1 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

JACOB OPENS HIS EYES and appears in his room. He lies in his bed, shirtless. He is jarred by waking up from a nightmare.

Jacob's tall and lanky body developed by spending Springtime in high school running track stretches the whole length of his bed. Jacob is black, he has short, dark hair. Around the age of twenty.

Music is playing out of a pair of headphones that have fallen out of his ears overnight. His vision starts to adjust, he blinks frequently and sits up as he looks around his own room checking to see if everything is truly familiar. He sighs as his body relaxes.

CUT TO:

2 INT. DAY-CARE - LATER

A door to a day-care opens, and in emerges JACOB. As he closes the door behind him, he looks across the large main room of the day-care to see A YOUNG WOMAN sitting behind a small counter, organizing some papers and writing things down.

The young woman is white, black hair, which is worn up, she's just a little bit shorter than Jacob, and she's just as old as him. She looks up at Jacob for a moment and smiles back.

The day-care is wide, filled with children playing with toys and with the workers and with each other. From the door to where the young woman is standing is not a long distance. There is a space against the back of the room where shelves and cubbies line the wall for each kid to store their belongings. By the counter is a mother picking up her son who is around 5 or 6 years old. She turns to the young woman.

A MOTHER

Thank you, Anna.
ANNA
Of course, have a nice day, you two!

Jacob starts down the path to the counter where Anna stands, laid out by wooden flooring that leads to Anna's station. Anna turns to him, and smiles, cutely, as she starts to write things down.

ANNA
Hi, babe.

JACOB
Hey, Annie.

Jacob makes it to the counter that Anna is sitting behind, and leans one arm against it, comfortably.

JACOB
How are you?

ANNA
I'm good, I'm good, uh, Henry's all signed out, so you're good to go.

JACOB
Oh, awesome,

Jacob turns from looking at Anna to the rest of the wide room.

JACOB
Where is he, anyway?

Just as he says that, from the other side of the day-care, A YOUNG BOY, around age six, runs up to Jacob.

HENRY
(joyful)
Jacob!

Henry jumps up into Jacob's arms. Jacob grabs him and lifts him up, and carries Henry in his arms. Henry's a cute kid, sweet face, looks like he couldn't hurt a fly. He's visibly lighter-skinned than Jacob.
JACOB
Hey, buddy.

Henry embraces Jacob after being picked up, Henry CLOSES HIS EYES SOFTLY, he looks relieved from a long day being away from home at the day-care. He looks happy being in Jacob's arms.

Jacob, being embraced by Henry, takes a deep, soothing breath. He scoffs, and smiles, gladly feeling the same relief that Henry feels. Jacob looks at Anna, who is sweetened by all of this.

JACOB
Hey, uh, I'm having the guys over the house later, but, if you want, do you wanna come over after?

ANNA
Yeah, for sure, if it's not too late, or anything.

JACOB
Of course...uh, we're all set right?

ANNA
Mmhmm.

JACOB
Awesome, I'll see you later.

Jacob gives Anna a smile, she smiles back, and blushes a little. Jacob turns away from her, with Henry still on his shoulder, holding on tight, now facing Anna.

ANNA
Bye, Henry.

Henry opens his eyes, smiles, and without a word, waves to Anna. Jacob opens the door to the day-care, and he exits with Henry.

CUT TO:
3  EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - AFTERNOON

Jacob and two other young men stand in front of Jacob's home: a modest, two-story house. The house is ordinary, even more so on the inside. The property's real main attraction is the SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE where the house sits.

JACOB
It's about time we came back to my place to hang.

JACOB'S FRIEND
I know, it feels like forever since we've all just chilled here and done something.

JACOB
Hell yeah, it's going to be a chill night.

THEN:

4  EXT. FOREST BY A CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and his friends, now joined by another friend who arrived off-screen, are now standing in front of the entrance of a THICK WOOD that stands tall several feet away from Jacob's house. The woods signify the end of the road where Jacob's house is on. They are ominous, and daunting, we see the young men turn time back and revert back to fearful, yet brash young boys on the inside, staring intently into the woods as the afternoon sky fails to reveal its innards.

JACOB'S FRIEND
Have you gone in recently?

JACOB
(chuckling)
No, why would I? Exploring as a kid was enough for me.

Jacob tosses a rock into the woods, they hear it land after hitting a tree.
JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND
I remember daring each other to go in there, like, whenever Halloween came around these woods were the place to be.

JACOB
Yeah. Except me, and, I think Thomas Bowman were the only ones to actually ever go in.

JACOB'S FRIEND
(chuckles)
What? I went in.

JACOB
Ha, yeah, sure. I mean actually go in, and at night.

JACOB'S FRIEND
(laughs)
Whatever...Bowman was crazy, though, howling in there.

JACOB
Yeah...

The four keep throwing rocks into the woods, hearing the trees and the leaves rustle because of their disturbances. Jacob pauses, and stares into the woods' entrance. It's haunting, but there are only fond, childhood memories attached to them.

THEN:

5 EXT. CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob's house is perched on top of a cliff that overlooks the ocean; a scenic view you would only see in paintings. To the right of the house, the cliff stretches out a few feet over the water. It's covered in green grass, beautifully reaching over the ocean ever so slightly.

On the left side of the cliff, between the house and it, are STAIRS that lead down to a rocky beach where the ocean's waves crash. The rocks that lean against the side of the cliff are rough. The view shows just the ocean, no
land for miles, it seems.

Jacob and his friends, now having multiplied again as some more young men have shown up, are sitting in deck chairs and fold-out chairs around a fire that has been made for them to warm up beside the cool breeze of the ocean blowing their way, as they blow smoke and vapor into the air.

JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND

How's the girlfriend, Jake?

JACOB

(smiling)
She's great, man.

JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND

That's good.

JACOB'S FRIEND

(muffled to inaudible)
There's this one girl where I go to school...

Jacob's friends continue speaking, but their voices fade out as we close in on Jacob's face. He is smiling slightly, just barely paying attention to his friend's story, but he looks tired from the weed. As we close in on his eyes, they slowly flutter closed as Jacob takes a deep inhale of ocean air.

MATCH CUT TO:

6 EXT. BEACH AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF - SUNSET

JACOB'S FRIEND

Jake!

Jacob opens his eyes, the amount of friends he has over has dwindled back to just three, they are standing on the beach at the bottom of the cliff, pant legs rolled up, shoes off. One tosses small rocks into the water, the other two sit on rocks and scroll through women's social media accounts.
JACOB'S FRIEND
You get what I'm saying?

JACOB
Uh...what?

JACOB'S FRIEND
Dang, dude, you're so out of it, tonight.

JACOB
Yeah, I know.

One of Jacob's friends finally looks up from his phone and takes a look around the small ocean valley.

JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND
How do you guys even live here, again? This place is so cool.

Jacob starts picking up rocks and tossing them to the waves.

JACOB
Uh...my dad lived here when he was a kid, his foster dad gave it to him when he died.

JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND
Oh, gotcha...that's cool.

We see the full scope of what the beach looks like from the top of the stairs as we see the final moments of Jacob's hangout with his friends...

We hear the crashing of the waves. It's gentle.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. TOP OF THE CLIFF - NIGHT

Jacob is sitting in a deck chair back by the fire, which is now just a charred and smoking pile of wood. He leans back, relaxed. He holds his phone to his ear, waiting for someone to pick up.
ANNA (O.S.)
(somberly)
Hey.

JACOB
Hey, how's it going?

ANNA (O.S.)
Um, okay.

JACOB
Everyone here is gone, so you can come over if you want.

ANNA (O.S.)
I can't tonight.

JACOB
Oh, why not?

ANNA (O.S.)
My folks are out looking for Abe, he...ran away...again.

JACOB
Aw, no, is--are you okay?

ANNA (O.S.)
Well, you know, it happens, I just have to stay here in case he comes back on his own.

JACOB
Right...do you want me to come over or anything? To help?

ANNA (O.S.)
You sound tired as hell.

JACOB
(scoffs)
Yeah, I am...

Jacob chuckles, and Anna does, too, but quieter.
JACOB
...do you need me to help with anything?

ANNA (O.S.)
No, I'm fine. (pause) Well, I have to go, Jakey. Rest up.

JACOB
I will. I'll call you in the morning, maybe?

ANNA (O.S.)
Sounds good, babe.

JACOB
Goodnight.

ANNA (O.S.)
Goodnight...love you.

JACOB
Love you, too.

Jacob smiles and hangs up the phone. He drops his arms by his side and sighs.

CUT TO:

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A set of eyes, older than Jacob's, but the same color.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE, sits on a couch in the house's living room. He's barely old enough to be Jacob's father, must've had him young. He has a shoulder around his wife: HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY, a few years younger than him, not more than three. She seems calm and content. She's white.

They are sitting in their living room, which is the back room of the first floor of their house, and through an archway is their small dining room and kitchen that makes up the front of the house. Opposite the living room, on the left side of the house, a set of stairs leads to the second floor where all the bedrooms are.

We see Henry sitting on the floor, watching the same television that his parents' eyes are glued to. In the
background, we hear the noises of a frightening film playing on the television, and while his parents seem not all that phased, Henry's eyes are wide in awe and FRIGHT of the pictures he is witnessing. He flinches, occasionally, whenever the movie gets too loud.

JACOB ENTERS through the front door of the home. Without a word he heads for the stairs. His father stops him.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Hey, Jacob.

JACOB
Hey.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Are you doing anything else tonight?

JACOB
Nope, just sleeping.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Alright, well, goodnight, Jake.

JACOB
Goodnight, dad.

Jacob begins to walk up the stairs, his head disappears into the second floor.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Goodnight, Jacob!

Jacob bends down to peak his head back into the first floor below the ceiling.

JACOB
(smiling)
Goodnight, Mary.

Jacob continues to walk up the stairs.

A moment or two passes by, Henry sits there in awe, oblivious to the interaction that just took place. He blinks, staggeringly.
HENRY

Oh no!
(to Henry's mother)
I forgot to get the mail today!

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY

Oh, well, sweetie, it's too dark outside now for you to get it.

HENRY

Please, I get it everyday, I can't miss a day, what if there's something good?

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY

(sighs)
Okay, but only if you can get Jacob to go outside with you.

HENRY

Okay!

JUMP CUT TO:

9 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jacob’s room is dark, he’s already settled in to sleep. Henry rapidly opens the door,

HENRY

Hey, Jacob?

Jacob is suddenly woken up by the door opening and the light from the hallway rushing into his room.

JACOB

(groggily)
Uh, yeah, bud?

HENRY

Um...I need to get the mail but my mom said you have to come with me.

Jacob sighs and then chuckles. He begins to sit up on the side of his bed.
JACOB
Yeah, okay, one sec, I'll meet you downstairs.

Jacob rubs his eyes.

HENRY
Okay!

Henry shuts the door and the room becomes pitch black again.

JUMP CUT TO:

10 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob opens the front door to the house, rubbing his eyes and scratching his head to show his sleepiness. Henry rushes out the door, like a puppy being released from a cage, and runs out towards the mailbox which is on the other side of their small front yard, that ends at a dirt road where their house is the last door.

Jacob watches from the doorway, holding open the screen door. He looks around. The environment is more atmospheric at night, like most rural areas, there's nothing in everything. He takes a deep breath. The mailbox closes with a loud creak and a clank, jolting Jacob's attention back to his half-brother. Jacob catches Henry staring at the forest, standing absolutely still.

JACOB
Henry?

HENRY
Huh?

JACOB
You good?

HENRY
Oh, yeah.

Henry starts back towards the front door, rummaging through the letters of mail. Both boys know there's nothing for Henry. He gets to the front door and begins to go back inside. Jacob holds the door for him.
JACOB
We get anything good?

HENRY
Uh...no...

CUT TO:

11 INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Jacob's eyes open. He has woken up from his sleep. He rubs his eyes and sits up, then flips his covers off his bed and walks to his door and exits his room.

THEN:

12 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

He closes his door behind him. He begins to walk to the bathroom that is next to his father's room. As he places his hand on the doorknob, he hears the TINIEST WHIMPER coming from behind Henry's door. He pauses and turns his head. He moves to Henry's door, slowly, as his body is heavy from sleep. Jacob knocks as he creaks the door open.

JACOB
Hen? You good?

Nothing. Jacob cracks open the door some more.

THEN:

13 INT. HENRY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jacob peaks his head inside. Henry's room is small. His bed is right next to the door, with a small bedside table in between it and the doorway.

JACOB
(whispering)
How you doing, big guy?

Henry answers with nothing but a snuffle. Jacob scoffs, quietly, then fully enters the room. He squats next to Henry's bed.
JACOB
What's up, Hen?

Henry is lying down on his side, facing away from Jacob.

HENRY
Nothing.

JACOB
You sure?

HENRY
...I just had a bad dream.

Jacob smiles, shaking his head, looking down at the floor. He remembers when this was an issue for him as a child. He assumes the role of the wise, big brother.

JACOB
Alright, scooch over, bud.

Henry rolls over to look at Jacob, and begins to move over in his bed as he starts to already feel relief as Jacob tries to fit his long, adult-sized body into Henry's bed-frame. Jacob stays over the covers, lying on his back, uncomfortably as he positions himself into the child-sized bed.

JACOB
You wanna talk about it?

HENRY
I don't know.

JACOB
Well, do you remember the dream at all?

HENRY
Not really. I just remember waking up and being really scared.

JACOB
Alright, well, you're not in the dream now, right?
HENRY
Yeah, I know, it was still really scary.

JACOB
Okay, well, my--our dad taught me this secret trick when I was younger, to get me out of bad dreams.

Henry's EYES WIDEN, he's very curious.

HENRY
What is it?

JACOB
Okay, so, it's really easy. All you have to do is stay still, close your eyes really tight, like to the point where you start seeing shapes, and when you open them, you'll be back in your room.

Henry tries closing his eyes tight enough to see shapes, he opens them and looks back at Jacob,

HENRY
All I have to do is close my eyes?

JACOB
Yup, really tight, though, remember that.

HENRY
Okay...cool.

Pause; Henry stares off into the space of his room and ponders the strategy Jacob has shared with him.

JACOB
So, are you good to go back to bed?

HENRY
Yeah, I think so.

They both smile at each other. Jacob begins to get out of the bed. Henry begins to scoot back over to where he was before. He frowns as Jacob stands up.
HENRY
Wait.

Jacob turns around.

JACOB
What's up?

HENRY
What if I open my eyes and I'm still in the dream?

Jacob looks around with his eyes, and scowls. He needs to give an answer. He squats again at Henry’s bedside, and looks at him.

JACOB
If you're ever trapped in a bad dream, I'll come and rescue you.

HENRY
...promise?

Jacob looks at Henry with a heartbroken look, his little brother's wanting eyes lure him into an empty promise.

JACOB
I'll come running faster than I've ever run before. Sound good?

Henry smiles ear to ear.

HENRY
Okay!

JACOB
smiling
Alright.

Jacob stands up straight and heads towards the door again. He puts his hand on the doorknob and opens the door slightly,
HENRY
Goodnight, Jacob.

Jacob exits Henry's room. Henry rolls back over to face away from the door.

Despite learning this new trick, he is still scared to fall back asleep. He exhales deeply through his nose, and his eyes begin to flutter close, but Henry opens them quickly to make sure he doesn't fall back asleep.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. PARK - MORNING

Anna and Jacob are hanging out the next morning. Anna is sitting on a park bench, on her phone, occasionally taking pictures of Jacob. The bench is a few feet away from the edge of a pond that the park encircles. Jacob is standing closer to the water, throwing whatever he can find into the pond.

ANNA
(looking at her phone)
So it went well?

JACOB
(looking out onto the pond)
Yeah, it was awesome. It was nice to just chill with them.

ANNA
What did you guys do?

JACOB
We just talked about stuff. Caught up and all that.

ANNA
Did you guys go out at all?
JACOB
Nah, we just kinda hung out around my place. We did a bonfire out on the cliff.

Anna lifts her head up.

ANNA
(sincere)
Aw, really? I wish I could've been there for that.

When Jacob doesn't turn to her immediately after she perks her head up, she looks back down.

JACOB
(turns to Anna)
Yeah, I know, don't worry, we'll do it again with everyone like we used to.

ANNA
Awesome.

JACOB
(turning back to the pond)
Have I ever showed you that forest that's close to my house?

ANNA
I mean, you've told me about it and I've seen it and all that, but we've never really gone inside.

JACOB
Oh okay, yeah. We were talking about all the times we would dare each other to go in. I should take you in there sometime, it's really creepy.

ANNA
(lifts her head up)
Yeah? I'd like to do that.

Jacob turns his whole body to Anna. He smiles at the idea of her wanting to do something so daring.
JACOB
Oh yeah?

ANNA
Yeah, seems adventurous.

JACOB
Alright, well maybe we can go exploring one day.

ANNA
Awesome.

Jacob walks over to the bench Anna is sitting on. She puts her phone down as Jacob motions to sit. He grabs her hand to hold it.

JACOB
Oh, did Abe get back okay?

ANNA
Yeah, he was fine, as always.

Anna smiles, slightly disingenuously.

JACOB
Where did they find him?

ANNA
It can get annoying sometimes.

JACOB
Yeah, I'm sure...

Jacob pauses, having given a throwaway response since Anna ignored his question, he repeats himself,

JACOB
Do you know where they found him?

ANNA
Just down the street, he was on his way back from somewhere, I think, I was sleeping by the time they came back.
Jacob
Ah, gotcha.

Anna and Jacob pause for a little. Anna looks around, then looks at Jacob and smiles,

Anna
Hey, you wanna go back to my place?

Jacob turns to her and smiles.

Jacob
Yeah, sure.

Anna
(whispering)
No one's there, Abe's with my grandmother.

Jacob's smile gets wider.

CUT TO:

15 INT. ANNA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and Anna are lying in bed together, naked, cuddling in silence, being content. Jacob sheds a smile and looks at Anna. She smiles back, solemnly.

Anna
Hey, how's it going with your parents? Or, your dad and your step-mom?

Jacob
Uh, you know, it's going...

Anna
Are they...still arguing a lot?

Jacob
Yeah, but, it's fine.
ANNA
Do you think...?

JACOB
I don’t know, it’s a lot different than before, with my mom and him. I guess, I am kind of just finding it hard to see her as my new mom, still, even after all this time, she’s just my brother’s mom. Especially with them arguing, it’s hard to forget we’re not related by blood, even though all I want is for her to be a new mom to me.

Anna notices a flow of sadness fall on Jacob’s face.

ANNA
Well, that’s the same with my moms. Like, me and Abe have the same father, or sperm donor, or whatever, so I’m half-related to Abe, but not to his mom.

JACOB
Oh yeah. I never realized that.

ANNA
But, even then, though, she was always my other mom, or, like I call her mama, and then I have my mom, right?

JACOB
Yeah, I remember.

ANNA
I always saw my moms as my moms, I never really started thinking of her as anything else, even after they explained to me how everything worked.
JACOB
Yeah...

ANNA
Maybe it’s different because I started out thinking we were blood related, and then it was explained to me that we’re not.

JACOB
And, for me it’s the opposite. I know we’re not blood-related and I’m trying to forget that.

Jacob sighs, he was happy after he realized he and Anna had something else in common, a weird connection with their families. He puts a frown back on after realizing the difference between his family and hers is really what he’s been trying to overcome.

ANNA
I know, babe. I mean, you two seem really close already, and you get along, which not a lot of people can say about their step-parents.

JACOB
I know.

ANNA
I’m sure in a couple more years it’ll be what you want.

Jacob looks at Anna, he smiles a little.

JACOB
I hope so...
16 EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Anna is standing in her front doorway, with Jacob standing outside, in front of her.

ANNA
See you later, babe.

JACOB
Bye, Anna.

Jacob gives Anna a kiss on the lips, and turns and walks away from the house to his car.

ANNA
(quietly)
Love you.

Anna doesn't speak loud enough for Jacob to hear. It wasn't meant for him anyway, she's just reminding herself...

CUT TO:

17 INT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Henry's mother opens Jacob's door in a rush, and the light from the hallway, combined with the sound of the door rushing open brings Jacob to a quick awakening. He groans.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
(talking quickly)
Hey, Jake, can you take Henry to the day-care this morning? I have to get to work early and I don't have time.

Jacob chuckles and groans in response.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
I know, I know. Your dad can't do it though, he had to go into work today for a class.
JACOB
No, it's fine, I can do it.

Jacob smiles, the inconvenience is more funny than annoying to him.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Thank you so much, he's all ready, you just gotta get him there.

JACOB
(still lying down)
Alright, cool.

Henry's mother is about to rush out the door, but she turns back for one more moment.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Hey, Jake?

JACOB
Yeah?

Jacob lifts himself up and sits up straight.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
(sincerely)
You're a really great brother, thank you for all your help.

Jacob can't help but smile, no matter how tired and annoyed he is.

JACOB
Yeah...no problem.

JUMP CUT TO:

18 INT. DAY-CARE - LATER

Jacob enters the day-care, groggily, holding Henry's hand. Henry is steadily following Jacob, looking up at his tired face. There are a few parents ahead of them, blocking the way to the back of the day-care where Henry can be signed in.
A YOUNG FATHER

Excuse me.

JACOB
(tired)

Sorry.

Jacob can hear Anna's voice from the other side of the room. It's so soft, so polite. Jacob hears another voice. One he doesn't hear as regularly, but a familiar one all the same.

He has eyes on Anna, and nearby, to the left of her, is her brother, ABE. He is a year younger than Anna, but his mannerisms would say differently. He seems nervous to be out in the day-care when there's this many people.

Abe stands less than a foot away from the counter, staying silent, watching the kids run around with a jealous curiosity. He wants to join them, but is too shy. The parents in front of Jacob disappear, then Anna finally notices him.

ANNA
(to Jacob)

Hey.

Abe turns his head.

ABE

Hi, Jacob!

JACOB
(to Abe)

Hey, bud, how are you?

ABE

I'm good.

JACOB

That's good to hear, man.
(to Henry)

Hen, have you ever met Anna's brother?
HENRY
No. Hello.

ABE
Hi, your name is Hen?

HENRY
It's Henry.

ABE
Oh. I'm Abe.

HENRY
Whoa, that's my dad's name.

JACOB
(chuckling)
Yeah, isn't that funny?

Abe seems happy to be introduced, and while Henry is interested, he is still nervous around Abe, as any child would meeting someone older than them. Henry holds Jacob's hand tighter, a detail that Jacob doesn't notice.

JACOB
(to Anna)
So how are you?

ANNA
I'm good. You're up early.

JACOB
(chuckling)
Yeah, I know, the folks were busy, so I got drop-off duty this morning.

Jacob looks down at Henry. Henry looks up and smiles for a brief moment, then focuses his attention at Anna's brother, who is smiling politely at Henry. Abe waves shyly at Henry, who smiles back at Abe's polite gesture.

Jacob watches, curiously. Anna writes a few things down. A worker approaches Abe.
DAY-CARE WORKER
Hey, Abe, buddy, you wanna help me
hand out some orange juice?

Abe hesitantly grabs the tray of juices, and looks at Anna. She nods her head: go on.

Abe turns back to the day-care worker and nods his head, and shyly begins to go around to all the children, handing out juice boxes kindly and courteously. Jacob watches for half a second, then

ANNA
(to Jacob)
Henry's all checked in.

JACOB
Oh, alright awesome.

Jacob lets go of Henry's hand. The two brothers feel the weight of letting go for a split second. Their palms had been attached to each other for an extended amount of time, and they were almost getting sweaty.

JACOB
See ya, Hen.

Henry turns to him and smiles, and begins to walk over to some cubbies in order to put his tiny backpack away before joining the other kids to begin playing.

JACOB
(to Anna)
So...Abe's working here now?

ANNA
Well, no, he's more hanging out with me because no one else can watch him.

JACOB
Oh, gotcha.
ANNA
Yeah, my grandmother can't do it
anymore, and my folks thought him
being here would help him be
more...social, I guess.

JACOB
That's cool.

They watch Abe as he hands out the orange juice he was
given. He's shy, and the kinder of the children and other
workers help him get comfortable.

JACOB
(to Anna)
Are you free later today?

ANNA
Yeah, I'm not working this
afternoon, but I'll have to stay
with Abe until my folks get home.
I'll come after that.

JACOB
Alright.

ANNA
(cheeky)
And...I don't have work at all
tomorrow so I may be able to sleep
over.

JACOB
Oh, well, I'll have to check with
my people, but that sounds amazing.

They both chuckle.

JACOB
Alright, just, call me when you're
ready.

ANNA
Sounds good.

Jacob turns and starts walking away.

THEN:
19 EXT. DAY-CARE - CONTINUOUS

Jacob closes the door to the day-care behind him and he gets a call from his father.

JACOB
Hey.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
Hey, Jake, I'm free for lunch later, do you wanna get something?

CUT TO:

20 INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Jacob and his father are sitting across from each other at a small cafe. His father is in a nice shirt and tie, dressed like a professor. Jacob is not used to seeing him in his work clothes. He's used to being around a much more relaxed version of his father. They are eating, and not talking very much. Jacob is still tired from being woken up so early and suddenly, he didn't get any sleep between then and lunch.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
How is Anna doing?

JACOB
Pretty good. She's coming over tonight.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Good, good.

JACOB
Is it...cool if she sleeps over?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (chuckles)
Yeah, of course, it always is.

JACOB
Cool.

(pause)
How's the wife?
Abe chuckles again at his son's funny question, but, then he realizes he's really asking.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Good, good. We're getting along and all.

They look at each other and smile, but Jacob's smile is dishonest, he's thinking about how parents don't usually have to mention that they're getting along. They're not co-workers...

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I saw you and your friends in front of the forest the other day.

JACOB
Yeah, yeah, they all think the whole place is cool, and the cliff and all.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah, I know, we're very lucky to have such a nice place.

JACOB
I know. I love it.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Do you still remember the folktale your mom and I thought up to keep you from wandering into that forest?

JACOB
Uh, something about screaming, right? I remember having nightmares about it.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I know, I wish I remembered that before I told Henry.
JACOB
No way, you told him?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah, yeah, when he was younger and liked going outside at night to get the mail we told him, just in case he ever wandered off or something.

JACOB
Jesus, dad...you know I had to teach him the closing your eyes tight trick ‘cuz he had a nightmare the other night.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
The what?

Jacob is bothered by his dad not knowing.

JACOB
The trick when you're in a nightmare and you shut your eyes tight and then it helps you wake up.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Oh, yeah...wow that feels like so long ago when you needed tricks like that.

Jacob's father gets lost in thought. Jacob frequently notices these things when Jacob mentions something from being younger. Jacob's father seems so wrapped up in Jacob getting old he forgets that Henry is still young.

Jacob wants to break the silence and change the subject.

JACOB
Hey, dad?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah?
JACOB
How did you know you were going to marry mom?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(joking)
Why, you getting any ideas?

JACOB
No, no...I mean, not for anytime soon, at least.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Alright, alright...I don't know, I mean, I just loved the idea of having her with me. (pause) And then it just got...tiresome?

Jacob looks at his father with frustrated eyes, he didn’t need to know that last bit.

JACOB
Right.

Jacob lowers his head as the memories of his parents’ divorce make his head heavy.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
...I'm sorry.

JACOB
You don't have to apologize. I'd rather you be happy then me be the reason you're...trapping yourself in a life you don't want.

Abe thinks to himself...he has a knack for feeling trapped and blaming it on other people.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Damn.

JACOB
What?
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(playfully)
When did you get so mature?

JACOB
(chuckles)
I don't know. Blame Anna, I guess.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I will. I need to have a talking-to with her, making my son sound so wise. That should be my job.

Jacob laughs, more happy that his father is joking around with him, and can see he's getting mature.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
You better stop growing up, you punk.

Jacob's father smiles at him, and sighs. Jacob looks at him. Two fathers, two sons.

CUT TO:

21 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - AFTERNOON

Jacob and Henry come home from the day-care, Henry's mother is inside the house, having also just come home. Immediately, Henry rushes to put his backpack down in the dining room, then rushes back outside.

HENRY
Hi, mom!

He says this as he runs out the door.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Oh, hi, Hen!

Jacob smiles slightly as he watches Henry jet out the door.

JACOB
to Henry's mother
Hey.
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Hey. Henry seems like he's in a good mood.

JACOB
Yeah, he said he had a good time today.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Oh, that's good. Are we seeing any of Anna today?

JACOB
Yeah, yeah, she's staying over tonight.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Ah, alright. Well, can you two make dinner for yourselves?

JACOB
Oh, yeah, for sure. We can make a little something for Henry, too, if you want.

Henry comes back inside, hands full of mail.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Yes, thank you, I'm not super into making anything tonight.

JACOB
That's fine.

Henry plops the stack of envelopes he's collected from the mailbox onto the table.

HENRY
Nothing...

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Aw, well do you want to open some of the stuff your dad and I got?
HENRY
No, that stuff's boring.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
(chuckling)
Okay, well, if I couldn't make it fun before, I can't do it now.

Mary looks at Jacob, who smirks as Henry starts to look through some of the cabinets he can reach in the kitchen for something to eat.

JUMP CUT TO:

22 INT. THE KITCHEN - EVENING

Anna takes a plate with a couple slices of a pizza and hands it to Henry, who stands there, patiently.

ANNA
Here you go, Henry.

HENRY
Thank you!

Jacob watches his two favorite people interact, while leaning on the counter behind Anna. He smiles.

HENRY
Isn't it cool how you get to give me my lunch sometimes at day-care and now you're giving me dinner at my house?

ANNA
Yeah, that is cool.

Henry smiles one more time before turning around and rushing back up the stairs as Jacob and Anna watch the childhood in him burst to life.

ANNA
Fuck, he is so cute.
JACOB
Yeah, I know.

Jacob and Anna grabs some food for themselves.

JACOB
Sometimes I just can't wait to see how he turns out, you know? Half of me just wants to fast-forward time and meet grown-up him.

ANNA
I mean, that's what our parents were thinking, too. I bet your dad and Henry's mom want to see that just as bad.

JACOB
Yeah...

Jacob’s got something on his mind...

The two move to the living room.

THEN:

23 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Anna and Jacob sit down on the couch, placing their plates on their laps and knees as they get comfy.

JACOB
Okay, I got something kinda deep.

ANNA
Alright, hit me.

JACOB
Okay, uh, I don't know, so, how time works is a little crazy to me when I think about it sometimes. All these things happen to you, and you only remember so many things. I guess it's just weird looking back on things from when I was Henry's age. So much was so different. Like, even just all the things I (MORE)
JACOB (CONT'D)

find important now that I didn’t even know about before, you know?

ANNA
Yeah, kinda.

Anna smiles confusedly at Jacob’s unfocused point.

JACOB
Like, doesn’t high school already feel so long ago? And we’ve only been out for a couple years.

ANNA
Yeah, I mean, that’s just time, I guess...

Anna feels like she’s been itching for Jacob to bring up the subject of time, as if she’s had something on her mind for a while.

ANNA
Sometimes I think of growing up in terms of things you’ll never do again.

JACOB
Yeah? Like what?

ANNA
Well, like, there was a last time your parents picked you up. You know, like one day they put you down and they never picked you up again. Isn’t that weird?

JACOB
Holy shit...yeah. I never thought about it that way.

ANNA
Yeah, and like your parents take you out of your crib one day, and then one night you sleep in a regular bed and you never go back.
JACOB
Huh...yeah, holy shit, that's fucking crazy.

ANNA
Yeah, you think?

Jacob is smiling at this revelation, thinking it as something cool and interesting rather than something dreadful. Anna smiles in relief that she didn't scare the shit out of him.

JACOB
Yeah, what the fuck, I've never thought about it like that. When did you think of that?

ANNA
I don't know, it just popped into mind one night when I was up, probably.

JACOB
Huh...that's kind of cool, actually.

ANNA
I guess so.

Anna looks at Jacob, his eyes are flickering back and forth, as if he's scanning documents and reports in his head with the new mindset that Anna just gave him. Anna's eyes sparkle in wonderment, her mouth hangs open just a bit as she smiles slightly watching Jacob contemplate her thoughts. Her smile fades.

What if there's a last time for us? They're both thinking it.

Jacob turns to her, she hasn't noticed his smile has faded too, maybe he's thought too much about what Anna has said. Anna breaks out of her stare as Jacob looks at her.
JACOB
Hey.

ANNA
Yeah?

JACOB
(playfully)
This is not a fun conversation.

Anna laughs and looks away.

JACOB
Hey.

Anna turns back to him. Jacob closes his eyes, and leans in. They kiss. Anna leans back, and looks at him. He opens his eyes, and smiles. They kiss more.

JUMP CUT TO:

24 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The two are in Jacob's bed, under the sheets. Jacob lies on top of Anna, kissing her softly. They are being quiet and careful not to let anyone in the house hear.

Anna quietly moans, and Jacob slows down to motion to her to be quieter.

ANNA
(whispering)
Sorry.

Jacob embraces Anna as he starts up again, and Anna embraces him back. Jacob starts breathing heavy. Anna's eyes are stuck open. She stares at the ceiling. It feels good, but she can't help but wonder if it's what she wants anymore out of her relationship with Jacob. She's always thinking about what she wants.

All I want is to want nothing, she thinks for a moment.

We lean in closer to her eyes, as the more we stare back at her, the more we understand what she's thinking.

Jacob raises his head to kiss her on the cheek, and she closes her eyes, as if his kisses have temporarily
distracted her, and us, from her thoughts. She closes her eyes tighter, and bites her lip. She accidentally moans one more time.

JACOB
(smiling)
Shush!

CUT TO:

25 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Anna is lying on Jacob's chest, wide awake. Jacob is fast asleep, his mouth hangs open as he lies on his back.

Anna stares, not blinking much, her eyes looking around the room.

All I want is to want nothing, she thinks again.

She starts to blink more, we see the confusion in her eyes: she feels no regret, but she feels like she isn't content anymore, or maybe it's that she's is just content, and not happy? Her eyelashes brush against Jacob's chest, and his eyes flutter open for a moment.

His mind processes that Anna must still be awake, but he is too tired to speak words, to speak a question to find out what's wrong. He sighs, as if the rush of exhaling air is all he can muster as his eyes close shut again.

Anna's eyes begin to grow weary, and she closes her eyes, hoping to get some rest.

THEN:

26 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - MORNING

Jacob is standing up in his boxer shorts, with a shirt in his hand that he was just about ready to put on until

JACOB
(angril, confused, but quietly)
What do you mean?

Jacob is mad, but he can't speak too loudly as he doesn't know who's home.
Anna looks desperate to try and give Jacob the information he deserves, but the speech she practiced in her head all last night isn't coming to her. She sits up in Jacob's bed, wearing shorts and a sweatshirt.

ANNA
I told you, I don't know.

JACOB
No, I know, but if you don't know then I don't get what's wrong.

ANNA
Jacob, I'm trying to say that me not knowing is what's wrong.

Jacob stands there, more confused and scared than he's ever been. He doesn't want to lose Anna, especially in such an uncontrollable situation as this one. His eyes nervously dart across one inch of the floor to another as he thinks of his next words, not very carefully, though. Anna begins to rise from the bed to gather the rest of her things.

JACOB
Did I do something wrong? Like...last night?

ANNA
No, Jacob, this is all me...I mean, I don't know. You didn't do anything wrong.

Jacob exhales, at least he can take solace in knowing he did nothing, but a sharp inhale reminds him of how frustrating it is to not be able to fix anything.

After gathering her bag, she comes close to Jacob, resting her hands on his bare chest. Jacob gets chills, like his body knows IT MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME.

ANNA
I just need some time away to think, is that okay?

Jacob sighs.
JACOB
Yeah, okay.

A pause. Anna scans Jacob's face as he looks down towards the floor. Their eyes meet back up after a moment.

ANNA
Thank you, Jacob.

She kisses him on the cheek, their eyes synchronize when she does this, in such an odd way, THEY CLOSE AT THE SAME MOMENT, the same beat.

Anna exits with one more disappointed smile to Jacob. Jacob stares at the door. He is teary-eyed. He raises both arms like he wants to hit everything, but hits nothing. He just lets his arms fall to his sides.

JACOB
This has to be a fucking nightmare.

He walks to his bed and crashes backwards into it.

SMASH CUT TO:

27 INT. DAY-CARE - AFTERNOON

Jacob's father, in his work outfit, shuts the door to the day-care behind him hard, he's not used to the heavy door. He turns back at it, surprised.

Across the room, Anna stands quietly behind the counter that stands at the other end of the large play room, dealing with some worksheets from the children.

Jacob's father looks around the room while making his way to the back of the line, and spots his son through a window on the back wall that looks out to the day-care's outdoor play area. Henry is sitting next to Abe at a picnic table, they seem to be drawing something together as they soak up the summer sun.

As he becomes transfixed, Anna notices him as she is dealing with another customer. Just as her attention is brought back to the parent in front of her, Jacob's father takes his eyes off of Henry and Abe.

Then, it's his turn at the counter,
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Hi, Anna.

ANNA
Hello. Nice to see you.

JUMP CUT TO:

28 EXT. DAY-CARE OUTDOOR AREA - CONTINUOUS

Henry turns from Anna's brother to see his father has come to pick him up instead of Jacob, he seems disappointed.

ABE
(to Henry)
Who is that?

HENRY
It's my dad.

The rest of their conversation, and Henry's response, aren't in focus.

BACK TO

29 INT. DAY-CARE - CONTINUOUS

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Uh, it's not too early to pick him up is it?

ANNA
Oh, no, no, parents can grab their kids whenever they feel like.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Alright, cool.

Henry enters through the back door into the main area of the day-care.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Hey, buddy!

Henry's father picks him up, Henry's eyes stay at a neutral stare, he is not as comforted in being picked up by his father as he is when Jacob does it.
HENRY
Where's Jacob?

Henry's voice is muffled as he speaks into his father's shoulder. His father looks at Anna, knowing she'd like an answer, as well.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
He's, uh, not feeling good today.

HENRY
Oh...

Anna knows the truth, obviously. Anna reaches to grab Henry's backpack from the cubby area and hands it to Abe.

ANNA
(mouthing)
Sorry.

Jacob's father nods in understanding.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(to Anna)
Is he all set?

ANNA
Yeah, he's all good to go.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(jokingly)
Awesome, he was good today, right?

Jacob's father's eyes turn to Henry, looking for him to lift his head up in validation.

ANNA
Oh, yeah, he's always the most friendly of the bunch.

Henry can't help but smile. He lifts his head up and looks around.
HENRY
Oh, wait, my backpack.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Don't worry, bud, I got it.

HENRY
Oh, okay.

Henry rests his head back down on his father's shoulder.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Alright, thank you.

ANNA
You're welcome.

Anna turns back to some paperwork, and Jacob's father turns to walk towards the door.

Henry looks at Abe through the window, and waves goodbye. Abe waves back.

CUT TO:

30 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - LATER

Jacob is sitting down at the dining room table, in a sweatshirt and loose shorts, his back is facing the front door, and his eyes are switching between looking into the living room and down to his phone, scrolling through some pages.

He sighs. He's slowly and sadly eating some macaroni and cheese, the pot used to make it still on the stove.

The front door opens, Jacob slowly turns around to see Henry and his father standing in the doorway. Henry sees him and immediately runs up to him, jumping up to wrap his arms around Jacob's shoulders. Jacob, still sitting, hugs back.

HENRY
(nervously)
Are you okay?
JACOB
Yeah, I'm fine. I just, me and Anna got into a fight this morning. So I couldn't pick you up.

Jacob looks at his father, who looks back understandingly. His father begins to move to the stairs to exit the scene.

HENRY
Oh, okay.

Jacob smiles and slowly turns back to his food, waiting to see if Henry has anything left to say. Henry just sits there and thinks.

HENRY
(innocently)
Do you want to come grab the mail with me?

Jacob chuckles. He turns back, full body, to Henry.

JACOB
Yeah, sure.

JUMP CUT TO:

31 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Henry excitedly walks up to the mailbox, a small action figure in hand that he flies through the air as he makes his way down the path from his house.

Jacob follows behind much slower, closing the front door behind him and standing, letting the screen door lean on his shoulder. Henry opens the door to the mailbox, and nothing's inside. He stares at it for a second and then frowns.

HENRY
Aw, it hasn't come yet.

He closes the box, then turns to Jacob.
HENRY

Sorry.

Jacob smiles sweetly.

JACOB

(sincerely)

Aw, it’s okay. Come on, let’s go watch something on TV.

Henry starts to walk back towards the house, but just as he makes it to the front door, Jacob puts an arm out and stops him.

JACOB

Actually, it’s a nice day, let’s hang out outside.

HENRY

Oh, okay!

Henry makes a quick turn and starts jogging towards the cliff, joyfully. Jacob just chuckles to himself as he goes to follow his little brother.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob is lying on his back on the green grass that covers the cliff that stretches over the sea behind their house. He has his eyes on Henry, who is standing closer to the edge. Jacob has cautious eyes on Henry, making sure Henry doesn’t get any closer.

Henry looks down, he has his action figure in one hand, and a few rocks in the other. He casually tosses rocks over the cliff as he watches the pebbles bounce off the rocks at the bottom and then stop dead in the sand. Henry takes a step closer to get a better look and,

JACOB

Whoa, there! Not that close, big guy.

Jacob comes from behind and grabs Henry with his arms and swings him one hundred and eighty degrees around to face away from the cliff, politely reprimanding Henry for
getting too close to the edge.

As he grabs Henry, Henry’s toy and the rocks he still had flies out of his hands and down the cliff.

HENRY
Jacob, no! My toy!

JACOB
What?

Jacob puts Henry down a few steps away from the edge and looks over himself to see the figure make its last plop into the sand.

JACOB
Ooh, shit...

THEN:

33 EXT. BEACH AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and Henry stand over the toy, which has broken in a couple of places, and has become scratched, scuffed, and sandy from its fall. Jacob squats down and picks it up.

Henry starts to tear up and pushes Jacob in anger.

HENRY
Jacob, you broke it!

JACOB
Hey, I know, I know, I’m sorry, Hen, it was an accident.

HENRY
It doesn’t matter!

Jacob stands up and puts a hand on Henry’s shoulder. Henry wipes away some tears with the back of his hand.

JACOB
Look, I’ll buy you a new one, okay? I’ll order it, so it’ll come in the mail later this week. Okay?

Henry tries to hide his excitement at the idea, and he reveals a smile.
HENRY
Okay.

JACOB
I’m sorry I broke your toy.

HENRY
It’s okay, I’m sorry for getting mad.

JACOB
No, come on, it’s okay, kid.

Jacob wraps an arm around Henry, and Henry hugs him back.

CUT TO:

34 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jacob is lying in bed, unable to sleep. He stares at the ceiling as voices from across the hall become more intelligible. They're muffled as the voices travel through walls, but Jacob can hear just fine.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
It would save a lot of money taking him out of day-care.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
I just don't want Jacob to have to take care of him and watch him all day, he already does so much.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
Okay, first of all, I'm sure Jacob wouldn't mind, it's not like he has a job. He's always done such a phenomenal job with Henry, he has since Henry was born, I really think he wouldn't mind.

Jacob smiles a little bit, just for a moment before his face forms back into a neutral disdain.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
Well--

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
Also, Abe...

The sounds of his parents arguing fade away as Jacob puts on some headphones and we hear the sound of his music playing into his ears. He doesn't want to hear his dad be wrong again.

Jacob pulls out his phone and begins to click around. He goes online and we see him ordering a new replacement for the toy he broke earlier that day. He types his brother's name into the shipping address, so that when Henry goes to get the mail, he knows he has something for him. His only distraction from thinking about his father arguing with his wife is being a good brother. Jacob smiles to himself.

The song he's listening to fades out as it ends, and we can hear Henry's mother talking, again.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
You do this everytime, it's all we ever fight about. You put words in Jacob's mouth so you don't feel so alone with how uncaring you are to us!

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
(frustrated)
Hey! Come on, Mary, you always say that, I obviously care about Henry.

Another song begins as Jacob closes his eyes in sadness as he begins to hear similar words to what he heard in his parents' divorce. He worries about if Henry is awake.

CUT TO:
51.

35 EXT. HOME GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Jacob and two of his friends are standing in front of the side door to a garage connected to one of Jacob's friends' house. The smoke lifts from their breath as they share a joint.

JACOB'S FRIEND
That really sucks, though, you think you two are going to get back together?

JACOB
I don't know...I guess girls just change like this, maybe she's changed for good or something.

Jacob doesn’t mean to generalize like that, he’s just frustrated.

JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND
Or maybe she's just going through something, I'm sure she'll hit you up first thing after she's figured everything out.

JACOB
Yeah, maybe.

Jacob looks down at his feet after taking another hit. He closes his eyes and tilts his head back as he exhales smoke.

JACOB
Ugh.

Jacob's friends exchange glances. One shrugs. The other looks sympathetic.

JACOB'S FRIEND
Sorry you're so bummed, man.

JACOB
Eh, I'm less bummed, maybe it just hasn't hit me yet. I'm more mad that it just sort of happened, I

(MORE)
JACOB (CONT'D)
was just there but I couldn't be there enough to affect anything. She just changed inside herself overnight, and there's nothing I can even change in myself to make things better because she didn't get mad at me for any reason of my own.

JACOB'S OTHER FRIEND
Yeah...that sucks, man. (pause)
Hey, not to be a dick, but this is fucking depressing, you mind if we do something else?

Jacob and his friend laugh.

JACOB
(to his friend)
Yeah, sorry, uh...you still have a guitar at home right?

JUMP CUT TO:

36 INT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and his friends are inside of the garage, that is mostly empty, leaving a large space for the three to goof around in.

Jacob is strumming an old-looking acoustic guitar very fast, stomping his feet mercilessly to the beat of some made-up song as he sings nonsense words. His singing sounds more like tribal chanting than music, with a nice touch of punk rock.

As Jacob plays his song, relentlessly, one of his friends begins to dance along, joint in hand, skipping around in circles. The other young man, is lying down on a couch, bobbing his head to the song while he scrolls through his phone.
JACOB
(to the music)
Awww...shit!

JUMP CUT TO:

37 INT. DAY-CARE - LATER

The door to the day-care opens fast, then stops just as quickly before anyone walks in. Jacob waits a second before coming through the doorway. He enters, and looks forward immediately. In Anna's place is a young man named DAMIEN who is waiting at the counter, writing down a marking for "checked out" for the mother and daughter in front of him. He's taller than Jacob, and lighter skinned, his hair is longer, too. He looks at Jacob, and raises his eyebrows. Jacob starts to approach the counter.

DAMIEN
(to the mother)
You're all set, ma'am.

A MOTHER
Thank you.
(to her daughter)
Come on.

From the far left end of the day-care, Henry sits at a table, next to Abe, they are both drawing. Abe looks at Henry. Abe sees that Henry is looking towards the center of the day-care, and looks in the same direction. Abe notices Jacob, and sighs in disappointment that Henry has to leave. Henry looks relieved to see that Jacob has come back to pick him up.

JACOB
Hey, Damien.

DAMIEN
Hey, uh, how's it been?

JACOB
It's been...you know.

Damien scoffs, he does knows.
DAMIEN
Yeah, I know. Sorry, man.

Henry gets up from his table, he holds on to the drawing he was working on. Abe seems bummed out that Henry has to leave again.

HENRY
Hey, I have to go.

ABE
Okay.

HENRY
I'll see you later.

ABE
(excited)
Yeah, okay!

Damien is writing to mark Henry as checked out. Jacob watches.

JACOB
Where's Anna?

Damien perks his head up and looks at Jacob. He was waiting for him to ask that.

DAMIEN
She's not working today.

JACOB
(disappointed)
Oh, gotcha.

Jacob was hoping for something more in depth.

Jacob looks over and sees Henry walking towards him. Jacob smiles, then sees Abe sitting at the table, looking at Henry. Another child walks over to Abe and begins to talk with him. Abe is hesitantly distracted.
JACOB  
(to Damien)  
Why is Abe here, then?

DAMIEN  
Oh, uh, Anna said he really wanted to come, so, she dropped him off earlier.

JACOB  
Oh, that's cool.

Jacob turns to look at Abe, who isn't where he was when he looked just then. Jacob gets to be confused for all but a moment, as right then, Henry is at his feet, ready to go with his backpack.

HENRY  
Hi, Jacob.

JACOB  
Hey, bud.

Henry looks at Jacob with wanting eyes, he's waiting to get the greeting from Jacob that he usually gets, Jacob chuckles.

JACOB  
Okay, get up here.

Jacob lifts Henry up with a groan. Henry rests his head on Jacob's shoulder, and wraps his arms around Jacob. He closes his eyes gently. Henry sighs, his breath shutters from relief. Jacob raises a worried eyebrow.

JACOB  
You okay, bud?

HENRY  
Yeah, I just like when you pick me up.

Jacob frowns slightly at Henry's sweet comment. Jacob feels bad that he didn't want to pick him up the other day.
DAMIEN
He's all set.

JACOB
Awesome, thanks, man.

DAMIEN
No problem.

Jacob turns and walks away. As he does so, he looks at Henry, who is half-asleep on Jacob's shoulder. Jacob purses his lips, worried.

The drawing Henry was doing with Abe hangs from his hands over Jacob's back. It's a drawing of loud voices coming from a sea of trees.

CUT TO:

38 INT. HENRY'S ROOM - EVENING

YELLING; from downstairs we can hear Henry's parents shouting, clearer than usual. Henry is sitting at his desk, playing with a handheld video game. His chin rests on the desk and he doesn't seem to be enjoying what he's doing.

His posture sinks as his disinterest takes control, and he rests his head on its side as his parents' yelling starts to become more clear in his ears. Then, Henry's eyes widen, and his head perks up.

THEN:

39 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Henry exits his room, and leaves his door open behind him. He looks toward the stairs, and hears his parents' words echo up the stairs.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
(yelling)
Why are we even doing this anymore?
Because we care about each other,
because the kids--

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
(faintly)
The kid, Abe, Jacob has nothing to
do with this. If it was just Jacob,
we would never be in this
situation.

Henry closes his eyes and gulps, trying not to listen. He
opens them and looks to Jacob's door. He walks up to the
door and opens it up.

THEN:

40 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Henry slowly and quietly opens the door to see Jacob
leaning on his windowsill.

Window open, Jacob's arms are hanging out as his head rests
on the window ledge. Jacob looks tired of thinking, almost
like he's trying to blank his mind, maybe to meditate.

The wind is soothing as it blows in his ears, making the
sounds of his parents' yelling almost nonexistent. Henry
looks at him, about to speak, then EXITS and closes the
door. Jacob takes a deep breath through his nose as his
eyes flutter closed to the sound of the ocean waves
crashing behind his house.

BACK TO

41 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Henry takes his hand off the doorknob, then pauses as he
looks down the stairs. He can hear his mother crying.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
Hey, hey, look at me.

Henry starts to walk downstairs. We follow him step by step
as we listen in on his parents.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
It's okay, baby, we're gonna get through this. We're gonna get better.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
How? You tricked me.

SILENCE. Chilling silence, like Abe could throw up.

THEN:

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Henry is at the bottom of the steps, he pauses, he doesn't grasp the weight, entirely, of the conversation, he just knows it's nothing happy.

We see his parents in the living room on the other side of the wall that the stairs cut through.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
See, you can't give me an answer.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Wait--

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
No, Abe. I can't wait anymore.

Henry walks around the corner and stands in the dining room, in near-complete darkness, as his parents argue more. A single, dim lamp in the living room lights the faces of his parents.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Can't you just tell me what you're thinking? You can't just be thinking nothing when I yell at you.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
yelling
Yeah, well, I'm tired of all this confrontation! Why do I always have to be questioned about how much I care for you?
The next we see of Henry he is slipping out of the house. He slowly closes the front door and holds the screen door open. The door closes, quietly. Neither parent notices because of Abe's yelling.

CUT TO:

43 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The sound of the screen door closing wakes Jacob up. Still leaning on the windowsill, he looks towards the front of the house to try and listen in on who has left the house. There's no sound. Jacob gets up from the window.

THEN:

44 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jacob closes his door behind him, then looks at Henry's door: it's open. Jacob looks down the stairs, the sound of his father talking is faint and spare, Jacob doesn't bother to figure out what is being said.

He turns back and approaches Henry's door and knocks on it softly, then he peaks into the room.

    JACOB
    Hey, Henry?

CUT TO:

45 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Henry walks up to the mailbox, and opens it up. His face lights up as he pulls out a package.

    HENRY
    Whoa...

He reads the package label and notices his name.

    HENRY
    Whoa!

He begins to turn back to his house when,
Hey, Henry?

Henry, startled, turns to look at the voice that is behind him. The only hint as to who it may be is Henry's face becoming calm after turning around.

BACK TO

46 INT. DOWNSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Jacob hastily walks downstairs, turns the corner and peaks into the living room. His father and Mary are on the couch, Abe is consoling his wife again, silently. His head perks up at Jacob's entrance. Mary doesn't look up.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(softly)
Jake, what's up?

JACOB
Uh, have you seen Henry?

Mary's head perks up, now, her face turns immediately to worry from despair.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
He's not in his room?

JACOB
No...

Jacob's father stands up with purpose, and rushes past Jacob without a word and walks upstairs.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
Hen? Buddy?

Jacob watches his father, and turns back to Mary, who is now also standing up, looking towards the second floor, waiting for Abe to say something. Her eyes dart to the front door, then to Jacob.
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Did he go outside?

Jacob's eyes widen with worry, he looks towards the door, that's what woke him up...

CUT TO:

47 EXT. CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Henry is standing at the edge of the cliff that overlooks the ocean behind his home. The mail he had gathered from his mailbox is still in his hands, he grasps it as if it is his only safety.

The wind gives Henry chills. He looks over at the mysterious young man, we only see his silhouette, it's a cloudy night, no stars. The young man's sitting down on the edge, inches away from where Henry is standing, his legs dangling over the rocks at the beach below.

This is such a good view. I want to see all the pretty views like this when I'm older.

Henry looks back towards his house, then looks down. He must be dreaming, this has to be a nightmare. He whimpers.

Henry closes his eyes tight, tighter than ever before, so he can see shapes. He opens them, and he is still standing on the edge of the cliff. He begins to tear up.

JUMP CUT TO:

48 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Jacob exits his house hastily and begins to look around for Henry.

He isn't by the mailbox.

From outside, we hear Mary, still inside the house,
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
(to Jacob's father)
Did you find him?

but we don't hear the answer. Jacob looks towards the cliff, then notices something. He squints, then notices a short figure. His eyes widen.

JACOB
(calling out)
Henry?

Jacob looks more closely and notices the other figure...

JACOB
(quietly, to himself)
What...?

BACK TO

EXT. CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Henry, from the cliff, turns towards his older brother's voice and smiles, relieved. Jacob has come to save him from his nightmare! He's

HENRY
(calling out)
Ja--!

Everything slows down. From realizing the trouble he may be in after hearing Jacob call out, the young man frantically gets up from his sitting position, as he gets up, he startles Henry, who quickly turns to the young man in response.

HENRY SLIPS from the young man's sudden movement and his arms fly into the air, sending the envelopes and the package he was holding into the air, as well. Feet first, he slides off the cliff and begins his descent.

Jacob's face becomes drenched in horror.
JACOB
(screaming)
HENRY!

The sound of Jacob's desperate scream is matched by Jacob's father throwing the front door open, and with a commanding step he comes outside.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Jacob, what the fuck is going on?

Henry keeps falling, he flips in the air once as he gets closer to the bottom. His tears float upward to the envelopes in the sky, some letters are still dancing around the cliff's edge. The fall feels like it takes forever. Jacob is frozen. Mary pushes through her husband to come outside.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Jacob, what is going on? Where is Henry?

The mother and father are in desperate confusion. What is Jacob looking at?

After watching Henry fall, the young man who accidentally caused him to fall looks up at Jacob, and begins to sprint away from the cliff.

JACOB
(to the young man)
Hey!!

Jacob begins to sprint after him. Jacob's father tries to grab Jacob's arm but he's too far behind.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Jacob! Wait!!

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Jacob!!

It's no use, Jacob ignores his parents' plea in order to save his breath to run after the young man who was with Henry when he fell.

The young man runs into the woods, and Jacob runs after him. He quickly looks up at the looming, tall trees, but
doesn't let the forest's reputation make him second guess himself. They both disappear into the woods.

CUT TO:

50 EXT. FOREST BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Jacob and the young man run, the latter in front, heightening his distance between himself and Jacob by the second.

JACOB
Hey! Stop!

The forest seems endless, trees and foliage rush past Jacob. Jacob looks behind him for a second: nothing but darkness. While looking back Jacob hears the man speak.

?
(desperately, in tears)
It was an accident!

Jacob looks forward and the man has disappeared. He stops. Jacob looks around him, he doesn't know where he is anymore.

He desperately searches for an exit, while also trying to convince himself he is actually trying to locate the man who was with Henry. He hears rustling in the distance. He pauses, and looks towards the sound.

JACOB
(nervously)
Hello?

Jacob, shivering, walks towards the sound, slowly. His eyes dart around. Suddenly, someone lets out a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM. The scream sends Jacob backward and he falls over, hitting the floor of the forest, covering his ears, panting. JACOB CLOSES HIS EYES TIGHT.

JACOB
(quietly, to himself)
This has to be a nightmare. This has to be a nightmare.

He opens his eyes, and the forest comes back into focus, as he realizes the reality of the situation, that he isn’t
just in a nightmare, he begins to tear up.

JACOB
(panicking)
Oh, god, oh, fuck.

He hears ANOTHER SCREAM, this one makes him jump up to his feet, the scream sounds like it's coming from all directions this time.

It's cut off short, though, by a large thud that can be heard clearly. This sound is coming from a definite location. Jacob turns to where he heard the sound.

JACOB
Hello?

Jacob takes a deep breath, and jogs through the woods to find where the last sound came from, all of a sudden, a BODY is right before him on the ground of the woods.

JACOB
God, holy fuck!

The head has cracked open on a rock, the right foot is tangled in tree roots, the face is familiar.

It's Anna's brother, ABE.

Jacob is set back, in surprise he falls backwards again, he tries to look closer at the body, while not getting any closer himself. Panting, he stares blankly at the body.

It hits him, his brother is dead, he must be. Anna's brother's body is lying there, motionless, right before him. His breathing gets more frequent, he begins to sob. He doesn't know what to feel.

Jacob continues to sob, alone.

CUT TO:
EXT. FOREST BY A CLIFF - MORNING

Jacob is sleeping on the ground where he sat sobbing the night before, Abe's body is still before him, lying down, as well, out of focus.

A hand placed on Jacob's shoulder tries to shake him awake. It's a police officer.

OFFICER
Hey, Jacob? Son, wake up.
(to others in the woods)
Hey! I think I got the older brother! I found him!

Jacob's eyes flutter open to the sound of the officer yelling, in the background he hears another officer's voice.

The other officer is squatting next to Abe's body, having just examined it for a sign of life.

OFFICER #2
(referring to Abe)
Christ alive...I think this is the boy reported missing earlier last night.

OFFICER
Yeah...?

Jacob groans awake.

OFFICER
Hey, hey, bud, you okay?

JACOB
What...where's my brother?

OFFICER
Um...

Jacob looks over at Abe's body, and it all comes back to him with a flood of tears.
I wanna go home. I wanna go home.

Jacob starts to get up, antsy, wanting to rush back to his house. The officers try to calm him down.

OFFICER #2
Hey, Jacob, it's okay, you've had a rough night, just take it easy.

JACOB
No, just get me out of this place, please.

OFFICER
Okay, I'll take you to your parents, okay?
    (to Officer #2)
Wait here, for the detective and the M.E.

OFFICER #2
Yeah, okay.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

The officer guides Jacob out of the forest, and we see the bustling scene that had been going on overnight while Jacob was lost in the woods.

There are police cars, sirens still lit and turning. Ambulances. Various police officers and other workers converse and walk around, some exiting the forest behind Jacob and the police officer as they exit, knowing that the search for him is over.

There is a police line at the top of the stairs that lead down to the rocky beach that lies at the bottom of the cliff. There are the remnants of a police investigation down there. Blood, a photographer, two officers keep watch of the area. Evidence markers, and other things. NO BODY.

A police officer walks under the yellow tape, with a plastic evidence bag with the package Jacob ordered for Henry inside it. It looks wet, a little destroyed, sandy,
stained dark red in tiny places. Jacob opens his mouth to say something to the officer but it doesn't come out.

Jacob looks around at all he can see. It's terribly overwhelming; he sees an empty gurney leave an ambulance and rush into the woods. Jacob follows it with his eyes until he hears a voice he's been wanting all night:

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE  
(relieved)  
Jacob!

Jacob's father rushes out of the house towards Jacob. Jacob bursts out of the hold the police officer has on him and rushes towards his father, crying from relief and pain. They embrace and Jacob immediately starts crying into his father's shoulder.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE  
Oh my god, I'm so happy you're okay.

Jacob's father breathes a sigh of relief punctuated by a tear that streams down his own face, he was worried sick.

JACOB  
I'm so sorry.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE  
Shhh, don't, it's okay, Jacob.

Henry's mother appears, and nudges through Jacob's father's arms to get in the middle to create a bitter group hug.

JACOB  
Where's Henry?

Abe pulls his head up to look at Jacob, who looks up with teary eyes. Abe sighs.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE  
...He's gone...they took him away.

Jacob breathes in a panicked breath and Henry's mother holds Jacob's face to try and calm him as she begins to sob herself. She turns to Abe.
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Let's go back inside, Abe...

The three begin to walk back to their home as onlookers from the police force and the search party look on. Abe leads his wife and son to the house as he looks around, his breathing stuttering as he holds back tears. He turns to the entrance of the forest.

Another figure walks out of the forest, a DETECTIVE. She stops, she looks at the three of them, and makes eye contact with Jacob's father, she nods.

CUT TO:

53 INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The detective is sitting at the dining room table inside of the family's seaside house, an officer stands behind her. Across the table, Jacob sits, with his father and stepmother sitting by his side, comforting him, as all three of their eyes look tired from crying.

He's already answered a few questions. The detective looks behind her to look at the officer. She feels sympathy for Jacob, and doesn't want to bombard him with more questions, although she's only asked a few so far. She sighs.

DETECTIVE
So, you called out to him, and then he...fell?

The detective chooses her tone wisely, she knows how tough it is for the whole crowd.

JACOB
...yes.

DETECTIVE
How did he fall?

JACOB
Um, he was startled when, uh, Abe rushed up. He slipped, I think.
DETECTIVE
Are you sure?

JACOB
Yeah, Abe was sitting too far away from him when Henry...fell. My eyes were on Henry the whole time, Abe couldn't have gotten that close to him in time.

DETECTIVE
Then Abe ran away, and you chased him through the woods?

JACOB
Yeah, I chased him until I lost him. He was screaming, I think to scare me away, he was probably just as scared and tired as I was...

Jacob takes a deep breath, feeling remorse for Abe that he didn't feel before. He shouldn't have died either.

JACOB
I heard a scream, I tried following the sound, And I found him eventually. That's when I found out who it was.

The detective looks distraught to hear the story. She's worried to ask the next question, but she has to.

DETECTIVE
And you didn't come in contact with him before you found him lying on the ground?

Jacob's father looks at the detective with a glare. She makes eye contact with him and reels back an inch. She understands the implications of the question. She looks back at Jacob.

JACOB
No...I just found him.
DETECTIVE
Okay.

JACOB
I just, was tired...I thought, I was dreaming, so, I just cried, then I must have fallen asleep.

Jacob starts to tear up. His lips quiver. He looks up at the detective.

JACOB
Am I done?

DETECTIVE
Yes, yes, we'll leave you. Thank you, Jacob.

The detective gets up. Abe gets up, too, to show her and the other officer to the front door.

Abe opens the door for them, the officer leaves and walks away with a nod to Abe, but the detective stays in the doorway and turns to speak to him.

DETECTIVE
Thank you, for cooperating, I'm sorry I have to do this right now, but, I'd rather question him now instead of having to call you all down to the station later.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
It's okay. Will there be a bigger investigation?

DETECTIVE
(quietly)
Not from what your son has told me, if this all was just an accident, then all that needs to happen is for me to file a report, and your family can begin to move on.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE

Okay...

DETECTIVE
I'm sorry for your loss. I'll get everyone out of here within the hour.

The detective turns and lets the screen door close, but Abe stands behind the door and watches her walk away. She is stopped by a medical examiner.

Abe listens and watches through the screen door.

DETECTIVE
So, what's up?

MEDICAL EXAMINER
Nothing, really. Neither body shows signs of any struggle. Right now, from what I can see, the child wasn't harmed or forced in anyway to the cliff. He died...when he hit the ground. The older one doesn't have any signs of struggle either. The older brother didn't touch him at all, he died from blunt force trauma to the head. Almost instantly for the both of them. It was just a...shitty accident, ma'am.

The medical examiner walks away. The detective turns away and hangs her head in awe of what's happened.

Abe notices a gurney with a body bag on top of it exit the woods with a team of paramedics attached to it. He stares in awe, as well he takes a quivering deep breath, and shuts the door.

CUT TO:
INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

 Jacob, his father, and Henry's mother are standing before a small casket against the wall of a funeral home. Jacob's father has grown out his facial hair over the past couple of days, Jacob is looking tired and not well kept, too. Henry's mother seems the least okay, but not by much, she seems exhausted from being upset. Despite how tired they look, they're all dressed nice. It's before Henry's wake.

A funeral director stands next to the casket. Behind the family, there is the rest of the room, filled with empty chairs. They stand in silence.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Would you like to see him?

Jacob closes his eyes. Jacob's father looks at Mary, but stays silent.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Yes.

The director opens the casket, slowly.

We see a FLASH of Henry lying in his bed at home, alive, but that's not what's really there.

Henry is lying inside the casket, eyes closed and cold. He is wearing a nice suit, he looks peaceful except for a noticeable head wound that has been dressed up as much as possible.

Jacob opens his eyes as the casket is opened, and inhales sharply and takes a step back. His breathing stutters, and he begins to tear up. Abe stares in horror, eyes wide, in silence. Mary closes her eyes and faces the floor.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Thank you.

The director closes the casket. Jacob leans his arms on the closed casket, and ducks his head towards the floor and begins to quietly sob. Henry's mother puts an arm around his shoulders.
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Hey, it'll be okay...

She begins to tear up. He goes to hug her, and she hugs back.

JACOB
I'm so sorry.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
(through tears)
It's okay, Jacob, it's okay...

Abe comes over and embraces the both of them. Jacob cries more.

CUT TO:

55 INT. FUNERAL HOME - LATER

The room is now filled with friends and family. Jacob, Abe and Mary stand to the side before the casket, greeting people with hugs and forced smiles as they go up to the casket to pay their respects. The casket is still closed.

Abe looks over at the casket as he watches a distant family member walk up to it. He just stares. He is visually less upset than his wife and son.

One of Jacob's friends is next in line, Jacob sees him and he lets a relieved smile grow on his face. They share a big hug.

JACOB'S FRIEND
I'm so sorry, man...

JACOB
...It's okay.

They pull away a little, hands still on each other's shoulders.

JACOB'S FRIEND
You doing...okay?
JACOB
I'm doing okay, I mean I'm...bad, but I'm getting there.

JACOB'S FRIEND
Okay, well, we're all hear for you, Jake.

Jacob's friend motions behind him to a couple of Jacob's friends who are also in line, and they nod to Jacob. Then, someone next in line catches Jacob's eye especially, for just a moment.

JACOB
(to his friend)
Thank you for coming, man.

Jacob turns to who's next in line as his friend moves to the casket. His eyes widen, IT'S ANNA.

ANNA
Hi, Jacob.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

56 INT. ANNA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Anna and her mothers, Greta and Karen, are sitting on a couch in their house. Greta is in the middle, Karen is on her left and has her arm around her, while Anna sits on the other side, holding on to Greta's hand, tightly.

ANNA'S MOTHER, KAREN
He's going to show up, Greta, he always does.

ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA
I know...it's just never been overnight like this.

Karen doesn't know what to say. Anna leans her head on her mama's shoulder.

The doorbell rings, and Greta loosens herself from the comforting grips of her family to rush out of the room and to the front door. We stay with Anna and Karen in the other
room. Greta opens the door and,

    DETECTIVE (O.S.)
    Are you the family who reported a
    missing child last night?

    ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA (O.S.)
    (trembling)
    Yes, is something wrong, is he
    hurt?

Anna's mother gets up from the couch to go to the front
door, off screen.

    DETECTIVE (O.S.)
    There was an incident, and...we
    found a...body that we believe to
    be your son.

Anna's eyes widen, she stands up, and cautiously walks
toward the front door. She couldn't have possibly heard
that right...

    ANNA'S MOTHER, KAREN (O.S.)
    (tearing up)
    Oh my god.

    ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA (O.S.)
    (through tears)
    What...what happened?

CUT TO:

57 INT. POLICE STATION MORGUE - LATER

A mortician opens up a drawer and slides out Abe's body,
which is zipped in a translucent bag. Anna and her parents
stand a little to the side, out of the way of the
mortician. The mortician turns and looks at them.

    MORTICIAN
    I'm going to, uh, unzip the bag
    now. Are you ready to identify the
    body?

The three stay silent for a little bit.
ANNA'S MOTHER, KAREN

Um...

Karen turns her head to her wife, both of their eyes are red with tears.

ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA

Yes, I'm ready.

Abe's mother clears her throat, Anna closes her eyes gently, and takes a deep breath. She hears the sound of the bag unzipping.

Abe's body is cold and pale. Anna's parents stand in awe, Karen shivers. Greta grabs her hand and sighs, as she closes her own eyes tight to try and hold back tears.

MORTICIAN

Is this your son?

ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA

(eyes still closed)

It's...yeah it's him.

Greta begins to choke up, she holds her wife close. Anna opens her eyes, and looks at Abe. She tries to hold back tears, her face tenses up.

ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA

(to her wife)

We'll call my parents...to make arrangements soon.

ANNA'S MOTHER, KAREN

(through subtle tears)

Right.

Anna keeps staring, a few tears run down her face as she trembles and her lips quiver. She grabs her mother's hand, and starts to sob.

CUT TO:
58 EXT. CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

Anna is standing next to her parents outside, in the same formation they sat on the couch: Anna, Greta, Karen. Abe's funeral procession is going on. Anna's eyes are red from crying, but it's covered slightly by make-up. Greta is holding hands with her, and on the other side, she holds her wife's hand.

Anna and her parents look visibly upset, Greta is trying to hold back her sobbing, but it's almost impossible as she throws her head down. Her wife and daughter squeeze her hands tighter.

ABE'S MOTHER, GRETA

Oh, my son...

Greta knows saying this out loud will just make her cry more, but she tries to keep her composure none the less. Her wife can't help but shed tears as Greta continues to sob.

Even Anna is tearing up, however Anna seems more okay, aside from her tired eyes, as if she's already gotten everything out of her system now that everything has processed as really being real.

She looks at her parents, their heads are down, Abe's mom sniffs, and Anna's mother rubs her back. They both shudder slightly in sadness. Abe's mother looks over at Anna and smiles, sympathetically, then squeezes Anna's hand. Anna sighs.

BACK TO

59 INT. FUNERAL HOME

Jacob and Anna hug each other, tightly, as the chatter of the surrounding wake fills the air around them. Jacob sighs, and begins to tear up, and he buries his face into Anna's shoulder to hide his sadness.

Anna holds him tighter, shedding a few tears herself for Henry and for Jacob.

CUT TO:
EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Jacob, his father, and two other relatives help to carry the casket down the stairs of the funeral home as they, and the other attendees, descend down the stairs behind them.

Jacob looks tired and sad. Even as he carries the casket down he has tears in his eyes. He'd wipe them away but his hands are full, so they fall down his face freely. His father, behind him, watches Jacob and hears his sniffling. He gazes at his son, almost oblivious to the fact he has his younger son over his shoulders.

The casket looms over the both of them.

THEN:

EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and Henry's mother are standing next to each other, surrounded by friends and family. Henry's mother is arm in arm with Jacob.

They both look utterly destroyed, their spirits decimated and brought down to rubble. Mary rests her head on Jacob's shoulder. Jacob's father walks over to them.

Jacob stares at the casket, his eyes water some more. He shakes his head and brings his right hand to his face to try and hide his tears. Henry's mother lifts her head up to look at Jacob.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Oh, honey, hey...

Mary grabs Jacob's face by the chin, gently. She sees his tears and starts to tear up herself.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Jacob...

Abe turns to the both of them, and begins to hold Jacob.
It's going to be okay, Jacob.

The three of them stand there, Jacob and Mary in tears, as the rest of the audience watches them with sympathetic eyes, they all feel horrible for them.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - DAYS LATER

Jacob and Mary stand in the doorway to their house, looking forward outside. Jacob leans against the left of the doorway and Mary stands behind him with her arms crossed. They look tired, but less from crying so much, they're more tired of being sad, they just want to fast forward and be done.

Outside, Abe stands there, greeting some people who have arrived to express their sadness for Henry's passing. Abe stands beside the mailbox, in one hand he has a few letters. At the bottom of the mailbox, there are a dozen lit candles of various sizes lit in Henry's memory. A couple signs that say "RIP" and "God bless" sit there, as well.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(to a small group)
Thank you again, for all your condolences, and the letters and everything. We really appreciate it.

The group turn away from Abe, and he turns to look at his wife and son as a crowd looms around the area some more. The smile he was putting on for the people vanishes, and he begins to walk back to the house. Abe lifts his hand to motion the handful of letters he has to his wife and son, and shows a face that is trying to find the bright side to all of this.

Henry's mother turns and walks back inside, Jacob notices her walking inside and follows her. Neither of them wait for Abe.

THEN:
INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Abe walks inside and closes the door behind him. Jacob sits at the dining room table across from the front door, looking down. He looks up at his father. Mary comes downstairs, wiping away a couple of tears, and waits at the bottom, holding onto the railing.

Abe looks at her and places the pile of envelopes he had gathered outside onto the dining room table. He splays them out in front of Jacob. Jacob leans forward a little and sees the name written on all of the envelopes. He takes a deep breath.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
People from town heard that Henry liked checking the mail, so they came and wrote him a bunch of letters.

Jacob and Mary stay silent. Mary approaches the table and grabs some of the letters. She doesn't open any of them, but flips through the envelopes to see the name written on them.

The same name, written over and over and over again. Jacob looks at her with worrying eyes.

JACOB
That's really cool of them.

Mary falls into a seat at a table, she puts down the envelopes. Abe sits down in the third open chair, leaving a fourth chair open. It's EMPTINESS IS PRESENT.

There's a depressing atmosphere in the air as the three sit in silence. Mary holds her head in her hands and begins to sob just a little. She gets up and begins to walk upstairs.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Mary, wait...

Mary ignores him, and continues to walk up the stairs. Abe follows, right behind her, which causes Mary to walk faster.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Come on, it's going to be okay.

Jacob watches as they exit and go upstairs. His face shows immense worry for Henry's mother. He sighs, and looks down at the envelopes in front of him. He turns to look out the front window of the house that's left of the door.

Through the window, past the vigil for Henry that surrounds the mail box, he can see small lights by the entrance to the forest. A much smaller vigil for Abe is at the entrance of the forest. Jacob stares intently.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (O.S.)
(screaming)
I've just lost my son!

The scream from Henry's mother coming from upstairs causes Jacob to rapidly shoot his head to turn towards the sound, almost in a startled fright, his eyes widen.

After he processes what the sound is, he settles down, turns away, and sheds a tear.

CUT TO:

64 INT. ANNA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Anna is lying in bed, her eyes seem tired from crying, wet and red. She sighs. We're almost trained at this point to hear parents yelling and arguing in the background as we watch someone sleep, but there's nothing, no sound in the background.

Silence, as if everything is okay. Could it really be okay?

CUT TO:

65 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jacob wakes up in the middle of the night. He rubs his eyes, and sighs. He doesn't hear anything, which he notices as different. He looks at his door, then hears some faint rustling.

JUMP CUT TO:
66 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jacob exits his room and peers into the hallway, looking towards Henry's door, which is opened. An invisible energy flows from the doorway and bathes Jacob. He fully exits his room and slowly starts to walk towards the door. As he walks, his father, carrying a box, exits and stops when he notices Jacob.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Hey...Jake, what are you doing up?

JACOB
(bluntly)
I can’t sleep.

Jacob says this bluntly to communicate that Jacob's father should know this, of course he can’t sleep.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah...me neither.

Jacob looks at his father, who seems fine, at least a lot more fine than Jacob is. Jacob looks like he's sleep walking, he can barely keep his head up. Jacob looks intently at the box that his father has in his hands.

JACOB
What are you doing?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Um, your mother and I--or, Mary and I thought it would be nice to donate some of your brother's stuff to the day-care, just some of it, that they could use. Since everyone loved him there.

Jacob's eyes perk up when his father fails to mention Henry by name.

JACOB
Okay.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Do you...wanna drop it off tomorrow
morning, if you're not doing
anything?

There's a pause. Jacob nods.

JACOB
Yeah, okay.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Alright. I'll leave this box out
here.

Abe puts the box down on the floor in front of Henry's
room, then turns and closes the door.

The door shuts like the stone being rolled over Christ's
game.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Get some sleep, Jakey.

Abe looks at his son, who is so tired and distraught. He
walks up to him and hugs him.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I know this sucks, Jacob, but we're
gonna get through this.

JACOB
Even if we get through this, it's
never gonna be the same...

Jacob chokes up.

JACOB
(through sobbing)
Everything feels like a nightmare,
dad...I feel so sick.

Abe holds his son tighter, he begins to tear up. His son
being in such a depressed state fills him with dread.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I know, Jacob, I know.

Jacob, from hearing his father start to cry, hugs him back just as tightly; he finally feels a real sign that his dad cares.

JACOB
Thank you, dad.

They stand there, hugging, as Jacob's crying begins to slow down. Deep breaths.

CUT TO:

67 INT. DAY-CARE - THE NEXT DAY

The front door to the day-care is closed, you can hear commotion around as the day-care is lively like normal. Through one of the front windows, we see Jacob walk by.

There's a pause, as Jacob waits to open the door. Faintly, you can hear a sigh. The door opens, Jacob struggles to hold the box with one arm as he tries to close the door behind him. The objects in the box jingle and make noise.

He looks forward, his eyes widen. DAMIEN is at the counter. Jacob expected Anna, but to his disappointment, but maybe more to his relief, she isn't here. Damien's eyebrows perk up as he notices Jacob, and his eyes become remorseful and sympathetic.

Jacob starts to walk towards the counter.

DAMIEN
Hey, Jake.

Damien is shy to talk because he hasn't seen Jacob since before that night.

JACOB
Hey, uh--

Just as Jacob is about to reach the counter, Anna walks out from the back office of the day-care. She stops dead in her tracks when she sees Jacob. A relieving smile appears on her face. Jacob smiles, too.
JACOB
Hey...

ANNA
Hi.
(to Damien)
Uh, I'll take care of this.

DAMIEN
Yeah, of course.

Damien walks off to take care of some other things, and Anna walks up to Jacob. A cooling air seems to surround them.

ANNA
So, what's all this?

JACOB
It's, um, some of Henry's things that his mom and my dad want to give to the day-care as a donation.

ANNA
Oh...

The mention of Henry makes their meeting bitter. Anna takes the box from him.

ANNA
I'll make sure my boss gets this. She'll know what to do with it.

JACOB
Thank you.

There's a pause as they look at each other. Jacob wants to say something, and Anna is waiting for him to say it.

JACOB
Back to work, huh?

Anna shrugs.
ANNA
It's a nice distraction...when it's not an awful reminder.

JACOB
Yeah...

Another pause as they wonder if it's okay to just stop talking right now, or if they should keep going.

JACOB
Uh...I'll see you around?

ANNA
Yeah, I'll see you.

Jacob nods and walks away. Anna watches him, closely, thinking to herself. They're both wishing more came from that exchange.

JUMP CUT TO:

68 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - LATER

Jacob's father is sitting down at one of four chairs around the dining room table with a confused, distressed, and angry look on his face, his conflicting emotions rattle in his brain as he tries to connect the dots as to the situation he's in right now.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Where...what is happening?

Across from him, in front of the door, is Abe's wife, staring at him condescendingly, she knows that he knows exactly what's happening.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
I'm leaving, Abe. I'm going home, to be with my family.

Mary's luggage is beside her legs, a couple more packs and suitcases surround her. Abe stays sitting down.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Why, we--we can work this out, you can't leave right now.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
You don't have to tell me to stay, Abe, you don't have to try anymore. It's fine.

Abe leans back a little, as if Mary has relieved some pressure in him, maybe she would be better off, but maybe I'll feel worse if I just let her go.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
It'll be easier this way, Abe, I know you know that, too. No more arguing, no more yelling, or crying. Especially right now, if we weren't going to better before we're not going to now.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah...I know.

Abe says that in defeat.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Jacob won't see it right now, but he'll realize it'll be easier for him, too.

They stay silent and motionless for a moment, Abe looks down at the ground as everything sinks in, making his body heavy.

Mary walks up to Abe and picks up his head in her hands. He looks at her with glossy eyes. She looks at him and tries to smile, but starts crying.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Thank you for having this child with me, thank you for loving me when you did. But I need to heal, and I can't do that by your side. I'm broken...I've been broken, and I need to learn to fix myself, so (MORE)
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY (CONT'D)

that way my pain isn't your problem.

Abe's eyes widen a little bit, she finally gets why he's been so cold, and Abe finally hears his problem put into words. Really, though, Mary is doing exactly what Anna did to Jacob when she broke up with him: taking a little bit of the fault away.

THEN:

69 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Jacob gets out of his car, parking beside another car that isn't so familiar to him. He looks around, and notices, waiting by the driver's side door of the other car is a man, around Mary's age. Jacob looks at him, the man seems shy.

MARY'S BROTHER
Hey, uh, Jacob, right?

Jacob squints at him.

JACOB
What's going on?

MARY'S BROTHER
Um...

BACK TO

70 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Abe is standing now, him and Mary hug.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I'm going to miss you.

Mary can tell he's being sincere.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Me too.

Jacob enters as Mary reaches for some of her luggage and Abe and Mary look at him both, surprised, like they both weren't ready to tell him. Jacob looks at Mary's luggage,
then looks at his dad.

JACOB
What's going on?

Jacob doesn't seem too distressed at what he assumes is happening, he's more confused as to why it's happening.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Um...

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
I'm going back home to live with my family for a while, Jacob.

JACOB
What...?

Mary walks up to Jacob, and puts her hands on his shoulders.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
You are such an amazing brother, Jacob.

Jacob begins to tear up, but a hint of a smile is visible.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
You are going to be an amazing man your whole life, and an amazing father, too, and whoever you end up with,

Mary moves her hands from Jacob's shoulders to his cheeks.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
I know you'll love them so much.

Mary hugs Jacob, and he hugs her back, gently. The hug is a really comforting moment for the both of them, it's the first time they've been able to have a moment together since before Henry's death.
HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
I'm sorry for leaving, Jacob.
(whispers)
Take care of your dad.

Mary lets go, and smiles at Jacob one last time.

She grabs some of her bags, and Abe grabs the rest of them. Jacob steps aside as Mary and Abe head to the door. Mary turns to Jacob one last time, who is standing beside the dining room table.

HENRY'S MOTHER, MARY
Goodbye, Jake.

JACOB
Bye...

Mary opens the door, and she and Abe exit. Mary's brother can be seen through the front door, who grabs the luggage from Mary.

MARY'S BROTHER (O.S.)
Hey, uh, hey Abe.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE (O.S.)
Hey...

The door shuts behind Abe. Jacob falls into the chair that his father was sitting in, and deeply sighs.

CUT TO:

71 INT. ANNA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Anna's house is empty. You can hear the vacant air flowing though the house. It's so quiet.

Anna ENTERS, having come home from her shift at the day-care. She closes the door behind her, and drops her keys off at a desk in the entryway. She moves through the house.

She opens her mouth as if to call out to someone, but a sigh is the only thing to escape her mouth. She almost forgot. She takes a deep breath, and sighs again.

CUT TO:
INT. ANNA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Anna enters her room, and falls back on her bed. She feels fine, but she doesn't feel fine about feeling fine.

Maybe some closure would help. She picks up her phone, and taps through some contacts. It rings once.

JACOB (O.S.)
(desperately)
Anna?

The inflection in Jacob’s voice stops Anna for a split second.

ANNA
Hey...uh, I was wondering if, I could come over?

JACOB (O.S.)
Yeah, um, what for?

Anna pauses for a second.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - LATER

A car drives up behind Jacob's in the driveway, and stops. Jacob is standing in front of the door to the house, leaning against it. He stands up straight when the car arrives.

Anna exits from the car. Jacob begins to walk up to her, she shuts the door to her car and meets him halfway.

ANNA
Hi, Jacob.

JACOB
Hey.

They look at each other.
JACOB
Uh...do you want to, uh, you want
me to show you?

ANNA
Yes.

Jacob turns and starts walking towards the forest. Anna
follows close behind him.

As they walk, Anna's eyes are drawn towards the vigil for
Henry that still surrounds the mailbox outside of Jacob's
home. The candles are out, and the paper and flowers are
damaged from being outside for too long. Anna's affected by
this, by she turns back to Jacob.

THEN:

EXT. FOREST BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

The two arrive at the entrance of the forest, where the
smaller vigil for Abe is. The candles are out here, too.
The flowers, the few that there are, are dying, as well.
Anna stares at it.

JACOB
People came around the same time
they came for Henry.

ANNA
It looks nice.

JACOB
Yeah...

Jacob looks at Anna, who is staring intently at each of the
objects that stand at the edge of the forest for her
brother. He looks at her eyes, they dart back and forth
between each object, not spending more than half a second
taking in any of them.

JACOB
How have you been?
ANNA
I've been good.

JACOB
That's good.

Anna looks up from the objects, into the forest. She seems too distracted to ask how Jacob is, but he doesn't really notice.

JACOB
How have your parents been?

Anna turns to Jacob suddenly, with glossy eyes.

ANNA
Can we go inside the forest?

Jacob almost flinches from the question, he notices her eyes.

JACOB
Oh, um, yeah, we can.

ANNA
I just want to see where it happened.

JACOB
I...

Jacob is stunned, he doesn't really know what to say.

JACOB
I don't really...know where it is.

Anna looks at Jacob, her initial reaction is disappointment but as she thinks about it more, maybe it's better she doesn't see it.

ANNA
That's okay, can we just walk around?

CUT TO:
EXT. INSIDE THE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and Anna are walking through the forest, Anna leads the way, as they tread aimlessly. They cautiously step over branches and try to trek through a path.

The forest seems a lot harder to navigate than Jacob remembers. Every now and then, Jacob nervously looks back to make sure he knows how to get out. He looks ahead into the forest, he watches Anna trek, worried about how okay she really is.

He looks ahead of her, into the forest, he shakes off the dread, and focuses back on Anna, and keeps moving forward, with his head down. Jacob doesn't notice, but Anna has stopped moving. She turns to him, and Jacob looks up and stops himself.

ANNA
Um, this might sound weird, but, can you tell me about that night?

JACOB
Like...everything I saw?

ANNA
Yeah. We heard it from the cops but, I want to here it from you. I mean, you saw him right?

JACOB
Yeah.

Jacob takes a deep breath, Anna steps closer to him in support, she grabs one of his hands.

JACOB
Okay, uh, well, I noticed that Henry wasn't in his room, well, I heard someone go outside the front door, so I checked Henry's room because I didn't hear him in there and his door was open. When I saw he wasn't there, I told my dad and his mom,
Jacob gets choked up mentioning Henry's mother, but continues.

**JACOB**
then I checked outside, and saw him
and someone else standing on the
cliff. I think Abe came over to
hang out with him, I guess. I
called out to Henry, and I think
that scared Abe so he jumped up,
and that...

A few tears start dropping down Jacob's face, and Anna becomes teary-eyed in response.

**JACOB**
...that's when Henry fell. Abe
probably got scared seeing that,
or, he thought he was in trouble,
so he took off. Through here.

Jacob pauses, as he speaks through tears, Anna's head is
down trying to hide her own crying. She looks up at him,
takes a deep breath as she wipes away her tears with her
free hand.

**ANNA**
Please finish.

Jacob gulps down tears.

**JACOB**
I chased him, then I lost him. I
heard screaming, from him, I
thought. Then the screaming stopped
when I heard something...fall. I
followed the sound, and...it was
him.

Anna begins to sob, and Jacob starts to cry more seeing her
this sad. He pulls her in and embraces her. She grabs his
shirt, pulling tight as she tries to calm down, but hearing
it from Jacob is too tough.
ANNA
This is so unfair to them.

Jacob nods as he tries to get out a couple words through his tears.

JACOB
I know, Annie.

Anna's crying starts to slow down, and her grip on Jacob loosens.

ANNA
Thank you for telling me that.

JACOB
Let's get out of here.

CUT TO:

76 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Jacob's father is staring out the front window that's in the kitchen. He's looking outward, solemnly, towards the forest where he saw Jacob and Anna enter. His knuckles are bruised. He walks away from the window, and picks up his phone. He pauses, then dials a number. After a few rings, someone picks up.

? (O.S.)
Hello?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Elyse?

Elyse sounds like Viola Davis.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Abe? What are you calling for? Is Jacob okay?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yes, he's fine, he's, uh...my son died, the one I had with Mary.

A dreadful pause.
ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Why are you telling me this? I mean, Christ, I'm sorry, Abe, but why did you call?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Just, Jacob's taking it hard. He, uh, they were really close, he and his brother.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Okay...is he still with his girlfriend there?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
They, uh, broke up, but they are together now. Her brother died the same night.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Holy shit, Abe...

Abe hesitates, “How did she know his name?” He thinks. Oh...yeah...

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I know, I--

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Why are you telling me this, Abe? Are you okay? Jesus Christ, I'm so sorry.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I'm fine, Elyse, I just--

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Should I call Jacob?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah, maybe, that might be nice for him to hear your voice.

Abe reveals, without either of them realizing, why he called in the first place.
ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Okay...how are you?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I'm...I'm okay.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Okay. What was his name again? Your son?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
...Henry.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
I'm sure he was a wonderful kid, Abe. I'm sorry again...how is Mary?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
She's not as good, uh, she left to go live with her family for a while.

A pause, a heavy one this time. Elyse sighs away from the phone.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Dammit, Abe.

Abe closes his eyes and sighs, he knows he should've just lied.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Why did you let her leave?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I...I don't know.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
Of course you fucking don't. You know, when I first heard you were marrying that poor girl because you got her pregnant, I held nothing but resentment towards her. But as I thought about it, as I saw how happy she seemed with that baby,

Abe starts to choke up, but holds it, he's getting angry at himself.
ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
I just hoped to god that you wouldn’t hurt her the way you hurt me. You let her leave, huh?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Yeah...

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
No surprise there. You always stop fighting when it becomes too much for you. Not fighting was always easier for you.

Abe lets out a deep sigh.

ABE'S FIRST WIFE, ELYSE (O.S.)
(sighs)
Shit...Abe, I’m sorry about what happened...I’m sorry for Jacob, too. Tell him I love him, okay? I’m sorry. I hope...I have to go, okay?

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
...okay...

The phone hangs up. Jacob’s father puts the phone down and sighs again, and wipes some tears away. Just as he does, though, more tears involuntarily stream down his face. He wipes them way with anger, and holds his face in his hands.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
What have I done...?

He wipes away his tears, sighs, and turns around to head to the stairs.

Jacob enters through the front door, causing Abe to jolt upright.

JACOB
Hey.
JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Hey, Jake. Um, where's Anna?

JACOB
Oh, her parents needed her.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Did you tell her about...?

JACOB
Yeah, I told her before she left.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
Gotcha.

Jacob notices some distraught in his father's eyes, he walks up to his dad and gives him a hug. Abe is surprised by this, but he's so happy, he needed this.

JACOB
I love you, dad.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(choking up)
I love you too, Jacob.

They haven't had a moment like this, when it was just them, in a long time. Jacob comes loose from the hug and smiles at his dad. He starts heading up the stairs.

Abe opens his mouth to say something, but nothing comes out. Jacob turns and gives his dad a slight smile as he disappears up the second floor.

After a moment,

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
(whispering)
I'm gonna be here for us. I'm gonna be here.

CUT TO:
INT. ANNA’S HOUSE - LATER

Anna comes back home, and inside the house, in the kitchen, is Greta. Her head perks up, and she puts on a sympathetic smile.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA
Hey, honey.

ANNA
Hey.

Greta walks up to Anna and gives her a hug, and takes a look at her.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA
How are you?

ANNA
I’m okay.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA
Okay...

ANNA
Where’s mom?

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA
Oh, she went to the store, we need a couple of groceries.

ANNA
Oh, okay.

Greta looks at her daughter, and holds her face in her hands. She looks her in the eyes.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA
I know there are so many answers to this, but what’s on your mind?

ANNA
Well, it’s just, Jacob’s stepmother left his dad a couple of days ago.
ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA

Oh...

ANNA

I don’t know, I just don’t want you to leave because...well...

Greta’s eyes become glossy, she takes a deep breath as she takes in Anna’s worries.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA

Anna, I am not going anywhere. Even after this, we are a still a family. Even if you and I are not related by blood, or DNA, or whatever, you have always been, and always will be just as much of a daughter to me as Abe was my son.

Greta chokes up on Abe’s name, Anna begins to tear up, too.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA

I am certain that I am not leaving your mother, just as I am certain that I will always be your mama.

Anna can’t help but smile, she is so happy and relieved, she and her mama share a big hug. They laugh a little from happiness, even through their tears. Even after everything, they’re still mother and daughter, and that’s what matters to them in this moment.

ANNA

I love you, mama.

ABE’S MOTHER, GRETA

I love you too.

CUT TO:
78 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jacob is lying in bed, coming off of the high that came with being with Anna. On his back, he looks up at the ceiling. So quiet. He breathes in the room, the energy of the silence seems so calming. Usually a lonesome silence like this would give space for one to spiral, but it's soothing to Jacob.

JACOB
Maybe this will be okay.

After listening to all the arguing, all the yelling, the crying, it's finally peaceful. Jacob exhales, his eyes gently flutter closed, and he falls asleep.

CUT TO:

79 INT. ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

Anna opens the door to her house to Jacob, who is standing there, shyly.

JACOB
Hey.

ANNA
Hi.

Anna moves aside to let Jacob in.

CUT TO:

80 INT. ANNA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Anna and Jacob lie in Anna’s bed together. Anna is lying down, sitting up against the bed frame and her pillows. Jacob lies down with his head on Anna’s lap. The two are comfortable with each other again.

JACOB
Man, it’s felt like forever since we broke up now.
ANNA
I know. (pause) A lot of people went to Henry’s wake.

JACOB
Yeah...did a lot of people go to Abe’s?

ANNA
A lot of kids from his high school went, actually. I didn’t know he knew so many people.

Anna looks down at Jacob, who is staring off into space.

ANNA
Have you been doing better?

JACOB
As better as I could be.

Jacob looks up at Anna, and smiles.

JACOB
I’ve just been trying to think about other things, I guess. The more I think about Henry, the deeper I’m going to go, I just think I need to do that in moderation or something. Does that make sense?

ANNA
Yeah...I like that idea.

JACOB
I like this. I missed just hanging out with you...relaxing.

ANNA
Yeah, me too...

Jacob looks at Anna again, with more of a subtle smile, he turns away and sighs. They sit in silence, Anna scratches Jacob’s head, curling his hair in her fingers.
JACOB
Aw...I missed that, too.

Anna chuckles.

ANNA
Yeah I bet you did.

Jacob smiles and chuckles back. Jacob and Anna both breathe a new air, a sigh of relief. A light moment in an era of darkness.

CUT TO:

81 EXT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - AFTERNOON

Jacob’s father exits through the front door of the house and walks, tiresomely to the mailbox. Still in his work clothes, he opens it up.

The only thing remaining from the vigil are some dead flowers and flower petals, and some candles that have all gone out.

Abe pulls out some envelopes, it seems like it’s a couple days worth of mail. Abe starts making his way back to his home. He flips through the mail, and stops and sees a letter marked for Henry.

The family hasn’t gotten one of those in a while.

CUT TO:

82 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Abe takes a seat at the dining room table. He lightly tosses the rest of the mail aside and begins to open the letter for Henry. He hesitates for a second after the envelope is opened. Abe takes out the letter and unfolds it.

The letter begins with, "Dear Henry," Abe begins to skim through most of the beginning.

Then, "I’m sorry. You were such a kind kid, I loved being around you, and I loved getting to know you." Abe continues to read, and some words near the end catch his attention.
"I can't tell if I feel more bad about you dying or my brother dying. I can't really figure out anything. I hope you're really happy wherever you are."

Abe realizes who wrote the letter. "Jacob, if you're reading this, I hope you're feeling okay. I'm glad I got to see you again." "From, Anna"

Abe continues to hold the letter, looking at it intently, but not reading any of the words. He looks up from the letter and looks at the stairs.

THEN:

83 INT. HENRY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abe stands in the doorway of his son's room. The objects missing from the vigil are found here, stored in the now vacant room in the house. Although, as vacant as it seems, most of everything that used to be there is still there.

Abe stands there, analyzing the sun-lit room, which rarely seems like a beam of light, as the room now reminds him of what could have been, instead of what was:

The burden of his marriage, locked down by the birth of his second son, is now replaced with the burden of the constant imagining of other universes where Jacob, Mary and he gets to watch Henry grow up into the brimming young lad his joyful nature promised him.

It's back to just Jacob and his father, just like it was all those years ago before Mary. Now it's like nothing has changed in that time...however, everything has changed.

Abe places the letter to Henry from Anna on Henry's bed, by his pillow.

Abe sighs. A cloud moves over the sun, removing the natural light from the room, Abe exits.

BACK TO
INT. ANNA'S ROOM - LATER

JACOB OPENS HIS EYES and appears in Anna's room, still lying on her lap. A decent amount of time has passed since Jacob fell asleep. Anna moves around a little, Jacob looks up at her. Anna's eyes flutter as if she is just waking up, too. Anna gives Jacob a smile that he is so happy to see.

ANNA
Hi.

JACOB
Hey.

Anna rubs Jacob's head, then frowns. She sighs, then shuffles so that Jacob isn't lying on her anymore.

JACOB
Is something wrong?

ANNA
I just...I don't want this to be the reason we get back together, you know?

JACOB
Yeah...yeah I understand.

ANNA
I'm sorry, Jacob...

JACOB
It's okay. I promise.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob walks out the door to Anna's house. It's sunset. Anna stands in the doorway. Jacob turns and looks at her. They look at each other, longingly. They wait for a moment that seems fit for them to kiss, but it never comes. Jacob takes a step back.
JACOB
I'll see you later, Anna.

ANNA
Right, see you.

Jacob keeps eye contact with Anna as he takes a few more steps backwards. He gives her a smile, a confident one. She smiles back, no more words are spoken.

Jacob turns around and walks to his car. Anna watches him, with a smile that can't be held back. She closes the door. Jacob yawns.

CUT TO:

86 INT. HOUSE BY A CLIFF - LATER

The door opens to the house, JACOB ENTERS slowly and groggily. He shuffles through the front of the house, tossing his keys aside on the counter in the kitchen, then making his way through to the living room at the back of the first floor.

He falls flat onto the couch that is in the living room. He shuffles around, kicking off his shoes and trying to get comfy. He exhales, and the breath leaves his lungs like he's been holding it in for weeks. He quickly falls asleep.

A few moments pass, we see the whole first floor stay quiet and silent as Jacob takes calm breaths.

From downstairs, we hear the door to his father's room open up. There's a pause, then we see Abe come down the stairs slowly. He turns the corner, being careful to stay quiet. He sees Jacob on the couch, and walks over. Abe squats down, and starts rubbing Jacob's head. Jacob shuffles a little bit, but keeps his eyes closed.

JACOB
I'm so tired.

JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
I know, Jake...me too.

Jacob's father slides his arms underneath Jacob's shoulders and knees, and tries to lift Jacob up.
With a heave, Abe PICKS HIM UP. Jacob's father carries him out of the living room. For the both of them, this moment seems to be stuck in time, everything seems to slow down.

They're reverting back to a time before all of this, when Jacob was smaller, when everything was less complicated. Jacob opens his eyes slightly to watch his father's face. Abe looks stoic as he looks forward. He begins to walk up the stairs. Jacob smiles, then his eyes flutter back closed.

THEN:

87 INT. JACOB'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abe carries his son into his room, then lays him down on the bed. Jacob shuffles and moves to get into a comfy position. His father begins to walk away, but stops to turn back once more as he puts his hand on the knob. He opens the door.

    JACOB
    Hey, dad.

    JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
    Yeah, Jacob?

    JACOB
    I get it, now...I'm sorry.

Abe stares at Jacob, speechless for a moment.

    JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
    ...I'm sorry, too, Jacob.

Jacob turns to his father and opens his eyes.

    JACOB
    I love you, dad.

    JACOB'S FATHER, ABE
    I love you, too...
    (quietly)
    I love you.

Jacob doesn't respond, his eyes are closed again. Abe stands there a moment more, watching his son fall asleep.
He's never felt such relief before right now, watching peace befall his son after such tragedy. He closes the door behind him, the calming darkness of Jacob's bedroom is still. Jacob sleeps soundly.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END