

Strength of a Soul

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

On a bed, LIAM HUNTER (65), crew cut, chiseled face, broad shoulders, dry washes his face with both hands. As he dips his head, his eyes land on a steel case marked, "gun safe." With his heel, he pushes it further under the bed.

A side table lamp illuminates a framed photo of Liam and EVELIEN HUNTER (60), wrapped in a red dress with a great smile and silver gray hair. Next to the framed photo, a smiley-face card, a digital recorder and a jewelry box.

A backpack leans against the side table.

He picks up the framed photo.

Light knocks.

MAIA (O.S.)

Coming in.

MAIA HUNTER (35), petite, a wild tangle of hair in sweats and glasses, paces the floor, kneels in front of Liam.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Play it, dad.

He grips the framed photo with both hands, pushes a button on the frame.

LIAM (V.O.)

(recorded/speaker)

Your smile. A brief moment in time,  
but a memory of a lifetime. Forty  
years later, the memory of your  
first smile still warms my heart.  
Happy birthday. Love always.

She clears her throat.

MAIA

So beautiful. So peaceful. Mom's  
always in our hearts.

She touches his hand.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Good to hear your voice too.

He places the framed photo on the side table, picks up the jewelry box, hands it to her.

She opens it, gazes at a rose gold ring with a single diamond. Her hand shakes as she picks it up, glances at the inside engraving, "the infinity symbol, Love."

She slips the ring on her right ring finger.

Her eyes shift to the framed photo, land on the rose gold ring with a single diamond on Evelien's left ring finger.

MAIA (CONT'D)

I know she'll be with us in spirit.

She sniffles.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Perfect re-sizing, dad. Thank you.

As they hug, his eyes blink overtime.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Stay as long as you want, dad. It feels really good to have you around and it makes Zoe very happy.

She gets on her feet.

ZOE (O.S.)

Mommy.

In the doorway, ZOE HUNTER (5), a ray of sunshine with curly hair, big brown eyes, in pink pajamas, clutches a brown teddy bear under one arm.

MAIA

Say good night to grandpa.

ZOE

Good night, grandpa.

Liam motions to Zoe.

As she rushes across the floor, her dimples come alive.

He lifts her onto his lap. They hug.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Love you, grandpa.

He nods, smiles as he strokes her hair.

She hurries back to Maia.

MAIA

I'll be back.

Zoe waves as she leaves.

Liam coughs, grimaces. He pulls a side table drawer, picks up a blood stained handkerchief, wipes his mouth.

KID'S ROOM

Bright colored walls. A princess poster above a pink bed. Against a wall, a dresser and a storage bin with toys. Spiderwebs in a window. Jack-o'-lanterns around the room.

Next to the bed, a table lamp lights up a framed photo of two girls, Zoe and GABY (5), full rounded cheeks with freckles.

Maia tucks in Zoe and the brown teddy bear.

ZOE

Is Grandpa okay? He coughs a lot.

MAIA

I know, sweetie. Grandpa's still recovering from surgery. His throat is very sore.

Zoe nods.

MAIA (CONT'D)

He needs a lot of rest, but when he gets better you can give him many hugs and tell him all your stories.

ZOE

Yeah.

Maia runs a hand through Zoe's hair.

ZOE (CONT'D)

You think he'll read my card.

MAIA

I'm sure he will.

A smooch on Zoe's forehead.

ZOE

Bear too.

As Maia kisses the brown teddy bear, she wiggles her nose.

MAIA

Bear needs a bath.

Zoe giggles.

MAIA (CONT'D)

I'll give Bear a bath. You want him to smell good tomorrow, right?

ZOE

Grandpa pinky promised to do it. I wrote it in the card so he wouldn't forget it.

MAIA

Okay. Sleep tight, munchkin.

ZOE

Good night, mommy.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Maia leaves a pink door ajar.

She puts an ear to the guest room door.

GUEST ROOM

Liam saw logs.

MASTER BEDROOM

Maia plops down on a bed, catches her reflection in a mirror atop a dresser. She touches her face.

Knocks on a door.

MAIA

Yeah.

ANGELINA (35), flawless skin, not a hair out of place, fitted dress disguises her curves, sits next to Maia.

Maia lifts her hair.

MAIA (CONT'D)

You really think you can fix this?

Angelina puts an arm around Maia's shoulders.

ANGELINA

When I'm done with you, my fashion designers and hair stylists will be knocking on your door, begging you to do fashion shows.

Maia smiles.

MAIA  
You're an angel. A lifesaver.

Angelina eyes the diamond ring on Maia's right ring finger.

ANGELINA  
Your mom's, huh?

MAIA  
Yeah.

Maia rubs the ring.

MAIA (CONT'D)  
Thanks for all your help. I really appreciate it.

They hug.

MAIA (CONT'D)  
Our plans have changed, so we'll be back the day after tomorrow.

ANGELINA  
No honeymoon?

MAIA  
On hold for now.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - NIGHT

Clouds cruise past a full moon.

INT. HOUSE - KID'S ROOM - NIGHT

In bed, with her eyes closed, Zoe tosses and turns, kicks the bed cover.

In the doorway, ashen faced Evelien, wrapped in the red dress, gazes at Zoe.

Zoe whimpers, bolts upright with wide eyes at the cracked open door.

ZOE  
Grandma.

## MASTER BEDROOM

Next to the bed, Evelien stares at Maia.

Her face lights up as her eyes drift to the rose gold ring with a single diamond on Maia's right ring finger.

EVELIEN

I'll be there tomorrow.

As Evelien leans forward, Maia turns on her side.

ZOE (O.S.)

Mommy.

Zoe steps up to Maia with the brown teddy bear clutched to her chest.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Mommy.

Maia's eyes flutter open.

MAIA

Sweetie, what is it?

ZOE

Grandma was here.

Maia flicks on a table lamp, squints at Zoe, rubs her eyes.

MAIA

Grandma?

ZOE

Yeah, I think I saw her.

MAIA

Just a dream, sweetie. Come here.

Maia flips the covers. Zoe crawls into bed.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Just a dream.

She kisses the top of Zoe's head.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Sleep tight. Good night.

ZOE

Good night, mommy.

Maia flicks off the light.

MAIA  
(whispers)  
Just a dream.

GUEST ROOM

Liam wheezes on every inhale, snorts on every exhale.

Evelien stands next to him.

EVELIEN  
You remembered the ring.

She glances at the framed photo on the side table.

EVELIEN (CONT'D)  
Play it, Liam. Play it for me.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Sun bleeds through clouds. Birds chirp.

A town car pulls up a driveway, stops behind a crew cab truck, honks.

INT. HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - DAY

In a dark suit and tie, Liam stuffs a flask in an inner pocket and a clean handkerchief in a breast pocket. He grabs the digital recorder, paces across the floor.

ENTRYWAY

Liam opens a front door, waves, pulls a phone from a pocket, thumbs a text, "car is here." He cracks a smile at the ghost and skeleton posters on the front door.

His eyes shift as Maia descends the stairs in a white dress and a bouquet of red roses. Zoe in a frilly pink dress and Angelina follow.

Maia struts across the floor toward Liam.

ZOE  
Isn't mommy beautiful?

His eyes well up as a smile spreads across his face.



EXT. HOUSE - DAY

With arms hooked, Maia and Liam stroll toward the town car.

Zoe and Angelina wave from the front door.

At the town car, Liam peeks through the passenger side front window, shakes his head at CHAUFFEUR DICK (50) on the phone. Liam opens a rear door. Maia smiles as she gets in the car. He closes the door.

Liam circles the back of the car, throws his arms in the air.

With only a couple of feet of space between a hedge along the driveway and the town car, he squeezes into a rear seat, slams the door shut.

INT. TOWN CAR - PARKED - DAY

Chauffeur Dick eyes Liam in the rear view mirror.

Maia puts a hand on Liam's arm.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The town car backs down the driveway.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Next to a table, Angelina brushes Zoe's curls. A basket of red rose pedals on the floor.

ANGELINA

Let's see.

Zoe slides off a chair.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Beautiful.

Angelina cups Zoe's cheeks with both hands, kisses her forehead. She places a flower in Zoe's hair.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Perfect. Just like a princess.

Zoe pouts.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

What's the matter.

ZOE

Is grandpa mad at me?

ANGELINA

Why do you say that? Grandpa loves you. He isn't mad at you.

ZOE

Me and grandpa did pinky swear. He promised to give Bear a bath.

ANGELINA

Oh, I think grandpa was a little stressed out this morning. He'll get to it.

ZOE

He promised to do it before church.

ANGELINA

I think Bear is okay without getting a bath. Why don't go and get him?

Zoe rushes away.

#### KID'S ROOM

In the bed, the brown teddy bear all tucked in, only paws and head visible.

Zoe steps up to the bed, sits next to the stuffed animal, smells it, wriggles her nose.

ZOE

Bear, you need a bath. Sorry, no church for you.

#### GUEST ROOM

Zoe peeks around the door, catches a glimpse of the smiley-face card on the side table.

#### EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A black SUV pulls up behind the crew cab truck.

COLTON ASH (40), hair out of place, receding hairline, expanding waistline, leaps out, slams the door shut.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Colton knocks on the front door as he opens it.

COLTON  
Anybody home?

ANGELINA  
Morning, Colton. How you doing?

COLTON  
Excited and nervous.

Angelina measures him from top to bottom.

COLTON (CONT'D)  
I know, got a brush in the SUV. Had to hurry.

They hug.

ANGELINA  
Where's your jacket and bow tie?

COLTON  
Jacket's in the SUV.

He touches his neck, lifts an eyebrow.

COLTON (CONT'D)  
Oh, shit. I guess bow tie at home.

ANGELINA  
At least tuck in your shirt.

As he tucks in his shirt, she steps up to the banister.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
Zoe, daddy's here.

COLTON  
What's she doing?

ANGELINA  
Getting her teddy bear. She's a little bit down cause grandpa supposedly promised to give her teddy bear a bath and he didn't get to it.

COLTON  
She'll be okay. We need to get going. Traffic is really bad.

With a hand on the railing, Zoe descends the stairs.

COLTON (CONT'D)  
There is my princess.

On one knee, Colton wraps his arms around Zoe.

COLTON (CONT'D)  
The prettiest flower girl I've ever  
seen. Where's Bear?

ZOE  
He doesn't smell good.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

At the black SUV, Colton straps Zoe in a car seat in the back next to the basket of red rose pedals. Angelina gets into the front passenger seat. He slides in behind the steering wheel, closes the door.

INT. BLACK SUV - MOVING - DAY

Colton eyes Zoe in the rear view mirror.

COLTON  
How's the flower girl doing?

ZOE  
Good.

EXT. HILLY STREET - DAY

The town car in the midst of a traffic jam. Cars stop and go.

INT. TOWN CAR - MOVING - DAY

Liam taps his phone.

MAIA  
Don't worry dad. We'll make it.

He nods.

MAIA (CONT'D)  
You got your speech ready?

He lifts the digital recorder.

INT. BLACK SUV - MOVING - DAY

Colton taps a navigator screen.

COLTON

Let's see if we can get to church  
on time.

Angelina raises an eyebrow at him.

EXT. T-INTERSECTION - DAY

Palm fronds rustle. The ocean slams against a rocky coast.

The town car pulls up to a red light, stops under a road  
sign, "Pacific Coast Highway."

INT. TOWN CAR - STOPPED - DAY

Chauffeur Dick gestures, converses in a foreign language on  
the speakerphone.

Liam leans back, shakes his head.

MAIA

Almost there. How's your throat?

He gives a thumb up.

MAIA (CONT'D)

You can always do text to speech on  
your phone.

Maia smiles, squeezes his hand.

As Chauffeur Dick yells, the town car rolls onto Pacific  
Coast Highway on the red light.

Liam shoots forward, shakes Chauffeur Dick's shoulder.

EXT. T-INTERSECTION - DAY

Tires screech.

The black SUV slams into the front side of the town car.

INT. TOWN CAR - STOPPED - DAY

Smoke rises. Lifeless, Chauffeur Dick's face buried in a  
deflated airbag.

Liam shakes his head. Glazed eyes on a motionless Maia.

Next to a spider-webbed side window, blood seeps from a gash in Maia's head, polka dots her white dress.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

With his head down, Liam drags his feet toward a door marked, "Intensive Care Unit."

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - WAITING ROOM

A sign posted behind a reception area, "Information Center." An ADMINISTRATOR monitors computer screens.

Dim lighting. Booths with tables. A row of chairs against a wall. Art work of nature on earth tone colored walls.

In a booth, An OLDER COUPLE holds hands. A WOMAN weeps in the arms of a MAN.

Colton sits in a corner, pasty face with dark circles under his eyes.

Liam snuffles, loosens his tie as he stares out a window with puffy eyes.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

A key in a lock. A front door swings open.

Angelina enters with a white fluffy teddy bear in one hand and Zoe asleep on her shoulder. She swipes a light switch, kicks the door shut behind her.

At the bottom of the stairs, she slips off her high heels, turns to a full length mirror.

Her eyes well up as she catches the reflection of her bandaged forehead and facial bruises.

She shakes her head, climbs the stairs.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

On top of the stairs, Angelina takes a breather, grabs the banister, winces.

## OFFICE

Angelina drops the white teddy bear on the floor, lays Zoe on a pull out bed across from a desk, sits next to her.

She runs a hand through Zoe's hair, touches a few bruises on Zoe's leg.

Zoe moans.

ANGELINA  
(whispers)  
Sorry.

She removes red rose pedals entangled in Zoe's hair, picks up the white teddy bear, sticks it next to Zoe.

## FAMILY ROOM

A flat-screen TV across from a couch, a coffee table, end tables and a bookcase with a few novelties.

Next to the couch, Angelina pours a glass of red wine, reclines in a lazy chair, sips.

## EXT. HOSPITAL - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A taxi pulls up. Liam raises his hand.

## INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - NIGHT

Rooms with sliding glass doors surround multiple nurses stations. NURSES pace the floor.

Behind a station counter, NURSE CAYLEE (45), hair in a bun, petite, decked out in a uniform pantsuit, taps a desktop computer keyboard.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Isabel, some help, please.

A MALE NURSE gives Nurse Caylee a quick glance as he passes by the station.

Nurse Caylee palms her forehead.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
Never mind.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

Dim lights.

Surrounded by medical equipment, Maia lies on her back with her eyes closed and a side shaved bandaged head. Intravenous in her arm.

Bedside, NURSE ISABEL (40), a saint in scrubs, look closely and you might catch her halo. Her eyes well up as she gazes at a tattoo of two crossed arrows on Maia's arm.

Nurse Isabel turns as Colton drags his feet across the floor.

She limps toward him. They hug. The embrace lingers.

As she eases away, she wipes her eyes.

COLTON  
How's she doing?

NURSE ISABEL  
Resting.

INT. HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Angelina snores in the lazy chair. Her fingers go slack. The wine glass tilts, paints her dress red. She whimpers, wiggles. The wine glass rolls off her lap.

As it shatters on the floor ...

QUICK FLASHBACK - EXT. T-INTERSECTION - DAY

The black SUV crashes into the town car.

INT. HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT NIGHT

... Angelina jerks forward with wide eyes. Chest heaves.

KITCHEN

Shards of glass slide off a dustpan into a trash can.

At a counter, Angelina splashes water on her face, grabs a towel from a rack, dries off.



## OFFICE

Wrapped in her red stained dress, Angelina gets into bed next to Zoe and the white teddy bear.

## EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

In the driveway, the taxi stops behind the crew cab truck.

Liam exits.

The taxi backs up.

## INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

The front door opens.

Liam pauses with the digital recorder in one hand. His eyes fixed on the stairs.

He closes the door. Hunched over, he crosses the floor.

## UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Liam stops at the pink door, pushes it open.

## KID'S ROOM

A shaft of light expands across the floor, illuminates Zoe. On her knees, she tucks in the brown teddy bear.

Zoe turns, smiles at Liam.

ZOE (O.S.)  
Grandpa.

## UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Liam whips around.

ZOE  
Is Bear okay?

Frozen, he gapes at Zoe.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Is he sleeping?

A slight nod as he thaws.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Okay. Bear needs a lot of rest. Can you leave the door open a bit. Bear likes that.

She hurries away.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Night, grandpa.

He turns, stares at the brown teddy bear all tucked in, paws and head visible.

He shakes his head.

GUEST ROOM

Liam sets the digital recorder on the side table.

Two big brown eyes peek through the cracked open door.

A tie lands on the bed.

As he wriggles out of his jacket, he knocks the smiley-face card off the side table.

A clank as he drapes the jacket over a chair.

He pulls out the flask from the inner pocket, uncaps it, takes a swig, winces.

The big brown eyes blink.

His chest heaves as he clears his throat. Another swig.

A harsh scream as he snaps around, hurls the flask.

It hits the door with a bang.

As he coughs, he yanks the handkerchief from the jacket breast pocket, wipes blood and spit off his mouth.

The big brown eyes gone.

He slumps onto the bed, pulls a notepad and a pen from the side table drawer, drops it in the backpack, zips it shut.

GUEST BATHROOM

A shower runs behind obscured glass.

KITCHEN

Coffee brews on the counter.

Liam in street clothes.

At one end of the table, on a plate, sits an overturned cup.

He picks it up, touches the pink inscriptions, "Best Grandpa Ever."

Coffee pours into the cup.

He cradles it, sips.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

At the front door, with the backpack over one shoulder, Liam keys the lock, tugs on the door handle.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - PARKED - DAY

The backpack lands in the passenger seat.

Liam slides in behind the steering wheel, slams the door shut, keys the ignition. Engine catches.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The crew cab truck backs down the driveway, comes to a stop in the middle of the street.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - STOPPED - DAY

With firm grips on the wheel, Liam fills his lungs with air.

Through the windshield, he gazes at an orange and yellow glow on the horizon.

High beams flash. A horn blares behind him.

He jerks, whips his head at the rear view mirror, tromps the gas pedal.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

The crew cab truck roars away.

INT. HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY

In bed Zoe yawns, rubs her eyes.

ZOE  
(whispers)  
Angelina, are you sleeping?

A low hum from Angelina.

Zoe grabs the white teddy bear, flips the bed cover.

KID'S ROOM

In the doorway, Zoe clasps the white teddy bear.

ZOE  
(whispers)  
Bear, are you sleeping?

She holds up the stuffed animal.

ZOE  
This is Baby Bear. We met at the hospital. I need to take care of him for awhile. Get some rest Bear. I get back to you.

GUEST ROOM

Zoe sticks her head around a half open door.

She rushes across the floor, kneels at the side table, picks up the smiley-face card. She pauses as her eyes land on the gun safe.

She places the card on the side table next to the framed photo of Evelien and Liam and the digital recorder.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Zoe descends the stairs.

KITCHEN

Zoe steps up to the counter, tip toes, grabs the cup with pink inscriptions.

At the table, she overturns the cup on the plate.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

A truck with a road sign trailer pulls up to a curb. Cones, barricades and equipment crowd the cargo bed. A logo on the door reads, "Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services."

In a safety vest and a hard hat, NOAH (45), scrawny, U-turn moustache, sleeved with tattoos, gets out the driver side.

SAMUEL (50), round face, no neck, doughnut lover, beefy arms, in a safety vest, slides out the passenger side.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

At a window, on her knees, Zoe peers at Samuel and Noah with the white teddy bear in her lap.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Samuel puts on protective glasses and a hard hat, slings two A-frame barricades over his shoulders. Noah grabs a stack of orange cones.

A police car slows down, honks as it passes Noah and Samuel. Noah waves with the cones in his hands.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zoe puts the white teddy bear on the floor, gets on her feet, presses the palms of her hands against the window.

ZOE

Daddy.

Her dimples fade as the police car zips down the street.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Noah glances at the house. He raises an arm, waves.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zoe waves at Noah as he drops into a manhole.

OFFICE

Zoe rushes in, tugs on Angelina's shoulder.

ZOE

Why does grandpa have a gun safe  
under the bed?

Angelina squints at Zoe.

ANGELINA

A what?

ZOE

A gun safe.

ANGELINA

Protection, I guess. You better  
stay out of grandpa's room, okay?

ZOE

Daddy has a gun safe too. He  
protects us. Grandpa doesn't need  
to protect us anymore.

Angelina pulls her phone from a side table, taps it.

ANGELINA

Early bird, huh?

ZOE

What kind of bird is that?

ANGELINA

A nice bird.

ZOE

Grandpa came home last night. So  
why isn't daddy coming home?

Angelina puts the phone on the side table, flips the cover,  
props her elbow, taps the mattress.

ANGELINA

Come here.

Zoe sits.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Grandpa was here?

ZOE

Yeah, but he left this morning. I  
think he's angry.

ANGELINA

You know, grandpa loves mommy very  
much.

So when mommy is in the hospital  
and he can't help her too much, he  
gets a bit angry.

Zoe nods.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

That's why grandpa and daddy are at  
the hospital to give mommy all love  
and support she needs to get well.

ZOE

Can we go and see mommy?

ANGELINA

Soon.

ZOE

I know mommy can't see or hear me,  
but maybe if I'm there, mommy will  
feel better.

ANGELINA

Even if we're not at the hospital,  
we're with your mommy in spirits.  
We're always thinking about her.

ZOE

I'm thinking about mommy many times  
a day. Does that help?

ANGELINA

Yes, very much.

ZOE

Okay.

EXT. HOSPITAL - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Liam enters with the backpack over one shoulder.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

At a sliding glass door with "7" posted on the wall, Nurse  
Caylee stands next to Liam.

He clips a badge onto his shirt.

She puts a hand on his shoulder. Her voice trembles.

NURSE CAYLEE

Anything I can do, let me know.

He smiles, nods.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

The sliding glass door opens.

Liam shuffles across the floor, eyes glued on Maia.

Bedside he drops the backpack next to a side table, pulls up a chair, sits, holds Maia's hand.

He taps his phone, flips it toward Maia. It plays a video clip of Maia and Liam.

MAIA (V.O.)  
(recorded video)  
Come on, dad. You can do it.

LIAM (V.O.)  
(recorded video)  
I'm too old for this.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

A jackhammer obliterates asphalt.

Noah pops his head up from a manhole, rubs his chin as he eyes Angelina.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Wrapped in a robe over her red stained dress, armed with a pair of scissors and gloves, Angelina snips off some red roses along the driveway.

Noah waves a hand, exposes a rack of yellow teeth.

NOAH  
Morning, Angelina.

She pauses.

ANGELINA  
Do I know you?

NOAH  
Sort of. Have a good day, ma'am.

He drops down in the manhole.

She paces toward the front door.



GABY (O.S.)  
Is Zoe home?

Angelina jerks, locks eyes with Gaby.

ANGELINA  
Who are you?

GABY  
Gaby. Zoe's best friend.

ANGELINA  
You alone?

Gaby nods.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
Where are your parents?

GABY  
Mommy's working. Daddy's home.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Gaby enters. Angelina follows with the red roses.

ANGELINA  
Zoe. Gaby is here.

Zoe waves from top of the stairs.

ZOE  
Gaby, come here. Meet Baby Bear.

Gaby rushes up the stairs.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Zoe and Gaby hug.

ZOE  
Where's Cuddles?

GABY  
At home with daddy.

Hand in hand, they hurry across the floor.

## KITCHEN

Angelina lays the bouquet of red roses on the counter next to her phone, picks up a vase, places it in the sink.

As she flips on the faucet, pipes burp.

She flips the faucet off and on, no water. She sticks the red roses in the vase.

Her eyes close as she inhales the scent of the flowers.

Taps on the window. A soft smile on her face.

Knocks on the window. Her eyes jerks open.

NOAH

Ma'am. We had to shut off the water. Should be back shortly.

She stares at Noah.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Water should be back shortly.

ANGELINA

Okay.

She places the vase with the red roses on the table.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. Gaby.

## OFFICE

Zoe holds up a costume.

ZOE

I'll be a ghost.

GABY

My mommy got me an angel costume with wings.

Knocks on a door.

ANGELINA (O.S.)

Zoe, can I come in?

ZOE

Okay.

Angelina enters.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
What you think of my costume?

ANGELINA  
Very nice, but scary.

ZOE  
We're both dead. Gaby's an angel  
and me a ghost.

Zoe and Gaby chuckle.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Can you take us trick or treating?

ANGELINA  
When?

ZOE  
Halloween. Tomorrow.

ANGELINA  
I'm not sure, Zoe. Sorry.

ZOE  
Can you ask daddy?

ANGELINA  
We'll see, okay.

Her eyes shift from Zoe to Gaby.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
How about your parents, Gaby?

Gaby shakes her head.

GABY  
Mommy's working. Daddy's home, but  
he can't be reached.

ANGELINA  
Can't be reached? I thought you  
said he was home.

GABY  
He is home.

Angelina tightens her eyebrows.

ANGELINA  
Okay, do you have your mommy's  
phone number?

Gaby extends her arm.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Cute.

Angelina taps her phone as she reads a wrist bracelet off Gaby's arm.

As Angelina leaves, she puts the phone to her ear.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Framed diplomas and awards on a wall. Books crowd shelves.

Behind a desk, in a lab coat, DOCTOR GRANT (55), lean and tall, clean shaven, wears glasses, eyes a medical spreadsheet on a computer monitor.

Next to Doctor Grant, Nurse Isabel taps a tablet.

NURSE ISABEL

Got it. Thank you.

DOCTOR GRANT

Appreciate it, John.

JOHN (V.O.)

(speaker)

Anytime.

Doctor Grant clicks off the speakerphone.

Knocks on a door.

DOCTOR GRANT

Yes.

The door opens, Liam sticks his head in.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Come on in, Liam.

Nurse Isabel smiles at Liam as she hobbles past him.

NURSE ISABEL

Good morning.

With a hand up, Liam nods, closes the door.

Doctor Grant rises from the chair, circles the desk.

They shake hands.

DOCTOR GRANT

Have a seat.

Liam drops the backpack on the floor beside the desk, sits across from Doctor Grant.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Liam, I'm truly sorry. Please, let us know if there is anything we can do during this very difficult time.

A notepad and a pen land on the desk.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Any questions, let me know.

Liam jots, flips the notepad, "She moves. Makes sounds. Eyes always closed."

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

These are random reflexes, which do occur with patients in coma due to head injury.

Doctor Grant leans forward, folds his hands on the desk.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Maia's unconscious. She's not awake and not aware of herself and what's going on around her.

Liam fidgets, rubs the armrests.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

We're looking for any signs of initial recovery, like open eyes and how she responds to simple physical or verbal stimulus.

A pen shoots ink onto the notepad, "Recovery? Prognosis?"

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

It's too early to tell. We have to wait and see, but I expect to know more in a week or two.

Liam scrawls on the notepad, "how's she?"

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

She's resting. No pain. We don't see any damage to her heart and her spine which is certainly encouraging news.

More scribbles, "head bandage."

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)  
Protecting stitches from a fairly  
deep gash.

Liam stands, paces the floor to a window.

A hand on his shoulder.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)  
Keep in mind, the brain has a  
remarkable way of repairing itself,  
finding new pathways so to speak.

They hold each other's eyes.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)  
Please, have a seat and I'll take  
you through her initial test  
results. It might clarify some of  
your concerns and questions.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

Nurse Isabel steps up to the foot of the bed.

NURSE ISABEL  
Maia, I'm here for you. Always.

With closed eyes, a smile spreads across Maia's face.

MAIA  
Isabel?

Nurse Isabel gawks at Maia.

NURSE ISABEL  
You can hear me?

MAIA  
Of course, I can. Never forget your  
voice. What's going on?

NURSE ISABEL  
You're in the hospital recovering  
from an accident. I'm one of the  
nurses looking after you.

MAIA  
Thanks for being here. Sorry, I'm a  
bit tired.

NURSE ISABEL  
Get some rest. I'll be back.

A hand on Nurse Isabel's shoulder. She turns, exchanges a stare with Evelien. They hug.

The sliding glass door opens. Nurse Caylee enters with a tablet in one hand.

MAIA  
Isabel?

NURSE ISABEL  
Yeah.

Maia touches the tattoo on her arm.

MAIA  
Friends forever.

Nurse Isabel pulls up her sleeve, exposes a tattoo of two crossed arrows.

NURSE ISABEL  
Best of friends.

Bedside, Nurse Caylee taps the tablet. Her eyes dart between the tablet and Maia.

Nurse Caylee plops down on the bed, wide eyes on Maia.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Maia, I'm Caylee. Do you hear me?

No response from Maia.

Nurse Caylee pinches Maia's arm.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
Do you feel me?

Not a single twitch on Maia's face.

An eerie silence as Nurse Caylee scans the empty room.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
Isabel.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Doctor Grant leans on the desk.

DOCTOR GRANT

It would be very helpful if you could bring anything Maia would recognize. A photo, music, perfume, your recorded voice. This could help trigger her senses and help the recovery process.

Liam scribbles, "restrict visitations."

Doctor Grant nods.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Check with the admin at the information desk. Also let Nurse Caylee know.

Liam zips the backpack shut, slings it over his shoulder.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

On a personal note. Taking care of yourself when caring for a loved one is very important.

Doctor Grant puts a hand on Liam's shoulder.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Take breaks. Get sleep. You got my number. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

They shake hands.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Doctor Grant converses with Nurse Caylee.

DOCTOR GRANT

Who's Isabel?

NURSE CAYLEE

She was Maia's best friend. Died in a car accident a few weeks ago.

Doctor Grant raises an eyebrow.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)

I worked with Isabel for years.

DOCTOR GRANT

Her eyes were closed?



NURSE CAYLEE

Yes. I tried to get her attention,  
physically and verbally. Couldn't.

DOCTOR GRANT

Her vitals?

NURSE CAYLEE

Within the norms. No stress as far  
as I could tell.

DOCTOR GRANT

You heard words and phrases, not  
just incoherent mumbles.

NURSE CAYLEE

Coherent words and phrases.

Doctor Grant rubs his chin.

DOCTOR GRANT

Let's see how she's doing.

Nurse Caylee picks up the tablet.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

Bedside in a chair, Liam holds Maia's hand.

The sliding glass door opens. Doctor Grant enters. Nurse  
Caylee follows.

DOCTOR GRANT

Good Morning, Maia. I'm Doctor  
Grant. How are you doing?

Liam stands, pushes the chair out of the way.

Doctor Grant sits on the bed, grabs her hand, rubs her arm.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)

Can you hear me, Maia?

Maia, on her back, eyes closed, motionless.

Doctor Grant pinches Maia's arm. No response. He gestures  
toward Nurse Caylee.

Nurse Caylee claps her hands.

NURSE CAYLEE

Maia, Can you hear me?

Doctor Grant clicks on a pen light, leans over Maia, pulls her eyelid, shines a light in her eye.

The heart monitor shows no irregular beats.

Doctor Grant nods at Nurse Caylee. She taps the tablet.

INT. HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Wrapped in the red stained dress, Angelina naps on the couch.

ZOE

Angelina.

A blurry image of Zoe as Angelina's eyes flutter open.

ZOE (CONT'D)

You don't smell good.

Angelina sits, rubs her eyes, yawns.

ANGELINA

Where's Gaby?

ZOE

She went home.

ANGELINA

No. I told you to let me know when Gaby leaves. I promised her mom to take her home.

Angelina leaps from the couch.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Have you seen my phone?

Zoe shakes her head.

KITCHEN

Angelina swipes her phone off the counter. Her eyes go wide as she peers out the window at Gaby and Noah hand in hand strolling down the sidewalk.

ENTRYWAY

Angelina yanks open the front door.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Angelina leaps out the door.

ANGELINA  
Gaby. Gaby.

She sprints down the driveway to the sidewalk.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Angelina gapes down the empty sidewalk.

ANGELINA  
What the hell.

Samuel hard at work with the jackhammer.

Angelina waves and yells at Samuel.

She taps her phone, "911", puts it to her ear.

OPERATOR (V.O.)  
(recorded)  
The number cannot be reached as  
dialed.

ANGELINA  
What?

Her phone chimes a text, "Gaby had a great time with Zoe."

As she stares at the text message, her phone rings, "Unknown caller." Hesitantly, she taps it.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
(into the phone)  
Hello.

Her eyes light up.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
(into the phone)  
Oh, thank god.

She shuffles up the driveway, gestures with her arm as she converses on the phone.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
(into the phone)  
Trying to hold it together for now.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Angelina enters.

ANGELINA  
(into the phone)  
She's struggling to grasp what's  
going on and a bit confused.

She closes the front door.

KITCHEN

Angelina paces the floor.

ANGELINA  
(into the phone)  
Sounds like a good distraction.  
They already have their costumes.

She nods.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
(into the phone)  
Yeah, you're right. Please keep me  
updated. Thanks for calling.

She puts her phone on the counter, dry washes her face with both hands, grimaces as she touches the bandage on her brow.

Her hand rummages through her purse, picks up a prescription bottle. She pops a couple of pills in her mouth, turns on the faucet, cups her hand under the water, washes them down.

EXT. HOSPITAL - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A moonlit sky.

Liam exits, stops, takes a deep breath, gazes at the sky.

EXT. HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Liam keys the crew cab truck door lock.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - PARKED - NIGHT

The backpack flies across the driver seat, bumps against the passenger seat door.

Liam slides in behind the steering wheel, keys the ignition.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The crew cab truck parks next to a gate.

Liam gets out.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Liam trudges the grounds.

As he passes a church, all lit up, he stops.

FLASHBACK - INT. CHURCH - DAY

Filled to capacity.

At the end of an aisle, Evelien in a wedding dress and Liam in a black tuxedo, hold hands in front of PASTOR ADAM (55).

PASTOR ADAM

You may now kiss the bride.

A smooch.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT - PRESENT NIGHT

A lamp post throws a dim light over a gravestone, surrounded by flowers.

An engraved cross divides the gravestone in two halves. On the left half engraved, "Evelien Hunter, May 8, 1961 - May 1, 2021. Life was a gift." The right half of the stone, blank.

Liam kneels, folds his hands, lowers his head.

The lamp post flickers, lights out.

Moonlight paints a silhouette of a motionless Liam.

EVELIEN (V.O.)

Play it, Liam. Play it for me.

He lifts his head, gazes at Evelien wrapped in the red dress at a distance.

The image of Evelien fades. He blinks his eyes. Evelien gone.

Unsteady on his feet, he stumbles up to the headstone, runs a hand on top of it.

He sidesteps the tombstone, down on one knee. He scoops up a handful of soil, sifts it through his fingers.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Liam gets into the crew cab truck.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - PARKED - NIGHT

Liam slams the door shut, leans back, closes his eyes.

A key in the ignition. The engine roars to life.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET - NIGHT

The crew cab truck bangs over potholes, hits a speed bump hard, blows a stop sign. Cars honk.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Light traffic. The crew cab truck zips along a lake. Two oncoming headlights at a distance.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

A radio blasts tunes. Windows open.

Liam slaps his face, fights to stay awake. As his eyes turn heavy, his head dips.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The crew cab truck drifts into an oncoming lane.

A horn blares. Headlights flash.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

Liam's eyes pop open, bulge at the two headlights.

He yanks the steering wheel to the right, catches a glimpse in slow motion of a GIRL (5) in a car seat as a dark colored SUV narrowly misses sideswiping the crew cab truck.

He tromps the brakes.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Wheels lock as the crew cab truck skids to a stop.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - STOPPED - NIGHT

White knuckled hands on the steering wheel. Wide eyes through the windshield. Liam's chest heaves.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The crew cab truck rolls back onto the street.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

High beams flood a garage door as the crew cab truck rolls up the driveway.

INT. HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

In the lazy chair, Angelina taps her phone.

ZOE (O.S.)  
Angelina. Angelina.

Zoe dashes in.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Daddy and grandpa are home.

KITCHEN

Red and blue lights reflect off the window.

Angelina leans over the counter, peers through the window, catches a glimpse of a UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER next to the driver side window of the crew cab truck.

ANGELINA  
It's grandpa, not daddy. He's with  
mommy at the hospital.

ZOE  
How do you know is not daddy?

ANGELINA  
Trust me. I know.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

With flashers off, the police car rolls down the driveway.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The front door bangs shut.

With her back to the counter, Angelina puts her hands on Zoe's shoulders.

Liam stomps in with the backpack over one shoulder, slams the ticket on the table, tramples past Zoe and Angelina.

Angelina picks up the ticket.

ZOE

What is it?

ANGELINA

Grandpa has a heavy foot.

ZOE

A what foot?

ANGELINA

He was speeding. Driving too fast.

She drops the ticket on the counter.

GARAGE

A side door swings open.

Liam pounds toward cardboard boxes stacked along one wall, pulls a box marked, "Toys."

KITCHEN

With a boombox and a few compact discs in one hand, Liam scoops up the ticket from the table, crumples it, stuffs it in a pocket.

GUEST ROOM

On the floor, the boombox sits next to the backpack.

Liam hunched over on the bed.

At the door, Zoe clutches the white teddy bear.



ZOE  
Grandpa, are you okay?

He squeezes his eyes shut.

ANGELINA (O.S.)  
Zoe, bedtime.

ZOE  
Hope you're feeling better soon.  
Good night, grandpa.

He lifts his head, eyes an empty doorway.

Fully clothed, his head hits a pillow.

Shortly after, he pulls timber.

OFFICE

Angelina tucks in Zoe and the white teddy bear.

ZOE  
Are we having breakfast with  
grandpa tomorrow?

ANGELINA  
I think so. Get some sleep. Night.

ZOE  
Good night.

Angelina flicks off the table lamp, leaves.

ZOE  
Can I pray for daddy to come home  
and grandpa to get better?

ANGELINA  
They would like that very much.

Zoe crosses the white teddy bear's paws, folds her hands.

ZOE  
Angelina, are you staying with me?

ANGELINA  
Yeah, I'll be here. I'm not going  
anywhere. Sleep tight.

ZOE  
Okay. Good night.

## UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Angelina leaves the door ajar.

## FAMILY ROOM

An open bottle and a glass of red wine on the coffee table. In the background, the TV runs news stories at low volume.

Cross legged on the floor, next to her purse, Angelina clicks a selfie.

She frowns, punches the phone, deletes the photo.

She digs in her purse, grabs the prescription bottle, throws a couple of pills in her mouth, chases them down with wine.

With the phone in photo mode, she stares at her bruised and bandaged face. She opens and closes her eyes, touches her baggy eyes.

A low pitched scream.

The phone propels through the air, bounces against the couch.

Her chest heaves as her head dips, eyes flutter shut.

## ON TV

At a train station, emergency vehicles with red and blue lights on. A handful of COMMUTERS. A RESCUE TEAM kneels next to a white sheet laid out over the tracks in front of a train. At the bottom of the screen, "Breaking news: A seven year old boy killed in a train accident."

## OFFICE

With folded hands, Zoe eyes the ceiling. She grabs the white teddy bear, flips the bed cover.

## FAMILY ROOM

Angelina snorts, whips her head up with wide eyes. She clears her throat, stumbles to her feet.

## ON TV

A FEMALE REPORTER (30) sniffs back tears.

## FEMALE REPORTER

According to eyewitnesses, the boy  
ran onto the tracks to grab what  
seemed to be a stuffed toy.

## OFFICE

An empty bed.

## KITCHEN

Angelina squints through the window at red and blue lights at  
a distance.

She turns on the faucet, splashes water on her face.

As she lifts her head, her eyes pop as she gapes through the  
window at Noah under a street lamp.

Footsteps.

She snaps her head sideways. Her eyes bulge.

In rain boots and pink pajamas, Zoe paces past the doorway  
with a headless white teddy bear in one hand.

She whips her head at the window, gawks at an empty street.

## ENTRYWAY

Angelina stumbles, grabs the door frame.

On top of the stairs, Zoe pauses, dangles the headless white  
teddy bear in one hand, the head in the other hand.

Angelina freezes for a second, jerks her head at the open  
front door.

As she closes the front door, a foot jams the doorway.

She recoils, loses the grip on the door handle as Noah pushes  
the door open.

## NOAH

Zoe's fine.

With a rock face, she gawks at Noah.

## NOAH (CONT'D)

Lock the door.

She rummages for oxygen.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Protect the kids. Open and unlocked  
doors invite strangers.

He rolls up a shirtsleeve, points to a tattoo of a young girl  
on his upper arm.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
My daughter was abducted. I didn't  
lock the door.

He rolls down the sleeve, clears his throat.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
I wrapped my arms around her the  
other day.

She forces a smile with a slight nod.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Didn't mean to upset you, ma'am.  
Just doing my neighborhood watch.  
Have a good night.

Wide eyes on Noah as he leaves.

She expels a long breath, locks the door, tugs on the handle.

OFFICE

Next to the bed, two furball pieces hit the floor.

With the rain boots on, Zoe crawls into bed, pulls the cover,  
closes her glazed eyes.

In the doorway, Angelina gawks at Zoe and the two stuffed  
animal pieces.

Angelina sits on the bed, rubs Zoe's shoulder.

ANGELINA  
Zoe.

Zoe's eyes pop open. Angelina jerks.

ZOE  
Baby Bear's hurt.

Her hand trembles as she pushes hair away from Zoe's face.

ANGELINA  
Are you okay?

ZOE  
I'm fine.

Angelina jerks, clutches her chest, grimaces.

A tiny hand tugs Angelina's arm.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Angelina.

Angelina catches her breath.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

ANGELINA  
I'm okay. What happened to you?

ZOE  
A boy tried to take Baby Bear.

ANGELINA  
What?

ZOE  
He lost his stuffed animal when he  
was hit by a train.

With a half open mouth, Angelina's eyes shift between Zoe and  
the two dirty white teddy bear pieces.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Daddy didn't listen to my prayers  
so I went to look for him.

ANGELINA  
What? Where?

ZOE  
At the train station.

ANGELINA  
Train station?

Zoe nods.

ZOE  
I saw the red and blue lights and  
maybe that was daddy's lights, but  
he wasn't there.

ANGELINA  
Daddy's at the hospital.

Angelina takes a deep breath.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
You were sleepwalking.

ZOE  
No, I wasn't sleeping. I don't  
remember too much, but It was cold  
out there.

Big eyes on Angelina.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Where are the ghosts and skeletons?

ANGELINA  
What'd you mean?

ZOE  
The ghost and skeletons on the  
front door.

Angelina runs a hand through Zoe's hair.

ANGELINA  
We'll talk about all this in the  
morning, okay?

ZOE  
Can you help Baby Bear?

ANGELINA  
I'll try.

Zoe's voice trails off.

ZOE  
Thank you. I'm tired.

Angelina flips the cover, pulls the rain boots off Zoe, tucks  
her in.

She picks up the two furball pieces, flinches.

A red stain on the carpet.

She flips the headless body, peers at a bloody backside.

## KITCHEN

Angelina soaks a rag under tap water, wipes the back of the white teddy bear.

On the table, an open bottle of red wine, three knitting pins and the white teddy bear's head.

## LAUNDRY ROOM

With crossed arms, Angelina leans against a counter, stares at a front door window of a dryer as the white teddy bear's body bangs against it.

## KITCHEN

Angelina sits at the table, takes a long pull on the bottle.

A perverse satisfied smirk curls her lips as she pushes a knitting pin through the head into the body of the white teddy bear.

## OFFICE

Angelina places the one-piece white teddy bear under the bed cover next to Zoe.

## INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7 - NIGHT

Evelien steps up to the bed, gazes at Maia.

As Evelien leans closer to Maia, she recoils as Maia bolts upright. Maia gasps for air with wide open eyes.

The heart monitor hard at work.

A hand grabs Evelien's arm, pulls her back.

NURSE ISABEL  
Make room for Nurse Caylee.

Nurse Caylee bursts in.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Maia.

The heart monitor shows a rapid pulse.

With one arm around Maia's back, Nurse Caylee stares at Maia.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
It's okay. I got you.

Maia's breathing slows down.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
Maia, can you hear me?

Her head dips, eyes close. Nurse Caylee eases Maia down on her back.

NURSE ISABEL  
Maia felt your energy.

Evelien glances at Nurse Isabel.

NURSE ISABEL (CONT'D)  
You get too close, it becomes  
overwhelming. Very uncomfortable.  
Keep a distance.

Nurse Caylee sits on the bed, holds Maia's hand.

NURSE CAYLEE  
What the hell is going on?

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

The jackhammer pounds the asphalt.

At the truck, Noah picks up tools from the bed.

Samuel shuts off the jackhammer, takes a deep breath, lifts the helmet, wipes beads of sweat from his face.

INT. HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY

With the white teddy bear tucked under one arm, Zoe stands next to the bed.

ZOE  
(whispers)  
Angelina. Wake up.

One eye opens, squints at Zoe, slides her phone off the side table, taps it.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Thanks for helping Baby Bear.



ANGELINA  
Sure. Why are you whispering?

ZOE  
Bear is sleeping. He's tired.

ANGELINA  
Where's Bear?

ZOE  
My room.

Angelina rubs her eyes.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
What's sleepwalking?

ANGELINA  
Sleepwalking?

ZOE  
Yeah.

ANGELINA  
Why sleepwalking?

ZOE  
You said I was sleepwalking, but that's not true. I was walking, but I wasn't sleeping.

ANGELINA  
I'm tired. Let you know later.

ZOE  
You have to get up. We're doing breakfast with grandpa.

GUEST ROOM

Liam flips the cover, swings his feet out of the bed.

He flicks on the table lamp.

Feet slide into slippers.

ENTRYWAY

Zoe stands at the front door.

ZOE  
Angelina, come here.

ANGELINA  
What is it?

ZOE  
Open the door.

Angelina raises an eyebrow, unlocks the door, opens it.

Zoe points at the front door.

ZOE  
Where are the ghosts and skeletons?

ANGELINA  
That was before the accident.

Big eyes shift back and forth between Angelina and the door.

ANGELINA  
Let's do breakfast.

#### KITCHEN

On the counter, coffee brews next to the cup with pink inscriptions, "Best Grandpa Ever."

Withered red roses in a vase on the table.

Zoe pours cereal into a bowl, misses as half of the cereal lands on the table. She scoops it up, loads it in her mouth.

Angelina butters a piece of toast with a fork. Zoe eyes her, puts a hand to her mouth, chews, swallows.

ZOE  
Can I have some milk?

With the fork, Angelina stabs a plate with butter, scoops out a chunk, drops it on the toast.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
Milk, please.

ANGELINA  
Oh ...

Milk flows into the cereal bowl.

Zoe points to a glass.

As Angelina pours milk into the glass, Zoe shovels a spoonful of cereal in her mouth.

The front door bangs shut.

Liam slams two newspapers on the counter, pours coffee into the cup with pink inscriptions, slurps.

Zoe chomps on cereal.

Zoe touches Angelina's arm.

ZOE  
(whispers)  
Why isn't grandpa sitting down at  
the table?

ANGELINA  
Grandpa has a lot of things on his  
plate right now.

Zoe eyes the plate at the end of the table.

ZOE  
His plate is empty.

ANGELINA  
Grandpa has a lot of things to  
think about and he likes to do  
things his own way.

ZOE  
He's a mule.

Angelina pauses.

ANGELINA  
You mean, he's stubborn as a mule.

ZOE  
Yeah, he's a stubborn mule, but I  
love him very much.

Zoe drops another spoonful of cereal in her mouth, glances at Liam as milk dribbles down her chin.

Liam cradles the cup. His hand trembles as he flattens one of the newspapers with the headline, "Horrific car accident injuries 3, kills 5."

Zoe gulps milk, gasps for air as she puts the empty glass on the table, wipes her milk moustache on her pajama sleeve.

Liam flips another page. His grip tightens on the cup.

A hoarse scream.

Zoe jerks. Angelina recoils, spills coffee on her dress.

Liam spins, flings the cup across the room.

The cup explodes against a wall.

Liam freezes, wide eyes at the shattered pieces on the floor.

Zoe's eyes well up as Angelina grabs her arm.

ANGELINA

Grandpa needs some alone time.

Liam drops on his knees. His hand shakes as he picks up a shattered piece marked, "Best ..."

Zoe peeks around the doorway.

Liam chokes out sobs.

ANGELINA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Zoe, come here.

GUEST BATHROOM

At a vanity, Liam covers his face with shaving gel.

EVELIEN (V.O.)

Let it go, Liam. Nothing you could've done.

He runs a shaver down his cheek, stares into a mirror.

EVELIEN (V.O.)

Don't be a hero. Some things in life are not fixable. Accept it.

With both hands, he grips the edge of the vanity, sinks his head, closes his eyes.

EVELIEN (V.O.)

Gilt will rip you apart and I'm not sure I'm ready to share my space with you yet.

As he coughs, a swirl of blood and shaving foam drain down the sink.

EVELIEN (V.O.)

(yells)

Are you listening?

He snaps his head up, gawks at a reflection of Evelien.

As he spins, foam and blood fly through the air.

Wide eyes at an empty doorway.

He turns, stares at his own reflection.

OFFICE

On the floor, Zoe brushes the white teddy bear.

ZOE

Baby Bear, you're still dirty.

With a hand on the door handle, Angelina peeks in.

ANGELINA

Can you show me where Gaby lives?

ZOE

Okay.

GUEST ROOM

Liam sits on the bed with the backpack on the floor between his legs. As he slides the framed photo and the digital recorder into the backpack, his eyes land on the smiley-face card next to the gun safe.

He picks it up, opens it.

ZOE (V.O.)

(reads card)

Grandpa, I hope you are feeling better soon. I got lots of stories to tell and hugs to give. Pinky Swear: Remember to give Bear a bath before church. Love, Zoe.

His finger circles "Love, Zoe" on the card.

KID'S ROOM

Liam peeks in, eyes the brown teddy bear, all tucked in. He leaves the door ajar.

GUEST ROOM

Liam sticks the smiley-face card in the backpack, zips it shut, slings it over his shoulder, picks up the boombox.

## UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Liam descends the stairs.

## EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The crew cab truck backs down the driveway, bounces off a curb onto the street, jerks forward.

## EXT. FLOWER STORE - DAY

Liam exits with flowers and a candle in a glass jar.

## EXT. JAVA JOLT COFFEE BAR - DAY

Liam eyes a sea of flowers and lit candles in glass jars against a chipped wall. Windows boarded up.

With one knee on the ground, he places the bouquet of flowers against the wall. He lights the candle in the glass jar, sticks it next to the bouquet of flowers.

He folds his hands, lowers his head, closes his eyes. Motionless for a few seconds.

Horns blare.

He whirls around.

The black SUV tumbles toward him.

He leaps to his feet, dives, rolls on the sidewalk, snaps his head up, gapes at a three car crash in the street. DRIVERS get out, shout, gesticulate, point fingers. No black SUV.

On his behind, he hugs his knees, fights for air.

## INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7 - DAY

Bedside, Colton sits in a chair.

Liam paces toward Maia with the boombox in one hand, the backpack over one shoulder.

Liam places the framed photo, the smiley-face card and the digital recorder on the side table. He puts the boombox on the floor.

Colton leaves.

Liam slides a compact disc in the boombox, hits play.

Soft music fills the air.

Liam pulls the chair closer to Maia, sits.

In the red dress, Evelien steps up behind Liam, eyes the framed photo.

EVELIEN

Maia. It's your mom.

As Maia twists and turns, her eyes flutter.

MAIA

Mom?

Liam lifts his head, locks eyes on Maia.

EVELIEN

Yeah, I'm here.

MAIA

Good to hear your voice, mom.

Liam sweeps the room with wide eyes.

EVELIEN

Just relax. You're in the hospital.  
A car accident. Just wanted to see  
how you're doing.

MAIA

I feel okay. Thanks. How you doing?

EVELIEN

Good.

With an unwavering stare at Maia, Liam rubs her hands.

EVELIEN (CONT'D)

Dad is here too. He needs to rest  
his sore throat, so he communicates  
through written notes.

Maia smiles.

MAIA

How's your throat, dad?

A huff and a nervous quick smile with two thumbs up.

EVELIEN

Two thumbs up.

MIA

Wow, two thumbs up. Great, dad.

Liam leaps from the chair, sidesteps, rubs the back of his neck. His eyes race for answers, dart between the empty chair and Maia.

EVELIEN

If he scribbles, I can let you know what he wants to say.

MAIA

Okay, dad. Scribble away. Mom will be the interpreter.

EVELIEN

Tell us what's on your mind.

MAIA

What is he doing?

EVELIEN

A bit emotional.

Liam swallows hard, runs a hand through his hair.

MAIA

Take your time, dad. No rush.

Hesitant, Liam drags his feet to the chair, sits, pulls the notepad and pen from the backpack.

His hand trembles as the pen touches the notepad, "Get well soon. Miss your hugs. Love you ... both."

EVELIEN

He's asking how you're feeling. Miss the hugs and love us both.

MAIA

Right back at you, dad. Love you too. I'm doing fine. So is mom.

Liam eyes the framed photo on the side table.

EVELIEN

I believe he wants to play the framed photo.

MAIA

Play it, dad. It's beautiful. Mom will really like it.

Liam picks up the framed photo.



Evelien leans forward, whispers in his ear.

EVELIEN

Play it, Liam. Play it. It'll be a first for me.

Liam peeks over his shoulders, forces a smile.

MAIA

What's going on.

EVELIEN

Patience. He'll get there.

His finger trembles as he pushes the button on the frame.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

At the nurses station, Nurse Caylee peers at Liam and Maia. With the tablet in her hand, Nurse Caylee steps up to the sliding glass door.

Her eyes well up as she observes Liam in the chair with the framed photo on his hands and Maia with a big smile on her face. She taps the tablet, pulls up "Maia's vitals."

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

Liam puts the framed photo on the side table.

Evelien catches a glimpse of Nurse Caylee.

EVELIEN

Maia, the medical staff is here. I'll step aside. See you in a bit.

MAIA

Okay, mom. Thanks for your scribbles, dad.

Frozen in the chair, Liam stares at Maia.

NURSE CAYLEE (O.S.)

Liam.

Nurse Caylee steps up to him.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)

Liam.

Liam picks up the notepad and pen, jots, "I buried my wife six months ago. My daughter just talked to her."

A blank stare at Nurse Caylee.

Liam puts the notepad and pen on the chair, paces back and forth in front of Nurse Caylee.

Liam grabs the notepad and pen, scrawls, "hallucination?"

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
I don't believe so.

More scribbles, "what's happening?"

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
I let the doctor know.

As Nurse Caylee leaves, Liam grabs her arm, shoots her an intense look, jots, "will they show up?"

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
I really don't know, but ...

Nurse Caylee clears her throat.

NURSE CAYLEE (CONT'D)  
... I hope so.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Nurse Caylee paces the floor. Behind the desk, Doctor Grant leans back in the chair as he interlocks his fingers behind his head.

She shakes her head.

NURSE CAYLEE  
I know this is beyond the scope of scientific and medical understanding, but I stand by what I observed.

DOCTOR GRANT  
You didn't actually listen in on the communication.

NURSE CAYLEE  
No.

DOCTOR GRANT  
Any change in her vital readings?

NURSE CAYLEE  
All normal. No stress.

DOCTOR GRANT  
As far as you could tell, her eyes  
were closed the entire time.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Yes.

DOCTOR GRANT  
Possible random reflexes?

She throws him a stare.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)  
Was Liam hallucinating? Caused by  
intense grief and stress.

NURSE ISABEL  
Liam's got pages of notes. Maia  
gestured, laughed, smiled and her  
lips moved. I don't believe those  
were random reflexes.

DOCTOR GRANT  
You believe, but not sure.

NURSE CAYLEE  
With all due respect doctor. Just  
because something's invisible to  
us, doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

They lock eyes.

Doctor Grant removes his glasses, pinches the bridge of his  
nose with closed eyes.

DOCTOR GRANT  
Listen, I'm not trying to discredit  
what you observed, but I'm having a  
hard time wrapping my head around  
this. Hope you understand that.

He slips his glasses back on.

DOCTOR GRANT (CONT'D)  
Maia's well being is our number one  
priority. Keep a lid on this as  
much as you can. If necessary,  
inform the staff.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Will do.

DOCTOR GRANT

Keep me posted. If it occurs again,  
ping me.

NURSE CAYLEE

It will happen again.

He tightens his eyebrows as she leaves.

INT. HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

In her ghost costume, Zoe sits on the couch. The white teddy bear beside her.

The door bell chimes.

ZOE

Gaby's here.

ENTRYWAY

Zoe rushes to the front door.

As she opens it, her eyes go wide. She takes a couple of steps back, clasps the white teddy bear.

A BOY (7), wrapped in red stained torn clothes, dark circles under his eyes, pasty face, hunches over with raised shoulders, makes a raspy sound.

BOY

Trick or treat.

Zoe squeezes the white teddy bear to her chest.

BOY

Like my costume? A dead monster.

Zoe gives a slight nod.

BOY

Sorry about your teddy bear. Happy to see it's back in one piece.

ZOE

Wait here.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Zoe sprints past Angelina.

ANGELINA

Wow, did you see a ghost?

Angelina grins.

ENTRYWAY

Angelina locks the front door.

ZOE (O.S.)

No, don't lock the door.

ANGELINA

Not safe to leave it open.

With the white teddy bear in one hand, a stuffed toy dog in the other hand, Zoe scoots down the stairs on her butt.

ZOE

The boy is out there.

ANGELINA

The boy?

ZOE

The boy from the train station.

ANGELINA

There's nobody out there.

Knocks on the door.

Angelina unlocks the door, opens it.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Hi, Gaby.

ZOE

Where's the boy?

ANGELINA

There's no boy. Gaby's here. Time for trick or treat.

Zoe turns to Gaby.

ZOE

Did you see the boy?

Gaby shakes her head.

ANGELINA

Give me a couple of minutes.

Angelina leaves.

GABY  
Your mom's friend smells bad.

ZOE  
Worse than Bear.

Zoe and Gaby giggle.

ANGELINA (O.S.)  
I heard that.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

At the front door, Zoe sticks the stuffed toy dog next to some shrubs, turns to Gaby, puts a finger to her lips.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Angelina pops a couple of pills in her mouth, takes a long pull on a bottle of booze. She coughs as she puts the bottle down on the counter, wipes her mouth.

She wriggles into a robe, picks up a bright red lipstick from her purse, swirls it open.

ENTRYWAY

Zoe and Gaby dangles jack-o'-lantern baskets in their hands.

ANGELINA  
Showtime.

Four big eyes on Angelina in bright red lipstick. An open robe exposes the wine and coffee stained dress.

ZOE  
Where's your costume?

ANGELINA  
(slurred speech)  
I'm smelly ghost Angelina.

Zoe and Gaby shrug.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
Shit. Forgot to text Gaby's mom.

ZOE  
That's not a nice word.

Angelina thumbs a text, "Gaby's here. Ghosts and goblins watch out."

ANGELINA  
What can I say. It's Halloween-ish.

ZOE  
You talk funny.

ANGELINA  
My Halloween voice.

ZOE  
Can you turn off all the lights?

ANGELINA  
Why?

ZOE  
It's kind of spooky.

ANGELINA  
Me like spooky.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

With jack-o'-lantern baskets in their hands, Zoe and Gaby hop skip hand in hand down the driveway.

The porch light goes off. Angelina locks the front door.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7 - NIGHT

Soft music fills the air.

Nurse Caylee converses with Liam. He picks up the smiley-face card from the side table, opens it. Nurse Caylee nods.

On the other side of the bed, Colton rests in a chair, folded hands. His eyes drift between Maia, Liam and Nurse Caylee.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Zoe rushes up the driveway ahead of Gaby and Angelina. She pauses at the front door. Her dimples perk to life. The stuffed toy dog gone.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

The front door swings open, Gaby, Zoe and Angelina enter.

With jack-o'-lantern baskets topped with candy in their hands, Zoe and Gaby rush up the stairs.

ANGELINA

I'll take those baskets. Enough sweets for tonight. Be up in a minute to tuck you in.

KITCHEN

Angelina puts the baskets on the table.

As she stares at her reflection in the window, she cups her chin, turns her head from side to side, grabs the bottle of booze, downs a few gulps.

Her shoulders heave as she grips the edge of the counter.

She picks up the prescription bottle. Her face twitches as she struggles to uncap it.

ANGELINA

Shit.

The cap pops open. Pills scatter on the floor.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Angelina drops to the floor.

ZOE (O.S.)

Are you going to tuck us in?

Angelina scoops up a few pills, drops them in the prescription bottle.

ZOE (CONT'D)

What are those.

ANGELINA

Pills.

ZOE

What kind of pills?

ANGELINA

They make me happy.

ZOE

You don't seem very happy.

She lifts her head, bloodshot eyes on Zoe.



ANGELINA

Go to bed. I'll be up in a minute.

ZOE

I can help you.

Zoe takes a step forward.

ANGELINA

(yells)

No.

Angelina lurches forward, slams the palm of her hand on the floor inches away from Zoe's foot.

Zoe recoils, tumbles backward, hits the floor on her butt.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Go to bed. I'll be up in a minute.

Big eyes on Angelina as Zoe gets up, whimpers away.

With a huff, Angelina picks up a single pill, admires it, drops it in her mouth.

ENTRYWAY

Angelina grabs the banister, catches her reflection in the full length mirror.

She steps up to the mirror. Stone faced, she stares at her bandaged bruised face and the stained dress.

In a swift notion, she rips the bandage off her forehead. Her chest heaves, lips quiver as she touches the stitches on her brow.

She grips the edges of the mirror with both hands.

Her eyes locked onto the reflection.

With a scream, she head-butts the mirror.

A shattered image.

Frozen, she gapes at her obliterated image as blood seeps from her forehead down her face.

On her knees, she picks up a piece of glass painted with blood, taps the edge with her thumb, eyes her wrist.

She shakes her head.

A tear escapes the corner of her eye as she thumbs away blood from the glass.

With the piece of glass lifted in front of her, she stares at her reflection. As she angles the glass slightly, Evelien's reflection pops into view.

She drops the piece of glass, snaps around.

Her eyes prowl across an empty space.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Sun penetrates a cloudy sky.

Samuel fires up the jackhammer, shreds birds from trees.

Noah drops into a manhole.

INT. HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

The TV shows a cartoon.

On the couch, Zoe and Gaby stuff their faces with candy from jack-o'-lantern baskets. Empty wrappers pile up around them.

With a fresh bandage on her forehead, Angelina kneels in front of Zoe and Gaby.

ANGELINA

Let's save some candy for later.

Zoe and Gaby grab handfuls, give the baskets to Angelina.

Angelina puts the baskets on the floor.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)

Zoe, I'm truly sorry about last night. It will never ever happen again. I promise you.

Zoe puts a hand to her mouth, chews, swallows hard.

ZOE

Apology expected.

Angelina cracks a smile.

ANGELINA

You mean accepted.

Zoe nods.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
You were both sleeping when I  
checked in on you last night.

ZOE  
It's okay. Grandma said good night  
to us.

ANGELINA  
Evelien was here? I mean, your  
grandma was here?

ZOE  
Yeah, she tucked us in.

Angelina clears her throat, follows with a nervous smile.

ANGELINA  
Is she still here?

ZOE  
She said she needed to go back to  
the hospital to be with mommy.

Angelina holds their hands.

ANGELINA  
Listen, I'm taking a bath. Sit  
tight, enjoy the candy and watch  
the cartoon, okay?

Zoe and Gaby nod.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
I'll leave the bathroom door open.  
So if there's anything you need,  
just come and see me.

KITCHEN

Angelina empties pills and booze in the sink.

ENTRYWAY

At the banister, Angelina stops, turns, catches a glimpse of  
the front door closing. A click as the lock turns.

She scans the area, unlocks and opens the front door, stares  
at an empty driveway.

## MASTER BATHROOM

Bubble bath churns into a foam as water pours into a bathtub. Angelina leaves the door ajar, puts her phone on the vanity. She turns off the water, disrobes, gets into the bathtub.

## FAMILY ROOM

On the floor, Zoe holds the white teddy bear's front paws as she bobs her head in tune with cartoon music.

TV VOICE (V.O.)

To all kids out there. Today we're going to give our favorite stuffed animal a bath.

## MASTER BATHROOM

Angelina's head rests against a bath pillow. Her eyes closed.

## FAMILY ROOM

The white teddy bear leans against the couch.

(O.S.) Water runs.

## KITCHEN

A plastic bottle of dish washing liquid hits the floor next to a wash basin.

On a chair, with a pull out faucet in her hand, Zoe pours water into the wash basin.

The water shuts off.

Zoe shakes the pull out faucet, no water, leaves it dangling over the counter.

## MASTER BATHROOM

Angelina grabs the edge of the bathtub, smiles.

## KITCHEN

A trail of water puddles.

## FAMILY ROOM

The plastic bottle of dish washing liquid lies beside the white teddy bear.

Water sloshes as Zoe drags the wash basin in front of the TV.

As she loses her balance, she falls on her butt, giggles.

She squirts half the dish washing liquid in the water basin, sloshes the water into foam, a lot of foam.

She picks up the cuddly bear, sticks one paw in the water.

ZOE

Is it okay, Baby Bear?

She bobs the stuffed animal's head.

## MASTER BATHROOM

Music thumps louder through the cracked open door.

As Angelina's head slides off the bath pillow, she gulps water, bolts upright, coughs.

She stares at the door as music bangs through the house.

ANGELINA

What the hell is going on?

She pulls a towel from a rack, wraps it around herself.

As she swipes the phone off the vanity, she slips.

The phone goes airborne.

Her head hits the floor with a sickening crack. Motionless on the floor, blood seeps from her ear.

## FAMILY ROOM

Cartoon music blares. The white teddy bear sits in the washbasin, all soapy.

## ENTRYWAY

An open front door.

## MASTER BATHROOM

Hands grab the edge of the vanity as Angelina stumbles to her feet, catches her breath.

Her hand trembles as she picks up her phone, punches it.

ANGELINA

No. No. Shit.

Ear splitting music as she opens the door.

## UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Angelina grabs the banister. Blood drips down her neck. Unsteady, she scrambles down the stairs.

ANGELINA

(whimpers)

Zoe.

## KITCHEN

Pipes burp.

Water gushes from the pull out faucet onto the floor.

## ENTRYWAY

Halfway down the stairs, Angelina freezes, gapes at the open front door.

At the bottom of the stairs, she trips, tumbles, hits the floor face down.

Droplets of blood next to her face.

Dazed, she gets on her knees, rubs her ear. As she lifts her head, her eyes bulge.

## FAMILY ROOM

A motionless Zoe on the floor next to the white teddy bear in the wash basin. Loud cartoon music penetrates the air.

## ENTRYWAY

Angelina gapes at Zoe.

ANGELINA

Zoe. Zoe.

FAMILY ROOM

On the TV, cartoon characters dance.

TV VOICE (V.O.)

Okay, kids. Time to wake up, rinse  
off and dry our most favorite  
stuffed animal.

Zoe sits, splashes water on the white teddy bear.

Angelina hits the floor on her knees, chokes out tears,  
squeezes Zoe in a tight hug.

ZOE

You scared me.

The embrace lingers.

ZOE (CONT'D)

I can't breathe.

Angelina grabs the remote, flicks off the TV.

ZOE (CONT'D)

I gave Baby Bear a bath.

Zoe covers the stuffed animal in a blanket.

Angelina cups Zoe's cheeks.

ZOE (CONT'D)

I turned up the TV so Baby Bear  
could hear too.

Angelina recoils as she gawks at Zoe's blood smeared cheeks.  
She rinses her hands in the wash basin, wipes Zoe's face.

ANGELINA

Where's Gaby?

ZOE

She went home.

Zoe points to Angelina's ear.

ZOE (CONT'D)

You're bleeding.

ANGELINA  
Just a scratch.

As Angelina eases away from Zoe, she cranes her head.

ANGELINA (CONT'D)  
Stay here.

KITCHEN

Angelina tip toes through water.

ANGELINA  
Damn.

ZOE  
I'm sorry.

She flips off the water, pushes the pull out faucet back in the holder.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

At the truck, Samuel struggles to pry open a container with a knife. It slips, cuts his hand.

SAMUEL  
Shit.

He drops the knife, snags a rag from the bed of the truck, wipes his hand.

Samuel gestures to Noah, brandishes his hand.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
Got to stitch this up.

As Samuel gets in the truck, a wallet slides out from his back pocket, lands in the gutter.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A mop handle bangs on the floor next to a bucket.

Angelina doubles over, drops to the floor, grimaces.

ZOE  
Angelina.

In a fetal position, Angelina moans as Zoe drops on her knees, tugs Angelina's shoulder.



ZOE (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

ANGELINA  
I need help.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Zoe leaps out the front door.

With the white teddy bear tucked under one arm, she rushes barefoot across a grassy area, eyes Noah at the manhole.

INT. TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Samuel opens a console between the front seats, empty.

He taps his back pocket.

SAMUEL  
Shit.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

The truck makes a U-turn.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Zoe slips, tumbles down a slope, hits the sidewalk face down. The white teddy bear in her hand.

With a scraped knee, tears down her cheeks, she stumbles to her feet, wipes her eyes.

ZOE  
Angelina needs help.

She trips on the curb, loses the grip on the stuffed animal, eats the gutter.

The white teddy bear lands a few feet from her.

INT. TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

With a blood soaked rag wrapped around his hand, Samuel's head dips, slumps over the steering wheel.

The horn blares.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Noah pops his head out from the manhole.

In the gutter, Zoe raises her head, eyes on the furball.

The truck bounces off the sidewalk, scrapes the curb.

INT. TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Samuel jerks awake.

His eyes bulge at the sight of Zoe in the gutter. He grabs the steering wheel, stomps on the brake.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

As Zoe grabs the white teddy bear, a hand locks onto her leg, yanks her down the manhole.

The truck skids to a stop over the manhole.

MANHOLE

In Noah's arms, with the white teddy bear clutched to her chest, Zoe wets her lips, stares at him.

ZOE  
Angelina needs help.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Zoe, with the white teddy bear in her arms and Gaby sit side by side in a booth.

NURSE ISABEL  
How's Angelina?

COLTON  
All good.

NURSE ISABEL  
How about Zoe?

Colton eyes Zoe.

COLTON

Still adjusting. A bit confused about her mom and doesn't quite understand she can't give grandpa hugs and tell stories anymore.

NURSE ISABEL

The bonding they had still exists, just in different dimensions.

COLTON

Yeah, try explaining that to a five year old.

NURSE ISABEL

Does she know about her mom's ability to communicate?

COLTON

Haven't told her yet.

NURSE ISABEL

Maybe it's time. By the way, where is Zoe?

Colton stares at Gaby alone in the booth.

NURSE ISABEL (CONT'D)

Gaby, where's Zoe?

GABY

She went to see her mommy.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Zoe peers through the sliding glass door at Maia and Liam.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

The sliding glass door opens. Zoe slips in behind Nurse Caylee.

Zoe pauses, squeezes the white teddy bear. As Nurse Caylee leaves, Zoe smiles at her.

Hunched over in the chair, Liam holds Maia's hand.

Zoe's lips move, MOS. Her eyes drift between Maia and Liam.

She takes a few steps closer to Maia, sends Liam a slight dimple smile.

ZOE  
(whispers)  
Mommy.

Liam leans back in the chair.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Mommy, I'm here. I know you can't  
hear me, but I just wanted to see  
you and say hi.

Two arms wrap around Zoe. She smiles at Colton.

COLTON  
A little louder.

Zoe leans forward.

ZOE  
Mommy, it's me.

Maia turns, eyes closed.

MAIA  
I can hear you, Zoe.

Liam jerks forward, eyes glued on Maia.

Zoe hugs Colton, dimple showtime.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

A BREAK NURSE (30) at the nurses station.

BREAK NURSE  
Time for lunch.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Sorry, I need to see the doctor.  
It's urgent. I'll get back to you.

The Break Nurse taps her phone, nods.

BREAK NURSE  
Sure.

NURSE CAYLEE  
Thank you.

As the Break Nurse leaves, Nurse Caylee taps the tablet.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

In the chair, Liam sits with the notepad on his lap.

MAIA

Great to hear, Colton. Dad, what's  
on your mind?

Zoe whispers in Colton's ear.

COLTON

Zoe wants to read Liam's notes.

MAIA

Great idea, Zoe. Dad, keep it clean  
for Zoe to read. I've seen your  
handwriting and it isn't pretty.

Maia smiles.

Zoe circles the bed, steps in front of Liam.

His hands shake as he grips the notepad, scribbles, "Love you  
all. Zoe, I pinky swear to take care of Bear."

Liam stares straight ahead as his eyes well up.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Go ahead, Zoe. Let us know what  
grandpa writes.

A surreal atmosphere. Liam in the chair. Maia in the bed.  
Nobody else.

Liam snuffles, slowly turns the notepad.

A finger underlines each word as Zoe reads Liam's scribbles.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Doctor Grant rushes across the floor, joins Nurse Caylee at  
the sliding glass door.

Stone faced, Nurse Caylee stares at Maia and Liam with the  
smiley-face card in his hands.

Doctor Grant sidesteps.

The sliding glass door opens.

NURSE CAYLEE (O.S.)

Liam is communicating with his  
granddaughter right now.

Doctor Grant stares into the room.

MAIA (O.S.)

Dad, you're still Zoe's favorite.  
Best grandpa ever, but don't forget  
Bear now.

(O.S.) Maia laughs.

NURSE CAYLEE (O.S.)

He deserves some private time.  
Maybe something unsaid. A time for  
redemption and closure.

As the sliding door closes, Doctor Grant takes a deep breath,  
hangs his head.

Doctor Grant joins Nurse Caylee as she blinks back tears.

NURSE CAYLEE

All his got is hope that his  
daughter pulls through.

Two NURSES hurry across the floor.

NURSE CAYLEE

I believe some things are better  
left untouched.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7

With big brown eyes, Zoe cracks a smile.

ZOE

I love you too, grandpa. My best  
friend always.

Zoe circles back to Colton. He wraps his arms around her,  
kisses her cheek.

MAIA

An unbreakable bond still intact.

Colton eyes Doctor Grant and Nurse Caylee.

COLTON

Listen, Maia. The medical staff is  
here, so we'll step out for a  
little bit, okay.

MAIA

Don't be long. So nice to hear your  
voices and your notes, dad.

Liam grabs Maia's hand, rubs it.

The sliding glass door opens.

Doctor Grant nods at Liam, sits on the bed, opens Maia's eyelid, shines a penlight into her eye. No response.

Colton lifts Zoe into his arms. As they leave, Zoe waves at Maia and Liam.

NURSE CAYLEE

They all showed up.

Liam raises his head, stares at Nurse Caylee with puffy eyes, nods with a smile. He grabs the notepad, points to it as he flips pages.

He rips a page from the notepad, "Love you all. Zoe, I pinky swear to take care of Bear." He stuffs the note in an inner pocket of his jacket.

MAIA (O.S.)

(faint)

Dad.

The notepad hits the floor as Liam snaps around, locks eyes with Maia. He gets on his knees, grabs her hand, nods.

Maia returns a thin smile.

Liam grabs the notepad, points to his throat, scrawls, "Sore throat. Can't talk."

A slight nod from Maia as he flips the notepad.

MONTAGE

-- Liam taps his phone. It shows, "Wednesday November 1." He plays a video clip of Maia and Liam. He squeezes her hand as they both smile.

-- In the chair, Liam pulls timber. Maia dozes on her back.

-- His phone shows, "Thursday November 2." As he scrolls through photos bedside with Maia, she touches his face, cracks a smile.

-- Nurse Caylee converses with Liam. He nods, kisses Maia on her forehead, leaves.

EXT. PARK - DAY

KIDS kick a ball around. A pond fountain squirts water high up in the air.

Next to a paved path, Liam sits on a bench. Steam rises from a cup in his hand.

He sets the cup on the bench, pulls the scribbled not from the inner pocket, unfolds it.

Distant thunder. Dark clouds. Wind rustle leaves.

Faint shrill whispers and quacks as a duck and seven ducklings cross the paved path.

A slight smile on his face as the duck family waddles toward the pond.

He folds the note, stuffs it in the inner pocket, tosses the cup in a trash can, paces down the paved path.

His phone chimes. As he taps it, his face turns pale.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM7 - DAY

Dim lighting.

Bedside, a motionless Liam stares at a white sheet draped over Maia. He grabs an edge of the white sheet, pauses, releases his grip.

He drops into the chair, folds his hands with eyes glued on the white sheet.

A pen scrawls on the notepad, "Your last smile. So beautiful. So peaceful."

He tears off the page, places it on the white sheet.

He picks up the digital recorder from the side table, snuffles as he cradles it with both hands.

MAIA (V.O.)

You got your speech ready?

He clicks on the digital recorder, places it on the bed next to the note.

The digital recorder plays with speaker on.



LIAM (V.O.)  
(recorded)  
How about blowing a raspberry on  
your tummy?  
(fart sounds/baby giggles)  
You like that, huh?

He forces a smile.

LIAM (V.O.)  
(recorded)  
Oh, boy, that must have been a  
healthy breakfast. Did you drain  
mommy completely?

With the backpack over his shoulder, the boombox in one hand,  
he drags his feet across the floor.

LIAM (V.O.)  
(recorded/baby coos)  
One more raspberry then diaper  
change. You ready?  
(fart sounds/baby laughs)  
Okay, time to clean you up ...

He stops, turns. His eyes overflow as he catches a look at  
the white sheet with the digital recorder on top.

LIAM (V.O.)  
(recorded)  
... feels like yesterday.

The sliding glass door opens. He exits

LIAM (V.O.)  
(recorded)  
As I look at this beautiful woman  
before me, I can't help reflect on  
the girl she was or should I say  
the baby she was and the woman she  
has become.

The sliding glass door closes.

EXT. HOSPITAL - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Dark clouds. Drizzle.

Liam pushes a PERSON out of his way.

EXT. HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Liam drags his feet past a few cars.

He leans on the crew cab truck, picks a set of keys from his pocket. His hand shakes as he struggles to key the door lock.

With his fist, he hammers the door, drops to his knees. A harsh cough racks his body.

He whips his head up. A hoarse scream as strings of spit and blood dribble down his chin as rain pelts his face.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The crew cab truck clunks onto the driveway, comes to a stop inches from the garage door.

Liam slides out, slings the backpack over his shoulder, leaves the door open. It beeps.

At the front door, he reaches in his pockets, yanks them inside out.

A clank.

He squats, picks up the rose gold ring with a single diamond, stuffs it back in his pocket.

He stares at the ghosts and skeletons posted on the front door, huffs, shuffles back to the crew cab truck, rips the keys from the ignition, slams the door shut.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Muddy footprints.

The backpack hits the floor.

At the counter, Liam yanks open the cabinet door.

As he grabs a bottle of booze from the top shelf, he knocks over a glass.

It splinters on the counter.

He unscrews a cap, takes a long swig from the bottle, coughs, pounds his fist on the counter.

His eyes pop. Face contorts. A low pitched harsh yelp as he gapes at a shard of glass lodged in his fist.

He pulls the piece of glass from his fist, jerks a dish towel off a rack, wipes his hand.

#### GUEST ROOM

A door swings open, bangs against a dresser.

Silhouetted in the doorway, Liam dangles the bottle of booze in one hand, the backpack in the other hand.

With the bottle, he swipes a light switch.

A ceiling light turns on.

He sways, takes a long pull from the bottle.

The backpack flies through the air.

It hits the side table. The table lamp wobbles.

He plops down on the bed, takes a swig from the bottle, swallows hard.

With his head down, elbows on his knees, he dangles the bottle between his legs.

The bottle slips from his hand, hits the floor, tips over, soaks the carpet as it rolls to a stop.

He pulls the framed photo from the backpack, places it on the side table, face down. He drops the smiley-face card on top of the framed photo.

Another pull from the bottle. Harsh coughs, wipes his mouth with the back of his hand.

He grabs the notepad and a pen from the backpack.

With squinted eyes, he scribbles on the notepad, "Dear Family", snuffles as a tear smears the ink.

A huff transitions into a hideous laughter as he rips the page from the notepad, crumples it, hurls it across the room.

He grabs the gun safe from under the bed, punches a code on the keypad a couple of times, opens it.

An empty stare at the gun as he touches it.

Unsteady, he scrambles to his feet, drops his phone on the side table.

He staggers across the floor, with the gun in one hand.

His phone rings.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Doctor Grant leans on the desk. A phone to his ear.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A wheel skids in murky water, bounces off a concrete stopper.

INT. CREW CAB TRUCK - PARKED - NIGHT

Windshield wipers work overtime as Liam slumps over the steering wheel.

He lifts his head. Bloodshot eyes. His hand trembles as he kills the ignition. Wipers stop in the middle of a swipe.

He pulls a handle, pushes the door open.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Boots splash in a puddle as Liam stumbles out. He slams the door shut, loses his balance, bumps against the truck.

He plods past the truck, stops, squints into headlights, shrugs, staggers on.

At the gate, he lifts his head, closes his eyes, mumbles as rain slams his face.

The church bathes in floodlights.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Liam staggers across the grounds.

Lightning paints the sky. Thor swings the hammer. Thunder swipes the horizon.

The lamp post throws a dim light over fresh soil and a tarp next to Evelien's gravestone.

On his knees, he folds his hands. Eyes locked onto Evelien's headstone as his lips move, MOS.

Unsteady, he gets on his feet, steps up to the headstone, touches Evelien's engraved name.

As he sways, he grabs the top of the stone, takes a deep breath. With a finger, he draws, "Liam", on the blank half of the stone.

A hand peels the tarp off an open grave.

He kneels at the edge of the open grave, pulls his gun from a coat pocket, puts it in his lap. His eyes lock onto the dark empty hole.

He pulls the scribbled note from the inner pocket, opens it, peers at it.

Rain rips the ink off the paper. Shrivelled pieces fall into the dark hole. Empty hands.

He closes his coat, rocks back and forth.

His eyes close as he jams the gun against his temple. His finger cramps the trigger.

A shot rings out.

Lightning strikes.

Thor expresses his opinion.

Water runs off the tarp, seeps past a single bullet hole.

Piercing sound of gun shots as bullets rip into the tarp.

He pumps the trigger, unloads the entire magazine.

His shoulder and chest heave as he stuffs the gun in a coat pocket, buries his head in his hands, bawls.

EXT. HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Sun peeks over the horizon.

No fresh patches. No new asphalt.

A truck with a road sign trailer pulls up to a curb. Cones, barricades and equipment crowd the cargo bed. A logo on the door reads, "Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services."

Two ROAD WORKERS exit the truck.

## INT. HOUSE - KID'S ROOM - DAY

Liam stares at the brown teddy bear tucked in under the bed cover with paws and head visible. He sits on the bed, picks up the stuffed animal, grips it with both hands.

## GUEST BATHROOM

At a vanity, Liam rubs soap and water on the stuffed animal, rinses it.

Two big brown eyes peek through the cracked open door.

## GUEST ROOM

On the side table, the digital recorder, the framed photo of Evelien and Liam and the smiley-face card. The rose gold ring with a single diamond lies in front of the framed photo.

The boombox sits next to the backpack on the floor.

In a dark suit and tie, Liam stuffs the card in an inner pocket, drops the rose gold ring in a pant pocket, grabs the brown teddy bear, leaves.

## KITCHEN

On the table, a bouquet of three lilies and baby's breath.

At the counter, Liam sips coffee from the cup with pink inscriptions, "Best Grandpa Ever." He runs a finger across hairline cracks, cradles the cup, gazes out the window.

Zoe slips in behind Liam, sits across the table. She glances at the withered roses with all pedals on the table.

Liam's phone chimes. He taps it, picks up the bouquet of lilies and the brown teddy bear, leaves.

Zoe tip toes to the counter, picks up the cup, upends it on the plate on the table.

Liam stops at the doorway.

ZOE

Bye, grandpa.

He grabs the door frame, turns.

An empty room. No withered roses on the table. The cup with the pink inscriptions sits right side up on the counter next to the coffee maker.

He picks up the cup, places it upside down on the plate on the table.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Liam locks the front door, runs a hand across the posters of ghosts and skeletons.

He gets in a taxi.

The taxi backs down the driveway.

INT. TAXI - MOVING - DAY

In the back seat, next to Liam, the brown teddy bear and the bouquet of lilies wrapped in baby's breath. Liam gazes out a side window.

DRIVER JOE (50) behind the steering wheel.

EXT. T-INTERSECTION - DAY

The taxi stops at a red light.

INT. TAXI - STOPPED - DAY

Liam peers through the windshield at the light and the road sign, "Pacific Coast Highway."

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT. T-INTERSECTION - DAY

A sickening crunch as the black SUV rips the front off the town car.

The black SUV goes airborne, picks up speed as it tumbles down a slope.

EXT. JAVA JOLT COFFEE BAR - DAY

PATRONS crowd tables on the sidewalk. Curb side, Noah and Samuel get into the truck with a logo on the door, "Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services."

The black SUV slams the street upside down. Windows explode. Metal pieces and glass propel through the air.

Patrons scream, scatter.

The black SUV flattens the cab of the truck, crushes tables and chairs, slams into a wall.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

INT. TAXI - STOPPED - DAY

In the rear view mirror, Driver Joe steals a glimpse of Liam.

DRIVER JOE

You okay?

Liam clears his throat, nods, loosens his grip on the brown teddy bear and the bouquet of lilies.

EXT. T-INTERSECTION - DAY

On a green light, the taxi rolls into the street.

The church looms ahead as the taxi sputters down the Pacific Coast Highway.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - DAY

The taxi pulls up to the gate.

INT. TAXI - STOPPED - DAY

Driver Joe shakes his head as Liam hands him cash. Liam nods, squeezes his shoulder.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The taxi parks as Liam drags his feet up the stairs.



INT. CHURCH - DAY

A door clanks open.

Liam enters, nods at PRIEST EVE (45) at the end of the aisle.

As he paces down the aisle, his eyes never stray from three caskets. Next to each casket, on a stand, a photo of each of his family members. One small casket between two large caskets, all surrounded by a sea of flowers.

At the end of the aisle, Liam tucks the brown teddy bear under his arm, shakes hands with Priest Eve.

Priest Eve takes a few steps away from the caskets.

As he touches Maia's photo with the inscriptions, "Love always", his eyes blink overtime and his hand shakes as he puts a lily on the casket.

He shuffles past the small casket, pauses, takes a deep breath as a tear escapes the corner of his eye, trickles down his cheek, free falls off his chin.

With puffy eyes he steps up to Colton's photo in police uniform with the inscriptions, "Like a son to me." He pulls a lily from the bouquet, places it on top of the casket.

He stares at the small casket, drags his feet toward the photo of Zoe with the inscriptions, "A ray of sunshine with dimples to match. My best friend." The photo depicts Zoe with a great smile and her brown teddy bear in her lap.

Priest Eve clears her throat, folds her hands.

He kisses the last lily, places it on the casket with the baby's breath.

His hand trembles as he touches the photo of Zoe.

With both hands, he grips the care bear, smells it, forces a smile as he places it next to the lily and the baby's breath.

He taps his chest, opens his jacket, pulls out the smiley-face card.

LIAM  
(whispers)  
You're always with me.

As he stuffs the card back in the pocket, his knees give in.

Priest Eve rushes toward him.

He puts a hand up, grips the small casket with both hands.  
His floodgates open.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - DAY

All spots taken. Overflow of cars parked on grassy areas.  
CROWDS head towards the church.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A flow of PEOPLE enter. Some in police uniforms.

Liam sits in the first row.

A hand on his shoulder.

Liam turns, stares into Nurse Caylee's red eyes. She sits  
behind him.

His eyes well up as he takes in the crowded church.

Doctor Grant and Driver Joe side by side. All seats filled.  
Standing room only.

Liam puts a hand up, bows.

PRIEST EVE

A lot of people care about you.

Priest Eve sits next to the pulp pit stairs.

The door clanks shut.

Distant bells ring.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Sun shines. Birds chirp.

Liam kneels in front of a wooden white cross marked, "Zoe,  
Maia Hunter, Colton Ash." He places flowers and a ceramic  
teddy bear next to the cross.

A hand touches the blank portion of Evelien's gravestone. He  
clears his throat.

LIAM

I know you miss me ...

A long awaited smile on his face.

LIAM

... but it looks like you have to  
wait. The doctor gave me a clean  
bill of health.

Leaves rustle.

He lifts his head.

A cough.

He pulls a clean handkerchief from a pocket, wipes his mouth.

No blood.

He stuffs the handkerchief back in his pocket, saunters away.

FADE OUT.