
are!

She wets a cotton ball with alcohol.

LUCY
Jesus Christ, you know, I don't
need this Andy.

ANDY

I thought I could ride it! I'm able to ride my bike with only one hand.

Lucy wipes the cotton ball on his scrape. He yelps in pain and pulls his arm back. Lucy yanks his arm back and continues cleaning it. He whimpers in pain.

ANDY

I don't know what happened, Mom!

Lucy doesn't say anything.

ANDY

I know how to ride a bike, and how to ride it one-handed, but I couldn't and I fell...

Lucy stops cleaning the scrape and sighs in frustration.

LUCY

Andy. The accident you were in hurt your brain to where you can't remember some things. I'm sorry, but there's a chance where you might not be able to remember how to ride a bike.

ANDY

Forever?

LUCY

I don't know.

Andy's eyes begin to water up. His voice begins to get louder as he's close to crying:

ANDY

But...You and Dad said that you never forget how to ride a bicycle!

LUCY

(Coldly)

Well, some times you do.

ANDY

(Screaming)

But I don't want to forget! I love riding my bike! I want to ride by bike!

LUCY
You're bike is broken, Andy!
Please! You have to remember that!
Jesus Christ...

She hangs her head in frustration.

LUCY
(To herself)
Why can't you remember that?

Andy sobs quietly.

ANDY
I'm sorry if I made you mad, Mommy.
I told Eric that I don't like
seeing you and Dad like this.

Lucy looks up at Andy.

LUCY
What?

ANDY
I told Eric that you and Dad don't
like being sad.

LUCY
When?

ANDY
Today. On the swing set.

LUCY
You...Talked to him?

ANDY
Yeah, he was swinging with me. We
talked for a little bit.

Lucy's eyes water up.

LUCY
Andy, Eric's de...He's gone, you
need to remember that.

ANDY
No, he's still here. I see him and
talk to him.

Lucy begins to raise her voice:

LUCY
No, Eric, he's not here, he's gone!

Andy begins to cry again.

ANDY
But I talked to him today! He's not gone!

LUCY
He is, Andrew! He's dead! Eric's dead and he's never coming back!

And with that, Lucy jumps up to her feet and storms out of the bathroom.

Eric sits on the toilet and watches her leave, holds onto his scrape. He cries loudly.

ANDY
Mommy come back!

He stares at the empty doorway and continues to cry.

ANDY
Come back, Mom! Please!

But she doesn't come back. Andy remains alone in the bathroom, hurt and without the love of his mother. He hangs his head. Tears drop from his eyes, and he cries in the empty bathroom.

MASTER BEDROOM

Lucy sits on her side of the bed. She buries her face in her hands and cries loudly.

INT. SANDRA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's a nice apartment, very decorative. The space is clean, and the windows reveal a great view of the downtown city.

In the...

BEDROOM

Clothes lay on the floor, along with shoes, jewelry, a cell phone, all sprawled by a bed.

And inside the bed lay a naked Thomas and Sandra. She rests her head on his chest. Guilt covers Thomas' face.

Sandra lifts her head up and looks at Thomas. He stares out the bedroom window.

SANDRA
What are you thinking?

THOMAS
How do you live here? In a building so close to downtown?

SANDRA
It's pretty expensive, but it works. I can take care of myself. I'm a big girl.

She giggles and kisses his neck.

THOMAS
No, I mean, how do you sleep? Live a normal life? Everything around this area seems so busy. It's like a mini New York City.

SANDRA
I thought the same thing. I thought to myself: this is crazy, you're not going to survive here. But I needed an easier way to get to work and a more convenient place to live in, and soon I just got used to the noises and the lifestyle.

Thomas laughs off the idea.

SANDRA
You get used to things. No matter how ridiculous they are. Sooner or later, you're going to get used to what happened with your son.

Thomas doesn't bother to look at her.

THOMAS
No, you never get used to something like that.

Sandra frowns.

SANDRA
You're right. I wouldn't know. I don't have children to really know what it's like.

THOMAS

We're falling apart. It's been a month, and Lucy isn't getting any better. Andy can't seem to understand that Eric's gone and that things are going to be different in the family.

SANDRA

And what about you?

THOMAS

I...

He sighs and sits up, wraps his arms around his legs.

THOMAS

I'm lost. I don't know where I stand right now. There's so much shit going on at the moment that it's all becoming one big blur. I feel as though my marriage with Lucy is going to fall apart. I feel weak, and I see you to seek the things that Lucy and I are missing.

SANDRA

I've always been here for you Thomas. Even before the accident. Whenever you needed to talk, I was here to listen. You know that.

THOMAS

Yeah. It just feels so wrong though. What we're doing. Especially after what happened with Eric, I feel like it's not the right thing to do. I try and be there for my family, but Lucy's so distant now that I can hardly get to her.

SANDRA

What about Andy?

THOMAS

To be honest, I haven't been as close to my kids as other dads have been. I know them, but I was never really sure how to really be that father figure that they look up to you as. After the accident, I don't know what to talk to Andy about,

(MORE)

THOMAS (cont'd)
how to deal with any of the
situations that he gets himself
into...

Sandra puts her hand on his shoulder.

SANDRA
I've heard the stories you tell
everyone at the office, I see the
pictures you have with you and your
kids. You seem like a great father,
Thomas. You can't think of yourself
that way.

Thomas chuckles.

THOMAS
I don't think I'm that great of a
father. For your children to think
of you as a great father, you have
to be a great husband. And look
where I am right now.

Sandra hangs her head.

SANDRA
What are you going to do?

THOMAS
I don't want to think about the bad
things in life. I don't want to go
through this shit any more than
anyone else.

(Beat)

I just want to fuck these problems
away.

SANDRA
Then fuck them away. Fuck me.

Thomas looks at her. She runs her fingers through his hair,
rubs his chest.

He looks away from her for a moment, looks out the window.
He looks back at her, kisses her. Passionately. He forces
himself on top of her and they lay down on the bed as they
begin to make love.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - NIGHT**ANDY'S BEDROOM**

Andy lays in his bed, the covers up to his chin. He rolls over and watches his bedroom door. It's cracked open.

Through the crack, he can see Lucy pace back and forth in another room of the house. She peeks through the window of the room, then continues to pace.

Eric appears on the top bunk of the bed. He looks down over Andy.

ERIC

Hey, Andy.

Andy rolls on his back.

ANDY

Hey, Eric!

ERIC

What are you doing?

ANDY

Watching Mom.

ERIC

It's time for bed.

ANDY

I'm not tired.

Eric watches Lucy through the crack of the door.

ERIC

What's she doing?

ANDY

I don't know. I think she's waiting for Dad.

They lay there in the beds quietly for a moment.

ANDY

Mommy doesn't believe me.

ERIC

About what?

ANDY

About how I can see you. She got really mad at me today.

ERIC

Andy, you know parents never believe the kids. It's always in the movies, and it always happens in real life.

ANDY

Yeah...

Another small moment of silence.

ERIC

They're not happy, are they?

ANDY

No. You remember how it use to be, don't you? Before you went to Heaven. We used to be a really happy family, and Mom and Dad would always smile at each other, and we would always laugh. And now they don't even talk to each other, and only I can talk to you. They miss you, Eric. I miss how we used to be.

ERIC

I know. I miss how it used to be, too. For you guys. But things will be okay.

ANDY

They will?

ERIC

Yeah.

ANDY

How do you know?

ERIC

I just do.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door opens, and Thomas walks into the house. He quietly walks down a hallway and into the...

KITCHEN

Thomas stops immediately in his tracks.

Lucy sits at the kitchen table with a wine glass in front of her. It's empty. The wine bottle in front of her is just about empty as well.

THOMAS
Hey, honey.

LUCY
Where have you been?

THOMAS
I went out.

Lucy lets out a pathetic chuckle.

LUCY
Obviously.

She pours herself another glass of wine and finishes off the bottle.

LUCY
Where did you go?

THOMAS
I just went to a bar downtown to have a drink.

LUCY
You could have stayed here. There is enough for the both of us. Or, was...

She takes a sip of wine.

Thomas sets his car keys on the kitchen island counter, along with his phone. He plugs it in to charge and walks over to the opposite end of the table.

LUCY
You missed it.

THOMAS
Missed what?

Lucy sighs, a bit frustrated.

LUCY
(Sarcastically impressed)
Andy thought he could ride a bike
today.

THOMAS
Jesus...

LUCY
He went to the neighbor's house
across the street and used one of
their bikes. He wasn't up for more
than five seconds before he crashed
to the ground and almost broke his
arm. Again. It seems like he's
forgotten how to ride a bike.

She laughs.

LUCY
It's funny. You never forget how to
ride a bicycle.

Thomas' cell phone vibrates. He takes a step towards it
when:

LUCY
Don't even think about it.

Thomas returns to his original position.

THOMAS
Is he okay?

LUCY
Oh yeah, he's fine. Just a few
scrapes. At least he was able to
remember to put a helmet on or else
he probably would have busted his
head open again.

THOMAS
Look, will you stop saying "again"
as if this is his fault? There is
no again. The first time was an
accident, he's an eight-year-old
boy, this kind of stuff happens.

LUCY

Are you kidding me? This kind of stuff doesn't happen at all! When was the last time you've heard from a couple who told you that they lost their eleven-year-old son? This stuff doesn't happen. Ever.

Thomas bites his bottom lip. Lucy takes another sip from her wine and clears her throat.

LUCY

After what happened to Andy today, I took him into the bathroom to clean him up, and you know what he told me? He told me that he could see Eric. That he could talk to him.

THOMAS

Really?

LUCY

Yeah. He told me that he's been talking to him since earlier today.

THOMAS

Well...Are you sure?

LUCY

God, are you deaf, Thomas? Am I stuttering?

THOMAS

No, look, he's probably developed an imaginary friend--

LUCY

Yeah, and named him after his dead brother? Thomas, that's not normal!

THOMAS

He lost his brother, Lucy! He lost his best friend! You know he doesn't have any other good friends at school! It's perfectly natural to have an imaginary friend, and if he wants to name them after one of the bigger impacts on his life, he has every right to!

LUCY

He thinks he is talking to his dead brother, Thomas, not some imaginary friend that he created in his head! He thinks he's actually seeing Eric and actually talking to him!

THOMAS

Well what are you going to do? Continue to tell him that Eric's dead and that he's talking to thin air?

LUCY

I'm going to call up a child psychologist or therapist in a couple days and let them talk to him.

THOMAS

Why in the hell would you do something absurd like that? You don't think it's normal?

LUCY

Oh, yeah, Thomas, because seeing your dead brother is obviously real normal.

Thomas storms up to Lucy angrily.

THOMAS

It could be a cry for attention, Lucy! You're not the only one who lost Eric! Jesus Christ, you have an eight-year-old son who lost his older brother and best friend and you're laying around the house doing nothing for him! You're fucking wasting away in depression and he has no God damn clue what is going on! You're his mother! You need to be there for him! You need to accept the fact that Eric's gone and he's never coming back, because once you move on, you can start taking care of Andy! You're leaving him stranded, and he's trying to cope with this problem himself, and if you don't like it, you need to fucking do something about it!

Lucy stares at Thomas. Her eyes water up.

Thomas cools down, breathes heavily. He rests himself on a chair. He doesn't notice that Lucy has started to cry.

LUCY

And where have you been?

THOMAS

What?

LUCY

Where have you been?

THOMAS

I've been right here, Lucy. I've been here the whole time.

LUCY

No, you haven't. Look at what time it is, Thomas! Take a look right now! You were gone all day and all night!

THOMAS

For the past month I've been dealing with the same shit you have been going through. And while you were staying in bed every single day trying to pull yourself together, I was out here caring for our son. I was trying to be a good father. And I want to thank you! I want to thank you for making me realize how bad of a father I've really been! I can't even carry on a conversation with Andy for more than a minute or two because I don't even know where to begin!

LUCY

That's right, you don't. Because you're just too busy to be here with the kids and me. Either working or going out or whatever the hell you do and you never spend time with them unless you have to!

THOMAS

Yeah! That's right! I admit it, I'm a bad father! But that doesn't mean we have to keep it that way!

Thomas pulls the chair out and sits down, prepares himself.

THOMAS

We may have lost a child, but that doesn't mean we can lose control of our lives. We need to pick up the pieces and try and clear things up.

LUCY

But it won't bring back Eric. It won't bring back Andy, how he used to be, it won't bring back his stupid bike, it won't bring you back because you say this and it will never happen. It won't bring back how any of us used to be.

Thomas squeezes his hands into fists.

THOMAS

That's not true. Maybe it's really you who we've lost. You're the reason why there's suddenly problems in the family, you're why you think Andy is going crazy, and it's killing him inside when you're not there for him. So keep doing what you're doing, Lucy. Soon, Andy will be gone, because you've killed him on the inside. Then you can come back to me and tell me that there's no use to try and fix things, because you won't be able to fix what you started.

Lucy stares at him very angrily. Her eyes well up with big tears, her body shakes--she's about to explode.

LUCY

Get out.

ANDY'S ROOM

Andy and Eric still lay in bed. Quiet. Solemn.

LUCY (O.S.)

Get out right now.

KITCHEN

Lucy jumps to her feet. Thomas immediately jumps to his feet and backs away.

They stare each other down.

THOMAS

Before I leave, I just want to say that Andy and I have accepted this whole thing. That doesn't mean we've gotten over it, but we've at least accepted it. Please, just let me know when you do, too.

He turns around and grabs his keys. He walks out of the kitchen, leaves Lucy alone, and everything is quiet.

ANDY'S ROOM

Andy and Eric both stare up at the ceiling.

ERIC

Andy?

ANDY

Yeah?

ERIC

I'm sorry.

Andy rolls over on his side. Crying fades in. It's Lucy. She cries from the kitchen, and Andy listens. His eyes water up, his chin quivers, and he, too, begins to cry.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Andy sits on the driveway, hunched over, examines something.

Upon closer inspection, he watches a trail of ants scurry across the driveway. Some of the ants carry food and eggs, and he looks on with curiosity.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Hey, Andy.

Andy looks up. Olivia walks up towards him.

OLIVIA

Wha'chya doin'?

ANDY

Nothing.

OLIVIA

Just hanging outside, huh? Say, is your mom here?

ANDY

She doesn't want to talk to anybody.

OLIVIA

What about your dad?

ANDY

He's gone right now.

OLIVIA

Ah...I just wanted to check in on you guys, see how you all are doing.

Andy doesn't say anything.

OLIVIA

How are you doing?

Andy shrugs.

OLIVIA

Is there anything you want to talk about?

He shrugs again.

OLIVIA

You want to go for a ride with me?

ANDY

I don't think I'm allowed.

OLIVIA

Oh, it's okay. Your mom knows me, remember? We're good friends.

ANDY

Where would we go?

OLIVIA

Some place special. A place that's supposed to make you feel happy. A place where if you have anything you need to say, there's always someone there to listen.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The largest part of the church where all the sermons take place is completely empty except for two figures that sit in a row of chairs.

Olivia and Andy stare up ahead at the stage where the Priest would speak, and the giant cross the hangs overhead.

ANDY

It's been a while since I've been here.

OLIVIA

I know.

ANDY

It's really big when there aren't a lot of people here.

OLIVIA

Yeah. I like to come here by myself some times. It helps me think. And you know what else I do, just to have a little fun?

ANDY

What?

Olivia cups her hands around her mouth.

OLIVIA

Echo!

Her voice echoes through the church. Andy smiles.

OLIVIA

Go on, you give it a try.

Andy cups his hands around his mouth.

ANDY

Echo!

His voice echoes through the church as well. He giggles. So does Olivia.

OLIVIA

So, do you want to tell me what's been going on in the family since I've seen you?

ANDY

I dunno...

OLIVIA

You can tell me anything, Andy. I'm always here to listen. And so is God. He'll always listen to you, no matter where you are, but here is the most comforting place to talk to him.

Andy is quiet for a moment. And then...

ANDY

We're not happy.

OLIVIA

You're not?

ANDY

No. My mom and dad yell at each other a lot. They get mad and sad.

OLIVIA

Do you know why?

ANDY

Because Eric's gone. And they really miss him. I hear my mom cry every night, and I think it's because she misses him a lot.

OLIVIA

Well, she loved him a lot. He was her son. Just like we all are to God. I'm his child, and so are you.

ANDY

If we're God's children, why did He make Eric die? I thought we only died when we were old?

OLIVIA

We all have this plan, Andy. Like, a map. And every map has its point where X marks the spot, right?

Andy nods.

OLIVIA

But some times, those maps can have very short trails that lead to that X. And when you reach that X,

(MORE)

OLIVIA (cont'd)
that's when it's your time to meet
God.

ANDY
And Eric had a short map trail?

OLIVIA
Yes.

ANDY
Why?

OLIVIA
I'm not sure. God works in
mysterious ways, Andy. He has a
plan for you, he has a plan for me,
and he has a plan for your mom, and
dad, and everyone you know. Some
times we don't like it when bad
things happen to those plans, and
it can make us very sad and mad.
But you have to remember that
everything happens for a reason,
and when God thinks you're ready to
be with him, he'll make sure you're
ready too.

ANDY
I just want everyone to be happy
again.

OLIVIA
Well, I think the first thing to do
if you want everyone to be happy is
to come here. Every Sunday morning.
To listen to the word of God. Each
story that the Priest tells is a
message from God to help us through
our lives, Andy.

ANDY
My mom and dad never really like to
come here.

OLIVIA
I know. And that's okay. But you
know, if you ever want to come
here, you can just tell me, and I
can pick you up and we can come
here together and listen to what
the Priest has to say about God and
Heaven.

ANDY
Eric's in Heaven.

OLIVIA
You're right. He is.

ANDY
Can I tell you a secret, Ms.
Olivia?

OLIVIA
Well, if you think I'm the right
person to tell, you can.

ANDY
Eric's in Heaven. But he's also
here.

OLIVIA
How do you know?

ANDY
Because I can see him.

OLIVIA
You can?

ANDY
Yeah. My mom got mad at me when I
told her, though.

OLIVIA
Well, your mom probably still
hasn't gotten over the loss of
Eric, and it may be a sensitive
subject to talk about.

ANDY
I just want her and Dad to know
that he's okay.

OLIVIA
Of course he's okay. He's in
Heaven. And it's amazing from what
I hear in the stories that the
Priest tells us. I bet he really
enjoys it, doesn't he.

Andy nods.

ANDY
Why is he here?

OLIVIA

I think he's here because he's watching over you and your mom and dad. Think of him as a guardian angel, and making sure you make all the right choices. He's here to protect you, and make sure you're all doing okay.

ANDY

So, he's not a ghost or anything?

Olivia chuckles.

OLIVIA

Do you believe in ghosts?

Andy shrugs.

OLIVIA

Well, I do.

ANDY

You do?

OLIVIA

Yeah.

ANDY

I thought ghosts wore white sheets and carried chains.

Olivia laughs.

OLIVIA

Not all ghosts are like that. Most ghosts look just like you and me. They look like people. And you know what else?

ANDY

What?

OLIVIA

I think that might also be another reason for why you can see Eric, and your parents can't.

ANDY

Why?

OLIVIA

I read that kids have a better chance of seeing ghosts than adults. And I think that may be the reason for why your mom can't see Eric, and you can.

ANDY

Really?

Olivia nods.

OLIVIA

I used to see ghosts when I was a kid.

ANDY

Can you still see them when you're older?

OLIVIA

I think some people are still able to see them when they're older, but most of the time, you can only see them as a kid. You're one of the few kids who can see things that other people can't, Andy. You're special.

Andy smiles.

OLIVIA

So, are you going to start coming with me to church?

ANDY

I don't know...I'll need to ask my mom.

OLIVIA

Oh, I'm sure she'll be okay with it. We can ask her when we get back home, okay?

ANDY

Okay.

Olivia lowers herself down to Andy's level.

OLIVIA

Andy, you're a smart, amazing little boy, and your parents are so lucky to have you. Don't give up,

(MORE)

OLIVIA (cont'd)
and don't let anything get you
down...

Andy's eyes sparkle as his smile grows bigger.

OLIVIA
...Because when you realize how
perfect everything is, you will
tilt your head back, and laugh at
the sky.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Olivia pulls her car up the driveway. Andy jumps out the
back as Lucy runs out. She is in complete distress.

Andy runs up to Lucy with a big smile on his face.

LUCY
Andy, where have you been!?

ANDY
Ms. Olivia took me to the church to
talk!

Lucy looks up at Olivia, who waves to her.

OLIVIA
Hey, Lucy.

LUCY
Andy, I want you to get inside now.

ANDY
She even said that she'll take me
to church with her whenever I
wanted to go, and that the only
reason why only I can see Eric is
because I can see ghosts.

Lucy stares at him in disbelief. His smile fades a bit.

LUCY
Andy, go inside. Right. Now.

Andy nods and walks into the house. Lucy walks over to
Olivia's car.

OLIVIA
Hey, how are you feeling--?

LUCY

What the hell do you think you're doing?

OLIVIA

I was just seeing how Andy was doing.

LUCY

By taking him away without me knowing?

OLIVIA

I just took him to the church for a little bit so we could talk.

LUCY

Yeah, talk about how Eric is a ghost and how he is the only one that can see him? What the hell is that about?

OLIVIA

It's just a way to help ease him through the loss of his brother--

LUCY

No, you know what it is? It's ridiculous. It's a stupid, ridiculous idea that you're putting in his head, and he doesn't need that. I don't need that!

OLIVIA

I think what you need is a way to gain peace, Lucy. And one of the better ways to achieve that is by going to church and--

LUCY

Stop it. Right there. Olivia, you have never been able to convince me to go to that stupid place. I am sick and tired of you trying to tell me what to do. Besides, if God loved me so much, why would He do this to my family?

OLIVIA

If you just prayed--

LUCY

Yeah, you know, I'm sure that now is the right time to start praying, but I've learned from past experiences that it's easier to find answers elsewhere. God apparently doesn't need me, so I don't need Him.

Blasphemy. Olivia is speechless. Lucy leans in.

LUCY

And if you ever fucking take my child away from me again without me knowing, I will call the cops.

Lucy walks off and leaves Olivia in the driveway, upset. She backs her car out of the driveway and drives off.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

KITCHEN

Andy sits at the table. He rests his head on the tabletop and watches Lucy walk angrily into the kitchen and fills up a cup of water at the sink.

ANDY

Where's Ms. Olivia?

LUCY

She left.

ANDY

Is she going to come back any time soon?

LUCY

Nope.

ANDY

I want to go to church with her.

LUCY

Well, you're not.

ANDY

But I want to. I want to hear the stories they tell.

LUCY
You're not going to church, Andy.

ANDY
Why not?

LUCY
Because I said so, Andy! Jesus...

She finishes her water and fills it up again. She turns around to lean against the counter, and the cup slips out of her hand.

It drops to the floor with a loud CLACK. Water splashes everywhere.

LUCY
God damn it...

She grabs a towel from the counter and turns around to face the spill. As she does this, her hand hits a used glass cup on the counter.

It falls to the floor and SHATTERS. Andy flinches from the sound.

LUCY
(To herself, angrily)
Shit.

She gets on her knees and begins to pick up the sharp glass cup pieces when she hisses in pain as she cuts herself.

It's too much for her. She throws the pieces of the glass cup at the floor and slams herself against the cabinets while she sits on the floor. She begins to cry.

Her cries get louder.

Andy stands up and walks over to Lucy. He bends down, looks at her for a moment, then hugs her. She hugs him back, cries into his shoulder.

LUCY
I love you so much, Andy. I really do.

She continues to cry into his shoulder.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - LATER**KITCHEN**

Lucy throws the glass cup pieces into the trashcan.

She dries up the puddle on the floor, and sets her drinking cup in the sink.

She sighs, stares out the window.

Lucy turns around, walks around the kitchen island counter.

She spots Thomas' phone on the counter.

LUCY
(To herself)
God damn it, Thomas...

She picks it up and presses a button. The screen reads: 1
NEW MESSAGE; FROM SANDRA

She opens up the message. It reads: COME OVER WHENEVER YOU
NEED TO. I WILL LISTEN. I HAVE THE LOVE YOU DESERVE.

Lucy's hands shake. Her breath shakes. She sets the phone
down on the counter.

INT. SANDRA'S APARTMENT - DAY**BEDROOM**

Thomas and Sandra lay in bed, naked, worn, solemn. She rubs
his chest, stares off into the distance.

SANDRA
So, she just...Kicked you out?

THOMAS
I said the wrong things.

SANDRA
From what you've told me, it seems
like you said the right things. You
needed to let her know how you
truly felt about everything, right?

Thomas sighs.

THOMAS
Yeah, I guess you're right.

SANDRA

She needs to start accepting this. You seem like you've been getting better. I mean, it's going to take a while, but you just need to start as soon as you can.

THOMAS

Andy and I are doing okay. She needs help doing this. It was her son, she had him. I can understand why she's having such a hard time.

SANDRA

Can you?

Thomas stares up at the ceiling. Thinks.

THOMAS

You know what I don't understand?

SANDRA

What?

He chuckles.

THOMAS

I've always wondered why you never talked to me again after the incident at prom, and here we are, thirty years later.

Sandra laughs.

SANDRA

Loose ends tie up every once in a while. You know, I still liked you, even after you accidentally pushed me into the punch bowl. That was just embarrassing.

Who is now known as BECKY SANDRA ANDREWS sits up and faces Thomas.

She stares into his eyes.

BECKY

I still really like you now. I want to be with you, Thomas.

Thomas looks at her.

THOMAS
Yeah, I don't think you should be
with me.

BECKY
Why not?

THOMAS
It's...Too soon. It's not right.
After what's happened.

BECKY
Well, I can wait.

THOMAS
No, I don't...I don't think so.

They're quiet for a moment.

THOMAS
I need to get back home. I need to
get back to my family.

He gets out of bed and puts his pants on.

BECKY
Are you going to come back?

THOMAS
Maybe.

BECKY
What does that mean?

THOMAS
It means maybe I will, maybe I
won't.

BECKY
No, no, no, please, don't go,
Thomas.

Thomas throws his shirt on. He grabs his keys and shoes.

BECKY
Please.

Thomas gives her one last look.

BECKY
We can make it work.

THOMAS

I'm sorry.

He walks out of the bedroom.

BECKY

No wait...!

But it's too late. She's alone in the bedroom. Her eyes watery, in complete shock.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

GARAGE

It's the dark abyss again. The door opens and light floods into the dark garage.

The light washes over the mangled bike once again. It hasn't changed a bit.

Andy stands in the doorway again. Sadness overcomes his face as he stares at what used to be his pride and joy.

He stares at it for a moment longer, and then shuts the door, leaving the bike in the dark once more.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

KITCHEN

The front door shuts (O.S.) and Thomas walks into the kitchen.

Lucy sits at the table. A cup of coffee sits in front of her. She looks nice now, dressed in regular daytime clothes, her hair looks cleaner, she actually wears some make up now.

THOMAS

(Hesitant)

Hey...

LUCY

Can you, uh...Sit down, please?

Thomas looks at the chairs, then at Lucy. He nods and sits down.

THOMAS

I just came to pick up my phone and some spare clothes.

LUCY

Where did you end up going for the night?

THOMAS

To a co-worker's place. He's letting me stay there until things clear up a bit.

LUCY

What's his name?

THOMAS

Robert...

LUCY

Hm, right...How many other names do you have for this same person?

THOMAS

I don't know what you're--

LUCY

And it's not a he, is it? It's a she.

Thomas opens his mouth to say something, but he's speechless.

LUCY

Is this some kind of joke, Thomas? To see how many times you can avoid getting caught?

She slides the phone across the table in front of Thomas. The text message is on the screen. Thomas doesn't say a word.

LUCY

How long has this been going on?

Thomas stares at the phone in disbelief.

LUCY

How long?

THOMAS

Three months.

Lucy's eyes water up. She covers her mouth.

THOMAS

Her name's not Sandra. It's Becky.
Andrews.

LUCY

Your...Your prom date?

THOMAS

She was new at the office, and it
had been so long since we'd seen
each other, we decided to get
coffee to catch up.

Tears begin to stream down Lucy's face.

THOMAS

All those people who I told you
that I've been meeting up with who
went to my school...That's all a
lie. They were all excuses to cover
her up.

Thomas hangs his head. Lucy sniffs loudly.

LUCY

Why? What did I do to make you do
something like that?

Thomas is on the verge of breaking down.

THOMAS

I don't know. I have no idea.

He maintains his composure...Or tries.

THOMAS

I'm sorry.

LUCY

No you're not.

THOMAS

Yes I am.

LUCY

No, you're not. You're not sorry
about any of it. You're just sorry
that I found out.

THOMAS

I wasn't going to do anything more
with her. I came here to talk to
you.

LUCY
There's nothing more to talk about.

THOMAS
There is too much to talk about.

Andy peeks into the kitchen and watches his parents.

THOMAS
Ever since Eric died, our family has been slowly falling apart. You know that. You were hit the hardest, Lucy.

LUCY
He was my child, Thomas. He was a part of me.

THOMAS
He was our child, Lucy. He was both of ours. I tried my best to accept the fact that he was gone, while still trying to maintain some kind of composure so I could be there for Andy. He lost his older brother, his best friend, he lost the one he loved the most.

LUCY
I never thought I'd lose a child. I always thought that we were going to be a perfect family.

THOMAS
We were a perfect family. And we let something like this get in the way of that. We still have a chance to pick up the broken pieces and put them back together. You're not the only one who lost Eric. You're not the only one who has to learn to accept it. Are you ready?

Lucy sniffs, wipes away her tears.

LUCY
I want to be ready. I want to convince myself that he's gone and never coming back, but I can't. I'm so lost, I don't even know where to start.

Thomas sighs.

LUCY
You won't believe what Olivia did
today.

THOMAS
What?

LUCY
She took Andy away. Without me
knowing. She took him away and took
him to the church to talk to him
about his feelings or whatever. She
told him that he should start going
to church with her.

THOMAS
Well, I think that could be good
for him. If he wants to do it.

LUCY
Thomas, she convinced him that he
was seeing Eric's ghost.

THOMAS
What?

LUCY
She convinced him that the reason
why we couldn't see Eric and he
claimed he could was because she
told him that children are more
prone to seeing spirits or whatever
and so he had the ability to see
him! It's absurd! It's...it's
offensive!

Thomas thinks about this.

THOMAS
Well...What if that were the case?

Lucy stares at him in disbelief.

LUCY
Thomas, you've got to be kidding
me!

THOMAS
I'm just saying! You never know
what could be going on with him!
Especially since you've been
ignoring him for the past month.

LUCY

What!?! Excuse me? You don't have any room to speak, Tom! First of all, no, Andy is not seeing ghosts or spirits or anything! Ghosts do not exist! It's absurd and offensive for Olivia to put that idea in his head in the first place, especially after a month since Eric died! And second, don't you tell me that I've been neglecting Andy when you've hardly been there for him as well, probably because you've been too busy fucking Ms. Prom Queen!

THOMAS

Yeah, well, at least she's there to listen to me and to show at least a little bit of love for me.

Lucy gasps, shocked.

LUCY

Oh my God, Thomas!

Thomas watches her start to cry.

LUCY

How could you say that?

THOMAS

I have problems with this too. Who else am I supposed to go to? Andy? Any of my God damn co-workers? She understands me!

LUCY

Oh, does she now? Does she understand where I'm coming from? Does she have children? Does she know what it's like to lose a child?

THOMAS

I would try talking to you and you would ignore me completely! How am I supposed to know how you're doing if you don't say anything? If you want me to be a good husband, you can't have me work for it completely! You need to help me a little to let me know what I'm doing wrong!

LUCY

You just don't understand! You were never there for our kids--

Thomas slams a fist on the table.

THOMAS

That's not the fucking point! I want to be a good husband! I want to be a good father! We lost a child, but I'm not going to give up! I don't want to stop being there for you and Andy! But it's hard! Our emotions are high, and it's hard to make decisions when I have all this shit coming at me from all directions!

Andy runs into the kitchen, crying.

ANDY

Stop it! Stop yelling at each other! I don't like it! It scares me!

Thomas and Lucy stare at the poor boy.

ANDY

I miss Eric! I miss riding my bike! I miss how happy we used to be! Daddy said that we'll get to be happy again! But we're not! Things are just getting worse! I want to see you guys smile again! I want to be able to ride my bike again! But you guys hate each other, and we're never going to be happy ever again!

Andy wipes his nose on his sleeve and calms down.

Lucy and Thomas cool down as well. The mood begins to lighten...

ANDY

Eric said that everything was going to be okay. And Eric never lies to me. He's the smartest person I know, and if he says things are going to be okay, they're going to be okay, right?

Lucy kneels down and holds Andy.

LUCY
Things will be okay. I promise you
they will.

Thomas kneels down next to Lucy.

THOMAS
Yeah, buddy...We're just really sad
at the moment. And some times when
we get really sad, we can also get
mad at each other. We don't want to
scare you, Andy. And we don't like
to see you cry either. Things work
themselves out. We should always
ask for forgiveness, and we should
always give people a second chance.
No matter what for.

Lucy looks at Thomas.

THOMAS
Eric may not have gotten a second
chance, but you know what? He's in
a better place now. And I bet he's
much, much happier there than he
would be here.

ANDY
I know. He told me about it.

THOMAS
And I believe you.

He looks over at Lucy, then back at Andy.

THOMAS
We have to remember that he's at
peace now, and that he wouldn't
like to see us this way towards
each other.
(Beat)
I'm sorry, Andy.

He looks at Lucy again.

THOMAS
(Sincerely)
I'm sorry.

He puts his hand on her shoulder. The three remain in the
middle of the kitchen. Andy walks in and hugs the both of
them. They return the hug.

FADE OUT.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

MASTER BATHROOM

INSIDE THE MEDICINE CABINET

It's still black. Dark. Suddenly, the medicine cabinet door opens up, and Lucy's face appears.

She searches through the different bottles. And there's a lot. Prescription medicines fill up a good amount of space in this medicine cabinet.

Lucy finds a bottle of pain reliever. She shuts the medicine cabinet, pops the bottle open, and takes two pills. She takes a drink from the water faucet, washes down the pills.

She opens the medicine cabinet and sticks the bottle back in.

She stares at the inside of the medicine cabinet. At all the bottles, and sighs.

She shuts the medicine cabinet--

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

GARAGE

It's still dark until the garage door entrance opens up slowly. Andy stands in the doorway.

His shadow stretches across the garage, where his bikes sits in the same spot.

A spider has built a web on his bike.

Andy stares at the bike, his face now blank. Determined.

Slowly, he backs himself into the house and shuts the door. The bike disappears in the dark.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - NIGHT

KITCHEN

Wine flows into a wine glass and fills it up. The mouth of the bottle hovers over another empty wine glass and more wine dumps into the wine glass.

A bottle of juice hangs over a small cup and apple juice spills into the cup.

MOMENTS LATER

Andy and Thomas sit at the table, ready to eat. Lucy walks to the table while she carefully carries the two wine glasses and small cup. She sets them down on the table.

Lucy hands the small cup to Andy, then the other wine glass to Thomas. She sits back down in her chair.

THOMAS

This looks great, honey.

Thomas takes a drink from his wine.

LUCY

Thank you. It's been a while since I've made it, so I hope I'm still able to do it right.

THOMAS

You've always been a great cook, no matter what it was. I'm sure it tastes great.

LUCY

Well. Let's find out.

They begin to eat their food.

ANDY

It's weird not seeing Eric here, eating dinner with us.

THOMAS

Yeah, it's definitely going to be different. But it's a change that we're going to deal with, whether we like it or not.

LUCY

This is the first meal we've had together since what happened, and I think this is a pretty good start to a change.

THOMAS

You think so?

LUCY

It's going to take a long time for everything to get back to as close to normal as possible.

She takes a drink from her wine. She sets her glass back down, doesn't take her eyes off Thomas.

Thomas chews his food and looks at her. He smiles.

Lucy smiles back.

ANDY

Everything's going to be okay.

Thomas nods.

THOMAS

Everything's going to be okay.

Andy drinks his apple juice.

Lucy still smiles.

LUCY

Everything's going to be okay.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - NIGHT

MASTER BEDROOM

Still dressed in their day clothes, Lucy and Thomas climb into their bed. They get under the covers.

Andy jumps onto the bed and squeezes himself between them under the covers.

Thomas and Lucy face each other and look at Andy. He yawns.

LUCY

Are you going to sleep with us tonight?

Andy nods.

LUCY

That sounds good. I've missed you coming into our room during the middle of the night and sleeping with us.

THOMAS

All those nightmares you had. I
kind of miss those nights, too.

Lucy yawns.

ANDY

I don't get scared that much
anymore.

THOMAS

You don't?

ANDY

Nope.

LUCY

That's because you're growing up.
You're becoming a big kid now.

ANDY

I don't want to grow up.

LUCY

Well, don't worry buddy. You have a
long way to go.

Thomas yawns and snuggles up against Andy. He brings his arm over Andy and carresses Lucy's arm. She shuts her eyes and smiles.

Andy looks over at Thomas, follows his arm and sees it slowly carress Lucy's arm. His hand slowly becomes still, and Thomas begins to snore lightly.

Andy smiles and shuts his eyes as he, too, slowly falls asleep.

FADE OUT.

INT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

MASTER BEDROOM

It's morning time. The birds chirp. A dog barks somewhere off in the distance.

Andy's eyes slowly open. His pupils adjust to the sudden brightness.

He sits up and looks around the room.

Eric stands at the end of the bed. Andy smiles.

ANDY
Hey, Eric.

ERIC
Hey, Andy.

ANDY
Are you a ghost?

ERIC
Am I covered in a white sheet and
shaking chains?

ANDY
No.

ERIC
I don't think I'm a ghost then.

Andy smiles.

ANDY
What are you doing here?

ERIC
I'm just watching over you guys.
Watching you sleep.

ANDY
And making sure we're okay.

Eric nods.

ERIC
How are you doing?

ANDY
Pretty good.

ERIC
That's great. That makes me happy.

ANDY
I think Mom and Dad are going to
get better, too.

ERIC
I know. I told you things were
going to get better, Andy.

ANDY
I can feel it. Things have gotten
better. Everything feels...

(MORE)

ANDY (cont'd)
different. But it's a good
different. I like it.

Eric smiles. He looks at Lucy and Thomas as they continue to sleep.

ERIC
I won't stick around here much
longer, Andy.

ANDY
Why not?

ERIC
I'm going to return to Heaven and
stay there. I just wanted to watch
over you guys until things felt the
same way again. And they do.

ANDY
So I'm not going to see you
anymore?

ERIC
No, you will. Trust me. You have
nothing to worry about.

Andy crawls over Lucy and slips off the bed. He walks to the bedroom door, but looks back at Eric.

ANDY
How long are you going to be here
before you go?

ERIC
I think I'm going to stay here a
little bit longer, wait for Mom and
Dad to wake up.

Andy smiles and nods. He walks out of the bedroom.

Lucy's eyes open. She looks down at the end of the bed and slowly sits up. Her eyes grow wide. Her mouth hangs open.

Eric smiles as she stares at him.

Her mouth shakes, she's almost speechless. Her eyes grow watery.

LUCY
Eric...?

Eric doesn't say anything. He just smiles.

Thomas slowly wakes up. He looks up at Lucy, and follows her gaze down until he sees Eric.

Eric looks over at Thomas as he sits up. He stares at Eric with the same expression as Lucy.

Andy walks through the house, the smile still on his face. He passes through the quiet, empty house until he reaches the...

GARAGE

The door slowly opens, and Andy peeks inside. It's pitch black.

He opens the door wider. The light passes over the interior of the garage, washes over the darkest nooks and crannies.

The light reaches the familiar spot where the broken and unusable bike would normally sit.

But not this time.

The bike stands, held up by the kickstand.

The front tire is back to normal. The missing paint as reappeared, and the rust is nowhere to be seen. The metal shines from the light, as if just polished. The bike looks brand new, fresh from the store.

Andy's eyes widen. His smile grows bigger as it stretches across his face.

MOMENTS LATER

Everything seems to move in slow motion as Andy pushes his glimmering bike through the house.

A police officer passes by him. Followed by a paramedic.

He pushes the bike through the...

KITCHEN

The wine bottle still sits on the counter, along with the empty wine glasses. Andy's small cup sits next to the glasses.

A police officer fills a bag full of empty prescription bottles. There are dozens of them. He takes more off the counter next to the stove.

He silently describes something to another officer, holds up a prescription bottle and points to the wine glasses and small cup.

Andy walks into the...

ENTRYWAY

Two stretchers sit by the door with a couple officers standing around them. Body bags lay on top of the stretchers.

Unzipped, the bodies in bags look familiar. A man and a woman.

Thomas and Lucy.

The officers zip up the body bags.

EXT. THE HENDRICKS HOUSE - DAY

Everything continues to move in slow motion as Andy pushes his bike out of the front door.

A coroner pushes a stretcher towards the house, and waits to the side as another coroner walks out of the house. He pushes a stretcher with one of the body bags on top.

Nobody notices Andy. And he doesn't notice the commotion outside of the house.

Police cars fill the driveway and street. An ambulance sits at the curbside in front of the house. A coroner truck is parked behind it.

Neighbors and spectators look beyond the police officers who keep them back.

A news crew reports their story in front of the house.

Olivia talks to the reporter, her eyes red from crying, her face shows a look of total distress and sadness.

Andy reaches the end of the yard and pulls his bike out onto the street.

He swings a leg over the bike. Grips the handlebars.

A large crack grows through his cast. The crack starts at his hand and moves up along his arm. It reaches the other end of his cast, and it breaks in half.

The cast pieces fall to the ground.

The scar on his head is nowhere to be seen. The hair where it used to be has grown in.

He puts a foot onto a pedal of the bike.

Andy pushes off. The tires move. His feet pedal faster and faster. And he stays up. He keeps his balance.

Andy smiles. He definitely hasn't forgotten how to ride a bicycle.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Blue sky surrounds light of the bright sun.

Two small feet move frantically in circles as they push bike pedals round and round.

The bike chain CLICKS through the gears and the tires spin fast. They emit a BUZZ.

The old-fashion red bike glides down the neighborhood street. It shines in the sunlight, looks brand new.

Steering the bike is Andy Hendricks, eight years old, with the largest smile on his face.

"Intro" by The Guggenheim Grotto fades in.

INTRO (V.O.)

Look at you. You are certainly made
from millions of atoms. Created by
exploding stars.

Eric appears at his side on his bike and looks at Andy, smiles.

INTRO (V.O.)

Look. Afraid of dying. Thinking in
circles. If only...I wish such...
Pity.

The electric guitar in "Intro" comes in.

INTRO (V.O.)

When you realize how perfect
everything is, you will tilt your
head back...

His eyes glimmer as tears build up and stream from his eyes. He looks up at the sky, closes his eyes, with total happiness.

INTRO (V.O.)
...And laugh at the sky.

CUT TO BLACK.

"Fee Da Da Dee" by The Guggenheim Grotto plays immediately.

THE END