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FADE IN

INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATE AT NIGHT

NICK SINCLAIR mid 40's is a general practitioner who specializes in family medicine. He is a very active man with an athletic build. He sits in a dimly lit family room staring at home videos. They show his wife and three kids having a yard sale. As the videos play a voice is heard.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Last time we spoke I believe we were talking about -

DEB (O.S.)

My kids.

WOMAN (O.S.)

How would you describe your relationship with them?

DEB (O.S.)

Strong, fulfilling. Loving and nurturing.

Nick continues watching. The video shows the mother and daughter turning the hose on the two boys and having a water fight.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Do you worry about how they'll be when you're gone?

DEB (O.S.)

At times -

WOMAN (O.S.)

Do they have a good relationship with their father?

Nick continues watching the video of Deb playing with the kids.

DEB (O.S.)

Definitely, he loves his kids. They know the sacrifices he's made.

Nick continues watching the videos.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Does he attend their events?

DEB (O.S.)  
When time permits. He's a doctor.

Nick reaches for the remote and hits the eject button. The VCR opens. Nick stands and removes the tape. He opens the cabinet and pulls out another video. He puts it in the VCR. He sits back in the chair and hits play.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Are you scared of dying?

The video shows Nick and Deb's wedding.

DEB (O.S.)  
Not anymore -

Nick sits forward, his eyes are teary.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Is Nick afraid of you dying?

DEB (O.S.)  
He'd never admit to being afraid of anything. Personal issues aren't really his thing.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
That's odd coming from a doctor.

DEB (O.S.)  
He's always counted on me to deal with everything. He cares...sometimes he just doesn't know how to express it.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
How does he cope?

DEB (O.S.)  
Through me...we talk about the future. I need to know he can get through this without me.

The video continues to play. Nick intensely watches the video. He wipes his eyes with his sleeve.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DEB SINCLAIR age 44 is lying in a hospital bed. Her appearance is deathlike and skeletal. She is hooked up to monitors and an intravenous tube. A middle aged woman sits beside her bed.

GRIEF COUNSELLOR

You're kids are very lucky to have you as their mother.

DEB

(teary)

Thanks. It's just hard some days...I'm sure you deal with patients going through this all the time.

The Grief Counsellor stands and puts her hand in Deb's.

GRIEF COUNSELLOR

You've done what you can.

The Grief Counsellor walks towards the door.

GRIEF COUNSELLOR

(turns to Deb)

I'll be back in a couple of days to see how you're doing.

The Grief Counsellor leaves. Deb reaches for a tissue that is on the table beside the bed. A photo album sits on the table.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Many floral arrangements decorate the room. A nurse enters with another.

NURSE 1

Do you have room for one more?

Deb nods yes. The nurse places the flowers on the window ledge. Deb struggles to move the photo album from the bedside table.

NURSE 1

Here, let me do that for you.

The nurse takes the photo album off the table and carefully gives it to Deb. On the table is a pad of paper, a pen and a glass of water. Doctor Wallace enters.

NURSE 1

Hi Doctor Wallace -

DOCTOR WALLACE

Can we have a few moments alone.

NURSE 1  
Sure, I'll be back in a while.

The nurse leaves. Doctor Wallace takes out the chart that is at the end of the bed and starts to read. He pulls a chair over to the bed and sits.

DEB  
I know what you're going to say -

DOCTOR WALLACE  
At this point we've done what we can. It's still spreading and the treatment isn't helping -

Deb visibly distraught tries to sit up.

DEB  
(shaky voice)  
What now?

Deb tries to regain her composure.

DOCTOR WALLACE  
We'll keep you as comfortable as possible -

Deb starts coughing. The doctor reaches for her glass of water.

DOCTOR WALLACE  
I need to know what measures you want taken.

Deb sips her water.

DEB  
(adamant)  
I don't want to be put on life support or resuscitated -

DOCTOR WALLACE  
Have you discussed this with Nick?

DEB  
(teary)  
He knows what I want.

The doctor takes out a pen and writes DNR on the chart. He stands and puts the chart back.

DOCTOR WALLACE  
Do you need anything?

DEB  
(strained)  
Just rest.

The doctor leaves. Deb starts to cry.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

ERIC SINCLAIR age 21, oldest son of Nick and Deb enters. True to his nature he walks tall and proud with his shoulders back. He approaches the bed and gently puts his hand on Deb's shoulder.

ERIC  
Mom, mom...

Deb slowly opens her eyes and smiles.

DEB  
Hi honey, how was school?

Eric takes the pitcher that is on the night stand and pours Deb some water.

ERIC  
(hesitant)  
I've decided to take a couple semesters off...it's just too much right now.

DEB  
But you're doing so well.

Eric walks over to the window and stares outside.

ERIC  
What good is being a doctor if you can't help the people you love?

Deb tries to sit up in bed. She reaches for her glass of water that is on the table and takes a sip.

DEB  
You can't lump everything into one experience.

Deb starts coughing. Eric takes the glass out of her hand and helps her lie back.

ERIC  
It's my decision. What difference does it make, you won't even be here to see.

Eric's eyes start to fill with tears. Nick enters. He carries a picture frame in his hand.

NICK  
What's going on?

ERIC  
Nothing. I gotta go, I'll be back later.

DEB  
Eric...

Eric wipes his eyes and Deb watches him leave.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

NICK  
He seems upset.

The glass that Deb holds is shaking. Nick takes the glass out of her hand and places it on the table beside her.

DEB  
He wants to quit school.

Nick walks over to the window ledge.

NICK  
(distracted)  
More flowers?

Nick opens the curtains and then closes them. He continues looking at the flowers.

DEB  
(insistent)  
Did you hear what I just said?

Nick places the picture of the three kids on the table that is beside the bed.

NICK  
He's probably just having a bad day.

Deb starts to move uncomfortably in her bed.

DEB  
(agitated)  
You have to talk to him, you're about to be all he's got.

NICK  
 Deb don't talk like that -

DEB  
 It's true.

Deb starts to cough and the heart monitor starts to beep. Nick walks over to the bed. He looks at the monitor and holds Deb's hand.

NICK  
 (uncomfortable)  
 Calm down...you need to get some rest.

Nick looks at his watch.

NICK  
 I've got to get back to the office,  
 I'll see you later.

Nick leans over and gives Deb a kiss on the forehead. He turns to leave as Deb watches him walk away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER - NIGHT

The night nurse changes Deb's intravenous tube. Deb is fitful while the nurse checks her temperature. She takes a cool cloth and wipes Deb's forehead. Another nurse enters and speaks to the nurse that is at Deb's bedside. The second nurse leaves the room and comes back with two portable fans. They are placed at the foot of the bed. Deb starts to drift off. The first nurse pulls up a chair and remains with her through the night.

INT. NICK'S DOCTOR'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Nick is in his examining room talking to a woman and her son who is sitting on the examining table. A small desk shows a picture of the Sinclair family in healthier times.

NICK  
 (to the mother)  
 I'll give you a prescription for his sore throat.

Nick gets his prescription pad and writes.

NICK  
 (handing the paper to the mother)  
 (MORE)

NICK(cont'd)

He needs to take these three times  
a day for seven days and he'll be  
as good as new.

The woman stands and the boy gets off the table.

WOMAN

(to the son)

Meet me at the car, I'll be right  
there.

The son leaves.

NICK

(to the woman)

Was there something else?

WOMAN

How's Deb doing?

NICK

(uneasy)

She's doing okay...

WOMAN

(to Nick)

If you need anything...help with  
the kids -

NICK

(abrupt)

We'll be fine.

WOMAN

(uncomfortable)

She's in our thoughts.

The woman leaves. Nick sits at the desk and stares at the  
picture of his family.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING - A FEW DAYS LATER

HELEN JACOBSON, Deb's best friend enters and is stunned by  
her obvious deterioration. She wears a pink "breast cancer"  
ribbon pinned on her jacket.

HELEN

(sits at the bedside)

The nurse said you had a tough  
night.

DEB  
(speaks quietly)  
Just really tired.

Helen sits in the chair beside the bed. She reaches for Deb's hand and squeezes it.

HELEN  
I wish there was something I could do.

DEB  
I know.

HELEN  
Everyone at the school's thinking about you.

Deb reaches for Helen's arm.

DEB  
I need you to help the kids through this.

HELEN  
What about Nick, what's he saying?

DEB  
I think he's too afraid to face the facts.

HELEN  
He's stronger than you think.

Helen reaches for a tissue and wipes her eyes dry.

DEB  
Do you ever think about all the stuff we've gone through?

Helen reaches for the photo album that is on the table and starts flipping through the pages. She stops at a picture of the two of them camping.

HELEN  
Oh my god, what year was this taken in?

Helen shows the picture to Deb.

DEB  
It was before Eric was born.

HELEN

What were we thinkin those hairdo's  
were awful.

She turns another page and shows Deb a picture of the two of  
them in a canoe.

HELEN

(pointing to the picture)  
Who's big idea was this? Remember  
how afraid I was of tipping-

DEB

You complained about it the whole  
time.

Helen turns more pages. She stops at a picture of the two of  
them ice skating.

HELEN

You never did master skating.

Helen shows the picture to Deb.

DEB

Even I couldn't be a pro at  
everything.

Deb quietly laughs. Helen's eyes well up with tears.

HELEN

Life use to be so simple.

Helen reaches for a tissue and dries her eyes. She closes the  
album and places it back on the bedside table.

DEB

I've learned that the things we  
take for granted we shouldn't.

HELEN

(choking back tears)  
The best memories I have include  
you.

DEB

Everything seems like such a life  
time ago. I feel like I've been  
cramming twenty years of parenting  
into my last few days.

HELEN

You have good kids, they're strong,  
just like their mother.

Deb struggles to sit up.

DEB

I need you to be strong for my  
family.

HELEN

You know I will.

Helen reaches for Deb's hand and squeezes it. She sits quietly and watches Deb drift off. She stands and gives Deb a kiss on the forehead. Deb faintly smiles. In the hallway Helen stops and leans against the wall and lets her emotions take over.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

Deb sits in bed writing a letter. As she writes she quietly reflects and wipes her tears away. She slowly reaches for her glass of water and takes a sip. Deb turns the page and continues to write. When finished she folds the letter, puts it in an envelope. On the bed sit two other letters. Each letter has the name of her child on it. Deb starts to flip through the photo album.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Picture of Eric pretending to hit the ball in his little league baseball uniform.

Picture of Beth dressed up as mommy.

Picture of Daniel standing in a lake waving while wearing water wings.

Picture of Deb and her children dressed up for Halloween. Eric is a doctor, Beth is a ballerina and Daniel is a cowboy.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Deb gathers the letters and flips to a picture of her family and starts to cry. She inserts the letters into the album. She lays back and clutches the album close to her chest. She closes her eyes as tears roll down her face.

INT. NURSES STATION - EARLY EVENING

Two nurses sit at a desk doing paper work. A loud BEEPING noise is heard. They turn to the panel and see that room 239 is lit up. The nurses run into the ROOM occupied by Deb Sinclair. One nurse attends to Deb while the other looks at her chart. In bold letters DNR (do not resuscitate) appears at the bottom of the chart. Doctor Wallace enters.

DOCTOR WALLACE  
(looking at his watch)  
Time of death...7:32pm

The doctor takes the chart from the end of the bed and starts writing. The nurses start to unhook Deb's tubes. The doctor leaves. Eric enters and clears his throat to indicate his presence.

NURSE 1  
(turns to Eric)  
I'm so sorry.

The nurse looks at him and gives him a hug.

ERIC  
(shaken)  
Can I have a few minutes?

NURSE 1  
I'll call your father.

The nurses leave. Eric moves closer to the bed. He picks up his mothers hand. Eric sits in the chair beside the bed and starts to cry uncontrollably.

INT. NURSES STATION - NEXT DAY

Nick walks up to the nurses station.

NURSE 1  
I'm sorry to hear about Deb. She'll  
be missed.

NICK  
(stoic)  
Thanks, I'm here for her things.

The nurse stands and goes to the shelves behind her. She reaches for the box that's labelled "Deb Sinclair" and hands it to Nick.

NICK  
I appreciate everything you did for  
her.

Nick walks down the hallway toward the parking garage.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Nick still carrying the box walks over to his car and fumbles for the keys. He opens the trunk and awkwardly places the box inside. The box tips over and the photo album falls out. Nick straightens the box. He SLAMS the trunk.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE - A FEW DAYS LATER

Daniel age 16 is dressed in his suit. He is walking down the stairs towards the front door. The doorbell RINGS.

DANIEL  
I've got it dad!

Daniel opens the door and a middle aged couple holding a casserole smile.

WOMAN 1  
Don't you look handsome.

The couple walk into the hallway.

WOMAN 1  
Is there someplace I can put this?

DANIEL  
(pointing down the hall)  
The kitchen is just down the hall,  
I think Helen's in there.

The woman walks towards the kitchen.

DANIEL  
Everyone else is in the living  
room.

A man walks towards the living room. Eric walks up behind Daniel.

ERIC  
How ya doing?

DANIEL

Do people think that just cause  
mom's dead we won't cook anymore?

Eric puts his hand on Daniel's shoulder.

ERIC

I don't know, I guess its people's  
way of helpin out.

As Daniel sits on the stairs, Eric walks into the LIVING ROOM. The living room is adorned with contemporary art pieces. The piano that sits in the corner has many family photographs on top. A blue sofa and love seat are situated across from the piano. From the living room you can see a dining area that is made up of antique pieces. A shiny silver tea service sits on the table. There are groups of people standing around talking.

MAN 1

(holding a cup)

The school won't be the same...her  
students are going to miss her.

WOMAN 1

The whole community is going to  
miss her.

MAN 2

She always seemed to have time for  
everyone and everything.

WOMAN 1

She took a lot of pride in helping  
out where ever she could.

Eric walks over.

ERIC

(to everyone)

Thanks for coming, Mom would be  
happy that so many people have  
stopped by.

WOMAN 1

How are you doing?

ERIC

(anxious)

We're all doing fine...I'm headed  
to the kitchen is there anything I  
can get anyone?

WOMAN 1

Ah...no I think we're okay, thanks  
for offering.

Eric leaves. Nick walks down the stairs and stops at Daniel.

NICK

(distracted)

Come on Daniel stand up...you're  
gonna get your pants dirty. You  
should be talking to our guests.

DANIEL

I don't wanna talk to anybody. Why  
do people keep shaking my hand? I  
don't care who they are.

NICK

(agitated)

Maybe you should care! Your mother  
meant a lot to these people...it's  
nice that they came to pay their  
respects. For Christ sakes just do  
what I ask.

DANIEL

Fine!

Daniel stands up and walks into the LIVING ROOM. Nick shakes  
his head and follows.

MAN 1

(to Nick)

I just talked to Eric, how are the  
kids coping?

NICK

(clipped tone)

It's been hard on all of us.

MAN 1

They're lucky to have you.

NICK

(clipped tone)

We're lucky to have each other.  
Thanks for stopping by.

Nick walks away.

INT. THE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Helen is making coffee while Beth age 18 is preparing sandwiches. There are plates of dainties and casseroles on the counter.

HELEN

(turns to Beth)

It always amazes me how many people bring food.

BETH

Thanks for helping us through this. I know Dad appreciates it. You being here is like having a little piece of mom still around.

HELEN

(teary)

I'd do anything for you guys. I hope you know that your mom was really proud of all of you.

Beth turns away with tears in her eyes.

HELEN

She got comfort in knowing how close you all are. You remind me so much of her.

Helen walks over and gently rubs Beth's back. She picks up the sandwich tray and leaves. Beth goes to the phone and starts to dial.

BETH

(in a quiet voice)

Hi, its me. I can't be here anymore. Come get me. I'll wait for you at the end of the street.

Beth leaves the kitchen and walks towards the FRONT HALLWAY. She opens the hall closet and takes out her coat. Nick appears behind her.

NICK

Where are you going?

BETH

(startled)

I need some fresh air, I'm going for a walk.

NICK  
Well, don't be gone too long.

Beth goes over to Nick and kisses him on the cheek. She leaves. OUTSIDE she walks down the street and stops at the familiar car parked on the corner. She gets into the passenger side and leans over and kisses the older man on the lips. The car drives away.

INT. THE BEDROOM - A FEW WEEKS LATER - DAY

Nick is packing up Deb's personal items. The blinds are open and the sun is reflecting off of the family pictures that are on the dresser. A gold locket hangs from the mirror. The closet is open and there are empty boxes on the floor. Two boxes are taped up and labelled "Good Will". Nick is folding clothes. Daniel enters.

DANIEL  
What are you doing with mom's things?

Nick stops folding and walks over to Daniel.

NICK  
It's time son. There's no point putting this off any longer.

DANIEL  
(loud)  
Is getting rid of mom that easy? Just pack up her things - pretend she never existed?

NICK  
(frustrated)  
Keeping her things around so you can look at them everyday won't bring her back!

Daniel's face turns red. He turns and runs down the stairs.

NICK  
(yelling)  
Daniel wait...let me explain.

The front door SLAMS.

NICK  
(to himself)  
Good going Nick!

He goes to the dresser and opens up the top drawer. He throws the clothing onto the bed. He picks up a box, turns and hits the dresser which knocks over a picture.

NICK

Fuck!

Nick puts the box down and picks up the photo. The photo is of the entire family. The glass is shattered. Nick violently throws the picture towards the wall. As he turns the sun reflects off the gold locket that's hanging on the dresser mirror. He takes the locket in his hand and opens it. Inside is a picture of Nick and Deb on their wedding day. Nick sits on the bed and stares at the picture inside the locket.

NICK

(overwhelmed)

They think I have all the answers.  
They're looking for you, not me!

Nick stands, closes the locket and places it back on the dresser mirror.

INT. THE BASEMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER

Nick is in the basement stacking boxes of Deb's personal items. The last box has the photo album inside. He glances at the contents of the box. He removes the photo album. There is a loud KNOCK on the front door. He places the photo album inside the box and puts the lid on. Nick walks up the stairs, turns off the light and closes the door. He walks through the FRONT HALLWAY and opens the door.

NICK

I wasn't expecting you?

HELEN

I keep calling but -

NICK

I know...it's been pretty hectic.  
Haven't had time to call you back.

HELEN

I just thought I would stop by and  
see how everyone's doing?

NICK

You don't have to check up on us.

HELEN

I do it because I care.

Nick looks at his watch.

NICK  
 (abrupt)  
 I'm really busy and I don't have  
 time right now to stand around  
 talking.

HELEN  
 Can you give me a call when you get  
 some time?

NICK  
 Yeah sure...not a problem.

Nick closes the door in Helen's face.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MORNING - ONE MONTH LATER

A receptionist sits at a desk thumbing through a date book. On the wall behind her are two framed degrees that read "Nick Sinclair - General Practitioner". Several patients wait in the office. Nick walks a patient out to the front desk.

NICK  
 (to the secretary)  
 We'll need to see Mrs. Walters in  
 two weeks.

The receptionist books the appointment and hands Mrs. Walters a card. The receptionist stands and goes to Nick's office and KNOCKS on the door.

NICK (O.S.)  
 Come in.

The door opens and the receptionist enters.

RECEPTIONIST  
 You're booking too many people.  
 Some days you're tripled booked.

NICK  
 If people need help...I am not  
 going to turn them away.

RECEPTIONIST  
 How do the kids feel about you  
 spending so much time here lately.

Nick stands and walks over to the receptionist.

NICK  
They all do their own things now.

The receptionist rolls her eyes at Nick and goes back to her work.

INT. THE SINCLAIR KITCHEN - A FEW MONTHS LATER

Nick, Eric, Beth and Daniel sit around the kitchen table eating supper. Beth kicks Eric under the table.

ERIC  
Beth!

Beth stares at Eric.

BETH  
(quietly)  
Say it.

Nick pushes away his plate.

NICK  
What's going on?

All three kids look at each other.

ERIC  
Ya know Dad...we've been thinking -

NICK  
About what...just spit it out.

ERIC  
We thought you could take a few weeks of next month -

DANIEL  
Ya and go to the lake just like we use to -

BETH  
It would be really nice for us all to get away.

ERIC  
So we figured that the lake seemed like the obvious choice. We can fish, swim, go boating. What do ya think?

Nick shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

NICK  
I would love to take some time off  
guys...you know how busy I've been.  
The timing's not right.

Daniel stands.

DANIEL  
(looks at Eric and Beth)  
Told ya.

Daniel walks away.

INT. THE SINCLAIR LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER - AFTERNOON

Beth enters carrying a suitcase. She sets it down. Nick sits  
on the couch reading the newspaper.

NICK  
Where are you going?

BETH  
I need to talk to you.

Nick puts the newspaper down. Beth folds her arms and starts  
to talk.

BETH  
This won't take long.

NICK  
Well...

BETH  
I just thought you should know that  
I am going away for the weekend.

NICK  
Your going with...

BETH  
(defiant)  
My boyfriend.

NICK  
I don't think that's a good idea.

BETH  
(haughty)  
I'm not looking for your  
permission.

(MORE)

BETH(cont'd)

I just thought you might wonder  
where I was but then you'd have to  
be home to notice that I'm gone.

NICK

That's not fair...

BETH

A lot of things aren't.

Beth leaves. Nick stares at her retreating back in  
wonderment.

INT. THE SINCLAIR HALLWAY - SIX MONTHS LATER - EVENING

Nick takes off his winter coat and drapes it over the railing  
of the stairs. He walks to the KITCHEN, goes to the  
refrigerator and opens the door. He stares at a near empty  
refrigerator.

NICK

(loudly)

Beth!

Nick closes the refrigerator door.

NICK

(to himself)

When did she stop picking up the  
groceries?

Nick walks out of the KITCHEN and goes to the HALLWAY. He  
stands at the foot of the stairs.

NICK

(looking up the stairs)

Hello...anyone home? Daniel?

There is a post-it memo on the hallway mirror indicating  
Daniel's soccer game is at 7:00. Nick looks at his watch, the  
time is 8:25. The phone RINGS.

ANSWERING MACHINE

At the tone please leave a  
message...BEEP

HELEN (O.S.)

Hi Nick it's Helen.

Nick walks into the KITCHEN. He goes to the phone and listens  
to the message that is being left.

HELEN (O.S.)  
I was wondering if you might be  
free for coffee sometime this week?

Nick turns the answering machine off in the middle of Helen's recording.

NICK  
Doesn't she have her own family to  
bother?

Nick sits at the table.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Daniel sits at a table with two police officers across from him. He is wearing an orange prison uniform.

POLICE OFFICER 1  
You seem to have a knack of getting  
yourself into trouble.

POLICE OFFICER 2  
It's a pretty big rap sheet that  
you have. Let's see, disturbing the  
peace, drunk in a public place,  
mischief, and now break and enter.  
This doesn't look good.

DANIEL  
Don't I get to make a phone call?

POLICE OFFICER 2  
Yeah sure.

Daniel walks over to the pay phone and inserts a quarter. He starts to dial.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)  
Hello, Dr. Sinclair's office.

DANIEL  
Can I talk to Nick.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)  
Dr. Sinclair is busy with a patient  
at the moment. Can I ask whose  
calling and I'll get him to return  
your call as soon as he's free.

DANIEL

Do you know how long he's going to be.

The police officer gestures to Daniel to wrap up the call.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

He's got patients all afternoon. He may not be able to call you back until tonight or early tomorrow.

DANIEL

As usual he's too busy.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Excuse me?

DANIEL

Never mind.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Did you want to leave your name and number?

DANIEL

No that's fine.

Daniel hangs up the phone. He is visibly shaken.

POLICE OFFICER 1

So is someone comin to bail you out?

DANIEL

Guess not. What now?

POLICE OFFICER 1

You'll see a judge in the morning and he'll decide what happens to you.

Police Officer 1 SLAPS the handcuffs on Daniel. They leave and walk down a long dimly lit HALLWAY towards the holding cell. The cell door is unlocked and Daniel enters.

POLICE OFFICER 1

This is where you'll stay for the night.

He turns around while the Police Officer takes the handcuffs off.

DANIEL

Do I get to eat somethin'?

POLICE OFFICER 1

There'll be nothin' til the morning  
now.

The Police Officer locks the cell. Daniel lays on the bottom bunk and closes his eyes. A Police Officer's voice is heard over the intercom.

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)

Lights out.

All cells go black.

EXT. THE SINCLAIR HOUSE - A FEW DAYS LATER

Helen KNOCKS on the door. She continues KNOCKING. After a few minutes she turns and starts walking towards her car. The door opens. Helen turns towards the door and sees Nick. She walks towards him.

HELEN

I didn't think anyone was home.

NICK

What's up Helen?

HELEN

I've been trying for months to get  
a hold of you, don't you return  
your calls.

NICK

I've been busy.

HELEN

Can I come in?

NICK

It's not a good time -

HELEN

It's never a good time.

NICK

What is this the third degree?

HELEN

I don't know what I've done to  
deserve this?

(MORE)

HELEN(cont'd)

I've tried calling...you don't answer...what's the problem?

Nick crosses his arms.

NICK

(frustrated)

You're the problem! Can't you just leave me alone. I just don't need constant reminders of how good life once was.

HELEN

(stunned)

God Nick, not everything is about you.

Nick rolls his eyes.

HELEN

(stunned)

I just thought I could help.

NICK

Can you help Daniel not constantly get himself into trouble with the law? Can you help Eric make a decision about his future?

Helen shifts uncomfortably.

NICK

Beth is dating some guy that she refuses to let me meet. Can you help with that?

HELEN

(pointing her finger)

I won't be a witness to the Sinclair's falling apart. Do you ever stop to think about what your kids are going through? Did you ever think about taking time off work?

NICK

Everyone thinks that's the solution. Stop working...who provides for the kids then? I just want to be left alone...no reminders.

Helen shakes her head in disbelief and walks away. Nick closes the door.

INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE - TWO YEARS LATER

Nick is upstairs in the HALLWAY. All bedroom doors remain closed. Nick opens the door and enters DANIEL'S BEDROOM. The walls are decorated with posters of the New York Yankees and Michael Jordan. Numerous soccer trophies sit on the dresser. Nick walks over to the dresser and picks up a trophy.

NICK  
(reading the trophy)  
Most valuable player 1996.

He sets the trophy down and picks up another.

NICK  
(reading the trophy)  
Most goals scored 1997. God that kid had potential.

He puts the trophy on the dresser and leaves. He walks down the hall and opens the door to ERIC'S BEDROOM. On the wall hangs a high school diploma. The bookcase is full of medical text books and high school year books. Nick picks up a year book and sits on the bed. He turns to Eric's graduation picture. The caption underneath reads "most likely to succeed".

NICK  
He should have been a doctor by now.

Nick touches the picture and closes the book. He stands and puts it away. Nick leaves. He walks down the hall toward's BETH'S BEDROOM. Nick opens the door and enters. On the walls are pictures of Marky Mark, Will Smith and Janet Jackson. There is a glass cabinet that contains porcelain dolls. Nick opens the cabinet and takes out one of the dolls. He stares at the doll and puts it back. He looks around the room. He sits on the bed and puts his face in his hands and SIGHS. He stands and leaves. Nick walks down the HALLWAY and goes downstairs.

INT. SINCLAIR LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nick walks over to the piano and looks at the family pictures. He picks up a picture that has Deb and all three kids in it. He goes to the couch and sits.

NICK  
(staring at the picture)  
Things have changed.

Nick places the picture on the coffee table.

INT. A COURT ROOM - MORNING

Daniel age 18 is dressed in an orange prison uniform. He sits with his hands cuffed at a table at the front of the room. Beside him is a court appointed lawyer. The police officers sit at the other table. The JUDGE enters and everyone stands.

JUDGE  
You may all be seated.

The judge looks over Daniel's file.

JUDGE  
You've been pretty busy in the last few years. You have acquired quite a large record of misdemeanors. Do you have anything to say?

The lawyer nudges Daniel who stands.

DANIEL  
No your honour.

The lawyer stands. Daniel sits down.

LAWYER  
In my clients defense your honour -

JUDGE  
What defence can you make for your client? All I see is an 18 year old that doesn't know how to stay out of trouble. Mr. Sinclair please stand.

Daniel stands.

JUDGE  
I am sentencing you to sixty months in a minimum security prison. After this sentence is served you will be required to meet with a probation officer twice a week.

The judge indicates that court is adjourned. Daniel is led away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

BETH SINCLAIR age 20 is lying in a hospital bed holding a new born baby girl. JOHN KEMP, a tall middle aged man stands at the foot of the bed. Beside her is an empty baby bassinet decorated in pink. A social worker enters and walks over to Beth and hands her some papers and a pen. Beth looks at them and tears start streaming down her face.

JOHN  
(puts his arm around Beth)  
You'll see that this is for the  
best.

Beth and John sign the papers. Beth hands the baby to the social worker. The social worker leaves.

JOHN  
Beth -

BETH  
(crying)  
Don't talk to me! You told me that  
everything would work out fine.  
You lied!

JOHN  
I thought I could go through with  
leaving Cindy but I can't deal with  
letting my kids down.

BETH  
You're a hypocrite! What about the  
child you just gave away? Don't you  
care about her?

John stands and walks over to the window.

JOHN  
I never meant to hurt you -

Beth stands.

BETH  
For two years you cheated on your  
wife. What was I... the solution to  
your mid-life crisis. It never  
seemed to bother you until I told  
you I was pregnant.

JOHN  
Everything just got too complicated. The baby is better off with a family that will love her unconditionally.

Beth walks over to John.

BETH  
(pointing to John)  
I would have loved her unconditionally! Somehow you got to decide what would be best. Get the hell out of my sight! Go back to your real family.

John tries to console Beth. She pulls away. He leaves and Beth sits on the bed crying. A nurse enters.

NURSE  
(compassionate)  
Giving a baby up for adoption is a big step, you've made the right choice.

BETH  
(sad)  
I hope so.

Beth puts her head in her hands and continues crying.

INT. PROBATION OFFICE WAITING AREA - MORNING - FIVE YEARS LATER

Daniel age 23 sits in the waiting area. There is a scar that runs along the right side of his face. The office door opens and MRS.CURRIE, the probation officer emerges. She is a middle aged woman with a thick Scottish accent.

MRS. CURRIE  
Daniel Sinclair, I'm ready for you.

Daniel stands and walks into the OFFICE. Inside Daniel sits slumped in a chair.

MRS. CURRIE  
Sit up please. You are back in society now so act like it.

Daniel sits up.

MRS. CURRIE  
Now let's see.

Mrs. Currie examines Daniel's file.

MRS. CURRIE  
So you've served five years in a  
minimum security prison. Right?

DANIEL  
(clears his throat)  
Right. Do you know what time it is?

Mrs. Currie points to the clock on the wall that indicates  
the time being 10:00.

MRS. CURRIE  
Tell me what you learned while in  
prison. Did you get your high  
school equivalency diploma?

DANIEL  
No. I pretty much did what I could  
to keep my ass...I mean I kept out  
of trouble.

MRS. CURRIE  
The terms of your release are based  
on checking in to this office twice  
a week. You're going to find  
yourself some employment in this  
town. Right?

DANIEL  
I guess so.

MRS. CURRIE  
I see in your file that you are  
estranged from your father. Why is  
that?

DANIEL  
Guess we just don't see things the  
same way anymore.

MRS. CURRIE  
Where was he when you were breaking  
the law?

Daniel starts to shift uncomfortably in his seat.

DANIEL

I really don't want to talk about this. He's a self centered asshole who doesn't care about anyone other than himself.

MRS. CURRIE

There's nothing in here about your mother. How's that relationship?

DANIEL

What difference does it make?

MRS. CURRIE

I am trying to get to know you and I need to assess what it is you will need. Please just answer the questions. Your mother?

Daniel looks away.

MRS. CURRIE

Mr. Sinclair, I'm waiting.

Daniel looks directly at Mrs. Currie.

DANIEL

Fine. She's dead. She died about seven years ago.

MRS. CURRIE

Did you start getting in trouble with the law after she died?

Mrs. Currie begins to write in Daniel's file.

DANIEL

I guess.

MRS. CURRIE

Brothers, sisters?

DANIEL

Ya I got both. They're both older than me.

MRS. CURRIE

Do you have any contact with them?

DANIEL

I've talked to Eric once since I got out.

MRS. CURRIE

Mr. Sinclair obviously you've gone through a lot. That is still no excuse for the poor choices you've made. You've been given a second chance, use it wisely.

Daniel stands and leaves.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON - FIVE YEARS LATER

Helen is walking down the corridor. A banner hangs from the ceiling that reads Welcome to Jefferson High. The walls are adorned with pictures of classes from earlier years. Helen stops at a picture from 1998, it was the last year Deb taught. She continues down the hall towards the BOARDROOM. Helen enters and sits with the others already gathered around the table.

PRINCIPAL

Helen we've been discussing whom to name the new library after. We've narrowed it down to three people, Mayor Turnbull, Dr. Rogers, and Deb Sinclair.

HELEN

(surprised)

I didn't realize that Deb was being considered.

VICE PRINCIPAL

She really embodied what this school and community stands for.

PRINCIPAL

How do you think the Sinclair's would feel about this?

HELEN

I'm sure they would feel that this is a wonderful way to honour her memory.

PRINCIPAL

Everyone agree?

Everyone seated at the table nods their head yes.

PRINCIPAL

It's unanimous! Let's move on to the next topic.

The meeting continues.

INT. ERIC'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Eric age 28 walks into the apartment. He picks up the mail that is sitting on the table.

ERIC  
(looking at a bill)  
No money for that one.

Eric throws it on the table.

ERIC  
(looking at a bill)  
No money for that one either.

Eric throws it on the table. He opens up an envelope and takes out the notice that has been stamped "past due".

ERIC  
Just what I needed today!

He throws the mail back on the table. From the bedroom emerges a petite dark haired woman. SARA COLBORNE age 26 walks to the table and picks up the opened bill.

SARA  
What's this? I thought you paid it last week?

ERIC  
I guess they didn't get my payment. I'll look into it.

SARA  
Come on Eric -

ERIC  
Listen, I've had a shitty day...I got fired for no reason -

Sara walks to the couch and sits.

SARA  
You lost another job?

ERIC  
Ya but -

Sara stands.

SARA

Save it Eric! I can't continue being the only person whose concerned about our life. God, why can't it be like it was in Africa?

Sara goes to the book case and holds up a picture that shows Eric and Sara in red cross uniforms. Eric has a stethoscope around his neck. They are surrounded by many children. Sara stands and walks over to Eric.

SARA

I've tried to support you. I've tried to understand why you go from job to job, but it's a pattern that's never going to change.

Eric stares blankly.

SARA

Get off your ass and do something about it. Better yet, go back to med school.

ERIC

If you're not happy being with me nobody's makin ya stay!

SARA

You're not the man I thought you were.

ERIC

I'll get us some cash. I'll call my father -

SARA

You've barely spoken to him in five years and now you think he's going to help you? You live in a dream world Eric.

Sara grabs her purse and jacket and leaves. Eric picks up the phone and dials.

NICK (O.S.)

Hello.

ERIC

Hey dad, its me. I um lost my job today and I was wondering if I could borrow some cash? I'll pay you back shortly -

NICK (O.S.)  
 You lost another job? How many is  
 this now?

ERIC  
 Give me a break dad, it wasn't even  
 my fault -

NICK (O.S.)  
 If you'd stayed in med school you  
 wouldn't be in this situation.

ERIC  
 (mad)  
 I should've known better than to  
 call you.

Eric SLAMS the phone down. He sits on the couch.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - A WEEK LATER

Helen is sitting around the kitchen table eating supper with  
 her children, SHAWN age 22 and LEAH age 24.

HELEN  
 Guess what the school's decided to  
 do?

SHAWN  
 (looking up from his  
 plate)  
 What?

LEAH  
 Is this about the library?

Shawn grabs a dinner roll.

HELEN  
 Yeah, they decided to dedicate it  
 in Deb's name.

LEAH  
 Really? It makes sense.

SHAWN  
 What did Doc Sinclair have to say?

Shawn continues to shovel food into his mouth.

HELEN

I'm not sure if he knows. I'm not sure if it's up to me to tell him.

LEAH

Wouldn't the school just call him -

HELEN

You'd think but I didn't want to let on as though we haven't kept in touch.

SHAWN

(sarcastic)

Won't he be surprised when he finds out.

LEAH

Shawn...

SHAWN

All I'm sayin is that he made it clear a long time ago that he didn't want anything to do with anyone.

All three continue eating.

INT. THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - A FEW WEEKS LATER

Helen sits in a chair across from the Principal.

PRINCIPAL

The reason I've asked you here is because we need some personal mementoes of Deb's life. Surely Nick must have something he can lend us.

Helen shifts uncomfortably in her chair. She has a strained smile.

HELEN

I'm sure he does.

Helen looks away.

PRINCIPAL

(confused)

Do you think you could ask him for some?

HELEN

Why don't I supply you with what you need.

PRINCIPAL

I just assumed with your family connections to the Sinclair's -

Helen stands.

HELEN

He's very busy with his patients, I don't want to bother him.

Helen starts walking backwards towards the door.

PRINCIPAL

Was he happy to hear about the dedication and will the kids be coming?

HELEN

(anxious)

Very happy, he was thrilled...and the kids...should be here from what I know.

PRINCIPAL

If you need any help with anything just let me know.

HELEN

I'll be in touch.

Helen leaves. She pauses outside the door.

HELEN

Yeah, you can help me alright - how bout getting Nick to speak to me?

Helen walks down the corridor.

INT. A DELI - DAY

Nick stands at the counter waiting for his sandwich. There are booths filled with patrons. A man approaches Nick.

MAN

Hey Nick, haven't seen you in a while.

NICK  
Been pretty busy.

MAN  
So are the kids coming for the  
dedication?

Nick has a stunned look on his face.

NICK  
(off guard)  
Huh?

MAN  
The dedication...you know for the  
new library at Jefferson.

Nick's face turns red and he shifts uncomfortably.

NICK  
If they can get the time off work.

The deli clerk hands Nick his sandwich.

MAN  
I can't imagine anyone telling them  
that they can't attend their own  
mother's dedication.

NICK  
(embarrassed and angry)  
Right...right.

Nick looks at his watch.

NICK  
Gonna be late, see ya later.

Nick leaves.

INT. NICK'S' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nick sits at his desk. The sandwich sits on the desk.

NICK  
(on the phone)  
I don't want to be interrupted.

Nick hangs up the phone. He picks up a phone book and starts looking for Jefferson High. Nick picks up the phone and dials.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
 Jefferson High how may I direct  
 your call.

NICK  
 (disguises his voice)  
 I'm looking for information on the  
 upcoming library dedication.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
 What would you like to know?

NICK  
 Who's in charge? When's it  
 happening?

WOMAN (O.S.)  
 It's taking place on September  
 20th. Principal Canon and Mrs.  
 Jacobson are in charge of the  
 event.

NICK  
 Okay, thanks.

Nick hangs up the phone.

INT. HELEN'S COMPUTER ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

Helen sits at her computer. Pictures of her children hang on  
 the wall in front of her. On a table beside the computer desk  
 sits two city phone books.

SHAWN (O.S.)  
 Mom, when's supper?

HELEN  
 Find something yourself, I'm busy.

SHAWN (O.S.)  
 Doing what?

HELEN  
 If you want to talk to me, come  
 here.

Shawn enters.

SHAWN  
 What do ya got all the phone books  
 out for?

HELEN  
I'm trying to find one of the  
Sinclair kids. Any idea what  
happened to them?

SHAWN  
The last thing I heard about Daniel  
was that he got arrested.

Helen turns her head in amazement.

HELEN  
I didn't know about that. Why  
didn't you tell me?

SHAWN  
What difference would it have made,  
it only would've upset you.

HELEN  
What about Beth or Eric?

SHAWN  
I think Beth might have moved to  
the city. I'm gonna order pizza for  
supper?

Shawn leaves.

HELEN  
(loudly)  
Just remember that I hate green  
peppers.

Helen finds a people locator web site. She types in the name  
Beth Sinclair.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - A FEW HOURS LATER

Helen sits at the table talking on the phone. A note pad is  
beside her.

OLDER WOMAN (O.S.)  
Hello?

HELEN  
Hi, is Beth there?

OLDER WOMAN (O.S.)  
No, sorry you must have the wrong  
number.

HELEN  
Sorry to have bothered you.

Helen hangs up the phone and scratches a number off of the note pad. The phone RINGS.

HELEN  
Hello.

NICK (O.S.)  
Helen it's Nick.

HELEN  
Oh...hi -

NICK (O.S.)  
Do you mind telling me why I would have to hear about the library dedication from a virtual stranger?

HELEN  
Um...

NICK (O.S.)  
She was my wife. Don't you think the least you could do was tell me? I have a right to know about these things -

HELEN  
Listen hear! The last time we spoke you made it perfectly clear that you wanted nothing to do with me. No reminders! Don't you dare after all this time turn this around on me.

Helen hangs up the phone.

EXT. OUTSIDE AN APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

A bus pulls up to the curb and Beth age 25 emerges. The area is older and run down. She walks towards an old brick apartment building and goes inside. The sun is setting.

INT. AN APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Beth enters, removes her coat and puts her book bag down. The apartment is small and very sparse. There are no personal touches except for a clock in the kitchen which shows the time being 6:00 pm.

Beth sits and takes her books out of the bag. She starts flipping through the pages of her Early Childhood Development text. Beth looks at the clock which shows the time being 8:00 pm. She stands and puts her coat on. As she is leaving the phone RINGS.

BETH  
I don't have time for this.

Beth's answering machine turns on as she shuts the door.

BETH  
(answering machine)  
Hi, I'm not at home. Leave a message and you're number and I will call you back.

The answering machine BEEPS.

HELEN (O.S.)  
Hi, my name is Helen Jacobson and I'm looking for a Beth Sinclair. I'm not sure if I have the right number but if you're mother was Deb Sinclair please call me at 406-234-8686.

The answering machine light starts blinking.

INT. BETH'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY

Beth picks up the phone and puts it back several times. She takes a deep breath, picks up the phone and dials the number on the piece of paper.

HELEN (O.S.)  
Hello?

BETH  
Can I speak to Helen Jacobson please?

HELEN (O.S.)  
Speaking.

Beth fiddles with the phone cord.

BETH  
(hesitant)  
This is Beth Sinclair.

HELEN (O.S.)  
 (excited)  
 Oh my god, I finally found you.  
 How've you been?

BETH  
 (startled)  
 Why did you call me?

HELEN (O.S.)  
 Remember the library at the school?  
 They've built a new one and decided  
 to dedicate it in your mom's  
 memory. They want your family to  
 participate.

Beth sits in the chair that is beside the phone.

BETH  
 (angry)  
 Did dad put you up to this?

HELEN (O.S.)  
 No! It's really important that you  
 and your brothers come and  
 represent your mother -

BETH  
 I'm really not interested -

HELEN (O.S.)  
 (frustrated)  
 Put your personal feelings aside.  
 It's September 20th. I think you  
 owe it to her to get a hold of the  
 boys and show up at the dedication.

BETH  
 I'm not making any promises.

HELEN (O.S.)  
 All I can ask is that you try.

Beth hangs up the phone.

INT. ERIC'S BACHELOR SUITE - A FEW HOURS LATER

The suite is dimly lit. In the corner is a unmade bed. Dirty dishes fill the sink. Eric age 28 is sitting on the couch drinking coffee while circling help wanted ads. The phone RINGS.

ERIC  
(puts his coffee down)  
Hello?

BETH (O.S.)  
Hi Eric, it's Beth.

ERIC  
What are you callin for? When was  
the last time I talked to you?

BETH  
Let's not get into that. Listen, I  
got a phone call yesterday from  
Helen Jacobson, remember her?

ERIC  
What the hell did she want?

BETH (O.S.)  
Listen to this...she wants us to go  
to some stupid library dedication  
in mom's honour.

Eric stands and starts to pace back and forth in his living room.

ERIC  
(hesitant)  
Why wouldn't we go? It's about mom.

BETH (O.S.)  
Just like that. Don't you remember  
what dad was like after mom died?

Eric stops pacing. He stares at a family photo that is on a bookstand.

ERIC  
(angry)  
This has nothing to with him.  
Helen's right, we should go for  
mom!

BETH (O.S.)  
What are the chances of finding  
Daniel? Can you even get the time  
off work?

Eric sits on the couch and picks up the Help Wanted section.

ERIC

Don't worry I'm pretty sure I know where Daniel is. Work won't be a problem. I'll give you a call in a couple of days.

Eric puts the phone down and paces around the apartments.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - THE NEXT DAY

Eric drives down the highway. A sign indicates an exit 1 mile ahead. Eric takes the exit. The area is dingy and run down. Empty stores are situated on both sides of the street. Eric stops the car when he sees Fields Boarding House. He parks and walks towards the FRONT DOOR of the building. He KNOCKS on the door. The door opens and a fat sweaty man appears.

ERIC

I'm looking for Daniel Sinclair, is he here?

SWEATY STEVE FIELDS

That kid's been gone for a month.

ERIC

Any idea where I can find him?

SWEATY STEVE FIELDS

That god damned kid's always in trouble. Try looking on Queen Street. That's where his type go.

Sweaty Steve closes the door. Eric turns around and starts walking down the street. There are homeless people on the street. A group of local teens are hanging out by the convenience store. He approaches the teens.

ERIC

Any of you guys know Daniel Sinclair.

Eric takes a picture of his family out of his wallet.

ERIC

(points at Daniel)  
Does he look familiar?

TEEN 1

I've never seen him -

Eric shows the picture to the other teens.

TEEN 2  
 (to the other teen)  
 Isn't that the kid we saw at the  
 soup kitchen?

Eric hands the picture to the first teen.

TEEN 1  
 Oh yeah...I think I saw him at the  
 shelter. It's just around the  
 corner.

Eric takes the picture back.

ERIC  
 Thanks man.

Eric continues down the street and as he approaches the  
 shelter he recognizes Daniel standing outside.

ERIC  
 Little brother, its been a long  
 time.

Daniel is in dirty clothes. His hair is unkept and oily.  
 There is a scar that runs down the right side of his face.

DANIEL  
 What brings you to my world?

ERIC  
 How bout we go for a coffee and  
 I'll explain.

DANIEL  
 Not really interested.

ERIC  
 It's really important.

DANIEL  
 Fine. I don't wanna be all day cuz  
 I got things to do.

Eric and Daniel walk down the street and enter a COFFEE SHOP.  
 Both sit at a table. A waitress comes by with a coffee pot  
 and fills their cups.

ERIC  
 What the hell happened to your  
 face?

DANIEL

I ran into a knife when I was in jail. Some guy had a problem with somethin I said. I showed him.

ERIC

It's a pretty big scar.

Eric takes a sip of his coffee.

DANIEL

Why are ya here?

ERIC

There's a library dedication back home in mom's honour and they want me, you and Beth to be there.

DANIEL

You're joking right? What the hell would I want to go back there for? What's in this for me?

Daniel stuffs sugar packets into his pocket.

ERIC

Even though shits happened we should still do this for mom. Why don't ya come and stay with me until we have to go, get cleaned up.

DANIEL

When is this supposed to happen?

Daniel opens a creamer and tosses it back.

ERIC

(disgust)

Three weeks, September 20th.

DANIEL

I'm not comin to stay with you for three weeks.

ERIC

Can I count on you to come?

DANIEL

Yeah I guess so. We're driving right?

ERIC  
Yeah we can take my car.

DANIEL  
I don't really have the cash to get  
to the city.

ERIC  
That's cool, we'll pick you up.

DANIEL  
I guess I can meet ya outside of  
Fields on the 14th.

ERIC  
Sounds good.

They continue drinking coffee and talking.

INT. BETH'S APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER

Beth stands at her kitchen sink washing dishes. She is dressed in her grocery store uniform. The phone RINGS. She dries her hands on a towel and answers the phone.

BETH  
Hello?

ERIC (O.S.)  
Hi Beth. I tracked Daniel down. He  
says he'll come, what about you?

BETH  
You're really gonna go?

ERIC (O.S.)  
I'm doing it for mom. If you don't  
wanna come that's fine, I'm just  
tellin ya that we're going.

BETH  
I don't know so much crap has  
happened since mom died -

ERIC (O.S.)  
Can't we just come together for  
mom. It's only for a few days.

Beth sits at the kitchen table and looks out the window.

BETH

Where are we gonna stay? I don't want to stay with dad.

ERIC (O.S.)

Fine, we can stay in a motel, it's not a big deal. If we leave on the 14th we'll get there in lots of time. We can take my car.

BETH

I still have to think about it, I'll call ya in few days.

Beth hangs up the phone. She looks at her watch. She takes her coat off the chair and puts it on. She grabs her purse and leaves.

INT. LOCAL GROCERY STORE - A FEW HOURS LATER

Beth stands at her checkout lane and puts through her last customer. She puts a closed sign on her lane. She takes her cash tray into the BACK OFFICE. MR. CLEMONS a middle aged balding man sits behind a desk counting money. Beth puts her tray on his desk.

MR. CLEMONS

(looks up)

Thanks Beth.

Beth continues to stand at his desk.

MR. CLEMONS

Something on your mind?

Beth sits in the chair beside the desk.

BETH

I'm sure you can't accommodate this request and I will completely understand -

MR. CLEMONS

Just tell me what you need.

BETH

(speaks quickly)

Okay its like this...I need time off because a library is being dedicated in my mother's memory in my home town. I know that this is really bad timing -

MR. CLEMONS  
When do you need to go?

BETH  
I'm sure it's not even possible to go but I need from September 14th to the 22th off.

MR. CLEMONS  
It sounds like a pretty important event, of course you can go.

Beth stands.

BETH  
(surprised)  
Really, are ya sure. Thanks Mr. Clemons.

Beth leaves the office.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - A FEW DAYS LATER

Helen enters. Her arms are full of grocery bags. She puts the bags on the counter and notices the answering machine light is flashing. Helen goes over and pushes the button.

BETH (O.S.)  
Hi Helen it's Beth Sinclair.  
Apparently we will be making the trip home.

The message ends. Leah enters.

HELEN  
They've left a message saying that they're coming.

LEAH  
That's good news mom.

Leah walks over to her mom and gives her a hug. Helen's eyes are teary.

EXT. ERIC'S BACHELOR SUITE - MORNING - A WEEK LATER

An old beat up metallic blue four door car sits in front of Eric's apartment building. Eric and Beth come out of the building each carrying a duffle bag.

BETH  
Are ya sure this thing is gonna get  
us there?

ERIC  
Shut up and put the stuff in the  
trunk.

Eric throws the keys at Beth. She walks to the back of the car and opens the trunk.

BETH  
How long to get there?

ERIC  
(looks at his watch)  
It's 10:00 now. We get Daniel it'll  
be around 10:30...we should get to  
Jefferson tomorrow late in the  
afternoon.

Beth opens the passenger door and gets in. Eric gets behind the wheel.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

They drive out of town. Beth gazes out the passenger window. Eric's eyes stare straight ahead concentrating on the road. The car approaches the town limits, continues driving down the dingy Main Street and stops in front of Fields Boarding House.

BETH  
(looking out the window)  
This is where Daniel's been  
staying?

ERIC  
His probation officer is here. I  
guess it's easy for him to check  
in.

Daniel is waiting at the corner with his knapsack in tow.

BETH  
Oh my god...he looks rough!

ERIC  
His last few years have been pretty  
tough.

EXT. FIELDS BOARDING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Daniel walks towards the car. Eric gets out.

DANIEL  
Pretty nasty lookin car -

ERIC  
This comin from the kid who lives  
on the street. Give me your bag and  
get in.

Eric walks to the back of the car and opens the trunk. He  
throws the knapsack in.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Daniel gets in the backseat while Eric gets in the front. The  
car drives off.

BETH  
(reserved)  
Long time no see.

DANIEL  
Yep.

Daniel is sprawled across the back seat. He quickly falls  
asleep. They drive for a few hours without speaking to each  
other. A road sign indicates that "Jefferson" is still 1000  
miles away.

DANIEL  
(groggy)  
Pull over I gotta take a piss.

Beth turns her head around to face Daniel.

BETH  
Don't ya have any manners.

Eric laughs. Beth faces the front of the car again.

ERIC  
Can ya wait til we get to the next  
gas station?

Daniel takes a pack of cigarettes and lighter out of his  
jacket, puts one in his mouth and lights it.

DANIEL  
(inhales and blows out the  
smoke)  
Yeah whatever.

Beth starts to roll down the window.

BETH  
When did you pick up that filthy  
habit?

Daniel takes a long drag and leans forward towards Beth and taps her on the shoulder. Beth turns her head towards Daniel. Daniel exhales in Beth's face.

DANIEL  
What's it to ya, you're not my  
mother?

BETH  
You're pathetic!

Beth glares at Daniel. She turns around, crosses her arms and stares straight ahead at the road.

ERIC  
(nervously)  
Anyone getting hungry? We should  
think about stopping soon.

Beth looks at her watch.

BETH  
It's only four, why don't we drive  
for a few more hours.

Daniel leans back and KICKS the front seat where Beth is sitting.

DANIEL  
Sorry...sometimes my leg gets a  
spasm and does that.

BETH  
Whatever brat.

Daniel relaxes in the back seat and smiles.

EXT. ROADSIDE STOP - AFTERNOON

Beth emerges from the PUBLIC WASHROOM. She walks towards the car where Daniel and Eric are standing.

BETH  
God! That was disgusting!

DANIEL  
That...

Daniel points to the washrooms.

DANIEL  
Is a palace compared to some of the  
dives I've pissed in!

ERIC  
Don't exaggerate Daniel.

DANIEL  
You wouldn't know if I was or not.

Daniel lights up a cigarette and stares off in the distance.

BETH  
You're right Daniel, we don't know  
what its' been like bein you. It  
seems to me that you chose to be a  
delinquent, or is that someone  
else's fault too?

DANIEL  
Take a look at yourself. You're  
just as pissed off with life as I  
am. I guess being perfect didn't  
get ya very far did it Bethie.

BETH  
(quiet)  
Don't call me Bethie.

Eric looks at Beth.

ERIC  
Isn't that what mom use to call  
you?

Beth brushes her hair away from her face.

BETH  
Yeah but that was a long time ago.

Beth turns away from Eric.

ERIC  
 (looking at Daniel)  
 Ease up will ya. We're not the  
 enemy so lay off the hostility.

DANIEL  
 The truth always sounds hostile.

Eric shakes his head and goes around to the driver's door.  
 Daniel butts out his smoke.

DANIEL  
 Fine, whatever man. Let's get outta  
 here.

They all get into the car.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - THE SAME DAY

Helen is at her kitchen table staring at the phone. She takes  
 a deep breath and dials.

NICK (O.S.)  
 Hello.

HELEN  
 Hi Nick, its Helen -

NICK (O.S.)  
 What do you want Helen?

HELEN  
 The school's asked for some of  
 Deb's personal mementoes and things  
 of that nature, do you have  
 anything?

NICK (O.S.)  
 There's a box in the basement, you  
 can come over and get it if you  
 want.

HELEN  
 Okay, I'll be over this week.

NICK (O.S.)  
 Fine.

Helen hangs up the phone.

EXT. NICK'S FRONT DOOR - A FEW DAYS LATER

Helen RINGS the door bell. The door opens and an unkept, unshaven Nick appears.

HELEN  
I'm here for the box.

NICK  
Wait here.

Nick partially closes the door. Helen shakes her head in frustration. Nick reappears with a box.

HELEN  
Did you want to go through this together?

NICK  
Some things are better left dead and buried.

Nick shoves the box towards Helen.

HELEN  
Is that the attitude you're going to have when your kids arrive for the dedication?

NICK  
(startled)  
They're coming?

Helen quickly turns around and walks towards her car. Nick watches her walk away.

INT. A TRUCK STOP DINER - A FEW HOURS LATER

Eric, Beth and Daniel sit in a booth. They pick up the menus that are on the table. A waitress comes to the table and fills the water glasses. The waitress speaks with a Jersey accent.

WAITRESS  
(looks at Eric)  
So what dya having honey?

ERIC  
(taken aback)  
I'll get the burger and fries.

WAITRESS  
Are we slappin some cheese on that  
sugar?

ERIC  
Ah, sure.

The waitress turns to Beth.

WAITRESS  
So sweetheart what ya havin?

BETH  
Just a clubhouse for me.

WAITRESS  
Toasted, plain, white or brown,  
side salad, slaw, or fries. Chop  
chop honey, I don't have all day!

BETH  
Ah...toasted, white, fries.

The waitress turns to Daniel.

WAITRESS  
And what do you need to keep your  
self big and strong?

DANIEL  
Banana pancakes and a coke.

WAITRESS  
Pancakes for supper? Hmm...whatever  
the little man wants.

The waitress leaves.

BETH  
What's with the banana pancakes,  
are ya five?

DANIEL  
I just like em, I always have.

ERIC  
I remember something about those  
pancakes, didn't mom make em for ya  
all the time?

Daniel just stares.

ERIC

Didn't she use to say that you were her only kid that liked breakfast for dinner?

BETH

Oh ya, I remember that.

The waitress arrives with the food and starts putting the plates down.

WAITRESS

Mind your manners, use your forks, do what your mother taught ya.

The waitress walks away.

ERIC

She's kinda weird.

Daniel pours syrup on his pancakes.

DANIEL

Remember how upset mom use to get when I would eat with my fingers?

BETH

What about when you scarfed your food down and didn't come up for air?

Eric finishes a bite of his burger. Beth eats her french fries.

ERIC

She use to wonder if you'd ever out grow your eating habits.

Daniel laughs.

DANIEL

(to Eric)

Big deal, at least she didn't complain about my rotten feet?

Beth laughs.

ERIC

Don't laugh, Mom had issues with you too -

BETH

Like what?

ERIC

The phone. Why do ya think we got a separate line? Chatty Beth mom would say.

All three get quiet and pick at their food.

ERIC

It's seems like its been forever since mom died. I haven't thought about when we were kids for a long time. Life was good back then.

BETH

That's the past.

All three continue eating their meals.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HELEN'S LIVING ROOM - THE SAME DAY

Helen sits on the couch and stares at the box that is on the coffee table. She gingerly opens the lid and puts it on the floor. The first item out of the box is the photo album which Helen starts to flip through. She stops on a page that has pictures of her and Deb camping.

HELEN

Weren't we young back then.

Helen flips through more pages and stops at a picture that shows her and Deb pulling a toboggan with Eric, Beth and Leah on it. Everyone's bundled up and smiling. Helen flips through more pages. Leah enters and sits beside her mom.

LEAH

What are ya lookin at?

HELEN

Some pictures of Deb.

LEAH

Doc Sinclair give this to you?

HELEN

Not willingly.

Leah starts flipping through the pages. She stops at a picture that shows Deb very sick.

LEAH  
When was this taken?

HELEN  
A couple months before she died.

Helen pulls the photo album closer.

HELEN  
(quietly)  
God I forgot how sick she was. She  
was so fragile.

LEAH  
You okay?

HELEN  
Just seems like a life time ago.

Helen flips through more pages.

HELEN  
Oh my god!

She stops as she comes across three envelopes. She picks them  
up.

LEAH  
What?

Helen continues to hold the envelopes.

HELEN  
These have the kids names on them.

LEAH  
Do ya think he knew that they were  
there?

HELEN  
(stunned)  
I don't know.

LEAH  
What now?

HELEN  
I guess I should call Nick.

The phone RINGS, Leah gets up to answer it. Leah exits.  
Helen places the envelopes into the front of the photo album.

HELEN

I miss her so much.

She sits back and holds the album to her chest as tears run down her face.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - EVENING

Eric is driving. They pass a road sign indicating that Jefferson is 650 miles away. Beth and Daniel are sleeping. A familiar song comes on the radio. Eric nudges Beth.

ERIC

(quietly)

Beth, wake up.

Beth slowly wakes up.

BETH

What?

ERIC

Listen to the song, whose it remind you of?

BETH

It's that horrible group mom always listened to. Turn it off.

ERIC

Fine.

Eric turns the radio off. Beth closes her eyes. She starts to move around while trying to get comfortable.

BETH

Great, now I'm awake. I never seem to get a good sleep.

ERIC

Huh?

Beth sits up and turns towards Eric.

BETH

Just sayin that with work being so busy, I never feel rested. Some weeks I'm lucky to get any time off.

ERIC

Really? How'd ya get this time off?

BETH  
I just went to the -

ERIC  
Boss?

Daniel starts to stir in the backseat.

BETH  
No, the schedule... and just  
changed a few days around. What  
about you?

ERIC  
When you're the head of your  
department you don't need to ask  
for time off, you just take it.

BETH  
Really, you don't have to ask  
anybody?

ERIC  
Nope it's that simple, I'm my own  
boss.

Daniel sits up and leans forward on the front seat.

DANIEL  
Ya the boss of nothin Eric. Didn't  
ya tell me you always get fired  
from your jobs?

BETH  
Fired hey big boss man. Look at you  
setting your own hours, that's  
funny.

DANIEL  
You answer to a boss just like  
everybody else Bethie.

Beth turns around to face Daniel.

BETH  
Shut up Daniel, you don't know  
anything about my life.

DANIEL  
You're right I don't. I care about  
your life about as much as you care  
about mine.

ERIC

What the hell's that supposed to mean?

DANIEL

When mom died everyone stopped caring.

Eric pulls the car off the road and puts it in park. He turns around to address Daniel.

ERIC

That's not true -

DANIEL

You guys took off and left me alone with dad, you didn't care what happened to me. You only cared about yourselves and dad was no better.

Daniel gets out of the car and lights up a smoke. Eric and Beth follow.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

ERIC

You can't pin your sad ass life on mom dying -

DANIEL

(angry)

I'm not fuckin pinning it on her.

BETH

It's dad you should have the issue with.

Daniel continues smoking.

DANIEL

Why the hell did you leave me behind?

Eric starts to pace. Beth looks away and nervously bites her nails.

ERIC

Enough! This conversation isn't goin any where. Get back in the car and let's just get to Jefferson and get this weekend over with.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - A FEW HOURS LATER - NIGHT

Beth is looking out the passenger window. Eric's eyes stare ahead concentrating on the road. Daniel is slumped in the back seat. On the radio a newscaster is talking about the local baseball team.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
The Cardinals lost the game last night to the Twins. A home run in the ninth inning put them ahead by one.

Eric switches the radio station.

ERIC  
Remember how loud mom use to get at our games?

BETH  
You could hear her a mile away, she was so embarrassing.

Daniel sits up.

ERIC  
Even sick she was the loudest parent at the game.

All three laugh.

BETH  
Remember mom's witch costume at Halloween.

DANIEL  
One time Kevin came to the door and she made him reach into the candy bowl and instead of candy he pulled out rubber fingers.

ERIC  
The look on his face was hilarious!

The car pulls up to a run down gas station on the outskirts of a small town.

DANIEL  
Finally a smoke break, since her majesty won't let me smoke in the car.

They get out of the car. Daniel starts to pump gas with a smoke hanging out of his mouth.

ERIC  
Let me do that.

Eric gives Daniel a shove.

DANIEL  
What's the big deal.

Beth stops walking and turns towards Daniel.

BETH  
I don't know, smoke, gas, boom!

Beth walks into the BUILDING. Daniel stubs out his smoke. Eric finishes pumping the gas. Beth emerges from the building and gets into the driver's seat.

INT - ERIC'S CAR - LATE AT NIGHT

Beth is driving. Eric is sleeping next to her. Daniel sits up and slides forward. He pokes Beth in the arm.

BETH  
What's that for!

DANIEL  
I just wanted to make sure you're still awake.

BETH  
You can be a pain...ya know that.

DANIEL  
Its what I do best.

Beth takes a quick look at Daniel over her shoulder.

BETH  
How much trouble have you been in?

Daniel shrugs his shoulders and stares out the window.

DANIEL  
Enough to get me locked up for five years and on probation.

Beth looks at Daniel through the rear view mirror.

BETH  
Was it that bad at home?

Daniel looks at Beth.

DANIEL  
Home wasn't bad, there just wasn't  
anybody around.

BETH  
Dad was there.

DANIEL  
Barely. So I thought screw you and  
started doing my own thing.

Daniel takes out his lighter and starts to flick it open and  
closed. Eric opens his eyes.

BETH  
So you turned to a life of crime?

DANIEL  
That just sorta happened...at least  
someone kinda cared what I was  
doing.

BETH  
So cops and probation officers  
became your surrogate parents?

DANIEL  
Well at least they tried to help  
me...no one else gave a shit!

Daniel snaps his lighter shut and puts it away. Beth grips  
the steering wheel tighter.

BETH  
I'm sorry Daniel...I didn't know-

DANIEL  
How could you. you weren't around.

Beth glances in the rear view mirror and catches Daniel's  
eyes.

BETH  
I couldn't have stayed.

DANIEL

Hey like ya say, it was a long time ago. No worries sis, your not responsible for how I turned out.

Daniel slides back in his seat and stares out the window. Beth wipes at a stray tear and concentrates on the road.

EXT. NICK'S FRONT DOOR - THE NEXT DAY

Helen RINGS the doorbell. Nick opens the door.

HELEN

(curt)

You have a choice Nick, we can either have this conversation in front of your neighbors or you can let me in. You choose.

Nick steps aside. Helen enters.

INT. INSIDE THE SINCLAIR HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Helen and Nick enter the LIVING ROOM. The living room is adorned with contemporary art pieces. Thick dust covers the piano that sits in the corner. The family photographs that sit on the piano remain unchanged. A faded blue sofa and love seat are situated across from the piano. From the living room you can see a dining area that is cluttered with papers and books. The silver tea service that sits on the table has tarnished. Helen sits on the couch. Nick sits in a chair at the opposite end of the room.

NICK

What now Helen?

Helen reaches into her purse and pulls out three envelopes. She stands and walks over to Nick. She hands him the envelopes.

NICK

What's this?

HELEN

I found these in Deb's album. She must have written them for the kids. Did you know about them?

Helen walks back to the couch and sits.

NICK  
I had no idea she'd done this.

HELEN  
Maybe you should give them to the kids.

NICK  
Maybe you should mind your own business.

HELEN  
These letters might be really important -

Nick stands and paces through the room.

NICK  
I don't give a shit. Keep the letters, I don't want them.

Nick tosses the envelopes at her. She grabs them and puts them in her purse. Helen stands and confronts Nick.

HELEN  
(pointing her finger)  
She'd be heartbroken to know how things turned out.

Helen leaves and SLAMS the front door.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - THE NEXT DAY - MORNING

The car passes by a sign that reads "Lake Minawonka next exit". Eric turns to Beth and Daniel.

ERIC  
Do you guys remember Lake Minawonka?

BETH  
Isn't that where we use to go almost every summer.

DANIEL  
Yeah, that place was awesome.

ERIC  
Its coming up do you guys wanna check it out?

Beth and Daniel look at each other and then turn to Eric.

BETH/DANIEL

Sure!

Eric signals to take the exit. They drive for a few more miles. A sign indicates the turnoff for Lake Minawonka. Eric turns the car off the main road and drives to the parking lot for the public beach.

EXT. LAKE MINAWONKA - CONTINUOUS

Eric parks the car. They get out and survey their surroundings. Eric walks towards the public beach. There are families spread around the beach. A few children are splashing around in the water. There is a radio playing on a picnic table nearby. Beth and Daniel follow behind Eric. Eric gets to the edge of the sand and takes off his socks and shoes. He starts to walk to the waters edge.

BETH

(to Eric)

Where the hell are you going?

Eric looks back at Beth.

ERIC

Come on lets get our feet wet.

DANIEL

(mutters)

All of a sudden he's nature boy.

Daniel struggles to get off his socks and shoes. Beth has already taken off her shoes and is following Eric.

ERIC

(at waters edge)

God that feels good.

He walks a bit deeper into the water. Beth is still on dry sand and she dips her toes into the water. She quickly retreats and stares out at Eric.

BETH

Was it always this frigin cold?

ERIC

Yup!

BETH

Remember mom always made a huge picnic lunch.

Daniel walks into the water then runs and plunges in head first causing a big splash that gets Beth and Eric wet.

BETH  
God, Daniel do you always need to  
cause havoc! You little shit!

ERIC  
(to Daniel)  
How's the water?

Daniel swims around and then stops.

DANIEL  
(teeth chattering)  
Gooooodd! It's really refreshing!

ERIC  
(looks at Beth)  
Come on Beth lets go for it!

Eric begins to walk toward Beth. Beth starts slowly moving backwards out of Eric's reach.

BETH  
No way! It's too cold. Eric don't  
you dare!

Eric grabs Beth before she can run a way and drags her kicking and screaming into the water. Daniel comes over and starts splashing water at both of them. Eric lets go of Beth and they start splashing back. Eric grabs Daniel and dunks him under the water. Beth grabs Eric and dunks him too. Beth retreats back to the beach and sits. Eric and Daniel join her. They are laughing and trying to catch their breath.

BETH  
(joking)  
You guys are jerks!

Beth tries to catch her breath.

ERIC  
(breathing hard)  
That was great!

Daniel pulls off his t-shirt and rings it out.

DANIEL  
You guys need to get a life!

Beth playfully hits Daniel in the arm.

BETH  
 (shivering)  
 I could sure use a towel right  
 about now.

Beth continues to shiver.

BETH  
 Remember how mom use to make our  
 favorite sandwiches? Daniel weren't  
 you all about a tuna sandwich?

Beth shivers and wraps her arms around her self. Daniel puts  
 his t-shirt back on.

DANIEL  
 Yeah, no one could make it better  
 than mom.

ERIC  
 Mom always made sure everyone had  
 fun.

BETH  
 Yeah, summers up here were the  
 best.

DANIEL  
 I wish we never stopped coming  
 here?

Eric looks at Beth and Daniel. Daniel gets up and turns to  
 Beth and Eric. He walks away. Beth shifts uncomfortably and  
 Eric moves to get up to address Daniel.

BETH  
 (puts her hand on his arm)  
 Leave him alone.

Eric and Beth stand and walk back in the direction of the  
 car.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - A FEW HOURS LATER

Helen sits at the table drinking a cup of tea. She is staring  
 at the envelopes that are on the table. Leah enters.

LEAH  
 What time are we eating tonight?

Helen continues to stare at the envelopes.

LEAH  
Hello earth to mom!

HELEN  
(startled)  
Sorry dear did you say something?

Leah sits.

LEAH  
What's wrong mom?

HELEN  
Well I just had it out with Nick.

Leah picks up the envelopes.

LEAH  
Was it about these?

HELEN  
He wants nothing to do with them.

LEAH  
If this was the other way around  
and Deb found the letters, she  
would totally come and give them to  
us.

Helen reaches for Leah's hand and squeezes it.

HELEN  
Thank's honey, I'll think about it.

Helen stands and goes to the refrigerator and pulls out some  
chicken.

INT. LOCAL MOTEL - LATE AFTERNOON

Eric, Beth and Daniel stand at the front of the check-in  
desk. Daniel starts to RING the bell that is on the counter.  
A really fat, ugly woman steps from behind a beaded curtain.  
She holds a diet cola in her fat hand and is chewing her gum  
like a cow chews cud.

ROSIE THE FRONT DESK CLERK  
Whose the asshole ringin the bell?

Eric looks at Beth.

ERIC  
(whispers to Beth)  
Some things never change.

ROSIE THE FRONT DESK CLERK  
Name?

Rosie starts to flip through a registration book.

ERIC  
Sinclair.

ROSIE THE FRONT DESK CLERK  
Ya needed three rooms? How many  
nights ya staying?

ERIC  
Three rooms, five nights please.

Rosie writes the information in the book. She looks at  
Daniel.

ROSIE THE FRONT DESK CLERK  
(points her finger at  
Daniel)  
I'll need a deposit from you.

ERIC  
Why don't we pay up front.

Eric goes takes out his wallet and pulls out a credit card.

ERIC  
Here put all three rooms on this.

Eric turns to Beth and Daniel.

ERIC  
You guys can pay me back later.

ROSIE THE FRONT DESK CLERK  
(snapping her gum)  
Here's the keys. Don't break  
nothin, if ya do, consider it  
yours.

Rosie hands Eric the keys who hands them to Daniel and Beth.

ERIC  
I'll catch up to you guys in a bit,  
I gotta make a phone call.

Eric walks over to the pay phone. Beth and Daniel go outside. Eric picks up the phone book and searches for Helen's number. He flips through a few pages and stops at Jacobson. He puts a quarter into the phone and dials.

HELEN (O.S.)

Hello?

ERIC

Hi Helen, its Eric...Sinclair.

HELEN (O.S.)

Glad you kids made it.

Eric fiddles with the phone cord.

ERIC

We need to know what time the dedication is?

HELEN (O.S.)

It's at 3:00 on Saturday. I really need you kids to stop by as soon as you can, I have something for you.

ERIC

Ya I guess it won't be a problem. We'll stop by later this evening.

Eric hangs up.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - THE SAME DAY - EVENING

Helen opens the front door. Eric, Beth and Daniel walk into the house.

HELEN

(excited)

Oh my god you've all grown up.

Helen tries to hug Daniel who pulls back at her sudden movement. Beth stands with her arms crossed.

BETH

It's been seven years, of course we've grown up.

HELEN

Let's go into the living room. Is anyone thirsty? Hungry, can I get anyone anything?

They follow Helen into the LIVING ROOM. The kids sit on the couch. Helen sits on a chair. The photo album is on the coffee table in front of the couch.

ERIC

We're fine. Why are we here?

HELEN

(nervous)

When I was going through your mother's things I came across something that was intended for the three of you.

Helen reaches for the photo album. She opens it up and takes out the three letters. She stands and walks towards the couch where she hands them their letters.

HELEN

Your father didn't know anything about them. I stumbled upon them and felt that you needed to have these right a way.

ERIC

(stunned)

How could no one know about them?

HELEN

I guess he never bothered to go through her things.

BETH

Figures!

Beth stands.

DANIEL

Why you givin em to us and not Dad?

HELEN

Your father didn't want anything to do with them. Respect your mother enough to read her final words to you.

Beth turns around and STORMS out of the house. Eric and Daniel stand.

ERIC

I know you're just tryin to help.

Eric and Daniel leave.

INT. ERIC'S MOTEL ROOM - SAME DAY - EVENING

The room is decorated in accents from the 1970's. A small TV sits on a dresser. Rust colored curtains hide the window in the corner. Eric lies on the bed watching TV. Sitting on the night stand beside the bed is a can of cola and the letter from his mother. An empty pizza box is on the floor. He gets up to turn the channel.

ERIC  
(Looking at the TV guide)  
God is nothing on tonight?

Eric turns the TV off and throws the TV guide on the floor. He sits on the side of the bed and reaches for the letter.

ERIC  
(takes the letter out)  
I can't do this.

Eric throws the letter on the bed. He stands and walks towards the window. He pulls back the curtains and stares into the night. Abruptly closing the curtains he sits back on the bed and picks up the letter and starts to read out loud.

ERIC  
It's funny...when you were born your father and I argued about what your name should be. I came across the name Eric and it just seemed to suit you. You are "honourable, powerful and strong". Even though you find yourself struggling with med school, you're going to make a great doctor.

Eric clears his throat. His voice fades into the voice of his mother as he continues to read the letter.

DEB (V.O.)  
There will be times when life seems unfair but remember everything happens for a reason. Look for the lessons that are being taught to you during hard times. Stay positive and don't let things get you down, especially things you have no control over. Continue to be a kind, caring man who sees the good in life. Live up to your potential and life will be full of rewards.

Eric clears his throat.

DEB (V.O.)

The closeness that we shared as a family should not be lessened because of my absence, if anything it should bring you closer.

Eric reaches for his can of cola and has a drink. He wipes his eyes.

DEB (V.O.)

I need you to continue being a role model for Daniel, he looks up to you, I see it in his eyes when he watches you. Pass on to him the lessons you've learned. I rely on your strength to help your father get through this. I love you and I'll always be proud of you.

Eric puts the letter on the bed. He wipes the tears from his eyes. He stands and walks towards the window and stares into the night. He closes the curtains and sits on the bed and puts his face in his hands.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DANIEL'S MOTEL ROOM - THE SAME EVENING

Daniel puts a case of beer onto the dresser. He takes off his jean jacket and lights a smoke. The garbage can is full of empty beer cans. On the bed is the letter from his mother. He reaches for the letter and opens it.

DANIEL

This should be good!

Daniel finishes his smoke and cracks open a beer. He pulls up the chair from the desk, turns it around and straddles it. He starts to read the letter. Daniel takes a swig from his beer and puts it on the desk. Daniel starts to read out loud.

DANIEL

(holding the letter)

I wish I could have found a way to make things clearer for you. I know how confused you must be. I know that the energy within you will lead you to many great adventures.

Daniel reaches for his beer and takes a drink. The voice of Daniel fades into the voice of his mother as he continues to read the letter.

DEB (V.O.)

I wish I could be there to see the man you will become. I imagine you being strong like your father and honourable like your brother. I see you having a free spirit. Daniel I have some words of advice for you.

Daniel reaches for his beer and takes another swig.

DANIEL

Doesn't much matter now.

The voice of his mother continues as the letter is read.

DEB (V.O.)

Be honest and have integrity. Treat people the way you would want to be treated. It's not always easy but it's always valuable. Be caring and compassionate, don't be afraid to show others how you feel. Remember the past, but don't live in it. Rely on the strength of our family to help you through the hard times. Continue to be the boy I raised.

Daniel stands and puts the letter on the bed. He lights a smoke and takes a long drag. He picks the letter up and stares at it. He butts out his smoke and throws it into his beer can. He neatly folds the letter and puts it in the envelope. Daniel grabs his jean jacket and leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BETH'S MOTEL ROOM - THE SAME EVENING

On the bed is Beth's duffle bag. She is unpacking her clothes and neatly placing them into the drawers of the dresser. Beth takes the letter from out of her purse and sits at the desk. She reaches for the letter, opens it and starts to read out loud.

BETH

(talking out loud)

You are your mother's daughter.

(MORE)

BETH(cont'd)

You and I are more alike than you realize. I see your life being full of endless possibilities.

Beth shifts in her seat. The voice of Beth fades into the voice of her mother as she continues to read the letter.

DEB (V.O.)

Remember that life is full of laughter and pain, it's also full of hope and despair. The one thing I've learned in the last couple of years is to never take anything for granted, be thankful for everyday. If I can pass on one lesson it's to live everyday with no regrets.

Beth stops reading and clears her throat.

BETH

No regrets...

DEB (V.O.)

One day you will find yourself surrounded by children of your own. I hope they give you the same joy that you've given me. Rely on each other as things happen throughout your life.

Beth stops reading and stands. She takes the letter and rips it up. She walks towards the garbage can in the corner and throws it out.

BETH

To little too late mom...life didn't go as you had hoped.

Beth walks over to the TV and turns it on. She walks over to the bed and lies down.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

There are stacks of photos on the kitchen table. The photo album is on the counter. There are two pieces of bristol board on the table. One has the heading "Family and Friends" at the top and the other has the heading "School Life". Helen stands and looks down at the pictures. As she picks each one up she reflects upon it and puts it in a specific pile. Photos that will be used are placed onto the appropriate board. The memory board starts to take shape.

INT. SINCLAIR LIVING ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER - AFTERNOON

Thick dust covers the piano that sits in the corner. The family photographs that sit on the piano remain unchanged. A faded blue sofa and love seat are situated across from the piano. From the living room you can see a dining area that is cluttered with papers and books. The silver tea service that sits on the table has tarnished. Eric and Daniel sit on the couch. Nick stands with his arms crossed at the opposite end of the room. Beth walks over to the piano and drags her finger across it making a line in the dust.

BETH

(to Nick)

You haven't even bothered to at least keep the house clean?

NICK

I've been very busy. I didn't know you guys were coming here.

BETH

Wasn't my idea was it Eric?

Beth sits on the couch.

ERIC

Helen gave us the letters. She said you didn't care about them.

NICK

What difference does it make how I feel about them, they weren't for me.

BETH

From lookin around here it's obvious you don't care about much.

Nick shifts uncomfortably.

NICK

You wouldn't understand -

BETH

You're right about that.

ERIC

Dad you gotta know we have some questions for ya -

DANIEL

I gotta question, why didn't ya care enough to keep mom's stuff around?

BETH

Why couldn't you be counted on?

ERIC

Why did ya push us away when we could've helped each other out? Was it easier for you to not care about us?

NICK

That's not fair. All I have done since your mother died is bust my ass trying to provide for this family. You guys chose to leave. You've never gone without.

Beth stands.

BETH

We went without mom and her caring and we went without you doing what she did.

Beth STORMS out of the house. Eric stands and turns to Daniel.

ERIC

Come on Daniel let's go.

Daniel and Eric start to walk out of the room. Eric stops and turns to Nick.

ERIC

It never needed to get to this point.

Eric and Daniel leave. Nick sits.

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY - MORNING

The blinds are open and the sun is reflecting off of the family pictures that are on the dresser. Nick is tossing and turning in bed.

NICK

(frustrated)

Damn sun.

He throws the covers off and gets out of bed. He walks over to the blinds and closes them. He turns to walk towards the bed but the gold locket that hangs on the mirror catches his eye. Nick picks up the locket and opens it and stares at the wedding picture inside. Holding the open locket he sits on the edge of the bed.

NICK  
 (looks at the locket)  
 I wish you were here.

Nick's eyes start to get teary.

NICK  
 I made a promise and I realize now  
 that I didn't know how to keep it.  
 They left thinking that I didn't  
 care about them anymore. I just did  
 what I had always done.  
 Everything's a mess.

Nick stares at the locket and tears roll down his face.

INT. ERIC'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING - THE SAME DAY

Eric and Daniel sit watching TV.

DANIEL  
 Change it to 53.

ERIC  
 Why...what's on?

DANIEL  
 The baseball game. The Yankees are  
 playin the Jays.

ERIC  
 Still all about the sports hey  
 Daniel -

DANIEL  
 Let me guess...you'd rather watch  
 some cheesy ass sitcom. I never  
 really got why ya hated sports -

ERIC  
 Maybe it's because there's nothin  
 to learn from watchin a baseball  
 game.

Eric reluctantly changes the channel.

ERIC  
Do ya think we were a little rough  
on dad last night?

DANIEL  
Why do ya think that?

Daniel reaches for the bag of chips and starts shovelling  
them into his mouth.

ERIC  
I don't know...we kinda bombarded  
him with accusations.

DANIEL  
Ya but he can't be surprised by  
that -

ERIC  
Maybe we should have stuck around  
to hear what he had to say.

DANIEL  
(mouth full)  
He hasn't said anything in years.  
Who gives a shit.

ERIC  
Little harsh. Between you and Beth  
I don't know who hates him more.

Daniel stands and gets a drink from the cooler.

DANIEL  
Before yesterday, I would have said  
I hated him more...but did ya see  
how Beth reacted to him?

ERIC  
Who would have thought mom dyin  
would lead to all this.

They go back to watching the baseball game.

EXT. A CEMETERY - LATER IN THE AFTERNOON

Beth stands in front of a tombstone that reads Deb Sinclair  
1954-1998. "Loving wife, devoted mother, trustworthy friend".

BETH  
It's me mom.

Beth looks around.

BETH  
This is kinda weird talkin to you  
like this.

Beth walks back and forth.

BETH  
They're dedicating a library in  
your name on Saturday. I'm sure  
everyone will be there. Eric and  
Daniel are in town.

Beth takes a tissue out of her purse.

BETH  
I'm here but I don't know if I can  
go.

Beth starts to cry.

BETH  
Everything's a mess. We barely  
speak to each other for seven years  
and now everything is supposed to  
be fine. I've done something that I  
am so ashamed of. I let my  
beautiful baby girl be put up for  
adoption. I didn't know what to do,  
Dad wasn't there and you were gone.

Beth falls to her knees and sobs.

BETH  
I miss you not being here. I miss  
our talks. I miss hearing you  
speak. Being with the family this  
week...it's been tough. I want us  
to be a family again...I really do,  
but how do we repair the damage?

Beth sits in front of the grave.

INT. LOCAL MOTEL - THE SAME DAY - AFTERNOON

Eric closes the door. Nick walks over to the chair and sits.  
Eric stands.

ERIC  
Why are ya here?

NICK

I've been doing some thinking. You gotta give me a chance to explain a few things.

Eric sits on the bed.

ERIC

What more can possibly be said.

NICK

It was really tough for me when your mom died. I should have done more for you guys but I didn't know what to do. Everybody deserves a second chance and I'm asking for mine.

ERIC

She asked me to help you and I didn't. In some ways I guess I feel responsible for the family drifting apart.

Nick stands and walks over to Eric and sits beside him.

NICK

I had no idea your mom wrote those letters. It's not your job to take care of me.

ERIC

I know but -

NICK

Regardless, I should have still been there. I'm the parent, it wasn't your job to keep the family together it was mine.

ERIC

I guess. I had this horrible argument with her and I never got to say I was sorry.

Nick puts his arm around Eric.

NICK

Your mother knew that you loved her.

ERIC

I know.

NICK  
Why'd you quit school?

ERIC  
I lost my faith in that profession  
after mom died.

NICK  
That's the easy way out. People  
count on doctor's to keep the faith  
when faced with tragedy...that's  
our job. You're mom would have  
wanted you to be the person that  
helps others.

Eric gets choked up.

NICK  
You all right son?

ERIC  
I'm good.

NICK  
Any idea where you're brother might  
be?

ERIC  
He said somethin about shootin some  
pool this afternoon.

Nick leaves.

INT. THE LOCAL POOL HALL - CONTINUOUS

Nick enters a dark dingy smoke filled room. Patrons are  
milling around the pool tables. Daniel and a man are  
finishing a game of pool.

DANIEL  
That's the eight ball in the side  
pocket...you owe me twenty bucks.

A younger man hands Daniel a twenty dollar bill and walks  
away.

DANIEL  
Whose next?

Nick stands behind Daniel at the pool table. Daniel is  
racking up the balls.

NICK  
I'll take ya on.

Daniel turns around.

DANIEL  
What the hell you doing here?

NICK  
I came to see you. Whose breaking?

Daniel shoots, a solid ball goes in the corner pocket.

DANIEL  
Old man I'm about to take your  
money. You're stripes.

Daniel continues shooting.

NICK  
How've things been?

DANIEL  
Great! Just did a little stint at  
the local jail back home. Prior to  
that I was checkin in daily with my  
probation officer. In my spare time  
I look for warm places to stay.  
How've things been with you Dad?

Daniel misses a shot. Nick chalks up his cue and starts  
shooting.

NICK  
I'm sensing a bit of hostility from  
you. I guess I had a hand in how  
you've turned out. I can't say that  
I'm very proud of it.

Nick misses a shot. Before Daniel can shoot Nick walks over  
and puts his hand on Daniel's pool cue.

DANIEL  
(pulls the cue away)  
What the hell are ya doing here?  
You haven't shown any interest in  
my life for years, why now?

NICK  
I think you need someone to help  
you.

DANIEL

I don't need your fucking help.  
I've learned to cope with things on  
my own -

NICK

You don't have to cope by your self  
anymore -

DANIEL

You're not needed.

NICK

I disagree. You haven't been doing  
too good on your own. Me in your  
life is no worse than what you have  
now. Give it a shot, I want you to  
come back home and we'll work on  
your life together.

Daniel shoots another solid ball into a pocket.

NICK

My offer stands. Just think about  
it.

Nick reaches into his pocket and pulls out a twenty dollar  
bill. He throws it on the table and leaves.

INT. HELEN'S LIVING ROOM - THE SAME DAY - AFTERNOON

Beth and Helen are sitting on opposite sides of the room.

BETH

Why would you bring us together  
knowing the trouble it was going to  
cause? We all had to make choices  
and now we have to live with them.

Helen stands and walks over to Beth.

HELEN

Have you all forgotten what you're  
mother stood for? If you have  
nothing nice to say to me you can  
feel free to leave.

Beth stands and moves to leave.

BETH  
 Fine. Coming home for the  
 dedication was a huge mistake. I'm  
 going back to the city.

Beth leaves.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Helen sits at the table while talking on the phone.

NICK (O.S.)  
 Hello.

HELEN  
 Beth was just here. She may not be  
 staying for the dedication.

NICK (O.S.)  
 Shit! Okay, I'll go find her.

HELEN  
 I never should have tried to bring  
 your family together.

NICK (O.S.)  
 You've done a good thing. Deb would  
 be thankful that you went to all  
 this trouble.

HELEN  
 Good luck with Beth.

Helen hangs up the phone.

INT. LOCAL MOTEL - THE SAME DAY - EVENING

Beth has her duffle bag on the bed and is taking her clothes  
 out of the drawers. As she packs there is a KNOCK on the  
 door. Beth opens the door and sees Nick. She stares at him  
 and goes back to packing. Nick enters.

NICK  
 Do you mind telling me why you went  
 to Helen's? She says you're  
 leaving?

BETH  
 Why does anyone care now about  
 what's happened to me?

NICK

I guess the dedication seemed like the perfect opportunity to get us all back together. I accept responsibility for my part in everything that's happened.

Beth stops packing and turns to look at Nick.

BETH

That's great. So now you've taken responsibility for everything and what...life goes back in time?

NICK

All I'm saying -

BETH

Save it! Let's go back five years Dad!

Nick sits on the bed.

BETH

Are ya sure you want to take responsibility for my life and how it's turned out? You can't change what's happened in my past. You're too late.

Nick stands and walks over to Beth. She backs away.

NICK

I'm not sure what you're talking about Beth -

BETH

What difference does it make now? I read mom's letter and all her big plans for me and now I have to live with the guilt of letting her down.

NICK

I'm not following-

BETH

That's right Grandpa. You couldn't nurture me so there was no hope of you helpin with my child...so I gave her up.

A stunned Nick sits on the bed. Beth walks to the door and holds it open.

BETH  
I'm tryin to get my life back on  
track and there's no room in it for  
you.

NICK  
Just think about putting our  
differences aside and coming to the  
dedication.

Nick leaves.

INT. A LOCAL DINER - MORNING - NEXT DAY

Eric, Beth and Daniel sit in a booth eating breakfast.

ERIC  
(to Beth)  
Have you talked to Dad?

BETH  
Ya he came by last night.  
Interesting conversation.

DANIEL  
Pass the sugar.

Beth slides the sugar towards Daniel who pours it into his  
coffee cup.

ERIC  
Dad tracked us down too. I think  
he's tryin to change.

DANIEL  
Ya, kicked his ass in pool and won  
me twenty bucks.

BETH  
Of course you two idiots would fall  
for this. He's desperate, can't you  
see that.

ERIC  
Give the guy a break. He just wants  
a fresh start.

Daniel SLURPS his coffee.

BETH  
(to Daniel)  
God you're a pig.

DANIEL  
Better than bein a bitch.

ERIC  
Enough guys. We've decided to go  
with dad to the dedication. What  
about you?

BETH  
I'm leaving tomorrow. Busses  
apparently don't run daily in  
Jefferson. I can't be a part of all  
this.

ERIC  
Do it for mom, you know she'd be  
happy if we were all together.

BETH  
Sorry guys can't do it.

Beth stands to leave. She puts five dollars on the table.

INT. THE HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING - SAME DAY

Nick walks down the corridor. The walls are adorned with  
pictures of classes from earlier years. He stops at the  
picture from 1998, Deb's last year of teaching. Helen walks  
up behind Nick and taps him on the shoulder.

NICK  
(turns around)  
Oh hi Helen.

HELEN  
What brings you by the school?

NICK  
I need to speak at the dedication,  
who do I talk to?

HELEN  
I'll let the principal know. Deb  
would be very pleased to see you  
and the kids all together.

NICK  
We're not altogether, pretty sure  
Beth won't be coming.

HELEN

Any chance she might change her mind?

NICK

I wouldn't count on it. Any ways I gotta run, I'll see you tomorrow.

Nick glances at the photo's one more time and walks down the corridor towards the doors.

INT. SINCLAIR KITCHEN - A FEW HOURS LATER

Nick sits at the table attempting to write a speech. As he writes he speaks out loud.

NICK

(starts to write)

Thank you for attending today's dedication ceremony. I know that this would mean a lot to Deb. We are -

Nick crumples up the paper and throws it on the floor.

NICK

I can't do this.

Nick stands and paces back and forth. He sits at the table and grabs a blank piece of paper. As he writes he speaks out loud.

NICK

(starts to write)

One of Deb's favorite past times was reading...how appropriate that you voted in favor of dedicating the new library in her memory -

Nick stops writing and SIGHS.

NICK

(talking out loud)

This is crap.

Nick crumples up the paper and grabs another blank piece. There is a KNOCK at the front door. Nick stands and walks into the HALLWAY and opens the door.

NICK

Helen, I wasn't expecting you. Did you want to come in?

HELEN

No I really can't stay. I thought that Deb's photo album might help you to write your speech.

Helen hands Nick the album.

NICK

It certainly can't hurt, I haven't been very successful so far. Thanks.

Helen turns and leaves. Nick walks back towards the KITCHEN. Nick sits and starts looking through the album.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Picture of Nick and Deb at the high school prom.

Picture of Nick and Deb at the beach.

Picture of Nick and Deb holding baby Eric.

Picture of Nick and Deb teaching Eric to skate.

Picture of Nick and Deb decorating baby Beth's bedroom.

Picture of Nick and Deb walking Daniel to his first day of school.

Picture of Nick and Deb celebrating their anniversary.

Picture of Nick, Deb, Eric, Beth and Daniel sitting around the Christmas tree.

Picture of Nick and Deb celebrating their anniversary. Deb is lying in bed, she wears a bandana on her head to hide her baldness.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Nick closes the photo album and starts to write.

INT. BUS STATION - NEXT DAY - AFTERNOON

Beth is at the ticket counter purchasing a bus ticket. She hands her money to the teller who hands her a ticket. Beth walks over to the seating area and waits. She opens her wallet and places her ticket inside.

She pulls out a faded family photo taken before her mother's death. The announcement for her bus is made.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 Bus number 705 is leaving from lane  
 two. All ticket holders please  
 proceed to lane two.

People start moving towards the door that leads to lane number two. Beth continues to stare at the photo.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 Final call for passengers  
 travelling on bus 705.

Through the windows you see the bus pull away. Beth continues to sit lost in her own thoughts. According to the clock on the wall a half an hour has passed. She stands and puts the picture back into her wallet. She walks OUTSIDE and hails a taxi.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE NEW LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

In the corridor of the library is a cabinet that holds mementoes of Deb's teaching career. Nick, Eric and Daniel stop and look.

ERIC  
 Look at all this stuff about mom -

DANIEL  
 (pointing to Deb's  
 picture)  
 Nice hairdo!

NICK  
 You're mother was well respected.

ERIC  
 (pointing to a tall man)  
 I think that's Mike, I'll be back  
 in a second.

Eric notices a face from the past and leaves to speak to them.

DANIEL  
 (to Nick)  
 Been thinking about what ya said  
 the other day.  
 (MORE)

DANIEL(cont'd)

If I can swing it with my probation, I'll give it a shot, how bad can it be.

NICK

I'm glad to hear that son. We'll talk to them on Monday.

Eric returns to where Nick and Daniel are standing.

DANIEL

I'm goin to see if there's anything to eat.

Daniel leaves.

ERIC

(deep in thought)  
Ya okay dad?

NICK

Just thinking about life back then. Things were easier when your mom was alive.

ERIC

I guess.

NICK

We need to remember what she would've expected from us.

ERIC

Do ya think she'd be disappointed?

Nick puts his arm around Eric's shoulder.

NICK

Maybe at one time, but we're going to get back on track. That's all we can do. We can't forget about life anymore. It goes on whether we want it to or not.

Nick puts his hand on Eric's shoulder as a show of support.

ERIC

Do you wonder what'll happen with Beth? Do you think she'll come around?

NICK

I hope so. Everything takes time son.

ERIC

I'm gonna go and make sure Daniel isn't stuffing sandwiches into his pockets.

NICK

I'm going to go out and see how everything looks. Can you guys manage okay.

ERIC

Sure, we'll hang out here.

Eric leaves. Nick turns around and leaves the library.

EXT. AT THE DEDICATION SITE - CONTINUOUS

Beth stands in front of the picture boards. As Nick approaches Beth wipes away a tear.

NICK

(surprised)

Beth.

Beth wipes her eyes and tries to regain her composure.

BETH

I'm only here because of mom.

NICK

I'm just glad that you're here. I'm concerned about you. I can't begin to imagine what you've been through. I am so sorry that I wasn't there to help. You never should have had to deal with things on your own.

Nick gives Beth a hug and she starts to sob. He rubs her back.

NICK

We're gonna get through this.

Nick reaches into his pocket and takes out Deb's locket. He hands it to Beth. She opens it up and sees the picture of Nick and Deb.

BETH

It's mom's locket -

NICK

I think your mother would want you  
to have it.

Beth puts the locket around her neck. Nick extends his hand  
and Beth grabs it. They walk towards the library.

INT. THE NEW LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Beth and Nick walk towards Eric and Daniel.

DANIEL

Thought you weren't coming?

BETH

Obviously I changed my mind.

Helen walks over. Nick leans towards Helen.

NICK

(whispers to Helen)  
I'm glad she made it.

HELEN

Me too. Deb would be so proud of  
you right now. I'll see you  
outside.

BETH

Do you mind if I tag along?

Helen and Beth walk away together.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE NEW LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

There is a man standing behind a podium and to his left are  
the story boards that depict Deb's life. The front row of  
seats are occupied by Helen, Nick, Eric, Beth and Daniel.  
Rows of seats are lined up on the grass, all are occupied.

PRINCIPAL

Thanks to everyone who came out  
today. As you all know we are here  
to dedicate the new library in  
honour of Deb Sinclair. Deb was one  
of our most involved teachers. She  
exhibited all the qualities that a  
great role model should have. She  
has been sadly missed by her  
community and colleagues.

(MORE)

## PRINCIPAL(cont'd)

We are fortunate enough to have Nick, Eric, Daniel and Beth with us today. Nick has a few words about his wife that he would like to share.

A neatly dressed, well groomed Nick stands and walks towards the podium. The principal steps to the side.

## NICK

To be quite honest this is all very overwhelming. I always knew that Deb touched many lives, she was an extraordinary person.

Nick reaches into his suit pocket and pulls out his speech.

## NICK

What I've learned from Deb is that life presents us with unexpected situations. Situations that we're never fully prepared for and certainly never anticipate.

Helen takes a tissue out of her purse.

## NICK

The one common denominator in her life was her love for family and friends. She had a need to help people whenever she could. She was unselfish and always put others first. Deb believed in change and accepted that people made mistakes. When our kids were young she used to tell them that life is all about making the right choices.

Eric, Daniel and Beth are very focused on what their father is saying.

## NICK

They say that the true measure of a person is the lasting impression that they've made on the people that were part of their life. Deb would be honoured to know that she was remembered this way. On behalf of myself and my children thank you for preserving my wife's memory.

Nick walks towards the Principal and shakes his hand. He walks over to the story boards and reflects. The Principal hands Nick a pair of scissors to cut the ceremonial ribbon.

PRINCIPAL  
The Deb Sinclair library is  
officially open.

People start to clap and cheer.

PRINCIPAL  
You're all invited to the reception  
that is taking place in the new  
library. There's more coffee and  
lunch being served.

People stand and start to make their way to the reception  
area. Helen, Eric, Beth and Daniel walk over to Nick.

ERIC  
You did a great job dad.

DANIEL  
Ya, you didn't even bore me.

NICK  
Thanks guys.

Nick, Eric, Beth and Daniel walk over to the memory board and  
reflect. The memory board shows various aspects of Deb's  
life.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Picture of Deb coaching the girl's volleyball team.

Picture of Deb with her arms wrapped around two of her  
students.

Picture of Deb and her family at the lake.

Picture of Deb and her kids washing a car.

Picture of Deb and Nick dressed up for New Years Eve.

Picture of a healthy Deb smiling.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

FADE OUT.